



The Mudd, Sweat and Tears obstacle race was held at Fort Qu'Appelle's Mission Ridge ski hill on Sept. 23. Here, a teammate readies herself to catch another competitor coming down the opening wall. For our story and more photos, please see page 8.  
Photo by Darcy Gross, Grasslands News

## CAO Sloan is out as Fort restructures

By Jason G. Antonio  
Grasslands News

Town council will not renew the employment contract of chief administrative officer (CAO) Gail Sloan and plans to hire a finance manager and administrative assistant as part of an organizational re-structuring aimed at pushing forward its vision and mission.

Sloan's last day with the Town of Fort Qu'Appelle will be Dec. 31. She was in the position for more than a year.

Council will work with HMC Management Inc. to hire a new CAO, finance manager and administrative assistant. The goal is to find new people for these positions by the end of the year.

Changes were needed due to major turnover in administrative staff during the past five years, said Mayor Jerry Whiting. There were a number of people who filled the CAO position for brief periods before leaving.



MAYOR WHITTING

"Everyone was doing their best to keep (operations) going," Whiting said. "We've fallen behind where we want to be. The re-structuring will help strengthen our administration ..."

"We lost continuity. You slide backward on efficiencies. There were new people with no corporate history."

Council acknowledged there was major turnover following the October 2016 election, when six new councillors were

elected. Council undertook a strategic planning process in May 2017 with HMC Management, where it "cohesively identified" where it saw itself and the community during this council term and beyond.

Council also identified the need to narrow its focus based on the development of a mission statement, which states, "Governing as a cohesive team, our purpose is to responsibly ensure the efficient management of our assets and resources."

To achieve this mission, council believed it needed to go in another direction, said Whiting. This meant not renewing Sloan's contract. Council believed its responsibility was to get stability on the administrative side.

"It was a matter of fit for the re-structuring, where we are heading," Whiting said. "We are looking for a skillset that will fit that particular

Continued on Page 2

## Former resident makes \$1M donation to Calgary library

By Jason G. Antonio  
Grasslands News

Deirdre and Ian Harris understand the importance of valuing community and history, which is why they donated \$1 million to the Calgary Public Library for an initiative designed to preserve history.

With their donation, Deirdre (nee Williams) and her husband will have their family names preserved through the Williams and Harris Shared History Centre, part of the new central library scheduled to open in 2018.

The Harrises were founding partners of the campaign for Calgary's new library. The donation brings the library foundation closer to its goal of \$350 million.

Deirdre is the daughter of the late Cy and Dorothy Williams. The family moved to Fort Qu'Appelle in 1970, where Deirdre and her sister Cynthia attended elementary and high school.

While in university, Deirdre spent

every summer working in the kitchen at the Fort Sanatorium, which was then a summer art school and conference centre. In the 1980s, she joined her sister in Calgary and later met her husband.

Ian's parents are Barbara and Bernard Harris.

"Valuing your family history (is important), because knowing what your past is helps you know where your future should be," Deirdre said by phone. Their donation ensured they honoured their parents, since their history is also the history of Calgary.

The Harrises have been fortunate throughout their lives and have received many opportunities to succeed, she said. They wanted to give back because of those opportunities.

Deirdre was also on the library board for many years.

"We decided on the library because it's for everyone," she said. "It doesn't

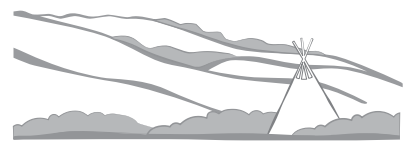
Continued on Page 2



The people and organizations that donated to the new Calgary central library are considered the founding partners of the Add In campaign and are represented by Lego building blocks. Deirdre and Ian Harris add their block to the founding partners structure. Photo courtesy Deirdre Harris



**Our office will be open irregular hours throughout October.**  
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**Fort Times**

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# ... CAO Sloan is out as Fort restructures

Continued from Page 1  
vision for our growth and forward movement ...

"(Sloan) did a good job of keeping things going, but we wanted a better fit."

There was nothing negative about Sloan or her contributions, the mayor added. Council thanks her for coming in during a difficult time of transition.

Council's re-structuring plan includes increasing the qualifications and expectations in the finance department by creating a new finance manager position.

This person would be expected to lead and work with the new CAO and public works foreman to develop a needed asset management plan, plus a more



**CAO GAIL SLOAN**

detailed operating and capital budget process. The person would also provide council with financial analytics to help it make more informed decisions.

The finance position would act as a backup to the CAO.

The new administrative assistant position would assist council, the CAO and department managers to help fulfill their responsibilities by more effectively co-ordinating reports and related requirements for council meetings.

This would give the new CAO time to deal with the "broader based issues we expect that position to undertake and lead on our behalf," said Whiting.

This position would also assist the CAO with planning and development-related matters.

The re-structuring would also see the creation of an economic development function that would assist council in reaching its Vision 2021.

This states, "By leveraging our natural advantages and being investment ready, we have created a positive economic environment solidifying Fort Qu'Appelle as a regional hub for commercial development and efficiently delivered municipal services."

"This is still evolving," said Whiting. "We hope to weave this into the new structure. We want to be investment ready (and) encourage investment in the community."

The rest of the town's organization would remain largely the same, with some shifting of responsibilities and roles that might need to occur after more consultations with management and staff. This information would be considered and will form part of council's 2018 budget deliberations with the new CAO.

"Council is committed to being transparent and open with our community and staff we move towards achieving our vision and mission," said Whiting.

"We sincerely believe the longer term interests of our municipal operating and management systems will be better and more efficiently served with the re-organization we have outlined."

# ... former resident makes \$1M donation

Continued from Page 1  
matter what your culture or religion or socio-economic background is. Everyone is welcome at the library.

"We thought it would have the biggest impact there."

The shared history centre will invite visitors to contribute to the city's history using digital technology to record and share stories — written and oral — and photographs.

A special collection will feature rare books and magazines, historical photographs, film, postcards, maps and more from Calgary and southern Alberta.

A story studio supports the recording and sharing of stories. An old media lab is designed to showcase the past and support conversion of old media to new formats.

"That excited us that people could connect with their family roots," she said.

Deirdre's father Cy was born in Calgary. Since he became interested in history later in life, he told her that he wished he'd had time to have conversations with the family's early ancestors.

Both of Deirdre's parents were fixtures in the Fort Qu'Appelle community. Dorothy was a member of the Presbyterian church and active in the community. She died more than 25 years ago.

Cy was an air force veteran. He worked for the then-Department of Indian Affairs until his retirement. He was active in the Lions and legion. He was once a district governor of the Lions.

Meanwhile, Ian was born in Empress, Alta., but his father was born in England.

The shared history centre will give everyone a chance to tell their story, not just famous or prominent people, Deirdre said. This will be a chance to hear stories not often heard or told.

"I'm very interested (in history, but) maybe not to my father's level," she laughed. "But history is how we learn about the future by knowing what our past



Ian and Deirdre Harris donated \$1 million to the Calgary Public Library for a shared history centre being constructed in the newest library in the city. Every donor gets a page in a large book the library put together for the campaign.

Photo courtesy Deirdre Harris

was. Sometimes it gets forgotten about."

Growing up in Fort Qu'Appelle, Deirdre never expected she would make a million-dollar donation. She began her career as a bank teller and Ian began his career with a non-profit. Neither expected to ever give this type of gift; yet, both enjoyed doing it.

She recently retired as the chief operating officer for investment company Hesperian Capital Management Ltd. Mr. Harris worked in the film and television field for years before retiring recently.

The Harrises are community-focused. Deirdre works with homeless people, while both help with their church and the food bank.

Deirdre usually returns to the Fort once a year to visit friends and review some family-owned land.


