



Plain & Valley

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Covering Southeast Saskatchewan and Southwest Manitoba



Darren Luhtala captured this photo of the Living Skies fireworks exploding above the beach at Moosomin Lake as people watched.

Thousands attend fireworks competition

BY ASHLEY BOCHEK

The Moosomin Regional Park welcomed thousands of people from all over Saskatchewan and Manitoba for the Living Skies Come Alive fireworks competition on the August Long weekend.

Kyle Jeannot, Moosomin Regional Park's Chair of Entertainment, says the weekend was a great turnout for the park.

"The weekend went really well. We figure we had about 3,000 people Saturday night, and around 2,800 on Sunday night

so a little bit of a lighter crowd.

"The beer gardens did really well. It was full both nights with both bands and the fireworks show obviously was great each night.

"There was lots of kid activities, Flatland Plumbing and Heating had a dunk tank there and they donated \$1,000 to Playfair Daycare. The food trucks seemed happy and all of the vendors said they had a great turnout so it was really good this year."

Positive feedback

Jeannot says he has heard lots of positive comments from this year's fireworks competition.

"People really enjoyed it, and they said everything ran smoothly. We didn't have too many hiccups or any issues—there was a few places where we were short on volunteers for parking, but everybody was pretty happy with how the parking was situated, so it was a positive thing."

The park committee is happy with this

year's turnout. "I think if you look back you almost have to look back as if we're starting it all over again. We can't really compare it to last time prior to Covid when we had that last show, Canada versus China, and had 7,000 people one day. We have to think back to like 10 years ago, and just talking with some of the older board members or the committee members that had helped with years prior, they thought it was equivalent, if not better."

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Jessica Campbell hosts first Prairie Built fundraiser

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

Jessica Campbell was back in her home area in July, where she was the star attraction at a fundraiser in Rocanville for her Prairie Built Scholarship Foundation, attended the opening of Pro Hockey Life in Regina, and attended a fundraiser in Elkhorn along with Travis Sanheim and Sheldon Kennedy.

Kevin Weedmark interviewed Jessica in Regina. The complete interview follows.

You are here on the Prairies, among other things, to kick off your Prairie Built Foundation with a fundraiser which seemed to go well. Where did the idea come from for the foundation?

There was a lot of inspiration. I think the biggest thing for me was bringing it full circle. I've done a lot of reflecting this past season and obviously any time I come home to Saskatchewan or think about my hockey journey it takes me full circle back to where it started, and obviously that's Rocanville and Melville and home here to my Prairie roots, but I was very fortunate to receive a financial aid academic scholarship from the Potash Corp in high school, which allowed me to go to Cornell University and if I didn't receive that yearly commitment scholarship from the mine over my four years, I wouldn't have been able to go to Cornell and wouldn't have ended up where I am so I think that's a barrier, sometimes financial barriers are real for anyone, so to



Jessica Campbell answers questions on stage during her Prairie Built Foundation fundraiser in Rocanville on July 19.

able to be someone who is able to bring a community together and have a platform to rally people to invest back into growing opportunities for kids out of the Prairies. That's what I want to do, to give back and never forget where I am coming from and the communities that helped me get here, so it's come full circle.

How will the foundation work? Will it help young hockey players right across the Prairies?

"Yes, boys and girls, all Prairie based communities between Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Alberta, obviously local initiatives even Rocanville and surrounding

areas, just further youth sporting initiatives, but to start the scholarship fund will be awarded in the new year to a recipient who had a same type of story and someone who is trying to reach the next level and needs the financial step up.

That must have been a great first step, with the fundriaser in Rocanville. Any idea how much it raised in total.

"I don't know exactly, but definitely over \$80,000 if not closer to \$100,000. We just need to tally it up now."

You were in Rocanville last night, you're in Regina today, you're in Elkhorn later this week. How did all this come together.

"It's been a bit of a prairie tour. Honestly it was all kind of a close connection type fit. I actually was planning my event with Travis Sanheim, and then we bumped ours up a weekend earlier. He had a wedding conflict so he wasn't able to come last night, but I committed to going to his on Thursday, and I skated and grew up in Elkhorn a lot so for me to go there with Sheldon Kennedy was special. We skated a lot with the kids, we were all the same age and spent a lot of time at that rink, and Sheldon Kennedy I worked for, in Calgary and did a lot with his foundation. I'm excited to get to be part of that panel and join those guys to also raise money for Elkhorn Minor Hockey.

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Some students who were part of Kenosee Lake Kitchen Party in previous years. The kitchen party offers musical camp activities and lessons, and festivals for all ages at Kenosee Lake for two weeks in August.

Kenosee Lake Kitchen Party

Local music camp attracting artists from all over Saskatchewan

BY ASHLEY BOCHEK

The Kenosee Lake Kitchen Party is an inclusive musical camp and festival that attracts local musicians and artists from all across Saskatchewan each summer.

Emily Dubois, an instructor and musician involved with the camp explains all the Kenosee Lake Kitchen Party has to offer, “The Kenosee Lake Kitchen Party in itself is a music camp that happens over the summertime. It is heavily fiddle and folk orientated, but over the past half a decade or so, it has also spread into a few other different genres. We have a little bit of a rock-based element to it as well now, we have an art element for those who want something visual, and over the years we have developed a dedicated portion of the camp specifically for kids.”

She says the camp offers music classes and activities for all. “The camp itself is all ages. It is not a kids camp even though there is that element of kids activities. It’s really curated for the entire family experience where there are things for adults and teens. Our rock portion of the camp that we now have is dedicated toward those teens that are more into the pop-rock scenes and fiddle-folk scenes.”

Camp during day, music festival at night

Dubois says the camp runs two weeks with music performances through the week.

“We have two separate weeks of the camp that run with a slightly different variety of instructors, but the same sort of activities. We have people who come for one week and we have people that come regularly for both weeks because you get some new experiences and aside from lessons, workshops, and jamming that happens during the day, in the evening there is also our Kitchen Fest Festival which is where all of the artists that were busy teaching during the day then get to put on a different hat and put on a collaborative concert experience that is open to the public.

“The music festivals happen during the evening and run Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday both weeks of camp. It kind of runs in conjunction to the Kenosee Lake Kitchen Party (KLKP), it is different—it was born from being part of the KLKP.”

Kids camp

Dubois explains the kids camp is an additional part of the Kenosee Lake Kitchen Party to help accommodate families.

“The kids camp runs inside of the regular kitchen party camp. It all happens at the same time—the kids camp runs on a slightly different schedule because we have found over the years that kids need slightly more breaks. Also with the kids camp to break it up more, we are doing more actual camp activities. They have their music and art portion that happen during the day and early afternoon, and then for the rest of the afternoon they get to go with the camp counsellors and go canoeing, swimming, nature walks, and other things you would experience at a regular summer camp.

“Both of the camps run Monday to Friday August 4-7 and then the next week Monday to Friday August 11-14. For both camps (kids and adults) you sign up for one specific instrument, but we offer a whole bunch of the different classes. For the kids camp, we offer fiddle lessons, guitar/singing les-

sons, we also offer a ukulele option for the kids. We started with those options as it is a slightly smaller program, but we know if there are people who are interested in piano we may be able to expand into something like that and offer a piano class.”

Tradition from east coast

Dubois says kitchen parties are very popular in the Maritimes.

“The kitchen party name came straight from a type of so-

cial gathering that originated in the Maritimes, where at the time, it was a way to get together and hang out. Friends and family would gather at someone’s house with instruments and they’d all bring food in sort of a kitchen and living room setting—people would play music, sing, dance, and socialize. It is something still common out in New Brunswick, PEI, Nova Scotia, and especially in Newfoundland. So the name kitchen party basically comes from the fact that they’d be basically be having a party in the kitchen.”

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Above, Bernadette Akachuk with Bruce Standingready cutting the ribbon at the grand opening of the Splash Park.

At right, Ayla Lonechild enjoying the newly opened Splash Park at White Bear First Nation.



White Bear First Nations holds grand opening for Splash Park

BY ASHLEY BOCHEK

White Bear First Nation held a grand opening for their newly developed splash park on the east side of the First Nation on July 13.

The Splash Park will allow kids to enjoy summer activities outside and beat the heat close to home.

Bernadette Akachuk of White Bear First Nation led the project for kids on the reserve to enjoy during the summer months.

“I am very excited. I always thought the kids could use something like this.

