

**JUST ARRIVED**  
**2023 CHEV COLORADO**  
**LT Z71 CREW**

- 2.7L TURBO
- Z71 CONV PKG II & III
- ADVANCED TRAILERING PKG
- HTD/COOLED LEATHER

**BRADLEY'S GM**  
 MOOSOMIN, SK | 1-800-209-4628 | WWW.BRADLEYGM.COM

**Education Section**  
**INSIDE THIS WEEK**

**MOOSOMIN COMMUNITY THEATRE • 306-435-2616**

**AQUAMAN**  
**AND THE LOST KINGDOM**

Evening Showtime: 8 pm • Doors open at 7:30 pm  
 Rated PG • Warning: Violence & Coarse Language  
 Warner • 124 Minutes  
 Admission: Adult - \$6.00 | Student - \$5.00 | Child - \$4.00 | 5 & Under: \$3.00

**FRIDAY & SATURDAY, JANUARY 26 & 27, 2024**

# THE WORLD-Spectator

Publications Mail Agreement 40011909

Saskatchewan's first community newspaper • Published weekly since 1884



**Teachers demonstrate in front of MLA office**

Sunnette Kamffer photo

Teachers held a demonstration in Moosomin during a one-day provincial strike Tuesday. Teachers are asking the provincial government to come to the table to discuss class sizes and other issues. A second one-day strike is planned for today, and teachers will be gathering in Moosomin again.

## Sask teachers hold one-day strike

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

Saskatchewan teachers held a one-day strike Tuesday and will be out on strike again today. The World-Spectator sat down with Nathan Bromm, principal at Rocanville School and vice-president of the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation, to find out what the teachers' concerns are.

Following is the full interview:

**Can you explain for me the whole dispute between the provincial government and STF (Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation) right now?**

Well, basically it's about the fact that we've been at the table since June, ten days of negotiations and then many

days of conciliation, and we can't get to a common path and move forward on issues that are important to teachers. The main topic, of course, is class complexity, class size and violence in the classroom. That's just a topic that the government has been unwilling to move on, they refuse to even talk about it or acknowledge that it's something that could be addressed through bargaining and that's why we're here today.

**Explain those issues, like violence in the classroom.**

One of the things that's changed is—lots of people think we're talking about perhaps a teenager who wants to fight and those types of things but we're not actual-

ly talking about that. There are those isolated incidents but we're talking about intensive needs students, kids that have behavior concerns—typically a lot of the time we're talking about elementary kids. The province has shifted to an inclusive model with inclusion of all students in public schools in public classrooms, which is a great thing, but at the same time in shifting to that model they've cut resources and support, so we don't have the professionals, we don't have the speech pathologists, the counsellors, the EAs, OTs (Occupational Therapists), all those folks that help kids regulate and deal with whatever issues, concerns or developmental delays that they have.

*Continued on page 4*

**FRESH TRADE**

**CELEBRATION**  
 - FORD SALES -

**TOLL FREE:**  
**1-800-880-4533**

**ONLY 79,000 KMS**  
 AWD | LOCAL TRADE

**\$31,900**

**\$179/Week**

**2017 GMC ACADIA**

**Moosomin, SK • 306-435-3313**

**Check out celebrationford.com for all the amazing inventory!**

**Guy Wall:**  
 (306) 435-0215

**Eli Tremblay**  
 (306) 434-9101



### Another win for the Rangers

Rachelle Apperley captured this photo of Bud Holloway in action for the Moosomin Rangers during the Moosomin vs Carnduff Red Devils game on January 13 in Carnduff. The Rangers won the game 5-2, and remain undefeated in the Big Six so far this season with a 12-0 record as of last week and 24 points. Bud Holloway was the leading scorer in the league with 56 points followed by the Rangers' Brock Trotter with 42 points.



162:C

## TECH TIME FOR SENIORS

*Sponsored by Age Friendly Moosomin*

Join us to learn the basics of using your electronic device (iPad, iPhone, Android Phone, Android Tablet or personal computer, or we can loan you an iPad).

*Course levels for beginner and novice users of technology  
No cost for participants*



Classes scheduled weekly for February and March at the Moosomin Library in the evenings from 6-7:30 pm with instructor Felicite Mailloux. (Day of the week to be determined by participants). Transportation to class available

If interested, enrol by phoning Devona Putland at 306-435-9046 (cell) or 306-435-2272 (home), or Ann Norgan at 306-435-3139.


**MOOSOMIN  
SPORTS  
excellence**

## NEED WORK BOOTS? WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED!



NUTRIEN and MOSAIC employees and contractors - show your swipe card at checkout and receive a **15% DISCOUNT!**







### WE CARRY:








903 South Front Street  
(former liquor store)  
Moosomin, SK • 306-435-1777  
moosominse@gmail.com




**HOURS:**  
Monday to Friday: 10 am - 6 pm  
Saturday: 10 am - 5 pm  
Closed Sundays



**Local Employment Opportunities**  
[www.world-spectator.com/employment.php](http://www.world-spectator.com/employment.php)







From left are McNaughton High School Principal Sherrie Meredith and Vice-Principal Scott Sully, SE Cornerstone School Division Chair Audrey Tremblay, Subdivision 1 board rep Devona Putland, MacLeod School Principal Tammy Cole, Superintendent Jeff St. Onge, and Director of Education Keith Keating at the community consultation on Thursday.

## Capital project for McNaughton possible

BY KARA KINNA

South East Cornerstone School Division held a community consultation meeting in Moosomin on Thursday to discuss school facility options for the future. Director of Education Keith Keating said that while Moosomin schools would not qualify for a new build based on provincial criteria, there was the option of putting in a submission for a minor capital renovation, which are capital projects that fall within the \$1 million to \$10 million range, allowing for major upgrades to a school.

"There is maybe a possibility here to get some money from the provincial government," he told the parents, students and community members gathered at the meeting that night.

"We can send in two applications annually. This is in that \$1 million to \$10 million range. It must pertain to only one facility, you can't have it in two, and an application must be independent of a major capital program for funding, so it can't be part of a major or minor project, it has to be one or the other.

"With that \$10 million range we could think about re-modelling the school and might have the ability to address a number of things within that school.

"There are a list of priorities that you could put into a minor capital renovation. Some of the things could be indoor air quality, PAA spaces, air conditioning, fire suppression, window and door updates, flooring, accessibility issues, washroom upgrades, and electrical upgrades.

"If we were to put a minor capital submission in, those are some of the things that we could try to address if we got the money from the provincial government.

"We take a look around and see where we can use the minor capital and might it fit the criteria. I think that Moosomin may fall within that, but hearing from both of the principals here, we want them to kind of tell you what they feel the needs are in the schools.

"If we were able to apply for minor capital and get it for one school, then that would free up some PMR (preven-

tive maintenance and renewal) dollars to help not only the other school, but the other schools in the division as well. We love any time we get a new build because it frees up that PMR money to make improvements in other schools."

In 2023-24, South East Cornerstone will be receiving \$2.7 million in PMR funding, which comes to around \$77,000 per school in the division. PMR funding can only be used on buildings and maintenance. However a minor capital submission would be on top of any PMR funding received, and would allow for major upgrades in a facility.

Both school principals also spoke at the meeting. MacLeod School Principal Tammy Cole outlined some of the recent upgrades at the school such as a new boiler and HVAC system, new lighting, new tiled ceilings, new doors, a technology refresh, painting the gym, and a new sound system and screen for presentations. However she said, with all the new technology, the school could really use some electrical upgrades, allowing for more electrical outlets in each room.

McNaughton High School Principal Sherrie Meredith spoke about the upgrades at McNaughton High School recently, including lighting, doors, ceiling tiles, HVAC, roofing, emergency and exit lights, the west entrance flooring, sidewalk upgrades, and a tech refresh. However she said if she were to put anything on her wishlist, it would be PAA (practical applied arts) upgrades to areas like the home ec lab to bring it up to current standards. The current home ec lab dates to 1968. Renovating the industrial arts lab, and electrical upgrades were also on her list.

As for air conditioning in the school, she said it would be a "dream" but if she had to pick anything, it would be renovations to the industrial arts lab or home ec lab first.

Other things like fitness rooms, upgrades to change rooms, redoing community common areas, and seeing the hallways and floors refreshed would also be on their wish list according to Vice-Principal Scott Sully.

Continued on Page 17 K

### Steven Bonk, MLA for Moosomin Constituency

622 Main Street, Moosomin, SK  
Phone: 306-435-4005  
Email: [stevenbonkmla@sasktel.net](mailto:stevenbonkmla@sasktel.net)

#### Office Hours:

Monday - Friday  
9 a.m. - 12 noon; 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.



**MMMC**  
**MOOSE MOUNTAIN MEATS**  
**CO-OPERATIVE LIMITED**

**LOCALLY GROWN SIDES OF BEEF - \$4.79/LB**  
**Average weight 365-400 lbs**

**LOCALLY GROWN SIDES OF PORK - \$2.50/LB**  
**Average weight 80-90 lbs**

*Includes cutting and wrapping for both*

**Wawota, SK • 306-739-2500**

**KARI'S KLOSET**  
FASHIONS FOR ALL WOMEN

**It's Here!**

**EVERYONE GETS  
REALLY EXCITED  
WHEN THE  
NEW Charlie B  
ARRIVES!**



**karisklosetonline.com**

Main St. • Moosomin, SK • 306.435.2738  
Monday-Saturday: 10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Shop with Kari on her **FRIDAY LIVE** every week  
at 9:30 AM FRIDAYS on her FACEBOOK page



**VIVALIFT!**  
**ULTRA POWER**  
**RECLINER**

- The most comfortable recliner in the world!
- Three heating pads located in the shoulder, lumbar and seat.
- Power massage.
- Weightless Tilt - reclines so your knees are elevated above your heart.
- Infinite positioning.

**PRIDE**  
MOBILITY  
LIVE YOUR BEST®

- Power headrest & lumbar.
- 400 lb weight capacity.
- Three sizes available to fit people 5'4" & below, 5'4" - 5'10", 5'10" & above.
- Capriccio premium fabric repels most liquids - easy cleaning with a wet towel.
- 7 year pro-rated warranty.

**PHARMASAVE®**

**WELLNESS & MOBILITY CENTRE**

Main Store: 624 Main Street  
Showroom: 601 Carleton St.

**306-435-4330**

Moosomin, SK

[pharmasave.com/moosomin](http://pharmasave.com/moosomin)

# Sask teachers hold one-day strike

*Continued from front*

So they can't self-regulate and teachers aren't trained to deal with those types of behaviors, they're trained to teach, and although they do their best, they don't have those supports, so we see violence in classrooms.

We see issues in the classrooms—and the public isn't aware of this—on a daily basis being turned upside down. A student has an outburst and desks are being turned upside down because they don't know how to self-regulate. It's not the student's fault—they just don't have the supports and the teachers don't have enough supports to manage those behavior issues at the same time as teaching 25-35 kids. So that's what has changed with inclusive classrooms. Teachers fully support inclusive classrooms but they need the resources and the supports and the professional services to help those kids in the school to avoid bites, kicks, hits, and those types of behaviors because the child is struggling with whatever concern it might be.

**What are some of the other major issues? Is classroom size a major one?**

Yes, classroom size has been getting worse as well and that connects to the violence. The more kids you have in the room then the more chances there are going to be concerns.

Class complexity, violence and class size are all interconnected but in classrooms it can vary. Sometimes in rural areas we can have smaller classes but there are many grades in the classroom so it's more of a concern of many grades, and we also see classrooms upwards of 30-35. Lots of classrooms are around 28 which makes one-on-one time with a teacher and a student less and less. They have less time to spend time one-on-one supporting kids' individual learning needs.

Over the past several years we've seen the population of students in Saskatchewan grow and the number of teachers being cut. So it's not just professional services, but teachers have been cut. Since 2022 we have 4,000 more students in the province and 145 less full-time equivalent teachers. So that indicates bigger class sizes.

**So is the problem entirely at the provincial level or is there more that the school divisions could be doing?**

There are definitely responsibilities at the provincial level and at the local level. The challenge is the funding structure has changed over the years and I'm not getting into the debate over whether that's the correct way or not, but local school boards cannot raise the mill rate, cannot collect funds through the tax system now, it comes from the provincial pot and the provincial pot that is divided out to school divisions has been cut every year. It's not even matching inflation so school divisions are cutting professional supports, cutting teachers and making larger class sizes because they still have to pay for classes, increasing costs in fuel, pay our salaries, repair buildings, and all those things.

They've tried for many years to not cut the front line but now we're seeing that over the last few years, having to cut front line staff because they don't have even an inflationary increase to their budgets. I know actually that some school divisions have had funds in reserves but they've been whittling those down. Some don't have them, some still do. They're running deficit budgets because the money isn't there from the provincial level.

**So what's the main purpose of the picketing today? Is this a public relations exercise to try to get the public outside or the word out there?**

There are two goals. We did a five-day countdown to today to demonstrate to the public and to the government that we want to raise awareness and we want to indicate that there's a problem.

Yes, it is about building relationships with the public and trying to explain to them what's going on in the schools. I think many of the public do know what's going on if they have kids in the system but not everyone does have kids in the system and so it's to raise awareness to the public and it also was to give the government an opportunity to respond.

We gave them five days to say, "We're serious. We have been bargaining with you at the table, we've gone through the



Teachers prepare picket signs for a demonstration in Moosomin during a one-day province-wide teachers' strike Tuesday. The second one-day strike is scheduled for today.

Sunnette Kamffer photo

conciliation process and you haven't budgeted on some of the key topics to us, so now we are here saying that we are serious." Teachers are making a political statement saying that you need the political will as the government to move on some of these things to make classrooms better for our students.

**If the government doesn't move, what's the next step?**

That's hard to say. We have tentative plans. The government, we feel, has left us no choice other than to proceed with other political actions but I think the key thing is to note that we are ready to move with more action, but we're also prepared to change our strategic actions and plans based on how the government, how the Minister of Education and how the Premier respond to today.

We are always willing to go back to the table if they have a willingness to talk about real solutions and make a commitment to teachers and students. That's the message that we've been saying all along and for the government to say that teachers are not at the table, that's not true. We were there, we provided a variety of ideas on how to support classrooms and resource classrooms and we were stonewalled. They said that they're not talking about any of those topics and if they're willing to come back and talk about some of those topics, we will be there, but we're not going to be going to a table and be told, "No, we're not talking about anything."

**Can you see this leading to a full strike at some point if things don't change?**

Potentially, potentially yeah, more action could occur and this could escalate if there's an unwillingness from the government or an unwillingness of the government to give a mandate to the GTBC—the Government Trustee Bargaining Committee. So either directly the Premier and the Minister of Education could come forward with some solutions or they have to give a mandate to the bargaining committee that they've delegated this work to. If they do that, then we can avoid those next steps.

**If you could speak directly to the Minister of Education or the Premier, what exactly would you tell them? What would your message be?**

My message would be that what teachers are asking for is not just a benefit for teachers but it's a benefit for all of our students in the public system and that if they had a willingness to sit down and come up with some concrete ideas and make a commitment to resourcing those ideas through the contract that we could solve this situation.

We can't solve it overnight but we could certainly put some plans in place—and that we would just like to see some willingness from the minister to sit down and make that commitment to teachers and to students and that we can find a path forward and get back to what we're doing,



Nathan Bromm, Rocanville School principal and STF vice-president

which we want to do, and that's teach.

**How many teachers do you have on the picket line today here?**

It's hard to tell because we're going in shifts because of the cold weather, so we're staggering it a bit, but based on our sign-in I would estimate around 150-200.

**That's from Moosomin, Rocanville, and some of the other towns around?**

Yeah, they're from Moosomin, Rocanville, and I can't recall all of the names here but we have the southeast corner—Moosomin, Rocanville, Maryfield, Redvers, Wawota, and then we have others from neighboring school divisions so we have Whitewood and Broadview here as well.