**Line Dancing**  
at the Legion Hall, Fort Qu'Appelle  
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Sept. 29, 30, Oct. 1 & 3  
G 91 min.

**Kingsman 2**  
Oct. 6, 7, 8, 10  
14A 141 min.

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**Upcoming Events**

Leonard Podolak & Leonard Barry, Home Routes Folk Tour Concert  
Sunday, October 1  
7:30pm ~ \$20.00  
Season Tickets available at Old Fashion Foods

Sask. Youth Visual Arts Project Exhibit  
October 11 to 18

Fearless Watercolours with Sue Bland  
October 14 & 15  
10:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

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**Fort Qu'Appelle School Community Council**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
Wednesday, October 11, 2017  
Bert Fox Library,  
6:00 p.m. Meeting  
Annual Meeting: Election of Officers  
Nomination can be made at either school or Nominations can be made at the meeting.  
Light supper served.  
All community members are invited to attend.

**Beginner's Bridge Lessons**  
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# Bert Fox students speak through the silences

By Connie Schwalm  
Special to Grasslands News

The truth is, you will only ever hear what you choose to listen to.

But there are times when a deliberately placed silence will rob us of the opportunity to make that choice. For example, there are portions of the story that we call Canadian history that have long been smothered by a silence born of assumption — and fear.

Some of these are the stories that tell of the experiences that First Nations people have lived through since Canada was founded.

In recent years, there has been considerable work done to promote a greater awareness of the ways that this country's creation has affected and marginalized First Nations people. Yet, despite all that has been accomplished, barriers remain that make it difficult for First Nation's voices and stories to be heard.

Now, a group of Grade 12 students at Bert Fox Community High School is working on a project that allows First Nations voices to speak through that silence.

Sheena Koops teaches the class called, "Oski-pimohtahtamwak otay-isiniwaw" ("They are into their new journey to knowledge.") These are students, who in some cases have returned to high school to earn the necessary credits to complete their Grade 12. As they work towards this goal they strive to learn and develop their skills with the tools they will need to create their place within Canadian society.

These students have also taken on the interactive storytelling project, Kairos Blanket Exercise.

"The goal is to tell a history of Canada that includes the stories of both First Nations and European people," Koops explains. "At the start of the exercise, there are several blankets laid out on the ground. These blankets represent the land. The people taking part in the exercise are invited to walk freely around on the blankets. At that point, the land is open and free. Then, as colonization progresses, there are more and more restrictions put on people's ability to move from one blanket to another. At the same time, partici-

“ We should not be treating people different just because their skin is a certain color. We need to learn to respect each other.”

Michael, 18, a Bert Fox Community High School student

pants take on various roles and act out scenarios. These scenes describe the experiences First Nations people had as Canada's history was shaped.”

At the recent Treaty Four Gathering in Fort Qu'Appelle, these students presented the Kairos Blanket Exercise as a workshop. The goal was to provide those taking part in the exercise, with an opportunity to hear stories that they hadn't been able to listen to before.

"The Blanket Exercise gives everyone a chance to learn more about what happened, whether they are First Nations or not," as Michael, 18, one of the students taking part in those workshops observes. "The Europeans didn't see us as anything except a problem. We were forced off of our land and had to stay on reserves. Kids learn a bit about that in school, but they don't get a chance to learn about the things that actually happened to First Nations people. There wasn't any way for Europeans to hear our story. And, there wasn't really a way for us to share those stories with each other either.”

Michael notes that the exercise had a profound impact both on First Nations participants and those of European descent who were often hearing these stories for the first time.

"A lot of people from European backgrounds got quiet when they heard. There were some that started to cry. They hadn't had the chance to hear these stories before. Some said that they felt very humbled by what they heard.”

"But, I started crying on my second Blanket Exercise too. Even we didn't know a lot about what happened. We weren't given a chance to see what our people had been through. These tears show strength, and they are healing.



At the recent Treaty Four Gathering in Fort Qu'Appelle, Bert Fox Community High School students presented the Kairos Blanket Exercise as a workshop. Submitted photo

Because those tears come when people understand what it is that they have in common.”

The Blanket Exercise also gave the students presenting the workshop an opportunity to hear both sides of these stories, as Raven, 19, points out.

"I've been reading the Europeans' part. It felt harsh, reading that at first. It doesn't feel right to me to treat people the way that the Europeans treated our people," she said "For example, taking kids away from their families, or telling a kid that they aren't allowed to speak their own language — those were hard things for me to say. But, we

have to hear both sides to understand.”

Ultimately, the students hope that by presenting the Blanket Exercise, they will help provide an opportunity for people on both sides of these stories to learn respect and understanding.

"It's important that we learn to respect each other," Michael says. "We all have different traditions. But, we are all people — we feel the same things. We should not be treating people different just because their skin is a certain color. We need to learn to respect each other.

"And, the only way we can do that is by hearing each other.”

## Correction

Incorrect information appeared last week in the article about the archives project between First Nations University of Canada and the Saskatchewan Archives Board.

In the article and the picture, Paul Acoose is identified correctly, but beside him is likely Baptiste McLeod and another man named Panipekeesic. This information came from Sakimay First Nation.

The error was part of the original archival information with the picture.

## CONGRATULATIONS to Robin Mathewson on being the winner of \$934



in the Fort Qu'Appelle Library Board's 50/50 draw!!

Thank you to everyone who supported us by buying tickets!!

The following businesses also sold tickets at their establishment and we thank you. Tru Hardware, Conexus Credit Union, Town of Fort Qu'Appelle Office Staff, Pharmasave, Tansi Tea & Mercantile, and CIBC.

The library and board members would also like to thank Catherine Okolita from Catherine's Cause for the recent donation towards future library programming and furnishings.



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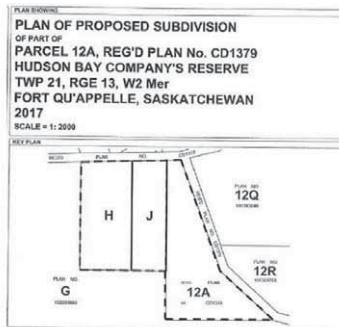
Valley of Festivals

## PUBLIC NOTICE - Town of Fort Qu'Appelle

Public notice is hereby given that the Council of the Town of Fort Qu'Appelle intends to adopt a bylaw under The Planning and Development Act, 2007 to amend Bylaw No. 01-2015, known as the Zoning Bylaw and Bylaw 24-2014 known as the Official Community Plan.

**Bylaw 08-2017 INTENT:** The proposed Zoning Bylaw amendment will modify the Zoning District Map attached to and forming part of the Zoning Bylaw.

**AFFECTED LAND:** The affected land is part of Parcel 12A Plan No. CD1379 as shown in bold dashed line on the map below:



**Bylaw 09-2017 INTENT:** The proposed OCP amendment will modify the Future Land Use Map attached to and forming part of the OCP.

**AFFECTED LAND:** The affected land is Parcel 12A Plan No. CD 1379 as shown in the map in the next column:

**REASON:** The reason for the amendments is to accommodate a proposed subdivision by rezoning the proposed lots H, J and 12A from the FUD – Future Urban Development to RA – Residential Acreage District, as well as designate

this area as Country Residential on the Future Land Use Map in order for it to comply with the Towns Zoning Bylaw and Official Community Plan.



**PUBLIC INSPECTION:** Any person may inspect the bylaw at the Town of Fort Qu'Appelle office located in Fort Qu'Appelle, SK during regular office hours. Copies of the bylaw will be made available.

**PUBLIC HEARING:** Council will hold a public hearing for the Zoning Bylaw amendment on October 26, 2017 at 7:30pm at the Town of Fort Qu'Appelle office in Fort Qu'Appelle, SK. The purpose of the public hearing is to hear any person or group that wants to comment on the proposed bylaw. Council will also consider written comments received at the hearing (or delivered to the undersigned at the municipal office before the hearing).

