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SARM

**2023
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VOLUME 56 / #1

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

**Our Mission: To foster rural development
in Saskatchewan and build strong,
sustainable communities.**

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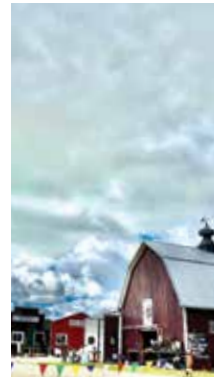


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GREETINGS TO EVERYONE

BY RAY ORB
SARM PRESIDENT

I was hoping that 2023 would bring some stability to our economy, as I am sure all of you were as well, but we are all still feeling the effects of inflation and, according to some experts, we are in a recession.

I would like to take this opportunity to review some of the issues facing rural Saskatchewan and outline how SARM is advocating for you and everyone in rural Saskatchewan.

ISSUE: OIL & GAS PIPELINES

Outline: Crude oil is our country's most valuable export at \$47B annually. The cancellations and delays of oil & gas pipelines have proven to be a blow to our western Canadian economy. Not only has more Canadian crude oil been replaced by foreign oil but having more oil moved by rail competes against grain moved by rail. These pipelines would be invaluable, especially now, in lieu of what is happening in Ukraine and the rest of Europe.

What SARM is doing:

SARM supports rural municipalities that are affected by oil and gas and understand the effects of this on those municipalities'

infrastructure and services. **SARM believes all rural municipalities need to be treated fairly by all resource industries in our province.**

- SARM lobbied to draw attention to the federal government's lack of interest in oil pipelines such as Energy East, Trans Mountain, and the Keystone XL expansion.
- SARM lobbied against the Tanker Ban moratorium (C-48)

ISSUE: NET ZERO EMISSIONS / JUST TRANSITION LEGISLATION

Outline: The federal government indicated they will soon table legislation labelled the "Just Transition" which will be their plan to impose Green House Gas (GHG) emission caps on industries, including oil & gas, and agriculture. We have already seen reactions from this province, and Alberta, and can only imagine the dissatisfaction that our provincial government is feeling. The unimaginable part of all of this is that the federal government's goals seem to be arbitrary and not based on science. In other words, we are being told the easiest way for farmers to reduce GHG emissions will be to reduce the amount of fertilizer applied. This will be extremely detrimental to agriculture and food production across our entire nation.

What SARM is doing:

Saskatchewan producers feed the nation and feed the world. The introduction of carbon pricing has dramatically increased costs and threatened agricultural producers' ability to be competitive.

- SARM asked federal government officials to explain what Net Zero emissions in Canada mean and asked who decided that would be our official Canadian plan to lower GHG emissions.

ISSUE: AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY

Outline: We continue to feel the attack on the agriculture industry, since 2015, the federal tax on carbon going up incrementally with another increase set for July which will set the tax at \$65/tonne. The amount of GST on the tax will also be increased at that time. If it isn't stopped, we will end up with a carbon tax of \$170/tonne which will put a tax of \$0.37/liter on gasoline alone.

SARM also has concerns about the federal private member's Bill C-235 which is attempting to give the Canadian prairies a "Green" economy. What it is about to do is create another level of bureaucracy, something we surely don't need. This, while ignoring what western farmers are already doing in the area of sequestering carbon with



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direct seeding, and being good stewards of the land by maintaining native pasture which fosters many different species of flora & fauna.

Farmers felt the pinch economically when the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) revoked the registration of Strychnine. Instead of looking at science, they have listened to special interest groups who felt that farmers and ranchers in both Alberta and Saskatchewan should lose a tool that was the safest and most effective method to control the Richardson Ground Squirrel. We saw the damage done to many crops this past year, especially in canola fields.

We raised another red flag when the federal government began talking about the reduction in Nitrogen fertilizer emissions.

We were emphatic that this would be a Food Security issue for our farmers and made the argument that we are already using efficiencies in applying fertilizers and using GPS and Variable Rate

fertilizer application. We stated while new technologies are always just around the corner this would not be the time to force farmers to reduce fertilizer applications, but rather a good time to invest in research and education to aid the farming community in enhancing food production.

THE LATEST CATCHPHRASE IS "SUSTAINABILITY IN AGRICULTURE" AND SOMETHING THAT WE SHOULD ALL PAY ATTENTION TO.

We have some farm groups in our country and our province that are buying into what looks like a federal blueprint to over-regulate what is happening on our farms, including water quality, the use of commercial fertilizer, and most likely farm pesticides and other chemicals.

What SARM is doing:

Saskatchewan producers feed the nation and the world and the last several months have illustrated the importance of a local, reliable food supply. The introduction of carbon pricing in Saskatchewan has increased costs for agriculture and is threatening that competitiveness.

- SARM will continue to advocate to both the federal and provincial governments on these issues. In October, SARM travelled to Ottawa and met with members of the liberal government, and the opposition, to discuss the many issues threatening our agriculture industry and the serious impact they have on rural municipalities.
- We will continue to press forward on these important issues because agriculture is at the heart of rural Saskatchewan.

ISSUE: BILL C-21 FEDERAL HANDGUN BAN

Outline: Another contentious issue is Bill C-21 which is the federal handgun ban. When this bill was passed, SARM was told it wasn't about hunting or farmers protecting their livestock. However, now with the recent amendments, this bill is poised to make several rifles and shotguns that hunters & farmers use illegal. The province is bringing legislation that will hopefully mitigate some of the effects of Bill C-21 by giving more authority to the provincial Firearm Registrar, providing education to legal gun owners, and clarifying the role of the province in firearm issues.

What SARM is doing:

- SARM issued a press release on the proposed federal amendments and is adamantly opposed.
- Norm Nordgulen, Division 2 Director, sits on the Firearms Advisory Committee which was newly formed by the government of Saskatchewan and the Chief Firearms Officer.
- The Board has met with Chief Firearms Officer, Robert Freberg, to discuss numerous firearms relates issues impacting rural Saskatchewan.

ISSUE: RURAL CRIME

Outline: Rural crime is not decreasing, and new ideas and initiatives will be key to seeing a reduction.

What SARM is doing:

- SARM issued a Call to Action to RMs to get involved in creating local rural crime watch groups with the RCMP and to join the Provincial Rural Crime Watch Association

- We also participate in and support the Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers Board.
- At SARM's midterm convention, a panel discussion was held with Assistant RCMP Commissioner, Rhonda Blackmore, and the Saskatchewan Rural Crime Watch President, Tim Brodt, to discuss rural crime in Saskatchewan.
- At the June division meetings, rural crime was a focal point at many of those meetings. SARM continues to engage on this very important issue with all levels of government.

ISSUE: RURAL HEALTHCARE

Outline: Finding a family doctor and being able to access stable and reliable medical care is a crisis in rural Saskatchewan. The rural healthcare system has always struggled to keep adequate staff. The key is not just recruitment, but retention, of these professionals for the long term, as well as a balance of virtual and in-person care.

What SARM is doing:

SARM continues to advocate for improvements to rural healthcare in Saskatchewan. We met with Saskatchewan's Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, Seniors, and Rural and Remote Health, to discuss the very serious issues impacting our members. We have provided input on issues like virtual care, doctor recruitment, and more. We have had the Saskatchewan Health Authority participate in events like our June division meetings and most recently, our midterm convention, so they can hear from our membership firsthand and speak to what they are doing. SARM has met with groups like the virtual healthcare consultation and will be watching closely as the province deploys new Human Resources this year.

ISSUE: HARASSMENT & BULLYING IN RURAL MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT

Outline: Lastly I'd like to mention bullying & harassment affecting our RM councils. Some of it is internal and some external. Internally we need this to stop.

What SARM is doing:

SARM encourages council members to take the Respect in the Workplace training and to follow the guidelines that are explicit to council and administration to effectively operate their municipal governments in a respectful and professional manner. This will go a long way towards gaining and keeping the respect of the general public. We know that being a rural councillor is not an easy job, especially when faced with the added stress of bullying and harassment.

Despite all of our issues, we should take pride that we live in a great province and the rural way of life is still the best. This way of life doesn't come easily and we all need to rely on our strengths to keep it.

Thank you.



STOP SUBSCRIBING TO THE NEGATIVE



**BY JAY MEYER
SARM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

In a world where many find it easier to complain than to compliment, it makes it hard to focus on the positive. Whether you are on social media, watching the news, or listening to the radio, almost everything is focused on the negative and the challenges people face in their daily lives. This fixation on a future doomsday keeps people in a constant state of fear. This is the goal; bad news sells, and today's journalism is more about feelings, personal beliefs, and politics rather than fact-based reporting.

Pointing out what others are doing wrong seems to be the priority. Often, those individuals doing the pointing do not have any suggestions to improve the challenge at hand or even understand

the challenge. People will have suggestions without asking "why" certain decisions were made or understanding the background of how the decision was made. This is the culture of the world we live in, the culture of negativity. It is an unhealthy and exhausting culture, to say the least. It is time to flip the script, it is time to celebrate success and start focusing on the positive. Celebrate the good things in life; celebrate the wins. Stop focusing on the 10 percent and remember that 90 percent out there seem to be quite content and happy in their own worlds. Stop focusing on the negative minority. Stop giving the 10 percent the attention they are lacking. Stop paying attention to the media that tries to draw you into the negativity. Stop subscribing to the negative. If it takes you deleting whom you follow on social media, changing whom you socialize with, changing the channel on your tv or radio, or changing the culture at home or in your office, make it happen. An overdose of negativity is usually prone to several mental health conditions such as depression, anxiety, and stress. Although we cannot place a monetary cost on the

impact negativity can have on our mental health, we do know it is significant and potentially debilitating.

**I CHALLENGE YOU
TO LIMIT THE TIME
YOU SPEND ON THE
NEGATIVE AND TO
CONCENTRATE ON
THE POSITIVE.**

Look around and recognize the good things and celebrate the successes. Positivity and success are contagious and will tend to push you onwards and upwards. You will become more productive and motivated. Your overall health will thank you.



The Saskatchewan Firearms Act

AND WHAT IT MEANS

**BY LARRY GRANT
SARM DIRECTOR FOR DIVISION 3**

I wanted to use my message this month to update you on an important piece of new provincial legislation. The SARM Board has been following the implications and growing concerns over the federal gun bans.

Our members are concerned how federal laws will infringe on the rights of law-abiding farmers, ranchers, and recreational firearms users, which are a reality of the livelihood of many in this province.

In rural Saskatchewan, firearms are an important tool to protect livestock and livelihoods from predators and pests. Therefore, firearms laws and regulations are an important issue to the rural communities we represent.

We at SARM are disturbed by the lack of federal consultation with provinces and municipalities on firearms issues. While the federal government indicated that they would be making changes to firearms legislation, the absence of consultation on the recent changes is disappointing. Without consultation there was no opportunity to understand and evaluate the potential effects of the

regulations on law-abiding firearm owners and the impact of the ban on rural residents in Saskatchewan.

SARM was very encouraged by the province's recent announcement regarding *The Saskatchewan Firearms Act*. Our board is encouraging the province to pass it as soon as they can so those law-abiding firearms users can shelter themselves from the implications of federal policies and have criteria that meets the needs of Saskatchewan people.

SARM has always been a supporter of safe firearms use and having our own Saskatchewan Act will result in the establishment of a provincial firearms regulatory system. It will also provide a resource through the Saskatchewan Firearms Office to promote safe firearm usage, education, and will be an ongoing support to Saskatchewan firearms owners.

The province also recently created a Firearms Advisory Committee which SARM sought representation on, and we are happy that SARM's Director from Division 2, Norm Nordgulen, was provided a seat at the table. It will allow SARM to directly participate with the Saskatchewan firearms community and provide a rural Saskatchewan

perspective to inform the decisions made on firearms policy not only in our province, but at the federal level as well. We feel that SARM can provide valuable input and feedback from rural Saskatchewan on firearms education, licensing, transportation, licensing of ranges, and public safety concerns.

SARM has also met with the Chief Firearms Officer (CFO) Mr. Robert Freberg, whose job is to administer the federal Firearms Act within Saskatchewan, and have jurisdiction over the licensing, transporting, and carrying of firearms. Having a provincially appointed CFO will allow Saskatchewan to have a stronger voice in the debate over firearms legislation in Ottawa.

