

RURAL COUNCILLOR

SARM

**2024
WINTER**

VOLUME 57 / #4

GOODBYES

**GRATITUDE,
GUIDANCE
& GOODBYES**

RCMP

**CRIME RATES
CONTINUING
TO INCREASE**

ROADS

**HIGHWAY
HOTLINE
NEW CONDITION
TERMINOLOGY**

SARM

**PROCUREMENT
ADVISING
SERVICES**

Safeguard your business



Protect your network, information, and surroundings

SaskTel Smart Services work to keep your business and its assets safe and secure while giving you the control and flexibility you need.

SaskTel Smart Network Firewall is a fully monitored and managed firewall service that protects and optimizes your network security. Using historical reports and real-time data it monitors user activity, content accessed, usage trends, and threat risks.

SaskTel Smart Wi-Fi is a monitored and managed Wi-Fi service, featuring retail analytics, secure guest network, rich data, and analytics. It provides insight into your user's behaviour to help drive business decisions.

SaskTel Smart Camera provides an enterprise class security camera solution for your business. With advanced analytics and Meraki online dashboard, view SaskTel Smart Camera footage from anywhere and stay up to date on your business's safety.

sasktel.com/smartservices

SaskTel 

| Business Solutions |



In 2023, data breaches cost Canadian companies an average of almost \$7 million.

The third highest in the world.

RURAL COUNCILLOR

**PUBLISHED BY
THE SASKATCHEWAN
ASSOCIATION OF
RURAL MUNICIPALITIES**

Publications Agreement #40062693

Published four times per year by:

McQueen Creative
www.mcqueencreative.com

PUBLISHER

Jared Tabler

EDITOR

Amy Roettger

ART DIRECTOR

Cindy Biglin

AUDIENCE, ANALYTICS & SOCIAL

Adam Brougham

ADVERTISING

Carmen Hrynchuk

SARM BOARD

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

Darren Steinley, Acting Vice President,
Division 3 Director,
RM of Excelsior No. 166

Bob Moulding, Division 1 Director,
RM of Abernethy No. 186

Cody Jordison, Division 2 Director,
RM of Lumsden No. 189

Myron Kopec, Division 4 Director,
RM of Buchanan No. 304

Blair Cummins, Division 5 Director,
RM of Blucher No. 343

Randy Aumach, Division 6 Director
RM of Meeting Lake No. 466

Sheila Keisig, Ex-Officio Director,
RM of Tullymet No. 216

Rural Councillor is online at:
www.sarm.ca

X: @SARM_Voice
Facebook: SARMVoice
LinkedIn: SARM Voice

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

Return undelivered copies to:

Saskatchewan Association
of Rural Municipalities
2301 Windsor Park Road
Regina SK S4V 3A4

CONTENTS

- 8 GIFS: Accelerating innovation for safe and sustainable food production from Saskatchewan to the world**
- 11 Asking Questions & Welcoming Change**
By Amanda Baumgartner,
Division 1 Director, RMAA
- 12 Collaboration RMAA & SARM Working Together**
By Sheila Keisig, RMAA President
& SARM Ex-Officio Director
- 14 Meet the New Crime Stoppers Coordinator**
- 16 How the Rural Road Classification Committee can help rural municipalities now and into the future**
- 20 Minister's Message**
Minister of Education
- 22 5 Common Mistakes Newly Elected Officials Make**
- 24 Highway Hotline Introduces New Condition Terminology**
- 30 Bridging the Barriers to Support Producer Health**
By Cynthia Beck, M.sc. Director,
Saskagmatters Mental Health
Network Incorporated
- 32 Managing Stray Animals under New Legislation**
- 34 The Plant Health Act and Deregulation of Clubroot - How will it affect my RM and Ratepayers?**
- 36 Getting to Know SARM**
Strategic Communications
- 37 Member News**

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

FEATURES



4

Gratitude, Guidance & Goodbyes
A Chat With SARM's
Executive Director,
Jay Meyer

18

Crime Rates Continuing
to Increase Across
Saskatchewan
RCMP Jurisdiction



26

Living Well in Your Community



Evaluate and select a supplier
Fair, open and transparent

4

28

Do you struggle with
putting together a
tender, RFP, or choosing
a procurement strategy?

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



GRATITUDE, GUIDANCE & GOODBYES

A CHAT WITH SARM'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, JAY MEYER

By Carmen Hrynchuk, Features Writer

A lot can change in a decade. But ask Jay Meyer what hasn't, and he'll say, "the importance of being true to yourself." In his 10 years at SARM as Executive Director, that's meant caring, being willing to learn, and building a culture where people felt valued. As he prepares to step down from his role and forward in a new direction, we had the chance to chat about gratitude, guidance, and goodbyes.

"I have been so fortunate to have a board that allowed me to do my job, standing by me."

What's the greatest compliment someone could give you about your time at SARM?

The greatest compliment would be that I left the organization in a better place than when I arrived. I was lucky to be handed an association with a rich history of great leadership. Throughout my tenure, I aimed to be a supportive leader who trusted and empowered the SARM

team to grow, learn, and make mistakes. It was important to me that I did not micro-manage, instead encouraging the team to take ownership of their work and find solutions, even if it meant experiencing setbacks along the way.

I would like to be remembered by how I believed in embracing change and creating an environment where people felt comfortable taking risks, knowing they had support. I cared deeply for the well-being of the SARM team, both professionally and personally. I hope I've been seen as a leader who listened, learned, and cared, helping to build a culture where people felt valued. I also hope the SARM team can say I made a difference in their lives.



Tell us about someone who mentored you or helped set you on your career path.

I wouldn't even be here if I hadn't had so many great mentors, but I would say that it all began at home with my dad. He taught me the importance of being a team player and standing up for and supporting my teammates. He instilled in me a sense of competition and the ability to adapt and change to compete. One of the phrases he often repeated was, "It's not the name on the back of the jersey, it's the name on the front that really matters." That idea has stayed with me my whole life. Even though I've had fancy titles, I've never felt that I was any more important than anyone else on the team.

I also cannot say enough about President Ray Orb, who has also been a huge mentor to me. After my father passed away, Ray filled that position in my mind. I have learned from him how to stay calm under pressure as, at times, I can be too passionate. I believe Ray and I worked well together because of our different personalities. What we shared

was a willingness to learn and a genuine care for others. Ray and his wife, Val, helped take my political awareness to a new level, but more than that, they had my back in a world that can be tough. I feel incredibly fortunate to have learned more in the last 10 years under President Orb than I ever did after leaving high school 30 years ago.

Tell us one of your favourite memories from working at SARM.

It's hard to pick just one, but the first thing that comes to mind is the day we moved into the new SARM office. It was an incredible moment seeing the building we envisioned come to life. This was no small task. The SARM membership invested over \$8M in the office, and we are set to have it paid off in 2025, a huge accomplishment that I will remember for the rest of my life. The board was incredibly supportive throughout the process and trusted our team every step of the way. I have been so fortunate to have a board that allowed me to do my job, standing by me.

"All that matters is that you care and are willing to learn. The rest will figure itself out."

It is especially meaningful because the SARM office truly belongs to our members, and we are fortunate to work here as a team. The boardroom is now named after President Orb, the longest-serving and, in my biased opinion, most influential president in SARM's history. That's a memory that will stay with me forever.

Tell us about the best advice you've ever received and who gave it to you.

The best advice I've received came from Dennis Webster, a key mentor at the beginning of my career when I was working in economic development in the southwest. Dennis, who spent many years in the Ministry of Rural Development, gave me some crucial advice that has always stayed with me.



He said, "Being recognized is not what matters, what truly counts is that the people who matter will know what you have done." He also said, "If you want to be in the picture, this is not the role for you, pictures are for politicians." Those words have guided me in my management of boards and councils. It has been an invaluable piece of wisdom.

As you step into this new chapter, what's something you're sure of, and what's something you're still learning?

One thing I'm sure of is that it's not about the title, it is about the person. What really matters is being authentic and true to yourself. I also believe, and often mention to the SARM team, that all that matters is that you care and are willing to learn. The rest will figure itself out. When you are open to learning, you are also open to listening to others, which is how growth happens. I am also certain that adversity is necessary for growth. Without challenges, there is no real learning.

One thing I'm still learning is not to sweat the small stuff. I tend to handle difficult situations more easily than the kind that really don't matter but still manage to get under your skin. That's something I'm working on improving.

What are your hopes for SARM in the coming years?

My hope for SARM is that it continues to lead with courage and innovation. I hope it will keep advancing without being afraid of change, and be the leaders in the rural communities it represents. It is important that SARM remains a strong, respected association that is not afraid to voice its opinion, but does so thoughtfully. I hope for SARM to continue to be an association that compliments and gives credit publicly, yet addresses issues and complaints privately.

