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Vol. 58 No. 26 • Friday, August 3, 2018



Lebret chapel, crosses getting overdue facelift

By Alan Hustak
Special to Grasslands News

The landmark chapel on a hill above Lebret has been painted for the first time in 12 years.

The parish now is looking for some public-spirited volunteers to help repair the 14 weather-beaten crosses that lead to the little church on top of the hill.

"It took three coats of paint to do the chapel this time, a coat to prime it and two coats to finish it off both inside and out," said parishioner Darryl McGregor, the painter who also did the work 12 years ago. "Even if the inside is never used again, the chapel needs to be kept in shape."

McGregor soon will begin repairing the crosses and is hopes to find a few handy volunteers who might help him.

"It is not going to be an easy job," he warns. The crosses are more than three metres tall. They are known as the trefly cross since the ends are shaped like a shamrock. Some of the knobs from the arms are either broken or missing. All of the crosses need to be scraped, painted and firmly secured.

"I'll supply the tools and I'm donat-

ing the paint. All the volunteers have to do is show up," said McGregor.

The parish, like many in the archdiocese, is strapped for cash, and depends on volunteers to maintain their aging buildings. The Lebret shrine was built in 1919 and dedicated the following year as a First World War memorial by Bishop Olivier Mathieu as "a monument of thanksgiving."

The original chapel was further up the hill, but it was torched in 1924, presumably by Ku Klux Klansmen, who burned it during a wave of anti-Catholic sentiment. The present building opened in 1929 when the 14 stations of the cross were installed.

The chapel has been part of the landscape for almost a century, and even if it were no longer used, "it would be a shame to lose it," says McGregor. "We need people to help with the repairs, and to keep it in shape."

The chapel, like the big stone church, even if they haven't officially been designated as such, are historic public trusts, he argues, and need public support if they are to survive.

If you can pitch in and help call 306-331-0026.



Lebret's Mayor Ralph Blondeau helped repair the steeple when the chapel was painted three weeks ago.



The Lebret parish is looking for some public-spirited volunteers to help Darryl McGregor repair the 14 weather-beaten crosses that lead to the little church on top of the hill.

Bellegarde re-elected AFN national chief

First Nation leaders from across Canada re-elected Perry Bellegarde as Assembly of First Nations National Chief at the AFN 39th annual General Assembly last week in Vancouver, B.C.

Bellegarde, of Little Black Bear First Nation, was elected on the second ballot with 328 of 522 votes cast — or 63 per cent of the vote. Five candidates stood for election.

More than 2,400 First Nations leaders, elders, women, and youth are gathered under the theme *Working Together: Our Rights, Our Way, Our Future*. The AGA delegates also discussed priority matters and resolutions to set national direction for the coming year.



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Past year was a record for drainage compliance

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A record 693 quarter sections of land were brought into drainage compliance in the 2017-18 fiscal year, representing an increase of more than 110 per cent from the year previous and a fivefold increase from 2014-15.

"We have introduced the most significant changes to agriculture water management in over 30 years to help manage, organize and control water in the province," said Dustin Duncan, the minister responsible for the Water Security Agency. "We have worked with Saskatchewan producers and stakeholders to implement these changes, and while there is still more work to do, it has helped us achieve far greater compliance than under the previous system."

The overwhelming majority of the approvals (635) were brought into voluntary compliance, with only eight per cent (58) coming from complaint-based closure.

As one example, the landowners of the Lang West Conservation and Development area represent one of 2017-18's major success stories. Formed by area farmers in 2012 after flooding concerns the previous year, the group came up with an innovative, environmentally responsible approach to channel their runoff to the Moose Jaw River.

Together with the help of the Moose Jaw River Watershed Stewards (MJRWS), the group approached the Water Security Agency (WSA) with a drainage solution that was approved in March 2018. A single approval was granted covering 30 quarters of agricultural land, lessening the risk of



DUNCAN

floods and protecting certain wetlands, while also managing wildlife habitat effects.

"We're proud of this project because we relied on the three Cs to get the work done," said Jim Faulkner, chair of the Lang West Conservation and Development Area Authority. "First there was strong commitment from a core group of producers interested in responsible drainage, and second, good communication between all of us to ensure we understood how to best move forward. Last, there was co-operation between all of us to work with the WSA and local stakeholders to make this project happen."

"The MJRWS was engaged by WSA and the Lang West group to act as a qualified person to develop the application for drainage approval," said Janine Heinrichs, Moose Jaw River Watershed Stewards manager. "Throughout the process there were challenges, but together with WSA regional staff and Lang West group, we worked to find a sound solution to ensure this project would succeed and mitigate risks to the area."

"These record numbers show hundreds of landowners are now working together to create responsible drainage networks that respect individual properties and ensure the safe management of our water resources," Duncan said. "It will create lasting benefits for Saskatchewan producers, our downstream neighbours, and future generations."

For more information on the Agricultural Water Management Strategy or to start a drainage project, producers can visit www.wsask.ca



It is thought that Pte. Thomas Robinson is buried nearby in the same section of Lakeview Cemetery just beyond this original First World War memorial to Albert Arnold, who was killed in action in 1916.

Search over for war vet's grave

By Alan Hustak Special to Grasslands News

Pte. Thomas Robinson was an Irish-born Canadian war veteran who was wounded in action during the First World War and died at the Fort San in 1919 when he was 25 years old.

The Canadian War Graves Commission wants to place a marker on his grave in Fort Qu'Appelle, but they can't find its precise location.

Robinson's body was buried in Lakeview Cemetery, but no seems to know where. Robinson enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Force in 1914, was wounded during the Battle of Festubert in 1915. He was discharged and tried to re-enlist in 1916, but was no longer fit for service. He worked as a mail carrier in Regina before he was admitted to the sanatorium a few weeks before he died.

Existing records indicate that Dr. George Ferguson signed his death certificate, and a Roman Catholic priest from Lebrét, a Rev. Boyer, conducted his funeral and there were witnesses to the burial. The responsibility for recording the burial was unclear, and the location of the grave was not recorded by either the parish or the Town of Fort Qu'Appelle

that manages the cemetery.

A guide to interments at the gates of the cemetery offers two possibilities. It shows that someone in section B, Row 1, Plot 9 was buried in a shroud in an unmarked grave. The name of the deceased is not listed. It is considered to be the most likely location, since it is in a section not far from the grave of another First World War veteran, 20-year-old Albert Arnold, who died in 1916. His grave is marked with a weather beaten wooden cross similar to those used in Europe during the Great War. Another grave in Section B is identified as being empty because it is filled with rocks.

Robert Campbell, a St. Albert, Alta. researcher with a special interest in the case, suggests that because Robinson was indigent when he died, and because he was a Roman Catholic, town officials may have ignored the necessary paperwork. Back then, Lakeview Cemetery was a Protestant burial

ground; Roman Catholics were buried in the parish cemetery at Lebrét.