WE WILL CONTINUE TO FOLLOW THIS IMPORTANT LEGISLATION AS IT UNFOLDS OVER THE COMING YEAR AND BE SURE TO PROVIDE INPUT WHERE WE CAN.

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EX-OFFICIO DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

GUY LAGRANDEUR SARM EX-OFFICIO DIRECTOR

As I sit here with pen in hand and reflect on my experience in Ottawa, it is hard to believe that was five months ago. I would like to share my experience and personal comments with all of you regarding our lobby days in Ottawa.

We flew out to Ottawa on October 24, 2022. Being a travel day, it gave me time to review the itinerary and agenda for the week ahead. With five directors and four staff en route to attend 22 scheduled meetings, I felt we were

SARM REPRESENTS ITS MEMBERSHIP OF RURAL MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT IN SASKATCHEWAN AND IS THE PRINCIPAL ADVOCATE IN REPRESENTING THEM BEFORE ALL LEVELS OF SENIOR GOVERNMENT. AS THE VOICE OF RURAL SASKATCHEWAN FOR OVER 100 YEARS SARM HAS SPOKEN STRONGLY, AND CLEARLY, TO REPRESENT RURAL SASKATCHEWAN'S INTERESTS.

taking on a huge task. Lobby Days are an opportunity to demonstrate the extent of SARM's network by assembling a group of advocates to undertake meetings with a cohesive approach to messaging and asks. Our new lobby firm

in Ottawa, Crestview Strategy, to the best of its ability, organized 22 meetings.

These meetings allowed government officials to meet with different representatives from SARM, learn more about the association's story, get exposure to aspects of the association they may not be familiar with, and be equipped with an understanding of the ways government can help, or maybe hinder, SARM's members in Canada.

The objective in Ottawa was to help position SARM as a constructive partner of the government, with a shared view of success in addressing concerns of rural Saskatchewan that include, expansion of broadband access, environmental policy, essential infrastructure funding, and better agricultural safety nets.

SARM represents its membership of rural municipal government in Saskatchewan and is the principal advocate in representing them before all levels of senior government. As the voice of rural Saskatchewan for over

100 years SARM has spoken strongly, and clearly, to represent rural Saskatchewan's interests.

The first meeting I was fortunate to attend was with MP Bonita Zarrillo, the official NDP critic for Infrastructure and Communities. Our main discussion issue was rural broadband. We advocated for them to use service reliability as a performance measurement in addition to using service availability. I spoke directly with MP Zarrillo and stressed the importance of making a strong distinction for a sound definition of what rural actually means.

The next meeting was with Crystina Dundas, the Regional Advisor, Western & Northern, to the Minister of Labour, which was beneficial. We explained our concerns about the backlog allowing foreign workers into Saskatchewan as the need for workers and families is constantly increasing. The rail efforts to ship resources to the west coast was also discussed. Having cargo ships loaded on basic schedules was not an acceptable form of export. We provided Miss Dundas with many of our concerns regarding labour, and export, and are hopeful of our asks, and that we provided her with a new perspective on Saskatchewan issues.

Entering the meeting with MP Rosemarie Falk, who represents Battlefords-Lloydminster, we were prepared to discuss several concerns relating to Saskatchewan. We informed MP Falk that Saskatchewan RMs are



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responsible for capital projects and the ongoing upkeep and maintenance of 162,000 kilometers of Canada's largest rural municipal road network. The Saskatchewan provincial Ministry of Highways does provide annual funding support for rural municipal infrastructure with a Rural Integrated Road for Growth Infrastructure (RIRG) funding program.

In the 2023-24 RIRG application solicitation process 44 RMs applied for \$61,067,176.15 of projects to upgrade 280.3 km's of rural road infrastructure. Twenty-three kilometres were approved for grant funding totaling \$9,619,042.61. Total project costs were \$37,922,321.45 to upgrade 155.1 km's.

THE APPROVED GRANT FUNDING STILL LEAVES A VARIANCE OF DEFICIT FOR RM'S TO FUND \$28,303,278.84.

SARM does thank the Federal Government for past investments but respectfully seeks opportunities to work with Canada to determine how to successfully fund the ever-increasing RM deficit in rural road infrastructure funding. MP Folk diligently listened to our issues and noted our concerns. We left the meeting with a sense of accomplishment and a feeling that our claims were heard.

Over the three full days, the SARM team attended all the meetings with a sense of purpose and determination. I can only speak on the meetings I attended, but I strongly suggest to all of you to seek out a board member or a policy staff member who was in Ottawa and inquire about their experience.

Being able to represent SARM at this level in Ottawa was an experience I will never forget. I was able to meet people that I thought would never be possible. I entered rooms and buildings that not

many people in this country get to experience. I reflected on all we had accomplished and experienced as I sat in my seat on the plane venturing home.

BEING A MEMBER OF A BOARD THAT REPRESENTS MANY RURAL SASKATCHEWAN RESIDENTS IS TRULY A GREAT HONOUR.

Knowing the current issues regarding RM's and being a responsible delegate to represent them in front of senior political officials is a responsibility that I accepted, and will continue to accept, for the remainder of my term as an ex-officio member.

As I was looking out of the window of my airplane seat before landing, I could see all the massive acres and sporadic homesteads below me and my thoughts were what a great province, and I'm happy to be home!

Member Purchasing

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Reduces Risk

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Reinvests in Saskatchewan

When municipalities make purchases through Member Purchasing, a portion of the sales gets reinvested into programs and services that support rural Saskatchewan.



Saves Time

When municipalities access goods and services through Member Purchasing's programs, the complex and time-consuming work of conducting a public sector procurement has already been done.



Provides Advice

Member Purchasing staff are available to discuss municipalities' purchasing needs and offer education on procurement best practices.



How Can Municipalities Access Member Purchasing Programs?

- » Municipalities must post annually their Notice of Planned Procurement on SaskTenders
- » To view the goods and services offered, and the available suppliers, go to the Member Purchasing section of the SARM website and find “Group Purchasing Programs.”
- » Each program provides specific instructions for accessing the programs offered by a supplier. This is found in the “How it Works” section.
- » Additional programs that meet nearly every imaginable need a municipality may have can be found on the Canoe Procurement website: canoeprocurement.ca/programs/
- » Always use the supplier contact details that are listed on the SARM and Canoe websites. When speaking with supplier contacts, ask for SARM and Canoe membership pricing.
- » For more information about Member Purchasing's programs and services, please visit sarm.ca/services/member-purchasing or contact the Member Purchasing Advisor, Amanda Kozak, for more information. (akozak@sarm.ca).



MINISTER'S MESSAGE

BY THE HONOURABLE DON MCMORRIS
MINISTER OF GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

Thank you to the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM) for providing the chance in your magazine to reach out directly to your membership.

I will take this opportunity to update reeves, councilors and other municipal government officials with important information about some of the key tools and programs available to support local leaders as they work to make their communities better places.

One of those tools is the Targeted Sector Support Initiative (TSS).

TSS provides cost-shared grants - up to 75 per cent of eligible costs - to municipalities partnering on projects focused on regional co-operation, capacity-building and good governance.

The TSS Steering Committee - consisting of representatives from SARM, the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association, New North and the Ministry of Government Relations (GR) - agreed early in the year to invest more than \$500,000 in provincial funding toward 15 new municipal projects from a fourth application intake.

Eight of these new TSS projects were in rural municipalities. Examples include:

- The RM of Douglas No. 436, which will receive more than \$18,000 for

a capacity-building project to develop a shared human resources programming and policy manual with nine other rural municipalities.

- The RM of Paddockwood No. 520, which will receive more than \$65,000 for a regional co-operation project involving four other municipalities to create the North Central Lakelands Planning District Land Use Plan.
- The RM of Connaught No. 457, which will receive more than \$21,000 for a regional co-operation project with the Village of Ridgedale to write official community plans and zoning bylaws.

All Saskatchewan municipalities are encouraged to apply for TSS funding during the next application intake. This fifth intake is expected to open in March. Visit www.saskatchewan.ca/government/municipal-administration/funding-finances-and-asset-management/funding/targeted-sector-support-initiative or email info@targetedsector.ca for more information.

Although GR's portion of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) is no longer accepting applications, municipal project proposals received from previous intakes continue to be evaluated and announced after receiving funding approvals from the provincial, then federal governments.

Since 2019, GR has announced more than \$338 million in provincial funding

under ICIP to support more than 300 infrastructure projects across Saskatchewan.

These projects range from: enhanced water and wastewater systems to position communities for growth; cultural and recreational opportunities to strengthen the hearts of communities; decommissioned landfills for a cleaner environment; to new local bridges and culverts to enhance the rural transportation system.

Some of the recently announced infrastructure projects and their provincial investments include: \$63,327 toward the RM of Britannia No. 502's Big Gully Park Upgrade; \$163,829 to support the RM of Emerald No. 277's landfill closure project; and \$333,300 to help the RM of Laurier No. 38 with its Martin Bridge Replacement Project.

Before I go, thank you for your time and your ongoing dedication to the communities you serve.

**TOGETHER,
WE CAN MAKE
SASKATCHEWAN
EVEN STRONGER
FOR THIS NEW
DECADE - AND
BEYOND.**



MINISTER'S MESSAGE

**BY THE HONOURABLE LORI CARR
MINISTER OF SASKBUILDS AND PROCUREMENT**

On behalf of the Government of Saskatchewan and Premier Scott Moe, it is my pleasure to serve our province as the Minister of SaskBuilds and Procurement. As former Minister of Government Relations and Highways, I frequently had the opportunity to work with SARM in many capacities. Thank you for all the work you do.

We recognize rural Saskatchewan is integral to our economy. Infrastructure investment is vital for healthy and vibrant rural communities. Our government is well on the way to achieving the Growth Plan goal of investing \$30 billion in public infrastructure by the year 2030, and much of that investment has been directed to the rural heartland of our province. Many infrastructure projects have moved into construction or procurement.

A large part of this infrastructure investment involves healthcare. These infrastructure projects include:

- Construction of the Grenfell Long-Term Care Home;
- A new 33-bed facility to replace Pioneer Home which will start later this year and be substantially completed by late 2024;
- In La Ronge site work has begun for the Long-Term Care Centre which will involve building a new facility along with renovation of the current space;
- In Prince Albert, a new acute care tower will be built at Victoria Hospital increasing the number of beds by 40 per cent; the existing facility will

be renovated and the adult mental health space will be replaced;

- Twenty-five acute care beds and a 10-bed mental health in-patient unit will be built as part of the Weyburn General Hospital project. The new hospital will also feature an Emergency Medical Services garage and heliport.

Investment in rural Education infrastructure has also been a primary focus for government. The Carrot River School project officially broke ground in September 2022. The new school will replace and consolidate Carrot River Elementary and Carrot River High schools when it opens in early 2024. In La Loche, a replacement school for Ducharme Elementary will begin construction in Spring 2023. The new school will accommodate approximately 475 students from Pre-kindergarten to Grade 6. Construction has begun on a new Kindergarten to Grade 12 school in Blaine Lake, which is expected to be completed this coming fall. In 2020, nearly \$26 million in stimulus maintenance funding was earmarked for 15 mechanical and structural upgrade projects in schools across the province. Ten of those projects are now complete.

The Government of Saskatchewan has also invested more than \$13 million in provincial park facility and infrastructure improvements over the past year. Four new day-use pavilions at Echo Valley, Buffalo Pound, Blackstrap and Pike Lake Provincial Parks were built last year. These day-use pavilions offer space for gatherings and events such as weddings or market gardens. The

Pine Hill Campground at Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park has been redeveloped to include 42 electric sites, 18 full-service sites, tenting sites and an information centre. At Saskatchewan Landing Provincial Park, a new Visitor Reception Centre was built in a more central location to provide better accessibility to visitors. A new multi-purpose Visitor Centre was also constructed at Buffalo Pound Provincial Park which can be utilized as a meeting space as well as a hub for interpretive programming and exhibits.

Saskatchewan continues to work with the federal government in the design of future infrastructure programs to ensure flexibility to meet our province's needs and priorities. Although Saskatchewan's infrastructure priorities may not align with the federal government's, the expectation is we will still receive our 'fair share' of the national amount. Canada's infrastructure focus will likely continue to be on large urban public transit and green energy, along with drinking water, wastewater, landfills, roads, bridges, public buildings and other community assets.

