## Inside this issue of Plain and Valley



Ochap's Ethan Bear named WHL defenseman of the year Page 3



Mosaic marks a milestone in Esterhazv Page 10



Special section inside - See pages 13-24





Canada versus China at International fireworks competition at Moosomin Lake on August Long

# Living Skies Come Alive goes international

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK Every August long weekend, the skies come alive over Moosomin Lake. For the last several years the Living Skies Come Alive Fireworks Competition has pitted two fireworks companies against one another.

Each puts on their best show—one on Satur-day night, one on Sunday night—and a panel of judges selects the winner. The fireworks shows are unlike anything

else on the Prairies. Timed to music, carefully choreographed, the fireworks shows are a dif-ferent calibre than anything else on the Prairies

The fireworks weekend has grown over the years, with thousands of people taking in the shows each night. The competition will take on an internation-

al flavor for the first time this year, with Can-ada taking on China in the first international

ada taking on China in the inst international fireworks competition at Moosomin Lake. The fireworks competition is planned for Saturday and Sunday, August 5 and 6 at Moo-somin Regional Park. CanFire Pyrotechnics from Winnipeg will do the show Saturday night, and FireShow from China will do the show on Sunday night—a show that will in-clude some fireworks that have never been seen before in Canada.

Layne McFarlane and Laurie Renneberg of the fireworks committee at Moosomin Re-gional Park said they are happy with how the weekend has grown over the years, but they're expecting this year's fireworks shows to move

"Each year we try to improve it and make the show better and different, with the belief that if you leave it the same you lose the at-tractiveness," said McFarlane. "Last year was the first year we brought in entertainment to fill in the interval between supper and when the fireworks start. We had Eli Barsi and Amy Nelson last year and this year it will be Stuck on Red on the Saturday and the Back 40 Drifters on Sunday night."

Renneberg explains that CanFire Pyrotech-nics of Winnipeg, a competitor in the Fire-works competition for the last several years, brought up the idea of bringing a competitor from China and offered to help with the logis-tics and government permission to get con-tainer loads of fireworks and the competitors

tainer loads of fireworks and the competitors from China to Moosomin Lake. "I think it's going to be a very different show," she said. "Canfire says it will be unlike anything we have seen before. I think it is go-ing to be phenomenal." McFarlane says many people return to the fireworks competition year after year. "One year I walked from camper to camper vicitim with people and the story I heard from

visiting with people, and the story I heard from person after person was that they came three or four years ago for the day and watched it, and have come back every year since. They enjoy the show, they enjoy the park, and they want to be here. They have a camper, they have friends with them under the canopy and they are just visiting and enjoying themselves."

are just visiting and enjoying themselves. Renneberg said people come from a huge area to see the fireworks shows. "They come from B.C., and from the States so it's getting to be known out there," Renne-berg said. "Camping wise, people just used to come for four days, now they are coming for a week."

The event brings in between 6,000 and 7,000 people most years. Last year there was a paid attendance of 7,153 over the weekend, and the committee hopes the event will attract more people this year.

It takes a lot of work to put on the fireworks show, with 75-100 volunteers involved each night.

Continued on page 5 ☞





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5.3L, Auto, Power Seat, 3rd Row Seating, Cloth, 18" 5.3L, Auto, Power Seat, Str. Paid Wheels, 142,300 kms, SK PST Paid \$28,975 123,000 kms, SK PST Paid <sup>\$</sup>11,875 STOCK# 160894 2012 Chevrolet Sonic LT 1.8L Turbo, AC, Cruise, PW, PL, Only 49,000 kms. SK PST Paid \$10,975 STOCK# 17026B

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STOCK# 17019A



# **Bear named WHL Defenseman of the Year**

Seattle Thunderbirds defenseman Ethan Bear has been named the WHL De-fenseman of the Year. The announcement was made at the WHL Awards Lun-cheon at the Deerfoot Inn in Calgary. Bear is from Ochapow-

ace, where he grew up playing hockey from the time he was a young age. Bear, the Western Con-

ference nominee for the Defenseman of the Year Award, had 28 goals and 42 assists for 70 points in 67 games this season. In 264 career games over four seasons Bear has 66 goals and 126 assists for 192 points. Bear was selected by the Edmonton Oilers in the

fifth round, 124th overall, in the 2015 NHL Draft. He signed a three-year entry level contract with the Oil-

ers on July 2, 2016. Bear was named a First Team Western Conference All-Star for the second consecutive season on March 22

In an interview after the award, Bear said it felt good to receive the honor. "There are a lot of great d-men in this league and d-men in this league and to be able to be recognized as the top, I worked really hard for this and it's a real-ly special feeling." He said. "To have my family here to celebrate with me it's a very great honor." Bear credited his team

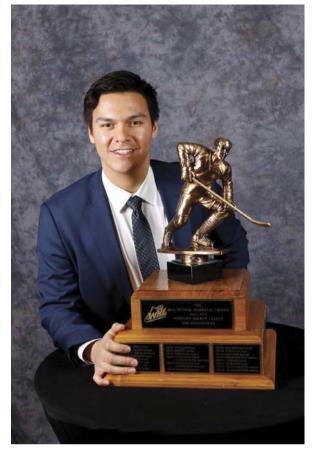
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Steven Bonk, MLA Constituency of Moosomin and coaching with his suc-

"I think my teammates, and my coaching was a huge part of it," he said. "They put in a lot of work. We worked hard as a team We worked hard as a team and the coaching staff re-ally helped me a lot. I can't thank them enough. They made it really easy on me and all I had to do was re-ally just play and I didn't have anything to worry about and that was really pico." nice

nice." The Thunderbirds are currently battling the Regi-na Pats in the WHL cham-pionship. Bear said he ex-pected a tough series. "They are a good team and we are going to have to control their speed," he said. "They have a lot of fast players and they like to play on the rush. I think this year we just have to this year we just have to play our game, not over-think anything, just like the past series. Don't let anything get too far ahead of us. It's a playoff series and if you lose one, you just get back on the horse and get back at it. It's going to be very intense we're all looking forward to it."



Ethan Bear with the trophy for WHL Defenseman of the Year.



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## In Marvfield **Rink fundraiser brings** in around \$12,000

#### BY KARA KINNA

BY KARA KINNA A fundraiser for the Maryfield rink held on Saturday, April 15 raised around \$12,000—money that will be used to repair the rink's roof.

The fundraiser consisted of a Texas Hold'em tournament, auctions, raffles, a comedian and dance.

'We think we've raised in excess of \$12,000 so we were very, very happy with it," says Barb Swallow with the Maryfield Rec Board.

the Maryfield Rec Board. "We had small numbers for the cards, only 53 out of 80 spots, but that still netted us close to \$2,000. Every little bit we did just helped. Then we ran the big raffle and our net off the raffle was approxi-mately \$2,200 and then we had silent auctions and Chinese auctions, and then we had the comedian and the dance. We didn't quite have a big enough crowd to cover the expense of that but that brought people to the rink who then turned around and spent money

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on the auctions. It was a whole combination of things that contributed to the whole total.

things that est the whole total. "We were really quite happy with it. The come-dian was fabulous, very very good, and The Old 21 very dor us and they are just such an easy listening band. Over all we were

band. Over all we were fairly pleased with it." Swallow says the fund-raiser helped a lot in mov-ing the rec board closer to

"It certainly helps us out a lot," she says. "It looks like at this point in time we still need about \$38,000. As a rec board we have some funding we can commit to the project." Swallow says the rec

board will put some of its

sters

savings toward the proj-ect and is hoping to raise much of the rest through grants and corporate dona-tions. The rec board has already been approved for a Canada 150 grant which is paying half the cost of the paying half the cost of the project, which will cost be-tween \$40,000 and \$50,000. "We've got lots of appli-cations out there," she says.

"Through the community here and the fundraiser we've raised probably in excess for \$40,000 just from donations that have come in right here and from the fundraiser." Repair work on the rink

roof will start shortly after June 10 with the goal of having it finished by the time the Maryfield Fair rolls around in July.

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# Strays That Can't Pay on intake freeze

Animal rescue group says funds desperately needed, starts monthly sponsorship program

BY KARA KINNA

A local animal rescue is on an intake freeze due to an influx of animals in need and a lack of ad-

equate funding. Strays That Can't Pay, based in Southwest Manitoba, has been on an intake freeze since March 23.

Strays That Can't Pay Inc. is a registered non-profit rescue that works primarily with the First Nations Communities in couthwatere southwestern Manitoba. The group's main focus is injured animals and the overpopulation of stray dogs and cats. The char-ity has been active for five years now.

But at the end of March,

But at the end or Marcu, the group had to start turn-ing animals away. "Unfortunately, we have experienced an influx of animals that have required extensive medical attenanimals that have required extensive medical atten-tion resulting in a shortage of funds to continue our mission," the group says. "In less than a week, three unwanted stray

three unwanted stray dogs, two dogs in need of medical care, twenty-six unwanted cats (multiple pregnant), and a mom with six newborn kittens have all been turned away. The crucial spay/neuter program has been sus-pended, and the waiting

pended, and the watung list is growing everyday." The group says it has a goal of raising \$20,000 and has started a monthly sponsorship program as well. "Stravs That Can't

That Pay has a goal of raising \$20,000. This will pay off the tremendous debt we the tremendous debt we have acquired as well as medical procedures that are currently on hold," according to the group. "To tackle this Strays That Can't Pay has chosen to implement different ap-proaches, which we have not attempted previously. We have implemented a monthly sponsorship pro-gram, which will provide a monthly flow of dona-tions. We are also re-evaltions. We are also re-eval-uating monthly budgets, and creating new support policies."

Alicia Hoemsen, the founder of Strays That Can't Pay, says the costs the program faces on a regular basis can be staggering.

"Our vet bills average \$10,000 a month. Our budget for this upcoming year is \$128,000. That's including animals that we net-work to other rescues. If we actually paid the bills for every animal we took on, our average would be around \$15,000 a month,"

"We put the freeze on March 23. And what that means is any healthy animals we are contacted about, we put them on a wait list for them to come in. The risk we have is them dead or disappear-ing by the time we get back. "That's hard to deal with

because usually when we get a call we go in the same day or in a day or two and try to get someone to meet us part way and get the an-imal that's surrendered."

