

# Plain & Valley

Covering Southeast Saskatchewan and Southwest Manitoba

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## SE Sask couple were quarantined on cruise ship with Coronavirus

BY KARA KINNA

A Southeast Saskatchewan couple spent days stuck in their cabin on a cruise ship after it was reported that 19 crew and two passengers tested positive for the Coronavirus.

Kara and Mark Schiestel, who farm near Alameda and also have family in the Moosomin area, boarded the Grand Princess cruise ship on Feb. 21 in California and were due to disembark on March 7.

The ship travelled to Hawaii before returning early to San Francisco, calling a stop in Ensenada, Mexico.

Kara says it was announced on Wednesday, March 4 that there were passengers and crew with the Coronavirus onboard.

"We received word Wednesday morning by letter and it was announced over speaker, but quarantine didn't become mandatory until Thursday afternoon (March 5)," she says.

The time they spent confined to quarters gave them lots of time to think, Kara said.

"The time has given us time to reflect on a lot. We have a busy year of farming ahead of us and calving is just starting. Thankfully we have a great bunch of kids back home.

"We run a large organic grain operation and also have cows, pigs that I raise and sell for butcher, and chickens. I sell their eggs to local people."

She says her and her husband were shocked when they heard the announcement about their ship.

"I honestly thought we were in the clear but when it was announced I was in shock and turned to Mark and said 'that's not cool'... Maybe followed by some barn talk," says Kara with a laugh.

Kara says once quarantine started, they were told to stay in their cabins all day and night. She says their cabin is 10-feet by 20-feet in size, and has a view of a rescue boat. The ship was stopped off the coastline of San Francisco, about 10 miles out from the shore.

She says she and her husband passed the time by watching movies, doing crafts and playing cards.

"The ship supplies crafts every day and I lose at cards just as easily here as at home," she said with a laugh.

Although there had been no communication with others on the ship since the quarantine, she said on March 8 that she and her husband were feeling in good health.

Her biggest concern? Missing out on family events and milestones.



**Above:** The Grand Princess cruise ship that Kara and Mark Schiestel were quarantined on.  
**Below:** The view from their 10x20-foot cabin of a life boat.



"Missing our fifth grandbaby's gender reveal today and grandson Gunner's birthday party," she said on March 8. "And our other grandson Vernon's skate

show this week. These are the little things that mean the most to us."

Cattle season isn't easy at the best of times, and Kara said they were relying on

their family to keep things running on the farm.

"Our oldest son Taylor (25), other son Brendon (20) and son-in-law Reece are all there keeping the farm going," she said. "And their partners are there to help if they need. We have two sows ready to have babies anytime so they are preparing for their arrival this week. Friends and family make the world go around in situations like this."

Taylor Schiestel lived in Moosomin for some time, and his grandparents are Murray and Louise Stephen from Moosomin.

Kara said the plan was for the cruise ship to dock on Monday, March 9 in the port of Oakland, and on March 8 she received an email from Global Affairs Canada notifying them that they would be flown home and quarantined at CFB Trenton for 14 days.

"Passengers aboard the Grand Princess have been placed under quarantine. The Government of Canada has decided to have Canadian passengers from the Grand Princess transported to Canada to complete their 14-day quarantine," read the email.

"A flight will bring passengers from San Francisco to Canadian Forces Base Trenton.

"The process of disembarkation will include a health assessment. If you appear with symptoms you will not be allowed to board the plane. Symptomatic individuals will be assessed to determine next steps.

"If you are cleared to travel, you will be transported from the ship to the airfield to board the airplane."

Kara said being stuck in the cabin of their cruise ship had given them lots of time to think about things.

"We have just been talking lots. We really have nothing else to do. But we realize our sons have a lot on their shoulders right now," she said.

She said the whole ordeal has made their family appreciate each other that much more.

"A person never truly understands and appreciates family and all they do until you are missing a main support. Hoping for the best and a quick return home!" posted Ashley Schiestel, the couple's daughter-in-law on March 6.

Kara said she felt the cruise ship company was handling things well.

"There are 57 nationalities on here that makes it complicated," she said.

As of March 8 she said there had been no new Coronavirus cases reported on the ship that she knew of.

She said the first thing she was going to do when she got home was "kiss and hug my family then cuddle my dogs."

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# Rockin' the Park going ahead for a second year

## Prism, The Sweet, Rock Candy confirmed for Esterhazy event

BY KARA KINNA

The second annual Rockin' the Park is a go at Esterhazy Regional Park on Saturday, August 29, 2020, and organizers are excited to have three bands—Prism, The Sweet, and Rock Candy—confirmed for the show, with a fourth band still in the works.

The first Rockin' the Park was held last year on the September long weekend, and was started as a way to raise money for the town's recreation facilities, with the hopes of making it an annual fundraising event.

Brenda Redman, President of the Esterhazy Recreation Fundraising Association, says they were thrilled with how it went and can only see it growing this year.

The event last year featured four bands—Stretheart, Snake Oil, Rock Candy, and The Firm.

"We had about 600 people attend. It was a perfect day and feedback was that everyone had the most awesome time. We as an organization were so happy with the performances that we had," says Redman.

"People couldn't wait to tell their friends about it and said they would be back again next year."

"We ended up raising \$5,000. We were happy with that. Being the first one, we weren't sure how it was going to go and we were happy that we were able to pay the bills and have a little bit left over."

All money raised this year will once again be set aside for the town's rec facilities.

"We have our lineup," says Redman. "We have to

confirm one more band. The Sweet is coming, formerly known as Sweet. And Prism. And Rock Candy will be back. And we are still working on the fourth one.

"Sweet and Prism are definitely 70s-80s classic rock bands. Sweet sings Fox on the Run, Ballroom Blitz, Little Willie. And Prism sings Spaceship Superstar, Take me to the Captain, Armageddon. And of course Rock Candy are our favorite Western Canada premier party band!"

"I have seen these bands personally, The Sweet and Prism before, and I was really excited about their show—their show is dynamic. I really wanted to book The Sweet last year and just wasn't able to book them, and this year they were open and we were able to confirm them."

Redman says already people are getting excited about the event.

"People in our community are just so excited. People are thrilled that we are doing this again and people are coming forward to volunteer which is amazing."

"We need volunteers for that day and so if someone would like to volunteer I really hope they step forward and put their name across. We really can use the extra help. We had a seven-man team last year, and we had help from Esterhazy Minor Hockey and Figure Skating, and without them we wouldn't be able to do it, but we still need more people. An event like this takes a lot of volunteers and we definitely want to be able to set up Friday and have things a little more prepared than last year."

Redman says ideally she would like to get a crew of 50

volunteers to help out with the event this year.

"Even if they can give us two to three-hour shift that would be wonderful."

Redman says once again the bands will start performing in the afternoon of the Saturday of the September long weekend, and will play until at least midnight. There will be food vendors available again, and she says any non-profit group looking to set up as a food vendor and make some extra fundraising dollars can contact her if they are interested.

"Advance tickets will be coming out around the middle of April," she says. "And we are starting to send out letters for sponsorship. Of course we can not do it without the support of our sponsors and so we are looking forward to maybe having a few more this year and a few more businesses online to help us through this."

Redman says they are aiming to get more people through the gates this year.

"We want to hit a thousand," she says.

"I believe that this is something that can change Esterhazy in the aspect that this is something we can have that is a major fundraiser for our community and make a difference right here in town when it comes to our facilities and recreation in general. Nowadays you have to fundraise to make improvements to all of these things that you want. And everything is aging—our pool, our rink. We have faith that this thing can bring in some money for our community."

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# Griffiths impressed with support

BY ROB PAUL  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

On February 10, Doug Griffiths presented "13 Ways to Kill Your Community" at the Moosomin Conexus Convention Centre—one of three communities in Southeast Saskatchewan where he made presentations. He also made presentations in Estevan and Weyburn.

Griffiths, a former MLA in Alberta, is now the president and CEO of 13 Ways, Inc.

His company provides consulting services to communities throughout North America.

Community Futures Sunrise brought him to southeast Saskatchewan, and the Moosomin Chamber of Commerce and Moosomin Economic Development partnered with Community Futures to bring him to Moosomin.

Griffiths' presentation is a step-by-step guide on the factors that go into killing a community and conversely what needs to be done to build it.

Griffiths likes to keep the presentation fresh with humour and energy to avoid losing people's attention while also not holding back harsh truths.

"I was a junior high teacher and you've got to challenge them, make them think, make them laugh, and inspire them," he said. "Then they don't even know they're learning, and they're engaged."

"I point out to people it's going to be brutal, it's going to be real and if you're offended that's your fault, not mine. I'm not here to make friends, I'm here to make a difference."

The support of the presentation in Moosomin impressed Griffiths with the amount of people that showed up. More than 200 people attended the presentation.

"The turnout was awesome. This is one of the biggest turnouts I've had in a community of this size," he said after the presentation.

"It's usually half of that. This is good. It bodes well for the community. There has to be a lot of people here in the region passionate about opportunities here, and with a positive mindset."

Just by seeing a large audience he knows the community in Moosomin cares about making improvements, he said.

"I tell everyone the ones who need to hear the presentation don't show up. So the more people that show up the better it is for the community," he said.

"The biggest indication when we're done is how many people stick around to chat. I mean a third of the audience was standing around here talking and there was a lot of energy in the room. I think that bodes well."

Griffiths likes to check out the communities he presents in beforehand to get a feel for what's going on and he liked what he saw in Moosomin.

"There's a lot of good stuff going for this community. A



Speaker Doug Griffiths addresses a crowd at the Conexus MCC Centre in Moosomin.

lot of stuff that other communities don't have," he said.

"There's always a lot of work to do. Some communities would like to finish where Moosomin is starting from."

Even when there's great response to the presentation, Griffiths warns the enthusiasm can fade if communities don't take action.

"We get caught up in the tyranny of the urgent, our busy day-to-day lives," he said.

"Everyone's like, 'that was really great, I'm glad we're going to do something,' then we show up a year later and they say, 'wait I thought you were going to do something.' So sometimes it takes a couple of starts."

When asked how frequently the communities he speaks to take the presentation to heart and put the work in Griffiths said, "it depends on the community. Out of all the presentations I do about 10 per cent of the communities follow through. About half of those find some success."

Griffiths preaches the hard work of rebuilding a community through constant process.

He says it takes time but advises communities not to give up.

"Not killing your community is like quitting smoking." It's very hard to be successful on the first time, it takes try after try after try," he said.

"Then it starts to stick, and the momentum builds and the next thing you know is 'well that was easy,' even

though it took 20 years to make it that easy."

Griffiths truly believes in what he's teaching and thinks building communities can be the difference in fixing many problems in the world.

"If every government at every level and all of our volunteer groups all came together and just focussed on building communities, 90 per cent of our social issues would be addressed, businesses would be profitable, we could tackle any problem in the world," he said.

"For some reason we've lost that sense of community. Although I do believe the next generation and the generation after are bringing it back."

The presentation is based on his book of the same name and it goes through the 13 most important rules of building up a community.

Griffiths goes into communities and teaches them about what they must do to start or continue economic growth. He preaches that everybody must take responsibility.

"When are you going to do something in the community? Building communities is the single most important job on the earth," said Griffiths.

He focussed on the idea of communities and the people in them not trading away what they want most for what they want now.

"Communities have so many plans but they still sabotage success for what they want now," he said. "We all do these things to sabotage ourselves. That's why I don't name names because it applies to so many."

