

# RC

## RURAL COUNCILLOR

VOLUME 53 number 3  
Fall 2020 ISSUE

PUBLISHED BY THE SASKATCHEWAN  
ASSOCIATION OF RURAL MUNICIPALITIES  
Publications Agreement #40062693

# Agriculture and Environment

Supporting Future Agriculture & Rural Community Leaders; Staying Savvy Against Cyber Attacks; With Crisis Comes Opportunity; Tackling COVID with Technology; Making the Connection with Our Food; New Communication Solution for SARM Members; SaskLander - Informing Rural Land Access

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Systems

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SARM

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## our vision

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

## our mission

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



# Minister's message

**BY THE HONOURABLE DAVID MARIT**  
MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE



*Photo © Chris Hartman*

**I AM PLEASED** to have the opportunity to provide greetings for this edition of *Rural Councillor*, with the theme of our environment. Saskatchewan has more than 40 per cent of Canada's arable land, as well as millions of acres of native grasslands that make up an important part of our prairie ecosystem. With this enduring resource, and through sustainable and innovative production practices, Saskatchewan is one of Canada's leaders in agri-food exports and is recognized as a consistent supplier of high quality food to the world.

Saskatchewan is also well positioned to further develop and add value to our agriculture sector by building the infrastructure needed for large-scale irrigation production. In July, our government announced plans to more than double the irrigable land in Saskatchewan over the next decade.

Our province has one of the most unique opportunities in Canada, and at a time when there is great uncertainty across the globe due to COVID-19, we are moving forward with a project that will add certainty to our economy and increase food security. Increased irrigation in Saskatchewan will also help producers adapt to a changing climate. This year, \$22.5 million is being invested as part of Phase One to begin preliminary engineering and initial construction of the West-side Irrigation Project.

Increasing resilience in the agricultural sector is a priority for our government. This is why we continue to invest in areas such as business risk management programming and technology transfer and focus on work that includes the promotion

of 4R fertilizer practices, drought monitoring, crop disease surveys and pasture health assessments.

Our federal-provincial Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) programming includes programs aimed at helping producers make their operations more environmentally sustainable, such as the Farm Stewardship Program and the Farm and Ranch Water Infrastructure Program. Under CAP, our government is also working with SARM to deliver the Pest Biosecurity Program and create a network of plant health officers to help control threats to plant biosecurity.

As stewards of the land, Saskatchewan producers have an important role in maintaining public trust in our industry. The Ministry of Agriculture's annual Public Trust Survey reinforced the importance of continuing to raise awareness of sustainable agricultural production practices. The May survey of Saskatchewan residents found 91 per cent of respondents indicated they have a positive perception of Saskatchewan agriculture, up from 85 per cent in 2019. Survey participants also responded positively to questions about environmental stewardship and trust in Saskatchewan producers. We have a great story to tell, and we should continue to share it.

As we move through the challenges of operating during COVID-19, I want to thank you and acknowledge all that rural Saskatchewan has done to keep our supply chains moving and the agriculture industry operating. Thank you as well to SARM for your continued partnership. I wish you all a safe and healthy harvest season.



# Minister's message

**BY THE HONOURABLE LORI CARR**  
MINISTER OF GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

**WITH THE** harvest season underway, it's fitting this latest edition of SARM's *Rural Councillor* magazine focuses on the themes of agriculture and the environment.

Farming is one of the cornerstones of our provincial economy and identity. Saskatchewan's Prairie Resilience strategy recognizes the prominent role of agriculture in addressing climate change and reducing emissions in our environment, while keeping our economy strong.

As the Minister of Government Relations, supporting the rural way of life in Saskatchewan continues to be a key aspect of my portfolio.

For example, since 2007-08, the provincial government has announced over \$440 million of provincial funding towards more than 900 various water and wastewater projects that serve various communities across Saskatchewan. These investments strengthen communities and position them for growth, allowing for local businesses and families to thrive.

During that same timeframe, an additional \$100 million of provincial funding has gone toward 650 projects that have improved local and grid roads, replaced culverts and upgraded various regional bridges. This investment has helped improve the transportation system within our province – a key to moving grain and other related farm commodities to support our export-based economy.

The provincial government provides other programs that communities can also use to support improvements to water and wastewater systems, local road upgrades, or other infrastructure.

In May 2020, the provincial government announced the \$150 million Municipal Economic Enhancement Program 2020 (MEEP). This program is as a key component of the Government



**Since 2007-08, the provincial government has announced over \$440 million of provincial funding towards more than 900 various water and wastewater projects that serve various communities across Saskatchewan.** *Photo @ Shutterstock.com*

of Saskatchewan's \$7.5 billion, two-year capital plan, an economic booster-shot designed to support the province's economic recovery from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. MEPP can be used for various shovel-ready infrastructure projects and initiatives, helping residents get back to work.

This spring, the province also fast-tracked Municipal Revenue Sharing's record \$278 million for the 2020-21 fiscal year, directly to municipalities. This stable, consistent, no strings attached

funding can be invested in programs and services as municipalities see fit.

Having previously spent a decade on a municipal council, I understand the demands and challenges of serving on a local government, especially in this difficult time. But if we draw upon the strength and resilience of our communities while working together, we can continue to keep Saskatchewan strong.

Thank you.



# President's message

**BY RAY ORB**  
SARM President

**I THINK** it's only fitting that I follow the suggested theme for this edition of the *Rural Councillor*: Agriculture and Environment. I couldn't stress more the importance of agriculture during the economic recovery of the nation. Much of the success on the path to economic recovery is a nation's ability to produce food, whether it be pulse crops, coarse grains, oilseeds, or livestock production. Saskatchewan has and will continue to play a leading role in that area, and we are most fortunate to be in a position to do that.

It's no secret how important Saskatchewan agriculture production is especially during this time of economic recovery. The recent announcement of the Lake Diefenbaker irrigation expansion project was applauded by SARM, and you'd think that everyone in this province would be excited and enthusiastic about supporting a project of this magnitude. After all, it's not often we get the opportunity to even discuss a mega project such as this, with the added possibility of some federal funding to go with it.

Although the irrigation expansion project has a \$4B price tag, hopefully the province will be able to cost share the project with the federal government. Having a long-term benefit estimated at \$40-\$80B towards the GDP of the province is huge, not to mention the creation of some 2,500 jobs.

Some media continue to downplay the importance of the announcement stating only "farm groups were supportive of the project" and focusing on negative stories about the lack of consultation, which seems to be a wrong assumption in the scheme of things.

The province has stated emphatically that the proper consultations with all stakeholders, including duty to consult with Indigenous leaders, will be done in a timely matter. I think we need to trust the process.



Much of the success on the path to economic recovery is a nation's ability to produce food, whether it be pulse crops, coarse grains, oilseeds, or livestock production. Saskatchewan has and will continue to play a leading role in that area, and we are most fortunate to be in a position to do that.

Some of the naysayers have stated that farmers will not undertake the growing of high value crops, such as fruit and vegetables. I don't think it could've been stated any better than by Lyle Stewart, Legislative Secretary to the Minister Responsible for the Water Security Agency: "[Irrigation] supports the growth of diverse, high-value crops, which increases on-farm profitability, value-added processing opportunities, business attraction and employment."

Here lies a real opportunity, and I think we need to support and ensure we are at the consultation table.

Speaking of mega projects, we really need to emphasize the importance of infrastructure in the delivery of resource material to markets whether it be production from agriculture, mining, lumber, or oil and gas. As a nation, Canada hasn't done very well as of late in regard to the energy sector. It seems impossible to build a pipeline, such as the Energy East pipeline, no less the proposed Trans-Mountain pipeline, which although has gone through the approval process and passed all the regulatory hurdles heaped on by the federal government, still ceases to exist. Federal legislation such as Bills

C-68 & 69, and Bill C-48, are not helping the export of hydrocarbons out of the country; they're inhibiting it.

SARM has been very vocal on opposing segments, if not those entire pieces of legislation. Although our province is not as dependent on oil and gas as our neighbor to the west, Alberta, we are still hurting financially. Agreeably, this is partially because of the effects of COVID-19 on our economy and the lessening of demand because of the pandemic, but also in part to the federal government's reluctance to recognize the lack of pipeline access to international markets and to work with the western provinces to mitigate that.

We will do our part to ensure that Saskatchewan's renewable energy mandate is met, but we need to ensure that the oil industry isn't lost by the wayside in the process. Since this is a mature industry, it still plays an important role in international trade, and it provides many of the things we still require in our everyday lives, from plastics, fuels, clothing and chemicals we use on our farms and in construction projects in our rural municipalities.

On the topic of the environment, instead of imposing a carbon tax, why not reward those, including farmers, who are improving the environment by developing a national program that would be meaningful. The benefits of carbon sequestration, in particular the contribution of Saskatchewan farmers that practice zero-till farming, should not be overlooked. SARM has been working in conjunction with the Saskatchewan Soil Conservation Association to put the case forward to the federal government that action is needed on this file. However, the preliminary results have not been promising, and the feeling of SARM is that we need to pit in on this issue.

The last point I'd like to make is to reiterate the importance of better communication in rural Saskatchewan, in particular, high speed internet and cell phone coverage, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. SARM has taken a leading role on this file in the province and through the rural forum at FCM. We need the federal government to announce the Universal Broadband Fund, and we need the province to create a working group. We need to accom-

modate fulsome discussions on how partnerships can be created to better position our rural areas to acquire access to ISPs that can deliver at least 50mbps download and 10mbps upload capabilities and on a reliable, consistent and affordable basis. Hopefully good news will follow in the days ahead on that.

SARM will continue to lobby for our members, keeping in mind that our province has also been lobbying for rural Saskatchewan whether it has been through the Ministry of Agriculture for better agriculture programs, or through Government Relations to secure federal infrastructure funding.

Despite the SARM Midterm being cancelled, we still look forward to hearing from you, so please read all the correspondence that is sent out to RM offices and respond by getting in touch with your SARM director or executive.

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## *With crisis comes* **Opportunity**

By Jay Meyer SARM Executive Director

**IF THERE IS A TIME** to voice the importance of innovation, it is now. The COVID-19 pandemic has affected everyone differently, but a common reaction to this has been adaptation. Many were proactive with innovation and adaptation, which got them out of the gates more quickly than others. Those who may have been a bit slower out of the gates had to quickly adapt in order to catch up. A challenge many rural people have with keeping up, adapting and innovating is reliable broadband. In today's marketplace, it is nearly impossible to innovate without reliable broadband.

**During difficult times like these, it is critical to work smarter rather than harder. For most industries, including agriculture, to be sustainable, we must have access to reliable broadband.**

We have learned the importance of innovation when it comes to communications. When the pandemic hit our province, many people were sent home and businesses were shut down. As a result, our economy was grounded to a stand-still. It is times like these where innovation keeps the heartbeat of the economic from stopping. Many businesses adjusted to assist in getting inventory out the door in order to sustain themselves as well as the jobs and careers of their employees. Many families, who were used to face to face visits, had to adjust to virtual calls on laptops, tablets or mobile phones. Councils throughout the province had to adjust to conference calls via video or phone to continue providing services to their ratepayers. The adjustment was not easy, or was made harder and almost impossible, for rural populations due to lack of reliable broadband.

It is not only about communications. Look at what the agriculture industry has done and could do more of with reliable broadband. Our Board and staff saw first hand in the RM of Corman Park where a dairy farm used technology to innovate the way they operate. Technology is taking care of tasks previous generations may have done by hand. During difficult times like these, it is critical to work smarter rather than harder. For most industries, including agriculture, to be sustainable, we must have access to reliable broadband.

With crisis comes opportunity. Let's stick together and continue to find different ways to innovate to make all our lives easier. One way would be to improve broadband in rural Saskatchewan and improve it now. It is time for more action; there has been enough conversation with local, provincial and federal governments. If we do not see investment in rural broadband in times like these, then the fear is it will never happen. Just because a map states most of the rural areas are covered for broadband does not mean it is reliable. The COVID-19 pandemic has proven this.



With a continued emphasis on the safety of our staff, our municipal clients and the general public, most of SAMA's staff have shifted from working at home to being back in the office completing work for our clients.

In early June the Agency resumed on-site field inspections while remaining physically distant from property owners and using masks as necessary.

Municipalities should have received a preliminary values package for the upcoming 2021 Revaluation. Please take the time to review the information you were sent, and contact SAMA with any questions or concerns you may have regarding the 2021 Revaluation.

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

For more information visit our website at [www.sama.sk.ca](http://www.sama.sk.ca).