**What's your reaction to seeing the community support? Cork and Bone is opening for coffee and hot chocolate and Crate House is normally closed this time of year but they've opened up to give you folks a place to warm up and eat and Stan from Universe Satellite has provided some coats—what's your reaction to seeing stuff like that?**

It is just awesome, Kevin. We've just been so surprised, so grateful and so thankful. I know our local president,

Whitney Paul-Joseph, she has been making her way around, taking some photos and thanking all of the business owners—Witch's Brew is in there as well, Shell with Little Caesar's pizza popped by and said that they'd like to bring pizza down for everyone at lunch, Cork and Bone, Stan at Arctic Cat, they've been really supportive and I think that just speaks to the relationships that are in our community and the surrounding area and how hard teachers work to build relationships and partnerships with our community businesses and our community players. So we're very thankful and it's great to see that support out there on a really cold day.

**Do you think you've got the public 100 per cent behind you?**

This is my nineteenth year in teaching and I've been involved at the provincial level for many of those years and I would say that the public is really growing in understanding the fight that the teachers are working for here. We could never say 100 per cent but I would say that the public support is higher than I've ever seen it. When you look at the businesses around town, when you look at social media posts and comments, parents that have contacted myself and others, there's definitely very high public support that we've never seen before. They see the importance of funding public education for their kids.

**And what do your members think about being outside on a cold day like this?**

The teachers were ready after Christmas.

They were asking, they were ready to move forward and take a political stand. There was a little bit of grumbling when they saw the forecast but nobody is complaining today.

They're happy today. They feel the solidarity, everybody is dressed warm and with the businesses offering warm up spaces, washrooms and hot chocolate—no complaints today.

People feel the solidarity and they know how important it is to be here.

**Thrift Store**

**Food Share**

**SEHAS**

**DEAL OF THE WEEK**

**BUY ONE GET ONE FREE ON ALL KIDS' CLOTHES!**

If you're in need of a food hamper, or want to be part of our Backpacks for Children or Milk for Children programs, please reach out to us

**306-435-2633**  
SEHAS2018@sasktel.net  
moosominfoodshare.com

**Hours:**  
Monday-Thursday  
Noon - 5 pm



## Kipling Town Council

## Kipling applying for walking trail expansion

BY RYAN KIEDROWSKI

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The regular meeting of Kipling Town Council was held on January 15, including the following highlights.

## Walking trail application

The town is applying to the SGI Traffic Safety Fund to expand the current walking trail. In addition to a long trail, the application includes the addition of solar lights for the path. Kipling CAO Gail Dakue estimates the project to be in the \$40,000 range.

## Grad headed to the rink

In order to accommodate a larger group of graduates and their families, Grad 2024 will take place in the Kipling Arena this year.

"It'll give them a lot more room. It's a really big class

this year, there's 43 kids," said Dakue. "They could hold it in the gym, but it would really mean that basically the parents could be there and the grandparents might miss out."

## Slightly taller shed approved

Council approved a variance request in order to accommodate a garden shed just a little bit taller than the rules say it should be.

"They approved that variance because it was a little bit higher than what is allowed," Dakue explained. "It was 1.2 feet higher than what was allowed. It was still high enough that it had to be approved for accessory building."

## Engineer accepted

A proposal from KGS Group has been accepted for en-

gineering services. The proposal covers conceptual design and Class D opinion of probable cause to replace the existing East Lift Station.

"The idea is to have a design and cost in place so that when some more new infrastructure funding comes out, that we're shovel ready," said Dakue.

## Phone directory for seniors

The Age Friendly Committee provided an update to Council about their handy phone directory for seniors.

"Phone books are not around so much anymore, so it's harder to find numbers," explained Dakue. "The committee feels that it would be nice to have these phone numbers people need."

Phone numbers including local businesses and emergency services are featured on the laminated list, with costs covered by the Lions Club.

## Moosomin teams in provincial playdowns

BY MOOSOMIN REC DIRECTOR MIKE SCHWEAN

The Hockey Saskatchewan Provincial Playdown Schedules were released last week. Moosomin will ice a full slate. I will do my best to keep you up to date on our teams as they advance along in search of a provincial championship!

## Provincial Playdown

## Game times at the Mike Schwean Arena

**Game 1:** Balcarres Broncos vs. Sr. Moosomin Rangers on Saturday, January 20 at 8 pm

**Game 3:** Balcarres Broncos vs. Sr. Moosomin Rangers on Sunday, February 4 at 5 pm

**Game 1:** Wawota Flyers vs. U15 Rangers on Sunday, February 4 at 7:30 pm

**Game 2:** Wawota Flyers vs. U13 Rangers on Tuesday, February 13 at 7:15 pm

**Game 2:** Foam Lake vs. U18 Rangers on Thursday, February 15 at 7:30 pm

## Provincial Hockey Schedules

## Moosomin Senior Rangers

The Senior Rangers are in the A Playdowns in 2024. With changes to Sask Hockey Regulations, many teams were forced to move to A. As a result, the B division is gone for 2024 while a whopping 21 teams are registered for A.

For the Rangers they find themselves one of 11 teams in the south and one of six who did not receive a first-round

bye. As a result, the team will have to win five rounds of A hockey if they are to claim a provincial title. That is a ton of hockey.

Round one matches the Rangers up against the Qu'Appelle Valley's Balcarres Broncos. The Broncos are at 9-4 and considered the favorites to win the QVSHL. These are all best-of-three series with the Rangers having home ice advantage in round one. The game schedule includes:

**Game 1:** Balcarres Broncos vs. Moosomin Rangers on Saturday, January 20 at 8 pm

**Game 2:** Moosomin Rangers vs. Balcarres Broncos on Saturday, February 3 at 7:30 pm

**Game 3:** Balcarres Broncos vs. Moosomin Rangers on Sunday, February 4 at 5 pm

## U18 Right at Home Décor Rangers

Our U18 Rangers—undefeated in league play—are entered into the B Playdowns. B Playdowns have 10 teams in the north and 8 teams in the south. U18 square up against Foam Lake in round one. These are two-game series and if split, an overtime played after the second game. A win for the Rangers in round one would see them advance to the south semi-finals where they would meet the winner of the Melville/Kipling Series. **Game 2:** Foam Lake vs. U18 Rangers on Thursday, February 15 at 7:30 pm.

## U15 Easton's Autobody Rangers

Our U15 Rangers are also entered into the Provincial B Playdowns. A total of 19 teams registered in B including 9 in the south and 10 in the north. Moosomin received a

first-round bye and will meet the Wawota Flyers in the south quarter-finals. Wawota holds home ice advantage in the match up. **Game 1:** Wawota Flyers vs. U15 Rangers on Sunday, February 4 at 7:30 pm.

## U13 Rangers

Our U13 entry is registered in the C Playdowns. 22 teams registered in C including 10 teams in the south and 12 teams in the north. Moosomin receives a first-round bye and will meet Wawota in the south quarter-finals. Moosomin has home ice advantage in this series. **Game 2:** Wawota Flyers vs. U13 Rangers on Tuesday, February 13 at 7:15 pm.

## U13 Female

Our U13 Female team is entered into the B playdowns. This draw will see seven teams in total, including four in the south and three in the north. The Moosomin Rangers will meet the Balcarres Broncos in the south semi-final. A win here and they will meet the winner of Lumsden/Lafleche in the south final. Balcarres has home ice advantage in this series, however no games have been scheduled to date as the first round does not have to be completed until March 4.

## Broadview to benefit from virtual physician (VP) program

Residents of Broadview and area will soon benefit from increased access to emergency room (ER) services through the introduction of the innovative virtual physician (VP) pilot program. The Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) will extend the VP program to Broadview Union Hospital beginning January 15.

The virtual physician program helps sustain ER access during periods where the facility may be experiencing gaps in physician coverage. The program gives nursing staff remote access to a physician through HealthLine 811 to allow for the required physician coverage in an ER in order to provide safe, quality care. The pilot program is a temporary measure that assists with sustaining local ER services while physician recruitment efforts continue and has already been implemented in two other rural communities throughout the province.

"The SHA is committed to limiting service interrup-

tions and making sure rural residents have access to emergency services in their community when they need them," said Brenda Schwan, Vice President, Integrated Rural Health, Saskatchewan Health Authority. "We have seen the difference this innovative program has made in communities like Porcupine Plain and Oxbow, giving them the time they need to address staffing or physician coverage issues while ensuring residents have access to ER services. We are pleased to add Broadview to the list of communities that will also benefit from this program."

Broadview Union Hospital was able to resume ER services at reduced capacity in May 2022 following a long-term disruption that began in August 2019 due to staffing challenges. Recent combined laboratory and x-ray technologist (CLXT) and physician recruitment success supports the introduction of the virtual physician program and, with it, expands access to ER services by four

additional hours. Local physicians will cover the ER from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. with virtual physician coverage from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Monday to Friday. Emergency room services are not available on statutory holidays. A new physician is expected to arrive in the community in February. Further updates will be provided as information is available.

"This is great news. I would like to thank the community, local stakeholders and everyone else involved in helping make the program and local recruitment efforts successful," said Trent Truscott, Director Primary Health Care, Saskatchewan Health Authority. "It is a great example of a local, collaborative effort that got us to this point."

The SHA continues to work to address some of the outstanding barriers to resuming full 24/7 ER access, including stabilizing registered nurse (RN) resources. Due to the current challenges with providing consistent 24-hour nursing

and physician services at Broadview Union Hospital, acute care services will remain temporarily unavailable. Alternate level of care (ALC) remains available. Health care recruitment and retention continues to be a priority for the SHA and the Government of Saskatchewan.

In the event of an emergency, please call 9-1-1. Non-urgent health-related

questions may be directed to the provincial HealthLine 24/7 service by calling 8-1-1. Residents are encouraged to seek routine health-care services during regular clinic hours. The Broadview Medical Clinic is open Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Appointments can be scheduled by calling 306-696-2266.

Moosomin Multi- 4-H Club

CANADA  
4-H Saskatchewan

Each participant will be sharing different speeches on things they enjoy from a variety of ages from 6-17. *Everyone will be having fun and enjoying the food.*

On February 3rd, the Moosomin 4-H Multi Club will be hosting speeches at the Moosomin Baptist Church at 1pm which will be open to the public.

Club Reporter - Olivia Brooks

BELOW FACTORY  
DIRECT PRICING!!

## STRUCTURAL STEEL DEALER

**#1 Grade Colored**  
\$1.15/sq. ft.  
**B+ Grade Colored**  
\$1.05/sq. ft.  
**B Grade Colored**  
95¢/sq. ft.  
**B Grade Galvalume**  
91¢/sq. ft.  
**Multi Colored Mill Ends**  
69¢/sq. ft.

Call us now for best selection of lengths & colors!

## Pre-Finished OSB Siding

4x6 3/8" = \$18/sheet  
4x8 3/8" = \$34/sheet  
4x9 3/8" = \$39/sheet  
4x8 7/16" = \$36/sheet

**B Grade Shake Siding**  
\$3.95/each  
**PVC White/interlocking interior liner**  
\$1.55/sq. ft.

NOW SELLING SCREW PILES  
& BIN ANCHORS

Ask us about Fuel Allowance

**FOUILLARD STEEL  
SUPPLIES LTD.**

www.fouillardsteel.com

ST. LAZARE, MB

1-800-510-3303

# Moosomin Rec Report

Mike Schwan, Recreation Director

306-435-3622 • msmn.rec.brd@sasktel.net

## Communities in Bloom awards this Tuesday

We had such a successful year with Communities in Bloom. Amazing spirit was shown by the Town of Moosomin, Moosomin Regional Park and Pipestone Hills Golf Course. Of course, at contest end we were named Provincial Champions!

Coming up at this week's Chamber meeting on Tuesday, January 23, Andrew Exelby of Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association will be in attendance to award the Provincial Champion Certificates as well as speak about the program and in particular our local submission. Can't wait for our efforts in 2024!

## Stars of the Week – RM of Moosomin

My most...very most...sincere thank you to the RM of Moosomin Council who have agreed to supply us with a brand new 12-foot by 34-foot building for Bradley Park. Arriving in May 2024, this building will allow Parks and Rec to stock it with various recreation and leisure equipment. The building will be left open and the equipment can be used by community groups, families or individuals at absolutely no cost. We only ask you look after the equipment and return when completed.

Parks and Rec have always branded the "Play for All" strategy. This generous donation by the RM of Moosomin allows us to take this strategy to another level. If you are out and about and bump into a RM Council member or staff, please take the time to thank them for their generosity with this wonderful project!

## That 'loaner' equipment will include:

Moosomin Parks and Rec, through various grants and donations, will stock the above facility with well over \$15,000 in sports equipment. All equipment will be made available to the public at no cost.

Please treat it as your own...use, respect and return as you found it. This free community equipment inventory will include:

### Winter

30 sets of cross country ski equipment, skates (hockey and figure skating), hockey equipment/sticks, community donations, toboggans

### Summer

Golf equipment, volleyball equipment, basketball equipment, croquet equipment, softball equipment, disc golf equipment, cornhole equipment, soccer equipment, bocce ball equipment, whiffle ball equipment, pickleball equipment and tennis equipment.

## Community Donations

Moosomin Parks and Recreation would also like to extend a request to the community for donations towards the sports equipment loaner building. Maybe you have an old ball glove, an old pair of skates, an old cornhole game, an old set of disc golf discs, an old set of golf clubs, an old bike...whatever!

Keep in mind all this equipment is available to both in-town and out-of-town residents. As such we would also be excited for out-of-town donations to the inventory. Parks and Rec would be more than happy to pick up any donations both in and out of town. If you would be willing to donate to this amazing program please email Mike at msmn.rec.brd@sasktel.net or phone at 435-7578.

## More Stars of the Week Craig Roy and Tim McCarthy

We have the best community in Saskatchewan...thanks to people like Craig Roy and Tim McCarthy. The two saw a need at the MS Arena and responded by covering all costs to put three new 52-inch TVs in our Blue Moose Lounge. The TVs will be used to play live game action at Senior Hockey games to ensure that everyone in the lounge can see the action! Above and beyond in community support...thanks so very much Craig and Tim!

## 2023/2024 MS Arena Game Season is Here!

We have a ton of games scheduled for this week...and every week, for the next few months!

This week's full weekly schedule includes:  
**Tuesday:** Whitewood Orioles vs. U13 Celebration Ford 6 pm

**Friday:** Canora Renegades vs. U15 Easton's Autobody 7:30 pm

**Saturday:** U7 Rocky Mountain Equipment Rangers 9 am  
U7 Royal LePage Rangers 9 am  
Esterhazy Flyers vs. U11 NAPA Rangers 10 am  
U13 Moosomin HUB Rangers 12 pm

Balcarres Broncos vs. U13 Red Barn Rangers 2 pm  
Melville Millionaires vs. U11 Badgers 4 pm  
Balcarres Broncos vs. U15 Females 6:45 pm

**Sunday:** Balcarres Broncos vs. U15 Females 11 am  
Esterhazy Red vs. U11 Bulls and Broncos 1 pm  
Indian Head Chiefs vs. U13 Tridaron 3 pm  
Indian Head Chiefs vs. U13 Celebration Ford 5 pm

## Senior Rangers

The 12-0 Moosomin Rangers hit the road for four straight tough games that will take them to Redvers, Carlyle and

Oxbow. The next Big Six League home game is not until Friday, February 2 when the Bienfait Coalers are in town. Looking at schedules I would guess it will take a 16-2 record to clinch first place so this talented squad has some work to do!

## Rec Hockey this week

The Electric Leafs hit the ice this coming Thursday (9:30 pm) for the only rec games slated for the MS Arena this week. It should be a dandy as the Leafs prep for a return to the Gamblers' Cup in Las Vegas.

