



Southeast Family Medicine Residency Program

Churchbridge woman enters medicine thanks to opportunity to train in rural Sask

BY ASHLEY BOCHER

Amber Debnam of Churchbridge is beginning her journey in medicine as a medical student at the University of Saskatchewan College of Medicine, and recently received her white coat at the White Coat Ceremony at the Conexus Arts Centre in Regina.

About 120 first-year medical students received their white coats that day. With family members and faculty there were 1,000 people at the ceremony to see Amber receive her white coat.

Moosomin-Montmartre MLA Kevin Weedmark spoke at the event and pointed out that there are new options for medical graduates to complete their residency in Saskatchewan, including the Southeast Family Medicine Residency Program in Moosomin.

Following the ceremony, Debnam spoke with him and told him the start of that program played a part in her decision to enter medicine.

She is determined to become a family doctor and stay in rural Saskatchewan, providing health care to rural communities.

Following is an interview with Debnam:

Tell me a little bit about yourself.

I am from Churchbridge which is not too far away. I am from a cattle and grain farm, and I would love to eventually go back, and I just love the small towns. As soon as I graduated high school, I did my undergrad at the U of S in Saskatoon and did it in the biochemistry, microbiology, and immunology program. It was really good and fun, and I did an honors project as well, so that was basically a research project. That was four years and then I worked for a little bit. Before starting medicine, I did pharmacy in Saskatoon as well.

Why did you decide to go into medicine?

I've always wanted to become



Amber Debnam of Churchbridge received her white coat recently at the University of Saskatchewan College of Medicine's White Coat Ceremony. She says the fact that the Southeast Family Medicine Residency Program has been established in Moosomin made her decision to enter medicine much easier.

a doctor or work in healthcare in general, but at the time I was in pharmacy so I had to make a hard choice because I loved pharmacy as well, but just the fact that being a doctor means you can help people anywhere and be more involved with the care made me lean toward that. Also, growing up in Churchbridge there weren't many family doctors that stayed very long so it was always super

hard for everyone to rely on their doctors, and just having to start over all the time which can be very tough and frustrating. That was the main reason why I chose to become a doctor.

When did you switch from pharmacy to becoming a doctor?

I just finished first year of pharmacy this past April and then went straight into medicine—we

started at the end of July. So, it was a pretty quick transition.

What about the Southeast Family Medicine Residency Program made you interested in possibly doing your residency there?

The Moosomin site is not far from home and in a rural area which is where I want to be a doctor someday—in a rural com-

munity. I know some people there as well and I have been to Moosomin a few times so I think it would be a great fit for me and would help the people in Moosomin and surrounding area. I think it would be a great place to start as I want to go into rural practice as well. I also did hear it is a very good site to learn at, so that also appeals to me to go there after these next few years.

It definitely would have been a harder choice to make that switch without that residency program close to home, just because I did like pharmacy as well and I was already in it. I would have probably just hoped that by the time I was in my residency that there would be some other programs in rural communities—they are amazing to have. The residency site in Moosomin made the choice much easier to decide if I wanted to go into medicine or stay in pharmacy.

How does choosing your residency placement work?

It is a bit of a complex process. As far as I know, you have to match with someone, so I will tell them that I would like to do my residency at a certain site, but then the Southeast Family Medicine Residency Program has to interview me and decide if they want me as well. It goes both ways. I don't know a lot about it yet because it is still a little bit down the road since I am only in first year at the moment and you match with programs in fourth year. It is nice to know that Moosomin could potentially want me as part of their program eventually. So hopefully down the road it will work out.

I am very excited about the next few years. So far medicine has been very exciting, it is a lot and you kind of get thrown into real life situations and roll with it, but it has been very fun.

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Local businesses are getting together to give away more than \$25,000 in prizes in the World-Spectator's 2025 Christmas Giveaway.

The main prize is \$15,000 to be spent locally, to reward one lucky shopper for shopping locally this Christmas season.

The winner will receive a chequebook and can spend their prize money at any of the participating businesses.

The draw will be made on December 18 and the winner will get the good news just before Christmas.

In addition to the \$15,000 prize, there are also 61 other prizes valued at more than \$10,000 in total to be given away in the World-Spectator's 2025 Christmas Giveaway. Shoppers can enter at 81 locations in 16 communities across the area.

Proud of local business community

World-Spectator publisher Kevin Weedmark said he is proud of the local business community for stepping up and supporting the promotion.

"This promotion has always been about rewarding local shoppers for supporting the local businesses, and the fact that so many local retailers and other businesses decide to take part in this promotion shows that they are working hard to serve their customers," he says.



The World-Spectator's Nicole Taylor and Kara Kinna with some of the prizes that will be given away in the World-Spectator Christmas Giveaway.

"The first year we held the draw, we had no idea if we could do it or not. We threw the idea out there to businesses in the area, and the response was over-

whelming."

"In no time we had enough support to be able to offer a substantial prize, which shows the incredible support from busi-

nesses," Weedmark said.

"It's wonderful to see local businesses coming together to offer this kind of prize."

The promotion has evolved over the years from a draw for a car to the \$15,000 prize.

"The car draw was a success, but I think the way the promotion has evolved is even better. The grand prize winner each year receives a book of special cheques they can use at the participating businesses," says Weedmark.

"That will ensure that the money the winner receives will stay in the local area. There are all sorts of other prizes as well. It's really a great way of rewarding people for shopping locally."

Shoppers can enter with a purchase at any participating business—there are 81 locations across the area in total where people can enter.

The winner can spend their \$15,000 any way they want at participating businesses.

They may choose to spend it at several different businesses, or spend the whole prize on a large ticket item like a quad, furniture, flooring for the whole house, hockey equipment, clothing, food, groceries, or a home reno.

"The possibilities are endless," says Weedmark.

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Dates set for Christmas events and promotions in Moosomin

BY NICOLE TAYLOR

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

At the Moosomin Chamber of Commerce meeting in October, dates were set for Moonlight Madness, Santa Day, and other Christmas events and promotions that will be held in Moosomin during the Christmas season.

Moonlight Madness will be on Thursday, December 4 this year. Stores will be open until 9 pm that night, and many businesses will have specials and sales on. Shoppers will also have a chance to win \$100, \$250, or \$500 in Moosomin Bucks that night when they pick up a Moonlight Madness Cash Card at local businesses.

This year the Chamber will also be hosting a hot chocolate festival the week of Moonlight Madness from December 1-7. Participating businesses will each come up with a different kind of hot chocolate and people will have a chance to vote on which one they like best.

On Saturday, December 6, there will be a free matinee Christmas movie at the Moosomin Community Theatre, giving parents a chance to drop off their kids and do some local shopping.

On Sunday, December 7 the Moosomin Kinettes will host Santa Day at MacLeod Elementary School. Santa pictures will be from 1-4 pm that day.

There will also be a Countdown to Christmas Draw from December 15-20, the week before Christmas, giving shoppers a chance to win \$100, \$250, and \$500 in Moosomin Bucks.

The World-Spectator Christmas Giveaway will also run through November and December, giving shoppers a chance to win \$15,000 at participating businesses around the region, and tons of other small prizes being given away by those businesses.



Above right: Shoppers during Moonlight Madness last year. **Above:** People out shopping on Main Street Moosomin during Moonlight Madness last year.



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Moosomin has grown 14 per cent since 2012, region up 5.8 per cent: Moosomin leads growth in the region

BY BRETT BOCHKE

There has been steady growth across the region in recent years and 2025 Saskatchewan Health Covered Population figures show that trend continuing, with 274 additional people across the region in the last year.

Moosomin leads growth in the region. It has gone up 14 per cent with 417 new people to the town since 2012. The covered population stats show 3,378 for Moosomin, up from 3,324 in 2024 and from 2,961 in 2012.

The population across the region is up 975 in that time.

Generally the largest towns are seeing the greatest growth, with Moosomin's growth followed by Esterhazy and Kipling.

Mayor Murray Gray said there are lots of things that contribute to growth in Moosomin.

"Growth of our business community, growth of our medical community, and the things we have added in our community have made it a place to move to, a destination to move to in our area, in our province and even in our country," he said. "That's the key to the growth, what we have been able to add."

Economic Development officer Casey McCormac says immigration has added to the numbers.

"I also think that the growth of the Filipino community and other ethnic communities has made a difference," she said. "There are a couple of them that come and they create their own little community and then more and more come. Same thing with how welcoming we were to the Ukrainian people, but also our healthcare, our schools, our recreation, our education all attract people. Also the cost of living, I would say it's relatively less expensive than say Toronto."

Gray said local governments work together to attract people.

"We have put more focus on collaboration, so we are working together with the area in order to have similar goals, in Rocanville, in the RM. I think that it all works together. We are working on that type of modelling throughout the whole area with all of the communities around."

Gray says that Moosomin's diversity is key to its growth.

"Diversity works so well because it's not just economy, and it's not just people, it's everything. We are diverse in every aspect. Go south and there is a valley with a beautiful lake in it. The landscape here is diverse, the people are diverse and the different jobs you can get are diverse, and the economy is diverse. It's not tied to one thing. If there's a layoff at the potash mine, our economy doesn't tank because there are a whole bunch of other aspects or pieces of that puzzle of the economy that keep it going."

Gray says that the services available in a community have an impact on where people choose to live.

"For a young family to be attracted to your community, there has got to be day care, healthcare, schools, those kinds of things. I think when people are moving into our area, those are the key things that they are looking for first."

"If you are moving to the area and get a chance to pick where you're going to live, you look at those things. I think the things that you have in the larger centres are very attractive to those people."

Attitude makes the difference

What do Gray and McCormac think

makes this area different?

"It's different because of the attitude of the people," says Gray. "We needed to build a hospital in 2006 and we raised \$11 million. We need a day care. We'll raise the money for a day care. We want a CT scanner. We will raise the money."

"I think that's the difference, is the attitude of the people is never say no, but let's get it done. Everybody's focused on growth and on becoming more than what we are. Nobody is just resting and saying 'this is it, we're what we're going to be and we're just going to exist the way we are.' You don't hear anybody saying that, everybody wants to grow and provide more services, and give people more reason in order to not go to Regina, Brandon, or Winnipeg."

"That's an attitude you don't hear in a lot of small towns, but here that's the attitude. It's 'let's have everything for everybody in the community, so that you don't have to go to the city.' Whether it would be doctors, dentists, or lawyers. I think that attitude is what has allowed us to grow to this point and time, and this number (14 per cent growth) itself has an ability to grow more, because if you're an outside investor and you're looking at a community that has had steady growth like that, you're more willing to invest in the community just because of the growth that we've seen. It multiplies on itself."

Gray says in order to keep people coming to the region, one thing Moosomin needs to work on is housing.

"We need more affordable housing," he says. "I think housing is probably the only thing that's really holding us back. The growth at this point in time has been what it has been, but if there is going to be a detriment to future growth, we need to make sure that we have affordable housing for people to find a place to live when they want to move here."

Economic Development officer Casey McCormac says that growth in the surrounding RMs is also affected by the communities in the area.

"It has to do with the towns they surround. For example the RM of Rocanville is close to Rocanville and Moosomin and I think that would be a major factor in their growth."

"The RMs become extensions of the towns, and the collaboration and the working together of, for example, the RM of Rocanville and the Town of Rocanville, the RM of Moosomin and the Town of Moosomin, creates that extension to work better, to flow better in order to attract the same types of things to both the RM and the town," adds Gray.

"In the past I think you've had RMs and towns that butted heads. That's the key is working together with common goals. For instance if something goes into the RM of Moosomin, the town of Moosomin thinks, excellent and good, that adds to our area."

Moosomin on the map

McCormac said that the latest Saskatchewan Health Covered Population figures make her job easier.

"We use data like this all the time. Just even trying to get more spaces in day care, if we can prove that we have all these people, it helps. The housing incentive that we have, we would never have received it if we didn't have the health care data because our census said that we were decreasing, but with this data I could prove that we were increasing and that's one of the major reasons why we got that grant

in the first place. So we use data like this all the time; you can show companies that are considering moving to Moosomin how much it's growing. Seeing that substantial increase, you can see that it's growing and it's somewhere you want to be."

"I would have to add that the other thing we've really done a good job of that helps with that is the promotion of the community," adds Gray. "Between the paper and the national news and other things, no matter where you go when you say you're from Moosomin, people will say 'Wow what a growing community, what are you guys doing there.' I get that from people who don't know who I am or what my role is in the community, and I just kind of smile and say 'Well thank you.'"

"That's part of it as well, promoting yourself as a growing community, a progressive community, and a community that's open for business. That adds to this and goes along with this data when you're selling yourselves to other businesses or services coming to town."

Collaboration is key

Both McCormac and Gray says the focus on collaboration is one thing that has changed from years past.

"One of the major things is the collaboration on economic development because it's relatively new, and actually focusing on trying to make the region grow, instead of just doing it naturally," McCormac says.

"Our regional attitude and our regional approach to working together is huge," says Gray. "It's old but it's new, because the hospital was a collaboration between our RMs, so you go back 20 years ago and we were doing it, but we're doing it with just about everything now. We're working together and consulting each other and having more input from the area around us all the time, so I think that's the aspect that we're focused on that is definitely

helping."

Focus on health care, education, business, arts & rec

What are some initiatives that Moosomin is working on right now to continue the momentum?

"The four pillars that we focus on are health care, education, business and arts and recreation because those are the four things people are looking for when they are looking to move to a community," says McCormac. "We work on helping businesses with whatever they need, if they need help with recruiting people, those kinds of things. Recreation is really important, and the day care obviously."

"We know you can't build a second story on one pillar for a house. You need all four pillars. You need all of them to be strong in order to make that second level," adds Gray. "We know that it takes a lot of different ideas and a lot of those pillars to succeed in order to grow. It gives a better chance of those people wanting to move here having something we're prompting and working on. There's a good chance it's something that interests them, whether it's the hockey rink, or the new Junior B team or other things. You start listing all the things that are going on and it's substantial."

"We maybe get a bit blind to it because we're involved in it every day but if you look at the view from 10,000 feet and look down, you're going to see, there's a lot of things happening."

Where does Gray see Moosomin going in the next few years?

"I would say the next goal would be 4,000 people. You have to grow it at a pace that the housing, day care, and infrastructure can keep up on. If you said 4,000—a hundred more a year for the next six years—it's attainable and we can keep up with that growth."

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Moosomin awarded five blooms in Communities in Bloom national competition

By DONNIE MATICHUK

Moosomin has been awarded a rating of "Five Blooms" in the National category of the Communities in Bloom competition. The bid included the town of Moosomin, Moosomin Regional Park and Pipestone Hills Golf Club.

Last year, Moosomin competed in the provincial category, and won the overall competition with a Five Bloom rating. Angela Thorn, who was a leader in this year's Communities in Bloom efforts, said she is proud of the committee's efforts in making Moosomin a better place.

The ratings scale at the national level includes one to five blooms, gold, silver, and bronze.

"It feels good, and even though we didn't receive a gold, silver, or bronze for having a rating over 90%, it's still amazing. I felt a bit disappointed at first, but I was assured by the judges I should not be and that this was a great achievement for the town," said Thorn.

She attended the awards ceremony in Stratford, Ontario over the weekend. The ceremony rotates provinces every year, with Montreal, Québec slated as the 2026 host, and Yarmouth, Nova Scotia in 2027. The next year a community from Saskatchewan will host in 2028. The host community for that year has not yet been determined.

Moosomin also received a special mention in the awards for Bradley Park.

"The judges were very impressed with the park and how it brings people together. It means a lot to the town and it makes me really proud that it was mentioned in the national awards," she said. "I really do think Bradley Park is a beautiful place. I didn't really notice it as much before I started working for rec, but when you're driving by it really makes you stop and take a look at it."

She says that the decision to move up from the Provincial to the National level of competition was an easy one.

"Last year we won Five Blooms in the provincial, and that gives you the option to move up. Mike [Schwean] just said that we might as well go for it and make the jump. They say that generally when you do that you go down one or two Blooms in your rating, so getting Five Blooms at the national level is amazing. The last time we competed nationally was when Ann Norgan went around 2003, and we only got two Blooms that time.

"I think what most people don't realize is that it's not all about flowers and making everything look pretty. It's really very little to do with that, and so what I'm going to

try to spend the winter doing is trying to remind people that it's an economic initiative to make your town better, and so that people want to come here. I think that Moosomin is an amazing place already, but we need other people to realize that," she said.

