

# Plain & Valley

Covering Southeast Saskatchewan and Southwest Manitoba

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## Ochapowace's Ethan Bear on U18 Team Canada

BY JULIA DIMA

For the second time, Ethan Bear, who hails from Ochapowace Cree Nation, has represented his country internationally. Bear was selected as one of the players on the Team Canada U18 team for the International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF) Ice Hockey U18 World Championship, which took place in Zug and Lucerne, Switzerland in April.

Last summer, Bear was also selected to play on Team Canada for the 2014 U18 Ivan Hlinka Memorial Cup in Czech Republic and Slovakia. At that tournament, Team Canada won gold.

Before heading to Sweden, Bear said that it was an honour getting to represent his country internationally at both tournaments.

"This is a bigger tournament than the (Ivan Hlinka Cup), but it's the same kind of excitement, each team wants to win, and especially with Canada being such a hockey country, everyone wants to beat us," Bear says. "But it's not too much different from your country, and it's quite an honor."

Bear grew up playing hockey at the community rink on Ochapowace First Nation, and at 14, he decided he wanted to head to British Columbia to play hockey at the Pursuit of Excellence Hockey Academy in Kelowna.

For Bear, that's when he realized he was serious about taking hockey as far as he could.

That really opened my thoughts up to things I can do with the sport," he says. I guess I didn't really take it seriously before I went there, but no, when I went there, it opened my eyes to see what opportunities I have. They teach you so much about all the different routes you can take with hockey, so that is when I really wanted to play and be a hockey player and go pro. So, going there was really nice, and it was a good thing for me, moving away from home



Photo courtesy of Brian Liesse/Seattle Thunderbirds

Ethan Bear playing with the Seattle Thunderbirds. Bear has played two seasons with the Thunderbirds.

early."

Bear played his AAA with the Yorkton Harvest for his rookie season before getting signed to the Seattle Thunderbirds in the WHL. In his rookie year with the Thunderbirds, he scored six goals and 13 assists throughout the season, and was already turning heads in the hockey world, getting picked for the U18 team for August.

This past season, Bear raked in 38 points with 13 goals and 25 assists. The Thunderbirds had a strong season, ranking fourth in the western conference for the WHL, but losing out to the Portland Winterhawks in the best of seven playoffs series in early April. Bear is also turning heads at the NHL level, being ranked 133 in the NHL Central Scouting's 2015 midterm rankings.

His eventual goal is to make the NHL, and play professional hockey as long as he can.

"I want to get drafted,

but if that doesn't happen, there are lots of different ways to play, I'll just keep working . . . it's all hard work, so I want to eventually make the NHL, or be a pro somewhere else," Bear says.

He found out he was selected for the U18 team the day after the Thunderbirds ended their season with a playoff loss, giving him a boost after a tough overtime loss.

"It's a huge honor playing. We lost out of playoffs, and then they told me, and I was pretty excited about that," Bear says. "It's a lot of fun to represent your country, and I am pretty happy about it."

Along with Bear, Matthew Barzal from the Thunderbirds was selected for the U18 Canada team. Barzal also played alongside Bear at the Ivan Hlinka Cup. Bear says it's nice to have his friend on the ice with him again at the international level.

"Matt is a great kid, and he's a good friend of mine so it's great having him here, it's nice to have a buddy from the same team that you can talk with. We were together at Ivan Hlinka cup, and we talked about that a lot through the season, and when we found out we were both coming here, we were pretty excited," he says. "We play well . . . If you give him the puck, he always finds a way to give it back, so I think we have some pretty good chemistry. I always know where he's going to be or what he's going to do, so I like seeing him there—he's always so crafty with the puck, so it's nice to be on the ice with him."

Despite the jet lag from the flight to Switzerland, Bear says he was quickly getting into the pace of the game when he arrived in Zug. Canada played two pre-competition games against Slovakia and Germany, winning both, 5-0

and 6-5 respectively.

In Canada's first tournament game they beat Latvia 11-6. Bear says that it was a good game, and he was having fun in Zug.

"It was a very (fast) paced game, and I think the boys are starting to come together as a team, and I really enjoyed it. It's pretty fun, especially representing Canada, it's quite an honour," he says. "It's fun, but it can be hard trying to get to know the players and who you are playing with as fast as you can so you know how they operate—that's how you connect and make a better team. I think we did that quite well. For us, it's just bearing down and playing our system."

Bear says that it was inspiring hearing about fans back home in Saskatchewan cheering him on through the tournament.

"I had some family this morning tell me they're going to watch the game, so I do (have support)," he

says. "It's good, it makes me happy to know they are watching, and it makes me want to play that much better."

Growing up playing hockey, Bear says that always having access to the hockey rink in his community made a big difference. As a young kid, Bear says he would go home after school to quickly eat, and would head straight to the rink to play shinny with friends.

While many aspiring hockey players look up to NHL players, Bear's first and biggest inspiration was his older brother, Everett, who played in the SJHL and University of Manitoba when he was younger.

"I think my brother was my main encouragement. I always looked up to him, and I knew how far he went, and I knew I wanted to go farther. I am working to that, and I am really thankful he's there," he says.

In his first year of Bantam, Bear says he started to be inspired by some NHL players, like Montreal Canadiens goalie Carey Price.

"Him being a First Nations kid and all that, I guess showed me that I can do it too," Bear says.

In terms of inspiring other young hockey players from Ochapowace, Bear says he just tries to be himself and set an example that if you work hard, it pays off.

"I just try to be myself and talk to the kids, and give them some advice of what I know. I guess I am kind of a role model back home, but I just try to be myself and don't change. I just try to tell kids to keep going—that's all you can do."

Bear says that playing for the U18 team in Switzerland made him feel like all the hard work he puts into hockey is worth it.

Canada ended up winning bronze after defeating Switzerland with a score of 5-2 in their final game. It was the second time in a row that Canada came home with a bronze in the championship.

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# Local women sewing dresses for African youngsters

BY DONNA BEUTLER

When Ella Gessner first read about "Little Dresses for Africa" (LDFA), her immediate thought was, "I could do that!" The long-time Whitewood resident and seamstress not only had the skills but the desire to help make a difference in the lives of young girls in places where children often don't have much to call their own.

What's unique about the sewing project that Gessner has undertaken is the simplicity of the dresses themselves. Most of them are sewn from pillowcases, although Gessner uses material of all kinds, often donated or picked up at thrift shops or garage sales. To sew a little dress like the ones Gessner and her group sew takes approximately one hour.

When the organization Little Dresses for Africa began in 2008, pillowcases were used simply because they were easy enough for a novice seamstress to sew and because they already have the hem and sides in them. Also, they are easily available new and gently used, something Gessner says makes them fun to shop for any time of the year.

Gessner began her labor of love just after Christmas this year and began preparing "kits" that included material, elastic for the neckline, binding for the tie straps across the shoulders, and a sample dress for others to follow as they sewed the dresses from the material provided in the kits. Gessner had about 10 women altogether who joined her in sewing the dresses—five from Whitewood, two from Tantallon, and a group of women who



From left: Wilma Polvi, Elvie Denet, Ella Gessner, Velma Hintz, and Florence Luhtala, all of Whitewood. The dresses are being sent through the Lutheran church in Wapella to their destination.

sewed about 20 of the dresses at a Whitewood Library night.

Since beginning their project, there have been 105 dresses sewn altogether by Gessner and her helpers, as well as 24 pairs of shorts for young boys. On April 24, Gessner and some of her assistants gathered at Gessner's home to measure the dresses and sort them into sizes—small, medium, large and extra large—and to package them into boxes ready for their journey to a country where young girls in need

will be able to enjoy putting on a brightly colored new dress. The group of ladies who measured and sorted that day talked about the joy some little girls would have when they received one of these little dresses. They imagined hearing the squeals of delight the girls would have as they were given one of these beautiful pieces of clothing.

"We will send the dresses through the Canadian Lutheran World Relief for Africa program," Gessner said in an interview.

"But first, the dresses will be dedicated at our church, then taken to Esterhazy. From there HomeAll will take them by truck to Winnipeg free of charge." Once in Winnipeg, Gessner explained, they are packaged into 40-pound "bales" and then into 40-foot containers to be taken by truck or train to the coast, and from there by barge to places like Africa and El Salvador.

According to the "Little Dresses" website, the dresses were originally distributed through orphanages, churches and schools in Africa but the ministry continues to grow and includes 31 other countries besides those in Africa. Little Dresses has a desire to plant hope in hearts of little girls by letting them know they are worthy. Distributing the dresses also gives LDFA an opportunity to teach nutrition, sanitation and to promote good health and family skills knowledge. LDFA's website, [www.littledressesforafrica.org](http://www.littledressesforafrica.org) not only provides information about the organization but also provides the simply pillow case dress instructions, saying, "We're not just sending dresses, we're sending hope."

