



Plain & Valley

Covering Southeast Saskatchewan and Southwest Manitoba

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Minister Carr visits Moosomin, Grenfell

BY DONNIE MATICHUK

Saskatchewan Minister of Rural and Remote Health Lori Carr was on a tour of Moosomin and Grenfell Thursday visiting healthcare facilities and meeting with local officials. We sat down with her to discuss the importance of her role to Saskatchewan.

What is your role as Minister of Rural and Remote Health?

In Saskatchewan we have two large centres—Saskatoon and Regina—and just about everything else is considered rural and remote in this province. Really and truly it is looking at the smaller communities in this province and trying to ensure that people have services as close to home as they can.

What brings you to the Moosomin area today?

We were visiting the hospital looking at the residency program that's here, and had a tour of the long-term care facility. We also met a group of individuals that are trying to bring addiction recovery services here to the Moosomin area, hearing from them and some first-hand experiences and why they think it's important. We also met with



Above: Moosomin-Montmartre MLA Kevin Weedamark and Rural and Remote Health Minister Lori Carr in front of the nursing home under construction in Grenfell.



Left: Moosomin-Montmartre MLA Kevin Weedamark and Rural and Remote Health Minister Lori Carr in front of the South East Integrated Care facility in Moosomin.

some individuals in Grenfell and a group of local leaders from the Grenfell area and surrounding RM's. We were talking about the long-term care facility that is being built there. Right now they've cleared the site and are putting in pilings. By 2027 it will be up and running.

Tell us where you've been on your tour. Anywhere that you thought was particularly interesting?

Just looking at the healthcare facilities that you have here in Moosomin and listening to the stories about the doctor group that's here, the collaboration that they have within that facility to make it a true group practice. They know that they

can rely on each other, and I think that goes into helping with the residency program that they have, and being able to support that program successfully. I met Dr. Fallis today, who was the first residency student in Moosomin, and now she's working here full time.

What else is Moosomin doing well in terms of our healthcare facilities?

I've had the opportunity to be in Moosomin three times now, and every time I come here I end up meeting a new group or a new organization and you can see how all of the groups in this community work together to move forward. I'm not going to single out any group because it really is a community effort, and it trickles down to the healthcare facility, the way that those doctors work together and put in the effort to make it the best they can.

Continued on page 16

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Moosomin DQ sells 7,880 blizzards, raises \$41,210 on Miracle Treat Day

BY RYAN KEIDROWSK
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Moosomin Dairy Queen smashed its goal of 6,000 blizzards, selling 7,880 blizzards and raising \$41,210 on Miracle Treat Day on August 14.

Last year DQ sold 5,118 blizzards and raised \$27,746.21.

All money raised on Miracle Treat Day goes to the Jim Pattison Children's Hospital Foundation.

At first, the result was unbelievable for Moosomin DQ owner Joanne Kerr.

"It was very late at night, and I started to cry," she said. "I thought I had to redo the numbers because I couldn't believe that was right!"

Joanne says that they had been too busy to keep a tally during the day and didn't start to look at totals until later.

"You wait until it's all done, then it's time to start looking at numbers, and I couldn't believe it," Joanne said. "I was sure that I had done something wrong. So I went through it twice, I went through it a third time, and it was the same all three times! I went to bed at about 2:30 in the morning, but I couldn't sleep. I was up at 6 am and had to redo those numbers again just to make sure it was real."

Moosomin DQ Manager Morgan Kerr's initial reaction was disbelief at such high numbers.

"I didn't look at the numbers until after closing, and when I looked at our total, and I looked at Heather and said, 'did we mess this up? Like, did we do this wrong? What happened?' she says. "Then we had to stay and balance, because I wouldn't have slept. Sure enough, we balanced and it was real!"

"We didn't expect that," Morgan said. "I thought our target of 6,000 was a push, but we need a goal, something to work towards. Getting up this morning after knowing the numbers, we're already planning for next year and how we can change things and do things better."

Having a dedicated, enthusiastic staff is a huge asset, and Morgan says the crew at the Moosomin DQ are more than up for the challenge on Miracle Treat Day.

"Definitely our team here, our staff are simply amazing," Morgan said. "They're incredible people and without them, we wouldn't have been able to do all this."

Joanne credits the record-setting success of this year's campaign to getting boots on the ground not only in Moosomin, but in surrounding communities.

"Actually getting out there and meeting the people and letting them know was a big part of it," Joanne explained. "There's still a lot of people that aren't aware of Miracle Treat Day and the involvement that Dairy Queen has. Just letting them know what it's all about and where the money actually goes to help all the children and the Jim Pattison Children's Foundation and all the good things that they do."

Continued on Page 17



Heather, Woodrow, Morgan and Joanne Kerr with Moosomin DQ, Blaze Dunn (Jim Pattison Champion Ambassador), Carole-Lynn Dunn, and Community Engagement Associate with Jim Pattison Children's Hospital Foundation, Cori Thorstad.



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Fundraiser for Angela Hales on Sept. 20



Angela and her husband Chad.

BY RYAN KIEDROWSKI
A fundraiser is being planned at Skout Brewing for Angela and Chad Hales on Saturday, September 20.

On Aug. 14, Angela Hales—who runs Moosomin Sports Excellence with her husband Chad—experienced a medical emergency that included a life-saving flight via air ambulance from Moosomin to Regina's General Hospital, then on to Saskatoon by STARS where

she is receiving care at the Royal University Hospital. Hales had suffered a brain aneurysm and was being treated in Saskatoon for a brain bleed, and continues to recover at RUH.

A fundraiser is being planned at Skout Brewing for Saturday, September 20 where from 4-8 pm proceeds from sales of a burger and beer or pop will be donated to the Hales family.

"Between the Kinsmen, Skout, and the Moose

Creek Store, we want to help them out," said Kyle Jeanott, one of the event organizers of the fundraiser. "We wanted to bring the community together and have a barbecue at Skout, a fundraiser to help them out with their path ahead."

Family and friends have also been supporting a GoFundMe campaign titled 'Praying for Angie', which has a goal of \$20,000 goal to assist with costs associated with her recovery. There has also been an account

set up at the Scotiabank in Moosomin where people can donate, and e-transfers can also be sent to praying-forang@gmail.com.

According to Angela's family, Angela is currently an inpatient at the Royal University Hospital in Saskatoon. Her prognosis from surgeons has been guarded. She is out of ICU, currently in observation on the neurosciences floor.

"Angela continues to exceed the expectations of her medical team, and her health outcomes are fluid," they said last week.

Her recovery time is undetermined.

"We are taking it one

step at a time," said the family. "Literally, we do not know at this point. We are hopeful for a recovery period of six to 12 months but nothing is guaranteed."

The family says the goal right now is get Angela to Regina, into Wascana and closer to her support system and family. She will have lifelong follow ups in Saskatoon with neurosurgeons.

They say the fundraiser on September 20 will help by easing financial stress, covering immediate needs like hotels, meals, or travel. It will also provide stability. "Extra funds give them

breathing room to focus on recovery and rehabilitation, instead of worrying about expenses," said the family.

The family says they are grateful for all of the support.

"The community support has been amazing. Beyond the money, donations remind them they're not alone, which can be a huge emotional boost. Chad made a comment that it really made them feel like they are part of an amazing community. Knowing people care enough to help gives strength and encouragement to keep moving forward."

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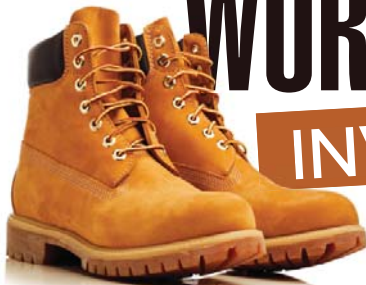


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Rocanville indoor pool project receives additional \$1.8 million grant

BY ASHLEY BOCHEK

The Rocanville pool refurbishment project has been awarded an additional \$1.8 million from the federal-provincial ICIP (Investing in Canadian Infrastructure Program) grant, more than doubling the grant to cover higher costs.

The original federal-provincial grant was for \$1,269,782. The revised grant is for more than double—\$3,091,104, an increase of \$1,821,322.

The community has been working toward finishing the new indoor pool project for the past four years. The new pool was recently named the Universe Satellite Aquatic Centre.

Rocanville Mayor Ron Reed says the project is in its final stages and the increased grant will make a big difference.

"It is progressing. The major construction for the most part is just about done. We are getting into the more finishing steps now. There is still a little bit of final work to do electrical-wise, HVAC-wise, and then little finishing details—tile in the bathrooms, flooring. The pool liners are done, they just finished that recently. So that is good progress there. There is still a fair amount of work yet to go, but we are getting there."

Higher grant will reduce borrowing

The additional \$1.8 million from the ICIP grant will help by reducing the local portion of the cost of the project, so funds that would have gone to loan payments can go instead to maintenance and operating costs.

"It means that the money that would have gone toward the loan payment, we don't have to go that route anymore because now it can just be spent on other things for the community, whether that is different infrastructure, different facility upgrades, or better maintenance—whatever the case might be—it gives quite a bit more freedom to look at other projects for the town to be able to complete those in the near future."

Reed explains the additional grant money will replace the town's loan payment. "The grant money all has to go toward the pool, but we had taken out a loan that would have covered what initially wasn't covered by the grant, but now this will basically replace the loan so we won't have that payment and brings us up year after year."

He explains before the additional funding was announced, raising taxes was a possibility. "We got to a point where we thought we might have to raise taxes in order to pull this project off, but as we got closer and closer toward completing it, we got to the point where we did have an additional money stream coming with a change to the potash tax sharing split, and that extra funding was to be set aside for the foreseeable future to pay off the pool so it was going to be a status quo as far as tax-wise, we were going to have to raise taxes in order to fund the pool, it was just this extra government cashflow that is going to go toward the loan payment. It was impacting us directly, but indirectly now we are able to either look at lowering taxes for some of these other projects that don't need to happen in the foreseeable future—there are always projects that need to get done in a town, but this definitely gives us the freedom to do them sooner rather than later."

Regional facility

Reed says the council is excited to spread the news to surrounding communities in the area.

"We do see this is a regional facility as much as we love having it in Rocanville, we are seeing it as a benefit to the surrounding communities as well. We are able to spread that word internally within the town of Rocanville relatively easily."



Rocanville's new pool, which is set to open this fall.

but on a broader scale, whether that is Facebook or the World-Spectator will help spread that word out to some of the other communities near us.

"I know when I first looked at the area, we did some research on Rocanville before we moved, and seeing that they had an indoor pool called the Four Seasons Aquatic Centre, we were really excited to have a pool that was going to be open all year around. We definitely took advantage of it when my kids were younger growing up with it. It can only be a benefit to everyone in the community and the area. We are definitely going to have an upgrade with this facility, so seeing the possibilities whether that is other communities coming for hockey tournaments and having some spare time in town and able to take advantage of facilities like this. The grant was a gamechanger for us. It was going to be a long term commitment to getting it all paid off and we were fairly committed to doing it without any major increase of taxes which is ultimately looks like what we are going to be able to do. So that is amazing for the community."

He says the project has been funded by many businesses within the area.

"The extra funding did increase up to what we had been looking at for our overall project cost of about \$4.2 million, but of that, it is still only paid out at 73 per cent of that amount so just a little over \$3 million is going to be funded by the government. We did have fundraisers and donations from community businesses that came in ahead of time and for the most part, it looks like the majority of the overall project costs are going to be done, but that still gives us some freedom now before things are finished up to potentially look at getting more things in place for day one type thing. We have been reached out to by our local swim team, the Rocanville Tiger Sharks, about diving blocks, things like that that we can definitely look at still needing fundraising in order to accomplish."

Lots of excitement

Reed says members of the town council were ecstatic after hearing the additional funding awarded to the project.

"We announced it to our current council at our meeting and there were jaws hitting the floor. We had our rec director there and the amount of time we have been putting into this project, she has spent a lot of time and energy getting this project off the ground, and so when you hear that you are being rewarded—so to speak—for the time and energy you have put into it—there was a lot of people that were very excited. We have a younger council this year, but we let our old council know as well because they were very much involved with getting this project off the ground to start with. Everyone is excited and we can't wait to get the word out to more people in the community.

