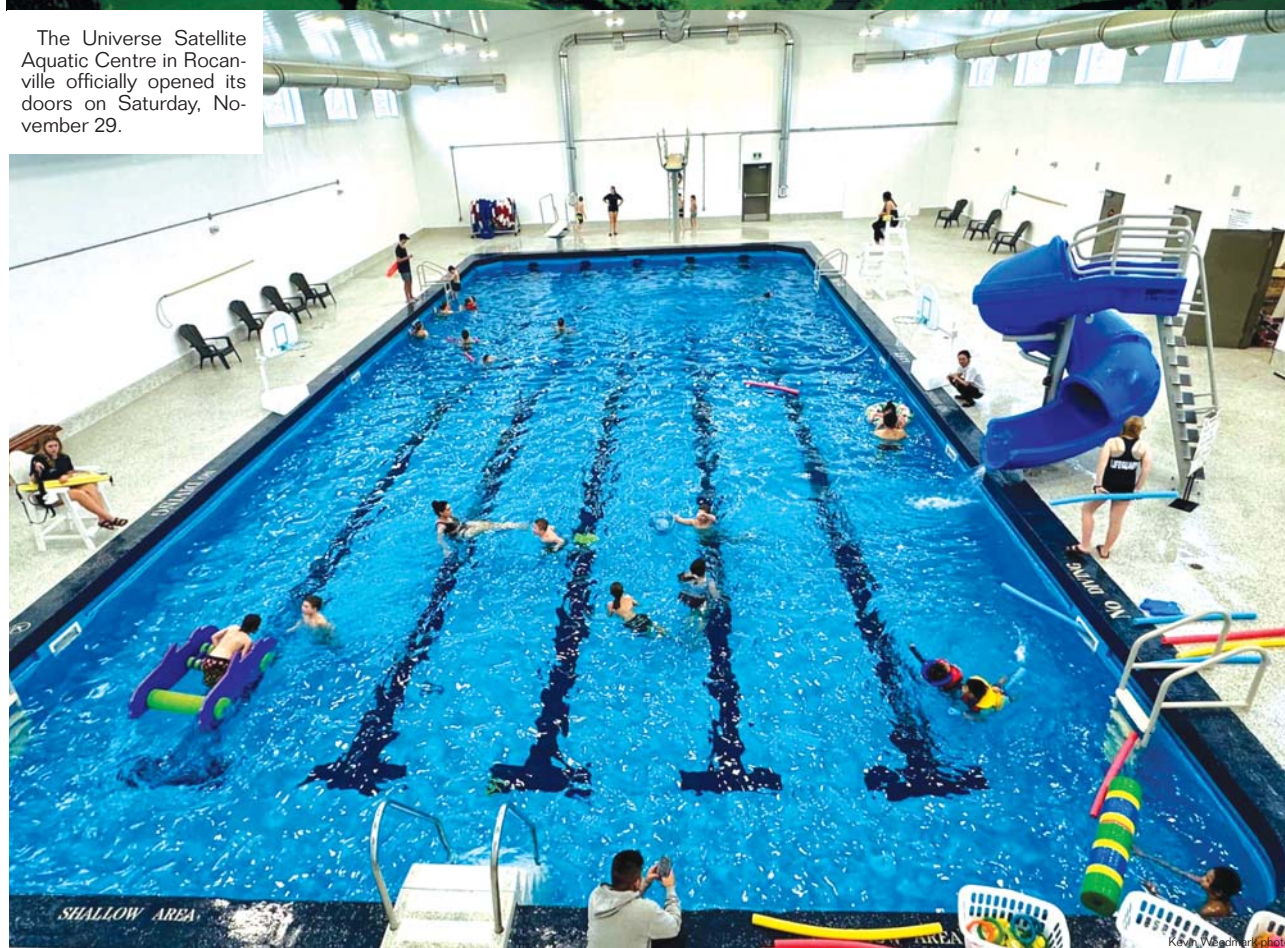


Plain & Valley

Covering Southeast Saskatchewan and Southwest Manitoba

December 2025 • Volume 18 Number 12

The Universe Satellite Aquatic Centre in Rocanville officially opened its doors on Saturday, November 29.



Rocanville pool opens its doors

BY ASHLEY BOCHEK


The community of Rocanville gathered for the official opening of the Universe Satellite Aquatic Centre on Saturday, November 29. The community rallied together to support the new indoor swimming pool.

Rec Director Andrea Logan and Pool Manager Kelsey Selby say the opening was full of smiles and snacks

while the community gathered together to tour the new facility.

"It was a really good day," said Logan. "We had lots of people come out to the Nutrien Hall to hear the mayor Ron Reed speak and MLA Kevin Weedmark speak, and then we headed over to the swimming pool. There were lots of smiles, hugs, and happiness. Everyone was so excited to see the pool finally ready to open."

Mayor Ron Reed spoke at Nutrien Hall on opening day. "We officially open the Rocanville Universe Satellite Aquatic Centre, a facility that is more than just a building with water, it's a place where the community can get together, a space where families can make memories, for youth to learn life-saving skills, for seniors to stay active, and for everyone to enjoy recreation year-round."

Continued on page 18 

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Skout wins silver at Canada Beer Cup with 'Lights Out Porter'

BY NICOLE TAYLOR

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Skout Brewery of Moosomin earned national recognition recently, taking home a silver medal at the Canada Beer Cup in Quebec City. The brewery won in the American Porter and Stout category for its Lights Out Porter, one of more than 1,800 beers entered by 300 breweries across Canada.

For head brewer and co-owner Aaron Grandguillot, the medal represents a milestone for the brewery, which opened in April 2024. He first developed the recipe long before Skout opened.

"How this beer started was when I was in brewing school," Grandguillot said. "We had to choose a style of beer to make as a project, so this was one of the first recipes I ever wrote by myself. I started with this one because I thought it looked interesting."

As for the name, "It's Lights Out because it's dark," he says. "Turn the lights out, it gets dark, and also it's lights out because it tastes good. Lights out."

Naming beers at Skout is a shared effort between Aaron and his wife, taproom manager and co-owner Gena Shepherd.

"When I come up with a new recipe we start playing around with ideas," he said. "Sometimes we come up with a list and then whittle it down, sometimes something just strikes us as being a fit name for the beer. It's always a collaboration between Gena and I on how to come up with the names."

"The tricky part about naming a craft beer is that there are a lot of craft breweries that have also come up with a lot of names. We try to obviously not steal anyone else's name. We also try to keep our names somewhat close to our overall brand. Skout Brewing we came up with and it was more like being outdoorsy, scouting around. Some of our names are earthy—Cloudy Skies, Stargazer—or we have local names like Straight Out of Fleming, Pipestone, and Mooseberry. We try to keep it local and within our brand."

Continued on page 39



Gena Shepherd and Aaron Grandguillot with their award for silver for their Lights Out Porter at the Canada Beer Cup.

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Moosomin Elks raise over \$24,000 for Playfair Daycare

By KARA KINNA

The Moosomin Elks Club made a \$24,400 donation to Playfair Daycare at the end of November with proceeds raised from their 50/50 draw, as well as from their 75th anniversary celebration.

"For our 75th anniversary we decided we wanted to make a splash of some sort, and we knew that the new daycare needed some money. So we decided to run a 50/50 with one winner and it did really well," says Ron Potter with the Moosomin Elks. "We had 2,500 tickets to sell, and we sold over 2,000 right here in Moosomin. Probably 75 per cent of them were sold at the Co-op grocery store just from people walking in and deciding to support us."

In total the 50/50 draw made \$20,800 with half of the proceeds going to local winner Tracy Russell.

Potter says the Elks decided to top of the \$10,400 from the 50/50 with additional money raised from the silent auction at their 75th anniversary celebration, as well as some of their own donation money.

"We were discussing at our meeting the other night, and decided that the money raised from our silent auction at the 75th anniversary party would also go to the daycare. So we had the lottery money, plus the \$4,400, so we thought



The Moosomin Elks presenting a donation of \$24,410 to Playfair Daycare from proceeds of their 50/50 draw, along with a few other donations.

why don't we make it an even \$20,000 plus the \$4,000 from the auction, so that's where we came up with the total of \$24,400.

"Our lottery licence only lets the daycare use the money we give for toys, or tables and chairs, or playground equipment, but not for building supplies. Any equipment that they may

need for inside the building, I'm glad we're able to help with that," he said.

"I think it's a very worthwhile project, and the boys are pretty happy with the work we've done and the money we've raised. We generally do something like this every fall, and this year I think we've contributed to something that was

really needed," said Larry Tomlinson with Moosomin Elks Lodge.

Jill Jones with Playfair Daycare says that they were thrilled to receive the donation, and that progress on the new building has been steady.

"We're really happy to get this money from the Elks for the capital invest-

ment in the new building. If anyone hasn't driven by, we encourage you to take a peak south of the elementary school. There are some walls going up and the rafters were also just put in today," she said last week. "We're hoping this nice fall weather continues and we can get a bit more done and gain some ground be-

fore any big snowfall. The donation for toys and other things like that is going to be really helpful, because we all know how hard kids can be on toys. With this money, hopefully we can also put some of it toward the backyard and make that a really good space for the kids."

Continued on page 8

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Volunteers decorating Holiday Smile Cookies.



Moosomin second in Sask for most Holiday Smile Cookies sold

By NICOLE TAYLOR
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Moosomin Tim Hortons raised \$16,028 in Holiday Smile Cookie sales during Holiday Smile Cookie Week from November 17-23, making it the second highest selling location in Saskatchewan, behind Humboldt who raised \$22,239. In third spot was Weyburn with \$12,070 in sales.

Proceeds from Moosomin's Holiday Smile Cookie sales will go toward operating costs at the Moosomin Visual Arts Centre.

"We are very pleased with those results and we are breaking the record books again," says Moosomin Tim Hortons owner Greg Crisanti. "That's the highest amount that we've done for our Holiday Smile Cookies, and it's a difficult time, it's Christmas time and the economy is tough too. We are very pleased to have this support and be able to make a donation in that amount to organizations that we truly love. We are very pleased and can't thank everyone enough."

"We knew by Wednesday (of Smile Cookie Week) that we were doing well, but we underestimated the support that we were going to be getting. The weather gods co-operated, there were no highway closures so we were busy, there was lots going on in town for sports teams and school was in. All these factors played into the week and it was amazing. We couldn't believe it. We drained a warehouse out of cookies, our supplier wasn't able to get us anymore Holiday Smile Cookies, so I think late Saturday or Sunday we had to pivot to the chocolate chunk. All these things are amazing to happen because of the support we were given, it's just remarkable."

Crisanti says he is proud of Moosomin for how well it always does in the Smile Cookie fundraisers.

"It keeps on rockin,' people are definitely putting us on the map, people are asking what we're doing or seeing us on our social channels and seeing it in the paper as well. It's fantastic to be leaders in a smaller community, the amount that we do is remarkable."

"Proud is an understatement. Our teams are so thrilled to be able to do it, and it's fun for everybody. We just wrapped up our staff appreciation night on Monday as well. It just brings everybody closer together as far as the volunteers, the staff, even our guests coming in. We love doing it, and we love the challenge and the adrenaline keeps us going throughout the week. We always laugh, we don't want to see another cookie for a little bit after the week's done, but it's all playful fun."

He says the team at Tim Hortons manages will with such a high volume of cookies going out the door.

"There's a lot of timing that goes into it, as far as making sure we have enough cookies on hand throughout the week, and our freezer space is limited, so it's a balancing act to try and keep everything balanced in the freezer and organized there. This is all along with our normal operations," he says.

"We only do have two ovens in the back, so basically from Sunday evening, those ovens are going full time throughout the week. We're not shutting them off because we're still having to do our normal baking for our normal products that we carry, as well as keep up with holiday cookies."

"There is a good balancing act. I wouldn't say it's a challenge, we're fortunate enough to have done it before, but the pre-planning, we definitely go big with it to make life easier for all our staff."

Krista Crellin, the president of the Moosomin Visual Arts Centre, says she was humbled by how many people bought Holiday Smile Cookies to support the arts centre.

"Wow is my first thought, that's amazing," she said of the total raised. "Moosomin has always been such a supportive community of the Smile Cookie sales and it's so nice to know that they also were supportive of the arts centre when we were a recipient. I'm honored that Tim Hortons chose us and was just delighted."

"Having this money takes a big burden off of us. We're a primarily volunteer run organization, we are a very busy centre, so we have a lot of over-

head and costs and staff to pay, so this is really going to ease things for us."

"I think it will mostly go toward operating costs for us at this point."

"It really just reinforces our belief that our centre was needed in town and it really is heartwarming to know that we have so much community support. We are honored to be chosen, we are honored that everybody bought cookies and donated and chose to support us."

The arts centre has been open for almost two years, and Crellin says things are busy there.

"We are pretty busy, we are still trying to do at around two classes a week, pottery is really kicking off, we have a few more instructors and so much interest in the pottery classes. Every time we have them, they fill up immediately. Glass is also

a popular one that fills up fast," she says. "Our kids programming is really popular as well. Our summer camp was full again this year and we had lots of good comments about that."

"We've been busy and doing fundraisers on our own. We just had our Christmas market and it was another successful market, we had quite a few people coming through. It has been a good year."

"I would just like to thank Tim's for choosing us for a recipient. I've heard nothing but really great things about working with Tims. Lyla Smart and Lynne Hafner and Jen Grant with MVAC were the ones that really were organizing and setting up with all the volunteers (to make Smile Cookies), so I'd like to say a thank you to them and to Tim's as well."



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Compassionate intervention legislation introduced for addictions treatment



Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, Seniors and Rural and Remote Health Lori Carr, centre, and Moosomin-Montmartre MLA Kevin Weedmark, second from left, with some of the people from the Moosomin-Montmartre constituency who were at the Legislature Friday to see the compassionate intervention legislation introduced.