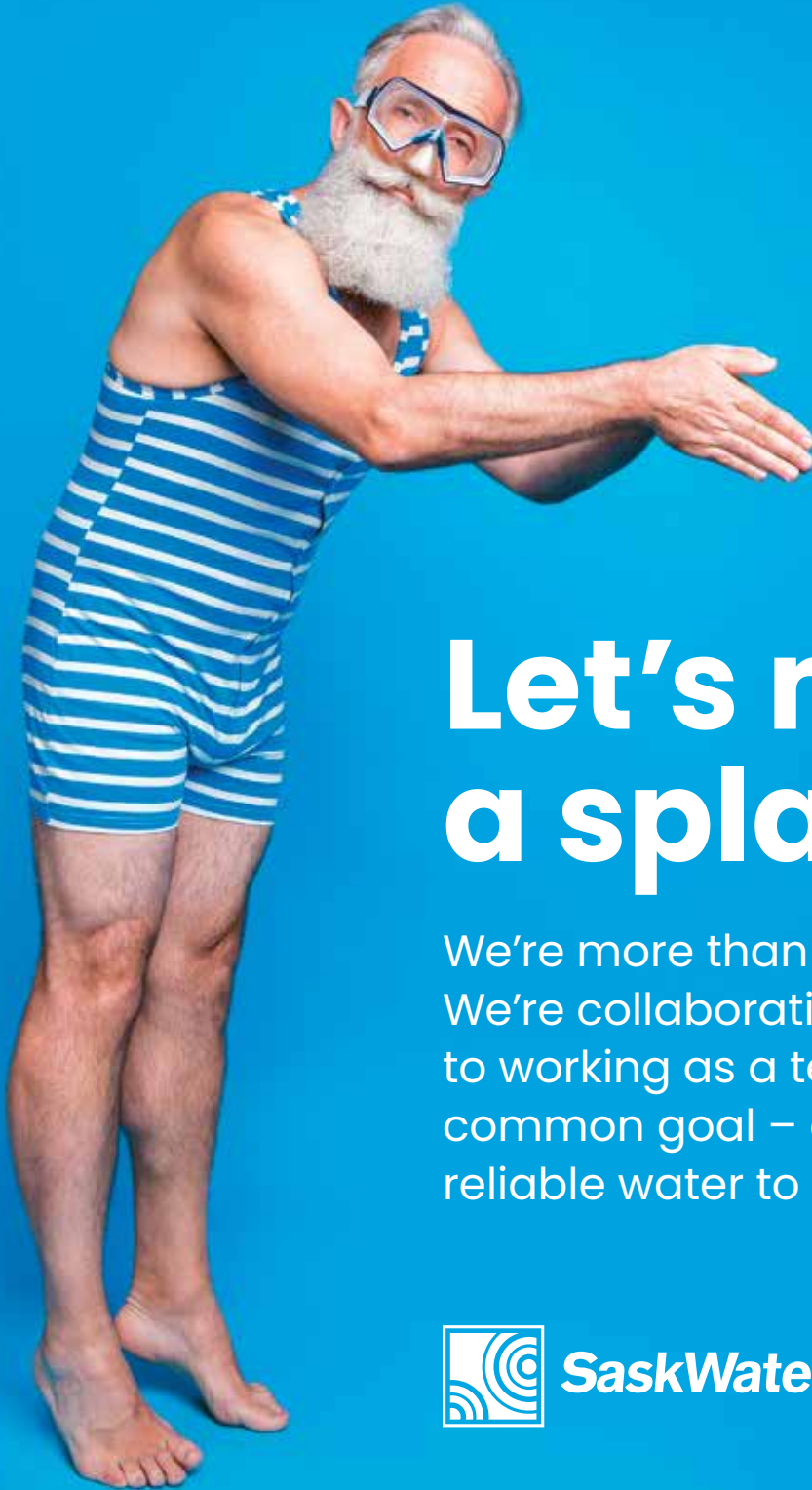
I also hope the SARM team remains grounded in its Culture Charter of believing people are coming from the best possible place, believing in holding

themselves accountable, believing in collaboration and innovation, continuing to have the courage to change, as well as continuing to admit when they are wrong.

I am confident that our team is filled with strong, capable leaders and truly believe the timing could not be better for transition. As they say, if you're not changing, you're getting stagnant. We have learned not to be afraid to embrace change.

We are also in a fortunate position as an association, thanks to the hard work of those who came before us. I know that no one on the SARM team takes that for granted and never has. Just a few final thoughts: Stay true to your rural roots, and always have each other's backs.

"My hope for SARM is that it continues to lead with courage and innovation."



Let's make a splash.

We're more than pipes and meters. We're collaborative and committed to working as a team towards a common goal – delivering safe and reliable water to your community.



SaskWater

Find the perfect partner both in and out of the water.

Visit: saskwater.com/water-and-wastewater-system





GIFS: ACCELERATING INNOVATION FOR SAFE AND SUSTAINABLE FOOD PRODUCTION FROM SASKATCHEWAN TO THE WORLD

A colony picker at GIFS

Saskatchewan is a global leader in agriculture and in the sustainable production of safe and nutritious food. Canada's breadbasket, the province contains over 40 per cent of the country's arable land, the second largest beef cattle herd and about 30 per cent of its agriculture biotechnology industry.

Located within this thriving innovation ecosystem is the Global Institute for Food Security (GIFS) at the University of Saskatchewan (USask). GIFS was established in 2012 to help build a food-secure world from Saskatchewan out.

Partnerships, people and technology to accelerate innovation

An innovation catalyst and a connector, GIFS works with partners across the agriculture value chain to accelerate and

scale up research and deliver innovation to market.

A 2023 report by Farm Credit Canada (FCC) identified a \$30 billion opportunity over 10 years to rekindle Canada's agriculture productivity growth, and highlights innovation and technology as a pathway to achieving this.

GIFS is tackling this challenge head on in a partnership with FCC. Through the FCC Accelerated Breeding Program at GIFS, the institute is combining technologies such as genomic selection, speed breeding, bioinformatics and

"Our vision is a world where everyone has access to safe and nutritious food," said Steve Webb (PhD), GIFS' chief executive officer. "While a bold vision, we are driven by our Mission to work with partners to discover, develop and deliver innovative solutions for the production of globally sustainable food."



Aren Boulet, GIFS Bioinformatics Specialist

computer simulation to increase the rate of genetic gain for crop and livestock breeding programs, delivering new products into the hands of producers faster and improving agronomics, quality and disease resistant traits.

Its accelerated breeding program is supported by a robust array of state-of-the-art technology platforms, including its Data Management and Analytics (DMA) platform which underpins all the work at GIFS.

“Agriculture is data-driven, including producers in the field relying on the latest technologies to tell them precisely where to apply inputs, as well as breeders looking to develop the next hybrid or variety of crop or livestock” said Webb.

Understanding the huge significance of data to innovation, DMA enables the development, deployment and use of digital technologies and machine

learning to improve the management, analysis and application of R&D data - helping to design innovations that advance food security. The DMA team is made up of experts skilled in software engineering, biochemistry, bioinformatics, quantitative genetics and other valuable areas.

GIFS’ Omics and Precision Analytics Platform (OPAL) provides world-class genomics, transcriptomics and bioinformatics services to researchers and organizations across diverse sectors, including those in agri-food and other fields of research and discovery.

Its team of experts and its sequencing technology are enabling researchers in agriculture and other disciplines to more quickly and cost effectively explore the genomes of plants, animals and microbes.

“OPAL’s capacity and complete suite of long- and short-read DNA sequencing technology is unique in Canada and comparable to large national laboratories in the United States,” said Webb. “With these tools,



Steven Webb (PhD), GIFS CEO

our team of very skilled experts - our most important resource - is providing high-quality data to help advance the discovery, development and delivery of innovations within agri-food and other industries in Saskatchewan and beyond.”

Alongside OPAL, GIFS is also building its Engineering Biology platform which combines biology, lab automation and machine learning to rapidly scale up the design and production of more nutritious and sustainable crops and food products for Canada’s agri-food sector.



GIFS’ Omics and Precision Analytics Laboratory (OPAL)

“GIFS’ Engineering Biology platform will be the only one in Canada dedicated to agriculture and food,” said Webb. “It’s an exploding new field that integrates genomics and molecular biology with high-performance computing, automation and artificial intelligence – potentially transforming what we eat, medicines we take and fuels we use.”

Sustainable Saskatchewan Agriculture

Innovation for economically, environmentally and socially sustainable food production is not just a core commitment of GIFS, but a key attribute of Saskatchewan agriculture that has contributed to remarkable results.

In 2022, GIFS commissioned studies to examine the carbon footprint of agricultural production in Saskatchewan, Western Canada and Canada - and compared those results to some of our closest competitors across the world.

The comprehensive carbon life cycle analysis examined the greenhouse gas emissions of five key Canadian crops – canola, non-durum wheat, field peas, durum wheat and lentils. The carbon life cycle analysis also considered and reviewed important data about the ability of the agricultural landscape to support soil-based carbon sequestration. It showed Saskatchewan has the smallest carbon footprint across all crop types and regions studied – when soil carbon sequestration is accounted for.

The results demonstrate that Canadian producers, particularly in Saskatchewan and Western Canada, are producing some of the least carbon-intensive crops in the world. This is driven by the widespread adoption of various



L-R: GIFS CEO Steven Webb; FCC President and CEO Justine Hendricks; GIFS Board Chair Alanna Koch

innovations and sustainable farming practices, including:

- **No and minimal till farming.**
- **The adoption of herbicide-tolerant canola.**
- **A robust three-crop rotation system that includes small grain cereals, oilseeds and pulses.**
- **The production of nitrogen-fixing pulse crops, with Saskatchewan being Canada’s leader in the production and research of pulses, including lentils, dry peas and chickpeas.**
- **Protecting the soil surface with crop residue that traps snow.**

In addition, innovations on the rise, such as the variable-rate application of fertilizer, enhance sustainable production.

“While these results are remarkable, there is always room for growth, to scale sustainable farming practices even further and to tailor them to regions,”

said Webb. “Our regulatory landscape should recognize differences at the regional level. We hope that the insights gleaned from this study will inform science-based decisions at the national and international level for Canadian agriculture and the producers involved.”

