

RURAL COUNCILLOR

SARM

2023
SUMMER

VOLUME 56 / #2

PLANT HEALTH

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A PLAN
MUNICIPAL WEED
MANAGEMENT

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

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

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SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE



**BY RAY ORB,
SARM PRESIDENT**

After a very delayed spring I'm hoping seeding and calving season have been successful for our farmers and livestock producers.

I'd like to discuss the term "**sustainable agriculture**" which is a term used frequently by our federal government. This term is part of the United Nations 2030 Sustainability in Agriculture report and is supported by the federal government.

According to the Oxford dictionary, the definition of "sustainable agriculture" is "An agricultural system that is ecologically sound, economically viable, and socially just". In addition to this definition, the federal government has mandated that a "sustainable agriculture" strategy will need to be developed within the context of growing demands for nutritious food, supporting farmer livelihoods and strong rural communities, maintaining competitiveness, and improving social issues in the food system including justice, equity, and health.

This report has prompted the federal government to do a consultation on agricultural sustainability including the Green House Gas (GHG) emissions associated with the use of nitrogen fertilizer. Many Canadian farm groups were extremely concerned about the idea thrown out by the federal government that these emissions would need to be reduced by 30%. While other farm groups were enthralled by the idea and gave accolades to the federal government for suggesting that this should be a widely used practice for

Canadian farmers. SARM was among the group with extreme concerns; however, was not considered for participation on the advisory group that was co-chaired by federal Minister Bibeau and the Canadian Federation of Agriculture.

Agriculture organizations across the nation and the general public were allowed to comment on this consultation and SARM put forward a submission and appeared at the House of Commons standing committees whenever possible to speak on this issue.

As well, SARM is a board member of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and brought the fertilizer emissions issue up several times at their meetings. The discussion prompted a letter sent from FCM to federal Minister Bibeau to ask that they take note that a reduction of GHG's would result in reduced yields and potentially threaten food security not only in Canada but around the world. This issue was also discussed at a recent meeting of the FCM Rural Forum and will be added to the agenda of the next FCM board of directors meeting this summer.

As our members know, SARM has a mandate to ensure our agriculture producers are financially viable while being environmentally responsible. SARM works very hard to dispute senior government ideas when we feel they are headed in the wrong direction with policies or proposed legislation.

However, all is not negative on this front, there are times when we do agree with proposed policies and legislation. One example is the recent signing of the Sustainable Canadian Agriculture Partnership (SCAP) agreement that will be in effect for the next five years. This agreement is a cost-sharing agreement between the federal government and the province of Saskatchewan. SARM will be delivering a Pest Biosecurity program on behalf of the province.

This program includes:

- 1 The Plant Health Network
- 2 Invasive Plant Control program
- 3 Rat Control program
- 4 Beaver Control program
- 5 Gopher Control program (which is a new program)

The SCAP will deliver \$485 million over 5 years towards the enhancement of Saskatchewan agriculture and is much appreciated.

SARM has been busy on the agricultural file including crop production and movement of grain, as well as the livestock sector. SARM has been working together with the Saskatchewan Construction Association (SCA) and the Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association

(SSGA) to develop a working committee to discuss issues affecting the sector. The group is also envisioning what lies ahead in the future for the industry and solutions which could help the sector expand and thrive.

Another very important issue I'd like to comment on is the report that was commissioned by SUMA. The International Property Tax Institute based in Toronto was initially commissioned to do a study on the assessment model that the cities are using in our province. After studying the issue, a report was compiled which is about 165 pages long and I strongly urge you to read it if you haven't. While it initially seemed to be dealing with the cities taxation policies it soon became evident that it was targeting rural municipalities which seems counter intuitive to what the study was set out to do. There are three main proposals mentioned in the report, that if implemented, would do great harm to RMs and their taxpayers, both in regard to municipal taxes and education taxes alike.

Those recommendations are:

1. **Move agricultural property out of regulation**
2. **Remove percentages of value**
3. **Shorten the revaluation cycle (from 4 years to 1 year)**

SARM is very much aware of this report and has agreed to ask John Wagner, Reeve of the RM of Piapot, to represent us on an advisory committee that is discussing the report and its recommendations. We are strongly opposed to these suggested changes

and, rest assured, we will work hard to stop any of these suggested changes to becoming law.

I'd like to offer congratulations to SARM Vice President Bill Huber for recently being inducted into the Saskatchewan Agriculture Hall of Fame. SARM was very proud to be a co-nominator for our VP and recognizes that he is very worthy of this prestigious honor. Bill has always been a strong advocate for both the livestock and grain sectors and is a valuable member of SARM's Agriculture & Economic Development committee.

As well, I'd like to bid farewell to Norm Nordgulen who did not succeed in being re-elected as Division 2 Director. Norm was elected in March 2011 as Division 2 Director. He was a valued member of our board and was very passionate on many issues that were in his committee responsibilities. He will be missed by SARM but will continue as Reeve of the RM of Lake of the Rivers.

Also, I'd like to mention Harvey Malanowich who decided not to seek re-election as Division 4 Director. Harvey served on the SARM board since 2006. He was a good board member and a straightforward contributor to our discussions. He also will be missed by SARM but he will continue on as Reeve of the RM of Sliding Hills.

SARM welcomes Cody Jordison as the new Division 2 Director and Myron Kopec as the new Division 4 Director.

In closing I sincerely hope everyone has a good summer and can enjoy the warmer weather ahead.





IN APPRECIATION OF RM ADMINISTRATORS

BY JAY MEYER,
SARM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The administration of rural municipal (RM) governments is handled by the local public service. This public service body is made up of elected officials (council) and employees, one of which is the Rural Municipal Administrator, who is appointed by the local RM council. RM administrators are integral to the operation of our rural municipalities as they are in touch with the day-to-day operations of the rural municipality. This role is not an easy one.

A common practice in most workplaces has one individual responsible for overseeing and directing. This is not always the case for the local RM office. An RM administrator takes their direction from the decisions made at the regular and special meetings of council. Councils can be very diverse; individuals can come from different backgrounds which comes with differing beliefs. Individual values can also conflict, which makes consensus difficult.

The RM administrator role involves carrying out the actions given by the local council, handling ratepayer concerns and inquiries, managing relationships with stakeholders, consulting with various levels of government, as well as appearing

before various committees. These roles often compete but all have a common factor which involves interacting with people. 80% of success in any role is how you deal with people and RM administrators have a strong ability to deal with different personalities each day. RM administrators are the first line of contact at the municipal government level and are the ones in which the locals naturally bring forth their concerns or recommendations for change. Quite often the conversations are difficult and not always positive as the human tendency to complain is more prevalent, rather than to be more complimentary. Many do not understand it is not what you say, but how you say it, and this is typically why conflict develops.

It is impossible for RM administrators to not take their work home with them as they typically work in the rural municipality in which their home is located. The job is 24 hours a day, seven days a week. No matter where they go, someone in the community will approach them about something they are passionate about. Topics can range from local roads, bridges, community centers to even issues outside the privy of the rural municipal like healthcare. RM administrators are very knowledgeable and must be on top of many things including local bylaws, policies, and current provincial legislation to be successful in their role.

Understanding and respecting the role of an RM administrator is critical. The role requires individuals that are flexible, passionate, caring, and willing to learn, just to name a few valued traits. Working in the eye of the public is not easy, especially close to your home where you know many of the people. The administrator role places their families in the spotlight whether that is at the local school or recreation facilities. The growing use of social media makes it easy to target people including the RM administrator and their family for decisions made by their respective RM councils. Often, the loudest critics will hide behind a keyboard to address their

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issues rather than directly speaking to the RM administrator about their matter while over a cup of coffee.

According to the Rural Municipal Administrators Association (RMAA), most of their members are between the age of 45 and 54. Only approximately 8% of administrators, according to respondents to a recent survey, were under the age of 35. The survey also showed that sometime over the next one to eight years approximately 45% of RM administrators intend to retire, with approximately 26% of them intending to do so within the next five years. These numbers are concerning and reflect the demand for RM administrators.

For our rural municipalities to be sustainable, the role of the RM administrator must be as well. In today's world we see a war on talent and employers are finding it difficult to find good, qualified people. I encourage

you to support your RM administrator, talk about expectations, develop trust, be flexible, and work together to look after the needs of the rural municipality. The work RM administrators conduct is demanding work and at times goes unnoticed. They are typically the ones that make projects happen through intensive organization, vast amounts of paperwork, documentation, research, and finalizing the financial resources for the project. As projects are completed, the RM administrator is rarely in the celebration photo.

We have a great number of RM administrators in our province committed to the rural municipal governance sector and for that we must be thankful. The last thing employers want is their employees talking with their feet as there are a lot of opportunities out there for them. Many administrators could easily pack their bags and head to a neighbouring rural municipality.



I ask you all to remind yourself how important your RM administrator is as well as thank them for their commitment to their rural municipality because you often do not miss people until they are gone.



GOVERNANCE VERSUS OPERATIONAL - KNOW YOUR ROLE

BY BARRY HVIDSTON, RMAA DIRECTOR, DIVISION 4

With passionate and dedicated people involved, occasionally tensions can arise, especially between administrative staff and elected members of council. As I hear about municipalities around the province that are having difficulties between council and the administrative staff, I am very thankful for the council I have.