“I never dreamt that we’d have something like this, never even thought about it ever, but you see the ones in the town and the cities and you wonder how it works and who manages it. Well it’s just an idea from people in the community.”

The Splash Park project began seven years ago. “I started working on it in November 2018, and then it’s a process of get-

ting grants, fundraising, and finally seeing it come to life. They started building it last year and recently just finished and added some grass,” Akachuk said.

She explains the government grants utilized for the splash park.

“The Federal-Provincial ICIP program contributed \$355,000. Another program gave us \$100,000. I asked one of our programs here if they could lend us \$199,000 and it was so nice that they did because then I was able to put that down—with ICIP I was able to get it back.”

Future development

Bruce Standingready of White Bear First Nation says the First Nation is working on future development for kids activities near the splash park.

“We’re thinking of trying to build a ball diamond by the splash park, and a basket-

ball court—it’s supposed to be a recreation area. Hopefully in the future we’re going to have a new subdivision near these recreational areas.”

Chief Pasap

proud of Splash Park

Chief Jonathan Pasap attended the grand opening last Wednesday.

“It’s great to see this open up for our children, our youth,” Chief Pasap said. “It’s more accessible for the youth. Because of socioeconomic issues some may not have vehicles or their parents are away, this allows the kids themselves to come here, and teenagers can come here. It’s in walking distance, biking distance instead of having to go all the way to the lake resort where there are other splash parks there. This is great to see for their health and well-being.”

Chief Pasap says they are planning future developments to grow youth recreational activities on the First Nation.

“We have of course the splash park now and the outdoor hockey rink. We want to make more playground structures, make this a hub for our youth, so that’s our goal.”

He says he is committed to further development, “It is always about improving our health, our wealth, and the unity for our people. We’re about 17,000 acres in area and we want to make this sports and rec, health and well-being, cultural lands, and we want to make cultural lands for our powwows.

“We have subdivision planning for housing, infrastructure, we have some economic development plans as well with the lake resort and around the casino area too. These are many ideas and plans we have to improve the health and wellness of our people.”

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Airport Management Board established for Moosomin Airport

BY ASHLEY BOCHEK

The Moosomin Airport project is moving forward, with an Airport Management Board being formed to look after operations at the airport.

The airport board is currently working on planning and installing permanent electrical and lighting for the runway and airport.

Kendra Lawrence, the Chief Administrative Officer of the RM of Moosomin, says the project is ongoing and the board will make future decisions regarding the airport's development.

"In regards to the airport, as for activity in the way of construction, that has ceased—it has been built, paved, and temporary lighting has been installed," she said. "Tender documents have been created for the electrical, but we felt we needed to move forward with the creation of an Airport Management Board. Seven appointed members from the region will look after the operation management for the foreseeable future of the airport. The bylaw setting up the committee was passed at our June meeting.

"The seven individuals were pulled from around the region, I wouldn't say to represent each municipality—that is impossible because we have over 15 contributing municipalities, so we were looking at some business-minded individuals, ones who have aviation experience, different things like that pulling into the mix. Some were involved right from the beginning development of the project to some new individuals coming on at the management board level who maybe weren't part of the development process. Sometimes they give a different unique perspective of coming in as it's finished moving forward rather than having the previous knowledge of hick-ups in the way."

Airport Management Board

Lawrence explains the duties of the individuals who are part of the newly formed board.

"Ultimately that board is going to be the individuals that will look after the airport. Of course the ownership still remains by the RM, that doesn't change, it is just an extension of us. We know we have municipal duties to look after and an airport definitely has its own unique things to look after with Nav Canada, and Transport Canada regulations. It is a learning curve so we might as well look to the individuals who already have that knowledge and experience. Then, that gave us a greater sense of success with those individuals looking after things."

The seven individuals approached by the RM are from surrounding local communities.

"The seven that we have approached—Olga McCarthy, Dr. Van, Jeff St. Onge, Colin Paull, Scott Andrew, Kristjan Hebert, and Rob Austin," Lawrence said. "The Chair and Vice-Chair also indicate in the bylaw that the council would appoint at least the first two individuals to be Chair and Vice-Chair so Jeff St. Onge was asked to be Chair and Olga McCarthy was asked as Vice-Chair. They're definitely still exploring all of their options. They are reviewing the bylaws and I believe they were scheduled to have a meeting as a group for further discussion to come up with thoughts, ideas, or suggestions. I believe that they are looking at other locations and other bylaws just to see in comparison that everything we have in ours will work. We know it is an ever-revolving document—not locked into anything so if there are suggestions there could be some changes coming forward."

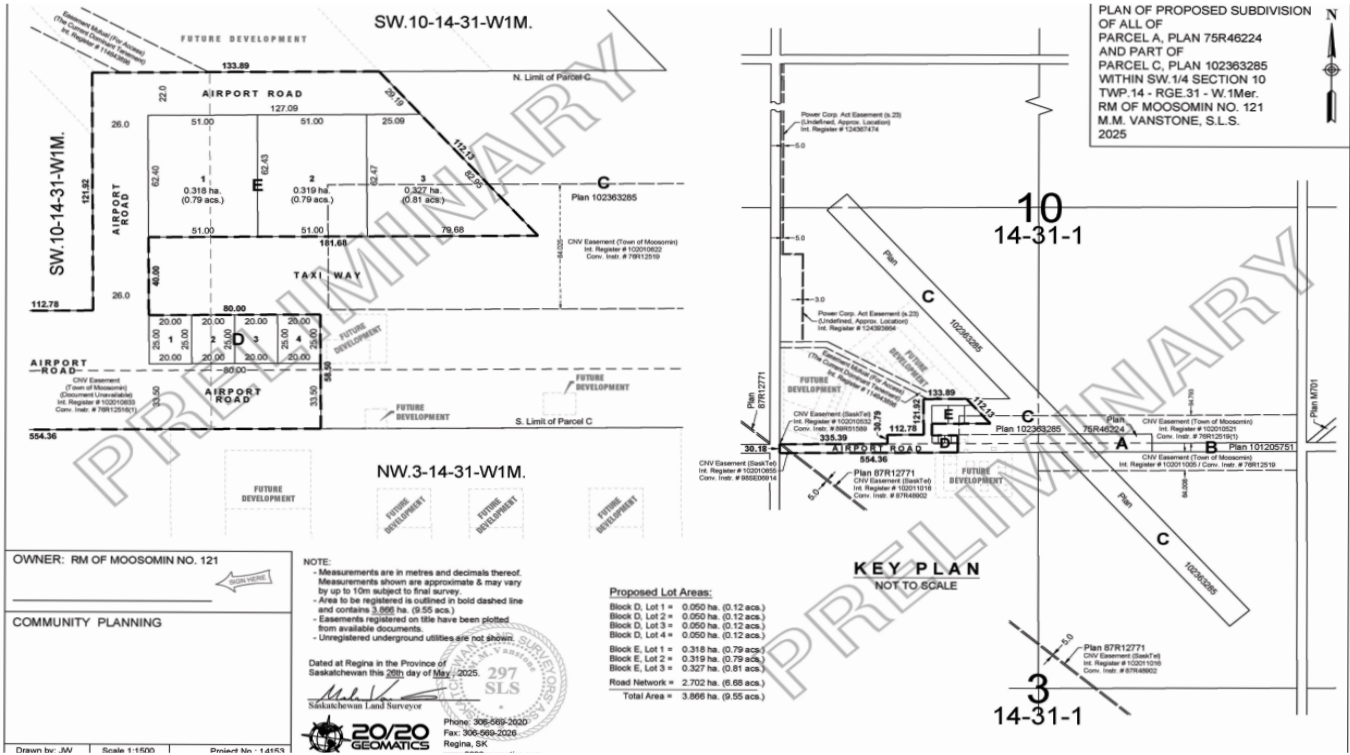
Lawrence explains the reasoning for the board's name.

"We can't call it an Airport Authority. That can only be in Regina and Saskatoon. It is something to do with their size and dynamics of international flights. So that is why we call it a Management Board with these seven individuals. They are supposed to be moving forward with incorporating the board as a nonprofit organization."

Airport being utilized

Lawrence says the Moosomin Airport has been busy with flights from all around Western Canada.

"I have heard lots of comments in regards to increased aerial applicators utilizing it.



A preliminary draft of future hangar development at the Moosomin Airport.