Gessner says she and her friends will continue sewing dresses as long as they have material to sew. For them, it will mean keeping their eye out for material, gently used clothing, and pillowcases both new and used. Anyone with unused material can contact Gessner, as she will accept all material pieces, some of which may be small, but when joined with other pieces, can make a perfectly beautiful little dress.



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# Sanheims are back together on the ice

By ROBIN WARK

After a season apart, former Yellowhead Chiefs Travis and Taylor Sanheim are back together on the ice.

That has meant good things for the Elkhorn twins and the Calgary Hitmen. The Hitmen made it all the way to the Western Hockey League's Eastern Conference finals where they took on the Brandon Wheat Kings. That was good news for Kent and Shelly Sanheim, who got to see their two sons play close to home.

"It made things easier on our parents because they just had to come to one place to see both of their sons play," Taylor wrote in an internet interview about playing on the same team as his brother.

The duo grew up playing together and competing on a successful Chiefs midget AAA squad. Last season Travis suited up as a 17-year-old rookie with the Hitmen, while Taylor, a former Wheat Kings forward, spent most of the season with the Manitoba Junior Hockey League's Portage Terriers with fellow former Chiefs Bradley and Shawn Bowles and Brett Orr. What is the best part for the Sanheims about being teammates again?

"I think just getting back to playing with him," Tra-

vis said. "We are a lot more confident playing with each other. Just having him in the room and being around him is a lot more comfortable and I'm sure he feels the same way."

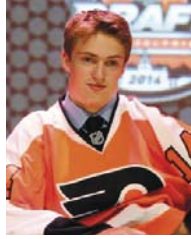
The Hitmen are certainly glad to have the Sanheims in the lineup.

"Both are very nice young men who have been brought up the right way," Calgary head coach Mark French said. "They are both extremely coachable and show up to work every day."

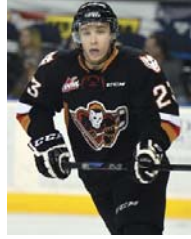
While they do have their similarities, the Sanheims play different positions and styles. They each have contributed to the Hitmen in their own way.

### Travis Sanheim

After a whirlwind rookie year that included helping Canada win bronze at 2014 IIHF World U18 Championships and being drafted 17th overall by the Philadelphia Flyers in the 2014 NHL Draft, Sanheim has flourished during his sophomore season. During the regular season the offensive-minded defenceman was third on the Hitmen with 65 points, including 15 goals. The six-foot-three, 184-pounder more than doubled his points total from the 29 he posted a season ago. Travis had the game-winning goal in double overtime to send



Travis Sanheim, left, and Taylor Sanheim, together with the Calgary Hitmen of the WHL



the Hitmen to this year's conference finals.

"Obviously it is a lot different with being drafted and coming in my second season," Sanheim said. "I got a lot more confidence. You can kind of be a leader out there and kind of one of the older guys, especially with the young D core that we have. So, I am just kind of taking on new roles this season."

While firmly focused on helping the Hitmen, Sanheim also has his eye on a professional hockey future. In his first camp with the Flyers, he earned a spot in an exhibition game and a three-year entry level contract.

"It was a great experience for me," Travis said. "I was lucky enough to play in an exhibition game and

a lot of NHL stars. I was lucky enough to come out of it with a contract. So, I did exactly you know what I wanted to go into my first camp. Hopefully next year there is more to come."

### Taylor Sanheim

In his first major junior regular season, Taylor posted four goals, 23 points, and 65 penalty minutes in 53 games. French called the 5-foot-11, 188-pound Taylor a bit of a surprise. He has played a checking role, chipped in offensively, and played with an edge.

"He is a guy who brings a bit of sandpaper to our

team," said French, who noted that Sanheim can be a "little bit of an agitator." He referred to Taylor as "one of those glue guys in our dressing room."

Taylor appreciates his time spent in the MJHL and how things have worked out.

"The MJHL helped me get stronger and get used to playing guys older than me. It's always hard to get cut from a team like Brandon but for me it was the best thing that happened to me because now I am playing in a great organization like Calgary and back playing with my brother!"

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**Elkhorn area hoping to attract day tours and bus tours**

BY KARA KINNA  
A number of businesses in Elkhorn, Manitoba have joined forces to try to attract more people to their area and showcase rural businesses.

The local businesses have decided that if people want to come out on a bus tour, or bring their staff out for a day, they will offer a combined shopping and dining experience.

Westwood Ranch and Garden Centre, which has a greenhouse and zoo on their property near Elkhorn, attracts a large number of visitors every year. This year, the business is encouraging bus companies and businesses to think of the Elkhorn area as a destination by combining a visit to their greenhouse and zoo with a shopping experience at Past and Present Gifts, Flowers and Ladies Fashions on Main Street in Elkhorn.

They are also encouraging groups to stop in town for lunch as part of their experience at Elkhorn Creamery.

"We're just trying to get them to come through town. Even if we can get 25 extra people out through the summer time, that's more than we had before," says Wenda Paton, the owner of Past and Present.

"It's bringing people back into the rural areas."

Last year two tours made Elkhorn a stop, but this year invitations were sent

out to bus companies in the area, as well as to local businesses which may be interested in bringing staff out for a day trip.

With many small businesses still independently owned, Paton says rural areas can offer a truly unique shopping experience for many people.

"My shop is unique for a small town with a population of 500, and Humphries at Westwood, what they have is so unique—they've got a zoo on the prairies! And then we thought maybe our restaurants could do lunch. That's kind of how we got it going and we've kind of built on that."

Paton says they are hoping groups choose the Elkhorn area as a stop throughout the summer of 2015, and there is potential still to build on the number of locations that could be included.

She says there has been talk about trying to include the local Elkhorn Automobile Museum as part of the tours in the Elkhorn area as well, and she says they are open to tailoring their services for each tour. For example, one group may want a full lunch while another might just want to stop for ice cream before shopping and heading out to the greenhouse and zoo.

She says anyone wanting to book a tour can contact Jill Humphries at Westwood Ranch and Garden Centre to set something up.

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# Wawota group headed to Toronto for Meagan's Walk

BY JULIA DIMA

For the second year, a small group from Wawota is traveling all the way to Toronto to participate in a five kilometre walk in support of pediatric brain tumor research.

The walk, called Meagan's Walk, was founded in memory of Meagan Bebenek, who had a rare form of inoperable brain cancer called a brain stem glioma. She passed away in 2001, and her mother, Denise decided to form a community walk in Meagan's memory that would raise money for the Sick Kids Hospital in Toronto. The walk grew over the years, and now, thousands of participants get involved and the walk has raised over \$3 million for pediatric cancer research at the hospital.

For Rochelle Friesen of Wawota, Meagan's story is close to her heart, since she also lost her daughter, Cienna, last year to a similar cancer, diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma.

Through an online support group, Friesen spoke with other parents who had lost a child to this cancer, and learned about Meagan's Walk.

"We decided originally when (Cienna) was diagnosed that we would need some-

thing to channel energy into, and we did some research into different organizations, and this was most specific to what she had," Friesen says.

The family's doctors referred Cienna to the Sick Kids Hospital in Toronto, and the family took two trips there, and that is where she was diagnosed. Friesen says that the hospital was helpful, and that is what encouraged them to keep supporting the hospital.

"It's totally different going to a pediatric hospital than to a normal one. It was friendlier for kids, and they don't seem to have as many pressures to deal with as many people, so it seemed like they could give you a lot more one on one attention than you might get at other hospitals," Friesen says. "She had her diagnosis, and within a half hour, we were already meeting with the neurooncologist and radiation therapist and the whole team. As we were meeting, there was a little clown that played with Cienna as well."

Though Cienna received her treatments at home in Saskatchewan, pediatric cancer research happens at the Sick Kids Hospital, and it is the sort of treatment that will

help other children in the future who develop this sort of cancer. That is why Friesen felt it would be a good cause to raise money for.

Last year was the first year she decided to do the walk, and pledge to raise funds. She formed a walking team, which included herself, her other two kids, her parents, brother and sister and their spouses, and a close family friend. They set to raising money for the walk, which took place in May last year, and that fundraising took various forms. Friesen, and others pledged to donate portions of their paycheques to the cause, raise money around the community, and even Friesen's brother, who got married, asked for donations to be made at the wedding instead of gifts. The largest fundraiser was their Children's Dinner Theatre, which brought in around \$6,500.