Issued at the Town of Fort Qu'Appelle on September 21, 2017

Signed:  
Gail E. Sloan, CAO

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# OPINIONS

"A free press is the unsleeping guardian of every other right that free men prize; it is the most dangerous foe of tyranny . . ."  
Winston Churchill

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## Farmers and small business can't be treated as big business

While our farmers were busy working long hours to harvest their crops, the federal government was using its time to develop new measures of taxation that will hurt these hard-working small businesses, as well as other small businesses and corporations.

The federal government's proposed tax changes may just be the last nail in the coffin for small farmers, who like small businesses, struggle to fight against bigger businesses and fight to prove the importance of the family business that has sculpted our country today.

Farming and small business is an occupation like no other. Small business owners make daily sacrifices to keep their businesses alive, support their families and create jobs in their communities.

There is no time clock when the busy seasons hit. There is no overtime paid by the hour for seeding, haying or harvesting. There are no benefit plans to cover medical expenses, holiday expenses and there's no special expense account to cover needed equipment, extra help or to pay more for the long hours to do what is needed, sometimes after returning home from a second job that is helping to pay the bills.

Hard work and determination built our country. Determination to prove that the farm life is a good life and your hard work will sometime reward you — and other times it hits you really hard.

The proposed tax changes, if implemented by the federal government, would hit farmers and small businesses hard. For example, you won't be able to split your income with your wife or your family members. You can pay them for their efforts on the farm but you may be put to a "reasonable test" that assesses whether your family members work for you.

Does the government not see that on a family farm, every member in your household works for you? Whether that is mother preparing the meals, driving the grain truck, running for parts or testing samples — she is one of the workforce on the farm that is not paid by the hour. Do the children in the family not do a great deal to help out at the busy times on the farm? Who often drives the combine or truck, and picks up bales or does the chores while mom and dad are seeding or

harvesting? Don't the farm children often spend many hours taking care of their siblings so their parents can get their work done? These children are not paid by the hour in this business of farming. There is no time or means to keep track or decipher every family member's involvement to prove to the government.

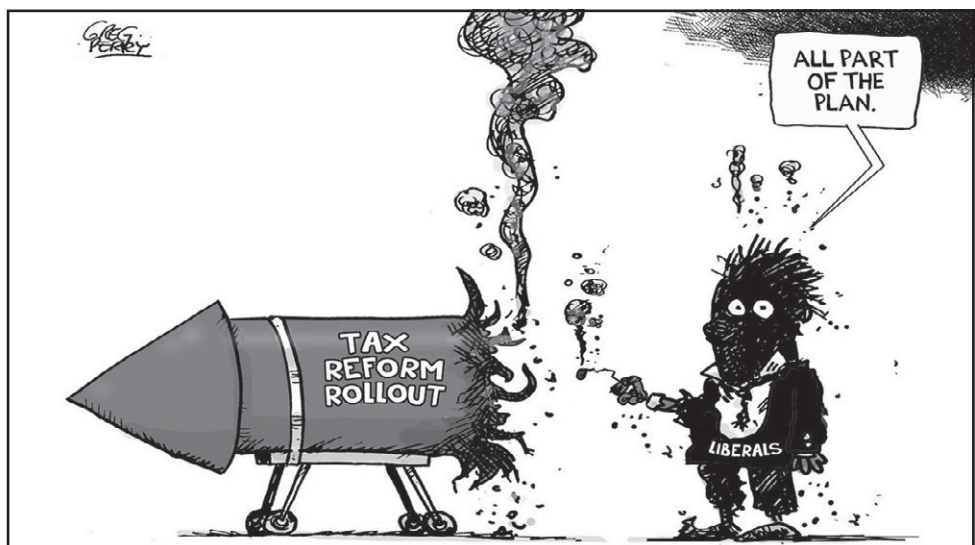
This could add more red tape to your operations, says the Canadian Federation of Independent Business, as you'll need to prove that your family members are "legitimately" earning income by working for you. If the government says your family members are not legitimately involved, it will force them to pay the top tax rate — regardless of their overall income.

What will hurt the most is the new taxation would prevent you from passing down your business. Currently, business owners can convert their surplus into capital gains, which are taxed at a lower rate than dividends or salary. You can sell shares to either family members or a non-arm's length corporation, often called a holding corporation. Then you can dispose of the shares and apply a capital gain tax, rather than a higher dividend tax. This is a complex tax planning tool as it requires that your business be structured in a certain way.

The government is seeking to curb this type of tax planning and the changes would apply to amounts that are received or become receivable on or after July 18, 2017. These changes could affect business value appreciations from the past, as a form of retroactive taxation. It could also result in the double taxation of some estates. These rules would also make it more difficult if you are looking to transfer your business to your children.

How do we make the federal government see outside their blinders where only big business and cities are of concern when developing their laws? These proposed changes are an unforgivable insult to the very thing that developed our country — small businesses that are creating a life, a job, a standard and a lifestyle that frees all governments from the expenses of social assistance by rewarding hard work.

By Elaine Ashfield,  
Grasslands News



## Sask. Party leadership about rural Sask.

By Guest Columnist  
Murray Mandryk

As predicted, rural Saskatchewan is having a big role in picking our next premier.

Many argue that rural Saskatchewan — or more specifically, Saskatchewan Party members living there — has a disproportionate say. Of course, many in rural Saskatchewan will simply argue it's about time, citing years of frustration over its increasingly sparse population having no discernable effect on how governments — especially federal governments — are chosen.

Others will more accurately argue that it's simply the nature of our parliamentary democracy where we don't get to vote directly for our premier or prime minister. Partisan party members have always had control over this process. And because of this reality, there are always times when a certain demographic is going to have a disproportionate impact on who becomes the leader of any given party.

Clearly, the larger percentage of NDP members in the cities would mean city and union voters had had a greater influence on picking NDP leaders. That applied to the 2001 contest when only New Democrats got to pick Lorne Calvert as Roy Romanow's successor as premier.

That said, so powerful a force is rural Saskatchewan that the Sask. Party government now has to be careful to avoid reverting back to a rural-based party. With three of the five candidates as sitting MLAs in city seats, you might not think this would be an overwhelming problem.

Moreover, by taking the majority of city seats in both the 2011 and 2016 general elections, you might also think the Sask. Party has established a pretty solid urban foothold.

That said, while the last provincial budget hit everyone in the province hard, it seems to have caused more backlash in the cities. Or at least, the results of last month's Saskatoon Fairview byelection — coming less than a year after NDP leadership hopeful Ryan Meili's byelection win in Saskatoon Meewasin — certainly says some-

thing.

What's also obvious is the Sask. Party leadership hopefuls are going where they think the votes are.

Saskatoon blogger and Maclean's Saskatchewan correspondent Tammy Robert has been monitoring the movement of the Sask. Party leadership candidates based on their social media postings and announcement locations.

She noted the following: Alanna Koch: Indian Head, Wolseley, Redvers, Weyburn, North Battleford, Beechy; Scott Moe: Regina, Swift Current, Fox Valley, Estevan, Moose Jaw; Ken Cheveldayoff: Moose Jaw, Rosetown, Kindersley, Saskatoon, Regina; Gord Wyant: Regina, Saskatoon, Regina and Rosetown, and; Tina Beaudry-Mellor: Regina.

While perhaps not a definitive itinerary, it does reflect candidates' desires to tell the public where they and what they doing. And the overwhelming message from many — especially Koch and Moe — is that they are spending most of their time in the country.

You don't necessarily have to see whether candidates are going to reflect rural Saskatchewan's influence on this race. All you really have to do is look at their policies. Frankly, there really hasn't been much policy debate of any kind in the Sask. Party race. But what debate there has been seems to be focused on rural-related issues.