Last month, a group of 10 rural municipalities called the East Central Municipal Alliance held a workshop to provide councillor training, which included the importance of policies and what exactly the role of a councillor is per legislation. There was a lot of lively discussion and striking differences of opinion among the participants.

The three main topics that most of the participating councils focused on were:

1 Councils are governance bodies not operational and, except in specific situations, the power of a councillor stops at the council table;

2 Councils are responsible for creating policies, bylaws, and budgets to govern employees and the municipality; and

3 Council meetings should never take more than 2 hours.

Out of the entire workshop, it was the last statement that was the most striking since many council meetings run much longer.

Section 92 of *The Municipalities Act* states the duties of the council. They are:

- To represent the public and the interests of the municipality;
- To participate in developing and evaluating policies, services, and programs of the municipality;
- To participate in council meetings;
- To ensure administrative practices and procedures are in place to implement decisions of council;
- To keep in confidence matters discussed in private or to be discussed in private until the topic is discussed at a meeting held in public;
- To watch the finances; and
- A few other duties as set out in the Act.

Additionally, Section 93 of *The Municipalities Act* states the duties of the reeve. They include everything outlined above as well as:

- Preside over the meeting unless certain circumstances transfer that power to another councillor; and
- Be a member of all committees that council creates.

Many RMs have found it effective and efficient to view the role of council as a governance body and the role of municipal staff as operational. Blurring the lines between these two functions - governance and operations - can be a source of tension and controversy.

Notice how the duties do not state that council opens culverts, nor that the reeve or council are classified as foremen to direct the road crew or other staff. Governance versus operational. Employees are operational while councils are governance. Council creates policies, bylaws, and budgets. Policies dictate what actions the employees can do through what is authorized. Bylaws dictate the rules that govern the public, council, and employees. Budgets dictate what can be spent. If it is not specified in the various Acts and it is not in policy, bylaws, or resolution, it is not authorized.

How do we get to a two-hour meeting? I do not believe that all councils can, or



should, but by setting the goal of a two-hour meeting there may be ways of improving efficiency. Below are some practices that some RMs have found helpful and effective for shortening their meetings.

- Send the agenda, minutes of the last meeting, accounts, financial statements, and any other important information that is on the agenda in advance to the upcoming council meeting, this will reduce the meeting by hours providing council reads the package and is prepared.
- Take out the non-specific conversation generators. If there are standing spots for things like roads, waterways, employees, and buildings, remove them. A standing spot encourages a half hour discussion on each. If there is a specific issue, as a councillor, ask it to be placed on the agenda. Otherwise, the section should be removed. Follow policies and the budget. An example of this is non-emergent

culvert replacement. Instead of council discussing the culvert replacement program for four months in a row attempting to get the locations hammered down, they should pass a policy and budget then hand it off to the operators who actually work on the roads who will then give the administrator a list of proposed locations for replacement, they will then make the final decision. This would reduce the meetings from four to one, and the conversation from 20 minutes per meeting to a five-minute approval process because everyone had read the report prior to the meeting and their questions are ready or already answered.

From what I have seen, the main friction between council and administrative staff occurs when people do not stay in their lanes. Councils, being governance, create the rules for their municipalities and ensure they are being followed. Administrators, being operational, inform council of the regulations within the various acts and legislation. If council is not breaking the regulations, the administrator should follow the direction of council through resolutions, policy, bylaws and budgets. Other staff, through the administrator, follow the same resolutions and policies the council impose. By working together, the difficulties within the municipalities should be significantly reduced and better serve the public.

For further resources on this topic please contact:

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Advisory Services and Municipal Relations - 306-787-2680



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PRAIRIE GRASSLANDS WONDERS – FROM SONGBIRDS, TO SUNSETS, TO CATTLE HELPING GRASSLANDS THRIVE



For anyone who grew up in Saskatchewan, you likely know about the hidden gems found when you venture off the main highways. Some of these treasures include vibrant grasslands teeming with wildlife.

And there is no sunset like a prairie sunset, with cattle grazing under the brilliant sky. If you're lucky, you will also spot iconic prairie species, such as burrowing owl, swift fox or a herd of pronghorn. In addition to providing habitat for wildlife, grasslands are also vital to our health and well-being as they filter our water, provide livestock forage, prevent flooding and droughts, and store carbon in their extensive root systems.

The Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) is working to conserve grasslands, which are one of the most endangered ecosystems in the world. For thousands of years, grasslands have provided sustenance for wildlife and humans. These relationships continue to have

ecological, cultural and economic significance, and we proudly collaborate with a broad base of grassland stewards across the Prairies. This includes partnerships with local communities, Indigenous Nations, industry, governments, other conservation organizations, ranchers and grazing groups to help them achieve their goals.

Many of the remaining grasslands are owned or managed by livestock producers, with the majority being cattle ranchers. Grazing is a key component to the health of our grasslands. Grazing also creates a mosaic of different habitats across grasslands, providing suitable conditions for a greater variety of plants and animals, including songbirds. Sprague's pipit, for example, prefers grass of an intermediate height



and density. Without grazing, vegetation would become too tall and dense, excluding the species from otherwise usable habitat. Other songbirds, like chestnut-collared longspur, prefers short grass; this species nests and feeds on the ground, and, as a result, prefers areas that have been heavily grazed.

NCC works with livestock producers grazing prairie grasslands to help ensure this habitat thrives. By working together to support best management practices on these lands, we can help protect biodiversity while supporting a strong livestock industry.

Community pastures are remarkable prairie landscapes managed by producer groups and include over 1.1 million hectares across 137 pastures in Saskatchewan and Manitoba. Large intact blocks of habitat like these pastures are becoming increasingly rare. They provide amazing and diverse

ecosystems and support many at-risk species, including grasslands songbirds.

They also support wildlife that need wide-open spaces to roam, such as swift fox, pronghorn, elk and mule deer. Supporting community pastures is important in ensuring the conservation of many of the plants and animals that make Saskatchewan unique, while supporting economic and societal diversity in communities across the Prairies.

Conserving natural and biodiverse landscapes requires a whole-of-society approach. NCC is proud to partner with many groups that share our values of conserving and stewarding threatened ecosystems. Sustainable ranching and conserving nature go hand in hand. Because of our partners in the livestock industry, tens of thousands of hectares of grasslands across Canada have been conserved from conversion, so that prairie grasslands wonders can thrive.

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For more information, including grants available to ranchers and community pastures to accelerate the adoption of projects to help manage grasslands and improve farm sustainability, visit workinglandscapes.ca.



MINISTER'S MESSAGE

BY THE HONOURABLE DANA SKOROPAD
MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT

At the Ministry of Environment, we support Saskatchewan's economic growth by protecting the environment and building resilience that will allow us to adapt and thrive through change. Some of the issues we oversee and regulate impact the day-to-day management of municipalities, creating opportunities to work together to balance the needs of our communities with our ongoing efforts to protect Saskatchewan's natural beauty and resources.

The work we do relies on input and support from a number of partners, including industry, cities, smaller communities, rural municipalities and the individuals living and working in the province. I welcome this opportunity to share a few highlights of that work from the past few months.

IMPACTED SITES FUND:

In February we were pleased to announce the Town of Shaunavon was the first funding recipient from our Impacted Sites Fund. Shaunavon will use the \$36,400 they were awarded for environmental site assessments at an abandoned property they acquired in tax arrears in 2022. This funding will allow the town to determine the extent and magnitude of the impacts, reclaim the property, and encourage continued growth in their community.

The Impacted Sites Fund can be accessed by municipalities for

financial support to address orphaned environmentally impacted sites. Depending on an assessment, municipalities are eligible for anywhere from 25 to 100 per cent of the costs to assess a site. I encourage you to visit saskatchewan.ca to learn more about the fund and how to apply.

THE 2022 RESILIENCE REPORT:

This was the fourth report since *Prairie Resilience: A Made-in-Saskatchewan Climate Change Strategy* was released in 2018. We report on 25 measures in five key areas: natural systems, physical infrastructure, economic sustainability, human well-being and community preparedness. We continue to see positive trends and improvements in those measures, and last year we were able to remove four targets that had been met, add four new targets and update four with new measures.



This continued success represents a commitment across government along with communities in the province to work together towards sustainable improvements that create positive change and prepare us for the future.



THE INVASIVE SPECIES FRAMEWORK:

Invasive species - including insects, plants, diseases, and aquatic species - pose a potential threat to ecological and socio-economic values in Saskatchewan. We are well aware of the risks to resources, waterways, infrastructure and recreation if invasive species take hold and spread. We also know it will take a concerted team effort to prevent entry of invasive species and quickly identify them if they do enter the province to minimize and contain the threat. We are grateful for the ongoing support of individuals and communities in these efforts, including programs that

call on everyone to be proactive in prevention and identification such as the clean, drain and dry campaign or annual reminders of elm pruning bans. The framework formalizes a province-wide approach and emphasizes the importance of collaboration and coordination to better protect our natural resources and the individuals, communities and industries that rely on them.