There are more companies using it. So our agriculture sector has increased availability of different companies and a quicker turnaround time because of course, they're landing here versus farther away and coming back. We have had quite a few small jets come and land, and some of them are coming from some very far distances and landing. There was one out of Alberta and it was something to do with a family reunion so he flew in from Alberta. There have been two planes from Vancouver that have landed at the airport as well."

Jeff St. Onge looks after the incoming aircraft at the Moosomin Airport.

"The thing with that is that we aren't always aware that they are coming," Lawrence said. "There isn't a pre-phone line to indicate that they are arriving. I think Jeff St. Onge sees a few more of those calls because I believe it's his phone number that is on the contact list if you googled Moosomin Airport. So I think he sometimes hears more of that if they are needing fuel or the possibility of a ride into the community. So he has done some of that and I know Rob Austin has also done rides and stuff for pilots wanting to come into town."

"We had a plane land when we were out there for the soft opening that we did and went out for a little tour, and all of a sudden this little plane comes in and he lands, and he was meeting somebody at The Red Barn for lunch," said Lawrence. "It is amazing how much it does get used. Dan Knisley, Director of Saskatchewan Air Ambulance says the air ambulance has accessed the Moosomin Airport eight times since the airport was expanded. Manitoba Air Ambulance has used it as well."

Doctors thankful for airport

Lawrence says the local physicians have really positive comments about the airport and say the flights have saved lives.

"The doctors like it due to the fact that extra accessibility with both STARS and the Air Ambulance able to serve the area, that if one can't because they are out on another pickup, the other can be used, because sometimes Sask Air Ambulance is available, but STARS isn't—it is not that STARS has been replaced—they are both being utilized—they are both an air ambulance service and whichever one works the best is what they are utilizing when they make the call."

Next steps

Lawrence says the Airport Management Board will determine the next steps regarding lights and further development.

"The lights at the airport right now are temporary. We have a design plan for permanent electrical, but they felt that could be an

asset for the Management Board to handle and see where they want to go with that—whether they just look at the apron and taxiway lighting to replace the temporary lighting that is there and then split the project and do the weather station two years from now to ensure there is some funding there for the operation purposes. We are also in the process of a subdivision out there. We focused on the land base that was owned by the RM

"We have a development plan so there is a possibility for future development which would tie into what we are currently doing. The RM is willing to sell the land that we own and that we are subdividing because we are making three commercial hanger size lots—they are slightly larger—and then there are four more of the smaller ones for more private-type hangers by the apron. That subdivision application is in Community Planning currently. So we sent that in six weeks ago so sometimes their turnaround time can be anywhere from three to six months. They had to forward the subdivision plan to Nav Canada and Nav Canada says right on their website that there could be a 12-week turnaround for that. We are hoping we will have titled property by the fall.

"That again will be the Management Board's decision. Ultimately those are fees and a revenue stream they can ask to retain,

but that will be up to the Management Board to determine what kind of rate they want to set and market value. The indication from stakeholders has always been they wanted titled lots. We will be, I believe, the first one with actual titled property for hanger space at an airport. Most airports are leased which when we spoke with stakeholders they felt if they had owned property it of course makes it easier to obtain funding a mortgage, financing to put up a larger structure, and then they might put up two. They might put up one that much larger because they know that they have some protection by having that owned property out there. So it changes the design a bit because you have to make sure there are land roads and air roads and they cannot touch. So the planes can't drive where the road traffic would go and vice versa, so they don't touch in the plan."

She says the RM has had questions from locals about lots available at the airport.

"We've had some people asking about the lots for quite some time. There is a list that would be published and they can reach out to the Management Board. Then, the board can also determine whether they are proceeding with further development or reach out to work with a developer, but that is going to be up to them."

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Saskatchewan and SHA announce 124 new frontline positions for health care providers in rural facilities

BY ASHLEY BOCHEK

The Saskatchewan Health Authority along with the provincial government have announced the creation of 124 total frontline positions offered in rural and remote health care facilities across the 45 communities in the province.

Earlier, 47 new clinical management positions were created, and Wednesday the province announced 77 new frontline clinical positions in 30 communities around the province.

In our area, Moosomin, Broadview, Redvers, and Kipling have been announced among the 30 communities receiving additional funding and supports for health care positions.

The Minister of Rural and Remote Health, Lori Carr, says the recent announcement will help reinforce health care services in the province’s rural health care facilities.

“In collaboration with the government, the Saskatchewan Health Authority is adding 77 new and enhanced permanent full-time positions, across 30 rural and remote communities. This is part of our ongoing effort to stabilize access to health care in rural and remote communities. These enhancements are building on the success of previous rural and remote staffing programs that we have in place.

“We actually introduced 315 new and enhanced positions in 2022 as part of the Health Human Resource Action Plan and we are pleased to say that all of those positions have been filled.”

The Minister explains the elimination of administrative positions across the province has funded these new health care provider positions.

“Now, as we move onto this direction that we are taking, we had actually done some restructuring earlier this year which generated \$10.4 million in efficiencies. Of those savings, \$6.2 million will now be used for this project that we are taking on for the 77 new positions and just previous to this, we had invested \$4.2 million of those savings into the creation of 27 new and 20 enhanced clinical manager positions across 45 rural and northern communities. We did that because we were hearing from our smaller facilities that there were no managers in the facilities that they could go to directly with their concerns and had to wait time for getting issues resolved that should be pretty simple. So we took some administrator leadership roles and we deleted those roles and put them into these 47 positions that I am talking about within the rural facilities. That was really well received by people on the ground. Now, with the 77 new and enhanced positions that we are doing—they do focus on communities that continued to experience service disruption or have faced ongoing staffing challenges so that is how we chose the communities and of course, we worked with them when we were deciding where the new positions would go, where we would be making those part-time into full-time positions, and so in working with the facilities hopefully that will help stabilize them.”

Carr explains some of the new full-time positions will be filled by current employees working part-time.

“When you post positions it is a matter of waiting for that right person to come along especially when it is a new position. So hopefully with the collaboration that we have done with the health authority and the facilities, some of the part-time positions that are going to full-time, may be filled by the person that is already in place, so it won’t be that difficult to fill.”

Access to health care close to home

Carr says these new additional positions will help provide access to health care closer to home for rural commu-

nities.

“I think when we look at our rural facilities they are remote compared to the larger tertiary centres like Saskatoon, Regina, and Prince Albert, so providing that access to patients close to home as best we can—it is really important to the people who live in the province of Saskatchewan. By doing initiatives like this it places those employees in those facilities so you can access those services close to home.”

New positions in four surrounding communities

Carr explains the new full-time positions created in four local communities.

“This is really exciting for your area. Specifically in Moosomin, we’re going to add one new position and that can either be a Registered Nurse (RN) or a Registered Psychiatric Nurse (RPN), either-or can fill that new position. We have one Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) that right now, is a permanent part-time position that we are going to take to a full-time position. So what we’re hearing from the facility by changing that to a full-time position it will help provide services better.

“In Kipling, we have two RN and RPN positions available so it could either be a Registered Nurse or the Registered Psychiatric Nurse, two positions total, and we are taking a permanent part-time to a full-time, and a temporary part-time and making it a permanent full-time position. When we look at the rural facilities sometimes we hear offering a part-time position isn’t enough to get somebody to move to a rural community, but if we can offer them a permanent full-time position then it is more certainty for them to take that next step, get the housing, and move to the community.

“In Redvers, we have the two positions as well, currently RN and RPN, they’re both permanent part-time and we are taking them both to permanent full-time.

“In Broadview, we have one LPN permanent part-time and we are taking it to permanent full-time. Just by taking those to full-time positions we have heard from the facilities that they think that will help with the recruitment and that is why we think some of these changes will be successful.”

Carr says overstaffing could be a positive response in the future with these additional positions.

“I mean if something happens along the way and we fill all of our full-time positions and a facility has a part-time position available and they have the budget, there is nothing saying that they can’t use that person to help fill some gaps, but that would put in an overstaffing, but of course you have to watch the scheduling and that kind of stuff—wouldn’t that be a great position to be in. Where you have someone extra that can come in and fill vacation time, fill sick time, all of that kind of stuff without drawing on existing resources.”

147 additional frontline positions

Carr explains the funding aspect of the additional positions within the 45 communities across the province. “In June of 2025, the SHA implemented a series of changes aimed at directing more resources to point of care including the restructuring of administrative leadership roles which generated the \$10.4 million in efficiencies. At that point in time, I believe it was 27 management positions were eliminated and were administrative in nature, and then of that \$10.4 million, \$4.2 has already been directed to the curation of the 27 new and the 20 enhanced clinical manager positions in the 45 rural and northern communities.