Consider the emphasis Koch, Moe, and Cheveldayoff in particular have made on opposing the federal carbon tax and proposed changes to income taxes as they potentially impact small business and farms. Admittedly, this is not necessarily exclusively a rural issue. That candidates like Moe are running under slogans like "a tractor cab is not a tax shelter," says much about how Sask. Party leadership hopefuls are framing such issues and to whom they are making their appeals.

Similarly, Koch's online profile is chock full of references to her agricultural credentials.

Make no mistake that rural Saskatchewan is having a big say in selecting the next premier.

## Letters to the Editor welcome

Send to: editor@grasslandsnews.ca

or Grasslands News, Box 1420,  
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# Elevation survey of Eighth and Bay to cost \$4,200

By Jason G. Antonio  
Grasslands News

Upgrading Eighth Street and Bay Avenue South, borrowing funds to enhance Second Street, cabin lease rentals at Valley Centre, and financial agreements for town properties were some items council discussed during its Sept. 14 meeting.

## Elevation survey

Council unanimously authorized Gerry Beaubien of Blue Sky Management to undertake the construction survey for curbs and sidewalks at Eighth Street and Bay Avenue South for \$4,200.

All motions must be officially approved at the Sept. 28 meeting

The quote came in higher than council expected. However, council was unsure of the size of the survey or its related cost, said Chief Administrative Officer Gail Sloan.

The engineer informed Sloan this cost is higher because this section of road is paved. What his survey would provide is the correct elevation so water flowing off Echo Valley wouldn't drain onto existing properties.

"Our storm water system isn't necessarily (capable)," she added.

There are problems with runoff on the south side of Eighth Street, said Mayor Jerry Whiting. The pavement is soft. Council would be foolish to install sidewalks and not have proper drainage.

"Is this the price we want to pay to ensure drainage there?" he asked. "That's the catch."

Council can ensure it has the proper drainage by either pursuing the plan laid out by the town's public works manager or by acquiring a quote from another engineer, Whiting added.

Another quote could be artificially low since the engineer would be unfamiliar with the landscape and underground infrastructure, suggested Coun. Rebecca Hill.

Council wants to get this project going and must do it properly, said Coun. Lee Finishen. This quote is the cost of doing business.

"I'm opposed to the cost," said Hill. "I don't feel comfortable that this is an appropriate cost for that work. (But) I don't know enough about it."

## Borrowing to fund operating expenditures

The municipality plans to apply to the province for permission to borrow up to \$1.6 million to finance expenditures related to the Second Street sanitary trunk main and water feeder main improvements.

The amount of that debt shall be payable upon receipt of the current year's taxes and/or uncondi-

tional provincial or federal grants.

The total project cost is \$1.622 million. This would be shared among the federal, provincial and town governments; Fort Qu'Appelle would pay \$550,000 via a line of credit (LOC).

Any loan more than \$500,000 must go through the commercial division of CIBC, said Sloan.

"I know we have a line of credit and it is within the threshold for any big projects," she added. "This is within the threshold."

Coun. Brian Casper suggested the municipality look at a permanent increase to its line of credit that is more suitable for this type of operation.

## Valley Centre cabin rentals lease renewal

Council instructed administration to amend the draft lease agreement with Gordon Giroux of Valley Centre Rental Cabins by setting the annual rental rate to \$2,800 for the next five years, which can be paid in monthly installments.

The current rental rate is \$1,800 per year. Giroux had offered \$2,400 per year, but council thought this was insufficient. This is the 15th year of the agreement.

Council discussed possibly changing the agreement to two or three years in length, but Finishen pointed out the contract says five years or nothing.

Casper suggested applying three-per-cent appreciation on the existing rental rate as a reasonable,



COUN. REBECCA HILL

conservative inflation rate for the last 15 years. That would put the rental agreement at \$2,336 per year. After another five years, that would be \$2,804 per year.

## Lease agreements for town properties

Council instructed administration to have a certified appraisal done on a road allowance west of 703 Broadway Street.

Administration would also prepare one-year lease agreements with five businesses that would go into effect in 2018. The annual lease amount will be set at 1.4 times the taxable land value for all properties.

Tulik Holdings currently pays an amount equal to the municipal tax on each property it has on Central Avenue.

The BraeBurn Inn pays an amount equal to the tax on the property it has on Central Avenue.

CF Asphalt pays a lease of \$8,000 per year. It has property on Notre Dame Avenue.

Duraline Medical Products pays nothing for a lease. It has property on Boundary Avenue.

Valley Collision Centre also pays nothing for a lease. It has property on Blondeau Avenue.

The next council meeting is Sept. 28.



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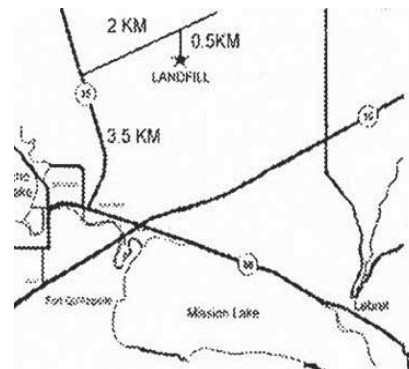
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(Left to right): Bevin Akister, Naomie Little Light, Shelley Peigan, Sharron Bodnaryk, Jodie Simes, Krista Goodwill and Dhvani Thakkar.

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Written objections to the granting of the permit may be filed with SLGA not more than two weeks from the date of publication of this notice.

Every person filing a written objection with SLGA shall state their name, address and telephone

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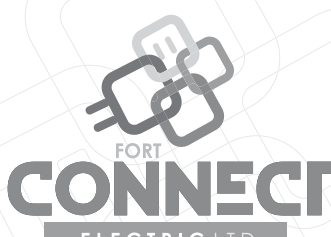
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# Hundreds take on Mudd, Sweat and Tears challenge

By Darcy Gross  
Grasslands News

It may sound like the name of a late Seventies horn-based rock band, but Mudd, Sweat and Tears provides challenges few other events can equal.

Think of every movie you've ever seen with military cadets scurrying under barbed wire, through muddy fields and over walls and you get a sense of what the Mudd, Sweat and Tears event in Fort Qu'Appelle was like last weekend.

Individuals and teams showed up to tackle a five- or 10-kilometre course at the Mission Ridge ski hill. Racers entered as individuals or teams and whether they returned at the end covered in mud or soaking wet, there wasn't much that could wipe the smiles off competitors' faces.

"I was a member of a team this year," said Melville's Dawn Oehler, who took part in Regina's run last year. "We went in it last year and this year it was quite a bit different. Being at the ski hill, there was quite a bit of incline."

Some competitors have an idea of the length of time they'd like to finish the course, which meandered through the ski hill area. Others were clearly there for fun.

"You cross the line and you get a medal," said Oehler, who ran the 5K course. "We ran it for fun. We cut about 15 minutes off our first-lap time but I think we still finished last in our heat."

At a crisp six degrees, Oehler said the conditions were better this year than last.

"Comparatively, the weather was really nice," Oehler said. "Last year it was raining and cold and there was a lot of mud. This year it was just about perfect."

Being part of a team is also a draw

to those who took part in the event.

"We know it's going to be tough and we're looking at it like an Amazing Race, American Ninja kind of thing," said Nicole Becker, a member of a team of teens and moms from Tisdale. "We just want to finish and have fun."

As members of a team, the racers are able to help each other over and through some of the obstacles set out for them.

"I'm looking forward to trying the monkey bars, because I've heard they're pretty difficult to conquer," Becker added. "I think if we work together we'll get through it."

Kyle Schabel of Regina was at his second Mudd, Sweat and Tears event and he was hoping to have a better showing than he did his first time around.