OUR GOVERNMENT VALUES THE RELATIONSHIP WE HAVE WITH SARM AND ITS MEMBERS. WE KNOW STRONG RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE IS THE BASIS FOR STRONG COMMUNITIES, A STRONG ECONOMY, AND A STRONG SASKATCHEWAN WITH GROWTH THAT WORKS FOR EVERYONE.



RURAL MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATORS' ASSOCIATION (RMAA)

**BY MICHELLE BUECHLER
DIVISION 6 DIRECTOR**

Well Mother Nature has sure reared her ugly little head this winter. I don't think there is one part of the province that wasn't effected by her wrath. With the December snowfall which created some challenges for our grader operators to the balmy January temperatures that brought freezing rain and days and days on end of fog and little sunlight. According to The Farmers Almanac and many self-respecting grandmothers, fog in January means we will have a wet spring. Lets hope that the rain comes at the perfect time for the crops and pastures to flourish.

My foreman came into the office one day and said "I can't take any more of these gloomy days, I need the sunshine". Like many, these gloomy days with no Vitamin D can take a toll on ones mental health. Some of the symptoms of Vitamin D deficiency may include fatigue, poor sleep, depression or feelings of sadness and hair loss, just to name a few. With the stress and demands of our busy jobs, adding the above symptoms can make an R.M. employees daily routine unmanageable. Throw in the mix an antagonistic environment with council or ratepayers', it can be a heavy load to bare. The point I am trying to get across is that the mental health of municipal employees should be first and foremost on councils agenda to have a healthy workplace and for employee retention. Some of us treat our jobs like our own business and take great pride in putting in extra hours to get the job done, usually unnoticed by Council. Hillary Clinton said "Don't confuse having a career with having a life".

This time of year also brings sweet baby calves and Assessment Rolls. I know which one I would rather be working with. With the Assessment roll comes the start of another yearly cycle in municipal offices. Our offices are getting busier and busier and almost impossible to ever feel caught up. Limited resources in the office make it difficult to keep up with policies manuals, safety manuals and everybody's favorite... Asset Management.

NO ONE ON HIS DEATHBED EVER SAID, 'I WISH I HAD SPENT MORE TIME AT THE OFFICE'.
PAUL TSONGAS, POLITICIAN

I just want to remind all Administrators to keep your head up and instead of looking at the big overwhelming picture, continue step by step to get your work completed which is sometimes easier said than done but it always get done!

CHEERS TO SPRING!!

TRADE & EXPORT DEVELOPMENT



Rural Saskatchewan is vital to the strength of our province’s economy, providing the food, fuel, fertilizer and critical minerals that a growing world needs.

Our agricultural producers are the most innovative in the world. New research shows that Saskatchewan’s net carbon footprint for canola and wheat production is almost 60 per cent lower than our main global competitors. In 2020, we sequestered the equivalent of 12.8 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent in our agricultural soils. That’s more than any other province in Canada. We did it using zero and minimum tillage practices, increased crop productivity and converting marginal cropland to grassland.

With our vast, productive land base and a collaborative approach to crop development research, Saskatchewan is playing an increasingly important role as a major food supplier to the world’s rapidly growing population.

When it comes to energy, Saskatchewan is a global leader with rich mineral resources, an efficient regulatory environment and strong investment opportunities.

Our potash industry is increasing production to fill the void left by the sanctions against Russia and Belarus, as customers from around the world look to our province as an ethical, reliable and sustainable supplier of this key mineral for fertilizer and food security. Saskatchewan accounts for around 30 per cent of global potash production, and we do so while successfully producing it with 50 per cent fewer greenhouse gas emissions than any of our global competitors.

Saskatchewan is also a world producer of another critical mineral which will support the global energy transition - uranium. Northern Saskatchewan is home to the largest high-grade uranium deposits in the world, providing almost a quarter of

Saskatchewan also has significant deposits of helium, lithium and critical minerals, along with North America’s first rare earth processing facility. This facility is already beginning to establish a Rare Earth Element (REE) supply chain in Saskatchewan. It’s forming an industry model for future commercial REE resource expansion in the province and paving the way for future technology and value-added processing.

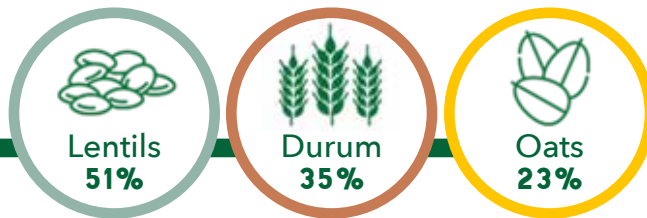
As the world searches for sustainable, reliable sources of these critical minerals - Saskatchewan continues to attract new investment into our province. Over the past two years, more than \$13 billion worth of projects have been announced in our province.

Thanks to the strength and support of our rural municipalities, Saskatchewan has become a world leader in sustainable economic development, and environmental stewardship. That’s why we have recently launched the [sustainablesk.ca](https://www.sustainablesk.ca), which details our sustainable resources, community support and clean energy.

We are a jurisdiction that places a strong emphasis on partnerships and on the important role international engagement plays in creating those relationships. Because of that, over the last two years we have established a network of nine international offices. Enhancing our international presence allows us to highlight and sell more of the great products we produce right here at home with the rest of the world.

Our organizations continue to find even more ways to work together and build great partnerships that will ensure strength and resiliency in Saskatchewan people and communities.

PERCENTAGE OF SASKATCHEWAN’S EXPORTS



In 2021, our agricultural exports were worth \$17.5 billion - a new record for our province of 1.2 million people.

With more than \$1 billion in canola crushing investments announced since 2021, the agriculture industry continues to place its confidence in Saskatchewan. Many countries rely on us to supplement their domestic food production. In 2021, 10 countries each purchased more than \$350 million worth of agri-food products from Saskatchewan.

the world’s uranium supply that is used for zero-emission electrical generation.

We’re Canada’s second largest producer of oil, producing over 445,000 barrels per day, more than some OPEC countries. Our oil and gas sector is making incredible advancements to become more environmentally sustainable. In fact, if all oil-producing countries adopted environmental regulations like Saskatchewan’s, greenhouse gas emissions from oil production would be cut by 25 per cent overnight.



NELSON GRANITE

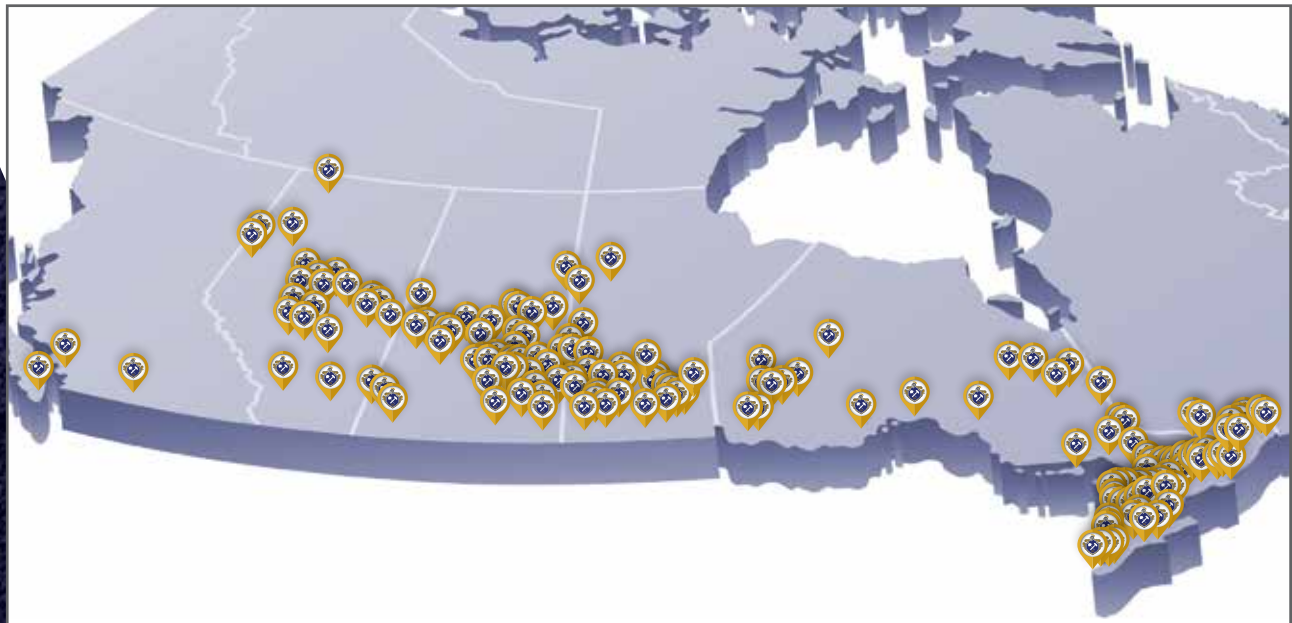


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KNOW WHEN TO MOW

BY CHELSEA NEUBERGER, AAG
SARM PLANT HEALTH OFFICER DIVISION 5

Integrated weed management is a method where multiple weed control tactics—mechanical, cultural, biological and chemical—are utilized together to control invasive species. Roadside mowing is a mechanical control method that can be valuable for invasive weed control when completed correctly. To be a beneficial control method, mowing should occur at the correct time, growth stage, and frequency. If all these factors are not met, mowing may not be an effective control method for rural municipalities (RMs) and first nation bands (FNBs).

TIMING

Timing is one of the most vital factors for utilizing mowing to control invasive weeds. For most invasive weeds, mowing should occur before the plant has flowered. By doing so, you are preventing the plant from producing seed.

MOWING BEFORE FLOWERING CAN PREVENT THE SEED PRODUCTION OF ABSINTHE, BABY'S BREATH, AND OTHER COMMON WEEDS FOUND ALONG ROADSIDES.

Unfortunately, it is not always that simple. Certain weeds benefit from being cut at different times in their growth stage. For example, common burdock is best cut after bolting and before flowering. Not mowing before certain plant growth stages can risk the seed spreading along the roadside, as the seed may already have become produced or set. This means cutting weeds at incorrect plant stages will further aggravate the issue.

Flowering time varies based on weed species and the area located. Some weeds, such as scentless chamomile, begin flowering in May and continue into October. Many others start flowering in early June or July and into the end of September. Therefore, mowing often needs to occur frequently throughout the year.

FREQUENCY

Frequency is another important factor of weed control with mowing. Not all invasive species will require only one singular cutting during the season. Many species tend to grow back after being cut. For example, scentless chamomile will produce a flower at the cut line. Therefore, seed production will only become limited with frequent mowing. For certain species, such as common tansy or yellow toadflax, repeated mowing can stop seed production, and deplete root reserves. During the rural municipality (RM) and first nation band (FNB) mowing operations, it is imperative to note when weeds start growing back, so weeds can be cut again before plants set seed.



**YELLOW TOADFLAX
INFESTATION ALONG
ROADSIDE**

WEED SPECIES

Mowing does not help control all types of weeds or stop all weeds from producing seeds. Annual weeds can be controlled more easily with mowing than perennials, as it will disrupt the weed’s growth cycle. Perennial weeds are more difficult to control via cutting, as they will continue to regrow. For leafy spurge, mowing is relatively ineffective except for on small, young infestations, as the perennial root will persist to re-establish the infestation. For other weeds like field bindweed, mowing is not an effective control method, and may further spread the infestation. It is best to make note of which weeds spread by mowing, so the infested areas may be avoided.

BEST PRACTICES FOR MAINTENANCE STAFF

For mowing to be effective, RMs and FNBs need to be aware of the weed infestations along their roadsides. It is ideal to have a member of the maintenance staff, such as a mower or grader operator, be able to identify common invasive weeds. Once weed infestations are identified, they should be reported to the RM/FNB and recorded using iMapInvasives. To help manage the spread of invasive weeds,



**SCENTLESS
CHAMOMILE AT
FLOWERING STAGE**

mowing should be avoided in humid or wet weather. During these conditions, plant material and seeds will easily stick to the underside of the mowers and spread to new areas. Cleaning equipment frequently and practicing biosecurity will minimize weed spread. Once a mowing schedule is set, control efforts can then be coordinated between the Weed Inspector and the licensed pesticide applicator to maximize control efforts.

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CONCLUSION

Roadside mowing is not the only option for controlling invasive weeds but can be one step in an integrated management approach if done correctly. Mowing is best used in conjunction with other control methods, such as herbicide application. If you have any questions regarding managing invasive weeds, iMapInvasives training, weed identification training for RM/ FNB staff, and the Invasive Plant Control Program (IPCP), please contact your local Plant Health Officer.