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





# Welcome to Fall Everyone

By Norm Nordgulen SARM Director Division 2

**AS I SIT** to write this article on what seems like our first rainy day in months, I am hoping all are having a good, safe and grainery-filling harvest wherever you are.

It certainly has been a hot and windy summer around here. And dangerous. We have had six combine fires in my area that I know of to date, with one of the worst last Tuesday, which was very hot with an evil wind howling from the west all day. Sure enough, at around 4pm the group text came out "Fire at Viceroy!!!" Although I am 25 miles away I could see smoke (some black), which means more than stubble. Grabbing my scoop shovel, I sped over to find an organized effort with some 40 water trucks, eight graders, several fire trucks, and probably 60 plus half tons all doing the best they could. It was very confusing and scary in the heavy winds, dust and smoke giving no visibility, especially when not familiar with the back area, so most stayed on the roads.

I was at my first fire at about 10-12 years old, but they seem worse now. We are looking at three-foot-high crops all around, corner to corner, with no black areas as there is no summerfallow anymore and nowhere to go except a road, which has proven in past fires to not really be a safe bet either. My hat goes off to those fighting this fire as they kept it to only three quarters of land and some yard sight area, including bins of grain, in what was certainly the worst of conditions. We weren't even done with this fire when the text came out – fire north of Readlyn!! (that's getting close to home). Several half-tons and a couple water trucks sped off, including me, but by the time we got there, the call came out – fire out, but now there is one at Whiskey Trail north of 717!

Off we went again in a miles-long-caravan only to find it out as well when we got there. By now it was dusk, the wind had given way to dust in the air from wind, combines going everywhere and all the vehicles on very dry, dusty roads.

Just as a side note, I remember an early pioneer telling me in the old days kids carried matches to school and were taught if a prairie fire were to come up on you (and since all kids then walked uphill both ways to school several miles ) they were to light a fire and get in the blackened area as you can't outrun it. Happily, I never heard of anyone in all my talks ever say they had to do it.

Mine, and all our hats should go off to those hardy souls province wide in their heroic and selfless efforts to keep fires at bay, as this case was certainly no exception but rather the norm in rural Saskatchewan. Everyone pulling together in times of need – no matter who has that need and wherever it may be. Hopefully, the province and SaskTel can do their



*Dry, hot and windy conditions have led to increased fire risks for Saskatchewan agriculture producers in 2020.*

part in improving cell service which is, and was, so crucial to rural safety in this incident and many others. I heard of one fire north west of Swift Current this summer that was said to have gone a lot farther than it should've because of no cell service!

Also, despite this COVID, we need to revive the seminars for rural fire fighting in prairie regions and spread the knowledge and lessons learned from this fire, as well as the leader, Glentworth and Tompkin's fires. Seminars that were talked about may have started, but they are now stalled in these recent times. Hopefully, luck will continue to prevail until winter, and there will be no injuries as there is certain to be more fires, unless it turns rainy and wet which isn't what we really want either, but a good rain is always welcome.

Anyway, here's hoping you all have a great harvest and maybe we'll see you after the work is all done this fall.

Good luck – keep safe.

Photo @ Shutterstock.com



# Irrigation helps drought proof local food production

By Larry Grant SARM Division 3 Director

**GOOD DAY FOLKS.** As I sit down to write this, I reflect on the year a little. When we last got together it was at March convention – the start of the COVID pandemic, which has been difficult to say the least. Saskatchewan has been one of the more successful provinces in dealing with this situation and has led us through it very well.

I would like to touch on one announcement made by government this summer – the \$4 billion irrigation expansion and retro fit in our province. From what I read about the project, it will start with some infrastructure upgrades to the west side project followed by an expansion east and south of Lake Diefenbaker. Irrigation is great for this province. It allows more varieties of crops and even higher value crops to be grown. Irrigation helps to drought proof food production in a province that has a tendency to get very dry and hot (like this year). We have the water in Lake Diefenbaker and elsewhere, we just need the infrastructure to get the water to the field.

On this note, I would have liked to have seen some of this money go to different areas of the province, in particular to the south west corner. There are numerous irrigation projects in the south west, several former Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA) projects and numerous private ones. Many of their projects need upgrades.

The south west is an area of Saskatchewan that is prone to drought. It would be nice to see some of this \$4 billion available to irrigation in an area where dry tends to happen on a regular basis. Even though most irrigation here is for growing feed for cattle, a few do irrigate for cash crops and fruit and vegetables. I am grateful for the commitment to expand irrigation in Saskatchewan, and maybe we can work towards getting infrastructure dollars in our area.

Harvest is in full swing in the province; may you have a bountiful and safe harvest.



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CASE 1

A Leader Conservation Officer responded to a mature pronghorn antelope buck that was shot, killed, and left to waste sometime between noon on Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup> and 10am Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup>. The pronghorn was found 5 miles West, 4 miles South and 400m East of Richmond, SK. There was no pronghorn antelope season on at the time.



CASE 2

On April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020, Estevan Conservation Officers investigated a shot and left pregnant cow moose at SW 18-06-05 W2, approximately 12km Northeast of Lampman, SK. The investigation indicated that the moose had likely been shot and wounded on or before Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, and succumbed to its injuries on Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup>. There was no moose season on at the time.





## provincial election... **Don't forget to ask!**

By **Laurel Feltin** SARM Director of Programs and Operations

Access to **reliable broadband** has been proven to be an essential service and should be accessible to all Saskatchewan residents the same as clean drinking water, health care and education are provided.

**WITH THE** provincial election right around the corner, SARM wanted to share some of the asks we will be promoting to candidates this provincial election. We hope that those living in rural Saskatchewan won't forget to ask some key questions that ensure rural needs are highlighted to improve quality of life, ensure rural communities remain vibrant, and support economic development and growth in Saskatchewan.

### Broadband Access is Essential

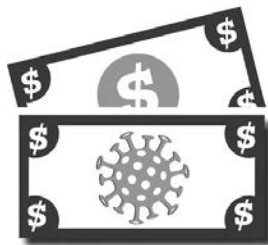


Our first request is for funding and implementation of reliable broadband access across Saskatchewan. It is of utmost importance not only for the economic and social wellbeing of our businesses and residents, but it was also proven critical in maintaining the delivery of health care, education and other key supports during COVID-19.

Access to reliable broadband has been proven to be an essential service and should be accessible to all Saskatchewan residents the same as clean drinking water, health care and education are provided.

### Municipal Support

Continuing to provide municipal services through these years following COVID-19 is going to be challenging as many ratepayers and businesses struggle to pay their property taxes due to the economic implications of the virus. SARM asks that candidates consider the value of continued, predictable municipal support as we endure through COVID-19 by providing municipalities with the same revenue sharing grant in 2020 and ensure the portion of the Provincial Sales Tax (PST) allocated to municipalities does not decrease. Our RMs also request the ability to utilize the same tax tools as urban municipalities and ask the province to study and develop viable alternative



revenue streams and tax tools for all municipalities to access and benefit from in these uncertain times.

### Focus on Policing

We need to ask candidates to continue to focus efforts on reducing rural crime and continue to build upon the good work the provincial government has undertaken in partnerships with organizations like SARM, including initiatives such as Rural Crime Watch and increasing the availability of patrol units to cover rural areas. This includes reviewing the way the municipalities pay for policing services and how fine revenues collected by the RCMP are shared back with municipalities. We need to remind our candidates that unless rural communities see an increase in the level of service provided by the RMCP, we are opposed to a formula change that would increase the portion of policing costs borne by RMs.



### Ask the Question

When you get a chance to talk with your provincial election candidates this fall, don't forget to ask them how they plan to address these key rural issues. In addition to these asks, we will also be reminding candidates that policy development that will allow the use of raw water and water treatment systems and expanding the grants in lieu of taxes policies that crown facilities pay to municipalities to include RMs would reap great benefit to communities, residents and businesses across the province. Those of us living in rural Saskatchewan need to make sure we highlight these issues, so we have the supports from our provincial government into the future to truly thrive and prosper.



# Staying savvy against **CYBER ATTACKS**

**By Craig Williams**

SARM Director, Insurance and Benefit Programs

**CYBER-ATTACKS** are nothing new, but as more of our world becomes internet based, the attacks become more frequent. Recent estimates indicate that over 150,000 cyber-attacks occur around the world every hour of every day. While not all these attacks are successful, even when a small percentage of a large number of attacks succeed, there is the potential for a lot of damage and loss as a result.

For many years, many people have believed that cyber-attacks, thefts and losses were things that happened elsewhere, but not close to them or even to them. In recent years, however, more and more high-profile cyber breaches have impacted people closer to home here in Saskatchewan. Think of the Equifax breach from a few years ago, or more recently, the breaches at E-Health Saskatchewan or Lifelabs, which were the result of cyber-attacks and which potentially compromised the information of many people.

The municipal sector in Saskatchewan is similarly not immune from cyber-attacks. Last year, over \$1 million was taken from the City of Saskatoon through a social engineering fraud scam. Thankfully, most, if not all, of those funds were eventually recovered; however, that isn't always the end result. Late last year, two rural municipalities in Saskatchewan fell victim to cyber-attacks, each resulting in significant financial losses.

In one case, hackers were able to enter the municipality's computer system through a virus or malware which could have come from a fraudulent email or malicious website somewhere along the way. Through this entry, hackers were able to gain access to the RM's payroll entry system, which is operated by a third party, and generate a payroll payment for \$175,000. This was done around the RM's usual time frame for routine payroll entries, so as the RM went through their typical confirmations with the payroll system and financial institution, the payment was not noticed until it had gone through. Hackers were aided in covering their tracks until it was too late by creating filters in the RM's email application, such that any emails related to payroll payments or other correspondence from their financial institution went right into the trash bin. The RM has not been successful in obtaining any recovery from their financial institution or the third party payroll system as each group says the other party was at fault, leaving the RM with a large loss that the RCMP has had no luck in tracking down to date.

In another case, hackers entered a municipality's computer system through a virus or malware. This time they were watching the RM's email inbox as property tax payments were made by ratepayers through Interac e-Transfer over the Christmas holidays. The RM was not set up to use the AutoDeposit

feature of Interac e-Transfer, so rather than the funds going directly into their bank account, they sat in an Interac holding account, waiting for the email recipient to complete the transfer. While the RM office was closed over the holidays, the hackers helped themselves to several e-Transfers, fraudulently accepting them and deposited over \$27,000. While the RM has worked with the impacted ratepayers and their financial institutions, their own financial institution and the RCMP, there is virtually no way to track where the funds have gone once they have been deposited.

## What Can You Do to Protect Your Municipality?

While it is unfortunate that these RM's have suffered cyber-attacks that resulted in data breaches and financial losses, the lessons they have learned can also be a lesson to your municipality before a loss occurs.

Since the news got out about the losses suffered by these RM's, we have been fielding lots of inquiries about what RM's can do to protect themselves, including looking for cyber insurance packages.

The Insurance and Benefits department has been actively working on the issue of cyber risk over the past couple of years; first to bring awareness to our members about cyber risk and the perils that can ensue from viruses, malware and other intrusions into RM's computer systems, and second to have an insurance product in place to backstop losses if and when they occur, in spite of solid IT protocols.

These recent cyber-attack events within the municipal sector in Saskatchewan have served to bring awareness to this issue more than any educational campaign ever could. The interest and desire from RM's for insurance products to protect themselves from cyber losses has also greatly accelerated.

We are currently working very hard to have a Cyber Liability Insurance solution in place in time for the 2021 Policy Renewal. This would address a coverage gap which currently exists for RM's for the potential liability exposure from a cyber-attack and certain costs associated with recovering from a cyber-attack.

The good news is that there are lots of relatively simple and inexpensive things your RM can do which can go a long way to preventing a cyber loss. This is important to remember as the insurance coverage does not prevent the loss from occurring, it just helps assist with the mess afterwards.

## It is never too late to review your RM's potential exposures for a cyber-attack.

Things your RM can consider to better protect yourself from a cyber-attack and loss include:

- Having strong passwords, which are routinely changed on any RM computers and for any program or web logins, especially for banking.
- Having multi-factor authentication to access computer programs, especially online banking.
- Having quality virus and malware scanning tools and ensuring routine scanning.
- Having good controls on email spam filters.
- Being cautious with emails from unfamiliar senders.
- Ensuring software on computers is kept up to date.
- Utilizing the services of a third party managed IT provider to host the RM's computer network, such that they can help manage the day-to-day IT security needs.
- Considering the use of a reputable virtual private network (VPN) service for online activity.
- Utilizing the auto deposit feature if your RM accepts Interac e-Transfer payments from ratepayers or other parties.
- Having conversations with your financial institutions about the risk protection tools they offer and what the RM can do to most effectively safeguard funds.
- Investing in some form of cyber security awareness training for RM employees and members of council. Knowing the things to look for while you are on the computer can go a long way to preventing viruses and malware from ending up on your PC.