"My mom (Nikki Ford) used to organize a community dinner theatre each year, a long time ago. It was an annual adult one. We decided it was time to bring the idea back again, and get some community acts in it. It's geared towards kids, so we do some songs from popular shows they would know," Friesen explains. In total, last year's fundraising raised \$12,000 for the team to donate. The costs to get to Toronto came entirely out of pocket, and not from the funds raised.

Last year's walk was overwhelming and emotional, Friesen says. The walk starts at Fort York, and proceeds for five kilometres to the Sick Kids Hospital, where the walkers surround the entire hospital with their hands clasped, in a big 'hug' around the whole building to show their support for the kids inside battling illnesses.

*Continued on page 27*



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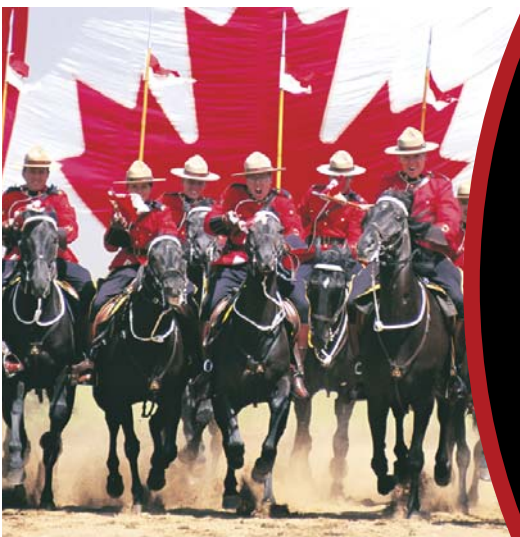
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# At Esterhazy: Mosaic planning \$1.7 billion project

BY JULIA DIMA

On April 21 in Esterhazy, Mosaic held an open house to discuss the next step in their continued expansion of the Mosaic K3 potash mine just east of Esterhazy. In March, Mosaic announced a continued investment into the growth of the site of \$1.7 billion. This is in continuation of the \$1.5 billion investment they announced in 2009 to expand the K3 and K2 sites to bring the mine to its full production capacity of 21 million tonnes of ore a year.

The expansion has a number of parts, including the sinking of a third production shaft, which is ongoing, construction of a new head frame, and developing a conveyance system for bringing the raw ore from K3, which is the mining operation to K2, the milling operation, to be processed.

The open house was hosted to answer questions about the latter, and newest, part of the expansion, the conveyance system that will transport ore from K3 to K2. Initially, the plan was to use trucking to transport the ore the 11 kilometre distance between sites. However, those plans were changed to instead construct an above-ground enclosed conveyance system that will carry the ore.

"It's because of tonnage rates. When we looked at how much we could truck versus how much could be put onto a conveyor, that was more economical in the long term," says Jessica Theriault, director of environmental affairs with Mosaic Company.

The conveyance system will be 11 kilometres long, and be entirely above ground, except where it intersects with RM roads—of which there will be five on the path—and Highway 22 near the K2 entrance.

"It's on a road bed, and goes underneath all of the roads, so that your grid roads all stay open, so that is the only place you won't actually see it. It will work like a conveyor underground, but be on the surface and enclosed," Theriault says.

Along the conveyance system, there will be culverts constructed to keep water flowing so that the farmland around the conveyance system is not flooded. Theriault says that throughout the course of the open house, questions about flood mitigation were common to hear.

"There's been talk about the culverts to ensure we don't inhibit water flow, because obviously with the last couple of years, with having some extreme storm events, that was a number one priority, to keep water flowing," she says.

Where the conveyor intersects with grid roads, it will gradually be lowered to go underneath the grid road, which will be slightly elevated after the conveyor is built beneath it. Through the process of looking at environmental impacts, Theriault says one aspect of the process was to ensure that animals are not impacted by the change.

"We'll have (two) wildlife crossings along the route, so wildlife can continue getting from one side to the other . . . One is underneath, like a culvert system to allow smaller mammals to go underneath the roadbed, and for the larger animals, at all grid road crossings, we are building it out on one side and grassing that to allow



Photos courtesy of Mosaic Company

Above: A map of where the conveyor will run in relation to the highway. Below: A rendering of what the conveyor will look like passing below Highway 22.



animals to pass along the grid road, and also having one man-made wildlife crossing in the middle of a field—that will be for cattle to go over," Theriault explains. "All wildlife crossings, and all of environmental mitigation is all part of project approvals through the Ministry of Environment."

Where the conveyor has to cross Highway 22 to get to the K2 site, it will also go beneath the entrance to the K2 site.

"Even though it will go underneath highway (the highway) will be raised a little bit. We have been in contact with Saskatchewan Highways to ensure they are all in approval of this, but it will go underneath the highway, and there will be a slight gradual bump as the conveyor goes underneath. It's all engineered design with approval from highways," Theriault says.

"We'll construct a purpose-built bypass road right along Highway 22," adds Paul McMillen, director of capital projects with Mosaic. "So we'll build a road right beside 22, cut out 22, build the conveyor through there, finish 22, and cut out our purpose built road and lay the rest down. It will be essentially in the ditch of highway 22, on the south side."

The first part of constructing the conveyance system is to build a purpose built road where the conveyor will run, about 800 metres south of Highway 22. Construction for the first phase is expected to start this summer.

At this point, Theriault says that there have not been complaints about Mosaic's

plans for the conveyor, even at the open house.

"We are so lucky that we have great support not only from the surrounding towns but the surrounding RMs, residents, and employees. When we go to get support, we've done our homework to think about what concerns they might have, but we have supportive neighbors. We listen to landowner concerns, and work with them regardless of the project we are doing," she says.

The open house was busy that afternoon, with the most common questions being about the appearance of the conveyance system, and when construction will get started.

"There's lots of questions about when

construction is starting and ending, and what it will look like," says McMillen. "There's a lot of information, so a lot of the people visiting today work at the mine, or have worked there, and the local towns and people in the area have a lot of information already, so it's just trying to fill in blanks . . . There's lots of communication today, so most questions are answered as people go around and look at the displays."

Displays at the open house showed different aspects of the project, about environmental approval and assessment, wildlife and wetlands, drainage and water run off, and concerns about impacting heritage sites.

Carl Psutka, who lives in Esterhazy and whose family farms five miles away from K2, was interested in knowing how the development of a conveyor will impact the farmers in the region. His family used to farm very close to the K2 site, but two years ago, when the mine planned to extend the lagoon, Psutka was bought out, and moved five miles away.

"Our land, we'd had for 80 some years. With the expansion, they had to extend into our area, so we did a land swap. My son was relocated about five miles away. It was a big impact then—life changing. In hindsight, it was a positive thing, but after you're somewhere for 80 years, it's not that easy to pack up and leave," Psutka says. He says that being close to the milling operation did have some impacts, like the heavy salty smell in the air. Now, his son does not have to deal with those aspects of farming close to the mine. He says that he is still interested in knowing exactly how the new conveyance system will impact farmers who still have land nearby.

"I am here today just to see what the plan was. It's not going to affect us anymore because we are not in that situation anymore . . . It will impact farmland, I can see that. There's a lot of environmental projects here as you look around, but there's nothing mentioned about what happens to the farmland—not one display here about that today, I was expecting to see more about that," he says.

Theriault says the consultations and necessary steps to take with landowners along the conveyor's stretch have been happening since the beginning of the plans to put in a conveyance system.

Continued on page 25



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# Reavie remembers her hockey days as a young woman

BY JULIA DIMA

The world of women's hockey has changed drastically since the late 1800s when women took to the ice in long skirts and bonnets. In the early 1900s, women's hockey exploded across the country.

While the post-war period saw a decline of women's hockey in the social sphere of Canadian culture, in the heart of the prairies, women were playing, and playing well.

Rocanville's Doreen Reavie—then Lockhart before she married—was playing on an all-star hockey team out of Winnipeg, and in 1950, won the Lady Bessborough Trophy in the Ladies' Dominion Hockey Championship with the Winnipeg Canadianettes.

All-star teams in the West, Prairies, and East competed with their best players. In Winnipeg, there were about six or seven teams that pitched their best players for the all-star championship-winning Canadianettes—Reavie was playing on the Brandon Wheat Queens.

Reavie grew up in Rocanville, and like most small town kids, she spent her free time at the rink, playing hockey with other girls. Back then, like today, hockey ruled rural life, and playing shinny was the thing to do.