"I am very excited to see the pool open. The time and effort in the refurbishment committee, councils were very much in-

volved with volunteer hours back in the old building to get prepped for demolition. It was kind of sad to see it come down, but definitely to see the progress on the finished project on the new pool—and I've been really lucky to be onsite during construction and see some of the progress, and I am very excited to see it finally open for the community."

He says the pool will have an opening day for the community. "We are going to have a soft opening once it gets to the point where we can use it as a pool—there is all the planning such as emergency plans, training our lifeguards, getting everybody comfortable with the mechanical system and how everything works. It is going to be used as a pool before we have that opening date to the public. We are hoping everything goes well. We want to make sure the facility is working like we foresee it will before we look at doing an opening to the public."

Supports future economic growth

Town Administrator Tanya Standlund says the additional grant money will help the future economic growth of Rocanville. "It's not just this money that affects the



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Moosomin's new water treatment plant is now online and dumping water into the town reservoirs.



Moosomin's new water plant now online

\$5,492,190 federal funding, \$4,576,367 provincial funding went into plant

BY KARA KINNA

Moosomin's new water treatment plant is now online, and according to Mayor Murray Gray, everything is running smoothly and residents should start seeing an improvement in their water quality. The new plant started dumping water into the town reservoir on August 12.

"Everything is running fairly smoothly, there's still some more training that the water treatment plant staff need, but it's going well," said Gray last week. "There have definitely been some challenges as there is with any big project of this magnitude. I certainly have to acknowledge our staff. They have put in long hours and worked very hard in order to get it up and running. They have put a tremendous amount of effort into it."

Moosomin received more than \$10 million in federal and provincial funding in 2022 to help move the project forward—\$5,492,190 in federal funding and \$4,576,367 provincial funding. The funding was approved through the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program and was the largest of 24 Saskatchewan projects approved under the program the week it was announced.

The new water treatment plant can make water for up to 4,400 residents, and allows for the addition of more water storage should that number need to grow.

In addition to making more water, the new plant uses reverse osmosis, meaning people should see a marked improvement in their water quality as well.

"I've talked to people and there has been a difference," says Gray. "I've noticed it in my dishwasher too. My dishwasher is just cleaning much better. There has definitely been some improvement to it."

The hardness of Moosomin's water has been reduced from between 850 and 860 to between 150 and 200.

"The hardness is the biggest thing that people will notice a difference in. The taste of it to drink from the tap is going to taste more like bottled water that you buy in the grocery store or community store. Those are the main differences that you can actually tell. Anything in your home that the water touches will last a lot longer and look a lot better. I think it's going to have a huge benefit to water heaters because water heaters have not lasted very long with our old water and would often go in short periods of time. I think there are long-term benefits to it that are outside of what you would normally think of for new water treatment."

"Any hardness below 200, it's stated that you don't need a water softener at all, so in the meantime I think people are going to turn their softeners down. People will use a lot less salt and if you wanted, you could eventually just get rid of your water softener."

How does Gray feel to see the project finished?

"It's very rewarding to know that we went from a water treatment plant that was at the end of its life, knowing someday if it quits we're in trouble, to having a

state-of-the-art reverse osmosis system so that we have good water in this community for decades. It's pretty impressive. And also for long-term planning and for all of the things when you look to the future, to have that pillar of the community done is a huge benefit, and now we can concentrate on the other things that we need in order to grow."

Still some work left to do

Gray says there is still some finishing work left to do now that the new plant has come online.

"We have to decommission the old side of the plant, and we want to make sure that we are running smoothly to do that, and we also need to decommission the water tower. Right now we are still using the water tower," he says. "We are going to bring the variable pumps online so that the pressure will be from those pumps rather than from the water tower."

"The water tower is staying there as a monument or for recognition purposes, but in time it won't be used."

"So those are the last couple of things we have left to do. I know the timeline for this project went over by quite a ways, but the budget did not, so that is also very good news. Everything has come within the original budget, which is incredible actually considering we went through tariffs and inflation. I am amazed by it every time."

"Every time in the meetings when we

talked about how we seemed to be on budget, then the engineers would quickly say 'You never know what might happen' and they kept warning me, but all the way along we have been right on queue and it's awesome."

Gray says the new water treatment plant also uses a lot of new technology, and there is still some training that the town employees need to undertake, but they have done a lot of work to get ready for the new plant.

"It's not a totally new ball game, but there is a lot to learn," he says. "There are all the different systems that they've got for alarms, and it's much more intricate. There is a lot more communication within the plant as far as everything goes. There's a lot more to it than just making water. One of the things that we can do is work on it remotely as well if we have any issues with it."

"Even the Public Works staff that work outside of the treatment plant, there's lots in order to prepare for this new water hitting the pipes."

"It's been a real team effort for sure for everybody to get to this point, so I have to thank them all very much for their hard work. I just get to tell the story, they're actually rolling their sleeves up and doing the hard work. I just get to tell the story. I don't want the credit. This has been six or seven years in the making. It has involved two different councils and two different mayors, so it has been a team effort for sure."

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NATIONAL DAY OF TRUTH & RECONCILIATION

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

September 30 honours children who never came home

Each year, September 30 marks the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

The day honours the children who never returned home and Survivors of residential schools, as well as their families and communities. Public commemoration of the tragic and painful history and ongoing impacts of residential schools is a vital component of the reconciliation process.

This federal statutory holiday was created through legislative amendments made by Parliament.

Both the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day take place on September 30.

Orange Shirt Day is an Indigenous-led grassroots commemorative day intended to raise awareness of the individual, family and community inter-generational impacts of residential schools, and to promote the concept of "Every Child Matters". The orange shirt is a symbol of the stripping away of culture, freedom and self-esteem experienced by Indigenous children over

generations.

On September 30, we encourage all Canadians to wear orange to honour the thousands of Survivors of residential schools.

Truth and Reconciliation Commission and its calls to action

There were 140 federally run residential schools in Canada that operated between 1867 and 1996. Survivors advocated for recognition and reparations and demanded accountability for the intergenerational impacts of harm caused. Their efforts culminated in:

- the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement
- apologies by the government
- the establishment of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission
- the creation of the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation



The Truth and Reconciliation Commission ran from 2008 to 2015 and provided

those directly or indirectly affected by the legacy of the residential schools policy with an opportunity to share their stories and experiences. The Commission released its final report detailing 94 calls to action. The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation is a direct response to Call to Action 80, which called for a federal statutory day of commemoration.

The National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation has become the permanent archive for the statements, documents and other materials the Commission gathered. Its library and collections, as well as its National Student Memorial Register, are the foundation for ongoing learning and research.

**NATIONAL DAY FOR
TRUTH
AND RECONCILIATION**

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**NATIONAL DAY FOR
TRUTH AND
RECONCILIATION**

OUR FUTURE IS TOGETHER

At Southeast College we encourage our students, staff and the communities that we serve to take time on September 30th to reflect on our shared path on the road toward truth and reconciliation.

All Southeast College Campus locations will be closed on September 30th in honour of National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. We will reopen on Wednesday, October 1st, 2025.

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National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

This day is dedicated to honouring children who never returned home, the survivors of residential schools, and their families and communities. Let's come together to reflect on this tragic history and its ongoing impact so we can move forward in the spirit of reconciliation.



Hon. Daryl Harrison
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MLA for Moosomin-Montmartre
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Hon. Warren Kaeding
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NATIONAL DAY OF TRUTH & RECONCILIATION

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

The Residential Schools Missing Children Community Support Fund

Addressing the ongoing legacy of residential schools remains an urgent priority for the Canadian government. This includes supporting Indigenous communities, organizations and families as they seek to research, locate, and document burial sites associated with former residential schools, as well as to memorialize deaths of children and return children's remains home.

In 2015, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission released its final report and 94 Calls to Action detailing the far-reaching impacts of the residential schools system. The report outlined the significant work to address the ongoing legacy of the residential schools system. This includes work to identify and locate the resting places of children who died while in the care of these institutions.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action 74 to 76 set out an approach to honour missing children and undocumented burial sites of Indian Residential Schools. These include the 140 residential schools in the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement (IRSSA) and 5 residential schools included in the Newfoundland and Labrador Residential Schools Settlement Agreement (Anderson).

The Residential Schools Missing Children Community Support Fund was established in 2021 following an announcement from Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc (previously known as the Kam-

loops Indian Band), that a radar survey near the former Kamloops Indian Residential School had detected 215 anomalies. The objective of the Residential Schools Missing Children Community Support funding stream is to provide support to Indigenous communities and partners to develop and implement community-led initiatives to locate and document burial sites and graves associated with residential schools.

As of March 31, 2025, 161 funding agreements have been put in place providing more than \$246.7 million to Indigenous communities and organizations to support community-led and Survivor-centric initiatives to document, locate and commemorate the children that did not return home and unmarked burial sites associated with former residential schools.

The work to locate missing children and unmarked burial sites associated with former residential schools progresses along a continuum. Knowledge gathering and archival research about missing children and non-invasive fieldwork to locate potential unmarked burial sites is necessary before work can begin on exhumation, identification and, if it is the wish of families, repatriation of remains.

To access funding, you must be:

- Indigenous governments, band councils or tribal councils, or its delegated authorities
- an Indigenous not-for-profit organi-

zation or group

• organizations, including Survivor groups, demonstrating a close working partnership with and directed by Indigenous-governed organizations

As children from multiple home communities attended the same residential

school, groups coming together with joint proposals for individual Indian Residential Schools are encouraged to consult with each other on their proposed initiatives where appropriate. This consultation is intended to avoid a potential duplication of efforts.

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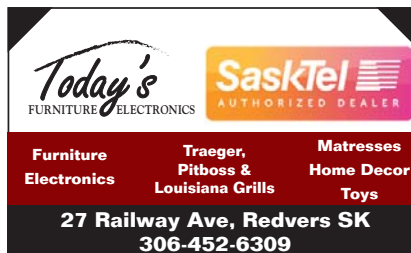
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The musical originated out of Edmonton, is recently off-Broadway and has just announced plans for a film adaptation.



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Above left: A digital rendering of the UFA cardlock and bulk fuel location looking south to Celebration Drive.

Above right: A rendering of what the site would look like from the Trans-Canada Highway.

Moosomin starts rezoning process for UFA cardlock

BY KARA KINNA

At their meeting on August 20, Moosomin town council passed a motion to start the rezoning process on land at 1814 Celebration Drive to accommodate a UFA cardlock and bulk fuel facility at that location. The land needs to be rezoned from commercial to industrial in order to accommodate the cardlock.

The decision was made after council sat down with representatives from UFA at the meeting on Wednesday to get more details on the project.

The town also received several letters of support for the project—one from Tyler Thorn, the owner of Celebration Ford, and one from resident Jeff Cole.

Council also heard some concerns at the meeting from Aaron Grandguillot, the owner of Skout Brewing, who also attended the meeting to listen to the UFA presentation. Skout Brewing is located directly across from the land where the cardlock and bulk fuel facility would be located.

Council decided that starting the rezoning process would allow for all parties to have their say through the rezoning process that is required.

The UFA reps that council met with included Steven Marshall, Director of Saskatchewan Petroleum with UFA, and Craig Marriot, Saskatchewan Area Manager for UFA fuels. Council had invited UFA to the meeting to hear more about the project.

Marshall said UFA was excited to be moving into Saskatchewan and coming to Moosomin.

"We look at Saskatchewan as being the land of opportunity from the agriculture perspective particularly," said Marshall.

He said over the next five years UFA was looking to continue to build sites and expand in Saskatchewan.

"We want to be good corporate citizens, we were excited to come to Moosomin. We opened Yorkton and Weyburn in 2023 and at the time we were looking at opportunity in Moosomin. We picked a piece of property and there was uncertainty from Sask Highways about if there would be changes at that location, so we stepped back and took a pause and looked for a new site.

"This is not a flash in the pan. We want to come into Saskatchewan and do the right thing and build facilities that are here for generations

"We believe that Moosomin being on the Trans-Canada Highway and with the strong ag and commercial businesses you have in this community, that Moosomin is a good place to be."