"There's our town appearance obviously, but there's also environmental action which we do very well in because of the new water treatment plant. There's heritage conservation, which I learned is not just restoring old buildings and things like that, it's about making our cultural stories known. Things like the crossing of the trails or the first hockey game in Western Canada being played in Moosomin. We could make that into a kind of tourist thing, we could get the Steelhawks, Senior Rangers, Midget Rangers to highlight it and make it known in Saskatchewan. Heritage conservation is about sharing stories and keeping your heritage alive as a town, so that's one thing I learned while I was in Stratford."

Thorn says that the most important thing that she learned while at the awards was to never give up, courtesy of the town of Bellaria-Igea Marina in Italy.

"The one town in Italy that competed in the International competition has been competing for 66 years. They've won lots of things along the way, but this year they cleaned up. Their team went up on stage a bunch of times to accept awards for gardens and boardwalks and different things that they had made. It showed that you should do everything you can for things to look better, be better, add to your town and your entertainment value. Just keep working toward making where you live a better place."

She highlighted the amount of time and effort put in by the town, and by volunteers to make Moosomin better for this year's competition.

"We have a really amazing volunteer culture in Moosomin, and the Public Works crew really made a difference as well. We would make a list for them and everything would be done before we knew it. We had a summer student that was assigned to Mike Schwean and I, and almost all of her days were spent helping with Communities in Bloom. We had lots of help from the high school Environmental Science classes at the lake and around town.

"That was one thing that the judges really highlighted and loved. Moosomin's small-town culture and everyone

helping each other out. Especially at Moosomin Lake, there's not one paid position out there, it's all just people that want the lake to be awesome and are willing to help out," she said.

Other winners from around the area were the City of Brandon, and Tommy Douglas Collegiate in Saskatoon. The Cities of Melfort and Maple Creek were also represented at the awards over the weekend but didn't bring home any awards.

"The plan going forward for the next few years is to get youth involved. We could go into the schools and find some kids who are really interested in all of this. I also would really like to snag someone from Public Works to be on the Communities in Bloom team, because they are the ones who make decisions about things like trees and lights, and decorations for Christmas around town. Having someone with that knowledge on the team would be really nice."

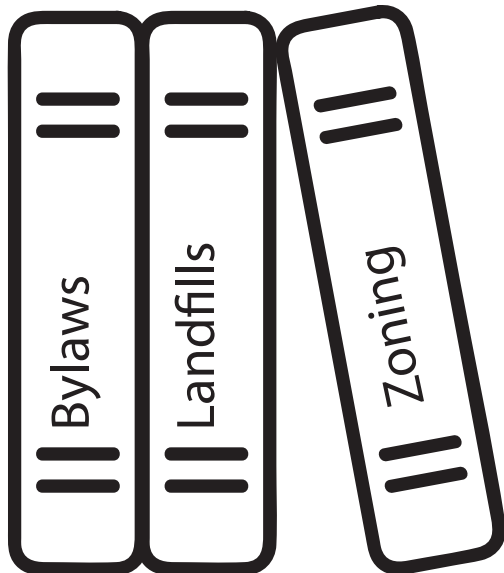
Thorn says that having a diversity in plants and trees all around town is also a priority.

"At the awards they talked about the importance of having diverse tree populations and stagger planting. I was told a story about a place near Detroit, and how pretty much the whole town had Elm trees all around. You can probably guess that at some point, they all got Dutch Elm disease and died, so in the future we hope to have a wide range of trees around town. An example that we already have is over by the pool; the trees that were planted there don't lose their leaves until October, so we never have to worry about the pool being full of leaves."

"Another thing is pollinator plants, which aren't always the most beautiful, but in order for us to have bees, butterflies, and certain birds we need them. If we run out of pollinators, we start running out of blooming plants and flowers, and most importantly food. At Bradley Park, maybe we could build a few areas out there where we could have pollinator gardens. I imagine it could almost be like a little butterfly garden for the kids. I've got a lot of ideas for the future and I hope that we can make them work and make Moosomin better for everyone," she said.

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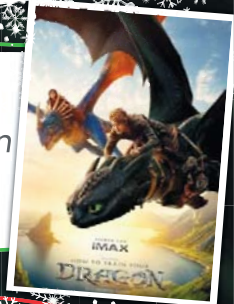
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Chamber of Commerce

FREE MATINEE MOVIE



Saturday,
December 6 at 2 pm
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Community Theatre



Kinettes

SANTA DAY

Sunday, December 7



1 pm-4pm

Photos with Santa
at MacLeod Elementary
School Gym

COUNTDOWN TO CHRISTMAS

December 15-20



Win \$100, \$250
or \$500 in
Moosomin Bucks



Also enter to win \$15,000 Grand Prize in the
World-Spectator Christmas Giveaway to spend locally
at participating businesses!



Jess Moskaluke performed at the Maryfield Auditorium on October 14. The show sold out quickly, with people packing the auditorium to see Moskaluke—who grew up in Langenburg and lives in Rocanville—perform as part of her Life For Me tour. Rocanville's Lachlan Neville, left, opened for her.



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Southeast Family Medicine Residency Program

Churchbridge woman enters medicine thanks to opportunity to train in rural Sask

Continued from front

Why do you think it is important to have residency programs available in smaller communities like Moosomin?

It is needed for sure. I think because there is a lot of great things about small towns and smaller communities that people don't always know about. The people in the towns are just so nice and they want to help each other all the time and I just think if there are opportunities for doctors to learn and see what it is like to live and work in a small town, that would just help them choose to stay and maybe then we will hopefully have more doctors who want to stay long term in our rural communities. Healthcare is needed all over the place, so I think it is amazing they have all these residency programs in smaller sites.

Do you think there is a different learning experience at the smaller residency sites compared to the cities?

From what I know they try to standardize it of course, but I think if you are in a smaller site you get to see the same people more often—not just patient-wise, but co-workers as well. Anything can happen though obviously, so you still see every sort of situation. Personally though, I would be excited to see the same people in terms of colleagues working there, whereas I think in the city you just see more turnover.

What are your goals and next steps?

So you apply to get into residency programs in your fourth year, but you do have to finish four years total before you start and I would like—at this point—to do family medicine and maybe internal medicine which is pretty similar, one just works more in the community and one more in the hospital.

I am leaning more to family medicine, and that program you can start as soon as



Moosomin-Montmartre MLA Kevin Weedmark with Amber Debnam from Churchbridge at the University of Saskatchewan white coat ceremony.

you are done your fourth year, and at this point, that is two more years. Then, after that you are on your own for the most part. I would like to then go back home or be around home and Moosomin isn't that far away as well—so just stay in that general area and serve rural communities. The smaller the better.

Do you think Saskatchewan needs to offer more residency programs in more rural communities?

Yes, I think it is a great idea or at least have smaller towns or programs spread

out throughout the province. I get it is hard, but just the fact they have a new program in Yorkton starting up now just shows we need more. I think it is appealing to a lot of people who grew up in smaller communities or want to experience different communities in the province and the smaller town life.

Why do you want to become a doctor and what is your biggest motivation to become one?

For the most part, it is to help people and be there consistently for them.

I have heard of how hard it is to start over with a new doctor all the time because there is a lot of background and work with it.

I would like to practice medicine in a rural community because doctors can be really hard to come by, especially ones that stay for longer than six months or short periods.

I just want to help people because I see and I know how hard it can be to be sick or to be worried about a loved one who is sick, or even how hard it is to just access health when you have to go so far.

So, I would just like to help with that and be a doctor my community can rely on. Then, a bonus of maybe working in rural communities as well is you're very independent as a doctor and so it is just nice to be involved with all health avenues.

Hot Chocolate Festival set for Dec. 1-7 in Moosomin

If you love hot chocolate, you're in luck as Moosomin will be adding a Hot Chocolate Festival to its list of Christmas events this year.

From Monday, Dec. 1 to Sunday, Dec. 7, seven restaurants in Moosomin will each be offering a different hot chocolate creation. People can try them all and vote on their favorite for a chance to win Moosomin Bucks. Once people have tried all or some of the hot chocolates they can vote by sending an email to hotchocolate@world-spectator.com

The seven participating restaurants are Trends Mercantile, the Crate House, Cork & Bone, The Red Barn, Witch's Brew, the

Country Squire and Dairy Queen.

"We thought this would be a fun thing to do during the Christmas shopping season, and everyone loves hot chocolate," says Moosomin Chamber of Commerce President Kevin Weedmark.

"The seven restaurants involved are busy coming up with some fun hot chocolate creations, and we can't wait for people to come out and try them all! We're sure they will all be tasty, and we encourage people to do some local Christmas shopping as well while they are out and about trying the different kinds of hot chocolate around town that week!"

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- The World-Spectator
- Trends Mercantile

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Dr. Crouse named SMA 2025 Physician of the Year



Dr. Crouse with family and colleagues at the SMA Awards Banquet in Saskatoon October 24.

BY ASHLEY BOCHEK

Local doctor Etienne Crouse was awarded Family Physician of the Year by the Saskatchewan Medical Association. He was nominated by local colleagues and accepted the award in at the SMA Awards Banquet in Saskatoon October 24.

In the past, both Dr. Schalk van der Merwe and Dr. Ross Kerkhoff, who have also served the community for decades, have been similarly recognized for their contributions.

Dr. Crouse immigrated to Canada and began practicing medicine in Moosomin over 30 years ago.

"I was born in South Africa and came to Canada in 1994 as an immigrant to Moosomin, and I'm still here thirty-one years later. I studied in South Africa and worked for a few months in the UK. At the time when we came here it was more for travelling, but I loved it here and my wife loved it here, so we ended up coming back and staying.

"I was in surgery at the time, and my brother-in-law was telling me about helping somebody out in Moosomin. There wasn't much work to be done back home, so I agreed to fly out for three or four months and it turned

into over thirty years."

Perfect fit in Moosomin

Dr. Crouse says the community influenced his wife and him to stay in Moosomin three decades ago. "My wife and I both grew up in small towns and the size of Moosomin is perfect for us. The people and community are also so amazing. You can live anywhere in the world if you only care about temperature and weather, but it's the people around you that make it home."

Becoming a doctor

Dr. Crouse says he always knew he wanted to be a doctor. "It was something I always wanted to do, and we actually lived right next to a doctor's office in South Africa, so I sometimes went over there and would help out. Once I got to Canada, I applied for my medical licence here and got in, and from there it was pretty straightforward. I enjoy the community and knowing that my patients are my friends too. Knowing that I'm helping my friends every day makes me want to help and go for as long as I can. I've been a family physician in Moosomin for thirty years, and I think as long as my health allows,

I'll stay working in medicine."

SMA Family Physician of the Year

Dr. Crouse says local colleagues at the hospital and clinic nominated him for the award.

"The SMA has a nomination program for the Family Physician of the Year award, so a colleague must nominate you for you to be considered. It's for all of Saskatchewan, and to be nominated by my colleagues in an honour."

"When they told me that I had won a prestigious award I wasn't that interested because I'm not really someone for the limelight. But they insisted and sent me some details, and once I read further, I was shocked that I was selected."

He says he has been committed to improving rural medicine over his decades of being a doctor in the area.

"I think that it was mainly for starting a successful family practice in a more rural community, and also for getting up to Saskatoon and Regina, trying to improve rural medicine."

The Saskatchewan Medical Association (SMA) awards night was held in Saskatoon October 24, where Dr. Crouse accepted his award alongside his family and some colleagues.

Continued on Page 19



Etienne and Josande Crouse.

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Spreading Hope

Beckett shares breast cancer story to spread hope for women fighting it today

BY ASHLEY BOCHEK

Jacqui Beckett of Moosomin has battled breast cancer and won. Twice. She is a retired school teacher and a caring community leader involved in art groups across the area.

"I am enjoying the next chapter of my life following my teaching career of 34 years," she says. "I have lived in Moosomin most of my life and have always been thankful to live in this small town with a big heart," she says. "My husband Garry and I have been married for 45 years and raised three daughters and now thoroughly enjoy our four grandchildren. Besides keeping up with the grandchildren I am busy making, teaching and learning about art in the genres of painting and pottery."

Diagnosis at a young age

Beckett says she was shocked to be diagnosed with breast cancer at a young age.

"When I was 36 I felt a lump and I went to the doctor for a physical exam to see what this lump was. She reassured me that it was just a cyst and to not consume as much tea or chocolate. She assured me that it was nothing to worry about because I was too young to have breast cancer. When I returned to my regular doctor at age 37 for my yearly physical, he sent me for a mammogram almost immediately. I was diagnosed with breast cancer following a biopsy of the lump. No one in my family history had breast cancer, however a few years after I was diagnosed, my sister got breast cancer and a few years later her daughter was also diagnosed. They were both tested for the breast cancer genes and neither one of them had the genes."

Beckett says she was shocked with the diagnosis and felt nervous for what the future held for her and her family.

"I was definitely surprised, devastated and terrified all at once. I kept thinking 'how can this be happening?' I thought I was too young. I felt betrayed by my own body. I took good care of myself. I never smoked. I was fairly fit and ate well. I kept thinking what I did wrong! I was angry because I felt I should have done something else to prevent it somehow. I was so sad because our three girls were at the ages of three, five and seven and we had tried for years to have a family and now they might lose their mom. It still brings up a lot of emotions even after all these years when I talk about it."

Family motivation

She says her young daughters at the time were her motivation to fight the breast cancer. "So the fight began. Even though one of my oncologists told me that my cancer was aggressive and advanced, and I might live one to five years maximum, I just thought no that's not happening. My daughters needing me was my main motivation to try to fight as hard as I possibly could. They needed me, but I needed them more."

"At that time, I had to choose to have a lumpectomy or a mastectomy and I chose the mastectomy and have never regretted it. In fact, I asked for a double mastectomy to alleviate some fears, but they didn't do that at the time. I also had 16 lymph nodes removed and six of them had cancer as well. So that added another dimension to my fear. Once I was healed from that surgery, I started six months of chemotherapy."

"Also, at that time I had to choose how aggressive to go with the chemotherapy. I asked my doctor what he would do if it was his wife in the same situation and he said I would advise her to go as aggressive as she could tolerate. So, I did. And it was wicked. The treatments were once every 28 days as long as my white blood count was okay to continue. I lost my hair on the second treatment which was minor to me in the grand scheme of things."

"I cried, though, as I took my hair off by the handfuls and put it in a garbage bag. It's weird seeing yourself bald, but I had a great wig."

"I became more and more sick as the treatments continued. The anti-nausea pills didn't help me. Dr. Kirsch or Dr. Gordon would come to my house and get my IV



Jacqui Beckett, at far left, with her daughters Bre, Kari, and Aimee, and her husband Garry.

started because I was too sick to be in the hospital. God bless them and the Home Care nurses who followed up and were so kind and helpful. I spent a lot of time in bed and over the toilet and honestly, I've blocked a lot of it out."

She explains her treatment plan involved staying in Regina. "Once my chemo was finished, I started my radiation therapy in Regina at the Allan Blair Cancer Centre which involved a treatment every day for six weeks. I stayed at the Cancer Lodge across the street from the Pasqua Hospital and despite being away from my daughters, which was very difficult, it was a healing experience for me. My skin never burned. I was never nauseous. I did lots of painting and drawing. I was fed very well and gained back some of the 30 pounds I lost during chemo."

"I also gained a new perspective and appreciation for my life and for other people."

Continued on page 18



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Moosomin Visual Arts Centre will be recipient of Holiday Smile Cookie Week

BY NICOLE TAYLOR
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER
Holiday Smile Cookie Week is from November 17-23, and this year Moosomin Tim Hortons is raising money for the Moosomin Visual Arts Centre.

Tim Hortons has started taking pre-orders for the cookies, with 100 per cent of the proceeds going toward the Moosomin Visual Arts Centre.

"We always like to switch up our organization every year and we see the benefit of having the Visual Arts Centre in our community," says Moosomin Tim Hortons owner Greg Crisanti. "They've been doing some great things and (manager) Cherrie (Caliwag) was really interested in getting on board. They have a great volunteer base, the community is really behind it, so we couldn't think of a better fit to put it all together."

Last year Moosomin raised \$11,443 in Holiday Smile Cookie sales, making the Moosomin location the second top-selling location in Saskatchewan. During past Smile Cookie campaigns, Moosomin has set the record as the top selling location in the province on a number of occasions.