THE 2023 PROVINCIAL BUDGET:

This year's provincial budget demonstrates the government's ongoing commitment to protect Saskatchewan's natural environment while ensuring sustainable economic activity. Some of the highlights included a review of the business processes used to identify opportunities for mineral exploration, and continued progress on the work outlined in the Solid Waste Management Strategy. We also remain committed to our Output-Based Performance Standards Program, which was introduced to replace the federal carbon tax on industrial emitters. This year we will finalize regulations and standards as we continue to expand the program.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT:

We are aware of concerns regarding wildlife damage to property in the province. We are working with partners - including SARM and the Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation (SCIC) - on solutions to address these concerns. Regulated hunting is the primary tool for managing wildlife in this province.

We will continue to develop and review our responsible, effective, and timely strategies to maintain sustainable populations as wildlife is a public resource belonging to all Saskatchewan residents.

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**CONTACT
SASKATCHEWAN
CRIME STOPPERS:**

**Sgt. Rob Cozine
RCMP Police Co-ordinator
306.201.7432**

Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers is a non-profit organization that combines the efforts of the public, media, and police to assist in solving crime in our communities. Founded in 1987, Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers receives anonymous tips of criminal activity in Saskatchewan's rural municipalities, cities, towns, villages, and First Nations communities and works with the RCMP to provide this information.

The program, along with four others in the province (Regina, Saskatoon, Moose Jaw, Prince Albert) receive tips through a call center and online reporting system to collect detailed information which is forwarded to the respective law enforcement agency to complete an investigation. Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers protects the safety of those reporting the tip information by ensuring all contact remains anonymous and anyone providing information that results in an arrest or charge may be eligible for cash rewards of up to **\$2000**.

HIGHLIGHTS

Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers is proud to be recognized with the **2022 International Crime Stoppers Productivity Award for Total Seizures** for programs serving a population of 300,000 to 1 million. The program saw an increase of **722%** over the previous year. Sgt. Rob Cozine serving in his 11th year as Program Coordinator was able to return to travel in 2022 promoting the program through various community outreach initiatives, presentations and tradeshow attendance.

Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers received recognition from the Province of Saskatchewan as January was proclaimed Crime Stoppers Month in Saskatchewan. The program continues to have a positive social media presence with over **40,000** followers to the program Facebook page with a success rate of **45%** for all crimes that are posted to the page.

PROGRAM RESULTS

STATISTIC	2022	INCEPTION
Tips	2070	39,250
Calls Received	11,921	150,331
Arrests	40	3539
Charges	98	2590
Rewards Approved	33	1766
Reward \$ Approved	\$ 15,330	\$ 448,941
Property/Cash/ Drugs Recovered	\$ 306,800	\$ 19,412,635

THANK YOU

We acknowledge the tremendous financial support and contribution from sponsors and the successful partnership with the RCMP to operate the program. Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers encourages all Rural and Urban municipalities to consider a **\$200** donation to the program in their annual budget.

We continue to work together with all our partners to ensure the security and safety of our communities.



SUBMIT A TIP:

Talk **1-800-222-8477 (TIPS)**
 Type **www.saskcrimestoppers.com**
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HAROLD MARTENS

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

On March 15, 2023, The Lieutenant Governor's Award for outstanding service to rural Saskatchewan was presented to the late Harold Martens of Swift Current, SK. Accepting the award on his behalf was his wife, Sylvia and son, Chad. Chad delivered the acceptance speech on behalf of the family.

Harold was born in Herbert, Saskatchewan on Sept 8, 1941. In 1960 he completed high school at Stewart Valley and went ranching with his dad and brother. Harold married the joy and love of his life, Sylvia Schroeder in 1966 and they have three boys and seven grandchildren.

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

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

Development Authority seeing the completion of the construction of the Alameda Dam.

In 1999 Harold was elected Councillor in the RM of Excelsior No. 166 and became Reeve in 2005. He served in that position until fall of 2022 when he resigned due to health reasons.

Harold joined the Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association and was President from 2011 to 2014. He worked to establish the Livestock Price Insurance, transition of PFRA to the patrons and began the long road to set up land easement trusts for producers. Harold became co-chair of the committee to provide the basis of the action that the Department of Agriculture wanted to move livestock inspection to the private sector. The Livestock Services of Saskatchewan was established to handle all livestock inspections, brand registry

and bonding for livestock dealers. Harold served as chair until resigning in October of 2022.

Harold sat on the Saskatchewan Cattlemen Association Board of Directors. The Board appointed him to various committees such as Farm and Food Care of Saskatchewan and Canadian Roundtable for Sustainable Beef Framework Committee. Harold was elected to the Executive as Finance Chair. The Saskatchewan Cattlemen Association also appointed Harold as their representative to the Board of Livestock Services of Saskatchewan.

Harold served on both the Swift Current Creek Watershed Stewards and the South Saskatchewan River Watershed Stewards for several years. Harold also served on the Prairie Pioneers Independent Housing.





MINISTER'S MESSAGE

BY THE HONOURABLE JEREMY COCKRILL
MINISTER OF HIGHWAYS

KEY INVESTMENTS IN HIGHWAYS SUPPORT SASKATCHEWAN'S ECONOMY

The Government of Saskatchewan is investing **\$776 million for transportation improvements**. These investments will make roads safer, strengthen key transportation corridors and support provincial industry.

"Saskatchewan's export-based economy requires a safe, reliable and sustainable transportation network," Saskatchewan's Highways Minister Jeremy Cockrill said. "The world needs Saskatchewan's food, fuel and fertilizer and the latest investments will continue to support our goal of growth that works for all Saskatchewan people."

The 2023-24 Budget includes an investment of \$422 million in capital projects including several major construction projects. Beginning construction of twinning projects near Rowatt and Corinne on Highways 6 and

39 between Regina and Weyburn. This extends twinning south of the Regina Bypass as well as a segment further south near Corrine. The corridor is an important international transportation route.

This year, passing lanes and widening on Highway 5 from Saskatoon to Highway 2 is scheduled to be completed. In addition, planning for construction to extend twinning on Highway 5 east of Saskatoon will continue. The government is also planning for the third phase of the Saskatoon Freeway functional study. This is the northwest quadrant around the city. Phase 1 north and phase 2 east have already been completed.

Upgrades on Highway 15 east of Kenaston between Highways 11 and 2 are also scheduled to begin during the 2023-24 construction season.

This is the fourth year of the Government of Saskatchewan's 2020 Growth Plan, which is a detailed strategy designed to build a strong economy, stronger communities, and a better quality of life for the people of Saskatchewan. By 2030, the province aims to grow the population to 1.4 million people, create 100,000 new jobs, increase exports by 50 percent, and invest \$30 billion in infrastructure. "Our growth plan also includes a pledge to improve 10-thousand kilometres in



a decade, so by the end of this year, about 4,600 km of highways will have received improvements," Cockrill said.

Improvements for this year's construction season include:

- 230 km of repaving;
- 300 km of medium treatments, like micro surfacing;
- 340 km of pavement sealing;
- 115 km of Thin Membrane Surface (TMS) and rural highway upgrades; and
- 35 km of gravel rehabilitation.

The Government of Saskatchewan will continue to make significant investments in intersections and road safety. Saskatchewan will fulfill its five-year, \$100 million commitment to road safety in this year's budget. Projects include turning lanes, streetlights, flashing

warning lights, rumble strips, crosswalks and sightline improvements.

Budget 2023-24 includes an additional \$6 million for the preservation and maintenance of northern roads that support the province's forestry industry. This is a sector of our economy that's poised for growth, and we plan to support it.

This year's highways budget invests \$89.4 million to build, operate and maintain the transportation system in northern Saskatchewan.

Significant northern projects include gravel road improvements on Highway 924 northeast of Green Lake and continuing to work on Saskatchewan's portion of the Garson Lake Road. Highways will invest \$62.8 million to repair or rebuild 14 bridges and replace more than 100 culverts across the province. There are several significant bridge projects including the





replacement of the Montreal River Bridge on Highway 2 in the Weyakwin area and rehabilitation of the Highway 6 bridge over Regina's Ring Road for traffic heading into the city from the south.



Since 2008, the Government of Saskatchewan has invested more than \$12 billion in highways infrastructure improving more than 19,400 kilometres of Saskatchewan highways.

ROAD WORK AHEAD?

Sidewalk, alleyway, road and sewer repair is important. But don't rush it. Damaging an underground utility line is dangerous and costly.

Request a line locate.



Member Purchasing

Our Goal

It is Member Purchasing's goal to be municipalities' first stop for all of their purchasing and procurement needs.



What Does Member Purchasing Do for Municipalities?



Mission

Member Purchasing exists to help municipalities be “stronger together” by negotiating trade compliant agreements with suppliers to provide purchasing programs that save municipalities time and money.



Buying Group

Member Purchasing acts as a “buying group” on behalf of municipalities and their communities. A buying group is an association of organizations with similar needs who use their combined purchasing power to achieve the best possible value from suppliers.



Partnerships

Member Purchasing strategically partners with our national and international partners, Canoe Procurement Group and Sourcewell, to increase the Saskatchewan municipalities' purchasing power.

Best Value

Member Purchasing considers multiple factors when negotiating purchasing programs with suppliers to ensure municipalities receive the best possible value for their resources:

- Breadth of the goods or services offered
- Product selection
- Reputation of the supplier
- Warranty
- Ongoing customer support
- Durability of the product
- Cost of ongoing maintenance
- Initial purchase cost



Reduces Risk

When municipalities access suppliers through Member Purchasing's programs, they can have confidence their purchases are in regulatory compliance.