"There has been a large demand from the community to build in Moosomin," said Craig Marriot.

Marshall added that when UFA built their location in Weyburn, they had people approach them at that time about building a site in Moosomin.

If the rezoning is successful, the new UFA site would start with three fuel storage tanks, and could have up to five tanks as the site matures.

"We don't want to build a 25 tank farm. We would rather have adequate fuel to serve the community and have fresh fuel," said Marshall.

The five-acre site would also include a small retail building, washrooms, showers, and a cold-storage lubricant warehouse.

The site would be run by a petroleum agent who would be an independent contractor who would hire their own staff and use their own fuel trucks and run the site following UFA's policies and procedures.

"We want to make sure it's in a location that is suitable for the community and will not interfere with someone else's business," said Marshall, recognizing that the site was across from Skout Brewing.

Both UFA reps gave Grandguillot their cards before leaving the meeting, so that he could discuss any concerns with them, and they made the comment that they would be willing to work to accommodate any concerns.

After the UFA delegation Grandguillot told council that he feels having UFA is overall good for Moosomin, but also has some concerns with a growing restaurant and burgeoning restaurant across the road from the site.

He said he would put his concerns into writing, but

would also consider working with UFA and the town to address those concerns.

A public hearing will be held as part of the rezoning process.

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Envision Counselling coming to Moosomin

BY ASHLEY BOCHEK

Envision Counselling offers therapeutic and support services all over Southeast Saskatchewan and is coming to Moosomin and Rocanville soon.

Raven Daer, the communications specialist for Envision Counselling explains the business's history serving Southeast Saskatchewan.

"Envision is a non-profit based organization. We serve all of Southeast Saskatchewan providing therapeutic counselling and support services to individuals, couples, and families, essentially anyone going through a tough time or experiencing violence or abuse within their lives."

Moosomin and Rocanville will be part of an extension of Envision Counselling's Rapid Access Counselling.

"Within Moosomin it is going to be our Rapid Access Counselling program that we are offering," explains Daer. "So this is a readily accessible program for folks who are maybe not wanting to commit to counselling long term or who maybe are just going through a rough patch within their lives and they need some support within the moment. This can also be for children, youth, and their caregivers as well as any folks who are maybe just having some issues that they are struggling with either at home or that sort of thing."

All over Southeast Saskatchewan

Daer lists the different surrounding communities Envision Counselling is located in.

"We have been serving Southeast Saskatchewan for over 30 years now and



we have six base office locations within the Southeast. We provide services out of Weyburn, Estevan, Carlyle, Oxbow, and soon to be Moosomin and Rocanville as well. It is pretty amazing. We serve a population of over 50,000 individuals and now that we are encompassing the Moosomin-Rocanville area, we are actually growing that number so this is really fantastic for us—knowing that we are able to provide supports all across Southeast Saskatchewan to as many people who potentially need it."

She says people in the area expressed the need for counselling services to Envision during a collaborative discussion.

"We had received a number of requests whether it be phone calls, emails, or even responses on surveys that we have put out within the Southeast over the last couple of years. After assessing the demand for services, we decided to come out and host a focus group out there. So we were there a few months ago hosting that focus group and trying to get a sense of what the community needs in terms

of services, and we thought that this is a great opportunity for us to expand as it seemed like there was a need for the services that we provide within the area."

Daer adds their counselling is funded provincially. "Our Rapid Access Counselling receives funding through some of our government funders. We also rely heavily on donations and sponsorships throughout the Southeast so that is essentially what allows us to continue to grow and meet the needs of our communities."

"I do believe this is just an expansion within our current Rapid Access program. I know we are in partnership with Family Service Saskatchewan providing this service. It very well could be then that actually helped us out with that funding as well."

Hours in Moosomin

Daer explains the hours Envision Counselling will be open in Moosomin.

"We are going to be there four days a week, the hours are to be determined right now as we are still seeking the suc-

cessful candidate to come and be our counsellor out there. Once we have secured our counsellor we will be able to advertise those hours and what that will look like within the community."

Envision Counselling will post updates once services are available in Moosomin and Rocanville on social media.

"We will have all of it posted across our social media and it will also be on our website too."

Counsellor needed in area

Envision Counselling is looking for a counsellor to serve the Moosomin and Rocanville area.

"We honestly just need help getting the word out there, we are having a little bit of trouble finding a counselor," explains Daer. "We do need the specific candidate to be a registered social worker, but if there is anyone out there who loves to make a meaningful impact within their community, help folks be happier, healthier selves. Send them our way, we are definitely still accepting applicants and we are hopeful that we will be able to start opening up there soon."

"As soon as we hire someone, we would love to hit the ground running and get started once our training period is complete. We were hopeful to be out there already, but we haven't found anyone to fill that position yet."

Find out more about Envision Counselling in Moosomin and Rocanville on their social media pages:

Facebook: Envision Counselling & Support Centre

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Minister Carr visits Moosomin, Grenfell

Continued from front

Do you think some of those things you mentioned could be replicated in other communities?

I really do think it could be replicated, we had one of the managers there today that looks after the southeast corner of Saskatchewan such as Estevan and Weyburn. I'd love to see what's happening here in Moosomin be replicated in Estevan, and the fact that we have some common staff that see that happening, I think there's an opportunity.

Do you think it's important to get out to communities like Grenfell and Moosomin in your role as Minister of Rural Health?

I think going out to communities and

meeting the people where they're at is the most important, because you can't truly understand what they're talking about if you're sitting at a desk in Regina. So going out and meeting those frontline workers and hearing their concerns, you know people were very frank with me about what they'd like to see more of in long-term care. The recreational division, they feel like they're understaffed and don't have enough hours with the residents. It was really good input I got today. Hearing that was really good and that woman was so passionate. I wouldn't have seen that if I was at a desk in Regina, so absolutely getting out to facilities and hearing from frontline workers is very important.

What did you think of your tour today?

Every time I come to Moosomin it's pretty interesting! It's really heartening to see, because the community aspect of Moosomin just shines through. If we could replicate even a little bit of what's happening here in other parts of Saskatchewan, it would make a big difference. There are a lot of great communities doing great things, but what I'm seeing is that everyone is doing really well here. It's always nice to come. Even just seeing all of the businesses, such as the Cork and Bone where we went for lunch, it's such a quaint little bistro with a great atmosphere. You could find that in Regina or Saskatoon, but here it is in Moosomin! It's always a really nice place to visit.

What do you think was the most important thing you learned on your visit?

I think one of the most important things I've learned today was, the community-based organizations are very passionate about the services and programs they want here, and they are willing to do the work to bring them here! A prime example being the airport project; the expansion of the runway and bringing those services here to Moosomin. We're just talking healthcare now and it has that same passion. I think that in dealing with community-based organizations here, they're very respectful. They may not get what they want the first time around, but they always want to understand and learn how they can do better. They're very polite and respectful if they get a no, and they work harder and try again. It's a very nice community and always a great place to visit.

Mosaic invests \$35M for spring turnaround work at Esterhazy sites

BY RYAN KIEDROWSKI
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

It was a busy spring for Mosaic at their potash mine sites in the Esterhazy area, and even more impressive is the fact that through 72,000-plus hours worked, no lost time injuries were reported.

"We had a K2 turnaround from May 18 to June 7, we also had a K1 turn around from June 1 to June 22," said Bernie Boutin, Mosaic's Director of Capital at Esterhazy K3. "And K3 had a partial turnaround over that period of time as well, between May 18 and June 22."

There were more than 400 contractors on site at all three locations, which Boutin noted is quite beneficial to the local economy.

"It was a very busy time, and we had day shift, night shift for all sites doing the turnaround work," he said. "It's a good number for our community, it keeps things busy in town. Our communities do a good job supporting these extra people that come to work in our area."

Whenever possible, local expertise is used for the annual turnaround projects, which is when critical maintenance and repairs take place.

"Generally, it's the local contractors that are always available for the mines, and then we get the larger, more remote contractors from the cities as well," Boutin explained. "Some jobs you right size it because for smaller jobs, generally the local contractors are interested in those, but we do have some of our larger contractors that like tackling the large construction project type jobs, which entails millwrights, welders, iron

workers, pipe fitters, electricians. We had a variety of those types of jobs—smaller scale ones and some large scale ones."

While not as high-volume as previous years in terms of the number of contractors involved, this year's turnaround did note a healthy monetary investment in local Mosaic assets.

"Over \$35 million invested in material, supplies and services—it's a big number," Boutin said. "That relates to 400-plus workers and over 72,000 person hours of work, so it's good for the community. That means we're supporting companies as well as they're assisting with us on executing the turnaround projects."

With the shift to an earlier turnaround in Esterhazy, idle and turnaround expenses for Mosaic rose \$16 million, but is anticipated to decline in the third quarter.

As for the turnaround being free from work injuries, Boutin listed a few factors that make a big difference.

"The key there is the safe

onboarding of contractors, the pre-job planning," he said. "That's what helps us be successful with not having injuries. Our presence in the field, in the regular contractor meetings, making sure they have good safe work procedures, and they're following that. Lots has to happen for good safety results, and that's our focus."

One big project of note was the commissioning of the Hydrofloat project at the K2 mill. Adding the new hydrofloat circuit was delayed due to supply chain issues back when the Covid pandemic hit, but the completion target of mid-2025 proved to be a bullseye.

"We're still doing wet commissioning of that circuit, so it's kind of like a partial ramp up as we do wet conditioning," Boutin explained. "So it's not up to full rates, but it is in the throes of wet commissioning, and that will allow us to make another 400,000 tons of production at the K2 mill."



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The Administrator is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Village in accordance with The Municipalities Act and other applicable legislation, as well as policies and bylaws established by Council. As the primary liaison between Council, ratepayers, the Administrator plays a key role in ensuring professional, effective, and transparent municipal operations.

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For inquiries, please contact Councillor Tresley Arnason (306) 740-7810

Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. We thank all applicants for their interest in this position; only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

49-1c



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Moosomin DQ raises \$41,210 on Miracle Treat Day

Continued from Page 2

Morgan and Heather Kerr spent time going door to door at local businesses in some of the surrounding towns, asking for orders. Morgan says she was surprised by how many people simply did not realize the impact that Miracle Treat Day has for the children's hospital.

"We thought getting a phone call from somebody saying, 'I'm selling Blizzards, will you buy some, can I have your credit card number?' might be a little weird," she said, noting the importance of meeting in-person. "We spent two full days in Esterhazy just stopping in businesses and talking to people about what Miracle Treat Day was, and honestly, probably 75 per cent of the people—not just in Esterhazy, but the other communities we were in as well—had no idea what Miracle Treat Day was and what it was about."

Pre-ordering Blizzards has been a big help as well, allowing the Moosomin location to prepare for large orders such as those from both the local Mosaic and Nutrien potash mines.

"We start about a week before, and Borderland Co-op is most generous in letting us use some of their freezer space," Joanne explained. "We've had literally hundreds of milk crates filled with Blizzards starting the week before yesterday."

Local dignitaries including Mayor Murray Gray and Moosomin-Montmartre MLA Kevin Weedmark were on-hand to help make Blizzards.

"We had a number of volunteers that have also been patients at the hospital in Saskatoon, which was really nice," Joanne said. "It's such a good feeling to know that you're part of a great organization that helps brave kids when they need it the most."

According to Morgan's estimate, 50 volunteers helped with the campaign working in and out of the restaurant.

"The pharmacies—Kari's Pharmacy and Moosomin Pharmasave—they were delivering Blizzards for us here in town," she said. "We had drivers all over the place. We had three different drivers to Esterhazy—one to the mine and two to Esterhazy, Langenburg, and Churchbridge."

Over \$100,000 raised over five years

Moosomin DQ has raised over \$100,000 over five years



Jim Pattison Hospital ambassadors Blaze Dunn and Finn Penner with DQ staff member Isla Diamond at Moosomin DQ on Miracle Treat Day.

with Miracle Treat Day.

All of the money raised from Dairy Queen restaurants across the province stays in the province.