## U9 Carded Novice Hockey Tournament

Moosomin Parks and Rec along with the Moosomin Senior Rangers will be hosting a U9 Carded Hockey Tournament on March 23 and 24.

First 16 teams entered will be accepted...we are around halfway there! This will be a fantastic weekend for the community with teams around for the weekend from across Saskatchewan. Paid teams to date include:

Melville Millionaires  
Weyburn Red Wings  
Yorkton Terriers  
Estevan Bruins  
Tri Town Young Guns

Entries can be emailed to msmn.rec.brd@sasktel.net. For further information please contact Mike Schwan at 435-7578.

## Iron Man 2024

Moosomin Rangers Senior Hockey Team are currently taking registrations for 2024 Iron Man Competition. 2024 will again feature hockey, golf, whiffle ball, bowling, shuffleboard and darts. As well, like the Olympics, you can expect at least one new competition to pop up! Team registrations only! If you would like to inquire or register, please feel free to call at 435-3622 or email at msmn.rec.brd@sasktel.net

## 2024 National Fireman's Bonspiel

One of the biggest events to come our way in history arrives in March of 2024 we will host the 2014 National Firefighters Curling Bonspiel. The event will run March 15-24! This is a major event requiring many, many...many volunteers. If you would be willing to help out in some capacity please let us know at msmn.rec.brd@sasktel.net or by phone to 435-3622. Funds raised at the event are earmarked for four cornerstone projects including:

Moosomin Fire Department  
Muscular Dystrophy  
CT Scanner  
Parks and Recreation Projects

## 2024 National Fireman's Itinerary

Boy, oh boy, oh boy, it is going to be a busy 10 days...and here is how the event will look.

Wednesday, March 13  
National Executive Arrives

Thursday, March 14  
Director and Teams Arrive  
Event Meeting at Fire Hall  
Event at Convention Centre

Friday, March 15  
Practice Day  
Skips and Director Meeting  
Grand Opening  
Aerial Draw  
Social at Convention Centre

Saturday, March 16  
Luncheon and Fire Hall Tour  
(Sponsored by Moosomin Fire Department)  
Draws 1 and 2  
Social at Convention Centre

Sunday, March 17  
Draws 3 and 4  
Social at Convention Centre

Monday, March 18  
Draws 5 and 6  
Social at Convention Centre

Tuesday, March 19  
Draws 7 and 8  
Social at Convention Centre

Wednesday, March 20  
Draws 9 and 10  
World Curling Draft  
Social at Convention Centre

Thursday, March 21  
Draws 11 and 12  
Drivers Night...supper in Maryfield

Friday, March 22  
Tie Breakers and Page Playoff  
Sportsmen Night...Social at Nutrien Sportsplex

Saturday, March 23  
Semi Finals  
Championship Final  
Closing Ceremonies  
Awards Banquet  
Social at Convention Centre

Sunday, March 24  
Teams Depart for Home

## Mike Schwan Arena Winter Bookings

Here is a list of remaining weekend bookings at the MS Arena. It is always busy at the Mike Schwan Arena!

- Novice Rangers Tournament on Saturday/Sunday, February 3 and 4
  - Bantam Ranges Tournament on Saturday/Sunday, February 17 and 18
  - Skating Club Carnival on Sunday, March 10
  - Female Festival on Saturday/Sunday, March 16 and 17
  - Carded U9 Tournament on Saturday/Sunday, March 23 and 24
  - Summer Hockey on Saturday/Sunday, March 30 and 31
  - Iron Man on Thursday to Saturday, April 4, 5 and 6
- If you would like to inquire about booking an event for the upcoming winter please feel free to call at 435-3622 or by email at msmn.rec.brd@sasktel.net.

## Curling Club Schedule for this week

This week's schedule includes:

**Tuesday: Red Barn Men's Curling**  
Owen Frappe vs. Stanhope Sheet 1  
Sully vs. Turpie Sheet 2  
R Frappe vs. Stewart Sheet 3  
Granduillot vs. Meredith Sheet 4

**Wednesday: Federated Co-op Farmers and Friends League**  
McMullen vs. Lee Sheet 1  
Thorn vs. Turpie Sheet 2

**Thursday: Celebration Ford Ladies League**  
Mannle vs. Martens Sheet 1  
Lindsay vs. Nosterud Sheet  
Bender vs. Hebert Sheet 3  
Turpie vs. Davidson Sheet 4

**Friday: Borderland Co-op Friday Fun League**  
Dobson vs. McCoriston Sheet 1  
McCarthy vs. Meredith Sheet 2

## Curling Bonspiels

Our Curling Club has now set the date for several of their 2024 Bonspiels. Included in the listing:

- Annual Farmers and Friends from January 31 to February 4
- National Firefighters Brier from March 15 to March 24

## Swimming Lessons 2024

Busy making plans for another busy pool season in 2024! Lesson sets have been set. Keep in mind we are freezing early bird registration at last year's pricing.

You can visit either our Borderland Co-op Aquaplex Facebook site or our Parks and Rec Facebook site where you will find our registration form. Follow the instructions and you're set!

Dates include:

### Public Sets

Set # 1 – 2 week session from June 3 to June 14  
Set # 2 – 1 week session from June 24 to June 28  
Set # 3 – 1 week session from July 8 to July 12  
Set # 4 – 1 week session from July 22 to July 26  
Set # 5 – 1 week session from August 5 to August 9  
Set # 6 – 2 week session from August 12 to August 23

### Private Sets (All 1-week sets)

Set # 1 from June 17 to June 21  
Set # 2 from July 15 to July 19  
Set # 3 from July 29 to August 2

## BBQ Giveaway

Also keep in mind those who register for swimming lessons prior to March 1 will be in a draw for a brand new BBQ...just in time for grilling season!

## Borderland Co-op Outdoor Rink!

Now open for public use...free of charge with a heated change room! Our thanks to Peter Nabholz for putting in tireless hours to have the Outdoor Rink up and running!

## Cross Country Skiing

Our snowmobile was in for a tune-up last week...hopefully this week we can get trails done up for skiers out at Bradley Park.

## Pickle Ball

Pickle Ball continues at the Conexus Convention Centre. The club has dedicated times which includes:

Monday 1 pm  
Tuesday 6:30 pm  
Wednesday 1 pm

# Highway Hotline still a trusted source

## Six new cameras added for total of 51

BY RYAN KIEDROWSKI  
LOCAL JOURNALISM  
INITIATIVE REPORTER

When the weather turns sour, one resource many people in this province turn to is the Highway Hotline website. Complete with updated road conditions and incident reports, the biggest attraction is the province-wide map illustrating what roads are in drivable—or otherwise—condition.

The province recently announced six new cameras to the fleet of now 51 at various points along Saskatchewan highways. The new cameras keeping an eye on road conditions are mounted near Dafeo, Naicam, Macklin, Sheho, Blaine Lake and Smeaton with live streaming video footage.

"We look at, say, a remote geographic area where it might be more efficient to have a camera to help determine the quantity of type of highway equipment we might want to deploy," said David Horth, Assistant Director, Communications and Customer Service Branch with the Ministry of Highways when asked what goes into choosing a possible location for a new camera. "Availability of power is another consideration and then also we're looking for areas that are not yet covered by cameras. So we're trying to every year increase our coverage."

Sometimes road condition updates on the website can seem to not reflect what's currently on the ground, but Horth says updates are frequent over the 26,000 km of Saskatchewan highways.

"We have eyes that are out there every day and they survey the roads as they go, our snowplow drivers provide informa-

tion back to the Highway Hotline and any time conditions change, they contact the hotline immediately and it's updated within minutes," he said.

Overall, Horth noted the department receives positive feedback regarding the Highway Hotline from people using the resource as a way to decide whether or not to chance the roads.

"People use it as part of their travel planning, and we're really happy that they do so," he said. "We try and give enough detail to make it meaningful, but you're dealing with limited space and a huge network."

As many locals know, weather conditions can change quickly, making roads downright danger-

ous in a matter of minutes. When those extreme road conditions occur, road closures are often the next step.

"When we see conditions that are unsafe for our plow drivers, we close the highway and we take them off the highway," Horth explained. "Obviously, the safety of the people of Saskatchewan is a huge concern to us as public servants. We're also a pretty big employer, and the safety of our employees is an enormous concern to us as well. We have some policies in place, and if visibility gets to where the people can't even see the roads they're plowing, we remove that plow from the road and we change that designation to road closed."

When drivers encounter snowplows on the highway, there is certain etiquette and safety expected during encounters. The idea of passing a snowplow can place drivers in more danger than they might expect.

"We certainly ask people to wait," said Horth when asked if it is safe to pass a snowplow. "Plows do travel lower than the normal highway speed when they're plowing. When they're moving snow, they create a cloud around them and that can really reduce the visibility. So you don't really know what's on the other side of that cloud that you're entering which can be a very dangerous maneuver."

"Our plows have bright blue and yellow lights,

which you've probably seen," he continued. "That's to increase the visibility. Our plow drivers pull over every 10 kilometres or so. If they have people trailing, they pull over every 10 kilometres or so to let traffic pass. They have to find a spot where it's safe to pull over, so there are instances where it might not be safe for the plow to pull over. They're going to wait until they find a good safe spot to get out of the way of the traffic that's trailing them."

The safety rules are not limited to a moving snowplow as even when they are pulled over, drivers ought to take care in passing.

"When a snow plow pulls over to allow traffic to pass there, the expectation is that they're treated like any other emergency vehicle on the road," Horth explained. "The expectation is that you slow to 60, make that pass safely, and then you can resume to whatever speed you choose to go—up to the maximum, of course. We do always encourage people to drive according to road conditions."

Though not frequent, vehicle conditions involving snowplows do occur.

"Over the last five years, there have been already more than 30 instances of collisions involving vehicles and plows, and we spend quite a bit of money advertising to encourage people to stay back and stay away from plows," Horth said. "In the middle of a snow event, the safest piece of road you have is probably about 100 meters behind the plow, because that's as good as it's going to get until the weather gives all of us break."

There is a priority system when it comes to which roads get cleared first. After a major storm event, the goal is to have major highways cleared within six hours, secondary highways within 12 hours and other highways within a day. Given the vast amount of roads in Saskatchewan, this is a tall order.

"We have 26,000 kilometres of roads, we have about 300 snowplows and they're situated in about 75 locations around the province," Horth said. "So we're well situated to handle it, but it's a big province and as you know, winter in Saskatchewan is a powerful force."



The above photos were submitted to The World-Spectator by Moosomin RCMP on January 10 as they warned the public that highway conditions were very poor across the area and they did not recommend travel.

**The World-Spectator's deadline is noon Thursdays**

**Daryl Harrison**

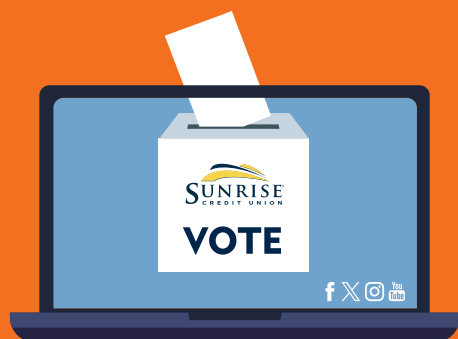
Member of the Legislative Assembly for  
**Cannington Constituency**

**1-833-670-4400**

CanningtonConstituency@sasktel.net



#220 Centre St. / P.O. Box 130 / Alida, SK. / S0C 0B0



# YOUR VOTE MATTERS

## Sunrise Credit Union Board of Directors Election 2024

From now until January 29, members can cast their ballot online.

Details at [sunrisecu.mb.ca](http://sunrisecu.mb.ca)



# THE WORLD-Spectator

Issued every Monday by McKay Publications Ltd., a subsidiary of Weedmark Communications Ltd., from the office, 714 Main Street, Moosomin, Sask.

We welcome your comments. Write to Box 250, Moosomin, Sask. S0G 3N0, call (306) 435-2445, fax (306) 435-3969, or email [world\\_spectator@sasktel.net](mailto:world_spectator@sasktel.net)

**Kevin  
Weedmark  
Editor  
and Publisher**

**Member of  
NMC, SWNA and CMCA**  
Publications Mail Agreement No. 40011909

## In our opinion:

### Trudeau must slim down bloated bureaucracy

The cost of the bureaucracy ballooned from \$39 billion to almost \$61 billion since Trudeau took office

No matter how many Christmas pounds you put on over the holidays, you can take some joy in knowing you're still not as bloated as Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's government.

A good New Year's Resolution for Trudeau would be to slim down Ottawa's ballooning bureaucratic belly.

According to the Parliamentary Budget Officer, when Trudeau took office, the federal bureaucracy cost taxpayers around \$39 billion.

By 2022, the cost of the bureaucracy ballooned to almost \$61 billion.

Even after factoring in inflation, taxpayers are paying more than \$13 billion more per year to sustain the bureaucracy.

A federal hiring spree explains a big part of that increase. The feds hired 98,268 extra bureaucrats since Trudeau took over as prime minister—an almost 40 percent increase.

Ask yourself: are you getting 40 percent better service from the feds? Unless you work for the government and collect a bigger taxpayer-funded paycheck, the answer is a big fat NO.

On top of more bureaucrats, taxpayers are also paying for higher salaries and bonuses.

Between 2020 and 2022, the feds handed out 802,043 pay raises, according to access-to-information records obtained by the Canadian Taxpayers Federation.

The feds employ about 400,000 people. That means that while many Canadians were losing their job or business during the pandemic years, a huge portion of federal staff took multiple raises.

When Trudeau came to power in 2015, 43,424 federal bureaucrats were collecting a six-figure salary. By 2022, that number more than doubled to 102,761.

The Trudeau government also dished out more than \$1 billion in bonuses despite government departments tripping over themselves while attempting to deliver services.

Every year, about 90 percent of government executives take a bonus. Last year, the average bonus for government executives was more than \$18,000.

The government publishes data tracking its performance results over the last five years.

And 2022 was the only year government departments met more than half of their performance targets.

They met 50.4 percent of their targets that year.

In the real world outside of Ottawa, people get shown the door if they can't meet half of their performance targets; they're not given an \$18,000 bonus.

The average compensation for each full-time federal employee is \$125,300 when pay, pension, paid time off, shift premiums and other benefits are considered, according to the PBO.

Meanwhile, data from Statistics Canada suggests the average annual salary among all full-time workers is about \$67,000.

After crunching the numbers, the Fraser Institute found government employees receive nine percent higher wages than their counterparts in the private sector.

Government employees are also more likely to receive a workplace pension, a defined benefit pension, retire earlier, have more job security and take more personal days than workers in the private sector.

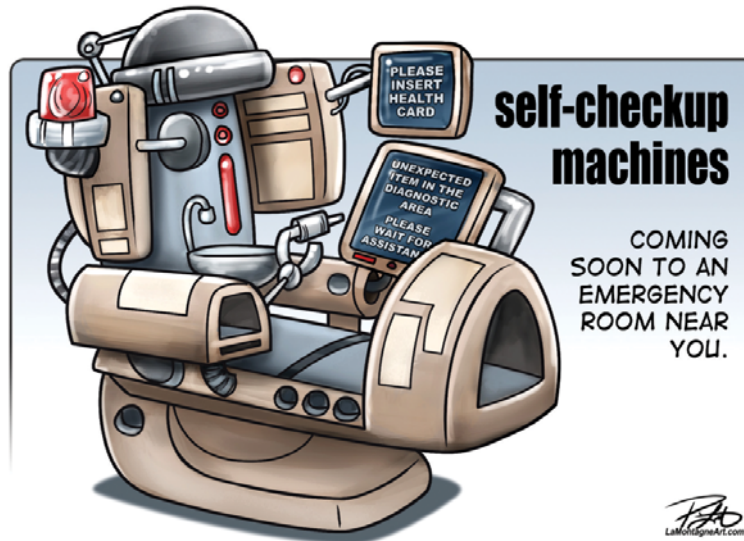
And here's why all this matters: Canadians pay too much tax because the federal government spends too much money. And the bureaucracy consumes more than half of the federal government's day-to-day spending.