"We definitely put Moosomin on the map for sure," says Crisanti. "I was just out in Ottawa with a



Holiday Smile Cookie sales are coming up November 17-23 with proceeds in Moosomin going to the Moosomin Visual Arts Centre. The World-Spectator is the first sponsor for this year, sponsoring cookie sales Friday, November 21. From left are Greg Crisanti and Cherrie Caliwig with Moosomin Tim Hortons, Kevin Weedmark with the World-Spectator, and Lila Smart and Lynne Hafner with the Moosomin Visual Arts Centre.

bunch of MPs and visited a QP office, and they are quite aware of our results in Saskatchewan. We like to brag a little bit for sure, but we aren't giving away our secrets, people are fol-

lowing in our footsteps which is a good thing."

"It's the people who live here," says Moosomin Tim Hortons Manager Cherrie Caliwig.

Smile Cookies sell for \$2

a cookie and the arts centre is aiming to sell more than \$10,000 worth of cookies this year.

"We are live now so anyone can order cookies right now," says Crisanti.

The money from the cookie sales will go towards operating costs at the arts centre.

"Right now we are being sponsored by the town for three years, but we have to

find a way to make some more money. Just the supplies, the different classes we provide, the rent. We are continuing to do lots of classes and lots of that is volunteer as well. We'd like to do more classes and have more exposure," says Lynn Smart with the Moosomin Visual Arts Centre.

"We are a sports town. We are very lucky to be a sports town. But the visual arts is a good thing to be exposed to as well.

"It's surprising the people who come out. We had ceramics last night and had 20 people. The class before, we had 24, so that's a whole other group of people coming in."

"At our meeting the other night there were 39 new members and 64 returning and, then there are always drop-ins," Lynne Hafner adds.

"We get a good response from the kids. Cooking classes are huge, they seem to go over really well."

Smile Cookie can be pre-ordered by scanning the QR code below:



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Blue Jays World Series games projected onto side of Canwood elevator

BY DONNA BEUTLER

It doesn't get more Saskatchewan than this—the final two games of the World Series projected onto the side of an elevator in a small town located northwest of Prince Albert.

Ryan Peekeekoot is no stranger to theatres and projectors, so it was a bit of a natural fit for him to use his equipment to project a couple of Blue Jays versus LA Dodgers games onto a grain elevator at Canwood, Sask. Peekeekoot is also no stranger to innovation and creativity, having invented two large screens, one outdoor 20'x40' screen and one indoor 25'x12' screen.

Peekeekoot, of Ahtahkakoop Cree First Nation west of Canwood, comes from a long line of farmers and musicians and is a member of the Blackrain band which recently won the Saskatchewan Indigenous Music Award for best Rock/Metal/Blues group of the year.

Several years ago, when Peekeekoot's nephew Dallyn made it to the WHL, playing for the Prince Albert Raiders, his family was very proud of him as was the entire community. When a drive-in theatre company came to their sports grounds to show Peekeekoot's nephew's first game, their projector quit working just five minutes into the first period.

"That's when my uncle who had organized the whole thing came running over to my vehicle and asked me to go home and get my projector," Peekeekoot told the World-Spectator in an interview last week, explaining that he has had projectors for years. "So I floored it back home and came back and saved the day!"

Ironically, during the showing of the next game by the same company, their projector once again quit working. Peekeekoot once again saved the day, but this time for half the pay that the projection company received.

"So I looked into buying a balloon screen like theirs, but they are so expensive and not very big so I thought real hard and invented my own screen," Peekeekoot explained. Over the years, he just kept making the screens bigger until he ended up with what he has now. "My partner and cousin Bob Little and I have been doing movies in various communities over the past few years," he said.

And basically, that led to him being able to show the last two games of the World Series on the elevator. "It was just a last minute idea I came up with," Peekeekoot said.

Peekeekoot was in the perfect business to be able to project the games up onto the side of the elevator as he runs a portable Drive-in theatre business on his home reserve, saying there is not much to do on a reserve.

"After school the youth can get into trouble, adults as well—gangs, drugs and alcohol are big problem, as they are in most communities," Peekeekoot said. "We built our



One of the Blue Jays World Series games being broadcast onto the side of the Canwood elevator.

first theater at my Uncle Pete's yard. We built a screen out of logs and I kept buying new projectors as that first year went on, and it was awesome seeing a lot of people come out."

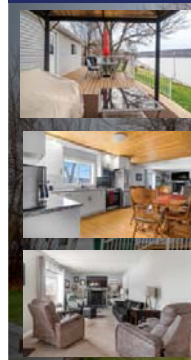
The next year, Peekeekoot went up a huge hill on his reserve called Lonesome Pine Hill and he started clearing trees and brush, and cutting grass, and making a better road to get up there. Then he took the portable screen up there and put a movie on, and a few people showed up and loved it. That led to the decision to build a new drive-in up on the hill.

"We took my old Black-rain tour bus and turned it

into a diner," Peekeekoot said. "We took out the seats and put tables in and a few arcade video games. Then my dad pulled it up the hill with his tractor. We built a kitchen (the cookshack we call it) right beside it, and then a deck and picnic tables and an upper deck over the top of the bus. From there, we built the screen and we started putting on movies. Lonesome Pine Hill Diner and Drive-in is what we called it. We serve fast food all week long and do movies on the weekends. Youth and families come up daily. We also built a driving range and an Airbnb A-frame cabin. We are currently working on a golf course and more cabins to rent."

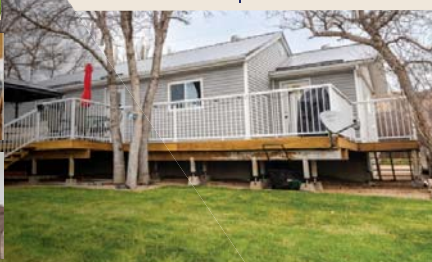
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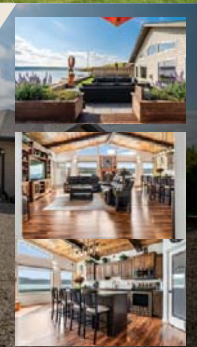
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Spreading Hope

Beckett shares breast cancer story to spread hope for women fighting it today

Continued from Page 15

"I felt such gratitude for my doctors, nurses, technicians and all the healthcare workers who were involved in my healing. I felt a peaceful relief and a greater sense of love and purpose in my life."

Grateful for friends and family

Beckett says family and friends helped look after her young daughters during her chemotherapy.

"Garry, along with members of both our families as well as many friends helped with the girls, with everyday chores and meals and for that I'll be forever grateful."

"I prayed and prayed a lot, and I knew people prayed for me which was also a powerful part of my healing. It works. No doubt in my mind."

Battling breast cancer twice

Beckett says she was diagnosed with breast cancer again years later.

"Twenty-nine years later I was blindsided by a second diagnosis of breast cancer. I had no clue. In March of 2023 my mammogram was clear as always for my yearly scan. It just so happened that I had

been waiting a couple of years for an MRI breast scan which came up in November of 2023. I almost cancelled it thinking my mammogram in March was fine, however I had a feeling I should have the MRI anyway even though I never felt any lumps. Sure enough it was back.

"I was very surprised and worried because nothing was there in March and now there it was again. I must say I was more worried about the wait times I'd heard about for biopsies and surgery. When you have cancer, you just want it out now. I'm forever grateful for Dr. Kerkhoff and Octavia of the Moosomin Family Practice who did everything they could to get me in for a biopsy somewhere, which ended up being at the Breast Health Centre in Saskatoon."

"I was very fortunate that they got the ball rolling so quickly and everything went smoothly," said Beckett. "I believe Dr. Kerkhoff's and Octavia's determination to find the help I needed urgently literally saved my life."

"The staff at the Saskatoon Breast Health Centre in City Hospital were exceptional as well. My biopsy revealed two tumors which were removed with my second mastectomy. Unlike my first go around with cancer, I was astonished, relieved,

and very thankful to hear I did not need any further treatments!"

Spreading awareness and hope to all

Beckett says she feels by sharing her breast cancer story she can spread hope to other women fighting the life-threatening illness.

"Everyone's story of their journey with cancer is different, however I think the feelings that come and go, and change are probably felt by most people. It's good to hear other people's story to know you're not alone and also that the outcome can be positive. When I was first diagnosed, lots of women came to me to talk about their experiences and how they survived 11 years, 15 years and so on. Their stories gave me hope which I needed badly at the time. Now more women are surviving breast cancer with more advanced medicine and personalized treatments and protocols. It's not one size fits all anymore. Some people say their battle with cancer was a blessing which I thought was strange, but now I understand."

She says she learned lifelong lessons from fighting breast cancer.

"I learned that when the human body and mind work together you can heal yourself with determination and faith, great healthcare providers, love and support of friends, family and community."

"I remember my radiologist spoke to me after I got my tiny tattoo dots used for markers for radiation treatments. He said

to me that they as doctors do their very best and the rest is up to God. That meant a lot to me, and I added that we must do our best too. Sadly, I have also learned that breast cancer is occurring in younger women more often."

Changed perspective

Beckett says battling cancer forever changed her perspective on life.

"Cancer absolutely changed my perspective on life. I can see why people say it's a blessing because perhaps you realize that you've been going through your days routinely without really thinking about what's truly fundamentally important. It's not material things that are important. What became important to me were people—my family, my friends, all people and knowing there's a higher power and believing in my own power. Above all it's love. Sometimes over the years I've gone back to my old ways and my old thoughts, but something or someone happens to remind me what is important."

She adds, "Breast Cancer Awareness should be on our minds every month. I can't stress enough how important it is to do your breast self-exam every month no matter your gender. Please go to your doctor if you suspect anything because it won't go away on its own. There are strides being made toward prevention and cures, but there's still a long way to go before breast cancer is a thing of the past. It reminds us to do our part to take care of ourselves as best we can and to support others who are going through difficult times."



A historical picture of Wayne Davis with a group of friends ready to go curling.

Arcola Curling Club to celebrate 125 years with Cody Grimes memorial 64-rink bonspiel

The Arcola Curling Club is preparing to celebrate a milestone 125 years of curling, community, and hometown pride with the Cody Grimes Memorial 64-Rink Bonspiel, happening March 26 to 29, 2026, at the Arcola Curling Club and Prairie Place Complex.

This massive four-day event will see 64 teams take to eight sheets of ice to compete for over \$10,000 in cash and prizes. Curlers registered before the December 1, 2025 Early Bird deadline will have their names entered into a \$1,000 draw. With excitement already building, organizers say this bonspiel will be one to remember.

A Friday Night Banquet—featuring opening ceremonies and live music from "The Leftovers"—will kick off the celebrations. Volunteers are already hard at work planning the food, raffles, auctions, and entertainment. It's a true community effort, showcasing the same spirit that's kept curling alive in Arcola for more than a century.

This year's bonspiel is held in memory of Cody Grimes, a beloved Arcola resident, gifted athlete, and enthusiastic volunteer. Title sponsor Eagle Oilfield Services Ltd., co-owned by Cody and his brother Micky, shared:

"Cody valued community spirit and gave his all to every project, idea, and team he was part of. The 64-rink bonspiel embodies everything of importance to Cody—sport, community, and competition. We're proud to honour his legacy with such an exciting event."

Curling has been at the heart of Arcola since 1901, when the town's first rink was built. The main skating surface was framed by two sheets of curling ice.

Longtime club member Dwaine Davis, who first took up curling in 1955, still smiles when he remembers those early days:

"Every second day I curled with my dad. We all rode horseback to the curling rinks."

Over the years, the rink has been rebuilt, lost to fire, and reconstructed again—always by the helping hands of local volunteers. The current three-sheet curling rink, completed in 2004, continues that legacy as part of the Prairie Place Complex.

All proceeds from the bonspiel will go toward supporting the Arcola Prairie Place Complex, ensuring the next generation has a rink to call home.

Teams interested in entering or volunteering can call 306-485-7249 for details.



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Dr. Crouse named SMA 2025 Physician of the Year

Continued from Page 14

"It was a lot bigger than I expected!" Dr Crouse said. "I thought that I would walk up quickly, be awarded, then walk off, but when you walk onto the stage with lots of people there, including Dr. Kerkhoff, Dr. Van, and my son, it was very nerve-racking! I gave a small speech, and it was a very amazing thing to be awarded with. It was a very special evening that I wasn't really prepared for, but it was excellent."

Thankful for support

Dr Crouse says he is thankful for his colleagues and their nominations for the SMA award.

"I think that everyone who has nominated me deserves some recognition for helping me get to this point. I also think that my colleagues in the Town of Moosomin and the hospital staff are also responsible for nominating me and getting me to where I am today."

Teamwork

Dr Crouse says medicine takes teamwork in rural communities.

"It's an incredible honour, but I think that every one of my colleagues deserves the same as I do, so I feel a bit honoured that I was the only one recognized. Medicine is all about teamwork, between our clinic, the hospital, the Town of Moosomin and surrounding RM's everybody plays a part, so it's not just me it's definitely the whole team."

"I strongly feel that it's teamwork and that everyone in Moosomin should feel proud of this award. I'm just the one accepting it, but I think that the town should be proud because this award stands for our clinic, hospital, and our town."

Recognizing rural physicians in Saskatchewan

Dr Crouse says it is important to recognize the hard work physicians do in rural communities to improve rural healthcare.

"I think that a lot of rural family physicians give a bit more back to the community and don't expect much or anything in return. If you live in a smaller community and the patients you help every day are your friends and family, you get much more into your work and do your best every day. It makes the long hours, long days, and busy schedule all worth it knowing that you are helping others."

He adds, "Knowing that I have a team behind me and working with me makes a big difference in a small town like Moosomin. You know that someone has your back and that you are working as a team to help those in need."

Right: Dr. Crouse with SMA president Dr. Pamela Arnold during the awards ceremony on Friday, Oct. 24 in Saskatoon.



Blue Jays World Series games projected onto side of Canwood elevator

Continued from Page 17

Peekeekoot recently purchased an extremely bright 6,000 lumen HD laser projector plus he has an FM transmitter for the sound in vehicles and a PA system for people that want to sit outside. This meant this entrepreneur/musician had the perfect system for what he was about to do on Halloween night.

"My band and I were playing at the (Canwood) bar for Halloween that evening of Game 6 and I just brought along my movie gear," Peekeekoot reflects. "After I was done unloading my equipment at the bar, I drove across the street and put the projector on the dash of my SUV, hooked up the speakers and FM transmitter in around 15 minutes. I plugged it all in to my solar generator."

And, along with some Facebook advertising about it

by both himself and the Canwood bar manager, the Blue Jays vs LA Dodgers World Series game was all set to be projected onto the elevator.

"For that first game (that I projected onto the elevator), Game 6, there were around 10 vehicles and some would pull in off the highway to watch a couple of innings," Peekeekoot said. "Also, couples who were trick or treating with their kids would walk by and stop and watch for a while, and they thanked us for putting it on. Vehicles kept slowing down and honking their horns and yelling 'Go Jays Go.' The next night, Game 7, there were a few more people. There were people bringing chairs, but it started raining pretty hard and it thinned out a little."

This long-time Blue Jays and Oilers fan loves sports,

though he admits he hasn't watched a whole lot over the last few years. Peekeekoot said he was heartbroken at the outcome of the last game of the World Series being that it was such an intense game.

Peekeekoot told the World-Spectator that he was also interviewed by a CBC reporter on the day after Game 6. The reporter told him someone had driven by and took a picture and it had gone viral.

"I didn't even know," Peekeekoot said of the viral photo, but since then, it's garnered a fair bit of attention and he was most pleased to share his excitement of what transpired those nights in Canwood, Saskatchewan in the most Saskatchewan way possible—a Blue Jays game showing on the side of a grain elevator!

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Young Entrepreneur Bursary awarded to Third Avenue on Main

Moosomin business is one of 57 in Saskatchewan to benefit from new program

BY NICOLE TAYLOR
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Third Avenue on Main in Moosomin is one of 57 businesses in Saskatchewan that has been chosen to receive \$5,000 through the provincial government's new Young Entrepreneur Bursary.

On November 4, Trade and Export Development Minister Warren Kaeding, along with Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce CEO Prabha Ramaswamy, announced recipients of the 2025-26 Young Entrepreneur Bursary. A total of 57 young entrepreneurs from 48 communities across the province will receive \$5,000 each to help their small businesses get off the ground.

The Government of Saskatchewan is providing the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce with nearly \$1 million dollars over three years to deliver the program. Entrepreneurs eligible for the program are between the ages of 18 and 35 years of age and have been in operation for 10 years or less.

"It's a brand new program that is recognizing the importance of young entrepreneurs around the province," says Moosomin-Montmartre MLA Kevin Weekmark who is also the president of the Moosomin Chamber of Commerce.