IT'S TIME TO REVISIT EXCESS LIABILITY LIMITS



**COLIN WARNECKE
MANAGER, RISK
DEVELOPMENT, SARM**

Picking the correct liability insurance limit can be a challenging and frustrating exercise for many RM councils. There is not a good, or easy answer, to how much coverage one should purchase and a formula doesn't exist to make that decision easier. At the end of the day, the risk tolerance of the sitting council will determine the amount of coverage purchased.

What I can say is the thinking around what are 'acceptable' limits of liability coverage for municipalities is certainly rising. I belong to a forum consisting of Risk Managers for municipalities across Canada and the question has frequently come up as to what the right level of coverage is to purchase? It was interesting to see the various responses, but a common theme across Canada was:

- large urban municipalities are generally purchasing liability limits in excess of \$20 million, sometimes using tools known as "umbrella" policies to get coverages up to \$50 million or higher;



With this in mind, what are some of the factors that you should be considering when it comes to determining the amount of liability coverage your municipality should purchase? Some of the items to consider are:

- 1. Population** - what is the population of your RM and is it growing or decreasing. A higher population would suggest a greater chance of risk for claims coming from motor vehicle incidents to claims arising out of development permits and building code enforcement.
- 2. Commercial Development** - Does your RM have several commercial developments (other than farming or ranching)? The higher the commercial development the higher the risk that exists.
- 3. How many kms of roads does the RM maintain year-round?**
The more kilometres of roads maintained the more risk of the RM being drawn into an action for loss or damage.
- 4. What types of boards and committees is council involved in?**
As an example, there are a few RMs that maintain and operate ski hills, a very risky venture to be involved in, which requires a higher level of coverage.
- 5. Do you have any rail lines going through your RM and are these main lines or secondary lines?**

- smaller urban municipalities (population of less than 250,000) are often purchasing liability limits in the \$20 million range; and
- rural municipalities are generally purchasing liability limits in the \$10 to \$20 million range .

It is important to note that legal climates in Ontario, British Columbia and Alberta have a significant impact on this national conversation. In Saskatchewan, we are a much smaller insurance market, with four key factors that are to your benefit as municipalities in mitigating your liability risk.

- a) the One-Year Limitation Period provided by *The Municipalities Act*, which greatly curtails the possibility of claims popping up years after an alleged incident;
- b) the existence of "No Fault" Injury Benefits from SGI, which has virtually erased the single biggest liability exposure of a rural municipality, that being Bodily Injury claims from motor vehicle accidents on roads;
- c) the significantly more muted litigation climate within Saskatchewan, both in terms of frequency of litigation and in the severity of damage awards; and
- d) a very limited exposure to a large driving factor of "Public Sector" liability claims, which are Abuse and

Molestation type claims - as the "Public Sector" within the broader insurance market includes Schools, Hospitals, Long Term Care facilities and larger municipalities with public programming for children, etc.).

Of the above five considerations, rail lines are what I want to focus on. SARM has historical experience with these types of claims. Generally speaking, if a RM grader or other piece of equipment is involved in a collision with a train, the RM will be liable. As far as I am aware, there have been four such major incidents in SARM's history. The first three were in 2010, 2011 and 2013, where the losses were in the \$800,000, \$2.7 Million and \$3.7 Million range, respectively. In 2022, there was another

such incident. While we are not yet certain what the final damages will total, we have been advised by the railway that the damages could be in the realm of \$10 Million. As you can see, the costs for environmental cleanup, property damage and business interruption have gone up considerably over the past decade. Though we do not know how the 2022 claim will settle out, what we do know is that carrying \$3 or \$5million dollars of liability coverage when you have main rail lines going through your RM is likely not enough should an incident occur.

If an RM is a participant in SARM’s Liability Self Insurance Plan, or LSIP, (which provides \$3 million in Commercial General Liability coverage), that RM then has access to the SARM

Excess Liability Program, where up to an additional \$12 million in cover can be purchased. Between LSIP and Excess Liability, SARM is able to provide up to \$15 million in total Commercial General Liability coverage. We are also able to increase the coverage for the Administrator’s Errors and Omissions coverage under the Excess Liability program. Currently, LSIP provides \$500,000 for this (Coverage H), and under the Excess Liability Program, an additional \$500,000, \$1 million or \$2 million can be purchased.

Currently, 282 RM’s purchase their basic liability coverage through LSIP. Of those 282, 210 also purchase Excess Liability Limits of some amount. 176 of those 210 purchase limits of \$2, \$3 or \$5 Million, which provide total liability

coverage of \$5, \$6, or \$8 Million. The remainder of RM’s that purchase Excess Liability coverage are selecting limits as low as \$1 Million and as high as \$12 Million.

Ultimately, the decisions around what limits of liability coverage to purchase rest with council. It would be my recommendations, however, that:

- a) each council review their liability limits annually
- b) each council consider carrying \$5 Million as their minimum; and
- c) if your RM has a major rail line crossing through it, you give serious consideration to increasing your limits to \$10 Million or more.

The following table provides the pricing of the product based on population level and amount of coverage you may be interested in.

CATEGORY/ LIMIT	EXCESS LIABILITY				ERRORS & OMISSIONS
	Population 0 - 1,499 A	Population 1,500 - 2,499 B	Population 2,500 - 4,499 C	Population 5,000 + D	
500,000	-	-	-	-	122
1,000,000	480	590	710	949	245
2,000,000	757	948	1,106	1,551	367
3,000,000	1,027	1,259	1,458	1,993	-
4,000,000	1,439	1,671	1,871	2,405	-
5,000,000	1,851	2,084	2,283	2,818	-
6,000,000	2,264	2,496	2,695	3,230	-
7,000,000	2,676	2,908	3,108	3,642	-
8,000,000	3,088	3,321	3,520	4,055	-
9,000,000	3,500	3,733	3,932	4,467	-
10,000,000	3,913	4,145	4,345	4,879	-
11,000,000	4,325	4,558	4,757	5,292	-
12,000,000	4,737	4,970	5,169	5,704	-

If you are interested in purchasing Excess Liability coverage or increasing your existing coverage, please contact me directly at cwarnecke@sarm.ca or by phone at 306.761.3946.



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STORY BY TOURISM SASKATCHEWAN

PHOTOS PROVIDED BY KINDER SURPRISES ANTIQUES

Erin Kinder is an entrepreneur and storyteller whose passion for antiques is rivalled only by pride of place and a deep affection for Saskatchewan. These qualities, along with hard work and determination, drive the success and growth of Kinder Surprises Antiques in the RM of Arm River No. 252, near Davidson.

Operating a business is in Kinder's DNA. Her family owned gas stations in Davidson, so she developed a strong work ethic at an early age. Waitressing and pumping gas provided valuable experience and taught her the importance of delivering great customer service.

Business ownership was always a dream, but pursuing it would come after working in the corporate world and living in New Zealand for several years. While there, she was inspired by how the country prioritizes tourism. "New Zealand's tourism economy is huge," Kinder said. "Everywhere you go, the aim is to provide great experiences for travellers."

Recipe for growth

In 2014, she opened Kinder Surprises Antiques on her farm outside of Davidson. A century-old, hip-roofed barn was given new life as a place where people could shop, visit and reminisce about bygone days. By 2018, it was evident that her vision for creating a destination business and bringing more visitors to the area was working. Kinder received a Saskatchewan Tourism Award of Excellence that year for achievements in marketing. Her social media activities gained a large, loyal following, mostly female, and drove increases in visitation and sales year over year.

"When I started Kinder Surprises Antiques, it was just me working here and I was only open on Sunday afternoons," she said. "Now, we are open five days a week, from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. Last season, I had myself and three part-time staff, plus contractors for labour, mowing lawns, etc. We welcomed over 5,000 visitors from all over Saskatchewan, and people from almost every province signed our guest book."

Rising above COVID-19

Kinder acknowledges that she was able to avoid some of the fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic. This was due to the set-up of her property and procedures to maintain a safe, comfortable environment. "At the onset of COVID, I made the decision to double down, and focus intensely on providing a safe place where people could visit. And they did because it is such a big space with numerous buildings and wide-open doorways. Business almost doubled."

Building a village

Part of the novelty and attraction of Kinder Surprises Antiques is its evolution. The property now resembles the main street of a prairie town. Its collection of buildings includes a one-room schoolhouse that was relocated from Eston. Most recently, Kinder acquired a 112-year-old Roman Catholic Church and moved it onto the property. "I've made it a big priority to invest in and save old buildings," she said. "That's really resonated with people. It all makes for really unique experiences in a gorgeous setting. People can visit and it doesn't have to cost them anything. There is no entry fee and the only exchange is if they buy something. It's a formula that's working."

"I love hearing visitors say how this place brings them back to quieter times. It evokes memories and feelings of nostalgia."



Forging partnerships

Kinder recognizes the value of embracing partnerships and working collaboratively to build the local visitor economy. She has taken advantage of resources and programs offered by Tourism Saskatchewan - opportunities that have helped Kinder Surprises Antiques evolve and diversify. "Their insights have helped me to develop a unique experience at my antiques village, which is so much more than a retail environment, but rather an immersive day trip full of nostalgia, memories and experiences," she said.

Through Tourism Saskatchewan's Diversification Program, she is investing in construction of an all-season washroom on the property.

Enhancements to the site will enable customizable visitor experiences and expand settings and group size for various events.

Kinder's passion for the province comes through in her conversations with customers, in activities on social media and through the mentoring she offers to women entrepreneurs. "I love Saskatchewan and I'm so happy to share it," she said. "I love hearing visitors say how this place brings them back to quieter times. It evokes memories and feelings of nostalgia. So often, visitors can be brought to tears when they visit the one-room schoolhouse. It's just a really special experience to be able to share that with so many people."



AN EXTENSIVE LAUNDRY LIST: LOOKING TOWARDS THE 2023 SPRING PARLIAMENTARY SESSION

**BY: GERASSIMOS PEPELASSIS
CONSULTANT, CRESTVIEW STRATEGY**



Crestview Strategy is delighted and humbled to continue its working relationship with the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities and its members into 2023, and with an eye on the upcoming spring parliamentary session, is ready and able to advocate for, and advance, SARM's policy priorities.

2022 was a busy and consequential year in Canadian politics. It was highlighted by major developments such as Pierre Poilievre's ascension to Leader of the Conservative Party and the Official Opposition, the Trudeau government's invocation of the Emergencies Act (and its subsequent fallout), the application of the NDP-Liberal confidence-and-supply agreement, Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and ongoing inflationary economic activity.

Amid this fast-changing political climate, SARM travelled to Ottawa last October to directly engage with key decision-makers on its matters of interest, which included rural broadband connectivity, agricultural affairs, rural policing, and energy issues, among others. This engagement period provided an opportunity for SARM to meet with Saskatchewan-based Members of Parliament to discuss areas of alignment and provide updates on constituency concerns. The "lobby day" period also enabled SARM to advocate for its interests before key decision-makers in the federal government, including

both the Ministers of Agriculture and Agri-Food, and Transport.

CRESTVIEW IS COMMITTED TO BUILDING UPON THIS PROGRESS IN 2023 BY CONTINUING TO TRACK ISSUES AND POLICY AREAS OF INTEREST TO THE ASSOCIATION, AND ADVOCATING ON SARM'S BEHALF DIRECTLY BEFORE THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

Indeed, based on what we know about stated governmental priorities, the upcoming parliamentary session will be sure to offer several opportunities for Crestview Strategy and SARM to continue this work.

On January 30th, the federal government will enter the spring parliamentary session having made progress on numerous policy proposals, including the passage of legislation relating to COVID-19 relief, GST rebates, rental supports, and dental care. Much of this progress can be attributed to the confidence-and-supply agreement that the Liberal Party signed with the NDP in

early 2022. The deal effectively preserves the current Liberal minority government until 2025 through NDP support on confidence motions and budget votes. In exchange, the Trudeau government has pledged to table legislation that centers on dental care, pharma care, child care, and "just transition" initiatives.

