

Plain & Valley

Covering Southeast Saskatchewan and Southwest Manitoba

May 2014 • Volume 7, Number 5

Threats persist for PFRA Community Pastures

BY ADAM GAMBLE

Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA) Community Pastures provide many advantages for cattle producers and endangered species, but there may be changes as the pastures are transferred from federal to provincial jurisdiction, said Trevor Herriot, co-chair of Public Pastures—Public Interest (PPPI).

Some of the pasture is native prairie, while some is land that had been cultivated by homesteaders.

During the 1930s, the PFRA took control of some of the marginal land that had been cultivated and turned it to pasture.

"During the '30s, they bounced between federal and provincial jurisdiction because of the severe droughts," said Herriot. "However, 90 percent of Saskatchewan's 62 pastures are provincial Crown lands and are under federal management today." The pastures total 1.8 million acres of land.

Between December 2013 and March 2014, 10 Saskatchewan pastures were transferred to the province; Park in the North Battleford District; Fairview and Newcombe in the Rosetown District; Lone Tree in the Swift Current District; Wolverine and McCraney in the Watrous District; Ituna Bon Accord in the Foam Lake District; and Excel, Keywest, and Estevan Cambria in the Weyburn District. The remaining pastures will be transferred by 2018.

"The provincial government has said it will not manage these pastures like the federal government had been doing," said Herriot. "However, it has said it plans on selling and leasing the lands to patron groups."

Herriot says the transfer endangers the small-to-middle-sized farmers and ranchers, who use the pastures to graze their cattle.

Under the federal system, farmers and ranchers could graze their cattle on the pastures at a cost—a grazing fee. The federal government also supplied staffing to tend the pasture, bulls for breeding, veterinary services and infrastructure.

"Under the new system, patrons have to manage the entire operation on their own. They have grazing fees, and on top of that, lease fees to pay. So there's no way farmers and cattle producers, who have helped maintain the pastures through the payment of federal grazing fees over the years, can afford to purchase the pastures. They are being bullied into forming co-ops so they can continue grazing their cattle on the pastures."

Although the exact cost of the grazing and leasing fees are unknown, the current grazing fee in Saskatchewan, under the federal system, is \$1 to \$1.25 per Animal Unit Month (AUM) per day, said Ian McCreary, chair of the Community Pasture Patrons Association of Saskatchewan. In Manitoba, it's about 87 cents per Animal Unit Month AUM per day, he said.

Herriot says the transfer brings with it some uncertainty. "Picture joining a club with all of the people in your neighborhood. It could go well or it could go poorly. For the first few years, co-ops could be good stewards of the land. But no one lives forever."

"Although the Province is saying the pastures are only for lease or sale to patrons . . . we're concerned it's going to privatize the pastures if the system with the co-ops doesn't work out."

According to a 2014 report released by PPPI, the federal government developed a manual for the oil and gas industry, which outlined environmental assessment procedures and operation protocols on the pastures.

There are currently 3,000 active leases on PFRA pastures, most of which are for oil and gas developments, according to the same report.

Scott says pasture managers monitored oil and gas ac-



Adam Gamble photo

Once the Spy Hill-Ellice pasture is transferred to provincial jurisdiction, and patrons like Don Ferguson of Moosomin will have to join a co-op to graze his cattle there.

tivity on the pastures. "With the pastures being turned over to those who lease them, they may have a manager to do this. But if the producers are looking after the pastures, salt blocks, and fence, they're going to be busy."

First Nations may be impacted by the transfer of the pastures. "It will impact our inherent rights to access Crown lands," said Brian Scribes, lands director at Ochapowace First Nation.

"As long there is no cattle grazing in the area, or homes nearby, we can go there to hunt. We can also go there to practice any of our other traditional ways of life."

Ochapowace, which has 680 acres of land that it farms and leases to ranchers, could submit a bid to purchase, under Treaty Land Entitlement, the closest pasture to it, Spy Hill-Ellice, or any PFRA pasture. However, Scribes says it would be difficult for the First Nation to manage Spy Hill-Ellice, as it's located five miles east of the village of Spy Hill, extending to just west of Binscarth, Manitoba.

Spy Hill-Ellice is also the closest pasture to Moosomin. "It's 40,000 acres—there are 28 sections in Saskatchewan and 32 in Manitoba," said Zane Fredbjornson, pasture manager of Spy Hill-Ellice.

"A (non-profit) group called the Association of Manitoba Community Pastures (AMCP) is talking about leasing both sides of the pasture," said Fredbjornson. "But we don't know what's going to happen."

Because the Spy Hill-Ellice pasture straddles the Saskatchewan-Manitoba border, "We haven't officially determined the transition date for pasture," said Wally

Hoehn, executive director of the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture Lands Branch. "However, we have been having discussions with Manitoba and Canada on trying to set that date and a process for the transition."

Hoehn says the same discussions have been happening regularly for the Cote San Clara pasture near Togo, which also straddles both borders. But, he says there hasn't been any discussion regarding an AMCP takeover of either pasture.

"We don't understand some of the land tenure completely yet. So, we don't want to start engaging patrons before we understand the whole picture ourselves . . . We anticipate dealing with this much earlier than (the 2018 cut off date)."

Whatever happens, Fredbjornson says the patrons at Spy Hill-Ellice want to keep it the same. "We've been crossfencing to better rotate cattle better."

"We're moving away from continuous grazing. It's a great system of rotational grazing. And if AMCP takes over, and we don't have the money to do that, I think we're not going to reach our full potential," he said.

In Manitoba, there are patrons from communities including Binscarth, Birtle and Shoal lake. In Saskatchewan, there are patrons from communities including Langenburg, Welwyn, Esterhazy, Wapella, Spy Hill and Moosomin.

Don Ferguson, 64, is from Moosomin and has been using the pasture to graze his cattle for 10 years.

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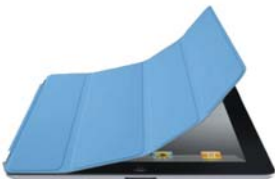
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Tea house attracts people for nearly 22 years

BY ADAM GAMBLE

Far away from any big city, Home Sweet Home has been attracting flocks of people for nearly 22 years.

The tea house, which is located on Main Street in Fairlight, combines shopping with homemade, farm-grown meals and desserts.

"We have scarves, spices, jewelry, home décor—you name it," said owner Brenda Thompson. "I never thought I would own a place like this. Maybe it was just fate."

Growing up in Kipling, Thompson would visit her aunt in Cobourg, Ontario as often as she could. In Grade 11, her family moved to Maryfield, where she worked at her parents' grocery store. Years later, she also worked as a part-time bus driver, and a care aide at the Sunrise Villa senior home in the town.

"I enjoyed working with people back then, and I still do today," she said.

After graduating from high school, she moved to a farm four miles south of Fairlight, where she would raise her family. Little did she know that, on that farm, she would end up opening the first location of Home Sweet Home.

"There was a lady moving away from Maryfield, who was also a member of the Maryfield Agriculture Society. And I decided to take her to a little, stone teahouse in Wapella," said Thompson. "My friend, who also came with us, said, 'Hey, didn't that look fun?' So, we came home, had a long chat, and decided we were going open a tea room."

"We initially looked at a building in Maryfield, which was owned by the bank. But it was unfinished and too much money. Then I thought, 'There's also an empty farmhouse on the land my husband and I rented.' So, I came home, made a deal with the land owner and opened on November 20, 1992."

Home Sweet Home was first open Thursday to Sundays in the afternoon. It was staffed by Thompson's friends, as well as fifteen students.

People could sell items through consignment and buy home décor and various crafts.

"They were mostly from around Fair-



Adam Gamble photo

Home Sweet Home has been attracting people to Fairlight (above) since Sept. 7, 1999. Before it relocated there, it was located at a farmhouse four miles south of the town.

light," said Thompson. "Over time, people also came in from further way to consign and buy things... We had people bring in shelving from Swift Current. We also had people bring in knitting, quilting, and even birdhouses."

In addition to shopping and consigning items, people could enjoy tea and biscuits. They could also book lunch and dinner parties.

Dishes included everything from roast beef and carrots, to homemade desserts like homemade cakes and pies.

"We had a Christmas open house there every November, before ornaments at Walmart became available, and a spring open house every April. We also had about 10 Christmas parties every December," said Thompson.

On the day after a 1994 New Year's

party was held at Home Sweet Home, an event changed how the business would be run.

"My friend, who I had started the business with, called me and said, 'I'd like to have less of a role,' she said. 'I just figured, well, I've been cutting the grass and shoveling the snow, so I might as well do the rest now.'"

The farmhouse remained the location of Home Sweet Home until 1999, when the lease was up on the land Thompson and her husband renting, and the owner had decided to sell it.

"This was the same time the Fairlight Legion branch on Main Street had gone up for sale, because there wasn't enough involvement, and we bought it. But it needed lots of renovations."

The renovations took three months

to complete with the help of people like Thompson's friends, Darlene Fowler and Marlene Downer.

"We gutted everything—the floors, bathrooms, windows and doors. We also painted and built a deck on the front of the building because there was just a cement step there," said Downer, who has been helping Thompson run the business since 1992.

Downer has known Thompson since she moved to Maryfield with her family. "I don't get paid for helping her. We're really good friends and I just come by and help whenever I want to. I used to have 1,200 cattle when I started helping her, too."

Four years after the relocation, Thompson expanded her business across the street.

"After the Dominion Bank shut down, it was a post office, and then a house. And it became run down," said Thompson. "It was an eyesore and it need to be fixed up. Every time you came out here, it was a mess. So we bought it, sided it, put new windows and doors on, and filled it with stuff for sale."

With two buildings, Home Sweet Home is similar to how it was at the farmhouse, according to Laura Magotiaux, who is from Maryfield, and has been going to Home Sweet Home for 22 years.

"Brenda still makes the best layered lemon cake. It's to die for," said Magotiaux.

Other desserts like chocolate sundaes are also at Home Sweet Home.

Piper Bourhis, who is two and a half years old, and sometimes go to Home Sweet Home with her family tried one of them.

How did it taste? "Yummy," said Bourhis with a smile.