*Continued on page 13*

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# Wagantall introduces bill to ban sex selective abortions

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

MP Cathay Wagantall (whose riding includes the Esterhazy, Spy Hill, and Tantallon areas) has introduced a Private Member's Bill, the Sex Selective Abortion Act in the House of Commons.

The legislation would create a new penalty for medical practitioners who knowingly perform an abortion when the sole reason is the genetic sex of the pre-born child.

Wagantall told the World-Speculator that, while it is illegal in Canada to determine the sex of a child with in-vitro fertilization, there is no law preventing the abortion of a fetus because of its sex.

In certain cultures, boy babies are traditionally preferred, leading to sex-selective abortions.

Wagantall says her bill is needed to make the point that sex selective abortion is not permissible in a society that advocates for the equality of the sexes.

"In a country which seeks to foster equality between men and women, the practice of using abortion for sex selection needs to be prohibited," said Wagantall.

"Eighty-four percent of Canadians are against sex selective abortion.

"Legislators have the responsibility to ensure that it is prohibited by law.

"Sex selective abortion is antithetical to our commitment to equality and needs to be prohibited as an unacceptable practice."

Wagantall was first elected to the House of Commons in 2015.

This is the second time that Wagantall has had the opportunity to bring forward a Private Member's Bill.

Her previous bill, "Cassie and Molly's Law," addressed violence against pregnant women that caused injury or death to a pre-born child.

While that bill did not pass, Wagantall said that it raised the awareness and engagement across the country needed to encourage her to respond to this specific concern of Canadians.

"Introducing a Private Member's Bill is a privilege," said Wagantall.

"I'm excited to have this opportunity to advance equality in Canada," Wagantall added.

"Our silence condones and possibly perpetuates the practice of sex selection," she said. "Canada must act now to condemn this practice and to make it apparent to all that Canada values women and equality. If there is even one female pre-born child who is terminated because of her sex, we need to act."

Wagantall told the World-Speculator that she discovered with her earlier Private Members' Bill that there is some common ground on Canadians' opinions on abortion.

"With Cassie and Molly's Law, which was around protecting a preborn child in the womb when the mom was attacked, although it didn't pass in the House, conversations started across the country and I started to realize something that was very encouraging to me.



Cathay Wagantall

"Initially over the whole abortion debate Canadians were extremely polarized and within our political system there has been a continued push almost to keep it that way in the way that politicians talk about not reopening the debate, and the national media is so negative on it.

"I know in our area abortion is an important issue for a lot of people. I would have people come to my table when I am at events with my petition on sex selective abortions. People would come to my table—nurses, women, and men—and say 'I respect the woman's right to choose' and I would just say that is fine and then have a conversation around the fact that do you agree with sex-select-

ive abortions and I never had anybody say yes, they agree with that.

"They would always reply with 'well that's not legal in Canada' and then would have to have that conversation around the fact that there are no laws in Canada to in any way restrict abortion.

"Sex selective abortion is illegal in China, it's illegal in India, it's illegal in every democratic country in the world except Canada.

"Canada and North Korea are the only two countries with absolutely no limits on abortion, so we are not in good company.

"I know how a lot of people feel about this issue and the National Post came out on January 31 with an article about abortion and had a poll included that was a 2019 poll, and in there it specifically comments that the questions were very much 'legal or illegal,' so no room for grey areas.

"A dominant majority rejects outright abortions for sex selection, which is usually done in preference for boys, so the girls are aborted. So the question was in certain circumstances should it be legal or illegal to have an abortion if the family doesn't want the baby to be a certain sex. 84 percent disagree with that."

Wagantall said sex selective abortions are fairly common in parts of Canada.

"There have been a number of studies that have been done in 2016 and 2018 and I've spoken with the researchers and they were doing studies specifically on

this issue within ethnic communities in Canada.

"I spoke with one of the main head researchers actually and he said something that deeply disturbed him is that it does appear that there is an issue in Canada. It is a growing issue and the Canadian Medical Association has indicated this is a growing issue in Canada.

"The primary concern to me is that to our government and to all of us human rights are very important. It is something we champion on the international stage and equality between men and women is something very important to us, so in this case I don't know how you can defend something that clearly hurts girls.

"Rachel Harder, who was on the status of women committee, quizzed, challenged and questioned the minister of whether or not as a feminist she agreed with sex selective abortion and she would not answer the question, so we have two different perspectives here on the value of a girl.

"It was important to me to say this is really respecting that equality at the early stages. A lot of people are not aware that in Canada we have sex selective laws in regards to in vitro fertilization. A couple is not allowed to choose an embryo because of the sex, but there is no prohibition against sex selective abortion. Yes, the majority of Canadians want access to abortion, but the majority also want sex-selective abortions banned."

# Sask Health asks travellers to be vigilant

## No confirmed cases in Saskatchewan yet

BY ROB PAUL

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Saskatchewan public health has updated their recommendations to residents and health care providers related to travel to and from countries with confirmed Coronavirus (COVID-19) cases.

"The number of countries that have confirmed COVID-19 cases continues to grow," said Saskatchewan Ministry of Health's Chief Medical Health Officer Dr. Saqib Shahab.

"While the risk to residents travelling abroad remains low, people travelling to and from affected areas should monitor for fever, cough, and difficulty breathing for 14 days after travel," said Shahab.

"If you have these symptoms, contact HealthLine811 for assessment and direction."

According to Health Saskatchewan the risk of COVID-19 to Saskatchewan residents remains low.

As of February 27, there are no laboratory confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the province.

So far in Saskatchewan 52 people have been tested for COVID-19 with 45 negative results and seven results still pending.

Confirming a COVID-19 case requires a person to be tested at the National Microbiology Laboratory in Winnipeg.

Symptoms for the Coronavirus include fever, cough, shortness of breath, and breathing difficulties. With more severe cases, infection can cause pneumonia, severe acute respiratory syndrome, kidney failure, and death.

Shahab said even with the limit of the virus in Saskatchewan it still helps to be aware of preventative measures.

"We can still limit the spread of COVID-19 in Canada," said Shahab.

"Monitoring your symptoms, staying home if you are ill, and practicing personal protection like good hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette remains vital to contain-

ing the transmission."

COVID-19 is most commonly spread through coughing, sneezing, close personal contact like touching or shaking hands, and touching your eyes, nose, or mouth before washing your hands.

Colleen Book of the Saskatchewan Ministry of Health said, although COVID-19 is worrisome, Saskatchewan is prepared to handle the virus and has the resources to do so.

"It's almost like we have an extended flu season now. We've dealt with SARS, we've dealt with H1N1, so we

know how the health system has to respond to pandemics like that," said Book.

"We know what's required and we do have the resources."

COVID-19 isn't something to take lightly, but part of the panic surrounding it is that it's new and there's lack of information on it.

Continued on page 24

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# CFIB says rail blockades have impacted businesses

BY ROB PAUL  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

According to the Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB), nearly a quarter of businesses say they have been negatively affected by the rail blockades and another 48 per cent expect to feel the impacts soon.

The data was attained by CFIB through a survey of local Canadian businesses and those businesses report they have lost an average of \$60,000 since the start of the blockades.

CFIB reports they received over 6,800 responses to the survey and over a thousand specific examples of how the blockades have hurt individual businesses.

Some of the examples from CFIB:

- Agriculture businesses are unable to get their product to market, get paid, clear space in grain elevators for new product and receive fertilizer for this year's planting.
- An Alberta company is waiting for \$750,000 in equipment from Germany, stalling their operations.
- A business owner who depends on importing and exporting goods has lost over \$80,000 an had to lay off all staff as overseas shipping rates have tripled in price.
- A business reports that shipments of vital medical equipment for patients have been stopped.
- A sign producer for retailers has missed deadlines and dealt with frustrated customers who have had to open their stores without a sign.
- A new car dealer in Newfoundland has his needed inventory stuck on the rails before it can be put on a ship in Halifax.
- A restaurant renovation has been stalled as needed construction materials to finish the job are not moving.

The survey also found 62 per cent of businesses say they're very worried about the impact of the blockades on their business, per the CFIB.

Nine in 10 business owners say the federal government should make it a priority to work with the provinces and law enforcement agencies to ensure rail service is resumed, per the CFIB.

CFIB's Vice-President Marilyn Braun-Pollon said the

survey was sent to all of their members across Canada to gauge the situation.

"We sent a survey to our 110,000 members across Canada. We asked our members a number of questions," said Braun-Pollon.

"First of all, have the rail blockades affected their businesses?"

"We found nearly a quarter have already been negatively affected. In Saskatchewan that's 36 per cent of our members, so more than a third of them have already been negatively affected," said Braun-Pollon.

"In Saskatchewan we've found businesses on average have lost \$78,000."

"It was so important to us to get the data, ask our members their perspective, and get those examples to show how clearly it is impacting businesses in Canada."

Braun-Pollon added that businesses were concerned that the effects of the blockades will have major long-term consequences.

"In addition to being concerned about their own reputation, 96 per cent of Saskatchewan business owners are telling us they worry about how the blockades will affect investor confidence in Canada," said Braun-Pollon.

"That's the highest in the natural resource sector and the agriculture sector."

CFIB is particularly worried about smaller businesses who don't have the ability to stop production for longer periods of time.

"At the beginning of the blockades small business owners tried to grit their teeth and get through things."

"Now we're into day 19," she said during the blockades, "and it's rapidly affecting businesses in every province and every sector."

"What we're finding is the disruption of the railways is quickly becoming a crisis for small businesses."

"This situation could have consequences for small businesses and Canada's economy as a whole that extend well beyond the blockades," said Braun-Pollon.

Braun-Pollon is worried about small businesses in areas that heavily depend on railways because they're feeling the hardest affects of the blockades and don't have the resources to sit tight.

"Saskatchewan is a train-dependent province. Depending on rails to not only receive supplies, but get products to market."

"Small businesses don't have the reserves to weather a prolonged service interruption," said Braun-Pollon.

CFIB has found that businesses are doing all they can in these tough times to stay on top of the situation, but it's hurting their reputations.

"What businesses are telling us across the country are they've already had to do a number of things. Either suspend operations, layoff staff, or ration supplies."

"Some are losing contracts to international competitors," said Braun-Pollon.

"This situation does hurt businesses reputations with clients going forward and we know there's no easy answers to the complex issues, but the risks of inaction is also significant."

Braun-Pollon said that CFIB is trying to work with federal government to figure out a good way to fix this

situation and ensure it doesn't happen again.

"We recently sent a letter last week to the prime minister and what we said is, 'a prolonged disruption means businesses are once again left with few options to get their products to market or receive shipments.' This is leading to lost contracts and customers, putting their future at risk."

"We've been very clear with what we're asking."

"We need to find a clear path forward to balance economic development, environmental policy, and indigenous land rights to avoid repeating this situation," said Braun-Pollon.

"We've urged federal government to work with the provinces and law enforcement agencies to ensure we have rail services immediately resumed."

"CFIB says 91 per cent of their members think Canada should make it a top priority to ensure rail service is immediately resumed."

"Our reputation as a dependable place to do business is really at stake."

Many CFIB members are worried about irreversible damage arising from the disruption of rail service in Canada said Braun-Pollon.

"If our reputation as a reliable exporter of food is damaged that's concerning. Undermining our reputation as a dependable trade partner is quite concerning."

CFIB wants to work towards a resolution, but they don't know if there's a way to overcome the losses so far.

"We don't know what the next steps are, but businesses that are significantly affected by the blockades would be looking for compensation," said Braun-Pollon.

"The absolute majority of our members are concerned about the affect this is having on the economy and our reputation as a trading partner. In Saskatchewan we're so trade dependent."