BY NICOLE TAYLOR
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

On Friday, December 5, the Saskatchewan government introduced new legislation aimed at people with severe addictions who are unable to seek help despite significant risks to their health and safety. The Compassionate Intervention Act would allow for involuntary addictions treatment under specific circumstances.

Currently, addictions treatment for adults in Saskatchewan requires voluntary participation, and existing legislation does not support addiction intervention. The proposed model is grounded in the government's commitment to a Recovery-Oriented System of Care, and it includes strict criteria for placing someone into involuntary treatment.

Under the proposal, family members would be able to request court-ordered treatment for a loved one. Law enforcement could also intervene if a person's substance use presents a serious danger to themselves or others. Individuals may only be brought to a Compassionate Intervention Assessment Centre by police or a peace officer, referred by a medical professional, or through a judge's warrant.

Moosomin-Montmartre MLA Kevin Weedmark said the legislation introduces what many families and community leaders have been asking for.

"Today the legislation was introduced to bring Compassionate Care to Saskatchewan," Weedmark said on Friday. "The whole idea is that if people are not in a position to make decisions for themselves, and if they are a danger to themselves, or to others in those very rare cases, they can be required to get treatment."

"This is something that is going to protect those people, it is going to protect the community, and this is something that people have been asking for. We have had mothers ask for this, we have had community leaders ask for this, First Nations chiefs ask for this, so that in those cases, when people are a danger to themselves or others and cannot make that decision on their own, that they can be required to have treatment."

Weedmark said that the legislation received first reading on Friday, with a second reading and committee review expected in the spring. "It will be passed in the spring sitting," he said.

He added that several advocates for addictions treatment attended the Legislature for the introduction, including 14 people from Moosomin-Montmartre. Some were members of the Southeast Recovery Centre Board in Moosomin, while others had lived experience with addictions treatment.

A local person who recently completed addictions treatment also attended to witness the introduction of the Compassionate Intervention Act.

"I think it is really good, treatment has helped me a lot," the resident said. "I think it is a really good idea and if I had that option I would have taken it and it would have helped me a lot sooner than later."

"I had to go the hard way over and over and over, and I wish I would have had that available. It's (treatment) been a 360 in my life and in bringing me back to clarity and back to the person I used to be. I went through lot of trouble and took a long time to get into a place like that and it's been a major help in my life. That is what I needed."

The resident added that many people facing addiction want help but struggle to reach that point on their own. "A lot of addicts want their lives to get better and some of them are maybe not at that point yet but, I know that I wanted that choice and it was a battle to get to it. It's tough getting there, having the support and people that will help when you get to that point in your life, and having somebody to open the doors and say 'you need to go' and that something I would have done."

He said it felt good to see the legislation introduced. "It's heart warming. I have lost a lot of people to addiction and it's nice to hear that people will be getting help for their addictions," he said.

He said that if the legislation had existed earlier, some people he knew would still be alive.

"Individuals struggling with addiction need our sup-

port on their path to recovery," Mental Health and Addictions Minister Lori Carr said. "They need a safe space, support and compassionate intervention. We are focused on meaningful long-term recovery for Saskatchewan residents."

Justice Minister and Attorney General Tim McLeod, K.C. said the initiative is intended to strengthen both families and communities. "By investing in compassionate care for those struggling with severe addiction, we are not only saving lives, but we are strengthening families, communities, and the future of our province," he said. "Every person deserves the chance to heal, rebuild and thrive."

Saskatoon Tribal Chief Mark Arcand welcomed the announcement. "I am hopeful that the new legislation will change lives and get people on the road to recovery," he said. "This is about treating the addiction, the illness, for those who are struggling and can't ask for help. I appreciate that involuntary treatment will be done in a culturally responsive way to support individuals on their health journey."

The province will seek feedback from stakeholders, partners, and the public on how the legislation should be implemented. Information will be posted at saskatchewan.ca/compassionate-intervention.

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Moosomin Food Share wins Second Harvest award for accepting multiple big food donations



Above left: 38,000 pounds of apples outside the Moosomin Food Share. Above right: The Food Share unloading 55,000 pounds of potatoes. Below: 8,400 pounds of tomatoes being unloaded at the Food Share.



BY NICOLE TAYLOR
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Moosomin Food Share is the winner of the Frontline Impact Award from Second Harvest for the Food Share's role in accepting large surplus food donations and putting that food to use feeding the community.

Over the last year and a half, Moosomin Food Share

has accepted eight large shipments from Second Harvest, an organization that takes surplus food and tries to find a use for it so that it doesn't go to waste.

Moosomin has accepted a large shipment of bagged scrambled eggs, 38,000 pounds of apples, 1,700 boxes french fries, two shipments of 55,000 pounds of potatoes, 8,400 pounds of tomatoes, 25,200 dozen eggs, and

most recently, a shipment of 11 pallets of bananas. In each case the Food Share was able to get rid of all the food quickly, and Samantha Campbell with the Food Share says in almost every case, people were still calling days later asking if the food was still available.

"They pick one organization from each province to win, and it's for non-profits that demonstrated an incredible level of engagement that aligns with Second Harvest's mission, and also has an outstanding impact on the community," she says.

"It's because of all of our shipments that we've been getting, and can distribute in a very fast turnaround period. They were really impressed. Katie Hepp from Second Harvest is our rep from Regina, and she came out for the potato shipment when the potatoes got stuck in the truck (due to a broken conveyor belt). She saw the things that went on with it and how we had to improvise and get the high school students out to help us, and she was really impressed, so when they were doing their awards, she nominated us and said we were completely deserving of it.

"In that case, the potatoes came in a truck, and the truck was supposed to have a belt where you push a button and the potatoes move out of the truck. We had all of these bins from Flaman's that they donated. First they blew something and then we had to get Todd Davidson in to fix it, and I guess the truck wasn't equipped to handle that much load, and so the potatoes were stuck.

"So we had to climb into the back of the truck and push thousands of pounds of potatoes down into the conveyor belt. We used our feet, our hands, we were black. And we were getting tired so we had to call the high school students to come, climb into the back of the truck and do the bins, it was crazy."

Continued on page 26

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Moosomin Elks raise over \$24,000 for Playfair Daycare



Ron Potter, left, and Larry Tomlinson, right, with the Moosomin Elks presenting Tracy Russell with her 50/50 winnings last week.

Continued from page 4

Potter added that selling the 50/50 tickets was a team effort by the Elks and the Daycare.

"Originally the daycare girls took 25 books of tickets, and after not too long they'd turned around and were saying they needed more. I was trying to sell as much as I can to make some money for them and they sold twice as much as us old guys!"

"I'd really like to thank anyone who bought tickets, and I'd like to thank all the businesses that let us sell tickets at their locations, especially Red Barn and the Co-op. The funny thing was, Tracy's ticket that won was a ticket that her employer had bought for her. I was really impressed with the community and that everyone around here was on board. I set a target for myself of 2,000 tickets sold, and we ended up getting to around 2,080.

"One thing that really showed me how far kindness can spread is that during our

Walk-a-thon this year, we had a group from Nipawin that had come down. They donated \$750 right to the daycare. That's why I love being part of the Elks, they had seen that we were trying to raise money, and that made them want to help out and give some money as well," he said.

Playfair Daycare says that they are still looking for more ways to fundraise for the new building.

"We're still coming up with ideas and still looking into different ways we can raise some money for our new building. We have a very new team, and are having meetings to figure out the best way to approach fundraising. Ways we can send the message to businesses in town, that we can do as much for them as they can to help us," said Jones.

"We greatly appreciate groups like the Elks being able to help us out, and for believing in us. We thank everyone who has supported us and continues to support us in this project," added Terri Lowe from the daycare.

Potter also noted that he was glad the winner came from Moosomin.

"I was hoping we'd have a local winner, just because that's where our target was. This is a very local project, and so I was happy to see we had a winner from here in town who was very deserving of the prize."

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- Borderland Co-op C-Store & Gas Bar
- Borderland Co-op Home Centre
- Borderland Co-op Marketplace

CARLYLE

- Moose Mountain Leisure
- Red Apple
- Kuzina Resto
- Michael's Coffee Shop

ELKHORN

- Samantha's Boutique

ESTERHAZY

- Anytime Fitness
- Bargain Shop
- Erin's IDA
- Esterhazy Ford
- Esterhazy Home Hardware
- Sapara's Drug Mart
- Sheng House Furnishing
- The Wireless Age
- Tristar Foods & Subway

GREENFELL

- Borderland Co-op Home Centre
- Borderland Co-op Marketplace

KIPLING

- Balfour Drugs / Tim Hortons
- Borderland Co-op C-Store & Gas Bar
- Borderland Co-op Marketplace
- Kipling Pharmasave
- Kipling Stop & Shop

LANGENBURG

- Bumper to Bumper

REDVERS

- Redvers Pharmasave
- Redvers Ag & Supply
- Today's Enterprises
- Bedrock Tavern & Inn

ROCANVILLE

- Borderland Co-op C-Store & Gas Bar
- Borderland Co-op Home Centre
- Borderland Co-op Marketplace
- Bumper to Bumper
- Rocanville Pharmacy
- Universe Satellite

WHITEWOOD

- Borderland Co-op C-Store & Gas Bar
- Borderland Co-op Home Centre
- Borderland Co-op Marketplace
- Whitewood Dodge

VIRDEN

- Boston Pizza
- Home Hardware
- Kullberg's Furniture
- Red Apple
- Valley View Co-op Farm & Ranch Centre
- Viriden Rec & Watersports
- Viriden Mainline Motors
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FROM: BARGAIN SHOP ESTERHAZY

Prize: \$100 Gift Card
FROM: BEDROCK TAVERN & INN

Prize: \$50 Gift Certificate
FROM: BERRY GOOD FARMS

Prize: \$100 Gift Card
FROM: BIRTLÉ MAINLINE MOTORS

Prize: Frigidaire SteamEspresso Maker
FROM: BORDERLAND CO-OP

Prize: \$100 Gift Card
FROM: BOSTON PIZZA VIRIDEN

Prize: \$100 Gift Card
FROM: BRADLEY'S GM

Prize: Milwaukee Blower Kit
FROM: BUMPER TO BUMPER

Prize: Celebration Ford Swag Bag
FROM: CELEBRATION FORD

Prize: \$150 Gift Card
FROM: CORK & BONE BISTRO

Prize: \$100 Gift Card
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Prize: Two \$50 Gift Cards
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Prize: Platinum Detail Package
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Prize: Yard Decoration
FROM: ESTERHAZY HOME HARDWARE

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FROM: FOULLARD CARPETS

Prize: \$200 Gift Certificate
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Prize: \$100 Gift Card
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Prize: OpenMove Wireless Headphones
FROM: IDA MOOSOMIN

Prize: \$50 Gift Card
FROM: MOOSOMIN HOME HARDWARE

Prize: Salton Air Fryer & Grill
FROM: MOOSE MOUNTAIN LEISURE

Prize: \$100 Gift Card
FROM: IMZ SERVICE GARAGE

Prize: Purse
FROM: KARL'S KLOSET

Prize: \$100 Gift Card
FROM: KARL'S PHARMACY

Prize: Two \$50 Gift Cards
FROM: MOOSOMIN KFC

Prize: Free Meal Voucher
FROM: KIPLING STOP N SHOP

Prize: \$100 Gift Card
FROM: KULLBERG'S FURNITURE

Prize: \$100 Gift Card
FROM: KUZINA RESTO

Prize: \$100 Gift Card
FROM: LEE'S CARPET

Prize: Heated Jacket
FROM: MAZERGROUP

Prize: \$50 Gift Card
FROM: MICHAEL'S COFFEE SHOP

Prize: \$100 Gift Card
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Prize: \$150 In-Store Credit
FROM: MOOSOMIN / WHITEWOOD DODGE

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Prize: \$100 Gift Card
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Prize: Gift Basket
FROM: PHARMASAVE MOOSOMIN

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FROM: UNIVERSE SATELLITE

Prize: Winter survival prize package valued at \$300
FROM: VALLEYVIEW CO-OP FARM & RANCH CENTRE

Prize: \$100 Gift Card
FROM: VIRIDEN MAINLINE MOTORS

Prize: \$100 Gift Card
FROM: VIRIDEN REC

Prize: Athlon Forerunner Binoculars
FROM: WOLVERINE SUPPLIES

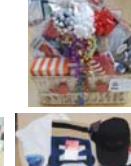
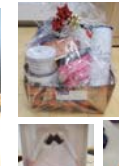
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Moosomin Dairy Queen recognized for Miracle Treat Day

Moosomin Dairy Queen was recognized with an award on National Philanthropy Day on November 14 in Regina for selling 7,880 blizzards on Miracle Treat Day this year, raising more than \$41,000 for the Jim Pattison Children's Hospital.

Jada Kook of the Jim Pattison Children's Hospital Foundation nominated them for the award.

"Moosomin Dairy Queen owners, Joanne and Morgan Kerr, are community builders and champions for children and families in Saskatchewan," said Kook in her nomination. "The Kerr's dedication and passion prove the power of grassroots community spirit, supporting over 40 local initiatives."

"Raising over \$126,000 for Jim Pattison Children's Hospital Foundation, their leadership on Miracle Treat Day continues to break records! In 2025, Moosomin DQ raised over \$41,000 on Miracle Treat Day by mobilizing 50 volunteers, rallying businesses and canvassing surrounding towns—believing that small towns can make a big impact."

Blizzard sales in Moosomin on Miracle Treat Day have been increasing every year. In 2024 Moosomin DQ sold 5,118 blizzards and raised \$27,746.21.

This year Morgan and Heather Kerr not only canvassed the town of Moosomin for Blizzard orders but spent time going door to door at local businesses in some of the surrounding towns, asking for orders.

Along with their staff, local volunteers help make the Blizzards that week, and Borderland Co-op donates freezer space to help store the massive amount of Blizzards that are made ahead of time to accommodate Moosomin's Miracle Treat Day pre-orders.