Home Sweet Home is also open from the second Tuesday in April until December 31, as it was at the farmhouse.

"I can't wait until it opens in the spring, and I'm sad when it closes in the winter," said Magotiaux.

However, there are also some differences.

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STOCK# 5673
was \$19,995 **NOW \$18,995**

2008 BUICK ENCLAVE CXL AWD



3.6L V6, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, 8 Pass., Htd. Leather Buckets, 19" Alum, Keyless, Pwr. Liftgate, UK3, Red, 157,253 kms
STOCK# 9571A
was \$19,995 **NOW \$18,995**

2008 JEEP PATRIOT SPORT



4x4, 2.4L, 4 cyl., A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, Buckets, 17" Alum, Keyless, White, 140,192 kms
STOCK# 9571A
was \$10,995 **NOW \$9,995**

2013 CHEVROLET AVALANCHE LTZ



4x4, 5.3L V8, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, Htd. & Cld. Leather, Buckets, Sunroof, 20" Alum, NAV, Pwr. Pedals, UVc, UD7, White, 57,099 kms
STOCK# 144068A
was \$49,995 **NOW \$48,995**

2011 CHEVROLET SILVERADO LTZ



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STOCK# 14276A
was \$26,995 **NOW \$25,995**

PRE-OWNED CARS

2013 Chevrolet Cruze LT 1SA

1.4L 4 Cyl., Turbo, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, Buckets, Connectivity Pkg., Keyless, 5Sw. Cont., USB, XM, Silver, 21,223 kms, Stock# 9562
was \$19,995 **NOW \$17,995**

2013 Chevrolet Impala LT

Sedan, 3.6L V6, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, Buckets, AP3, 17" Alum, UK6, Bluetooth, Black, 25,269 kms, Stock# 9562
was \$19,995 **NOW \$18,995**

2013 Chevrolet Impala LT

Sedan, 3.6L V6, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, Buckets, Remote Start, 17" Alum, Bluetooth, UK3, C/J3, Grey, 17,884 kms, Stock# 3585
was \$19,995 **NOW \$18,995**

2013 Chevrolet Impala LT

Sedan, 3.6L V6, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, Remote Start, Buckets, 17" Alum, UK3, Bluetooth, C/J3, Black, 15,098 kms, Stock# 3587
was \$19,995 **NOW \$18,995**

2013 Chevrolet Impala LT

Sedan, 3.6L V6, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, Remote Start, Buckets, 17" Alum, UK3, Bluetooth, C/J3, White, 13,493 kms, Stock# 3583
was \$19,995 **NOW \$18,995**

2013 Chevrolet Impala LT

Sedan, 3.6L V6, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, Remote Start, Buckets, 17" Alum, UK3, Bluetooth, C/J3, White, 13,493 kms, Stock# 3583
was \$19,995 **NOW \$18,995**

2013 Mitsubishi Lancer SE

2.4L 4 Cyl., A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, Buckets, Keyless, 16" Alum, Sunroof, Black, 12,375 kms, Stock# 14177B
was \$20,995 **NOW \$19,995**

2012 Chevrolet Impala LT

Sedan, 3.6L V6, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, Buckets, 17" Alum, Remote Start, UK3, Bluetooth, G0374, Silver, 49,215 kms, Stock# 14199A
was \$18,995 **NOW \$17,995**

2012 Chevrolet Impala LT

Sedan, 3.6L V6, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, Buckets, AP3, 17" Alum, UK3, Bluetooth, Black, 53,599 kms, Stock# 13043A
was \$18,995 **NOW \$17,995**

2012 Ford Focus Titanium

5-Door Hatchback, 4 Cyl., A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, Leather Buckets, Alum. Wheels, Keyless Entry, Sunroof, Blue, 70,238 kms, Stock# 14236B
was \$16,995 **NOW \$15,995**

PRE-OWNED CARS

2010 Buick LaCrosse CXV CB

3.6L V6, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, Cloth Buckets, Remote Start, 17" Alum, C/J2, Bluetooth, White, 97,749 kms, Stock# 14904A
was \$18,995 **NOW \$15,995**

2010 Chevrolet Cobalt LT Sedan

2.2L 4 Cyl., A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, Buckets, AP3, 16" Alum, Pwr. Pkg., Cran, 35,687 kms, Stock# 14124A
was \$13,995 **NOW \$12,995**

2008 Chevrolet Impala SS Sedan

5.3L V8, 303HP, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, Htd. Leather Buckets, CFS, AP3, 18" Alum, Con. Pkg., XM, UK3, White, 135,851 kms, Stock# 9577
was \$14,995 **NOW \$13,995**

2007 Chevrolet Impala LS

Sedan, 3.5L V6, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, Buckets, Keyless, 17" Alum, Silver, 132,000 kms, Stock# 13153H
was \$10,995 **NOW \$8,900**

2013 Chevrolet Suburban LT

4x4, 5.3L V8, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, 8 Pass., Htd. Lthr. Buckets, CFS, 17" Alum, AP3, JF4, UD7, Pwr. Liftgate, Black, 27,555 kms, Stock# 9567
was \$49,995 **NOW \$48,995**

2013 Chevrolet Suburban 4WD LT

4x4, 5.3L V8, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, 8 Pass., Htd. Front & Second Row Seats, Htd. Steering Wheel, Rear Camera, Sunroof, 17" Alum, Remote Start, UK3, Pwr. Pedals, Steps, Pwr. Second Row Tumble Seat, White, 20,194 kms, Stock# 9566
was \$49,995 **NOW \$48,995**

2012 Cadillac SRX Luxury Collection AWD

3.6L V6, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, Htd. Lthr. Buckets, 18" Alum, BTV, Front & Rear Park Assist, Pwr. Liftgate, Sunroof, Memory Seats, Rear Camera, Gold, 94,263 kms, Stock# 9588
was \$34,995 **NOW \$33,995**

2012 Chevrolet Equinox LT AWD

2.4L 4 Cyl., A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, Htd. Cloth Buckets, BTV, 17" Alum, UVc, UK3, PDD, Bluetooth, Red, 65,155 kms, Stock# 14273A
was \$23,995 **NOW \$22,995**

2012 Chevrolet Equinox LT AWD

3.0L V6, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, Htd. Cloth Buckets, BTV, 17" Alum, Conv. Pkg., USB, V92, UVc, Bluetooth, Blue, 16,593 kms, Stock# 14216A
was \$29,995 **NOW \$28,995**

2012 GMC Terrain SLE1 AWD

SK Tax Paid, 2.4L, 4 Cyl., A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, Htd. Cloth Buckets, 17" Alum, BTV, Intellink, UK3, Flaps, Pioneer Stereo, C/J2, Z3911, Silver, 90,262 kms, Stock# 13365A
was \$22,995 **NOW \$19,900**

PRE-OWNED SUVs

2011 Buick Enclave CXL FWD

3.6L V6, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, Htd. Leather Buckets, 8 Pass., 18" Alum, BTV, Pwr. Liftgate, Rear Camera, Steps, Bluetooth, Gold, 89,110 kms, Stock# 14279A
was \$31,995 **NOW \$30,995**

2011 Chevrolet Equinox LT AWD

3.0L V6, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, Buckets, 18" Alum, BTV, Bluetooth, Stw. Controls, White, 81,367 kms, Stock# 14366A
was \$24,995 **NOW \$23,995**

2011 GMC Terrain SLE AWD

2.7L 4 Cyl., A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, Htd. Lthr. Buckets, BTV, 17" Alum, UVc, 2 Sets of Tires, UK3, Bluetooth, Black, 60,172 kms, Stock# 14268A
was \$23,995 **NOW \$22,995**

2010 Chevrolet Traverse FWD 1LT

3.6L V6, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, Buckets, 7 Pass., 18" Alum, BTV, CD, UD7, UK3, V92, White, 70,706 kms, Stock# 14215A
was \$22,995 **NOW \$21,995**

2010 Chevrolet Equinox LS AWD

2.4L 4 Cyl., A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, Buckets, Keyless, 17" Alum, Z1141, Grey, 40,488 kms, Stock# 14283A
was \$21,995 **NOW \$20,995**

2010 Chevrolet Traverse LT AWD

3.6L V6, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, Htd. Leather Buckets, 7 Pass., DVD, 18" Alum, Pwr. Liftgate, Remote Start, UDY, UVc, V92, Silver, 123,514 kms, Stock# 14281A
was \$21,995 **NOW \$20,995**

2010 Chevrolet Traverse LT AWD

3.6L V6, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, 7 Pass., Quad Buckets, 18" Alum, BTV, UD7, UK3, Gold, 118,221 kms, Stock# 14326A
was \$21,995 **NOW \$20,995**

2010 Dodge Journey RT AWD

3.6L V6, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, Htd. Leather Buckets, 7 Pass., Keyless, Alum. Wheels, DVD, Silver, 95,275 kms, Stock# 14134A
was \$19,995 **NOW \$18,995**

2009 Nissan Murano LE AWD

6 Cyl., A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, Htd. Lthr. Buckets, 18" Alum, Keyless, CD, Bluetooth, Brown, 60,963 kms, Stock# 14269A
was \$25,995 **NOW \$24,995**

2008 Hummer H3 AWD

3.7L 5 Cyl., A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, Buckets, 17" Alum, Z82, Keyless, NZZ, Trailer Harness, Red, 105,322 kms, Stock# 14239B
was \$20,995 **NOW \$19,995**

2007 Cadillac Escalade AWD

6.2L V8, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, Htd. Lthr. Buckets, JF4, AP3, 22" Chrome Wheels, UD7, UK3, Bose, 6-CD, 7 Pass., Second Row Htd. Buckets, Silver, 148,000 kms, Stock# 14376A
was \$25,995 **NOW \$24,995**

PRE-OWNED SUVs

2007 Pontiac Torrent AWD

3.4L V6, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, Htd. Lthr. Buckets, Sunroof, Remote Start, 6-CD, 17" Alum, V92, UK3, Silver, 149,935 kms, Stock# 14104B
was \$11,995 **NOW \$10,995**