Reinvests in Saskatchewan

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



Saves Time

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



Provides Advice

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



How Can Municipalities Access Member Purchasing Programs?

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

TRADE & EXPORT DEVELOPMENT

INTERNATIONAL SUCCESS MEANS MORE OPPORTUNITY AT HOME

Saskatchewan continues to be a key provider of the food, fuel and fertilizer the world needs, and that means increased export opportunities for local businesses and farmers. In 2022, the province exported a record \$52 billion worth of Saskatchewan products, \$18.4 billion of which was agri-food products.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR SASKATCHEWAN PEOPLE?

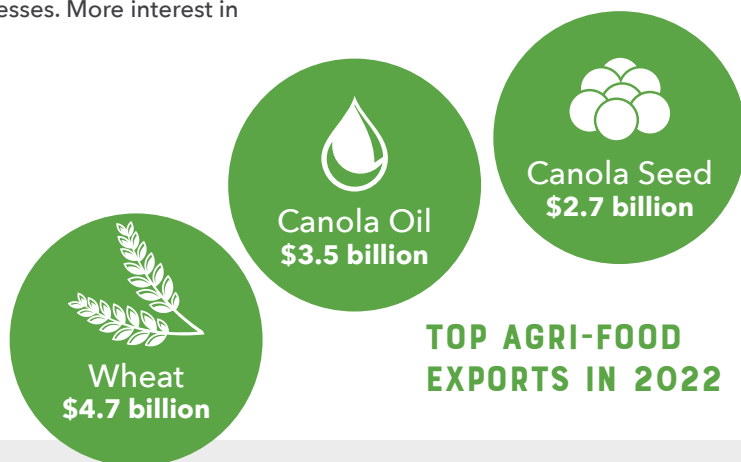
This is an exciting time for the province. Saskatchewan’s international customer base continues to expand and new opportunities are being created for local businesses. More interest in

Saskatchewan products gives business owners the room to develop strong companies that contribute to the success of the province. High export often results in more investment, which in turn means more people, more jobs and more opportunity—that’s growth that works for everyone.

“The province’s recent export numbers prove that we’re an important figure in global markets. Thanks to Saskatchewan farmers and businesses, our products are being sold all over the world and strengthening our economy back home,” Minister of Trade and Export Development Jeremy Harrison said. “We’re an export-based economy, and our export markets are thriving.”

WHERE ARE WE SEEING THE BIGGEST OPPORTUNITIES?

The province’s agri-food products are a major cornerstone of our exports and are the second highest in Canada. Increases in agriculture exports continue to contribute to strong economic growth, as merchandise exports saw a 55.4 per cent increase in January 2023 compared to January 2022. This was also the highest increase among provinces. Total merchandise exports for 2022 were valued at more than \$52 billion, an increase of 41.5 per cent over 2021.



Saskatchewan exporters can be proud of their success and we can all look forward to growth in the future.

TOP FIVE INTERNATIONAL MARKET DESTINATIONS



FIRE, INSURANCE & LESSONS SHARED

A LOOK
AT SARM'S
LARGEST
PROPERTY
CLAIM EVER

March 18, 2022 is a day the RM of Reciprocity No. 32 will not soon forget—the day a fire tore through its office. When the flames died, all that was left was the footprint of the building. With no place to work, the RM quickly set up a temporary office in one of their shops, then arranged for a trailer to be delivered, which would become their office and council chambers for the next year. Assistant Administrator Christine Kendall handled the claim for the RM and has generously shared her experience with us. We thank her for answering our questions, offering insights, and sharing what she's learned about the insurance claims process.

What were your initial thoughts when you found out about the fire?

I was shocked and in a state of disbelief as I was made aware of our office fire and of the other four fires and break-ins to the local store at the same time. Driving towards our location north of town, it looked like a scene out of a movie with all the fires and the flashing lights from emergency vehicles.

How did you find the claims process in terms of your dealings with Midwest Claims?

Midwest Claims was very good to deal with. The adjuster was out right away to begin the process and provided us with a lot of help and suggestions along the way.

How was the claims process with the SARM team?

Lisa and Colin were excellent to deal with! When we phoned SARM the morning after the fire, Lisa had already started gathering information (because they had heard about the fire at Convention) and was preparing to give us a call to see what we needed and how they could help get the claims process started. Throughout, they were very good to answer any and all questions we had—even if it was sometimes the same one over again.

They were also very compassionate and prompt in reviewing our submissions and authorizing payment.

What was the most frustrating part of the process?

One of the frustrating parts of the process was trying to remember all the contents of the building and valuing them. The larger, capital items were simple, as they are tracked thoroughly through the TCA process, but when you're dealing with so much, it's hard to remember the little things, like how many boxes of paper were in the storage room or how many Municipal Hail promotional items we had. Another frustration was that our buildings had just been appraised in 2021, and even with replacement cost insurance, due to the spike in material prices and supply-chain issues, the cost exceeded the limit of insurance by a significant amount.

"Make sure you have an offsite backup, and update it often."

What have you learned from this process?

I think the most important takeaway from this was to make sure you have a current offsite backup (or two), and to really evaluate and understand the limits of your insurance. Even if you think you have enough contents coverage, take a thorough look at what's in your building(s). You may be surprised by the number of items you may not have considered and what it would cost today to replace that item should you have to. It's surprising how quickly prices can change, and that difference can add up to a substantial amount when you're dealing with a total loss. We've also started to digitize more records, especially copies of signed documents.

What (if anything) would you do differently?

With the clarity of hindsight, I think the one thing I'd do different is to pause and take a breath. Those first few days and weeks are filled with so much activity dealing with the fire and trying to get rolling again, and I think we were so focused on moving forward that we didn't take the time we needed to process it all. Take time for yourself to deal with how you are feeling and what you are experiencing, and take your time working through all the steps of the

insurance process. If you feel like you need more time to complete a part of the process, take it.

Were you pleased with the outcome and service provided by SARM on this loss?

SARM was very good to deal with. They were extremely understanding and helpful, and now that the claim has been completed, they have still been in touch to see how things are going and if we have moved into our new office.

What advice would you pass along to other RMs regarding the claims process?

We cannot say it enough times: make sure you have an offsite backup, whether it's cloud storage or a physical one, and make sure you update it often. Having access to most of our recent records as soon as we were able to get a computer helped tremendously to get us up and running again. Other advice would be:

- It may be worth it to inventory smaller office equipment like staplers, white boards, etc. so that if you ever need to fill in a schedule of loss, you're halfway there.
- Keep a list of the personal affects you have in your office. It's surprising

“One thing I'd do different is to pause and take a breath.”

what you can accumulate at work without really realizing it.

- For buildings, if you have blueprints or as-builts, make sure that these are filed somewhere remote. And as you do renovations or upgrades (or if changes are made to the original blueprints before the build), make sure that information is recorded and included. It will make tendering the rebuild/repairs easier because there is evidence of any changes.
- Take pictures from every angle of every room in your building(s), and take pictures of your bigger and/or less common items so that you have a record of these things to refer to.

SARM'S ONLINE RESOURCES

Have questions about a SARM insurance program? Find all the answers online at www.sarm.ca.



ROAD CONSTRUCTION / MAINTENANCE SEASON SAFETY TIPS



**COLIN WARNECKE,
MANAGER, RISK
MANAGEMENT, SARM**

By the time this is published, the road construction and maintenance season will be well underway. Along with this work comes the risk of impatient drivers making the work area less safe, which can lead to the potential of property damage or, even worse, physical injuries to the driving public and those doing the construction work. Familiarizing your crew with standard safety guidelines will keep everyone aware of the hazards and better prepared before they get to work. Below, you'll find our list of top road construction safety tips to help remind you on how to keep everyone on your team safe.

1 IMPLEMENT PROPER TRAINING

As with any new environment, those working on road construction sites should go through proper training to be aware of the policies in place and the imminent hazards they'll face. Relaying consistent protocols to your team also ensures that everyone follows the same procedures. Your training should address things like:

- Safety training schedules
- Traffic control plans
- Schedules for equipment and materials inspections
- Known hazards for your worksite and plans to alleviate them
- Equipment training
- Emergency and first aid plans

In addition to initial training, you should also brief your crew every day since conditions and hazards can greatly vary. Not only is training important but it is required by OH&S.

2 ENSURE A COMPETENT PERSON IS ON-SITE

The Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) defines a competent person as someone who possesses the knowledge, experience, and training to perform a specific duty.

Requiring a competent person always seems simple but can quickly be derailed if your only competent person needs to temporarily leave the worksite. Identify your "competent people" in your crew and implement a schedule, if needed, to ensure that at least one person is on-site at all times.





3 SET UP A PROPER PERIMETER

The worksite should have ample space on all sides for work to be done. Using proper barriers, cones, and other barricades ensures drivers know when the worksite begins and ends. Barricades should also be used inside the worksite to indicate where it's safe for crew members to walk, where materials are stored, and where equipment is used. Your crew should also mark utility lines to prevent electrocutions and other avoidable injuries.

4 INCREASE WORKER AND WORKSITE VISIBILITY

Construction employees working on road sites should be wearing high-visibility clothing. High-visibility clothing includes things like hats, vests, and armbands with reflective or fluorescent materials. You can also use lights to increase visibility if your crew is working in the evening or during periods when it's difficult to see.