"It's a great thing to test yourself or challenge yourself," said Schabel who decided to abandon the group strategy this time around. "Last time I was in a pretty big group and this time it's just me and one other person. We're trying to be a little more competitive."

Schabel was hoping to finish in the top 5 of his heat.

"Last time the obstacles were pretty spread out so there was more running," he explained. "This time there's a lot more incline and I'm expecting it to be a lot harder."

Race organizer Darlene Godin says the race went well and she's hoping to return to Mission Ridge for a future run.

"We had 497 entrants, so I'd say it was a success," Godin said. "I spoke with many of the participants and asked them if they had fun and would they come back and everyone's replay was yes — with a great big smile."



The final wall was climbable, however, it was probably more difficult to climb after you've been put through your paces, as well as some muddy areas. In all, 497 competitors took on the course that many said they'd enjoy returning to in the future.



Carrying a wooden post up a hill and back was part of one of the Mudd, Sweat and Tears obstacle course at Mission Ridge.

Photos by Darcy Gross, Grasslands News

## Katepwa Golf ladies hold awards night



Submitted by Pat Pratt

Katepwa Beach Golf Course ladies division held their awards night and fall meeting on Sept. 18 at the Katepwa Beach Hotel. The 18-hole winner Wendy Stilborn. Seen here are co-captains Carol Walsh and Toni Norton with Stilborn. The 9-hole winner was Marla Hurford. Other winners were: most improved golfer, Gayle Barnsley; pin hole winners were Beryl Robinson and Kim Stephens.

Photo by  
Kim Stephens

## RCMP looking for missing youths

Submitted

On Sept. 13, Fort Qu'Appelle RCMP received a report that four youths were missing from the Treaty Four Gathering in Fort Qu'Appelle. Two were soon located. Aiden Friday, 12, and Nicholas Netowayasin, 13, are still missing.

Fort Qu'Appelle RCMP is requesting assistance from the public to find these two youths. While they are not believed to be at risk, it is important they are located. They may be in the Regina area, but this has not been confirmed.

Aiden Friday is an Aboriginal male, 5'6" tall with 150 lbs. with brown eyes, short dark brown hair, birth marks on left cheek, left eye and on right chin. Last seen wearing a blue shirt, Adidas black pants and Redskins hat.

Nicholas Netowayasin is an Aboriginal male, 5'7" tall and 175 lbs., dark brown eyes, curly black short hair, large black birthmark on face. Last seen wearing white T-shirt and black pants.

If you have any information about the whereabouts of these two youths, please contact the Fort Qu'Appelle RCMP at 306-332-2222, or if you wish to remain anonymous Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 or submit a tip online at [www.saskcrimestoppers.com](http://www.saskcrimestoppers.com). In an emergency, call 911.

**Vandals attack businesses**

On Aug. 31, throughout the early morning hours, Fort Qu'Appelle RCMP

received several reports of mischief that occurred throughout the 100 and 200 blocks of Boundary Avenue N, Company Avenue and Bay Avenue.

The suspect(s) appeared to have been on a destructive path causing significant damages to a truck parked at Profile Tire by lighting it on fire, smashing windows of vehicles in a nearby back alley and at the Co-op lumber yard and attempted to break into Empire Pawn Shop.

**Hit and run drivers**

On Aug. 13 at 7:45 a.m. Fort Qu'Appelle RCMP received a call in which a woman was being treated for a serious leg injury.

The woman alleges that after leaving Trappers Bar between 1130 p.m. and midnight and walking to a nearby residence, she was hit by a white or cream colored car in which two men exited the vehicle said, "She's OK bro" then fled the scene.

The victim was left on the residence roadway, believed to be Hudson Avenue. She was unconscious for a period of time and eventually required the assistance of emergency medical services.

The suspects may have been wearing a black shirt with Crooks and Castle logo, and a white muscle shirt.

The suspect vehicle may have damages including front bumper, headlight and windshield.



Shannon Jarvis and Cathy Cochrane take turns smashing a pickleball over the net during an afternoon game on Sept. 24 at the tennis courts on Fourth Street and Central Avenue. Until the snow arrives, the pickleball club is at the courts during the week beginning at 5 p.m. and on the weekends beginning at 1 p.m.

Photo by Jason G. Antonio, Grasslands News



# SASKATCHEWAN AGRICULTURE



## FEEDING THE WORLD

**Fort Times** Serving Fort Qu'Appelle and area since 1951

Friday, September 29, 2017

# Snapshots show why ag is a key Canadian sector

## Submitted

The livestock sector takes the red ribbon as the hottest sector in Canadian agriculture based on projected cash receipts over the next 12 months, according to Farm Credit Canada's (FCC) agriculture economics team.

"It seems like almost everything with four legs or feathers is in high demand in Canada and has significant growth potential in export markets around the world," said J.P. Gervais, FCC chief agricultural economist, in releasing a series of agriculture sector economic snapshots. "The solid performance of all sectors speaks to the resilience of Canada's agriculture industry, as well as its ability to innovate and adapt to the changing consumer markets."

FCC's agriculture sector snapshots consider various factors that will influence cash receipts for various agriculture commodities over the next year. These factors include prices, production, demand and export opportunities.

While livestock stands out as having the greatest potential for increased cash receipts, other areas of Canada's agriculture industry are also doing well. That partly explains why the Advisory Council on Economic Growth recently identified Canada's agriculture and food industry as one of eight sectors with significant global growth potential.

"The Canadian agri-food sector has great potential, given the large natural endowment of water and arable land, distinctive record of accomplishments in research, and exceptional base of companies and entrepreneurs," according to the advisory council's report, Unleashing the Growth Potential of Key Sectors, released in February.

The report notes that Canadian agriculture already employs 2.1 million workers and accounts for 6.7 per cent of the country's gross national

product (GDP).

By breaking down the industry into its various parts, Gervais said FCC's sector snapshots give a clear indication of what areas of Canadian agriculture are doing well and where there is more opportunity for growth.

Within the livestock sector, hog cash receipts are forecast to climb by 12 per cent over the next 12 months, cattle by eight per cent and poultry by seven per cent. The dairy sector places a close second with cash receipts projected to grow by 11 per cent.

Key crops in Western and Eastern Canada make up the third general area analyzed in the FCC snapshots. Cash receipts for wheat, canola and lentils in Western Canada are projected to decrease by one per cent over the next 12 months flowing into 2018. However, the slight decrease comes after record-high cash receipts over the previous two years. Cash receipts for corn and soybeans in Eastern Canada are projected to grow by a modest one per cent over the same 12-month timeframe.

Another snapshot projects Canadian farm equipment sales will see an overall improvement over the next 12 months compared to the previous two years. Total tractor sales (smaller tractors and four-wheel-drive tractors) are projected to climb slightly above the five-year average by mid-2018, while combine

sales will increase in 2017 before losing steam and landing close to the five-year average in 2018.

By sharing agriculture economic knowledge and forecasts, FCC provides solid insights and expertise to help those in the business of agriculture achieve their goals.

For more information and insights, visit the FCC Ag Economics blog post at [www.fcc.ca/AgEconomics](http://www.fcc.ca/AgEconomics).



FCC's agriculture sector snapshots consider factors that will influence cash receipts for agriculture commodities over the next year. Submitted



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### Saluting Saskatchewan Agriculture

# Prairie Sunset – A Story of Change

By Darcy Gross  
Grasslands News

Anyone who has ever resided on the prairies has, at some point, gone for a drive out in the country and has seen old ramshackle houses, rusty machinery and remnants of outbuildings, still standing in waist-deep prairie grasses.

While many folks dismiss such sights quickly, as parts of the past that should have been bulldozed, that's not the case for Dion Manastyrski.