Hoemsen says the group currently has a large num-



ber of animals in its care. "We have 73," she says, "21 dogs, 29 cats (two pregnant), and 23 kittens. We average about \$200 to spay and neuter and vaccinate them. Over the next few months that will be \$14,600. "We have about \$6,000

"We have about \$0,000 of veterinary expenses that we have on hold—animals that need surgery that are not urgent. We have about \$2,000 in expenses for fuel \$3,000 in expenses for fuel and transport costs that we haven't paid to our people for almost three months. And we have a reserve spay neuter program as well that's on hold right now for almost a month."

Strays That Can't Pay works primarily with four reserves in Manito-ba. While the group takes in animals that are not wanted or tries to provide medical care for injured or sick animals, it also does its best to prevent animal health issues or rising animal populations on the reserves. Hoemsen says the group regularly holds vaccination and deworming clinics, and also has a spay/neuter program where animals can be tak-en in, spayed or neutered and then returned to their owners. If the animals are pregnant, the group will allow the female to have its litter, keep the puppies or kittens, then spay the female and return it to its owner.

The group collects as much as the animals' owners can pay, and tries to cover the rest of the costs itself through donations. It also has worked in conjunction with some of the reserves to fund some of the clinics it holds.

The charity got started after Hoemsen began of-fering to drive people's animals to the vet for them in order to help animals on the reserves access veterinary care. Since then it has grown to be a full-fledged animal rescue.

Hoemsen says the rea-son Strays That Can't Pay son Strays That Can't Pay is under financial pressure now is because people are becoming more educated about them. "We are changing the way people are looking at animals," she says. "Since

we've started helping we

Strays That Can't Pay currently has 73 animals in its care-21 dogs, 29 cats and 23 kittens. The charity currently has an intake freeze until it can raise more funding.

hit by a car we are getting a call now and animals are getting surrendered. Before we started helping a few years ago those ani-mals would just die or be crippled the rest of their lives. We pull in a lot of an-imals that would normally just suffer the rest of their life until they die or just life until they die or just

heal crippled." While Hoemsen is hap py that people are turning to them for help, she says the financial strain has become too much.

"We have launched a Canada Helps campaign for monthly donations. We have about 5,000 people following our page, and if

we can get 10 per cent to donate \$10 a month that would be \$5,000 of revenue

7

coming in every month. "But we can spend that in a weekend. A couple in a weekend. A couple months ago we brought in five animals Friday night to Sunday afternoon. One cat was found practically dead in a pasture, a dog with head trauma came in Saturday, we had to put him asleep Sunday, and Sunday we got a call about three dogs poisoned and that was about a \$5,000 weekend

"Now we are to the point where we had to do something different which is why we launched our monthly donation cam-

"We are at a \$1,000 a month of guaranteed mon-ey coming in. If we can get that up to \$5,000 that would relieve a lot of pres-ues If we can get that up would relieve a lot of pres-sure. If we can get that up to \$10,000 we'd be dancing and singing. It would be wonderful.

Hoemsen says it feels terrible turning animals away.

"There is guilt, there is a feeling of hopelessness and a feeling of helpless-ness," she says.

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car. "The vaccination clinics

"More people are learn-ing about us and more people are wanting their

pets fixed, which is great, awesome, but it's tough because when a dog gets



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# Broadview Buffaloes headed for hall of fame

The Saskatchewan Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum Association are proud to announce the selection of the Broadview Buffaloes, 1936-1938, Baseball Team, to be inducted into the Saskatchewan Baseball Hall of Fame, Team Category, Saturday, August 19, 2017, at Battleford, Saskatchewan

This was a very unique, powerhouse baseball team in Saskatchewan that research indicates as the first fully integrated team in Western Canada, perhaps Canada, and this, 10 years before Jackie Robinson burst onto the major league scene. The team started as an all white team in 1934 known

as the Broadview Red Sox, then played exhibition and tournament games through 1935. In 1936, they began importing African Americans from south of the border and during 1936-1938, several African Americans were on the roster along with the talented locals. In 1936, the beefed up Red Sox won three major tourna-

In 1936, the beeted up Red Sox won three major tourna-ments. The June 11 Broadview Annual Sports Day Tour-nament saw the Red Sox blank the Moose Jaw Athletics 5-0. In the July 1 Moosomin Dominion Day Tournament the Broadview Red Sox defeated Virden, Manitoba 9-3. On July 22, at the four-day Yorktown Tournament, the Red Sox defeated the host team 8-4. Also, that year, the Red Sox defeated the host team 8-4. Also, that year, the Red Sox defeated the host team 8-4. Also, that year, the Red Sox demeton Harbox Michican in a come plaued at

where they won the pennant with an 8-1 record. More where they won the pennant with an 8-1 record. More tournament wins were: May 24-Crenfell, Butfaloes beat Grandview, Manitoba 11-7; June 18-LaFleche, Butfaloes defeated Glasgow, Montana; June 22 Broadview, But-faloes defeated Northgate, North Dakota 9-1; July 5, Lemberg, the Butfaloes bounced Grandview, Manitoba 12-2, and July 31 at the Regina Tournament the Butfaloes created Boring 17.1

12-2, and fully of at the Regima Formation for the bulladoes crushed Regima 17-1. By 1938, the Buffaloes were making a name for them-selves outside of Saskatchewan. On July 13, 1938 the Win-nipeg Free Press reported, "Big Ball Series for Moosomin. A baseball classic of note is scheduled for Moosomin Park on July 14, when the cream of western senior ball teams meet in the \$300 tournament. The Northgate Yankees from across the international line are known as one of the smoothest clubs in the northern states. The Broadview Buffaloes with colored players from the Southern States, are a mighty machine that is tops in the Saskatchewan Senior League right now.

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The buffaloes did not win that tournament but came in third. They did, however, win the tournaments in Broad-view, Watson and Norquay, as well as defeating the powview, Watson and Norquay, as well as defeating the pow-erful Grover Cleveland Alexander House of David team twice, 4-3 on July 5, and 5-4 on August 2. The next day they defeated the all white, minor league San Antonio Missions, a single "A" affiliate of the American League St. Louis Browns, 3-2. On August 12, the Buffaloes beat the coloured House of David 5-3 in 10 innings. The team took the Southern League Pennant again, with a 16-5 record. After the 1938 season, the Broadview Buffaloes dis-banded. Their run was over. What a run!

Some of the prominent local prairie men on the team were Bus Conn, Chris Edwards, Roy Scheppert, Dick Webb, Harold Horeak, Mack Sinclair and Kitchie Bates. Some of the African Americans other than Jimmy Miller Red Boguille, George Alexander and Sonny Harris. All members of this team are deceased.

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## K3 shafts hit potash level in February • Mine now being developed outward from bottom of shaft Mosaic marks a milestone at Esterhazy

#### BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

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BY KEVIN WEEDMARK The Mosaic Company welcomed special guests to the Saskatchewan Potash Interpretive Centre at Esterhazy on Wednesday, May 3 to mark a significant milestone for their multi-billion dollar K3 potash project. For the past five years, Mosaic and its shaft sinking partners, Hatch and AMC, have worked to complete two

production shafts near Esterhazy

On February 16, 2017 at 3,350 feet below surface, the shafts reached potash. The Mosaic Esterhazy mine was first developed in the early 1960s—the first shaft hit potash in 1962. Two mines have been developed at Esterhazy—K1 and K2. In 1985, the K2 mine started experiencing brine

and K2. In 1985, the K2 mine started experiencing brine inflow, with saltwater seeping into the mine from water bearing formations above the potash seam. The problem has been managed for the last 30 years. In 2009, Mosaic announced the first stage of its expan-sion program, including the sinking of the K3 shaft, with a scope of 2.7 million ore tons. In 2015, Mosaic changed the scope of the project, ac-celerating the second phase of the project, including an overland conveyor system to transport ore from K3 to the K2 and K1 mills. Once K3 is in operation, the mine

the K2 and K1 mills. Once K3 is in operation, the mine will be able to deliver 6.3 million tonnes of product, or 19 million ore tonnes per year. There will be a transition of underground mining op-

erations at K1 and K2 to K3, eliminating the need for the costly brine management at Esterhazy and substantially

lowering Mosaic's cost of production. "K3 is the foundation of Mosaic's future for potash production in Saskatchewan. Not only will it be a world-class operation, it drastically reduces our cost and risk profile," Joc O'Rourke, Mosaic's President and CEO said at the event Wednesday.

"This milestone marks a literal 'turning point' for the project, moving from vertical shaft sinking to horizontal

project, moving from vertical shaft sinking to horizontal mine development. "The Esterhazy mine will be a legacy of Esterhazy and a legacy of Saskatchewan for a long time to come. Today, we're here to celebrate the next 50 years. "When I first joined Mosaic, the potash business unit had an idea that we really needed to set ourselves up

for a world after brine inflow and for the next 50 years of production here at Esterhazy. From day one, this has of production here at Esterhazy. From day one, this has been a critical piece of moving Esterhazy forward. I've been very supportive of this project. I take great personal ownership in the fact that we're doing it and we're tak-ing that risk for Mosaic. I'm so proud of the progress and so proud of the people who have worked on it over the last seven or eight years now. Very recently we actually hit potash at Esterhazy K3. This is the foundation of our future. Not only is it the foundation of our future, but it will drastically reduce the cost and the risk of this area because it does eliminate the brine inflow risk.

because it does eliminate the brine inflow risk. "We have a long and proud legacy here. For more than fifty years, we've managed to overcome great challenges and find success underground in Esterhazy. We're ready for the next fifty and beyond," adds O'Rourke. Mosaic VP of capital and engineering Gerry Couture

explained the progress on K3. "Construction began in 2010 with construction of the

surface facilities, including the impressive 380 foot tall north headframe that houses two of the most advanced hoists in the world—one for people and equipment, the



At the event in Esterhazy Wednesday: From left, Hatch CEO and President John Bianchini, Member of Parliament for Yorkton-Melville, Cathay Wagantall, Mosaic Senior Vice President, Potash Bruce Bodine, Mosaic President and CEO, Joc O'Rourke, MLA for Melville-Saltcoats Warren Kaeding, and Mosaic Vice President, Capital and Engineering Gerry Couture

other one for potash ore. The towering walls of the headframe were poured in one continuous pour of concrete that lasted 19 days. And while the headframe attracts lots that lasted 19 days. And while the headframe attracts lots of attention, what we have constructed underground is even more incredible, starting with the headframe foun-dation that extends 50 feet below the surface and sits on a massive array of piles. Managing water as we sank the shaft through various geological formations was a constant challenge for the project. Large refrigeration plants operated on the site for several years to create fro-zen walls around both of the shafts. These walls were required to hold back the waterhearing Blairmore for. required to hold back the water-bearing Blairmore for-mation. And while freezing was under way, we started shaft sinking. Galloways, which are 100 foot tall multilevel structures, were installed in the shafts for people and equipment to work from. The galloways were suspended from the surface and were lowered as sinking progressed.