"It will run for three years and each recipient of the bursary will receive \$5,000 as well as access to mentorship workshops and a complimentary Chamber of Commerce membership. It will be wonderful to see the difference that's going to make for some of these businesses.

"Right around the province young entrepreneurs are a really important part of our success and in our region, we seem to have an awful lot of young entrepreneurs at the moment. We have new stores, new businesses opening in Moosomin in the last few years that are owned and operated by very, very young people and I see it all around the riding.

"I pop into a coffee shop in Moosomin run by a very young person who moved from Alberta to set up a business in Moosomin—Trends Mercantile. I can stop for coffee and



Tia Cedarstrand, the owner of Third Avenue on Main, in her store in Moosomin.

"This entrepreneurship program is awarding 57 entrepreneurs around the province this year, and it's also getting the word out that you can be a young person going into business. There are challenges but there are great rewards going into business for yourself.

"I have to admit, if I could do one thing differently in my life I probably would have gone into business a little bit younger than I did."

He says he's happy to see someone in the Moosomin-Montmartre riding was awarded the bursary.

"It's wonderful. We tried to distribute these around the province, so each local Chamber will be handing out one of these awards. In the case of the Moosomin Chamber of Commerce we will be inviting Tia Cedarstrand from Third Avenue on Main to come to a meeting and receive the cheque from the Chamber of Commerce for \$5,000 to help her in what she is doing.

Continued on page 22

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\$15,000 giveaway is on now

Continued from Page 3

"Our winners over the last few years have spread their winnings around, spending the prize money on everything from groceries to a family dinner to clothing to a garage package to electronics to furniture."

"It's great to hand out the \$15,000 prize, and it's great to see our winners spend that prize at local businesses over the next few months and really enjoy it."

Over the course of the promotion there will be a centrespread running each week reminding readers of all the locations they can enter, and there will be a focus on several participating businesses each week.

"This promotion is both a way to reward people for shopping locally, and a

way to remind people of all the amazing local businesses we have in our communities throughout the area," said Weedmark.

"We really are fortunate in our area to have an amazing range of great businesses in our region, including several new businesses. I hope people check out the local businesses between now and Christmas, find out what our local communities have to offer, and do their Christmas shopping within the area."

"These shops are local, they're there for you when you need them, they support your local community, they employ your neighbors and friends—and now they're coming together to offer you the chance to win an incredible list of prizes!"

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Third Avenue on Main chosen to receive Young Entrepreneur Bursary

Continued from page 20

"She is an excellent case of what can be done with the Young Entrepreneur Bursary. She is a young person who was working at a store in Moosomin called Kassie's Jewellery. The owners were ready to retire and sell their business. She was a young person who was working in their business. She did not have the capital to buy their business but she had the skills, she had the knowledge."

"So the Community Builders Alliance stepped in, she got some silent partners to help her buy the business, and now she's in business and doing very, very well. She's filling a need in Moosomin. It's a jewelry shop and she's added a florist business to that so she's expanded the business."

"So that's the exactly the kind of thing we need to see in small communities. That adds so much to our communities. Every new business like that makes a difference."

"And in our case there are so many young people. Down the street at Trends Mercantile it's wonderful to see another young person there running a business who has

added something that Moosomin didn't have before. And you have many other young people show have gone into business in the area just in the last few years, and I think that's absolutely phenomenal to see."

"It is encouraging to see Saskatchewan's next generation of entrepreneurs contributing to the economic success of our province," Trade and Export Development Minister Warren Kaeding said. "This government recognizes the role that young business owners play in creating jobs, driving innovation and growing our economy."

The program received 326 applications from young entrepreneurs in the areas of health care services, construction, recreation, agriculture and more. Applications came from all corners of the province, with 39 from the Northeast, 52 from the Northwest, 36 from Southeast Saskatchewan, 41 from the Southwest Saskatchewan, and 158 from the province's two largest urban centres.

"As a provincial chamber, it is important for us to ensure that entrepreneurs in every corner of the province

have the opportunity to thrive," Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce CEO Prabha Ramaswamy said. "Through this program, we are proud to create opportunities for young leaders to grow, collaborate, and contribute to a stronger provincial economy."

The bursaries encourage the next generation of entrepreneurship and support economic development across the province.

In 2024, small businesses in the province totaled 154,278. That gives Saskatchewan a per capita rate of 124 for every 1,000 people, the second highest rate in the country.

This year's Saskatchewan Small Business Profile shows that small businesses in the province have grown 4.9 per cent from 2014 to 2024.

A small business is defined as one that has less than 50 employees. Small businesses make up 98.8 per cent of businesses in the province, employing over 30 per cent of its workforce, and paying out nearly \$7.8 billion in wages and salaries.





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Above left and top, KidSport has been active in the area for many years. Above right, Beth Oslund of Whitewood with Moosomin-Montmartre MLA Kevin Weedmark at the KidSport Gala in Regina where her mother, Sue Shepherd, was given special recognition for her efforts getting the Whitewood-Moosomin chapter going.

Local KidSport committee helping local athletes

BY ASHLEY BOCHER

KidSport helps support young athletes succeed at sport by helping cover financial cost for families. The goal is to help all kids participate in their favourite sports.

KidSport Saskatchewan is celebrating its 30th Anniversary this year. A gala was held in Regina recently to mark the 30th anniversary, and Sue Shepherd, who organized the KidSport group in the Whitewood-Moosomin area, was singled out at the provincial gala for her efforts over the years.

Beth Oslund of Whitewood, Sue's daughter, is now the chairperson of KidSport in the Whitewood-Moosomin area.

She explains the organization's commitment to helping all kids in the area participate in sports. "We are KidSport Whitewood-Moosomin and area. We cover Whitewood, Wapella, Moosomin, Rocanville," she says. "We are an organization, and we cover the registration fees so kids can participate in sports. Our motto is, 'So no kids will be left on the side lines.'"

"I am the President of the club. I volunteer my time. There are a couple of others as well as myself who go over the application. I am the chairperson of this KidSport chapter in our area."

KidSport Saskatchewan celebrates 30 years

Oslund says her mom was instrumental in getting KidSport established in the Whitewood-Moosomin area.

"We are celebrating our 30th anniversary this year—KidSport Saskatchewan. It has been around for quite a long time. I fully took over from it in 2019 when my mom passed away. She had been doing it for years and

"Last year, we helped about 40 kids in the area with registration fees."

—Beth Oslund

I had actually just found a picture of her 22 years ago at an event supporting KidSport, so it has been around for quite a long time."

Oslund says the group helps cover registration fees for families in the area. "There is a need," she said. "Last year, we helped about 40 kids in the area with registration fees. We cover registration costs, and we can also cover equipment costs, but for a lot of it we have equipment. Out here they wouldn't send stuff out from the cities. We usually try to offer the Jumpstart program for equipment costs as well. It is pretty easy to find a pair of hockey skates or equipment around our communities as well, so we don't see the need to help support with equipment often."

She explains the program focuses on helping low-income families with kids interested in participating in sport.

"Whoever is interested in applying can contact me or they can go to the KidSport Saskatchewan website and there will be a button on the website that says 'Find My Chapter' and they can apply online for a sport. We cover \$750 per year per child."

"There are eligibility requirements. A lot of it is more for low-income families. You can still apply if there are some circumstances that have come up for some reason. You can just explain in your application what is going on."

Oslund says they have supported many young talented athletes including a well-known NHL hockey player.

"I think it is for the kids' sake," she said. "We don't

want to see a kid not be able to take part in something they love doing or want to do because of their financial situation at that time. We just want to keep kids active, allow them to do what they love and see them succeed. We have had previous people that have applied and we funded—one has now played in the NHL and he wouldn't have had that chance if it weren't for us supporting."

KidSport Saskatchewan is funded from grants and donations. "We are funded through grants," said Oslund. "We do fundraise as well. Through KidSport Saskatchewan and KidSport Canada we get allocations from them. We do a lot of fundraising. We just did the Fuel Good Day and we get lottery grants from towns and donations. Anyone can donate."

"We've done a barbecue fundraiser at MacLeod Elementary School on one of their end-of-year sports days. Flaman's has donated to us before. It is such a small committee that we don't have the people behind us to do big events, so we are always looking to expand our committee so we can be out in the communities more."

Steps for applying to KidSport Saskatchewan

Oslund explains how families can apply to KidSport in our area.

"Once they apply online, my committee will get together, look over the applications, make sure everyone is eligible and approve or disapprove or if we need more information from them. If they are approved they will receive an email from us. There are also paper applications to fill out to apply."

Continued on page 28 *W5*

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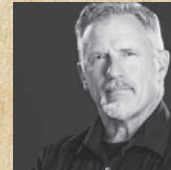


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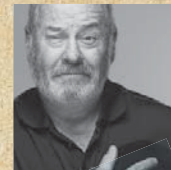
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Plain & Valley

Covering Southeast Saskatchewan and Southwest Manitoba

November 2025 • Page 25

Sask one of the most attractive jurisdictions in the world for mining investment

BY KARA KINNA

The World-Spectator spoke with Saskatchewan's Minister of Energy and Resources Colleen Young about Saskatchewan's position as one of the most attractive jurisdictions in the world for mining investment.

According to the Fraser Institute's Annual Survey of Mining Companies, Saskatchewan is again the top region in Canada for mining investment attractiveness, ranking first in the country. The 2024 report included responses from 350 companies rating 82 jurisdictions around the world. In addition to its best-in-Canada ranking, Saskatchewan placed seventh globally, owing to its strong ranking in policy and regulatory perception.

The 2024 survey measured all regions on two main areas—policy perception and mineral potential—to come up with an overall attractiveness ranking for investment. Saskatchewan placed first in Canada, and third globally, in policy perception, based on responses concerning policy certainty, environmental regulation, the legal system and skilled labour supply.

Saskatchewan also ranked highly for its geological database—fourth in the world—which speaks to the Saskatchewan Geological Survey's cutting-edge mapping technology and high-quality public geoscience data and its extensive library of core samples in its southern and northern Saskatchewan facilities.

Last year Saskatchewan reached record highs in potash production, mining approximately 24.7 million tonnes of potassium chloride, while also reaching new records for uranium production and sales—16,700 tonnes and \$2.6 billion, respectively.

The province is home to 27 of the 34 minerals on Canada's critical minerals list. In addition to uranium and potash, there is strong potential in Saskatchewan for further growth in the critical minerals sector: helium production continues to increase, while key projects in lithium, copper and zinc are set to begin production over the next year.

The interview with Minister Colleen Young follows:

What are some of the key factors that really sets Saskatchewan apart when it comes to mining investment attractiveness?

The Fraser Institute reported great news for our province overall and it does underscore Saskatchewan's status as a leading global mining jurisdiction. As you know, this is the 11th straight year that Saskatchewan is ranked first in Canada for mining investment attractiveness and we are pleased to see that, and we are glad that Saskatchewan continues to be recognized as one of the best places in the world to invest in resource development.



Colleen Young, Saskatchewan's Minister of Energy and Resources, speaking at an event at the Belle Plaine mine recently.

Our mining investment is outstanding. We have 27 of 34 critical minerals in this province and it's estimated to have been the highest of any province in Canada last year alone in 2024 in our mining investment area, and we're expected to grow. We expect that we're going to hit over \$7 billion in 2025.

It's our strong regulatory policy framework that continues to give investors and resource companies that confidence that we're here, we're listening to them, that we're supportive, that we're stable and a reliable place to make significant investments for mineral exploration mining projects.

How is Saskatchewan different from some other jurisdictions? What are we doing right?

Well I think we have created some really good competitive incentive programs and I think it's the predictability and the stable regulatory environment that investors and companies look at and say 'We're not going to make a change the next year,' that they can count on Saskatchewan's regulation and the programs that we're putting in place so that they are secure in making those investments and they know there's not going to be a change, a rapid

change in that, and I think that's been for all of our industries whether it's been the oil and gas, whether it's been potash and now the new minerals that are coming online.

We make sure that we're not making rapid changes in those regulatory frameworks on a yearly basis or any time and we make sure that we're following the markets and that we know what's out there and what these industries are looking to invest in.

How much does a report like this really matter? Does it actually make a real impact in terms of companies investing in mining in Saskatchewan?

Absolutely, we work very closely with the Saskatchewan Mining Association as well, the SMA. They are on the ground, they are working with businesses and industries and I work close with (SMA President) Pam Schwann in making sure that I am hearing what they're saying and what they are looking for. And when we do that with our industries and we listen to them first-and-foremost, I think that they recognize that we're here and that we're stable and predictable, and that they can make a secure and confident investment in the mining industry in this province. And that's been there for a long time, and as I said, I meet with many of them on a regular basis and assure them that if there is going to be any change, they're given a heads-up, and that we are working with them to let them know when that change may be and if it works within their industry.

Is that something that you really think that's helped make a difference for the province?

Absolutely, I believe so. The Fraser Institute does a really good job of listening to industries and making sure that they have provided their reports and provide that to the province, along with our credit ratings that are always there. Those industries are paying attention to those things.

How did it make you feel to see the ranking again this year?

We are very proud in Saskatchewan overall to know that we are leading in the global mining jurisdiction area and that we continue to lead there. The Fraser Institute has given us the 11th straight year that we have ranked first in Canada. It's been year after year after year that we've had that ranking, and we are an energy superpower. We have many things to offer and when it comes to energy, we know in our markets to the south to begin with, but also on a global scale, there are many countries that are looking to Saskatchewan for those mining investments.

Continued on page 32

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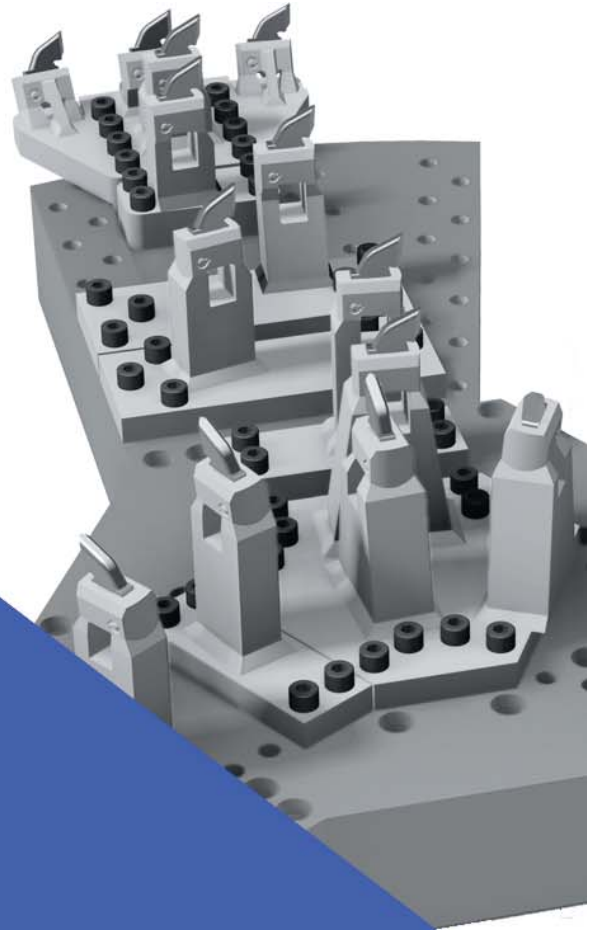
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MINING, ENERGY & MANUFACTURING



Saskatchewan funds growing research and innovation partnership

The Government of Saskatchewan is strengthening the foundation of a unique research partnership that will support energy and mineral research and help make Saskatchewan a global leader in clean energy. To date, the province has committed \$780,000 to help establish and support the operations of the Global Institute for Energy, Minerals and Society (GIEMS).

GIEMS is a research and training partnership between Saskatchewan Polytechnic, the University of Regina and the University of Saskatchewan that began to create a collaborative pipeline of innovation and talent. As a result of Saskatchewan's ongoing international engagement efforts, a memorandum of understanding establishing the collaboration was first announced at COP28 in Dubai in 2023. The partnership aims to promote and align research and innovation in the province's energy and mineral sectors.

"GIEMS is already opening up new opportunities to accelerate research and innovation and train future leaders in these critical sectors," Advanced Education Minister Ken Cheveldayoff said. "This partnership will support our labour market and significantly advance Saskatchewan's Growth Plan goals. It will help po-

"GIEMS will unlock the full potential of the people and organizations advancing the province's energy and minerals sectors. By engaging with academia, industry, government and Indigenous organizations to understand their needs, GIEMS will act as a bridge that connects ideas, capabilities and opportunities to achieve shared provincial goals."