Manastyrski started taking photos of dilapidated farmyards in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba more than a decade ago, and also interviewed more than 70 people to complete his book, *Prairie Sunset – A Story of Change*.

"At the heart of the matter, is that we need our family farms and we need to support our small towns," said Manastyrski. "The book is a fine art book about history and a tribute to the settlers that came here and worked so hard just to survive and get to where we are now.

"Our rural prairie story deserves more recognition than it gets."

The stories and photos take Manastyrski back to his early years, growing up in Saskatchewan.

"I grew up on a small farm and went to school in Rose Valley," he said. "My grandparents homesteaded on the farm I grew up on and my parents later took it over.

"I thought I'd heard all the stories, because I was raised on three quarters of land with a lot of farmers around us. That was pretty common back then. Even myself, having grown up on a farm, had no idea of the diversity and



Old, abandoned farmhouses and farmyards, such as the one pictured, have a story to tell, and thanks to British Columbia's Dion Manastyrski, right, they've been honoured in his book *Prairie Sunset – A Story of Change*. Manastyrski interviewed over 70 people to put together the fine art book that links the prairie past with its present. Submitted photos

depth of these stories until I got into the interview stage of this book."

The family farm was slightly behind the times, something Manastyrski looks back on as a blessing.

"We didn't get running water until I was about 10 and we were a little behind some of our neighbours," Manastyrski recalled. "I'm glad we were a little late this way, because I'm glad I caught the experience of living on a small family farm when things were simple.

"The memories I have, of driving an old Cockshutt tractor, with about 40 horsepower, or riding with dad on a tractor with no cab on it, or bringing him lunch... they seem so unreal now."

The stories of the old farms, and the people who were basically pioneers

on the raw, harsh prairies, are told through the words and photos of people who lived through tough times.

"When you talk to people, maybe younger people on the prairies, they don't know what people went through back then," Manastyrski added. "The stories and anecdotes, along with the photos of the old places, is part of history and I wanted to play whatever part I could in preserving it."

The book was costly to produce, but putting out a quality product was important to the author, who used crowdfunding to help fund the book.

"It was a very expensive book to produce, because I was adamant it was printed in Canada — we have to support our own country," Manastyrski added. "At the same time, I wanted



to produce a book that people would be inclined to pass on through generations."

When you read the book, you should get a sense of the value of growing up on a farm during tough times and how those times made the author, and others, better for them.

"Because of that experience, I'm pretty sure-footed with my life on planet Earth. Living on a small farm prepared me for a lot of things," Manastyrski said. "Those 70 or so people in the book said what I'd hoped they would say.

"They said a bunch of things collectively that put everything together. They really got to the heart of the matter."

For more on the book and where it may be purchased, check out <https://www.facebook.com/prairiesunsetbook/>

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# Morrell fulfills promise to keep the farm going

By Donna Beutler  
Special to  
Grasslands News

Keeping the family farm going after her husband Gordon died six years ago has not always been easy, but Karen Morrell of Qu'Appelle has kept her promise, and with the help of her son, continues the family farming tradition.

"I promised Gordon I would keep the farm going," Morrell told Grasslands News in a Sept. 15 interview from her farm home, a refurbished 1950s style home that formerly belonged to her in-laws. She credits her son Justin for being the brains behind the business. She is also assisted on the farm by her fiancé Guy, and her friend, Ron Heisler of Qu'Appelle.

"Women can farm, but you need labour," Morrell said, pointing to Heisler and to Guy, who are seated at the kitchen island enjoying a morning cup of coffee. "Besides I don't want to break my nails," Morrell continued with a laugh. While she can run machinery, more often than not, she is on meal-making duty while the men are in the field.

Heisler's help on the 3,600-acre farm has been invaluable to the Morrells and of Heisler, she says he doesn't work "for" them, but rather he works "with" them. Heisler had used his carpentry skills to do some work on Morrell's house but one harvest when they needed a truck driver to haul grain, they called Heisler away from his carpentry tools — he had just been reassigned. He continues to be part and parcel of the farming operation and according to Morrell,



Karen Morrell and finance Guy at Sunny Hills Farm near Qu'Appelle. Up on the combine is employee Ron Heisler. Missing is Karen's son Justin. They farm 3,500 acres of primarily canola and wheat.

he's not allowed to leave — ever.

When Morrell lost her husband to cancer, the scariest part was not the farm, the scariest part was being alone.

"Farming didn't scare me," Morrell said as she recalled the few short months that her husband was sick before he died, "being without him scared me. Justin was 30 at the time and went into this blind. There's no right or wrong," she continued, "you hit the bumps and keep on going. You fly by the grace of God."

Earlier this spring, Morrell had a dream of Gordon telling her to "drop the shanks down one-quarter inch." And drop the shanks they did, something they are glad they did — the season would be one of the driest in a long time. The Morrell farm received only four inches of rain this growing season.

"Gordon walks beside me still," Morrell told Grass-

lands News. "He's still very much a big part of this farming operation." This year the Morrells have experienced the challenge of little moisture, but some years, like the last few, it has been the over abundance of moisture that has been the challenge. "We experienced decreased yields due to too much moisture. Fluctuating markets are always a challenge," she said.

By her own admission, Morrell never planned to get married again — she had been married to Gordon for 25 years. That changed when earlier this year she met Guy, a retired teacher.

"Farming has sure changed in the past 30 years," Guy said. "The size of the fields, the technology, the size of the machinery, it's all so much bigger than before," he said. He has also been called up for duty on the farm since he came to what's known as Sunny Hill Farm, just a few miles north of Qu'Appelle.

"It keeps your private life safe," Morrell said about incorporating the farm, a piece of advice that she wants to share with all farmers who have not incorporated their farm business. "After all," she said, "farming is an uncertain business, so it's a really important thing to do."

Morrell looks back over the years, sees the ups and downs that she and her husband went through, and knows that the old saying "what doesn't kill you makes you stronger" is true, at least in her case.

Today, as Morrell and "the crew" near the finish line of the 2017 canola and wheat harvest, she is happy and confident with her choice to remain on the farm. Her son Steve resides in British Columbia, and Justin, who has three children, lives in nearby Regina.

To top it off, Guy (who she says was sent from heaven) has come into her life and they are over-the-top happy about their future together.

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**We salute all those involved in the province's agriculture community.**

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Double L Farms brothers, Lyle and Warren Lutz, farm 8,000 acres in the Kelliher/Dysart area. Lyle Lutz unloads a load of canola on land across from his brother's farmyard north of Lipton.

## Brothers look to Europe for skilled farm workers

By Donna Beutler  
Special to Grasslands News

For a grain farmer to seed and harvest 8,000 acres, there are a couple of main components required – good workers and good weather. And this year, the Lutz brothers of Double L Farms near Kelliher have been fortunate to have both.

“After 16 wet years,” Lyle Lutz of Double L Farms said in an interview with Grasslands News on Sept. 15, “this year was different — we seeded for 30 straight days without a stop and we’ve been harvesting non-stop now for 30 days.”

On that particular day, Lutz still needed another seven to 10 days to

finish his 2017 harvest. “Good weather and good help make a big difference,” he said as he began to unload a semi load of canola.

Lutz isn't alone in this job. His brother Warren is part of Double L Farms, a partnership they began in the mid-1990s. By 2009, the two decided to expand their grain operation and sold off the nearly 250 head of cattle they owned. Today they have just 17 cows — grain production has become their primary focus. Together they grow canola, wheat, lentils, barley and oats in the Kelliher/Dysart areas. Of their total acres, 2,000 are owned by Double L, while 6,000 are rented from land-

Continued on Page 17

# Best wishes for great success and a safe and prosperous harvest

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# Have a Safe and Happy Harvest

# CETA the wrong deal for farmers, says NFU

## Submitted

Major portions of the Canada-European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) are now in force.