“Having more of those clinical manager positions in the

facilities helps staff have more direct access to them, and then the remaining \$6.2 million is being directed to support the addition of these 77 new and enhanced positions. So by eliminating those administrative positions we have been able to get 47 new managers directly in facilities and 77 new and enhanced positions so a total of 124 frontline positions.”

Labour shortages across the province

Carr says all sectors across Saskatchewan are seeing issues with labour shortage.

“I wouldn’t say this is just focused on health care when we talk about smaller communities, trades, and even frontline staff at a Tim Hortons, labour is an issue right across the province and right across the country to be quite frank.

“In my position, I am focused on trying to get people to come to rural communities to fill these positions, and I think once we get some of these positions filled—whether it be a physician or a nurse or a lab tech—showing them what rural Saskatchewan really has to offer from a community perspective is really important.


“I know some communities—and I know Moosomin is really good at this—welcoming them into the community. Making them part of organizations there and making it their home.”

I think once people live in a rural community I am not really sure why they would want to go back to big city living.”

Future of health care in rural Saskatchewan

The Minister says she hopes the new positions in rural and remote health care facilities will help locals across the province continue to receive health care services close to home.

“I really hope that this accomplishes the young generations parents, mom and dads, the older generations grandchildren, being able to access care as close to home as possible. We are always going to need the big tertiary centres for more of the major services, but when you want to access a primary care provider, whether that be a doctor, nurse practitioner, a pharmacist, that you can actually do that right in your home community as close to home.”



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Young calls Sask ‘energy superpower’ during event in Belle Plaine, government, industry call for increased rail capacity

BY RYAN KIEDROWSKI
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In the mining world, Saskatchewan has a lot to brag about, and the provincial government is saying the province is poised to make Canada an energy and mining superpower.

Coming off an Energy and Mines Ministers Conference in Prince Edward Island, Colleen Young realized exactly how Saskatchewan is leading the way for growth across Canada.

“I was proud to discuss how innovative Saskatchewan is in our energy and resource sectors,” said the provincial Energy and Resources Minister. “Ministers from across the country explored how addressing the challenges in the resource sectors can serve as opportunities for growth nationwide. The largest takeaway for me was that it is clear that Saskatchewan is leading the charge in many of these areas. A major focus of this meeting was on the need to build a strong, secure and competitive resource sector across Canada, and from a Saskatchewan perspective, we are in a great position to help manage that change.”

Front and centre for Young was seeking federal support for transportation.

“I advocated for substantial federal investment in building national energy infrastructure and corridors to transport reserves resource products to tide water,” she said. “I also emphasized the need for streamlined and predictable approval of large resource projects to attract investment from development countries and to ensure Canada’s supply chains remain secure and reliable.”

Of the talks in PEI, Young noted they paved the way to find ways to not only promote Saskatchewan on a greater scale, but “how we can make Canada an energy and minerals superpower.”

“It was refreshing to feel the unity in those discussions, which I’m hopeful will lead to more access for Canadians to reliable, affordable energy and wealth generated by our vast resources,” Young said. “With Saskatchewan’s robust and expanding resource sectors, we are and have been positioning the province to contribute significantly to Canada’s emergence as a global energy superpower.”

Highlighting the importance of mining in the province, Pam Schwann, President of the Saskatchewan Mining Association, broke down some interesting numbers.

“The mining sector continues to be one of Saskatchewan’s pivotal economic drivers, directly employing over 11,000 people with an annual payroll of over \$1.7 billion, consistently ranking among the province’s top contributors to GDP and direct government rev-

enues,” she said. “In 2024, Saskatchewan’s mining industry purchased over \$3 billion in goods and services from Saskatchewan businesses, including over \$900 million from Indigenous-owned businesses. In 2025, Saskatchewan mining companies will make over \$7 billion in capital investments with our exploration members contributing over \$425 million annually to discover new deposits.”

A tour of Belle Plaine
Young and Schwann

were among a group of dignitaries invited to a quick tour of the Mosaic Belle Plaine potash solution mine last week, giving industry leaders the opportunity to highlight some of the triumphs and challenges facing the energy sector in Saskatchewan.

“Potash is one of Saskatchewan’s 27 critical minerals, and we at Mosaic would say it’s the most critical as it is essential to helping the world grow the food it needs,” said Marnel Jones, Director of Government and Public Affairs for The Mosaic Company.

“Our facility here at Belle Plaine has been producing potash for over 60 years. Mosaic’s approximately 500 employees at this site and 2,000 province wide are foundational to the Saskatchewan mining story.”

The first and largest solution mine in the world, the Belle Plaine facility produces nearly three million tonnes of finished potash products annually.

Right: Colleen Young, Minister of Energy and Resources



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Airport Management Board established for Moosomin Airport

Continued from page 6

Fully funded project

Lawrence says the airport project is fully funded. “Everything is covered. Currently there is not quite \$1.1 million in the bank, is it just under. The estimation from a 2018 construction estimate for the electrical—including a building for housing those components, everything we needed, the lighting and navigation system—was \$1.2 million, but we have a building put up and it went up for a lot less than what was estimated so that should bring that down. We feel that the construction should be below the estimation of the \$1.2 million, but of course there still needs to be funds to continue with operation. They don’t want to spend everything that is in the account on the electrical. So there could still be some more room for some more fundraising or contributions, donations, and again that will be the Management Board and what they determine on how they want to move forward with further funding. We have also heard that once the Management Board was established that there are some waiting in the wings for contributions, but they were waiting for the Management Board to be developed so lots of different comments are floating around.”

Further fees and costs for the airport will be determined by the Management Board.

“It is up to the board to determine if they are going to have



The new runway at Moosomin airport.

landing fees, if there is any area out there that they would sooner do lease fees—that would be for them to determine,” explained Lawrence. “There was conversation about fuel so instead of landing fees you have to buy your fuel there—lots of different options that they can choose. There was an area designed for storage of airports so we have heard that there are places at the larger centres that just store planes in the back and charge a rate. So we have designed an area where we could have planes tied down and stored for the winter and they

would pay a fee for such. As for hanger taxes, the RM has always indicated that they would put that back to that area, because that is specifically coming from that area so it should be utilized for the airport. When there are hangers developed, beyond what we already have, that would go into that to feed operation and management.”

Direction from other airports on future steps

The RM of Moosomin has been in contact with a provincial air-

port to learn future steps in developing the Moosomin airport.

“The board has always been in the back of our mind as we move forward that it was going to be a requirement or a need. We had been in communications with Moose Jaw quite regularly because they developed the Moose Jaw Airport Authority. They have a complete website of what the airport is there, the bylaws, and we are actually utilizing the same legal counsel Moose Jaw used to draft and assist with all of the nonprofit registration and the bylaws and suggestions, be-

cause there was a couple individuals who had said it seemed to be working very well there and their board and executive is evolving as the board grows. So you get past the infancy stage and you’re up and running the way it is established and appointed and the individuals have migrated into something else and changed things. I could see that is where we could go, but we are only in the infancy stage so baby steps to start with.”

Lawrence explains the previous steps with the airport project before getting to this point. “In 2018 is when we began the conversations of trying to move forward with this development. The announcement where Nutrien and the province announced they would take part in funding was in February of 2023 so we have done a lot in those two years. It seems like a long time ago, but there is a lot that has happened in that time frame.

“I think we all thought we would have the lighting in fully by now, but there were some alterations and changes that were required to make it feasible. We will get there.”

Saskatchewan Air Ambulance

Lawrence adds, “We’ve had a lot of questions about the cost of Sask Air Ambulance and utilizing the air ambulance and that is on the Ministry of Saskatchewan website under Ambulance Services. They list both STARS and Air Ambulance. It’s \$465 per flight and then you have to pay for ground ambulance service to and from the airport. We had a couple of comments asking about the cost of the trips.”



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Far left: Travis Sanheim and Jessica Campbell speaking. Left: Sheldon Kennedy speaking.

Travis Sanheim, Jessica Campbell, Sheldon Kennedy in Elkhorn for Sportsman's Dinner

Travis Sanheim, Jessica Campbell, and Sheldon Kennedy were all in Elkhorn on July 24 for the EDCC Sportsman's Dinner. The dinner was a fundraiser for the Elkhorn rink. At the end of the night, Travis Sanheim announced a \$5,000 donation to the rink on top of any proceeds raised by the event. The event also included a silent auction, and dance.