To reduce taxes and extinguish the \$40-billion deficit, the federal government—regardless of who's in power—will need to take air out of the ballooning bureaucracy.

Trudeau's resolution for the New Year should be to introduce his bloated bureaucracy to the treadmill.

*This editorial was written by Franco Terrazzano, the Federal Director of the Canadian Taxpayers Federation.*

Saskatchewan's largest, oldest,  
and most award-winning community newspaper



## Province should sit down with teachers and start to work on the issues in education

There was a sense of excitement and anticipation in the air at Moosomin's Legion Hall Tuesday morning.

Teachers from across the area—from Broadview to Rocanville to Redvers—were gathering during the one-day, province-wide teachers' strike for a demonstration in Moosomin.

Many had markers and bristol board and were coming up with slogans to write on their picket signs. (Note to self: see if we can get some coroplast to the teachers next time—their bristol board signs didn't hold up that well in the wintry weather.)

No one in that hall Tuesday morning seemed to mind that they would be out for hours in some of the coldest weather we have seen this year—everyone had seen the messages of support from the community, and knew that local businesses were going out of their way to show their support.

The fact that many businesses opened their doors to the teachers in case they needed a spot to warm up or a hot coffee showed them that the community was behind them.

Crate House would normally be closed but opened up for the teachers. Witch's Brew and Cork and Bone were providing coffee and hot chocolate, Little Caesar's sent pizza and other businesses did what they could to show their support. Stan at Universe Satellite even provided some warm winter clothing to some of the strikers to show his support.

A few minutes later the teachers were out on Main Street, marching with their placards to try to raise awareness of the issues they face in the classrooms.

It was moving to see them braving the cold weather to try to raise awareness of the issues in their dispute with the province—and it was nice to see that they were just as eager to stop for a photo for the paper as all the students are every time we stop by a school!

### First labor disruption in years

It has been a long time since Saskatchewan students missed classes because of labor action by teachers. Tuesday's one-day strike was the first in Saskatchewan in more than a decade, and while it was just one day, there will be further action.

Back in October, 90 per cent of Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation members cast ballots in a vote on a strike mandate, and 95 per cent of them were in favor.

The main issues according to the union are class size, classroom complexity, support for students, workplace violence, and a few other classroom issues. The province argues the provincial bargaining table is strictly about wages, and is not the place for teachers to negotiate concerns about classroom is-



**Kevin Weedmark**

sues.

But these issues must be addressed, and the provincial bargaining table is the place to start talking.

Obviously there are some issues in education, and certainly not just in Saskatchewan. Between 40 and 50 per cent of new teachers leave the profession in the first five years of their careers. That fact alone tells you there is a crisis in education.

The fact that teachers are trying to address these issues at the bargaining table shows that they care about finding solutions.

### Knowing when to pivot

The current provincial government has enjoyed broad support across most of the province since the Saskatchewan Party was first elected more than 16 years ago.

Part of the reason for that popularity and that longevity is that the party leadership has had the wisdom to pivot to keep on the same side as the public.

We saw it happen when there were protests about planned cuts to libraries back in 2017. There was a protest—a silent protest, people sitting reading books—in front of the MLA's office in Moosomin. The planned cuts were so unpopular that even the MLA's constituency assistant at the time pulled up a chair, pulled out a book, and joined the protest—he liked libraries as much as everyone else.

The government saw the writing on the wall and had the wisdom to reverse the cuts and restore the library funding. It takes true leadership to be able to pivot in a case like that. That's why the Saskatchewan Party has had staying power in government—it knows when public opinion suggests a change in course.

This issue looks very similar to the library issue. It looks like most people are on the side with the teachers, not only because they agree with what the teachers are saying but because they see themselves in the very issues the teachers are raising, such as the lack of supports leading to disruptions in the classroom, impacting learning.

It's time for these issues to be talked through at the bargaining table, so we can start on the road to addressing them.





Portraits of the 11 victims line the entrance to the auditorium at the Kerry Vickar Centre when the inquest is held.

## Inquest into James Smith Cree Nation, Weldon deaths begins in Melfort

BY RYAN KIEDROWSKI  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Kerry Vickar Centre in Melfort was transformed last week from a community recreation centre into a formal courtroom, accommodating the needs of a coroner's inquest the likes of the entire country has never seen. The inquest is seeking to not only provide a glimpse into the mass murder event on the James Smith Cree Nation and nearby community of Weldon during the 2022 September long weekend, but to come up with recommendations to possibly avoid a similar situation from ever occurring again.

The Sept. 4, 2022 rampage had global attention focussed on an evolving situation in east-central Saskatchewan as conflicting reports about Myles and Damien Sanderson emerged. Fear gripped many across the province with unverified reports that the brothers had locations such as Regina in mind during a frenzied mass murder event. Ultimately, the brothers did not leave the east-central region.

Those entering the auditorium of the Kerry Vickar Centre passed by a memorial including a series of 8x10 framed portraits of the 11 people murdered at the hands of Myles, lit by tea light candles. The smell of sage lingered as smudging was a regular occurrence. Wellness Support workers could be seen throughout the proceedings spritzing a sage-infused mixture to ensure the medicine reached all in the room.

Chief Coroner Clive Weighill met with reporters before proceedings began on the first day, stressing the historical importance of the event.

"We've never held an inquest of this size before in the province; I don't think in Canada, really, has for a coroner's inquest," he said. "It's been put together very, very quickly. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police investigated and then did a thorough job. We had to wait for all that investigative information to come in so we could do our disclosure to the people that have standing and then have everything ready for today."

Weighill spent a large amount of time with family members of those who were killed by Sanderson, noting that since there will be no legal trial, this inquest forms one way for those members to obtain verified details.

"I've spent the last year and a half talking to the family. It's been really heartfelt, to listen to the stories, to see the pain and try to help the community through this," Weighill said. "This is the only way that the families in the public can hear exactly what happened and a true public factual account of what happened."

He added details of the inquest will include the events leading up to the police standoff with Sanderson, however the interaction itself will not be included.

"You will not hear a lot of the details into the passing of Myles Sanderson. That will be a separate inquest," Weighill said, adding that the inquest regarding Sanderson is scheduled to take place in Saskatoon starting Feb. 26. In Saskatchewan, a coroner's inquest is mandatory for any in-custody death.

Elder Hal Eagletail of the Tsuu T'ina First Nation opened the inquest with a blessing.

"We ask that we have strong protection and humble hearts and forgiving hearts to continue to hear on Mother Earth after there's such a tragedy," Eagletail said. "The blessings of the buffalo spirit is amongst us here."

Daily smudging, safe spaces and other services to help family members deal with the content of the inquest were available.

"You can see there are community support workers that are on site to assist," said Keith Brown, one of the lawyers representing JSCN.

### Jury selection

The first day of proceedings began with jury selection — an important part of the coroner's inquest. A juror's role is to consume information presented during an inquest and based only on the information presented during the proceedings, establish the facts of how, when, where and by what means someone has died. This was a challenging task as so much media attention had been paid to the horrific attack, plus public alerts that had phones buzzing all over Saskatchewan during the course of the mass casualty event. A further task is for jurors to come up with any recommendations on how to avoid similar events from happening in the future.

An initial pool of around 150 people were considered for jury duty with eight ultimately vetted to make up the inquest jury. By the afternoon, the six jurors and two alternates comprised of five men and three women were ready to hear testimony.

Presiding coroner Blaine Beaven anticipates the entire proceedings would take approximately 12 to 15 days, hearing from 31 witnesses providing testimony. In his opening comments, Beaven explained the purpose of a coroner's inquest, noting it "is a public inquiry designed to serve a number of functions."

"It is important to note that this inquest is not a trial and I'm not a judge," Beaven said. "An inquest is not a forum for conducting a wide ranging public inquiry, nor can an inquest address or resolve any civil disputes. This process is not adversarial and there is no defendant and no plaintiff."

Beaven also granted standing to the James Smith Cree Nation; the Saskatchewan Ministry of Corrections, Policing and Public Safety; the RCMP; Correctional Service of Canada; the Parole Board of Canada and family members of the deceased.

### Inquest hears first witness

The first witness to provide testimony was S/Sgt Robin Zentner, Major Crimes with Saskatchewan RCMP based in Saskatoon, who presented an in-depth powerpoint presentation describing the size and scope of the investigation, information about Myles Sanderson and details on each attack.

When Timothy Hawryluk, representing Coroner's Counsel, asked to describe the initial call placed to Major Crimes and the ensuing response to the mass casualty event on Sept. 4, Zentner called the first several moments as "chaotic from the onset" with information changing quickly over time.

"It was the largest homicide investigation that was undertaken by the RCMP in the province of Saskatchewan," Zentner explained. "Essentially, it worked out to 11 homicides and 17 attempted homicides basically all occurring at the same time or in very short order of one another."

In the powerpoint—essentially the entire RCMP investigation—Zentner shared combined information from interviews, text and social media messages and recorded calls to establish a timeline. He prefaced the 188-page presentation with the sheer amount of information collected for the inquest.

"Investigators processed and collected evidence from 42 separate crime scenes, buildings, vehicles and autopsies and over 1,322 investigational tasks were assigned to different investigators throughout the course of the investigation," Zentner said. "Forensic specialists processed and examined over 1,000 items from the many scenes, with 700 of those being formally seized as exhibits and many of which were then later sent to our forensic lab for analysis. 257 witness interviews were completed by investigators and Behavioural Science Branch experts. Seven packages of investigative disclosure have been pro-

vided to the Department of Justice for the purpose of this inquest and those disclosure packages contained 26,353 RCMP documents, which contained just over 121,406 pages of material.

"There are also 790 audio files and what I mean by that are they could be audio statements that were taken from witnesses or survivors," continued Zentner. "They could be police, radio transmissions or public communications fall into that category, and then another 896 video files were collected as part of this investigation. Again, that could be video recorded statements from survivors and witnesses, police in-car camera video as well as surveillance video from different locations in the area. And some of those videos were up to 14 hours in length."

The inquest heard of key events in the days leading up to the mass murders, including Damien and Myles leaving with Skye Sanderson's SUV. She would end up reporting the vehicle as stolen to police, with two Melfort RCMP members eventually able to locate the Outlander on JSCN, but not Damien.

Almost a day before the mass murder occurred, texts to Skye revealed fatalistic themes from Damien. Hawryluk asked Zentner where in the timeline these increasingly dark texts emerged, to which he replied "15 to 16 hours prior" to the start of the mass murders.

Zentner's testimony was paused as he began to approach details about the mass murder event and Hawryluk observed it as an optimal point to break proceedings for the day. Zentner's testimony would continue the following morning.

The second day of Zentner's testimony resumed from the point of the murders taking place, detailing the events leading up to each attack.

"Prior to the mass casualty events that occurred on the morning of Sept. 4, 2022, Myles Sanderson was known by community members to be in and around the James Smith Cree Nation, to be wanted by the police, to have engaged in illegal activities—specifically the sale of drugs—as well as to have committed at least three assaults on three different individuals," Zentner said. "At no time between Sept. 1, 2022 and Sept. 4, 2022 was the RCMP contacted about the presence or activities of Myles Sanderson."

The inquest heard that Damien was the first homicide victim as Myles stabbed his brother repeatedly while driving.

"After being stabbed, Damien fled from the Caravan, dropping his blood-stained shirt behind on the road as he ran into the grass and bushes," Zentner said, noting that he believes Myles stabbed Damien after an event moments earlier at the Martin Moostoos residence. The brothers had entered the home with Myles attacking Moostoos. Damien intervened in an effort to calm his brother down.

Damien's body was not discovered until Sept. 5 as dense foliage made it difficult to see him from the road. An aerial photo of Damien's body was shown (after those in attendance were cautioned to the possibly triggering nature of the image), his location appearing quite obvious from above. However, other images from the road proved it would be impossible to find the man at that perspective. The only clue that would suggest Damien could be in the area was the discarded shirt.

Myles would go on to obtain a total of five vehicles, alternating travel between driving and on foot to perpetuate his attacks. In some cases, he returned to homes previously attacked, then ultimately left JSCN for Kinistino and then Weldon to commit his final murder. In the wake, 11 people were dead, 17 injured and a community wrecked with trauma.

"It was quite a complex set of circumstances and movements throughout the community," Zentner said of Myles' journey.

Continued on pages 10-11



# Inquest into James Smith Cree Nation, Weldon deaths begins in Melfort

Continued from page 9

## Drugs and gangs motivate

"In a few of the cases that you've talked about so far, there seems to be a common denominator of some drug trade involved," Havryluk commented.

"Yes, I would say that's fair, that there's definitely drug conversations and drug talk through a variety of the messaging from some of the people involved," replied Zentner. In addition, some of the attacks were also related to gang activity as Zentner noted Myles had a dislike for the Terror Squad gang with members represented in JSN.

"There's nothing to say that any of the attacks were specifically gang directed or gang organized or anything like that," said Zentner. "Obviously, it is part of the investigation... but there's definitely indicators in those reports that Myles had it out for anybody that he believed could be tied or associated to the Terror Squad."

Police investigation confirmed that Myles acted alone in the murders and was unassisted in carrying out his macabre agenda. Aside from the interaction with Moosoms when Damien was with Myles, Zentner stated "investigators found no evidence anyone else involved or provided assistance to Myles Sanderson in any way."

As a major component of the inquest is to seek recommendations on how to prevent similar events from occurring, Havryluk posed the question of what can be improved.

"This is one of the worst tragedies we have experienced here in the province," Zentner said. "I have spent a lot of time thinking about it for sure."

He pointed to the "warning signs"—dark themes in the messages especially from Damien—that were perhaps missed in the seriousness of the content.

"The key thing I want to focus on is drugs and crime," said Zentner. "Those types of issues that plague communities in our province are not an easy issue for many of our communities to battle through."

Communication with communities is another area Zentner identified as important.

"It's not a situation that police can come in and solve everything," he said, adding it takes a variety of agencies and community leaders to work together in addressing drugs and gangs.

Keith Brown, one of the lawyers representing the JSN at the table, asked Zentner why community members may be reluctant to call police, pointing to a few incidences in the paperwork where such actions were noted. Sometimes reporting specific individuals to police may affect access to drugs, while others fear violent retribution to themselves or others.

"In some cases, depending on community and specific individuals, some members may have distrust or dislike of police—especially if they are involved in the criminal element themselves," Zentner explained.

Gang association is another motivation not to involve law enforcement, rather adopting a 'taking matters into their own hands.' In other situations where many people witness an event, it's simply a matter of thinking someone else will call.

## Public alerts in 'fairly quick timeframe'

In under an hour from the initial response of Melfort RCMP members, the first of 11 emergency alerts was issued. Given the vast amount of logistics involved, Zentner called the ability to issue and emergency alert just after 7 a.m. a "fairly quick timeframe, all things considered."

Zentner praised the actions of emergency personnel who treated injured people at the band office and the police centre was set up at the office after the mass murder, which was a location that could be secured and a safe place for those injured to seek treatment.

"Every person who made it to the band office where triage was set up survived this event," Zentner said, adding that those who passed away never made it from the scenes where they were attacked.

Given general tensions with RCMP, Brown wondered if having a dedicated police force would be beneficial.

"Do you think a First Nation running its own police force could have benefits for something like identifying or tracking down suspects that are thought to be in the community?" he asked.

"Well, I think definitely, the community members know who lives in the community," Zentner replied. "They recognize the vehicles of the people that live there, they know when a new or strange vehicle is in a community or not. So whether or not it's a formal police service, I know as well that the James Smith community has security, and I know that security has been extremely helpful and beneficial to the RCMP."

"I don't think it necessarily has to be a formal police service, but I think having those eyes and ears in the community are extremely beneficial," he concluded.