"As the shafts were sunk, the permanent shaft liners were installed. The liners are constructed from concrete were installed. The liners are constructed from concrete and steel and are up to four feet thick. They are designed to withstand the pressures of the geological formations. Once we got below freezing at 1,600 feet, we relied on grouting to control water from the Bakken and the Souris River formations. This involved drilling down-wards and outwards from the bottom of the shaft and injecting grout to seal the porous rock. Finally, in February, we reached the potash deposits in the Prairie Evaporite formation. This marked a literal

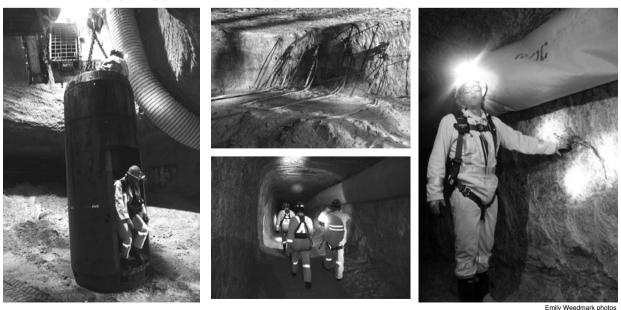
turning point for the project, as we moved from verti-cal shaft sinking to horizontal mine development. In the next year we will develop the mine, and complete the commissioning of the hoists and the north headframe. That will be done just in time for completion of the over-land conveyor, which will move potash ore from K3 to the K2 mill, 12 km away. In subsequent years we will continue to develop the mine to increase capacity and construct additional surface infrastructure, including a production headframe and a conveyor to K1.

construct additional surface intrastructure, including a production headframe and a conveyor to K1. "From day one, safety has been the highest priority of the project. There are many inherent challenges with this work from 380 feet in the air to 3,350 feet below the surface, the vast majority of our work has been vertical, over a very small footprint. We brought in world class experts and contractors to make this project successful. Almost 6,000 people have worked at the K3 site to date. "It has been my great privilege to be part of this project "It has been my great privilege to be part of this proj-

ect

ect." Mosaic handed out a total of \$150,000 in grants to three local community organizations Wednesday. Three \$50,000 grants will support projects at the Es-terhazy High School, Langenburg Activity Centre and recreation facility improvements in the community of Churchbridge.

Mine development and installation of the overland conveyor system to transport ore from K3 to the current K1 and K2 mills is currently underway. Work on the project is expected to continue into 2024.



The K3 mine is in the early stages of development at the base of the shaft. Reporters travelled 3,350 feet underground to the potash mining level in the lift at left to see the early stages of development at the mining level.

# Art show reflects Griffin's struggle with Lyme Disease

**by Kara Kinna** BY KARA KINNA "These aren't your grand-ma's quilts." Those words were spoken often at the art show held by Susan Griffin on Saturday, April 8 in Moosomin

Griffin's show—called "50 Yarns of Lyme - The Lyme Disease Series"—fea-tured a collection of 50 fibre art pieces meant to portray

her journey and struggle with Lyme Disease as well as express the healing bene-fits of creating art. While all of the pieces incorporated fibre of some sort, the connore of some sorr, the con-nection to traditional quilt-ing began and ended there. Some of the pieces were three dimensional, others resembled sculptures, and others used quilting tech-

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express searing niques to niques to express searing emotions like rage or pain-ful emotions like despair. Others focused on the joys of healing or on the physical impacts of being afflicted with a disease.

with a disease. Griffin says she was af-fected with Lyme Disease after being bitten by a tick 15 years ago, but after a visit to the doctor recovered

fairly quickly. Four years ago she was re-infected but found the effects the second time to be much more physically debilitating. The result was that she could no

result was that she could no longer quilt. Griffin knew that she needed to get back to her old self and began working on a series of tiny fibre art

"The reason I started doing that was to relearn all those skills," she says. "I went with the small size—the prayer flag size. I thought it was something I could start with."

In the end she made 26 small pieces that reflected some of the different methods of healing that can be used to help with the effects of Lyme Disease. But Griffin wasn't done.

But Griffin wasn't done. She went on to produce 24 more pieces, some of them quite large and quite exten-sive, reflecting her journey and healing process. Every-thing from traditional quilt-ing techniques, to using string and gauze, to press-ing dried leaves and ber-ries to fabric to create colors were used in the process.

were used in the process. Griffin says the entire body of work is not so much body of work is not so much about having Lyme Disease as it is about how art can help a person heal. "For me, when I get into my art, my body is in a more relaxed state and the

healing went better and the treatments took and worked better that way," she says. "So I think I healed much quicker because of my art and I think that's the main thing I wanted to show at the exhibit— not so much



Susan Griffin with a triptych she created representing her lowest point (the slug) in her struggle with Lyme Disease, the struggle to get better (being caught in a spiders web in the centre piece), and her highest point, her healing, represented by the dragonfly at top.

the disease-but about how art can get you through that. "There were a lot of peo-ple that said they can relate to that. They didn't have



Lyme but they could relate to that. They have gone through different diseases and stages in their lives. That made me feel good because whenever, as an artist, your art brings them to tears or reminds them of some-

thing, that tells you that you got your message across. "My particular journey was with Lyme, but art can help you with whatever journey you're on or trying to overcome." While Griffin has made fi-

bre art before, the Lyme Dis-ease series was something new to her.

Continued on Page 29

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# Pampering your yard

Has winter been hard on your lawn? Don't panic. The first thing to remember is not to rush outside and start work on the grass when the ground is still soaking wet. The time to get out the leaf rake and pick up all the debris is when you can walk on the grass without sinking in.

grass without sinking in. Make the most of a beautiful day to remove any protective covering from your trees and shrubs. Cut back dead and damaged branches, being careful not to damage the buds. Remove annuals, prune perennials and clean your rockeries if you didn't get around to doing these chores last fall. Go gently, taking care not to trample on perennials that are already beginning to show. Add compost (and some soil, if necessary), and cover your beds with a good layer of mulch.

You may have noticed that field mice or other rodents have made furrows across your lawn. There may also be patches of grass that are completely dried out. To ensure that weeds don't take over all the bare spots, aerate your lawn and sow grass seed as soon as possible. A tip: use quality seed. Better to pay a little more than end up with a bag of seed that may contain weeds.

No time to take care of yard work in the spring? Hire a freelance gardener; he or she will love pampering your yard for you.





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## Understanding hardiness zones



Hardiness zones are geo-graphical areas in which a given category of plant can successfully be grown. The concept was first developed by the United States Depart-ment of Agriculture (USDA), and countries around the world have since adapted the system to their own ter-ritories. But while hardiness zones can be quite useful, both for the casual gardener and the agricultural world, the model is far from perfect.

the model is far from perfect. Hardiness zones are largely decided on a given plant's ability to survive in each zone's lowest winter temperature, without factor-ing in summertime data or snow cover. As a result, two error thet hous cimilar win areas that have similar winareas that have similar win-ter temperatures but vastly different amounts of snow — or summers that have nothing in common — can end up in the same zone.

With so many variable fac-tors, hardiness zones aren't always true to reality. Furthermore, climate change is an unpredictable force that modifies weath-er conditions around the world, which means that hardiness zones are always evolving. In 2012, the USDA updated its map of hardii-ness zones in the U.S. to re-flect the warmer weather of the previous three decades, the previous three decades, but even this newer data will likely be obsolete before

The bottom line is that hardiness zones are use-ful tools when it comes to choosing plants adapted to a certain area, but they should be taken with a grain of salt. Find out what your area's hardiness zone is, and do your own research to see how accurate — or not the assessment actually is.





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May 2017

Plain and Valley



# The importance of curb appeal

My dad always said, "You never get a second chance to make a first impression, so make it good." That is so true for so many situations. So if you are considering selling your home or you just want to take some pride in your invest-ment, the front of your house is the place to start! You want people to do a double take when they see how inviting and beautiful your front entrance is! It sets the tone for what is expected beyond the front door, so you want it to impress! You are in luck, because there are a few easy and inexpensive ways to spruce up your front entrance. To start, wash your face! Give the stucco, brick or siding at your entrance a quick wash down with a power washer or long brush and reveal the bright surface that has been hiding under those cobwebs and dust all winter long! Give your front door a face lift! Painting your front door is one of the cheapest ways to increase the interest and at-tractiveness of your home. A fresh, bright door and maybe a nice adirondack chair or bench beside it is so eye catching!

a nice adirondack chair or bench beside it is so eye catching! Bring the area to life by adding some plants and flow-ers in planters or beds. Planting annuals in colorful pots





adds color and makes your home appear fun and cheerful acus color and makes your nome appear run and cheerrul or for a more formal look, tall ornamental grasses in match-ing urns adds a really intriguing and beautiful touch! This allows you to let your personality shine through! Maybe you have never had the need to have fancy num-

Maybe you have never had the need to have fancy hum-bers on your house, but take a minute here and consider the aesthetic appeal given the relatively low cost. Perhaps mount them alongside a new mailbox and a welcome sign above the door for the finishing accent. It creates such a homey mood

All of these tricks will greatly help to spruce up your en-trance space but last and most importantly, pay extra at-tention to simple yard maintenance. Trim those hedges, cut





that grass and pull some weeds! A neat, tidy, well mani-cured area is the number one thing that will attract people to your front door.

All in all, just take some pride in your home. It truly is satisfying when it is all done. Til next time, it's that girl Shannon saying, "If you don't have time to do it right... when will you have time to do it over?"