Innovation. Collaboration. Sustainability. These all underscore the essence of GIFS’ mission, and the strengths of Saskatchewan’s thriving agri-food ecosystem and other partners are helping to support the delivery of solutions for the production of sustainable food, not just for Canada but also the world.



Partner with GIFS:

Reach out to us at partnerwithus@gifs.ca to learn how we can work together.

ASKING QUESTIONS & WELCOMING CHANGE



**BY AMANDA BAUMGARTNER,
DIVISION 1 DIRECTOR, RMAA**

Municipal elections are underway across the province, and for many, the faces around the council table are about to change.

Change is hard, and most of us struggle with it. Especially in rural Saskatchewan, many decisions are made based on the 'way we have always done it'. In fact, there are lots of times when no one is quite sure why anymore, but we don't often stop long enough to think about that.

When I made the move from an urban municipality to the Rural Municipality of Golden West, I often asked the administrator I was taking over from 'Why?'. It wasn't a judgement question, but rather just trying to better understand the reasoning behind how we operated. Sometimes, there were

perfect examples of exactly why the current policy or procedure was in place, often from a lesson hard learned. Other times, it was simply the way it always had been, and no other alternatives or options were even looked at anymore.

I am going through the learning curve again with the RMAA Board. As a member newly elected in May, I have many questions as I try to understand why and how the board and sub-committees operate. There is a lot to learn, and as an elected member, you always want to do well for the people you represent. While I am eager to share my opinions and observations, I feel obligated to learn some of the 'whys' first to better understand the organization's structure and mandate.

I expect incoming council members will pose that same question. There is a lot to learn about municipal policy and operation, and everyone comes on board with new ideas. Being able to discuss the 'why' behind decisions is as important as the decisions themselves. It may be that multiple options were exhausted before finally finding a solution, or it may be that cost has always been prohibitive of trying something different.

A change in council is a great time to really look at the decisions being made and open our minds to a new way of looking at an old problem.

Each person comes to the council table with a different experience and outlook on things, and those differences are what makes for great discussion and debate. Giving everyone the opportunity to share their view and opinion is the only way to truly understand the diverse thoughts had by the many ratepayers throughout the RM - and after all, isn't that what councils are elected for?

I encourage all council members, new and seasoned, to really think about the issues being dealt with, and whether change might be the right answer to the question. The old way may be working, but is it still the best way? Is there a different option to fix that old road, a new product to try, an attachment for equipment that would save time and money, or maybe software that will help administration juggle their many duties?

Sometimes, we all get into that easy routine and change definitely takes more work, but maybe the idea posed by the new face at the table is exactly what is needed.

COLLABORATION RMAA & SARM WORKING TOGETHER



**BY SHEILA KEISIG, RMAA PRESIDENT
& SARM EX-OFFICIO DIRECTOR**



The collaboration of work that SARM and the Rural Municipal Administrators' Association (RMAA) do surpasses most professional association partnerships. Not only do we sit at each others' board tables, providing knowledge and expertise, but we also work together on many projects, always keeping in mind the best outcome for all rural municipalities (RMs).

Here are just a few examples of projects we collaborate on:

- The Municipal Leadership Development Program (MLDP) Modules - an excellent foundation for building skills and processes used within a municipality, useful for both council and administrators

- Municipal Administrator Internship Program (MAIP) - pairing administrative interns with RMs for their mentorship training, while providing supports for the mentoring administrator
- Rural Board of Examiners - SARM's Vice President and RMAA's Vice President sit on this board together, ensuring all active administrators are properly certified

THE VALUE OF SARM CONVENTIONS

While there are plenty of avenues for council and administrators to learn new things, never discount the value of SARM conventions - both midterm and annual. SARM gathers many interesting and pertinent topics to learn from (and

enjoy!!), and new ideas to take home to your piece of this great province. While the workshops and panel discussions provided throughout the conventions are informative and educational, I find the networking aspect truly invaluable. Being able to chat with like-minded folks about an issue your RM is dealing with either leaves you thinking, "Thanks, that's a great idea, I'll try that." or "Oh, wow...my issue isn't as big as I thought it was!". Talking with peers really puts a perspective on things, and how you can help your own municipalities. SARM also provides many opportunities during conventions for engagement in many aspects of rural government. I hope each of you - council and administrators - never stop learning! You can always find something new that is useful for your RM and ratepayers when you keep



an open mind and think outside the box. SARM conventions are also a great way for administrators to receive a portion of their mandatory professional development points to maintain certification.

CHANGES AT SARM

Reflecting on the past few months as a SARM Board Member, I am amazed each day at the level of professionalism and expertise that sits around the table. As council members and administrators, you should know you are being heard and represented well by this board. They are there to advocate for your RM's best interests.

On another note, the staff at SARM are incredibly hard working, knowledgeable, and what I like to say, "the best of the best". That entire building holds so many

resources and is a wealth of knowledge. They are always ready to chat to any of the members about questions and concerns you may have on different topics within your municipal work.

I would like to send out a heartfelt thank you to past President Ray Orb. I have worked with Ray on the RMAA and SARM Boards, and he truly is an amazing leader - a true champion for rural Saskatchewan, and all SARM members. Also, a big thank you to Jay Meyer for being a great leader and voice for rural Saskatchewan. I will miss seeing you at our conventions and meetings but look forward to seeing what your next chapter brings. I am looking forward to working with Laurel Feltn, as she steps into the Executive Director role. A job she will no doubt be amazing at as well!

ADMINISTRATORS - A GREAT RESOURCE

With this fall's municipal elections, we will see retirements, new councillors, and possibly new dynamics for council to work with. Please don't ever hesitate to ask your administrator a question - be it small or huge - we love talking about our job and will get you the answer as quick as possible! I wish to thank all of you for your service to your RMs and commend you for your commitment to your communities and rural Saskatchewan.

With that, I will leave off with a thought that is very special to me:

"LIFE IS TOO SHORT TO DO WHAT YOU DON'T ENJOY".

Meet the New Crime Stoppers Coordinator



SGT. JAMES (JIM) FLYNN

Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers welcomes Sgt. James (Jim) Flynn as the new Police Coordinator. Originally from the community of Placentia on the southeast coast of Newfoundland, he joined the RCMP in September of 2004. He graduated from Depot in March of 2005 and then was posted to the rural Nova Scotian community of Musquodoboit Harbour. While posted there, he came to understand firsthand the complexities of rural crime and the need for the community to be involved. Understanding that youth were a key component in various criminal activities, he fostered relationships with local youth and committees and was able to achieve success in reducing drug and crime in the area.

In late 2011, Sgt. Flynn transferred to Cole Harbour, NS. In his role as senior constable, he became the supervisor of his watch responding to calls for service

in communities with high crime rates and dealing with prolific offenders.

In 2015, he was promoted to the rank of Corporal and transferred to Depot Division as a facilitator in Applied Police Science (APS). In this capacity, he was responsible for teaching cadets the fundamentals of policing which included the Criminal Code, policy and procedure, investigations, scenarios and testing. It was also here that he ensured that cadets understood the role they played in their community and the importance of having an open mind to change. While in APS, Sgt. Flynn was designated a Team Lead and acted in the Training Coordinators role several times. He mentored several new facilitators and graduated nine Troops (32 cadets).

In 2020, he transferred to the Departmental Security Section Risk Unit where he was responsible for and completed complex investigations related to applicants and employees seeking or in possession of RCMP security clearances. While there, he acted in the Risk Manager's role and ran the unit for eight months.

In October 2021, he was promoted to the rank of Sgt. and was transferred to Morse as the Detachment Commander. During his time there, Sgt. Flynn worked proactively with his communities, came to understand the concerns of the RMs he policed, the challenges of policing in rural Saskatchewan, the effects of

rural crime and the importance of communication and service delivery to the residents.

In July of 2024, Sgt. Flynn transferred to Crime Stoppers as the Police Coordinator. His portfolio also encompasses the Rural Crime Watch and Citizens on Patrol programs, which seek to promote crime prevention and community safety.

Sgt. Flynn currently resides in Regina with his wife Heather and his two sons Keegan and Nicholas. "I look forward to the challenges of this position and assisting our rural communities. Though we will never eliminate it, through proactive engagement, partnerships and open dialogue we can collectively work to reduce criminal activity in rural Saskatchewan."

Sgt. Flynn can be reached via email at admin@saskcrimestoppers.com or you can visit our website www.saskcrimestoppers.com for more program information.



Reducing crime in our communities is everyone's responsibility.



Lieutenant Governor's Award for Outstanding Service to Rural Saskatchewan

Awarded to Reeves, Councillors, or Administrators (active or retired) for their lifetime contribution to rural Saskatchewan.

2025 Nomination Period: NOV 1, 2024 - JAN 31, 2025

Candidates must be nominated by an RM, with council's approval, and administrator's sign-off.

The selection committee reviews all nominations and selects one individual who has not yet been formally recognized and includes representatives from:

- Lieutenant's Governor's Office of Saskatchewan
- Ministry of Government Relations
- Rural Municipal Administrators' Association
- Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities

The award will be presented to the successful candidate at the Opening Ceremonies of the SARM Annual Convention. This forum provides an excellent opportunity to publicly recognize the recipient of this prestigious award.



Visit the SARM website for more information and to access the nomination form.

sarm.ca/events/awards-and-recognition

For questions or to submit nominations, contact:
Kathleen Israel, Committee Secretary
executivecoordinator@sarm.ca or **306.761.3731**

WORLD'S #1 BACKHOE

Over 750,000 sold!