Many political observers and strategists are keenly wondering whether the foundations supporting the agreement are prone to collapse, given recent comments made by NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh, who stated that his party is prepared to walk away from the deal if the Liberal government fails to introduce and pass a comprehensive pharma care bill this year. Mr. Singh has further added that his party is prepared to withdraw from the agreement if no federal action is taken to address the ongoing healthcare crisis. On both accounts, the federal government is likely to deliver on these pledges to some extent. Recent reports indicate that Ottawa is close to reaching a deal with the provinces and territories on a healthcare funding deal, and although there has been less clarity as to how far-along pharma care legislation is moving, the government has enough time to develop a cogent policy proposal before an end-of-the-year deadline.

In the upcoming session, the Trudeau government will also certainly need to develop an effective counter strategy towards attacks from the Conservative Party. Pierre Poilievre has begun to settle into his role as Leader of the Opposition, and has the backing of his caucus. He will doubtlessly be entering the new parliamentary session having learned from some of his early mistakes, including his unnecessary eschewing of the Parliament Hill media. Indeed, his leadership team has already established that Mr. Poilievre will make himself more readily available to the national press corps this year, which should help make inroads in terms of delivering his message to a wider sway of the Canadian population. This message, which routinely revolves around the notion of holding the federal government accountable for continuing cost of living increases, a mishandling of natural resource policies, immigration

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backlogs, rising crime, and various scandals, is starting to resonate; recent polling figures have increasingly started to favour Pierre Poilievre's Conservatives.

With these contextual factors in mind, SARM will enter the new year with an extensive tranche of key advocacy priorities to present before parliamentarians, their staff, and civil servants.

Many of these priorities will be presented at a high-level in SARM's consultation efforts with the Ministry of Finance for the 2023 federal budget, which is expected to be released in the last week of March. Given that healthcare and the cost of living/inflation are the two issues currently driving public opinion in Canada, it would be reasonable to expect for the upcoming budget to heavily be composed of initiatives and funding allocations that aim to address problems in both areas in the short, medium, and long-term future. However, as per usual, the Budget will have an expansive scope of fiscal measures to cover, many of which will be related to SARM's policy priorities.

The Office of the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food has launched consultation sessions with stakeholders on its Sustainable Agriculture Strategy, an initiative that is sure to have a direct impact on farming communities across Saskatchewan. By and large, the Strategy aims to assist Canada's agricultural sector in recovering quickly from extreme events, thrive in a changing climate, contribute to world food security, and contribute to broad emission reductions by focusing on five priority issues: soil health, climate adaptation and resilience, water, climate change, mitigation, and biodiversity.

Bill C-21, the federal government's proposed gun control legislation, will be a heated topic of discussion, as it continues to receive consideration and scrutiny from the Standing Committee on Public Safety in the House of Commons. Amendments to the bill, which now propose to include rifles or shotguns capable of discharging centre-fire ammunition in a semi-automatic manner, have prompted

criticism from all sides of the Canadian political spectrum, and this environment provides a favourable platform for SARM to advocate its concerns surrounding the new changes.

The start of the parliamentary session will provide more clarity on the legislative items that will be prioritized by the federal government, and how other parties and bodies in the House of Commons will respond to them. SARM and its members are well prepared to address these oncoming developments, and accordingly measure how they impact their respective priorities. As always, Crestview Strategy is here to help in these efforts.



TRANSPORTATION RESCUE EXTRICATION (TREX) PROGRAMS AIMS TO INCREASE RURAL SAFETY

BY WAYNE RODGER, FIRE MARSHAL,
SASKATCHEWAN PUBLIC SAFETY AGENCY



As the newly appointed Saskatchewan Fire Marshal, and a former Saskatoon firefighter and assistant fire chief, I am excited to share the details of the recently launched Transportation Rescue Extrication (TREX) program with you.

The Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency (SPSA), through one-time funding of \$5.6 million from SGI, has created the first program of its kind in Canada to offer transportation rescue extrication training and equipment to Saskatchewan fire departments.

Rural fire departments face many challenges. They are often (almost always) staffed by volunteers and don't have the funds for equipment or training that larger fire departments have. Over the past year, the SPSA has worked closely with the Saskatchewan Volunteer Fire Fighters Association, the Saskatchewan Association of Fire Chiefs, and the Provincial Training Standards Committee to develop the TREX program. The program aims to increase

the level of access Saskatchewan fire departments have to auto-extrication training and equipment.

TRAINING PROGRAMS NOT ONLY ENSURE FIREFIGHTERS HAVE THE SKILLS NEEDED FOR SAFER AND MORE EFFICIENT RESPONSES, BUT ALSO LIMIT OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY INCIDENTS AND MITIGATE THE CHANCES OF LITIGATION DUE TO NEGLIGENCE.

The guidelines provided within the TRES program aim to enhance coordination between elected officials and fire departments by providing an opportunity for collaboration and fiscal planning to ensure firefighters have the training and type of equipment they need to serve their communities and to provide guidance on equipment maintenance.

TRES service levels are designed to support fire departments without an active auto-extrication program. The service levels consider the number of firefighters on scene per call, minimum training needs (Incident Command System training, first aid/CPR, HAZMAT awareness) and if your community contains a high collision area as confirmed by SGI. All applicant fire departments are required to have an emergency bylaw in place, have an up-to-date community emergency plan and must participate in the Fire Service Minimum Standards by submitting a minimum service level declaration.

Council should work with fire departments to decide what TRES level is appropriate for their communities and ensure that funds are available for the maintenance phase of the program. Fire departments will be responsible for future costs associated with the TRES maintenance requirements.

Many fire departments may not have enough firefighters to host a training session in their community and may not be sure what equipment package is right for them. To address this, the

SPSA is organizing mass training events that will provide fire departments with the training required by the TRES program guidelines and vendors. Fire departments will also be able to try out the various pieces of equipment offered by the vendors. We look forward to the first training event, which is being held in Regina in early Spring 2023. While the training costs are included under the TRES program, fire departments will need to cover expenses related to participants' travel.

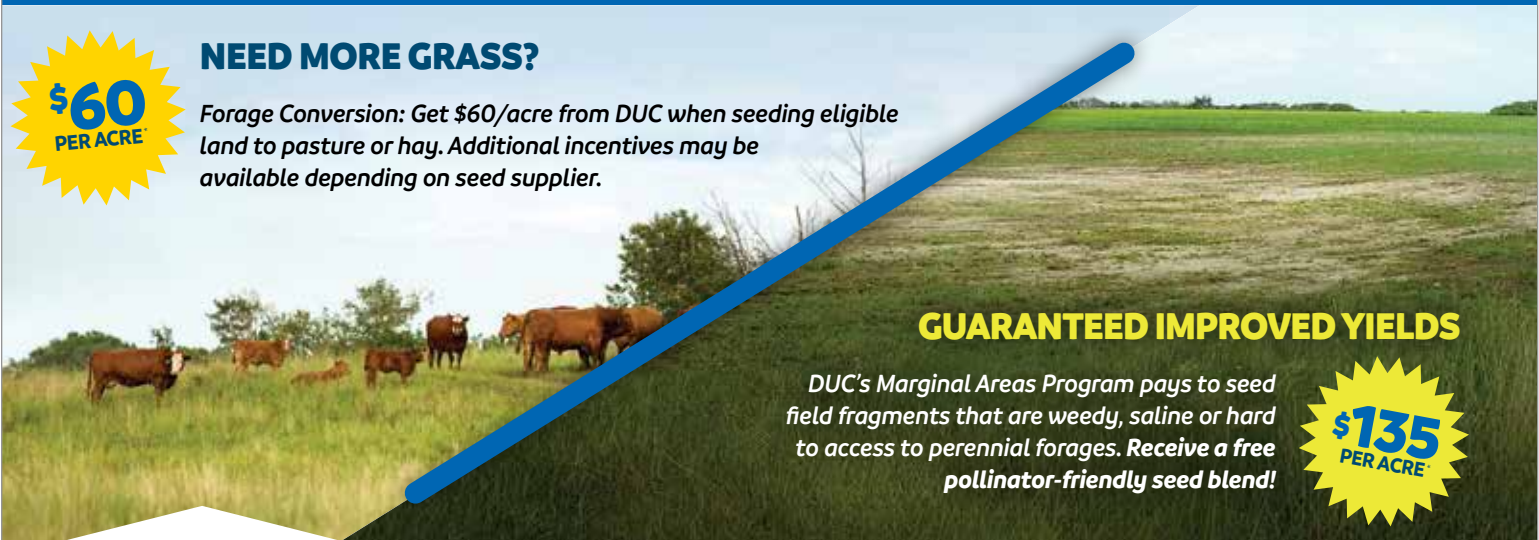
For more information on the TRES program, and to access the online application form, visit www.saskpublicsafety.ca/first-responders/tres-program. If you have specific questions about the TRES program or the Fire Service Minimum Standards, please reach out to me directly at wayne.rodger@gov.sk.ca.

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HELPING SMALL COMMUNITIES THRIVE:

THE BENEFITS OF MASTER SERVICES AGREEMENTS

BY STEFAN LAPLANTE

Small or remote communities are the epitome of self-reliance and independence. However, this self-reliance comes at a price, particularly in the delivery of capital projects. Administrations are already busy with daily responsibilities and, when required, are also expected to deliver highly technical projects internally or push all responsibility to consulting design firms. The opportunity to ensure that the community's vision and values are integrated into the project delivery is often missed.

But what if an administration has the capacity or desire to deliver a project, but the scope is outside the area of internal expertise? What if a community doesn't have the internal capacity to manage the project? How can the administration confidently apply for

funding and kick off technical projects when funds are secured through strict compliance with contribution and trade agreement conditions?

Such questions can be answered quickly by a project management firm acting on

By establishing an MSA, municipalities can reduce procurement process costs, free up internal resources, and confidently deliver municipal projects.

behalf of the administration. Often, these questions are most efficiently answered when administration has already engaged a project management firm through a Master Services Agreement (MSA).

WHAT IS AN MSA?

In the municipal world, an MSA is an agreement between a municipal government and a service provider where both groups agree to the manner, terms and conditions in which services will be provided without knowing the specific quantity, timing or scope of those services. Terms and conditions are negotiated and confirmed at the beginning of the partnership, which enables both parties to engage in ensuing work quickly, with less risk and cost. MSAs can range in duration, but are generally established for three to five years - sometimes with options to extend.

Contractual Benefits

From more robust confidentiality clauses to more specific payment clauses, an MSA not only sets the legal, technical and financial stage for future services, but also provides the opportunity to negotiate customized supplementary conditions. When compared to negotiating multiple contracts with the same supplier, an MSA enables focused negotiations and reviews, thereby significantly reducing overall administrative and legal costs associated with the partnership. Once the contract negotiations are complete and the terms set, the service supplier can be quickly engaged for one or more pieces of specific work.

Project Management Service Perspective

Relative to project management services, MSAs bridge the gap between an administration's internal capacity and its ability to deliver projects. Through the MSA, project management services can be right-sized to the administration's needs and take the form of simple guidance, ongoing support or project-specific leadership.

GUIDANCE

To maintain uninterrupted public services, administrations must constantly pursue small improvements to assets, operations or planning cycles. In these cases, administrations may have the capacity to complete the work but might also wish to occasionally get guidance and advice. Using the terms set out in an MSA, an external project manager could provide unstructured and advisory-style services in an economical manner, allowing the administration to benefit from the project manager's knowledge and expertise on an as-needed basis without adjusting an existing contract or developing new contracts.

ONGOING SUPPORT

MSAs are also well suited to scenarios where multiple, similar projects are approved. With the terms and conditions agreed to under the MSA, administrations can engage one or more project managers to efficiently deliver a large quantity of similar work. In this case, statements of work are drawn up for each similar project clearly outlining the specific work required. How these projects will be financially, legally and technically delivered is already defined in the MSA, and does not necessarily need to be reviewed again.

PROJECT-SPECIFIC LEADERSHIP

Finally, the day is here! Your municipality has been selected to receive funds from a granting agency. While this is always a welcome announcement, it can also feel overwhelming and generate feelings of uncertainty about how to achieve the project scope on time and under budget. With an MSA, the administration can immediately engage their project manager to finalize the project delivery plan, complete the initial procurement in a manner compliant with both contribution and trade agreements, and implement project management best practices to ensure the community's interests are represented at every step.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR
STEFAN LAPLANTE

Stefan Laplante brings 12 years of leadership and management experience to clients, including a proven understanding of project needs at both the governance and execution levels. Stefan's long service with the Canadian Armed Forces provides him with extensive leadership skills, which he applies as a coach and mentor. His areas of expertise include procurement of municipal engineering services, grant applications, water and wastewater infrastructure, and telecommunications, where he methodically applies project management practices to ensure clients meet their stated and implied goals to achieve project success. Currently, Stefan is a Principal supporting Colliers Project Leaders' Saskatchewan team, and a provincial representative on the company's national Infrastructure Services team.