The above isn't an exhaustive list, just some possible things to consider when planning out how to be cyber savvy in today's world.

### Coverage for Electronic Fraud Loss through the Fidelity Bond Plan

SARM currently offers coverage for financial losses caused by electronic fraud or social engineering, among other things, under the Fidelity Bond Self-Insurance Plan. There are three types of coverage under the plan. The Fidelity Bond covers the RM for theft by employees. The Registered Mail Coverage covers the RM for loss of funds while mailing them through registered mail, and the Money & Securities Coverage covers the RM for theft by others. It is under the Money & Securities coverage where things like electronic funds transfer fraud

and computer fraud are covered up to the limit of coverage selected.

RM's automatically carry a \$2,500 limit for Money & Securities; however, higher limits of coverage are available under the program at minimal cost and with no deductible. In the larger insurance marketplace, we have heard of rare instances of limits higher than what the SARM program offers, but those limits come with much higher premiums, significant deductibles and requirements of stringent financial controls with evidence of such provided to the insurer.

If your RM would like to review a copy of the Fidelity Bond Policy wording to learn more about the types of losses covered by the Money & Securities coverage, or if you wish to increase your Money & Securities coverage limit, please contact the Insurance and Benefits Department for more information. All we require from your RM to make a change to your coverage is a resolution of council in an email.

To briefly summarize, the types of losses covered by the Money & Securities coverage include: loss Inside the premises (i.e. break-in, theft or robbery); loss outside the premises (i.e. robbery or theft while in transit between the RM office and their financial institution); losses due to the acceptance, in good faith, of fake money orders or counterfeit paper currency; depositors forgery; computer fraud, funds transfer fraud; social engineering fraud; and telecommunications theft.

### Conclusion

It is never too late to review your RM's potential exposures for a cyber-attack. We encourage all RMs to review their computer systems, evaluate the steps they take for online security and consider making some of the suggested enhancements. These are all things you can do to help prevent a loss. Cyber insurance coverage, while certainly a helpful product in the event of a loss, does nothing to help prevent a loss from occurring.

While we are actively working towards a Cyber Liability solution, if your RM is looking for coverage sooner, we would recommend contacting Kevin Madden at AON in Saskatoon. He is our broker, and we are working with him to develop a Cyber Liability Insurance solution for SARM members. We have referred some RMs to him already for cyber coverage. He can be reached at 1-306-975-8860 or at [kevin.madden@aon.ca](mailto:kevin.madden@aon.ca).

Of course, if you have any questions or concerns about anything discussed in this bulletin, feel free to contact the Insurance and Benefits Department at SARM. We are always happy to assist our members with any insurance related matters.



# Bringing western voices to Canada's COVID-19 recovery

By Randy Goulden

Chair, FCM's Western Economic Solutions Taskforce

**HERE IN SASKATCHEWAN** and across the country, municipal leaders have been on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic. We've worked flat-out to protect people and businesses and keep essential services running strong – even as the pandemic plunged municipalities into financial crisis.

But the fact is, western communities of all sizes were facing a significant economic downturn even before the pandemic hit. Like so many of you, I've seen people in my community of Yorkton lose their livelihoods, their homes, and their hopes for the future. COVID-19 has only made things worse.

As the order of government closest to daily life, municipal leaders are determined to help. Our frontline role makes us problem solvers, and we have a long track-record of working pragmatically and across party lines, no matter how big the challenge. It's how we get things done.

And so, last fall, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) launched its Western Economic Solutions Taskforce (WEST). This taskforce brings together rural and urban municipal leaders from Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Alberta and British Columbia – all committed to supporting struggling communities. I'm proud to serve as chair and to help bring our province's perspective to the table.

WEST's mandate is to put forward concrete recommendations for the federal government to adopt and for communities to build on. It's focused on four key areas: getting resources and products to market; energy development, climate policy and regulation; diversifying economies; and municipal infrastructure and fiscal sustainability.

The taskforce is already driving results. April's \$1.7 billion federal investment into cleaning up orphaned and inactive oil and gas wells was a direct response to a key WEST recommendation – one that will create 5,200 jobs, while reducing environmental and safety risks in hard-hit western communities.

We're also urging Ottawa to create a rebate to compensate farmers for the costs of carbon pricing on grain drying. With all the hurdles farmers have had to deal with – from trade disputes and transportation issues to extreme weather and now COVID-19 – supporting Canada's agriculture sector is a priority for WEST and FCM.

The pandemic has brought renewed urgency to the challenges facing western communities. We've seen how vulnerable we can be as individuals, as communities, and as a country. What's needed now is a bold recovery plan that brings our country back stronger than ever. Getting there will take unprecedented collaboration among all governments – with municipal leaders directly at the table.

Of course, building a better Canada in the wake of this pandemic is only going to happen if it includes all communities, in all regions. Even before COVID-19 hit, we saw a growing disconnect between different regions of the country. FCM and its WEST taskforce are doubling down on our efforts to bring western municipal priorities to Canada's recovery.

To help address the economic needs and disparities facing western communities, FCM is urging the federal government to strengthen Western Economic Diversification Canada – to bring its funding in line with other regional development agencies. That will help both rural and urban communities promote growth and drive innovation.

We're also recommending additional federal investments in the National Trade Corridors Fund and the Rail Safety Improvement Program to support regional commerce, improve the flow of goods and products, and promote rail safety. And, we're calling for a new Energy Community Infrastructure Fund that directly empowers municipalities in energy-producing regions to strengthen their infrastructure and drive local economic development.

Beyond these investments, supporting communities facing economic uncertainty will take a whole-of government approach. That's why FCM is calling on the federal government to apply a "rural lens" throughout Canada's COVID-19 recovery plan. After all, a strong rural Canada is essential to this country's economy and well-being.

Municipal leaders envision a Canada that's more prosperous, resilient and connected for all. That means raising people's quality of life by renewing core infrastructure, modernizing transit and tackling housing affordability. It means preparing for future shocks now by cutting GHG emissions and adapting to new weather extremes. And, it means ensuring every community has the tools to thrive – starting by moving faster to bring high-speed Internet to every Canadian. Because after all, it's 2020 and reliable Internet is essential to ensuring our communities can reach their full potential.

The COVID-19 pandemic has shown what we're truly capable of when we work together. We saw neighbours, communities and governments come together like never before. That spirit needs to drive a truly nationwide recovery. FCM, WEST and municipal leaders are ready to partner with other orders of government, and we're ready to get to work.

Because *we're still* in this together.

*Randy Goulden is Chair of FCM's Western Economic Solutions Taskforce (WEST). She also serves as a Councillor in the City of Yorkton, SK and chairs FCM's Prairies and Territories Regional Caucus. For more on FCM's WEST taskforce, visit [fcm.ca/WEST](http://fcm.ca/WEST).*

# Just wait 10 minutes... As remembered

By Mike Wirges

RMAA Division 2 Director

**I DARE YOU TO** try to have a conversation with a local producer that does not involve a discussion on the weather. This is the one subject matter which falls under the category of “most talked about subject.” Not surprisingly, nothing else comes close. Granted 2020 is a bit of an exception, considering that COVID comes in a close second. However, conversations about weather past, present and future will always remain a constant.

My father was one that fully enjoyed a number of spirited discussions about what was happening in the world of weather. I sometimes struggled engaging in conversation with my dad, but once the topic of a specific rainfall, snowfall or heat wave took place, it opened up an engaging exchange of information. Growing up a farmer, Dad collected a number of weather related gadgets, which included a plastic “moose-head” with the barometer on the same mount, which he proudly displayed on the living room wall. There was not a day that would go by, seeing or hearing Dad “tap, tap, tap” on the barometer to determine if the needle was stuck in order to predict a change in pressure and the possibility of rain in the forecast.

The weather prognostication gadgets continued well after he retired from farming. Besides the plastic moose-head barometer, he would rely on a range of wind speed and digital indicators showing what is, was and what will be, with no apparent need for accuracy. A number of years ago, my brother gifted dad one of those “Galileo” glass thermometers, which contained a number of various-density glass balls inside a liquid filled tube. Looking back now, I believe Dad purposely would play with the thermostat in the house to watch the glass balls lower and rise with each degree change in temperature. No wonder the house was so cold! However, the willow-stick attached to the back deck was probably by far the most accurate weather predictor on record. What appeared as a small 6-inch dead branch would magically come to life depending on the humidity in the air, by either pointing up or pointing down. What we initially thought was a bit of a joke, we soon came to realize this “stick” surpassed the most experienced meteorological devices in the house.

It is obvious that my Dad’s fascination with weather had everything to do with being a farmer. Mother Nature had been known to throw a few curve balls towards the agriculture community, and while dad was a farmer in the 60’s through the 80’s, technological advancements were rare back then. Today, technology has assisted the agriculture industry in leaps

and bounds such as improved genetics and a more resistant strain of crops that can weather a number of changes in our climate. However, water remains one of the biggest challenges yet. This valuable resource can either come in too large of quantities resulting in excess flooding or too small, based on the extreme drought conditions we have all experienced.

**The provincial government’s announcement of a multi-phase \$4 billion irrigation project at Lake Diefenbaker is one that will finally fulfill Prime Minister John Diefenbaker’s vision from the 1950’s. While this project may not completely overcome all the ever-changing environmental challenges we face, it certainly has the potential to not only aid the agriculture community locally but also on a global scale.**

With the environment continuing to throw out curve balls, resulting in a number of strikes against the agriculture community, innovative approaches that initially appear outdated have come full circle. The provincial government’s announcement of a multi-phase \$4 billion irrigation project at Lake Diefenbaker is one that will finally fulfill Prime Minister John Diefenbaker’s vision from the 1950’s. While this project may not completely overcome all the ever-changing environmental challenges we face, it certainly has the potential to not only aid the agriculture community locally but also on a global scale, especially considering how much of the population relies on Saskatchewan’s food supply.

Just like the simple willow stick, there are times we should reflect on the tried and true methods instead of reinventing the wheel. My father recently passed away in May 2020 at the age of 86 and 364 days. I managed to hang onto the moose-head barometer in addition to the multitude of non-precision weather devices. Unfortunately, somehow one of my siblings managed to sneak away with the willow stick. Jokes on them though, as dad secretly claimed he accidentally mounted the stick upside down. I can still hear him laughing!

# New communication solution offered through SARM partnership

BY VERN SABESKI

Managing Partner at All-Net Municipal Solutions

**ALL-NET IS PLEASED** to announce a new partnership with SARM in providing mass communication software to its members. Connect – By All-Net is a mass communication system that provides you with the ability to send out information by voice calls, text, email and social media. The new software is also integrated with Canada's emergency alert system and will send out automated SaskAlert voice calls to landline phones to ensure that your seniors and those in rural and remote areas receive your message.

Each new account comes with your local phone directory pre-loaded, so you can be up and running within a day. Your residents then have the ability to register and provide their additional contact information such as mobile phone number, email address and physical address.

The way we communicate has changed, and it has changed forever. Ten years ago, we could simply place an ad in the local newspaper, and everyone would get the message. However, we now live in a world where our residents are sharing information by the second through various mediums such as social media and texting. Making your residents wait a week for information is no longer practical.

If you are not communicating with all your residents in a timely manner, you can be assured that someone else in your community will step in to speak on your behalf. Chances are this person has their own agenda and message they want to broadcast.

New local technology, Connect – By All-Net, is now available through a SARM partnership to rural municipalities in Saskatchewan, and it provides municipal offices with the ability to disseminate mass messages to their residents immediately. The technology was the first in the country to automate SaskAlert emergency alerts to landline phones, and it was recently cited in Alberta when Barrhead County received the Minister's Award for Innovation.

If you are a municipal official and you think local communication during a pandemic is not your responsibility, you need to reconsider. Without one local source for factual information, your residents are left with rumor, hearsay and second-hand information to make informed decisions. You need to remember there are always others with ulterior motives who are attempting to control your message to their benefit.

Contact SARM for more information on how you can get started.

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- Landline phone messages (voice);
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- Email; and
- Social media.

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# Making the connection with our food

By **Clinton Monchuk**  
Executive Director, Farm & Food Care Saskatchewan



**IT IS INTRIGUING** that we live in a culture where we're all connected to food, but for the most part, we've lost our connection to food.