Under the regulations of the Saskatchewan Cemeteries Act, however, the Town of Fort Qu'Appelle would have been obliged "to furnish graves for strangers and for the poor of all denominations free of charge." Campbell says that under paragraph 34 of the legislation "the town is responsible to provide us with a burial record and the location of the grave."

He has filed a request with the province under the Freedom of Information Act hoping the Saskatchewan government might have more detailed records. The town's CAO, Larry Davidson, says the Canadian War Graves Commission has paid for and has been given permission to put up a monument to Private Thomas Robinson in Lakeview Cemetery indicating that he is buried "somewhere nearby" and that as far as the town is concerned, the matter is closed.



Crews were at work last week laying new asphalt on the pickleball and tennis court. The town approved \$21,000 worth of work for the repairs in May. It also adopted a motion that allows any citizen who donates \$150 or more toward the cost of the repairs to get a receipt for a tax deduction.

Photo by Alan Hustak

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U of S awarded \$2.4M for research in Indigenous health

Submitted

Two Indigenous health initiatives are among four University of Saskatchewan (U of S) research projects awarded more than \$2.4 million by the Canadian Institutes for Health Research (CIHR).

"This major health funding will accelerate research into cancer, stroke, and infectious diseases such as HIV, improving the lives of patients and their families," said vice-president of research, Karen Chad. "This funding success also underscores our commitment to community-based research and to incorporating Indigenous ways of knowing."

Dr. Alexandra King, Cameco chair in Indigenous health, is leading the two projects with an Indigenous focus: studying the potential benefits of peer support for Indigenous women who have HIV or hepatitis C, and examining how to improve health and wellness in older Indigenous women living with HIV.

Saskatchewan has the highest rate of HIV in Canada — 2.3 times higher than the national diagnosis rate, according to the provincial government. HIV and hepatitis disproportionately affect Indigenous peoples and in particular, Indigenous women.

In a \$1.39-million study, King will examine the role of "peer navigator" support in helping Indigenous women living with HIV and hepatitis to better connect with, navigate and receive support from the health-care system. Peer navigators are individuals who have gained wisdom of particular conditions through lived experience, and who receive further training and education on health and related issues.

"Within most Indigenous communities, we put great value on wisdom gained through lived experience. Peer navigators relate to patients in ways that physicians and nurses or other health professionals cannot. It just makes sense to have peers involved in health care," King said.

Her other study will involve engaging older Indigenous women who are living with HIV to collaboratively create and implement a wellness pilot project based on their self-defined programming needs in five communities in Saskatchewan and British Columbia.

"Indigenous health research long ago embraced many of the same principles that patient-oriented research now does, in that people with lived experience of a health condition are involved throughout. We're incorporating culture and ceremony as part of the research process, so the research itself is healing for participants and for the researchers," King said.

Microbiology and immunology researcher Linda Chelico will lead an \$822,000 project to examine the activity of a particular family of enzymes that protect the body against viruses. The enzymes, when over supplied, may have a major role in DNA mutation in healthy cells, potentially leading to cancer.

Chelico will determine in breast cancer cells whether the enzymes can be used to predict cancer outcomes, be targeted to block cancer starting or progressing, or be used to suppress cancer evolving.

Pharmacy and nutrition researcher Phyllis Paterson is using a rat model to examine how better, more protein-rich nutrition after a stroke can bolster recovery of the brain and leg muscles, as part of a combination of therapies.

Protein-deficient nutrition affects 20 to 35 per cent of patients one week post-stroke, and up to half of all patients during rehabilitation are protein-deficient due to challenges such as physical and mental disability, and difficulty swallowing. In total, the CIHR grants will pay for 14 staff positions and funding of six graduate students and one post-doctoral fellow.

"To get CIHR funding is a great honour. This is huge, not just for me, not just for the team, not just for the University of Saskatchewan, but also for the communities we serve," King said.

The Fort Times
is available at Pharmasave

Powwow time at Standing Buffalo

By Alan Hustak
Special to
Grasslands News

Preparations are underway for the Standing Buffalo Dakota Nation Powwow, an annual competitive celebration that each year attracts more than 600 singers and dancers from throughout the continent to the Buffalo Crossing grounds at the west end of Echo Lake.

More than \$60,000 in prize money will be awarded in singing contests and five traditional dance categories during the pulsating three-day get-together.

"We've been very successful over the years that we've run it," says powwow president Curtis Whiteman, "All the prize money has been raised by our own band. We are non-status, and don't depend on government grants. The people say this is what they want to do and our people raise most of the money to do it through 50-50s, Chase the Ace and pancake breakfasts. The rest is sponsored. Raising the money and preparing the grounds is always the biggest challenge."

The gathering is well known throughout North America and attracts First Nations participants from all parts of Canada and the United States — the Northern Cree, Crows, Assiniboine and Cheyenne and others from as far south as New Mexico.

It kicks off with the colourful grand entry on Friday, Aug. 10, with participants in full regalia. There are three masters of ceremonies this year: Tommy Christian from Montana, who has "an understanding of the old ways;" Harold Blacksmith from Manitoba; and Donny Spiedel from Saskatoon. There are five judges for each of the dance competitions who award prizes based on technique and style.

"Everyone dances for a reason," says Whiteman, who himself danced as a younger man. "For some it is a spiritual experience. Some dance to honour tradition; some because they are finding their way back into their culture."

"There are stories in each of the dances, whether they are traditional or contemporary. People dance for heal-



Hundreds and hundreds of powwow dancers from across North America will converge at the Standing Buffalo powwow Aug. 10 to 12. File photo

ing. They dance not only for themselves, but for healing for their families. They dance for their own personal reasons," Whiteman continued.

"It is not just for the prize money. Look at it this way: if you want to be a rodeo star you have to make enough money riding and roping to compete on the circuit. The same with dancing. You have to get enough money to continue to dance on the powwow circuit."

For Whiteman, the powwow represents one big family reunion.

There is a singing contest (\$12,000 first prize), a Dakota Style moccasin tournament, a golf tournament at Echo Ridge, and a powwow princess pageant.

The Standing Buffalo Powwow wraps up with a buffalo feed on Sunday. There is no admission charge. Bring your camera.

Other powwows in the area include the Peepeekisis Nation on Aug. 8 and 9, and the 32nd annual Treaty Four Gathering from Sept. 10 to 16.