"We had a number of volunteers that have also been



From left: Heather, Morgan, and Joanne Kerr of Moosomin DQ, and Jada Kook of Jim Pattison Children's Hospital Foundation.

patients at the hospital in Saskatoon, which was really nice," Joanne Kerr said after Miracle Treat Day this year. "It's such a good feeling to know that you're part of a great organization that helps brave kids when they need it the most."



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Borderland

HOLIDAY HOURS

MOOSOMIN HOME CENTRE

Dec. 24: 8am - 4pm

Dec. 25 & 26: **CLOSED**

Jan. 1: **CLOSED**

ROCANVILLE HOME CENTRE

Dec. 24: 8am - 4pm

Dec. 25 & 26: **CLOSED**

Jan. 1: **CLOSED**

WHITEWOOD HOME CENTRE

Dec. 24: 8am - 4pm

Dec. 25 & 26: **CLOSED**

Jan. 1: **CLOSED**

BROADVIEW HOME CENTRE/LIQUOR

Dec. 24: 9am - 4pm

Dec. 25 & 26: **CLOSED**

Jan. 1: **CLOSED**

GRENFELL C-STORE, HOME CENTRE/LIQUOR

Dec. 24: 8am - 6pm

Dec. 25 & 26: 12pm - 6pm

Jan. 1: 12pm - 6pm

*Have a Merry & Safe
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MOOSOMIN C-STORE

OPEN REGULAR HOURS

ROCANVILLE C-STORE

Dec. 24: 7am - 6pm

Dec. 25 & 26: 12pm - 6pm

Jan. 1: 12pm - 6pm

WHITEWOOD C-STORE

OPEN REGULAR HOURS

BROADVIEW C-STORE

OPEN REGULAR HOURS

KIPLING C-STORE

Dec. 24: 6am - 6pm

Dec. 25 & 26: 10am - 8pm

Jan. 1: 10am - 8pm

MOOSOMIN LIQUOR

Dec. 24: 11am - 7pm

Dec. 25: **CLOSED**

Dec. 26 & Jan. 1: 12pm - 8pm

MOOSOMIN FOOD STORE

Dec. 24: 9am - 4pm

Dec. 25: **CLOSED**

Dec. 26: 10am - 6pm

Jan. 1: 10am - 6pm

ROCANVILLE, WHITEWOOD,

BROADVIEW, GRENFELL

& KIPLING FOOD STORE

Dec. 24: 9am - 4pm

Dec. 25 & 26: **CLOSED**

Jan. 1: **CLOSED**

WHITEWOOD DAIRY QUEEN

Dec. 24: 10am - 6pm

Dec. 25: **CLOSED**

Dec. 26: 11am - 8pm

Dec. 31: 11am - 8pm

Jan. 1: 11am - 8pm

BROADVIEW AGRO

Dec. 24: 8am - 4pm

Dec. 25 & 26: **CLOSED**

Jan 1: **CLOSED**

BULK PETROLEUM

Dec. 24: 8am - 1:30pm

Dec. 25 & 26: **CLOSED**

Jan 1: **CLOSED**

MOOSOMIN & BROADVIEW ADMIN

Dec. 24: 8am - 3pm

Dec. 25 & 26: **CLOSED**

Jan 1: **CLOSED**



Ian Moats has been recognized for his annual display of Christmas lights one mile south of McLean. Dubbed "Ian's Lights," Moats uses the magical light display in his yard to raise money for Ward 1D, the mental health ward at the Regina General Hospital, and to date has raised \$182,000. Moats was recognized in the Legislature recently for his contribution to supporting mental health.



Kevin Weedmark photos

Merry Christmas

WISHING YOU AND YOURS
A BLESSED CHRISTMAS

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Happy Holidays Everyone!

**All our best to
Moosomin & District
this Holiday Season!**

Wishing you a season full of joy and
hopes for the New Year ahead!

ENBRIDGE



Merry Christmas
AND
HAPPY NEW YEAR

From all of us at Kullbergs Furniture!

Our wishes for a holiday season filled with joy and cheer! What a pleasure it has been serving you this year and we can't wait to see you again in 2026!

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'Tis the Season to Say Thank You

We wish you a wonderful holiday season and new year filled with prosperity and success.



Happy Holidays

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EVERYONE HOME SAFE EVERY DAY.

St. Anthony's Hospital Gala raises \$33,000

Peter Carscadden Funeral Service bids on time donated by the Esterhazy Fire Department in live auction, uses it to help the elderly

BY SHAYNA ZUBKO

The first annual St. Anthony's Hospital Gala was held on October 17. The gala saw a sold-out crowd to view a comedian and participate in a live auction, with a total of \$33,000 raised.

The goal of the gala was to fundraise for some much-needed equipment for the hospital. While a new facility is in the planning stages, the goal is to help the current facility stay up-to-date and function as best as possible.

"We are working for our current facility, and anything we are able to do will transfer over to the new build," says Sonya Crawford of St. Anthony's Hospital.

With this year's gala being such a success, there are plans to hold another gala in the future and to maintain an annual event to support the Esterhazy hospital facility.

"A goal for the future, or perhaps an unofficial dream, would be to work towards purchasing a basic ultrasound machine, so that local patients don't have to travel to Yorkton or Regina for ultrasounds," says Crawford.

With the funds that were raised this year, the hospital was able to purchase a new ECG machine



Left to right: Esterhazy firefighters Ken Dick, Dave Esslinger, and Allan Babyak, Helen Maga, and firefighters Clint Hollingshead, Jason Polvi, and Borden Kishalowich. The firefighters were washing windows on November 15, including Helen Maga's windows, as part of their donation of time that was auctioned off and purchased by Peter Carscadden Funeral Chapel. Peter Carscadden Funeral Chapel decided to use the firefighters' time to help the elderly.

that is already in-use, and new vitals machines have also been purchased.

The live auction that was planned by Sherry-Lee Duncan of the

St. Anthony's Hospital Board saw the auctioning of local firefighters to donate their time to the purchaser. The Esterhazy, Spy Hill and Langenburg

fire departments all participated in the auction, and a home cooked meal from It's All About the Meat Baby was also auctioned off. In total, the

auction garnered \$11,500 in funds raised. The Esterhazy Fire Department alone raised \$8,000 with a \$4,000 auction price that was matched.

Peter Carscadden Funeral Service won the bid for the Esterhazy fire department's time. The business decided that they did not need the donation of time from firefighters, so decided to use the hours to help elderly people within the community of Esterhazy.

Randy and David Klassen co-ordinated to help four elderly widows to get their windows washed.

"We did not do it to benefit ourselves, we just want to highlight the good-hearted volunteerism of the firefighters to benefit the community," says Randy Klassen, and to "highlight positive things happening to raise funds and new equipment for the hospital."

The next gala will likely have some similar characteristics, with another live auction and entertainment. However, they would like to add other elements to make it accessible for everyone to participate. The success of this gala, and the ability to purchase new equipment for the hospital is thanks to the community support they received and ensures another event like this will happen in the future.



THE WORLD-Spectator

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With some of my constituents who wanted to be there for the introduction of the compassionate intervention legislation on Friday, December 5.



With Minister Lori Carr and Ian Moats, the man behind Ian's Lights

A whirlwind week before the end of fall session

It was an incredibly busy week as the fall Legislative session wrapped up.

For the last week I was in the Legislative Assembly every minute it was in session Monday to Friday (contrast that with NDP leader Carla Beck, who did not show up in the Legislative Assembly once in that final week). In addition, over the last few days, I spoke with more than 40 constituents one-on-one. I was in Santa Parades in Broadview and Rocanville, I spoke at the opening of a new indoor pool in Rocanville our government helped fund, I viewed construction progress on the Moosomin Day Care and the Grenfell Long Term Care Home that are under construction, funded by our government, I spoke at the Grenfell Fire Department banquet and awards night, I took part in two meetings of the Standing Committee on the Economy and one meeting of the Caucus Committee on the Economy, participated in four House Leadership meetings, five caucus meetings and two Caucus Management Committee meetings, spoke with Saskatchewan Paramedic Services Chiefs, met with a group on a proposal for a new export terminal on Hudson Bay, attended the Mosaic announcement that the company will spend \$4 million to improve employment readiness for the Esterhazy mine, attended the Premier's Commendation Medal Ceremony for Firefighters who battled wildfires this summer, met with Ducks Unlimited officials, toured the Provincial Laboratory with my colleagues Jeremy Cockrill and Lori Carr, attended a reception with DEEP, which is working on a geothermal plant in Southeast Saskatchewan, met with folks at the Saskatchewan Mining Association (including some of my neighbors!), visited Ian's Christmas Lights at McLean, at the west end of my riding, attended a banquet and awards night with the Saskatchewan Heavy Construction Association, had an impromptu meeting with the CEO of Street Culture Project when I went to pick up gift cards from The Safe Cafe for my caucus colleagues, caucus staff and health ministers' staff, brought Ian Moats from Ian's Christmas Lights to the Legislature to introduce him and speak about his efforts to help the Mental Health Ward in Regina, brought 14 people from my riding and White Bear First Nations for the introduction of Compassionate Intervention Legislation, had a lunch with some of those folks, shot a couple of videos, and did a few media interviews.

It was a busy week, but I work for you and you deserve to know what I've been up to, so I submit a full report each week to every newspaper in the riding to publish if they wish!

Child care deal for Saskatchewan

On Friday, November 28, our government was proud to confirm a five-year extension of the Canada-Saskatchewan Early Learning and Child Care Agreement, ensuring that high-quality child care remains affordable and accessible across Saskatchewan, with \$10-a-day care, continued support for Early Childhood Educators and stable funding that helps parents work, train or build their careers.

This agreement delivers real results for families.

We'll keep putting Saskatchewan families first and give every child the best possible start.

Rocanville pool grand opening

It was great to be in Rocanville Saturday for the opening of the Universe Satellite Aquatic Centre, a beautiful indoor pool. It was originally slated to receive \$1.3 million in ICIP funding, but this year that was increased by \$1.8 million to \$3.1 million! It's an amazing facility and it was great to see it full of people having fun! Thanks to everyone in Rocanville who worked so hard for this!

Grenfell Fire Department banquet

I was so honored to speak at the Grenfell Fire Department banquet and awards night Saturday night! Thanks to all those who give their time to keep our communities safe!

Alberta signs pipeline MOU with federal government

Earlier this week, the government of Alberta signed a memorandum of understanding with the federal govern-



ment that commits them to working together to build a pipeline to Canada's west coast.

Premier Scott Moe called this a "really good day for Canada" and gave credit to Alberta Premier Danielle Smith for her successful push to get this deal.

There is still much work to do to make this pipeline a reality and your Saskatchewan Party team will continue working to make Canada an energy superpower.

Premier's Commendation

The Premier's Commendation was recently awarded to honour those who stepped up during one of the most devastating wildfire seasons on record. Volunteer and municipal fire departments were acknowledged for their courage, service and tireless efforts protecting communities. This acknowledgment shows bravery and how we Saskatchewan people come together in times of crisis, and we thank all firefighters for keeping our province safe.

Mosaic workforce announcement

It was great to be there Tuesday as Mosaic announced a \$4 million investment in developing the workforce for Mosaic Esterhazy, including \$1.5 million to enhance Sask Polytech's Industrial Mechanics program, \$1.5 million for Suncrest College's Esterhazy campus and to expand its Industrial Mechanic apprenticeship program, and \$1.05 million for the Good Spirit School Division.

Strengthening protections

Our government passed new legislation, The Cyberstalking and Coercive Control Act, to strengthen protections against interpersonal violence. The Act provides support for victims and survivors of these types of abuse, ensuring they are entitled to protections under our laws while increasing accountability for the perpetrators. This complements our government's other public safety priorities and shows commitment to justice and care for vulnerable residents.

Protecting Saskatchewan residents

We all know that illicit drugs—the deadly substances we're seeing on our streets—are tearing families apart, hurting communities, and putting lives at risk. And for far too long, the people who profit from trafficking these drugs haven't been held fully accountable for the human and financial cost of the harm they cause.

That's why our government has introduced The Response to Illicit Drugs Act—a new piece of legislation designed to strengthen accountability, enhance safety, and give communities new tools to fight back.

This Act creates a clear path for both the provincial government and individuals harmed by drug offenders to take civil action. That means we can recover the health care costs associated with illicit drug production and trafficking, and victims can seek damages for the harm they've suffered.

Second, the Act makes sure that public funds are protected. If someone is convicted of drug offences, any appointments, grants, or agreements made by the Government of Saskatchewan can be declared void. Taxpayer dollars should never support those who profit from destroying lives.

The message is clear:

We will hold drug traffickers accountable.

We will protect our communities.

And we will continue investing in people, families, and recovery.

This new legislation is about standing up for safer streets, stronger communities, and a more secure future for everyone who calls Saskatchewan home.

As MLA for Moosomin-Montmartre I'm proud of our government's efforts to build a strong, safe, secure Saskatchewan!

SaskAbilities Day

We recognize the longstanding contributions of organizations that help strengthen communities across the province. On December 2, our government proclaimed SaskAbilities Day, celebrating their 75 years of service to persons with disabilities. Our partnership with SaskAbilities is one we deeply value, and our government congratulates them on this milestone. For decades, individuals and their families have benefited from the quality services provided by SaskAbilities. We look forward to continuing our shared efforts to build an inclusive Saskatchewan.

Ian's Christmas Lights

On Friday I gave a member statement to recognize an extraordinary Saskatchewan resident whose kindness and creativity have brightened not only his community, but lives across our province. I spoke about Ian Moats, the man behind Ian's Lights, an annual Christmas light display that has become both a local tradition and a beacon of hope.

What began as one man decorating his home has grown into a powerful community initiative with a purpose far greater than festive cheer. Each year, Ian transforms his property into a dazzling winter wonderland—tens of thousands of lights, and the unmistakable spirit of Christmas radiating from every corner. But even more impressive is what those lights stand for.