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Thousands attend fireworks competition

☞ Continued from front

Back next year

Jeannot says the committee plans to renew the August Long Fireworks Competition as an annual event again.

“We are definitely planning on doing it next year. We are maybe going to try to keep it a Canadian thing for now, maybe see if we can get someone further out west, or there was a discussion maybe an east coast thing and then try and have an east coast theme, getting some food trucks with seafood and that theme so that is in the back of our mind.

“Obviously it’s only a week past. We are looking at maybe doing more local talent the first night of the beer gardens instead of bringing in two bands next year. We do have a lot of local talent in the area and so we think let’s give them some exposure.”

Alberta Fireworks Champions

Jeannot says the fireworks were judged by locals this year, who gave the win to Alberta.

“We actually had super expert judges. So we had two judges and then three girls judging that are quite heavily involved in dance and it worked out well because there were things that I didn’t notice that they were telling me about. For instance, the first night only had four songs to it where the second night had five songs in the same amount of time, the fireworks were more on beat and timed better the second night. They had a whole list of reasons. They did a really good job at it.

“So for next year we are going to try and get the Alberta team back to try and defend their title.”

Jeannot says the market drew in a big crowd at the park this year. “The market helped pull a lot of people in this year. I also think just in general people being able to come back and enjoy the entertainment, and just being able to get together with family—there were a lot of family reunions and gatherings out there this weekend, which was great to see. Then you’re getting all of the younger people coming out to enjoy the show too and people just bring their family for the day to enjoy the park.”

Jeannot adds visitors travelled from all over southeast Saskatchewan and Southwest Manitoba for the event.

“We had travellers from Regina, Brandon, a lot of Manitoba people, some from Estevan and Weyburn area. There were some people travelling through town just by chance, a couple from Louisiana, and two guys from Australia—they just happened to be passing through. The two guys from Australia came through a week before and found out about the show and stayed and they were just traveling across Canada, so that tech-



Kids on the beach at Moosomin Lake during the August long weekend.

nically was our furthest, but the farthest travel just for the show was Regina and Brandon. Which I think is a big draw for people to come for the weekend. The hotels were busy too, we were talking to Canalta and they said they were booked up solid with people coming out on the long weekend.”

Thankful for volunteers

Jeannot says many community groups helped volunteer during the long weekend.

“We had hired the Filipino group to help with parking so they helped us with that, and we are going to make a donation to the Terry Lynd Basketball Court to thank them. We actually had a cabin owner and seasonal site owner meeting two weeks before the event and passed around a piece a paper with what people could do to help, and by the end of that we had it pretty much full.

“Moosomin Age Friendly stepped up and helped sell 50/50s. The volunteers turned out really well. There were a few places we could have had a few more hands, but overall we were covered. The volunteers were a huge help.”

He says the winner of their 50/50 from the weekend has decided to donate some of their winnings back.

“We ended up grossing \$16,200 so we gave away

\$8,100. Lori Shepherd from Moosomin won it, and she’s making a donation back. We are trying to put all of that 50/50 money toward the playground for the camping area up top for the kids, because they don’t really have a play structure up there so that’s our goal to get that rolling and when she heard that she had won she was pretty excited, and we are so excited she has decided she is going to make a donation back.”

Great fundraiser for lake

Jeannot says the August Long Fireworks Competition is a great fundraiser to maintain and update Moosomin Regional Park.

“We definitely broke even. So far, all that I know is that we made money on was the 50/50 as of right now, we have a meeting in the next few weeks just to see how the park did. It’s a fundraiser to improve the area, and put money back into the park so everything that gets raised from this event turns around and goes back into the park. It’s not our goal to go and raise a bunch of money either though, our goal is to provide entertainment for the public and to have people come out, camp, enjoy the show, enjoy some live music, and have a good weekend.”

He adds, “We can actually relax now and not be worried about how it’s going to turn out. You know in the back of your mind you’re always like ‘Okay, we sold this many wrist bands,’ and always watching the weather, and the lake has had good weather each year on August Long. They’ve never had a bad weekend. This year on Sunday was a little gloomy but it wasn’t horrible. It’s better than 40 degrees in the sun. I’m glad it has passed and it will be good to see how the fundraising turned out.”



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Some scenes from Jess Moskaluke's new music video on YouTube called, 'I Ain't Country'. The music video was shot locally around Southeast Saskatchewan, on a farm at Langenburg and at the World-Spectator office in Moosomin.

Jess Moskaluke shoots music video locally, plans some shows close to home

BY ASHLEY BOCHEK

Local country star, Rocanville's Jess Moskaluke, recorded a new single called 'I Ain't Country' this summer. Moskaluke recorded the music video for the single in Langenburg and Moosomin a few weeks ago. It is now available to watch on YouTube.

She came up with the song in response to an International blogger who criticized her as not being country enough.

"The song is called 'I Ain't Country' and basically it was inspired by a blogger that actually came out of the UK who had reviewed a show of mine and had some complaints that I wasn't country enough or my songs didn't resonate or didn't scream Canadian and I thought that was really funny coming from someone in London, England. It really inspired me to write about that. There have been several comments about it over the last 15 years, but that was the one that put me over the edge.

"I always wanted to show them exactly that this is my everyday life, this is where I live and it's just a little ironic to throw stones from a glass house in that way. I am country and that is what the video and the song is all about,

and that is not going to change."

Plans for video changed

Moskaluke says they originally planned to shoot the music video in Toronto.

"We talked about not necessarily doing it locally just because oftentimes renting production and gathering a team can admittedly be a lot more convenient in the city. So we talked about shooting it in Ontario—somewhere in the Toronto area—because that's where my director Connor Scheffler is from, and then when we started trying to source things I was like this is ridiculous—all of these things we are trying to source are going to be challenging to get in Toronto and expensive likely, and they all just exist on my mom's farm.

"The reason I actually didn't necessarily want to shoot it locally initially is because I have already done that a number of times throughout my career and I didn't want to reinvent the wheel and I didn't want to do something that I have already done, so it was a bit of a challenge to make sure that it looked different while still recognizable and playing to the treatment that Connor created. So

we shot at my Mom's farm and at the Moosomin World-Spectator."

Local actors highlighted in music video

Moskaluke says the video involves many local people.

"The video itself turned out so much better than I had pictured. Connor was really great and a lot of the inspiration and references that he had were really accurate and we were very much on the same page the whole time.

"I love how tongue-in-cheek this video is—it totally matches the song and it's just a cherry on top to have local people, familiar faces, and places in it just to further prove the point to this blogger that will probably never see this again anyway, but it was great. The only out-of-town person that was involved was Connor, my director. We ended up needing to find a production team, rent equipment, and stuff so Josh Deramas from Filcad Productions was so kind and it was great to have him and his team come out and do a lot of the heavy lifting in terms of actually shooting the video, and then everyone else that is in the video is from Rocanville or Langenburg."

Continued on page 42

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The exterior of the nearly completed Rocanville Aquatic Centre which the town is hoping will be opened this fall.

Rocanville pool nearing completion

BY KARA KINNA

Rocanville’s aquatic centre is nearing completion, with hopes to be open this fall.

“Right now they are getting close, they are just working on finishings,” says Rocanville Rec Director Andrea Logan. “The plumbers and electricians are in there, we have tilers in and they’re doing tiles in the bathroom. It’s all coming together.

“It’s all that time consuming work at the end of a project, and we have the tank liner that still needs to be done and the deck floor, so we are working on those things.

“As far as opening we are still hoping to have the pool open for staff training in the early fall and open to the public around a month or so after that. We need time to be able to get in there, get everything cleaned up and set up, get the staff in there and fully trained, because it is a new floorprint of the building, the tank itself is the same, but there are some other changes that we have to take into consideration when we are training our staff and getting ready for the public.”

Logan says they are currently hiring staff.

“We are accepting applications for lifeguards right now,” she says. “It’s hard to hire if you don’t really know for sure when your start date is, but we are getting closer to having an actual date.”

Logan says no photos of the interior of the building are being shared right now as they committee overseeing the restoration wants it to be a surprise when people finally see the finished building.

“We’ve decided to leave it a secret and do a reveal,” says Logan.

Logan says all of the contracts for the project have been filled, and now it’s just a matter of waiting on the final finishing work before the pool can open its doors.