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OPINIONS

"It is dangerous to be right when the government is wrong."
Voltaire

No need for carbon tax

Guest column by
Premier Scott Moe

Last week, the Angus Reid Institute published a new national public opinion poll indicating that seven out of 10 Canadians believe the Government of Saskatchewan was right to challenge the Trudeau Liberal government's carbon tax in court, while two-thirds of Canadians believe it should be the provinces — not Ottawa — that determine the appropriate path to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Two weeks ago, Ontario Premier Doug Ford announced that Ontario would support Saskatchewan's legal challenge of the Trudeau carbon tax by seeking intervenor status in our government's reference case at the Saskatchewan Court of Appeal.

In declaring his support for Saskatchewan, Premier Ford was unequivocal, stating that Ontario would use every single tool at its disposal to challenge a carbon tax that would make life unaffordable for families and put thousands of jobs at risk.

Three weeks ago, Prince Edward Island confirmed it is preparing a climate action plan that does not include a carbon tax or a cap and trade system.

PEI Environment Minister Richard Brown said: "If the objective is to reduce carbon in the air, and we have a plan to do that, then why do we need a tax?"

No doubt other provinces are asking the same question, as Ottawa's Sept. 1 deadline for carbon pricing proposals approaches.

So this is the situation we find our nation in:

- Two or perhaps three provinces are in compliance with the federal carbon pricing plan
- Two provinces are challenging the plan in court
- A number of the remaining provinces and territories will not be in

compliance come September.

The federal government would be well advised to take a step back to reassess and consider the withdrawal of its one-size-fits-all carbon tax and adopt a more collegial approach to addressing climate change.

This was the approach Prime Minister Justin Trudeau espoused in March 2016 when he met with Canada's premiers in Vancouver, B.C. to discuss climate change. In Vancouver, the prime minister declared a willingness to work with the premiers "in the spirit of co-operation and collaboration".

Soon afterward, Ottawa unilaterally imposed a carbon tax, in a betrayal of those warm sentiments.

It's time the federal government stepped back and took another look at what the provinces are actually doing to combat climate change.

In Saskatchewan, we have released a climate change plan — Prairie Resilience — that will lead to a real reduction in greenhouse gas emissions without a carbon tax that would cost our province's energy intensive, export-oriented economy \$4 billion over five years.

In Saskatchewan, we are in the process of doubling our renewable power to 50 per cent of our electrical generating capacity, in part by working with First Nations on innovative projects.

We have invested more than \$1 billion in the world's first commercial power plant with a fully integrated post combustion carbon capture system — the Boundary Dam 3 project (BD3).

BD3 has captured more than two million tonnes of carbon dioxide — the equivalent of taking 500,000 cars off the



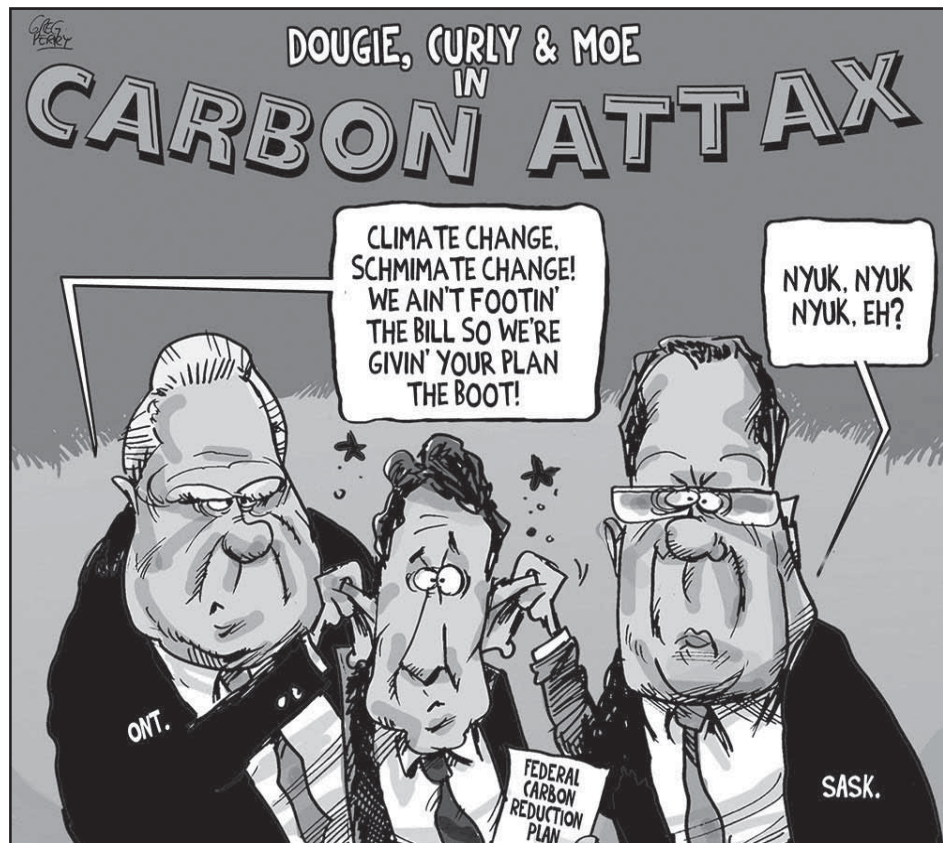
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road.

Carbon capture and storage (CCS) has been identified as a crucial technology to reduce emissions by the United Nations, the International Energy Agency and a number of environmental groups. Saskatchewan is a world leader in advancing this important technology. This should be recognized by the federal government.

We are devising an offset system that will recognize our province as a carbon sink and a research leader in agriculture.

Continued on Page 8



We are owed more GTH explanations

Let us be clear that it is a good thing the RCMP is not laying criminal charges in the Global Transportation Hub (GTH) fiasco.

Certainly, it is a great thing for the Saskatchewan Party government, whose credibility would have taken a serious hit if it headed into the 2020 election under the cloud of criminal court cases.

Consider for a moment how bad such a circumstance would have been for democracy itself. Such a scandal would have affected the political fortunes of the Sask. Party, as was the case for the Progressive Conservatives in the early 1990s after their own caucus communication fraud scandal produced 16 criminal convictions of MLAs and staff.

Setting aside judgment on whether the old PCs deserved this fate (they went into hiatus and most of their members converted to the newly formed Sask. Party), this scandal disrupted the political balance in the province for nearly two decades.

What was essentially a two-party system in Saskatchewan between the NDP left and the alternative became a one-party system as that alternative transitioned from the PCs to the Liberals to the Sask. Party after the 1997 merger.

Of course, it's far less likely even GTH criminal charges would have killed the mighty Sask. Party in the same way. Nevertheless, had the RCMP found reason for charges, there can be no doubt that it would have taken an even greater political toll on the Sask. Party than this mess already has.

After 21/2 years and some 7,500 man-hours of RCMP investigation, we can be now confident that there is no reason to suspect criminality. That has to be a good thing, but does that mean this whole sorry GTH affair is now over and we should never know what really happened?