"We played in the old rink. There was a big hockey surface, and two sheets of curling ice on each side. Hockey was always the main thing in those days," Reavie says. "There were lots of girls playing hockey for entertainment—that's all there was to do then."

Reavie says that back in the early days, there were enough girls playing hockey that it was easy to ice all-girl teams. But even afterwards, when the girls packed up and the senior boys game out for practice, Reavie says she stayed out on the rink, always eager to see if she could keep up with the boys.

"They didn't care—half of them back then were a relation or friend one way or another," Reavie says.

When she was around 20, her sister was living in Winnipeg with her kids, and since both of their parents had passed away, she en-



Reavie (middle row, third from left) with the all-star team that won the Ladies' Dominion Championship in 1950, the Winnipeg Canadianettes.

couraged Reavie to move out to Winnipeg, to help with babysitting. There, Reavie got a job with Eatons in the accounting department. Always being an athletic girl, Reavie was encouraged by her sister to grab her skates and try out with one of the women's hockey leagues. She was accepted with the Brandon Wheat Queens, a 12-person team bearing Brandon Wheat Kings sweaters that were donated to them—back then, hockey players did not have much more than that.

"All we had back then were pants, sweaters, shin pads, and gloves—no equipment," Reavie recalls.

She says that it wasn't a rough game then, because the players were more focused on their game than fighting, but even still, not many players left the ice unscathed.

Reavie herself says she's had hip fractures from playing hockey, and still has a big bump on her chest and some paralysis in her shoulder and arm after getting hit in the chest with a hockey stick during one game. While

working at Eatons, coworkers had a laugh at Reavie when she showed up to work with a black eye from another team's goalie meaning to toss the hockey puck, and hitting her square in the eye. On one occasion, she remembers getting a penalty when a Moose Jaw player body-checked her, but was injured worse, underestimating Reavie's strength. Along with the general roughness of the game, Reavie says accidents happened all the time, made worse by not having any equipment.

One teammate on the all-star team, she remembers, meant to bodycheck a player on the opposing team, missed, and cracked into the boards hard enough to knock herself out. Another player finished a match with a few less teeth than when she started.

"She got shoved, and lost her front teeth, hitting the goal post—I remember, they were just laying on the ice, good white teeth," Reavie says.

Despite the injuries sustained, it was never a second thought in Reavie's mind when she hit the ice. She says back then, she was

just eager to play the next game.

"I never gave injuries a thought—I wouldn't call it rough hockey, because you were too busy playing hockey to be rough usually," she says.

Along with protective equipment, funding for women's hockey was lacking in those days as well. Unlike today, where leagues like the WHL and CJHL receive support, Reavie remembers everything coming out of pocket for her and her fellow hockey players. She remembers hardly being able to afford a new pair of skates when a puck broke the blade of hers loose one game.

"They have sponsors and stuff now for hockey. We had one stick, and if you broke it, you went out and bought another one. You always paid your way," she says. "In Winnipeg, it was all outdoor then, there were two big stadiums in Winnipeg then, and that is where we played championship games, but the rest was played open air with a little hut on the side of the rink—you'd think you would freeze to death."

Despite the fact that women's

hockey began to lose popularity in the post-war era, in those early years between 1945 and 1950 when Reavie lived in Winnipeg, she says women's hockey was welcomed, had a good fan base, and she did not experience discrimination as a female player.

"No, there wasn't any (discrimination), not then. But, we looked after ourselves. There was no such thing as sponsors of any kind in those days," she says. At the league championship games, which the Winnipeg Canadianettes played against the Moose Jaw Wildcats in the Western Final, and the Port Arthur Bombers in the championship final—beating them 7-3—Reavie says the rinks were full of fans.

"There was a crowd of 1,500 at a Canadianettes game, so that's pretty good for girls hockey," she says. She adds that big crowds never made her nervous, because she was just out on the ice to play hockey and have fun. During the Dominion Championship, the Winnipeg papers covered the matches, and Reavie's sister would clip out every story. Today, carefully stored in albums, Reavie still has those original clippings, yellowed with age, and folded carefully. In each story, she's placed a small mark on the page where she was mentioned. Considered part of the "powerline" for the Canadianettes, Lockhart's strong plays were always noted in the paper. In the league championship, the reporter calls Reavie the game's star. The clipping reads, "Lockhart was the best player on the ice Friday night. Besides her three scoring points, she cut down numerous Port Arthur threats."

Reavie says looking back, there's a feeling of pride for her hockey career, but mostly, it was about having fun.

"We just went and played hockey and had fun. If we had to go out of town and stay overnight at a hotel, we went to the bar same as everyone else. We were having fun, that's all it was, just fun," she says. "We never thought one thing about it (getting to play elite hockey), we just went out and played it and hoped we won."

Continued on page 23





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**Carrots**  
You can start planting carrot seeds at the beginning of May if the weather is warm enough. Choose a day when it's not windy or else the tiny seeds may blow away. Sow the seeds densely, because once they have grown big enough to touch one another you will have to thin them out. These miniature carrots don't have to go to waste, though, as they are perfect in a salad.

**Radishes**  
Radishes love the cold. You can start seeding them as soon as the soil is no longer muddy, perhaps by the end of April in cooler climates. Your harvest will be finished by June but a second harvest is possible if you re-seed at the end of the summer. This also applies to spinach and lettuce.

**Beets**  
Beets tolerate cold, but gardeners living in more northern areas must wait until the end of May, sometimes even the beginning of June, before seeding. Leave at least 10 cm between the seeds in order to cultivate big specimens, and be especially careful not to forget to water them. Beets need moist soil for healthy growth.

**Cucumbers**  
Contrary to the preceding vegetables, cucumbers hate the cold. Cool-climate gardeners will sometimes have to wait until June before seeding. Train the plants up a trellis

so that the cucumbers don't rot on the ground.  
**Snow peas, beans, and herbs**  
These can be sown as soon as the risk of ground frost is over. One exception to this rule is basil, which should only be planted in the warmth of June. Lastly, all seedlings that you purchased from a garden centre will require four or five days of acclimatization before being transplanted into the garden. Place them in the shade at first, gradually increasing their exposure to the sun.

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# HOME & GARDEN 2015



## No playing in my flower beds!

Does it seem as though all the neighbourhood cats are spending their free time lurking in your flower beds? In addition to chewing on your favourite plants, some cats could be using your yard as a giant litterbox and digging up your seedlings when they kick the dirt around. It makes you seethe just to think about it! Instead of battling it out with the local cat population, here are some simple tips for discouraging them in a humane way.

It's a well-known fact that most cats don't like water. If you look around the stores, you're sure to find a sprinkler that is activated by a motion sensor. The sensor will detect a cat moving around your garden and the sprinkler will turn on. You've never seen a cat clear out so fast! This method has the advantage of being

safe, and it works just as well for dogs and other wild animals.

If you're bothered by a cat that's digging holes in your flowerbeds, you could put up some chicken wire or plant rows of small sticks. Plastic forks are also supposed to be effective when planted in the ground, tines up, and there's no risk of injury either. Mulch, stones and twigs are other ways of deterring animals that like to make holes.

Squirrels, woodchucks, raccoons and skunks are other animals that could invade your yard. Horticultural professionals can give you tips on how to discourage them in a nice way. Lastly, if you choose to use a repellent product, be sure it's nontoxic and follow the manufacturer's instructions.

Instead of battling it out with the local cat population, find out how you can discourage them in a nice way.



## Pampering your yard

Has winter been hard on your lawn? Don't panic. The first thing to remember is not to rush outside and start work on the grass when the ground is still soaking wet. The time to get out the leaf rake and pick up all the debris is when you can walk on the grass without sinking in.

Make the most of a beautiful day to remove any protective covering from your trees and shrubs. Cut back dead and damaged branches, being careful not to damage the buds. Remove annuals, prune perennials and clean your rockeries if you didn't get around to doing these chores last fall. Go gently, taking care not to trample on perennials that are already beginning to show. Add compost (and some soil, if necessary), and cover your beds with a good layer of mulch.

You may have noticed that field mice or other rodents have made furrows across your lawn. There may also be patches of grass that are completely dried out. To ensure that weeds don't take over all the bare spots, aerate your lawn and sow grass seed as soon as possible. A tip: use quality seed. Better to pay a little more than end up with a bag of seed that may contain weeds.

No time to take care of yard work in the spring? Hire a freelance gardener; he or she will love pampering your yard for you.