Once the pool is open, the plan is for a year-round facility as long as there is demand, as it is the only indoor pool of its size in the area.

“The plan is to be open year round if the public is using it,” says Logan. “There will be times that we have it closed for maintenance, we will have to close it at some point in time to clean all our filters and give the tank a good cleaning and things like that. I think we will probably do that in the warmer months and have the pool open in the winter.

“It seems like everyone goes away in the summer—you want to be outside and at the lakes—so we feel that the pool will be better used in the winter months.

“We want to run lots of cool programs, maybe work with some of the hockey teams, maybe they wouldn’t mind renting the pool for training purposes. We would like to add more programs. There are things we are thinking of doing, but again we can’t set a schedule yet, nothing is concrete but we have lots of ideas.”

Fundraising for the new facility is ongoing.

“Our fundraising committee is still actively fundraising—they just did a progressive 50/50 at the Jessica Campbell Golf tournament and they raised a little over \$2,000 with that, and they had the brisket cookoff that was in June.”

Logan says it feels great to see the project nearing completion after so many years of talking about it and planning for it.

“It is very exciting and also overwhelming. I’m really excited about it,” she says. “I’ve been in the pool throughout this entire process watching it go up and watching the progress. It was a really emotional thing when the old building came down, but now it’s getting really exciting with it looking so nice inside, and I really think the community is going to be happy with it once they get to see it and use it and realize what it can offer for our community. It’s just really exciting.

“I think we should be proud of ourselves. It was a big project and it was a lot of asking “can we do this? Is this going actually happen?” And it’s happening.

“It’s going to be open to the public before too long so I think the entire community should be proud.”



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Wagantall not running in next federal election

BY RYAN KIEDROWSKI
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

In the midst of a sleepy, summer afternoon on July 28, Yorkton-Melville Member of Parliament Cathay Wagantall made an announcement that she will not seek a fifth term when the next federal election is called.

“First of all, I absolutely love my job, and I love the riding,” she said. “For me, another election and then another four years at this point in my life is a commitment that I don’t think I would be able to do to the extent it would need to be done. Also, it would be unfair to someone else who is possibly looking at serving, not having the runway in front of them to be able to prepare. I was very blessed when I ran, Garry (Breitkreuz, previous Yorkton-Melville MP) gave me the opportunity. There was time for me to get out and get to know the riding, to get to know people, and to build my case for the nomination.

“I am prepared to continue on, I am still a Member of Parliament, and I will do due diligence,” continued Wagantall. “My staff, of course, are aware, but they are as committed as ever. Transitions are never easy, even good ones. There’s challenges involved. So that’s why I wrote the news release that I did—I just wanted folks to know right up front that I love the job, I love the people that I get the privilege of working with and working for.”

Wagantall was first elected MP in the Yorkton-Melville riding on Oct. 19, 2015 after having won the Conservative nomination 11 months earlier. She’s the third MP in the riding as NDP Lorne Nystrom won the first contest in 1968 and Breitkreuz was elected in 1993. The riding has also grown substantially, now with a population of more than 71,000 in 43,272 square kilometres.

“We just inherited Carrot River and Tobin Lake, which is, for me, a drive of four hours,” Wagantall said. “I was just up there last weekend, it was awesome! I met with Carrot River Council, with the RM, with the folks up at Tobin Lake, and went to a rodeo. It’s wonderful to be engaged in that way, to hear from them, and for them to know that you have their backs on the Hill. It is an expansive riding, that’s for sure.”

In the most recent federal election—a little more than three months ago—Wagantall secured 77.5 per cent of the popular vote which was not only her strongest lead, but the largest percentage in the history of the riding.

Wagantall says MP role a privilege

Of her time in Ottawa, Wagantall noted “it’s been a privilege to do three private members bills over the course of this time, and to serve on the standing committee for Veterans Affairs.”

On the topic of entering politics, Wagantall said that MPs are regular citizens that answer a particular calling.

“And that applies to even at the local and provincial level,” she added. “Often, you face the hardships of dealing with people’s circumstances that aren’t the best, but at the same time, you know people do it for the right reasons. You can’t paint everybody with that ‘politician’ brush. It’s been a decade and I still don’t think of myself as a politician! Obviously, my heart is for Canada, and I certainly hope that we have opportunity as the province



Yorkton-Melville MP Cathay Wagantall will not seek re-election in the next federal election.

of Saskatchewan and Alberta to have some real significant influence over this government.”

Enacting that change sometimes looks different than what those outside the political realm might see. One example is the Conservative support of Bill C-5, the One Canadian Economy Act, which was initiated by the Liberals.

“There was a lot of concern over a lot of the issues within that legislation, and folks kind of went, ‘oh my goodness, they’re supporting the government’,” Wagantall said. “Well, we supported the government to get it to committee, and people often don’t understand that vote gets it to committee so you can truly digest it, break it down, and hopefully have good amendments.”

As Wagantall explained, Bill C-5 ended up with 13 amendments and the votes of Bloc Québécois members.

“Right now, the NDP are not on committee, and we were able to put a number of checks and balances into that legislation that will really protect the provinces and constituents with good decision making,” Wagantall said. “Of course, we’re still dealing with the fact that all

of those environmental legislative bills that hamper our economy across the board still exist. He’s (Prime Minister Mark Carney) willing to remove them for his 10 projects, but, again, it’s picking winners and losers, and there’s a lot of productivity that’s just waiting to happen. It should be the opportunity that Canadians deserve.”

Wagantall believes a fall election might not be out of the question.

“For me, my preference is that this Prime Minister does what he promised and brings forward a proper budget to the House in the fall,” she said. “In which case, I’m fairly confident that we would probably see the government fall just on the basis of financially—in the spending that he has already done. That goes far and beyond what was happening previously that was concerning Canadians.”

The Liberals have been in power during Wagantall’s time as an MP, and while she says it would have been nice to have the opportunity to serve in government, she pointed to a larger cause.

“Yes, I would love to have had the opportunity to serve in government, but the goal is to bring them down and to form a majority government so things can get done that Canadians need,” she said. “We have an amazing new cohort of caucus senators, and of course, we’re looking forward to Pierre (Poilievre) winning this by-election and getting back in the House where he should be.”

Life after politics

Behind every MP is a team of family and friends supporting their efforts. However, Wagantall’s team is also looking forward to having her around more often, too.

“I’ve got some pretty happy campers,” she said of her grandkids. “You’ll always hear, ‘I’m leaving because of family,’ and to some degree, that is always part of a decision to make a major shift in where you are and what you’re doing. That will certainly be the case for me, I can assure you. My husband has been like my two right arms in this huge riding in addition to running our business, so I’m very grateful.”

She also expressed gratitude to her team and biggest fans, acknowledging the motivation and inspiration they provide.

“I am incredibly grateful to my professional, capable, and passionate staff both past and present on Parliament Hill and in the Constituency,” Wagantall noted. “I know they are the very best because of the constant positive feedback I receive. I simply could not do justice to my responsibilities without them.”

As for the purpose and driving force behind why she chose to enter politics at the federal level in the first place, Wagantall returned to her family.

“I am beyond thankful for the support of my husband and best friend,” she noted. “He is always by my side in spirit when we are apart, and more often than not, deeply engaged as we choose to do life together in every way, every day. To our precious three, their amazing spouses, and our 10 incredible grandchildren—our gifts from God—please know that although it may be hard to fully understand at times, you are the reason I serve Canada in this way.”

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Kenosee Lake Kitchen Party

Local music camp attracting artists from all over Saskatchewan

☞ Continued from page 4

“It never really happened to the same extent on the Prairies, but we are bringing that same kitchen party element to the Prairies in the form of a camp where people can enjoy all of the best elements of the kitchen party as well as getting an educational setting on their interests—we do all sorts of workshops with music and dance. We are bringing all of those elements from the Atlantic Kitchen Parties into our own kitchen party at Kenosee Lake,” explained Dubois.

Musical gathering for many years

The KLKP has been a successful musical camp for the past two decades.

“This camp has actually been running for almost 20 years,” Dubois said. “My family has a cabin at Kenosee Lake and I actually was there the first year it was created back in 2005. It organically started very small as a one-week camp and then one year, it reached capacity, and they expanded it by adding an extra week.”

She says she attended the camp growing up to take fiddle lessons.