No, not by a long shot. Maybe the "judicial" inquiry now being demanded by the NDP is not needed.

Guest
Columnist

Murray
Mandryk



You would think such legal matters — with the exception of civil suits that may still possibly emerge out of the myriad pending land acquisition transactions lawsuits — have been dispensed with. But consider all the other things the RCMP has likely discovered during its 30 months of investigation — non-criminal matters of questionable ethics, conflicts of interest and downright government incompetence — that the public deserves to know about but doesn't yet know about.

Although the GTH anticipated \$10 million in land sales in 2017-18, it made no such sales that fiscal year and sold only \$231,000 in land leases. Total GTH debt is now \$40 million, including a \$28-million loan from the Royal Bank of Canada.

Debt interest is now \$845,000 — \$200,000 more in 2017-18 than the \$635,000 in the previous fiscal year. This supposed inland port actually only has 12 clients — many of which are government entities ordered to locate there.

Moreover, the GTH's very existence has clearly affected other costly decisions, namely, the routing of now \$1.9-billion Regina bypass that has become arguably an even bigger fiasco.

Now, Justice and GTH Minister Don Morgan is talking about unloading the whole mess. "In retrospect, it's probably not a business the government should have been involved in."

But why did it become such a mess? The public is owed this explanation.

In fairness to the opposition's own politically driven call for a "judicial inquiry," it repeatedly demanded politicians and bureaucrats come to legislative committees to explain what went wrong. Government MLAs blocked this each and every time — sometimes using the under-investigation excuse.

Well, there is no longer a police investigation to use as an excuse, and the government should be required to explain its actions. We should have an in depth Provincial Auditor forensic audit advancing her initial damning finding in her June 2016 report.

This would seem to be the very minimum that is now required.

Fort Times **swna**



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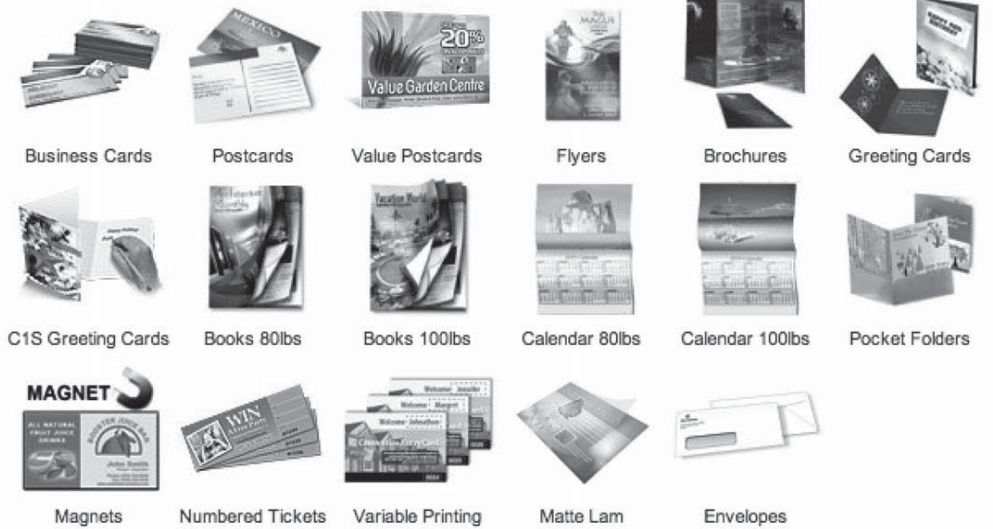
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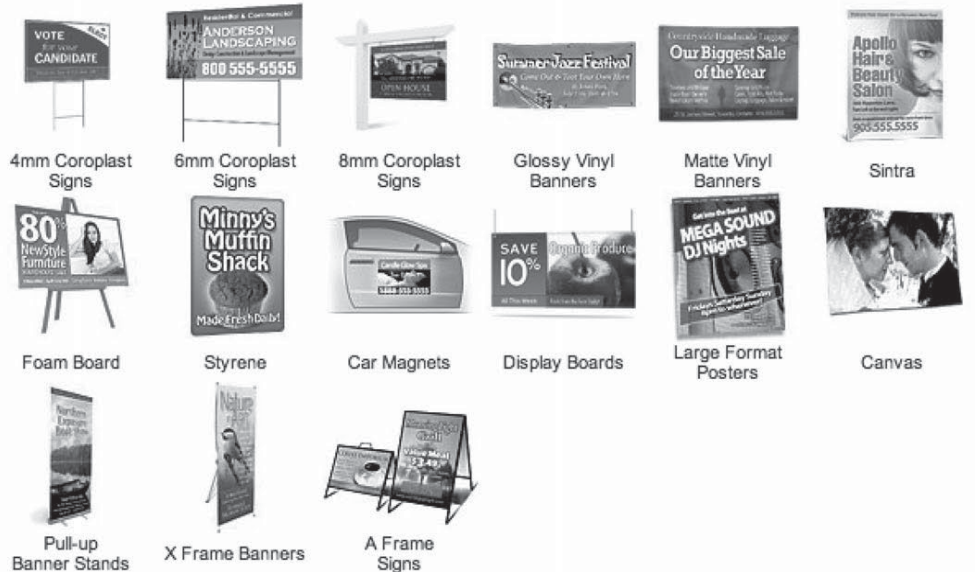
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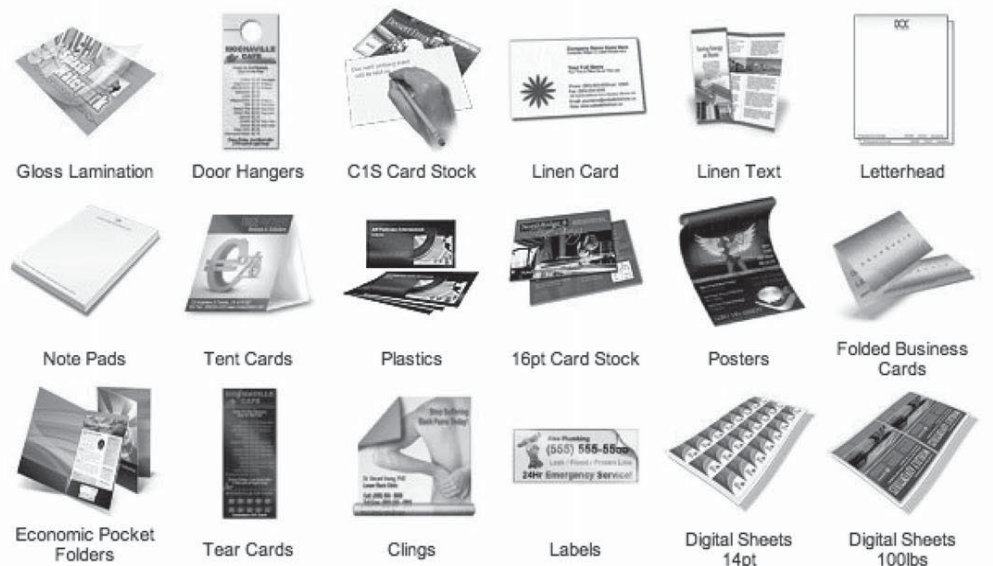
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Abernethy Fair attracts former residents, national visitors

By Jason G. Antonio
Grasslands News

Having spent a month visiting family in Western Canada, Jim and Donna Dougherty stopped by the 111th annual Abernethy Fair to view the exhibits and watch the horse show before heading home to St. Marys, Ont.