Unique machines with endless possibilities.

JCB and Westcon work hard to make sure you don't have to.

Innovative features and exceptional safety design that will transform your project parameters.

Check out our full line of machinery; guaranteed to handle whatever business you throw at them.

SALES, SERVICE, PARTS & RENTALS

WESTCON



SASKATCHEWAN

3530 Idylwyld Dr.
Saskatoon, SK
1-877-329-0375

620 N Service Rd.
Emerald Park, SK
1-888-777-5438

MANITOBA

370 Keewatin St.
Winnipeg, NB
1-800-453-2435

WWW.WESTCONEQUIP.CA
Email: bwright@westconequip.ca

HOW THE RURAL ROAD CLASSIFICATION COMMITTEE CAN HELP RURAL MUNICIPALITIES NOW AND INTO THE FUTURE



**BY GAYLENE MELLON,
TRANSPORTATION
INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM
ADMINISTRATOR, SARM**

IMPORTANCE OF RURAL ROAD CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM (RRCS)

The RRCS is the only unified Rural Road Classification System in the province. It is crucial for various road policies and is part of the Municipal Revenue Sharing program. Keeping the system up to date reflects the current infrastructure conditions for policy, programming, and

operational purposes, as well as efficient traffic movement throughout the province.

Established in 2002, the Rural Road Classification Committee (RRCC) is a collaborative effort of SARM, SUMA, the Ministry of Government Relations (GR) (formerly the Ministry of Municipal Affairs), and the Ministry of Highways (MoH) (formerly the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure). The committee is comprised of both voting and non-voting members from each of these organizations.

The work of the RRCC is to establish an integrated RRCS determined by each road's functions, using a consistent set of criteria.

Voting Members:

- Ministry of Highways (3)
(Including Chair)
- SARM Board Members (2)
- SARM Executive Director (1)

- SUMA Representative (1)
- Ministry of Government Relations Representative (1)

Non-Voting Members:

- Members of the Rural Road Classification Technical Sub-Committee
- SARM Administrative Assistant (1)

The RRCC Sub-Committee, which includes SARM's Transportation Infrastructure Program Administrator and a Senior Policy Analyst from MoH, meets twice a year to discuss submitted applications and make recommendations. The full committee meets annually in December to review RRCS criteria and unique reclassification requests. Recommendations are reviewed and outcome letters are sent in January to the rural municipalities (RMs) that applied for changes.



OIL AND GAS TAX ARREARS?

Gregory Law office collection on contingency basis.
 No fee unless we recover. Some limitations apply.
 Contact us for a no obligation consultation.



**Gregory
Law Office**

Russell Gregory p. (306) 236-1973
 e. rqlaw@outlook.com

IMPORTANT FACTORS RMS SHOULD CONSIDER WHEN APPLYING FOR CHANGES

When applying for changes, RMs should consider several key factors. First, road upgrades or weight classifications made by the RM do not alter the assigned road classification. RMs can use appropriate signage to route traffic appropriately and effectively. The goal of road classifications is to maintain continuity and connectivity across the province. This system is designed to facilitate the movement of traffic across Saskatchewan's extensive network of 190,000 kilometres of rural roads, which includes 26,000 kilometres of provincial highways and 164,000 kilometres of rural municipal roads. Ultimately, the classification system prioritizes efficiency and safety by ensuring roads are designated and operated according to their intended purposes.

RMS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR MANY KILOMETRES OF ROADS

As of February 2024, the distribution of municipal roads by class is as follows:

Road Class	Kilometers
Class 2	25.50
Class 3	124.08

Class 4	12,468.85
Class 5	18,794.85
Class 6	64,553.90
Class 7	67,467.12
Total	163,434.30

REVENUE SHARING IMPACT

The Government of Saskatchewan uses these details as part of the formula for funding. Since rural road classifications affect the Municipal Revenue Sharing formula, it is essential to notify SARM of any changes in road use, whether upgrades or downgrades, to ensure accurate funding.

UPDATED CLASSIFICATION CRITERIA HIGHLIGHTS

This brief overview outlines the basic information of each road classification.

- **Class 1:** Links all cities to major cities (Regina and Saskatoon) using existing infrastructure.
- **Class 2:** Links towns/northern communities/Indian reserves with populations > 1,000 to larger towns/cities.
- **Class 3:** Links to Manitoba Secondary Arterial Highways and other specific facilities.

- **Class 4:** Links smaller towns/communities and provides access to significant provincial/regional parks.
- **Class 5:** Provides access to industrial and agricultural facilities with specific characteristics.
- **Class 6:** Provides access to individual residences and small facilities.
- **Class 7:** Provides access to the land.

The most common requests are for changes to Class 6 and 7 roads due to community changes such as new developments and economic generators being built.

HOW TO REQUEST A CHANGE

Applications can be made by RMs by using the following link: <https://fs4.formsite.com/SARM/RRCC/index> or scanning the QR code below. More detailed information can be found on the road classification categories within the link provided. Questions can be directed to the Transportation Infrastructure Program Administrator.



Let's work together to maintain a seamless and efficient transportation network across Saskatchewan.



CRIME RATES CONTINUING TO INCREASE ACROSS SASKATCHEWAN RCMP JURISDICTION

Telling the Saskatchewan RCMP story means sharing the successes and being transparent about existing policing challenges. As Saskatchewan's provincial police service, RCMP officers police 46% of Saskatchewan's population; however, the RCMP is responding to and investigating 60% of the total Criminal Code violations in the province.

In July, Assistant Commissioner Rhonda Blackmore, Commanding Officer for the Saskatchewan RCMP, shared the reality that crime rates have remained high and continue to increase across Saskatchewan RCMP jurisdiction.

THE COMPLEXITIES OF POLICING

"It's important to understand the complexities of policing, evolving criminal activity, and resourcing realities we are faced with on a daily basis," A/Commr. Blackmore shared. "We want the public to know that in the last 10 years, in Saskatchewan RCMP jurisdiction, the number of homicide victims increased by 275%, the number

of violent firearm offences increased by 271%, the number of assaults on our RCMP officers increased by 79%, and in 2023 65% of the total violent crime occurred in Saskatchewan RCMP jurisdiction."

The number of calls for service are also increasing. In 2023 the Saskatchewan RCMP received 352,663 calls for service - nearly 100,000 more than in 2015. Priority 1 calls usually involve a reported loss of life or a need for police to prevent loss of life. Since 2020, there've been more than 5,000 priority 1 calls per year - the equivalent of 15 per day, every day of the year.

Reports of violent crime offences have increased 46% in the last 10 years and from 2014 to 2023, Assault with a



were on conditions, bail, parole, or probation at the time the homicide was committed.

Saskatchewan RCMP officers are investigating almost 12,000 more property crimes than they were 10 years ago. Of the total property crime in 2023, Mischief offences account for 58% and Theft offences accounted for 21% in Saskatchewan RCMP jurisdiction.

MODERNIZING POLICING

Adjustments are necessary to manage the increasing crime, workload, and complexity of duties. This includes temporarily amalgamated detachments or changing to a drive-in or fly-in model. Modern tools are used to support front-line officers. This includes the use of unmanned aerial vehicles - commonly referred to as drones - to help locate missing or wanted people. Specialized supports like Major Crimes, Saskatchewan Enforcement Response Teams, Critical Incident Response Team, among others, help bolster the front line, even if the public doesn't see them every day.

The commitment by the Provincial Government in 2024 to fund the Saskatchewan RCMP's full complement of 1,047 RCMP police officers was a welcomed assurance and sign of continued support.

THE WAY FORWARD

"I want to be clear - law enforcement is only one part of the solution for decreasing crime," said A/Commr. Blackmore. "Social issues like substance addiction, gangs, and absence of community resources are some of the root causes of crime. These issues are complex and take a concerted,



multi-agency response. We are dedicated to continuing to work with our partner agencies to ensure we can support and contribute to positive change in Saskatchewan."

Every community is unique and requires different policing needs. RCMP commanders and local leadership must collaborate to truly understand the challenges a community is faced with and identify paths forward for change to occur.

"Invite your local RCMP to the feasts, community events, luncheons, celebrations, and more," encourages A/Commr. Blackmore. "Saskatchewan is a fantastic place to be and absolutely wonderful people live here. The relationships our front-line police officers and employees have with the communities they serve are absolutely essential to policing success. It's through these connections that stories are shared, intelligence is gathered, and vital relationships are built that can ultimately help counter criminal activity."

To read the full crime statistics report, visit the Saskatchewan RCMP website and click on "Saskatchewan RCMP 2023 crime statistics and yearly trends" on the home page.

Weapon or Causing Bodily Harm offences have increased 86% across Saskatchewan RCMP jurisdiction.

In 2023, over half of the violent crime in Saskatchewan RCMP jurisdiction was attributed to Intimate Partner and Family Violence. In summer, 2020, there was a spike in the number of victims of intimate partner and family violence based on reports made to the Saskatchewan RCMP. Since then, the average number of victims per month has been higher than before the pandemic.

Over the last 25 years, 51% of the total provincial homicides occurred in Saskatchewan RCMP jurisdiction and from 2014 to 2023, there've been 272 victims of homicide. From 2019 to 2023, 44% of people charged with homicide



MINISTER'S MESSAGE

BY THE HONOURABLE JEREMY COCKRILL,
MINISTER OF EDUCATION



This is an exciting and innovative time for the Kindergarten to Grade 12 education system in Saskatchewan.