MSA BENEFITS

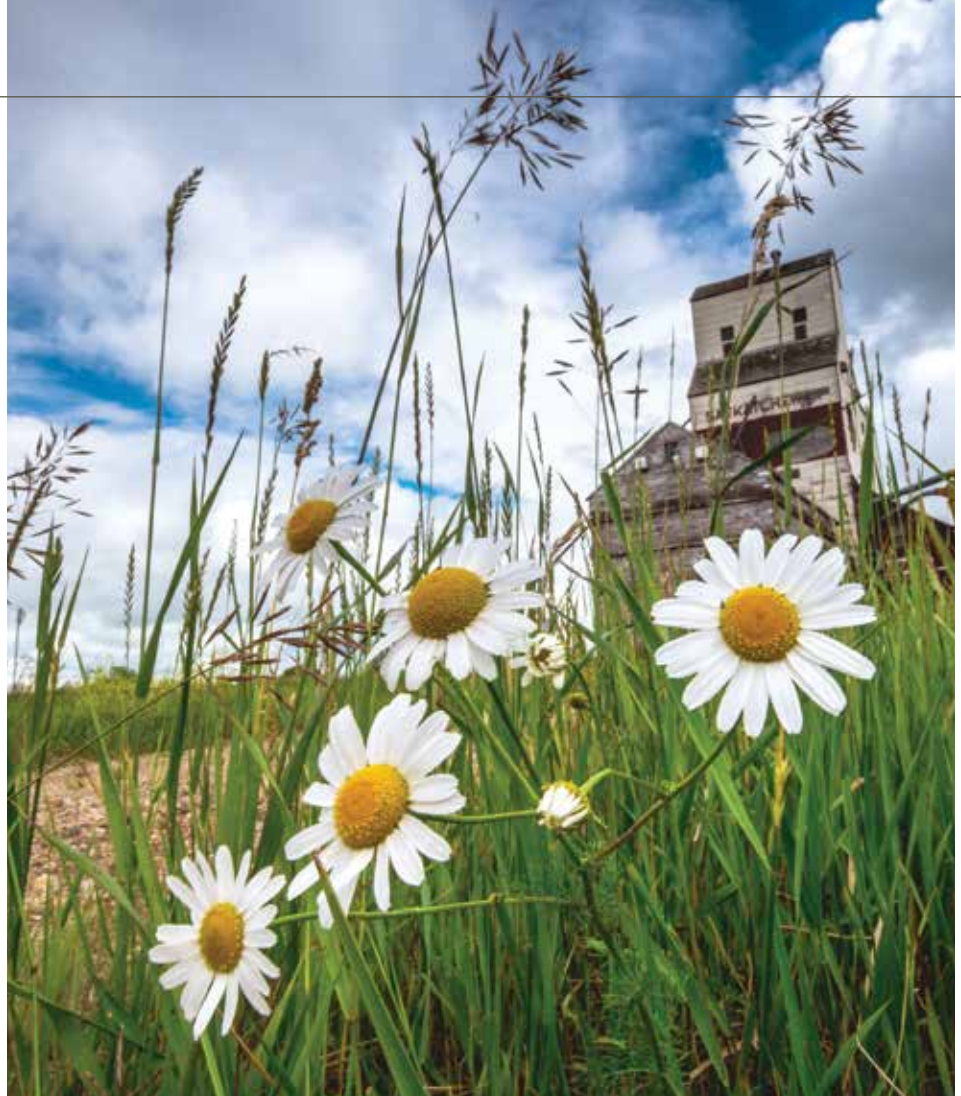
An MSA for project management services offers small towns and remote communities three main benefits:

1 INCREASED EFFICIENCY AND FASTER PROCUREMENT

MSAs allow a community to call upon project management services as and when needed. The set terms and conditions enable administrations to skip time-consuming and repetitive procurement processes for individual engagements. This approach promotes operational efficiency, as less time and fewer internal resources are needed to develop, negotiate and finalize contracts. In turn, these internal resources remain free to tackle daily tasks.

2 FLEXIBLE, ON-CALL SERVICES

An MSA allows administrations to engage project managers that suit varying needs as they arise. From sounding board sessions to quickly kicking off repetitive projects or structuring a unique and complex project, MSAs enable administrators to engage their project manager to a degree that suits the challenge. Specific to complex projects, this can include advice on alternate project delivery methods and guidance on how or when to source suppliers and contractors best suited to project goals.



3 INCREASED CAPACITY AND CAPABILITY:

Regardless of a community's size, finding expertise and capacity to manage multiple simple projects or an extremely technical project can be challenging. An MSA with a proven project management organization provides communities with the assurance that experienced resources are readily available to guide, support or lead internal staff. As certified project managers are required to maintain their credentials through continued learning, communities can be assured that their resource pool remain well-versed on the most current project management approaches and methodologies.

By establishing an MSA, municipalities can reduce procurement process costs, free up internal resources, and confidently deliver municipal projects. They can quickly access a large pool of experienced project managers to provide guidance on day-to-day activities, help complete multiple similar projects, or ensure large technical projects are delivered on time and under budget through effective pre-planning.

By using an MSA aligned with the values and goals of the community and its leaders, owners can form long-lasting alliances with partners who will share industry knowledge, advance the community's strategic goals, and help successfully deliver more capital projects.

NEW TO SARM



CHRISTINE BREITKREUZ, INTERIM EXECUTIVE COORDINATOR

306.761.3731 or
executivecoordinator@sarm.ca

Christine Breitzkreuz joined the SARM Team in October of 2022 as the Interim Executive Coordinator to cover a maternity leave. She brings with her ten years in the field of municipal administration and has already proven a valuable team member. Christine helps keep our SARM Executive coordinated, keeps minutes for our board meetings, administers the Lieutenant Governor's Award, and assists elsewhere when needed.

When not at the SARM Office, Christine enjoys attending sporting events and getting away to the lake in the summer. We look forward to working with Christine over the next year+.



Timely delivery of maintenance was a major priority for the Agency in 2022, and SAMA delivered 2022 maintenance on time to 97.8% of our client municipalities. The Agency is now focused on 2023 maintenance and starting analysis for the 2025 Revaluation.


One of SAMA's major strategic objectives was to re-view/inspect 110,000 properties in 2022. The Agency surpassed that mark, with 111,500+ reviews, in what we see as a big success for our clients and stakeholders.

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

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Contact SAMA by phone at: 1-800-667-7262, or by email: info.request@sama.sk.ca.



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COLIN WARNECKE



ADRYAN TOTH

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

I am the Manager of Risk Management, which means I oversee all the insurance programs offered to the membership by SARM, I directly manage the LSIP program. I also oversee SARM's Legal Department, so I work closely with them on all actions relating to any of our insurance programs and perform the HR support for that group.

What do you like most about your job?

The best part of my job is the variety it brings. I can be dealing with a complex liability loss one minute, a complex property loss the next, or reviewing a SARM Benefit's claim. The variety means the job is never boring and you always run into a new situation where research and thinking about the matter are necessary.

Where did you grow up?

I grew up primarily in Assiniboia, we moved there when I was in grade 5. Before then we were in Cupar from Kindergarten to early grade 5. Both communities were great communities to be raised in and I still have many friends that I stay connected with from both towns.

Where/what is your favourite Saskatchewan happy place?

This is a tough question to answer, as I have many places that I enjoy, but all for different reasons. I love being in Grasslands National Park, the untouched land and sunsets you can see there are absolutely amazing. I also enjoy the beauty of the Qu'Appelle valley in the fall, it reminds me of my childhood in Cupar and playing with my friends in the valley. I also cherish any time being in the north. Friends of ours have a cabin at Lac Ila-a-la-Crosse and we love being up there with them. The fishing, Northern Lights, and stunning beauty up there are just amazing. Lastly, we have a seasonal spot at Canora Beach on Good Spirit Lake (that is my favorite Saskatchewan Lake). Its sand bottom lake and private spots is a place that I can just relax, especially around the campfire listening to music and conversing with friends and family.

What is your favourite thing about spring in Saskatchewan?

I enjoy seeing the new leaves come out on the trees, the ditches turning green and the days getting longer, and the anticipation of getting my boat out on the lake to do some fishing.

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

I am one of SARM's legal counsel. RM Councils come to me for legal advice on a wide range of issues. A particular specialty of mine is litigation.

What do you like most about your job?

The problem-solving. There are always new and interesting issues that arise that I get to analyze and provide legal advice on.

Where did you grow up?

I grew up in Balgonie, Saskatchewan.

Where/what is your favourite Saskatchewan happy place?

Anywhere there is a volleyball court (indoor or beach)

What is your favourite thing about spring in Saskatchewan?

Knowing beach volleyball season is just around the corner.



MEMBER NEWS

IN MEMORIAM



JOHN KISH
RM OF ESTEVAN NO. 5
IN MEMORIAM

The R.M. of Estevan announces the passing of John Kish at the age of 87 on November 16, 2022. John was a New Year's baby, born on January 1st, 1935. He took his schooling at Bethel School and began working on the family farm at a young age. John was very active in the community and was a Councillor for the RM of Estevan for 27 years. He was also on various boards and committees. On behalf of the R.M. of Estevan, we would like to remember John for his years of experience and dedication he brought to the R.M. He will be greatly missed. □



NORMAN FRADETTE
RM OF LAURIER NO. 38
IN MEMORIAM

Norman Fradette of Regina passed away on Tuesday, February 22, 2022, at the age of 89. Norman was born in Radville, Saskatchewan, where he lived most of his life. He grew up on the family farm south of Radville in the Soda Lake District. In 1961 he married Gladys Zatreparek, who was a schoolteacher in Tribune at the time.

Norman will be remembered as a father, grandfather, farmer, RM Councillor and Reeve and part of the Radville community for many years. After retirement in 2002, Norman and Gladys moved to Regina to enjoy a more relaxed lifestyle, some travel and time with the grandchildren.

Norman is survived by his wife of 61 years, Gladys; his sons Jason (Anita) Fradette and Glenn (Veronica) Fradette; and his brothers Noel Fradette and Leo Fradette. He leaves three granddaughters, Liz Low-On (Jordan), Rebecca Fradette and Patrice Fradette; as well as two great-granddaughters, Abigail and Addison Low-On. □



PETER RORBECK JR.
RM OF KEY WEST NO. 70
IN MEMORIAM

Peter was dedicated to his community and served on the RM of Key West as both Councillor and Reeve for more than 22 years. Peter was a true "jack of all trades" and could fix or build anything, although his passion was working with wood. He crafted many things from wood including a replica of a Canadian Pacific train that is on display in the Ogema train station. □



JAMES DONALD BROWNELL
RM OF MARYFIELD NO. 91
IN MEMORIAM

James began his career in farming right after graduating high school and along with his brother John, they sowed and harvested crops, raised dairy cattle, pigs and beef cattle. James could often be seen taking an evening walk through the pasture to check the cattle, stopping to scratch whichever animal in the herd came up to him for a visit.

Church and community were very important to James. He was an usher at church for over 50 years and spent 24 years as the Division 2 Councillor for the RM of Maryfield No. 91 from February 24, 1986, until retirement from Council in October 2009. James rarely missed a meeting and his phenomenal memory for dates and events were very helpful in both his roles.

He will be sorely missed by all that knew him. ▢



**H. SAM EDGERTON
RM OF LAKE JOHNSTON
NO. 102 AND RM OF
SUTTON NO. 103
IN MEMORIAM**

On a snowy fall afternoon, Wednesday, November 16th, 2022, Homer Samuel Edgerton ("Sam") passed peacefully with family by his side at Moose Jaw, SK. Sam was born on June 8th, 1932 at Mossbank, SK, the youngest of seven.

Sam began his career as a municipal administrator in 1958, as an Assistant Administrator for the R.M. of Lake Johnston No. 102 and the Town of Mossbank. He then switched gears and headed out on the road as a travelling salesman with SARM's "Trading Department" of the day, from 1960 to 1963.