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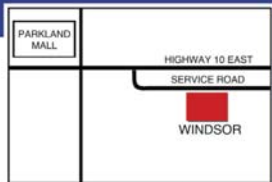
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# Maryfield girls bake cookies for MS

Photo courtesy of Angela Veysey



BY JULIA DIMA

Kaitlyn and Jessica Veysey, along with their mom Angela's help, are baking cookies to help end Multiple Sclerosis. The Veysey family decided to start their 'Cookies for a Cause' sale in mid-March, to help out their aunt, Janelle Veysey, who has MS.

Janelle, whose husband is originally from Maryfield, lives in Calgary, and was diagnosed with MS six years ago, but had been living with it much longer than that. She's been doing the MS walk in Calgary for eight years, and her family in Maryfield always tries to help.

"Janelle had emailed us two months ago saying that she's doing the MS walk again and asking for support. We figured maybe we could do something to raise money. A lot of people in our community had been talking about that, doing something for someone instead of 'here's some money.' And it goes a long way. My kids are encouraged by it too, it's pretty neat," says Angela.

She says the girls discussed what they wanted to do, and they decided to sell homemade cookies, since that is their go-to raise funds when it is

needed.

"We are notorious for cookies. It's kind of what we do, cookies all the times for things. My kids are fantastic at it, and we've always made sure that they do things like that—it's not just learning how to be in the kitchen, but learning how to multiply and do fractions and it's really neat. Plus, it's always entertaining," Angela adds.

The family is very close with Janelle, and this past summer, 10-year-old Kaitlyn had the chance to spend around a week in Calgary with her aunt. She says that she did not know her aunt had MS then, but saw how it impacted her.

"I had a really cool trip to my auntie's house in Calgary, and it was sad, because she couldn't do very much because MS slows her down, and she gets really tired easily," Kaitlyn says. "At the time I went, I didn't know she had MS, and when my mom told me that, I kind of thought, 'no wonder she couldn't do stuff with us.' So, I thought it would be nice to help my auntie, because it's fun to do things with her."

Since they started their cookies for a cause fundraiser, over 120 dozen

cookies have been sold—Angela says it became such a whirlwind, they stopped keeping track, but she says \$830 has been raised. The cookies sold for \$3 a dozen, or \$10 for four dozen, but Angela says that people have been making donations far above and beyond what they are asking.

"We had one guy in town for supper, and he left \$100 at the hotel for us because he was encouraged by what we were doing, and wanted to help. Nobody knows who he was, or anything," she says. "People buying cookies pay way more than what we've asked, and they don't expect anything in return, it's amazing."

Angela says that she hopes that sets a good example for her daughters about the difference they can make by helping out.

"I think this teaches them to think about other people and also pays things forward. There is such a need for good in this world . . . So, my girls see what, at their age, they can do in a small town, and how far it reaches, and that is truly amazing," she says. "We've had people that are just visiting see that and want to order cookies, meet the kids, and encourage them as well. It goes so far with positive things, and people need that—not to hear always all the negative things going on in the world."

Since they've started to help, Angela says that she talks to her daughters about MS, so that they are aware.

"We talk about Janelle a lot, and we've had a lot of people who have ordered cookies tell us that they have a family member that has MS, and we did not know that. . . We talk about it with the girls, and how difficult it is for Janelle, and what she will be facing. We always want to be honest and real with our kids. There are things in life, that even though they are difficult, we still need to talk about them," she says.

Kaitlyn says she has learned a lot about MS, and wants people to go to her aunt's profile page on the MS Walks webpage to learn about how MS im-

pact people.

Money for Janelle, and her family team, 'The S'myelin Beauties' needed to be in by the end of April, and the Veysey family is planning on sending a cheque as well as a pack of cookies to Janelle. The whole thing is a surprise, and Angela says the kids are getting excited to finally see their aunt react to the funds they've raised.

"The reason why we didn't tell her we're doing this for her is because there is no self pity in her life—she doesn't ever give up or say 'woe is me.' She works so hard to take care of herself and her family

and to do what she can, so it's encouraging to us that she can overcome all these things even though she is the one living with MS," Angela says.

Kaitlyn says she can't wait to see her aunt's reactions.

"I can't wait to find out what her reaction is. I'll get my cousin to video tape it and send it to me, so I can watch," she says.

It has been a very busy few weeks of baking chocolate chip and gingersnap cookies, but the Veysey family has the cookie baking down to a science—six-year-old Jessica is on egg cracking and pouring

ingredients, Kaitlyn makes sure the exact amount of cookie dough is measured so they can get the right number of cookies each batch, and Angela handles the oven.

"Everybody enjoys (cookies) and we're pretty good at it now, and it's fun to do too," Kaitlyn says.

Cookie baking wrapped up last week so the family has time to collect all the donations on time for the MS Walk, but Angela says if people still would like to buy cookies and support their cause, they can still contact her at 646-4335 and they will send the funds afterwards.

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# HOME & GARDEN 2015

## Doors and windows for style and comfort

Changing doors and windows is one of a home owner's biggest maintenance investments, apart from replacing a roof. Style, comfort, and price are the three determining factors when it comes to choosing new doors and windows.

### STYLE

Firstly, let the overall style of your home guide you. If the house has a rustic look, you may want to opt for windows with small panes. If your house has stone siding and natural materials prevail, you'll probably prefer wood. And lastly, if you have a modern home, you'll probably want to focus on metallic or coloured finishes.

The model of window has an impact on the look:

- sliding window: two superimposed frames that slide from left to right or both ways
- hung window: two superimposed frames that slide upwards
- casement window: opens with a crank
- awning window: the frame pivots up and down

### COMFORT

The insulation a window provides is a major factor where the overall comfort of your home is concerned. Consumers can choose double or triple glazing. With triple glazing, the third glass panel reduces heat loss even more and reduces condensation and noise.

The air between the layers of glass is a good insulator, but sometimes gas (krypton or argon) is inserted between the panes to provide better insulation. However, this effect diminishes over time, as the gas eventually escapes. A low emission (low-E) coating can be added to the window. This coating comes in the form of a low-emissivity film, which

lets the sun's rays in but prevents heat from escaping.

You should also check the spacers that separate the two or three panes of glass. The spacers surround the windows and make them waterproof. It is important to ensure that they have low conductivity, or, in other words, that they are non-metallic. These inserts help to reduce condensation at the bottom of the windows and prevent the glass from becoming excessively cold. Weather-stripping seals both doors and windows against rain and dust and minimizes air leaks in moving joints.

### PRICE

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Doors and windows must be installed level, plumb, and square. This work should be done carefully, ideally by a qualified carpenter. Also, many companies, whether manufacturers or retailers, install the doors and windows they sell. They tend to ensure the job is done well, as their reputation depends on it.

Poorly installed doors and windows can cause heat loss, be difficult to open, cause water infiltration, and other additional expenses. Dealing with professionals is always well worth the extra cost.



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# HOME & GARDEN 2015



## The ABCs of vegetable gardens



A garden doesn't have to be huge for you to feel the pleasure and pride of growing your own vegetables. In fact, if this is your first attempt, it's best to start small. A smallish rectangle, measuring 2.5 metres by 1 metre will do the trick. It can even be smaller if necessary. Sun is the most important factor, so be sure to choose a spot that receives at least six hours of sunlight a day.

Another essential element is water. Having ready access to water is necessary if you don't want to wear yourself out carrying watering cans back and forth. Vegetables require frequent watering, especially at the beginning of the season and during dry spells.

When preparing ground for a vegetable patch it is important to check the quality of the soil. If it is loose and well-drained you can simply remove any grass and dig 5 centimetres of compost and natural fertilizer

into the existing soil. If your soil is heavy and contains clay, however, try the following fail-safe method: place eight to ten layers of newspaper over the entire surface of your patch in order to suffocate any grass or weeds. Next spread 30 to 35 cm of garden soil on top and mix in 5 cm of compost and fertilizer. Lastly, dig a 15 cm channel all around the garden to provide drainage.

You've got sun, water and earth, but now what about the vegetables?

First of all, it is important to know that seeding times vary from one region to another because of differing climates. You're going to have to be patient if there is still snow on the ground. Make the most of this time to choose which vegetables you'd like to grow. A small tip: for your first ever vegetable patch, select easy vegetables: carrots, radishes, lettuce, and beets are good

Sun, water, soil: have you thought of everything?

starters. Follow carefully the sowing instructions that are on the back of the seed packets.

The soil must be kept moist while seeds are germinating. For seedlings such as tomatoes and peppers, which you may have purchased at a garden centre, do as the farmers do and wait for the last full moon in May before planting them and be wary of the risk of a late frost.

