

Plain & Valley

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Covering Southeast Saskatchewan and Southwest Manitoba



Events were cancelled during the summer of 2020 due to Covid-19 restrictions but plans are coming together for lots of events in the summer of 2021. Above, Cst. William Wang and Cst. Trina Brace lead the 2019 Moosomin parade. The parade will be back in 2021 as part of Moosomin's Reopening Celebration. At right, scenes from the Moose Mountain Pro Rodeo and Spy Hill Sports Days.

**Rocanville Community Days June 26, Moosomin Reopening Celebration July 17
Moose Mountain Pro Rodeo July 24 and 25, Spy Hill Sports Days August 14 and 15**

A summer of events planned, post-Covid

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

With Covid restrictions lifting, plans are coming together for a summer of events and celebrations.

Rocanville Community Days

Rocanville Community Days is set for June 26. "Typically for Community Days we'd be having a bunch of different events," said Rocanville Recreation Director Andrea Logan. This year on June 26 a fireworks event will be held as well as a parade, pancake breakfast, and town-wide garage sale.

The parade will take place at 7:30 p.m. on June 26 with the firework display happening at dusk.

Reopening Celebration

With Covid-19 restrictions expected to be lifted in Saskatchewan July 11, the community of Moosomin is planning a Reopening Celebration for Saturday, July 17.

The day will include the Chamber of Commerce Parade at 10 am, the Moosomin Community Market 11 am

to 4 pm and the Moosomin Broncs and Bulls event at 7 pm. The Chamber of Commerce said it is hoping a lot of people come out to celebrate reopening and see what the town has to offer.

"People can come out not only for the events that day, but to check out some of our stores and restaurants," the Chamber said in a statement. "The Moosomin Community Market is a new initiative this year and we have some new businesses for people to check out, so we're hoping people come and celebrate with us that day."

Moose Mountain Pro Rodeo

The Moose Mountain Pro Rodeo is a go with an event planned for July 24 and 25.

Co-chair of the Moose Mountain Rodeo Association, Jill Lowe, says that the rodeo committee is doing its best to hold a regular rodeo.

"We have decided to go ahead with a full-fledged pro rodeo. This will be our 88th annual Moose Mountain Pro Rodeo," said Lowe.

With the Calgary Stampede opening on July 9 and running until July 18, the Canadian Professional Rodeo Association (CPRA) is working to bring international riders to Canada.

"We are waiting to hear about the border," said Lowe. "Most of the professional athletes are in the States right now. To get a proper season in, they're going to every rodeo in the States, but there are some that are being invited to the Calgary Stampede. They're hoping to get those athletes up here, so if they're up here then they can come to ours the weekend after."

Spy Hill Sports Days

President of the Spy Hill Community Club Jeff Odgers says that the club is planning Sports Days for August.

"We are going to go ahead with the Sports Days rodeo on August 14 and 15. We're going to have a slow-pitch tournament, a tractor pull, a kids rodeo, team roping, and the chuckwagon and chariot races are not ruled out either," Odgers said.

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Kenosee Superslides prepare to open under limited capacity

By SPENCER KEMP

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER
The Kenosee Superslides is aiming to open its doors on June 30.

Under the current COVID-19 guidelines, the Superslides will be restricting its capacity to 150.

Jan Armstrong, Vice-President of Marketing and Sales at Kenosee Superslides, says the park staff will do their best to open up before the July long weekend.

"We are absolutely looking to try, try being the operative word, to open. We're focusing on July long weekend because it's such a big weekend for the park and for the Kenosee area in general. So we're looking to try for Wednesday, June 30. While it's not an absolute, set-in-stone date it's a date we're shooting for," said Armstrong.

Armstrong says that the Superslides bring in around 70,000 visitors a year, a number that was significantly impacted last year by the capacity restrictions.

While Armstrong says he is planning to open the Superslides even with the restrictions but notes the financial strain it will have on the park should the restrictions remain in effect for a second year.