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## Tips for a state-of-the-art kitchen

your kitchen need Does refurbishing? Would you love to create a cutting-edge decor worthy of a decorat-ing magazine? Draw on as many of the 2016 trends as you like and turn your kitchen into a beautiful — and functional — room that's ideal for dreaming up mouth-watering meals for family and friends. Gasps of admiration, guaranteed.

#### CLEAN LINES

With its cool colours and clean lines, the 2016 kitchclean lines, the 2016 kitch-en has the esthetic of a laboratory, but in a good way. Islands, cabinets and countertops have smooth, gleaming surfaces on which a hare minimum of objects a bare minimum of objects are placed. Similarly, storage space is optimized so all

the things you don't have an immediate use for can stay out of sight. The key word: minimalism.

#### NOSTALGIC COLOURS

Add pale touches of colour (mint green, pale pink, baby blue, lilac or butter yellow) to neutral kitchens. These pastel shades from decades past are making a comeback this year, while the vintage trend is in-creasingly popular. Purity, softness and comfort are the magic ingredients for a user-friendly kitchen where everyone loves to hang out.

#### COPPER

After stainless steel, gold, chrome and bronze, design-ers are now going crazy over copper. To give your kitchen a modern-yet-warm feel, integrate a few

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elements with a copper fin-ish or even better, solid cop-per. This year, copper cabi-net handles and knobs, light fixtures, faucets, utensils and even appliances blend perfectly with anthracite, brown and ivory tones.

#### CUSTOM ISLANDS

Today's kitchen island is no longer used exclusively for preparing meals. Now it has

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been transformed into a multipurpose element that's used as an extra table or for storage. To be really up to date, furnish your kitchen with a model that has been custom designed and made by a pro-fessional. What's the ultimate island in 2016? A brightly coloured one (bottle green, or-ange, electric blue) standing in the centre of a kitchen de-







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15

sure the plumbing is suitable. If you're replacing an old shower, everything will

already be in place, but if you're installing a show-

er in a new location, have the drain and water supply

pipes installed by a licensed

Now it's time to install the base of the shower. These are usually fairly flexible,

but the better quality the

shower, the thicker and more solid the base. Make

sure the subfloor is level.

Cover the surface where the

shower base will be located

with mortar, taking care not

to put any down the drain.

While the cement is still

wet, cover it with a sealing

membrane. Place the base

of the shower on the wet

cement, pushing it gently

into the cement and mak-

ing sure it's level. Anchor

everything firmly and wait

plumber.



## How to discourage cats from visiting your yard



To keep cats away from your garden, plant some garlic, onions, lemon thyme, geraniums or lavender.

Does it seem as though all the neighbourhood cats have turned your backyard into their very own meeting place?

16

Are you faced with the problem of cats eating your plants or using your flowerbeds as giant litter boxes? Here are



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306-435-2128 sradams@rfnow.com some tips that will help you keep cats away from your yard without hurting them.

- Sprinkle your garden with citrus peel or pepper, or cover the soil with a thin layer of software layer of coffee grounds or human hair. Cats don't like these smells.
- Set up some aluminum plates that will bang together in the wind.
- Cover the soil with rough mulch, branches or small stones
- Plant types of vegetation that cats hate, such as garlic, onion, lemon thyme, geraniums or lavender.
- Install a sprinkler system with a motion detector -
- cats hate getting wet. Protect seedlings by cov-
- ering them with chicken wire or a trellis.

You could also create a "cat zone." Organize a small Organize a small corner of your yard especially for your four-legged visitors by planting some catnip well away from your flowerbeds. This perennial is easy to grow and attracts cats, who love to lick, chew and rub against it. As a last resort, you could use a repellent containing piperine and oil of black pepper, which is readily available in stores This kind of product should be used with care, and you should always follow the manufacturer's instructions to the letter.

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Putting in a shower stall is a great way to give your bath-room a facelift. Even with a little help from a plumb-er, you'll still be proud to show off your newly installed acrylic shower.

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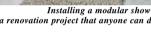
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shower and choose the a modular shower, ensure that the walls the unit will studs every 40 centimetres and are reinforced in the middle. Next, make

The only thing left to do now is to install the walls and door according to the manufacturer's installation instruc-This is where you'll tions. need the licensed plumber again, as you need to have all the fittings properly installed. And there you go: a beautiful new shower.





mine the location of the model you want. To install be in contact with have

about 24 hours for the cement to harden.

Tips for installing an



#### Overflowing closets, cupboards and drawers

Tradition holds that the chore of cleaning out your home should be done in the spring; we're all familiar with the rou-tine of de-junking closets and scrubbing cupboards. But it can seem as though the job is never done if your storage space is seem as integri the for is never tonic if your storage space is poorly organized and your cupboards are always overflow-ing. If this is finally the year you're setting your mind to get rid of the mess, here are a few tips to help you. First of all, try not to let your feelings get in the way. Re-

member that the goal is to make your closets, cupboards and drawers visually appealing when open and much easier to access. Start by placing everything that needs sorting out in the middle of the floor of a room that doesn't get much use. Ask yourself the following questions about each item: Is it in good condition?

Do I have other, identical objects?

#### Was it stored in the right place?

Is it useful to me?

Does it have sentimental value? If an object is broken and can't be repaired, throw it out im-

mediately. Put it in the garbage or take it to a recycling centre. An object is no longer useful or you never use it? Give it to someone who needs it more than you. You have two or more identical items? Keep the one you feel is in the best condition. An object was stored in the wrong place? Simple! Put it in the right place.

#### Sentimental value

Are you brought to tears at the thought of getting rid of a trinket that reminds you of your grandmother? Then ask yourself why you keep it hidden away in a closet. If you can't bring yourself to get rid of it, give it pride of place in your home instead. On the other hand, if hundreds of youthful love letters are cluttering up half your closet, you could al-ways scan them and store them on a CD so they take up less space

#### One out of two

Of course, it can be difficult to get rid of items that you think are still useful or ones that bring back good memo-ries. However, you can make it easier on yourself by using the "one out of two" trick. With this approach, you keep one out of any two items you're hesitating over, whether they're items of clothing, books, photographs, toys or decorations. That way, you only keep those that really matter to you.

One thing's for sure decluttering closets, cupboards and drawers will lift a weight off your shoulders. Are you ready for the big spring sorting?

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## Three common wall hanging mistakes to avoid

When it comes to hanging decorative wall ornaments, there are certain rules to follow in order to create a co-hesive effect. Here are a few mistakes not to make.

1. Hanging mirrors at the wrong height. Before you drill holes in a wall to install a mirror, perform height tests with the members of your house hold. Everyone should be able to admire his or her effection — not just the reflection - not just the renection — not just the tallest person in the house. Conversely, if you have to kneel down to check your hair before you leave, you're still off the mark. Experts recommend plac-ing the contra of the mirror ing the centre of the mirror approximately 1.5 metres from the floor; the same rule applies to framed pho-tos and art.

# 2. Covering an entire wall with frames. If you see a blank wall

as an invitation to be cov-ered with myriad photos and artworks, know that doing so dilutes the unique character of each piece and creates a confused, disorganized blob. To credisorganized blob. To cre-ate the perfect gallery wall, assemble your pictures and artwork and place them on the wall, leaving about ten centimetres of space be-tween each one tween each one

#### 3. Following these three outdated rules.

Always group decora-tive accessories in uneven numbers. Never have more than three types of more than three types of wood in one room. Don't mix different styles. Have you read and heard these three guidelines so many times that you're afraid to sidestep them? Have no fear — you aren't mak-ing a style blunder if you ignore any of these rules when installing mirrors or frames. After all, being bold is on trend. hold is on trend

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## Ring in the spring with a new bistro set



Take a table, add two chairs and *voila*: you've got yourself a bistro set. Specially designed for outdoor use, a bistro set al-lows you to soak up the sun and feel the resh air from the comfort of your balco-ny or patio. Either on your own or with a friend, it's finally time to savour the arrival of spring, fresh lemonade or sooth-ing tea in hand.

Materials

Patio bistro sets need to withstand the fading, rust and mould that all outdoor furniture is subjected to. They're usually built out of one of the following:

Steel Aluminum

- Designed to combine functionality, durability and elegance, bistro sets are available in a variety of styles (rustic, ur-ban, minimalist, etc.) to fit every home-owner's needs. Before you head to the stores, however, make sure to properly measure the space where you intend to set up your furniture. It would be a shame to find *the* perfect ensemble, only to realize that it doesn't fit on your bal-cony! conv!

Wicker Ceramic Resin Polyester

Rattan Glass

## **Refashion your cabinets** for an affordable kitchen facelift

Dreaming of new kitchen cabinets but don't have the necessary funds? No worries! Reface your existing cabinets for a budget-friendly style upgrade.

The idea is simple: modify the doors

and other surface features of your cur-rent cabinets. Add some crown mould-ing, replace handles and knobs and switch up the lighting to complete the transformation. Your visitors — or po-tential buyers — will be delighted!











## Decorate your rockery with style



Variegated plants add elegance and light to flowerbeds and rockeries.

In horticulture, a plant is said to be variegated when its foliage displays two different colours. Using colourful foliage brings elegance and light to your flowerbeds and rockeries. Here are some tips to help you show off your variegated plants to advantage.

advantage. First of all, to preserve the bi-coloured foliage, you need to be very careful about respecting the needs of the plant, especially hours of sunshine, soil type and watering. You should also apply a low-nitrogen fertilizer. Remove any completely green leaves that appear as soon as you notice them; this is a phenomenon called reversion, and it can affect all variegated plants.

For a more striking effect, variegated plants have to be showcased. Plant them next to species with dark green foliage, and play with contrasting colours and textures. In small spaces, opt for quality, not quantity; too many variegated plants in one place may not give the desired effect. Use them to liven up shaded or semi-shaded areas and in planters or pots to give your deck a sophisticated look. An esthetic tip: grow golden variegated plants in white resin pots and creambased mixes in terracotta pots.

Garden centres introduce new species of variegated plants every year in order to meet the growing demand for landscaping specialist can help you find perennials, annuals, trees, shrubs and conifers that will make your yard the envy of your neighbourhood.