The growing problem is that as time progresses, the bulk of Canadians are losing their connection to where food actually comes from. As a country, less than three per cent of us have a direct tie to a farm or ranch, and 93 per cent of Canadians have said they know little or nothing about farming practices. It's not unfathomable in our society for an individual to live their entire life without once seeing a farm, a farm animal or speaking with an individual who grows food. However, there is an active and methodical effort to ensure consumers have confidence in the food through Farm & Food Care Saskatchewan.

Saskatchewan is a food powerhouse. The most current stats from the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture show a total of 62 million acres of farm land (crop and ranch), generating over \$13 billion in gross receipts from sales. From this production, the industry employs roughly 10 per cent of Saskatchewan residents and helps feed the world by exporting over \$13 billion in agriculture and food products. Thus, food and farming encompass a significant portion of who we are as Saskatchewanians.

In the early onset of COVID-19, Canadians rushed to the stores to bulk buy items of significant value to them. Shortages of certain meat products, milk, bread, canned items, eggs, and of course, toilet paper resulted. Anger and frustration filled the social media posts.

"Why can't I buy milk when farmers are being forced to dump it?"; "We produce so much wheat - where's all the bread?"; Although the short-term situations have worked themselves out, it highlighted the lack of understanding around the complex food system that we have.

With all the forecasting, projections and crystal ball gazing one can do, no one would have predicted the global calamity we're currently in. The service industry that previously provided food via restaurants has now slowed down. There has been an abrupt and fundamental change in how people are consuming food. The supply system to bring consumers food is going to have to change, but it cannot change overnight, which will create short-term shortages. Think about it this way: when was the last time you purchased a gallon of sour cream for baking or cooking? It's not high on your grocery list, but the processing of larger containers of sour cream was essential for restaurants and bakeries. With reduced demand for a further processed product like sour cream, we effectively removed the demand for much of that milk. With reduced demand for some of these products, it creates surplus on one side of milk (sour cream) but shortages on the other (fluid milk). This was also why, in the short-term, you saw pictures of farmers dumping fluid milk. The processing system has now adjusted, and we're back to a new equilibrium.

Explaining these situations and other realities of what primary agriculture is to consumers is a daunting task and the reason why Farm & Food Care Saskatchewan

was established. Typically, farm families didn't have to explain themselves about what they did to grow crops or livestock. Now, more than ever, we need to create these connections and build trust with those who are purchasing what we produce. Farm & Food Care Saskatchewan's engagement initiatives, like farm tours, panel discussions, cooking competitions and month-long social media campaigns (Ag Month), all allow for stronger connections with food.

Given that consumers go online for more of their food information, Farm & Food Care Saskatchewan created Canadian Food Focus, an online initiative to tell Canadian food and farming stories, to explore how food is grown and raised, to share recipes, and to provide advice to help people make confident food choices. From our March 2019 launch until end of July 2020, Canadian Food Focus has reached over 9 million people. Even more exciting is that we are gaining momentum. In the last six months, we have already reached 3.3 million people, and we have had over 1 million social media engagements.

I encourage you to promote and share initiatives like Canadian Food Focus, support groups like Farm & Food Care Saskatchewan, and Agriculture in the Classroom Saskatchewan and take the first step to engaging with consumers by speaking with those you know about your own farm or ranch. We currently have twelve RM members, and we would be happy to see more join us!

# Supporting Saskatchewan agriculture for 20 years



**By Todd Lewis**

President, Agricultural Producers Association Of Saskatchewan

**2020 HAS MADE IT VERY CLEAR** that agriculture is the engine of our provincial economy. While the COVID-19 pandemic has caused a severe financial downturn in other sectors, agriculture has held its own during 2020. We have been hard at work, and our products continue moving to world markets and generating billions of dollars in economic activity, supporting one in every eight Canadian jobs. Saskatchewan agriculture is a Canadian success story.

As a member of the RM of Lajord No. 128 council, I know that our responsive system of local government has always been a major part of our success as producers. We maintain a direct say on our essential services, so we have the transportation access and infrastructure essential to conduct our business. Producers know that our tax dollars are efficiently allocated to best meet the needs of the local economy.

When we talk to producers from the rest of Canada, we realize that we have a voice in local government that you don't see in other provinces. Municipal amalgamation has not been a huge success in those jurisdictions, and we recognize the value that our local governments provide us.

In 2020, APAS is celebrating our 20<sup>th</sup> year. Our organization was formed from a resolution during the SARM convention in the fall of 1999, at a time when agriculture was facing a serious crisis. Producers serving on RM councils saw the need for an organization to provide a united provincial voice on agricultural policy on behalf of farmers and ranchers. These pioneer members worked hard to build support. APAS was incorporated in July of 2000, and our first general meeting was held that December with representatives from 80 RMs. Our membership has continued to grow, and our voice as producers has continued to be heard because of those pioneers. We are very pleased to be celebrating 20 years of working in partnership with SARM and its RM membership on issues that matter to producers and ratepayers.

Many of our active reps bring years of experience on RM councils, and they have brought their skill sets in practical problem-solving and in finding and proposing solutions, instead of just complaining. This can do attitude has been very helpful in our approach with provincial and federal governments.

Issues may change, but successful approaches stay the same. Access to internet and cell service weren't the biggest issues in 2000, but they are today.

While we spend a lot of our effort on issues like transportation or farm business risk management programming, we are also heavily involved on environmental issues.

Our very first policy proposal to address the farm income crisis of the early 2000s was the START program to provide financial support to producers for the environmental "goods and services" that come from their stewardship of the land. That concept is still important 20 years later.

In 2012, APAS was one of the founders of the Saskatchewan Alternative Land Use Services program, which provides financial support to landowners for environmental projects.

APAS members have been heavily involved in agricultural water management policy, invasive weed and disease management, and the need for better climate change and carbon policy.

We hosted the Provincial Carbon Summit in 2017 to focus public and government attention on carbon sequestration and land management.

In 2019, we took part in the Saskatchewan court challenge to the federal carbon tax, fighting for an exemption for agriculture.

We produced research on the cost impact of carbon taxation on grain drying and transportation, and we are very active in the design of offset programs for carbon sequestration.

As the largest group of private sector land managers in Canada, Saskatchewan farmers and ranchers play a very big part in providing and managing wildlife habitat, ensuring water and air quality, and sequestration of carbon in our soils for all of Canada. Our members strongly believe that producers deserve financial recognition for beneficial practices – not punitive rules that hurt our businesses or the huge burden of extra costs like the federal carbon tax.

APAS has worked to ensure that governments develop policies that work to enhance the role that producers play and maximize the benefits to the economy and the environment.

There will be many more challenges in the next 20 years, and we look forward to continued collaboration with SARM and its RM members as we address the needs of our residents and members.

# Tackling COVID with **TECHNOLOGY**

**BY VERN SABESKI** Managing Partner at All-Net Municipal Solutions

**WITHOUT A DOUBT** COVID-19 has arrived in Saskatchewan with a unique set of challenges. Along with concern for our basic health and welfare, we now find ourselves examining new ways to meet the needs of our residents, and in some ways, improvements to services are being achieved.

Thanks to SARM, many municipal governments are already equipped to run their council meetings and share information between administration and elected officials with new technology developed right here on the Canadian prairies. Elected officials no longer need to be in the office to access information and make decisions.

All-Net Meetings is now available at a reduced rate to municipal governments in Saskatchewan. The program enables administration to be up and running with their council immediately. The technology provides elected officials with the ability to access their meeting agendas, minutes and important documents along with the ability to share information and access everything they need to make policy decisions.

Communities such as the Town of Spiritwood and the RM of Bone Creek were the first to start using All-Net Meetings a few years ago to streamline their council meetings. Former RM of Bone Creek CAO Lana Bavle realized the benefits early on, and today works full time on setting up other administrators with the new technology in Saskatchewan.

*All-Net Meetings now has a live streaming option providing municipal councils with the ability to stream their meetings online with a simple click of a button.*

“The benefits were so obvious, and councillors took to the new system immediately,” says Lana Bavle. “Implementing the new technology was the only time we have been able to save time, money and the environment with one decision.”

While municipal governments now struggle with deciding how they will continue to run their council meetings, many have not skipped a beat with the use of All-Net Meetings. Administrators also have peace of mind in knowing that their councillors have access to all the information and documents they need to make important decisions.

Elected officials can access and share information from a laptop, tablet or cell phone, and administrators no longer go through the process of preparing and distributing hard copies of their agenda packages. Everything is cloud based, and there is no limit to the number of files and amount of information made available to elected officials.

“Some administrators say they finally found a way to keep councillors out of the office,” jokes Bavle. “But really they have lives too, and anything that can make their jobs easier and safer is something that needs to be considered.”

All-Net Meetings now has a live streaming option providing municipal councils with the ability to stream their meetings online with a simple click of a button. The new streaming option provides the public with access to meetings from the safety of their homes. *Photos: @ Shutterstock.com*

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# Solar energy, wind energy and energy storage projects support local communities

**THE** Canadian Renewable Energy Association (CanREA) was established on July 1, 2020 when the Canadian Wind Energy Association and the Canadian Solar Industries Association united to create one voice for wind energy, solar energy and energy storage solutions that will power Canada's energy future. We work with over 250 members to create the conditions for a modern energy system through stakeholder advocacy and public engagement. With recent and upcoming deployment of each of our three technologies in the province, we look forward to working with the members of SARM.

The Government of Saskatchewan's Prairie Resilience plan provides a unique opportunity for rural Saskatchewan. This plan, and its requirement that SaskPower reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 40 per cent under 2005 levels by 2030, will result in significant economic and environmental benefits to the province and its residents. Saskatchewan's world class solar and wind resources have also resulted in significant investment interest and among the lowest unsubsidized renewable electricity prices in Canada! The result is that these technologies are now lower cost than any competing new sources of electricity generation in the province.

Currently, over five per cent of the electricity capacity in Saskatchewan is provided by renewables: 240 MW of wind power and 16 MW of solar, including enough rooftop solar to power roughly 1,200 homes and businesses. The provincial renewable energy development pipeline also includes power purchase agreements that have been signed for two 10 MW solar facilities, a 200 MW, a 185 MW and a 10 MW wind facilities, as well as a 20 MW utility scale Opportunity Agreement for a solar facility to be developed by the First Nations Power Authority. CanREA has been working with SaskPower to guarantee the success of a 300 MW wind energy procurement that is currently underway, and we are looking forward to supporting SaskPower's plans for a 20 MW battery storage facility. Our members are very active in the province, in partnership with SaskPower and with many SARM member municipalities and their communities at large.

For farmers, renewable energy facilities are sometimes referred to as a droughtless crop, as they provide a steady source of land lease income they can count on when commodity prices fall or bad weather interrupts harvest. For municipal governments, wind and solar farms are a source of new tax revenue they can use to fund community-based projects and services. For residents, these projects provide new work for local trades people and contractors, new customers for local businesses, and new skilled local jobs in operations and maintenance.

Beyond wind and solar projects' local economic benefits is the opportunity for rural Saskatchewan to play a critical role in building the province's clean energy future. Saskatchewan farmers and rural leadership have always been stewards of the province's natural resources. They know that protecting the long-term health of the land, water and air not only assures their economic future, but also sustains the rural landscape for generations to come.

Wind and solar farms generate electricity without polluting the air or emitting greenhouse gases. The American Wind Energy Association notes that the average wind farm leaves 95-98 per cent of land undisturbed, allowing farmers to continue to harvest their crops and graze their cattle as they have always done. Likewise, solar PV panels are often installed on unused rooftops, farm buildings, community centres or on brownfield sites. The production of wind energy also conserves water resources that would otherwise be used to cool thermal power plants, something that is important in years when the province is hit by drought.

CanREA members are also committed to supporting the efforts of Saskatchewan people to serve as stewards of the land. Not only do they engage in extensive consultation with communities, but they work with the Ministry of Environment to ensure that projects are sited in the most environmentally sustainable way possible and create post construction monitoring plans to ensure minimal impact from operation. Leading CanREA members also create emer-



gency response and decommissioning plans with landowners, communities and first responders, ensuring that they are made public and that commitments are reflected in landowner agreements.

However, these benefits will require long-term support for renewable energy facilities by municipalities and their residents. To gain that acceptance, our industry is committed to serving as responsible stewards working side-by-side with residents and communities. The work that renewable energy developer companies are doing in host communities is informed by CanWEA's *Best Practices Guide for Community Engagement and Public Consultation*, which was created with input from industry, municipal leaders and communications experts. It guides our members and provides stakeholders with a sense of what they can expect if a project is proposed within their community.