"One hundred per cent of the net proceeds from every Dairy Queen Blizzard stays here in Saskatchewan, so it goes to Jim Pattison Children's Hospital and the kids and families who are staying there," explained Michelle Busa, Communications Director with the JPCHF. "Last year, we raised \$249,000 across those 53 locations, so a huge thank you to Dairy Queen for their partnership."

Busa was once again bolstered by the support Miracle Treat Day has shown—especially as she got to see the faces of kids at the hospital light up during the special day.

"They're amazing, and they give generously to the kids in hospital," she said of Dairy Queen. "We just finished handing out a bunch of Blizzards to kids who are staying in hospital and are unable to leave today to get their ice cream treat."

The money is placed in a general fund so the Jim Pat-

tison Children's Hospital Foundation can devote the resources to a variety of needs.

"Every dollar goes towards supporting children and moms-to-be at Jim Pattison Children's Hospital," Busa said. "Last year, the hospital had 83,000 children and moms-to-be visit from across 575 Saskatchewan communities, so it truly is a provincial hospital, and is our province's only maternal and paediatric specialized hospital, so it serves all four corners of the province."

Even with the healthcare system in the province that covers a lot of costs, the funding need for hospitals is still strong.

"Saskatchewan pays for health care, but there's a lot of things they can't," Morgan said. "There's only so much money, and it helps buy life-saving equipment. It's important to give back and give back to our communities. Now that we have the airport here in Moosomin, the air ambulance goes directly there (Jim Pattison Children's Hospital)."

Over the past 23 years, Children's Miracle Network Canada has been able to raise \$54 million for children's hospitals across the country.



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Harrison known for his decades of work serving rural Saskatchewan

A man known for decades of rural leadership—Sinclair Harrison, known to most as “Sinc”—passed away on August 28.

Harrison was elected to the RM of Moosomin council in 1974, became reeve two years later, and served the RM for 30 years. He was elected to the SARM board in 1986, became president in 1994, serving eight years as SARM president.

Harrison was most proud of his role in stopping the forced amalgamation of municipalities that the former government had attempted.

He made a historic contribution to Saskatchewan in his work on SARM’s land claims committee, helping pave the way for land purchases for both treaty land entitlement and specific land claims.

Harrison was involved in bringing one of the first wind farms to Saskatchewan, forming the Farmer Rail Car Coalition, served on the action committee on the ru-

ral economy, chaired the Hudson Bay Route Association, and ensured the Trans Canada Trail was completed across Saskatchewan.

In 2009, Harrison was inducted into the Saskatchewan Agriculture Hall of Fame.

In the fall of 2024, Harrison was honored at the Saskatchewan Legislature for his work serving rural Saskatchewan.

The Premier, the Deputy Premier, the Highways Minister, and Moosomin-Montmartre MLA Kevin Weedmark, introduced Harrison in the house. Weedmark gave a member statement on Harrison which got a standing ovation for Harrison from both sides of the house.

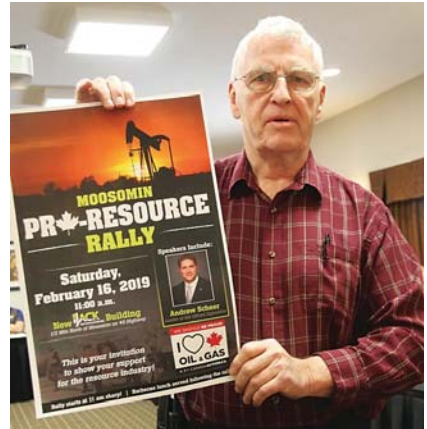
That same day, Harrison was presented with a King Charles III Coronation Medal.

Harrison passed away quietly surrounded by family on Thursday morning. His funeral will be in Regina on Saturday, September 13 at the Conexus Arts Centre.

Left: Sinclair Harrison with family and colleagues in the Legislative Library in the fall of 2024 after Sinc was honored in the house.

Above: Sinclair Harrison receiving the King Charles III Coronation Medal.

Below: Sinclair Harrison promoting a pro-resource rally in Moosomin in 2019.



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Moosomin Shriners holding Wings & Winners fundraiser

BY KARA KINNA

After 13 years of hosting large annual fall concert events, the Moosomin Shrine Club have decided to do something different as their annual fundraiser this year, and will be hosting at Wings & Winners fundraiser on Friday, October 24 at the Moosomin Sportsplex.

The fundraiser will consist of 100 tickets sold for \$100. For that \$100 you will get all you can eat wings that night, plus a shot at winning 12 large prizes.

The prizes range from Pipestone Hills Golf Club package for a golf party to hind quarters of beef, a generator, a smoker, a Winnipeg Jets package and \$500 worth of daycare.

The grand prize is a travel package for anywhere WestJet flies plus a \$5,000 ground package for a trip valued at between \$7,000 and \$8,000 depending on where you choose to go.

Proceeds from the fundraiser will be split

between Playfair Daycare for their new daycare building in Moosomin, as well as the Shrine Club's patient travel fund.

There will also be a silent auction, 50/50 draw that night and live entertainment.

For those who just want to come out and enjoy the evening without a shot at the big prizes, \$25 tickets will also be on sale. Each \$25 ticket gets you all you can eat wings, and the chance to bid on the silent auction or participate in the 50/50 draw, as well as enjoy the live entertainment.

Moosomin Shrine Club member Bill Thorn said last week the club felt it was time to change things up.

"Our club has fewer members and older members, and we are trying to hold something we can handle better," he says. "Also it's very expensive to bring entertainment in that appeals to a lot of different people. I think we've done 13 of those concerts so we thought it was time to change."

Continued on page 39



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Plain & Valley

September 2025 • Page 21

Covering Southeast Saskatchewan and Southwest Manitoba



Peyton Glass photo

Community Acres south of Moosomin along the number 8 highway.

Community Acres: Local farmers organize community crop for future fundraising projects

BY ASHLEY BOCHKE

Local farmers have formed Community Acres to help fundraising projects and opportunities in Moosomin.

The group rents farmland south of town along the Number 8 Highway.

Organizer Jeff Skulmoski explains the idea behind Community Acres.

"We are growing a crop, selling it, and then we are going to donate the money toward recreational projects within the community. It is called Community Acres. We have 125 acres, three small fields, and everything has been donated on it so far."

Skulmoski says the harvested crop will help support local projects. "We are going to help certain projects finish and hopefully down the road complete projects ourselves. We want to be part of the many groups in town that do help fundraise for projects in our community, and this way we will be able to help raise a significant amount of money. We want to work together with other fundraising groups, we want them to start a project, and help them continue and finish it. We want to take on larger projects ourselves which might take more than a year to fundraise for as well, but we want to support local ideas and projects."

Community Acres is renting land from local farmers south of town.

"The land is being rented from Levi Jamieson and Keith Turpie," said Skulmoski. "We are renting that land and they are giving us a donation back once the crop is

off and all of the other inputs to grow the crop—which is a lot of money—has all been donated."

Support needed for harvest

Skulmoski says the group is looking for support to help harvest the crop this coming fall.

"Being the farmer and growing the crop you never know how much you make off of it until you're done. We are hoping to net about \$50,000 off of it. Parrish and Heimbecker have been huge and have really stepped up. They've donated the fertilizer. We've had others—Corteva and BASF—they've all given us some product to grow this crop. It is basically going to be all profit."

"Right now, we are looking and searching for some volunteers to harvest the crop and we are trying to figure out where to deliver the crop and at what price. Prices fluctuate every day. We are growing canola. The easy part is growing the crop and we are looking forward to see how it goes."

Local farmers volunteering

Skulmoski lists some of the local farmers helping with Community Acres, "Murray and Mark Bruce, and their farm operation—they planted the crop. Kyren Foy has done some spraying. My farm has done some spraying on it as well. The harvesting we are not quite sure who is going to do that yet. I am not too concerned we will find some people that will help."

"It has been great. It has been super easy so far. The hard part is knowing where to spend the money."

Supporting Terry Lynd Basketball Court

Skulmoski explains for this first year of Community Acres some of the funding will go toward completing Terry Lynd Basketball Court.

"We are going to know the actual number on the Terry Lynd Basketball Court here soon and we are probably going to give some money from our crop to that project to finish it off. We are just getting the signage made up and ready for the court, and we have a few cement pillars to put into place. We are concerned with the outside of the court with the mud and the gravel. We would love to do something down the road to keep the mud off the court because our court is used by kids and they run on and off, but this idea and group is what things like that are for—to help community projects get done. So this project will help complete the court and then we are off to the next one."

Skulmoski explains the group's support in helping fund a dog park this year.

"We are talking about completing a dog park this year in Bradley Park. Every year we are going to carry on. As long as we have the land to rent that is the hardest part and the number one thing—we need the land. As of right now, I think we are going to continue to carry on doing this every year."

Continued on page 34



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Kevin Weedmark took this photo of a wheat field south of Moosomin.



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Young Innovators: USask researchers giving canola producers never-before-seen insight into their crops

Golden fields of canola flourishing against a bright blue sky might just be the quintessential image of a Saskatchewan summer. With 12 million acres of canola grown across the province every year, the crop's delicate yellow flowers are a common and beautiful sight on any given Prairie highway.

By ERIN MATTHEWS

To get a bigger picture of canola's growth cycle, University of Saskatchewan (USask) graduate student Hansanee Fernando is turning her attention towards the sky, past the whips of cotton clouds, and into space, where she is harnessing satellite imagery to help canola producers monitor and grow healthy crops.

"My PhD work aims to support farmers by identifying key growth stages and estimating yields, or how much the crop will produce, early on," said Fernando. "I'm hoping to empower farmers to make informed decisions and optimize their management practices while potentially reducing costs, within the growing season."

To achieve this, Fernando is collecting images from open-source satellites and using these to map large scales sections of farmland across Western Canada. While optical satellite imaging is a commonly used technique that captures clear, crisp pictures of the Earth below—like you'd see on an online map—there are certain limitations that prevent researchers from collecting certain types of data using these satellites. Fernando, instead, is using radar images on top of optical images, a promising technique in agricultural mapping that can catch complementary details over large areas of land.

"Using radar for agriculture is relatively new and with it we can see the whole picture, not just the colour of crops, but also the structure of the crops grown," said Fernando. "Optical imaging doesn't work well in rain or cloud cover, while radar can penetrate through the clouds to give you the full picture. So, you could capture 10 out of 10 images with radar while with optical you may only get three out of 10 on a cloudy day."

According to Fernando, she is the first at USask using this kind of imaging for crop monitoring on a larger scale which allows her to gather insights for farmers like key growth stages of their canola crops, such as when a field is flowering, and even estimates on how much the crop could produce before the end of the growing season.



USask graduate student Hansanee Fernando is using satellite imagery to help canola producers monitor their crops.

"Once I've collected all the data, I want to design an app that would allow farmers to zoom in onto their field and be able to identify the day their canola started flowering or see other information that's important for them," said Fernando.

Fernando said her research, and the app that she plans to develop from it, would benefit not only producers but municipalities and crop insurance companies, who would be able to use the same data to help process claims after damaging storms or droughts.

Fernando's passion for agriculture first started at home in Sri Lanka, where she finished her undergraduate degree.

Now, as a PhD candidate in the College of Agriculture and Bioresources, Fernando is a part of USask's Agronomic Crop Imaging (ACI) team. ACI uses precision agriculture

techniques like unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) technology and machine learning to tackle complex agricultural challenges. The ACI lab is run by Fernando's supervisor, Dr. Steve Shirtliffe (PhD).

"Dr. Shirtliffe was one of the main reasons I chose to continue my PhD here," said Fernando. "His mentorship aligned perfectly with my goals and passion for remote

"The University of Saskatchewan's reputation as one of the top universities for agricultural research inspired me to apply for a master's program here and I was impressed at how advanced and well-resourced the Department of Plant Sciences was, it far exceeded my expectations."

— Hansanee Fernando

sensing in agriculture and his guidance and expertise have been instrumental in shaping my researcher and career."

The future is bright for Fernando, who plans to continue exploring her interests and passion in learning and research after completing her PhD. Beyond her work in agriculture, Fernando has a passion for reading and dreams of writing a book one day, to share her experiences and knowledge and inspire others to pursue their passions.