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# Five tips for a healthier home

#### 1. ELIMINATE DUST

1. ELIMINATE DUST Dust contains a variety of contaminants that can harm the health of your family, especially children and people with asthma. That is why vacuuming, dusting furniture and cleaning bedding thoroughly should be done on a reg-ular basis. A tip to remember: to eliminate as much dust as possible from a carrot yacuum each square method for the method. face for at least one minute. 2. THROW OUT EXPIRED FOOD PRODUCTS

THROW OUT EXPIRED FOOD PRODUCTS Inspect the contents of your fridge and freezer twice a month and throw out any food products that have passed their expiry date. By the way, did you know that most meat should be eaten within eight months of freez-ing? When it comes to your fridge, it is best not to wait for bad smells to show up before you clean.
 USE AIR PURIFYING PLANTS

Whether you have a green thumb or not, stock up on plants that are known to improve the air quality in Momes. Here are the best choices:
Spathiphyllum, an elegant plant that produces pretty

by a start of the star

• Philodendron, a plant with exotic foliage often used

by florists.Ivy, an exceptionally vigorous creeper.

#### · Ficus, a plant that absorbs heat and releases mois-

ture. Dracaena, a very resistant plant also called "dragon tree.

Chlorophytum, a common species often referred to

as "spider plant."
Aloe, whose many virtues are recognized in herbal Medicine.
Aglaonema, an easy-to-care-for houseplant.

To boost your air quality, choose at least two or three species and place them in every room of your home. A professional horticulturist will be able to tell you how to

#### care for them properly. 4. LOOK AFTER ALL APPLIANCES THAT CIRCULATE AIR

CIRCULATE AIR Call in a professional to inspect and clean all the heat-ing, cooling and air circulation systems in your home. The kinds of appliances that should be serviced regularly: • air conditioner • dehumidifier • air avdenger

- air exchanger
  furnace
- hood
- humidifier heat pump
- fan



Eliminate dust, stock up on plants, sort out food items: there are many ways to create a healthier home.

#### 5. DISINFECT SURFACES

Just because your walls, floors, furniture and appliances look clean, it does not mean that they really are. Most con-taminants are invisible to the naked eye, so take the precaution of cleaning all surfaces using a suitable product. Don't forget the doorknobs!



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## Five plants that grow anywhere Cleaning your stainless



Whatever the weather, these tenacious plants are up for the challenge.

Every region in North America has its own specific weather quirk, whether it's freezing winters, scorching summers or heavy rainfall. It can be a daunting task to plan a garden when Mother Nature is so unpredictable, so

here are some plants that will survive every season's tests. 1. PFONIES

You could forget entirely about these beauties in your garden and they'd still probably find their way back year

after year. Even if mould or weather gets the best of them in the summer. you can still expect an encore next spring.

#### 2 DAVI ILIES

These cheerful vellow flowers can withstand extreme temperatures, which explains their popularity from coast to coast

#### 3. HOSTAS

You know the ones: these green, leafy plants require virtually no maintenance and are native to almost every region of North America.

Give them a

regular cleaning

Although resistant and

durable, time and overuse

can deteriorate the con-

dition and appearance of

stainless steel. However, this metal won't wear as a

result of too much clean-

ing, so remove spots and smudges as soon as they

appear. Routinely cleaning

these surfaces will go a

long way in keeping them

Water spots can be cleaned

with some warm water and

a clean cloth. Make sure

looking great.

Keep that shine

#### 4. HOLLY

Holly is often associated with Christmas time, and for good reason: it looks great all winter! With more than 400 varieties, you're sure to find a type of this berry-yielding plant that suits your garden.

#### 5. TULIPS

These perennial bulbs are very easy to grow and care for. There are endless varieties, and thus tulips can be grown in many different colours and sizes. Gardeners delight in picking their hardy spring flowers. Plant bulbs in the fall and enjoy the show for many years to come!

So, no more excuses - wherever you live, grab a shovel, put on some gloves and get planting.

#### steel surfaces The sleek design of stainface to prevent additional

water stains from forming. less steel can give any kitchen a stylish and con-A nylon scouring pad will temporary look. The probcome in handy to re-move lem is, these surfaces are any food residue in sinks prone to showing fingeror on countertops. Use a prints and water stains, mild abrasive free of chlowhich can sometimes rine and iron to eliminate be difficult to remove. light surface scratches. However, there are a few Deeper scratches, on the simple steps you can take other hand, can be repaired to keep your stainless steel with a good professional appliances, countertops polishing. and sinks shining like new.

#### What not to do

Simply put, stainless steel and bleach do not mix. Using cleaning products that contain bleach can cause rust to form and the steel to corrode, so avoid them at all costs. This goes for all cleaning prod-ucts that contain harsh and aggressive chemicals, such as hydrochloric acid. Salt and white vinegar can negatively affect the metal's surface over time. so use them sparingly. Finally, avoid using metal sponges, brushes and scouring pads as they'll leave unsightly scratches on your surfaces.



## The ABCs of vegetable gardens



garden doesn't have to be huge for you to feel the pleasure and pride of growing your own veg-etables. In fact, if this is your first attempt, it's best to start small. A smallish rectangle, measuring 2.5 metres by 1 metre will do the trick. It can even be smaller if necessary. Sun is the most important fac-tor, so be sure to choose a spot that receives at least six hours of sunlight a day

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day. Another essential ele-ment is water. Having ready access to water is necessary if you don't want to wear yourself out carrying watering cans back and forth. Vegetables require frequent water-ing, especially at the be-ginning of the season and during dry spells.

When preparing ground for a vegetable patch it is important to check the quality of the soil. If it is loose and welldrained you can simply

remove any grass and dig 5 centimetres of com-post and natural fertil-izer into the existing soil. If your soil is heavy and contains clay, however, try the following fail-safe method: place eight to ten layers of newspaper over the entire surface of your patch in order to suffocate any grass or weeds. Next spread 30 to 35 cm of garspread 30 to 35 cm of gar-den soil on top and mix in 5 cm of compost and fertilizer. Lastly, dig a 15 cm channel all around the garden to provide drain-

age. You've got sun, water and earth, but now what about the vegetables? First of all, it is impor-

tant to know that seeding times vary from one region to another because of differing climates. You're going to have to be patient if there is still snow on the ground. Make the most of this time to choose which vegetables you'd like to grow. A small tip: for your

first ever vegetable patch, select easy vegetables: carrots, radishes, lettuce, and beets are good start-ers. Follow carefully the sowing instructions that are on the back of the seed

are on the back of the seed packets. The soil must be kept moist while seeds are germinating. For seed-lings such as tomatoes and peppers, which you may have purchased at a garden centre, do as the farmers do and wait for the last full moon in May. the last full moon in May before planting them and be wary of the risk of a late frost.

To take care of your little vegetable patch, wa-ter when the soil becomes dry, install training frames or trellises (especially for tomatoes and peas), check for harmful insects, and remove any weeds regu-larly. A vegetable garden may take a bit of work, but what pleasure you'll feel when you bite into your very first radish!



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# Unique spray park design for RM of Pipestone to be constructed this summer

The RM of Pipestone will soon be home to the only outdoor spray park in the province with an elevation structure which includes a slide!

The RM of Pipestone Council formed a com-mittee in the fall of 2016 to fundraise and develop a spray park for the area. The committee along with Council have determined that the best fit for the area is to construct a park like no other in the region. Not only will this unique design suit the needs of our residents but is also set to appeal to

region. Not only will this unique design suit the needs of our residents but is also set to appeal to the region as a tourist destination. The committee is initiating a sponsorship cam-paign this month, with hopes to raise the funds needed by September 15, 2017. Corporate spon-sorship will be requested in the near future with the opportunity to support individual items in the park. We will also have a neighbourhood campaign where individual persons, family and groups can purchase square feet of concrete that will be the foundation of the spray park. The committee will also be hosting various fun-draising events throughout the coming months. These include, Paint Nites, Cash Calendar (fall), SK run (June), Goofy Golf Tournament (Septem-ber), 50/50 Raffle, Canada 150/Reston 125 sup-per and morel 50/50 tickets have started to sell and the pot is already over \$1,200. The draw will be made on July 22, during the Canada 150/Res-ton 125 celebrations.

For more information about the RM of Pipestone and their programs please contact Tanis Chalmers, Manager of Economic Development 204-877-3327 or www.rmofpipestone.com





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Work was being done on Borderland Co-op's Murray Newman Field last week. Shale will be installed on the diamond this spring, and the Tim Hortons Outdoor Eventplex will be developed next to the ball diamond.

## **Outdoor Eventplex ready for July:** Lots of improvements under way at Bradley Park

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK On Thursday, July 6, To kick off the reunion/rodeo weekend, an Elvis imper-sonator will perform on a stage at Bradley Park, with people watching from a deck area and a lawn. There may be a ball game

taking place at the baseball diamond next to the stage. The stage isn't there yet, the lawn isn't there yet, the

deck is under construction and the ball diamond was

A lot of work will be done at Bradley Park between now and the Moosomin School Reunion July 6-9.

The site is being pre-pared for the Tim Hortons Outdoor Eventplex imme-diately west of the Potash-

Corp Sportsplex. "The eventplex will be

our feature park in town," says rec director Mike Schwean.

"We'll seed it to grass, the trees are going in Monday, that area is going to look re-ally nice. It'll be a fantastic place for events. Eventually I would like to add some playground equipment in there. When people come on July 6, I think they'll be very impressed—it should work well for the show on July 6, and the town will do their rodeo barbecue there on July 7, and it should be a really good place for a barbecue or a picnic. We haven't really had a park where you can sit down and have a picnic, so this

WHITEWOOD BIRTHDAY BASH -

should be well used." At the north end of the site will be a 14 by 30 foot permanent outdoor stage. There will be a large lawn south of the stage, ringed by trees

by trees. The deck at the back of the Sportsplex is being ex-tended and will overlook the park and the stage. The area will be deco-rated by the "flower trees" built by the town crew—

large tree shaped steel frames that hold flower pots. Tim

pots. Tim Hortons donated \$7,000 from the 2016 Smile Cookie campaign to help develop the park, and have committed five years of Smile Cookie proceeds to the pack. the park.

Last week crews were Last week crews were working on improvements to the outdoor eventplex and to the baseball dia-mond at the northwest corner of the park, which will now be known as Borderland Co-op's Murray Newman Field

Shale will be installed on the baseball diamond.