Ian dedicates Ian's Lights to raising funds for Ward 1D, the mental health ward at the Regina General Hospital. His goal is simple but profound: to support mental health care, reduce stigma, and remind people that compassion and community can make a real difference.

Through nothing more than generosity, determination, and a love of Christmas, Ian has raised an extraordinary \$182,000 for Ward 1D. That is \$182,000 supporting patients and families, and making life better for those in 1D. It is \$182,000 helping make our province a kinder, healthier place.

But the value of Ian's work cannot be measured in dollars alone. His display brings families together, lifts spirits, and sparks conversations about mental health at a time of year when many quietly struggle.

I encourage everyone to check out Ian's Lights, 6-10 every night this month, at the west end of my constituency, and just east of Regina, one mile south of McLean.

On Friday I thanked Ian Moats for showing Saskatchewan the true power of one person's compassion. His lights shine brightly every December—but the impact of his generosity lasts all year long.

Compassionate Intervention

I was so happy to have 14 people from across Moosomin-Montmartre and from White Bear First Nation with me in Regina Friday as our government introduced Compassionate Intervention legislation. This legislation will mean that in the extremely rare circumstances that an individual in the throes of addiction can not make the decision for themselves and is a danger to themselves or to others, they can be required to receive addictions treatment. Mothers have asked for this, community leaders have asked for this, First Nations chiefs have asked for this, and we are delivering.

It was wonderful to have some members of the Southeast Recovery Centre Board in attendance and some folks who have gone through treatment who know just what a difference this is going to make.

Reach out

Feel free to reach out to me any time—I'm here to represent you! Call 306-435-4005, email office@kevinweedmark.ca or drop in at 622 Main Street, Moosomin.



It was great to be in Rocanville Saturday for the opening of the Universe Satellite Aquatic Centre, a beautiful indoor pool. It was originally slated to receive \$1.3 million in ICIP funding, but this year that was increased by \$1.8 million to \$3.1 million! It's an amazing facility and it was great to see it full of people having fun!

With Rocanville Rec Director Andrea Logan.



I was so honored to speak at the Grenfell Fire Department banquet and awards night Saturday night! Thanks to all those who give their time to keep our communities safe!

Grenfell Mayor Mark Steininger.

With Grenfell Fire Chief Duane Stone and his wife Suzette. The Stones were long-time publishers of the Grenfell Sun.



With Firefighter of the Year Nici Harrison.



Deputy Fire Chief Mike Kardash.



At right, Harry Wilkins, Yorkton Deputy Fire Chief, presenting an award to Retired Fireman Clay Kardash.



Fire Chief Duane Stone addresses the crowd.



With the piper who piped us and the rest of the head table into the banquet.

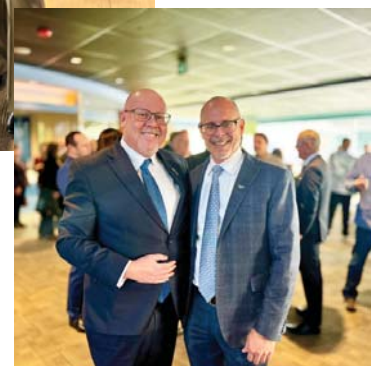


The Premier's Commendation Award was presented to 64 volunteer and municipal fire departments, and the tribal council partners whose firefighters heroically protected communities and supported Saskatchewan residents when they were in need during the 2025 wildfire season.



Mosaic announced a \$4 million investment in developing the workforce for Mosaic Esterhazy Tuesday.

Left: With Alison Dubreuil of Suncrest College at the Mosaic announcement.



Right: With Mosaic CEO Bruce Bodine at the Mosaic announcement.

Rocanville pool opens its doors

Continued from front

The old indoor pool closed in the fall of 2022 with plans to refurbish the new facility since then. Opening day was a milestone the community had been waiting for, for the past three years.

"Opening day went really well," Selby said. "We were surprised by how many people showed up for the opening. We set up about 15 chairs in the beginning and quickly had to set out more so that was a really good sign and feeling. We had lots of visitors and snacks for everyone. We had lots of swimmers. It was great to just have a pool again and see the community be excited to go swimming and see the new facility. It was a lot of fun!"

Logan says it was a relief to finally see the new facility be opened.

"It felt like a big weight was lifted off our shoulders. We were finally ready to share it with the community and that was very exciting. It was a whole bunch of emotions, but also pride in the community for making it all happen. A little bit of overwhelm, but a good overwhelm. It was a really good day."

Selby adds, "It felt like a sigh of relief. Everyone has been waiting so patiently and asking myself or anyone else who had been working on the project when it was going to open, and we hadn't been able to give a sure answer until a week or so before the opening. It was great to see the community show up for the opening and tour the space."

Variety of aquatic classes available

Opening Day consisted of speeches, snacks, touring the new pool, and swimming open to the community. "We had public swimming on opening day," Logan explained. "After having the speeches at the hall, we did a pool-noodle cutting instead of a ribbon cutting to open the new facility. We allowed everyone inside to tour around and take a look at everything that was done. Our fundraising committee had snacks and refreshments upstairs in the mezzanine so people could enjoy it. We had time slots at 1, 2, 3, and 4 pm that people could phone and book because we didn't want to overwhelm our lifeguards on the very first day with a flood of people at 1 pm. It was a free public swim time to enjoy the space."

The Universe Satellite Aquatic Centre is offering a variety of swim classes and hope to add to their classes.

"We are jumping right in and offering swim times to the public," Logan said. "Last week we had public swims, family swims, parent and tot aqua fitness class, regular aqua fitness, and senior aqua fitness, lane swim as well. We had lots of different events. The days aren't super full yet because we want to let our staff get acquainted with the new facility, but starting this week they will be full days. The pool opens at 7:30 or even 6:30 some mornings and is open until 8 pm at night."

Logan explains what the last few months have consisted of prepping for opening. "There was a lot of balancing the water, staff training, making sure we were all ready for our public health inspection, having all our signage in place, and then all of the finishing touches."

Additional funding

Rocanville was originally given \$1.3 million from the federal-provincial ICIP grant, kickstarting the refurbishment project. This past summer they received an additional \$1.8 million from the ICIP grant for the new facility.

"The grant kickstarted the project in the beginning and got the ball rolling," explained Logan. "We knew our pool was aging and needed to be addressed. That grant helped us start the project and then receiving the additional \$1.8 million took so much pressure off. It made everybody be able to breathe a little easier. It made the project more stress-free and enjoyable knowing that pressure was taken off."

"We knew right away we were doing it. Once we knew we had the money from ICIP we started making the plans for the new pool, finding our contractors, and coming up with a way to make it happen. We had lots of support from the community—after the referendum and knowing we had the community's support is when we got to work and figured out a way to do it."



Kids swimming on the grand opening day.

Local fundraising committee supporting project

Logan and Selby are part of the fundraising committee that helped support the capital project for the community.

"I am the Rec Director, but I also sat on the refurbishment committee," said Logan. "For quite a bit of this time we met on Monday nights to discuss the project and keep moving it forward. I was also on the Lucky Lottery committee that was raising money—not only for the pool, but for the rest of our facilities and rec groups in Rocanville. I helped the fundraising committee with fundraising as well and wherever else I was needed."

Selby adds, "I am on the fundraising group. I have been helping to fundraise for the pool back when it was still a board—we had a pool board that looked after staffing and different things with the old pool. I joined around 2016. I was part of our fundraising group for the refurbishment of the pool at first and our group donated \$120,000 to the project through our fundraising efforts. Now, I am managing the facility, so I hired all of the guards, created our policies, balanced the water, and helped get everything organized. It has been a journey."

Community pride

Logan says the community is impressed by the modern facility and the years it took to get here.

"The fundraising and getting to this point says a lot about our community. There have been quite a few times I have been over at the new facility and thinking, 'Wow, this is in Rocanville!' We are not a very big community, but we did this, with the help of ICIP, but also with a lot of community support. The community wanted this, you could tell, and they rallied behind the project and made it happen."

Comments from community members

Logan and Selby say the positive comments from the community were overwhelming on opening day.

"We were getting lots of disbelief in how good it looks and that our little town has a facility like this," says Selby. "There were lots of comments on how excited they were about the waterslide and to still see our diving boards. The diving boards have got a ton of use already. There were lots of comments on the benches and the front desk that Scott Norton made for us. They were all made from the cedar of the old pool. There were many comments on how beautiful those pieces are. We also got a lot of comments on how bright it is. Our old pool was pretty dark and so to have the nice big windows and nice light colours inside. Lots of people appreciate the difference in the atmosphere."

Logan adds, "There were so many smiles and so many comments saying, 'Oh wow!' It was really great. I also heard a lot of comments saying, 'I can't believe this is in Rocanville!' It was amazing to see everyone so happy and excited. It made it all worth it."

Pool Manager Kelsey Selby says the life-

guards are also enjoying the new facility.

"The guards love it. It has been really nice to see them enjoy the new facility. It was quite busy last week which was great to see and good for our guards—makes the days go quicker. We've had our lifeguards coming in for probably the last month on and off just to get in the water, get swimming, get comfortable, and get practice in for lifesaving, and get used to the facility too because it is completely different from what we had before."

Logan adds, "We had our soft opening Friday, November 28 and all of our lifeguards were there, and I was very impressed with them. They were all very engaged, talkative, excited, and happy. It is great to have them part of our team looking after the swimming pool and the people using it."

Selby says they are working on their scheduling to offer as many programs as they can. "It is super exciting to finally be open. There were a lot of families from town who came out for our family swim on Monday last week and it was snowing and cold out, but our building and the water was nice and warm, and these moms and their little ones were able to come, be active, and burn off some energy. There is nothing more relaxing than just floating in the water."

"Our schedule will gradually build to something more concrete. For now, we are working out all of the kinks and figuring out what times are the busiest and what works, but we do plan on having lots of different fitness classes, and once we are up and running more smoothly, we will be offering the courses to certify more lifeguards especially for guards around the area for the outdoor pools come summertime. It will be good. It should be nice and busy, I hope!"



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Mosaic announces \$4.1 million investment in Sask mining workforce

BY NICOLE TAYLOR
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

On December 2, Mosaic announced a \$4 million investment to develop Saskatchewan's mining workforce, with a focus on its Esterhazy potash operations.

At an announcement in Regina that day, Mosaic said the targeted funding underscores Mosaic's long-term

commitment to developing mining talent and expanding career opportunities in the province.

"Mosaic is pleased to invest \$4 million to grow our future workforce," said Bruce Bodine, President and Chief Executive Officer of The Mosaic Company. "Our investment will strengthen our talent pipeline by mining local talent in the communities where we operate and provide

opportunities for rural and Indigenous students to grow their careers. Over the last 20 years, Mosaic has been proud to provide good jobs and invest millions into Saskatchewan's rural communities and across the province, and today's announcement is another example of that ongoing commitment."

Continued on page 30 

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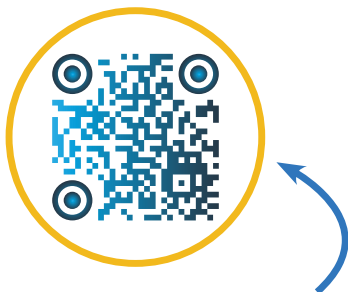
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Grief and trauma counselling services being expanded



Above: Moosomin-Montmartre MLA Kevin Weedmark, Keely Wight-Young and client Debbie West at the announcement.

BY NICOLE TAYLOR
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Government of Saskatchewan is providing \$200,000 in annual funding to Caring Hearts to expand its grief and trauma counselling services for residents across the province.

Caring Hearts is a community-based organization that provides a range of specialized support services for people experiencing grief and trauma due to situations such as the loss of a loved one to suicide.

Services include counselling; support groups; healing circles; kids camps; and support to communities affected by tragedies such as homicides, suicides and workplace deaths.

"It is crucial for people who are grieving and in distress to know that supports are available and that it is okay to reach out for help," Moosomin-Montmartre MLA Kevin Weedmark said at the announcement on Thursday.

"Today's expansion of grief and trauma counselling services at Caring Hearts makes it easier for Saskatchewan residents to access critical support when they may need it most."

Approximately 75 per cent of Caring Hearts' clients receive support in person and 25 per cent receive virtual support.

"Caring Hearts extends its sincere appreciation to the Government of Saskatchewan for this funding," Caring Hearts Executive Director Keely Wight-Young said.

"With this investment, we will reduce wait times, respond more rapidly to critical, immediate needs, and continue delivering culturally informed care.

"Together, we are building a more resilient Saskatchewan, where healing can begin, and no one must face grief or trauma alone."

Annual funding

MLA Weedmark said the investment comes at a time when many people are

seeking mental health support.

"Today I am pleased to announce \$200,000 in annual funding to Caring Hearts to expand its counselling services for individuals and families struggling with grief and trauma," he said at the announcement Thursday.

"This service will be available to citizens across the province, in person in Regina and virtually across the rest of the province."

"People experiencing grief and trauma may be uncertain of where to go for psychological support. By expanding Caring Hearts, we want to make it easier for people to access the supports they need during difficult times."

Weedmark said mental health remains a major provincial priority.

The government has budgeted \$624 million for mental health and addictions in 2025-2026, including \$487 million specifically for mental health services.

"We all know someone who has experienced trauma, loss and grief," he said. "The effects reach far beyond the individual. I appreciate the work being done at Caring Hearts. This is very important work that truly does change lives for the better."

Weedmark said he first learned about Caring Hearts during World Suicide Prevention Awareness Day in September.

"I knew nothing about Caring Hearts until September when I went to their World Suicide Prevention Awareness Day event," he said.

"I was very impressed by their organization and I spoke with people who have benefited from their services at that event and explained to me just how important that was to them. I met with the group and with ministry officials over their funding application in October."

"They are providing a service that really isn't provided anywhere else, so our government decided we could support them, and that support is immediate, within the current fiscal year."