In meeting with reporters after Zentner's testimony wrapped, Brown noted his appreciation of the information presented.

"Staff Sergeant Zentner had a very detailed presentation that he went through and as you would have seen in the hearing room, we had some follow up questions where there were certain information gaps that he was, in most circumstances able to fill," Brown said. "He is a bit of a higher level witness, he provides the kind of '1,000-foot view' of what is happening from the perspective of a homicide investigator."

While in-depth, the information presented was overwhelming as some members of the gallery were visibly shaken.

"Very, very difficult day," noted Brown. "I don't think I



Above, Chief Coroner Clive Weighill meets with reporters before the first day of the inquest in Melfort. Right, smoke billows from a tipi erected just outside the Kerry Vicker centre.

have more to elaborate on that. There were some reasonable breaks taken during the day, just to attempt to kind of relieve a little bit of that pressure, but there's no way around it, incredibly heavy day of evidence. We are going to be hearing from more detailed witnesses in the days to come that were the boots on the ground, so to speak, in terms of the first officers on the scene, the people that were entering houses and things like that."

## RCMP recount response

The third day of the inquest focused on testimony from Melfort RCMP members, including the current commanding officer and the first two members who arrived on scene.

First to testify was current S/Sgt Ryan Case of the Melfort RCMP Detachment. He explained how the detachment offers service to 3,000 square kilometres—including the JSN. Case also noted the full complement of the Melfort Detachment consists of 16 members including himself as commander, two corporals and 13 constables. While 24-hour police service is not standard practice, there are two 10-hour shifts with members on call during the 4-8 a.m. space where nobody is in the office.

"Our members have to call on their plate," said Case in response to a question from Havryluk about workload at the Melfort Detachment. "Their workload is on the higher end in the grand scheme."

He spoke of members not having a lot of extra time to extend beyond what is required of them on a daily basis. Brown questioned Case about whether Melfort would benefit from 24-hour service. The answer came down to simply the number of bodies available.

"You will never find a commander that says, 'I don't want any more officers at my detachment'," Case replied, adding "the work we could do would be tremendous."

Havryluk inquired about the caseload in Melfort, to which Case noted around 6,600 files generated over 2023. Calls in the City of Melfort make up 27 per cent of those files with the JSN being the next largest at about 10 per cent. Smaller communities rank from two to three per cent.

Combating the drug crisis was a theme that emerged during the inquest, recurring again when Havryluk approached the topic in a line of questioning.

"The trade of narcotics and the use of it is a concern not only for the community of James Smith, but every community in our province," Case said. "We have a lot of stuff there that we're aware of, facts," Case said. "But every community that we police within our detachment has expressed interest at one level or another or concern that there are people within their communities that are involved in that type of stuff."

Havryluk asked about a solution going forward and the level of resources the detachment has to deal with the scope of illegal drugs.

"We as the police, we're one part in a bigger picture," Case said. "Drug investigations themselves are complex, and they take a lot of time. They're complex, there's a lot of legal hurdles to get over in order to ultimately have somebody put in custody as a result of drug trafficking, if that's what it turns out to be. But it takes up a lot of time. It's a lot of man hours. And on top of any type of investigation that we do under take, we have many others that we need to balance at the same time."

Another theme throughout the inquest revolved around communication with the JSN security and a possible call for a dedicated police service in the community. Case mentioned having a working relationship with the JSN security. A former member of that police force echoed Case's comments about facing a challenging workload.

"It's been a real challenge in the past year and a half to do our work and keep our community safe," said Stewart Head. "We're overwhelmed. We do everything from mental health, addictions, family violence and it's not getting any easier."

Head noted that JSN security works closely with Melfort RCMP, but stated more guidance is needed from leadership in the community.

One point that family members raised was that of how warrants are dealt with, specifically as related to Myles Sanderson, who was confirmed as acting alone in the mass stabbings. "It's like Myles wasn't very high on the priorities of being apprehended," said Darryl Burns, representing the family of the late Lydia Gloria Burns. A warrant was issued for Myles being unlawfully at large by the Saskatoon Police Service in the early summer of 2022.

"We would deal with it no differently than if we issued in ourselves," replied Case, adding that there are many warrants the Melfort Detachment are aware of at the moment.

Currently, there are 88 wanted individuals in the Melfort Detachment area alone, which Case noted 75 per cent are criminal in nature with the rest being provincial charges.

The afternoon heard gripping testimony from Cst. Tanner Maynard, one of the first responding officers from Melfort Detachment to the JSN. At points, Maynard was visibly shaken, reliving horrific moments as he recalled his actions on the morning of Sept. 4, 2022.

"I checked him for pulse, signs of breathing and I noted neither," Maynard described of finding Thomas Burns, who was pinned between two vehicles and stabbed. "He was basically slumped over his upper, I would say shoulders and head and arms were slumped over the side of the vehicle, again, that I noticed those same signs of as if the person was sitting into his skin as if there was no blood flow. There were no signs of life at that point to him."

When asked by Havryluk if the JSN attacks had been his first experience in a mass fatality situation, Maynard replied it was not—he had also been involved in the Broncos bus crash near Arborfield in 2018.

## JSN community members express frustration

When asked what the inquest has been like so far, Head summed up with "heartbreaking."

"The heartbreaking stories that we, our loved ones went through, our survivors, the injured and the other trauma that witnesses witnessed," he said. "That's pretty horrifying and our community is broken. And it's been broken for about a year now. And it's hard, though, to get a grasp on things at times."

Head also expressed his frustration of not being heard during proceedings.

"Nobody wants to answer my questions, they're not being answered properly," he said. "It's like they're passing the buck."

Burns had similar sentiments, adding that the process feels "rushed."

"Some of it has been hard to listen to," said Burns. "Also, some of it brings back a lot of anger on what our community's like and how things are remaining the same, even though we lost 15 band members in the last five years."

"One of the things that I look at this investigation is it's so rushed," Burns continued. "There's a lot of stuff there that is missing, and what is rushed because of the media? The justice system has never been kind to us Native people. So do we have faith in that justice system? Do we have faith in this? I don't think we do. I don't think we do at all because history to us has been very unjust."

"Right from the beginning, we were working together," ne-



## It just didn't seem real

When Havryluk asked former S/Sgt. Darren Lee Simons how he was feeling on the fourth morning of the inquest, his reply was "amused."

Simons, who came to the Melfort Detachment six weeks before the tragedy happened, detailed his extensive experience working near First Nations communities in each detachment of Gleichen, AB and the nearby Siksisia First Nation, who temporarily had their own police service. The retired RCMP member also recounted his involvement responding to the unfolding tragedy at JSN.

Simons was at his home that morning when the 6:15 a.m. call came about two reported stabbings. In under 10 minutes, Simons was in his personal vehicle, headed for the Melfort Detachment for a RCMP cruiser to assist.

Simons described walking into a "extremely chaotic situation" once he arrived at JSN and met with Acting Cpl. Tanner Maynard, who had assumed control as incident commander, being one of the first responding RCMP members.

"I wanted to take over," Simons said. "I knew that was my role, but I realized that would be like jumping on a moving train."

Arriving at JSN at 7:38 a.m., Simons described seeing people already at the makeshift triage centre at the band office.

"I saw numerous wounded individuals lined up against the band office," he said. "Some were lying down, some were seated. I just didn't seem real."

Havryluk asked Simons if he had ever experienced an event such as the mass casualty event at JSN, to which Simons compared it to his involvement in the 2005 Mayerthorpe AB tragedy where four RCMP members were killed.

"No, I thought Mayerthorpe would be the tragedy I deal with in my career," replied Simons. "This was the worst thing I've seen in my career for scope for sure."

Many RCMP members from across the province seemingly dropped what they were doing to assist once the gravity of the situation was more widely known.

An especially emotional exchange came about when Deborah Burns, daughter of Earl Burns who had chased Myles Sanderson with a school bus after being attacked, questioned Simons. That bus had been sighted still running in the ditch, passed a total of four times by RCMP members attending to JSN. Simons and a Conservation Officer were eventually tasked with attending to the bus, finding Earl's body in the vehicle. Deborah asked why the bus had not been attended to earlier.

"I believe in connections—everything's connected," Simons replied. "The individual that I took the shotgun out of was the son of the bus driver. The house I cleared was the residence of the bus driver. The bus driver was a proud veteran of the Canadian Army. I'm a veteran of the Canadian Army. I believe fate brought me there and I wish we had gone there earlier."

Simons was visibly shaken in answering Deborah's questions.

"Every member of the RCMP is my family, every veteran of the Canadian Army is family," he said. "This one's tough for me. I can't imagine your loss, but just know this one's tough on me personally. I apologize that your father did not get my attention earlier."

Brown asked Simons about the relationship between RCMP and the leadership team at JSN.

"Right from the beginning, we were working together," ne-

plied Simons. "It was a co-operative, focussed situation. I felt if I needed anything, I could ask for it."

He praised the level of information sharing and assistance of the leadership team at JSN.

In a line of questioning, Brown touched on the level of staff in the Melfort Detachment at the time. Numbers were lower with 12 operational members in Melfort, plus assistance was given to JSN after temporarily amalgamating with that detachment. Simons noted that shortly after the Sept. 4 event, numbers dropped to around 50 per cent strength—three members off on medical leave due to the mass casualty event. As for the remaining members, Simons pointed to the lasting trauma members continued to deal with while at work.

"On paper they're there, but we're not only human and people can only take so much," he said.

## Former spouse testifies

Vanessa Burns, the former spouse of Myles Sanderson, remembers her father, Earl, as a good provider.

"He was a funny guy, he had a sense of humour," she told the inquest between tears. "He worked hard, took care of us. A good provider."

"He loved hockey, we were always in a rink," Vanessa continued. "He liked horses, so we were always at a rodeo, too."

Havryluk then asked Vanessa about her relationship with Myles, which began in early 2008.

"In the beginning, he was charming; funny," she said. "He seemed normal."

The couple had five children together, but Vanessa stated she experienced abuse from him regularly. The abuse began early in the couple's relationship, about two months after they started dating. Vanessa also told of reporting Myles to the RCMP for assaults, but would drop the charges "for Myles' sake."

"He instilled a lot of guilt in me, I felt extreme emotional abuse from him," Vanessa explained. "He just put a lot of guilt in me."

Myles' alcohol and marijuana addiction were factors in the relationship, with Vanessa noting she only discovered his cocaine habit in 2022. Not only was Myles using, but the couple would travel out to JSN to sell cocaine.

"On a Wednesday, we would make \$2,500 in just a few hours," Vanessa said.

The last drug run the couple would participate in was just a few days before the mass casualty event. Havryluk asked Vanessa a series of questions about the events of Sept. 2, 2022 where the couple got into a fight.

Vanessa testified that Myles wanted to give someone a ride to the bar in Kinistino before the couple headed back to Saskatoon. After the trip to Kinistino, she reacted to a litany of emotional abuse from Myles.

"I just was so angry with him, so I punched him in the face," Vanessa recalled, noting she was driving her vehicle at the time. "The argument intensified, including Myles repeatedly hitting Vanessa with a broken drug scale, culminating with Vanessa driving to Damien's residence and exiting the vehicle."

"I just remember being on the ground and him coming up to me and hitting me," she remembers. Myles' mother ran out to Vanessa, holding her, stating not to run for fear of Myles chasing Vanessa with the vehicle.

Eventually, Vanessa made her way to Saskatoon alone, fearful that Myles might obtain a vehicle to find her. She met with her mother the next evening to pick up four of the five children, meeting half-way in Wakarusa.

Vanessa learned of the attack on her parents from her old-

est son, who had stayed behind on JSN to continue visiting. "He told me that Myles came into my parents' house," Vanessa recalled. "He didn't say anything, but he heard the commotion. He said that Myles stabbed my mom and my dad—Papa and Granny—and he didn't know where Papa was. I got off the phone with him and I phoned my Mom's phone and my sister answered."

Through confusing and conflicting information—including that Myles may be on route to Saskatoon—Vanessa decided to drive to Prince Albert for refuge.

When asked how her and the children are presently doing, Vanessa noted "I wouldn't say we're doing real good, but we're alright." Upon learning of Myles' death on Sept. 7, Vanessa recalls her daughter telling her "at least you won't be getting beat up anymore."

As a survivor of the horrific event, Havryluk asked Vanessa if she had any recommendations that might prevent further attacks. She pointed to better programming in the jail system for domestic violence, perhaps even a mandatory requirement for release.

"The best thing you can do is keep the no-contact," Vanessa said as a message for victims of domestic abuse.

"I lost a sister that night. I lost a friend, your father," said Darryl Burns, during questioning of Vanessa. "I lost a lot of family members. I'd like you to know that I have no ill will feelings toward you. I love you and I love your family."

## Skye Sanderson testifies

Skye Sanderson, wife of Damien, provided testimony next, noting feeling "angry, still, heartbroken and lost." She described Damien as "outgoing, funny and enjoyed mechanics."

"He was amazing," Skye said. "He wasn't perfect, but he was perfect enough for me."

She did note concern over Damien's addiction, noting he would become abusive after using alcohol and drugs.

When asked about Myles, Skye was quite direct with her disdain.

"He was evil," she said. "I didn't like when he came around. He didn't fool me. I knew he was jealous of my husband."

On the evening of Sept. 2, 2022, just after the assault Vanessa described, both Myles and Damien left with Vanessa's vehicle.

"That was the last time I ever seen my husband alive," Skye recalled. But it would be far from the last time she heard from him as the couple exchanged text messages over the next several hours. Messages from Damien became increasingly morbid; ever-hinting that his final moments loomed.

Skye also expressed how difficult life has been for her family in the aftermath of the attacks.

"They're lost because I'm lost," she said of her children. "We're battling our depression. My daughter tried to commit suicide and we moved out of that house because of the memories of their father. I don't even know what to say to my boy anymore. It hurts. The way he found out about his dad, on TikTok. The teasing, questions being asked in school about their dad. We're in someone. I don't have a place to live right now, but I'm doing the best I can."

Skye said she's asked for help multiple times to deal with her addiction issues, but finds she's being treated differently; questioning why some members of the JSN community got houses while others didn't.

"I want my kids back is what I want," she said. "I want a house for them, I want to be a mom again."

## Contradictory testimony

Some of Skye's accounts didn't seem to line up with already known facts presented—especially through the extensive report from Major Crimes. She claimed to have placed multiple 911 calls and spoken with Melfort RCMP in the early morning hours of Sept. 4, as late as 3 a.m.

"I was calling the cops, but were they doing anything? No," Skye told Havryluk as he tried to navigate the seemingly new evidence.

Sean Soss, one of the lawyers representing the federal ministry of justice, also questioned Skye's alleged numerous calls to police on Sept. 4, asking why the interventions were not mentioned in either of the three statements she previously provided to RCMP in their investigation.

"Maybe they didn't catch it when they were writing it down," replied Skye.

When asked about recommendations she would suggest, Skye again pointed to her perceived lack of empathy from police.

"I wish the RCMP would take situations like what just happened more seriously," said Skye. "I could still have my dad here and my husband. We all lost all those lives. I kept telling them to call the cops and they didn't care. I'm so angry at them. I lost a lot. My life has changed drastically."

The coroner's inquest will hear from a variety of professionals for the remainder of the proceedings, including parole officers, corrections officials, psychologists and those with expertise on warrant programs. After hearing from all 31 witnesses, the jury will then deliberate, coming up with their conclusions on the facts of each murder plus recommendations to various parties on what changes could possibly prevent further events from occurring.

## In remembrance

The names of the 11 people who were killed on Sept. 4, 2022 are as follows:

Thomas Burns, 23; Carl Burns, 46; Gregory Burns, 28; Lydia Gloria Burns, 61; Bonnie Burns, 48; Earl Burns, 66; Lana Head, 49; Christian Head, 54; Robert Sanderson, 48; Wesley at JSN, 78. All victims were on JSN except Peterson, who resided in the Village of Weldon.