2006 Nissan Pathfinder LE

4x4, 4.0L V6, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, Htd. Leather Buckets, 17" Alum, Sunroof, Keyless, Z82, Silver, 126,340 kms, Stock# 14065B
was \$16,995 **NOW \$15,995**

2005 GMC Sierra 2500HD SLE

Crew, 4x4, 6.6L V8, Duramax, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, 40/20/40 Bench, Keyless, AP3, 18" Alum, Z82, CD, J/L1, Grey, 257,865 kms, Stock# 14280B
was \$17,995 **NOW \$16,995**

2013 GMC Sierra K1500 SLT

Crew, 4x4, 5.3L V8, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, Htd. Lthr. Buckets, AP3, 18" Alum, Rear Camera, UD7, J/L1, Z71, Z82, JF4, PDD, PDI, PDF, Bose, UK3, Grey, 74,979 kms, Stock# 14294A
was \$34,995 **NOW \$33,995**

2011 Chevrolet Avalanche K1500 LT

4x4, 5.3L V8, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, Buckets, PDD, JF4, J/L1, 17" Alum, AP3, Steps, UD7, UVc, XM, UK3, Z82, White, 51,223 kms, Stock# 9576
was \$32,995 **NOW \$31,995**

2011 Chevrolet Silverado K2500HD LTZ

Crew, 4x4, 6.6L Duramax, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, Leather Buckets, Sunroof, 18" Alum, AP3, DPN, Steps, J/L1, Z71, Z82, PDF, NZZ, Bose, UK3, White, 117,030 kms, Stock# 15013A
was \$41,995 **NOW \$40,995**

2011 Chevrolet Silverado K1500 LS

Ext. Cheyenne Edition, 4.8L V8, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, 40/20/40 Bench, Keyless, Bluetooth, G80, UK3, Z82, Grey, 31,900 kms, Stock# 14112A
was \$24,995 **NOW \$23,995**

2011 GMC Sierra 1500 SLE

Crew, 4x4, 5.3L V8, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, 40/20/40 Bench, 18" Alum, Remote Start, Z71, Z82, PCM, PDD, NZZ, UK3, Bluetooth, Red, 111,716 kms, Stock# 13483A
was \$24,995 **NOW \$23,995**

2011 GMC Sierra K1500 SLE

Crew, 4x4, 5.3L V8, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, 40/20/40 Bench, PDD, PCM, NZZ, PDF, 17" Alum, AP3, J/L1, Z71, Z82, Tonneau Cover, Wheel Trim, Bluetooth, White, 44,364 kms, Stock# 14322A
was \$29,995 **NOW \$28,995**

2010 Chevrolet Silverado K1500 LT

Ext. 4x4, 5.3L V8, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, 40/20/40 Bench, PDD, PCM, 17" Alum, PDF, J/L1, Z71, Z82, NZZ, AP3, Bluetooth, Silver, 54,599 kms, Stock# 14374A
was \$25,995 **NOW \$24,995**

USED TRUCKS

2010 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 LTZ

SRK Tax Paid, Crew, 4x4, 5.3L V8, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, Htd. Lthr. Buckets, 20" Alum, AP3, PDD, Chrome Pkg., White Diamond Pkg., 6" Tubes, Bluetooth, UK3, Z82, G80, White, 136,450 kms, Stock# 9548
was \$30,995 **NOW \$28,900**

2009 Chevrolet Avalanche 1500 AWD

4x4, 5.3L V8, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, Buckets, JF4, 17" Alum, C/J2, Steps, G80, AP3, UD7, UK3, PDD, UVc, Z82, Gold, 105,607 kms, Stock# 9574
was \$25,995 **NOW \$24,995**

2009 GMC Sierra K2500 SLE

Crew, 4x4, 6.6L Duramax, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, 40/20/40, Remote Start, J/L1, PCM, PDD, 6" Ovals, Z80, 17" Alum, NZZ, UVc, Z71, Z82, UF3, Blue, 85,101 kms, Stock# 14389A
was \$37,995 **NOW \$36,995**

2008 GMC Sierra K2500 HD

Ext. 6.0L V8, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, 40/20/40 Bench, Keyless, 17" Alum, J/L1, PCM, PDD, 6" Ovals, Z80, 17" Alum, NZZ, UVc, Z71, Z82, J/L1, White, 127,220 kms, Stock# 13257B
was \$20,995 **NOW \$19,995**

2007 Chevrolet Colorado EXT

4x4, LT, 2.9L 4 Cyl., A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, Bench, Keyless, XM, Alum. Wheels, White, 110,300 kms, Stock# 14247A
was \$13,995 **NOW \$12,995**

2006 GMC Sierra K1500

Crew, 4x4, 5.3L V8, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, Leather Buckets, 20" Alum. Wheels, Sunroof, Keyless, DVD, UK3, 6-CD, Z82, Z71, Black, 189,251 kms, Stock# 14258B
was \$18,995 **NOW \$17,995**

2013 GMC Savana Cargo Ext. 2500

4.8L V8, 2 Pass., 16" Steel Wheels, R/S, 60/40, Cargo Door, White, 16,661 kms, Stock# 9586
was \$30,995 **NOW \$29,995**

2012 GMC Savana AWD SLE 1500

5.3L V8, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, Remote Start, 8 Pass., Bluetooth, 17" Alum, Trailering Equip., USB, Delape Appearance Pkg., Rear Heater, R/S, 60/40, Cargo Door, White, 55,647 kms, Stock# 9584
was \$30,995 **NOW \$29,995**

2011 Dodge Caravan SXT

3.6L V6, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, Quad Buckets, 7 Pass., 17" Alum, Keyless, Stow & Go, Red, 27,176 kms, Stock# 14104E
was \$22,995 **NOW \$21,995**

2008 Dodge Grand Caravan SXT

3.6L V6, A-C-T, PW-PL-PS, 7 Pass., Buckets, 17" Alum, Remote Start, DVD, Beige/Tan, 132,990 kms, Stock# 14107B
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Exotic animals find home in rural Manitoba

BY ADAM GAMBLE

Six years ago, Mark Humphries and his wife decided to move their family from England to a farm in rural Manitoba to raise cattle and sheep. Today, there's more than sheep and cattle—there are animals from around the world.

"My 17-year-old son, 16-year-old daughter, my wife and I have been building a petting zoo here at Westwood Ranch and Garden Centre since the fall," said Humphries.

"At this moment, we have zebras, lemurs, an emu, miniature donkeys and horses, budgerigars, and three types of pheasants. We also have chickens, sheep roosters, quails, pigeons, wallaroos, peacocks, several kinds of rabbits, royal swans, guinea pigs, tortoises, horses, and llamas."

Though it's the Humphries' first time setting up a zoo in Manitoba, it's not their first time doing so on a farm. After meeting his wife, who was a show rider, they set up a petting zoo on her family farm in England in the 1980s.

"Over there, farms were getting smaller because of the expansion of housing as the population in England grew larger. Farmland was at a premium. So, the government was encouraging diversification," he said. "At first, we started a riding school, then we went to a petting zoo, then a full-blown zoo, and then into a college site, where we taught animal care courses."

Because of the milder weather in England, most of the animals were kept outside on the 100-acre property. They also had greenhouses there.

When the Humphries sold the property in 2008, they had all the animals they have now, plus three types of primates, monkeys, reptiles and small cats, and every large bird of prey. The man they sold the property to had plans to convert it into a drive-through wildlife park.

Before all of this, Humphries served in the British Army.

"I was a soldier first, and a musician second," said Humphries, who was once stationed in Northern Ireland at the time of the Provisional Irish Republican Army (IRA) conflicts.

Nearly all of animals on Westwood Ranch and Garden Centre have been acquired in Canada through partnerships the Humphries formed back in England.

"A couple of zoo dealers remembered us. We never know which zoo the animals come from. The dealer goes to each zoo and finds the animals for us," said Humphries.

Animals like the wallaroos, which are from a Kangaroo Ranch B.C., and the lemurs, which are from Quebec, were flown, via FedEx, into Regina and Winnipeg, where the Humphries then picked them up. They picked up the zebras from B.C. themselves.

"It was a 17-hour road trip, and the first time my son and I drove across the Rocky Mountains. I

was expecting a couple of hours of hills, and it went up, and up and up," said Humphries. "We had a truck with a trailer on the back. There were avalanche warnings and we took turns driving every three hours."

When Humphries and his son left B.C., it was about two degrees. When they passed through Calgary, it was minus-45 degrees.

"It was a cold trip, especially for the zebras. So when we got back, we slowly brought up the temperature in the barn so the animals could adjust," he said.

During the winter months, all of the animals stayed throughout the six barns on the property which are insulated and electrically heated.

"When it was minus-50 outside, it's was about zero degrees in here. And when in was minus-20, it was about 10 degrees," said Humphries.

He says the animals live in pens that are three times regulation size, and that many, like the zebras and lemurs, will be able to roam outside once the weather warms up.

"We learned lessons from the zoo in England. We always tried to make things better than they ask for, so it's nice and fair for the animals," he said.

In comparison to England, Humphries says animal regulations in Canada are a "little softer."

"When we first came here, we already had the tortoises, budgerigars, and rabbits. So when we brought them over, a vet was at the airport to check them out, and give them immunizations if need be. Then they have to pass a test there, so you can get a permit for them. And if they don't, they have to go into quarantine," he said. "This happens any time an animal comes from America or abroad."

For animals bred in Canada, which is the case for the other animals at Westwood Ranch and Garden Centre, gaining permission to keep them in a petting zoo is a different process.

"It depends on the animals. But most only require permission from the rural municipality—at least here in Manitoba. Basically, then it's down to you wouldn't get the animals if you didn't have the knowledge to back it up."

"In England, we had to be inspected by a London School vet once a year. Then different organizations would come up and go inspect every animal species."

"The Winnipeg Zoo is coming to inspect our animals here, but it's just a courtesy, not a necessity. We've also made contacts with the Minot Zoo. Both zoos have a dispersal program, so when it's fall, and animals are breeding, they can swap them so there's no interbreeding."

Humphries says the Prairie life is laid back compared to the U.K.