5 WEAR THE PROPER SAFETY EQUIPMENT

Additionally, crew members should also wear earmuffs or earplugs when working in areas with extreme noise. Extreme construction noise can cause severe hearing damage if precautions aren't taken by your crew. Other important pieces of personal safety equipment include steel-toed shoes, gloves, and respirators. Crew members should also ensure everything fits properly and do checks throughout the day to confirm everything is in place.



6 CONTROL TRAFFIC

Post traffic signs an ample distance away from the work zone so drivers can prepare to adjust to changes like slow downs or reduced lanes. You should also give drivers enough space to safely transition out of the work zone and back into the regular flow of traffic. Flaggers who are directing vehicles should never turn their backs to oncoming traffic. For areas of major construction, closing the road temporarily will essentially eliminate any liability the RM would be exposed to if the road was kept open.

7 USE CAUTION WHEN OPERATING HEAVY EQUIPMENT

This is the most common claim we see under LSIP, the collision of equipment with passenger vehicles. Large machines, like rollers, graders, and excavators, have blind spots and are capable of fatally injuring your fellow crew members. Fortunately, there are a number of things you can do to safely operate heavy equipment on a road or highway construction site. Some other things to consider when operating equipment are as follows:

- Use a seatbelt at all times
- Apply parking brakes whenever vehicles are not in use
- Put a block in front or behind of the tires when left on an incline or decline
- Use a spotter when moving, unloading, and loading equipment
- Check that mirrors and other visual aids like tail lights are attached and operational

It is also essential the operators of heavy equipment have their Powered Mobile Equipment certification. Not having this qualification could potentially jeopardize the RM's insurance coverage.



8 WATCH FOR MOVING VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT

When you're not operating heavy construction equipment, be aware of the areas heavy equipment is moving, exiting, and entering. Steer clear of areas where walking is prohibited. You should also ensure you're not in a position where you're caught in between pieces of equipment or under anything like booms or arms. In addition to heavy equipment in the work zone, you should also pay attention to drivers.

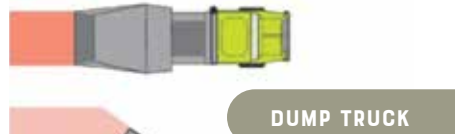
9 AVOID BLIND SPOTS

Steering clear of blind spots sounds easy. However, this can prove difficult when you have equipment moving in and out of the worksite in an already small work zone. You should always make eye contact with the operator and ensure they see you if you're planning to walk around them. The above images provide examples of blind spots that exist with equipment commonly used by SARM members.

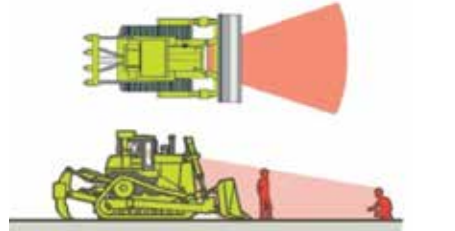
When in doubt, never assume that a vehicle sees you. Signal the operator and wait until the equipment is off before walking towards or near them. Communication signals are also crucial when heavy equipment is around. Every crew member should know what each signal means so they know whether they should stop, wait, or avoid the area.

10 BE CONSTANTLY AWARE OF YOUR SURROUNDINGS

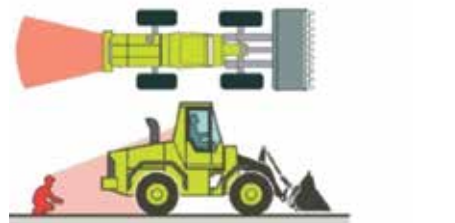
In addition to moving vehicles and blind spots, you should stay extra vigilant while moving around the worksite to



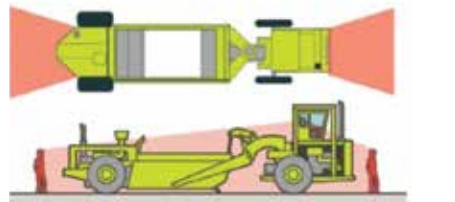
DUMP TRUCK



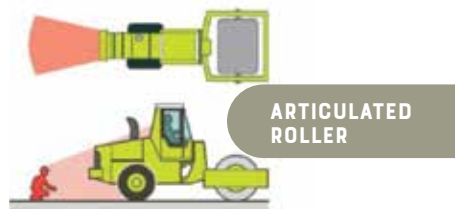
BULLDOZER



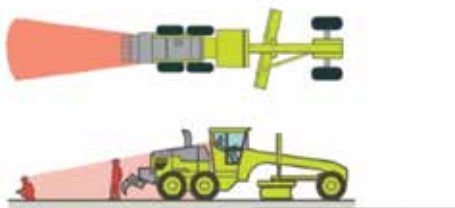
ARTICULATED LOADER



TRACTOR SCRAPER



ARTICULATED ROLLER



GRADER

spot potential hazards. This can include moving potential obstructions or debris in the heavy equipment zone or readjusting a barrier that's been accidentally nudged out of place. Things are constantly moving in a construction zone and paying attention to hazards like these can keep you and your crew safe.

11 STAY HYDRATED

Staying hydrated is important at all times of the day and all seasons. It's easy to get thirsty when working on roads with the hot sun and machinery raising the surrounding temperature. Dehydration during cold weather is also common since most of us don't realize how much water we're losing throughout the day.

There are many ways to prevent dehydration like learning the signs of heat-related illnesses and providing plenty of water for your crew members. Brief your crew on the importance of staying hydrated and keep an eye on everyone throughout the day.

CONCLUSION

The information provided is a basic refresher for a safer work environment during the construction season. Should you have any questions or wish to discuss the article, please contact Colin Warnecke, Manager of Risk Management, SARM at cwarnecke@sarm.ca.



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MUNICIPAL WEED MANAGEMENT MAKING A PLAN



**KATEY MAKOHONIUK,
PLANT HEALTH
TECHNICAL ADVISOR
FOR SARM DIV 4**

Weeds... They are everywhere! Some might argue that a weed is only a plant where it's not supposed to be. However, regulated weeds are defined as plants having the ability to spread rapidly, cause severe crop losses and economic hardship, making weed management an important part of both rural and urban municipalities.

In addition to the above, weeds must be managed for a multitude of other reasons. Weeds can cause soil erosion in ditches and riverbanks, be poisonous/toxic to humans and animals, clog drains and machinery, and cause downgrading in crops. Dead, dry weeds can also be fire hazards. Weeds are a threat to native ecosystems because they are often prolific, choking out other vegetation and often can be disruptive to waterfowl and other animals.

Under the Saskatchewan Weed Control Act 15(1), any owner or occupant of land shall:

- (a) *under the supervision of the weed inspector, eradicate any prohibited weeds located on the land;*
- (b) *under the supervision of the weed inspector, eradicate any isolated infestations of noxious weeds located on the land;*
- (c) *contain and control any established infestations of noxious weeds located on the land;*
- (d) *take measures to control any nuisance weeds located on the land.*

This means that, as landowners, RMs have a responsibility to maintain their rights-of-way and other property, making sure that any prohibited weeds are eradicated, and noxious weeds are either eradicated or controlled appropriately.

In Saskatchewan, the capacity for weed control varies widely from RM to RM. Some have enacted effective weed management plans, while others have not yet had the means to focus on weeds. It's never too late, though - anytime is a good time to make a plan!

WEED CONTROL IS MOST ECONOMICAL WHEN NEW, SMALL PATCHES OF WEEDS CAN BE PROACTIVELY DEALT WITH, RATHER THAN WAITING UNTIL THEY ARE A BIG PROBLEM.

The first place to start is to appoint a Weed Inspector. This person is the only one who can enforce the Act on behalf

of your RM. After they are appointed, schedule for them to meet with your council and discuss the RM's goals for weed management and come up with a weed management plan. A weed management plan is a living document that should be updated annually and lays out the past, present, and future of weed control efforts in your RM. The next thing to do is encourage your Weed Inspector to conduct a tour of your RM to establish a baseline and begin the creation of a "weed map". This can be done by digitally mapping the weeds through software such as iMapInvasives (described below), or by simply highlighting a paper RM map that can be shown to council, illustrating the types of weeds present, and where they are located. After that you can plan how to manage the population of weeds as well as which weeds are a priority to control.