—Tom Kishchuk, GIEMS Executive Director

sition Saskatchewan to be at the forefront of clean energy."

The partnership will play a key role in supporting the transition to clean energy by coordinating research efforts and fostering collaboration between the post-secondary sector, government, industry and Indigenous groups. GIEMS recently hired Executive Director, Tom Kishchuk, who is building a team to help co-ordinate and advance its work. Mr. Kishchuk has extensive experience in the energy sector at the provincial and national levels including leadership roles and board appointments at organizations such as the Sylvia Fedoruk Canadian Centre for Nuclear Innovation.

"GIEMS will unlock the full potential of the people and organizations advancing the province's energy and minerals sectors," Kishchuk said. "By engaging

with academia, industry, government and Indigenous organizations to understand their needs, GIEMS will act as a bridge that connects ideas, capabilities and opportunities to achieve shared provincial goals."

Through GIEMS, post-secondary researchers will combine resources and share knowledge to help address education and research gaps in energy and mineral sectors. The partnership will also enable them to leverage research grants to continue advancing work in these areas.

"At the University of Regina, we see GIEMS as a powerful catalyst for collaboration and innovation, promoting interdisciplinary perspectives to ensure that social innovations are developed alongside technical solutions," University of Regina Vice President of Research

Dr. Chris Yost said. "Our researchers are advancing knowledge that supports a more sustainable energy future, while our students gain the experience and skills needed to become future leaders who will drive Saskatchewan's energy and mineral sectors forward."

"GIEMS is developing sustainable solutions that will positively impact both people and the planet," University of Saskatchewan Vice President of Research Dr. Baljit Singh said. "Combining expertise and infrastructure from our three institutions positions GIEMS as a unique pipeline of innovation that will benefit Saskatchewan. The University of Saskatchewan is proud to contribute our research enterprise, infrastructure, and leadership to the advancement of GIEMS."

"GIEMS reflects Sask Polytech's strategic commitment to advancing industry-driven innovation," Saskatchewan Polytechnic Vice-Provost Susan Blum said. "As Saskatchewan's premier institution for applied research, our involvement in the GIEMS partnership ensures that our work-integrated learning programs are directly informed by current and emerging industry needs, helping employers access skilled talent and drive economic growth in the energy and mineral sector."

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MINING, ENERGY & MANUFACTURING



Local KidSport committee helping local athletes

Continued from page 23

"The town office in Moosomin should have some application forms, and if not we can get them some, and the schools have them.

"Then, after that they register for their sport, I usually get in touch with the committee part of the sport. We just had a few for football season so I contacted the groups who look after that, listing the kids who are covered by us, and we send the cheque directly to the sports organization."

Oslund says KidSport is important for small communities.

"Out in smaller communities we don't get programs like this like they do in the cities," she said.

"Knowing how much this program is used in our area shows it is needed everywhere, especially here—the costs could be higher than in other places because you are rural and need to cover facility fees with possibly less kids."



Apply in advance

Oslund says it is best for families to apply in advance of registration dates for KidSport and local organizations.

"We just ask that you apply in advance of registration. For example, hockey groups have to put their fees into Hockey Canada by a certain date, so it's easier to do it all ahead of time before it starts so we aren't holding up the organizations. Most people are pretty good with applying ahead of time."

The Whitewood-Moosomin Chapter is one of 38 chapters across the province. Over the years KidSport Saskatchewan has helped more than 170,000 kids participate in sports with more than \$17 million in funding.

Reach out to our area's KidSport President and Chair Beth Oslund by email: pipestonekidsport@hotmail.com Or apply online at: <https://kidsportcanada.ca/saskatchewan/>



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

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.

The Mosaic K3 site at Esterhazy.



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."

Producing low-cost tonnes through this project allows Mosaic to optimize the Canadian Resource Tax, and based on last year's number, there is an approximate \$60 per tonne benefit to the increased production at Esterhazy.

The new Hydrofloat

project was officially commissioned in July with hopes that the volume expansion will drive production costs per tonne lower in the future—the only asterisk to that being any big changes in foreign exchange rates.

Speaking of changes made by other countries, the U.S. tariffs are having little effect on Mosaic's operations locally.

"We've been watching it, we haven't seen a huge impact just yet," Boutin said when asked about the 50 per cent tariff on Canadian steel. "But when you go out for bids, obviously

our local suppliers will try and bid local materials because it also puts them at an uncompetitive advantage if they're bringing out of country materials. So when they go out for bids, they're obviously going to look at best pricing, and when you go to different vendors, you're going to see that through the quotation process."

In their second quarter report released in early August, Mosaic noted \$411 million net income for Q2, with \$194 million in potash operating earnings alone.

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Driven by our employees, **Mosaic proudly invests in Esterhazy** and area to strengthen families and support local community partnerships. In the last year, we've contributed **more than \$400,000** to enhance local healthcare, education, and childcare services in the region.



MINING, ENERGY & MANUFACTURING



Sask critical minerals program to support new lithium project

The Government of Saskatchewan's Critical Minerals Innovation Incentive (SCMII) will support the development of EMP Metals Corp.'s Project Aurora, a lithium refining demonstration plant in southeast Saskatchewan.

The SCMII supports a wide range of innovative projects targeting 11 emerging critical minerals in Saskatchewan, including lithium. Project Aurora will involve building and operating a small-scale lithium refining demonstration facility to innovate and prove out a model for larger, commercial-scale lithium production in the future.

"This is an important and exciting step forward for Saskatchewan," Energy and Resources Minister Colleen Young said. "By approving this project under the SCMII, we are opening the door to new technology that will lead to new investment, good jobs, and a more sustainable

energy future. Project Aurora will help strengthen Saskatchewan's position as a reliable supplier of the critical minerals the world needs and underscores our province's status as one of the best places in the world to invest in responsible resource development."

Project Aurora is a joint initiative between EMP Metals Corp. and Saltworks Technologies Inc. that builds on a successful lithium conversion pilot program. Saltworks will design and construct the demonstration plant, while EMP Metals will provide lithium brine from its Viewfield well and further infrastructure.

"We greatly appreciate the Saskatchewan government's approval of our application for SCMII funding," EMP Metals CEO Karl Kottmeier said. "Once again, Saskatchewan has proven that it is truly a supporter of new investment and technological development. With Project

Aurora, EMP and our partner Saltworks Technologies are excited to be building lithium production in the province and bringing longer-term employment opportunities to the community. This support only deepens our commitment to our work in Saskatchewan."

"Saskatchewan is clearly focused on harnessing its critical minerals, entrepreneurship, and innovation capacity," Saltworks Technologies CEO Benjamin Sparrow said. "We are thrilled to be collaborating with EMP Metals and Team Saskatchewan to demonstrate next generation lithium extraction technologies that will help unlock new opportunities for current and future generations."

Launched in 2024, the SCMII follows private investment and provides transferable royalty and freehold production tax credits on eligible innovation commercialization projects. The program is de-

signed to drive investments that lead to greater recovery, improved environmental outcomes and increased value-added processing or byproduct commercialization in the province's critical minerals sector.

Saskatchewan continues to be ranked as Canada's top jurisdiction for mining investment, according to the Fraser Institute's Annual Survey of Mining Companies. In 2023, the province launched 'Securing the Future: Saskatchewan's Critical Minerals Strategy' to foster sector growth, aligning with the Saskatchewan Growth Plan. The strategy aims to increase Saskatchewan's share of national mineral exploration to 15 per cent by 2030, double the number of critical minerals produced, and enhance output of potash, uranium and helium. It also seeks to establish Saskatchewan as a hub for rare earth elements.

Saskatchewan defines royalty structure to prepare for lithium development

The Government of Saskatchewan is supporting the development of the province's emerging lithium industry with the introduction of regulatory amendments to set a clear and consistent royalty framework for lithium and other minerals produced from natural brine aquifers.

These amendments to The Subsurface Mineral Royalty Regulations, 2017 will provide certainty for resource companies looking to develop or invest in lithium projects in Saskatchewan.

"Lithium is a critical mineral that is expected to see strong demand and growth in the decades ahead, and Saskatchewan is well-positioned to take advantage of this opportunity," Energy and Resources Minister Colleen Young said. "By putting this royalty framework in place now, we are providing certainty for industry, while ensuring the people of Saskatchewan benefit as this sector develops."

The new royalty framework sets a Crown royalty rate of 3 per cent of the value of brine mineral sales, with a two-year holiday for new productive capacity. The rate

"By putting this royalty framework in place now, we are providing certainty for industry, while ensuring the people of Saskatchewan benefit as this sector develops."

—Sask Energy and Resources
Minister Colleen Young

set is consistent with Saskatchewan's Crown royalties for potash, salt and sodium sulphate, while the overall system is competitive with other leading jurisdictions developing lithium from deep natural brine aquifers.

"This is another example of the Government of Saskatchewan continuing to encourage responsible resource development and employment in the province," Grounded Lithium President and CEO Gregg Smith said. "This new regulatory framework provides a reasonable royalty

rate while also recognizing the significant risk and initial investment companies make in processing facilities to ultimately achieve commercial production. Our pursuit of the most attractive geology brought Grounded Lithium to Saskatchewan, and we are pleased to be here."

Saskatchewan remains Canada's leading province for mining investment, according to the Fraser Institute's Annual Survey of Mining Companies. In 2025 Saskatchewan is projected to attract over \$7 billion in mining investment and account for more than 25 per cent of total mining investment in Canada.

In 2023 the province introduced 'Securing the Future: Saskatchewan's Critical Minerals Strategy,' aiming to grow the sector in line with the Saskatchewan growth plan. This strategy targets increasing Saskatchewan's share of national mineral exploration to 15 per cent by 2030, doubling the number of critical minerals produced, and growing the output of potash, uranium and helium. It also aspires to position Saskatchewan as a key hub for rare earth elements.

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MINING, ENERGY & MANUFACTURING



Sask one of the most attractive jurisdictions in the world for mining investment

Continued from page 25

Are there any new developments coming down the pipeline right now that we should be particularly excited about?

We have seen significant investments in the mineral sector across a variety of commodities and we know that's going to continue. Some of the notable ones I was just out at BHP—\$19 billion Jansen conventional potash mine. Last week, did a tour of it, we visited out there and they're targeted for their first production in 2027. And K+S Potash Canada is ramping up to nearly double production at the Bethune mine over the next couple of decades as well.

NexGen, they have a \$2.2 billion dollar Rook One conventional uranium project in Northwestern Saskatchewan along Athabasca Basin. It has high grade ore deposits and it's in its final stages of environmental licensing and approval.

Paladin Energy out of Australia completed the acquisition of Fission Uranium just recently this year and it's a \$1.2 billion conventional uranium project at the Patterson Lake south. Foran Mining Corporation at McIlvenna Bay, just up there by Hudson Bay, north of Hudson Bay, they have a copper and zinc development project which has currently been under construction for a while now, but they expect their first commercial production in 2026. So we are looking forward to that.

A brine lithium project is under development by Arizona Lithium, EMP metals, and Grounded Lithium. Bennetton Mines just received an environmental approval for development of their uranium mine, and North American Helium is continuing construction of their purification facilities in Southwest Saskatchewan.

So we have a lot on the go right now and we're really looking forward to many of these things getting into production.

Where do you see growth in the industry continuing?

We are the world's largest potash producer and reached a record high of 24.7 Potassium Chloride tons last year and this year we are projecting the value of our potash sales to rise with recent increases in the international potash prices, so we are on pace with sales to end at the end of this

year, \$4.1 billion, and the potash industry continues to be a strong pillar of the province.

We know that there are a lot of things happening. I was just down at one of the mines here recently at Bethune and we see a bright future for the potash industry as it grows and they are making strong investments into our province as well. We are very proud of the potash industry and the work that they do. They have global markets that they are sending to and are strong world-class mining companies that we have. So, the potash industry is very strong in the province. We are on track again to push past our 2030 growth plan of \$9 billion in annual sales in the years ahead.

Are you anticipating a lot of growth in some of the other mining sectors as well?

In uranium production, our sales have already reached \$2.6 billion last year and a lot of production happened there, but uranium sales for the current year are expected to increase further than they were last year with global markets that are looking for the high-grade uranium that we have. So they're off to a strong start with sales of nearly \$1.7 billion already in the first six months of this year.

Denison mines has one project coming on, NexGen is just waiting for their federal approvals, Cameco and Orano, which are world-class existing producers that have been increasing production as well in advancing projects in Saskatchewan.

We have a lot going on in the potash industry and it's going to remain strong. I am very confident in the investments that are being made by the potash industry in our province.

What practical differences does this report make?

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We are constantly ranked by the Fraser Institute as the top jurisdiction for mining investment and this shows that the industry sees Saskatchewan as the place to be, for investment, for knowing that it's a stable, supportive and reliable jurisdiction to invest in the mineral development projects and we know that mineral development projects require significant investments. So these reports do affirm that the mining industry in Saskatchewan is a prime location for exploration and development.

What difference will it make for the provincial economy and for the province's finances when you have these new mines coming online?

Mineral development and mining continue to be one of our most important economic drivers. They directly employ about 11,000 people and are one of the top contributors to our GDP and direct government revenue. As these mines come online and begin production, they're going to be subject to mineral royalties and taxes, which do contribute to the provincial revenues and help fund public services, such as healthcare, education, social services, building of our highways, infrastructure such as schools, hospitals, and long-term care facilities, all of which benefit all of our Saskatchewan citizens.

So, it's really critical to be supportive of these businesses and industries in our province, and work with them along the way as they build and invest in their projects in this province and contribute to our economic growth.

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MINING, ENERGY & MANUFACTURING



Energy and Resources Minister tours key oil and gas facilities in Southeast Saskatchewan

In September, Minister of Energy and Resources Colleen Young toured two key southeast facilities that support innovative and sustainable energy production: Whitecap Resources Inc.'s enhanced oil recovery (EOR) project in Weyburn, and Steel Reef Infrastructure Corp.'s (Steel Reef) Viewfield gas processing facility, including their combined heat and power project, in the Estevan area.

"Our oil and gas sector is a bedrock of the provincial economy, supporting jobs, families and a massive service and supply industry," Young said. "Saskatchewan energy producers have a proven track record of developing and implementing new technologies to reduce emissions and keep production strong into the future. Our province is ready to play a key role in helping Canada realize its potential to be a global energy superpower."

The Weyburn CO₂ EOR project has been operating for nearly 25 years. It collects carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions from industrial emitters and injects the gas underground to enhance oil recovery. To date, the facility has stored more than 44 megatonnes of CO₂ which is the equivalent to removing 9,310,647 cars off the road for one year. It has also produced over 120 million barrels of oil during this time.

"Whitecap is proud to own and operate one of the world's largest carbon sequestration facilities, right

here in Saskatchewan," Whitecap Resources Inc. Senior Vice President of Business Development and IT Dave Mombourquette said. "This project helped pioneer enhanced oil recovery and world-leading best practices for EOR project implementation. It continues to enable low-decline, stable oil production while also reducing emissions. Saskatchewan's foresight in capturing CO₂ from Boundary Dam continues to pay dividends as the current main source of CO₂ that drives Weyburn's EOR recovery today. The province's attractive energy policies, combined with its skilled workforce, make Saskatchewan an ideal place for us to continue our investment to realize the full potential of the province's vast energy resources."

Steel Reef continues to support associated gas capture from oil production. Instead of associated gas simply being vented or flared to the atmosphere, the gas is collected and processed into various saleable products and used to generate electricity. The company has used the Government of Saskatchewan's Oil and Gas Processing Investment Incentive (OGPII) several times to support its flare gas capture investments in the province. Steel Reef has built the first phase of its combined heat and power project at its Viewfield gas processing facility in the Estevan area, which includes a turbine for power generation and integrated



Saskatchewan Energy and Resources Minister Colleen Young poses for a photo with Ministry of Energy and Resources staff and Steel Reef Infrastructure Corp staff at Steel Reef's Viewfield gas processing facility in southeast Saskatchewan.

waste heat recovery units, reducing the need for associated gas consumption for utility and process heat for flare gas processing.

With phase 2, Steel Reef will install additional turbines and electrical substations at Viewfield, as well as its facilities in Coleville, North Portal, Saskatchewan Ethane Extraction Plant (SEEP), and Steelman to align with multiple long-term Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) with SaskPower to provide in excess of 100 megawatts (MWs) of carbon efficient power for Saskatchewan communities. On average, each site will produce approximately 20 megawatts of power to be brought onto the SaskPower grid by late 2027.