Weedmark said the province spends more than \$600 million annually on mental health and addictions.

"Mental health and addictions are a priority," he said.

"We really appreciate the work of groups like Caring Hearts, and in this case their application aligned with our goals so we were able to move the process forward fairly quickly."

Funding will help

Keely Wight-Young, executive director of Caring Hearts, said the funding will help the organization respond more quickly to people who need support.

She said she was impressed with how quickly funding was provided, and was surprised to learn that the funding can be used immediately, in the current budget year.

"I want to express our deepest appreciation to the Saskatchewan Ministry of Health, Minister Lori Carr, and MLA Weedmark for their commitment to support grief and trauma services in our province," she said.

"This investment means we can reduce wait times, provide barrier-free accessible counselling and better respond to critical and immediate needs."

"Unaddressed grief and trauma so often underlie mental health struggles, substance overuse and many other concerns."

Wight-Young said Caring Hearts is the only organization in Saskatchewan dedicated exclusively to grief, loss, traumatic loss, and trauma support services and education.

The organization offers individual and family counselling, support groups, healing circles with a resident Elder, a therapeutic grief camp for children and youth, and outreach to communities and workplaces affected by tragedy.

"By expanding services we are strengthening the overall mental health of our communities," she said. "This funding helps meet a critical service gap and ensures no one has to navigate grief and trauma alone."

Continued on page 34



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RM of Moosomin, regional partners recognized for work on airport

BY NICOLE TAYLOR
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

The RM of Moosomin and its regional partners have received a 2025 Community Project Award from the Saskatchewan Economic Development Alliance for their work on the Moosomin regional airport project.

The RM was nominated for their work by Moosomin's economic development committee. Mayor Murray Gray accepted the award on the RM's behalf at the SEDA Summit on November 4 in Saskatoon.

RM of Moosomin Reeve Dave Moffatt says he was pleasantly surprised by the award.

"We were really impressed, it was actually the economic development committee that submitted the application on behalf of the RM. I think it was really special of them to do that for us, but I really want to state that it isn't all about us. It was a pretty big regional project that involved a lot of people. Community, government, the whole nine yards. We were a part of it, but there is definitely a bigger picture," he says.

"We'd heard that it was being submitted, but we knew we weren't going to be able to get to Saskatoon to accept it. Mayor Murray Gray and Casey McCormack were there and that was great that they were



Moosomin Mayor Murray Gray, right, accepting the 2025 Community Project Award on behalf of the RM of Moosomin at the SEDA Summit in Saskatoon on Nov. 4.

able to do that for us and accept it on our behalf.

"It felt pretty good to be recognized on that level like that, and I was very proud to be part of it and part of the airport project."

Moffatt says a lot of work by a lot of people went into

the airport project.

"It didn't happen overnight, that's for sure, and it's still ongoing. It was a big project and you probably wouldn't believe how many man hours it took to get it rolling and make it a reality.

"There was a small group of us that went to local communities and presented and showed how far away we really are when there are emergencies to get people from Regina or Saskatoon. The quickness that is involved

in some cases in saving lives isn't possible without a paved runway for the Air Ambulance. On the economic side, it could also bring a lot to the community as well. It took a lot of nights away from everything else to have those

meetings, but thankfully Jeff St. Onge and Dr. Van were big parts of that."

Moffatt says it felt good to get the award from SEDA.

"It gives a feeling of recognition for the time that we put in and the effort we gave, the commitment to the project and not giving up. To be recognized and given a pat on the back feels pretty special."

"The airport was made possible by many groups working along with the RM to get the airport the upgrade it deserved," says Mayor Murray Gray.

"I think that everyone involved with the airport project should feel proud because this award is meant to recognize everyone that made it possible."

A new runway was built and paved and some lighting has been installed, but Moffatt says work on the project is still ongoing to bring it completion.

"There's still some electrical to do, what's there now is very temporary, but perfectly functional at the moment. On the development side, there's a few people that are looking to put hangars there for their own planes, and so we've formed a board to look after that, which consists of some outside people. The RM will maintain ownership of the airport, but the board will take over the day-to-day operation of it."

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Adventures during the off-season

The hum of the combine engines, the augers and the semi tractors slowing down on the highway before turning into the farmyard has been replaced by quietness save for the sound of the odd air bin blowing its contents around inside.

The machines have been cleaned and dusted and washed and parked in their assigned spots and us grain farmers have almost forgotten the mad rush of those harvest days – but not quite. In place of memories of the crazy hours are the warmer memories of meals in the field and long, drawn out campfires as the grands and I await the return of the men from the field in the evenings. Isn't it interesting how the memories become sweeter as time goes on?

I sometimes recall harvest times in the mid-late 60's when I was barely seven or eight years old. My life then was concentrated in the forests of Ontario, with meandering bike rides through the forest, the sound of waterfalls and the picturesque lakes near where we lived. And snow, lots and lots of snow in the place where the wind seldom blew. But summer for our family back then was reserved for the Saskatchewan prairies, not as in a vacation destination but more of a farming destination. Some things are faded memories for me now as in 'who seeded the crops when we were out east?' and 'who finished the harvest when we headed back east to start a new year of school?' Despite not remembering certain details, one thing is clear—we sucked in a lot of dust on those open combines!

Some of you remember those days, I'm sure! Tiny little combines in comparison to today's machines, no cab and if I remember correctly, a long walkway (or so it seemed to me) from the top of the steps to where the seat was. And there we sat (or stood as the case may be and let's not even discuss safety here), out in the open with the dust settling over us like blankets from head to toe. I remember the truck that hauled the grain away. Small doesn't quite describe those grain trucks adequately. But no matter what challenges there likely were in those days for my parents, I have warm memories of riding that combine, the stars shining above (no cab to obscure the direct sight line above) and the wind gently blowing in our hair. Okay so gently doesn't always adequately describe the Saskatchewan winds. Sandwiches and cookies were a mainstay for our on-the-go meals, eventually replaced with four-course meals on the tailgate of the half ton (once we actually owned a half ton) after we had made a permanent move to the prairies.

This fall has seen some amazing temperatures and so it makes our daily trek to the farm to feed farm cats and check bin temperatures an absolute delight! Plus, it allows me to put off opening the "To Be Entered" file of bills and that makes me oh so happy.

A recent trip to the Alberta mountains and to Calgary meant packing up that particular file of bills only to leave it in my computer bag the entire time I was away. Now that was a holiday! Visiting with family was the best and staying together with our farm grands, their parents and our

The Lighter Side of
Life...
DOWN ON THE FARM
by donna beutler
FREELANCE PHOTOJOURNALIST
dl_beutler@yahoo.ca



niece meant lots of laughs and a few adventures.

The twins (14) had asked well in advance of our trek west if we could take them to Bass Pro and of course I volunteered Grandpa because they all seem to talk the same language – hunting, fishing and arithmetic. Oh pardon me, that would be hunting, fishing and farming, farming being the lesser of what's on those boys' minds right now as they anticipate ice-fishing season and are in the very midst of deer hunting season. The gals and I were a bit more into clothing and shoe stores at the mall and avoided Bass Pro like the plague.

I told the kids when we reached the mall what their Christmas dollar amount was and that they could spend it on whatever they wanted but that I would wrap it up for Christmas and that they had to look surprised and amazed at what we had bought them. They agreed. And with that, us gals parted ways with Gramps and the twins as they set off on their two-hour Bass Pro excursion.

Later, back at the Airbnb, I looked at their receipts I asked why one had overspent the limit I had said. And that's when we realized one boy (well Gramps technically) had been charged for two ice fishing rod cases instead of one. Now how were we going to prove that error? 'No problem,' they said when I phoned. Just come back and we will check the video footage for the time shown on the receipt.

Well this was going to be easy or so we thought as we all piled back into the car, headed north to Balzac and east to the mall for the second time that day, proudly avoiding the #2 Highway for the much quieter Centre Street heading north out of Calgary. Unfortunately, we thought we were turning into the parking lot on the south side of the mall only to discover we had taken the wrong turn – one that took us right out onto the busy #2 and from there back towards our Airbnb and once again, north on Centre Street to Balzac and then east to the mall—for the second time that afternoon.

Knowing we wouldn't miss our turn this time around (and yes it taught me to use the Maps App every time not just some of the time), we arrived at Bass Pro only to see hundreds (literally) of people standing in front of the doors. Not only were we arriving, but so was Santa apparently. In a camo colored boat no less! A couple of kids and I braved the crowds, essentially pushing through people who were more interested in seeing Santa than letting us through and once we got inside we noticed that hundreds more were indoors but customer service was wide open for us!

With all the commotion going on around us in the front entry, lobby and inside the store, customer service (after a 10/15-minute wait) said they would forego looking at the store videos and just refund us our money. 'Sweet!' I thought. 'Is this the credit card this purchase was made on?' the lady asked as I groaned. 'No,' I said, 'the other credit card is with my husband out in the car.' I looked through the hundreds of people now filling the store along with Santa, Mrs. Claus and a long entourage of characters behind them and thought, 'None of this – the trips back and forth to the store, the crowds of people – is worth the \$50 we were getting in refund money.' And then, bless this gal's heart, she said to me, 'We never do this, but I will credit it back to your card.' Now, those were the sweetest words ever heard!

Lunch times with the grands and their friends continue to enlighten us shall we say. We try to sit back and not talk, just listen. And laugh. And raise our eyebrows. The talk is of "We should be under two feet of powder by now," and "Did you feed the steers this morning?" and "What's for lunch tomorrow, Grandma?" and "So and so is such an awesome/awful teacher." As I said, enlightening.

There's lots of talk of deer hunting too as the majority of the 'Lunch Bunch' are hunters. So not only do we hear about the "fish that got away," we also hear about the "deer that got away." Not so for our oldest granddaughter though who, home from university for the weekend, tagged her buck barely an hour into the season. I am not sure who was more proud, her or Gramps.

The off-season from the busy spring/fall season (for us) has been replaced by some quieter moments though the farm never has a shortage of work to do. And that's good, it's time for some downtime and to be able to catch our breath. Having said that, it's also time to get ready for Christmas! The time to celebrate the birth of the King of Kings and to share His love with all those around us. Here's hoping your Christmas is full of blessings, love and laughter! Until next time!



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2. Tenders must be received on or before 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, December 31, 2025.
3. The lease term will be three (3) years commencing January 1, 2026. The Tender must specify the rent per acre payable for year one (1). Rent will be increased by two (\$2.00) dollars per acre in each of the two (2) subsequent years of the term.
4. Rent plus GST is payable on April 1st annually.
5. 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.
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Above: The Moosomin Food Share unloading 25,200 dozen eggs.

Left: The Moosomin Food Share unloading 11 pallets of bananas

“When Moosomin Food Share accepts a donation, you know that food is going to end up in homes across the area very, very quickly.”

—Katie Hepp, Second Harvest

Moosomin Food Share wins Second Harvest award for accepting multiple big food donations

Continued from page 7

Why does the Food Share keep accepting so many shipments from Second Harvest?

“Because I know we can get rid of them!” says Campbell. “It’s awesome that we can serve not just our community but the communities around us as well. We’re a non-profit, and we have to rely on people donating to us, so to be able to give back to the other communities and people that have helped us along the way, that’s why we keep doing it.”

The Frontline Impact Award is given out to one organization in every province each year. Campbell says it feels great to be recognized.

“It’s wonderful. I was very surprised when Katie called and told us we’d been nominated for the award and had won it. When you think of Regina and Saskatoon and bigger places like that, you think Moosomin’s not really on the map. These shipments and getting nominated is really putting us on the map so it feels great.”

Campbell says the Food Share will continue accepting shipments from Second Harvest because they know the food will be used.

“I told Katie, anything they are willing to give, we will take,” she says.

“She told me some cities will only accept two pallets of food. It doesn’t matter what kind of food it is, that’s what their capacity is that they can get rid of,

and she said it’s amazing that Moosomin compared to the cities can move 25,000 dozen eggs.”

Campbell says some people at Second Harvest were worried about a town the size of Moosomin being able to get rid of that many eggs, but Hepp assured her that Moosomin was the right place for the shipment. Campbell says the eggs were gone within a day.

“It feels good because Regina just does Regina, but we serve most of the southeast,” she says. “We have people come from as far away as Spy Hill, Redvers, Carlyle, Kipling, Grenfell, Virden, Cowessess, from Elkhorn. And for days after we have people calling or showing up asking ‘is there still bananas, are there still eggs.’”

The Frontline Impact Award will be presented at an awards ceremony in Toronto in February and Campbell says she will be traveling to Toronto to accept the award.

“Each year, The Second Harvest Food Rescue Awards aim to highlight the incredible work of individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions to food rescue efforts across Canada,” says Katie Hepp with Second Harvest. “The frontline impact award recognizes agency partners that have demonstrated an incredible level of engagement with Second Harvest’s mission, and have a truly outstanding impact in their com-



Beryl Stewart, Sam Campbell and Katie Hepp with Second Harvest in the back of the potato truck that malfunctioned. “I really cherish the memory of that day. Such a wonderful community you guys have, truly,” says Katie Hepp.

munity.

“Moosomin Food Share is the provincial winner of Second Harvest’s 2026 Frontline Impact Award for Saskatchewan.

“In a town of around 3,000 people, Moosomin Food Share has rescued over 195,000 pounds of food since October of 2024. Led by their incredible ad-

ministrator, Sam Campbell, they have consistently rallied theirs, as well as surrounding communities, and worked closely with schools and other local organizations, to ensure these food donations are widely known and reach those who need them as quickly as possible.

“They are incredibly resourceful, having taken on several large-scale donations this year, upwards of 30,000 pounds each. When a 55,000-pound potato delivery had a conveyor malfunction, Sam and her team of volunteers climbed into the truck themselves to push potatoes out, then called in reinforcements from local high school students to help unload, bag, and distribute the donation across the region.

“We are thankful for Moosomin Food Share’s relentless dedication and the countless hours they pour into caring for their community and we are so proud to work alongside them in the fight against food waste and food insecurity here in our province.