"Whether in academia or industry, my ultimate goal is to work in a field where I can analyze images and data. As long as I can keep solving problems and uncovering insights, I feel fulfilled in my journey," said Fernando. "I want to keep doing work that can help farmers. I work closely with many producers, and they are so excited about the work I am doing and it makes me feel good knowing I am having an impact."




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Second farm, distant location: Can it be done?

Brian and Louise knew from an early age that their children, Isaac and Emma, aspired to be the seventh generation of their family to farm. They also knew the existing operation was not large enough to support three families if both children chose to farm full time. They started thinking about this when the kids were young because they felt that a transition to the next generation would start earlier than it did with their parents. With land prices at record highs, they needed a creative plan that allowed their children to farm if they chose to.

Expanding north: A strategic decision to secure the future

When an opportunity arose to purchase land two hours north at half the price of local land, they discussed it as a family and decided to proceed. With guidance from their banker, accountant and lawyer, they set up a second corporation to hold the new land and make dividing the farm business between their children easier. In hindsight, this also proved helpful in allowing them to better benchmark the success of each operation, which was a huge benefit in decision-making.

Initially, the new land was rented out when the children were teenagers. It wasn't feasible to move equipment to both locations for a small acreage. The logistics of getting labour in two places at once were too much. Over time, they acquired more land at the second location. When Isaac and Emma began driving, it became feasible for the family's time and energy to be split between the operations.

They set up a second corporation to make dividing the farm business between their children easier.

The children were able to expand the new farm more rapidly than their home operation and eventually grew it to a comparable size. At that point, it made sense financially and logistically to start farming it themselves.

Capitalizing on differences

The differences in growing seasons between the locations allowed planting to be spread over a more extended period. By choosing seed varieties with appropriate maturities, they could effectively spread harvest timing across locations. Most years, they were able to finish seasonal tasks for each crop at the home operation before moving to the new one.

While land was less expensive in the new location, equipment was not. Moving all their equipment between the operations would be time-consuming, stressful and costly. However, having two full equipment fleets was also expensive and tied up a lot of capital. In the end, they settled on having a complete set of planting and tillage

equipment at both locations. Their grain trucks moved between locations, and a custom operator sprayed at the north location.

Balancing logistics

In the early years, Brian spent a lot of time at the new operation, setting it up to his satisfaction, clearing and tilling and working on the buildings and equipment. He built strong relationships with many neighbours and suppliers in the area. It took trial and error and advice from local farmers to learn the different agronomy realities. Initially, there was some resistance and curiosity from the locals, but the family worked hard to overcome that.

Growing into roles

Having two locations allowed Isaac and Emma to grow into their respective roles and responsibilities. After college, Emma returned to the farm full time, while Isaac already worked off the farm part time.

It evolved to the point where Brian and Emma spent a lot of time at the new farm learning the logistics and agronomy details together. Eventually, Emma took ownership of a lot of the decisions there. This arrangement also allowed Isaac to flourish. With Dad less present, he took a more active role in the management at the home farm.

Louise managed the financial and administrative tasks for both locations and corporations. She was careful to ensure that the two operations were kept as separate as possible. Crops were marketed to different locations and expenses were paid by the appropriate entity. Both locations had their own accounts for government programs and crop insurance. While the bank required some guarantees from the original operation to fund the initial acquisitions, they were able to keep all borrowing tied to each location. Having two corporations was critical to maintaining this segregation.

Challenges pay off, opportunities realized

Expanding through a second location wasn't easy. Brian and Emma spent a lot of time and money driving between the operations. Family and social functions were often missed because it wasn't always possible to come home for just a few hours. Planning and time management were crucial.

However, expanding further north has provided a financial opportunity that wouldn't have been possible otherwise. There were logistical, operational, financial and social challenges, but today, the new operation is

generating as much cash flow per acre as the home operation.

The original objective was to create an opportunity for both children to farm. More than 10 years since they started the plan, Brian and Louise are confident they've succeeded. They now have an option for one family to live at the second location or continue operating it as they are now. A third option is to sell it and capitalize on the growth to reinvest at home.



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Why are we trading our breadbasket for a battery pack?

Canada's agri-food sector is being used as collateral in unrelated industrial policy fights

China's announcement this week of a 75.8% tariff on Canadian canola seed, effective Thursday, is not an isolated policy shift—it's the latest escalation in a trade conflict that Ottawa itself helped set in motion.

Earlier this year, on March 20, Beijing imposed 100% tariffs on Canadian canola oil, canola meal, and peas, along with an additional 25% on lobster and pork. These measures were already weighing on our agri-food exports.

The catalyst for this latest blow came in September 2024, when the federal government moved to impose 100% duties on Chinese electric vehicles (EVs), aligning itself with Washington's protectionist stance to safeguard the North American EV market. Days later, China launched an anti-dumping investigation into Canadian canola, culminating in this preliminary 75.8% duty—collected as a deposit—while a final ruling is still pending.

Let's be clear: There is no dumping of Canadian canola into China. Dumping implies selling at prices below production costs or below those in the home or other export markets, typically to capture market share unfairly. Canada's canola market is highly transparent and globally competitive—these allegations are without merit. What China is doing is strategic—they know canola's economic and symbolic weight in Canada.

The very name "canola" comes from "Canada Oil," a 1970s innovation that transformed rapeseed into a high-value, versatile oilseed crop. It is both an economic powerhouse—worth \$43 billion annually—and an emblem



Sylvain Charlebois

of Canadian agricultural ingenuity. By targeting canola, Beijing isn't just disrupting trade—it's striking at the heart of Canada's agri-food brand.

The timing is no accident. With harvest just weeks away, farmers have little capacity to pivot to alternative buyers. Australia may pick up some of China's demand, but it cannot replace Canada's supply capacity. This means the immediate economic pain—falling prices, reduced revenues, and likely losses—will be felt disproportionately by Canadian farmers. What might have been a break-even year is now a probable deficit for many producers.

The backdrop to all of this is Ottawa's high-stakes bet on the EV sector. Despite nearly \$50 billion in combined federal and provincial investments, Canada's EV industry is faltering. Sales are dropping, mandates are clashing with market realities, and major projects are delayed or shelved. Without a significant acceleration in charging infrastructure, policy recalibration, and restored in-

vestor confidence, the sector risks collapse.

The federal government's trade stance is effectively protecting a fragile EV industry at the expense of a robust and profitable canola sector. One is speculative and policy-driven, the other is market-proven and globally competitive. The policy choice here should be obvious: Canada must either adjust its EV tariff position toward China or carve out exemptions to protect agricultural exports. Beijing has made its expectations clear.

This latest dispute is part of a broader pattern of trade isolation. In the past year alone, three major economies—China, India, and the United States—have imposed or escalated measures against Canada's agri-food sector. India has maintained tariffs on lentils and other pulses since mid-2024, the U.S. continues to levy higher duties on softwood lumber, steel, aluminum, and certain agricultural products, and CUSMA disputes are adding non-tariff friction.

The lesson is simple: Canada is more geopolitically isolated today than at any point in recent memory. Our agri-food sector is being used as collateral in unrelated industrial policy fights. Unless the federal government recalibrates its trade strategy, Canadian farmers will keep paying the price for political decisions made far from their fields.

Dr. Sylvain Charlebois is Director of the Agri-Food Analytics Lab at Dalhousie University, co-host of The Food Professor Podcast and Visiting Scholar at McGill University.

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It's harvest time in Saskatchewan!

It is perfectly still. The campfire brightens the darkness that is all around us, its orange glow warm and welcoming. The sky reveals a star or two above us. It is a beautiful night, this mid-August, pre-harvest night, our first back at the farm camping near the old shop as we prepare for the harvest that is just around the corner. It's darker sooner now, reminding us that we are truly entering into the fall season. And as the night grows darker, the stars fill the sky in a remarkable display of the beauty of creation.

The twins (14) join us around the fire. They have been busy keeping the lawn and farmyard trimmed up but be-moaning the breakdown of the tractor and tiller that they so faithfully use. It's always a somewhat bittersweet time of year as we approach the third week of August. It will mean a loss of those wonderful summer days filled with farm work, golfing and fishing for these young fellows but a gain of seeing and being with friends every day at school. For this Grandma, I miss seeing them around the farm but I'm guessing I'm going to see them lots during noon hours in town as well as suppers in the field!

Speaking of suppers in the field, I have done a bit of work on my six-week menu, 'bit' being the key word here. Very little work on it might mean a repeat of my scant two weeks of menus over and over again. Sigh.

Our last adventure of the season saw us taking one last trip of the year up north to our son and his family's fishing camp. As we headed up towards Flin Flon, MB, we listened to a Whitewood Museum podcast hosted by our niece (Museum employee) featuring our son talking about farming, his chosen occupation. I feared he might be too honest as in, "My mom always told me never to farm," but he said it much more gracefully than that and when asked what stories he remembered about life on his farm that his mother had put into a "Down on the Farm" book (essentially a compilation of these columns), he didn't respond with, "She wrote a book?" Whew! Worried for nothing!!

In the podcast they spoke about cattle farming and grain farming and how things have changed over the past 25/30 years in the world of agriculture—the challenges, the opportunities, the changes and the way of life it is for those who love agriculture. Yes, it's a lot of hard work, but the rewards, though not always financially, are worth every minute of it.

Our up-north trip in early August was more than we could have ever asked for. We fished and we painted cabins and we cooked and we ate and we hiked and just had the best time ever. I am not sure our son was all that im-

The Lighter Side of Life... DOWN ON THE FARM

by donna beutler
FREELANCE PHOTOJOURNALIST
dl_beutler@yahoo.ca



pressed with the load of curtain rods I took into camp on our boat ride across the lake but in the end, hubby and I installed new curtains in every cabin. Now they may not match or speak "up north" exactly, but they are blackouts and by my estimation, one hundred times better than what was there before.

As someone who doesn't actually fish, I decided I would tackle my fear of riding in the little 'tin' boat and get out there and learn to actually fish. Wyatt was the most patient teacher of all time as we headed out across the lake (okay, across the bay). My first catch was a log and the second was a rock. Sadly, the rock won and I lost said grandson's leader and hook and had my first lesson in what not to do. The bonus was I didn't fall in the water which is something that would totally freak me out, so fearful am I.

The burned-out forest surrounding Pine Point Lodge as we hiked along and up to the top of the cliffs was a reminder of the devastation that fire brings; the lone purple flower growing amongst the blackened trees also represented the new life and new growth that those forests will eventually see.

One of our adventures took us to a sand bar a few miles away from camp, and again, dodging my fear of jumping into water (albeit only knee-deep water) allowed me to enjoy some great times with the family, tubing, catching minnows in their hands, and ewwww, leeches too, picnicking on the pontoon boat and just enjoying the sunshine, the company and the laughs, including our youngest granddaughter's question out at the sandbar, surrounded by water: "Where can I wash my hands?" I think it is fair to say the grands had a blast

and Grams loved every minute of her time there, with one exception . . .

The farm grands had taken their one-year-old pup up to camp. The afternoon before our departure, I had been feeding pup some yogurt-covered raisins, not knowing grapes and raisins are toxic for dogs. So, when she went missing (more likely in a dead sleep somewhere) that night and didn't respond to our calls for her, I was certain I had been instrumental in her demise. Fortunately, she was alive and well and come morning, she happily hopped aboard the boat and then back at Cranberry Portage's dock, she had the privilege of being the first dog ever to get to ride in Grandpa's half-ton. Gramps looked a bit skeptical but when he saw puppy laying on her blanket with her nose pressed to that a/c vent on the back of the console, he had to agree (well perhaps 'had' is a too strong a term) she was going to be pretty comfortable riding home with us.

And now, back on the farm, with a summer full of memories to treasure (including a family photo which we actually remembered to do) and a summer full of grands coming and going, we are turning our minds toward the work at hand.

The combines and swathers are ready or being readied and our mindset is changing to all the things that need to be done. While my guys talk machinery, I am attempting to do some frozen meal prep and put away some baking, complaining all the while of course lol. If someone had the plan, I could implement it; I just hate coming up with the 'plan.'