Saskatchewan's education sector is the foundation to contributing the goals of *Saskatchewan's Growth Plan - The Next Decade of Growth 2020-2030* and securing a better quality of life for Saskatchewan people. The Provincial Education Plan actions build resiliency in students and the foundational skills, knowledge and competencies they will need for their future.

Given Saskatchewan's growing population and the need for equitable access to flexible learning options, the Government of Saskatchewan created the Saskatchewan Distance Learning Centre (Sask DLC). Through Sask DLC, students, no matter where they live in our great province, have access to consistent and high-quality online learning options. They provide students the flexibility to learn online or choose to add to their in-class learning with electives that allow them to explore their interests or future career paths.

Sask DLC began welcoming students in the 2023-24 school year. In their first year, they supported approximately 3,300



full-time online students and 5,400 part-time students primarily in Grades 10-12, taking one or more online courses.

Sask DLC is dedicated to supporting students from Kindergarten to career, with an emphasis to ensure students are prepared and able to make informed decisions about their futures past high school. To support this, Sask DLC is continually working with post-secondary and industry partners to expand student learning opportunities and to support the needs of our growing province's labour needs.

This past June, Sask DLC announced a new partnership with Teine Energy to develop new oil and gas high school courses with work placements at the 20 and 30 level. Students will have the

opportunity to learn about the importance of the oil and gas industry while gaining knowledge about career opportunities in an industry that continues to thrive. Students will take online theory and participate in work placements, giving them a hands-on learning experience while exploring potential career paths. *Oil and Gas 20* will be available to students starting in Semester 2 of the 2024-25 school year, followed by *Oil and Gas 30* starting next school year.



In August, Sask DLC announced a partnership with SaskPower to provide high school students and adults online 4th- and 5th- class power engineering courses with opportunities to gain the steam lab time requirements for their certification. This program introduces students to this in-demand career that is key to supporting our province's energy grid, the development of heavy industry, and the operations of boilers used in schools, businesses and other buildings. Upon completion of the program and certification exams, students can enter directly into the work force or continue with more training in post-secondary to earn higher classifications in the field.

Sask DLC has also recently partnered with Tourism Saskatchewan to support students to explore future career opportunities in the tourism industry. Through work placements, students will

be able to learn more about vital service industries in their home communities. Through the online theory portion of the course, students will learn about quality customer service, event organization, community engagement and potential career paths as part of our province's growing tourist industry. Tourism businesses are encouraged to get involved by hosting a student 50-hour work placement and providing them with an opportunity to learn about the many rewarding careers in tourism.

These new partnerships add to the existing opportunities students have through online learning at Sask DLC to get hands-on work experience in the mechanical & automotive, autobody, construction & carpentry, welding, electrical, agriculture equipment technician, parts technician and precision agriculture courses.

All Sask DLC high school courses are available to full-time online students, as well as high school students attending local schools throughout the province to supplement their in-person learning and graduation plans.

Ensuring students across the province have access to high-quality learning opportunities will help equip the next generation of Saskatchewan citizens with the knowledge and skills they need to reach their full potential.



**MORE
INFO ON THE
PROVINCIAL
EDUCATION
PLAN**



Tackle problem field margins. Seed forages this fall.

Seeding perennial forages in annual crop margins is a proven strategy to address weeds and salinity.

DUC's Fall Dormant Seeding Program is making it easier to get forage seed in the ground now, while access is good and soil moisture will only get better.

**Take advantage of free custom seeding.
Or a per acre payment from DUC!***



Contact us to learn more.
du_regina@ducks.ca
1-866-252-3825



**Some exceptions apply.*

5 Common Mistakes Newly Elected Officials Make

and How Understanding *The Municipalities Act* Can Help Prevent Them

Five common mistakes that newly elected officials can make include:

- 1 **Lack of Proper Orientation:** It's important for newly elected officials to fully grasp the scope of their roles and responsibilities, as each council operates differently. Misunderstandings about roles can lead to conflict, especially when newly elected officials unintentionally overstep boundaries.
- 2 **Personal Agendas:** Newly elected officials elected with a focus on a single issue may bring personal matters to the council table, which can create challenges.
- 3 **Unrealistic Promises:** Newly elected officials may face difficulties when they make promises that they cannot fulfill, as decisions are made collectively by the entire council. Promising specific actions outside the council process can lead to conflict if those actions are not approved, often resulting in tension at the council table.
- 4 **Overstepping Authority:** Understanding the difference between the role of councillor or reeve and that of the administrator is very important.
- 5 **Expecting Immediate Results:** In the municipal world, processes often take time due to the need to follow current policies as well as for legislative approvals. This can sometimes lead to frustration.

How can these mistakes be prevented?

Importance of Understanding

The Municipalities Act:

The provincial government delegates certain powers to municipalities through various pieces of legislation. The most significant piece of legislation is *The Municipalities Act*. Knowing and understanding *The Municipalities Act* is critical for elected officials because it forms the legal foundation upon which all municipal governance and administration are based. The legislation outlines the roles, responsibilities, powers, and limitations of municipal councils and officials. It is important for elected officials to understand the bounds of their authority. An elected official who is well-versed in *The Municipalities Act* is better equipped to:

- **Uphold Good Governance:** By adhering to the principles and guidelines within *The Act*, elected officials can promote transparency, accountability, and fairness in their governance practices, which are essential for maintaining public trust.
- **Make Effective Decisions:** Familiarity with *The Act* enables officials to make informed decisions that align with the legal and regulatory framework, thus fostering effective and sustainable municipal governance.
- **Ensure Legal Compliance:** *The Act* provides the statutory framework that governs municipal operations. Understanding it helps officials ensure that the decisions and actions of the municipality comply with provincial laws, thereby reducing the risk of legal challenges or liabilities.

For newly elected officials, learning *The Municipalities Act* is crucial because it serves as the foundational knowledge needed to perform their duties effectively. This learning is important because:

- **Smooth Transition into Office:** New officials often face a steep learning curve. Early familiarity with *The Act* accelerates their understanding of municipal operations, allowing them to contribute meaningfully from the onset. *The Act* clarifies what a council is responsible for and what administrators are responsible for, having that clarity early on can prevent misunderstandings from occurring.



Municipal Leadership
Development Program

- **Preventing Missteps:** Without a thorough understanding of *The Act*, new officials may inadvertently make decisions or take actions that are not legally permissible, potentially leading to conflicts, inefficiencies, or legal disputes.
- **Empowerment Through Knowledge:** Understanding *The Act* empowers new officials to ask the right questions, challenge existing practices when necessary, and bring fresh perspectives to the council, all while staying within the bounds of the law.

To conclude, *The Municipalities Act* and the regulations made thereunder are the foundations of municipal governance in Saskatchewan. Understanding the legislation will assist council in making legally sound decisions, governing effectively, and conducting meetings in a manner that upholds the integrity and functionality of the municipal government.

To learn about *The Municipalities Act* and other important topics of interest for municipal elected officials the **2024 Municipal Leaders' Roles and Responsibilities** seminar will be held virtually over Microsoft Teams. Participants will hear about *The Municipalities Act*, the importance of open and transparent government, conflict of interest, code of ethics, decision making, council procedures, the rights and obligations of elected officials, administrators, and rate payers, and procurement best practices. Registration is now open for the 2024 Municipal Leaders' Roles and Responsibilities seminar.

Date: December 5, 2024.

Those attending this seminar will be given credit for MLDP Module 1. The MLRR seminar is 1 of 6 modules in the Municipal Leadership Development Program (MLDP) that are developed exclusively for elected and appointed municipal leaders in Saskatchewan. MLDP modules target specific issues of importance to rural, urban, and northern municipalities.

For more information and to register please visit: <https://mldp.ca/>.

I'm a licensed firearms owner.

– Noland Henderson, Senator, Montreal Lake, Saskatchewan

A Possession and Acquisition Licence (PAL) is required to purchase firearms and ammunition in Saskatchewan.



Scan to learn more about responsible firearms ownership in Saskatchewan.



Secure Firearms. Safe Communities.

saskatchewan.ca/firearms

Saskatchewan



Timely delivery of maintenance was a major priority for the Agency in 2024, and SAMA delivered maintenance on time to 86.7% of our client municipalities.

In 2024, SAMA is working on 28,000 agricultural property re-inspections in 17 RMs, as well as 25,200 residential/resort property reviews and 18,400 commercial, industrial, and industrial flowline property reviews in both rural and urban municipalities. As of October 10th, approximately 78,600 property reviews for maintenance and re-inspections have been completed.

2025 is a revaluation year. Values will be updated to reflect a new valuation base date of January 1, 2023. SAMA has been delivering preliminary values packages for the upcoming revaluation. Once you receive your package, please take the time to review the information and contact SAMA with any questions or concerns regarding the 2025 revaluation.

Looking ahead, municipalities can sign in to MySAMA to submit maintenance requests for 2025 rolls. To sign up for MySAMA, please contact your local SAMA office.

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

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



HIGHWAY HOTLINE INTRODUCES NEW CONDITION TERMINOLOGY



**BY THE SASKATCHEWAN
MINISTRY OF HIGHWAYS**

Saskatchewan's Highway Hotline has updated the terminology it uses to describe winter driving conditions.

The new terminology offers a clearer and concise message that will help drivers make decisions about winter travel. The updated language is also more consistent with neighbouring provinces, which will make using the Hotline easier for people travelling across western Canada.