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Above Left: Val Sweeting and Kerri Einarson. Above Right: From left, skip Kerri Einarson, third Val Sweeting, second Shannon Birchard and lead Briane Meilleur pose with the trophy after winning the Scotties Tournament of Hearts in Moose Jaw.

# Sweeting finally breaks through at Scotties

BY RYAN HORNE, TSN.CA

It took some extra drama, but Maryfield's Val Sweeting has finally reached the top of the Canadian curling mountain.

The vice for Kerri Einarson's Manitoba rink captured her first Scotties Tournament of Hearts championship Sunday, Feb. 23 with an 8-7 extra ends victory over Rachel Homan's Ontario foursome.

"I've had quite a few heartbreaking final losses, so I definitely needed that," an emotional Sweeting said after the game. "It's hard to get back up, but we did and got back to that final.

"I'm so proud of us." Einarson, who also won her first Scotties on Sunday after dropping the 2018 final to Jennifer Jones in Penticton, B.C., says she couldn't be happier for Sweeting.

"Val is such a wonderful player. So smart and talented. Her and I together, I think work really well," said Einarson. "We've come a long way. We really focused on the little things that matter."

The 32-year-old Sweeting has had her fair share of heartbreak at the Canadian championship in the past. Sweeting skipped Alberta to back-to-back national finals in 2014 and 2015, losing both times to Homan and Jones respectively, with the latter final happening right here at Mosaic Place. Those Moose Jaw Scotties were the last Sweeting competed in until this week.

Sweeting lost in the next two Alberta provincial finals (2016 and 2017) before dropping the page playoff 3 vs. 4 game in 2018. Her heartbreak wasn't restricted to just traditional curling either. Sweeting and teammate Brad Gushue made it all the way to the 2018 Canadian Olympic Mixed Double trials finals before losing to John Morris and Kaitlyn Lawes. That tandem would go on to win the first ever gold medal in that discipline in Pyeongchang, South Korea a few months later.

"It was heartbreaking for sure. I didn't know how many times I could get back up," said Sweeting of all those losses. "It just shows that you have to and I'm so honoured to get that Maple Leaf."

At one point Sunday it seemed it was going down the same nightmarish route once again.

Manitoba held a four-point lead with two ends to play. Homan put up a deuce in the ninth before Einarson was heavy on her last throw in the 10th, giving Ontario a steal of two and a tie game.

Sweeting says she didn't let her mind go to a dark place. "Maybe for a second," said Sweeting, who shot 83 per cent in the final. "I just thought 'oh that sucks.' I knew that we would regroup and have a really strong 11 and ultimately just leave the skip the four-foot. Kerri played amazing all week. Especially through playoffs and our last games."

Einarson executed on a similar shot in the 11th end to win the Canadian title.

Team Manitoba skip Kerri Einarson couldn't stop praising her teammates following her Scotties win and spoke about her winning shot that secured the victory.

"What an emotional roller coaster," said Einarson. "This is so amazing. I'm so incredibly proud of my teammates and they played so well all week. If it wasn't for them I

don't know where I'd be today." Shannon Birchard, the second on the team, said they won this one for Sweeting and their skipper.

"We said before the game 'we're doing these for Val and we're doing this for Kerri,'" said Birchard, who was on that Jones' 2018 Scotties team as a replacement for Lawes. "For those two, losing the national final, it must have been heartbreaking. We just really wanted to do it for them this week."

Sweeting's first national championship came in her home province as she is from Maryfield, Sask., and has lived in Edmonton for many years as the team's lone out-of-province curler. Sweeting says she could feel the support from multiple parts of Canada despite wearing the buffalo.

"Although I had the Manitoba logo on, I felt like I was representing everybody and I felt that support from everybody," she said.

This rink out of the Gimli Curling Club made headlines when they formed prior to last season as Einarson, Sweeting, Birchard and lead Briane Meilleur were all skips of their own teams prior to coming together.

Birchard and Meilleur weren't major contenders on the elite curling level circuit, so their moves weren't shockers, but Sweeting's swap to the third position was surprising. Could all these skips work together? Were there too many cooks in the kitchen?

"I think we all really owned our positions," said Sweeting. "We really bought in and learned what we needed to do in each of our roles."

In their first campaign together 2018-19, Team Einarson won multiple times on the World Curling Tour, but lost to Team Tracy Fleury in the Manitoba final and then lost the Scotties Wild Card game to Team Casey Scheidegger in Sydney, N.S. A good first season, but Sweeting knew they could reach another level.

"I think we really identified a lot of little things this season that we wanted to work on and I think we just owned

them," she said. Birchard says all four teammates having a skip mentality can be an advantage.

"I know that Briane and I are always thinking about strategy. We're always keeping everything in check and Val as well. It just helps. It's definitely a team effort out there," explained Birchard.

Now, Team Einarson will trade in the yellow and black for red and white as they will represent Canada at the world women's curling championships in Prince George, B.C.

"We've got some work to do," said Sweeting. "There's so many good teams there and we'll draw on players who have had experiences there and good coaching. We'll just work really hard and do everything we can to bring a medal back to Canada."



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# Griffiths says responsibility is key

*Continued from page 7*

The first step of 13 Ways to Kill Your Community revolves around water. Griffiths says it may seem obvious to have quality water in high quantity but plenty of places don't.

"Flint, Michigan happened. Three communities in Canada per week are put on boil water advisory because of low water quality," he said.

The public expects quality water, and quantity is just as important says Griffiths.

"You can't do anything without enough quality water," he said. "The last World War will be fought over water. Whoever controls water controls everything."

Griffiths then looked at the importance of attracting businesses even if they're competition for what's local in your community, because competition breeds excellence.

"Businesses in communities without competition struggle. Competition gives price, quality, selection, and service," he said. "With no competition these things slip and consumers go somewhere else."

He said that communities that don't embrace competition lose out on businesses and young families who bring businesses to the community.

"If you only believe in competition when it's not your competition then you will have a monopoly on failure," he said.

Griffiths talked about the need to keep youth in the community, or encourage them as adults.

"The nature of youth is to go off and explore. Let them go and give them a reason to come back," he said.

The importance of self-awareness in your community is key according to Griffiths.

"Communities pretend to be perfect. No community is perfect, so don't over market. Everything becomes a lie when you do," he said.

Everybody talks about shopping local says Griffiths but the local businesses need to give you a reason to stick with them.

"People don't have a responsibility to shop local if they're being taken advantage of by prices," he said. "Local businesses have just as much responsibility as the consumer to keep people shopping local."

Having an aesthetically pleasing community is a major factor in attracting and keeping people in the community says Griffiths.

"Don't judge a book by its cover? People pick up a book with a pretty cover. People will not trust an ugly community," he said.

Even though competition is important, co-operation cannot be pushed aside says Griffiths.

"Co-operation is how everybody succeeds. When competition co-operates that's how people and businesses succeed."

With technological advances happening so frequently, Griffiths says communities must embrace it and adjust to the times.

"Nothing changes when everybody stays the same. Adapt or die," he said.

He pointed out even governments need to buy into change or they won't work.

"If you don't change your governments structure it will become irrelevant," he said.

One of the most important steps of building a strong community is focussing on seniors says Griffiths.

"Seniors will stay in your community, they are pas-



## Big crowd for presentation

There was a large crowd at the Conexus MCC Centre in Moosomin Monday, Feb. 10 to hear a presentation by Doug Griffiths entitled 13 Ways to Kill Your Community. More than 200 people attended the presentation.

sionate, they will be engaged if you let them. Seniors will keep money in the community."

"If you neglect seniors they'll find a community that embraces them," he said.

When new opportunities arise in a community Griffiths believes they must be taken advantage of for growth.

He also says the things that make your community unique shouldn't be taken for granted.

"If you don't embrace new things, you won't develop. You don't appreciate what you have until someone else appreciates what you have," he said.

Griffiths talked about smaller communities' penchant for doubting newcomers and said that's something that can ruin growth.

"Don't hate on new people, embrace them. Immigrants are quintessential outsiders," he said. "Keep your outsiders on the outside and you will fail."

Even when everything is going great in your community Griffiths says you have to keep working at it or it will derail.

"You fail when you decide to stay the same. It will catch up to you if you do nothing as things are going well. Don't be complacent when it's good, keep working forward," he said.

He also says communities have a tendency to blame and never take responsibility and that's a recipe for disaster.

"You can't control what happens but you can be responsible for change, improvements, and moving forward," he said.

"Blame whoever you want, but nobody is more responsible for rebuilding your community than you are."

Griffiths says every community can succeed if they put the work in, co-operate, and believe in the plan.

"When we decide we're meant to fail then we will fail and the community will die," he said.

"Take responsibility for the community and fight the failure."



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# Waldner's story goes on to national competition

Elkhorn Legion Member Margaret James and Kaylyn Waldner. Waldner's short story "Two Minutes of Silence" has been selected at the provincial level of judging to go on to the national level of judging, and if successful it will be published in The Royal Canadian Legion's national magazine.



BY ED JAMES  
 "Two Minutes Of Silence" is a short story recently written by Kaylyn Walder of Plain View School Hutterite Colony. The story was an entry in The Royal Canadian Legion annual poster and essay competition held across Canada every fall.

The short story tells of her imaginary experience at the national cenotaph in Ottawa on a cold November 11 morning. The feelings both physical and emotional that she experiences while there go well beyond her 14 years of age. They reflect the thoughts of old and new soldiers and parents, of the fears and horrors of war and why some Canadians have given their all over

the years and continue to do it even today.

As the scene fades from her mind, her final words are a whispered, "Thank You!"

Kaylyn and two other students were given recognition by Margaret James, the poster/essay chairperson of the Elkhorn Royal Canadian Legion Branch #58, for their essays, poems and artwork that made it to the provincial level of judging. However Kaylyn was given extra recognition in that her entry has been chosen to go on to the national level of judging at Ottawa. If her submission should be successful, it will be printed in the Legion's national magazine.

Continued on page 17 <sup>EST</sup>



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# Archeological site near Rocanville offers exciting glimpse into life of early people in Sask

BY KARA KINNA

An archeological site in the Qu'Appelle Valley near Rocanville has yielded some important finds that date back to the end of the last ice age, and the discovery of the site and the meticulous recording of the artifacts there is all thanks to the work of some local collectors.

The site was discovered by Jake and Brenda Sarazin and their son James of Rocanville in 2000. Upon discovery, Jake and Brenda began collecting the artifacts found there and contacted the Saskatchewan Heritage Conservation Branch about their finds.

Their collection of artifacts became known as the Sarazin Collection. The collection was donated to the Rocanville Museum who in turned have loaned it to the Royal Saskatchewan Museum for study.

Phillippa and Tom Richards are two of the archeologists who have been studying the collection, and they are excited about some of the artifacts that have been found in the collection.

## How it was found

"Jake and Brenda Sarazin were both long-time residents of Rocanville, and in 2000 Jake and his son were out looking for some sand for a pen for their turkey chicks. And they went onto this property and when they were looking at the ground they saw artifacts on the ground, and there were quite a few—arrowheads and spearheads and other stone artifacts," says Tom Richards, Senior Archaeologist with the Heritage Conservation Branch.

"They got their sand and went back home and talked to Brenda about it and Brenda was very excited, and Brenda and Jake went out there and started collecting."

"They put in for a permit from the Heritage Branch—they did the right thing—and so we brought the records of the permits that Brenda and Jake took out in 2000, 2001, 2002, up to about 2005. They went there once or twice a year after it had been cultivated or after there was a rainstorm or



a very windy day that might have exposed more artifacts, and they would go back to the location and collect them."