### Big 6 Hockey League

## More wins for Rangers, Rockets

The Moosomin Rangers added another win to their undefeated record on January 13 with a road game victory over the Carnduff Red Devils. The Rangers downed the Devils 5-2. It was a hat-trick night for both Bud Holloway and Carter Sawchuk who each had a goal and two assists. Josh Elmes added two helpers that night as well.

The Rangers were 12-0 last week with 24 points.

That same weekend, the Redvers Rockets defeated the

Oxbow Huskies 4-3 in a Friday night road game on January 12. The back-and-forth battle ended in overtime with Brady Gaudet breaking the tie for the Rockets with help from Braeden Magotiaux and Blair Toms. Magotiaux and Toms both earned two points that night with a goal and assist each.

The Rockets were sitting in second place in the Big Six standings last week with a 10-2 record and 20 points.

### Sask East Hockey League

## Tigers defeat Buffs handily

There was little contest for the Rocanville Tigers when the Theodore Buffalos came to town on Saturday, January 13. The Tigers took care of the Buffs 5-1 that night in front of a home town crowd.

It was a four-point night for Taylor Thompson who scored four of the Tigers' five goals. Brett Hope was the other scorer that evening. Landyn Cochrane earned three points that night with three assists.

Thompson leads the league in scoring with 28 goals and 23 assists for 51 points last week.

The Tigers remained at the top of the South Stand-

ings last week with a 9-1 record and 18 points, second in the league only to the Canora Cobras at the top of the North Standings with 20 points. The defeated Buffs were in second place in the North Standings with 14 points.

The same weekend was a tough one for the Wapella Blackhawks who fell 8-2 to the Canora Cobras on Jan. 12 and 10-2 to the Langenburg Warriors on Jan. 13.

The Blackhawks held a record of 4-5-1 last week and 9 points, sitting in third place in the South Standings, and in seventh place overall in the league.

### Tiger Hills Hockey League

## Another win for the C-Hawks

The Miniota-Elkhorn C-Hawks keep chalking up the wins, adding another on Wednesday with a victory over the Melita Bisons.

The C-Hawks defeated the Bisons 9-4 that night. It was a five-point night for Brad Bowles who scored two goals and added three helpers. Zeanen Zierner and Josh Martin both earned four points with two goals and two assists each.

Bowles continues to lead the league in scoring with 17

goals and 23 assists for 40 points this season. He is followed in second place by Jason Bowles with 14 goals and 22 assists for 36 points.

The win on Thursday increased the C-Hawks' record to 11-2 and 22 points, as they continue to sit at the top of the Western Division followed by Rivers with 20 points.

The C-Hawks will face tough competition from the Eastern Division come playoffs from Killarney, who had 24 points last week, and Minnedosa, who had 23 points.

Rykr Cole and Josh Elmes with the Moosomin Rangers in front of the Carnduff Red Devils' net on January 13 during a road game in Carnduff that night. The Rangers won the game 5-2, increasing their record in the Big Six to 12-0 and 24 points.

Rachelle Apperley photo

## HOCKEY LEAGUE STANDINGS AS OF JAN. 18, 2024

### BIG 6 BIG SIX HOCKEY LEAGUE STANDINGS

TEAM	GP	W	L	OTL	PTS
Moosomin Rangers	12	12	0	0	24
Redvers Rockets	12	10	2	0	20
Carlyle Cougars	12	9	2	1	19
Carnduff Red Devils	12	6	6	0	12
Bienfait Coalers	12	6	6	0	12
Oxbow Huskies	12	5	6	1	11
Wawota Flyers	11	2	9	0	4
Midale Mustangs	11	1	8	2	4
KW Oil Kings	10	1	8	1	3

#### LEAGUE TOP SCORERS

TOP PLAYER	TEAM	GP	G	A	PTS
Bud Holloway	Moosomin Rangers	12	29	27	56
Brock Trotter	Moosomin Rangers	11	13	29	42
Koby Morrisseau	Carlyle Cougars	12	15	25	40
Jordan Miller	Redvers Rockets	12	9	22	31
Carter Sawchuk	Moosomin Rangers	9	11	18	29
Taysen Holt	Bienfait Coalers	11	11	17	28
Ben Hiltz	Carnduff Red Devils	11	14	13	27
Presten Kopeck	Redvers Rockets	11	14	13	27
Jesse Gabrielle	Carlyle Cougars	10	14	12	26
Josh Elmes	Moosomin Rangers	11	10	16	26

TOP GOALIES	TEAM	W-L-OTL	GAA
Kyle Beckett	Moosomin Rangers	6-0-0	1.50
Levi Horn	Moosomin Rangers	6-0-0	2.33
Mason Plews	Carnduff Red Devils	4-2-0	2.51
Landon Audet	Carlyle Cougars	6-1-1	2.74
Cody Matthewson	Redvers Rockets	4-1-0	3.18

### SEHL SASK EAST HOCKEY LEAGUE STANDINGS

NORTH STANDINGS					
TEAM	GP	W	L	OTL	PTS
Canora Cobras	11	10	1	0	20
Theodore Buffalos	10	7	3	0	14
Swan Valley Axemen	10	6	4	0	12
Cote Selects	12	6	6	0	12
Preeceville Pats	11	0	11	0	0

SOUTH STANDINGS					
TEAM	GP	W	L	OTL	PTS
Rocanville Tigers	10	9	1	0	18
Langenburg Warriors	11	7	4	0	14
Wapella Blackhawks	10	4	5	1	9
Churchbridge Imperials	9	2	7	0	4
Ituna Avalanche	10	1	9	0	2

#### LEAGUE TOP SCORERS

TOP PLAYER	TEAM	GP	G	A	PTS
Taylor Thompson	Rocanville Tigers	10	28	23	51
Rylee Zimmer	Langenburg Warriors	11	14	24	38
Carter Cockburn	SV Axemen	10	18	19	37
Brandon Pelletier	Cote Selects	12	16	18	34
Kailum Gervais	Cote Selects	12	11	20	31
Ryan Regel	Rocanville Tigers	10	19	10	29
Tristan Keshane	Cote Selects	11	15	14	29
Kody Rock	Canora Cobras	11	14	14	28
Massen Ziola	Rocanville Tigers	8	12	16	28
Landyn Cochrane	Rocanville Tigers	7	6	22	28
GOALIE	TEAM	GP	W	L	GAA
Rylan Palchewich	Canora Cobras	5	5	1	2.20
Carter Olson	Langenburg Warriors	6	5	1	2.99
Dakota Berezowski	Rocanville Tigers	6	5	1	3.00
Warren Shymko	Theodore Buffalos	8	5	3	3.02
Ben Fouillard	Rocanville Tigers	4	4	0	3.25

### TIGER HILLS HOCKEY LEAGUE

As Of January 18th, 2024

TEAM	GP	W	L	OTL	PTS
EAST DIVISION					
Killarney	13	12	1	0	24
Minnedosa	14	11	2	1	23
Gladstone	13	7	6	0	14
Neepawa	14	7	7	0	14
MacGregor	12	6	6	0	12
Wawanesa	14	3	11	0	6
Carberry	13	3	10	0	6
Pilot Mound	12	1	10	1	3
WEST DIVISION					
Miniota/Elkhorn	13	11	2	0	22
Rivers	14	10	4	0	20
Hartney	15	9	6	0	18
Viriden	13	8	4	1	17
Boissevain	14	7	7	0	14
Melita	13	6	7	0	12
Deloraine	13	5	8	0	10
Souris	14	1	13	0	2
LEAGUE TOP SCORERS					
PLAYER	TEAM	GP	G	A	PTS
Brad Bowles	Miniota/Elkhorn	12	17	23	40
Jason Bowles	Miniota/Elkhorn	13	14	22	36
Jesse Linner	Hartney	15	19	16	35
Matt Saler	Minnedosa	14	13	20	33
Devon LeBlanc	Viriden	10	17	15	32
Shane Jury	Minnedosa	14	17	15	32
Brock Paddock	Rivers	14	15	17	32
Jesse Toth	Gladstone	12	15	17	32
Ty Lewis	Viriden	7	10	18	28
Taylor Wells	Hartney	13	8	19	27
GOALIE	TEAM	W-L-OT	MINS	GA	GAA
Cody Rookes	Miniota/Elkhorn	1-0-0-0	90	1	0.67
Brian Archibald	Killarney	9-1-0-0	600	18	1.80
Devon Fordyce	Minnedosa	6-1-1-0	483	17	2.11
Cory Gardham	Miniota/Elkhorn	7-1-0-0	510	21	2.47
Jason Argue	Minnedosa	5-1-0-0	360	15	2.50



Tigers goalie Dakota Berezowski defending the net along with his teammates.



Dakota Odgers with the puck.

### Tigers continue to dominate south division

The Rocanville Tigers defeated the Theodore Buffalos 5-1 on January 13 in Rocanville. The Tigers have been dominating the Sask East Hockey League South Standings all season long, and the win over the Buffs put their record at 9-1 and 18 points.

Kelsey Selby photos



Landyn Cochrane in action for the Tigers.



The Tigers on the bench watching the action.



Wanda Parker, Gaylene Danielson and Donette Howie working the bar.



Meeting January 23

# Communities in Bloom Awards to be presented at January Chamber meeting

BY RYAN KIEDROWSKI  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Communities in Bloom awards will be given out at the January 23 Moosomin Chamber of Commerce meeting.

Andrew Exelby with Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation will be on hand at the meeting to give out awards for the Communities in Bloom Contest, and will speak on the program.

Moosomin was the winners of Communities in Bloom in its population category in 2023.

## Transportation plan

Al Sutherland of Gravelbourg will speak on that community's efforts to provide transportation options for people travelling to appointments out of town.

Gravelbourg Cares offers a wellness shuttle service for people who require medical services not available in Gravelbourg.

The fares for the transportation service are intentionally kept affordable, so the group relies on donations from the town of Gravelbourg, businesses and organizations to subsidize the cost.

## Visual Arts Centre

The Moosomin Visual Arts Centre will make a presentation at the January Chamber meeting. The group is leasing space in St. Alban's Anglican Church and will begin offering classes soon. The group is now in the fundraising phase.

## Canadian Firefighters Curling Championships

There will be a presentation on the Canadian Firefighters National Curling Championships coming up in March. Up to 200 people are expected to be in Moosomin for the event, slated for March 15-24.

## Tourism Centre

Moosomin EDO Casey McCormac will speak about plans for developing a tourism information centre in Moosomin.

McCormac will be providing an update on the progress of the project.

## Meeting at Sportsplex

The January Chamber meeting will be held Tuesday, January 23 at the Nutrien Sportsplex. Lunch will be served and everyone is welcome.



Gravelbourg Cares driver Bob Holmes stands with the original shuttle—an eight-passenger van that logged many miles over four years.

**SHOP LOCAL  
SAVE BIG!**

**THE WORLD-Spectator COPY PAPER**

**8.5 X 11**  
**\$85.00** PER CASE  
10 PACKAGES PER CASE  
500 SHEETS PER PACKAGE

**\$10.00** PER PKG

Walmart Departments Services  
How do you want your Spectator? Register, Self-serve, or...

DELIVERY WITHIN MOOSOMIN: \$87

**THE WORLD-Spectator** 306.435.2445  
world\_spectator@sasktel.net | 714 Main Street | Moosomin, SK

Was the *FURNACE* in your business installed during the **DIAL-UP Era?**

It's time for an upgrade

Commercial rebates are available on eligible high-efficiency natural gas equipment.

Contact your local Network Member or visit [saskenergy.com](http://saskenergy.com) to learn more.

SaskEnergy

## RESTAURANT & BAR GUIDE

Stop by one of these great local businesses for dinner tonight!

**Valentine's Day Special**  
**Wednesday,**  
**February 14, 2024**  
**Steak & Lobster Dinner**  
LIMITED AMOUNTS SO RESERVE EARLY

Also open on  
Sundays now!  
12 pm - 4 pm

**FLEMING WINDSOR BAR & GRILL**

Fleming, SK  
306-435-2074

Open Tue - Sat  
12 Noon - 9 pm

Rocanville Town and Country Golf Club  
**UNPLUGGED**  
Teanna Currie & Rhett Lippai

27 JAN 8 PM

Pizza and Salad Buffet  
Full Menu Available  
Call the clubhouse to reserve a table!  
306-645-2640

**FREE EVENT**

GET THE GROUP TOGETHER AND HAVE A NIGHT OUT!

**WE HAVE RE-OPENED FOR THE FALL**

**TJ PIZZA** Ukrainian Lunch Buffet  
11 am - 1:30 pm  
Monday to Friday  
506 Main Street • Moosomin, SK • 306-435-2227

**PEROGIES • SAUSAGE • CABBAGE ROLLS**  
Frozen Perogies for Sale

# Online fun with Ohtani free-agent saga

Twitter, or X, as owner Elon Musk has renamed it, can be wonderful, or it can be an annoyance. A plethora of crap is displayed on the social media site, but there's also a lot of valuable information that can be fulfilling. Or useless.

But X really came to life a couple of weeks before Christmas, before Shohei Ohtani had made his decision where to sign his free-agent contract, and when the hottest rumour in baseball had Ohtani perhaps inking a pact with the Toronto Blue Jays, sports fans in Canada couldn't get enough from Twitter.

Someone in California on that day, Dec. 8, spotted an aviation note from the John Wayne Airport in Anaheim, whereby a private jet was taking off, destined for Toronto. That's all it took for the Ohtani-to-the-Blue Jays hype to surge into overdrive.

Hookah Donic tried to put water on the rumour fire, saying: "He lives in Seattle in the off-season."

Talkin Baseball weighed in: "Shohei Ohtani is travelling to Toronto today. He has not signed a contract with any team at this time, per @jonmorosi."

Said Ben Verlander: "The plane from Anaheim to Toronto is currently the most tracked airplane in the world. And not a single soul tracking it has any idea if it's Shohei or not."

Alden Gonzales had a submission: "Source: Shohei Ohtani has not made a decision yet. That's not to say it won't ultimately be the Blue Jays; my understanding is that, at this point, that decision has not been made."

Said Matt: "We all know where he's going to end up," as he posted a picture of Ohtani in a Rays' uniform.

Said John: "He's going to the Cubs. I talked to him the other day."

Now it was Etherfurse's turn: "He's just trying to decide which Dodger hat he likes the best."

Some humour from Mike Petriello: "A direct flight from LA to London is about to arrive, indicating Ohtani is about to sign with Arsenal."

More humour, from Joseph Garino: "Source: Shohei



Bruce Penton

Ohtani will be making his decision at Four Seasons Landscaping later today."

Clarence Fraser added fuel: "Yusei Kikuchi (Jays' Japanese pitcher) reserves entire upscale sushi restaurant near Rogers Centre for tonight. Reservation for 50-plus people. Make of it what you will."

Countered Spencer: "That was a surprise party for his wife. Thanks a lot."

And then Vancouver humourist Steve Burgess did what he does best: "When out in right field there arose such a clatter; I ran to home base to see what was the matter; When what to my wondering eyes did appear; But Shohei Ohtani in full Blue Jays gear!"

Of course, we now know Ohtani signed a 10-year contract the next day with the Dodgers for \$700 million US (almost \$1 billion Canadian) and Twitter will be quieter from here on in. (The plane, by the way, was carrying Canadian millionaire Robert Herjavec, a regular on the TV show, Shark Tank.)

Jack Finarelli at his sportscurmudgeon.com site, on a TV commercial where Peyton Manning tosses cans of Bud Light to patrons throughout the bar: "Can you imagine the clean-up mess in that bar as about 50 people open cans of Bud Light that have been thrown to them that they caught — presumably on the fly? That establishment will smell of stale beer for a month after that event."