"We had a limitation of 150 people last year and it was catastrophic for us. Our park is a 4.5-acre waterslide park, and on a regular year, we are allowed 1,000 people per acre on our park. So that gives us a capacity limitation of upwards of 4,000 people, but generally speaking on busy days we're only at 1,500 people. So it's not even close to the max capacity of this park. But if we can't add an extra zero on the back of 150, we're doomed. It's not going to be good for the park, because last year it was financially terrible for this park because of the capacity restrictions."

Despite reaching out to the government to try and work out an alternative, Armstrong says that at this time the park will remain limited to a capacity of 150.

He argues that the size of the water park should allow for an increased capacity.

"We've been trying to work with differ-



The Kenosee Superslides plan to open on June 30 with a maximum capacity of 150, a capacity that Jan Armstrong says will not be sufficient to support the park financially.

ent organizations in the government but they've still placed this 150 person limitation on this massive waterpark. If we have 150 people in this park it looks empty, it doesn't even look like it's open. Especially on things like long weekends where we're getting lots of numbers, people aren't going to drive out here."

Armstrong argues that the capacity limitations also affect businesses nearby, noting that the traffic brought to the Kenosee Superslides is also brought to nearby communities and businesses.

"All of these people benefit from what we bring into the park. But we're not allowed to bring in those people and people are saying they won't go because they can't get in if we're full so they just don't show up."

Armstrong holds out hope that the maximum capacity is raised before his plans to open the park on June 30.

He says that without increased capac-

ity, the park will suffer the same financial strain it did in 2020, which he notes could lead to bankruptcy.

"The fact is if we don't open up this year with at least 25 per cent capacity, next year this place won't exist. That is the long and the short of it," said Armstrong, noting that the park will need to catch up on the lost revenue from 2020 as well.

"If we don't cover that this year, we will go into bankruptcy and this place won't exist. As it stands right now, we've gotten some support from the government but we've been trying to work with the Business Help Line, who were supposed to help us increase our limitation."

While the Re-Opening Roadmap could increase the maximum capacity of the waterpark later in the season, Armstrong says the long weekends are essential to the park.

He says that on a normal year, roughly 20,000 people go to the waterslides over the long weekends.

"The problem is we need our long weekends. We need both of those long weekends to support the park, to support ourselves. That is when people come in, those are the weekends that people come in. We get around 20,000 people on long weekends who come into Moose Mountain to experience the beach and the lake and the car shows and the communities and all these different things. Those are the weekends that everybody comes in. Those are the weekends that people book off for holidays. Those are the weekends that people come here, and if we don't get those weekends then we're lost. We need, absolutely need, those two weekends, July and August long weekends," said Armstrong.

Armstrong says he is going to continue pushing for an increased capacity, saying that a minimum of 25 per cent capacity will be required to operate the park and create revenue.

"My father and I are going to go down fighting. We're going to throw haymakers until we're in the ground or this place opens. We want this place to stay open, we love this park, we worked for this park for around 10 years, we developed amazing life-long friends with the staff and other business owners because of this place, we've fallen in love with Moose Mountain Provincial Park and the area. It's one of the most beautiful places in the province."

"I have so much love for this place and the potential for what it can do for the area, not just for Kenosee Lake as a village and Moose Mountain Provincial Park as a park, but for the other surrounding communities like Kipling and Carlyle. It's so important for us. It has been a big part of my life."

"This is something I've dedicated a large part of my life to and to see it falter and to see everyone else have to falter because of the numbers that aren't coming in anymore, it would break my heart. It would kill me. It would just be awful, so I have to keep fighting. No matter how hard it is, we have to make this waterpark great again," Armstrong concluded.

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In place of Moosomin Rodeo, scheduled for after full opening in Sask.: Bulls and Broncs event set for July 17

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK
Saskatchewan should be fully open on July 11 if vaccinations continue as expected and the Moosomin Rodeo Committee is planning a Bulls and Broncs event for the following weekend.