"This is my first country fair," said Mrs. Dougherty on July 27. "I love it, just love it. I can't believe the number of (exhibit) entries they have."

Besides the horse show, Mrs. Dougherty enjoyed the many quilt entries submitted, while her husband appreciated the woodcarvings.

"It's great," added Mr. Dougherty.

There were 125 exhibitors — from age two to 80 — from across Canada and Ireland who submitted more than 1,300 items into this year's exhibition, both a new record. Some items displayed included quilts, plants, vegetables, grains, canned goods, Lego, and artwork.

"It's amazing," said Ag Society chair Catherine Barnsley. "It's one of the largest inside exhibits in the province. That is really exciting for us. This fair is very much alive."

One of those exhibitors was Nelle Penny, 91, who submitted baked items such as cakes, buns and bread. Several submissions took first place.

While born in Kipling, she married a farmer from the Abernethy area and lived in the community from 1951 to 2011, before moving to Regina.

She became involved with the Abernethy Agricultural Society in 1952, acting as the female president — there was also a male president — before becoming its secretary. She stepped away from the executive after her daughter was born, but still submitted cookies, muffins, pies and buns every year as an exhibitor — winning first place many times.

Besides baking for the fair, Penny enjoys doing it for her two sons and four grandchildren in Regina.

"They like to look in my deep-freeze and see what they can take home," Penny said. "I'm happy with that because I can't eat all that stuff. It works really well because I can satisfy my need to bake and they can be happy because they have things to eat."

Having helped organize the fair in the past, Penny noted this year's Abernethy Fair has changed; this

year is the biggest fair yet.

"I'm glad they're keeping (the fair) going," she said.

It's important to have a fair for the community and area because it brings in young people and families, she continued. While not every young person will set foot in the exhibit hall — even if children have submitted items — they will participate in the activities.

Deep down, most people who enter the competition want to keep the agricultural society going, Penny said. More people want to show off what they created or grew than to win an award.

"It's nice to win, but it's not high on our list," she chuckled.

Over at the ice rink, 10 volunteers in red hats were running around organizing children's activities such as potato sack race, best dressed dog or cat, baby races, a tug of war and best decorated bike.

One interesting aspect of the fair is many former Abernethy residents came back to help organize and run it, said Barnsley. One such alumnus is Wendy Stueck, who grew up in the community but moved to Vancouver, B.C., 20 years ago to work for the Globe and Mail newspaper.

Stueck enjoyed coming home to see friends, family and former neighbours. As a young girl, she took part in the parade and horse shows, while she entered her homework and baking into the exhibition.

"Pie baking among men is taking off and becoming quite competitive (this year)," Stueck laughed. For example, Andrew Scheer and Evan Bray both submitted pies they had baked. Scheer is the MP for Regina-Qu'Appelle, while Bray is a former Abernethy resident who is now the Regina chief of police.

Scheer ended up taking second place and beating Bray.

"All is well," Scheer laughed when asked about his win.

This year, Stueck was one of the red-hat volunteers who helped judge the children's activities, which she thought were fun and inclusive.

"And you get to see dogs in skirts," she chuckled.

Stueck likes contributing to a community event that has been running for more than 100 years. She thinks it is important to celebrate agriculture, since it has been so entwined with Abernethy and Saskatchewan.



There was some clowning around at the Abernethy Fair on July 27, as Jorja Erickson and her dog Roper participated against other mutts in the costume contest.



Annie McLean receives some help from her dad, Ryan, during a game of mini golf at the Abernethy Fair on July 27. Mini golf was one of the new attractions at this year's fair.



Betty McKinnon from Katepwa views some of the exhibits on display during the 111th annual Abernethy.



Family band Blue Country performs the Hank Williams hit, Your Cheatin' Heart, during the Abernethy Fair. Photos by Jason G. Antonio

Balcarres resident's grandfather helped start ag society

By Jason G. Antonio
Grasslands News

Balcarres resident Kay Walters was surprised to learn she was one of four guests to cut a cake celebrating the Abernethy Agricultural Society's 111th anniversary, even though she grew up there and her grandfather had a hand in forming the organization.

The society held its 111th annual fair and exhibition on July 27. The event featured a horse show, kids' games, exhibits, mini golf, bouncy castles, a silent auction, barbecue and fireworks.

"What cake?" Walters asked quizzically before the anniversary ceremony. When told about her role, she exclaimed it was wonderful to help.

"It's not a chance everybody gets. It's a very special chance," she said. "I don't know why I'm doing it, but I'm doing it anyway."

The other reason Walters was selected is because she is 99 years old and will turn 100 on Dec. 23, explained society chair Catherine Barnsley. The ag society would have been 11 years old when Walters was born. Furthermore, the organization has its roots in the community of Pheasant Forks, north of Lemberg.

"In 1887, a group of hearty souls formed the first agricultural society (there)," said Barnsley. "One of the directors was a farmer by the name of Tom Pallister. Kay Walters ... is Tom's

granddaughter."

Walters moved from England to Ontario, before moving west with his brother, Dick, where they bought land north of Abernethy.

From 1899 to 1904, the Pheasant Forks Ag Society was involved in purchasing bulls, seeking new pioneers, circulating petitions to secure a railroad, building a hall, organizing a chapter of the Farmers Institute and helping build a blacksmith shop.

The Pheasant Forks Ag Society had a poor year in 1903, while it became evident the railroad would bypass the community. The railway went south of Lemberg and the Pheasant Forks community died, along with its ag society, in 1904.

The Abernethy Agricultural Society was then incorporated in 1906.

Walters has brief memories of Pallister, since she was a child when he died. "He was awfully good to us four kids ... and a nice man," she said.

Pallister was a farmer, as well as a lay minister who preached at Foster School eight kilometres (five miles) north of the community. Walters remembers her grandfather praying with her family regularly, letting them bounce on his knee, and rarely being angry with them.

"He was always happy and laughing," she added.