Continued on page 4 🖙

 Continued from front
 Another big improvement at Bradley Park will be the addition of more parking. And the plan is to in-

crease the amount of park-ing at the site by developing a new parking area south of the outdoor rink and east of the concession.

and east of the concession. The new parking area will be 200 feet by 400 feet. "The baseball diamond we've dug up the infield and we have put in the pea gravel and the shale will be here next week. Improvements to ball

diamonds and the football field are continuing. "The Kinsmen were working on the weekend.



They've got their lights done, they've got their booth done, they've got their stairwells done. It'll their diamond, the Kinsmen have been working on be ready to go in a week's The Moosomin Gener-

als are expanding their fa-cilities so they are self-con-tained with showers and change rooms. "The soccer guys will be working on their diamond

working on their diamond in the spring, to get it seed-ed and growing. "Then we'll pull out two backstops and move them into different locations, so

time."

we will end up with two baseball diamonds and five fastball diamonds or kids diamonds. The

"There's something go-ing on at every facility out there

Many of the improvements at Bradley Park over the last few years have been taken on by different groups—the Moosomin Moose made improve-ments to Guinness Field, the Moosomin Elks have made improvements to

improvements to the Kinsmen diamond, the Kinettes have put in a playground, the Moosomin Generals have built an impressive facility from scratch over the last five years, and the Moosomin Rodeo Committee is building new bleach-ers for the rodeo grounds "It's great to get different groups taking responsibil-ity for different facilities in

the park. It's great for the groups to take on a project, and once they're invested, they take some pride in the facility and want to keep it

up. "Now we have different groups taking responsibil-ity for different facilities within the park, and every-one is doing a great job of improving their facilities and keeping them up. The town's fortunate to have so many different groups so invested in the park. I hear from other towns all the

time asking how we do it." The park is used by large numbers of people each summer. There are 300-400 kids involved in soccer, 100-200 involved in foot-ball and a similar number in minor ball. Schwean esti-mates 750 kids are involved in minor sports on the play-ing fields at Bradley Park in ths summer.

As well about 500 kids took swimming lessons at the Moosomin pool last summer.

The town built the PotashCorp Sportsplex at the park, which opened last year and has been very busy since it opened in the fall. "We're

\$170.000 up since we opened at the Sportsplex," Schwean says. There is no comparison between Bradley Park now

and what it was 30 years ago. "When I moved to town the baseball diamond was really nice and the Elks dia-mond was decent. What's now Guinness Field had

been let go, and the Kins-men diamond wasn't really there. The south end was slough and bullrushes from the track back. The rodeo ground wasn't even there.

"There was the rink and a few diamonds and that was it. The bowling alley came in the mid-90s and the convention centre in the early 2000s."



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May 2017



# **Moosomin Regional Park named Sask Park of the Year**

#### BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

Moosomin Regional Park has won the top provincial honor for a regional park—it has been named 2017 Park of the Year by the Saskatchewan Association of Regional Parks.

"The Saskatchewan Regional Parks Association gives a Park of the Year award every year," said park manager

Wayne Beckett. "You need to submit your application and see if you make the cut. We made a lot of improvements over the make the cut. We made a lot of improvements over the past year, so we submitted our proposal. The criteria is that your park has to have made significant changes over the past years or overcome obstacles. We have got a lot of positive feedback from patrons so we thought we would take a shot. We got the award at the AGM and the minister of parks, recreation and culture was there and gave us the award.

There have been a lot of changes and improvements at

the park over the years. The Living Skies Come Alive fireworks show is an ongo ing event hat gets bigger and better every year. This will be the eighth year the regional park has hosted the event. Last year the park had just over 7,000 people through the

East year the park new part of the parks and the events they put on, "Compared to other parks and the events they put on, this is head and shoulders above what anyone else has done," said Beckett. "It has become a camping destination for a lot of people. They plan their summer get-together and reunions around that weekend. When we open up for backets are March 1 that is the first weekend to be gone.

bookings on March 1, that is the first weekend to be gone. The park is packed for that weekend." The park has also put a lot of work into beautification, with improved tree trimming and the addition of flower beds

"At the front corner we have a big new flower bed. It will be our new attraction with a giant lily that was donat-ed to us which was made by Ken Goodman of Goodman Steel," says Beckett. "Carol Fawcett is our lead on flower

beds and she has an idea to make that a very attractive spot. That will be a focal point when you come into the park

Other improvements include the addition of six new campsites at the site of the former Scout cabin, the addition of a pickleball court, and the addition of a disc golf course.

As well, Beckett points out, "we have added a new winning platform, and we made our marina bigger. We have made a lot of improvements on the hiking trails. We've just been trying to make it more of an attractive park and more enjoyable."

More improvements are planned for this summer. A new toll booth and park office is being built at the entrance to the park, the park board will be running the store itself this year rather than contracting it out, and soft ice cream will be added to the store.

The park board is also planning to add some new pic-nic shelters. Across from the store there will be a covered shelter there with a cement floor and barbecue for people heading out for the day to have a picnic. The park is also building a portable covered stage that can be used for the fireworks weekend and other events through the summer.

Interworks weekend and other events through the summer. Beckett believes the future has unlimited potential for the park. "There is potential for a driving range, mini golf, kids BMX bike track, and there are other events that could be held out there with that stage. The more we offer for people to do out there the more they will want to come out and expert them?" and camp there

Beckett says it was an honor to receive the award. "It's very satisfying to see our hard work recognized," he said. "The board works really well together. There's a good bunch of people on there. It was nice to be recog-nized in front of all of our peers." Regional Park Board chair Chris Davidson said he be-lieves the range of amonities at the park and the Linice

lieves the range of amenities at the park and the Living Skies Come Alive fireworks competition are big factors of the reason the park has been recognized.



#### **Provincial honor for Moosomin Regional Park**

Members of the Moosomin Regional Park board of directors were presented with the Saskatchewan Park of the Year. From left are Moosomin Regional Park board members Dave Renneberg, Layne McFarlane, Bob Mullett, Wayne Beckett, Chris Davidson, and Laurie Renneberg, Saskatchewan Minister of Parks, Culture, and Sport Ken Cheveldayoff, and Saskatchewan Regional Parks Association chair John Froese.

"The Saskatchewan Regional Park Association come out and do accreditation inspections where they look at all your facilities and amenities. Our park has a lot of ameni-ties—we've got fishing and swimming, hiking trails and ball diamonds, and now pickle ball courts. "The fireworks show is a big part of it. It started out when there was a guy from Windthorst who worked for a

When there was a guy from windthorst who worked for a Regina fireworks crew. He started doing it, then we turned it into a competition, and now it's going to be an inter-national competition between China and Canada, so it's grown into quite a thing. It's grown into a bigger event than we ever thought."

than we ever thought." It is the second of the big project the park has been raising money for through the years. "We've got our new water treatment plant all engineered and ready to go. We've been waiting on the federal government. We've had an application in there for over two years for a grant to help finance it, and it hasn't come. We might have to move forward on our own. We're look-ing at somewhere between \$300,000 and \$400,000, and we've got a big chunk of it set aside already. We've been raising money for it for the last number of years. We might have to move forward on it this year." Davideon said it fees good to receive recommittion at the

Davidson said it feels good to receive recognition at the provincial level. "We never thought to apply before, and this year we did and we won. It's nice to get that recogni-tion for what we're doing."



#### Maritimes & Newfoundland

Sept. 14th – Oct. 14th, 2017 (Fly Option) City tours of Ottawa, Montreal, Quebec, PEI, Bonavista, St John's, Halifax, Cabot Trail, Peggy's Cove, Lunenburg and Niagara Falls. New sights this year: St John NB, L'Anse aux Meadows Viking village, Kingston sites, Toronto and sites in Niagara Falls

#### Norsk Hostfest Sept. 27th - Oct. 1st, 2017

5 days, 4 nights, 7 headliners and shuttle tickets. Headliner shows you'll see are Celtic Thunder, Amy Grant, Jeff Dunham, Joe Diffey, John Michael Montgomery, The Doobie Brothers, Little River Band, Gary Allan and Josh Turner

#### New York "I Want to Be a Part of It" Sept. 27th – Oct. 2nd, 2017 Flights, limo transfers, Times Square Hotel, Hop On/Off Bus

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#### Music Tour Nashville, Memphis, Branson Nov. 02 - Nov. 17, 2017

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CO-OP





Continued from page 11 "The quilts that I have done for competi-The quits that I have done for compet-tion always have a theme or some kind of background," she says. "I believe all of my quilts have some kind of a message. It isn't always as obvious as this exhibit. This ex-hibit wasn't even done originally to share. It was for me—my way to record what was going on " going on."

So why did she share it in the end? Grif-

So why did she share it in the end? Grif-fin says she was inspired and encouraged to share her work by other artists at a gathering called Art Quilt Campus. "You are removed from everything else and you are surrounded by artists. It is a great place to go," she says, "I sort of looked at it then and talked to them and they said 'you have to get the message out, that art helped you heal and other people can use that.' And that is when I thought to myself probably needed to do that. I found it was that' And that is when I thought to myself I probably needed to do that. I found it was so close to me and doing it in my home town you are exposing yourself. I struggled with if or a little bit and then when I came home and finished that trip I thought 'you know I think I should.' I hadn't really shown any of the pieces to anyone. I had kept them to my-self. It was encouragement of the other art-iter. The reason you need to do it is because. ists. The reason you need to do it is because they are pieces that speak."

## Living with Lyme Disease

Some of the pieces of artwork on display at Su-san Griffin's show "50 Yarns of Lyme - The Lyme Dis-ease Series." Griffin's work used mixed media, ranging from gauze to yarn and paint and the dyes of crushed leaves and berries. Gauze was often used to depict the brain fog caused by Lyme Disease.