Over the coming years, there will be significant opportunities for many more Saskatchewan communities to become a home for wind and solar development. The Canadian Renewable Energy Association and its members are eager to engage with local municipalities, Indigenous Peoples and diverse stakeholders to establish productive and beneficial partnerships. Our industry is committed to delivering the best possible projects at the best price, and by working collaboratively with residents, communities, landowners, local decision makers, government ministries and SaskPower, we are confident we can get the job done.

For more information on CanREA, visit <https://renewablesassociation.ca/>.

The initiative projects to return more than \$80 billion in gross domestic product, create 730,000 person years of employment and increase personal net income by \$23.5 billion.

# Turning vision into **REALITY**

**IT TRULY IS** Saskatchewan's great opportunity – long considered, often evaluated, studied for decades, but never coming to pass. Until now, that is.

In July, the Province of Saskatchewan announced the largest single infrastructure initiative in our history, the 10-year, \$4 billion Lake Diefenbaker irrigation project. Its origins date back to one of the true titans in Saskatchewan political history, former Prime Minister John Diefenbaker. Diefenbaker had always been attuned to the fortunes of Saskatchewan agriculture, and he witnessed the impacts of the crushing drought on Saskatchewan during The Dirty Thirties. A decade after he announced the initial plans, his inspiration became the reality of Gardiner Dam and Lake Diefenbaker in the late 1960s. Today, this critical infrastructure provides a fresh source of water to more than two thirds of the population as well as a reliable source of hydroelectricity.

But the second part of Diefenbaker's vision – to turn Saskatchewan into an agricultural irrigation powerhouse, encompassing hundreds of thousands of acres – was never realized.

The Westside Irrigation project extending north from Lake Diefenbaker was started in 1967, but it was discontinued by the Allan Blakeney government in the early 1970s when 90 per cent of the route was already completed. Several times since, governments have pondered the potential of irrigation to transform Saskatchewan agriculture, but until recently, the concept sat in limbo.

Flanked by stakeholders from industry, Premier Scott Moe recently announced plans to provide water for up to 500,000 acres of new irrigable land, which will give Saskatchewan and Canada unparalleled food security as well as the opportunity for producers to diversify into high value table crops.

The project encompasses many benefits, but the driving factor is economics. Over the 50-year life span of the project, an independent analysis shows the initiative projects to return more than \$80 billion in gross domestic product, create 730,000 person years of employment and increase personal net income by \$23.5 billion. At project maturity, 22,700 annual jobs will be created. Businesses, communities, our people and our province will experience an unparalleled new opportunity to grow and thrive.

\$500 million will be invested in phase one of the project to rehabilitate and expand the existing Westside irrigation canal system abandoned in the early 1970s. This phase will increase irrigable land by 80,000 acres in the area. With canal routing already 90 per cent in place, phase one of the Westside project is one of the most shovel ready irrigation projects in the province. Phase two will further expand and build the Westside project, adding an additional 260,000 acres of irrigable land running adjacent to Macrorie, Milden, Zealandia, and as far north as Delisle and Asquith.

Phase three will see the construction of the Qu'Appelle South Irrigation Project, adding an estimated 120,000 acres of irrigable land. Starting at Lake Diefenbaker and going south, the project will run near the communities of Tugaske, Eyebrow, down to Marquis and into Buffalo Pound Lake. An investment of up to \$3.5 billion is anticipated in phase two and three.

The vision of the Lake Diefenbaker project is to provide food security for Canadians, so we don't experience the risk of empty grocery shelves as we saw during COVID-19. At the same time, producers can move to the lucrative table crops industry – corn, carrots, beets, lettuce, cabbage, cucumbers – that reliable irrigation makes possible. A recent Alberta study suggested that real return from irrigated crops were four times that of dryland crops, using the years 2000-2011. This capacity will lay the groundwork to also establish processing plants and dramatically increase Saskatchewan's global share in agriculture.

Environmental sustainability is another key factor. With a changing climate a reality, this project helps show true adaptation and resiliency.

The Qu'Appelle portion of the project will provide the Moose Jaw-Regina corridor and southern Saskatchewan with a secure source of water for the next century and act as a catalyst for future significant industrial expansion, including new potash development.

The work is already begun, with an initial \$22.5 million investment this year for preliminary engineering and initial construction. By 2030, Diefenbaker's dream will finally be realized.

Do you have questions about the project? You can email the Water Security Agency at [irrigation@wsask.ca](mailto:irrigation@wsask.ca).

# Rodenticides, A Quick Overview

BY HEALTH CANADA



**WITH THE** onset of fall comes cooler weather. Many animal species, particularly rodents, begin looking for warmer areas to seek shelter from the cold. Pest control operators are likely to experience increased inquiries from customers about methods to control unwanted rodents in and around their property. One option available to pest control operators is the use of rodenticides.

Bait stations can reduce the risk of children, pets or other non-target animals coming in contact with a rodenticide.

Rodenticides are highly toxic compounds and can be used in residential and agricultural settings. Their use needs to be carefully considered to prevent exposure of children, pets and non-target wildlife to these chemicals. Many rodenticides work by preventing normal blood clotting (anticoagulants) and causing internal bleeding when ingested. **First-generation (multi-dose) anticoagulants** generally must be ingested for several days to provide a dose lethal to most rodents. These products are typically less acutely toxic and more rapidly metabolized and/or excreted. Examples of first generation anticoagulants include chlorophacinone, diphacinone and warfarin. **Second-generation (single dose) anticoagulants** tend to be more acutely toxic and are retained much longer in body tissues of the target pest. They generally provide a lethal dose after one single feeding, although death is usually delayed 5 to 10 days, and the target pest will continue feeding. Examples of second-generation anticoagulants include brodifacoum, bromadiolone and difethialone. Rodenticides that act on the target species in other ways are grouped together as **non-anticoagulants**; examples include bromethalin and zinc phosphide.

Rodenticides, like all pest control products, are labelled for specific intended uses and user groups. There are two classes of pest control products:

- Domestic Class products:
  - Sold for consumer use in and around the home that can be used safely. Second-generation anticoagulants are prohibited in this class.
- Commercial Class products:
  - Sold to licenced applicators, agricultural producers and government control programs that can be used safely and efficaciously in their particular businesses. All labels state: *“Only to be used by certified pest control operators, farmers and persons authorized in government approved pest control programs.”*

Careless use of rodenticides can result in unintentional poisonings. Bait stations can reduce the risk of children, pets or other non-target animals coming in contact with a rodenticide. A bait station is a device that is tamper-resistant and prevents access to the rodenticide to animals other than the intended pest. To reduce the risks associated with the use of

rodenticides, especially accidental exposure of children and non-target animals, the following guidelines have been implemented by Health Canada:

- Tamper-proof bait stations are required for the use of rodenticides used by consumers or professional pest control operators in areas accessible to children, pets, livestock and non-target wildlife.
- Rodenticides sold to consumers must be packaged together with a pre-baited, ready-to-use bait station.
- Rodenticides with high levels of toxicity and that take a long time to break down in the environment (second-generation anticoagulants) will only be available to professional pest control operators or farmers for limited use.
- Residential and/or outdoor use of rodenticides containing certain active ingredients and concentrated products (diluted by user into solid or liquid bait) are now prohibited.

## When using commercial class rodenticides it is important to be aware that:

- Regulatory actions apply to products currently registered for use in and around structures/buildings (i.e. structural uses);
- Bait used without a bait station is only permitted in a location that is inaccessible to children, pets, livestock and non-target wildlife;
- Outdoor use, or residential setting use of commercial class, concentrated products (e.g solution, emulsifiable concentrate, dust, powder) to be diluted into solid or liquid bait are prohibited;
- Can use within 15 metres of a building;
- Can be placed within 100 metres of buildings, if the station is secured to the fence or ground; and
- The use of difethialone and brodifacoum are restricted to indoor use only.

## What can you do to reduce risk?

- Always follow label instructions and take steps to avoid exposure;
- Keep all rodenticides out of reach of children and pets, whether in use or in storage;
- Choose the right bait station for the job;
- Dispose of poisoned rodents to reduce the risk of secondary poisoning; and
- Use gloves when disposing dead rodents to avoid contact.

For specific rodenticide questions, check the label or visit Health Canada’s Pesticide Label Search tool: <http://pr-rp.hc-sc.gc.ca/lr-re/index-eng.php> (English) or <http://pr-rp.hc-sc.gc.ca/lr-re/index-fra.php> (French). If you still have questions, contact Pat Luchenski at 306-201-9832, Nicole Struthers at 306-501-1454 or email [hc.info.pesticides.ies.sc@canada.ca](mailto:hc.info.pesticides.ies.sc@canada.ca).

# New Farm Electrical Safety Resource



By: Agricultural Health and Safety Network,  
Canadian Centre for Health and Safety in  
Agriculture, University of Saskatchewan

**ELECTROCUTION** incidents are a serious cause of injury and death on the farm and are PREVENTABLE. Awareness and education of electrical hazards on the farm can help protect farmers, farm families, and farm workers from injury and fatality. The Electrical Safety on Saskatchewan Farms booklet is a new and unique resource aimed at increasing awareness and prevention of incidents when working around overhead and underground power lines on the farm. The Agricultural Health and Safety Network is grateful to have partnered with SaskPower in the development and delivery of this resource and will continue to grow this partnership in the future.

In 2019, there were 326 overhead line contacts caused by farm machinery, and while none of these incidents were fatal, each incident had the potential to be. Don't take the chance, be aware and be safe! Electrocutation is one of the most overlooked hazards of farm work. The most common causes of electrocutions on the farm are portable grain augers, oversized wagons, large combines, high clearance sprayers and other tall equipment that can come into contact with overhead power lines.

The Electrical Safety on Saskatchewan Farms resource is an important teaching tool for employers to use in educating new workers on electrical safety on the farm. Education plays a key role in improving safety on the farm and promoting safety practices. The resource covers the following topics:

- Background on electrical safety;
- Need for an electrical safety resource – injury and incident statistics;
- Overhead line contacts and safety;
- What to do when you hit a powerline;
- Underground line safety;
- Prevention and safety practices;
- General electrical safety on the farm;
- Technology for safety – looking to the future;
- Human elements in safety; and
- Farmers learning from farmers: feature stories of farmers who have been involved in electrical incidents.

The Electrical Safety on Saskatchewan Farms booklet is available on the Agricultural Health and Safety Network website – [www.aghealth.usask.ca](http://www.aghealth.usask.ca).

**Together we can make it safer.**

**Electrical Safety on Saskatchewan Farms**

SaskPower.





# It's all about **THE BUGS**

BY LANA HAIGHT Outreach and Engagement Specialist at the Livestock and Forage Centre of Excellence – University of Saskatchewan



*Researchers seek to provide accurate picture of beef cattle's impact on GHG emissions.*

**EAT LESS BEEF. . . SAVE THE PLANET!** It's a common theme on social media and among celebrities. Yet, researchers at the University of Saskatchewan are working to show that beef cattle in Western Canada shouldn't take the rap for climate change.

Several scientists are exploring the various aspects of raising cattle with the overarching goals of quantifying greenhouse gas emissions and identifying ways to reduce them. One study, conducted at the Livestock and Forage Centre of Excellence's Termuende Ranch near Lanigan, is into its fifth and final year. During the summers, cattle have grazed in pastures with two paddocks that included non-bloat legume plants to determine the effects of these forage types on GHG emissions.

"It's a circle," said Dr. Diane Knight (PhD), professor in the department of soil science. "We're trying to link what cows are eating, how diets influence the soil, how soil influences plants, which then influence cattle as they eat. The whole premise is to close the circle and look at the system rather than individual points in the system."

Knight is collaborating with Dr. Rich Farrell (PhD), another soil scientist, and animal scientist Dr. Bart Lardner (PhD), all in the College of Agriculture and Bioresources.

Misconceptions about GHG and cattle abound, starting with from which end methane is emitted by cattle. It's from belching, the by-product of cattle's ruminant digestive system. As microbes in the animal's rumen (the first of four stomachs) break down high fiber forages that people are unable to eat, the feed is fermented and the microbes release gas.

Preliminary results show that the cattle grazing on the pasture where cicer milkvetch had been seeded produced about 20 per cent less methane (litres of gas/kilogram of dry matter intake) than the animals that grazed in the "control" pasture.