What became apparent after some analysis of the site was that some of the artifacts dated to the Folsom period, a time around 11,000 years ago marked by the retreat of the glaciers on the prairies and by the Folsom people who hunted the *Bison antiquus*, an extinct species of bison that is larger than today's bison.

"But it wasn't immediately that they found the Folsom material," says Richards. "As we've analyzed the collection, we can see that there are spearheads and arrowheads from lots of periods, not just the really early materials."

"And once they did start to recognize that they found that particular Folsom point (a type of spearhead from the Folsom period), then they were very excited that they had some very early material."

## The Folsom complex

"It's an archeological complex that dates between about 11,500 and 12,750 years ago," says Richards. "So around 10,000 BC. These were not the earliest First Nations people in North America. But they were an early group. They were big game hunters and they hunted the extinct bison *Bison antiquus*, which was 25 to 30 per cent larger than the modern day bison."

"And they made these very distinctive

spearheads, very well made, and they were very thin and they had this big flake taken off each side from the base to thin them. That's called a fluting flake, so they are called fluted points, and they have a very distinct form, and you can recognize them right away."

"In the 1920s, the Folsom complex was named after the original find site, which was in Folsom New Mexico, and it was the first time that human artifacts were found in association with extinct animals in North America. So they found those bison bones together with the Folsom points, and that proves that First Nations people were here way back, at least at the end of the last ice age. Prior to that, there was a lot of argument that First Nations people had only been in North America for a few thousand years. This really knocked it back to about 10,000 or 12,000 years right away."

"People could have been living here 14,000 or 15,000 years ago in the southern part of Saskatchewan. The ice had melted and vegetation was growing again. Animals were moving into the area. There were people living south of the ice so they could have easily moved up."

## About the artifacts

Richards says the artifacts found at the site span a few different periods and are consistent with tool making and camping



Above: The Folsom Ultrathin Biface on heat-treated Swath River chert from the Sarazin Collection.

Left: Jake (left) and Brenda (right) Sarazin searching for freshly exposed artifacts at the Rocanville Folsom site, looking down into the Qu'Appelle Valley bottom.

at that location.

"There were quite a few different periods. There are other periods that follow Folsom. They would have different spearheads and also you get the introduction of pottery much later on, and then arrowheads, not just spearheads, and they are quite different forms and they are made differently, of different raw materials, different flaking, different sizes. And there are a lot of flakes, chipping debris from when you are making artifacts, and other scrapers and things that are not easily identifiable as belonging to one particular period."

"There were stone scrapers—which are mostly used for scraping hides—cutting tools, little drills. There was also some animal bone, a few bits and fragments of animal teeth as well."

"We went through all the material that Brenda and Jake had collected. Brenda unfortunately passed away a few years ago, and then Jake donated the collection to the Rocanville museum."

Continued on page 25

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There have been lots of improvements and additions to Bradley Park in recent years, and there are many more improvements planned right now, including partnerships with many community partners.

# More improvements planned for Bradley Park

BY ROB PAUL

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Moosomin Parks and Recreation Director Mike Schwean has extensive plans set for Moosomin's Bradley Park this year. Schwean has 18 projects planned for Bradley Park in 2020 with the help of community sponsors and partners.

"The community support is amazing. I don't think it's typical. When we go to meetings everybody is shocked at what we can do with the help of our community partners," said Schwean.

Currently Bradley Park is home to eight baseball diamonds, a football field, rodeo grounds, a walking track, and a playground.

Schwean wants to continue to expand recreation opportunities in the community and is thankful for the support the Recreation Department receives.

"A lot of these are thanks to community groups. They come to us with ideas and we have our own ideas too," said Schwean. "It's half of our stuff and half of community groups. Almost everything out here is sponsored by somebody."

Thanks to the support and partners in the community Schwean thinks they can complete all the projects they have planned. "Everything we have planned we hope to finish this year," said Schwean.

On the project list is the completion of the Pharmasave and Sharpe's dual children fields. Improving the ball diamond for the youth is major and they plan on working with Darcy Rambold to complete those.

They would like to add benches and a chain link fence to keep the kids in a more structured area, said Schwean.

Schwean says they're also planning on improving the soccer field with new grass to have it usable in the summer for Minor Soccer.

One of the major baseball diamonds, Kin Field, needs an irrigation system and they would like to complete the field fully in 2020.

With the help of Bob and Rose Mullett Home Hardware Field will be adding an announcer booth to the area. The plan is for it to be a two-storey sound room and concession area.

They would also like to move the campsites to a new area with water and power available to the users.

Schwean said the Recreation Department hopes to make some improvements to the outdoor rink. He said they would like to do some painting, resurface asphalt, and re-do the boards.

With so many sports already available in the area Schwean said they are planning to add more options by adding tennis courts to allow for pickle ball and tennis to

be played there.

For this they need to resurface the asphalt, paint the lines, and install tennis nets that they have already purchased as well as purchase and install pickle ball nets.

In 2020 for REMAX Court they're looking to irrigate the area, put up vines, and top dress it with grass to improve the concessions for the community.

With the demand for baseball at an all-time high, Schwean plans on having batting cages put in and available to the public with the help of Greg Light.

They plan on making some improvements to the Generals Battle Field as well and opening up new change rooms for the players.

To capitalize on the popularity of track in the area Schwean said they're hoping to make improvements to the outdoor track around the Generals field.

With the playground Schwean said they plan to put in a rubber base for the Kinette Playground and finish the Liberty swing, one of the few wheelchair accessible swings in Canada.

The Recreation Department also has plans to have a gazebo put in and add a flower gardens for potential weddings said Schwean.

"This area has changed dramatically in the last 15 years. To have so many different groups engaged is awesome." Current projects under way at Bradley Park include:

**1 Pharmasave Field Little Tots Dual Field**  
Working with Darcy Rambold

**2 Kin Field - Irrigation Completion**  
Working with Moosomin Kinsmen

**3 Home Hardware Field - Announcer Booth**  
Working with Bob and Rose Mullett

**4 In Field Camp Sites**  
Working with Dale Nixon and Twi-lighters

**5 Outdoor Rink Refresh**  
Working with Dan Davidson, Kim Setrum, Borderland Co-op, Blair Hebert

**6 Outdoor Eventplex - Gardens**  
Working with Tim Hortons / RBC

**7 Minor Soccer Field**  
Working with Minor Soccer

**8 REMAX Court**  
Working with REMAX, Rolna Pranke and Lynn Fawcett

**9 Batting Cage area**  
Working with Greg Light

**10 Liberty Swing completion**  
Working with Pipestone Kinability Centre

**11 Generals Football Facility**  
Working with Moosomin Generals

**12 Drainage improvements**  
Working with Danny Grainger, Moosomin Public Works

**13 Track Improvements**  
SPRA Grant

**14 Park Storage Building**  
Pending funding requests

**15 Bradley Park - Nature Display (Eventplex)**  
SPRA Grant Application

**16 Bradley Park - ¼ Mile Track upgrade for walking**  
SPRA Grant Application

**17 Irrigation on Diamond # 1 Infield**  
SPRA Grant

**18 Rubber Base to Kinette Park**  
SHERSAFE Grant

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# Companies have walked away from \$150 billion worth of resource projects in Canada

The recent decision by Teck to cancel their Frontier oil-sands mine in the days before the federal government was to decide whether to approve the project or not is just the latest in a string of resource projects across Canada that have been stopped by the government or abandoned by the proponents.

A lack of leadership from the federal government led Teck to say there is no way forward for resource projects in this country.

"Literally, over the past few days, it has become increasingly clear that there is no constructive path forward," Teck Resources Ltd. chief executive officer Don Lindsay said on Monday, after the company cancelled its proposed \$20.6 billion Frontier oil sands project. It is added to the long list of resource projects that have been abandoned in this country.

### Frontier Oilsands Mine

\$20.6 billion • Teck Resources Ltd.  
The proposed oilsands mine in northern Alberta was expected to produce 260,000 barrels of oil per day. It was cancelled by Teck just before the government could rule on whether it could go ahead or not.

### Energy East

\$16 billion • TransCanada PipeLines  
A proposed pipeline to carry 1.1 million barrels of crude oil per day from Alberta and Saskatchewan to the Ir-



Kevin Weedmark

ving refinery in St John, New Brunswick. TransCanada planned to build 1,500 kilometres of new pipe and repurpose 3,000 km of an existing natural gas pipeline. A tank farm at Moosomin and feeder pipelines from Cromer, Manitoba and Williston, North Dakota to Moosomin were part of the proposal. After \$1 billion was spent on planning, the National Energy Board asked the company to restart the environmental review process and the federal government decided all upstream and downstream emissions would have to be taken into account. TransCanada withdrew its application in October 2017.

### Northern Gateway Pipeline

\$7.9 billion • Enbridge Inc.  
The proposed pipeline to bring oil from northern Alberta to a port in Kitimat B.C. was approved by the former government in 2014. It was rejected by the current government in 2016.

The pipeline was expected to ship 525,000 barrels of oil

per day to international markets and boost pipeline capacity to meet the needs of surging Canadian oil production.

### Pacific Northwest LNG

\$36 billion • Petronas Bhd.  
The proposed LNG pipeline and export terminal in Prince Rupert was to export as much as 18 million tonnes of natural gas per year. Petronas said high investment costs and the lengthy environmental review process reduced the feasibility of the project. It was cancelled by Petronas in July 2017.

### Aurora LNG

\$28 billion • Nexen Energy  
The proposed LNG export terminal was expected to be built south of Prince Rupert in B.C. The project was a partnership between Nexen, based in Calgary, and Japan-based INPEX Gas. It was expected to handle between 10 to 12 million tonnes of natural gas each year, but the proponents announced in September 2017 that they would scrap the project.

### Prince Rupert LNG

\$16 billion • Royal Dutch Shell  
The proposed LNG export facility in Prince Rupert B.C. was expected to have an export capacity of up to 21 million tonnes per year. It was cancelled in March 2017. Shell said that it was cancelling the project to focus on its other B.C. LNG project.

### WCC LNG

\$25 billion • Exxon Mobil Corp.  
A proposed LNG export facility in Prince Rupert B.C. which was expected to export 15 million tonnes of natural gas per year, with room to expand to up to 30 million tonnes per year. It was being developed as a joint partnership between Exxon Mobil Corp. and Calgary-based Imperial Oil Ltd. The project was shelved indefinitely in December 2018.

If these projects had gone ahead, the dividends for the country in terms of jobs, economic growth, foreign exchange earnings, and taxes for all levels of government would have been phenomenal.

Incidentally, most members of the Liberal caucus, opposed approving Frontier because of its four million tonnes of annual carbon emissions.

The McInnis cement factory that opened in Quebec in 2017 emits 1.8 million tonnes of carbon annually, contributes much less to the economy than Frontier would have, and faced no opposition from within the Liberal caucus, and the federal government is allowing another large cement plant in Ontario to move ahead with no environmental review.

## Waldner's story goes on to national competition

Continued from page 14

Said school principal Michele Shaw, "I'm very proud of all our students who took part in the competition, not just the ones recognized today. The students take great pride in writing or drawing about WWI and WWII and even the War of 1812. The students are engaged when learning about the sacrifices many Canadians have

made and the students are aware and appreciative of the freedoms they enjoy." As a military historian, I am always glad to see young people learn about the sacrifices made by Canada's military in the past and that there are many more who are still standing on guard for us in Canada that often go unnoticed or forgotten.