The reaction to Griffin's show was over-whelming. Over 125 people attended the show the Saturday she held it. "I was blown away by the reaction of the people that came out to it," says Griffin. "I

have a lot of gratitude to the people who came out and supported me and the reaction was a lot more intense then I thought it would be. I'd take people aside and see the emotion and see the tears. You see the recemotion and see the tears. You see the rec-ognition in their face or they tell you how much it affected them. It is probably the highest compliment an artist can get. It is very encouraging that I found a genre that I can touch people that way." Griffin says anyone who feels they need to turn to art as a way of healing or express-ing themselves shouldn't let anything stop them. "Iust co for it." she says. "I really believe

"Just go for it," she says. "I really believe everybody has the ability to be an artist. We all are artists at heart. This world is so full of do—any type of art—we need to do that just to be healthier."

Griffin says the art show was the last step

"I think it's really supported my recov-ery," she says. "This was kind of the final step. I'm glad I did it now."



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# Sharpe's new blending plant completed at Moosomin

BY KARA KINNA Sharpe's Soil Services has completed a major new in-vestment in its Moosomin plant. The company's new fer-

vestment in its Moosomin plant. The company's new rer-tilizer blending plant is up and running. The \$2.8 million plant began operation on May 3. It re-placed the blend system that has been in place since 1995. The new system blends at a rate of 300 metric tonnes per hour compared to the old system, which blended at 60 tonnes per hour. A semi can now be loaded in about five minutes instead of 20 minutes. The new plant will also close the more moducts into its blends.

minutes instead of 20 minutes. The new plant will also allow Sharpe's to include more products into its blends. "It gives us the flexibility of introducing more varied products into the blends than we were able to do before. We can blend up to eight macro nutrient products and up to three micro liquid or dry products into the system," says Chris Davidson, general manager of Sharpe's in Moosomin. "We were kind of limited on the micro side and we could only do about five macro nutrient products out of the old plant." Davidson says the speed of the new plant will be its

Davidson says the speed of the new plant will be its

Davidson says the speed of the new plant will be its biggest asset. "The biggest thing is speed. The old system was just getting too slow," he says. "Trucks are getting bigger and rates per acre are getting higher and we were having a hard time keeping up so we felt we needed to do this to keep up with demand. "The demand is there and you have to keep up with the times. If you're not going forward you're going back-wards"

wards."

wards." Davidson says Sharpe's has been planning on a new fertilizing blending facility for a few years now. "We've been working on a plan for it for a couple of years. We've known we've needed to improve our facility here for a while and just weren't exactly sure what sys-tem we wanted to go with, so we spent some time with the different sometime tering to determine which was three different suppliers trying to determine which was the best for what we needed to do and settled with this system we have here now.

"It's fast and there are no more line ups and it has very

accurate blending and everyone is quite happy. "Some of these guys are half done seeding already and will be done in another week—it's moving along quite good here.

We definitely had a bottleneck problem with the old system, it was too slow.

Construction on the facility began last fall. "They poured the cement last fall and built all the

equipment over the winter and started putting it together "They did a good job and it looks like it's a fine piece

of equipment. "The biggest thing is it's speeding up our blending time and that's what our customers needed and that's what we're going to give them."

A grand opening for the new facility will be held June 1.

A truck loading up at the new fertilizer blending facility at Sharpe's Soil Services in Moosomin.





Custom blend capabilities will include impregnation of fertilizer with either dry or liquid micronutrients or specialty products such as Agrotain. As we continue to push yields, we are going to require these specialized nds and this facility will definitely accommodate that." Wendy Schatz Leeds PAg CCA , Sharpe's Lead Agronomist

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# Tips for perennial forage fertility

BY: LORNE KLEIN. Forage Specialist Saskatchewan Ministry

OF AGRICULTURE Livestock producers are more commonly inquir-ing about the economics of applying commercial fertilizer on mixed alfalfa/ grass hay fields to increase yields. This is largely driven by recent high land prices and rents. Producers now want to grow more tonnage on the acres they already have.

It is common knowledge at commercial fertilizer that applied on five year and older hay fields and pas-tures that have previously not been fertilized or heavnot been fertilized or heav-ily manured will virtu-ally always increase yield. When you purchase and apply fertilizer, you are essentially buying extra feed. The bigger question is whether fertilizing is the economically best option of buying the extra feed. Other options of increas-ing feed supply are rent-ing pasture or hayland, harvesting annual crops as

ing pasture or hayland, harvesting annual crops as greenfeed rather than com-bining, and buying feed products (grain, pellets, forages, crop residues). The



Ministry of Agriculture has a Feed Value Calcula-tor that helps producers determine the economic value of these feed sources based on the nutrients they contain. To assist with the fertil-

izer decision, there are gen-eral rules. On previously unfertilized perennial for-ages, the grasses will nor-mally be lacking nitrogen and the legumes will normally be lacking phospho-



The yield response of grass to nitrogen fertil-izer is relatively constant and predictable. This applies over a relatively wide range of soil nitrogen fer-tility levels, unless the soil has an unusually high nitrogen pool. Examples of unusually high nitrogen potential would include and with a history of very high manure application, or the area immediately beor the area immediately be-low where a hay bale had been grazed within the last two years. The yield in-crease of grass dry matter per pound of nitrogen ap-plied is highly dependent upon soil moisture and rainfall after application. The averages for the soil zones are: zones are: Brown Soil Zone: 10-15

lbs grass/lb N applied Dark Brown Soil Zone: 15-25 lbs grass/lb N ap-

plied Black Soil Zone: 20-30 lbs grass/lb N applied The current price for ni-

trogen is in the range of 50 cents per pound. Exclud-ing application cost, and using a yield response of 20 lbs grass per pound of nitrogen applied, it would cost \$50 to grow an extra ton of grass dry matter (2000  $\div$  20 = 100 lbs N re-quired. 100 lbs X 50 cents/ lb = \$50). With very good moisture conditions and a yield response of 30 lbs grass per pound of nitro-gen applied, it would cost \$33.33 to grow an extra ton of grass dry matter. The yield response of al-falfa to phosphorus fertiliz-er is somewhat less predict-able. It is quite dependent upon the pool of phospho-rus in the soil. For example, phosphorus at 20-25 ppm is considered optimum. A highly deficient soil test-ing at 6 ppm or less will have a greater response to phosphate fertilizer com-pared to a soil at testing at 12 ppm. The only way to

pared to a soil at testing at 12 ppm. The only way to determine what levels you

have is with a soil test. As a general guideline from a 2015 survey, Saskatchewan

2015 survey, Saskatchewan soils average 15 ppm. When you purchase commercial fertilizer, you are buying phosphorus (P) with the phosphorus content expressed as per-cent  $P_{2}O_{5}$  can produce anywhere from 0-70 lbs or more of alfalfa dry matmore of alfalfa dry mat-ter, depending upon initial phosphorus levels in the soil. For most alfalfa/grass hav fields that have not had fertilizer added, a conservative estimate is 30 lbs of alfalfa forage produced for every pound of P<sub>.</sub>O<sub>5</sub> ap-plied. Phosphorus fertiliz-er is currently in the range of 45 cents per pound of P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>. Using these estimates if would cost \$30/ton to grow the extra alfalfa.

An equally important reason to apply phospho-rus fertilizer is to maintain the legume in the stand for nitrogen fixation. A mixntrogen fixation. A mix-ture with 50 percent alfalfa and 50 percent grass pro-duces roughly the same as 100 percent grass fertilized with 125 lbs nitrogen per

acre every year. When in doubt, fertilize on low fertility fields with phosphorus to at least the level of removal. A ton of alfalfa/grass hay removes about 10 lbs of  $P_2O_5$ . You can maintain or build the soil phosphorus pool by adding the same or more phosphorus as fertilizer or manure.

If you decide to apply fertilizer, stake out test fertilizer, stake out test strips across a representa-tive area of the field. Leave at least one check strip with no fertilizer, and dou-ble back on another strip to double the rate. This will show you the yield re-sponse and whether or not the fertilizer was a good in-vestment, and whether you have amplied an adequate have applied an adequate rate.



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# Pulse extension a relief for Sask farmers

Canadian pulse growers should be collectively exhaling a breath of reliefafter a recent announcement that access to the market in India will continue.

There had been indications of rules being tweaked in that country which would have been an impediment to pulse exports from this country accessing the critical In-dian market.

India had granted a series of exemptions since 2004 to initial had granted a series of exemptions since 2004 to an import regulation regarding mandatory fumigation of imported crops, in recognition of Canada's cold climate. The end of the current exemption on March 31, 2017 had threatened to disrupt trade by adding significant costs to

The area of the market. At first blush the rule changes seemed a tad short-sight-ed given the amount of pulses Canada has exported there in recent years, although the changes did correspond with a better crop in India, so it was as much about protecting domestic farmers as anything.

Or, at least it gave that impression to domestic farmers. But things have apparently been smoothed over, at least

in the short term. A three month extension to the current fumigation pro-



tocol is in effect from April 1 until June 30. Pulse exports currently in transit or which will arrive on or before June

currently in transit or which will arrive on or before June 30, 2017 will not require fumigation in Canada. The Honourable Lawrence MacAulay, Minister of Ag-riculture and Agri-Food, and the Honourable François-Philippe Champagne, Minister of International Trade, recently issued the following statement on securing con-tinued access for Canadian pulses to India. "Following representations to the Government of India and visits to Delhi earlier this month by both ministers, Canada has secured continued access to the Indian market for Canadian pulse exporters," detailed a joint press re-lease. "... This new exemption means that Canadian pulse

exports leaving Canada on or before June 30, 2017, will not require fumigation in Canada. We will maintain ongo-ing trade while officials on both sides continue to work

ing trade while officials on both sides continue to work towards a long-term, science-based solution." Finding a solution to the impasse was important given the market's importance to the Canadian pulse sector. In 2016, pulse exports to India were worth over \$1.1 bil-lion and accounted for 27.5 per cent of Canada's global

pulse exports. In Saskatchewan the extension, which hopefully allows time for a more permanent solution, is particularly important

tant. As Canada's leader in pulse crop production, Saskatch-ewan's 17,000 pulse growers produce 99 per cent of Can-ada's chickpeas, 84 per cent of Canada's lentils and 49 per cent of Canada's dry peas. The government of Saskatchewan welcomes the exten-sion to India's pulse fumigation exemption, which will maintain uninterrupted access for Saskatchewan pulse crose to the important Indian market.

Now the work for a longer term deal must get under way to protect the industry here in Canada.