"We want to find a pasture type that will produce a good yield and good quality pasture during the grazing season, will result in adequate weight gains on the grazing animals, and will potentially reduce emissions," explained Lardner, professor in the department of animal and poultry science.

While bugs or microbes are chewing on the remnants of plants in the rumen, more bugs are chewing on roots in the soil.

"It's all bug-driven, but it's not the same bugs in the rumen and the soil. The ones in the rumen emit methane and the ones in the soil emit nitrous oxide. They are both greenhouse gases. People may think that we have to get rid of nitrous oxide emissions. It's impossible, but we do need to manage and minimize them," said Knight.

Another misconception involves manure, which acts like a slow-release fertilizer. It's the urine, providing water, that triggers the release of GHG, not the manure.

With moisture providing the right conditions, soil microbes break down the forages' roots and the cattle's manure and urine, and provide nutrients that feed the plants. While Lardner is looking at the legumes potentially reducing methane emissions from the cattle, Knight is looking at whether the legumes, which fix nitrogen, are causing more or less N<sub>2</sub>O to be emitted from the soil or whether the plants in the pasture are efficiently using the nitrogen as part of their growth.

All this will lead to a complete system number that can be incorporated into Canada's greenhouse gas inventory, dispelling another misconception.

"We know we are producing low carbon footprint cattle in western Canada," said Farrell, associate professor in the department of soil science.

"If we want (climate) models to reflect what's happening in western Canada, we need to provide the data so the models can be adjusted to what's actually occurring here. That's the knowledge gap that we are trying to fill."

Part of that gap includes the effect of manure applied to cropland in the semi-arid Prairies. In another study, Farrell and Dr. Jeff Schoenau (PhD) are comparing N<sub>2</sub>O emissions from manure spread at a constant rate with that spread at a variable rate on barley fields at the LFCE's Forage Cow-Calf Research and Teaching Unit, located south of Clavet.

*Photos (L-R): USask researchers Dr. Diane Knight (PhD), Dr. Bart Lardner (PhD) and Dr. Rich Farrell (PhD) are researching the environmental impacts of raising beef cattle in Western Canada. USask research assistant Stephen Froese draws a sample from a gas chamber that's embedded in the soil. The chamber captures methane, carbon dioxide and nitrous oxide.*





# Growing more

on today's land can improve  
access to tomorrow's markets

**SASKATCHEWAN FARMERS** are an innovative and adaptable lot. Despite contending with indecisive and belligerent weather, rail disputes or a global pandemic, crops are still seeded and harvested each year. The industry cautions that producers could face another possible challenge in the coming years: gaining access to global markets with increasing sustainability standards.

One main facet of these standards is the demand for increased agricultural productivity from land currently under production. For example, when selling canola into the European biodiesel market, farmers must not have converted any natural areas of high carbon or biodiversity value (wetlands, native grasslands, or forested areas) on the same cropped land since 2008. As consumers become more discerning about where and how their food is produced, many will expect a sustainability standard relating to land use. How do we meet the world's growing need for food, fuel and fiber on our existing land base?

Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) believes the solution to this challenge is best achieved through science-based agricultural innovation that allows us to intensively manage the current acres under production. Approaches like GM technology, conservation tillage and 4R nutrient management all help farmers increase production intensity without the further loss of natural areas. They help protect our most sensitive lands by increasing production on current, cultivated acres and ensure natural areas are left to provide important benefits such as carbon sequestration, habitat for pollinators and other beneficial insects, biodiversity, flood storage and nutrient removal.

For decades, DUC has delivered programs that support producers in implementing sustainable farming practices – practices that provide economic and environmental benefits, and going forward, will help adapt to shifting market forces, too. We know that Saskatchewan landowners are essential partners in conservation, and we stand with farmers today, to facilitate adoption of practices that will position Saskatchewan as a sustainability leader, and ensure our producers have a preferred seat at the global trade table.

For more info on DUC and our programs,  
visit [ag.ducks.ca](http://ag.ducks.ca) or contact **1-866-252-3825**.



*The safety of our air medical crew, pilots and patients remains at the forefront of every decision we make.*



# Crews remain prepared amid pandemic

BY STARS

*STARS educators launch global information-sharing portal*

**THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC** has brought uncertainty and fear to Western Canadians for many months. At STARS, you should know that we remain committed to being there for the next patient who needs us.

One of our crew members leading the effort to ensure we continue to provide world-class care throughout the pandemic is Dr. Jamin Mulvey, a STARS transport physician. Dr. Mulvey pointed to an organization-wide effort to see that the necessary policies, procedures and supplies are in place.

“We have good resources, adequate supplies of personal protective equipment (PPE), and redundancy programs in place in case there is a PPE shortage,” said Mulvey, who is a member of STARS’ COVID-19 clinical communication working group. The policies are there, the training is there, and we are organizationally ready for any type of patient volumes.”

The safety of our air medical crew, pilots and patients remains at the forefront of every decision we make. Currently, that means enhanced PPE measures for our teams and meticulous PPE removal procedures, also called doffing. For non-presumptive cases, the minimum PPE requirements are gloves, a surgical mask, eye protection and gowns, where practical.

“This includes scene calls where the patient is unlikely to have COVID-19, but we are unable to receive confirmation from the patient or the family to rule it out,” Dr. Mulvey said. “The next level is for presumptive COVID-19, which may be a patient with respiratory distress, cough, cold and the story sounds like the virus. On top of that, minimum PPE are airborne precautions which is the N95 respirator, plus or minus a face shield.”

Mulvey noted because COVID-19 can “sit on” droplets on a contaminated patient or surface, the PPE doffing procedure is critical to avoiding self-contamination.

“We have a buddy system where you are supervised to make sure mistakes don’t happen and you don’t inadvertently touch your face when you have contaminated hands.” A rigorous decontamination of each helicopter is also part of the post-mission routine.

As agencies throughout the world battle this virus, Mulvey said patients have benefited from international cooperation, shared learnings and best practices. In that spirit of cooperation, the STARS education team has created an online portal where other medical organizations can access information on a variety of COVID-19-related topics.

“There is also an international consortium, and we have been sharing lessons on a larger level to really improve the system because we are learning on the fly, and a lot of this is new. We want to make sure we are all handling this correctly.”

STARS has carried numerous patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19. In addition, Dr. Doug Martin, STARS medical director, Winnipeg, said our transport physicians have helped in the overall pandemic response by providing “Expert advice to air medical crew and sending hospitals on this patient group, which can be quite difficult to manage in terms of oxygenation and ventilation.”

Dr. Martin said some of the contributions STARS transport physicians have made to treat COVID-19 patients – aside from front-line care – include: developing procedures for in-hospital resuscitation and bedside ultrasound; creating protocols for airway management by ground paramedics; conducting airway management simulation training for hospital-based doctors; providing resources and advice to fixed wing air ambulance operators and offering pandemic contingency planning resources and guidance to First Nations partners.

“The pandemic shows the degree to which the STARS transport physicians are part of, and contribute to, the fabric of the larger health care system,” said Dr. Martin.



*Our mission volumes across the prairies are fairly stable. The one thing that has changed, however, is the blue flight suits worn by our flight crew are sometimes now hidden behind personal protective equipment.*

# When is a Tax Not a Tax?

By Bill Watson Communications, SARRC

**"CANADIANS** must love taxes. We pay taxes for just about everything," said Ethan Richardson, Executive Director, Saskatchewan Association for Resource Recovery Corp. (SARRC). He made this bold statement at the July 2020 virtual conference sponsored by the Saskatchewan Waste Reduction Council (SWRC).

You're asking yourself, "Is he serious?" Yes and no. Yes, Canadians pay GST and PST on many goods and services. These revenues go into the coffers of provincial and federal governments. No, generally, Canadians don't love paying taxes, but it is our civic duty.

So when is a tax not a tax? It's when it is an Environmental Handling Charge (EHC) added to the purchase of reusable, but potentially hazardous, materials that can be recycled and reused. Products which many who live in rural Saskatchewan use daily for work and recreation. Common products – such as lubricating motor oil, oil filters, antifreeze and the plastic containers containing the oil, antifreeze and Diesel Exhaust Fluid (DEF) – are subject to an EHC when purchased.

In Saskatchewan, when you purchase one litre of lubricating oil, you will see a \$0.05 EHC added to your bill. It looks like another tax, but there is a difference. The money doesn't go into the government's pocket. It goes into an industry-led stewardship program setup to facilitate the recycling and reuse of these materials.

"It's the circular economy at work," says Richardson. "We're dealing with finite resources, so it makes sense that the industry who produces the materials take responsibility for the recovery and reuse of the used materials. The EHC funds the recycling program. It's strictly a user-pay proposition."

## Used Oil and Antifreeze Materials - Renewable Resources

When one litre of used oil can potentially contaminate one million litres of water, it makes sense to properly store and recycle it. Today, technological advances make used oil a renewable resource thanks to its ability to be cleaned and reused. Re-refining oil to its original lubricating properties is not only 100 per cent sustainable (since it can be repeated an infinite number of times), but it also takes a third of the energy to refine crude oil.

Anti-freeze is toxic to humans and animals and needs to be properly recycled. The used fluid can be cleaned and reused, again and again.

Messy used oil filters, when properly recycled, are separated through a heating process into excess oil and raw steel which

is transformed into a variety of new products for manufacturing and agriculture.

Used plastic oil, antifreeze and DEF containers are recycled into new containers, plastic durable goods such as flower pots, pipes, guardrail posts, fence posts and patio furniture.

## Recycling Made Easy in Saskatchewan

There is lots of obligation, guilt and green built into today's environmental messages. SARRC understands and makes it easy to recycle used oil and antifreeze materials. Since the recycling program's inception in 1997, the association has established a province-wide collection network through partnerships with the private sector as well as municipalities and the provincial government.

Currently in Saskatchewan, there are 37 purpose-built EcoCentres in major communities for free drop-off and over 150 volunteer collection points. These points are for small volumes of material. For larger volumes, there are private sector collectors who will pick-up at farms and businesses. Some payment may be necessary depending on market conditions, so check first to avoid surprises.

To find the nearest collection point, SARRC's website: [www.usedoilrecyclingsk.com](http://www.usedoilrecyclingsk.com) shows the way. As well, SARRC has a toll free number (SK only): 1-877-645-7275.

## Money well spent

Each EHC payment contributes to our province's successful used oil and antifreeze materials recycling program. Its recovery achievements since 1997 speak volumes (2019 data) – 383 million litres of used oil; 40 million used oil filters; 7 million kilograms of plastic containers; and 1.4 million litres of antifreeze.

## A Fun Fact about Recycling

To put all this into perspective, let's conclude by looking at the scale of just the used oil volume collected.

An Olympic-sized swimming pool holds 2.5 million litres of water. Since 1997, 383 millions litres of used oil have been recovered, recycled and reused in Saskatchewan; sufficient volume to fill 153 Olympic-sized swimming pools.

Since used oil or antifreeze that is spilled or just thrown in the trash can impact our wildlife, vegetation and fish, the EHC you pay is a small price for the cost of safeguarding the health of Saskatchewan's environment.



[usedoilrecyclingsk.com](http://usedoilrecyclingsk.com)  
Toll free (SK only) 1.877.645.7275

## TURNING USED *into* RE-USEFUL

*There's not an endless supply of oil and plastics. So it's very clever of you to recycle automotive waste.*

*All that nasty used oil and antifreeze, and those unsightly oil filters and plastic containers get turned into re-useful products.*

*In Saskatchewan, recycling's easy with nearly 200 collection points including 36 EcoCentres in major communities. For large volumes, contact a registered collector to pick up at your farm or business.*

*Mother Nature thanks you.*



Saskatchewan Association for  
Resource Recovery Corp.



# 104 years. 9,762 storms. \$48.7 billion insured.

Thanks to our ongoing support from you, Saskatchewan Municipal Hail Insurance has been able to insure farmers for 104 years.

We wish all our clients a safe, happy, and successful harvest. Together, we'll continue to weather the storm.

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*Storms are unpredictable. We aren't.*

# Extended producer responsibility: a Saskatchewan recycling success

Recycle Saskatchewan is a group of stewardship organizations working with all levels of government and other stakeholders to support and enhance product stewardship and extended producer responsibility in Saskatchewan. Recycle Saskatchewan members undertake joint initiatives and provide input and guidance regarding waste diversion opportunities.

**IN SASKATCHEWAN**, the diversion from landfill and recycling of many end-of-life products is based on a legislated extended producer responsibility (EPR) model. EPR requires the manufacturer or producer to provide a program to support the proper disposal of the products they put into the market at the end of their useful life.