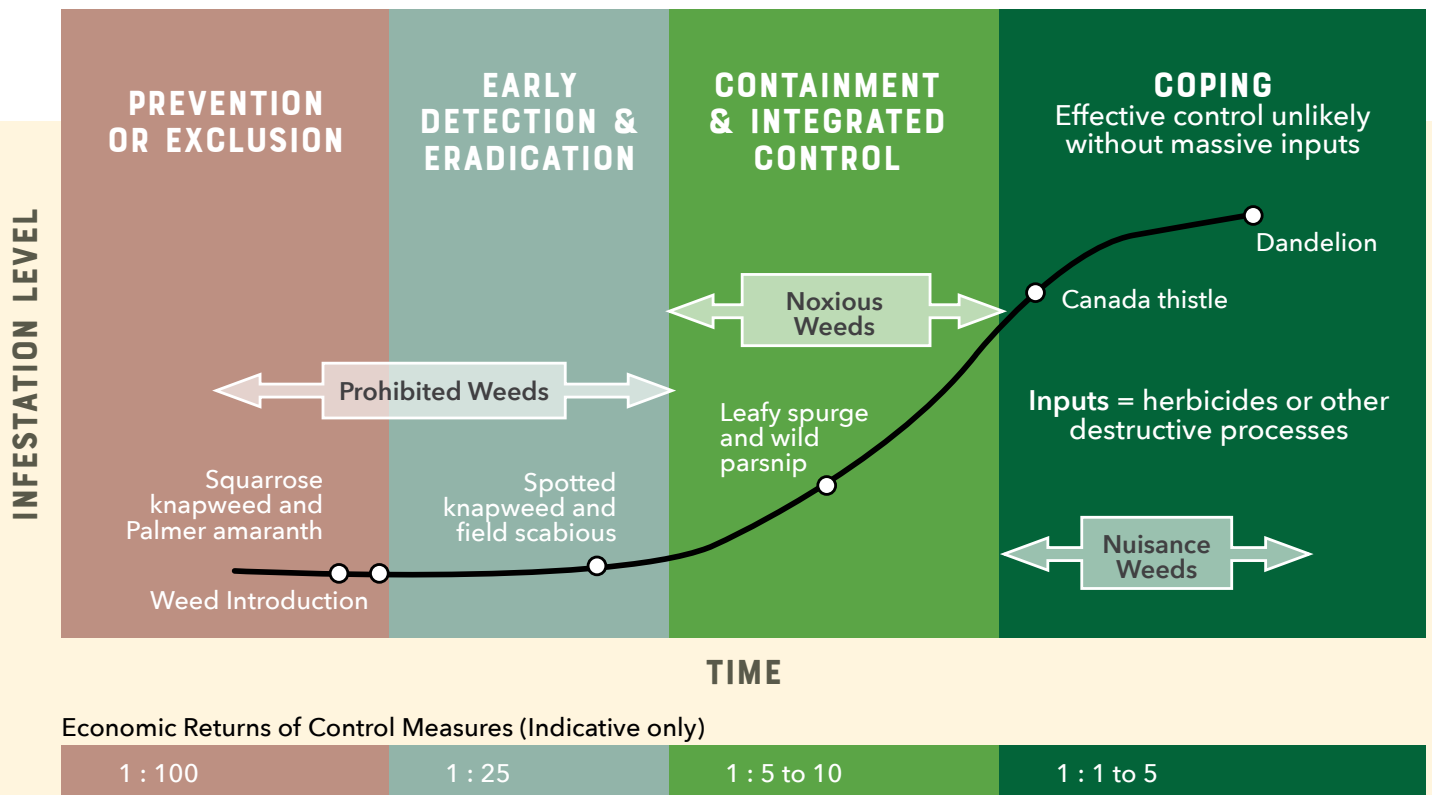
Modern technology can make weed mapping easier and more convenient. The Saskatchewan Conservation Data Centre has partnered with iMapInvasives for an online, mobile-friendly GIS-based data management system that is used for tracking and managing invasive species. This allows anyone who is signed up to accurately map weeds throughout the province, free of charge. RM Weed Inspectors can also view the map, log entries, and get notifications when a new weed has been found by someone else in their RM. You can also view historic entries from decades ago, indicating where you may find recurring weed issues. The program is available

for use on any smartphone and can log entries from anywhere, however the provincial map can only be viewed on a desktop/laptop computer.

You can sign up for iMapInvasives at www.imapinvasives.org



FOR ASSISTANCE WITH IMAPINVASIVES, OR CREATING A WEED MANAGEMENT PLAN, FEEL FREE TO CONTACT YOUR DIVISION'S PLANT HEALTH TECHNICAL ADVISOR (PHTA) FOR MORE INFORMATION.



Based on Jayasuriya, Jones, & van de Ven, 2008



HAY SALVAGE AND DITCH MOWING

BY THE SASKATCHEWAN
MINISTRY OF HIGHWAYS

Hay is available to producers at no cost in provincial highway ditches during spring and summer months.

Before and including July 8, landowners or lessees closest to the ditch have the first option to cut or bale material. Starting July 9, anyone can cut and bale without permission, if no salvage operations have already begun. To avoid disputes, participants should contact their local Ministry of Highways office to provide contact information and location.

Hay must be cut a uniform height and bales must be at least eight metres from the shoulder. Farmers may salvage hay anytime during spring or summer months. Landowners or lessees closest to the ditch have the first option to cut or bale unless a mowing contractor has begun salvage. Bales must be removed by August 8, otherwise they may be

removed by the Ministry. After August 8, bales must be removed immediately. The Ministry may also remove bales in locations deemed unsafe for drivers.

After the deadline, Ministry staff may make a courtesy call or place orange flags in bales. Participants will have one week to remove them, if public safety is not at risk. Participants who don't follow the rules may be disqualified from the program.

The Ministry hires contractors to mow highway shoulders. Mowing may also be completed near intersections, railway crossings and tourism facilities.

KEY DATES

JUNE 7 - JULY 15: Mowing includes a four-metre shoulder cut. Highways 1, 7, 11, 16 and 39, and portions of Highways 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9 and 10. Some intersections may receive a full ditch cut to ensure good sightlines.

JULY 8: Prior to and including this date, a landowner or lessee closest to a ditch has first option to cut or bale hay. Beginning July 9, anyone may cut and bale in a highway ditch without permission of the nearest landowner.

JULY 15 - OCT. 15: Contractors mow ditches along all four-lane highways. Heavily travelled two-lane highways receive a twelve-metre cut. Secondary highways receive an eight-metre cut. All other highways get a four-metre cut.

AUGUST 8: All hay bales must be removed from ditches, or they may be disposed at the Ministry's discretion.




The hay salvage and mowing program provides:

- free hay to farmers
- a neat appearance
- improved visibility
- better control of brush and noxious weed growth
- adequate snow storage in ditches during the winter months

DITCH MOWING

The Ministry's early mowing program along high traffic highways begins June 7 and continues until July 15. Contractors cut a four-metre swath along Highways 1, 7, 11, 16 and 39, and portions of Highways 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, and 10. During this time, mowing may be completed near intersections, railway crossings and tourism facilities.

Regular full-width ditch mowing on all four-lane highways begins July 15 and continues into fall. Heavily travelled two-lane highways receive a twelve-metre cut. Secondary highways receive an eight-metre cut. A four-metre strip will be mowed adjacent to other highways with additional mowing as required to ensure visibility and weed control. Progress is weather dependent.



THE SASKATCHEWAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1972 TO PREVENT DISCRIMINATION AND TO PROMOTE AND ADVANCE HUMAN RIGHTS IN SASKATCHEWAN.

WHAT WE DO

Under *The Saskatchewan Human Rights Code, 2018*, the Commission's mandate is to provide public education and find ways to prevent inequity and discrimination. This includes collaborating with key stakeholders – including SARM and individual municipalities – to build relationships, tools, and awareness that actively support the human rights of all people in Saskatchewan.

Each year, the Commission receives hundreds of human rights complaints, of which, on average, about 120 are formalized. Formalizing a complaint usually means that additional steps or processes, such as mediation, investigation, or litigation, are required

to resolve a complaint. A significant percentage of these complaints involve a municipality (e.g., rural municipality, town, or city). Most of these complaints were employment related, and typically involved the same handful of protected grounds: disability, age, sexual harassment, pregnancy, and race.

HOW WE CAN HELP

With nearly 2,000 elected representatives and more than 2,100 employees throughout the province, SARM members provide significant employment opportunities and key services across more than 47% of the geography of Saskatchewan. The leadership and staff of rural municipalities are guided by legislation, local bylaws, and best practices. This means RMs have a responsibility to:

- Develop non-discriminatory policies and procedures in order to respond to inequity and discrimination,
- Provide services in a way that respects the rights and dignity of every person, and
- Build inclusive, respectful, and accommodating workplaces.

Like many of the challenges facing RMs in Saskatchewan, there is no one-size-fits-all solution. The good news is the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission is here to help.

The Commission engages in a wide array of learning activities and partnerships across the province. Through workshops, participating in conferences, and giving presentations, the Commission's goal is to provide training that meets local needs.

OUTREACH AND RESOURCES

The Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission envisions an equitable, inclusive province where every resident understands their human rights, values diversity, and respects the rights of others. We are eager to work with RMs throughout Saskatchewan to help create positive, rights-based support, and open avenues for dialogue and collaboration with SARM members.

To achieve this, the Commission looks forward to meeting with RMs throughout the province. If you are interested in learning more about our workshops and other training opportunities, please contact the Commission at shrc@gov.sk.ca.

If you have a specific human rights concern or question relating to employment, you can call the Commission's Business Help Line at (306) 933-8274 for no-fee advice.

The Commission's website (www.saskatchewanhumanrights.ca) also hosts a wealth of resources designed to help employers and employees understand their rights and responsibilities.



Timely delivery of maintenance is a major priority for the Agency. As of May 8, SAMA has delivered maintenance to 290 out of 296 of our rural municipal clients. We delivered on time or within 3 weeks to 96% of our rural municipal clients.