Walters attended many Abernethy



The Abernethy Agricultural Society celebrated its 111th annual fair and exhibition July 27 by cutting two cakes: one to honour the fair and another to honour Canada. In the picture, from left, are Eileen Emmerson Gaye, Kay Walters, 99, her daughter Jeanette Kirk, Charlie Porter, 2, her brother Wilson, 5, and grandmother Donna Wilks.

Fairs as a young girl. She was amazed the fair is now 111 years old when she is about to turn 100.

"I'm surprised I'm living that long," she remarked. "(It's) because I haven't been sick. The only thing is, I had a muscle disease in my leg. (It) affected my walking, that's why I'm in a nursing home. Otherwise, I would have been walking or running."

Walters was born in Abernethy and went to Foster School, before attending school in Abernethy itself. She married Ed Walters and they farmed near there; they had one daughter, before he died in 1994.

Walters has lived in Balcarres for the last nine years. She enjoys the company of her three grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

"They're good kids. They're all smart like their mother," she chuckled.

Her great-granddaughter, Heather, calls her by phone every night for long conversations.

Having lived for a century, Walters couldn't think of just one big change she had experienced. She remembers riding a horse to school in the summer and taking a horse and cutter in the winter. She and her siblings stayed at their aunt and uncle's home in town when it became too cold.

Walters' advice to live long is to be good, behave, have fun, be sociable and don't be grumpy.

"I used to drink once in a while, but I haven't drank for ages," she added. "I don't know what it would be like if I had one. I'd be gone to town."



After crossing ground poles, navigating through pylons and crossing a wooden bridge in the trail class, Makayla Matsalla and Rio Play complete the rope gate obstacle at the Abernethy Fair horse show.



In English Equitation, riders are judged not for the way their horses perform, but how they themselves ride—their position, posture, hand position and overall horsemanship. After riding together around the ring, the riders were also given a test, called a pattern, where individually they were asked to walk, trot and canter around pylons, changing gait at specific points. The judge looks to see how well they cue their horses and that they follow the pattern correctly.

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Wesa family's farm century honoured

By Connie Schwalm
Special to Grasslands News

Even a casual study of our family history will sometimes allow us to discover a selection of specific details about the past. Using those details, we might well be able to weave together an acceptably accurate outline of our family's story.

But it's a rare privilege to grow up with a firm understanding of exactly how and when your family's history in the place you know as home began.

This uncommon certainty has been something that Donald Wesa has possessed for a long time. It has been Donald's reference point throughout his life. That certainty is also what prompted Donald and wife Judy to apply for the Century Family Farm Award.

Donald points out that when the Wesa family arrived in Canada from Austria, there was no indication that their journey would ever take them to a farm in Lipton.

"Dad's side of the family came to Canada from Austria at the turn of the century. My grandparents originally lived in Winnipeg, but in 1908 they moved to a homestead in the Kamsack-Veregin area."

Although their original homestead was located on good land, the Wesa family eventually decided to seek out another place where they could establish a home.

"By 1917, my grandparents had decided that they wanted to move out of their original homestead. Their farm was 10 or 12 miles from town, halfway between Kamsack and Veregin, so hauling grain to the elevator was an all-day affair. They only had two quarters, so they could only grow oats and barley and they wanted to grow wheat."

"There was also a large Doukabour colony nearby. The Doukabours were wonderful people, but they were a very big influence in the area. My grandparents were Lutheran, and there were only a small number of Lutheran neighbours nearby. So, in mid-November of 1917, my grandfather came to this area, and found this place."

Donald's father, who was 15 when the family moved to the farm that borders Lipton to the west, was adamant that Donald would grow up knowing exactly what date the family came to their new home.

"My grandparents travelled to Balcarres by train, then came by Democrat from Balcarres to their new home here on March 25, 1918. My father reminded me of that date often. He wanted me to remember the date that they'd arrived here."

The family was more than satisfied with the benefits that came with their new home.

"The land here isn't quite as good as the land they'd left," admits Donald. "But, they now had three quarters, so they could grow wheat. There were four elevators literally across the road. They could take the horse and wagon with a load of grain to the elevator and be back in an hour. Just across the street from their farmhouse there were stores, a school, a midwife, a hospital and a Lutheran Church. My dad used to say that they gave up one thing to gain 10."

Donald's own story began just yards away from the house where he and his wife now live.

"The house that I grew up in used to be behind where that old plow is now," Donald says, pointing across their manicured yard to the implement resting beside their lane. "My parents were married in 1947 and I was raised right here in this yard."

"I went farming at the age of 17. My goal was to seed 40 crops and I achieved that goal. When I got myself married, I left my parents to stay in their home, and my wife and I built a house right across the street from here. That's where we lived while I



Judy and Donald Wesa with the Century Family Farm Award they received recently. When the Wesa family arrived in Canada from Austria, there was no indication that their journey would ever take them to a farm in Lipton.

“My dad used to talk about this. He wondered if the farm would still be here in 100 years. He had no way of knowing.”

Century Farm Award recipient Don Wesa

was farming. For 40 years, I farmed all of the land that my grandfather had acquired, and some other land that I acquired myself."

Following the death of his parents, the couple continued to farm. Eventually, Donald and Judy would decide to retire.

"Eight years ago, my mom and dad were gone, and we were talking about how we'd like to retire," Donald explains. "We thought, 'Why don't we move back to the home quarter, sell the rest, and retire?' That's what we decided to do. We built this house six years ago and moved in. So, I'm back on the home quarter where I started."

As the 100th anniversary of the day that his family had taken over the farm drew nearer, Donald and Judy decided to check into the Century Family Farm Award.

"Everyone has a goal. My goal was to see our family make it to 100 years on this farm" Donald says. "A couple of years ago, I realized that the goal was in sight. So, we investigated and found out what was involved. I got the application forms and filled them out last January. Then in May, we received word that we'd gotten the award."

The couple travelled to Regina on June 19 to receive the award. Judy notes that during the banquet, a number of the families receiving the award shared some of their family's story.

"Listening to those stories you could hear a lot of pride. There were a lot of older people getting up to receive the award. And in some cases, two and three generations of the family were there to accept it. There's always some pride in knowing your history, and your part in it. We were glad to be able to receive the award for the Wesa family, for Don's parents and grandparents, and ourselves."

Recipients of the award are given the option to purchase a large Century Award sign (at a reduced cost) for their farm now — or receive a smaller wooden plaque now and opt for the larger sign later. Donald

hopes to set up a larger sign on the family's home quarter in the future.

"When your name is in the records, you can apply to get a larger sign whenever you want to. I'd like to put a sign up somewhere in the yard — maybe in a stone circle with a Saskatchewan flag behind it. But for now, we have the smaller plaque. I'll hang it in the hallway and show it to people, when they come over."

For Donald and Judy, the award serves as recognition for the sacrifice and struggle that established their family farm — and kept it going.