By that time, Sam and his wife Margaret had a young family, so Sam headed back to the office and became the Clerk for the Town of Mossbank and the Administrator for the R.M. of Lake Johnston. During that time, in 1967, Sam also took on the administrative duties of the Sutton-Lake

Johnston Union Hospital District until it dissolved in 1969. In 1979, the office of the Rural Municipality of Sutton No. 103 moved from Gravelbourg to Mossbank and the juggling act continued until 1980, when Sam's first trainee was ready to take the reins as the administrator for the Town of Mossbank.

Sam continued as the administrator for RMs 102 and 103 until his first retirement in 2005. Almost two years passed when the need for a trainer in the R.M. of Gravelbourg No. 104 arose and Sam came out of retirement.

In addition to his responsibilities as a Town and R.M. Administrator in the Mossbank municipal offices, Sam worked as an interim administrator for the R.M. of Lake of the Rivers No. 72 and the R.M. of Rodgers No. 133. He also served on the boards of the Assiniboia Savings and Credit Union from 1971 to 1976, the South Country Health Care District from 1982 to 1988, and St. Joseph's Hospital in Gravelbourg from 1990 to 1991.

A community-minded man, Sam volunteered for several major local projects over the years, including the Mossbank golf course, swimming pool, skating rink, and Kinsman Park; as well as assisting with obtaining funding for the current Mossbank library building. These facilities all remain in operation today, utilized by all ages in the community.

In 2012, Sam received the Lou Jacobs Award. As he was mentored, Sam paid it forward by mentoring and training over a half-dozen others.

He was predeceased by his wife of 68 years, Margaret (deceased September 28th, 2022); son, Sheldon; father, Homer Samuel 1; mother, Mary (Easton); brothers, Fred and Calvin; and sisters: Jaclynn Louise, Nettie, Marie, and Margaret. Sam is survived by his children: Sharei, Sam Jr. (Shelli), and Sharlene (Paul); grandchildren: Sean, Bret, Bryn (Brett), Alix (Luke), Sarah (Pedro), and Carter (Tyler); as well as many nieces and nephews. Sam will be missed by those who knew and loved him. ▢



**ROBERT HANSEN
RM OF GULL LAKE
NO. 139
IN MEMORIAM**

Robert Hansen was born on June 20, 1954 in Gull Lake, SK. Bob started farming in the early 1970's before venturing into a variety of different career paths. Bob returned to the oilfield and spent the last 35 plus years doing what he loved and made many lifelong friends.

Bob married the love of his life, Dianne, on June 12, 1976 and they were blessed with two children, Curtis and Lisa. Bob & Dianne lived in Swift Current where they resided until Bob's passing. Bob & Dianne enjoyed trips to various destinations. Bob was known for his outgoing personality and friendly disposition. Many will remember his "perfect" response when asked how he was.

He served as Councillor from 2011 until 2018, where he diligently put all his efforts into the council meetings and could always be counted on to have a smile on his face. Sincere condolences to his family as he will be greatly missed by all. ▢



GWENDA ELLIS
RM OF GULL LAKE NO. 139
IN MEMORIAM

Gwenda Ann Ellis (nee Hughes) passed away on August 28th, 2022. Gwenda was born July 29, 1962 in Swift Current, Saskatchewan. Gwenda grew up on a ranch near Abbey, Sk. She married Grant Ellis August 21st, 1982. They farmed north of Gull Lake where they raised their three daughters, Stephanie, Jennifer, and Katherine.

Gwenda was very involved in her community. She was a Councillor for the R.M. of Gull Lake from 2008 to 2016 during which time she was a real advocate on various committee boards.

In her retirement, Gwenda and Grant moved out to Lake Country, British Columbia. They quickly settled into the neighbourhood and enjoyed visits and hiking with the neighbours. Our condolences to her family, her presence will be missed by all. □



ERNEST MUHLE
RM OF WHEATLANDS
NO. 163
IN MEMORIAM

It is with heavy hearts and sorrow we announce the passing of Ernest John Muhle. He passed away December 26, 2022 in Moose Jaw at Providence Place at the age of 90.

Ernest leaves his beloved wife of 63 years, Sharon, son Martin (Chaz), grandson Kyle (Erica), daughter Susan (Norm) granddaughters Audra, Megan (Alexi), son Stephen (Shelli) grandsons Dallas (Ashley), Tucker, and son Allan, along with many great grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

Ernest was predeceased by his parents Herman and Florence Muhle and brother Ben.

Ernest was born January 12, 1932 to Herman and Florence Muhle. He was raised on the family farm and worked on the farm with his dad and brother until he took over the farming operation.

Ernest married Sharon Jean Knarr on April 17, 1959. He was nearly late for his wedding, delivering a calf before he was on his way.

Ernest loved sports, fastball, baseball, hockey, football and curling. As a young man, visiting his cousins in Iowa he was offered a try out for the farm league for the Major leagues, but farming was a bigger part of his life. Ernest was a player/coach for the Mortlach Jets for many years. One of his greatest joys was seeing the pride and commitment in his players and teammates making the Mortlach Jets something that he was proud to be a part of. He also had the honour of being able to coach all three of his sons.

Ernest became an RM Councillor in 1959 and as the years went on became the RM Reeve. During his time serving the RM of Wheatlands he was a driving force behind getting grid roads built. He was also active in the community belonging to the school bus board, school board for Remount School, and snowplow community. He also was called upon to call square dances back in the day. Ernest always had opinions and commented about that is going on around him and the world. Not everyone saw eye to eye or appreciated his opinion.

Ernest lived, worked, and raised a family for most of his life on the farm. He never officially retired and continued living on the farm until his stroke in July. He was being cared for at the Providence Place until his passing. The family would like to extend gratitude to the staff of Providence Place for the care they provided.

Councillor, Division No. 3 1959-1973
 Reeve 1974-1976 □



HAROLD MARTENS
RM OF EXCELSIOR NO. 166
IN MEMORIAM

Harold was born September 8, 1941 in Herbert, Saskatchewan. In 1960 he completed high school at Stewart Valley and went ranching with his dad and brother. Harold married Sylvia in 1966 and they have three boys and seven grandchildren. In 1975, Martens Ranch Ltd was established by Harold, his brother and brother-in-law. Martens Ranch still has a cow-calf operation going strong today.

In 1973 Harold was elected Councillor in the RM of Saskatchewan Landing and in 1975 to 1978 served as Reeve for the RM. During this time, he was elected to the SARM Board of Directors and served on it in 1977 and 1978.

In 1982 Harold was elected as the Member of the Legislature for the constituency of Morse serving until 1995. During this time, he served as Legislative Secretary to the Deputy Premier, the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Rural Development. In 1989 he was appointed to be the Associate Minister of Agriculture which included responsibilities for Saskatchewan Water Corporation, the Souris Basin Development Authority.

In 1999 Harold was elected Councillor in the RM of Excelsior No. 166 and became Reeve in 2005. He served in that position until fall of 2022 when he resigned due to health reasons. Ranching has always been a huge part of Harold's life; however, he did work in the agricultural community selling farm equipment for 10 years.

Harold joined the Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association and was President from 2011 to 2014. Harold was also chair of the Livestock Services of Saskatchewan until resigning in October 2022. Harold was also on the Saskatchewan Cattlemen Association Board of Directors and served on various committees. Harold has also served on both the Swift Current Creek Watershed Stewards, the South Saskatchewan River Watershed Stewards and the Prairie Pioneers Independent Housing and other boards for several years.

Harold will be greatly missed in the RM of Excelsior. □



THEODORE KOESTER RM OF SNIPE LAKE NO. 259 IN MEMORIAM

Ted (Theodore) Koester, longer serving Councillor and Reeve for the RM of Snipe Lake #259 passed away on December 5th, 2022. He served the municipality and the area through his involvement on many area committees including West Central Municipal Government. □



KEN MCBRIDE RM OF NEWCOMBE NO. 260 IN MEMORIAM

Kenneth Bert McBride was born in Saskatoon on March 27, 1950. His parents, Bert and Muriel McBride along with Ken's older brother Blaine, had their wishes fulfilled when he joined their family in September of that year. Ken's sister Murn was born the next year. Ken grew up on the family farm north of Madison.

Following graduation Ken attended the U of S for two years, however realized that his journey needed to take another direction. He then went to work for Cominco Potash Mine in the mill. After the flood and the closure of the mine in 1969, he worked at the mine in Pine Point, NWT, and Thompson, Manitoba. He returned to Cominco in August 1972 and soon was promoted to Shift Foreman. In 1975 while at the family farm helping with harvest, Ken's father offered him the opportunity to return and help run the family farm along with his brother Blaine.

Ken met his wife Donna on August 1, 1972, and they were married on May 26, 1973; a 50-year partnership of enduring love. Their son Brett was born in 1976 and their daughter Kara in 1977. Ken and Donna returned to Kindersley in April 1976 as Ken started his farming career. Ken was a very proud farmer, "tiller of the soil" as he put it, and truly enjoyed his "office", often stating that he would not have wanted to do anything else. Ken spent the last 13 years farming with Brett and was proud to have his son take over the family farm.

Ken always put the needs of others first, he gave back to his farm community with service to the RM of Newcombe as

Councillor from 1984-2010 and Reeve from 2010-2020. Church and community service were very important to Ken, and he volunteered in the community in many ways, serving on several boards. As Councillor, Ken was appointed to the Kindersley District Long-Term Care Board. He was involved in the building of a new facility in Kindersley and served as Board Chair for many years. He was a founding member and committee chair of the Kindersley Health and Wellness Foundation, whose work supporting the healthcare needs of Kindersley and area cannot be understated. Ken volunteered on the different health care boards for over 35 years. His work with the RM gave him opportunity to serve on the board of Saskatchewan Municipal Hail Insurance for 14 years. Ken very much enjoyed his work on the SMHI board as he had the opportunity to meet and work with so many people.

Ken loved to travel and golf, and those hobbies complemented each other well. Ken and Donna travelled to many places in the world and Ken had the opportunity to golf in many of those places. In February while visiting Indian Wells, Ken had the opportunity to golf at the PGA West golf course and got a par on hole #17, The Albatros, his last game of golf.

Family and friends were at the center of Ken's life. He had many special friendships and invested his time in maintaining his relationships. He loved nothing more than stopping at a friends for coffee and a visit.

He was a devoted father to Brett and Kara, he was always in the stands, if not one of the coaching staff, at their sporting and school events and was endlessly proud of them.

Ken's love was very evident in his role as Papa to his four grandchildren. He could be found at the local rink any night of the week watching hockey practices or games. Trips to Saskatoon were made often to watch soccer and ringette. Ken was so very proud of his grandchildren and all of their accomplishments, but mostly just because of who they are.

Ken passed away on August 23, 2022, following a short four-month battle with pancreatic cancer. □



**EMIL WALLEN
RM OF FOAM LAKE NO. 276
IN MEMORIAM**

Emil was a Councillor in the Rural Municipality of Foam Lake No. 276 for 7 years from 1977 to 1984 and Reeve for 4 years from 1984 to 1990. He was a great leader and was highly respected by his fellow Council. After Emil left Council, he continued to be interested in the municipality and was a friendly face in both the office and the shop for coffee on a regular basis to keep up with all the new faces and changes within the municipality. □



**FERN BENJAMINSON
RM OF OAKDALE NO. 320
IN MEMORIAM**

Fern Benjaminson passed away November 14, 2022, at the age of 81 years. Fern served as Division 1 Councillor for the R.M. of Oakdale No. 320 from 2007 to 2018. During her term on Council, Fern served on various committees and took great pride in her Division. The R.M. of Oakdale Council and staff extend their deepest sympathy to Fern's family. □



**JOHN SPROULE
RM OF OAKDALE NO. 320
IN MEMORIAM**

John Sproule passed away February 17, 2022, at the age of 84 years. John served as Division 3 Councillor for the R.M. of Oakdale No. 320 from 1976 to 1983. The R.M. of Oakdale Council and staff extend their deepest sympathy to John's family. □



**DANIEL GRESCHUK
RM OF BLUCHER NO. 343
IN MEMORIAM**

Dan was deeply committed to the municipality as anyone can see given his four decades on Council. He was very involved and passionate in many aspects of the agricultural sector including 4H, the Agricultural Health and Safety Network and The College of Agriculture at the University of Saskatchewan to name a few.