In 2023, SAMA is planning to complete around 33,000 agricultural property reviews in 21 RM's. The Agency is also planning over 19,000 residential/resort property reviews and 13,000 commercial, industrial, and industrial flowline property reviews in both rural and urban municipalities. In addition, analysis for the 2025 revaluation is in full swing.

For more information visit our website at www.sama.sk.ca.

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

THE SASKATCHEWAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION IS MANDATED TO:

- Discourage and eliminate discrimination,
- Find remedies for individuals and groups who experience discrimination,
- Promote, approve, and monitor equity programs,
- Engage in research and public education that advances the principles of equality and diversity,
- Encourage the understanding of human rights,
- Advance human rights legislation, and
- Investigate and resolve discrimination complaints.

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WASTE MANAGEMENT: A SHARED VISION

Solid waste management is not just about making sure our garbage ends up where it belongs. It's also about reducing the amount of waste we create, implementing innovative solutions throughout the waste management chain, and providing effective and efficient policies, procedures, and regulations to create a practical, sustainable, and integrated solid waste management system. That is the vision the Ministry of Environment established with Saskatchewan's Solid Waste Management Strategy.

Under the strategy, we continue to use education and awareness as effective tools to change behaviours, encourage regional collaboration to reduce costs and duplication, and enhance waste diversion across the province.

Some recent regulatory changes made under the strategy will enhance how municipalities are able to provide waste management services.

TRANSFER STATION CHAPTER

In March, we approved the addition of a Transfer Station Chapter to *The Saskatchewan Environmental Code*. We heard directly from municipalities that the rules around establishing and operating transfer stations were confusing and cumbersome. This change will streamline the reporting processes for transfer stations and provide flexibility to help municipalities achieve environmental compliance. There is a six-month grace period for existing transfer stations to meet the new requirements.

HOUSEHOLD PACKAGING AND PAPER RECYCLING

We recently amended *The Household Packaging and Paper Stewardship Program Regulations* - this will allow for the implementation of a province-wide,

standardized packaging and paper recycling program fully funded by producers. It will also remove the burden of funding recycling programs from municipalities by placing that responsibility on producers. Producers will be working to develop a program plan, and we look forward to receiving more information over the coming months. In the meantime, there are no immediate changes to how household recycling is managed.

Saskatchewan's Waste Management Strategy set the ambitious goal to reduce waste by 50 per cent by 2040. As our province grows, working together to reduce the amount of waste created, enhance recycling and disposal programs and raise awareness of these programs will ensure Saskatchewan has a bright, sustainable future.

For more information visit saskatchewan.ca/recycling.

PLASTIC PIPE MANUFACTURING COMES TO SASKATOON



When Armtec was looking for a location to grow their production capabilities in Western Canada, it didn't take long to realize that investing in Saskatchewan made perfect sense.

The provincial government's commitment to supporting both transportation and agricultural infrastructure was evident in their increased project funding of bridge and road rehabilitation, and of course their investment in the Lake Diefenbaker Irrigation Expansion Project.

For decades, Armtec has manufactured high quality Corrugated Steel Pipe (CSP) and culverts in their Saskatoon facility, supplying municipalities across the province and beyond. As an experienced plastic pipe manufacturer in other provinces including Ontario, Quebec and British Columbia, it was time to take that expertise and invest in the production of High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) products in Saskatchewan. Today, BOSS 2000 HDPE corrugated pipe and Big 'O' HDPE tubing product lines are up and running and with manufacturing running around

the clock, Armtec is ready for the busy construction season ahead.

HDPE corrugated pipe delivers a wide range of features and benefits. BOSS 2000 is a durable and versatile product. It is available in 210 kPa stiffness for forestry and building trades, and as a 320 kPa CSA certified product for municipal storm sewer applications. It has a proven 75 year design service life and is highly corrosion and abrasion resistant. UV filters are added during production to prevent any loss of quality from sun exposure. BOSS pipe's light weight and long lengths allow for quicker installation than traditional storm sewer materials, reducing lengthy road closures and traffic disruptions.

In today's world, sustainability and protecting the environment are paramount. Made of recyclable materials in addition to virgin resin, BOSS 2000 and Big 'O' make use of post consumer materials supporting a circular economy. HDPE pipe is also light and nestable for economical shipping to remote locations further decreasing the product's carbon footprint as well as reducing transportation costs. The bottom line is also high on most municipality's priority lists. By providing a greater number of infrastructure product options, the

greater the competition, and therefore the greater the buying power.

In addition to infrastructure, plastic pipe production in Saskatoon also benefits the agricultural industry. Farm tiling has grown across the province in recent years, becoming more popular with producers. The installation of agricultural sub surface land drainage provides farmers with a host of benefits. Crop yields are increased, production costs are lowered, and wear and tear on equipment is reduced. In addition to agricultural applications, Big 'O' tubing is also well known for its use as weeping tile in the building trades.

Armtec recognized Saskatoon in particular as a strategic location to allow us to support all of Western Canada, further justifying the investment and growth in our production of HDPE products. Armtec is very proud of our partnership with SARM to assist municipalities with cost effective, quality products proudly made in Saskatchewan. Armtec knows that SARM provides vital representation for their membership to support a strong relationship with other levels of government as the voice of rural Saskatchewan.

NEW TO SARM



CODY JORDISON, DIVISION 2 DIRECTOR, SARM

Cody was born in the community of Crane Valley where he grew up on the family's mixed grain/cattle farm. He now has put down roots in the community of Lumsden with his wife and their two children. Cody joined the RM council in 2015 in a by-election and shortly after was appointed deputy reeve, which he still holds today.

Cody keeps active with sports, hunting, and managing their small herd of highland cattle. With nearly 20 years in the industry as a paramedic, he has a deep understanding of how health care operates in rural and urban backgrounds. He looks forward to bringing his energy to board meetings and working hard for Division 2.



MYRON KOPEC, DIVISION 4 DIRECTOR, SARM

Myron is currently a councillor with the RM of Buchanan No 304. He is also the Chairman of the Good Spirit Lake Watershed Association. He and his wife Syndee operate a grain farm in North Eastern Saskatchewan with a focus on cereal, oilseed, and pulse production. Myron is very proud to be a steward of the land and feels privileged to be part of the industry working together to feed the world.

Myron was born and raised in the Buchanan district. He achieved his Bachelor of Science Degree in Agriculture from the University of Saskatchewan in 1988. Upon graduation, he worked in the Crop Protection Industry for 21 years. He established his farming operation in

1991 and continues to farm full time with his wife Syndee.

He decided to enter the world of municipal politics and was elected as councillor in the Rural Municipality of Buchanan. His extensive experience in the private sector and as a grower has provided him with a broad understanding of business and agricultural challenges and opportunities. He's an advocate for rural Saskatchewan and has a strong passion for agriculture and the desire to advance the industry.

Among all of his achievements, his greatest accomplishment is his 35 year marriage to his wife Syndee. They were blessed with four daughters: Kindra, Krystalee, Keaira, and Kenzee, all of whom bring them immense joy and fulfillment. When he is not cheering on his daughters in their activities, he enjoys various sports and music.

MEMBER NEWS

IN MEMORIAM



RODNEY WEINS RM OF MOUNTAIN VIEW NO. 318 IN MEMORIAM

It is with incredible sadness that the family of Rodney Glenn Wiens announce his passing on March 26, 2022 at the University of Alberta Hospital, Edmonton at the age of 59 years. Rod was born on December 2, 1962 at the Rosetown Hospital to parents Arthur and Leila (Schmidt) Wiens. Rod was the third of four children, growing up near Herschel on the family farm. He attended school in Herschel, Rosetown, and Rosthern Junior College. He continued his education at Canadian Mennonite Bible College, and the University of Saskatchewan, where he got a degree in Agriculture and Economics. Rod married Laurie (Friesen) on January 5, 1991. They then moved to the family farm where they raised their four children: Matthew, Meghan, Ryan, and Amy. Rod had a passion for politics,

history, leadership, and community. In addition to farming, he got involved in many local and wider organizations. He served several years as a Wheat Pool delegate, and later as a member of their board. Rod served as Division Two Councillor for the RM of Mountain View No. 318 from 2007-2010 and was later elected as Reeve where he served from 2010-2022. He also served on the SARM Board of Directors. He was also involved with his community and church, as a member of the Rosetown CO-OP Board, Herschel Rink Committee, Ancient Echoes Board, the Canadian Mennonite Board, and the Shekinah Retreat Centre Board. He taught Sunday School and served as Church Chairman for several years. Rod had a love for sports. He played hockey, ball, curled for several years, and loved to watch sports on TV. Through his varied involvements, Rod formed many connections and friendships. He made friends easily and spoke with a voice of reason and integrity. Rod had a way of really listening to others before expressing his opinions, and his insights were valued and respected. He deeply loved his family and was involved in their lives - he coached hockey, attended numerous recitals, concerts, games, and many hours were spent driving to activities. Larger family circles were important to him - he loved visiting at family gatherings. Rod was a faithful attendee of coffee row in Herschel and valued the many friendships he had, both at home and further away. The family cabin at Pike Lake became a favourite spot - Rod loved golfing and meeting the neighbors, who also inevitably became good friends. Rod farmed until his

health started to deteriorate. He was diagnosed with Autoimmune Hepatitis in 2015 and underwent a liver transplant in the spring of 2016. He was put on the list for another transplant after recurrent complications arose in the years following the first surgery. He underwent his second liver transplant on Dec. 27, 2021 with the hope of regaining his health. Throughout his disease and his many hospital stays, Rod didn't complain and often put on a brave face when asked about his health. Even the medical staff adored him. After this second transplant, Rod suffered many complications, and passed away peacefully, surrounded by his family on March 26, 2022. Rod is survived by his loving wife Laurie, son Matthew (Craig Friesen), daughter Meghan (Isaac Winterfeld), son Ryan, daughter Amy, as well as his siblings Dennis (Joanne) Wiens, Mel (Wilma) Wiens, Carolyn McDonald, and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, aunts and uncles. Rod was predeceased by an infant son Nehemiah Kayne Wiens, and by his parents Arthur and Leila Wiens. He will be missed dearly by family and friends, near and far. A Celebration of Rodney's Life was held on Thursday, March 31, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. at the Herschel Ebenfeld Mennonite Church with Pastor Gary Peters officiating. □