The Highway Hotline is used millions of times throughout the year to help travellers plan ahead. These changes will help drivers make an informed decision while having better consistency with our neighbouring provinces and national standards.



The new primary conditions include:

- **Bare**
Road appears black, means all wheels of a passenger vehicle are on a bare surface.
- **Partly Covered**
Road appears yellow, means two wheels of a passenger vehicle are on a snow or ice-covered surface.
- **Covered**
Road appears pink, means all wheels of the vehicle are on snow or ice.
- **Travel Not Recommended**
Road appears blue, means that visibility is less than 250 metres and could become impassable.
- **Closed**
Road appears red, means the highway is impassable.



The colour white was removed because it did not show up well on digital maps. The maps will continue to indicate poor visibility using a dotted line.

During winter driving season, road conditions are updated a minimum of four times daily or whenever there are known changes that affect drivers.

The Highway Hotline has existed for more than 50 years. It provides information on highway conditions, road closures, construction zones, ferries and border crossings. As of February 2024, it now allows users to track the progress of plows involved in snow removal and ice treatment. This real-time information helps drivers make informed decisions to protect their safety.

The Highway Hotline can be accessed at hotline.gov.sk.ca with the new terminology at hotline.gov.sk.ca/about/terminology

Drivers are also reminded to stay back and stay safe near snowplows, which create a mini blizzard. For the safety of all drivers and the safety of equipment operators, it is important to be cautious around snowplows, which pull over when safe to do so every 10 to 15 kilometres to let motorists pass.





LIVING WELL IN YOUR COMMUNITY



Older Adults Moving Forward

Saskatchewan Seniors Mechanism (SSM), the provincial organization for 18 member organizations and seven supporter organizations, including SARM, has been working towards its vision of *Quality Life for All Older Adults in Saskatchewan* for over 30 years.

It becomes more and more evident that all communities in Saskatchewan will benefit if their older adult population can choose to live in their home communities as they age. Not only do communities benefit economically, but older adults' contributions as volunteers, mentors, entrepreneurs, caregivers and custodians of wisdom, experience and local history add to the vitality and viability of the community.



An SSM survey of over 2000 older adults in 2019 estimated the financial benefit to Saskatchewan based on older adults' reported volunteer activities. It revealed an almost \$1 billion yearly benefit (calculated on minimum wage!); for example, Volunteering (\$400M); Caregiving (\$25M); Unpaid labour (\$500M).



THE FOLLOWING SSM PROGRAMS/INITIATIVES ARE ALL WORKING TOGETHER TO PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR POSITIVE AGING IN COMMUNITIES, LARGE AND SMALL:



In 2013, SSM took the lead in developing Age-Friendly Saskatchewan. Executive Director Holly Schick proclaimed, "We have the capacity and willingness to be the lead organization, to collaborate with governments and other organizations and to establish Age-Friendly Communities throughout Saskatchewan."

Age-Friendly (AF) is a never-ending journey and so the work continues today. Saskatchewan is still the only jurisdiction in Canada where a Community Based Organization takes the lead on Age-Friendly Communities, with no dedicated AF funding from the province. AF depends on hundreds of volunteers across Saskatchewan. Over 500,000 residents now live in AF communities.

Age-Friendly Communities provide valuable support for not only older



adults, but all ages! They assess the community and note gaps in services, collaborate with municipal governments and develop action plans that have resulted in important achievements in each community. For more information, visit: agefriendlysk.ca



REAL OPTIONS BETTER OUTCOMES LOWER COSTS

HOME SUPPORTS INITIATIVE – LAUNCHED OCTOBER 1, 2021

Real Options -- Develop options for support that are flexible and adjustable as needs change with age. Factors such

as frailty and dementia that compromise independent living must be addressed through changes to lifestyle and provision of accessible, affordable practical services such as housekeeping, home maintenance and personal care needs.

Better Outcomes -- An older adult's well-being should not be viewed solely through a healthcare lens. Well-being includes key needs such as housing, transportation and social inclusion all while maintaining a sense of independence and ability to choose where and how a person lives. Enjoying community image

Lower Costs -- Changes in the way we do things is what older adults want. The great news is that it's also more cost effective. Studies in Canada and the experience of other countries demonstrate again and again that providing quality home support is one-third the cost of annual institutional care.



For more information, visit: skseniorsmechanism.ca/home-supports-initiative



SSM, working closely with the Saskatchewan Health Quality Council, has received a four year grant to establish social prescribing in 14 communities - rural and urban. The first two pilot communities are Shaunavon and Moose Jaw.

Social prescribing is a way for physicians and health care workers to connect patients to a range of nonclinical services in the community to help improve their health and well-being. Social prescribing can help to address underlying causes of issues, as opposed to simply treating the symptoms.

Exact "social prescriptions" are specific to an individual, but typically they include social inclusion, practical home supports, financial and housing advice, as well as activities promoting physical activity and creative self-expression.

The aim is to ensure that older adults can live and thrive in their own homes and communities with access to activities, services and support they need. Social prescribing addresses the social determinants of health and well-being including safety, security, quality of life and an ability to choose how and where to live.

For more information, visit: skseniorsmechanism.ca/social-prescribing

Linda Anderson, SSM Communications & Ageism Awareness Staff



Do you struggle with putting together a tender, RFP, or choosing a procurement strategy?

Are you overwhelmed with the trade regulations?

We can help! Get access to resources and expertise through SARM Procurement Advising Services. During our initial launch there is no fee!

We offer advice on procurement best practices and trade regulation compliance, and provide education on the development of procurement documents.

Procurement Advising Services can be provided by telephone, email, and in person.

To access these services, reach out to SARM's Procurement Advisor at 306-761-3722

6 STEPS to a Successful Procurement

Procurement is the process of acquiring goods and services





Left to right: Directors Cynthia Beck, Cyle Stewart, Sharalee Laventure, and Advisor Dr. Michelle Pavloff.

Missing from the photo: Director Connie Day and Advisory Members: Alecia Weinheimer, Katherine Little, and Morgan Hale .

BRIDGING THE BARRIERS TO SUPPORT PRODUCER HEALTH

**BY CYNTHIA BECK, M.SC.
DIRECTOR, SASKAGMATTERS
MENTAL HEALTH NETWORK
INCORPORATED**

Saskatchewan agriculture producers are all too familiar with the stressors that accompany farming, regardless of production type. Dealing with the day-to-day stressors is typically manageable - until it's not. There are many different factors that impact a person's ability to cope with stress. The more things a person has to deal with, the more difficult it can be to manage. When the stressors pile on top of a person, such as dealing with financial concerns, the weather, too high of workload, and difficult family relationships, the chronic or constant stress can take a toll on a person's health, both mentally and physically.

Agriculture producers are very adept at solving their own problems, being self-reliant is part of the trade. What happens though when a person does not know how to deal with a particular problem, or know where to look for information to figure it out?

Saskatchewan producers report this experience when it comes to figuring out how to deal with stress and mental health challenges. Research conducted with the Saskatchewan agriculture population highlighted that producers are frustrated with trying to find and access mental health supports. Producers report challenges with knowing where to look for supports, and with struggling to find effective care because the professionals they have access to lack an understanding of the agricultural lifestyle (Pavloff et al., 2023). Other reported barriers to accessing mental health supports include financial constraints, long wait times, travel time, demanding work hours, and inflexible schedules or service delivery method on the part of providers (Beck et al., 2024).

SaskAgMatters Mental Health Network Incorporated (SAM) was developed by a team of individuals from the agriculture industry who recognized the need to get mental health services directly to producers. SAM aims to bridge the gap between producers and mental wellness supports by breaking down the barriers identified through the research. Counsellors contracted through SAM have an understanding of the agricultural lifestyle, and many are active producers themselves. To reduce the financial barrier to receiving mental health supports, SAM operates as a non-profit organization through agriculture industry funding and private donations. SAM pays for producers, their family members, or employees to receive six hours of counselling annually at no cost to the producer. The wait time barrier is also reduced as SAM clients are prioritized. The barriers of travel time and travel cost are also reduced as SAM therapists offer a variety of delivery methods, including in person,



Whatever it takes to
BUILD

CASE 621G Wheel Loaders combine productivity, efficiency & performance to help you **GET THE JOB DONE.**



FIND OUT WHAT A CASE WHEEL LOADER CAN DO FOR YOU.

Contact your Redhead Equipment Territory Manager or local Redhead Equipment branch.

AGRICULTURAL | CONSTRUCTION | TRUCKS & TRAILERS
redheadequipment.ca

REDHEAD EQUIPMENT

telephone, or virtual sessions. Certain therapists also offer flexible appointment times to break down the time constraint barrier.

SAM is unique in the fact that proceeds donated go directly to delivering mental health services to Saskatchewan producers, their family members, and their employees. The board of directors and advisory members volunteer their time so producers can receive effective and appropriate mental health supports.

Coping with the stressors of the agricultural lifestyle does not need to be dealt with alone.

If you are a Saskatchewan agriculture producer or their family member, or an employee of a Saskatchewan producer and would like more information on accessing mental health supports, please visit the website www.saskagmatters.ca and look under Services.

If you would like to make a difference to mental health in Saskatchewan

agriculture, please consider donating to the SaskAgMatters Mental Health Network Inc. Information is listed on the website under the Donate page.



LEARN MORE / DONATE

SaskAgMatters Mental Health Network Inc - supporting the people who feed us.