"We wanted to be able to park our car and leave it unlocked, which we couldn't do in the U.K., and for our kids to grow up safe," he said. "We wanted



Adam Gamble photo

Owner of Westwood Ranch and Garden Centre, Mark Humphries, feeds three lemurs at the small zoo, which opened May 8.

freedom from bureaucracy in England; it's heavy there.

"Honestly, we never thought we would have a petting zoo again. We just thought we would come back to basic farming. Then we had the chance to buy some greenhouses three years ago. So we bought those and planned on only selling to retail outlets. But we decided to open the doors, and the amount of

footfall we got was huge. As a result, people started checking out the few animals we had. And we thought, why don't we charge them for this. And so here we go, we started up again."

Westwood Ranch is located south of the Trans-Canada Highway at Kirkella, near the Manitoba-Saskatchewan boundary.

When the petting zoo

opened on May 8, the Humphries also opened a gift shop and a cafeteria. Kids will be able to bounce in an inflatable castle. It will also be wheelchair accessible.

At the back of the property, there will be a "diamond mine," which kids can catch a carriage ride to. There, they will be able to either take a diamond home, or swap it for candy at the cafeteria.

Humphries hopes his animals will provide an educational experience for kids.

"We don't want this to be a poke and push exhibit. We want the kids to learn about the animals. We also want them to learn that there are various interesting critters from around the world that you can see comfortably in zoos and parks if they are well looked after."

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BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

The temporary foreign worker program that has been credited by local food service businesses for allowing them to expand has been closed down for restaurants.

The suspension was announced Thursday evening. No food service business will be approved for new temporary foreign workers, and those approved but not yet hired will be affected as well.

Souris-Moose Mountain MP Ed Komarnicki said he will speak with minister Jason Kenney to explain how important the program is to businesses in southeast Saskatchewan.

"I'll make it known to the minister quite strongly that if you're looking at remedying some abuses you shouldn't scrap the entire program—it's vital to some businesses and some communities in our constituency.

"Canadians are uneasy about the fact that businesses find the temporary foreign workers such an asset with good work ethic and may prefer them to Canadian candidates.

"The bottom line is if there are Canadians who are available to work and want to work they should be the first priority.

"If you go to fast food outlets throughout the constituency, it's mostly temporary foreign workers, and a lot of our industry depends on temporary foreign workers to survive.

"Temporary foreign workers have a legitimate place, but the goal is to

"From my perspective I want to make sure the review doesn't shut down the program."

—MP Ed Komarnicki

allow temporary foreign workers to fill jobs that couldn't be filled otherwise, but not to displace any Canadian workers, so you have to be careful."

Komarnicki said he has heard a lot from chambers of commerce and businesses in the riding about the importance of the program.

"The chambers and businesses are very vocal and I understand their concerns," he said.

"You look at what jobs are available, there are 500 jobs unfilled. How do you fill those? The complaints from business owners is we're making it too difficult and too costly for them.

"If you take a place like Moosomin, for example, there just aren't enough young people and local people that might want a job, from what we have been told."

He said he hopes the review leads to changes, but allows the program to continue.

"The review of the program is not a bad thing in my view, but we have to look at ways to ensure the program is there for communities that need it. You have to look at what the unemployment rate is in the area and you should have tighter or looser rules depending on where you are in Canada.

"From my perspective I want to make sure the review doesn't shut down the program. I want to take a responsible approach to this. The opposition say

they either want the program stopped or scrapped, but opposition MPs will intervene to ask the minister to get temporary foreign workers for businesses in their ridings, which tells you there is a need."

"Hopefully businesses will have a chance to make representation, and hopefully the program will be allowed to continue."

"We need to make sure the rules in place are followed. I don't think Canadians will accept that a Canadian who wants to work will be displaced by a temporary foreign worker.

First preference has to be for Canadians. The business owners I know are responsible and if they know the rules and the rules are clear they will abide by them. Our job as legislators is to ensure the rules are fair, and those who choose to intentionally circumvent the rules should be punished.

"But there's no need to get rid of the whole program. It's a valuable program and important program and it needs to continue, but it needs to do what it is intended to do and cannot be abused."

The Canadian Federation of Independent Business was critical of the move.

"For a government that has been very supportive of Canada's small business community, this decision is a slap in the face to entrepreneurs in the food services sector," said CFIB president Dan Kelly. "A public conviction of an en-

tire industry is deeply unfair to the thousands of restaurant operators who use the program appropriately and follow all of the rules."

He said CFIB members are strongly supportive of any action to crack down on those who abuse the program. In a recent survey, 85 per cent of small business owners said that access to the temporary foreign worker program should be revoked for those who misuse it.

"But the fact is, for some businesses—particularly those in smaller communities, resort towns or resource rich areas—ending their ability to use the temporary foreign worker program has real potential to put them out of business altogether," added Kelly. "CFIB will be lobbying hard to convince the government to end the moratorium and work on solutions to address any ongoing problems."

CFIB has recommended that government pursue a specialized temporary foreign worker stream for the restaurant and hospitality industry, built in similar fashion to the seasonal agricultural worker program. CFIB further advocates changes to the permanent immigration system to make it accessible to employers in need of lower-skilled workers.

Federal Employment Minister Jason Kenney took aim at the temporary foreign worker program Thursday.

Kenney issued the surprise moratorium hours after the C.D. Howe Institute released a study into the program that concluded it had spurred joblessness in B.C. and Alberta.

Continued on page 27



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51p

Addition to bowling alley: Schwean has big plans for leisure centre

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK
In the couple of months since the town of Moosomin decided to take over the local bowling alley, rec director Mike Schwean has come up with big plans for the facility.

He originally proposed adding a golf dome to the bowling alley to increase use of the building, and now envisions an entire leisure centre added to the bowling alley.

The 5,000 square foot building would include a walking track, sports simulators, golf driving nets, an indoor batting cage, an indoor hockey net and shooting area, and some training equipment.

There would also be a lounge area and an outdoor deck or patio area.

"We would be looking at

a 5,000 square foot building, something that would almost mirror the bowling alley," says Schwean. He feels the facility could be built fairly inexpensively—with a cost in the neighborhood of \$350,000.

"We have the plumbing in the bowling alley, and because we're just adding on, we won't have to put in any plumbing. People would come in through the existing entrance in the bowling alley, they would pay there, so in the addition you wouldn't need much work inside the building.

"When you're not doing a lot of plumbing, or interior walls, it makes it way cheaper to build," says Schwean. "There's the equipment, of course, but the building itself should

be pretty basic."

The walking track around the outside of the building would be made of a rubberized material to cushion walkers' legs from impact, and the flooring in the main part of the building would be grass-green carpeting to give it the look of a sports field.

Schwean is in discussions with several companies that may provide the funds to build the leisure centre.

"We're dealing with four or five different corporate sponsors," he said. "We're hoping we may have some funding fairly soon.

"Our intention is to not spend any tax dollars on this. When we've approached these different companies, they are showing a lot of interest, and that makes me think we can do this with corporate funding."

"Our intention is to not spend any tax dollars on this. When we've approached these different companies, they are showing a lot of interest, and that makes me think we can do this with corporate funding."

Continued on page 11 ^{ES}

Farmland Values Report: Saskatchewan farmland increases by 28.5 per cent

BY KHANG NGUYEN

The average price of farmland in Saskatchewan has increased 28.5 percent, the highest in the country according to the 2013 Farmland Values Report put out by Farm Credit Canada (FCC).

Since 2011, Saskatchewan has seen a steady increase in farmland value with a 22.9 per cent increase in 2011, and a 19.7 per cent increase in 2012.

The 28.5 per cent increase was the highest in Canada, with Manitoba and Quebec trailing with 25.6 per cent and 24.7 per cent respectively. Canada as a whole experienced a total of 22.1 per cent change in farmland value.

According to the FCC report, much of the Saskatchewan's farmland price spiked early in the year and carried throughout 2013.

"There was a strong grain loyalty at the beginning of the year and strong cattle prices at the end of the year. We had record yields as far as crop this past year. Saskatchewan still has reasonably low interest rates. All of this turned into a positive outlook for agriculture," said Cathy Gale of FCC.

The report also mentions that more farmland has been bought by farmers looking to expand their operations, as well as young farmers from outside of Saskatchewan coming to the province to buy land.

The FCC report has been issued annually since 1985.

"We have benchmarked properties which are all arable land which we've selected. These same properties since 1985 are appraised every year to see if they are using comparable sales in the area to determine if they've gone up or down in value," Gale says.

The benchmarked farmland covers all soil types in Saskatchewan and span across the entire province, says Gale.

Marcel Decorby of Re/Max specializes in selling farm land, and says that the market has been increasing over the years, but he wouldn't have been able to predict such

an increase at the beginning of the 2013.

"I certainly wouldn't have predicted that we would have seen that, but it definitely happened," he said.

"It was quite amazing. In the spring it was really strong, but by the end of the year we saw the strongest markup we've ever seen."

Decorby says that in addition to the FCC reports, changes to Saskatchewan farming laws over the years have increased the market for Saskatchewan farmland.

"At one time, there was a law in Saskatchewan where you had to be a Saskatchewan citizen to buy land. That has opened up to allow any Canadian to own land in Saskatchewan. It took some time to catch on, but there is a lot of money that is put into buying land because people think it's a safe investment."

To own land in Saskatchewan, buyers must be Canadian citizens, permanent residents, or be a 100 per cent Canadian-owned company. Over the years, these rules have experienced some exemptions, and because of that, more and more farmland is being bought.

Decorby says that many international investors and farmers are coming to Saskatchewan to purchase the land.

"They're coming to farm the land. The big change we've seen in the last year is that they are willing to take less of a return on their investments. They just want to own the land in Saskatchewan. At one point they wanted a five per cent return on their land, but now they are willing to take a 2.5 per cent return on their investment." Decorby says.

"There are going to be different people farming land in Saskatchewan in the future. It's going to be big farms and some of it is going to be owned by people who would not be your typical Saskatchewan farmer. There are more people investing in land. The investment market is slow, but the farmers are picking up the slack. They're buying what investors paid for last fall."

Continued on page 19 ^{ES}

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Fairlight's Brenda Thompson: 'As long as I can walk, I'll be keeping this place open'

Continued from page 3

Home Sweet Home is now open Tuesday to Sunday afternoons. While people can still go there for different kinds of baking and meals, the shopping has changed," said Thompson.