A hail storm earlier in August did some damage to the oats and canola crops so adjusters have been out and about checking crops to determine the extent of damage. When the adjuster was checking one of our canola fields, he sent a text with a photo showing where someone had driven through the crop, totally trampling 'paths' throughout the crop in what appears to have been done by both a half-ton and a quad. To say we were shocked is an understatement. The destruction continued onto the neighbour's canola in the next field as well. It's unbelievable to me that anyone could be so disrespectful as to knowingly destroy crop just for the heck of it, but that's life, isn't it?

As August turns into September and harvest gets going or continues as the case may be, full speed ahead, we wish all our ag friends a safe and successful fall. It's a big job to take the crop off every fall but we hope it's all worth it in the end! Happy harvesting folks!

LAND FOR SALE BY TENDER

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

Meighen Haddad LLP
129 Souris Street
P.O. Box 397
Melita Manitoba, ROM 1L0
Attention: Karen Beauchamp

PROPERTY:

SE ¼ 11-4-28 WPM exc all mines and minerals

W ½ 12-4-28 WPM exc all mines and minerals

EACH TENDER MUST BE FOR ALL THE LAND. No bids for individual quarters will be accepted.

The current tenant will be allowed to finish the rental of the land for 2025 season but successful Tenderor will have permission to do fall work after tenant's crop is removed.

CONDITIONS OF TENDER:

- Interested parties must rely on their own inspection and knowledge of the property and not on the above or any other particulars or representations made by or on behalf of the Seller.
- Tenders must be received on or before 5:00 p.m. on **November 3, 2025** in an envelope marked "TENDER".
- Each tender must be accompanied by a \$15,000.00 deposit cheque payable to Meighen Haddad LLP. Deposits accompanying unaccepted bids will be refunded.
- Highest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SALE

- The bidder whose tender is accepted will be required to complete an agreement covering terms and conditions of sale.
- The closing date of the sale shall be **December 1, 2025** on which date the Vendors shall provide a registerable Transfer of title to the Purchaser and the Purchaser shall pay the balance of the accepted tender. If the balance of the accepted tender is not paid within the set time limit or acceptable arrangements for payment have not been made, the deposit paid may be forfeited as liquidated damages and not as a penalty.
- All mines and minerals will be reserved from any Transfer.
- Land is in the Torren's Title system.
- Successful bidders will be responsible for real property taxes commencing January 1, 2026.

For further information contact Brayden Lesy at 204-522-5751

Meighen Haddad LLP

LAW FIRM

6:3c

LAND FOR SALE BY TENDER

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

Meighen Haddad LLP
129 Souris Street
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Melita Manitoba, ROM 1L0
Attention: Karen Beauchamp

PROPERTY:

NE ¼ 30-3-29 WPM excluding mines and minerals

Pasture land with approximately 30 acres of hay

Has a dugout but no fence

CONDITIONS OF TENDER:

- Interested parties must rely on their own inspection and knowledge of the property and not on the above or any other particulars or representations made by or on behalf of the Seller.
- Tenders must be received on or before 5:00 p.m. on **October 3rd, 2025** in an envelope marked "TENDER".
- Each tender must be accompanied by a **\$5,000.00** deposit cheque payable to Meighen Haddad LLP. Deposits accompanying unaccepted bids will be refunded.
- Highest or any tender not necessarily accepted.
- Any Tender that has no specific amount will be rejected. The Tender cannot be an offer to pay an amount in addition to the highest tender.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SALE

- The bidder whose tender is accepted will be required to complete an agreement covering terms and conditions of sale.
- The closing date of the sale shall be **November 5th, 2025** on which date the Vendors shall provide a registerable Transfer of title to the Purchaser and the Purchaser shall pay the balance of the accepted tender. If the balance of the accepted tender is not paid within the set time limit or acceptable arrangements for payment have not been made, the deposit paid may be forfeited as liquidated damages and not as a penalty.
- All mines and minerals will be reserved from any Transfer.
- Land is in the Torren's Title system.
- Successful bidders will be responsible for real property taxes commencing **January 1, 2026**.

For further information contact 431-886-2442

Meighen Haddad LLP

LAW FIRM

8:2c

GIFS at USask receives \$1.6 million investment from PrairiesCan

The Global Institute for Food Security (GIFS) at the University of Saskatchewan has received a \$1.6 million investment from PrairiesCan to support a genomic selection-based accelerated breeding program.

The funding was part of a \$4.6 million announcement to support multiple initiatives within Saskatchewan's agriculture sector. The announcement was made by the Honourable Eleanor Olszewski, Minister responsible for Prairies Economic Development Canada (PrairiesCan), during a visit to GIFS on Tuesday.

"PrairiesCan's latest investment builds on its earlier investment into GIFS, strengthening our outcomes-driven, team-based model. By integrating cutting-edge platforms—high-throughput genotyping, engineering biology and data analytics—we deliver real-world impact through market-facing programs like our FCC Accelerated Breeding Program and Biomanufacturing," said Dr. Steven Webb (PhD), GIFS CEO.

"Our unique model—unmatched in Canada and uncommon globally—closes a critical innovation gap, reducing risk and accelerating the path from discovery to market for partners."

"The Global Institute for Food Security at the

University of Saskatchewan is committed to providing innovative solutions to feed the world's growing population," said USask Vice-President of Research Dr. Baljit Singh (PhD). "By building a robust accelerated breeding program, we aim to further enhance the inroads we've made in this growing field. These enhancements would not be possible without the continued support of PrairiesCan, and we thank them for their support and dedication to advancing and elevating the positive impact for Canada's agri-food sector."

GIFS is developing a genomic selection-based accelerated breeding program that will extend advanced breeding capabilities to companies and breeding organizations, bringing higher-yielding and higher-quality livestock, pulses, and other crops to market quicker. This investment builds on previous support to GIFS, including \$2.5 million in 2022 which helped build Canada's only biomanufacturing facility advancing sustainable agriculture and innovative food ingredients.



During a visit to GIFS the Honourable Eleanor Olszewski, Minister responsible for Prairies Economic Development Canada, announced investments into multiple projects within Saskatchewan's agriculture sector.



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FCC extends trade disruption support to canola producers

In light of continued global trade disruptions, including new tariffs affecting Canadian canola seed, Farm Credit Canada (FCC) is reiterating its support for agribusinesses, farm operations and food processors through its Trade Disruption Customer Support program.

"The agriculture and food industry is resilient, but global trade uncertainty can create real pressure on cash flow and operations," said Justine Hendricks, President and CEO at FCC. "Our role is to ensure our customers, and the broader industry, have access to the capital and flexibility they need to adapt, stay competitive and keep delivering high-quality products to markets at home and abroad."

The program offers relief for existing customers and new clients who meet lending criteria. The program offerings include access to an additional credit line of up to \$500,000, new term loans, and the option for existing FCC customers to defer principal payments



for up to 12 months on existing loans.

FCC will continue to work with industry part-

ners to ensure that Canadian agriculture and food businesses can navigate changing market condi-

tions and keep the industry moving forward despite uncertainty.

Customers and non-cus-

tomers are encouraged to contact their local FCC office or call 1-800-387-3232 to discuss their individual

situation. Lending due diligence will be carried out on all applications.



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What key performance indicators should I track in my farm business?



HEATHER WATSON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, FARM
MANAGEMENT CANADA
OTTAWA, ONT.

Setting and tracking key performance indicators (KPIs) is essential for long-term farm success. After all, you can't manage what you can't measure, right? How do you know if you're on track if you haven't figured out where you want to go?

Start with defining what success means to you, your farm, family and farm team. Profit and productivity are usually the first things that come to mind. What about health and harmony? Growing the skills and confidence of the team? Positioning the operation for a successful transition?

It's crucial to choose KPIs that align with your goals. Next, determine the best way to measure success and track your progress toward reaching your goals.

Here are some KPIs you may want to think about for your farm:

- **Financial prosperity** – cost of production, profit-

ability, liquidity and cash flow, and debt repayment

- **Production/productivity** – yield, quality, labour, equipment and livestock efficiency, animal health and welfare

- **Market growth** – customer satisfaction and loyalty, market share, pricing, sales, products sold

- **Technology and innovation** – use of smart technology, return on investment, new products or processes, operational efficiency

- **Risk management** – insurance coverage, emergency preparedness, crop/livestock loss, climate and severe weather adaptation, diversification, regulatory compliance, wills and estate planning

- **Environmental stewardship** – inputs, energy and water usage, soil health, emissions, carbon sequestration, waste management and biodiversity

- **Human resource management/personal well-being and growth** – effective communication, onboard-

ing, skills development and coaching, mental and physical health, employee turnover, labour efficiency

- **Farm transition** – retirement planning, tax planning, successor grooming, family and farm team harmony

Bear in mind that some KPIs may overlap; for instance, technology investments, production efficiency and financial performance are interconnected. While production records are often well-kept, financial records can be less thorough, and it may be even harder to track metrics like family and team harmony or if the next generation is prepared for transition.

To begin, gather key farm team members to discuss priorities and agree on what KPIs matter most. Including input from your professional advisors can also add valuable insights. Once you've set your KPIs, establish a review schedule with regular check-ins to track your performance.

Setting and regularly re-

viewing these KPIs will help you make data-driven decisions, improve farm performance and stay resilient within your ever-evolving business environment. It will also help engage everyone on the farm and get them excited about helping drive it toward long-term success.

DR. LARRY MARTIN
LARRY MARTIN AND ASSOCI-
ATES CAMBRIDGE, ONT.

I've been teaching farmers business management for decades, most recently through the mini-MBA-style

program Total Excellence in Agricultural Management (CTEAM).

One issue I find with some farm operators who've taken my courses is that they don't have enough focus. The first step in deciding what key performance indicators (KPIs) to track is identifying where you'd like to focus.

A KPI is a key quantifiable indicator of progress toward a specific objective. So, what are the specific objectives you'd like to work on? Let those be your guide. Every

person and every farm will have somewhat different KPIs.

For example, I've worked with grain farmers at a stage where the problem is related to either production or marketing. We gauge that by looking at their gross margin ratio (%GM). If the benchmark %GM is 70% and they're operating at 58%, there's a problem. The %GM is one KPI that needs to be tracked – that is, the cost inputs per dollar of sales.

Continued on page 35 

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After Moosomin DQ raised more than \$40,000 for the Jim Pattison Children's Hospital, I accompanied the owners and Ashley Bocek of the World-Spectator to visit the hospital and Ronald McDonald House



Above, with Chief Charlie Bear of Chacachas First Nation, with First Nations Dancers, and with Chief Shelley Bear of Ochapowace.



Sinc was a legend

Myself with Sinclair Harrison at the Legislature in the fall. Knowing Sinc didn't have long, his family reached out to me in the fall to recognize Sinc in the Legislature. They knew it would mean the world to him.

The Premier, the Deputy Premier, the Highways Minister, and I all introduced Sinc in the house.

I honored Sinc with a member statement which got a standing ovation for Sinc from both sides of the house, and Sinc was presented with a King Charles III Coronation Medal that day.

Sinc passed away August 28.

Sinc was a legend in rural Saskatchewan for his incredible work with SARM on behalf of everyone in rural Saskatchewan, and I'm so happy we were able to recognize him that day.

Sinc always fought for the interests of rural Saskatchewan and always put people first. We'll miss you, Sinc!

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Kara and myself with Kevin and Cecilia Zimmerman at the Grotto in Vibank.



With the Grenfell Health Foundation and Grenfell Mayor Mark Steinger.



With Bernadette Akachuk and Chief Jonathan Pasap at White Bear First Nations



Glenavon Parade

It's been a busy summer

It's been an incredibly busy summer and I have crisscrossed the riding many times as I have attended events and meetings in one community after another after another, and while my role as Legislative Secretary to the Ministers of Health keeps me very busy—I am sometimes on the road four to five days a week on health-related events and meetings—I have tried to spend as much time in the constituency as possible.

Breast Reconstruction Awareness event

Just one example of my work on the health care file, I was honored to speak at the Inpower Breast Cancer Reconstruction Awareness Day in Regina recently! I spoke on behalf of Premier Scott Moe and Health Minister Jeremy Cockrill, shared some tears and some laughs with some amazing breast cancer survivors, learned a lot from some amazing surgeons and health care workers, and was inspired by the stories of women battling through their cancer with courage and grace.