From left are Margaret James, Chairperson of the Elkhorn Royal Canadian Legion poster/essay contest, Aleah Waldner, Jayda Waldner, Kaylyn Waldner and Michele Shaw, Plain View Hutterite School principal, after the presentation of awards.

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# Hospital fundraising in Esterhazy ready to take next steps

BY ROB PAUL

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

After years of fundraising and more than \$10 million raised, the St. Anthony's Hospital Foundation is hopeful the province will approve a new care facility for Esterhazy in the not-too-distant future.

Don Hood of the hospital foundation said they're ready to take the next steps with the plan to build the health facility.

"It's a new hospital and care home facility. We started fundraising for it in 2009," said Hood.

Hood said the amount needed from the community of Esterhazy was calculated from a study done in 2011.

"We think we need somewhere between \$10 million and \$11 million for our share," said Hood.

Esterhazy has already raised the amount they believe they need to have the hospital and care home built.

"We have \$10,250,000 right now," said Hood. "So we have our money and we're ready to supply the money for our share. The 20 per cent."

Hood said the town and surrounding area has done an admirable job coming together to raise the money.

"It came from towns, municipalities in the area, individuals," said Hood. "We also run an Esterhazy and district charity golf tournament."

Hood praised the work by the Esterhazy and District Charity Golf Classic and pointed to them as the main catalyst for fundraising.

"That is a significant fundraiser and that money is also going to this pool of money for the hospital and the care home," said Hood.

With their projected 20 per cent raised, Hood said they're waiting to hear from the government.

"We're waiting on the government to come up with their 80 per cent. We're saying 'we're ready.' It's an unknown when they'll be ready at this point," said Hood.

With that in mind, the St. Anthony's Hospital Foundation understands it's a long process, but they've done everything on their end.

"The government needs to figure out how they're going to get money flowing into infrastructure in the province," said Hood.

"We're just part of that puzzle on how do you move ahead here."



"We understand money is tight. We also understand there has to be some way of figuring out how these projects move forward," said Hood.

Hood said that when they get the go ahead they're ready to kickoff the building of the hospital and care home.

"When someone says go you've got to be able to build it in 18 months," said Hood.

They plan on the new hospital being built on Ancona Street.

"We're hoping it can go right in the existing land we have right by the old hospital," said Hood. "You'd knock the old hospital down, build the new hospital, and hopefully build the care home right there."

"The hospital and the care home are functionally obsolete so for the service they're trying to provide today, they're not suitable," said Hood.

"The hospital was completed in 1966 and the care home in 1967."

As for the size of the new hospital, Hood said they're unsure on that until they hear from the government.

"We've got to agree with the government on the number of beds in the hospital. The care home is a 60 bed care

home," said Hood.

St. Anthony's Hospital Foundation is eager to get the go ahead for their plan.

"It's been a long process. Unfortunately right now it's wait and see. We're ready."

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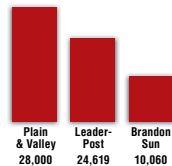


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## For Mental Health Gala: Theo Fleury coming to Esterhazy

BY ROB PAUL

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Former NHL All-Star and Olympic gold medalist Theo Fleury will be speaking at the Mental Health Gala in Esterhazy at the S.N. Boreen Centre on Saturday, May 23.

The mental health gala will be raising money for the PJ Gillen School's outdoor classroom.

Fleury has been a major advocate for mental health for a decade, teaching the art of self-forgiveness and self-love.

Since retiring from the NHL in 2003, Fleury has written two books, *Playing with Fire* and *Conversations with a Rattlesnake*, dealing with his own mental health trauma stemming from sexual abuse during his junior hockey career.

Fleury is happy to give back to a smaller community in Saskatchewan with the fundraiser while also being able to speak about mental health.

"I've been very blessed and fortunate in my professional career. This is an amazing opportunity for me to give back," said Fleury.

"I spent a lot of time in Esterhazy arena playing hockey. The community is very similar to the one I grew up in as a kid."

PJ Gillen School's outdoor classroom incorporating a First Nation's aspect is something Fleury appreciated.

"I've been able to do a lot of healing through aboriginal spiritual practices such as the sweat lodge, smudging, drumming, and powwow."

"I think it's awesome that this fundraiser is going to initiatives to create that type of space," he said.

Fleury believes it's important to talk to all communities about mental health awareness and starting a dialogue is key.

"This type of conversation has to become mainstream. It doesn't matter if it's Esterhazy, Saskatchewan or Warsaw, Poland," he said.

Tackling a topic like mental health is something Fleury believes should be atop the list of issues in the world.

"Mental illness and addiction and trauma are the biggest epidemic that we have on the planet," he said.

"I would say most of my days now are helping people overcome that kind of stuff. It's the number one topic."

His top priority is helping people feel confident discussing their trauma and taking the steps toward getting better.

"My goal is to leave people with hope that they can overcome whatever adversity or whatever challenges that they face."

"The most important thing is to create a safe space in society because of the stigma attached to mental health and addiction," he said.

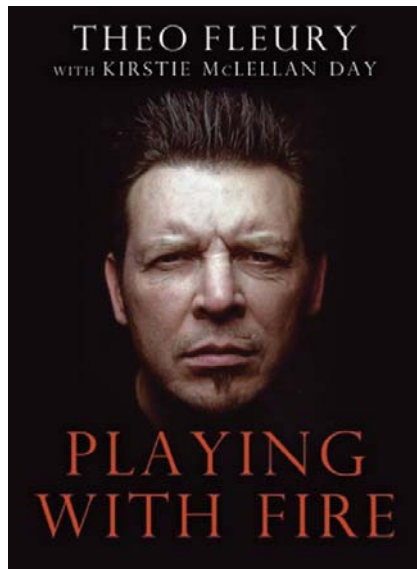
Even with the improvements surrounding the topic of mental health and the conversation starting to build, Fleury says there's still much more work to be done.

"I think we've moved the needle a little bit but there's still way too many suicides because we haven't created that safe space where people can talk about it," he said.

Not only does he believe the conversation around mental health needs to become more prominent, but he believes the topic needs to be a main focus in Canada.

"The mental health system in Canada has been completely run over. There's not enough people out there to service the amount of people who are sick," he said.

Fleury said he wants to help educate on mental health and the needed improvements on services because when



**Above:** Former NHL All-Star Theo Fleury's autobiography, *Playing with Fire*.

**Below:** Theo Fleury after winning the Stanley Cup with the Calgary Flames in 1989.



he began he didn't realize the lack of conversation and resources.

"When I started doing this 10 years ago, I knew nothing. Spending time on the road with several speaking engagements every year I get to see what kind of services there are out there," he said. "I don't think there's enough places to be able to deal with this stuff."

For Fleury, the recovery began when he opened up and accepted what he went through so he could begin talking about it and healing.

"I was carrying a secret around for a long time and that was my sexual abuse. It caused me many problems in the relationships that I had as an adult," he said.

"It wasn't until I talked about my trauma that my issues started to decrease and I didn't feel alone and I didn't feel judged."

Fleury believes conversation is key both individually and around mental health as a whole so more people feel open with telling their story.

"All I did was I found the courage and the strength to tell my own story. That's how this all started," he said.

"What has come from all that, everywhere that I have gone I get hundreds of thousands of people over that 10-year span that come up to me and say 'I heard you talk about your struggles and guess what, I had the same struggles too.'"

This is bigger than being an NHL star in Fleury's mind. He wants to show people that it's okay to talk about what they've been through and not to be afraid of seeking help.

"By using my own voice and using my story and using my experience hopefully I affect one person every day who then chooses a path of healing and then goes and finds the help that they need."

"That gives people the courage and the strength to find their own voice and basically that's what I try to do everyday."

A major point of Fleury's is getting past the stigma surrounding mental health and he believes that everybody needs to open up and accept themselves.

"Each individual has to breakthrough the stigma. How do you do that? By finding your own voice and talking about what happened," he said.

Creating a culture where people feel safe discussing their mental health can have the biggest impact in getting the discussion trending in the right direction says Fleury.

"At the end of the day it's not rocket science, it's just about finding a safe space where we can talk about the sexually abused or bullied kids, whatever it is," he said. "At the end of the day we are talking about trauma."

"Ultimately, yes it's about talking, but more importantly it's about what happened to you. What caused the emotional pain, what caused the addiction," he said.

"When you get to that level of conversation then you get that person's story. By them telling their story they get that relief."

Fleury believes speaking in a small community like Esterhazy is vastly important to help open it up and move away from the old way of thinking.

"We're only as sick as our secrets. There's still that old school mentality of 'suck it up.' Well, that doesn't work."

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# Barlow discusses ag with SE Sask farmers

BY ROB PAUL  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

On Tuesday, March 3 in Yorkton Shadow Minister of Agriculture John Barlow spoke with farmers around the area about current issues in agriculture.

The event was organized by Cathay Wagantall, MP for Yorkton-Melville, as an open format to talk about a variety of topics in agriculture.

"It's important that we get feedback and have strong representation from every corner of the country."

"That helps us develop our vision and our policies," said Barlow.

Barlow was disappointed in the lack of priority agriculture took during the Conservatives campaign last fall.

"We put a lot of work into building an agriculture policy for the October election and I, like Cathay, was very surprised that we didn't see a lot of it come out during the campaign. I was really disappointed to see that," said Barlow.



Above: Federal Conservative Shadow Agriculture Minister John Barlow speaks to farmers in Yorkton Tuesday as MP Cathay Wagantall looks on.

He thinks the lack of priority agriculture took was due to the campaign knowing they had the vote locked up in the West and the prairies.

With that in mind, Barlow hopes to prioritize agriculture in Canada going forward.

"We've really worked hard to come up with some legislation to put agriculture on the forefront of what we're doing," said Barlow.

"In the first month we've been back (February) we've already tabled three pieces of legislation directly focussed on agriculture."

The first piece of legislature was built by Philip Lawrence, MP for Northumberland-Peterborough South in Ontario, to amend the carbon tax act.

"To expand the definition to include natural gas and propane exempt farm fuels. We already have the support of the NDP on this legislation," said Barlow.

"This gives us an opportunity, in the house, to highlight the impact the carbon tax is having on Canadian agriculture."

With the carbon tax hitting farmers hard Barlow thinks data will show they deserve a tax exemption.

"I asked the ministers office, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, what's the data they've been collecting on carbon tax and its impact on agriculture," said Barlow "Can they give me those numbers?"

"I was shocked that the answer back from Ag Canada is, 'we are not collecting that data.' I asked, 'how can you possibly be putting a carbon tax on agriculture when you don't know what the impacts are?'"

"Meanwhile all of you are sending us your bills with your carbon tax on them. We can tell them exactly what the impact was," said Barlow.

"We will be doing this bill at the agriculture committee over the new few months."

Barlow encouraged the farmers in attendance and all farmers in general to provide proof of how drastic the carbon tax is for them.

He hopes highlighting individual situations will drive the point home.

Another bill was put together by Larry Maguire, MP for Brandon-Souris in Manitoba, and it focusses on succession planning and expanding capital gain exemptions. "To give you that same tax benefit when you sell your farm to your family as you would if you sold your farm to a third-party," said Barlow.

"Three years ago the Liberals wanted to put through small business tax changes. We did a little bit of homework and saw what it would do to farmers."

"It would cost you a 75 per cent tax if you tried to sell your farm to your own family," said Barlow.

"So Larry Maguire's bill will kind of neuter this legislation if we can get that passed to ensure that you have those protections."

"One of the biggest anxieties that many of my friends and neighbors had was trying to figure out their succession planning."

"We want to try and find a way to make that easier and Larry Maguire's bill is a good step in that direction."