"My Dad always told me, 'Don't forget your heritage. Don't forget your history!' I haven't. This award honours my family's accomplishment and the sacrifices that my parents and grandparents made so that we could reach this milestone."

Looking back to that starting point that anchored his family to their farm, Donald muses about how his father might react to the Century Farm Award.

"My dad used to talk about this. He wondered if the farm would still be here in 100 years. He had no way of knowing. He died long ago, and you can never predict what might happen."

"But, I wonder what he'd say today if he could stand here and remember the day that they came and see our family still here now."

...no need for carbon tax

Continued from Page 4

Carbon intensity in agriculture has been reduced in part because of research undertaken in our province, in genetics, agronomy, and in zero till technology that sequesters carbon in the soil. In Saskatchewan, we manufacture air drills and export them to Russia, Kazakhstan, throughout Europe, the United States and Australia. These Saskatchewan-made air drills are reducing greenhouse gas emissions around the world. At home, more than 70 per cent of our land is cultivated using zero till technology.

Meanwhile, the production of pulse crops in Saskatchewan has soared, from 400,000 acres in 1990 to six million acres today. We are one of the world's leading exporters of lentils, peas and chickpeas, crops that fix nitrogen, use less fertilizer, and therefore have a lower carbon footprint.

Saskatchewan's agricultural soils are an enormous carbon sink, sequestering millions of tonnes of CO₂ every year. This, too, should be recognized by the federal government. As should the millions of tonnes of emissions offset by Saskatchewan uranium used to produce nuclear power in the United States and Asia.

Saskatchewan industries — Canadian industries — are more environmentally responsible and operate more sustainably than many of their competitors around the world.

If we really want to lower emissions, we should encourage Canadians to purchase sustainably-produced Canadian products.

We should also give the provinces the freedom to develop climate change policies that actually work, without a federal carbon tax.



Donald Wesa with his first tractor, a classic John Deere 3020 that he is now restoring.

Group focuses attention on zebra mussel threat

By Connie Schwalm
Special to Grasslands News

We tend to pay attention to big noises. Generally, a large bang, thump or snap will quickly bring us to our feet to search for the source of that sound. This response is entirely appropriate. A big noise typically has a big cause behind it.

Our reaction is based on our understanding that whatever caused the alarming noise will leave a big dent in our personal circumstances as well. However, there are some things that might present a very significant threat to us that can arrive in our lives without a sound.

Zebra mussels are this type of quiet threat. Though of course, zebra mussels do cause some noise.

For example, there is the noise that comes from having to scrape them off of your boat's hull and clean them out of the boat's intake.

An even more alarming noise caused by this invasive creature is the sound of doors to cottages and businesses being closed as tourists seeing beaches littered with foul-smelling mussel shells that slice through skin like broken glass decide to take their vacations and tourist dollars elsewhere.

However, as Lynne Saas, co-ordinator of member services for the Provincial Association of Resort Communities, indicated in her message at an information meeting held in Fort Qu'Appelle earlier this summer, by the time residents in this community begin to hear those sounds it's already too late.

"If zebra mussels were to get into Echo Lake this year, in three years all of the lakes in the Qu'Appelle system would be infested. And, once an infestation happens there's no going back. There is no way to eliminate them, once they're here."

Saas notes that for communities like Fort Qu'Appelle, the loss of tourist dollars would be significant.

"When zebra mussels get into a lake, it becomes impossible to walk barefoot along the beach anymore. The shells from dead and dying mussels just build up on the beach and those shells are very sharp. There will still be fish in the lake, but it would be different fish. There would be far less of the species of fish that people generally like to fish for. And, many would give up on boating on that lake altogether because of the expense and effort involved in cleaning the boat afterwards.

"For communities that are on or near a lake with economies that rely heavily on tourism, zebra mussels are very costly. When an infestation happens tourist numbers inevitably go way down. The property value of cottages that are on that lake will also go down."

Saas adds that zebra mussels should also be of concern for other communities.

"Another lake that is of huge concern is Lake Diefenbaker. If that lake were to become infested with zebra mussels by the following year they would be in Buffalo Pound Lake. From there, they would travel right into the Qu'Appelle system.

"This is why the City of Regina is concerned and why any community that depends on these lakes and



If zebra mussels were to get into Echo Lake this year, in three years all of the lakes in the Qu'Appelle system would be infested.

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Lynne Saas,
Provincial Association of Resort Communities

rivers for their water supply should be concerned as well. These things will get into intakes and pumps and clog the system. There's also the potential impact on hydroelectric plants. About 20 per cent of Saskatchewan's power is hydroelectric power. Zebra mussels can clog those systems too."

"People need to be concerned. Whether it's your power supply or your water supply it is very costly to have to rip pipes apart and clean the mussels out. And bear in mind that this is not a one-time cost. The whole process would have to be done again and again and again."

Because the only way to effectively combat the problem of zebra mussels is to keep them from getting into the water in the first place, establishing a monitoring system that ensures that boats being brought into the province are inspected is crucial.

Saskatchewan could benefit from paying attention to the measures being taken in Alberta, which has so far managed to stave off an infestation, she said.

By 2014, zebra mussels, which were first found in Lake Erie in 1986, moved into North Dakota and up the Red River into Manitoba.

Since 2014 Alberta has done all of the right things right. There are 11 fixed inspection stations and two roving stations for parks and provincial events in Alberta. That province spends \$2.5 million annually on working to keep an infestation from happening there."

"Compared to what Alberta has done, Saskatchewan has done very little. And yet, Alberta's efforts have actually shown how vulnerable Saskatchewan is. In 2015, there were 11 mussel boats stopped at the Alberta border that were decontaminated. Every one of those boats had travelled from Eastern Canada through Saskatchewan."

She points out that boats coming from certain areas are of greatest concern.

"We have to be especially concerned about boats that are coming from North Dakota and certain areas in Manitoba. Canada Border Services officers have been trained by conservation officers and are now screening for mussels at the Canada-US border. At the beginning of this year, it was announced that two new roadside fixed inspection Stations would be set up to screen boats coming in from the east, but, there is much more that needs to be done."

Saas suggests that one of the best ways to prevent an infestation might be for people to join together to fight for their lakes.

"People can lobby the government of course, and push for more to be done. But I think that the answer is for people to start something now to protect their own lake — and to pursue whatever they decide to do with a vengeance.

"The Lake Diefenbaker Task Force Against Zebra Mussels has been set up by volunteers in each of the 16 communities around the lake, where a boat launch is located. These Citizens on Patrol are meeting and asking out-of-province boaters the same questions being asked by Canada Border Services. If there is a wrong answer to one of these questions, they can direct people to a decontamination station.