Our government recognizes the importance of having access to safe, high quality and timely breast care.

The opening of the Regina Breast Health Centre this past April represents a significant investment in the health and well-being of Saskatchewan women.

Through the \$8.5 million investment our government is making to support the Regina Breast Health Centre and the dedicated efforts of our doctors, nurses and care teams, we are proud of the strides we've been making to improve breast health services in Saskatchewan.

We remain committed to supporting substantial detection and treatment enhancements for breast cancer patients.

Our government will continue to work with our health partners at the Saskatchewan Health Authority, the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency, and the Saskatoon and Regina Breast Health Centres to ensure Saskatchewan women have the resources they need, when they need them.

Lori Carr visits Moosomin, Grenfell

One example of where my role as Moosomin-Montmartre MLA and Legislative Secretary to the Ministers of Health overlap: It was an honor to accompany Lori Carr, Minister of Rural and Remote Health on visits in Grenfell and Moosomin recently.

We met with the Grenfell Health Foundation and visited the site of the new Grenfell long-term care facility under construction. It's wonderful to see construction under way on this new facility that will make such a dif-



ference to the entire region. This is not only a new health care facility for the region, but a vote of confidence by our government in the future of Grenfell and the entire region.

In Moosomin the same day we met with Moosomin Mayor Murray Gray, and visited the Southeast Integrated Care centre and the Southeast Medical Residency program in Moosomin. This program is a model for how residency programs can be established in rural areas. The southeast model works so well it is being replicated—I was in Yorkton Monday for the announcement of a new Northeast Medical Residency Program. While in Moosomin, Minister Carr and I also met with a group working on a plan for a recovery centre in Moosomin.

It was a busy and productive day, and great to see so many people working so hard for the future of health care in our region!

Advocacy for Moosomin-Montmartre

I spend many of my days working for constituents and advocating for Moosomin-Montmartre. Whether it be concerns about highways, about cell coverage, about health care, about education, about agriculture issues, about social services, about day care, about community services, I am constantly in touch with our provincial ministers and their offices advocating for our communities and my constituents.

It's always nice when the hard work pays off and a constituent gets the answer they were looking for, or a problem gets solved.

Getting around the riding

This summer I was at events across the riding. I spoke

at graduations from Vibank to Moosomin to Grenfell to Broadview, I was in parades and at community celebrations from Indian Head to Moosomin to Rocanville to Glenavon to Grenfell to Kennedy. I was at rodeos, I was at powwows, I met with councils and economic development groups and health foundations.

It was an honor to represent our government at the opening of the new pool at Kemoca Regional Park at Montmartre, to speak at the anniversary of the White-wood Museum, to open the spray park at White Bear First Nation, and to be at so many more events.

My schedule can be challenging when I have so many events in the health care file that I can be anywhere from Regina to Saskatoon to Wilkie to Kinistino to Nokomis to Yorkton to Rosthern, touring facilities, speaking on behalf of the government, attending meetings and briefings, but I try to spend as much time as I can in the riding.

Visit to Children's Hospital a highlight

One highlight of the summer was when I accompanied Morgan, Heather, Joanne and Woodrow Kerr of Moosomin DQ to tour the Jim Pattison Children's Hospital and Ronald McDonald House in Saskatoon.

Moosomin DQ did an absolutely amazing job of raising funds for the Jim Pattison Children's Hospital through Miracle Treat Day. Raising more than \$41,000, selling more than 7,800 Blizzards was absolutely astounding.

On Miracle Treat Day, Morgan Kerr mentioned she had always wanted to tour the Jim Pattison Hospital. I thought I should help make that happen, so I arranged a tour and accompanied the DQ girls and the World-Spectator's Ashley Bocek to see the hospital.

It was a great experience to tour the Jim Pattison Children's Hospital and I think we all learned a lot. We also toured Ronald McDonald House in Saskatoon that day, and just happened to run into John Gormley at lunch, so it was a great day and I'm glad the people whose heart and soul goes into making Miracle Treat Day such a success each year had a chance to see where their hard work has an impact.

Thanks to these amazing women for the work they do and thanks to everyone who supports this and all the other successful local fundraisers.

Reach out

Feel free to reach out to me at any time. Call 306-435-4005, email office@kevinweedmark.ca or drop in at 622 Main Street in Moosomin.



The 118-year-old barn being restored by Little Rainbow Ranch near Moosomin.

New lease on life for 118-year-old barn



BY RYAN KIEDROWSKI
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

There's a barn at the Little Rainbow Ranch near Moosomin that's close to a milestone birthday, and it's starting to show its age. Built in 1907—almost 120 years ago—Perry Rasmuson's barn received an upgrade this summer, including the replacement of some beams.

"It had been lifted in the '80s and a new foundation put on it, but the tin was getting tired," Rasmuson

explained. "We had a couple of big wind storms the last few years, and the tin was starting to come off."

Over the course of around 10 days, Rasmuson and a few other family members stripped the tin, replaced rotten wood, and strapped the 118-year-old landmark in preparation for new tin to be installed.

"I've got a guy hired that's going to do the tin work," he said.

After all those decades of protecting shelter for

livestock, Rasmuson says the barn remains a vital part of his mixed cattle and grain operation to this day.

"Half of it's a horse barn, and the other half we use for calving, still," he said. "We lifted up one wall and rebuilt the wall that was starting to give away on some of the plates that

were starting to rot. It's just sitting there strapped, we're probably going to try and get it tinned next week or the week after, so hopefully everything goes on as planned."

It's been a decent growing season on Rasmuson's land, with the cooler than usual summer pushing harvest back a little bit.

"Some things are maybe a little bit behind where they would normally be, but we've been really fortunate with the amount of rain we've had; just about right, actually," he said. "We could have maybe had it a wee bit sooner, but you don't dare complain when there's other people around the province that

are less fortunate."

With the recent wild weather that plowed through the area last week, one can't help but pause to reflect on how many storms the barn has endured over the years.

"There wouldn't be too many buildings around that could tell its stories, I imagine," Rasmuson said.



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Boosting Canada's agricultural productivity through investment and innovation

BY BETHANY LIPKA,
BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE
ANALYST, AND ISAAC
KWARTENG, SENIOR
ECONOMIST, FCC

Canada's agricultural sector stands at a pivotal moment, as global food demand intensifies, profit margins tighten and climate pressures mount. Ag tech innovation offers a powerful solution, but research alone isn't enough. We must accelerate commercialization of these technologies and create an investment environment that attracts



venture capital. Innovation, boldness and ambition are urgently needed. Despite our reputation

as a global leader in food production, Canada lags international peers in ag tech investment. Indeed,

the country captured less than 2% of global venture capital ag tech deal values in 2024 compared with 45.3% for the United States. U.S. venture capital ag tech deals that year outvalued their Canadian counterparts by a ratio of 23 to 1. This imbalance is reflected in the relative importance of U.S. and Canadian agriculture and food exports, with the U.S. ranking 1st globally

(accounting for more than 9% of global exports), and Canada ranking 8th (capturing less than 4% of global exports). We remain an important linchpin in the global food system, relative to our size. But we could be doing better.

To remain competitive, we need to increase research spending and foster a thriving ecosystem in which startups,

researchers, and investors collaborate to bring breakthrough technologies from lab to field. As a new report by FCC Thought Leadership shows, it's time to look beyond our borders and find opportunities to import innovation to Canada. The opportunity is immense—and the time to act is now.

Continued on page 37

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Community Acres:

Local farmers organize community crop for future fundraising projects

Continued from page 21

Hopefully the big companies keep stepping up as well because without them their isn't much profit either," said Skulmoski. "As soon as they kick in, it is amazing what we can give back to the community."

He says small towns need support from local groups to complete projects.

"I've been to a lot of communities over the years with my kids for sports and you play in these bigger communities and the facilities they have. You see a lot of things we don't have and I wish we did have."

"So, there is only one way to get it and figure out how to, and it all costs money.

This is how you do things in small towns."

Harvest coming soon

Skulmoski says the crop has been doing well.

"It was planted in May. So in 30 days from now we could have the money. Hopefully, bad weather doesn't come through, but farmers always cross their fingers until they have the actual crop in their hands."

"We are actually lucky that it was planted later this year because some of the early canola has been affected by weevils. That is a bug that has done some damage on the early canola, and there is going to be a bit of yield loss on the early planted crops, but

our crop is later so if we can avoid the frost now, we'll be glad we planted it later. So far it has been doing well."

Community groups are welcome to approach Community Acres for support in completing future projects.

"If there are ideas in town or if there are other groups that have their plan in place, they can come to us with their project then that's awesome," Skulmoski said. "We will help out and we'll pledge the money."

He says Community Acres is willing to

rent more farmland close to town.

"If we could find another small parcel of land close to town that we could use, we would be open to renting that."

"If there's land available and some landlord thinks we're doing great and wants to be a part of what we are doing, we'd rent a small chunk of their land as well and do possibly a little more in the future."

"For right now though we are very excited for our first crop and see how it does."



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What key performance indicators should I track in my farm business?

Continued from page 29

Once you've identified the weakness, figure out the source. In the above example, hiring an agronomist helped to determine how the %GM could be optimized by applying fertilizer at the ideal rates for the current conditions. KPIs require monitoring and adjusting to reach your goals. Assess if the external environment (like weather) is still what you predicted when setting the plan.

To stay on target, you may need to change your plan if something outside of your control is affecting your KPI. Determining which KPIs to track comes down to having a

strategic management process in place. A successful farm operation is about paying attention to detail and responding.

In horticulture, a typical KPI is labour cost as a percentage of sales. I've seen farms with labour costs at 60% of revenue—sixty cents of every dollar goes to labour. To improve, operators could either reduce labour or increase sales strategically. This might mean optimizing marketing, automating tasks or finding innovative ways to increase sales with your labour force.

Regardless, decision-making can feel overwhelming

without KPIs in place. KPIs give you focus. I've seen farm operators begin to relax when they see how simple it can be to track and adjust. They see that the problem is clear—and tracking KPIs shows them how they can quickly get to the point where a problem feels manageable. They don't feel overwhelmed or anxious all the time.

Years after the course, we asked some past students about the impact of strategic management planning—including tracking KPIs—on their farm management. Their answers were always similar: "It has helped my family life and confidence."

Cultivate financial literacy, boost farm resilience

By MATT MCINTOSH

Financial planning professionals spend years acquiring the experience and skills to do their jobs effectively. This is a level of training most people don't have—but that doesn't mean financial literacy is unattainable.

For Lance Stockbrugger, Saskatchewan farmer and veteran chartered accountant, taking steps to better understand what the numbers are telling you is an important means of improving the profitability and stability of your farm business.

It will also equip you with essential tools to navigate your business effectively. Understanding financial management will empower you to speak the language of your advisors, ensuring clearer communication and more productive consultations. By improving your financial capability, you can foster stronger, more strategic conversations with stakeholders and advisors.

It will also equip you with essential tools to navigate your business effectively. Understanding financial management will empower you to speak the language of your advisors, ensuring clearer communication and more productive consultations.

It also helps you to calculate costs accurately, negotiate the best deals and make informed decisions to protect your bottom line. By improving your financial capability, operators can foster stronger, more strategic conversations with stakeholders and advisors, ultimately leading to smart management and long-term success.

Learning opportunities

An ideal time to develop better financial knowledge is in school, Stockbrugger says. Not everyone can or wants to attend post-secondary education for finance and business, but taking courses is an option. Courses, seminars and opportunities that actively connect you to mentors and advisors can drive learning.

"You can also get involved in organizations. It helps you see how other businesses run and how they're financially reporting and managing things," Stockbrugger says. Joining a municipal council or the board of directors of a local grain terminal—the latter being something Stockbrugger himself has done—are two examples of such opportunities.

Stockbrugger notes that the sheer number and variety of financial courses and tools available can make it challenging to find one suited to your knowledge level.

FCC's Manage Your Farm Finances program is an example of an effective (and free) course series. The three-part series includes informational sessions with financial experts, case studies, exercises and other resources designed to help people with varying degrees of financial literacy actively learn analytical techniques relevant to their farm operation. Stockbrugger

—who helped develop the course—says the idea was to ensure as few barriers to entry and as much flexibility as possible.