He stressed the importance of mental health and how the situations farmers go through can weigh heavily on them.

The third bill Barlow talked about focussed on biosecurity on farms.

Continued on page 26

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# Archeological site near Rocanville offers exciting glimpse into life of early people in Sask

## An exciting find

One of the most exciting discoveries at the site was something called a Folsom Ultrathin Biface, a type of knife made of heat treated material that was very thin and took a lot of skill to create.

"It's a very rare type or artifact," says Richards. "I had hardly heard of them before we found this one in the collection and identified it for what it was.

"It's 13.5 centimeters long, but it's between 4-6 centimeters thick. It's very thin and very well flaked. And those only occur in the Folsom period as well.

"That was a really major find by Jake and Brenda. They found it in three pieces on three separate times that they went out to the site collecting. It was exposed and then they went out another time and another part was exposed, and then they glued it together.

"That's a major find. There are not that many of them known, period. They are found at some Folsom sites. They are extremely well made, they are very thin and they hadn't really even been recognized until about 20 years ago as a distinct artifact. As far as I know this is the first one that has been documented in Saskatchewan. There are probably other ones out there in collections and small museums, I just haven't seen anything written up about them and I haven't seen any in museums."

Richards says many of the artifacts found at the site near Rocanville are made of a material found in North Dakota, but the Folsom Ultra Thin Biface was made of a local material.

"They use a lot of Knife River flint. The Knife River flint quarry is in North Dakota about 340 km in a straight line," says Richards. "There are several ultra thin bifaces made out of knife river flint that have been found in the U.S. That material was widely used in the folsom period. At that time people tended to focus on one or two high quality raw materials even if they had to go a great distance to get them.

"They would hit that location once or twice a year and would have this material with them before they camped in the Qu'appelle valley north of Rocanville.

"But the Ultra Thin Biface (found at Rocanville) is not made of that material. It is made of a local raw material that we call swan river chert. And it doesn't flake as well as knife river flint. But this material was heat treated to make it flake better.

"They have to be heated to quite a high temperature and it alters the microcrystalline structure of the artifact to make it flake more readily.

"It's really big and really thin and it takes incredible

skill to flake something like that without breaking it."

## Few Folsom sites in Sask

"There is a possibility that there could be intact deposits at that site," says Richards.

"There are other areas nearby that are not as heavily wind eroded as the area where this material was found, that are close but look like they are not as disturbed. If the landowners agree, we wouldn't mind going in there and doing some testing just to see if there are any deposits there.

"That's significant because we have not excavated Folsom sites in Saskatchewan. They are all like this, surface finds where you find Folsom projectile points on the ground in a blown out area usually.

"That can tell you something. It tells you that those people were there and you know from the style of the spearhead that it was around 12,000 years ago, plus or minus 500 years, but it doesn't tell you much more than that. What you really want is to be able to find an intact deposit where you will have the stone artifacts and maybe fireplaces, animal bones, or perhaps the remains of structures that will really let you delve into the details of what people were doing at that time."

There are only around 40 documented Folsom find points around Saskatchewan," says Richards.

"They are very rare and nobody has found an intact deposit yet of this age," he says. "This folsom material is at least 1,000 years if not 1,500 years older than the next oldest site that has been excavated."

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# Sask Health asks travellers to be vigilant

## No confirmed cases in Saskatchewan yet

Continued from page 8  
 "It just looks like it's going to be an extended flu season, but people are really worried about Corona-

virus because it's new and it's different and at this time there's no vaccine for it," said Book.

The major cases of COVID-19 have been driving worry around it, but Book said in most cases it's treated in similar fashion to the flu.

"With people that are infected, what we're seeing across the board is that even though there's a lot of cases, 80 per cent who contract it can stay at home and recover at home. They're just asked to self-isolate," said Book.

"Then 15 per cent of people might need to go to the hospital to get a little bit more of that acute care. Then five per cent need the very high intense care."

For Saskatchewan, even though it's still something to watch, it's less of a worry than areas with larger populations.

"This is Saskatchewan too where we're not as high density population so it's not quite as concerning as in high density areas."

"It's still concerning, but we don't have any cases at this time. Just the concern," said Book.

Right now it's believed that 14 days is the amount of time to monitor your body if there are symptoms

or you've been in an area with a COVID-19 health notice.

"The 14 days direction comes from the Public Health Agency of Canada." "That's based on how long they think the virus lives for," said Book.

The Public Health Agency of Canada is monitoring the spread of COVID-19 in other countries and although the risk to Canadian travellers is low, it does vary based on destination.

Currently China, Hong Kong, Iran, Japan, Northern Italy, Singapore, and South Korea have travel health notices for COVID-19.

### Advice for Travellers:

If you have travelled to Hubei in the last 14 days, self-isolate at home for 14 days after leaving the area and actively monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 including cough, fever and difficulty breathing. Do not go to school, university, work, daycare, sporting or social events or religious gatherings.

If you have been in close contact with someone who is ill with COVID-19, you should self-isolate for 14

days from your last contact and actively monitor for symptoms.

If you have travelled from another affected area in the last 14 days but do not have any symptoms, you should monitor your health for 14 days after leaving the area, including taking your temperature twice daily.

If you develop symptoms, call HealthLine 811 for assessment and direction. If you do not have cough, fever or difficulty breathing, you can go to work or school.

If you do not have a travel history to/from an affected area and do not have symptoms of a cough or fever, you can go to work or school.

### Protect Yourself from Respiratory Illness:

- Wash your hands frequently;
- Do not touch surfaces and then your mouth, eyes or nose;
- Use tissues when you cough or sneeze and dispose of them immediately; and
- Stay home if you become ill and prevent the spread

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## FOR SALE BY TENDER

Sealed, written tenders for the property described below will be received by:

**Meighen Haddad, LLP • P.O. Box 397, Melita Manitoba • R0M 1L0**  
 Attention: Karen Beauchamp

### PROPERTY:

NW ¼ 5-3-26 WPM EXC ALL MINES AND MINERALS AS SET FORTH IN DEED 45444BO

The existing two strand electric fence is not part of the tender and will be removed by the Seller

### CONDITIONS OF TENDER:

- Interested parties must rely on their own inspection and knowledge of the property and not on the above or any other particulars or representations made by or on behalf of the Seller.
- Tenders must be received on or before 5:00 p.m. on March 23rd, 2020.
- Each tender must be accompanied by a \$2,500.00 deposit cheque payable to Meighen Haddad LLP. Deposits accompanying unaccepted bids will be refunded.
- Highest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

### TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SALE

- The bidder whose tender is accepted will be required to complete an agreement covering terms and conditions of sale.
- The closing date of the sale shall be April 27, 2020 on which date the Vendors shall provide a registerable Transfer of title to the Purchaser and the Purchaser shall pay the balance of the accepted tender. If the balance of the accepted tender is not paid within the set time limit or acceptable arrangements for payment have not been made, the deposit paid may be forfeited as liquidated damages and not as a penalty.
- Possession is not authorized until April 27, 2020 and acceptable arrangements for full payments are made following acceptance of tender.
- All mines and minerals will be reserved from any Transfer.
- Land is in the Torren's Title system.
- Successful bidders will be responsible for real property taxes commencing January 1, 2020.

Inquiries should be directed to Henry Dickinson at 204-522-2408 or Bill Dickinson at 204-522-6442 or 204-673-2465.

**MH Meighen Haddad LLP**  
 LAW FIRM

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## FOR SALE BY TENDER

Sealed, written tenders for the property described below will be received by:

**Meighen Haddad, LLP • P.O. Box 397, Melita Manitoba • R0M 1L0**  
 Attention: Karen Beauchamp

### PROPERTY:

THE NW ¼ OF SECTION 29-6-29 WPM EXC ALL MINES AND MINERALS RESERVED IN ORIGINAL GRANT FROM THE CROWN

There is a Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation caveat on the title

### CONDITIONS OF TENDER:

- Interested parties must rely on their own inspection and knowledge of the property and not on the above or any other particulars or representations made by or on behalf of the Seller.
- Tenders must be received on or before 5:00 p.m. on March 25, 2020.
- Each tender must be accompanied by a \$2,500.00 deposit cheque payable to Meighen Haddad LLP. Deposits accompanying unaccepted bids will be refunded
- Highest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

### TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SALE

- The bidder whose tender is accepted will be required to complete an agreement covering terms and conditions of sale.
- The closing date of the sale shall be April 27, 2020 on which date the Vendors shall provide a registerable Transfer of title to the Purchaser and the Purchaser shall pay the balance of the accepted tender. If the balance of the accepted tender is not paid within the set time limit or acceptable arrangements for payment have not been made, the deposit paid may be forfeited as liquidated damages and not as a penalty.
- Possession is not authorized until April 27, 2020, and acceptable arrangements for full payments are made following acceptance of tender. Permission could be given by the Vendors for the Purchaser to access the land for seeding purposes prior to April 27, 2020 provided his mortgage documents have been signed and his Cash to Mortgage is in the lawyer's trust account.
- All mines and minerals will be reserved from any Transfer.
- Land is in the Torren's Title system.
- Successful bidders will be responsible for real property taxes commencing January 1, 2020.

Inquiries should be directed to Karen Beauchamp at 204-522-3225.

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# Archeological site near Rocanville

Continued from page 15

## An exciting find

One of the most exciting discoveries at the site was something called a Folsom Ultrathin Biface, a type of knife made of heat treated material that was very thin and took a lot of skill to create.

"It's a very rare type or artifact," says Richards. "I had hardly heard of them before we found this one in the collection and identified it for what it was.

"It's 13.5 centimeters long, but it's between 4-6 centimeters thick. It's very thin and very well flaked. And those only occur in the Folsom period as well.

"That was a really major find by Jake and Brenda. They found it in three pieces on three separate times that they went out to the site collecting. It was exposed and then they went out another time and another part was exposed, and then they glued it together.

"That's a major find. There are not that many of them known, period. They are found at some Folsom sites. They are extremely well made, they are very thin and they hadn't really even been recognized until about 20 years ago as a distinct artifact. As far as I know this is the first one that has been documented in Saskatchewan. There are probably other ones out there in collections and small museums, I just haven't seen anything written up about them and I haven't seen any in museums."

Richards says many of the artifacts found at the site near Rocanville are made of a material found in North Dakota, but the Folsom Ultra Thin Biface was made of a local material.

"They use a lot of Knife River flint. The Knife River flint quarry is in North Dakota about 340 km in a straight line," says Richards. "There are several ultra thin bifaces made out of knife river flint that have been found in the U.S. That material was widely used in the folsom period. At that time people tended to focus on one or two high quality raw materials even if they had to go a great distance to get them.

"They would hit that location once or twice a year and would have this material with them before they camped in the Qu'appelle valley north of Rocanville.

"But the Ultra Thin Biface (found at Rocanville) is not made of that material. It is made of a local raw material that we call swan river chert. And it doesn't flake as well as knife river flint. But this material was heat treated to make it flake better.

"They have to be heated to quite a high temperature and it alters the microcrystalline structure of the artifact to make it flake more readily.

"It's really big and really thin and it takes incredible skill to flake something like that without breaking it."

## Few Folsom sites in Sask

"There is a possibility that there could be intact deposits at that site," says Richards. "There are other areas nearby that are not as heavily wind eroded as the area where this material was found, that are close but look like they are not as disturbed. If the landowners agree, we wouldn't mind going in there and doing some testing just to see if there are any deposits there.

"That's significant because we have no excavated Folsom sites in Saskatchewan. They are all like this, surface finds where you find Folsom projectile points on the ground in a blown out area usually.