Late night funnyman Jimmy Kimmel, carrying on the public feud with NFL quarterback Aaron Rodgers: "Rodgers got two A's on his report card, and they were both in

his first name."

Jason Gay of the Wall Street Journal, on former Patriots' coach Bill Belichick's sideline demeanour: "Belichick looked like a grumpy lobster boat captain, grimacing on the New England sideline like he's miles from shore in a storm."

Mike Bianchi of the Orlando Sentinel: "Is it time for Jacksonville Jaguars fans to come to the realization that Trevor Lawrence is much closer to being Jon Kitna than John Elway?"

Another one from Bianchi, on Michigan coach Jim Harbaugh and allegations of wrongdoing: "If you believe Harbaugh and his coaching staff are innocent, you probably also believe there are a bunch of crime fighting Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles living in the sewers beneath New York City."

Headline at fark.com: "NCAA president: 'Because we told you Michigan was cheating, that means that they won fair and square.'"

RJ Currie of sportsdeke.com: "While watching team USA win the World Junior Hockey championship at a friend's, nobody noticed his Labrador eating the Christmas tree trimmings. Now the vet says the dog has tinselitis."

Headline at the onion.com: "Bob Kraft: We're Already Searching Through Insane Asylums For A Possible Belichick Replacement"

Headline at fark.com, after New England owner Robert Kraft promoted linebackers' coach Jerold Mayo to head coach, replacing Bill Belichick: "Kraft holds the Mayo."

Bob Molinaro of pilotonline.com (Hampton, Va.): "While cranky, conspiracy-minded Aaron Rodgers should be fit for a tinfoil helmet, his Jets teammates voted him their 'most inspirational player for 2023.' Rodgers, you may recall, was on the field for four plays. We're not expected to understand."

Care to comment? Email [brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca](mailto:brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca)

## Rocanville Town Council

# Cold temps cancel community meeting

BY RYAN KIEDROWSKI

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Town of Rocanville held their regular council meeting on January 17 with the following items as highlights in the agenda.

### Community meeting cancelled

The community meeting slated to be held on Jan. 16 was cancelled. Members of REDO made the decision in part due to the cold temperatures, and due to some representatives being unable to make the meeting.

The committee would like to see a large number of community members attend, and will announce a future date for the meeting.

### Applying for new crosswalks

An application has been made for three sets of SmartCity Crosswalks. These types of crosswalks improve visibility for traffic and the ability to see pedestrians better, but also provide a safer environment for those using the crosswalk.

If successful in their application to the SGI Traffic Safety Fund, the town plans to install the trio of crosswalks around the school.

### Lift station report

Council received a report after an assessment on the town's lift station that happened back in November. The report details some recommendations on items that need

to be replaced.

### Building permit for new business

Council approved a building permit for 109 Ellice Street. According to Rocanville CAO Tanya Strandlund, a new business is being built.

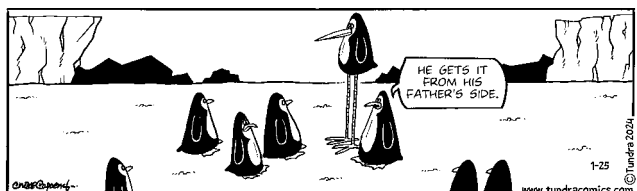
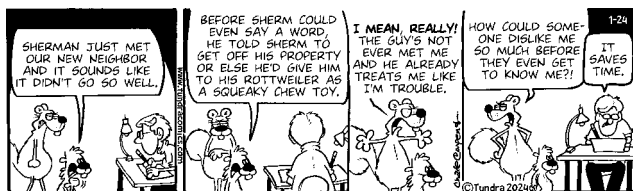
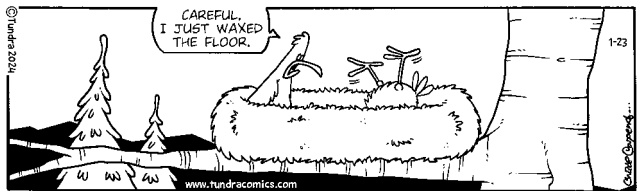
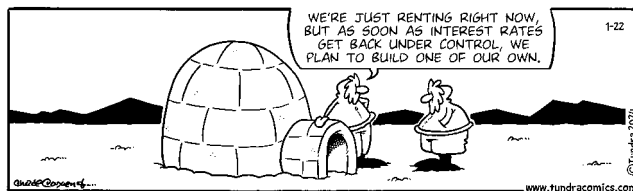
### Skate-a-thon and Bingo fundraiser

It's almost time for TeleMiracle again, and Rocanville is hosting a Skate-a-thon to raise money for the provincial telethon. The Skate-a-thon is slated to take place on Feb. 18 at the rink.

There's also a big Bingo fundraiser happening at the rink in March.

## Tundra

Chad Carpenter





# Classrooms typical of complex rural/urban issues

There are certain issues that really aren't — or at least shouldn't be — considered rural or urban issues.

Health care and education are two such issues. It's not as if one part of the province sees these as issues and one part of the province doesn't.

The thing is, what may be the predominate in the cities may differ from the predominate — or at least one of the most pressing — issue in the country.

Take health care where, on the surface, you might assume many of the problems are the same in rural and urban Saskatchewan. Actually, they vary.

For example, both the cities and the country have huge problems recruiting both doctors and nurses. When it comes to doctors, smaller communities have been known to engage in intense competition to offer incentives to attract them.

This problem is far more acute in rural Saskatchewan where local people are simply trying to attract general practitioners. It is also where some communities are becoming innovative. Nurse practitioners that really aren't common in the cities.

In the cities, there is a nursing and doctor shortage issues, but the latter seems to centre around the need to attract specialists in the province or doctors willing to work in crowded emergency rooms.

Emergency rooms are a crisis in the cities — partly because of factors like an aging population, but also because the cities have been hardest hit by the poverty and drug epidemic that worsened during the COVID-19 years that still linger.



Murray Mandryk

That said, another factor is the lack of hospital — and especially emergency services — in rural Saskatchewan. In front of every overcrowded city ER room is a lineup of ambulances — both city and rural — because ERs have, sadly, become the entry point to health care for many.

And with the closure/conversion of 52 rural hospitals to wellness centres, there is clearly an emergency services crisis (albeit, a different one) in rural Saskatchewan.

The same goes for education, which takes us to current teachers' dispute and one-day provincewide strike last week over what is called "classroom composition and complexity."

The issue used to simply fall under the issue of "classroom overcrowding", but that term does not reflect the reality for many rural teachers with the complex problem of teaching two and sometimes three grades in a single classroom.

In the cities, the "complexity" is about overcrowded single-grade classrooms that deal with English as a second language (ESL) students plus the lack of speech

language pathologists, educational psychologists and teacher counsellors.

The Saskatchewan Party government has argued — and perhaps rightly so — that a collective bargaining process simply cannot address these needs. This is so, because a lot of these hirings would be outside the STF contract dispute, anyway.

Moreover, these issues are somewhat nebulous, anyway. As such it's been rather easy for the government to convince some this is all about teacher wages demands.

The thing is, the conciliation board's report cites these as "the most significant issue ... upon which collective bargaining hinges."

Moreover, it can be argued these are now issues because of past political choices this government has made.

In the 2017 austerity budget — the last one former premier Brad Wall — the budget that cut education spending by \$57 million a year. This followed the initial Wall promise to remove property tax off agricultural land, followed by the government decision to allow local school boards to set their own mill rates.

These decisions all had a lot to do with a governing political party wanting to appease its rural base.

But the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation notes all this has drastically cut per student education funding. (Why you are seeing those ads of Saskatchewan going from first to eighth place in the nation).

Like many things in this rural/urban divided province, issues get complex rather quickly.

## Rocanville Rec Report

Andrea Logan, Recreation Director

### Rocanville Economic Development Rocanville Rec Centre rocانville.rec@sasktel.net / 645-2164

#### Vision Board Workshop

On Wednesday, January 24 from 6-8 pm at the Rec Centre. Create your own Vision Board for 2024. Enjoy an evening working on manifesting your goals for 2024. Please bring a picture frame 8X10 or bigger if you wish to hang your vision board. Free event for adults and teenagers. Please pre-register by contacting the Rec Office.

#### Learn to Line Dance

On February 10 from 3-5 pm. Cost is \$20. To register please contact the Rec Office by February 5, 2024. No experience required. Join us for a fun afternoon of dancing.

#### Learn to Dance – Couples Dancing

Learn to polka and two-step. Classes will run Feb 14, 28, and March 13 from 7-9 pm. No experience required. Already know how to dance? Join us anyway. Who doesn't like the opportunity to go dancing? To register please contact the Rec Office by January 31. \$15/person

#### Silent Book Club

January 22, February 5 and 19 from 6:30-7:30 pm (Adults only). No pressure or commitment is required. Just bring your current read, share if you feel moved to, and then spend the rest of the hour silently reading.

#### Adult Writing Group

Join us Monday nights (January 29, February 12 and 26) from 6:30-7:30 pm for adult writing group. Bring your current work, share if you feel moved, then write for the rest of the hour.

#### Rocanville Kids Group

For ages infant to school age Mondays and Wednesdays 9-11 am. For more information, please follow the Rocanville Kids group on Facebook.

#### Walking

Everyone Welcome  
Mondays and Wednesdays—1:00-3:00 pm  
Tuesdays and Thursdays—9:00 am - 3:00 pm

#### Pickle Ball

Tuesdays—7:00-9:00 pm

#### Puzzle and Book Swap

Monday-Thursday—9:00 am-3:00 pm

The Rec Centre is available for rent, birthdays, reunions, Christmas, windups, and everything in between. Contact 306-645-2164 or rocانville.rec@sasktel.net to book.

#### Rocanville Economic Development

There will be an Economic Development meeting on January 23 at 8 am at the Nutrien Hall. You do not need to own a business to attend a meeting, just be interested in bettering the community of Rocanville.

#### Community Meeting

Due to the extreme cold the Community Meeting was postponed. Please stay tuned for a rescheduled date.

Let's come together as a community and discuss the potential growth, happenings, and hot-button topics of our

community. Everyone welcome.

Date – To be determined.  
6:30 pm – Cookies and coffee  
7-8 pm – Meeting

### Rocanville Library Programming

- Metal stamping Makerspace Kit – Month of January
- Penguin Take 'n' Make – Month of January (while supplies last)
- Story Time: Bring your kids out for a story or two and a craft to follow. Registration is required. To register please contact the library – 306-645-2088 or rocانville@southeastlibrary.ca January 24, 31 at 10:30-11:30 am

#### Open Hours

Wednesday 9 am-12 pm and 1:30 – 5:30 pm  
Thursday 1:30-5:30 pm  
Friday 1:30-5:30 pm

### Rocanville Noble Construction Arena

#### Ice Schedule

Monday – Shiny 3:30-4:45 pm  
Tuesday – Adult/preschool skate – 1:00-3:00 pm  
Wednesday – Shiny 3:30-4:30 pm  
Thursday – Adult/preschool skate – 1:00-3:00 pm  
Friday – Public skate 3:30-5:30 pm  
Sunday – Shiny 12:00-2:00 pm, Public Skate 2-3:45 pm

#### Minor Hockey

January 27 – U9 Home tournament  
January 28 – U9 Black vs. Churchbridge at 5:30 pm  
February 3 and 4 – U11 Home Tournament

#### Skate-A-Thon Telemiracle fundraiser

Fun Skate and Skate-A-Thon  
Sponsored by Bud and Kendra Fafard  
Sunday, February 18 from 1-5 pm  
at the Noble Construction Arena in Rocanville.  
Skate and groove to the music  
Music is provided by All-in Event DJ Services.  
Open to all ages and levels of skaters.  
Earn more for Telemiracle by signing up as a skate-a-thon skater or just come out and skate for fun.  
Rink kitchen will be open.  
\$5/skater

#### Dial-A-Van

Dial-A-Van Services Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9 am to 4 pm. Moosomin trips for medical appointments.

Please pre-book. \$45/trip. Prescriptions: Call the drugstore to make arrangements for us to deliver and for the payment of delivery (\$3) and the van will do the work.

Cost to ride the van:

Round trip paid by cash - \$3.00  
Round trip using pass - \$2.50  
10 trip pass can be purchased from the driver for \$25  
Charitable donations can be made at the Town Office.  
Call 306-434-6644 between 8 am and noon on operating days to book your ride.

### Rocanville Community Centre

Located at 219 Ellice Street, Rocanville. We are open for rentals with the following rates: 4-hour rental or less \$50, daily rental \$100

For bookings contact:

Mel Strong at 306-645-4412 or text 306-434-5511  
Linda Bock at 306-645-4287 or text 306-434-7587

The Centre is open for cards on Thursday afternoons from 1-3:30 pm.

### Rocanville Food Share

Please keep in mind the needs of those less fortunate and give them to your local Food Bank. Monetary donations are gratefully accepted. Cheques made payable to the Town of Rocanville can be mailed to Box 265, Rocanville, SK S0A 3L0. An income tax receipt can be provided for donations of \$20 or more. If you know anyone in the area in need of food, please contact:

Pastor Paul Bunz 434-5375  
Roseanne Kelly 306-434-9484  
Faith Buchanan  
Jean Howie  
Barbara Wilkins  
Jane Fahlman

### Rocanville Community Thrift Store

The Rocanville Community Thrift Store is run by a group of local volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering your time at the Thrift Store please, contact Marilyn at 306-645-4553. The Thrift Store is open Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 1-4 pm and Thursdays 6-8 pm

## Wholesale Memorials Direct

204-773-2747  
or 306-745-3304

Now offering free installation  
Call about laser or diamond etching  
We offer a wide range of in-stock and special order memorials, headstones and markers. We would be pleased to design the perfect remembrance with you!



**LANE REALTY**  
For the most exposure that you deserve in the marketing of your farm or ranch property – Contact your local agent:  
**JASON BEUTLER (306) 735-7811**  
**LANE REALTY**  
Saskatchewan's Farm & Ranch Specialists™  
Ph: (306) 569-3380 • E-mail: lanerealtycorp@sasktel.net  
WITH OVER 40 YEARS IN THE BUSINESS!  
"Now representing purchasers from across Canada and overseas!"  
[www.lanerealty.com](http://www.lanerealty.com)



### Kids kept busy at Baptist Church

On Tuesday during a one-day teachers' strike resulting in no school, some kids were kept busy at the Moosomin Baptist Church who hosted a Kids Strike Day Fun Day for Grades Pre-K to 5. Kids could register for the day and come to the church to play games, watch movies, eat popcorn, and even have a Taylor Swift dance party featuring the pastor.

Shown here are kids and volunteers participating in some of the games that day.



## Capital project for McNaughton possible

*Continued from Page 3*

At the end of the consultation, Keating gave the public a list of items that could be done in both schools and asked them to rank their priorities from one to five. The handout also asked the public if they would be in support of the school division applying for a minor capital renovation for McNaughton High School.

After the meeting, based on the results that were coming in, Keating seemed optimistic about applying for a minor capital project.

"My hope is we get a couple of things from this meeting," he said. "Number one that we see if people are in favor of applying for that minor capital renovation for Moosomin, and the second thing is to see if their priorities line up with the priorities of what the administration and the schools are saying are the most important things to work on in terms of preventative maintenance and renewal dollars."

"I think probably seeing the few results that have come in so far, people being supportive, I think that's (a minor capital renovation) something we'd look at doing, making sure we'd meet that end of February deadline for minor capital renovations."

"The deadline for those are the end of February. That's for the next school year's budget, and they (the provincial government) announce those around budget day. It would be for 2024-25."

How do Moosomin's schools compare to others in the division?

"Moosomin's schools are in pretty good shape in comparison to some of the schools in the division. They'd be about middle of the pack I would say," said Keating. "We've got some newer schools and there are some older schools that were built in the '40s or '50s. The Moosomin Schools are in pretty good shape, they have pretty solid bones. Could they use an update? Yes. There are a lot of



schools in our division that could use an update.