Saskatchewan Energy and Resources Minister Colleen Young tours Steel Reef Infrastructure Corp's Viewfield gas processing facility in southeast Saskatchewan on Sept. 4.

Continued on page 39 

First in Canada for Mining Investment Attractiveness

According to the *Fraser Institute's Annual Survey of Mining Companies*, Saskatchewan leads Canada for mining investment attractiveness. Additionally, our province ranks seventh globally for strong policy and regulatory perception. These results show Saskatchewan's strong, steady approach to attracting mining investment. With some of the best mineral development incentives in Canada, we will continue to uphold our reputation as a responsive, stable and predictable jurisdiction where investors can move projects forward.



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MLA for Cannington
canningtonconstituency@sasktel.net
(306) 443-4400

Kevin Weedmark
MLA for Moosomin-Montmartre
office@kevinweedmark.ca
(306) 435-4005

Hon. Warren Kaeding
MLA for Melville-Saltcoats
warrenkaedingmla@sasktel.net
(306) 728-3881

MINING, ENERGY & MANUFACTURING



Natural gas bans are fuelling higher energy costs

Governments are pulling the plug on natural gas with no real backup plan in place and Canadians are paying the price

Banning natural gas and pushing electricity without enough supply is a recipe for soaring energy costs and blackouts. Politicians may forget the basics of economics, but supply and demand won't go away.

When the supply of anything goes up, its price falls. Limit or decrease supply and the price rises. Demand works in the opposite direction—high demand drives up prices, and lower demand brings them down.

Like gravity, the law of supply and demand is always there, but many politicians behave as though it doesn't exist. Nowhere is that clearer than in energy policy, where environmental goals are prioritized while economic realities are sidelined. The drive to eliminate energy-related emissions in just a few years may sound noble, but it ignores practical limits, and Canadians are paying the price.

Take natural gas. It emits far less carbon than coal or oil. In Canada, most natural gas comes from Alberta and British Columbia, and it's one of the country's most affordable and secure energy sources. Despite this, several jurisdictions in B.C. are banning its use in new and renovated buildings—moves encouraged by federal emissions targets and climate incentives.

These policies may be well-intentioned, but they ignore a basic fact: people still need to heat their homes and cook their meals. Without gas, they'll be forced to use electricity. But unlike gas, electricity is already in short supply and getting more expensive. Our current generating capacity can't keep up with rising demand, and that's before we even consider the added strain from electric vehicles, data centres and energy-hungry artificial intelligence.

British Columbia's Site C dam, a multibillion-dollar hydroelectric project under construction on the Peace River,



Roslyn Kunin

is expected to generate enough electricity for 450,000 homes when complete. But all of that power is already spoken for. There are no Site C-scale replacements on the horizon. Meanwhile, our distribution infrastructure can't meet today's needs, let alone tomorrow's.

In one recent case, buildings planning to install EV chargers were told by B.C. Hydro, the Crown corporation responsible for electricity in B.C., that there wasn't enough power available. Major housing developments have even been blocked due to limited electricity supply.

These constraints aren't just technical—they're already making it harder to build new housing. Canadians may accept higher costs for environmental gains, but pushing up both housing and energy bills risks crossing a line. Banning natural gas makes it harder to build and maintain affordable homes, directly undermining what governments claim to support. In homes forced to switch from gas to electricity, heating and hot water bills could quadruple. Reliability also drops. Builders are now being advised to install backup generators to handle expected power outages—ironically, those generators will often run on the very natural gas being banned.

We can no longer assume the government will keep the lights on. That's a serious blow to Canadians' standard of living.

Some argue these trade-offs are justified if they cut

emissions. But even that goal is questionable. The gas we don't burn here will simply be sold elsewhere—likely to countries still relying on coal, oil or even dung. Because emissions don't respect borders, the global climate impact remains the same, or worse.

Of course, Canada could go further and stop producing natural gas altogether. Leave it all in the ground. But doing so would deliver a major blow to our economy and standard of living: something no elected government is likely to survive.

Alternatively, Canada could export more of its low-cost, lower-emission natural gas to displace dirtier fuels abroad. That would reduce global emissions more effectively than restricting gas at home.

Canadians care about the environment. But we need smart, balanced policies—ones that use our resources wisely, not wastefully. We can pursue conservation and cleaner technologies while still recognizing that economic laws apply, even when they're inconvenient.

It's not about choosing between prosperity and the planet. It's about realizing that ignoring the fundamentals—like supply and demand—comes at a cost most Canadians can't afford.

Dr. Roslyn Kunin is a respected Canadian economist known for her extensive work in economic forecasting, public policy, and labour market analysis. She has held various prominent roles, including serving as the regional director for the federal government's Department of Employment and Immigration in British Columbia and Yukon and as an adjunct professor at the University of British Columbia. Dr. Kunin is also recognized for her contributions to economic development, particularly in Western Canada.



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MINING, ENERGY & MANUFACTURING



Manitoba invests \$1.2 million in mineral exploration

The Manitoba government is providing \$1.2 million to six mineral exploration projects through the Manitoba Mineral Development Fund (MMDF) to support mining projects that create Indigenous partnerships, increase job opportunities and stimulate investment in northern Manitoba, Business, Mining, Trade and Job Creation Minister Jamie Moses announced today.

"The Manitoba government is actively investing in new critical mineral opportunities that support local communities and deliver benefits to all Manitobans," said Moses. "This MMDF investment will leverage \$3.8 million in private-sector capital and create 39 jobs that will help shape a strong future for Manitoba's mineral development industry."

The MMDF is a provincial fund administered by the Manitoba Chambers of Commerce (MCC). Communities and businesses, including Indigenous groups, municipalities and the not-for-profit sector, are eligible to apply for funding. Financial assistance from the fund could

include one-time grants for activities that help advance new mining opportunities and outreach to First Nations for collaborative resource development in Manitoba.

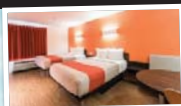
"The MMDF remains steadfast in its commitment to driving innovation, supporting economic growth and fostering partnerships within the mineral development sector," said Chuck Davidson, president and CEO, Manitoba Chambers of Commerce and chair, Manitoba Mineral Development Fund. "With growing demand for

critical minerals, Manitoba has a unique opportunity to attract investment, create jobs and strengthen communities while driving the province's long-term economic growth."

The funding provided to these six projects is expected to provide multiple short- and long-term jobs, strengthen partnerships with several First Nations communities and support Manitoba's leadership in sustainable mineral exploration, the minister said




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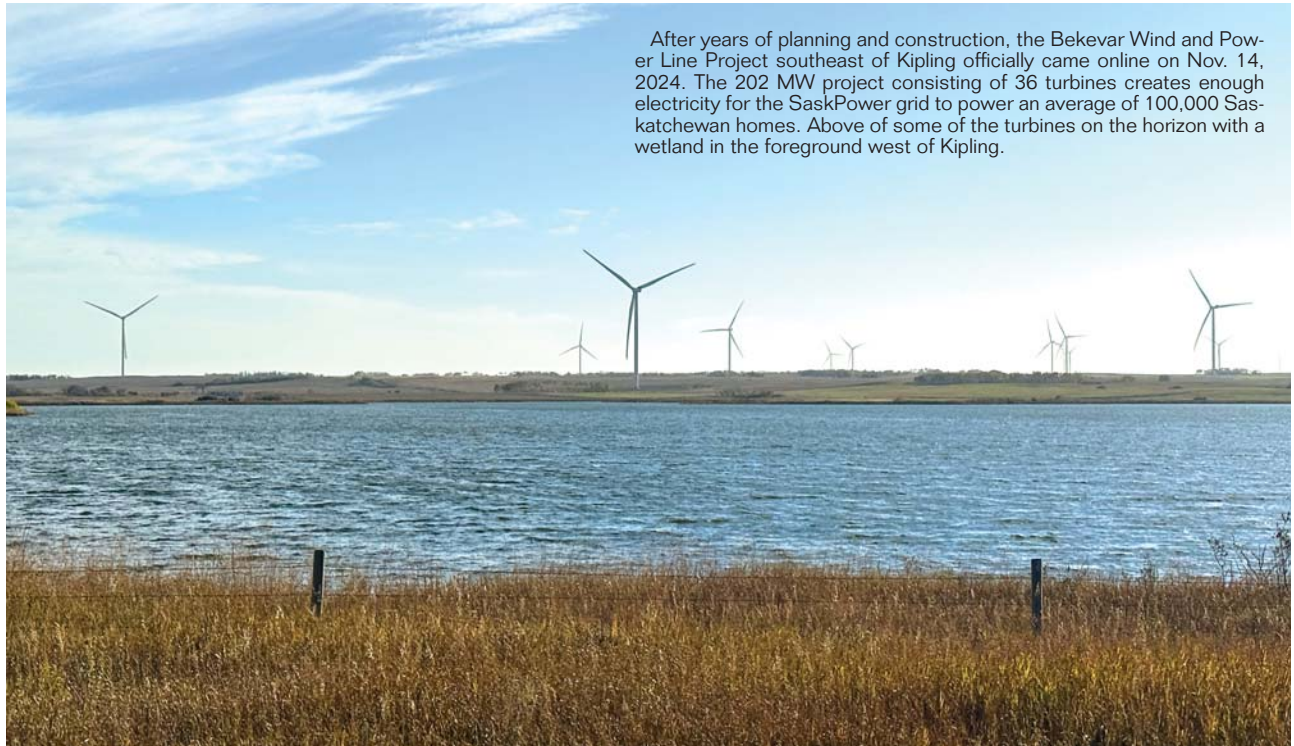
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After years of planning and construction, the Bekevar Wind and Power Line Project southeast of Kipling officially came online on Nov. 14, 2024. The 202 MW project consisting of 36 turbines creates enough electricity for the SaskPower grid to power an average of 100,000 Saskatchewan homes. Above of some of the turbines on the horizon with a wetland in the foreground west of Kipling.



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Energy and Resources Minister tours key oil and gas facilities in Southeast Saskatchewan



Saskatchewan Energy and Resources Minister Colleen Young is given a tour of control room equipment at Whitecap Resources Inc's enhanced oil recovery project in Weyburn.

☞ *Continued from page 33*

"We were pleased to tour our Viewfield facility alongside the Government of Saskatchewan to highlight the importance of economic growth and shaping a reliable, responsible and sustainable energy future," Steel Reef Infrastructure Corp. Chief Operating Officer Austin Voss said. "This was an opportunity to showcase how we are advancing emissions-to-energy technologies, and how we are investing in electricity generating turbines powered by recovered flare gas. This process reduces emissions and provides electricity from a

previously unavailable source. By working with the government and industry peers - and thanks to the dedication of our talented employees - we are strengthening Saskatchewan's energy sector and delivering long-term opportunities for growth and competitiveness."

The ministry continues to promote the responsible development of Saskatchewan's oil and gas resources through various emissions reduction programs. As of 2024, Saskatchewan's oil and gas sector has reduced emissions from venting and flaring at upstream oil facilities by 71 per cent, compared with 2015 levels.

Saskatchewan is a global leader in low

emissions oil production from EOR. The Government of Saskatchewan urges the Government of Canada to support sustainable oil production, including by making EOR an eligible use of captured CO2 under the federal Carbon Capture, Utilization and Storage Investment Tax Credit. Saskatchewan's competitive royalty structure, stable and predictable regulatory approach, programs that support innovation, emissions reductions, and new

infrastructure make the province one of the best places in the world to invest in oil and gas.

For more information about the Ministry of Energy and Resources' many incentives and Crown royalty programs, please visit this link. You will find specific information about the Oil and Gas Processing Investment Incentive, the Saskatchewan Petroleum Innovation Incentive and the Oil Infrastructure Investment Program.



Saskatchewan Energy and Resources Minister Colleen Young poses for a photo in the control room at Whitecap Resources Inc's enhanced oil recovery project in Weyburn, alongside Whitecap executives, from left, Dave Mombourquette, Bill Stoneman, Chris Bullin, and Darryl Williamson.



Saskatchewan Energy and Resources Minister Colleen Young poses for a photo with Austin Voss, Chief Operating Officer with Steel Reef Infrastructure Corp, at Steel Reef's Viewfield gas processing facility in southeast Saskatchewan on Sept. 4.

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Harvest 2025

Farmers say season ended with lots of bushels, but low grain prices

BY NICOLE TAYLOR
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

With harvest in Southeast Saskatchewan and Southwest Manitoba in the rearview mirror, producers are saying a lack of extreme heat this summer and timely rains led to one of the nicest crops in years, with farmers bringing in lots of bushels, although their enthusiasm for the crop was somewhat tempered by low grain and oilseed prices.

"We seeded canola, wheat, and oats in the Atwater, Bangor and Stockholm area," says Blake Duchek. "Yield-wise all the crops were above average. We had most of our wheat done before the first significant rain in September. We only had a couple of days left and the rest (of the crop that came off) was downgraded after the rain. Those crops had gone down to a number three. The other crops weren't affected by the weather. It was one of our best years that we've had in the last 20 years."

"We had 12 to 13 inches of rain over our farm, and a cooler summer. The canola kept blooming longer, and the crop was actually a bit later than usual because it didn't want to ripen up and die off. Overall, a cooler growing season and lots of moisture at the right time contributed to a nice crop. The moisture spaced out nice and evenly, instead of having six inches all at once which doesn't help."

Duchek says they wrapped up harvest over two weeks ago before the first snow that hit the Esterhazy region on the Thanksgiving weekend.

Mark McCorriston has land north, west and east of Moosomin.

He says he saw big yields this year, making for one of the nicest crops in their farm's growing history.

"It was one of the better yielding crops that I have ever grown to date, and that includes barley, wheat, and canola," he says. "The yield was excellent and the quality of the wheat that was taken off before the rain was all Number 1 and it weighed up good and it was excellent before that week and half of rain."

"Everything was good on the grain side of things except for the actual price of grain. Canola is as low as it was 10 years ago, same with wheat."

"When I took over from my dad and started farming in 2014 and on my own, that's what I was selling wheat for, the same as I am today. It's \$6.50 a bushel. It's kind of disappointing even though I had the best yield of wheat crop that I've had to date. I've made way more money in the past off growing two-thirds less of a crop and selling it for a fair price."

"So it is bitter sweet. We've got all these bushels, but it's not worth what it should be."



Mariah Roy with Hebert Grain Ventures submitted this photo of a harvest sunset in the Moosomin area.

"Everything has changed so much. Post Covid the price of fuel is basically one-and-a-half times, parts are probably three times what they once were 10 years ago."

Everything has gone up except for the price of grain. I'm grateful that we have all these bushels, but still it doesn't really look that great on the spreadsheet.

"The number one factor is the spat with China over the electric vehicles. I'm not sure how many people even want electric vehicles in Canada, but I would assume only a small percentage of them would want Chinese built ones and it's affecting every farmer in Western Canada because canola is probably the number one crop in everyone's rotation that they focus on, and it's like we're selling canola for \$20 a bushel or \$18, which is tolerable, not breaking the bank, but now it's marketing canola at \$13 or \$13.50. Again I feel really bad for other parts of the province that didn't grow the bushels because that's what's going to keep us carrying onto next year, because we had an excellent crop. But if we didn't have that, then we would be dire in straits for sure."

Like other farmer, McCorriston credits more temperate summer weather and timely rains with the excellent crops.

"We did get one big shot of rain and it affected some of my crops in the Rocanville area because it is so flat. So we had a few drowned out spots, but overall we got enough rain instead of an abundance of rain where it pools and drowns out areas. Nothing hurts your yield and your overall profit more than seeding the crop, taking care of the crop and then investing anywhere from \$400 to \$450 into it and then it drowns out and you get zero in return. So a lot of it

was just timely rains and also not too much rain."

"In our farm's history—my dad started here in '76—I think canola possibly wasn't the highest I have ever grown, but wheat and barley were record setters for the McCorriston farm forever."

"The sad part is doing some penciling and trying to figure it out. Wheat is looking at \$6.75 to break even at best even with each bushel and then it's a lot of extra work too."

"You got all this grain and I really feel bad for the guys that did get feed grain after that rain. The spread on feed from Number 1 isn't as big as it has been in the past, so it's the loss of weight that really affects it because you have that much more product to equal a bushel."

"This could have potentially been a home run year and now it's looking like just enough to keep you in the swing for another year."

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FCC report

Canadian farmland values rose 6.0 per cent in first half of 2025 FCC report

Canadian cultivated farmland values rose by an average of 6.0 per cent in the first half of 2025, according to the mid-year farmland values review by Farm Credit Canada (FCC).