The province has a number of successful EPR programs to manage agricultural plastics, electronics, household packaging and printed paper, paint, oil and antifreeze materials, and tires. The Ministry of Environment also maintains a contract with SARCAN to operate the beverage container recycling program.

## Current Regulated Products in Saskatchewan

**Agricultural Packaging** – Cleanfarms has operated a voluntary empty pesticide and fertilizer container program since 1989. In 2018, they began operating Saskatchewan's regulated grain bag recycling program. Visit [www.cleanfarms.ca](http://www.cleanfarms.ca).

**Beverage Containers** – All beverage containers can be taken to any SARCAN Recycling depot for a deposit refund. Visit [www.sarcana.ca](http://www.sarcana.ca).

**Electronics** – Electronic Products Recycling Association (EPRA) ensures end-of-life electronics are responsibly recycled. Select electronics can be dropped off at any Recycle My Electronics locations (including SARCAN Recycling depots) or special community events throughout the province. Visit [www.recyclemyelectronics.ca/sk/](http://www.recyclemyelectronics.ca/sk/).

**Household Paper and Packaging** – Multi-Material Stewardship Western Inc. (MMSW) provides payment to local governments and regional waste authorities to use towards funding curbside or depot recycling programs. The MMSW program is funded entirely by businesses that put waste paper and packaging into the marketplace and does not have any associated consumer fees or deposits. Visit [www.mmsk.ca](http://www.mmsk.ca).

**Paint** – Product Care Association of Canada manages the province's paint recycling program. Unwanted household paint, stain, varnish and empty paint cans can be dropped off at any SARCAN Recycling depot in the province as well as select paint retailers across Saskatchewan. Visit [www.productcare.org/products/paint/saskatchewan/](http://www.productcare.org/products/paint/saskatchewan/).

**Oil and Antifreeze Materials** – SARRC manages the recycling of oil, oil filters, antifreeze, diesel exhaust fluids (DEF) and the containers they are sold in. Visit [www.usedoilrecyclingsk.com](http://www.usedoilrecyclingsk.com).

**Tires** – Tire Stewardship of Saskatchewan delivers the province-wide tire recycling program. The program has a network of return to retail locations. Visit [www.tssk.ca](http://www.tssk.ca).

None of these programs are funded through government or supported by taxes. Money collected through environment

handling charges or fees (EHC/EHF) typically at point of purchase, whether visible to the consumer or not, is used to deliver most of the programs. The MMSW program is funded entirely by businesses, not EHC/EHF monies.

## Materials Diverted from Saskatchewan Landfills (2015-2019)

- **Agricultural Packaging** – approximately **3.5 million kilograms** of pesticide and fertilizer containers; over **3,500 tonnes** of grain bags (grain bag program began in 2018)
- **Beverage Containers** – over **2.1 billion** containers
- **Electronics** – over **12,000 tonnes**
- **Household Packaging and Paper** – over **162,000 tonnes** (program began in 2016)
- **Paint** – over **2.5 million litres** of household paint and **462 tonnes** of paint cans and pails
- **Oil and Antifreeze Materials** – over **92 million litres** of oil, over **1.2 million litres** of antifreeze, and over **8,600 tonnes** of oil filters and plastic containers for oil/antifreeze
- **Tires** – over **104,000 tonnes** of tires

## EPR Successes

EPR is an effective environmental and waste management approach in many jurisdictions, including Saskatchewan. A significant volume of products and materials that formerly would have been disposed of in landfills are now recovered and recycled through the seven province-wide programs.

## EPR: The Benefits and Opportunities for Municipalities

The goal of EPR is to make sure that products are responsibly managed. In addition to the environmental benefits, there are also direct benefits for local governments. Municipalities can partner with Recycle Saskatchewan members to provide diversion options for their residents. We welcome the opportunity to hear from you about how we can support your diversion initiatives.

By working together, we can continue to divert and re-use the valuable resources contained in many of the products covered under EPR programs. Connect with Recycle Saskatchewan by email at [info@recyclesaskatchewan.ca](mailto:info@recyclesaskatchewan.ca) or visit our website at [www.recyclesaskatchewan.ca](http://www.recyclesaskatchewan.ca) for more details.

# RM of Loreburn completes Elbow Trail upgrades

**BY JANE O'FAHERTY**  
Communications Advisor,  
Trans Canada Trail



**A 33-KILOMETRE** rural trail in southern Saskatchewan, the Elbow Trail is an increasingly popular destination for residents and visitors in the RM of Loreburn No. 254. It's also a section of The Great Trail of Canada, a 27,000-kilometre network of recreational multi-use trails across Canada.

However, a section of the Elbow Trail near Bonnie view Church Way began to suffer drainage issues and would frequently become impassable after rain. Recognizing that upgrades were needed, the RM of Loreburn started work on replacing the two culverts to improve drainage. The trail was also widened and resurfaced with gravel to create a better experience for walkers, hikers and cyclists. The improvements will also boost capacity along this section, which is quickly becoming a destination for outdoor recreation among residents and is a popular route toward Danielson Provincial Park.

The upgrades were completed in July 2020, and work is currently underway to install wayfinding signage along the upgraded section.

"Before the improvement work started, the area was covered in tall grass and the culverts were broken, which made this section of the Elbow Trail unusable for everyone," says Vanessa Tastad, Administrator, RM of Loreburn. "Council felt that this project would be a great addition to the area – not only by better connecting the Elbow Trail from Danielson Park all the way to the Village of Elbow, but also by offering visitors and ratepayers in the area more opportunities to enjoy the great outdoors."

This important work was funded in part by \$23,000 in funding from Trans Canada Trail (TCT), the non-profit organization that supports the development and enhancement of The Great Trail of Canada.

**"At a time when people are increasingly seeking ways to enhance their physical and mental health in the outdoors, projects like this are essential in ensuring all members of a community have access to high-quality trails near their homes."**

- Kristen Gabora, Trail Development Manager, Central Canada, TCT

"We were thrilled to be able to lend our support to the RM of Loreburn for this important project as part of TCT's Capital Improvement Plan," says Kristen Gabora, Trail Development Manager, Central Canada at Trans Canada Trail (TCT). "At a time when people are increasingly seeking ways to enhance their physical and mental health in the outdoors, projects like this are essential in ensuring all members of a community have access to high quality trails near their homes."

**By Sauvelm McClean and Aldo Scribante**  
SaskLander Co-founders

**IT'S LATE AUGUST**, and for a few weeks now combines have been fired up as harvest continues to ramp across Saskatchewan. At the same time, hunters are preparing for their chance to get a start; it's a familiar turn of the season that plays out every year as the days get shorter and nights get colder.

Derwin Joelson, Division 5 Councillor in the RM of Shellbrook No. 493 has spent some long hours already this week in the bailer. Hunting season is a few days away, and he's already seen some deer baits around – including on some corners of his own land – even though no one asked him about it. It's not uncommon, but he'd feel better if he knew exactly who had put them there and had been informed in advance. It's a matter of being considerate for sure, but also of being informed and mindful of the environment we all share.

This small example is one reason why Derwin and the RM Council of Shellbrook have been supportive of SaskLander and its pilot ever since learning about it. SaskLander is a built-in-Saskatchewan online service designed to facilitate rural property access.

It began as the winning proposal for the 2019 Innovation Saskatchewan Challenge, a contest sponsored by SARM that asked SK-based, technology-minded companies to come up with a solution for land access in light of proposed changes to *The Trespass to Property Act*. Now, as a small, private startup based in Saskatoon, SaskLander is deep in development of an online platform that lets users identify land they manage and post parcel-based access preferences, activity permissions, and public messages. People who want to request scheduled access can view these details by land

parcel in a web-map and see overall availability. Privacy is maintained because no names or personal information are shared until the land owner or lessee opts in to communicate further or grant access. While informed land access is the core function, the platform will also include map-based incident reporting and has the potential to be a powerful rural information system that can be used to promote good private land stewardship.

**SaskLander is taking the approach of empowering landowners with a convenient and remote system for informing land access that will promote safety and also benefit people seeking legitimate land access.**

In their 2019 State of the Environment Report, the Government of Saskatchewan identified Land Management as one of four pillars to sustainably managing the environment. Within that category, the report outlines Private Land Stewardship as one of its three key indicators, stating that: "Monitoring and implementation of effective land-use management practices is the best way to maintain. . . balance and assure a healthy environment far into the future."

SaskLander is taking the approach of empowering landowners with a convenient and remote system for informing land access that will promote safety and also benefit people seeking legitimate land access. Despite the general positive feedback, the road ahead for SaskLander isn't an easy one; the reality is that rural



property access is as complicated as it is important. It's a deeply personal issue for many people, with environmental, economic and safety considerations that don't stop at simply letting someone onto your land or not. Was the land recently seeded or sprayed? Is clubroot a concern? Are there species at risk nearby or on premises? Are invasive species a local conservation concern? A rural information system like SaskLander could be the key to people making better data driven decisions around land access.

After four months of prototype development that followed the winning proposal, SaskLander presented their proof-of-concept in a November 2019 press release at the SARM head office, which helped garner some initial attention for the project.

Derwin met them in early 2020 when they presented to the RM of Shellbrook Council in their bid to find a single RM for early testing of the technology. A pilot of the platform is now live with the capacity for landowners in RM 493 to sign up, add their land and set activity permissions. Requesting functionality will be added soon, and the pilot will expand to other RMs in the winter of 2020.

SaskLander is actively looking for investment to bolster their development plans, so they can open their service to all of Saskatchewan by March 2021. "There's no question it would be beneficial to have something like this available," Derwin says. He's a firm believer in the approach SaskLander is taking and calls it "a win-win" for both sides of the rural property access process.



# CRIME & COVID-19

SASKATCHEWAN  
**CRIME STOPPERS**  
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RURAL  
CRIME  
WATCH  
AREA

BY SGT. ROB COZINE Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers Coordinator

**SASKATCHEWAN CRIME STOPPERS** would like to thank all rural, urban and First Nations communities who have continued to support and donate to our program over these difficult and unprecedented times. This support is critical to the success of the Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers program. As some of you may have been witness to, or been following, since the pandemic hit our province some seven months ago. . . crime has not stopped! Although the crime rate saw a drop across the board from March to July 2020 compared to the same period in 2019, there has been some increase as the province begins to lift COVID restrictions. Most of us were working from home; thus, we saw a drop in break and enters to residences, but there was an increase in domestic violence and child abuse calls.

We continue to work closely with Rural Crime Watch and encourage everyone to use the Saskatchewan Crime Watch Advisory Network. This system is used to allow our Saskatchewan Police agencies to send Crime Watch advisories via email, text message, cell phone and/or landline to anyone who has signed up to the network. If you either witness a crime in progress or have been the victim of a crime, it is imperative you report it to police. You can call 310-RCMP, your local RCMP detachment, or 911 in an emergency.

Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers has remained busy over this period as well, collecting tips from the public and passing that information onto the investigating agency. This year we have

received 1,765 tips, made 33 arrests, laid 84 charges, approved 37 cash rewards totalling \$9,475, and recovered a total of \$50,420 in drugs and property seized.

Since we began our Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers Facebook page in 2018, we have reached 24,000 followers and potential tipsters. We upload unsolved crimes, wanted and missing persons, and public service announcements. We would like to thank those property owners who have installed cameras or trail cams in their area; this has substantially increased our positive tip numbers by allowing us to upload photos or videos of the suspect(s) or their vehicles to our Facebook page. We encourage you to follow us on Facebook where you can view unsolved crimes or wanted persons in your area. Having more people on our page to view and share our posts assists us in identifying the suspect and solving crimes!

Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers will pay up to \$2,000 for information which leads to an arrest or charge of person(s) responsible for this offence or any other serious crime.

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

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

**Reducing crime in our communities is everyone's responsibility**

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**over 3,300 arrests,  
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# Biocontrol Agents



**BY BETTY JOHNSON, AAG**  
SARM Division 3 Plant Health Officer

**CLASSICAL** biological control of weeds is the deliberate use of host-specific natural enemies to reduce the density and limit the distribution of a target weed. Generally, the target weed is a long-lived perennial/biennial species that is especially difficult to control. The biocontrol insects can damage the invasive plant's root, stems, foliage, seeds and flowers and can reduce the reproductive capability leading to a reduction of the weed population. It is an environmentally compatible method of weed control with less damage to the ecosystem than other weed management methods.