"The data and the information from this meeting will be great. I think that's the important thing is to see what people say, what are their priorities, and then maybe we can get a minor capital renovation and knock a bunch of those off the list, but if we can't, then we have those preventative maintenance and renewal dollars, and we kind of have an idea of what those priorities are to start putting money in when we can."

South East Cornerstone School Division board rep for Subdivision 1 (Rocanville, Wapella, Moosomin) Devona Putland said she thought the meeting was productive.

"I honestly think that when we put in for those minor projects, that now that we've had more people's eyes see what's there, we get more input from the community, which is good, as well as we will have an idea of what the programming future is."

"I think with the new credit change, it's really important that electives are supported and that's what I wrote in my paper, support the electives and improve the electrical, because those seem to be the big issues."

"I'm really glad to see this many people out on a cold night like this, it's wonderful."

"I think it will make our job easier as a board, because any time you're representing people it's good to hear from them directly what they want, not just assume."

**Left:** South East Cornerstone School Division Director of Education Keith Keating speaking at the Community Consultation Meeting Thursday in Moosomin.



# Esterhazy business finds Gift of Hearing recipient

BY RYAN KIEDROWSKI  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

In a first of its kind giveaway, the House of Hearing in Esterhazy found their lucky recipient in the Gift of Hearing campaign. Running from Nov. 1 to Dec. 1, 2023, the House of Hearing invited nominations for a pair of premium hearing devices—including an initial hearing assessment, hearing aid fitting, follow-up and three years of servicing.

Of the 13 nominations, three people were selected for a free hearing assessment at the Esterhazy business.

"The top three selections were chosen based on a variety of factors, such as the reason the individual was nominated (how the gift of hearing would impact the life of the recipient and their family), the degree and severity of hearing loss, financial need, suitability for the style of devices that would be gifted, length of time they have had hearing loss, and perceived benefit the individual would receive from binaural hearing devices," explained Chelsea Stewart, Audiologist at the House of Hearing.

A case history and interview process also took place, and Shirley Maximuk was chosen as the recipient.

"Shirley has a moderately-severe, sensorineural hearing loss in both ears," Stewart said. "This is a significant hearing loss and poses severe challenges hearing in both quiet and noise. Shirley's hearing loss started in approximately Grade 6 and has gotten progressively worse over the years."

The new hearing aids will help her participate in conversations, and she feels more comfortable when company visits.

"I found out what water sounds like when it's boiling," Maximuk said when asked about things she noticed in the first few weeks of using the new hearing aids. "Also, I hear my dog panting. I only saw it before, now I know what it sounds like."

Maximuk was nominated by her three daughters, who have seen the impact of the hearing loss on their mother over the years. They have missed visiting with their mom and having special conversations about what is going on in their lives.

The ability to hear more clearly has huge impacts on people's lives, and Maximuk was becoming more isolated due to her hearing loss.

"Shirley, as well as her family and friends, are looking forward to her becoming more engaged in conversations and involved in family gatherings," Stewart noted. "The hearing devices will provide Shirley the opportunity to connect rather than withdraw in difficult listening situations. She will be able to keep in touch with her daughters as the hearing devices will make it significantly easier for her to talk on the phone."

When asked what that moment was like when she tried on the equipment for the first time, Maximuk said she noticed "how loud everything is for me now and realizing how it is for others."

"When Shirley first came in for her hearing assessment, it was very difficult for me to communicate with her—even in quiet—and while sitting directly across from her," Stewart said. "I had to speak very loudly and enunciate the words clearly and it was evident that Shirley had to really strain to follow the conversation. At the end of the appointment, I fit Shirley with loaner hearing devices to see



Chelsea Stewart (right) of the House of Hearing presents Shirley Maximuk with a premium set of hearing aids. The Esterhazy business ran a successful Gift of Hearing campaign before Christmas, something they plan to continue.

if they would be something she would be willing to wear and could manage. It was amazing how much more engaged Shirley was in the conversation with the devices."

The difference was immediate, even with the temporary devices.

"I was able to ask Shirley questions without her seeing my face and she was able to answer correctly," Stewart said. "I was able to have a conversation with Shirley and her daughter, Melissa, and she was following and understanding the conversation. Her face lit up! It was amazing to see first-hand how the experience changed from her straining to hear and nodding in response to questions, versus her being able to hear with much less effort and responding to the questions and being more involved in the conversation."

One thing Maximuk is looking forward to is hearing the birds when they come back in the spring—something many people take for granted.

"I can easily participate in conversations with family and friends and hear their actual voices," Maximuk said. "Most are high pitched and some of them are too rowdy!"

## Gift of Hearing will continue

With the success of the initial giveaway, Stewart says she plans to hold the second campaign next winter as well. In fact, nomination forms can be submitted to the House of Hearing for the December campaign.

"I am very happy with how well the campaign went," she said. "It was very difficult to choose the top three selections and ultimately, choose one individual. The lack of funding for hearing devices makes it very difficult for many individuals to purchase hearing aids on their own."

Stewart noted that her team can help

identify funding opportunities clients may be eligible for.

"I aim to ensure everyone has access to hearing devices by working with their budget and providing payment plans," she said. "Untreated hearing loss can increase the risk of social isolation and depression, poor balance and fall-related injuries, accelerated cognitive decline, and dementia and Alzheimer's disease."

Hearing health is a priority, and Stewart noted some 'early warning' signs that show it might be time to book an assessment appointment. Frequently asking people to repeat themselves, difficulty hearing conversations, finding that people tend to mumble when they speak or misinterpreting what they say, avoiding social situations, turning up the volume on the TV and hearing ringing, buzzing or humming in your ears are all signs of early hearing loss.

"Also, due to the gradual nature of age-related and noise-induced hearing loss, many people are unaware they have a hearing loss," Stewart said. "If a hearing loss is identified, the audiologist will counsel on appropriate recommendations, help initiate medical consultations, identify funding opportunities, discuss preventative measures, counsel on communication strategies, and discuss plans for follow-up."

S A S K A T C H E W A N

## DANGER: THIN ICE

## Moosomin Spillway: Important Update

Ice thickness will be affected this winter on the Moosomin Spillway. The aeration system put in place that ensures the successful overwintering of fish populations is creating areas of dangerous thin ice and open water on the lake. Signage and fencing will mark the hazards and the sections where aeration is occurring. The WSA asks that winter reservoir users take extreme caution in these areas, watch for signage and fencing, and stay safe on and around the lake.



Learn more at [wsask.ca](http://wsask.ca)

THE WORLD-  
**Spectator**

**QR Code  
Business Cards**  
AVAILABLE AT THE WORLD-SPECTATOR

Have your cards designed  
with a QR Code that will put your  
contact information right onto your  
customers' phones and into their contacts!





# Moosomin RCMP Report

BY SGT. DAMIEN GROUCHY

## Double-header in this paper

My apologies for missing the paper last week, but hold on to you hats because this week you're getting a double-header!

## Possible break and enter

On January 4, members received a complaint of a possible break and enter in Maryfield. Members attended and concluded that the matter was a matter under the Landlord and Tenant Act.

## Possible impaired driver

On January 7, members received a complaint of a possible impaired driver in Wapella. Members attended and completed patrols but were unable to locate the vehicle.

## Theft of fuel in Moosomin

On January 8, members received a theft of fuel complaint. The subject drove off without paying for fuel at a business in Moosomin. Members obtained the plate and are looking into the matter.



## Two-vehicle collision on Ellice St.

On January 10, members attended a two-vehicle collision on Ellice Street in Moosomin. Fortunately, no one was injured.

## Semi's load wasn't secure

On January 10, members received a complaint of a possible traffic hazard. The complainant reported a semi transporting a load with loose straps. Members made patrols for the semi but were unable to locate it, no further calls were received.

## Two more collisions

After clearing from the collision, members attended two more non-serious collisions resulting from the poor weather conditions.

## Cattle trailer fire in RM

On January 11, members received a complaint of a cattle trailer fire in the RM of Moosomin. Members were unable to locate the fire but learned the Fire Department had extinguished it.

## Jackknifed semi on Highway 1

On January 11, members attended to a report of a jackknifed semi on Highway 1 near the Moosomin East access road. There were no injuries and the vehicle passengers were given a ride into Moosomin because of the extreme cold.

## Possibly impaired in Rocanville

On January 12, members received a complaint of a possible impaired driver in Rocanville. Members were unable to intercept the suspect vehicle.

## Erratic driver near Wapella

On January 14, members received a complaint of an erratic driver on Highway 1 near Wapella. Members com-



## Serious two-vehicle collision

On January 10, members responded to a complaint of a serious two-vehicle collision on Highway 1 at the East access road junction in Moosomin. A semi truck traveling eastbound on Highway 1 collided with a SUV traveling north from East access road. Moosomin Fire Department attended and had to remove the SUV door to gain access to the driver. The driver of the SUV sustained serious injuries and was transported to the hospital. The driving conditions on this day were extremely poor.

I just wanted to thank Moosomin Fire Department, EMS and the Highway Traffic Enforcement for responding and assisting with this collision. This could have easily been a fatal collision.

pleted patrols but were unable to locate the vehicle.

## Wellbeing check on person

On January 14, members received a complaint to complete a wellbeing check on a person staying in their vehicle. Members spoke with the subject and learned the vehicle had broken down and the person had a place to stay.

## Break and enter on Park Ave.

On January 15, members received a complaint of a break and enter to a business located on Park Avenue in Moosomin. Moosomin is requesting anyone with information about this incident to contact the Moosomin RCMP by calling 306-435-3361. Information can be submitted anonymously through CrimeStoppers by calling 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or submitting a tip online at [www.saskcrimestoppers.com](http://www.saskcrimestoppers.com)

## A number of false alarms

Members received a number of business alarm complaints. Members determined the alarms were false.



## Stolen black enclosed trailer

On January 15, members received a complaint of stolen property in Moosomin. The complainant reported their black enclosed snowmobile trailer had been stolen. Moosomin is requesting anyone with information about this incident to contact the Moosomin RCMP by calling 306-435-3361. Information can be submitted anonymously through CrimeStoppers by calling 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or submitting a tip online at [www.saskcrimestoppers.com](http://www.saskcrimestoppers.com)

## Worried about overdue traveller

On January 15, members received a complaint of an overdue traveller. While making attempts to locate the traveler, members were updated by the complainant. They had made contact and everything was fine.

## Vehicle fire in Moosomin

On January 16, members responded to a complaint of a vehicle fire in Moosomin. It was later determined the cause of the fire was due to the block heater.

## Domestic dispute at residence

On January 17, members received a complaint of a domestic dispute at a residence located in Moosomin. Members attended and were able to de-escalate the matter. Nothing criminal occurred.

## Text was a scam

This past week I received a text message advising I had money sent to me and I had to text Y to deposit it. This is a scam, so be aware!

## Protect yourself from fraud

Scammers evolve and new frauds and scams are always appearing. Some safe tips to protect yourself.

- Don't be afraid to say no
- Do your research
- Don't give out personal information
- Beware of upfront fees
- Protect your computer
- Be careful who you share images with
- Protect your online accounts
- Recognize spoofing

For a full list of steps to take in protecting yourself and to become familiar with past and present frauds/scams visit the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre website.

## End the mental health stigma

As we all work together to end the stigma surrounding mental illness, now more than ever, every action counts. Whether you take the time to listen to a loved one, encourage a friend to ask for help, or educate yourself about mental health challenges. Be the solution. Be kind. Educate yourself. Listen and ask. Talk about it. Let's change the way we view mental illness. If you or someone you know is struggling, Reach out. If you or someone you know is in crisis or has thoughts of self harm, take action.

- Call 9-1-1
- Go to the nearest hospital or emergency department
- Call Crisis Services Canada at 1-833-456-4566.

## Consume illicit drugs safely

Moosomin RCMP is urging the public who consumes illicit drugs to take special precautions when using:

- Never use alone.
- Let someone you trust know of your plans to use.
- Always carry a Naloxone kit. They are available free of charge at many locations in the province.

## Joke of the week!

A man and a giraffe walk into a bar.  
After a few drinks the giraffe passes out and falls to the floor, the man gets up and begins to walk out of the bar.  
The bartender yells out to the man "Hey you can't leave that lyin' there!"  
The man turns around and: "That's not a lion, it's a giraffe."

Have a safe week and take care, from your friendly Moosomin RCMP.



# JANUARY CLEARANCE

## 5 PIECE DINING SET (WHILE QUANTITIES LAST)

Was: \$749<sup>00</sup>



NOW ONLY \$599<sup>00</sup>

## 7 PIECE DINING SET (1 SET ONLY)

Was: \$3,199<sup>00</sup>

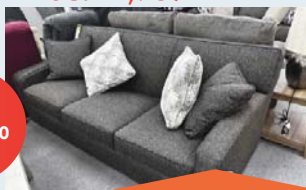


SAVE  
\$1,100<sup>00</sup>

NOW ONLY \$2,099<sup>00</sup>

## STATIONARY SOFA IN FABRIC COVER (1 ONLY)

Was: \$1,769<sup>99</sup>



SAVE  
\$840<sup>00</sup>

NOW ONLY \$929<sup>00</sup>

BRANDSOURCE

Kullberg's

HOME FURNISHINGS

LAYAWAY  
OPTIONS  
ASK YOUR SALES ASSOCIATE



Fairstone

FINANCING AVAILABLE BY TEXTING  
KULLBERGS TO 75837  
FROM YOUR SMART PHONE

## 7 PIECE DINING SET (4 SETS ONLY)

Was: \$2,999<sup>99</sup>



SAVE  
\$1,400<sup>00</sup>

NOW ONLY \$1,599<sup>00</sup>

## STATIONARY SOFA (9 SETS ONLY)

FABRIC COVER WITH ACCENT CUSHIONS

Was: \$1,249<sup>00</sup>

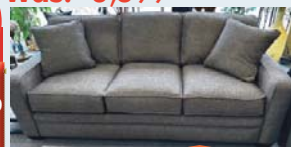


NOW ONLY \$749<sup>00</sup>

## LA-Z-BOY STATIONARY SOFA (1 SET ONLY)

FABRIC COVER

Was: \$3,599<sup>00</sup>



SAVE  
\$1,400<sup>00</sup>

SAVE  
\$2,800<sup>00</sup>  
ON SET

NOW ONLY \$2,199<sup>00</sup>

## LA-Z-BOY MATCHING STATIONARY LOVE SEAT (1 ONLY)

Was: \$3,549<sup>00</sup>



SAVE  
\$1,400<sup>00</sup>

SAVE  
\$2,800<sup>00</sup>  
ON SET

NOW ONLY \$2,149<sup>00</sup>

## 30" COIL TOP WHITE RANGE (6 ONLY)

Was  
\$749<sup>00</sup>



NOW ONLY \$578<sup>00</sup>

## 5 PIECE DINING SET (1 SET ONLY)

Was: \$3,429<sup>00</sup>



SAVE  
\$1,430<sup>00</sup>

NOW ONLY \$1,999<sup>00</sup>

## LA-Z-BOY MANUAL RECLINING SOFA

(1 ONLY)

Was: \$3,799<sup>99</sup>



SAVE  
\$1,200<sup>00</sup>

NOW ONLY \$2,599<sup>00</sup>

## 28 CU FT FRIDGE (6 ONLY)

- FRENCH DOOR
- BOTTOM FREEZER
- STAINLESS STEEL



Was  
\$2,599<sup>00</sup>

NOW ONLY \$1,699<sup>00</sup>

346 King Street | Virden, MB 204-748-3331 | [www.kullbergs.ca](http://www.kullbergs.ca) | Find us on Facebook!

FREE  
DELIVERY

within 200km  
from Brandon, MB  
(Manitoba only).

Ask about our  
Saskatchewan  
Delivery options!