This marks a modest acceleration compared to the first half of 2024, which saw a 5.5 per cent increase. Over the 12 months from July 2024 to June 2025, there was a 10.4 per cent increase, representing a slight increase compared to the previous 12-month period (January to December 2024) with a 9.3 per cent increase.

This growth reflects a complex mix of market forces and regional dynamics, with some provinces surging ahead while others remaining flat. Manitoba led the country with an 11.2 per cent increase, followed by New Brunswick (9.4 per cent) and Alberta (6.6 per cent). Saskatchewan matched the national average at 6.0 per cent, while Quebec (2.6 per cent), Prince Edward Island (2.3 per cent), and Nova Scotia (1.0 per cent) posted modest gains. Ontario and British Columbia recorded no change, highlighting the uneven nature of the market.

"Demand for farmland remained strong in



the first half of the year regardless of lower commodity prices," said J.P. Gervais, FCC's chief econ-

omist. "Buyers continued to invest, driven by long-term confidence in the agriculture sector and the

limited supply of available land. While growth is uneven across provinces, the overall trend points to

promising growth opportunities in agriculture."

Despite notable gains in certain regions, over

the past six months, the overall range of sale prices per acre has increased only modestly. Provinces that experienced strong growth in recent years are now seeing a softening in farmland prices, while regions with previously more modest increases continue to see solid gains. Overall, the market appears to be stabilizing.

Gervais noted that farm cash receipts fell 1.6 per cent in 2024, mainly due to a drop in grain and oilseed revenue, while livestock receipts rose. In early 2025, grain and oilseed receipts increased slightly, though results vary by crop and region. Looking forward, receipts for grains and oilseeds are expected to decline overall in 2025 by 6.0 per cent. Easing interest rates and healthy farm balance sheets should provide underlying support to farmland values. Yet the farm economy may reflect a more cautious environment in the second half of 2025 and 2026 when it comes to the demand for farmland.

"The interplay between interest rates, farm revenues and expenses, and constrained land availability will continue to shape the trajectory of farmland values," Gervais added.

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Second annual food drive planned for Kipling

By NICOLE TAYLOR
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Kipling is holding its second town-wide Food Drive on Sunday, December 7.

After a successful event last year, despite some undesirable winter weather, the joint organizers from the Kipling Lions Club, Kipling Food Bank, and Kipling Fire Department are hoping that this year will be just as successful or even more successful.

"Last year was the Fire Department's first year and it was very successful. After how good we did last year, the food bank asked us if we wanted to do it again, and we decided that we might as well keep it going," said Fire Chief Ken Nordan.

"It will be an annual event now, so we ought to help out with it. One thing that really stuck with me last year was that, for every call and accident we go to with the Fire Department, not one person is smiling when we leave the Fire Hall, but when we help out with these events like the Food Drive, everyone is smiling and happy."

"This year we're going door-to-door with the fire trucks, so people don't have to come to us, especially after the blizzard we had during the food drive last year!" he said.

The Kipling Food bank has been providing the community and surrounding area with support since 2009.

"Last year's food drive went very well, and we had a tremendous turnout," said organizer Wayne Struble. "We probably ended up with about a five month supply of food for the food bank. We're looking for hopefully the same thing or better this year for a few reasons. Our clientele is always getting larger it seems, so the need for food is out there. We're seeing people come in from all walks of life."

"We serve a pretty wide area, as far north as Broadview, far east as Kennedy-Langbank, to the south we go to Arcola, and as far west as Montmartre. There's a food bank in Carlyle and one in Moosomin, but that's about it in the wider area. There's also a few that they set up around Christmas time, but those are only limited time ones."

Gloria Struble with the Kipling Food Bank, says that people who go all the

way to Regina for food are often referred to local food banks like Kipling's.

"They are kind of getting overwhelmed with people at the ones in the cities, so now we're getting people that are being told to come here instead of the city food banks," she said.

Struble noted that having three different organizations join forces for the food drive has been a tremendous help.

"As far as volunteer help goes, it's been super smooth. From the Food Drive itself, to getting the food to the Food Bank, getting it organized and on the shelves, it's been a really great experience," she said.

"It takes a lot of volunteer help. Before the drive we put out some mail and put up signs all around town to let people know when it's happening. On the day of the Food Drive we go door-to-door and collect whatever food we can, and load it into our trucks or trailers. Last year we didn't knock on doors, and the Fire Department felt that some people may have missed it because they didn't hear or see the trucks, so we're trying to mitigate that this year."

"The Food Bank would also like to let people know that just because we knock on your door, giving is completely voluntary, you don't have to for any reason or another, and it's all right if you are unable to," said Struble.

The Kipling Lions Club provided many volunteers for the event as well, and it was one of their members that first brought forward the idea of starting a food drive in Kipling last year.

"The Food Drive really got started with a member of the Lions Club that spends the winter in Osoyoos, B.C., and there are communities out there that have been doing this for a number of years. So that's where the idea came from. He brought it back here and presented it to a few organizations in town and our first run was last year. We were ecstatic with how last year's event went," said Dan Manns with the Kipling Lions Club.

"We wound up with more donations than I think any of us expected. The Food Bank has said that they were stocked up with food through June, so it went amazingly well. As for the Lions Club, this fits right in with our mission. We are always looking for



The Kipling Lions, Kipling Fire Department, and Kipling Food Bank posing with one of the signs that will go up in Kipling to get people ready for the Food Drive on December 7.

new and interesting ways that we can give back to the community and serve the town. That doesn't always mean just writing a

cheque and calling it a day, we love to get our boots on the ground and do some real work for the community.

"The cohesiveness was amazing, everybody took their job and ran with it. Mike Warner deserves a lot of credit for putting this all

together and co-ordinating everybody. It's not an easy job but he sure makes it look easy."

He says that the amount of volunteers was something that he is very proud of.

"Last year we had a one hundred percent response from the Fire Department, so every firefighter in town volunteered. We had four fire trucks throughout the community, and each truck had about 12 people attached to it, and then Santa was downtown and he had four or five people with him as well. We didn't get a lot of turnout from neighboring communities because of the snow and how terrible the highways were that day, so that's something we hope is different this year."

All the groups involved are excited to make this year's Food Drive another great success.



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ROCKY MOUNTAIN EQUIPMENT

Saskatchewan engages with Mexico and the United States on agricultural trade and development

Agriculture Minister Daryl Harrison will lead a trade mission to Mexico to strengthen our trade, research and investment ties with some of Saskatchewan's long-standing Mexican partners and to help companies and industry organizations in the province maintain and strengthen their relationships with Mexican stakeholders.

The mission will reinforce the province's international reputation as a reliable supplier of high-quality food, feed and value-added commodities. The mission will also promote research, investment and other collaborative opportunities in Saskatchewan's value-added sector.

"Mexico continues to be a vital partner for Saskatchewan, particularly in the agriculture sector," Harrison said. "This mission will open new avenues to promote provincial agriculture export interests, bolster relationships with stakeholders and advance discussions with Mexico on priority agriculture issues."

As part of the mission, Minister Harrison will be participating in the 2025 Tri-National Agricultural Accord, being hosted in Morelia, Michoacán, Mexico. This annual meeting is a premier opportunity to engage with the United States (U.S.) and Mexico and elevate Saskatchewan's profile with these two important trading partners. Topics this year include preparing for the Canada-U.S.-Mexico Agreement review in 2026, celebrating the International Year of the Woman Farmer coming up in 2026, and discussing animal disease preparedness, among other topics.

Mexico is a priority market for Saskatchewan, ranking as the province's sixth-largest export destination in 2024 with \$592 million in agri-food exports, which accounted for 93 per cent of Saskatchewan's total exports to Mexico.



Daryl Harrison,
Minister of Agriculture

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USask research explores the science of the bovine gut

Researchers uncovering surprising findings from comparing heifers' digestion behaviours

BY JOANNE PAULSON

It's a classic scene on any prairie vista: the placid cow moving its great jaw, chewing forage for what seems forever.

Most denizens of the Prairies grasp that this chewing, known as rumination, is an important part of complex bovine digestion. But what even scientists have not understood is how important.

Dr. Gabriel Ribeiro (PhD), associate professor in the University of Saskatchewan's (USask) College of Agriculture and Bioresources (AgBio) and Saskatchewan Beef Industry Chair, set out to investigate what seems to be a relatively simple question—why do some cows digest fibre better than others—in a four-part study conducted with master's candidate Megan Dubois.

The results were far from simple. Indeed, they proved not just interesting but somewhat surprising.

Ribeiro and Dubois learned that cattle with higher digestible-fibre intake had better feed efficiency—an animal's ability to convert feed into body weight gain.

Ribeiro had seen a huge variability among animals in his previous research, and this most recent study was intended to advance understanding of the animals' physiology and rumen (first stomach of a cow that receives food or cud) microbiology, to see if there were, for example, specific ruminal microbes that would explain those differences.

But better feed efficiency was not the only parameter Ribeiro and Dubois were testing for.

"When we started this project, we didn't have any focus on methane or greenhouse gases," he said. "We were really focused on understanding why some animals digest fibre and do better on low-quality diets and high-forage diets than others."

As they moved forward with the project, they decided to also address rising concerns from society over how beef cattle affect the environment, to see whether greenhouse gas emissions—notably methane—could be reduced.

"Our previous thought was if these animals eat more fibre and digest it better, we expected that they would produce more methane," Ribeiro said.

However, when they measured methane, they did



GrowSafe feed bunks are used to continuously monitor individual feed intake of study heifers at the USask Livestock and Forage Centre of Excellence.

not see that. Rather, the total enteric methane produced per day was the same amount as the other group's, but when expressed per kilo of feed digested, they produced less methane.

"And if they gain more weight, that would mean less methane per kilo of beef," Ribeiro said.

"We were quite surprised at that."

Sixteen heifers

Ribeiro and Dubois began the study with 64 black Angus crossbred heifers, all from the same herd to reduce variation due to cattle source.

Then they selected the top eight (most efficient) which ate and digested fibre the best, along with the bottom eight (least efficient). The study was performed at the USask Livestock and Forage Centre of Excellence.

In her research, Dubois saw that the top heifers which ate more and digested fibre better, ate more quickly and gained weight faster.

"We have some ideas about why this is happening," Ribeiro said. "We did see some small changes in the rumen microbiome and did measure that in our previous work, but they are not large or drastic changes."

Continued on page 48 

LAND FOR LEASE BY TENDER

Sealed, written tenders to lease the cultivated acres in the properties situate in the Municipality of Brenda-Waskada and described below will be received by:

Meighen Haddad LLP
102 North Railway Ave.
P.O. Box 485
Deloraine, Manitoba, R0M 0M0
Attention: Warren G Barber, K.C.

LAND:

Parcel 1: W ½ 28-3-24WPM & NE ¼ 29-3-24WPM

Parcel 2: W ½ 32-3-24WPM

(includes 1 - 3300 and 1 - 1650 bushel steel bin)

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 landowner. The land is tendered for rent on an "as is" basis. All mines and minerals are reserved from the Lease Agreement.
- Tenders must be received on or before **12:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 27, 2025.**
- Tenders may be submitted to lease either or both parcels but must be for a term of three (3) years. Where Tenders are submitted for both parcels, the Tender must specify the annual rent offered for each parcel and whether either Tender can be accepted or both together must be accepted.
- The party whose tender is accepted will be required to enter into a written Lease Agreement to be prepared by the solicitors for the landowners, a copy of which is available by contacting Warren G. Barber, K.C. at wbarber@mhlaw.ca or (204) 725-8461.
- The successful bidder shall be responsible for one half the costs associated with the preparation of the lease.
- Entry onto the land will not be authorized until the Lease Agreement is executed.
- Highest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

Meighen Haddad LLP

LAW FIRM

11:1c

FOR SALE BY TENDER

Sealed, written tenders for the property located in the Municipality of Deloraine-Winchester and described below will be received by:

MEIGHEN HADDAD LLP
P.O. Box 485, 102 N. Railway Ave., Deloraine, MB R0M 0M0
Attention: Warren G. Barber, K.C.

SW ¼ 24-1-23WPM comprising 160 acres more or less*

* all acreages taken from the most recent Manitoba Property Assessment Reports.

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 at or before noon on **November 20, 2025** at the offices of Meighen Haddad LLP, at the address set out above, Attn: Warren G. Barber.
- Tenders must be accompanied by a **\$5,000.00** deposit cheque payable to Meighen Haddad LLP. Deposits accompanying unacceptable 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 the terms and conditions of sale.
- In addition to the deposit, the balance of the accepted tender must be paid within thirty (30) days from the date of notification of acceptance or evidence provided that the purchase funds will be available under conditions acceptable to the vendor. If the balance of the accepted tender is not paid in the set time limit the deposit paid may be forfeited as liquidated damages and not as penalty.
- Possession is not authorized until acceptable arrangements for full payment are made following acceptance of tender.
- All mines and minerals will be reserved from any transfer.
- Successful bidders will be responsible for real property taxes commencing **January 1, 2026.**
- Successful bidders will be responsible to pay G.S.T. or to provide a Declaration and Undertaking to self-assess if registered for G.S.T.
- Each of the vendor and purchaser will be responsible for their own legal fees and disbursements relating to the sale.

For further information contact Tom Rickard @ (306) 577-8141

Meighen Haddad LLP

LAW FIRM

Harvest is over, let's take that combine home now

Let's face it – we've all done it! And Thanksgiving is a perfect time to save those leftovers and once the kiddos have gone to bed, sneak some goodies and quietly eat them by the light of the microwave. I chuckled when I heard a mom of four youngsters say this in her quest to ensure she got best dibs on the post-thanksgiving-meal goodies.

I tried something this Thanksgiving that I have never even heard of before and it totally blew my limited-sugar eating plan. Was it worth it? Absolutely! My daughter's mother-in-law grew up on sour cream pie made with real cream. Think raisin pie only one hundred times better. I was almost vibrating when I finished my piece of pie that first night (sugar rush), only to go back the second night where leftover pie was being offered and once again, I indulged. And not secretly by the light of the microwave either. In broad daylight in front of the entire other side of my daughter's family. And not one bit ashamed was I!

Sometimes our Thanksgiving meals are eaten in the field around tables set up on a flat deck trailer with the combine and truck operators taking quick breaks to eat their turkey and ham and pumpkin pie. Thankfully, this year, all that rig-a-ma-roll wasn't necessary as I well in advance of Thanksgiving meal plans.

And I have to be honest that last day – I was a little emotional. Who, me? A couple of things had happened, one being I jiggled up my knee. Bursitis they said. What kind of 'itis' I asked the doctor. AKA housemaid's knee (from kneeling too much). Well that certainly wasn't what caused my knee to scream in pain (or was that me screaming?) when I bent it. My guess is that climbing all over the combines to clean windows was what caused the problem, one that saw me shirk my duties and not bother to clean windows at all on that last day.

And so it was on Last Day (with little sleep for several nights), I headed out on a parts run (yeah,

even the last day had to give us the gift of a breakdown), dreading hauling Last Day's meals in the field procedure. As I walked (well, limped) up to my truck, our neighbours walked by and said, "Don't make supper tonight. We have it covered." Now, for this farm gal who hauls food out to the field twice a day, those were the sweetest words I had heard all harvest long. And yeah, a tear slid down my cheek as I headed off to Moosomin for parts. Yup, we have the bestest neighbours ever.

Fast forward to the Last Supper (okay, not that one) and our last tailgate meal of 2025. Nothing beats enjoying lasagna that you didn't even have to make! A few last laps around the field and then it was time – time to take that combine home and I dutifully switched on my flashers and followed behind. No big deal, right? Until I pulled into the driveway at the farm, still following behind. That's when the tears began to flow. To be fair, I didn't shed tears of sorrow at being done, that I can guarantee you. But I think it was just a combination of gratitude for a meal I didn't have to make made by someone who didn't need to do that along with a sense of being proud of the work our entire team had put into bringing in the crop. This was likely all mixed together with a bit of exhaustion (or a lot as the case may be). Whatever it was, I was glad to see the combines parked, ready for the next day's cleaning. And while I am not crying anymore (some three weeks later), I have yet to get any relief for whatever that 'itis' problem is that I have.

One day in the middle of harvest, our landline phone rang as I was packing up supper. It was some agriculture research company asking for Wayne. I love when you tell them he isn't home how they ask what time they could reach him. Long pause. Me, not



him. I say, "we are harvesting." He says, "Yes I realize that, when could I call back and speak to him?" What do you even say to that?