To take care of your little vegetable patch, water when the soil becomes dry, install training frames or trellises (especially for tomatoes and peas), check for harmful insects, and remove any weeds regularly. A vegetable garden may take a bit of work, but what pleasure you'll feel when you bite into your very first radish!



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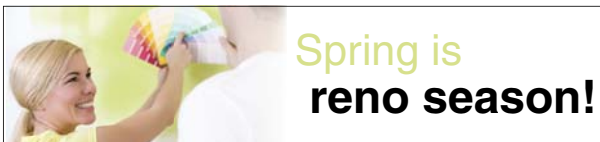
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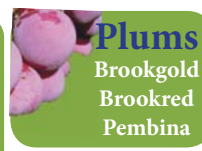
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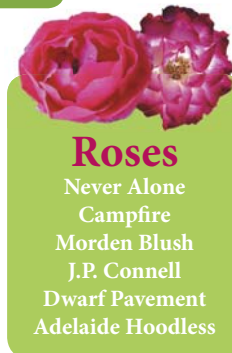
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# Red tail returns to the wild

By ANNE DAVISON  
THE EMPIRE-ADVANCE

A red-tail hawk, found near Kola with a broken wing last October, is once again free to soar over Westman's prairie, where these birds of prey make their living hunting rodents, and other prey.

Acts of kindness from a series of people saved this hawk's life.

The two-year-old female red-tail was picked up on PR #257 last fall by a couple of men employed in the oilfield. They brought her, wrapped in a jacket, to Virden Animal Hospital.

Veterinarians at the animal clinic X-rayed the injured bird and discovered she had a fractured ulna (arm bone).

"We took care of her, we diagnosed her, we wrapped her arm, stabilized her and sent her to the Wildlife Haven Rehabilitation Centre," explains Dr. Carla Loewen, the small animal veterinarian involved with care of the hawk.

Last fall, Kathy Heaman was making a trip to Winnipeg and she transported the red-tail to the WHRC near Winnipeg. The rehab centre kept the hawk over the winter, although her break was healed within six weeks.

This spring Loewen was informed the bird had spent the last two weeks in a big flight enclosure, getting ready for her day of release. "They have to be released within 24 hours of pickup and before 4 p.m.," explains Loewen, who transported the bird from Winnipeg over the weekend.

This spring time/ daytime release gives the bird the best chance of survival in her new surroundings.

Food is key and the hawk will have to fend for herself now; but she had picnic fare (a dead rodent) along on her journey west.

The release took place in the country, just a few miles east of Virden at Kings Crossing.

A small entourage came out that day—media, a handful of adults, and three small children with their mother and grandmother—to see the bird up close, and witness its flight to freedom.

"She's feisty, she's beautiful. They say she's big for her two years," said Loewen.

The lid came off the container and the small audience waited with bated breath as the raptor looked around, taking stock of the new situation.

Suddenly, with a rush, on strong wings she



Above: The two-year-old female red-tail hawk perches in the Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre last fall, with a green splint on her wing. These hawks can eat a gopher or several mice every day.

rose almost straight into the air to vanish effortlessly into nearby aspen trees.

The local veterinarian says she's not "a bird person," but it was with obvious satisfaction that she watched this majestic bird of prey take flight from her Rubbermaid transport container.

This was the second release of a rehabilitated bird that Loewen facilitated. In mid-August of 2013, the veterinarian was entrusted with a bird, another red-tailed hawk, returned from the rehabilitation centre. That bird, found injured by the road at Sioux Valley, also spent time at the WHRC and was released on Loewen's own country acreage.

Now, the veterinarian hopes that the red-tail she and her husband, Dean Brooker, see over their yard (northwest of Virden) from time to time, is that same hawk. But rehabilitated birds are not banded, so positive identification is not possible.

For this spring's bird release, Loewen contacted the men who found the red-tail six months ago, to let them know about the release. "Unfortunately they're back in Alberta. They knew she made it to rehab and that she would be released in the spring," said Loewen.



Above: This rehabilitated red-tailed hawk rises easily from her transport container as a small audience, including Heather Reimer, (CJ 103 Radio correspondent), cheers her on.

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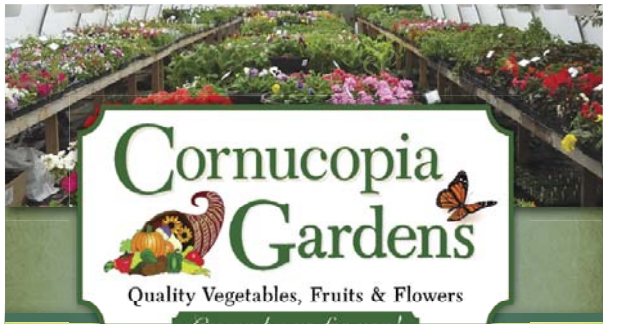
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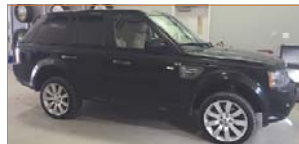
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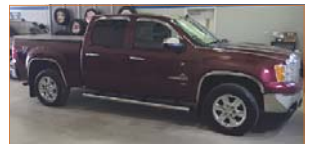
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# Rocanville's Doreen Reavie remembers her hockey days

Continued from page 8

After her successful hockey season, with her League Championship jacket to accompany her, Reavie moved home to Rocanville, got married, and raised her three kids out on the farm. She says she played some hockey after returning to town, but by that time, it was getting less pop-

ular, so it was tough to have good games. Curling became her sport of choice then.

Now, living in the same farmhouse she's been at since her return to town, Reavie says her old hockey memories get reinvigorated seeing the success of other young female players. A few weeks ago, another Rocan-

ville native, Jessica Campbell, was in Sweden, playing on Team Canada in the International Ice Hockey Federation World Championship.

Reavie says that though Campbell doesn't know her because their family moved to Melville when she was quite young, seeing the success of another Rocanville girl in hockey makes her feel proud, and gets her excited about her memories of the game 65 years ago.

"That's why I get all excited about this stuff—it brings you back, makes you think about it," she says. Her advice for young women in the game today is to

have fun, and make the most of the memories.

"When they talk about women playing hockey nowadays, I just say, go to it, and have a good time, because I sure did, I went, and did this, and had a great time," she says.

One thing Reavie wishes to see for Campbell and other young women is something she says is long overdue—a paycheck for their hard work. On that front, she says not much has changed for women's hockey since her days—women are still paying much of their own way to play the game they love.

"I think they should get the

support for women's hockey, it's time. Look, it's 65 years ago that I was doing this, and that hasn't changed," she says. "(It's) nice to see some young girls today going at it. They should be getting a paycheck by now."

Regardless, Reavie says she's happy to see more opportunities for young women—Olympics, world championships, national leagues, and university hockey.

"Now, they're going lots of places with hockey, and having lots of fun. Hockey was the best time we had in our whole lives, and that's what we're getting to do now—traveling, and playing the game they love."



Above: Reavie wearing her Brandon Wheat Queens Jersey in front of her sister's home in Winnipeg. Right: Reavie (seventh from right) with the Brandon Wheat Queens.



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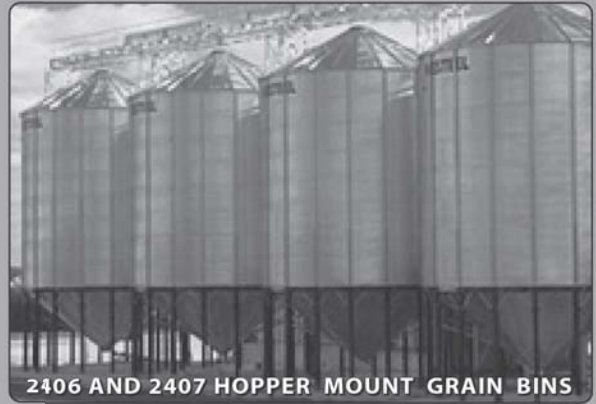


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# Open house for Mosaic project

*Continued from page 7*  
 "We purchased all the land, or have easements on all the property the conveyor will go on, as well as a right of way on each side of the conveyor, so if we never need to get back in there to do any maintenance, we stay on our own property," she says. "We also made sure when we looked at the alignment of the conveyor that we met with local landowners to get their opinions on where it should go. There were a few routes picked up, but the final route was based on landowner preference. We make sure we have open communication and meet with people so they are aware of how it will impact them."

In some circumstances, Mosaic will attempt to buy a full area of land, but in the case of the conveyance system, only around 120 metres on each side of the road allowance was purchased from land owners. Theriault adds that throughout the construction process, landowners are communicated with to ensure they know what it will be like when construction is happening.