“I attended as a student pretty much every year up until Covid. I interned for the kids camp portion a little bit back when they first started it, but the camp itself has existed for almost 20 years—the reason it is not its 20th year anniversary is because they missed a year for Covid. So it is technically its 19th year running the entire camp in general.

“They didn’t have the kids portion of the camp when it first began. When I was six and attended my first camp I was in fiddle lessons with my mom since we took the same class together. There is a kids camp that runs within it now, but the whole camp is something that a huge demographic of people enjoy, and you can start with basically no experience or you can come with a lot of experience.”

She explains her role now with helping run the camp during the two early weeks in August.

“I started as a student and then I worked my way through to become an instructor at the camp. This year the second week I will be teaching the kids camp. I am on site both weeks as an operational hand. They’ve had some funding for summer student positions through the government and I’ve been hired to specifically help promote and expand the evening Kitchen Fest as a whole—how can we add to this music festival to make it more of a music festival that appeals to a larger audience—so that has been my role over the summer. I am onsite both weeks assisting with the experience of the Kitchen Fest in the evenings, but I am onsite as a musician, as a teacher the second week, and probably as a teaching hand if people need me.

“I live in Regina currently. I grew up 15 minutes from Kenosee Lake originally, but I am a fiddle teacher. I run the Flatland Fiddling Studio out of Regina so during the year I teach full time and gig on the side playing for myself and other various bands. When I am not doing either of those I am trying to jam with people.”

Fiddle musicians from all over world

Dubois says the camp is heavily fiddle and folk based music and lessons.

“It is fiddle-based so we always have a huge variety of fiddle artists that we bring in from across Canada, from the States, from Ireland, and Scotland, all different places at different levels.

“Another thing about a kitchen party is the instrumentation. At a kitchen party music you would hear would be fiddles, accordions, guitars, pianos, or maybe a banjo. That is why those specific instruments are used at kitchen parties and why kitchen party music is focused around is folk.”

The Kenosee Lake Kitchen Party offers many music classes for beginners and experienced musicians from all over Saskatchewan.

“We run fiddle classes, guitar classes, piano classes, we’ve expanded over the years to run things like banjo classes, mandolin classes, cello classes, voice classes,” Dubois explained. “We have Aleksí Campagne who is coming in this year as an artist to have some amazing classes in the eve-

ning, but also do like specific classes based around accompanying yourself with a fiddle, like she is a fiddle singer. There are lots of different things. We’ve even had someone come in to do accordion a couple of times over the years, but the camp is mostly adults that bring their kids. Then, we have developed this kids camp to accommodate those adults on vacation with their family.”

KLKP Music Festival open to public

Dubois says the artists are showcased during music performances in the evenings that are open to the public.

“The KLKP Fest which is the festival portion that runs in conjunction with the Kenosee Lake Kitchen Party, those concerts happen each Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday night both weeks. The concerts start at 7 pm and are roughly about two and a half hours with an intermission.

“Then, after Monday and Tuesday night concerts we do a little bit of a dance maybe a couple of waltzes, two-steps, or pattern dances like a Virginia reel. The Wednesday night we don’t dance afterwards, but we do extra jamming, extra campfires, and the reason we do that instead is because we run a slightly longer artist concert that night. Then, on Thursday night we also run a show, but it is completely dance-based. So we do half of the night old-time dance, it is still open to the public, you need no experience to come, we teach you all of the dances there, and then after that intermission we bring all of our rock artists on.

“We have people like Rob Skeet who does Elton John covers and stuff like that. They basically do a rock show for the last half and we have got the floor cleared so people can dance on those Thursday nights.”

Background of Kenosee Lake Kitchen Party

Dubois explains the founders’ connection to fiddling and her reasoning for the kitchen party at Kenosee Lake.

“The director, organizer, and creator of this camp, Michele Amy, who originally lived in Carlyle, grew up listening to old-time fiddle music with her parents. She played piano growing up, and she didn’t really play the fiddle until she had kids of her own.

“One of her tween daughters, at the time, expressed interest in playing the fiddle and so she looked into it, and was interested herself. There used to be a fiddle camp in Emma Lake it was called the Emma Lake Fiddle Camp. It ran for many years until it ended in 2008, but it was the first fiddle camp in Canada to ever run. It was in Saskatchewan and they’d bring artists from all over Canada and beyond. Fiddle players like Jerry Holland were brought to Emma Lake Fiddle Camp—it really cultivated more of a fiddle feeling in Saskatchewan and it pushed it out to other communities as well. She was able to attend camps like that and once she started to learn the fiddle, she got help from Fred Easton, who was an old-time fiddle player and senior living in our area of small town Saskatchewan that she reached out to for advice and help. He gave her all these resources, and sent her home with all kinds of old-time fiddle records.”

She says the demand for fiddle musicians and lessons didn’t decrease after the closing of the Emma Lake Fiddle Camp in the early 2000s.

“When Emma Lake Fiddle Camp closed down Michele knew there was a demand for another place because it was something that people missed, and they happened to have this area to test if there was still a demand for it at Kenosee Lake. The first couple of years were small, but it has worked really well, and as much that we do it around our area and for the people interested, it is also here so local artists can come and show their talent.

“We are really committed to making sure we are supporting local Saskatchewan artists and giving them opportunities—job opportunities, and giving them the chance to play with each other for the concerts and feed off each other where they may not have other opportunities to meet up and play with these other artists in any other capacity. They can learn from each other. It is exciting because the public can come and see all combinations of amazing artists that

you may never see perform again together.”

Local artists part of KLKP

Dubois says the committee is committed to showcasing local talent during their camps.

“We definitely make it a priority to hire a certain amount of local artists like local to Saskatchewan as well as bringing out people to intermingle from near or far. In terms of people that are campers themselves, we have seen people that have been coming back for years and years, and I am an example of that. I went almost every year to camp maybe missing one or two years. We have people that grew up going through the camp and if they happen to have time during the week, even if they can’t make it for the full week, we will probably see them come at some point for a concert and coming to camp for a day. We get a lot of the same people and a good amount of the same faces every year as well, but people that come back again and again every year that I may not see at all the rest of the year, I see every year in August.”

What to expect

Dubois explains the Kitchen Fest concerts that are open to the public Monday through Thursday nights.

“For the public, the music festivals are outdoor concerts. We also tell people since we have campers there and we usually have 150 people that are on site already so the public does need to bring a lawn chair usually because the seating is limited, expect to have a show of really mixed genre music, it is a little bit more heavily into the fiddle and folk, but there is definitely a lot of other stuff happening. Expect to maybe dance or watch others dance. This year we are trying to incorporate food vendors and artist vendors, not a whole lot, but one food and artist vendor each night as well. You can expect to look through all of the art from art students that are on site. We keep their work up during the week so people can see what they are working on, and just expect a super good time!

“The camp prides itself on, we are a super inclusive space, if we can help it no one is ever turned away for any sort of reason, if finance is a barrier, we have financial aid and bursaries we can offer to people. We want people to come and experience it. We don’t want to gatekeep this community. That is part of the people coming to these concerts they get to see what happens, we want people to be able to know that this exists. It is crazy to me that people don’t know it exists because it has been around for so long. If you are someone who is curious then come to a concert this year and see what it looks like because our registration opens in March and the last two years when registration opened we completely sold out both weeks which is unheard of for a fiddle camp, but I think after covid people have really wanted to get back into things and back into the experiences they missed.

So, we have limited space, we have about just over 100 registrants for the actual camp and we do offer a waitlist. If you’re interested too, follow our social media because we post lots, and we post in the weeks leading up to when registration opens so people can be ready, so follow us on Facebook at Kenosee Lake Kitchen Party and Instagram to stay in the loop.”

Dubois wants to encourage everyone in the area to come out for an evening of music and fun at the Kitchen Fest through the early weekdays.

“Come out, look online, look at the line-up, see if you recognize any names, and I always recommend that people come out to one of the concerts to see what its like if they have never been and they live in the area.”

The camp dedicates their passion for teaching fiddle lessons and keeping fiddle and folk music alive in Saskatchewan to Fred Easton, who was a local fiddle musician in the Carlyle area.

“Michele talks about Fred Easton every year at camp, he is one of the reasons she started playing and got more into it because of a local fiddler who wanted to spread it to younger people and that is what we are really trying to do—keeping this pocket of Canadian fiddling alive,” said Dubois.