I love listening to Deanne Frieders (This Farm Girl Cooks) with her "I Don't Care" videos. The ones that say things like ... 'We're harvesting. I'm tired. I don't care if you have eaten 36 sandwiches so far this harvest – here's #37.' Or 'I don't care if there are soybeans and corn at odd places in my house. I bring my work home with me.' And on they go. What I especially love about this gal is that when she talks about 'tailgate meals' it's not the partying kind of meal – it's real life down on the farm kind of tailgate meals. So committed is she to her job as a farmer/farmer's wife, she has published cookbooks called "Table to Tailgate" and "Meals in Motion."

The 'writer' in me, such as it is, doesn't usually write about 'end of harvest time' other than for these ag columns but this year, I just had to put something into words. Did I mention I was unusually emotional this time around? And so, in part, talking about how grateful I am to 'live down on the farm' this is what it said ...

Some things I know about life on the farm – it's never been glamorous

And 'well-paid' isn't a term I'm familiar with in my role

But this life is our bread and butter, sometimes for better and sometimes for worse but we are in together, somehow making

it work

"Mostly it's hard work and dusty work at that

It's breakdowns and frustration and parts nowhere to be found

It's sometimes too hot, too cold, too windy or too wet

It's super early mornings and long, drawn out nights

"There are times I wonder what time he'll get to bed at night and if meeting him at the combine during our early morning servicing routine counts as quality time together

There are the 'here's a sandwich' moments as you throw lunch up the combine steps and many are the tailgate meals that are cold before the last guy gets to dish up his plate, or even the first guy for that matter

There are too many cinnamon bun moments and not near enough vegetable ones

"And yet, amongst it all God gives us these beautiful sunsets and wonderful times of being together and working together – as a team

There are next-generation farmers gathered around the tailgate enjoying the long-held tradition of 'supper in the field', there are laughs over an "oops" moment and ex-

citement in moving to the next field, one field closer to 'done'

And then there's this incredible feeling of being part of this team that makes it all happen and takes us toward the finish line in one crazy race against time ..."

Farm life has its challenges and its joys, its crazy seasons and its downtimes and it's not really something easily described in a few words. But what it is for those whose workplace is in the field and whose mealtimes are outdoors standing at the tailgate of a truck full of old fenceposts and gas cans is a life built on hard work, long hours, a few tears, uncertain pay, some good laughs and a whole lot of amazing sunrises and sunsets.

Wayne leaves our tiny home on the farm during around sunrise. I follow a bit later with my trusty window washing kit and as he fuels and services the machines, I water the windows down so to speak. It's date time every morning! We are in our grungiest old clothes and our conversation is limited to his shout, "Start the combine and lower the header" or my "Look at the amazing colours of the sunset this morning!" and sometimes even a "How many water bottles can one driver go through in a day?" Okay, so I say that to myself as I toss a thousand bottles down to the ground.

This fall I survived both harvest and the move of our oldest granddaughter to the city. I historically have a tough time with moves because of the flood of memories that overwhelm me at times. This gal spent a lot of time

with us growing up, many times riding shotgun in the combine with her baby sister on the floor, cooler bags filled with bottles. Never at a loss for words, she kept me entertained for acres and acres. She still does. I text her the other day and said, "I got an email from Manitoba Fisheries for you. I can't figure out why an email for you came to my address. You haven't even fished in Manitoba." "Grandma," she said, "it wasn't for me, it was for you." My response? "But my name isn't 'Hunter.'" I am sure with a shake of her head and a roll of her eyes that I could not see, she said, "It's a generic 'Dear Hunter' letter, Grandma. As is 'Dear Hunter/Fisherman.'" Long pause. Uncontrollable laughing now (on my part). "Got it, Hunter," I respond, still dying of laughter at my stupidity.

And sometimes it's those ridiculously funny moments where we recharge and step back and realize that laughter is truly good for the soul.

Here's trusting you had a safe and successful harvest, fellow grain farmers, along with some really good belly laughs from time to time. Until next time, I hope whatever keeps you busy this time of year is a welcome change from those long hours in the field.

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Minister of Agriculture announces Sask Farm Land Ownership Advisory Committee



Agriculture Minister Daryl Harrison has appointed a Farm Land Ownership Advisory Committee to provide feedback which aims to strengthen Saskatchewan's farm land ownership legislation.

The committee will meet with key stakeholders in October and November. After initial consultations are complete, the committee will provide a summary of feedback received. The Government of Saskatchewan will then review the findings.

"Our government wants to ensure that legislation meets the needs of Saskatchewan farm land owners," Harrison said. "This committee's work will help inform the decisions we make regarding farm land ownership in our province."

The Farm Land Ownership Advisory Committee will consist of three members:

- Ken McDonald, Chairperson;
- Deron Kuski, Committee Member; and
- Curt Chickoski, Committee Member.

"I am pleased to be a part of this committee which has been struck to review all aspects of farm land ownership in Saskatchewan," McDonald said. "Farm land ownership is an important issue to the people of this province, and it is our task to review current regulations and to make sure that managing this valuable asset remains a priority."

Saskatchewan farm land is one of the province's most valuable assets. The province's farm land ownership framework is comprised of The Saskatchewan Farm Security Act and The Saskatchewan Farm Security Regulations. As the nature of farming and business continues to evolve, the Government of Saskatchewan wants to ensure the legislative framework regarding farm land ownership meets the needs of the people of Saskatchewan.

The Farm Land Security Board will continue to monitor and enforce Saskatchewan's farm land ownership legislation, while operating independently of government. The Board enforces The Saskatchewan Farm Security Act, which specifies individuals and entities that are eligible to acquire an interest in farm land, including Canadian citizens, permanent residents of Canada, and corporations that are 100 per cent Canadian owned and not publicly traded.

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USask research explores the science of the bovine gut

Continued from Page 45



Dr. Gabriel Ribeiro (PhD) and master's student Megan Dubois presenting a poster from the study at the 2025 American Society of Animal Science - Canadian Society of Animal Science Annual Meeting in Hollywood, Florida.

So, they also looked at the heifers' chewing behaviour. Indeed, the better-performing animals spent more time chewing (i.e. ruminating) that diet.

The researchers were also interested to see if these differences would hold up when the animals were fed diets with high amounts of grain content, which they did. "That kind of helps explain why they digest fibre better because by ruminating it more, chewing more, it helps break down the fibre and helps microbes in the rumen digest that fibre," Ribeiro said.

"We also think because they eat more, there might be faster transit throughout the digestive tract, so there's less opportunity for microbes (i.e. methanogenic archaea) to produce methane."

He noted that producers are pressured to reduce methane production, but most available strategies are expensive and do not provide financial benefits to the farm or ranch.

"Whenever we propose new technologies, we have to make sure it solves a problem but doesn't just add costs to the producer," Ribeiro said.

The study was funded by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC), Beef Cattle Research Council (BCRC), Alberta Beef Producers (ABP), and Saskatchewan Cattle Association (SCA).

To be continued

The study was completed last year and now Dubois is writing the results paper. She will defend her master's thesis next month and start her PhD to follow up on the project by looking at larger numbers of animals and try to connect them with genetics.

"There are a lot of things that genetics drive that could be causing those different phenotypes to come out. I'm not quite sure what we're looking at, but there is something there. We just don't have the numbers yet," she said.

While few studies have been done that support their findings, Ribeiro said that a recent meta-analysis study (a study summarizing data from multiple research studies)

from Europe found similar results.

"With that, we are planning to do a lot more work in this area, hopefully, if we get all the funding in place that we are working on now," Ribeiro said.

Funding from the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Agriculture Methane Reduction Challenge and industry funds from the BCRC and the Alberta Results Driven Agriculture Research (RDAR) are already in place for this future work.

The next step will be to understand the better-performing heifer phenotype and look at it in a larger group.

"The main problem we have is to do that deep work, we need to get more phenotypes and those are very expensive to get," Ribeiro said.

Ribeiro plans to build a research team around this study. He has already received support from professors and researchers Dr. Bart Lardner (PhD) and Dr. Greg Penner (PhD), and Dr. Mika Asai-Coakwell (PhD) (geneticist), all in the AgBio college, and Dr. Robert Gruninger (PhD) (rumen microbiologist) from AAFC in Lethbridge, Alta. He also hopes to connect with the genetics team at the University of Alberta.

"We need a lot of brains together to think about what's going on, what it means," Ribeiro said. "And to think toward the future. What do we do next?"

"By selecting those heifers that can eat and digest fibre more efficiently, we think there's an opportunity to reduce the cost of production and increase profitability. So, I think for the producer, that's super important."

Down the road, producers themselves could select for these positive traits, he said.

"We're trying to find an easy way to identify those animals and create the technology for producers to make it easy to identify this phenotype, perhaps by DNA testing a blood or hair sample."

For cattle producers, the research could ultimately be herd-changing. By selecting for hungrier heifers that eat faster and spend more time ruminating, you could produce heavier cattle at a much lower cost and with lower methane emissions.

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111 cattle exhibited at Black Gold Classic in Virden

On October 4, the fourth Black Gold Classic was held at the Virden Ag Society Grounds with 111 head of top quality cattle exhibited by more than 30 producers from across Manitoba and Saskatchewan. Shown here are the winners in each class.

Black Gold Classic would like to **THANK** all our sponsors, exhibitors, judges, Lenore 4-H Beef Club and the Virden Agriculture Society for making this show happen! We look forward to seeing everyone next year!

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Above: There was a massive show of support with more than 80 per cent support for Leader Scott Moe from the massive crowd at the 2025 Sask Party Convention! Great result and a great crowd! Above is Scott Moe addressing the crowd at the convention.



Above: I won a couple of prizes by spinning the wheel at the fundraiser for the Allan Blair Cancer Clinic.

Below: At the Allan Blair Cancer Clinic fundraiser at Green Falls Landing I sat and had a drink with these residents and learned a lot from them . . . Even if one of them was bidding against me on one item in the silent auction . . .



Above: Nutrien Rocanville is receiving funds for emissions reductions under the Saskatchewan Technology Fund and I was happy to be at the announcement in Regina and chat with Justin Young and Tim Mbanga of Nutrien. Nutrien Rocanville is modernizing ultrafine potash recovery systems to improve efficiency and reduce energy use.



Above: Some of the people from Moosomin-Montmartre at the Sask Party convention.

Back in session and hard at work

I work for you and I believe you deserve regular updates on what I am doing on your behalf. We have been back in session for the last few weeks and Kara says she loves it, because at least now she knows where I am four nights a week. After travelling around the province for the last few months, I am spending most of my week in Regina each week as we get the work of the people of Saskatchewan done in the Legislature.

The days can be long. Let me give you a couple of examples so you know what I'm doing on your behalf.

Monday, October 27 started for me with a House Leadership meeting followed by the morning caucus meeting.

In session that afternoon I delivered a statement on the expansion of Mitacs funding for post-secondary internships, that evening was a Saskatchewan Trade and Export Partnership reception I attended, and a few colleagues and myself had dinner with the Premier, followed by an evening session in the Legislature that went to 10:30 pm.

I delivered my response to the Throne Speech that day, speaking on how some of the measures will impact our area. I explained why I invited Ochapowace Chief Shelley Bear and Moosomin's Bonnie McIlavish to the Throne Speech, because of their advocacy for compassionate intervention.

The next day started with a meeting of the Board of Internal Economy, followed by a House Leadership meeting, followed by a caucus meeting, followed by an Economy Committee meeting, followed by the launch of the Youth Entrepreneurship Bursary.

Then session all afternoon, a reception hosted by the Saskatchewan Heavy Construction Association where it was great to meet with lots of folks including those from C. Duncan Construction, then back in session until 10:30 pm.

The next day started with a house leadership meeting, followed by caucus, followed by a meeting of the Economy Committee with the Saskatchewan Trucking Association—where the first item on their agenda was how happy they are with the new Moosomin truck rest area—followed by the opening of the Street Culture Project's The Safe Cafe in the Conexus head office, followed by the afternoon session then an evening reception with the trucking association.

Fast forward to Tuesday, November 4. That day started with a meeting of the MLAs elected one year ago, I headed from there to the Pasqua Hospital to emcee an announcement, then back to the Legislature just in time for my Economy Committee meeting, then afternoon session and off to Saskatoon for a B'Nai Brith fundraiser that evening.

Next day started with a house leadership meeting, then caucus, then a service of remembrance in the rotunda, then afternoon session, then a reception hosted by St. Paul's Hospital foundation, and after that reception I headed to Green Falls Landing where a fundraiser was being held for the Allan Blair Cancer Clinic and the Heart and Stroke Foundation. It was actually a blast going to that fundraiser and helping them raise more than \$9,000!

Speech from the throne

A couple of weeks back, our government delivered the



Speech from the Throne laying out our agenda.

We are committed to ensuring the determined, resilient, and innovative people of Saskatchewan are safe in their own communities, that our economy remains strong, and the future is secure for the next generation.

The Throne Speech highlights the measures our government is implementing to make our communities safer. New police officer funding, amendments to the Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Act, the Trespass to Property Act and the new Safe Public Spaces Act will provide police forces with more tools to address criminal activity. New announcements in the speech include the Response to Illicit Drugs Act and the Compassionate Intervention Act, which will require individuals with addiction problems, who are unable to seek treatment on their own, to enter a treatment program. This will be supported by continuing work on 500 new drug treatment beds.

Our government is putting students first by investing in 500 additional teachers, \$131 million for classroom supports and building 26 new schools which are at various stages of completion. The Building Schools Faster Act will ensure there is enough municipal land available to minimize delays in getting new schools completed.

We want to ensure our health system is meeting the demands of patients in Saskatchewan. The number of doctors and nurses has increased significantly since the implementation of the Health Human Resources Action Plan, and the number of communities eligible for the Rural Recruitment Incentive has increased by 70. Our government has committed to performing 450,000 surgeries in this four-year period, and we are on track to meet this goal. This has resulted in significantly reduced wait times. We are supporting our patients and health care workers with new facilities, such as urgent care centres. The first of these, located in Regina, has served 41,000 patients in its first year.

Saskatchewan Technology Fund

I was happy to be there as our government recently announced nine industry-led projects under the second intake of the Saskatchewan Technology Fund, including a project at Nutrien Rocanville.

These projects advance emissions reductions through carbon capture, energy efficiency and other technologies across key sectors including oil, gas and potash. The fund helps keep investment, innovation and jobs in Saskatchewan. To date, the fund has supported 22 projects, lever-

aging \$629.4 million in private investment and eliminating over six million tonnes of CO2 emissions.

Robot-assisted surgery

In our continued work to strengthen health care access, patients in southern Saskatchewan now benefit from a new state-of-the-art robot-assisted surgical system at Regina's Pasqua Hospital. I had the honor of emceeing the event at Pasqua Hospital. I said I would be happy to do it as long as I got to try out the robot!

This expansion complements existing robotic surgery systems and provides less invasive procedures, faster recovery and reduced wait times. The new technology supports a wide range of procedures including cancer care closer to home. With more than 300 procedures expected annually, the system represents Saskatchewan's commitment to innovative, patient-centered care.

Supporting First Nation and Métis communities

Supporting First Nation and Métis communities in Saskatchewan continues to be an important focus. Our government will provide \$124.5 million in gaming revenue payments to First Nation and Métis organizations for the 2025-26 fiscal year, an increase of \$17.1 million over last year. These funds, generated from Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority casinos, SaskGaming properties, and PlayNow.com, support programs, cultural projects and community initiatives. This will directly support enterprises that contribute to our strong First Nation and Métis communities in Saskatchewan.

Overwhelming support for Premier Moe at convention

We had a large delegation from Moosomin-Montmartre at the Saskatchewan Party Convention in Saskatoon November 7 and 8. We had folks there from across the riding, from Moosomin to Indian Head, and from the rural area north of Kipling to Vibank. We had two youth members there, Emily, a student from Odessa who is studying at the U of S, and Victor, who became Moosomin's youngest-ever town councillor at the age of 20 and is currently the youngest person on our constituency executive at 21.

There was a lot of important work done at convention, Ben Mulroney gave a great keynote address, and Premier Scott Moe delivered an outstanding speech reminding delegates of our main priorities as we lead this province in a challenging time around the world.

And there was a powerful show of support for Premier Scott Moe, with more than 80 per cent of people at the convention giving their strong support to Premier Moe as leader of the Saskatchewan Party. Our province has a bright future with Scott Moe and the Saskatchewan Party government at the helm.

Reach out

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