When Dan was not involved in too many local initiatives to count, he was an avid Roughrider supporter and was especially involved in curling in past years. His leadership and motivation will certainly be missed. □



**CARL KIRCHER
RM OF LAKEVIEW NO. 337
IN MEMORIAM**

Carl Kircher served as the Division 2 Councillor for the RM of Lakeview from 1977 to 1997. During his twenty years on council, Carl was actively involved in grain and cattle farming in the Pasweggin area. In his later years Carl assisted his son, Curtis, with the farming operations up until the end of 2021. Carl passed away peacefully on Sunday, June 5, 2022, at the Wadena Hospital at the age of 82. Carl will lovingly be remembered by his wife Bonnie; children, Lana (Greg), Donna & Curtis; as well as numerous grandchildren, nieces, nephews, cousins, and many friends. □



**URBAN MCLAUGHLIN
RM OF HAZEL DELL NO. 335
IN MEMORIAM**

Urban McLaughlin was the Administrator for R.M. of Hazel Dell No.335 from 1978 to 1996. He started his career at the R.M. of Hazel Dell in October of 1978, where he got to work beside his wife, Natalie. In September of 1996, Urban retired after almost 18 years of service. Urban passed away on December 23, 2022 at the age of 88. The R.M. of Hazel Dell No.335 will always remember Urban for all that he has done for our municipality. □



**JACK WILLIAM POWERS
RM OF KINISTINO NO. 459
IN MEMORIAM**

Jack William Powers was born in Kinistino, Saskatchewan on February 10, 1951 and passed away in Saskatoon on July 19, 2022 at the age of 71 years.

His memory will be forever cherished by his family, who brought him his greatest joy in life. His wife of 49 years, Margeriet; his three children Allyce, Ryan and Carley, his eight grandchildren Bradley, Jas; Tristan, Zander and Zoree; Graycen, Emersen and Brixten; and his great grandchild Damon.

Jack served as Councillor for Division 6 for the RM of Kinistino No. 459 after being elected in November of 2009 until his passing. He participated on many boards including the District 32 A.D.D. board on which he served as chairman for the past few years as well as organizing the Beaver Control collections. He was a passionate, knowledgeable member of council. Jack was never afraid to share his considerable knowledge or opinion on any matter and his presence at the table will be missed by all. □



**REYNOLD ZEILER
RM OF BLUCHER NO. 343
IN MEMORIAM**

Reynold was born in 1931 in the Town of Allan. After working oil rigs in his early years, he married and settled back in the Allan area where he farmed and was employed by the Allan Potash Mine.

Reynold was very active in the community having been a member of the Knights of Columbus for over 60 years and the Councillor for Division one for over two decades. □



**GEORGE LUCIEN LARRE
RM OF FRENCHMAN
BUTTE NO. 501
IN MEMORIAM**

George Larre was born in Paradise Hill, SK to Jean Baptiste and Pauline Larre on November 24, 1945. He was the second oldest of nine children. He was raised on the farm in the Stonehouse. As a child, George attended school at Butte St. Pierre, St. Walburg and went to St. Thomas College in North Battleford. On May 20th, 1972, he married Bernice Thompson, and they resided on the family farm where they raised their three children. In 1995 they moved south of Paradise Hill to the farm where Bernice grew up. Besides his family and friends, George's love for his cattle was a major part of his life. It started in the purebred Herefords which later turned into a commercial cattle operation. He did this all his life until his health prevented him from doing so. After, his knowledge and opinions were always shared. Some of his favourite past times were spent judging 4-H shows and culling bulls. He also served as the Reeve of the RM of Frenchman Butte from 2006 until 2010. Playing and coaching hockey and ball was also something he loved to do. Many of his lifelong friends were made during these times.

He was predeceased by his parents, Jean Baptiste (1999) and Pauline (2010); his brothers, Joseph (1956) and Louis (1964); his father-in-law, Jack Thompson (2003); his mother-in-law, Mabel Thompson (2004); and his nephew, Sheldon Moylan (2019).

George is survived by his wife of 50 years, Bernice; his children, Teresa, Kelly (Jen) and Crystal (Rick); his grandchildren, Kennedy, Coby, Kaelyn, Cameryn (Kelly), Zach, Hailey, Ashley and Easton (Crystal); his siblings, Cecile (Brian), Claudette (Bud), Yvonne (Tom), Alice (Harold), Hélène (Robert) and Leonard (Joan); and numerous nieces and nephews.

George will be dearly missed and remembered by all his family and friends. □

RETIREMENT



**PATRICK SIMPSON
RM OF GULL LAKE NO. 139
RETIREMENT**

Patrick Simpson, serviced as Councillor for the R.M. of Gull Lake No. 139. from 2000-2022. The R.M. of Gull Lake would like to recognize Pat's many years of service as Councillor and as our representative on the Tompkins Library Board. Municipality staff and Council would like to thank you for your contributions to the community and wish you all the best in the future. □



BLAINE WHITE
RM OF HURON NO. 223
RETIREMENT

The RM of Huron No. 223 Council, staff and its ratepayers would like to thank Blaine White for his 40 years of continuous service as Division No. 2 Councillor for the municipality. Blaine has also brought these same years of experience and expertise to the many committees and boards that he was also a part of. His passion for helping the municipality grow in these changing times was noticed by all.

On behalf of all the ratepayers, Council and staff, the RM would like to thank Blaine for his unprecedented years of service and contributions to the municipality. We wish him a wonderful retirement and all the best for years to come. □



BRENT ELMY
RM OF HAZEL DELL NO. 335
RETIREMENT

R.M. of Hazel Dell No. 335 would like to thank Brent Elmy for his 4 years of service as Councillor. Brent was always knowledgeable and helpful. All of Council appreciated his openness, honesty, and frankness throughout his term. □



DENNIS KNOX
RM OF EYE HILL NO. 382
RETIREMENT

The R.M. of Eye Hill No. 382 honoured Councillor Dennis Knox, at their December meeting of Council. Dennis (right) was presented with a plaque by Reeve Robert Brost (left).

Dennis served as Councillor for Division 6 for 20 years from January 2002 to November 2022.

Dennis served on many Boards and Committees, most notably the District #30 ADD Board Committee and was well known by many in the municipal field.

Council would like to thank Dennis for his dedication to the RM during his years on Council. □



KIRK FENSOM
RM OF ST. ANDREWS
NO. 287
RETIREMENT

The RM of St. Andrews No. 287 would like to recognize Kirk Fensom on his retirement from Council in November 2022. Kirk, affectionally known to the community as Fenny, joined the RM as Councillor for Division Six in 2007. He held the position for 15 years until his retirement when he chose not to seek re-election in the fall of 2022. Fenny's knowledge of the RM, his dedication to his community, and his relationship with both ratepayers, and fellow Councillors will be missed around the council table. Congratulations Fenny, we wish you the best in your retirement from RM Council.

Photo note: Reeve Geoff Legge (right) presents retired councillor Kirk Fensom (left) with a commemorative plaque and retirement gift during the RM of St. Andrews Christmas party in December 2022. □

AWARDS

RON SMITH
RM OF MEETING LAKE
NO. 466
AWARD

RM of Meeting Lake No. 466 employee with 16 years of service. □

2023 Annual Convention & Trade Show

March 14-16



Tuesday, March 14

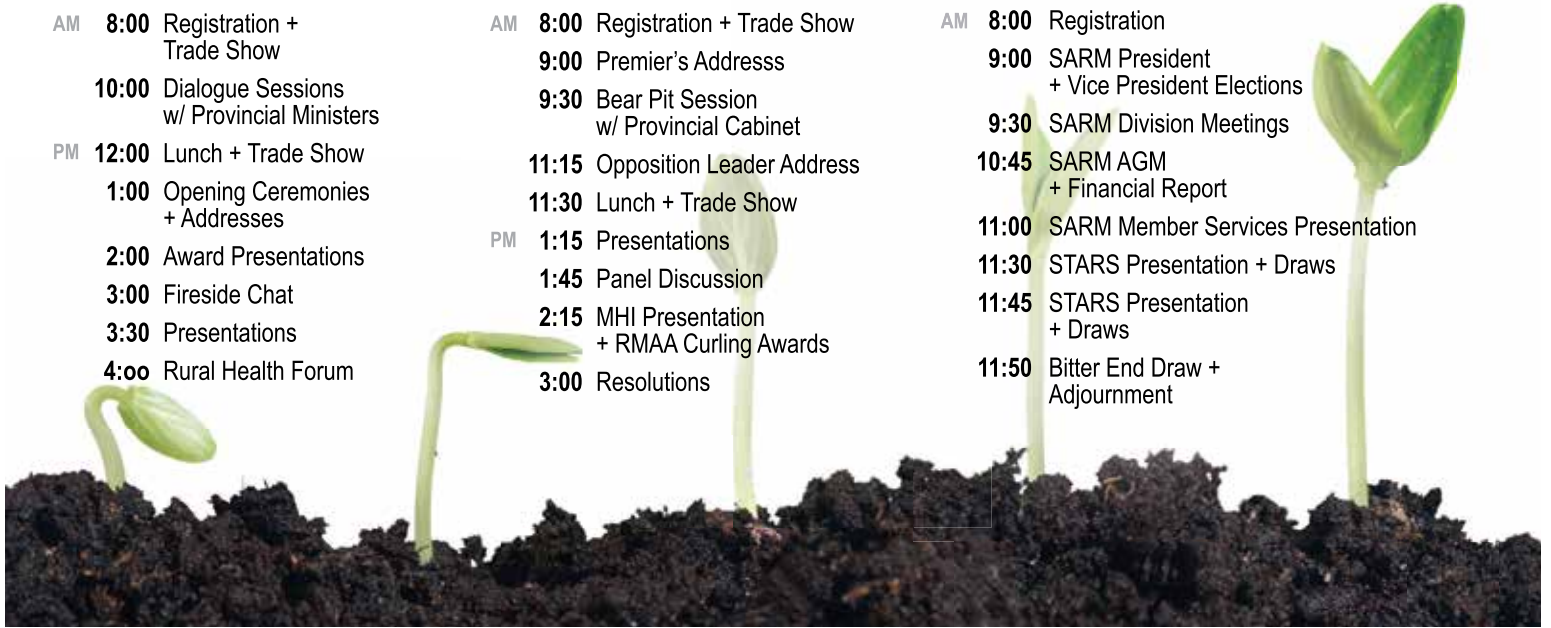
- AM 8:00 Registration + Trade Show
- 10:00 Dialogue Sessions w/ Provincial Ministers
- PM 12:00 Lunch + Trade Show
- 1:00 Opening Ceremonies + Addresses
- 2:00 Award Presentations
- 3:00 Fireside Chat
- 3:30 Presentations
- 4:00 Rural Health Forum

Wednesday, March 15

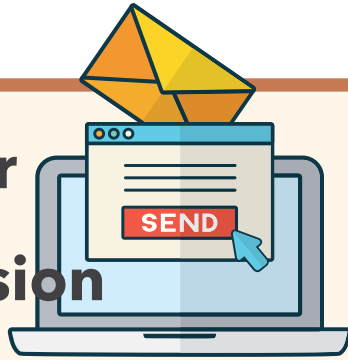
- AM 8:00 Registration + Trade Show
- 9:00 Premier's Address
- 9:30 Bear Pit Session w/ Provincial Cabinet
- 11:15 Opposition Leader Address
- 11:30 Lunch + Trade Show
- PM 1:15 Presentations
- 1:45 Panel Discussion
- 2:15 MHI Presentation + RMAA Curling Awards
- 3:00 Resolutions

Thursday, March 16

- AM 8:00 Registration
- 9:00 SARM President + Vice President Elections
- 9:30 SARM Division Meetings
- 10:45 SARM AGM + Financial Report
- 11:00 SARM Member Services Presentation
- 11:30 STARS Presentation + Draws
- 11:45 STARS Presentation + Draws
- 11:50 Bitter End Draw + Adjournment



Member News Submission Tips:



- Send photos as separate JPG, PNG, TIFF or PDF files (in a Word document).
- Try to send original photos not ones that have been scanned from printed documents or taken off of websites.
- Photos must be 300 dpi resolution. Tip: check the file size. If the file is less than 100 kb, it may not print properly.
- Check your camera phone's resolution before taking photos. Ensure that the camera's settings are for High, Highest Quality or Maximum resolution.
- Write-up length maximum: 250 words.
- Email submissions to sarm@sarm.ca.

Thanks for sharing your stories with us!

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