“46.5 percent of all food in Canada is wasted every year. That’s nearly half of all the food, that our farmers, producers and manufacturers are working tirelessly to provide to communities across this country, ending up in the landfill. No one who spends weeks or months or years producing food is doing so with the hope that it ultimately ends up in the garbage. The goal is

for it to be eaten and enjoyed. When Moosomin food share is able to accept these full trailer load donations, often upwards of 30,000 pounds, that’s tens of thousands of pounds of food that gets to end up on people’s plates instead of becoming landfill.”

Hepp says it has been a pleasure working with Moosomin Food Share.

“Getting to know and work with the Moosomin Food Share, their volunteers and the residents within the community has been an absolute privilege.

“When we reach out to Sam with large donation offers, she never shies away from them. These are massive donations, and they’re a huge undertaking to receive and redistribute, but her instinct is always ‘yes, we will make this work’ and she does make it work, 100 per cent of the time.

“What really stands out to me is how quickly they are able to turn these donations around. The way the entire community comes together to rally around these donations is really a sight to behold. Volunteers and community members show up, the food gets unloaded, and it doesn’t remain there for long. It’s received, sorted, and back out into the community at an extraordinary pace.

“When Moosomin Food Share accepts a donation, you know that food is going to end up in homes across the area very, very quickly.”



USask graduate advocates for the beef industry

Jessica Davey is building transparency in the beef industry as a progressive livestock producer

By BRETT MAKULOWICH

"My goal is to contribute to feeding the world while being sustainable," said Jessica Davey.

Davey holds many roles in the beef cattle sector. These include being a primary producer, an advocate who engages consumers about where their beef comes from, a leader for youth in agriculture, and a new graduate of the College of Agriculture and Bioresources (AgBio) at the University of Saskatchewan (USask).

Davey officially received her Bachelor of Science in Agriculture (major in Animal Science, minor in Agribusiness) at USask Fall Convocation on November 12.

"My experience at the University of Saskatchewan was life changing. I was able to further develop my passion, learn, develop new skills, and gain experience," said Davey. "I was very involved with the College of Agriculture and Bioresources and the Agricultural Students Association and made lifelong connections in the agriculture industry."

Davey maintained an extensive list of leadership roles in extracurricular agriculture activities on and off campus and earned 16 scholarships during her time as a USask student. One of these scholarships was the 4-H Canada Leadership Excellence Award of Distinction (LEAD) Scholar for Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security. These awards are 4-H Canada's most prestigious honour, recognizing outstanding youth members who demonstrate 4-H values in their everyday lives, have become exceptional leaders through their 4-H experience, and who share the best of themselves with their communities.

As a 4-H Canada LEAD Scholar, Davey led a student-raised beef initiative with Marquis Culinary Centre on the USask campus. This involved raising beef on her family farm, Rivendale Cattle Company, and selling it to USask for use at Marquis. She hosted a beef BBQ with Marquis during orientation week and spoke to students about farming and raising beef in Saskatchewan.

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The 2025 Harvest of Hope crop being taken off north of Moosomin in October.



Harvest of Hope raises \$26,000 to help feed the hungry

BY NICOLE TAYLOR
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Harvest of Hope has released its financial results for the season, reporting a net revenue of \$26,000.

"Our net revenue is \$26,000 for this harvest season," said Kyle Penner with Harvest of Hope.

Penner said that while this year's results were lower than in some recent seasons, the organization remains appreciative of the support it has received. "Averages exist for a reason, and the last few years we have done quite a bit better than this, but we are grateful for what we have got."

Penner explained that several factors influenced this year's outcome. "We had some changes in sponsorship, some different things happened with sponsors where they weren't able to support like they had in the past, and then high input costs, and the weather impacts both our crop yield and quality."

A significant portion of this year's revenue will go toward international food-security efforts. "\$19,500 will be going to the Canadian Food Grains Bank, and that will be distributed through their member agencies into wherever they donate it. Lots of their focus right now is on immediate food security needs to places where people are being displaced, so Palestine, Ukraine, anywhere that there is fighting you hear about in the news, they have people working there," said Penner.

The remaining funds will support local food initiatives. "In total it will be \$6,500 that is the difference that will be split between Moosomin Food Share and the Rocanville Food Bank," said Penner. "It'll be \$4,900 to Moosomin and \$1,600 to Rocanville."

Penner explained the importance of community involvement in sustaining the project. "The big thing that we want to make sure people know is that we are grateful for their help. It takes a big community of people to support a project like this so without their help, this type of thing would not be possible."

Penner said how even small contributions can have a large impact through matching programs. "And the other thing we want people to know is that the impact that they make, no matter how small the contribution, is very important. When you have the leveraging options of 4:1 with the Food Grains Bank, a donation of as little as \$200 can make an impact of up to \$1000. And so when you get that multiplier involved with what we are doing, you can feed quite a few people."

Penner said that this multiplier effect is made pos-

sible through long-standing federal partnerships. "The Food Grains Bank has a partnership that they have had since the 1980's through what is called the Canadian International Development Agency, and throughout that

partnership with the Canadian Government of the distribution of foreign aid, they have been able to multiply donations through this program using tax dollars to make a bigger impact with foreign aid."

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FCC report highlights productivity as key to Canada's agricultural future

Canadian farmers could see significant income gains and new opportunities if agricultural productivity growth returns to historic highs. The Farm Credit Canada (FCC) report titled Reigniting agricultural productivity in Canada, estimates that boosting productivity growth to two per cent annually could unlock \$30 billion in additional farm income, generate \$31 billion in GDP, and create nearly 23,000 jobs across the country.

Canada has long been a standout among global food producers. Over the past half-century, the agriculture industry has achieved significant productivity growth through better farm management, improved input efficiency and technological innovation. The report warns, however, that productivity growth has slowed in recent years, threatening the industry's competitiveness and Canada's ability to meet growing national and global food demand.

"Canada's agricultural productivity growth has consistently outpaced other G7 countries for more than three decades, showing the strength and adaptability of our producers," says J.P. Gervais, executive vice-president strategy and impact at FCC. "Even so, our growth has slowed, turning that around will take continued investments to spur innovation, and smarter ways of working to help producers improve efficiency and stay competitive in a fast-changing global market."

Low business investment in agricultural research and development and lagging venture capital investment in ag tech continue to slow productivity gains and limit the commercialization of new innovations. Closing Canada's investment gap is critical, as every dollar invested in agricultural innovation delivers long-term returns many times over.

"Canadian agriculture has the talent, ingenuity and drive to lead the world in sustainable food production," says Justine Hendricks, president and CEO at FCC. "By putting productivity and innovation at the centre of how we grow, we can strengthen our food system, support the people behind it and build a more resilient industry for today and future generations."

Productivity is about helping farmers make the most of their resources. It means using land, livestock, labour and



equipment efficiently, reducing waste, improving quality, and using technology to find new ways to grow.

The report identifies three key pathways for producers to boost productivity growth:

- Improving efficiency by leveraging data and elevating management practices;
- Scaling operations through strategic investment; and,
- Accelerating innovation by adopting new technologies and approaches on the farm.

Turning those goals into action takes practical tools and real-world testing. With a single growth season each year, farmers face substantial risk in testing new production technologies or methods, and returns on these investments take a long time to be fully realized. Through Innovation Farms powered by AgExpert, FCC supports on-farm innovation by helping producers test and refine new practices.

FCC has committed \$2 billion by 2030 to advance ag and food innovation in Canada. Building on that commitment, FCC Capital is helping scale innovation across the entire value chain. The investment arm supports companies developing technologies and solutions that improve efficiency, productivity and sustainability, helping producers and processors adopt new tools, expand their

operations and build a stronger, more competitive agriculture and food industry.

Other key report findings

Since peaking at two per cent in the 1990s and 2000s, annual productivity growth has steadily declined, reaching 1.3 per cent in the 2010s. It is projected to be under one per cent annually, a level reminiscent of the 1970s if current trends continue.

Boosting productivity growth to peak levels seen in past decades could increase returns to farmers by \$30 billion – \$18.5 billion for crop producers and \$11.5 billion for animal producers – significantly improving profitability across the sector.

Every dollar invested in agricultural research and development yields an estimated long-term return of \$10 to \$20, highlighting the strong economic value of innovation.

Venture capital investment in ag tech businesses remains vital for driving innovation and supporting commercialization, yet it continues to lag in Canada. In 2024, U.S. firms captured \$6.5 billion of these investments, representing 45 per cent of global deal values, while Canadian firms secured \$276 million, or about 2 per cent, highlighting a major commercialization gap.




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Nutrien Rocanville receives Technology Fund grant for sustainable mining initiative

BY ASHLEY BOCHKE

Nutrien Rocanville was recently awarded \$1.2 million from the provincial government for their new innovative technology for more efficient and sustainable mining. The Saskatchewan Technology Fund is a provincial fund that helps support industrial projects in reducing emissions and drive sustainable growth.

Justin Young and Tim Mbanga of Nutrien Rocanville explain their new innovative project chosen among nine other projects funded by the Saskatchewan Technology Fund. Nutrien Rocanville is the largest potash producer in the country and is continuing building opportunities for long term growth.

"We're actively exploring opportunities across our potash network," Young explained. "With the global population steadily rising and the amount of arable land for crop production shrinking, we face a critical challenge, ensuring we can increase crop yields to meet growing food demand. That's why it's essential we continue to expand our production capabilities—so we can help feed the future and support global food security."

Striving toward efficiency

Tim Mbanga, Mill Maintenance Superintendent at Nutrien Rocanville, highlights the company's commitment to operational efficiency and sustainability.

"The most important thing is efficient production of resources—maximizing recoveries, reducing waste, and minimizing emissions," he explains. This approach aligns with Nutrien's broader corporate strategy to optimize its three

core segments, Upstream (manufacturing facilities, for example, Mines), midstream (distribution and logistics), and downstream (agricultural customer end-user support).

"Unlike traditional fertilizer producers, Nutrien offers an integrated model that spans from mining and manufacturing to customer engagement. This includes soil testing, pH control, and tailored fertilizer recommendations," Mbanga explains, as game changer services within the industry.

"Before Nutrien was formed in 2018, PotashCorp focused solely on fertilizer production with limited distribution. Today, Nutrien provides a complete support chain from manufacturing to the farmgate, and no competitor offers this level of integration."

Saskatchewan Technology Fund

Mbanga explains Nutrien's efforts to innovate through provincial programs.

"Recently, Nutrien Rocanville applied for the provincial Technology Fund, initiated by corporate outreach encouraging project submissions. The Fund was aimed at supporting industry-driven technology, innovation and improvement projects that mitigate, sequester or capture greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. I saw that as an opportunity for the Ultrafines Recovery Project, so I talked to Justin Young, explained to him about the funding and said to him, 'I have a project in mind and I would like to apply' and he said 'If you have all the information, let's put our best foot forward and get that application in', and we did exactly that."



Nutrien Rocanville General Manager Justin Young, Moosomin-Montmartre MLA Kevin Weedmark, and Mill Maintenance Superintendent at Nutrien Rocanville Tim Mbanga.

employees and multiple priorities, having this external support gives us the momentum we need."

The funding highlights Nutrien's commitment to sustainability and innovation, enabling the company to accelerate projects that deliver measurable environmental benefits while maintaining operational efficiency.

The project

Nutrien Rocanville is taking a big step toward sustainability and operational efficiency with an innovative project initiated by Mill Maintenance Superintendent Tim Mbanga.

The initiative focuses on upgrading unit processes in the site's older mill, which was built in the late 1960s and is nearing the end of its lifecycle.

"The question was, what would it take to restore this unit operation and extend its life by another 30 to 40 years?" Mbanga explains.

The crystallization process is the most challenging and is traditionally used to convert fine potash particles into larger crystals suitable for sale. This process is energy-intensive, requiring temperatures up to 100°C. However, Nutrien's newer mill, commissioned in 2016, introduced advanced drying technology that eliminates the need for crystallization. "We proved that we can process fine potash without crystallizing it, which improves safety and reduces energy consumption," says Mbanga.

"Rather than installing new dryers in the older mill—a costly option—the team designed a solution to leverage existing capacity in the newer facility. 'We decided to send ultra fine product directly to the new mill for drying. This technology was groundbreaking when implemented in 2012—the first and largest of its kind in the potash industry—and we've proven it works,' Mbanga notes.

The project is expected to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions and energy use—one of the key reasons it was selected among nine other projects by the Saskatchewan Technology Fund. "The emissions reduction is substantial. From an energy standpoint, this project is about creating technology that minimizes or eliminates unnecessary consumption," Mbanga emphasizes.

Mbanga designed the ultrafine recovery system, completing all initial calculations and leading the application process for funding. "I plan to be involved from start to finish on this project—overseeing detailed design, execution, commissioning, and ensuring the system runs as intended," he says.

Impact on mine

The new project at Nutrien Rocanville is designed to make future operations more sustainable by improving efficiency and reducing environmental impact. "The main thing is sustainable production—that's the key," says Tim Mbanga. "Currently, the recovery process for ultrafines is one of the most challenging and energy-intensive steps in our operation. By moving away from this high-energy intensive process and adopting a more efficient technology, we can significantly reduce emissions and natural gas consumption."

The initiative will not only lower greenhouse gas emissions but also improve overall yield and recovery of ultrafine potash products. "This technology allows us to optimize recovery while minimizing energy use, which is a win for both efficiency and sustainability," Mbanga explains.

"Young explains the new technology will allow for higher recovery. 'If we didn't proceed with this project, all of this ultrafine material would end up on the tailings pile and not be recovered. So, this potash would then ultimately become waste.'"

Excitement for new project

Mbanga and Young say they're excited for the benefits the new project will bring to Nutrien. "It will be nice to see it," Mbanga said. "It took about a year with the government application. There was a lot of back-and-forth. The approval of the project marks a check box, but now I'd like to make sure that it gets through to construction and make it happen."