When considering a good host plant for biological control, the weed should be non-native and grown in higher densities, especially rangelands, pastures, forest openings and hill slopes. The target weed taxonomy should not be identical with any native plant species to avoid the harm of beneficial plants. When releasing biocontrol agents, avoid sites that get disturbed by mowing, cutting or cultivating since it will affect the establishment of the biocontrol agents. Periodically monitoring the population of biocontrol agents and their effect on the weed population of the established sites is necessary for future reference. The insect population needs to develop to a sufficient size to have an effect on the host plant and this may take years. Although establishing sites should not be disturbed through mowing, herbicide can be applied along the boundaries of the weed infestation to contain the area while the insect biocontrol is growing.

There are many advantages to this method. It is an environmentally friendly method, with no herbicide residue, weed resistance or pollution. Once the biocontrol is established, it

can provide continuous control on weeds, and the agents can self-disperse to difficult terrain where other control methods are difficult to use. Classical biocontrol is less expensive compared to chemical applications and because of its host specificity, there is little to no damage to non-target plants.

Biological control of weeds does have its limitations. It takes a long time to produce visible results and will not provide the immediate results that chemical control does. The agents require time to establish in the new sites, so the visible impacts may take years to appear. Although the biocontrol is an effective weed control method, it does not work in all cases and will not eradicate the weed. The system works in a balance, meaning the population of the biocontrol agents increase until they suppress the target weed, and when the weed's density decreases, the agent's population decreases as well due to starvation or the dispersion of the biocontrol agent to other weed patches nearby.

To ensure the safety of the native plants and crops, potential biocontrols are screened for their host specificity, their effect on the target weeds and the insect's life cycle. All biological control agents that are released into Canada must be approved under *The Plant Protection Act* or *The Pest Control Products Act*. Below is a list of approved biocontrol agents currently established or being evaluated in Canada.

Plant health officers are tasked with monitoring and distributing biocontrol agents across the province. For more information about releasing and monitoring biological control for weeds, contact your local division plant health officers.

Weed/Host plant	Biocontrol Agents
Leafy spurge ( <i>Euphorbia esula</i> )	Five species of Aphthona beetle (Widespread)
Scentless chamomile ( <i>Matricaria perforate</i> )	Seed weevil <i>Omphalopion hookeri</i> (Widespread) Stem mining weevil <i>Microplontus edentulus</i> (AB) Gall midge <i>Rhopalomyia triplurospermi</i> (Widespread)
Purple loosestrife ( <i>Lythrum salicaria</i> )	Foliage feeding beetles <i>Galerucella californiensis</i> , <i>Galerucella pusilla</i> Root weevils <i>Nanophyes marmoratus</i> and <i>Hylobius transversovittatus</i> (Status uncertain)
Cleavers ( <i>Galium spurium</i> )	Gall mite <i>Cecidophyes rouhollahi</i> (not overwinter in Western Canada)
Dalmatian toadflax ( <i>Linaria dalmatica</i> )	Stem-mining weevil <i>Mecinus janthiniformis</i> Seed feeding weevil <i>Rhinusa antirrhini</i> Defoliating moth <i>Calophasia lunula</i> (BC)
Yellow toadflax ( <i>Linaria vulgaris</i> )	Root-galling weevils <i>Rhinusa linariae</i> , <i>R. neta</i> , <i>R. pilosa</i> (SK) Flower-feeding beetle <i>Brachypterolus pulicarius</i> Stem mining weevil <i>Mecinus janthinus</i> (BC) Defoliating moth <i>Calophasia lunula</i> (BC)
Diffuse Knapweed ( <i>Centaurea diffusa</i> ) and Spotted Knapweed ( <i>Centaurea stobebe subsp. micranthos</i> )	12 biological control agents released in Canada; 2 successful agents established in BC/AB: Seed head weevil <i>Larinus minutus</i> Root weevil <i>Cyphocleonus achates</i>
Houndstongue ( <i>Cynoglossum officinale</i> )	Root weevil <i>Mogulones crucifer</i> (BC, AB recently released in SE of SK)
Nodding Thistle	Weevil <i>Rhinocyllus conicus</i>

# 4-H Saskatchewan supports future agriculture & rural community leaders

BY SHELBY COREY

Development Officer, 4-H Saskatchewan

**IF YOU WERE** at the SARM 115<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention, you may have seen the 4-H Youth Panel discussion where Cameron, Emily, Lacey and Haden discussed important topics to youth and how we can encourage more youth to get involved in our communities. If you missed it, be sure to check it out on the SARM YouTube channel for some great ideas! 4-H Saskatchewan is incredibly grateful to be working with SARM to create opportunities for youth to help build the knowledge and skills necessary to become the future leaders in our communities.

Some of the topics the 4-H youth members discussed during the panel included the future of rural communities and how municipalities can support and retain young people. Haden spoke about the importance of technology and ensuring people in rural communities are able to access the latest technology. This will help to ensure people across the province can continue to live and work in rural communities, while moving forward with the latest innovations. This is being recognized now more than ever due to the current pandemic and the need for people to be able to work remotely.

While there is no better time than now to embrace technology, 4-H Saskatchewan also recognizes that adopting new technology comes at an environmental cost as old electronics end up contaminating landfills.

The 4-H program is known for giving back to create stronger communities and each year, 4-H Saskatchewan challenges clubs across the province to give back to their communities through a provincial sustainability initiative. In light of the above noted need for newer technology, this year the 4-H Saskatchewan Sustainability Initiative is an electronics recycling drive! Throughout the month of November, 4-H clubs will be holding e-recycling drives in an effort to keep these products out of landfills and contribute to sustainable communities.



Emily (left) encouraged municipalities to create youth positions on councils or youth advisory committees to help bring a youth perspective to leadership. This will help build sustainable communities by ensuring important topics for youth are addressed.

Another initiative 4-H Saskatchewan has been working on to contribute to environmental sustainability in the agricultural industries is the revision of the 4-H Field Crops materials, which have just been completed, and the Range Management Project, which was implemented a few years ago. With technology rapidly advancing in agriculture, 4-H Saskatchewan is proud to provide youth with the most up to date information to ensure a sustainable future in the agriculture industry. Through these new project materials, youth will learn about the importance of soil health and the role native grasslands play in carbon sequestration and nature preservation. 4-H Saskatchewan is looking forward to getting more youth involved in agriculture and in learning about sustainable farming practices.

While the 4-H program supports primarily rural youth as they learn about agriculture initiatives, during the 4-H Youth Panel, Emily discussed the various leadership skills she has learned through her involvement in 4-H. This is incredibly important as we look at the sustainability of rural communities. In speaking with 4-H alumni, one of the most common topics is how valuable the public speaking

component of 4-H is, which was evident in the youth members during the panel discussion, but Emily also talked about her role as a 4-H Youth Board Member. Emily encouraged municipalities to create youth positions on councils or youth advisory committees to help bring a youth perspective to leadership. This will help build sustainable communities by ensuring important topics for youth are addressed and will create communities in which our future ratepayers will want to live in.

Whether it is environmental sustainability challenges, such as e-recycling, modern agriculture initiatives or creating communities that will support future generations, 4-H Saskatchewan is committed to creating strong communities across the province. For over 100 years, 4-H Saskatchewan has been supporting youth as they Learn To Do By Doing and become the future leaders in our clubs, our communities, our country, and the world. We are incredibly thankful for SARM in providing support through various initiatives to 4-H youth and taking the time to invest in the future of rural Saskatchewan.

# Q&A

## Getting to Know SARM's board and staff



### RAY

**Q What is your role at SARM?**

I am the President of SARM.

**Q What is your favourite thing about being on the SARM Board?**

Meeting new people.

**Q How long have you been an elected municipal official?**

Have been elected for 33 years.

**Q Where did you grow up?**

Markinch area on a farm.

**Q What is one word that describes your family?**

Precious.

**Q What is your favourite hidden gem in rural Saskatchewan?**

Camping along Lake Diefenbaker.

### JAY

**Q What is your role at SARM?**

The Executive Director of SARM.

**Q How long have you worked at SARM?**

I started September 2014.

**Q Where did you grow up?**

I graduated high school in Carlyle Saskatchewan. Took the bus to school from Moose Mountain Provincial Park where my parents continue to reside.

**Q What is your favourite part about working for SARM?**

The best part of working with SARM is making a difference for rural Saskatchewan. I have worked my entire career working with small municipalities, and I most appreciate how authentic, down to earth and caring the people of rural Saskatchewan are. I love seeing the results of when communities are able to come together to get their goal accomplished.

**Q What is one word that describes your family?**

“Sports” – I grew up in a sports orientated family, and we all continue to be connected to sports in some way, shape or form.

**Q What is your favourite hidden gem in rural Saskatchewan?**

Pine Cree Regional Park has always been my hidden gem. It very well could be one of the nicest and most peaceful places in the province to stay.

# Member news



**Delbert (Del) Block**  
**RM of Estevan No. 5**  
**In Memoriam**

The RM of Estevan announces the passing of Councillor Delbert “Del” Block at the age of 65 on March 13, 2020. Del was born on January 10, 1955 in Gainsborough, SK. Del joined the Estevan Police Service in 1976, became police chief in 2009 and retired in 2014. As a local

rancher, he volunteered with the Estevan Exhibition Association, and he was a regular competitor in the Ranch Rodeo.

From 2012 to 2020, he served as Division 5 Councillor, and he was involved in many committees and groups in the community. On behalf of the RM of Estevan, we would like to remember Del for his years of experience and dedication he brought to the RM. He will be greatly missed by all.

**William (Bill) Anton Welter**  
**RM of Viscount No. 341**  
**In Memoriam**

William (Bill) Anton Welter, 90 years of Saskatoon, formerly of Humboldt and Viscount, passed away on June 26, 2020.

Bill was born on December 26, 1929 to Anton and Mary (née Assinger) Welter in the Bruno District. He obtained his education at Easterly and Lucasville Schools. He tried his hand at a few different jobs, such as working in the logging bush camps, a grader operator, and as a farm hand. In 1953, he married Matilda (Tillie) Gusikoski. Together, they ran the Viscount Cafe while living upstairs. Even though this was Tillie’s love, it was not Bill’s. The pull of the land led him back to the farm, and they began to build their life there. They were blessed with six children. Bill loved the farm life, and he ran a grain and cattle operation. He was very proud of his Limousin herd; he won the Grand Champion for best carcass at the Regina Agribition in 1977.

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**Redhead** EQUIPMENT

He was very community minded and ready to volunteer on committees or boards at the local level. He served as a councillor for seven years and as reeve for 31 years for the RM of Viscount; he was always ready and willing to attend board meetings.

In 2006, Bill and Tillie retired to Humboldt where they enjoyed playing cards and visiting with family and friends. Tillie passed away in 2010. Bill remained in Humboldt until 2015 when he moved to Saskatoon. Bill will be remembered for his dedication and commitment to farming and helping others. Spending time with his family was also important; he truly enjoyed teasing his grandchildren and keeping them on their toes.



**J. Barry Hamdorf**  
RM of Bratt's Lake No. 129  
Award

J. Barry Hamdorf, retiring reeve of the RM of Bratt's Lake, is presented with a

watch by Acting Reeve David Helstrom on behalf of the RM. Hamdorf served as councillor from 1989 to 2000 and reeve from 2001 to 2020. He also served on the Board of Directors for Regina District and was president for five years.



**Randy Zelinski**  
RM of Kellross No. 247  
Award

Randy Zelinski has been a grader operator for 25 years for the RM of Kellross. Pictured above (left to right) is Reeve John Olinik presenting a Service Award Certificate to Randy. Randy is still doing a great job as a grader operator.

**David Thompson**  
RM of Kellross No. 247  
Award

The RM of Kellross would like to recognize David Thompson. He was the past reeve of the RM, but he was also a volunteer crop reporter. On March



24, 2020, David received a Certificate of Appreciation for 40 years of dedicated service to the Saskatchewan agriculture industry as a volunteer crop reporter. It was signed by the Honourable David Marit, Minister of the Ministry of Agriculture.

**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](mailto:sarm@sarm.ca).
- Thanks for sharing your stories with us!

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# Thank you

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In December 2019, the new Line 3 replacement pipeline came into service in Canada. In August 2020, we completed reclamation of the 1,070-km right-of-way from Hardisty, Alberta to Gretna, Manitoba.

Now, Enbridge would like to take this opportunity to recognize communities across the Prairies for your support and patience during the construction of this essential pipeline maintenance project.

Many thanks to all of you, for helping us to make a safe pipeline even safer and ensuring a reliable, cost-effective supply of energy well into the future – to support our everyday lives, heat our homes, drive our cars and power industry.





JOHN DEERE

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