"That can tell you something. It tells you that those people were there and you know from the style of the spearhead that it was around 12,000 years ago, plus or minus 500 years, but it doesn't tell you much more than that. What you really want is to be able to find an intact deposit where you will have the stone artifacts and maybe fireplaces, animal bones, or perhaps the remains of structures that will really let you delve into the details of what people were doing at that time."

There are only around 40 documented Folsom find points around Saskatchewan," says Richards.

"They are very rare and nobody has found an intact deposit yet of this age," he says. "This folsom material is at least 1,000 years if not 1,500 years older than the next oldest site that has been excavated.

"There are some sites that date to 10,600 but nothing earlier than that that we know that belongs to any particular complex.

"They are very hard to find. There are not a lot of them. The human population would have been relatively low compared to later period, so you have that combination of the sites being there for a long time, so they could have been eroded away or deeply buried, and not that many of them to begin with."

## Site was a camping area

So what were people doing on this site around 11,000 years ago, and over the years following?

"I think it was a major camping area that people were at for quite a while, and then they would be retooling," says Richards. "You would have broken damaged spearheads, so you would be taking those out of the hafts and be making new ones and retooling, doing a lot of camping activities. There are quite a lot of scrapers there.

"There are spurred end scrapers. They have a little spur on the corner. That is typical of this really early period. It's not conclusive that it's that early, but many of the scrapers from the early period are like that. They have that form to them, and so there was a lot of hide scraping going on as well at that site."

## Site and artifacts

### were treated with care

Richards says one of the best things about the site near

Rocanville is how Brenda and Jake treated it with so much care as they collected the artifacts.

"We are looking at this like it's an archeological site, we're looking at the whole assemblage, particularly the items that can be assigned to the Folsom period and then we will talk about what we think people were doing on the site on that basis. The reason we can do that is because Brenda and Jake maintained very good records and they kept all the material from this site separate from the one or two other sites that they looked at. A lot of collectors would have just picked up a whole bunch of arrowheads and spearheads and they mount them in frames and put them up on the wall and they aren't sure where they come from and you lose the context, and the rest of the material that was with them might be in another box. Here you have a whole collection that was kept together and curated very well.

"So that makes it very important. And if we can find some intact deposits it will be extremely important."

The collection is on loan to the Royal Saskatchewan Museum and Richards and his wife Phillipa have been studying it and have written an article in Saskatchewan Archaeology Quarterly about the site.

"Phillippa Richards, my wife, who co-wrote that article, and I have been studying the material at the museum since we've had it on loan for about a year. And in a few month's time we will be finished and will take them back to Rocanville and do a talk at the museum there about our findings," says Richards.

So what's next for the site near Rocanville?

"We are going to finish our analysis and write up that paper on the analytical results," says Richards "We are also going to see if we can get permission to do some small scale test excavations on the property and see if we can determine if there are any intact deposits there. That would be the next step."

## Richards thankful

Richards says he's grateful to the Rocanville Museum for lending them the collections, and to Brenda and Jake Sarazin for their work.

"We are just really grateful to Jamie MacLeod, the president of the Rocanville and District Museum, for arranging for us to have the loan of this material and for her support of our research. And particularly Jake Sarazin and James Sarazin for their support for our research. He said that Brenda was so interested in this site and you can tell from her documentation of their finds and their visits to the site that she was studying archeology. She had wanted to become an archeologist.

"Jake was saying that they are carrying on that work and they were happy to. She recognized the significance of the site, and we do too, and we are really pleased to carry on that work and hopefully something will come of it. I think there already is something coming out of it with our research. This is a very significant site.

"If Brenda and Jake didn't curate it and document it as well as they did, there wouldn't be much for us to do. It would have been another Folsom find spot where 'yep, they were there' and that's about all you could say.

"To further this research we think this sort of information should get out. We are just trying to find that intact Folsom or Clovis site so we can extend our knowledge of the pre-history of Saskatchewan a few thousand more years."

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30 MONDAY	BUTCHER SALE	9 A.M.

**APRIL 2020**

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3 FRIDAY	BRED COW & PAIR SALE	11:30 A.M.
6 MONDAY	BUTCHER SALE	9 A.M.
8 WEDNESDAY	PRE-SORT FEEDER SALE	10 A.M.
9 THURSDAY	SHEEP/GOAT SALE	12 NOON

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27 MONDAY	BUTCHER SALE	9 A.M.
29 WEDNESDAY	REGULAR FEEDER SALE	9 A.M.

**MAY 2020**

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8 FRIDAY	FEEDER & BUTCHER SALE	9 A.M.

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# Barlow discusses ag with SE Sask farmers

Continued from page 21



Above: John Barlow speaks to farmers at a meeting in Yorkton.

"In my riding last summer some turkey farmers got up in the morning, went to check the barns, and there were 70 protesters camped out in their barns," said Barlow.

Barlow met with the family and said they were terrified and had no idea what to do.

People entering livestock barns without proper procedures and protection can put the animals at risk of infection.

"When you go and check your livestock or your crops you don't expect these protesters and they were there until the RCMP talked them into leaving," said Barlow.

"This bill will be an amendment to the Healthy Animals Act. Any protester that goes onto private property and could be passing a virus or causing harm to livestock will have up to a \$100,000 fine and two years in jail."

"The second part of that is any organization behind that could be fined up to \$500,000," said Barlow.

"We have to ensure there's consequences to these things and there's a deterrent."

With many different situations up against them, Barlow spoke candidly about the worry around mental health and said it can't be ignored.

"It's causing psychological problems here too for farmers, the mental health crisis for farmers is being overshadowed," said Barlow.

Barlow emphasized how important it is for him and the Conservative Party to show Canadians they support agriculture.

There's so much that can't be controlled for farmers so they need a government that is supporting agriculture, said Barlow.

The majority of the farmers in attendance agreed with Barlow about the disconnect between urban and rural people.

"80 per cent of Canadians just don't know because they've never been a part of it," said Barlow.

They believe many Canadians don't understand modern Canadian agriculture and the importance of their work.

"Agriculture needs a party who understands what they're going through," said Barlow. "You need someone who isn't going to tax you, but give you credit."

Barlow is worried that the disconnect between those in agriculture and those not could be detrimental.

"The government right now is doing everything to handicap agriculture," said Barlow. "It's not that they don't care, it's that they don't understand."

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**Above:** Federal Conservative Shadow Agriculture Minister John Barlow and MP of Yorkton-Melville Cathay Wagantall speak with a farmer in Yorkton Tuesday.

## Barlow looks at agriculture disconnect

BY ROB PAUL  
 LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

In Yorkton on Tuesday, March 3 while discussing an abundance of topics in agriculture Shadow Minister for Agriculture John Barlow spoke about the disconnect that's hurting farmers in Canada today. "Times have changed. There are new anomalies agriculture is having to face. Things we've never had to deal with before," said Barlow.

Barlow made it clear that the disconnect is not east vs. west, but rather urban vs. rural.

He believes this disconnect is leading to the vast majority of issues in Canadian agriculture.

"The overlying message here is frustration and anxiety. We keep hearing 'I've done everything right and I still can't get my crop to market.' There's too many variables they can't control," said Barlow.

The disconnect between urban and rural is something Barlow believes needs to be resolved for Canada to get back to its roots.

He also believes it's a group effort and not just a one sided issue.

"This isn't something that one group takes on themselves. This has to be a partnership. Reconnecting urban and rural has to be done together. Put our own agendas aside and do this for the greater good," said Barlow.

*Continued on page 29* <sup>EST</sup>



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# Federal government moves to ban strychnine

## Producers say there is no alternative to control gophers, which damage crops, hurt livestock

Health Canada is moving forward with a ban on the use of the deadly pesticide strychnine to kill gophers.

Producers say there is no alternative to kill gophers, which damage crops. Gopher holes in pastures can injure livestock.

Health Canada says an evaluation of scientific information confirms there are risks to other animals from strychnine, although an study by the government of Saskatchewan found almost no effects on any other animals except deer mice, four of which were found dead after a thorough study. The governments of Alberta and Saskatchewan have expressed alarm about a ban and groups including the Canadian Cattlemen's Association and the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities have opposed it.

"Based on the evaluation of currently available scientific information, Health Canada has concluded that the environmental risks associated with the use of strychnine and its associated end-use product to control Richardson's ground squirrels were not shown to be acceptable when this product is used according to the label directions and required mitigation measures," the Health Canada decision says.

"Under the authority of the Pest Control Products

Act, Health Canada is cancelling strychnine used to control Richardson's ground squirrels."

In 2018, Alberta Agriculture said producers were worried about the financial implications of a ban because strychnine is the only effective tool for controlling gophers.

The department noted that Alberta has about 24 million seeded acres of crop each year with an estimate of \$5 billion of production value.

"Richardson ground squirrel populations have the potential to explode in the absence of viable control options. This could result in huge financial impacts to agricultural producers," a government spokesman said at the time.

The Saskatchewan government said when used according to the label, strychnine is the most efficient and effective control measure for Richardson's ground squirrels and has limited environmental effect.

The cattlemen's association had said that the regulated use of liquid strychnine should continue because it is an effective tool and there is no practical alternative.

People who are against the Health Canada decision have 60 days to file an objection, which must be

based on scientific grounds.

The Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities said it is appalled to hear the federal government cancelled the approved use of strychnine to control gophers.

"The . . . decision is based on anecdotal assumptions, not recent research," according to SARM. "In 2019, the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture completed a study on the use of strychnine."

"This study indicated that despite a large number of non-target species present, death from strychnine was limited to only four deer mice."

"With such a small proven environmental impact PMRA should be using SMA's research to support the continued use of strychnine, not to discontinue it" said SARM President Ray Orb.

"We plan to meet with


Minister Marit and decision makers in Ottawa" said Orb "SARM will take all steps needed to have the decision overturned or at minimum have our producers compensated for any crop damage due to gophers."

The federal government's plan is to phase out the product over the next three years, making the product unavailable after March 4, 2021 and fully banned for use March 4, 2023. There is currently no alternative to control RGS.

In 1992 to 2001, 2% liquid strychnine wasn't available causing gopher populations to explode resulting in millions of dollars in losses to producers. In the years it has been made available populations have declined. Dry years with no effective method of control will result in devastating losses.

"I hope the province can appeal or at least delay the

decision" said Orb, "Our producers don't need to be enduring anymore hardships."



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# Barlow looks at agriculture disconnect

*Continued from page 27*

With questions surrounding the lack of agriculture focus in the Conservatives campaign for this past fall's election, Barlow vowed they plan on making it a priority going forward.

"We heard it during the election. 'How come agriculture wasn't a big part of your platform?' And I agree with them. It should have been," said Barlow.

The legislation the Conservatives have tabled is in direct support of Canadian agriculture as they try to make positive changes.

"We understand what they're going through. The legislation we put through is extremely important," said Barlow.

With the problems going on in agriculture Canada is losing its reputation globally and Barlow thinks supporting agriculture is the key to regaining status.

"They expect some stability. Reliable infrastructure, transportation system, global trade markets. Those things have all been eroded and that makes it very tough to be successful," said Barlow.

"What the government has done is put them in a more precarious scenario," said MP for Yorkton-Melville Cathay Wagantall. "A lot of it is self-inflicted by this government and it's hurting our farmers, it's hurting our industries, and it's hurting the whole Canadian economy."

There is much that can't be controlled for farmers so they need support where it can be given, said Barlow.

"There are things they expect, some stability. Reliable infrastructure, transportation system, global trade markets. Those things have all been eroded and that makes it very tough to be successful," said Barlow.