"This is the wrong trade deal for Canadian and European citizens," said Terry Boehm, chair of the National Farmers Union (NFU) seed and trade committee. "It is, however, very good for major corporations that have any sort of relationship to either Canada or Europe. Indeed, it is a bill of rights for corporations, allowing them to override governments all the way down to the municipal level."

CETA is the first trade agreement that penetrates beyond national levels to include provincial and municipal levels of government in its purview.

"This means that under CETA, when a government purchases a good or service, it cannot favour local businesses or specify local content unless the contract is below very low thresholds. Contracts above as little as

\$125,000 at the federal level would be subject to these conditions," explained Boehm. "So the very people who pay taxes in their country, province, or municipality could not expect to be favoured. These conditions also apply to purchases by universities, schools and hospitals or any other creature of government including Crown corporations. Trying to create a buy local food program at a university, hospital or government agency will be extremely difficult under CETA."

"Under CETA, governments also lose their ability to address balance of payments issues with another country, except for a six-month emergency period only. Worst of all, any law or regulation that can be construed as tantamount to expropriation can cause a government to be sued under the extremely arbitrary Tribunal dispute settlement mechanism that is enforced under this agreement," Boehm added. "This will result in governments not passing laws in the peoples' interest,

as they must consider what the consequences would be under CETA, including the potential for a company to sue for any future lost profits that would result from the law. This will have very negative consequences for all of our democracies," Boehm stated.

CETA goes on and on in its clamp down on ordinary citizens. Boehm cited the example of how CETA deals with alleged intellectual property rights infringement. Intellectual property rights comprise a whole gamut of mechanisms such as patents, copyrights, plant breeders' rights, electronic topographies, and utility patents.

He explained that an individual accused of intellectual property rights

infringement can be subjected to "precautionary seizure" of their moveable and immovable assets, the freezing of bank accounts, and communication of financial data before the merits of the case are heard.

Any third party alleged to have assisted in the alleged infringement is to be subjected to the same precautionary seizures.

"CETA is not about trade. CETA is all about limiting the ability of governments to govern in the public interest. CETA will expand corporate interests as paramount at the expense of our democracies," concluded Boehm. "It is all there in black and white. All you have to do is read it"

## ...but Sask. gov't likes it

### Submitted

The Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) between Canada and the 28 member countries of the European Union (EU) took effect Sept. 21. The agreement could facilitate a potential \$1.5 billion in new Canadian agri-food exports to EU countries by full implementation in 2023.

"Saskatchewan is now ideally placed to capture more of this market with the ever-increasing demand for high quality food in a growing world, including the European Union," said Steven Bonk minister responsible for trade. "Agriculture represents about 10 per cent of our province's GDP, and we have been relentless in our advocacy to reduce tariffs and trade barriers."

Saskatchewan is already the second-largest exporter in Canada (behind Ontario) of agricultural products to the EU, with \$962 million

of business in 2016, representing 26 per cent of national agri-food exports to Europe. The Canadian Agri-Food Trade Alliance estimates that about two-thirds of new potential market access provided by CETA, or \$1 billion, will go toward beef and pork exports, followed by \$300 million for processed foods, fruits and vegetables, \$100 million for grains and oilseeds and \$100 million for sugar-related products.

"Saskatchewan will provide more of our high-quality, safe and nutritious agricultural products to a market of more than 500 million consumers," Agriculture Minister Lyle Stewart said.

"History has shown that when our producers can compete on a level playing field, they will win, creating new growth, jobs and economic opportunity."

Bonk added that another positive effect

of CETA will ease restrictions on foreign investments on uranium mining.

"CETA should promote increased investment in Saskatchewan while giving Saskatchewan businesses greater opportunity to compete within the EU," Bonk said.

"We have tremendous and still-to-be-fully-developed uranium resources. CETA creates the exciting possibility for new investment in northern Saskatchewan, creating jobs and opportunity in the uranium sector."

Negotiations between Canada and the EU began in 2009 and concluded in February 2016. Along with the federal government, provinces were actively involved in the other CETA-negotiated areas under provincial jurisdiction, including trade in services, investment and government procurement.

## Film director Cameron buys into Verdient Foods pulse plant

### Submitted

Oscar-winning film director and Canadian, James Cameron and his wife, Suzy Amis Cameron, announced recently the formation of Verdient Foods Inc.

Verdient Foods has opened a new pulse food processing plant in Vanscoy. Once fully operational, the 160,000 metric-ton plant will become the largest organic pea protein fractionation operation in North America.

Saskatchewan, with some of the healthiest soil in the world, has a lengthy history of fostering elite agricultural businesses and educational institutions that are at the forefront of plant-based protein solutions. The Camerons have entered into a four-year research contract with the non-profit Saskatchewan Food Industry Development Centre (Food Centre) and its president, Daniel Prefontaine, to develop value-added organic food products that will be produced by Canadian and global companies using ingredients from their Verdient Foods plant.

The Camerons are dedicated to working with Saskatchewan farmers in a mentorship program to provide a profitable structure to keep younger generations of Canadian farmers engaged in organic farming.

"We are working with Saskatchewan farmers through the Verdient Foods processing facility and the Food Centre to integrate food production with new value-added products," Mr. Cameron said.

"For years, we've been on a mission to help the world eat healthy food grown by farmers who



have chosen to farm organically," Mrs. Cameron added. "Jim and I are thrilled to work with Saskatchewan experts at the Food Centre, the University of Saskatchewan, and the Whitecap Dakota First Nation; all of whom have long been supporters of the mission to bring healthy food to all."

"We want to welcome James Cameron and Suzy Amis Cameron to Saskatchewan, and express our deepest gratitude for their investment in Verdient Foods and their partnerships with the Saskatchewan Food Industry Development Centre, the Whitecap Dakota First Nation and its First Nation leader, Chief Darcy Bear," Premier Wall said.

"Saskatchewan agriculture is feeding the world while creating jobs and opportunity at home. The Camerons' decision to move forward with this project in Saskatchewan is a tribute to the province's grain producers, our growing food processing industry, and our world leading research community."

Continuing with their efforts to align with Saskatchewan farmers, researchers and business leaders, the Camerons are pleased to announce their partnership in Verdient Foods Inc. with Greg and Olivia Yuel, of PIC Investment Group Inc. (PIC). Greg and Olivia's dedication to Saskatchewan and their strong family values make them ideal investment partners.

"PIC Investment

Group Inc. is a family office located in Saskatchewan with operating companies and equity investments in many sectors," Greg Yuel said. "Our long-term perspective matches our partner in this opportunity perfectly."

"Verdient Foods validates the 20-year effort of Saskatchewan's blueprint for growth by adding value to our commodities. PIC is delighted to be a part of this future coming to reality," he added.

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# 75 per cent of crop in the bin

## Submitted

Rain showers during the week of Sept. 12 to 18 delayed harvest for some producers but most were back in the field within a few days.

Seventy-five per cent of the crop is now combined, up from 65 per cent, which is well ahead of the five year (2012-16) average of 58 per cent for this time of year. Sixteen per cent of the crop is swathed or ready to straight-cut.

Harvest is most advanced in the southwestern region, where 89 per cent of the crop is now combined. The southeastern region has 86 per cent combined; the west-central region 74 per cent; and the east-central region 72 per cent. The northeastern region has 53 per cent combined, while the northwestern region has 46 per cent combined. While many producers have wrapped up harvest operations, many more will need weather conditions to improve so that crops can dry down sufficiently for harvest to continue.

Ninety-seven per cent of field peas, 88 per cent of mustard, 87 per cent of durum, 83 per cent of chickpeas and barley, 76 per cent of spring wheat, 65 per cent of oats and 33 per cent of flax have now been combined. Thirty per cent of canola is swathed or ready to straight-cut.