BRIAN NEUFELD RM OF BUCHANAN NO. 304 IN MEMORIAM

Brian loved volunteering as a hockey coach and serving as President for the local minor hockey league. He served a couple terms on the local school board as a trustee as well as Council member for the RM of Buchanan No. 304. He owned and operated a seed cleaning business, as well as a herb and spice cleaning business until his retirement in 2018. Brian passed away December 19, 2022. □



**EDWARD FEIL
RM OF BIG STICK NO. 141
IN MEMORIAM**

Ed Feil passed away January 19, 2023, at the age of 72. Ed was born in Maple Creek in 1950 and got his lifelong nickname of Butch from the nurses in the hospital when he came out a whopping 10 pounds!

Ed was an avid fisherman and hunter. He especially enjoyed the 20 plus years of fishing trips with his son, including excursions up north with his fishing buddies. He loved outdoors, photography, flying, earning his pilot's license, and rebuilt an airplane. He was often found in the shop improving or restoring something. In more recent years Ed discovered his love of cooking, cast iron and Le Creuset cookware. He would often text pictures of his meals to his daughter and any leftovers would be frozen and shared when they had their next visit.

Ed began his service as Councillor from 1977 - 1981 then as Reeve from 1993 - 2020. He has made many contributions to the municipality and community while on Council and various committees. Ed is survived by his loving family, wife of 50 years, Barb, and 2 children, Corey and Erin.

Ed was always willing to lend a hand and share a joke and will always be remembered for his sense of humour. □



**COLIN BURTON SHELDON
RM OF PRINCE ALBERT
NO. 461
IN MEMORIAM**

It is with heavy hearts that the RM of Prince Albert mourns the passing of our beloved Councillor for Division 5, Mr. Colin Sheldon on January 30th, 2023.

Colin served on Council from 1987 to 1990 and most recently from November 2020 to present, one of his major accomplishments included the foundation of the Prince Albert Rural Water Utility in 1993.

Colin will be remembered as the voice of reason with his wise and humble manner. Colin was not only a mentor to Council, but he was also a fountain of knowledge as his decisions were always made with sound judgment. Colin was genuinely a caring and compassionate man whose dedication and loyalty to the RM and its residents will not soon be forgotten.

A life so beautifully lived deserves to be beautifully remembered. □

**ROSS TURNBULL
RM OF GLEN BAIN NO. 105
IN MEMORIAM**

Ross Turnbull passed away in January of 2022. He was a Reeve with the RM of Glen Bain No. 105 from 2005 - 2010. He was a father of 2 children and a farmer for over 50 years in the RM. The RM of Glen Bain No. 105 wishes to send their condolences to the family. □



**ERNIE MATAI
RM OF TOUCHWOOD
NO. 248
IN MEMORIAM**

Ernie Matai passed away on February 11, 2023 after a courageous battle with cancer.

Ernie was passionate about Ford vehicles, John Deere Equipment, the Saskatchewan Roughriders, farming and his cattle; but nothing was more important than his family. Ernie was a loving husband, father and grandfather and his memories will live on through Edith, his best friend and wife of 54 years; children Cherrie (Derrick), Russell (Serena) and David (Victoria); grandchildren Alexandra (Jesh), Kendell, Lauren and Ben, and his expected great-grandchild in September 2023.

In 1999 Ernie was elected Councillor for Division 5 for the R.M. of Touchwood No. 248 and became Reeve in 2009, in which he held the position until his passing. In December 2022 Ernie was presented with a Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal for public service. He was always involved in community activities and spent many years on local school boards, with minor hockey, the Optimist Club and Knights of Columbus.

Ernie was a hard-working man who never let even the hardest of life's obstacles overcome him. As a Reeve he presented with a level-head; he was genuine, honest and respectful, setting an example of what a good leader should be. Ernie's years on Council and experience provided us with knowledge and wisdom that will be passed on to the future generations of Council.

Ernie will truly be missed by all those who knew him. □



**TERRENCE MURRAY
STEVENS
RM OF HARRIS NO. 316
IN MEMORIAM**

We are saddened to announce the sudden passing of Terry Stevens on October 3, 2022 at the age of 78.

Terry was born on January 26, 1944 in Milden, SK to Les and Jewell Stevens. He

married Linda Brisbin in 1965 and they raised their three children in Harris, SK: Curtis (Wendy) Stevens, Gerri (Trent) Millard and Jason (Diana) Stevens. Terry and Linda have seven grandchildren: Kendall (Corey), Casie (Chad), Derek, Brody (Caitlin), Shauna, Seth and Ayla and one great-grandson: Jackson. Terry is survived by his brother Irvin (Ruth) Stevens and many close relatives including Sharon Stevens, Russ (Pat) Brisbin, Janice (Gary) Stevens, Bill (Suz) Laing, Brenda (Jim) Angus and Brent (Brenda) Laing. He was predeceased by his parents Les and Jewell Stevens, brothers Dale and Gordon and sister-in-law Hazel.

Terry was a grain farmer for 45 years retiring in 2010 but continued to check on the nephews daily. He was a long

time Harris Lion's Club Member and was a councillor for the RM of Harris for 14 years. He coached hockey in Harris for many years. Terry enjoyed watching all of his grandchildren's sports and activities. Terry is best known for his boisterous laugh and big personality. He loved his daily crossword puzzle, going to coffee row, crib games with Jim and Brenda Angus and wordle with Bill Laing. Terry's retirement years included spending winters in Palm Springs, enjoying golfing and happy hour with many friends.

A Celebration of Terry's Life was held on Friday, October 7, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. at the Harris Community Centre. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Harris Community Centre or the Harris United Church. ☐



**BERTRAM RUSSELL
RM OF TOUCHWOOD
NO. 248
IN MEMORIAM**

Bertram "Bert" Russell passed away on March 17, 2023 after a courageous battle with cancer.

Bert will be lovingly remembered by his wife of 55 years, Doreen; son Todd (Tammy) and their two children Tanner and Ty; son Trevor (Cherine) and their two children Tate and Tori; many nieces, nephews, and friends.

Born on the farm in the Perryville area, north of Punnichy, SK, Bert quit school at an early age to help his parents on the farm. He farmed for 61 years. In the early sixties he worked with sewer and water construction in Punnichy, Kelvington and Wakaw, and with construction of the GM garage in Raymore. From 1967-1977 he was custodian at the Punnichy Elementary School, prior to that he worked with the RM of Touchwood from 1965-1967. Bert returned to the RM in 1977 where he worked as a patrol operator until the

time of his passing. Bert worked with the RM for a total of 47.5 years.

Bert was an avid sports fan of all sports. The TV remote was a hot commodity in his house. He played ball with the Punnichy Orioles and hockey with the Punnichy Blues. They won Provincial C Championship in 1972. He also curled and volunteered at the rink as ice-maker, caretaker, coffee maker- you name it for over 25 years. In 2003 he was presented with an award for his volunteer services by the Punnichy Recreation Board which was sponsored by Saskatchewan Lotteries.

Bert will be forever loved, missed and cherished. ☐

RETIREMENT



PATTI VANCE
RM OF SARNIA
NO. 221
RETIREMENT

The RM of Sarnia No. 221 and the Village of Holdfast would like to recognize Patti Vance for her years of service as an Administrator and congratulate her on her retirement. Patti began her career as an Administrator in April of 1992 and worked with the Villages of Bethune and Disley and the RM of Dufferin No. 190 before coming to our office on February 1, 2008. Patti has contributed over 30 years to the field, sharing her knowledge and experience before retiring at the end of 2022.

In appreciation for her years of service, Reeve Carl Erlandson, presented Patti with an engraved mug and a gift certificate at the annual Christmas supper. We wish Patti all the best in her retirement! □



BARRY MARQUETTE
RM OF SASMAN
NO. 336
RETIREMENT

The R.M. of Sasman No. 336 recognized Councillor Barry Marquette for his 12 years of service as Councillor for Division No. 6 at their December 9th, 2022 R.M. Christmas party. Barry served as Councillor for Division No. 6 for 12 years from November 2011 to November 2022. Barry's experience and knowledge that was brought to the meetings will be missed. We wish you all the best in your retirement.

Photo note: Reeve Dwayne Nakrayko (right) presented retired Councillor Barry Marquette (left) with a watch as a retirement gift. □



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Member News
Submission Tips:

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

Thanks for sharing your stories with us!

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