"By dealing with this aging crystallizer asset in mill one and completely removing it from the process there is a huge safety benefit that I am excited about," said Young.

"It was very expensive to run the crystallizer in mill one because of the high temperatures involved and the amount of gas you're consuming, so moving that cost from the balance sheet also has me excited. Then lastly, improving our recovery going forward to ensure that we are maximizing what we are getting out of the one has me thrilled. Those would be my three biggest improvements that this new project gives us."

"It is helping us out with safety, production cost, and our production efficiency."

Largest potash producer

Young says Nutrien is the world's largest potash producer and is continuing to grow.

"If you were to look across the globe based on our potash network, Nutrien is the world's largest potash producer and Nutrien Rocanville is one of the world's largest potash operations."

"We have seen steady growth for multiple years and looking into the future, continue to see steady growth for global demand."

"I believe that probably played into us being chosen among the other nine projects for this funding from the Technology Fund," he adds.

"I see that Mosaic also received funding with a very different project, but something similar in the space getting funded—I think it's great that the Saskatchewan government recognizes the impact potash has, not only in the province, but around the world, and recognizing companies like ours and Mosaic's. That is very important."

than a third of that amount."

The proposal impressed both government agencies and Nutrien's leadership.

"What we presented to the government was well received and approved, and capital approval team liked the idea. As far as I know, it's been pre-approved, and is in the Rocanville site five-year Capital Plan," Mbanga explains.

"We're now moving into the detailed engineering design phase, which will determine final funding and execution." This strategic approach demonstrates how innovation can create significant operational improvements while controlling costs—a critical factor in sustaining long-term competitiveness.

Young adds, "Ultimately this project allows us to make sure we are maximizing the recovery, we are maximizing the amount of potash we are pulling out of the ore through the milling process."

"We are increasing our efficiency and maximizing our recoveries."

Capital projects of this scale are uncommon at Nutrien Rocanville, making the ultrafine recovery initiative a milestone for the site. "Projects of this magnitude happen once in a long time," says Mbanga. "The crystallizer circuit we're replacing was implemented in the 1970s, and it's taken decades to phase it out. Major projects of this nature come with unique challenges. 'You have to prove so many things, convince multiple stakeholders, and demonstrate that the end goal will improve operations long term. It's not something that happens often, which makes this project even more significant.'"



An aerial photo of Nutrien Rocanville taken by Kevin Weedmark.



Mill Maintenance Superintendent at Nutrien Rocanville Tim Mbanga.

Collaborative process

Mbanga says the project application was a collaborative process among himself and coworkers.

"I worked with site leadership, Rocanville site and corporate resources to prepare and submit a proposal aimed at leveraging this funding opportunity. This initiative reflects Nutrien's ongoing drive to leverage technology and funding opportunities to enhance efficiency and sustainability across its operations."

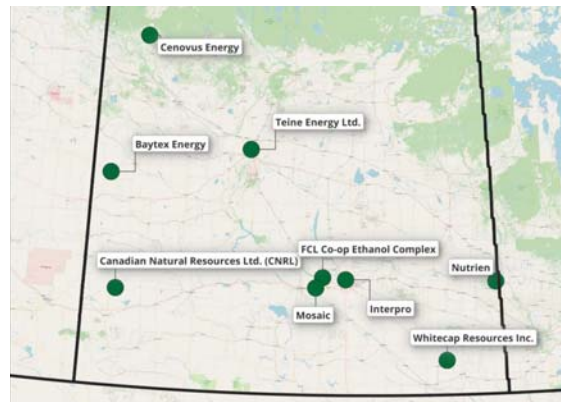
Young adds, "This funding that we received from the provincial government will be going toward Tim's idea on the Ultrafine potash recovery project. We are in the early design stages of the project and this funding will help push that along. We received \$1.2 million from the Saskatchewan Technology Fund. We are currently also working with the federal government for another grant that could add a few more dollars to the pot for this specific project. Hopefully, if we do get both grants it should cover about 10 per cent of the total project cost. The rest would be covered by our capital sustaining budget, and we currently have that within our capital plan, and we are expecting this project will be online in 2027."

Nutrien Rocanville has secured additional financial support for its emissions-reduction initiative, with conditional approval from both provincial and federal programs. Alongside \$1.2 million from the Saskatchewan Technology Fund, the site has secured \$2 million through the federal Green Industrial Facilities and Manufacturing Program (GIFMP), totaling government contributions to approximately \$3.2 million—about 10 per cent of the project's overall cost.

"This level of support is significant," says Mbanga. "The government recognizes the role we can play in reducing emissions and mitigating global warming. Their financial backing is critical because despite Nutrien's size, we compete internally for capital across numerous projects—terminals, rail, other mines, and more. With over 20,000



Nutrien Rocanville General Manager Justin Young, Moosomin-Montmartre MLA Kevin Weedmark, Minister of Environment Travis Keisig, and Mill Maintenance Superintendent at Nutrien Rocanville Tim Mbanga.



A map showing the locations of the various projects that are receiving funds under the Technology Fund.

Industry's importance to province

Nutrien Rocanville is focused on shaping the future of mining with a strong commitment to sustainability and responsible resource development. "The main goal is to produce potash as ethically and efficiently as possible," says Mbanga, Mill Maintenance Superintendent. "The greenhouse effect and global warming are real—we're seeing plus-degree temperatures in late November here in Saskatchewan, which is unusual. That reality drives our focus on reducing emissions."

Mbanga emphasizes that Saskatchewan has a unique opportunity to lead by example. "The province holds 27 of Canada's 34 critical minerals, and potash is the largest among them. Saskatchewan has the world's largest potash deposits, and we want customers and investors to know that our product is produced responsibly. If we can demonstrate that sustainable mining works here, it's a win for the province, the country, and future generations."

Mbanga adds that government support for these initiatives is motivating. "When you see the province and federal government backing projects like this, it speaks volumes about the shared commitment to reducing environmental impact and ensuring long-term sustainability."

Young adds, "I do think it is valuable for our government to ensure that we are continuing to fund projects like this that is essentially reducing our carbon footprint."

End goal

The ultrafine recovery project at Nutrien Rocanville has been in development for several years, with a clear focus on efficiency and cost reduction. "We've worked on this project for quite a few years and wanted to minimize the capital requirement significantly," says Mbanga. "Retraining the entire circuit would cost over \$100 million, but with this approach, we can achieve the same goal for less



Nutrien Rocanville General Manager Justin Young.

USask graduate advocates for the beef industry

Continued from page 27

"It was a great opportunity for students to learn about where their food comes from and the story behind it," said Davey.

Davey's advocacy work isn't limited to the Prairies. She was one of two Canadian ambassadors for the World Food Forum Student Ambassador programme led by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. She participated in a youth policy pilot project about food waste and school nutrition in which she developed policy materials with a focus on beef production systems.

Her advocacy work continued this past summer when Davey was as a public engagement and stakeholder intern with the Canadian Cattle Association. She was responsible for public outreach and programming such as hosting a documentary launch event and connecting with online influencers.



"The College of Agriculture and Biore-sources is just full of so much history and agricultural legacy in Saskatchewan and is the future of the ag industry."

— Jessica Davey

"Connecting with youth and consumers builds trust and transparency around farming and ranching," said Davey. "People learn about cattle and the environment, the sustainability of raising beef, and the nutrition of eating beef."

Throughout her extracurriculars and summer work experiences, Davey was able to draw upon her USask education to advance her career.

"The Bachelor of Science in Agriculture program provides very diverse opportunities to learn both the academic and practical knowledge of agriculture and livestock production of various species," said Davey. "The professors and academic advisors in the Animal Science program are engaging and work to enhance the student experience. There are so many hands-on learning experiences, such as the ANSC 301 Animal Production Tour course and the ANSC 315 Animal and Poultry Nutrition course."

Led by Dr. Greg Penner (PhD) and department assistant Colin Peterson, ANSC 301 is a seven-day field tour across Western Canada, exploring both traditional and exotic livestock operations, marketing enterprises, and feed processing facilities. In ANSC 315, taught by Dr. Tim Mutsaers (PhD), students conduct laboratory work including practical nutritional exercises. Davey and her classmates assisted PhD candidate Cassidy Ross (thesis supervisor Dr. Gabriel Riberio (PhD)) with a cattle research study.

Originally from Montrose, Sask., Davey has a strong family connection with USask and AgBio, with her mom, dad, brother, and aunt all alumni of the college. Davey's future plans include continuing her beef advocacy work and being involved in provincial and national organizations. She co-owns and operates Rivendale Cattle Company, a purebred and commercial beef cattle operation, with her family. Davey also has her own photography business, Jessica Davey Photography. She is looking forward to continuing her career in the agriculture industry.

"I have the opportunity to utilize my knowledge, skills, and experiences gained through academia and farming, to build connections in the agriculture industry, and to provide support to other farmers and ranchers."

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How do I market my grain effectively?

No one has a crystal ball. While you may not be able to predict the future, you can still strategize to make the best of market conditions. Start with a simple, critical question: When do I need to move my grain? Do I have time to wait for better prices?

Whether you need to generate cash, need the storage space or have other reasons, you need a plan to sell your grain proactively and with market conditions in mind.

Selling in increments is common practice—for example, 20 or 25 per cent is sold at different points throughout the year.

Every farm and every grain sale is different—each one involves unique goals, circumstances, and a different balance of risk and reward. Some farms might not have the same level of risk tolerance as others.

When to sell is a personal decision, and there's an element of personal preference involved. The right selling approach will differ from one farm to the next, and having a plan will help to ensure your decisions are well-informed.

I often describe marketing strategies as either offensive or defensive. Defensive sales focus on locking in profits when prices are favourable, helping manage risk. Offensive sales are about seizing opportunities when market conditions suggest there's potential for better returns. The key is to stay informed and understand how markets typically behave, especially in your region.

For example, the best approach to marketing canola in Alberta's Peace Region may differ significantly from what works in Manitoba's Red River Valley. Ask yourself: Should we react to short-term market movements? Should we take a more aggressive or more cautious approach right now? Is there one crop with a stronger outlook that deserves a different strategy?

Create a plan that considers a few possible market scenarios so you're ready to adapt as conditions change.

A fear of missing out (FOMO) is something many farmers experience, especially

when it comes to getting the most out of marketing grain. Having the right information can take you a long way.

A lack of control can be frustrating. Waiting for the top of the market can lead to decision paralysis and that "deer in the headlights" feeling during price swings.

Grain markets tend to rise gradually and fall quickly. Sudden downturns can feel harsh, while too much information can be overwhelming. That's why it's important to build a basic understanding of how markets work.

At their core, markets are driven by supply and demand.

In a demand-led market, users are actively entering the marketplace, generating longer-run 'bull markets' with rising prices. Be alert to supply shocks that can create brief price spikes as those opportunities may require quick action.

Conversely, in highly supplied markets, where many producers are pushing grain into the marketplace, prices typically decline, leading to 'bear markets' characterized by falling prices and weaker returns.

Seasonality also shapes supply and demand. In fall, large volumes of grain entering the market add pressure due to abundance. In spring, prices may rise as old crop supplies tighten or weather challenges affect planting. Be aware of these seasonal patterns and how they influence market trends.

Other factors influencing supply and demand include weather, politics, trade, border issues, tariffs and currency fluctuations.

To navigate this complexity, set a clear marketing plan, stick to it and review your results regularly to stay disciplined. Focus on beating the local average price and use an incremental sales approach to build consistency.

With so much to consider, don't hesitate to ask for help. A trusted third-party advisor can support your decision-making, clarity and confidence.

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Grief and trauma counselling services being expanded

Continued from page 23

"Those who reside outside of the city can access our services online or through telephone," Wight-Young said. "In the past year alone, we have counselled over five hundred individuals and families. We hope to double that number over the next year."

She said more people are reaching out for help as awareness grows and stigma decreases.

Caring Hearts is also preparing to introduce an online booking system to make access easier.

A fundraising event will take place on November 29, featuring comedian and mental health advocate Big Daddy Tazz, who is well known to audiences in the Moosomin area, with Megan Nash opening. Funds will support the organization's biannual therapeutic grief and trauma camp for children and youth.

"Right now we are a small and mighty staff of three, but we will be able to hire two full-time counsellors with this funding," Wight-Young said.

Lifeline for families

Caring Hearts has been a lifeline for many families, including Debbie West's. She said her family turned to the organization after the death of their teenage son.

"My husband Rick and I lost our teenage son to suicide

on Father's Day 2024," she said. "We immediately knew our family needed help. Caring Hearts called us back immediately and made arrangements for us to see a counsellor right away."

West said the organization offered counselling, group therapy, and ongoing support.

"As soon as we entered Caring Hearts, we knew we had a safe space to express our grief," she said. They provided immediate grief counselling to our entire family, and they continue to guide us in our ongoing healing journey. We found not only comfort and solace but friendship in a time of unimaginable pain."

"Without their support, I am not sure how we would have survived. Kelly genuinely cared for us. Caring Hearts was there for us during the absolute worst time of our life, and for that we are forever grateful."

How to access help

To book a session, call Caring Hearts at 306-523-2780 or email contactus@caringheartssk.ca. Visit www.caringheartssk.ca for details.

For information about other resources available for mental health and addictions, visit the Government of Saskatchewan website.



Above, MLA Kevin Weedmark announcing funding for Caring Hearts.

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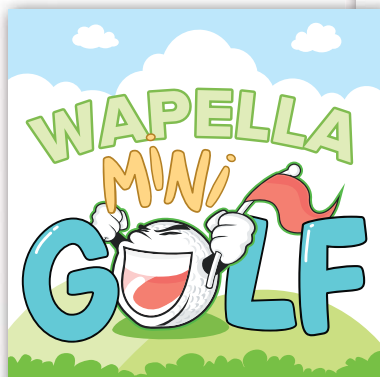
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Above: The Grenfell Fire Department at their awards banquet.