"We've moved away from consigning items and are buying from wholesalers now. The bookwork was a headache," said Thompson.

Every year, Thompson and Downer go to a trade show in Toronto at the end of January to find items to sell at Home Sweet Home. Thompson's daughter, Robin Thompson, goes along when she can.

"I usually don't have a lot of time because I'm farming sunup to whenever my husband and I are done. We have 400 cattle now, and two month-old calves," said Thompson. "But, when I've had time, I've gone.

"To be honest, when my mom first started this, I didn't want to get into it. I was writing my thesis on Animal Science when she told me about the idea. I said to her, 'Are you mental?'"

Thompson says everything they buy must be ordered six months in advance, so the wholesalers can source the products from countries like India and China.

"Next year's Christmas products will be coming shortly, it's weird because they're totally the opposite."

This also affects how the items are displayed in the shoppe.

"We do everything by season. So when it comes, everyone helps unpack, price, and put it all back in the packaging again. Then, we put it in a quonset, which is half for storage, half for machinery," said



Adam Gamble photo

Home Sweet Home owner, Brenda Thompson, and her daughter, Robin Thompson, take a short break from serving guests. It was her 65th birthday.

Thompson. "When it comes time to set up, we have a week to do it."

"One of the busiest times to set up is at Christmas, when we do up seven to nine Christmas trees," said Holly Davuin, who originally went to Home Sweet Home as a customer, and has been one of its two paid staff for seven years.

"I came here too often. So I thought I might as well just work here. It's a great place," said Davuin.

Kay Smith has been going to Home Sweet Home ever since she moved to Maryfield from Wales, United Kingdom

six years ago. "It's such a great place because of the ambiance," said Smith.

Her friend, Denise Van Eaton, who has been going there for 22 years, says it's because of Thompson. "Brenda knows everyone who comes here by name and never forgets them. She has the personality," she said.

Buddy Smith, who works at the Pot-

ashCorp mine in Rocanville, only recently started going to Home Sweet Home with his wife, Tatjana, and two and a half year old daughter, Cecilia. "The biscuits here are so good. You could make a meal out of these things," said Smith.

Whatever brings people to Home Sweet Home, it seems to be working.

"We've had people who just moved to Saskatchewan come from Switzerland and Czech Republic, come here," said Thompson.

On an average day, she says about 60 people go to Home Sweet Home. "I never thought we'd have this many people coming here. That's one of the challenges of having a place in the middle of nowhere," she said.

Having these numbers wouldn't be possible without all the help from the family, friends and the community, says Thompson.

"Everybody helps everybody." Thompson says having a tea house in small-town Saskatchewan is difficult for many reasons.

"Keeping the bills paid, hoping you have the clientele to have business, and workers who want to work are all challenges," said Thompson. "Making enough for power, heat, taxes, water are also tough."

No matter how tough times get, "as long as I can walk, I'll be keeping this place open," said Thompson, who recently turned 65.

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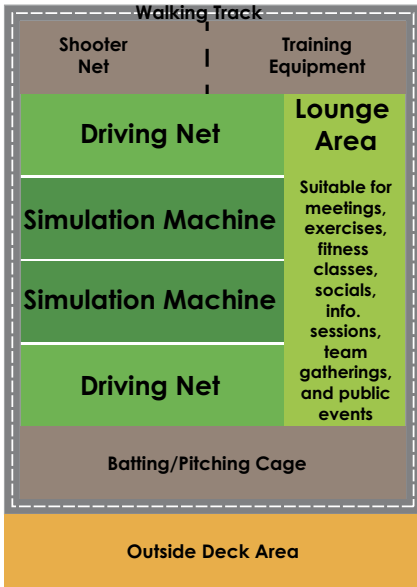
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Addition to bowling alley: Schwean has big plans for leisure centre

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Existing Bowling Alley

Entrance

Continued from page 8
There is also a plan to grow a crop as a fundraiser for the leisure centre, with Chris Mannle and Jeff Warkentin taking the lead on the crop project.

The entire idea of the leisure centre came up in the last few months when the town agreed to take over the bowling centre from the committee that ran it since it was built.

Opened in 1996, the bowling alley was operated successfully for years by the committee, but in the end the group found it difficult to staff the facility.

In January of this year, the bowling committee approached town council about the town taking on the bowling alley, and the town and the committee quickly came to an agreement.

Schwean said that, as soon as it became apparent earlier this year that the town may end up with the bowling alley, he started trying to come up with ideas to bring more people into the facility.

Initially he thought a small golf dome added to the bowling alley would bring more people through the door, and as different people came up with more ideas, the plan grew to the current leisure centre concept.

"Everybody will have to go through the bowling alley to get to the leisure centre, so I'm sure it will kickstart the bowling alley, giving it that much more exposure, and having that many more people around."

The problem with the

bowling alley was they couldn't afford someone to be there all the time, so they couldn't take walk-ins.

"Between the leisure centre and the bowling alley, we could have someone at the front all the time, so there can be league bowling, but if someone wants to come down and try out the sports simulators, then bowl a couple of games they will be able to. I'm sure it will be crazy busy in winter."

Rather than simply installing golf simulators, Schwean envisions sports simulators with 10 different sports on them.

The idea has been well received so far.

"People are pretty excited about it," says Schwean. "I haven't heard one negative thing—everyone loves the idea."

"The winters are so long we're trying to have enough things to have something for everyone, whether immigrants or retirees or kids."

Schwean says the facility could host everything from golf lessons to staff parties to youth group outings to meetings.

"We can run everything from the bowling alley side," he said. "I honestly think it will triple the use of the bowling alley. We probably get 50,000 people through the Communiplex in a winter, and if you have a bunch of kids waiting to play their next game in a hockey tournament, I think you would get a lot of them heading over there and making use of the facility."

"It will be a regional facility, so everything we do, the cost will be the same for out-of-towners."

Schwean has an ambitious timeframe for getting the leisure centre up and running.

"I think it could be a year, but it could be longer," he said. "I would hope to have it ready for the winter of 2015."

He said input is welcome. "The walking track idea came from community, and I think it's a great idea. If people have more ideas, they can let us know. There might be more ideas out there that are great ideas that I just never thought of."



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Good greenhouse hygiene is important

DAVID BIRD,
DIRECT SOLUTIONS

What does Wikipedia say about hygiene? "Hygiene is a set of practices performed for the preservation of health." Well whose health are we talking about in greenhouse hygiene? We are talking about the health of your plants and the health of anyone who is in any way in contact with your greenhouse or its products.

Good greenhouse hygiene is going to save you headaches, money, and most importantly you and your family's health. Greenhouse hygiene is more than the use of pesticides; it is the entire greenhouse environment which includes keeping your exits clear to the storage of fertilizers.

The first and most obvious tip is for working with pesticides; safe handling of them may seem like common sense, however I have seen formally educated, well-seasoned growers make errors that have landed them in the hospital. If at this point you do not have a pesticide applicators license it is something I would strongly recommend you get. I can hear some of you saying it right now. "Oh great another government cash grab." Well ever wonder what the roads would be like if there was no training and formal testing for a driver's license? I'm sure you have met a few who may not have passed it. The course is there to help you, to show you how to gather all the information from a pesticide label, including how to handle it, where you can apply it and what



plants you can use it on.

There are safety precautions listed on the label, instructions on how to mix it and what kind of protective clothing you need to wear. Once you have developed good practices you will make fewer mistakes. Remember all pesticides are designed to kill living things. Pesticides cannot tell the difference, you can. The course for the license helps you understand all of this and more.

Keeping of a log book has been the mainstay of a grower since the beginning of the art. It was one of the first things drummed into my head as an apprentice when I was quite young. Besides your daily log book you will need a pesticide log book to record all your pesticide activities. List all the pesticides you have on site as well as the location of your material safety data sheets (MSDS) for each one. Record when you purchased them, when, where, how much and why you used them, when you have finished with the pesticide and how you disposed of the container. Not only will you save money on your

pesticides you will have a formal record should anything happen.

Store your pesticides in the proper manner. If you are a very small operation there are chemical storage lockers that you can get from a number of different suppliers. For larger operations I would recommend a lockable room. There are government guide lines that will help you build a safe place to store your chemicals. This will keep them out of your way and easily accessible. Return everything back to the place you store it.

Fertilizers are treated the same as pesticides. They need to be properly stored; you need to use a log book recording all the same data as you would pesticides.

Now for structures, let's look at the growing area first. The greenhouse needs to be a place that is the most conducive to the growing of your crop. Managing your crop is like managing people. If you want people to succeed and do their best to make you money you must give them everything you can to allow them to succeed. So it is with plants.

Your growing area should be free from non-essential plants (weeds and hobby plants). The floor should be clean and clear of any tripping hazards i.e. hoses, algae build up or excess soil on the floor, standing water or things under the growing batches being used for storage such as for boxes of pots. Bales of soil are not too bad for storing under a bench as they are covered in plastic. Just be sure that the small pockets that are formed from the folds on the top and bottom of bales of soil are not at an angle so that they collect water. All of this will help keep down the ever present threat of weeds, insects and disease to the plants. When you have healthy happy plants you have strong beautiful plants.

When you are growing vegetable crops there are a few more things you will need to address. First and foremost are working within the On-Farm-Food-Safety (OFFS) guidelines. This is for handling the product from vine to out the door. Also you will need to be tighter on controlling your growing environment. There are so many different viruses and bacteria out there that once it's in your greenhouse it will be very hard to get rid of it, if at all. You need to limit who gets into your growing area. What kind of protective clothing is used all the time? How do you sanitize the floor? Even how you sanitize your return nutrient solutions before it's pumped out again makes a difference. As with any operation, plan out what you

are looking to accomplish and work within it. My favorite motto is; "plan for the worst and hope for the best."

There is so much more on greenhouses hygiene than will not fit in this article. Organizations like

the Saskatchewan Greenhouse Grower Association (SGGA) can help you in the right direction; they also offer the On-Farm Food Safety Workshops. For more information contact the SGGA at (306) 794-2051 or by email at saskgga@gmail.com.