"The situation might look different here. Instead of having only 16 boat launches in total, there are likely 16 boat launches within a half mile of the shoreline surrounding one of lakes in the Qu'Appelle system. But frankly, the number of boat launches that you have doesn't really matter. The goal is to stop the boats before they come anywhere near the water."

Although few people attended the meeting in Fort Qu'Appelle, Saas was encouraged by the people who did come out to the meeting.

"We had some good, key people there. Some of those at the meeting were from communities like Crooked Lake and Round Lake. The mayor of Indian Head was there, along with representatives from the RM. There was a person there representing Calling Lakes as well as another person from the Environmental Group. And, we had individuals there like Aura Lee MacPherson, who has been involved with a lot of the issues involving the lakes in this area. So, I think that these people will be working to get the message out there."

As Saas points out, the cost of complacency would likely be defeat.

"The mussels have won in other places. Why would we expect to be different?"

Perhaps it's time to make a little noise.



Ron Palmer, Provincial Association of Resort Communities (PARCS) director for the southeast part of the province, and Lynne Saas, co-ordinator of member services, spoke to the Fort Qu'Appelle nature Society about the zebra mussel threat to the Calling Lakes.

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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 number in printed form, as well as the grounds for the objection(s). Petitions must name a contact person, state grounds, and be legible. Each signatory to the petition and the contact person must provide an address and telephone number. Frivolous, vexatious or competition-based objections within the beverage alcohol industry may not be considered and may be rejected by the Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Licensing Commission, who may refuse to hold a hearing.

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21-tfnc

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25-4c

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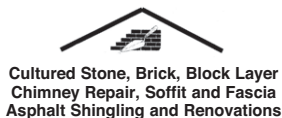
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Balcarres Correspondent

Integrated Care Centre News

On July 23 the residents enjoyed ladder toss games and in the afternoon welcomed Linda Bray, who plays the piano, and Crystal Zeller, who leads in the singing time together with the residents.

Kickball games were played on July 24. In the afternoon bingo was enjoyed.

Audrey Large was welcomed July 25 when she came in to musically entertain on the piano. In the afternoon, residents took advantage of the cooler temperature indoors to watch a movie and enjoy popcorn.

One-on-one visits were held July 26. In the afternoon residents gathered in the activity room for quiz time on Canadian trivia.

Many residents took the opportunity to board the handicap bus to travel to Abernethy and take in the annual fair. They enjoyed their lunch at the fair and viewed the exhibits in the rink and some watched the gymkhana events in the show ring. It was an enjoyable day for everyone. Thank

you to all the volunteers who came to assist the residents to and from the fair. Some residents also entered their crafts at the fair, and received favourable results.

Happy 90th birthday to Florence Gherasim, who celebrated her birthday with members of her family on July 28. She enjoyed their visit, well wishes and birthday cake, as well as the family pictures that were taken during the party.

July 29 was spent quietly with friends and family visiting at the centre, and some residents going out for a drive.

Beanbag toss games were played on July 30 and in the afternoon residents went by bus for a day trip to Indian Head.

Extended Care News

Residents have enjoyed the summer visits from friends and relatives, as well as keeping themselves busy with in-house activities.

Elsie Pekrul enjoyed a visit with her brother, Ervin, on July 21, and with Doug Baber on July 24.

Dorothy Wilkes enjoyed a visit with her granddaughter, CJ Porter, and

children, Wilson and Charlie on July 20.

Joe Englot went uptown on his scooter on July 23, and then enjoyed a visit to the family farm at Abernethy on July 26.

Joe Hegyi enjoyed a visit with his sister on July 27.

Violet Kerestech welcomed a visit with her sister on July 24 and 28, and

with friends, Gladys Pavo Penny and Joanne Lanaway on July 27. On July 26 she went to Regina with her daughter-in-law to visit her family.

Nora Nakonechny enjoyed a visit with her niece, Monica Wilson, on July 27.

Mina Stueck enjoyed a visit with her daughter, Marlene Burton, on July 2.

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The lakes are calling, so is choir

Submitted by Wendy Barker

Calling Lakes Choir is enthusiastically calling past and new singers to register for the fall season at Our Lady of Sorrows Church on Monday, Aug. 27 at 6 p.m. The first rehearsal will follow at 7 p.m.

The registration fee for the season will remain the same at \$25.

Singing with a great choir like this is enjoyable and enriching. Members are friendly and sociable.

Monday evening rehearsals from 7 to 9 p.m. are a highlight of the week and the concerts mark a beginning of Advent for many. When the choir sings, can Christmas spirit be far be-

hind?

The choir will be enriched by instrumental accompaniment again, with a guest artist in the intermission. Directing the choir again will be Fred Barker, and Judy Wesa will be the piano accompanist.

Remember to mark your calendar for the concert dates this year. The Lebrat concert will be on Friday (not Saturday) Nov. 30 and the concert in Fort Qu'Appelle will be on Sunday, Dec. 2 at 3 p.m.

Keep the Christmas spirit alive and welcome the joy of Advent. Please sing with the choir and come to the concert.



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B-Say-Tah celebrates



Kira Sundquist, 9, and Kenzie McGinn, 9, appear to defy gravity as they leap to the finish line in a potato sack race during the 102nd annual B-Say-Tah Sports Weekend. Photos by Alan Hustak

Watch for area highway repairs

Submitted

More than 445 kilometres of seal coating is planned across Saskatchewan this summer. During the seal coating process, hot liquid asphalt is sprayed on the road before crushed gravel is spread over the asphalt and packed down.

“Seal coating is a cost-effective treatment that provides a waterproof surface, which in turn prolongs pavement life,” explained Highways and Infrastructure Minister David Marit. “We appreciate everyone’s patience during the busy construction season and remind travellers to please pay attention in work zones, obey the signage and slow down.”

Seal coats require about 24 hours to cure, resulting in speed reductions even while workers are not present. These speed reductions allow the seal coat to cure properly, while also saving travellers’ windshields from damage.

Seal coating is also scheduled this construction season at a variety of locations, including:

- Highway 1 near Wolseley, Indian Head, Qu’Appelle, Mortlach, Parkbeg, Chaplin and Waldeck;
- Highway 10 near Fort Qu’Appelle;
- Highway 16 near Wynyard and Maidstone

There are many reasons work zones have temporary speed reductions left in place even when workers are not present. A sharp pavement drop, lane closure or loose gravel are examples of hazards that warrant a slower posted speed.

If you’re planning to travel, check the Highway Hotline at www.saskatchewan.ca/highwayhotline, which provides up-to-date information on construction, emergency road closures, the status of ferries, barges and other road activities. Information is also available by calling 511.



Tessa Finch and Kruz King were tied together for the boys and girls three-legged race. More than 100 families attended the three-day outdoor carnival that included relay races, sandcastle building, water sports, pony rides, a bouncy castle and bubbleballs.

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