Al Roberge is one of those landowners, with an acreage just a half mile east of the K3 entrance, on the south side of Highway 22. The conveyance system will sit not too far away from his backyard, according to Roberge. He says he is not concerned at this point, but is keeping in communication with Mosaic about how construction and the placement of the conveyor will impact him.

"There's a little bit of concern, but we'll talk about it with them and see what they are doing," Roberge says. "(K3) had impacted us

quite a bit—we get the road noise, but I am a truck driver, and I understand that."

Roberge says his family moved from Grand Forks, British Columbia to their prairie acreage close to Esterhazy eight years to get away from the heavy tourist traffic. A few years later, the K3 expansion started, created more noise than they had expected, but overall, Roberge says he supports seeing continued expansion and growth of potash in the region. He says that the conveyor is a better idea than trucking the ore would have been.

"I think this is better than trucking it, with the dust and everything (from trucking). This is the first time I've seen the conveyor system, and it looks pretty impressive... Environmentally, it looked really good, the way the conveyor will go under the roads, this is

way better than trucking," Roberge says.

Esterhazy residents are happy to see a conveyance system used instead of trucking.

"It's more economical, and will cause less disturbance. With trucking, you'd have noise from the trucks, plus the fumes from diesel, and you can't haul that much. With a conveyor system, that will mitigate the noise, and there will be overpasses for wildlife," says Dave Moore, who lives in Esterhazy. Moore used to sit on the Esterhazy Chamber of Commerce, and says that Mosaic Company was in good communication with them any time new work was done.

"I am just here looking to see and confirm what they told us. They're pretty well done their homework, I think," Moore says. "We've been kept up to date on

what is going on. I think they are doing as good a job as anybody can expect, and they've been pretty conscious of environment since they've been here."

Moore has also been part of the wildlife federation since 1959, and says that he's happy to see a lot of consideration given to animal impact, including wildlife crossings.

Moore says the impact of the expansion, which, at peak, is estimated to bring in around 600 construction jobs, will have a positive impact on Esterhazy's growth.

"Since the \$1.7 billion expansion has been announced—I do work with the museum and spend some time at the reception centre—I've had people stop in wanting to know the population of the town, what businesses there are, interested in starting some-

thing, or going into business because they have heard about \$1.7 billion being spent in the area," he says.

Dan Halyk, another Esterhazy resident and retired Mosaic worker, hopes that mine expansion will encourage the provincial government to revisit the idea of a hospital being built in Esterhazy.

"We've been raising money and had the goal

for a hospital—and enough money—for the last two or three years, and the government is holding back on their end, so with this K3 (expansion) and everything going forward, if we could get that hospital going here, it's going to keep people coming into the community," he says. "This will take money and manpower, so it creates jobs and it's good for Esterhazy and the surrounding areas."

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## Farmland Ownership rules under review, CPPIB purchases on hold

BY JULIA DIMA

On April 13, the provincial government announced it plans to hold public consultations in a review of the farmland ownership rules under the Saskatchewan Farm Security Act.

The current regulations limit farm ownership to Canadian residents and 100 per cent Canadian-owned corporations. Because that definition does not explicitly define a Canadian corporation, it allowed institutional investors in Canada to also purchase farmland. That meant that an investment group like the Canadian Pension Plan Investment Board (CPPIB) could purchase farmland using pension funds.

Some farmers feel that having large investors like the CPPIB purchasing farmland creates an unfair disadvantage for farmers who want to own their own land because they cannot compete with the prices large investors can pay.

However, some landowners seeking to sell their assets welcome the increased competition, which has driven land prices up.

While the rules are under review, the ability for groups like pension plans and other institutional investors to purchase farmland will be suspended.

"Recently, there's been a lot of discussion in the farming community about farmland ownership and what that should look like in the province, including whether investors such as pension plans, agents of pension plans, and foreign-owned corporations should be able to own Saskatchewan farmland," says Minister of Agriculture Lyle Stewart. "This consultation we've announced will allow the government to hear from farmers, ranchers... and others interested in farmland ownership in the province about their views."

Saskatchewan's farmland values continue to increase, and there is some feeling that groups like CPPIB are driving farmland values. Stewart says he still feels that farmers are the main driving force of farmland prices in Saskatchewan, but views on both sides of the discussion of farmland ownership are the reason behind a review.

"The issue is talked about a lot, and the decision we had that allowed CPPIB to purchase farmland is relatively recent. That's what has changed and reignited discussion on who should and should not be eligible to own Saskatchewan farmland. Pension plans under the act are not allowed to purchase farmland under Saskatchewan, as pension plans are not included in the definition of Canadian owned entities that are eligible. CPPIB owns a substantial acreage of land now, and the assets of CPP

are managed by CPPIB, so that is a narrow distinction in the eyes of some. So, we are holding the consultation to see what people think about this and foreign ownership of farmland," Stewart says. "We've heard lots of views on both sides. This is an earnest consultation and we don't want to second guess the outcome of it, we just want to see what people have to say over the course of the next two to three months. If there is a

real consensus that comes from this, we'll be prepared to act on it."

The farming community is divided on what should be done. John Van Eaton, who farms near Maryfield, says that both arguments for allowing groups like CPPIB to buy farmland and for stopping them from purchasing land have valid points.

"It's really a double edged sword and I guess it depends on what side of the

blade you are on. If you're at retirement age, it's pushed the value of farmland up, but if you're a young family trying to start, I don't know how you compete with those funds," he says. "If you're 25, you wouldn't want to see that, but if you're 75, then that's a pretty good deal."

He adds that as it becomes more common to rent farm land than to own it with high farmland prices, the traditional culture of

farming in Saskatchewan is changing.

"Maybe we are moving to a time when it's not about owning the land, but more about controlling the asset. But that's a big shift in traditional thinking. It's similar to asking someone if they'd be prepared to pay rent for the rest of their life on housing rather than own a home. Traditionally, people have wanted to own their homes and businesses—so, it's a paradigm shift in how we

have to look at it," he says. "If you rented your house for 30 years, and paid \$500 a month for 30 years, and then just moved out, how does that assist your retirement income? I think that's what producers are looking at. As producers, we can only pay the productive value, or perhaps just a little bit beyond that, depending on your situation, but we can't pay multiple times the productive value that these (investors) seem to be able to do."

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# Farmland values continue to increase

Saskatchewan farmland gained 18.7 per cent in value in 2014—the highest increase in the country for the second year—and Manitoba farmland gained 12.2 per cent in value, according to the Farm Credit Canada Farmland Values Report released last week.

The report shows that, while farmland values showed strong growth in 2014, the increases were not as steep as the previous year.

Average farmland values across Canada saw a 14.3 per cent increase in 2014, compared to a 22.1 per cent increase in 2013.

"2013 was a really strong year," says Ron Bonnet, president of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture. "I think what we're seeing is a matching up of farmland values and commod-

ity prices. You can usually draw a link between the two."

FCC says drought in the United States as one reason for the 2013 spikes in prices. Jeff Leal, Ontario's minister of agriculture, food and rural affairs, adds many factors may influence the value of land and the price of food.

"These values and prices are usually determined by the market," Leal says. And in key Canadian agricultural regions, such as Ontario, Quebec and the Prairies, that market has slowed down.

Manitoba and Saskatchewan showed the most significant change from 2013 to 2014, slowing from an increase of 25.6 to 12.2 per cent and from 28.5 to 18.7 per cent, respectively.

The figures also show a

trend towards more steady values, FCC says.

"While the increases are still significant in many parts of the country, they do suggest we are moving toward more moderate increases for farmland values," says Corinna Mitchell-Beaudin, FCC executive vice-president and chief risk officer.

"This is good news for producers since gradual change in the value of this key asset is always better for those entering or leaving the industry."

J.P. Gervais, FCC's chief agricultural economist, prefers a "soft landing" for farmland values since crop prices began moving closer to the long-term average.

While lower interest rates make it tempting to buy land, Gervais says producers need to exercise caution.

"Interest rates will eventually increase, even if this is not on the 2015 horizon," Gervais says. "Expanding world stocks of grains and oilseeds could bring prices down further, creating tighter margins."

Bonnet agrees and says producers will carefully monitor their total debt load to keep that under control while keeping an eye on interest rates and commodity prices.

"Livestock is expected to remain strong this year," Bonnet says. "There may be some back off on crops

which may hold off purchasing in the next year."

Tighter profit margins may also affect the land rental market. Rental rates usually take a little time to adjust downward following lower grain and oilseed prices. Multi-year leases are also gaining in popularity.