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Chicken wire creation wins best dress

What do you get when you create a dress made out of materials from your local Co-op gas station?

The answer for glass artist Jolene Dusyk is an award-winning gown that became the star of the show at the Affinity Gallery in Saskatoon.

The chicken-wire creation flew out of Dusyk's creative imagination while she was reading a Saskatchewan Craft Council bulletin calling for entries to the province's first Wearable Art Gala. While Dusyk has been creating glass jewelry for over a decade, she saw the Saskatoon fundraising gala as an opportunity to spread her wings.

"I happened to be driving by the Co-op Agro Centre and gas station and I thought, 'I'll give myself a \$100 budget and I'll see what I can come up with using only things that I can buy at the Co-op.'"

The Montmartre artist began experimenting with chicken wire. She twisted it, sewed it and painted it white, eventually coming up with a dress shape she liked. With the addition of ruched and pleated window screen as a lining, the dress was taking form.

"At one point I was concerned that it was beginning to look like a kindergarten craft project, but once I started adding the glass, I started to see the real potential," said Dusyk.

The glass came in the form of 195 individual pieces hand-made by Dusyk. She used a flame to heat colored glass rods and turn them into flow-



Photo by B Jonathan Michaels Photography



ers, leaves and nests. With about \$2,000 worth of glass embellishments (half of which glowed in the dark), Dusyk was becoming increasingly confident that her gas station creation was something she could actually enter into the contest.

The piece de resistance was some old baler twine which Dusyk managed to get from an area farmer.

"It was greasy and smelly and dirty and awesome," said Dusyk.

What resulted was a

strapsless ball gown made of chicken wire and window screen called "Mabel's Equity." The baler twine cinch and the glowing glass took Mabel straight from the Co-op rack to the runway at Saskatoon's Mercedes Benz dealership this past fall. The final outcome was the Best in Show title and a \$1,000 grand prize.

Her award-winning dress was then part of a recent exhibition at the Saskatchewan Craft Council's Affinity Gallery in Saskatoon. "I jumped up and down like a little kid when I won because it was completely unexpected," said Dusyk. With one win under her chicken wire belt, Dusyk is now working on a glue gun piece of wearable art that will be made from Montmartre Co-op Agro Centre goods only. The public is invited to see Dusyk's "Co-op Collection" on May 31 at 6:30 p.m. in Montmartre, Sask. at the JoJo Beads Spring and Summer Gala. Call 306-424-7974 to reserve your free tickets.

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The art of outdoor living

After all those long winter months spent indoors, the time has come to get outside and live in the sunshine and fresh air. Enjoying the backyard from morning till night, in a comfortable and stylish space, is within everyone's reach. All it takes is a bit of imagination and some clever shopping to take advantage of your deck like never before.

FROM LIVING ROOM TO KITCHEN

Outdoor living is much more than just a passing trend. Long gone is the era of the picnic table and folding lawn chairs set out in the middle of the yard. These days, the deck is an extension of the home; it is a place to relax, cook, eat, and entertain, without any sacrifices in comfort.

THE FIRST RULE

Outdoor furniture has to be weather resistant. Teak wood is a favourite material, as it is extremely durable. Imitation wicker, made from synthetic fibres, has also been increasing in popularity for several years now. This type of garden furniture is elegant, resistant to the whims of Mother Nature, and easy to clean.

THE SECOND RULE

Garden furniture has to be functional. The modular sofa hides an integrated storage space for cushions; the dining table is extendable; and the cooking area contains all the amenities so you can avoid trips back to the kitchen — cooking grill, sink, side table to store dishes, and a small fridge.

THE THIRD RULE

Be willing to pay for good quality. Of course, your budget will guide your

choice of garden furniture, but there's no point setting up an outdoor living area if it will all be sun faded and falling apart after a season or two. Bistro style metal furniture is fine for happy hour on the deck, but if you're really planning on spending the summer outside, it is worthwhile to purchase durable and comfortable furniture.

DECORATING ESSENTIALS

Décor plays an important role on a deck. Just as in the rest of your home, the design of your outdoor oasis should reflect your tastes. Opt for rugs, cushions, and accessories that show your furniture off to advantage. Add a trellis or create a screen with plants for more privacy. Use different coloured plant pots for garden herbs or to make a pretty annual flower garden. Hanging pots will also help define the space and create an impression of privacy.

Lighting is another important element for outdoor living. Relaxed, soft lighting will help you to create a cozy atmosphere on long, hot summer evenings. You'll also have to think about installing practical lighting as well, so you can see what you're doing. A variety of wall lamps, stylish lanterns, candlesticks, and solar torches will let you create a comfortable environment that meets all your needs. Make sure you install adequate lighting near steps and pathways leading to the backyard.

And by the way, don't forget to plan a winter storage space for all your outdoor living gear.

These days, the patio is an extension of the home.



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Saskatchewan farmland still cheapest in Canada

Continued from page 8

While price of farmland in Saskatchewan has increased 28.5 per cent, it still remains the lowest farm land in Canada, and one of the cheapest in the world, says DeCorby. "There are places in Manitoba that are selling for \$6,000 per acre. Saskatchewan tops out at about \$2,500 per acre."

"There were lots of people who knew Saskatchewan had cheap farms, but they weren't living in the province of Saskatchewan so they couldn't buy land. They were actually waiting for the border to open up. It's still the cheapest land in Canada and some of the cheapest in the world."

Saskatchewan's farmland has historically always been cheaper than the rest of the country, says Gale.

"Our population is lower so we don't have as much urban influence as other provinces might have. Our growing season is shorter than a lot of other provinces, and there's only certain things you can grow here opposed to places like British Columbia and Ontario," she says.

"It's because the population of Saskatchewan and because of the outside invest-



Saskatchewan farmland increased by 28.5 per cent according to this year's farmland values report put out by FCC, the highest of any Canadian province.

ment wasn't allowed in Saskatchewan for a lot of years," DeCorby says.

"We've got land as good as Alberta and Manitoba. There is some land in Manitoba that has more depth of top soil but by and large, Saskatchewan has more arable land than Manitoba and Alberta," he added.

DeCorby says that we

may not have seen the end of the increase yet, but expects it to level off in the future.

"As long as commodity prices are high, farmers are going to still buy farmland. We're going to continue to see bigger farms. That's one of the biggest changes. Farms are going to continue to grow because smaller farmers can't afford to buy

land at the price that it's at now," DeCorby says. "In my opinion, we're going to see a little bit of levelling off, but as long as our commodity prices don't go in the toilet, and there is still a profit, land prices will continue to rise a little."

According to Gale, FCC agriculture economist suggests that the grain backlog will have an impact on the

farmland price for 2014.

"There was a shortage of grain in the past, and now it's probably going to start increasing what is available. The expectation is that the actual demand for land will soften somewhat. Going forward it's hard to know what the price will do, but it's expected to stabilize instead of going up as much as it

has, but that's just a guess at this point."

"It all depends on what is influencing it. It's not always just the grain prices, it also is the oil and gas sector, that impacts it a lot . . . depending on what's happening with anything else like minerals and those sorts of things, that can change things as well." Gail said.



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Mission trip to Cuba: Building relationships, faith, and gardens

BY KHANG NGUYEN
During March break, 12 members of Moosomin Baptist Church travelled to Cuba on a mission trip.

Talking to the students a few weeks after the trip, it was easy to tell that they were still reeling from the experience.

"The impact it has had on us is still coursing through our veins, we still feel that high—you're just so on fire," Melissa Whelpton said about her experience in Cuba.

The group trip was organized through Canadian Baptist Ministries (CBM) which specializes in sending youth groups like the Baptist Church's on international missions.

"We contacted them because they do this all the time and they knew what to do, so we asked them to help us. We had a group of kids who wanted to go somewhere in March during their break and they said 'how about Cuba?' and we said okay," Youth Group leader and trip organizer JoAnn



The Baptist Church Youth Group and Cuban locals take a group photo in front of the garden wall they built together during the mission trip in March.

Enns said.

The group flew into Varadero airport and spent their first two days at a youth drop in centre in the city of Matanzas before heading to the Bible camp located in Havana.

While the group knew that they would be serving and helping the community out in some way, they didn't know the specifics of their trip until days after getting off the plane.

"They said that we were building a garden, but we

didn't know how. The next day, they told us that we were going to just pick up rocks and bring them over to a pile," Shoshanna Loyola said.

After arriving at the Bible camp in Havana, the group were put to work doing various different jobs, but their primary project was to build a garden to help grow food for the camp.

"We gave them a hand up, not a hand out because money runs out," Enns said. "We gave them something

that was sufficient. There were two things they were going to do with that garden—they were going to grow food for their own camp, and anything above and beyond that was going to be sold at the market for income."

The group spent the majority of their day hauling rocks from surrounding fields to the project site where the 40 feet long by eight feet wide garden was being built.

In 35 degree weather and 66 per cent humidity, the group said that the work was grueling, but definitely worth it.

The youth group stayed at the Bible camp for the week. Their meals consisted primarily of bread, and rice. During their free time, the group joined in on soccer, and volleyball games, and some took salsa lessons from the locals.

"It was a really good mix in the way that we got to be in their culture, we got

to mingle with them, and work hard with them and show them that we wanted to make a difference. They got to play together, eat together, and work together. It was a really neat way how they immersed us into their culture," Enns said.

From not knowing much about the country, over the week, and working with the locals, the youth group learned a lot about the country and the culture, and exactly how important their work was.

"When you hear people talk about Cuba, you hear people talk about the resorts and everything, but we were interested in going to see the real Cuba. The Cuba that is behind all of the resorts that you don't get to see. We lived in it for a week," Whelpton said. "Every time we talked to one of the leaders or someone in Cuba, we learned something. Lots of us are still in information overload and trying to process everything and work it out in our minds."

"It was very emotional the first couple of days," Enns said. "You felt very sad for them, but then one of our leaders reminded us that we were here to show them joy, and to show them that with God you have hope and joy, and we went to give them encouragement, and to get to know them, build relationships and just give them the best week that we could give them."

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Dating site helps Canadian farmers make a friend or two

BY ADAM GAMBLE

FarmersOnly has been helping Canadian farmers find the love of their life, as well as friends, since 2006.