Both Barlow and Wagantall worry about the mental health effects that can impact farmers in such an uncertain time for their industry.

"I'm concerned for their welfare and their families. I had a farmer tell me he's beyond angry and so depressed. That's the environment a lot of our farmers are dealing with right now," said Wagantall.

With so many factors hitting the agriculture industry at once Barlow believes something has to be done or it could cause irreversible damage.

"Concerns are pretty universal no matter where you are. Whether they're dealing with PMRA (Pest Management Regulatory Agency), CFIA (Canadian Food Inspection Agency), tax changes, or the legal blockades. The frustration within agriculture is palpable and they just don't feel there's a government right now that looks at agriculture as a priority."

To keep agriculture as a major player in the Canadian economy, Barlow wants the government to try and help keep farms in families.

"We have to look at things differently, but we don't want to lose that family structure to Canadian farming. That's who we are as Canadians," said Barlow. "It's part of the foundation we built. Have grants in place so young farmers aren't drowning in debt."

Both Barlow and Wagantall were firm on their belief that the current government just isn't doing enough to keep the agriculture industry afloat.

"Whenever the Liberals make a mistake agriculture is always the one paying the price. They've had enough and they want someone to be fighting for them," said Barlow.

Although Barlow firmly believes it's not east vs. west when it comes to issues in agriculture, he does think if the west isn't heard equally to the east it could lead to drastic measures.

"Western alienation is very real. We have to share this with our eastern colleagues. This is something we have to take seriously," said Barlow.

Right now Barlow thinks the first step in the right direction is proper education on agriculture and having leadership in Canada prioritize its growth.

"I'm a proud Canadian and I believe that we can fix this with the right leadership, the right government, and the right policies," he said.



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# Kola business changes hands after 60 years

BY KARA KINNA

After 60 years of being owned by Les and Bertha Penner, Penner Lumber in Kola, Manitoba has changed hands, and the new owners—Adam and Nancy Bajus—are looking forward to a new chapter with the business.

Both Adam and Nancy say they didn't want to see the business close, and instead, wanted to see it grow and take on new projects, which is one of the reasons they decided to purchase the business when the Penners decided it was time to hang up their hats.

"I've worked here for 25 to 30 years off and on between having my kids," says Nancy.

"Back in my teen years I used to frame here for Les," says Adam. "And we own another business in the community, so we've done business back and forth for years. We have a welding shop called Little Creek Livestock and Welding. We are a mile and a half east of here.

"We saw this as an opportunity. Nancy knew the business. We have three sons and they are all married. And so as a family we wanted to go on a bit of an adventure. They are not involved day to day—we have one as an employee—but it's always good for a family. Nancy was raised in Kola and I am from Elkhorn."

"And we didn't want to see it shut down," says Nancy.

"Les had the opportu-



The owners and staff at Penner Lumber. In back from left are owner Adam Bajus, Manager Paul Archambault and Rod Cheaters. In front are owner Nancy Bajus, Kate Bajus, Wendell Plett, and Tanner Siemens.

nity to sell it or basically close it, and he approached us about four years ago to see if we'd be interested in buying it and carrying it on, and so we looked at it," says Adam.

"We lost the feed mill in Kola about a year and a half ago. Every small community needs to stay viable, and so we look at it as a business venture, but also as a community

venture too, to keep these small towns rolling.

"Les built a good rapport with people far and wide for quality lumber and good pricing, and so that was an opportunity that we also saw, that it has been a business for 60 years and is known, and so we hope to carry that on and add to it."

Adam and Nancy took the business over officially

on May 16, 2019, and since then have begun working to add more product and more services to the business with the aim of seeing the business grow.

The couple have beefed up the livestock equipment and feed side of the business, and have also used their welding business to supply livestock items.

"We brought in miner-

als and some supplements and net wrap, and with the welding shop we've got troughs, and all the livestock equipment we have for sale here is all made for our other business," says Adam.

The couple also plan to take on another big venture with the business—RTM home building.

Adam and Nancy say they have already started

doing interviews to expand the staff at Penner Lumber, and many of their staff are trained in home building and the construction industry.

"The lumber yard years ago used to general contract a lot of buildings," says Adam.

"We want to provide the experience of ordering a house or a building and we will look after you from start to finish, from groundbreaking until you want the landscaping done.

"That's something that I've watched change in the last number of years. Twenty years ago people knew what they wanted and they knew how to get there because everyone understood how to do things like build a garden shed. And today people know what they want but they don't know how to get there, or they are too busy to. It's too overwhelming for them.

"So we want to provide that service. When you say I want a house or a shed, we can run you through all the steps that have to happen and we can look after that for you. We have a list of contractors that we work with and they provide good quality work. We can provide from ground breaking to move in."

"And some of our employees are very familiar with house building. They used to do that before they started working here so they have that experience," says Nancy.

*Continued on page 31*



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# Kola business changes hands after 60 years

Continued from page 30

"We have two on-staff Red Seal carpenters," adds Adam. "So they can provide the right answers, not just an answer, but the right answers, and also caution you. If we see that you are making an error, we want to tell you in the nicest way. And our manager, Paul Archambault, previously owned and managed Four Seasons Construction, which is a house builder down the road. We enticed him to come and work for us, and Wendell Plett is a Red Seal carpenter who also works for us, so we don't have just staff, but trained staff."

"And Rodney Cheaters has worked here for 30 years too and we kept him on. He is a wealth of knowledge," adds Nancy.

Adam and Nancy say they feel the business can support around 10 staff during the busy construction season, and around six staff during the slower part of the year.

"Les retired out of this business, so of course he was slowing down and we are looking to ramp back up," says Adam. "So there are definitely some changes and a different vision of what we want it to be. We want it to be a full service lumber yard and hardware store. Les loved the lumber trade, and I just like the trade aspect of it, whether it be lumber or hardware or livestock. You have to create a business environment where people come to you first."

The couple are also looking to add custom decking into the mix of products and services they offer.

But they also stress that they want their place to be a store where do-it-yourselfers feel just as welcome as people looking for full service.

"We also want to be a place where do-it-yourselfers can come and feel like they can get the materials and go home

and build their own projects," adds Adam.

The couple have also started to modify the floor space of the existing building, and hope to add more floor space and more display space. They are planning a total refresh of the store in the spring, both inside and out.

"We plan in the spring to do a complete store refresh. On the exterior, the front is going to be changed this summer and hopefully by fall it's done, and for the interior we haven't decided yet, but we've hired a store planner to come and walk through," says Adam.

"It's been here for 60 years and sometimes it's good to have a fresh set of eyes. It's not for no reason that large stores renovate often just to keep that fresh look."

Penner Lumber has a wide trading area, from as far south as Carlyle, as far north as Rocanville, and into Manitoba in communities like Oak Lake, Virden, and Pierson.

Adam and Nancy say it's important for them to offer services to the region, and also to make it clear that they are a business that is part of the wider community.

They feel it's important to support local businesses in the region in order to keep rural Manitoba and Saskatchewan viable, and to promote regional co-operation.

"We have a large trade area but you have to in this day and age," says Adam.

"I hope to see that Penner Lumber is still growing in five to ten years. It gives the people in the area the confidence that rural Manitoba and rural Saskatchewan will survive.

"I believe in rural Canada, I don't think everyone needs to live in Toronto or Winnipeg. I think for me it's important for people to recognize that economics have changed. And even though we have changed to e-based business

centres, when you have a warranty issue or you need to talk to someone about a product, it's very difficult to do (if you've purchased something online), so when you buy local, people spend local, local businesses keep your local stuff running.

"You can drive by Elkhorn and look at the baseball diamonds, you can drive by Moosomin and look at the football field, you can drive by Virden and look at their ball diamonds and their heritage buildings—the general public utilizes them and gives what they can give, but often it's the business sector that carries that chunk of change."

"So the only way that business people can give to those operations is if we keep our dollars local.

"I don't look at other lumber yards as competitors, I look at them as partners. If we are short of something and a customer needs it, we will give them the option if someone else has it or we will order it for them.

"We want to be competitive but also a team player in the area."

Adam says what he enjoys the most about running the business is watching it grow.

"What I enjoy is to see something grow. This is an opportunity where we can grow this business, grow relationships," he says. "For me it's the thrill of building it back up."

He says he also hopes to see the community of Kola become known as a service centre.

"Kola has every trade that you need for house building," he says. "We have plumbers, we have electricians, we have drywallers, we have guys who install tile. We have all of those people here so hopefully we can complete that hub to hopefully make us a service centre."



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<b>2017 Ford Escape SE</b> STOCK# 9T114A > 4x4 > 68,000 kms  WAS \$24,900 • SAVE \$4,914 <b>NO DICKER \$TICKER</b> <b>\$19,986</b> <b>\$79</b> PER WEEK 84 MONTH TERM	<b>2016 Ford Edge SEL</b> STOCK# 0T003A > AWD > 105,000 kms  WAS \$26,900 • SAVE \$4,928 <b>NO DICKER \$TICKER</b> <b>\$21,972</b> <b>\$99</b> PER WEEK 72 MONTH TERM	<b>2017 Chev Equinox LS</b> STOCK# 9T239A > AWD > 58,000 kms  WAS \$24,900 • SAVE \$6,301 <b>NO DICKER \$TICKER</b> <b>\$18,599</b> <b>\$75</b> PER WEEK 84 MONTH TERM	<b>2017 Ford F-550 Crew Cab Flat Deck</b> STOCK# 9P278 > 4x4 > 49,000 kms  WAS \$58,900 • SAVE \$12,905 <b>NO DICKER \$TICKER</b> <b>\$45,995</b>	<b>2019 Ford F-250 Lariat</b> STOCK# 9T285A > Crew Cab > 4x4 > 53,000 kms  WAS \$57,900 • SAVE \$5,285 <b>NO DICKER \$TICKER</b> <b>\$52,615</b> <b>\$199</b> PER WEEK 84 MONTH TERM
<b>2019 Ford F-150 Super Crew</b> STOCK# 0T024A > 3.5L Eco Boost > 4x4 > 33,000 kms  WAS \$39,900 • SAVE \$6,912 <b>NO DICKER \$TICKER</b> <b>\$32,988</b> <b>\$125</b> PER WEEK 84 MONTH TERM	<b>2017 Ford F-150 Super Crew XLT</b> STOCK# 9T294A > 4x4 > 5.0L V8 > 141,000 kms  WAS \$30,900 • SAVE \$5,953 <b>NO DICKER \$TICKER</b> <b>\$24,947</b> <b>\$99</b> PER WEEK 84 MONTH TERM	<b>2017 Ford F-150 Super Crew Lariat</b> STOCK# 9T186A > 4x4 > 5.0L V8 > 94,000 kms  WAS \$40,900 • SAVE \$2,953 <b>NO DICKER \$TICKER</b> <b>\$37,947</b> <b>\$145</b> PER WEEK 84 MONTH TERM	<b>2014 Ford F-150 Super Crew XLT</b> STOCK# 9T148 > 4x4 > 5.0L V8 > 124,000 kms  WAS \$25,900 • SAVE \$6,424 <b>NO DICKER \$TICKER</b> <b>\$19,476</b> <b>\$85</b> PER WEEK 72 MONTH TERM	<b>2017 Ford Fusion Sport</b> STOCK# 9T058A > Turbo Charged V6 > AWD > 55,000 kms  WAS \$26,900 • SAVE \$7,004 <b>NO DICKER \$TICKER</b> <b>\$19,896</b> <b>\$79</b> PER WEEK 84 MONTH TERM






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