"I like the course because it gets down to the basics," he says. "You can go through it at your own pace. If you find an exercise too simplistic, you can skip it. Or if it's hard, keep doing it until you get the right answers."

Leverage advisor teams

Maintaining relationships with trusted financial and legal advisors is essential, says Stockbrugger, who stresses prioritizing expertise over a multitude of opinions. Clients, however, shouldn't expect advisors to know it all.

"No one knows everything," Stockbrugger says. He recommends having multiple advisors with diverse expertise, though usually one or two will "rise to the top," offering key support and insights for different business scenarios.

"Take that one individual you really trust and make them that key go-to person. Then, utilize their network. They work with different people and their own team, who they call on to help."

Stockbrugger emphasizes that effective financial advising requires genuinely engaged clients who understand their business. Without this, meetings are less productive and both sides may feel unsatisfied. Clients who invest in financial literacy generally see better returns, are equipped to make more informed business decisions and often have lower advisory costs.

Use smart tax strategies

Tax and business planning are linked but not the same, yet Stockbrugger often sees farm owners mistakenly treat them as such, sometimes taking undue risks or missing opportunities in an effort to not pay as much tax.

Deferring grain cheques—not requesting payment from the company that bought your grain—to avoid tax is an example. In such cases, the commodity provider essentially provides an unsecured line of credit to the grain purchaser. If that purchasing company collapses, though, the money owed to you can disappear.

Another common strategy is to incorporate a farm to capitalize on corporate tax rates and increase the amount of available net income. While incorporation has many benefits, says Stockbrugger, understand that personal income, among other tax realities, still applies.

"So many people got into corporations and didn't understand what that meant. One main misconception is that after a farm is incorporated, they sometimes feel no need to pay further personal taxes. This can cause a lot more tax problems in the future when it comes time to retire or transition the farm," Stockbrugger says.

Honest communication is key

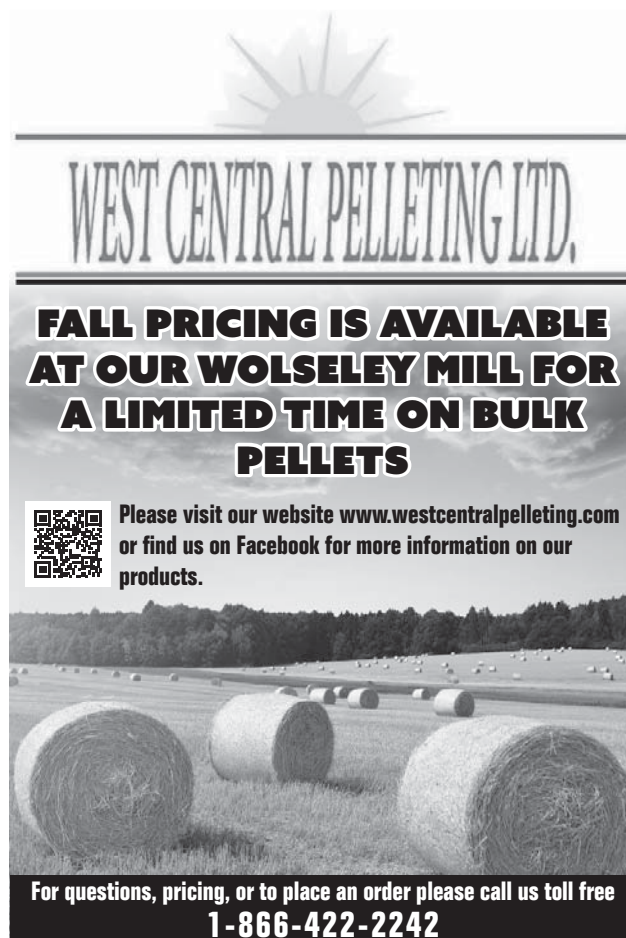
Regardless of your level of financial literacy, Stockbrugger reiterates the importance of honest communication—with both advisors and yourself.

"Accountants like to say numbers don't lie. They tell the true story of financial efficiency and profitability. Embrace the numbers and ensure you use them to your fullest ability."

Investing in your financial literacy is one

of the most impactful steps you can take to ensure your farm business's profitability and resilience. Free resources like FCC's Manage Your Farm Finances program or paid courses tailored to your needs can provide invaluable insights in bite-sized pieces.

Whether you're just starting or looking to sharpen your skills, gaining knowledge bit by bit can help you to navigate complex decisions and build a stable, sustainable operation.



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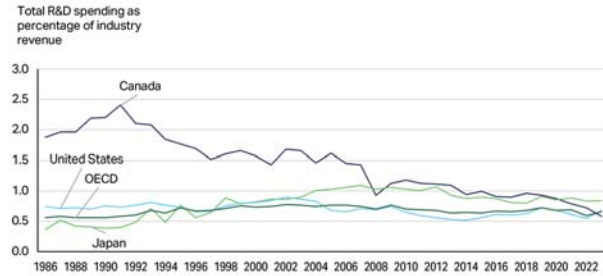


Figure 1: Agriculture R&D spending as a percentage of industry revenue

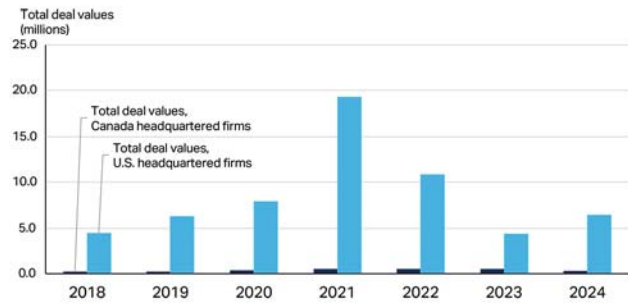


Figure 2: Global ag tech venture capital deal values for Canada and the U.S.

Boosting Canada's agricultural productivity through investment and innovation

Continued from page 35

Current state of investment

Here's why. Research and development (R&D) not only drives innovation, it also helps power the economy. It's estimated that every dollar invested in agricultural R&D yields a return of \$10 to \$20. Until the mid-2000's, Canada was a global leader in agricultural research and development (R&D), ahead of the U.S., Japan, and OECD average. Today, that is sadly not the case.

The importance of increasing ag tech investment in Canada

How to proceed? The way forward is clear: By investing in the commercialization and adoption of emerging technologies both at home and abroad – such as artificial intelligence, robotics, and data-driven tools – Canada can significantly enhance agricultural productivity and efficiency, bolstering its position in the global food system.

How to catalyze investment and innovation in Canadian agriculture

The report provides some key recommendations for boosting agricultural investment and innovation in Canada:

- Drive agricultural knowledge generation with a strategic focus
- Seek strategic opportunities at home and abroad
- Strengthen the ag tech ecosystem
- Harvest low-hanging fruit
- Focus on sustainability

An industry call to action

In short, the future of Canadian agriculture lies in our ability to innovate and adapt. Embracing new technologies and investing in research and development is crucial to boosting productivity and ensuring the sector's future growth and sustainability. By fostering a culture of innovation, we can address current challenges and seize new opportunities resulting in a \$30 billion opportunity for Canadian farmers.

Daryl Harrison

Member of the Legislative Assembly
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Building a positive work culture on the farm

BY BECKY ZIMMER

Creating a positive work culture is essential in modern farm management. It benefits both family-run farms and operations with outside employees.

During peak seasons like seeding and harvest, the demanding hours can be challenging for everyone involved. However, by fostering a supportive and respectful environment, farm operators can make these busy times more manageable and rewarding for themselves and their employees.

Good leadership bolsters employee retention, recruitment

In light of the growing mental health conversation in agriculture, workplace culture is changing, says Bonnie Taylor, a registered social worker and psychotherapist based in Wellesley, Ont. People are finding ways to ensure their employees feel valued, which can help businesses retain employees, especially with labour shortages affecting many farming operations.

Demonstrating respect, patience and a positive attitude sets an example for others. "Leaders who ask themselves, 'How am I controlling my temper? How am I demonstrating to others that I show respect?'...they're the ultimate role models for their employees," she says.

Reflecting on your own behaviour can help to set an example of the supportive culture you want to cultivate.

"Being known for having a great work environment can also be a form of recruitment," Taylor says. If employees like where they work and feel respected and valued, they'll be more likely to pass the word on to friends and relatives who may also be looking for a positive workplace.

Role of communication and vulnerability

"Saying, 'Hey, I'm scared or exhausted or frustrated,' can be liberating," Taylor says. But it can also be difficult for someone to be vulnerable and open about their feelings.

Respecting and validating this openness is important. For example, telling someone how they should feel instead of acknowledging their feelings can quickly cut the line of communication, leaving an employee feeling alone, Taylor explains. Employers and employees need to feel comfortable talking. This is part of trust-building.

The benefits of a supportive farm workplace

When an employee feels they have purpose and motivation, and that they're working with someone instead of for them, everyone benefits. "That could mean higher profits, stronger goals for growth, and everyone pulling in the same direction as a team that cares for one another," Taylor says.

She adds that while not everyone is in a position to make decisions about the direction of the farm, it's important that everyone understands the shared goals they're working towards. Being recognized for how one's efforts contribute to those goals can help build morale.

Recognize and value employee contributions

Farm work often involves risks, especially when using heavy machinery and managing livestock. If the team looks out for one another, that could also mean lower in-



jury rates. "At a time when we're more connected than ever, it's easy to give someone a call to ask if they need a break or some food after running the combine all day," Taylor says.

Also, know that recognition can look very different from one employee to another.

Not every good effort or great idea needs to be publicly celebrated if that will make someone feel uncomfortable, Taylor adds. In some cases, a private conversation would go further.

Group recognition, like an after-harvest supper or get-together, is also a great way to unwind, debrief and celebrate a demanding harvest. It doesn't have to be extrava-

gant, especially if the operation had some setbacks that were out of their control.

"Setbacks are disappointing to everybody, but the farm manager can show support for their employees and build a positive workplace by saying 'OK, we're still going to have our end-of-year celebration. You all did an amazing job despite some things being out of our control. There was nothing else we could have done, so let's still recognize what we were able to.'"

While farming will always be a demanding profession, respect, communication and recognition can make the workplace a great place for everyone.

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Moosomin Shriners holding Wings & Winners fundraiser

Continued from Page 19

"Half the proceeds are going to the new daycare facility and half are going to our patient travel fund. Plus we have \$15,000 worth of prizes that will be shared that night amongst the various winners.

"There will be 100 tickets sold of \$100 each, and it's an elimination. We pull the numbers off a board and every number will have a name on the back side of it, and as your number is pulled out of the drum, your name comes off. There's winners for the first person, the 99th person, and the 100th person gets the big prize, but every 10th one in between gets a prize as well. So there are going to be 12 feature prizes.

"We have really good support from the local businesses.

"As your number comes out there is a wheel we will

spin and it will land on one of the prizes, and that is the prize you will get.

"We are also going to have a silent auction and a 50/50 as well.

"If people just want to come for the evening and the entertainment and so forth and take a chance on the silent auction, \$25 gets you in the door and you can have all you can eat wings for \$25 plus take part in the entertainment, but you don't get a chance at the big prizes.

"We think the 100 tickets are going to sell fairly quickly. And we would like to end up with 150 to 200 people in the building."

Thorn notes that people might win a prize they are not interested in, and in that case they will find a way to ensure that prize goes to someone who does want

it, whether it is live auctioned, or given out in another way. He says that will be part of the entertainment, and the Shrine Club is still ironing out some of the details.

"We think it's going to be kind of a fun night," he says "At our other events, we tried to sell 350 tickets. This is 100 tickets plus we are hoping to sell another 50 at least of the \$25 tickets and have some good prizes and have some fun.

"Fenton Martens is going to do a little entertaining at the end of the night. It will be more of a social than it will be a concert."

The event starts at 5 pm and runs until midnight. Thorn says people can contact him on his cell phone at 306-435-9790 for tickets. Seating is limited and he is encouraging people to get their tickets early.

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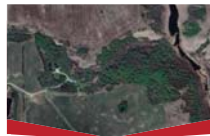
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