Left: Fire Chief Duane Stone and Deputy Fire Chief Mike Kardash with a cake that was made for their awards banquet.

Right: Nici Harrison with her 2025 Firefighter of the Year Award.



MacKenzie Tuchscherer photos

Grenfell Fire Department holds awards night

Nici Harrison receives Firefighter of the Year Award

The Grenfell Fire Department held its annual Awards Night and Banquet on November 29. Firefighters were recognized for their years of service and dedication, and a special award went to Nici Harrison, who was chosen as the 2025 Firefighter of the Year.

Harrison joined the fire department in May of 2023, and in her short time on the department completed 11 lessons of her 23 NFPA 1001 certification by attending monthly training and classes at spring and fall training schools and by studying upcoming chapters of Essentials 7.

She also actively participated in the majority of the fire department's activities, including elementary school prevention classes, fire safety expos, and open house nights.

On May 9, Harrison showed incredible dedication and bravery when an urgent call came in about a grass fire in Sakimay. At the time, Harrison was attending Melville Fire School for Heavy Duty Rescue, but without hesitation Harrison left to assist with the fire, working from midnight until 4 am to battle the flames.

After two hours of sleep, Harrison headed back to Melville for training, but her pager went off again. Within minutes she was back in the truck to assist with the grass fire.

Afterwards, Harrison went to the fire hall to replenish supplies, ensuring the fire department was fully equipped before returning to her course in Melville, where she was

called for a third time back into action to fight the grass fire.

"Nici's weekend was a testament to her unwavering dedication, resilience, and passion for serving her community. Her actions not only ensured the safety of many but also inspired those around her to embody the same spirit of service and commitment," read her nomination for the award.

Harrison says she joined the fire department because she felt like she had the right personality and character to help people in emergency situations.

"I realized that I am usually really calm in chaotic situations and can stay level headed where a lot of people can't, they just get overwhelmed," she said. "I'm able to help people and deal with it later on."

Harrison says there is lots of training and she's enjoying taking that training to constantly increase her skills.

"We do quite a bit. Every month there is training on our department, but every once in a while we have out of town training. Last weekend I was in Broadview for STARS training and every fall and spring there is a school we go to—I've been to North Battleford, Swift Current, Humboldt.

"I just feel like I can help people in their time of need. I like to be able to help and do what I can."

She said it felt good to be recognized by her peers at the

awards night on November 29.

"It was amazing. I've never had a plaque with my name on it, I feel pretty special today. I was just doing it to do it but the recognition is very nice."

There are 19 members on the Grenfell Fire Department. They are as follows:

Dwayne Stone: Fire Chief, 39 years
Mike Kardash: Deputy Fire Chief, 24 years
Greg Smith: Deputy Fire Chief, 41 years
Brent Neuls: Assistant Fire Chief, 20 years
Michael Krecsy: Assistant Fire Chief, 9 years
Nathan Kraushaar: Assistant Fire Chief, 6 years
Darren Manovich: Assistant Fire Chief, 15 years
Dustin Dyke: 14 years
Jeremy Scheiner: 12 years
Stacy Manovich: 19 years
Christopher Banow: 6 years
Sean Stanvix: 5 years
Rogan Busche: 4 years
Nici Harrison: 2 years
Kira McDonald: 3 years
Mike Zorn: 1.5 years
Jordon Guy: 2 years
Nic Wareham: 1.5 years
Braden Dominique: 2 months



Saskatchewan Deputy Premier Jim Reiter speaking at the event on Tuesday.



Mosaic CEO Bruce Bodine speaking at the announcement on Tuesday.

Mosaic announces \$4.1 million investment in Sask mining workforce

Continued from Page 21

Mosaic says recent third-party reports from the Saskatchewan Mining Association and Deloitte, along with Mosaic's own future hiring projections, highlight an immediate need to build a robust operations talent pipeline, especially in several high-demand trades.

Mosaic is partnering with a number of educational institutions in Saskatchewan to expand training capacity, upgrade facilities and equipment, secure instructors, and create new pathways for local and Indigenous learners to pursue careers in mining.

This includes partnerships with Sask Polytechnic, Suncrest College, and the Good Spirit School Division.

"These investments from Mosaic in developing the future workforce of our mining industry will help us to ensure that the goals outlined in our Saskatchewan Labour Market Strategy become a reality," said Jim Reiter, Deputy Premier and Minister of Immigration and Career Training. "Investing in these training programs will also help to ensure that Saskatchewan remains one of the top mining jurisdictions in the world and that Saskatchewan continues to be the best place to live and work in Canada."

Partnerships

Saskatchewan Polytechnic – \$1.5 Million

Mosaic is investing \$1.5 million to enhance the Industrial Mechanic workshop at Sask Polytech's new Joseph A. Remail Saskatoon Campus and improve trades areas at the Moose Jaw campus.

"Thank you to Mosaic for helping pave the way for state-of-the-art trades facilities at our new Joseph A. Remail Saskatoon Campus," said Dr. Larry Rosia, Sask Polytech President and Chief Executive

Officer. "Our programs prepare students for diverse careers that power Saskatchewan's vital mining industry—roles like industrial mechanics, instrumentation technicians, welders and electricians."

In recognition of Mosaic's generous \$1.5 million gift, the Industrial Mechanics shop in Saskatoon will be renamed the Mosaic Industrial Mechanics Workshop, with additional recognition in the skilled trades area at our Moose Jaw Campus. This contribution will have a lasting impact on Sask Polytech and will ensure future trades graduates are well prepared to become our province's mining workforce."

Suncrest College – \$1.5 Million

Mosaic is investing \$1.5 million to modernize Suncrest College's Esterhazy campus and expand Industrial Mechanic (Millwright) Apprenticeship training to produce more skilled graduates. The upgrade includes advanced technology, state-of-the-art lab equipment, and a dedicated instructor.

"Suncrest College is proud to be located in the heart of Mosaic's mining operations, with our campus right here in Esterhazy," said Alison Dubreuil, President and Chief Executive Officer of Suncrest College. "This investment enhances our ability to attract top Industrial Mechanic talent by delivering high-quality, apprenticeship-level training that aligns with industry needs. Our partnership is deeply rooted in the local community and will support Mosaic's world-class potash facility while driving economic growth across rural Saskatchewan."

Good Spirit School Division

\$1.05 Million

Mosaic is investing \$1.05 million to build a new Practical and Applied Arts

(PAA) Lab at Churchbridge High School, doubling the current program capacity and accelerating students' entry into post-secondary trades programs.

"At the Good Spirit School Division, we believe in creating bright futures, and investments like this help make that possible," said Quintin Robertson, Director of Education and Chief Executive Officer of Good Spirit School Division. "Mosaic's commitment will expand programming, upgrade equipment, and support instructors, giving students from the Churchbridge, Langenburg, and Esterhazy areas the skills they need for rewarding careers. This partnership puts students first by bringing high-quality learning opportunities to our communities."

Potash Mining Readiness Program

In 2022, Mosaic funded a training program for Indigenous students. This program will re-launch in February 2026 with new curriculum focused on training Indigenous learners for entry-level operations roles in Esterhazy, delivered by Morris Interactive.

Mosaic says they will be looking for opportunities to expand and connect these investments with additional partners and pair them with scholarships and bursaries.

"By investing in its future workforce, Mosaic is creating opportunities here at home, demonstrating its long-term commitment to the province, and shaping the future of mining in Saskatchewan," said Mosaic in a release.

Daryl Harrison
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Skout wins silver at Canada Beer Cup with 'Lights Out Porter'

Continued from page 3

"Sometimes we come up with names like Knuckleballer. That beer gave me a lot of trouble when I was making it. It was like trying to hit a knuckleball so that's why we named it that.

"I'll make the beer and then as it's fermenting we'll start to be able to taste what it is like. I always have an intention of what a beer will taste like but until you make it, you don't know for sure. Son of a Biscuit, we came up with that name because it's a little bit biscuity tasting."

Skout entered five beers in this year's Canada Beer Cup. "We entered the national competition for craft breweries in Canada, and we had entered five of our beers into it," Grandguillot said. "The benefit is not just winning medals, even though it's amazing when it does happen. You also get scorecards for all the beers you enter, and those scorecards are done by professional judges.

"They have high-ranking beer judges who basically study beer from around the world, know what it tastes like and know what it should taste like depending on the style. When it comes to a competition, when they are tasting your beer they are filling out a scorecard and giving you feedback.

"So the benefit of entering the competition is getting the professional feedback. We entered five beers, only one of them won a medal, but we got excellent feedback on all five beers. All five of our beers were judged to be very good. All five of our beers were judged to be very good for their style. And every beer style has its own parameters.

"They were all judged to be good but only our Lights Out Porter made it to a medal round. All the judging is done blindly. The judges don't know what beer they are tasting or where it's from. With that said, we could enter the same beer in the competition next year. It could win gold or more likely it won't win a medal at all. The competition is fierce and because it's judged blindly, there is no favoritism at all. It's based on the judges around the table that day, how they are tasting the beer, and for this competition they obviously liked ours."

The event gathered breweries from every province and territory. "The event was in Quebec City. Three hundred breweries entered, they submitted a total of over 1,800 beers in more than 50 categories. A lot of the medals were won by breweries in British Columbia, Quebec, Ontario. Every province and territory was represented in the competition."

Skout Brewery has now been open for about a year and a half.

"We have been open for a year and a half," he said. "It really comes down to your skills as a brewer. If you make a good beer, it doesn't matter how big your brewery is. Some of the biggest breweries might not make the best beers, and some of the small breweries might make excellent beers, but because they are small, not many people get to taste them.

"For me, when I approach making beer, I always try to make it the best I can using as many local ingredients as I can. So that is something that sets us apart, is using the local hops, using local malted barley. So that could be what helps a smaller brewery versus a larger brewery that might only be able to use large-scale ingredient suppliers. Not as unique ingredients.

"Speaking for the hops farm that my wife's family runs, they produce excellent hops in my opinion, but they wouldn't be able to supply hops for Coors Light because they don't make enough hops. So Coors Light can only source their hops from really large-scale hop farms, where I can source from wherever, so I also have the chance to be a little bit more creative because it is just me here. I can make whatever beer I want.

"I try to listen to feedback from the community. This beer has actually won me a medal before. When I was in college, it was one of the first recipes I had written. It was submitted to the U.S. College Open when I was in brewing school, and it won then. I submitted this same beer to last year's Prairie Beer Awards and that was a competition for Saskatchewan and Manitoba breweries. It didn't medal, but we had also only been open for a few weeks so I hadn't kind of perfected it on our system yet. But it is better now than it was then, but who knows if it'll win a medal ever again. It's hard to say."

Skout, like many small breweries, operates at capacity.

"There are some challenges," Grandguillot said. "We are only so big, so in terms of scaling up production, I can only fit so much beer in our tanks, and we are lucky in that we are able to sell most of the beer that I make. The trick will be in being able to brew more often.

"We started expanding our market into Regina and Moose Jaw and are looking to expand into Saskatoon just to get our beer around more of the province. The local market has been incredibly supportive. People seem to like our beer, they support us very well, but there are also only so many people in this area. I could keep making beer for people in this area but if we want to expand our market, I need to make more beer because people around here are drinking most of what I make."

Grandguillot said his influences come from experience rather than imitation.

"Before we opened a brewery, my wife and I enjoyed going to craft breweries, and that is how we got interested in the industry in the first place, so I'm sure there has been influences along the way. But I really admire what a lot of breweries in the province do. I think Saskatchewan makes a lot of good quality beer. You can go to any craft brewery in the province and you're going to find something good. I am happy to be among them but in terms of aspiration, I try to make what I think is good and what the people around here will like and we just try to do our best that way."

Winning silver came as a surprise to Grandguillot.

"It's a pretty big deal to win a national award, it's something I didn't really expect," he said. "You always hope when you enter a competition like this, but really I was just looking for professional feedback more than anything. To win it



Below: The sign for their porter at Skout Brewing, and a glass of their porter, right.

makes me feel good about the choice to quit my previous career and start a brewery. The national recognition shows that I'm okay at this, it's not easy to get, we might never get it again, and that's okay because it's tough to stand out in Canada.

"In terms of our social media, just shortly after the competition, it has gotten a lot of attention. More than our posts usually do. Hopefully people are willing to give the beer a try now. A lot of people look at a porter and think 'that is pretty dark, I don't want to try that.' You either like something or you don't, that's why we offer a whole variety, because if somebody comes in here and they are not sure about craft beer, I'm sure I have something that you'll like because we have a wide variety of style.

"We are really proud. The award ceremony was in Quebec City. We received private texts from other people in the industry I know, a lot of people are happy for us and have given us congratulations. I was probably the most stunned, me and my wife. It does feel pretty nice, I can't lie, I'm pretty proud of this beer. I always thought it was good. We have got some people who come regularly and that's all they get because they think it's pretty good too. I'm happy to prove them right. I brew the Lights Out probably third or fourth most [popular], after Blonde Ale, Snowdrift Golden Ale, and



usually our rotating IPAs."

Last week, Grandguillot was back to work at the brewery.

"Today I am back to work making more beer but I guess we just get back to work and hopefully new people will come try it," he said.

"Lights Out Porter takes about three weeks," he added. "I will spend a day brewing it, and then it sits in the fermenter and ages for roughly two weeks, and then I need to carbonate it and package it so it takes anywhere from 18 to 21 days from start to finish for it to be ready to get.

"Gena runs the front, I run the back, so I am the only one who touches the beer. I would like some help sometimes but the reality is our size, it's just me. Maybe that will change, if anybody is interested in brewing, come talk to me.

"The Lights Out Porter will soon be available in liquor stores. We are really happy to get the recognition. We work really hard at this so it's nice to get external recognition. We are proud of what we do but it's nice to get the recognition from elsewhere. I would encourage people to keep coming out to Skout to try the beer, and thanks to everyone for getting us this far."



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