References

Beck, C.D., Peynenburg, V., Patterson, T., Titov, N., Dear, B.F. & Hadjistavropoulos, H.D. (2024). Acceptability and effectiveness study of therapist-assisted internet-delivered cognitive behaviour therapy for agriculture producers. *Internet Interventions*, 35. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.invent.2024.100709>

Pavloff, M., McCutcheon, J. M., Beck, C. D., Laventure, S., Farthing, P., Duff, E., Wasko, K., Szafron, M., Disiewich, K., Entz, F., Heuchert, B., Weinheimer, A., Labrecque, M. E., Labrecque, C. S., Little, K., & Lustig, J. (2024). Cultivating perceptions of farm culture: Perspectives from the Canadian prairies. *Journal of Rural Mental Health*, 48(2), 120-131. <https://doi.org/10.1037/rmh0000243>



MANAGING STRAY ANIMALS UNDER NEW LEGISLATION

Saskatchewan producers are largely respectful and conscientious animal owners. Unfortunately, from time to time, rural municipalities may find themselves dealing with complaints or safety concerns that arise because of animals running at large. Often concerns regarding stray animals can be resolved between neighbours or with informal intervention of a municipality. In other cases, municipalities may be left with no other option but to use the powers granted to them under legislation. In the latter case, municipalities should be aware of the recent legislative amendments that will affect the restraint and impoundment of stray animals.

New legislation on the management of stray animals came into effect on July 1, 2024. Previously, the rules regarding management of stray animals were set out in *The Stray Animals Act* and *The Stray Animals Regulations* (the old legislation). The new provisions governing

stray animals are contained in Part 7 of *The Animal Production Act* (the new Act) and Part 12 of *The Animal Production Regulations* (the new Regulations). This article will highlight some of the changes to the legislation.

ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF THE NEW ACT

Managing stray animal issues can be difficult and logistically complex depending on the location of the animals. Issues may arise that are out of your control. However, there are a few things a municipality can do proactively to ensure they are prepared to respond effectively.

The old legislation authorized council to appoint any person for the purposes of administration and enforcement. The new Act explicitly empowers council to authorize a service provider to provide the services necessary for the purposes

of dealing with strays. Section 7-9 of the new Act requires that a contract be entered into with the service provider and that the contract specify the financial compensation the service provider will receive.

In the absence of a contracted service provider, Section 12-8 of the new Regulations requires council to appoint a municipal employee to act on behalf of the municipality for the purposes of dealing with strays. Further, Section 12-9 of the new Regulations authorizes a municipality to establish a pound and appoint a poundkeeper. The Regulations state that the appointment of the poundkeeper should be confirmed by agreement.

Rural municipalities should review and update, if necessary, any appointments or contracts that exist to support the management of strays. Doing so will remove the need to determine who has authority to act when an issue arises.

Remember that the regime in the new Act and Regulations applies only to those "animals" specified in that Act which includes, but is not limited to, cattle, bison, horses, and sheep. A municipality wishing to regulate an animal not covered by the new Act and Regulations must consider doing so under the authority of *The Municipalities Act*.

Municipalities retain the authority to pass "open herd" bylaws to allow certain animals to run at large.

CHANGES IN PROCESS

Although the process of restraining and impounding stray animals has largely remained the same under the new Act and Regulations, municipalities should be aware that there have been minor changes in process that must be adhered to. For example, the period of restraint has been increased from 12 hours to 24 hours.



When an issue arises, be sure to refer to the updated Saskatchewan Stray Animals Guide and the new Act and Regulations.

FEES

As before, the fees that a municipality can impose upon the owner of stray animals are set out in the new Regulations. The person restraining stray animals can also charge the fees set out in the new Regulations. Previously, the finder and the owner were to agree upon the fees to be paid for the restraint of the animals.

The new fee schedule has been modified to be less rigid. Several categories of fees can now be charged based on the actual costs incurred. An exception to this is the costs for providing care and sustenance to animals, in which case a maximum charge of \$25 per head per day has been set.

FORMS

The old Act required notices, declarations, and other documentation to be on the forms set out in the



Making every drop count

Recovering. Recycling. Reusing

By recycling used oil, filters, antifreeze, their plastic containers and DEF containers, you help keep Saskatchewan's water, land and air clean and safe.

With 37 EcoCentres, nearly 100 drop-off points and over 30 registered collectors province-wide, we have one of the best recycling networks in the country, let's use it!

usedoilrecyclingsk.com Toll free in SK: 1.877.645.7275



Saskatchewan Association for Resource Recovery Corp.



regulations. These legislated forms have been eliminated. However, the Ministry of Agriculture has provided template forms which can be found in the Saskatchewan Stray Animals Guide. These forms can be modified to meet a municipality's needs as long as any requirements in the legislation are met.

RECOVERING UNPAID COSTS

Likely, the most significant change is that municipalities are now authorized, pursuant to Subsection 12-12(2) of the new Regulations, to add unpaid costs to the municipal tax roll of the owner. Alternatively, municipalities retain the authority to maintain an action against the owner to recover any amount owing.


Should one of our members have any questions regarding this amendment, or any other topic, please do not hesitate to contact us at legal@sarm.ca.

THE PLANT HEALTH ACT AND DEREGULATION OF CLUBROOT – HOW WILL IT AFFECT MY RM AND RATEPAYERS?



**BY KATEY MAKOHONIUK,
TECHAG, CCA
PLANT HEALTH TECHNICAL
ADVISOR, SARM DIVISION 4**

In June 2024, *The Plant Health Act* came into force along with the new *Plant Health Act* regulations. At that time, the Provincial Pest Regulatory Specialist, Raul Avila, was interviewed regarding the impact that deregulating clubroot would have for rural municipalities (RMs) in the province.


 **How will clubroot regulations be changing with the repeal and replacement of the Pest Control Act?**

With clubroot no longer considered a declared pest under *The Plant Health Act*, regulatory measures that were previously in place to control clubroot, including specific methods, reporting obligations, and the requirement to sign clubroot management agreements, [have been] lifted.

 **Why was clubroot removed from the Pest Control Act?**

The Ministry of Agriculture conducted a comprehensive analysis on the implications of clubroot and found that producers in the province generally understand disease management and are actively implementing measures such as proper crop rotations, biosecurity procedures, and using clubroot-resistant canola varieties. Based on this analysis and in consultation with stakeholders, it was determined it would be more effective to focus on research, extension, and surveillance efforts for clubroot than for clubroot to continue as a regulated pest.

The Ministry believes that a transparent, consistent, and rapid response, directly involving producers, is more effective for managing clubroot. An integrated management approach, which includes ongoing research, surveillance, and the development of resistant varieties, is deemed more beneficial than regulatory measures. Even though clubroot is deregulated, it is essential to remain vigilant about its presence and potential threats.

 **Will the clubroot bylaws and policies still be valid? Will the clubroot management agreements still be valid?**

Bylaws: Since clubroot is no longer a declared pest under the new *Plant*

Health Act, specific enforcement provisions from the bylaws related to clubroot may no longer be applicable. Rural municipalities will have the option, but not the obligation, to repeal clubroot-specific bylaws under *The Municipalities Act*. This provides them with the flexibility to decide how to handle the deregulation at the local level.

Impact on Management Agreements: Clubroot management agreements that producers may have signed will no longer be enforceable, as clubroot is no longer a declared pest.

 **Will the Ministry of Agriculture keep posting the map of RMs with clubroot positive fields?**

Yes, the Ministry of Agriculture will continue to update the clubroot distribution map annually. The map is typically updated each January.

 **Will the Ministry of Agriculture’s clubroot survey continue?**

Yes, the Ministry of Agriculture is fully committed to supporting ongoing clubroot surveillance as part of its clubroot monitoring program. All pest surveillance conducted by the ministry is permission-based, requiring producers to grant access to their land for the surveys to be conducted.



Going forward, what can producers do to continue managing for clubroot?

1. Implement Proper Crop Rotations: Rotate canola with non-host crops to reduce the buildup of clubroot spores in the soil. A minimum three-year rotation (two-year break from canola) is recommended to break the disease cycle and minimize the risk of severe outbreaks. A two-year break from canola is also needed for an efficient management of other important canola diseases such as blackleg, verticillium stripe, and even sclerotinia stem rot.
2. Adopt Biosecurity Measures: Clean and sanitize farming equipment and machinery to prevent the spread or introduction of clubroot to other fields. Implementing biosecurity measures can significantly reduce the risk of clubroot introduction or spread.

3. Use Clubroot-Resistant Varieties: Plant clubroot-resistant canola varieties to reduce the disease's impact. Utilizing resistant varieties helps manage disease pressure and protects yields.



Is there anything else you would like RMs and ratepayers to know?