"Producers should be encouraged that a weak Canadian dollar, expanding trade agreements and growing world food demand are helping to enhance the demand side of the market for Canadian commodities, creating a positive long-term

outlook for agriculture," Gervais says.

"Land is a valuable asset and there really isn't a one-size-fits-all formula for determining when to buy or sell," Mitchell-Beaudin says. "Producers really need to take a close look at their operations and ensure they can manage through a number of scenarios when it comes to revenues and expenses." Saskatchewan showed one of the most significant changes among the provinces, slowing from an increase of 28.5 per cent in 2013 to 18.7 per cent in 2014.

## Wawota group headed to Toronto for Meagan's Walk

Continued from Page 6

"It's a huge thing. When you start off, all you can see are people in front of you, and people behind, and it's pretty cool, when you're walking through a big city like that," Friesen says. "The hug was the most emotional part, and it was emotional because you know everybody there has been affected in some way, which you don't have as much everywhere, when it's such a rare disease. Just looking up and seeing the little people looking outside the window and taking pictures of us and everything from up there, that was very emotional and moving."

Friesen adds that the walk also helps her with the healing process. "It's definitely part of the therapy, because I don't know what we would do if we didn't have something to concentrate on that we thought was maybe going to help," she says. "I don't think I'd be able to do it without (my family). I need that little extra support, it is what makes it possible, having everyone there for one another."

She adds that going back to the hospital also brings back her memories with Cienna.

"We had some fun times too. It's not all good memories, obviously, but it's got good memories as well. We go to do the walk and to remember the times we had there with her as well."

This year, the same group is preparing to go again, and have been raising funds for the walk. The Children's Dinner Theatre returned once again on May 2. The popularity of last year's dinner theatre carried on this year, and Friesen says many people were asking when this year's is happening. Friesen says that in the first 20 minutes, 120 tickets were sold, and last week, they were sold out, with a waiting list for cancellations.

The evening involved singing and acting, as well as a kid-friendly four-course meal—that's cheese and crackers, veggies and dip, barbecued hamburgers and hot dogs with chips and salsa, and decorated

cupcakes.

The food was all donated by Friesen's brother, and the Mountney Ladies group will be doing all the cooking. The singers and actors in the theatre will be serving supper to kids.

Friesen says that though it is a lot of work for volunteers, they enjoy planning it, since everyone is family and friends working together. In addition to the dinner theatre, a local author, Faye Rempel self-published a children's book, and donated all the funds for the Wawota group, which is about \$1,000.

Friesen says she's always impressed at how giving the community is.

"We've always had amazing community support. Wawota is the best town, I think, for community support—and the surrounding areas. We get a lot of support from Mary-

field, that is where my husband was from, and where my mom works," she says. "It's crazy what people can do when they are such small communities, how much money and how much support they can give when people need it."

Friesen says that the small town group is still a bit intimidated by the big city, but is excited to go and be part of the event. Last year, they were the team that had traveled from farthest away, with most participants being from Toronto.

"We were pretty proud of that last year. We made sure we wore our rider gear... And everyone gets chalk to decorate the sidewalks outside the hospital, so we made sure to put lots of stuff about being all the way from Saskatchewan."

The group headed to Toronto on May 8 for the walk on May 9.

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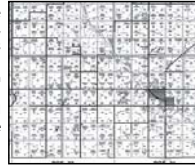
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**EXHIBITOR SETUP - ALL DAY**

**GOLF TOURNAMENT - EXHIBITORS & PLATINUM SPONSORS**

- 6:30 a.m. Morning Golf Registration & Breakfast
- 7:30 a.m. Morning Flight Shot Gun Start
- 12:00 p.m. Afternoon Golf Registration & Luncheon
- 1:00 p.m. Afternoon Flight Shot Gun Start
- \*\* Courtesy Rides for Golfers - Sponsored by Baker Hughes \*\*

**2015 MEET & GREET KICK OFF DINNER**

- 7:00 p.m. Steak or Lobster Dinner - Sponsored by Gilliss Casing Services
- 11:00 p.m. Grounds Closed - Security Sponsored by ARC Resources Ltd.

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3RD, 2015**

**SHOW OPEN - 10:00 AM - 7:00 PM**

**SASKATCHEWAN OIL & GAS RECOGNITION AWARDS**

- 12:00 p.m. Luncheon: Sponsored by Grimes Sales & Service - A Schlumberger Company
- 12:30 p.m. Guest Speaker: Honourable Bill Boyd - Minister of the Economy
- 1:00 p.m. 2015 Saskatchewan Oil & Gas Recognition Awards
- Oilman of the Year & Hall of Fame Inductees - Presented by the Board of Governors

**SE SASKATCHEWAN OILMAN OF THE YEAR AWARDS**

- 7:00 PM Prime Rib Dinner - Sponsored by the City of Weyburn
- 8:00 pm Opening Ceremonies - Guest Speakers Honourable Ken Krawetz & Mayor Debra Button
- 8:30 pm SE Saskatchewan Oilman of the Year Awards - Presented by Weyburn Oilshow Board
- 11:00 PM Grounds Closed - Security Sponsored by ARC Resources Ltd.

**THURSDAY JUNE 4TH, 2015**

**SHOW OPEN - 8:00 AM - 3:30 PM**

**BARNSTORMING BREAKFAST**

- 7:30 AM - 9:30 AM - Barnstorming Breakfast - Sponsored by PSAC
- 10:30 - 11:00 AM - PSAC Information Session - by Invitation Only

**INDUSTRY LUNCHEON**

- 12:00 PM - Industry Luncheon - Sponsored by Crescent Point Energy
- 12:30 PM - Industry Guest Speaker - John Gormley  
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# Fundraiser for Tom Beckett raises over \$23,000



Above: The Moosomin Armoury Hall was full for the fundraiser for Tom Beckett.

"This place will always be the same, it will help out whoever needs help. The people here are very special."  
 —Tom Beckett

BY KARA KINNA

Hundreds of people packed into the Moosomin Armoury Hall and silent auction items lined the wall from one end of the building to the other as people gathered to support Tom Beckett and his family in a fundraiser held on Saturday, April 11.

Beckett was injured in a workplace accident, and is currently in the hospital facing many months of recovery and treatment.

According to organizers, the fundraiser successfully raised over \$23,000.

"I think everything went really well," says Teddi Taylor, one of the main organizers. "We wanted this to be a fundraiser, but we also wanted it to be an evening for people to get out and have fun."

"We had a sellout. We sold all 200 supper tickets, it was amazing. We sold out of all the 50/50 tickets."

"I'm grateful that we live in such a kind and generous town with such a community spirit."

"It was just overwhelming. We couldn't have done it if it wasn't for the businesses and individuals and their generosity."

"People want to help in some way, and if the only way they can help is to donate something or the time, it shows a caring spirit."

Beckett was able to be out of the hospital for a time to attend the fundraiser, and he says he was blown away by the number of people who came out to show their support.

"It was just great to see everyone there. There were people I haven't seen for a long time," he says.

Beckett says he never expected the amount of support he was given and he never expected a fundraiser to be planned for him.

"Our special friends—our second family we call them—it was a shock. They took the bull by the horns and before I could even say boo they already had it started and rolling. I didn't expect our friends to just jump in and do this for us."

"I was just in awe. Our friends are just great. We couldn't ask for any better friends. They just really pulled it together."

Beckett says he had a tough time keeping from tears when he saw the number of people who had come to the fundraiser for him.

"Moosomin is like our mini Telemiracle town," he says. "If anybody's in trouble or something needs to be done, this community just pulls itself together and does it."

"It just shocked me the amount of people who were there and the number of silent auction items."

"It's a come-together community. If you need help with something, there's people there for you. This place will always be the same, it will help out whoever needs help. The people here are very special."

Beckett says the fundraiser will help, especially when it comes time for him to start treatment at the Wascana Rehab Centre in Regina.

Beckett has been in the hospital for a months. With multiple serious injuries, he estimates it could take up to six months before he can even walk again.

"The rehab's going to be a huge thing," he says. "It's going to be weird. I'm going to learn to walk for the second time in my life, and I will have learned to walk twice before my grandchild who is coming in September learns how to walk once."

"Going to Wascana could be an ongoing thing for a year, maybe two years, it depends on how everything starts out and how everything comes together."

Besides saying thank you, Beckett says he's proud of his community.

"I'm in awe of our community—the support and how the people rallied together."

Beckett says he noticed that it wasn't just his friends helping out at the fundraiser, but their children too.

"I think it's just something in our culture," he says. "It's great to see that their children are like that too. If someone needs help, you automatically help them."

"It's great to be from a community that is noted for that."

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