"I knew there was a need for the site. I did my research and came across the same story over and over again," said Jerry Miller, founder of FarmersOnly.

"In all parts of North America, not everyone is compatible with someone who lives a rural lifestyle. It's a real challenge. There might be someone in a small community, a half-hour down the road, but they never crossed paths," said Miller, who founded the site because a female friend of his was finding it difficult to meet a partner.

Although FarmersOnly became accessible to Canadian farmers one year after it was created for American farmers in 2005, things are really starting to pick up north of the border.

"Just in the last year, things have really taken off. Memberships in Canada have easily doubled. There are more than a thousand members in Canada now. In both Canada and the United States there's a total of about 1.5 million members," said Miller.

"Our members are pretty spread out in age. We have younger groups, who are getting into dating, the middle age crowd who say, 'Hey it's time to find somebody,' and the older demographics, who are widowed, divorced, or a lot of times just looking for companionships and friends."

The more success you have, the more people tell other people. But, it's hard to know how many successful matches there have been in Canada. I've been to farm shows and people have come into our booth and said, 'Hey, thanks! Me and my

wife met on FarmersOnly. That's only two out of 20 though—a small percentage.

"A lady also e-mailed me and said she received messages during a holiday from 32 people, who she befriended on FarmersOnly."

If people are meeting their match, or simply making friends, and they don't do this, or send emails, cards or letters, who knows how many there are, says Miller.

"There could be thousands out there," he said.

Daniel Seitz of Montmartre, Sask., and Chelsea Henderson of Pierson, Man. are one example of a successful match.

Henderson had been searching long and hard for a partner, but had no luck. So, she tried FarmersOnly.

After becoming a member, she travelled as far as Kansas and Indiana in hopes of finding the man of her dreams. Yet, she still had no success.

She then sent a message to Seitz during haying season. Once it was over, he replied for her message.

They went on their first date at restaurant in Estevan. Afterwards, they cruised around in his pickup truck.

"Daniel is just the most sincere, genuine man any woman could ever hope to find," said Henderson in an interview with the Canadian Press.

Five months later they became engaged. Since then, he has moved his cattle down to her horse ranch and become 'Dad' to her little girl. They also wed last September. Henderson has taken Seitz as her name.

Miller credits success like this people, like the Seitz family, who are sharing their story.

"Once people get married, they tell 100

to 200 people they met on FarmersOnly. Then those people tell their friends and relatives, who meet someone on the site and it keeps on going."

Aside from word-of-mouth, Miller says improvements to the site over the years have also contributed to people finding successful matches.

"When we started in 2005, I was handing out flyers a local feed store in my home of Pepper Pike, Ohio," he said. "Now we're marketing the site with TV ads and YouTube videos. There have also been spoofs made of these videos."

One of the ads features an older couple, pitch forks in hand, with a balloon attached, which reads: 'City folk just don't get it.' Another ad shows a lonely woman telling a horse about her dating problem, while walking through a field.

"We've also redesigned the site, because when we created it, most farmers had dial-up Internet. Now, there is a move to high-speed Internet."

Other updates include a mobile site to accommodate the use of cell phones and tablets.

Miller says developing an application for smartphones could also happen down the road.

With constant technological advancements, interacting on a site like FarmersOnly is a little tougher for some people, says Miller.

"When you get out into the country, people working in agriculture aren't sitting or working at a computer all day. Over the years you learn to take care of certain problems, and change things, like the way something is worded, help buttons."

FarmersOnly also has satellite support staff across Canada and the U.S.

"Back when we started up, one farmer phoned me and said I have no idea how to get a picture on the computers—how to get it on the screen. So, I scanned the picture for him and he was good to go."

With the site overhaul, Miller says tasks like this are different, and sometimes difficult for people.

"That's why we're intensive in help support. It's easier getting a hold of us than getting a hold of Google."

Every call we get gives us a chance to learn something, so we can make the site more user-friendly. We're always researching new technology, and listening to members and their questions, so we can make it better."

If you happen to live outside of North America, Millers says the website won't be expanding internationally any time soon.

"Because we're trying to take care of everyone during this rapid grow period, all of our resources are going into taking care of these people," he said. "If we had a restaurant with 100 tables, we wouldn't want to go serve 10,000 tables in two minutes. We wouldn't be able to give good service."

Nonetheless, anyone can purchase everything from FarmersOnly t-shirts, to mouse pads and mugs on its site.

"Despite the site's name, not everyone has to be a farmer, in agriculture, or from rural areas to become a member. People from major cities, who have always dreamed about living a more natural, down-to-earth, outdoorsy lifestyle can become members, too."

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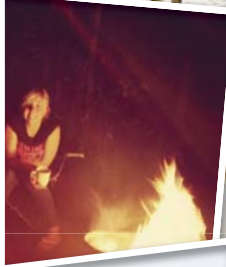
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Transfer of PFRA pastures: Transfer could have wide-ranging impacts

Continued from front

"There are about 35 patrons in this pasture. Each one has a different amount of cattle," said Ferguson.

"Now we're going to have to pay two-thirds of what the government paid to purchase bulls for breeding. And we're going to have to buy all outfits, houses, barns, corals, shoots, panels, tractors, trucks and trailers that they bought.

"We had at meeting a couple months ago, but there were only 15 of us there. We need a 50 percent, plus one vote to form a co-op. Now we have to make a pledge on paper and see what happens."

Once Spy Hill-Ellice is transferred to both provinces, and is either leased or sold, Ferguson says he doesn't know what he's going to do.

"Maybe I'll retire, or maybe I'll sell my share to someone in my family—or even a friend. And if they're not interested, I'm not sure what I'll do."

Herriot says if the pastures are public, then there is at least the ability to affect policy. "(And if they're not public land, then there's no perpetuity, no recourse to fall back on," he said.

"We encourage folks to talk to their MLAs, write cards, E-mails, letters to Wall and his government and tell him you don't want him to sell these lands. And talk to people to give them an understanding of what's happening."

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Mad for mud nine years running:

701 riders participate in the Wawota Quad Derby



Adam Gamble photo

A train of riders rip through a bog full of mud on their quads. Once through, they had to head over a hill, where, if they were they lucky, could smell burgers and smokies cooking down the trail at the Cook Shack.

BY ADAM GAMBLE

Seven hundred and one riders from across Saskatchewan and Manitoba traversed the 22-mile-long trail at the 9th Annual Wawota Lions Club Quad Derby on April 26.

"It was a great turn out. Last year we only had 698 riders," said Joel Carpenter, president of the Wawota Lions Club, which organized the event. "We've got kids coming out as young as five years old to about 70."

"This year, I even had a guy e-mail me from five hours away in North Battleford. He said, 'My 25 buddies and I will come down as long as there's a place to shower up afterwards.' So, we turned the sprinklers on in the splash park, and they came on down."

Aside from the splash park, there was lots of water on the trail, according to Paige Restau, 17, who is from Wapella and rode in the derby.

"It's crude. I wasn't expecting this much water," said Restau. "This is my first time to a derby and it's really muddy. But it's a good time, though."

The mud at the Wawota derby has quite the reputation, according to Eric Handziuk, 24 who also attended the event for the first time.

"I heard that the mud was good, so I came out," said Handziuk, 24, who rode with his brother, Dave Handziuk, 28, and his friend, Brad Van Dilkedit, 29, who are also from Regina.

In addition to mud and water, riders traversed through bogs, creeks, and snow, as well as up and down steep hills.

"Ten percent of the riders were female, or about 70," said Carpenter, 27, who is from Wawota. "Most were on quads or side-by-sides. But, we also had some on motorbikes."

Like previous years, riders could pre-register at the Wawota Hotel from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. the night before derby.

"A lot of locals like to do this so they don't have to deal with the long lines on the day of the derby," said Carpenter. "There were between 60 and 80 who pre-registered."

Regular registration occurred from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Wawota Community Forum, where the derby began.

Whether riders registered the day before, or the day of the derby, the cost was \$20.

"Ten dollars goes to the Lions Club, and gives them a wristband for the trail, and the other ten goes to the Rider Payout," said Carpenter. "It's basically like a 50/50. The first rider drawn gets 25 percent of the payout, the second one gets 15 percent, and the third gets 10 percent. We also sell Silent Hands for those who don't want to ride and it works the same way."

The total for the Rider Payout was \$14,020, and the Silent Hand Payout was \$5,715.

"Prizes were also donated to the Rider Payout by local businesses, which we'd like

to say thank you to," said Carpenter.

The money raised at this year's derby will be going towards various community projects in Wawota and area. In past years, the money helped fix up the community rink, as well as put on a Relay for Life event.

"A bunch of groups help with this derby," said Carpenter.

Within the Wawota Lions club, "just about all 40 members help out," he said. "Before the derby even starts, we pick a tentative date for it back in February. We also show up at about 7:30 a.m. on the day of the derby to set up tables for the breakfast at the Forum in the morning. I also mark the trail the night before the derby."

Continued on page 26



Adam Gamble photo

A rider sprays up water that had overflowed from a ditch nearby. Roughly 10 of his friends were behind him and about to do the same.

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9th Annual Wawota Lions Club Quad Derby

Continued from page 25

The Wawota Community Forum Board put on the breakfast from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m., while the Wawota and Community Early Learning Centre put on a supper from 4:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Half of the proceeds from the meals go to the Wawota Lions Club, and the other half goes to the organization which cooks them.

"Being able raise money through a dinner helps us a lot," said Chelsea Doane, who has been director of the non-profit organization since 2008. "We need money for children's toys and stuff for the kids, and to maintain the building and pay the bills. Raising money enables us to do that."

While both organizations have put on breakfasts and dinners in the past, this year, lunch at the Cook Shack, located at the halfway mark on the trail, was sponsored by the Bear

Claw Casino.

"This is the first time any group has sponsored the lunch," said Carpenter.

"We sponsored the lunch because the Wawota Lions Club has been doing a really great job with the derby. And we're working a lot more with communities in our area and trying to get our name out there and form partnerships," said Sean Choo-Foo, foods and services manager at the Bear Claw Casino. "We're just giving back to the community. It's one of our guiding principles."