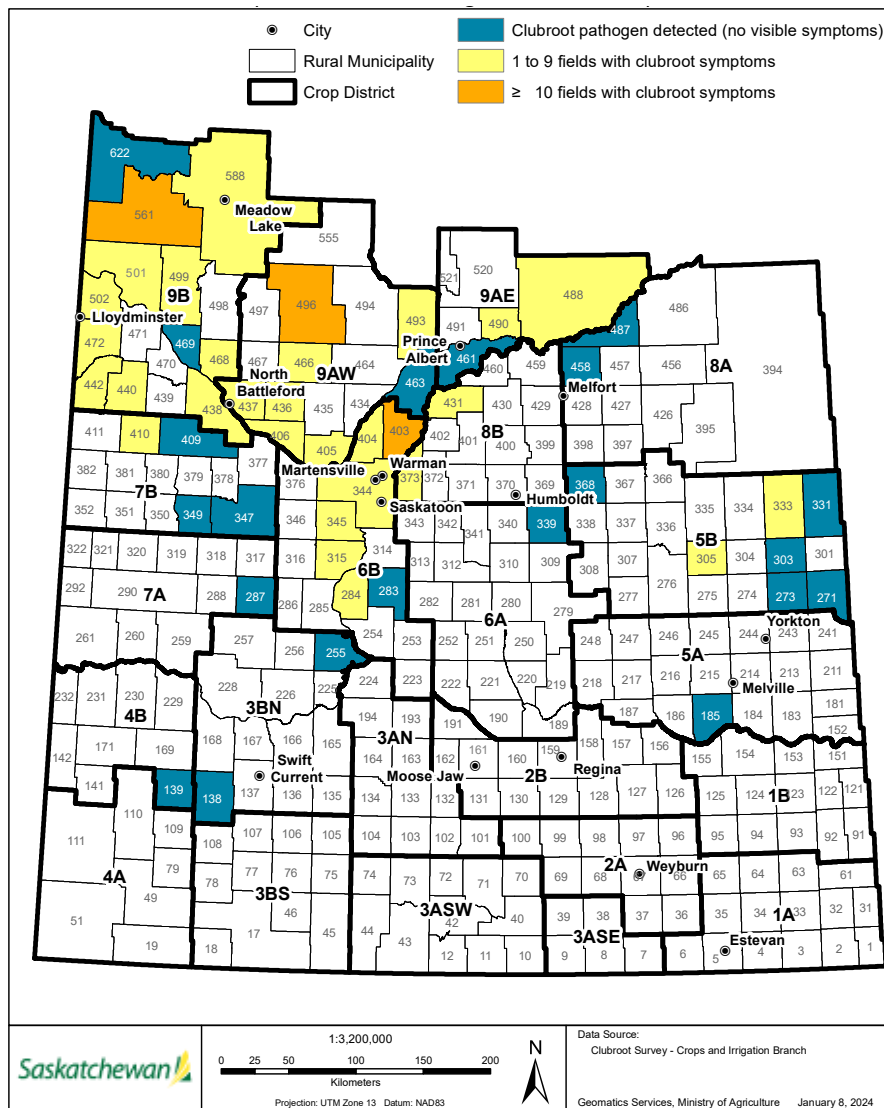
The new *Plant Health Act* and regulations modernize current legislation and establish standardized measures to control declared pests. Also, the three sets of regulations have been consolidated into one set of regulations, *The Plant Health Regulations*, to reduce complexity and streamline the regulatory framework. For more information on the new pest legislation, please visit [Saskatchewan.ca](https://saskatchewan.ca) and search for *The Plant Health Act*.

Since the time of this interview, Raul has moved to a different role in the Ministry of Agriculture and his replacement is former Plant Health Technical Advisor (PHTA), Tayo Adegeye. We welcome her and all her experience to that role. If you have any questions about the new *Plant Health Act*, please reach out to your PHTA or to Tayo (tayo.adegeye@gov.sk.ca).



For more information about this and the Pest Biosecurity Program, contact your SARM Plant Health Technical Advisor, scan the QR code, or visit the SARM website at <https://sarm.ca/programs/sustainable-canadian-agricultural-partnership/>

CLUBROOT DISTRIBUTION IN SASKATCHEWAN (cumulative testing 2008 to 2023)



© 2023 Government of Saskatchewan

SARM's Strategic Communications Team leads the initiatives, events, and public-facing components of the work we do for RMs. Strategic Communications is responsible for our conventions, the *Rural Dart*, *Rural Sheaf*, *Rural Councillor*, webinars, and many other events and initiatives.

Our team also works closely with our Policy, Programs, and other internal teams around advocacy to ensure we are an effective voice for rural Saskatchewan.

Getting to know SARM

Strategic Communications



Amy Roettger
Acting Manager,
Strategic
Communications



Adam Brougham
Communications &
Events Coordinator

Communications:

- Website
- Media Relations
- News Releases
- Rural Councillor quarterly magazine
- Rural Sheaf monthly digital newsletter
- Rural Dart weekly digital newsletter
- Advertising (digital, print, radio)
- Social Media: X, Facebook, and LinkedIn

Events:

- Annual Convention and Trade Show
- Midterm Convention
- June Division Meetings
- Travelling July Board Meeting
- Webinars

Members go to Strategic Communications for helpful resources and timely information. Strategic Communications also handles SARM's branding and marketing, stakeholder engagement, and social & media relations. Additionally, they are responsible for all SARM events.



MEMBER NEWS

IN MEMORIAM



PETER HOCHER
RM OF MERVIN
NO. 499
IN MEMORIAM

On Tuesday, July 2nd, 2024, Mr. Peter Hocher of St. Walburg passed away in the St. Walburg Health Complex at the age of 84 years.

Peter is forever loved and remembered by his Loving Wife of 57 years Dorothea; Daughter Gail (Stewart) Hiar and their children Leora Hiar (Juan Estevez), Arielle Hiar, and Rhys Hiar; Son Josef Hocher (Heather Smith) and their children Camryn Hocher and Brennen Hocher; Son Christopher Hocher (Carol Barsky) and his children Laurin Hocher and Chloe Hocher; Daughter Patricia (Michael) Hill and their children Peyton Hill, Rory Hill, and Nicholas Hill; Sisters-in-law Renate (Ed) Green and Ruth (Herb) McMillan; Brother-in-law Fred David; as well as his nieces, nephews and extended family.

Peter served as Division 6 Councillor for the RM of Mervin No. 499 from 1990 to 1996. □



TOM LEMON
RM OF PENSE
NO. 160
IN MEMORIAM

Tom Lemon was a member of the RCMP when he joined Council in 1999. He became Reeve in 2005 and served as such until his passing on April 13, 2024. The last few years of Tom's service was dedicated to the building of the new fire hall in Pense. A memorial tree was planted there to honor his work and dedication. □



LYNN GRADIN
RM OF LAKEVIEW
NO. 337
IN MEMORIAM

Lynn Gradin, a previous RM resident, served as a Councillor for Division 3 for the RM of Lakeview No. 337 from 1978 to 1981. Lynn passed away peacefully at Pleasant View Care Home in the early afternoon of Monday, May 20, 2024, at the age of 83. □

RETIREMENT



JEROME KOHLMAN
RM OF HEART'S HILL
NO. 352
RETIREMENT

The RM of Heart's Hill No. 352 would like to recognize recently retired Division 5 Councillor Jerome Kohlman for his 35 years of service and being the RM's longest serving Council Member. Jerome stepped into the role of Councillor in the fall of 1989 and has been a very devoted member ever since. He has represented the RM for many years at the SARM Midterm and Annual Conventions, Municipal Hail AGM's, through various RM committees and as a dedicated community member. We thank him for his time on Council and wish him all the best in his retirement. □

Member News Submission Tips:

- Submit photos as separate JPG, PNG, TIFF or PDF files.
- Submit 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 phone's camera resolution before taking photos. Ensure that the camera's settings are for High, Highest Quality or Maximum resolution.
- Write-up length maximum: 250 words.

**THANKS
FOR SHARING
YOUR STORIES
WITH US!**

Send in submissions using the online form at
<https://sarm.ca/events/awards-and-recognition/submissions/>

MIDTERM CONVENTION

Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities

20 24

AGENDA

November 20-21

Wednesday, November 20

9 AM	Opening Ceremonies
9:30 AM	Addresses
9:45 AM	Breakout Sessions
10:45 AM	Networking Break
11 AM	Breakout Sessions
12 PM	Lunch
1 PM	Fireside Chat
1:30 PM	Presentation
1:45 PM	Peer Group Discussion Sessions
2:45 PM	Networking Break
3 PM	Resolutions

Thursday, November 21

9 AM	Welcome & Announcements
9:15 AM	Presentations
9:45 AM	Breakout Sessions
10:45 AM	Networking Break
11 AM	Breakout Sessions
12 PM	Lunch
1 PM	Presentation
1:15 PM	Panel Discussion
1:45 PM	STARS Presentation & 50/50 Draw
2 PM	Peer Group Discussion Sessions



Scan the QR code or visit sarm.ca for more information about the midterm convention.

**The Voice of Rural
Saskatchewan**



FROM DRIVEWAYS TO HIGHWAYS

We Do It Right the First Time

GUARANTEED

Chip Sealing • Sand Sealing • Sealcoating • Asphalt Paving


Concrete Overlays
Patching & Repairs
Resurfacing


Hot Rubber Crack Filling
Expert Advice

Town Streets
Farmyards & Acreages
RM Roads

Parking Lots
Driveways
Shop Floors

**LET'S GET STARTED.
GIVE US A CALL TODAY!**

 306-988-7344

 canadianpaving@gmail.com

www.canadianpaving.ca



BANK ON BRANDT.

COUNT ON BRANDT FOR THE DEAL YOU NEED TO GET THE JOB DONE. THAT'S NOT AN OFFER. IT'S A PROMISE.

Easier to Finance

Break new ground with 0% financing on John Deere construction equipment. Offer ends April 30, 2024.

Lower Rates

Take on the toughest tasks with special lease rates on select Deere construction equipment. Warranty & maintenance included!*

*Maintenance included up to 2 years or 1500 hours.

Better Rentals

Get the machine you need for 3 months, while only paying for 2. And, if you like it, you can buy it!

brandt.ca/bank-on-brandt