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Looking forward to Labour Day

Nowadays, Labour Day signals the end of summer activities and the beginning of a new school year, and it is a time to relax before our busy fall schedules take precedence.

fact that having a job enables you to enjoy the good things in life, while building a good future for yourself and your loved ones.

Yet there is a great deal of meaning behind this special event, which we all celebrate on the first Monday of September. It should also be a time to remember the origins of Labour Day, to remember that, without the efforts and sacrifices of the labour movement to improve working conditions during the 1880s and '90s, this holiday would not exist. That vast mobilization of the labour force, born in big cities such as Toronto, Ottawa, and Montreal, grew to encompass the entire Canadian working class and became the holiday that we know today.

Labour Day is more than just another day off. This 1st of September, let's celebrate the success of the workplace and think about ways of improving every aspect of work, so that every day is safer and more fulfilling. Labour Day has been celebrated on the first Monday of September for more than a century. In fact, the first Labour Day parade was held in New York in 1882. Twelve years later, Labour Day became an official holiday in the United States as well as in Canada.

Picnics, fireworks and many other activities organized by unions take place during this long weekend, to remind us of the great battles that were won over the years and the challenges faced by a work environment in perpetual transition. It's the perfect occasion to make sure that safety will remain a priority and that new ways will be found to consolidate family and work.

While primarily a celebration of the working class, Labour Day is increasingly recognized as the unofficial end of summer. Therefore, take the time during this long week-end to fully enjoy summer's last effort. Make it a weekend to remember by joining in public events in the city or in the country; celebrate with an outdoor barbecue and one last splash in the pool or the lake! During these festivities, also take a minute to fully appreciate the

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MLA for Cannington

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(306) 443-4400



Kevin Weedmark

MLA for Moosomin-Montmartre

office@kevinweedmark.ca

(306) 435-4005



Hon. Warren Kaeding

MLA for Melville-Saltcoats

warrenkaedingmla@sasktel.net

(306) 728-3881



Labour Day in Canada

Labour Day, the first Monday in September, has been a statutory holiday in Canada since 1894. It originated in the first workers’ rallies of the Victorian era. Historically, workers marked the day with various activities. These included parades, speeches, games, amateur competitions and picnics. The holiday promoted working-class solidarity and belonging during a time of rapid industrialization. Since the Second World War, fewer and fewer people have participated in Labour Day activities. Nevertheless, it remains a statutory holiday. Many Canadians now devote the Labour Day holiday to leisure activity and family time.

Before the 1880s, people held sporadic festivities in connection with larger labour movements. Some historians trace the origin of Labour Day to the Nine Hour Movement (1872).

Labour organizations began to hold celebrations more frequently following a labour convention in New York in September 1882. Spurred on by this initial success, the American Federation of Labor and the Knights of Labor actively promoted workers’ celebrations on the first Monday in September in the United States. The Canadian chapters of these organizations did the same. Records show similar gatherings in Toronto (1882); Hamilton and Oshawa (1883); Montreal (1886); St. Catharines (1887); Halifax (1888); Ottawa and Vancouver (1890); and London (1892).

As the event grew more popular nationwide, labour organizations pressured governments to declare the first Monday in September a statutory holiday. Their impact was significant enough that the Royal Commission on the Relations of Labor and Capital in Canada (1886–89) recommended that the federal government establish a “labour day.” Before this, the day had official status in only a few municipalities. Montreal, for example, declared it a civic holiday in 1889.

In March and April 1894, more than 50 labour organizations from Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Manitoba and British Columbia petitioned parliamentarians. These groups included several regional trade and labour councils, as well as local assemblies of the Knights of Labor. They based their lobbying movement on similar initiatives from American unions. In the House of Commons, a bill sponsored by Prime Minister John Thompson prompted the debate about the holiday’s legal status in May

1894. The House passed an amended holiday law without major discussion. It received royal assent on 23 July. The United States federal government also recognized the holiday in 1894.

The provinces had no choice but to adapt. For example, Quebec parliamentarians

announced that the province’s courts would not sit on the first Monday in September of that year. It wasn’t until 1899 that the province granted the holiday legal status, ordering school boards to delay the start of classes until after the first Monday in September.

Canadians celebrated Labour Day with much ceremony on September 3, 1894. In Montreal, the city’s Trades and Labour Congress played a key role in organizing events for the day. A parade set out from the Champ de Mars park at 9 a.m. Its divisions grouped together unions represent-

ing the same trade. The Grande-Hermine local assembly of the Knights of Labor led the way. It guided participants to a park where they held speeches, games and a picnic. In Que-

bec City, the Trades and Labour Congress chose instead to hold a mass followed by entertainment. This included bicycle competitions, foot races and a lacrosse match.

A salute to all the hard-working men and women in the labour force!
It's because of you our economy continues to grow, and communities thrive.

HAPPY LABOUR DAY WEEKEND!

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Workers or labourers are an inseparable part of the society, and on a larger scale, of the nation. We all are heavily dependent on the contribution of everyone surrounding us, so we also must give back to them in return. On Labour Day, May Day, or International Workers’ Day, we can pay our respect to their efforts and celebrate their jobs without creating any discrimination among them.

***Sending our appreciation and respect to
the workers of every field.
Happy Labour Day!***



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SHORTER WORK DAYS

A parade was held in solidarity with the workers of Toronto. Carpenters won a shorter work day that paved the way for the modern eight-hour workday

1872

OFFICIAL LABOUR DAY LAW

Prime Minister John Thompson passed a law making Labour Day official in Canada. A huge Labour Day parade took place in Winnipeg that year.

1881

STRONG. SKILLED. AS ONE.

We continue standing up for workers' rights. Thanks to the fight for fair working conditions, you now get: paid vacation, overtime pay, weekends and holidays off.

2025

**FIRST CANADIAN
UBC LOCAL UNION**

The UBC was founded by carpenters led by Peter J. McGuire**. Months later, carpenters in Hamilton, ON, became the first Canadian UBC members, and Toronto carpenters joined in early 1882.

A photograph of a construction worker wearing a blue hard hat, a high-visibility orange safety vest over a blue shirt, and blue jeans. He is using a yellow-handled hammer to work on a wooden frame structure, likely for a roof or floor joists. The background shows a construction site with more wooden framing.

Jessica Campbell hosts first Prairie Built fundraiser



Left: Jessica Campbell showing off a bomber jacket during the live auction in Rocanville. **Above:** Brad Hickman holding up jerseys during the live auction. **Right:** Jessica Campbell during the hot stove panel.

☞ Continued from Page 3

How connected do you feel to the Prairies? Did growing up on the Prairies make you who you are?

“I think every piece and person you meet, coach, volunteer, anyone who has sacrificed anything. My hockey journey is a big piece of getting me to this position so I don’t ever take for granted where I am coming from, the people that have lifted me and that’s Saskatchewan through and through, so I am still very much connected and love coming home, this is where all my family still is.

How does it feel coming home now that there’s a highway sign coming into Rocanville and your quote is the first thing people see walking into the rink?

“It’s crazy, it’s emotional for me because it’s not something you ever picture for yourself. So to feel the town pride and to feel honoured in that way is more motivation for me to keep going and to keep chasing because I know at the end of the day it’s beyond sports, it’s beyond hockey, its about growing the game and growing the opportunities for others. For different backgrounds to come to the table and so when I see the sign I know it makes my parents proud and I know they get excited to show it to friends and family coming through. It’s another motivation factor and it makes me proud.

How does it feel to be able to make a difference in getting this foundation going.

“When you’re afforded the opportunity to have a platform and a reach, which I have now been able to build that momentum, I think it’s really important to do something with it because if you don’t, what’s the point? At the end of the day, I am here to coach hockey and be a part of what I love doing every day, but there’s also a greater opportunity to give back and to give other kids that same motivation and whether it’s a stick or a signed puck or a picture, it doesn’t matter what it is. I always said when I started working with NHL guys, there is no player too big or small and that was always my guiding principle and I just follow that. You never know where that player, kid, pro is going to go and just leave them better then you found them. That is my approach to this whole thing and just bettering community all around.”

Continued on page 34 ☞



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Saturday, September 13th, 2025

Craft Show 10am - 7pm

Quilt Show 10am - 4pm

Sunday, September 14th, 2025

Craft Show 10am - 4pm

Quilt Show 10am - 4pm

Admission:

\$5 Craft Show \$4 Quilt Show

Saturday - Pancake Breakfast @ 8am

\$100 in Vendor Bucks - Draws @ 5 & 6pm (Craft Show)