# New loan program for ag entrepreneurs

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14.9R24 fronts; Serial # LO6430K648857; John Deere 4240 tractor, diesel, 8682 hrs, 540-1000 PTO, dual hyi, 16 spd, Trans, 110 Hp PTO, 05Hp draw, tires: 20.8-34 rear, 10.00-16 fronts; Serial# TSG33002304RX; John Deere 566 rd, baler, 1000 PTO, dual tie, serial # E00566X126609; 1998 Hesston 514 rd, baler, 10,000 bales, 540 PTO, soft oore, manual tie, always shedded, serial # R51400781; 1995 Prairie Star 4600 PT swather, 1000 PTO, 24 pickup reel, carvas wir canala cutters, serial # 100350; CaselH 8370 haybine, 540 PTO, 14' w hyd, Swing, serial # 0FH0119108; NH 1037 Stackliner sq, bale picker, 103 bale; 540 PTO, whyd. Loadrack, serial # 2885; John Deere 338 sq, baler, 540 PTO, Upchute, serial # 7-00338/779599; John Deere 338

sq. baler, 540 P10, tip-onute, senai # -1003d8X/19599, John Deere 3503, press dhil, 2x - 10° sections, rubber packers, with fertilizer markers, senai # N09000X032747, John Deere 1600 vibra chisel, 29° wi 3 row JD harrows; John Deere A 1000 cultivator wi 3 row mixed harrow, 34; seniai # 107740, Dual 600 manure spreader, single beater, 540 PTO, good floor, seniai # 600-172; 2015 JD D110 lawn tractor, 42° deck, wi water deck wash, 77 hrs., 19Hp; Cub Cadel F24 tiller, 24° adjustable tines, reverse drive, wi Hondar 160 motor; 2x

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BY TRUDY KELLY FORSYTHE Evan Hegedys, 31, oper-ates a cow-calf operation with his wife Tonay, 27, an hour north of Calgary, Alta.

He will calve over 1,000 head this spring and breed 1,350 heifers this summer, so he is familiar with the expense of growing a farm

"We have purchased and rented enough land to lo-cally grow the feed for our cally grow the leed for our herd, as well as some grain that we harvest," he says, adding that for the last couple years they have been custom feeding their calves. "Initially, we started cus-tom haying to maximize our equipment, now we do hay/straw brokerage and deliveries as well."

deliveries as well." Hegedys is optimistic

about the future of agriculture.

"There's a positive out-look," he says. "There is a lot of room to see land values increase and I see profit-ability in the next 10 years as long as interest does not go crazy.

## Loans help Chad DeBot, 34, operates

DeBot & Sons Ltd., a third-generation cash crop, veg-etable and seed corn farm in Wallaceburg, Ontario, with his father Dennis

His fattler Definits. He knows loans can help since one helped him pur-chase his first parcel of land in 2013

in 2013. "We had previously rent-ed this parcel and the own-ers at the time were aware of our good stewardship practise which made them more than happy and I was able to receive financial as-sistance from FCC," says De Bot Bot

"I am grateful for the opportunity to grow my busi-ness through the Young Entrepreneur program and would definitely recom-mend this to young farmers.

#### Young Entrepreneur Loan

Recently young entre-preneurs in the agriculture retail, manufacturing and food processing sectors have had access to a new loan program. Farm Credit Canada an-nounced the Young Entre-

preneur Loan last month to provide financing up to \$1 million per qualified appli-cant, under age 40.

"It's a positive program for sure," Hegedys says. "A lot of young farmers aren't

going to be new to the busi-ness. They likely grew up in ness. They likely grew up in it, but if not, this is going to be a valuable tool." FCC agrees access to capital allows businesses to

take advantage of new op-portunities and grow the economy.

"By providing specialized loans for young farmers and entrepreneurs, we are help-ing the next generation get established and contribute to Canada achieving its full potential as a leading food supplier worldwide," says Michael Hoffort, FCC president and CEO.

Funds from the Young

ain. MB ROK 0E0

Entrepreneur Loan may be used to purchase or improve agriculture-related assets or to purchase shares in an agriculture-related business, including those in the agri-food sector.



## **ROSS TAYLOR AUCTION SERVICE June Farm and Livestock**



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## The Estate of Keith Johnson & **LaVonne Johnson Farm Auction** Saturday, May 27, 2017 - 10:00 a.m.



# **Choosing seed treatments**

BY LYNDON HICKS, P.AG., REGIONAL CROPS SPECIALIST SASKATCHEWAN MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, YORKTON

Choosing a seed treatment starts with knowing your seed quality and the conditions you will be seeding into. Good germination and vigor are still the number one priority. Seed treatments can provide protection from some diseases and insects but do not improve the quality of the seed. In other words, seed treatments do not make dead seed germinate or won't make bad seed good!

Deciding whether to use a seed treatment or not is the first step. Some conditions where seed treatments have been shown to be beneficial are: seeding early into cold soils, high level of seed borne disease, seed with mechanical damage such as cracking, and seeding into fields with seedling disease issues from previous year(s) or potential insect problems. If you have good quality seed and are seeding into warm soils with no expected pathogen or insect pressure then you may not see a benefit from seed treatment.

It is extremely important to know what level of disease is in the seed you intend to plant. If you're planning on using common or bin-run seed; a seed test is going to be a valuable piece of information for you... even more so this year with the high level of diseased seed across the province. For pedigreed seed you will be provided this information. Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture has guidelines for seed borne disease for both cereals and pulse crops. These guidelines will make

These guidelines will make recommendations whether to use seed treatments or source different seed based on disease levels in your intended seed lot. With Fusarium graminearum for example; anything over 5% it is recommended to find another seed source is not available... a seed treatment would be strongly recommended. With total Fusarium spp.

you can get away with higher levels BUT it is still recommended to use a seed treatment once levels get over 5%. As total Fusarium spp levels approach 10% or higher... consider another seed source.

higher... consider anouner seed source. Once the decision to use a seed treatment has been made then you need to choose which one or is best. For this you will need to know what pathogens or insects you need protection against. With soil borne pathogens that cause seed and seedling diseases you may not know which pathogen will be present and most damaging each year. The pathogens involved can include Fusarium spp., Pythium, Rhizoctonia, Aphanomyces as well as Cochliobolus sativus. Fusarium continues to be a challenge across Saskatchewan making it a safe bet to assume is present in the soil. Pythium and Aphano-

Pythium and Aphanomyces are particularly well adapted to wet, waterlogged soils and are less affected by temperature while Rhizocto-

LAMA

nia thrives under cool, moist early-season conditions. These are just general guidelines as it is difficult to predict which organism may be more prevalent in your soils and most seed treatments can provide protection for all most of the organisms mentioned.

Other diseases that can be controlled by seed treatments include seed-borne ascochyta in pulses, smut, bunt and seed-borne septoria in cereals, as well as seed-borne blackleg and alternaria in oilseeds.

Knowing your field history and seed disease levels will help with the decision whether protection from one of these diseases is warranted.

For insect protection there are many product options that can provide protection from wireworms in cereals and pulses to flea beetles and cutworms in canola and

Barnard

mustard. If you had problems with any early-season insect in the past or suspect high pressure this year then you may want to opt for a seed treatment with the added protection.

seen ineatherin with the added protection. There are a lot of products on the market so the choice can be difficult. Besides using a product that is registered for control of the disease or insect you are interested in; there are a couple other factors to consider. The first being applications. No method. Some products are only available to commercial treaters while others have on-farm applications. No matter which you choose all products need to be applied properly assuring good coverage of each and every seed. Ease of application of the product is also worth considering.

ering. Seed treatments are a good choice if you are seeding early into cool wet soils. It is added insurance to get your crop off to a healthy start. Remember that seed treatments are only effective if applied at the recommended rates and with good coverage. They typically provide protection for up to 21 to 28 days (depending on conditions) after seeding, so monitoring your crop is still important.

For more information on seed treatments contact your Regional Crops Specialist or the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377.







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#### May 2017

Plain and Valley



gure 1: Saskatchewan's crop receipts and farmland values have grown togethe

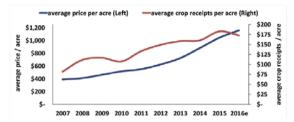
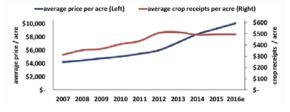


Figure 2: Ontario's crop receipts stabilized as farmland values continued to strengther



**Crop receipts matter to farmland values** 

BY LEIGH ANDERSON The 2016 FCC Farmland Values report indicates Canadian farmland has continued to increase in value. askatchewan and Ontario values to illustrate the different relationship crop receipts have with farmland value growth rates across the country. Understanding the link between crop receipts and land values have strengthened—and why their strength may also ebb.

#### CANADIAN CROP RECEIPTS LIKELY GREW IN 2016

We expect crop receipts at the national level climbed 2% in 2016. Pushing them up were both rising yields and production growth resulting in the secondlargest crop in history (91.7 million metric tons). As a result, 2017's crop receipts

result, 2017's crop receipts should also grow slightly. Increasing global supplies of three major crops (corn, soybeans and wheat) pressured commodity prices in 2016. Buffered by the low loonie however, producers here didn't face the price drops U.S. producers saw. Corn, wheat and canola were on average 10% lower than the fiveyear average, and Ontario soybean prices were about the same as that average.

SASKATCHEWAN AND ONTARIO DIFFER But the relationship between crop receipts and farmland values isn't static. Saskatchewan's farm- м

land values have generally tracked crop receipts over the last ten years (Figure 1). On a per acre basis, the average price of farmland outgrew crop receipts in 2016 when weather impacted the quality and harvest of several crops in western Canada. AAFC estimates Saskatchewan crop receipts declined 5% in 2016.

Ontario offers a different picture (Figure 2). Crop receipts peaked in 2013, and have remained relatively stable since then. Farmland values continued to climb in response to different pressures. CROP RECEIPTS AND FARMLAND VALUES: MONITOR THEIR MOVEMENTS Crop receipts aren't the only driver of farmland values. That relationship also evolves over time, as it has recently given a strong

demand outlook for Canadian agricultural commodities and the environment of low interest rates. But crop receipts are key.

> Two ways to strengthen crop receipts

Productivity growth can help absorb potential price pressures from growing global supplies.

35

global supplies. Being efficient should provide the flexibility to face different market conditions in the future.





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