The lunch consisted of burgers and smokes, a total over 900 of which were sold, according to Garry Wilson, who, along with other Wawota Lions Club members, helped cook.

"We also had a couple of guys on quads watching fencing and people's behaviours. In past years we've had guys cut fence," said Carpenter.

The RCMP and EMS also

patrol the trails.

This proved vital as someone got hurt near the Cook Shack around 2 p.m. and need ambulatory aid.

"The trail is pretty rough," said Spring Scott, 35, who came to the derby with her husband and their friends from White City. "You have to be careful, but we love it. We come here every year."

The Wawota derby is the one Scott says she and her husband go to. "There's lots of mud here, and we love to get dirty."

"If you're too afraid to get dirty, this isn't for you."



Adam Gamble photo

Aside from the hand gestures, the mud on these riders displays the good time they were having. They had just ripped through a river on their side-by-side.



Adam Gamble photo

"It's crude."

Paige Restau, 17, from Wapella, puts up a peace sign at the 9th Annual Wawota Lions Club Quad Derby on April 26. Asked how she would describe the derby, Restau replied, "It's crude." It was her first time there. She later said she came down because her six of her buddies made her, but that is was a "good time." Turn to page 9 for more.

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Federal government announces: TFW program suspended for restaurants

Continued from page 7

The announcement came despite Kenney's insistence in recent weeks that only a small number of companies were abusing the program and his promise to deal with those who abuse the program harshly, including with fraud charges if necessary.

"I am announcing an immediate moratorium on the food services sector's access to the temporary foreign worker program," Kenney said in a statement.

He added his ministry will not process any new or pending applications for temporary foreign workers from restaurant operators, and any unfilled positions tied to previous approval will be suspended.

"This moratorium will remain in effect until the completion of the ongoing review of the temporary foreign worker program," he said.

Hundreds of Canadian companies and government departments employ temporary foreign workers, according to data compiled by Kenney's department. But there's been a dramatic increase in the number of hotels and restaurants accessing the program in recent years.

Fast-food giant McDonald's announced it is freezing its participation in the program pending a third-party audit after problems with the hiring of temporary foreign workers in B.C.

The program has grown from about 100,000 foreign workers in 2002 to as many as 338,000 now working across the country, according to the C.D. Howe report.

The institute, a non-partisan public policy think-tank, said changes to the program enacted between 2002 and 2013 made it much easier for employers to hire temporary foreign workers. Alberta and B.C. were particular benefactors.

But amid that hiring bonanza, the study concluded, a cumulative 3.9 percentage points was added to the unemployment rates in the two provinces.

"These policy changes occurred even though there was little empirical evidence of shortages in many occupations," wrote the report's author, economist Dominique Gross.

"When controlling for differences across provinces, I find that changes to the TFWP that eased hiring conditions accelerated the rise in unemployment rates in Alberta and British Columbia."

The Conservative government has since tightened the regulations, but there have been allegations in recent months about a handful of employers—particularly restaurants—abusing the program.

The C.D. Howe study, however, said that although the government's 2013 changes to the program were positive, there is still an absence of solid data about the state of Canada's labour market.

That echoes concerns raised by Don Drummond, an economist approached by the Tories five years ago to examine Canada's labour market. He gave the government 69 recommendations to improve the quality of the information on the labour market, but says few have been implemented.

Gross recommended several reforms to

"The restaurant industry employs 1.1 million Canadians and is the number one source of first-time jobs for young people. About two per cent of the industry's employees are temporary foreign workers. In areas of the country with severe labour shortages, the temporary foreign worker program is vital, allowing restaurants to remain in business, and to continue to provide jobs for their Canadian employees."

—Statement from Restaurants Canada

the program, including compiling better data on whether labour shortages actually exist in Canada.

She also called for increasing the cost of a temporary foreign worker permit for companies, and said employers should face tougher rules forcing them to prove they've truly been unable to fill jobs with Canadian workers.

Until then, Gross wrote, a temporary quota should be placed on the number of foreign workers permitted to come to Canada.

The Canadian Federation of Independent Business was critical of the move.

"For a government that has been very supportive of Canada's small business community, this decision is a slap in the face to entrepreneurs in the food services sector," said CFIB president Dan Kelly.

"A public conviction of an entire industry is deeply unfair to the thousands of restaurant operators who use the program appropriately and follow all of the rules."

He said CFIB members are strongly supportive of any action to crack down on those who abuse the program. In a recent survey, 85 per cent of small business owners said that access to the temporary foreign worker program should be revoked for those who misuse it.

"But the fact is, for some businesses—particularly those in smaller communities, resort towns or resource rich areas—ending their ability to use the temporary foreign worker program has real potential to put them out of business altogether," added Kelly. "CFIB will be lobbying hard to convince the government to end the moratorium and work on solutions to address any ongoing problems."

CFIB has recommended that government pursue a specialized temporary foreign worker stream for the restaurant and hospitality industry, built in similar fashion to the seasonal agricultural worker program. CFIB further advocates changes to the permanent immigration system to make it accessible to employers in need of lower-skilled workers.

The restaurant industry's association, Restaurants Canada issued a statement expressing disappointment Friday.

"Restaurants Canada is disappointed with Minister Kenney's decision to suspend the Temporary Foreign Worker Program for the food services sector, and is committed to working with the federal government to correct any abuses, restore the integrity of the program and expedite our sector's access to it in regions of severe labour shortages," according to the statement.

"The restaurant industry employs 1.1 million Canadians and is the number one source of first-time jobs for young people.

About two per cent of the industry's employees are temporary foreign workers. In areas of the country with severe labour shortages, the temporary foreign worker program is vital, allowing restaurants to remain in business, and to continue to provide jobs for their Canadian employees.

"The majority of restaurant operators using the program operate in complete

compliance and it is unfortunate that their businesses and employees will be hurt by this broad-stroke approach. Albertans in particular will remember what it was like a few years ago to find restaurants closed because of a shortage of workers."

"Restaurants Canada provides its members with ongoing updates and checklists to facilitate their compliance with temporary foreign worker program requirements, and will continue to work with Minister Kenney and its members to ensure the future viability of the program."

Federal Employment Minister Jason Kenney took aim at the temporary foreign worker program Thursday.

Kenney issued the surprise moratorium hours after the C.D. Howe Institute released a study into the program that concluded it had spurred joblessness in B.C. and Alberta.

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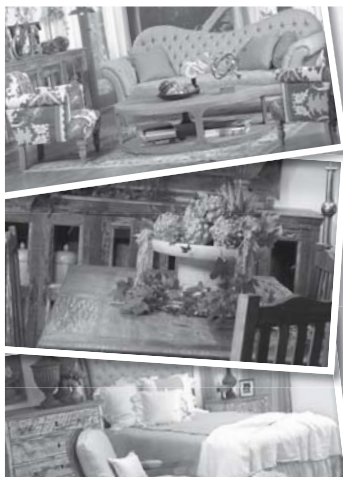
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<p>2012 Ford Expedition Limited</p> <p>Only 22,000 kms, 8-Passenger STOCK#4R104</p> <p>\$48,900 \$415 BI-WEEKLY</p>	<p>2011 Ford Explorer</p> <p>Like New, Local, 4WD STOCK#4P035</p> <p>\$31,900 \$275 BI-WEEKLY</p>	<p>2012 GMC Yukon SLT 4x4</p> <p>PST Paid STOCK#3P223A</p> <p>\$34,900 \$285 BI-WEEKLY</p>	<p>2010 Ford Expedition Limited</p> <p>DVD, Bought Here New STOCK#4T103A</p> <p>\$26,900 \$219 BI-WEEKLY</p>	<p>2011 Buick Enclave</p> <p>6-Passenger, 4WD, Great Colour STOCK#4T073A</p> <p>\$29,900 \$245 BI-WEEKLY</p>	<p>2008 Dodge Durango SLT</p> <p>Only 113,000 kms STOCK#4T125B</p> <p>\$18,900 \$155 BI-WEEKLY</p>
<p>2010 Ford Escape 4WD</p> <p>4Cyl, Auto STOCK#4T186A</p> <p>\$18,900 \$155 BI-WEEKLY</p>	<p>2005 Pontiac Montana</p> <p>Only 151,000 kms, DVD STOCK#3P107A</p> <p>\$5,900 AS TRADED</p>	<p>2011 Ford F-150</p> <p>Platinum, PST Paid STOCK#4T155A</p> <p>\$34,900 \$285 BI-WEEKLY</p>	<p>2010 Ford F-150</p> <p>Harley Davidson, 5.4L STOCK#4T122C</p> <p>\$32,900 \$267 BI-WEEKLY</p>	<p>2010 Ford F-150</p> <p>Platinum Edition, 5.4L STOCK#4T113A</p> <p>\$29,900 \$245 BI-WEEKLY</p>	<p>2013 Ford F-150 FX4</p> <p>PST Paid, 6.5' Box STOCK#4T154A</p> <p>\$36,900 \$299 BI-WEEKLY</p>

The Sweet 6

<p>2013 Ford F-150 XTR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next to new! • 5L <p>WAS: \$34,900 NOW \$31,900 \$271 BI-WEEKLY STOCK#4T062A</p>	<p>2005 Dodge Dakota</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4.7L, V8, 4WD • Crew Cab <p>WAS: \$11,900 NOW \$9,900 STOCK#3T261B</p>	<p>2013 Ford F-150 XTR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5.0L, 4x4 • 6.5' Box <p>WAS: \$29,900 NOW \$26,900 \$219 BI-WEEKLY STOCK#4T041A</p>	<p>2013 Ford Escape SEL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4WD • Sask Tax Paid <p>WAS: \$29,900 NOW \$27,900 \$227 BI-WEEKLY STOCK#4T115A</p>	<p>2013 Ford Escape SEL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4WD • 27,000 kms <p>WAS: \$29,900 NOW \$28,900 \$246 BI-WEEKLY STOCK#4P107</p>	<p>2011 Ford E-350</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15-Passenger • Great for the team! <p>WAS: \$25,900 NOW \$22,900 \$199 BI-WEEKLY STOCK#4P149</p>
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