After more than a month of little to no rainfall, most areas of the province received between trace amounts to 36 mm in the Carnduff area. Additional rainfall was welcomed by the majority of producers as it will help replenish topsoil moisture conditions and germinate fall cereals.

Topsoil moisture conditions have slightly improved with the recent rainfall, although the subsoil will need sig-

nificant amounts of rain to replenish what has been lost from the hot and dry weather. Across the province, topsoil moisture on cropland is rated as 21 per cent adequate, 37 per cent short and 42 per cent very short. Hay land and pasture topsoil moisture is rated as 16 per cent adequate, 36 per cent short and 48 per cent very short.

Overall crop quality has been good to excellent, with minimal disease issues. Crop yields vary greatly across the province, depending on seeding dates and summer moisture levels. While the majority of crops have yielded about average so far, many producers in southern and central areas have reported significantly lower than average yields on crops such as canola, soybeans and durum.

Strong winds, lack of moisture and frost are the main causes of crop damage. Combine and grass fires continue to be reported due to the extremely dry conditions.

Pastures and hay land have suffered greatly from the lack of moisture and will need significant rainfall. Pasture conditions across the province are rated as 10 per cent good, 25 per cent fair, 35 per cent poor and 30 per cent very poor.

There were six incidents of farm machinery contacting power equipment last week, bringing the total in Sept. to 16. SaskPower urges anyone who has come in contact with electricity to seek medical attention immediately, even if there are no signs of injury. Producers are urged to be extremely careful when using equipment around power lines. Safety information is available at [www.saskpower.com/safety](http://www.saskpower.com/safety).

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**Fort Times**





# Sci-fi future farming with GM and robots

When it comes to the future of farming, regular readers will know I have a decidedly sci-fi-inspired vision of what is likely to occur.

That future vision has long been a two-pronged one. The first of those is in the area of genetically modified crops. While I recognize a vocal opposition exists to the very idea of GM crops, I also feel that opposition is shortsighted, and is arguing a position based on perception and emotion rather than a foundation of scientific fact.

The opposition will not quiet overnight, but a couple of factors suggest it will ultimately lessen. The overriding factor will be the need to feed the

world. As populations grow there will be added pressure to produce more. And it is likely there will be less land to grow that production on because of urban sprawl, desertification, climate change and other factors.

The result will be a need to grow crops of greater yields, and to grow crops on less than ideal land. GM technology holds the promise of helping on both those fronts.

**This Week  
in  
Agriculture**

**CALVIN  
DANIELS**



ger means more acres being covered in the same amount of time.

Machinery still requires operators — and increasingly highly trained operators. Staffing farm operations is an issue, especially if the goal is to keep the unit operating 24/7. Robotic units will address at least some of the issues. Properly programmed they can in theory rove a field 24/7, with the likelihood long term of a single operator at a control panel somewhere centralized on a farm.

The units are likely to be smaller, and with no operator space, lower cost, although it might be argued more will be needed. That will be an interesting question to see answered.

The robotic units also hold the potential to be as precise as possible in areas of operation such as fertilizer placement and crop protection product application. That factor is both economically and environmentally sound.

The combination of GM, a field where the potential has barely been scratched at this point, coupled with robotic machinery, will certainly change the farm significantly, but the ultimate goal will remain the same, growing food for the world in a fashion where the producer earns a reasonable return.



The grain cart at Double L Farms is operated by one of their employees, a young man from Germany who is working for the Lutz brothers for three months.

## ... brothers look to Europe for skilled farm workers

Continued from Page 13

lords. This harvest they are assisted by two young men from Germany, as well as a nephew.

“We have a couple of neighbours who use the International Rural Exchange Program (IRE) to bring in labour from Europe and with the challenge to find good help, we decided to try it this year too,” Lutz explained. This year, their two employees from Europe will be in Canada for a total of three months.

“Lucas, 20, comes from northern Germany where his family farms 250 hectares (620 acres), raises 17,000 turkeys and 500 pigs,” Lutz said. “Nicholas comes from southern Germany and works as a mechanic for a tractor company. He would like, some day, to take over his family’s orchards.”

Across the field, one of their exchange employees from Germany mans one of two brand new Klaus combines while the other exchange worker drives the tractor and grain cart. Lutz himself mans the semi and unloads into the bin.

“The wet years have been a real challenge,” Lutz said. “In 2016, we started harvesting about Sept. 4, stopped on Oct. 4 when it got wet and started up again on Nov. 4, finishing by Nov. 26.” By Lutz’s way of thinking, it was a long season and it resulted in adding an extra over-the-winter job — that of drying thousands of bushels of grain. Five months later, on April 26 of this year, they finished drying the grain.

Besides weather and staff being challenges on the Lutz farm, buying land can be a challenge. Investors have come into the area, according to Lutz, and driven up the price of land.

“Foreigners have bought a lot of land in the area,” Lutz said, “and that’s driven the price of land up to the point where you can’t afford to buy it.” The solution for this pair of grain farmers is to rent land. “We have a good relationship with our landlords,” he said — something that is crucial to running a successful and productive grain farm of the size they farm.

This year, of course, has been quite different from last year’s wet fall, and many before that, because this year’s

conditions have been so dry. Lutz said they began this year with the lentils on Aug. 15 and have not stopped for a single day since (as of Sept. 15.)

The biggest change in agriculture over the past 20 or so years, Lutz believes, is the technology. Auto steer, for instance, was a distant dream back then and now it’s hard to find many who don’t use it on at least one of their tractors or other agricultural vehicles.

“The downside though,” said Lutz when he looks over the past 20 years, “is the expense — the inputs, the fuel, the machinery. And today, wheat prices are no different than they were 20 years ago, but the inputs and machinery have skyrocketed.”

“Manpower though continues to remain our biggest challenge,” Lutz said. For seeding next year, Lutz and his brother are looking at going to one big seeding unit rather than two, just to save on manpower.

As for looking to IRE for help for next year, Double L Farms plans to go that route again. It all begins with a resume for those hoping for find work internationally and those looking for employees. With only about 140 spots available per year in Canada, there may be no guarantee, but with any luck at all, IRE will find matches that work. Many of the employees that come end up in Alberta and Saskatchewan, but more and more are making their way to Ontario as well.

“They (the Europeans) love to come here,” Lutz said. “In Ontario, the farms are small, just as those in Europe. So when they come here, they love operating the big combines, the big tractors. In Europe, they might have a 15-foot-wide header, where here, our straight cut headers might be 40 feet or more wide.”

“It all started by us making a resume — about our farm and our family — and sending it in to IRE,” Lutz explained.

For Double L Farms, that resume was the start of a good thing — one that has given them stable labour for a busy season and one that has given them a glimpse into the lives of those from farms overseas.

## Johnson re-elected to SaskBarley

Submitted

The Saskatchewan Barley Development Commission (SaskBarley) has announced that the three positions up for election on its board of directors have been filled by the three incumbents: Jason Skotheim of Saskatoon, Brent Johnson of Strasburg, and Allen Kuhlmann of Vanguard.

All three of the acclaimed directors have served on the board since SaskBarley’s first elected board of directors took office in January 2014 and are eager to continue making progress in pursuing the organization’s strategic goals.

“Barley growers in Saskatchewan have sent us a message that our board

is on the right track and that no major changes are required,” says Skotheim, who also serves as board chair. “We will take this feedback and continue our work to ensure that barley has a strong future as a

Saskatchewan crop.”

“One of the areas of particular interest to me is growing the market opportunities for barley as a key feed ingredient,” says Johnson, who also serves as vice-chair. “One of my priorities going forward will be to continue to pursue research investments that will explore and confirm the valuable role that barley can play as feed so that we can establish sustainable growth in demand for this crop.”

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