The Moosomin Rodeo Committee is planning the Bulls and Broncs event as a pared-down rodeo that will not include all the regular rodeo events, just three rough stock events—bull riding, bareback and saddle bronc.

Rather than the usual two-day rodeo, the Bulls and Broncs event will be one day, with rodeo action going Saturday evening at the Rodeo Grounds.

With the end of masking and crowd limits in Saskatchewan July 11 if vaccinations stay on track, the Moosomin Chamber of Commerce will hold its annual parade on the morning of July 17. The Chamber of Commerce will promote the event as a celebration of Saskatchewan's reopening, promoting the parade, local businesses, the Community Market, the Bulls and Broncs event and any other events that day.

"The official name is Bulls and Broncs 2021, hosted by Moosomin Rodeo," said Mike Sydoruk of the rodeo committee.

"We wanted to host something and not just let it go by. Hopefully everything changes for next year, and we'll go back to the full event."

"We wanted to have something to have some activity on the rodeo grounds again, after not being able to have an event last year."

"Cutting back the event helps the expenses, and helps the personnel, but it's still something happening."

He said the events that will be held are some of the most popular rodeo events.

"On the spectator side of it you'd have to say that bull riding is definitely the fan favorite. That's what everybody is excited for, that's what everybody wants to see. And with bucking horses, it's the same kind of scenario there."



Scenes from previous Moosomin Rodeo events. This year there will be bull riding, bareback and saddle bronc at the Bulls and Broncs event which will be in place of the full rodeo.

"So just holding these events helps out on the contestant level. The contestants on the rough stock side are manageable. If we did have a full rodeo with it being one of the first ones in this area, between two performances in our slack, you'd have well over 100 barrel racers alone. That's 100 trucks, 100 trailers, that's just one event. You add everybody else in, and there are a lot more contestants in a timed event versus rough stock. We went with this side because we thought it would be a little bit easier to manage and we'll run with that."

"The arena's not being fully utilized on the south

side of the arena. We don't need the extra people for working cows and steers on that side. We need the people on the bucking chute side to look after that. Even this year too, gate wise, you still need people to work a gate but you're not going to have two gates. So everything is almost 50 per cent for the volunteers you need. Even the beer gardens."

Sydoruk says it feels good to be getting back into gear as a rodeo committee after a year off.

"A few months back when we said we're going to have a rodeo and we're going to make it happen, everything was looking

good. Then the regulations tightened which really, really hampered the situation, mainly the spectators side of things. That really closed things up and getting contestants on the grounds and parked and following all the rules was going to be tough. But it's good to be back at it. The Bulls and Broncs event will include a beer gar-

den, but some of the other events that have happened around the rodeo are not being planned for this year. "We won't have the Rodeo Idol this year or some of those things. With it not being the typical full rodeo, that was a way to just step back a little bit," said Sydoruk. "Hopefully next year we're right back to normal and a full event."

He said there were a lot of discussions between the government, the CCA and rodeo committees, although now all restrictions should be lifted by the time of Moosomin's rodeo.

"There's been a lot of discussion between Sask Health, between the CCA, other committees, bouncing ideas off other committees and seeing what they're doing and they're asking what we're planning."

"We're lucky we're going to be able to do this, and next year we should be right back to a regular rodeo."

Steven Bonk, MLA for Moosomin Constituency

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88th annual Moose Mountain Pro Rodeo a go for July

BY SPENCER KEMP
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Moose Mountain Pro Rodeo is a go with an event planned for July 24 and 25.

Co-chair of the Moose Mountain Rodeo Association, Jill Lowe, says that the rodeo committee is doing its best to hold a regular rodeo.

"We have decided to go ahead with a full-fledged pro rodeo. This will be our 88th annual Moose Mountain Pro Rodeo and it will take place on July 24 and 25," said Lowe.

There will be some changes, Lowe says.

Because the rodeo has not had the same amount of time to plan as it would in a normal year, Lowe says that things might look a little different.

"We hope to have a back-to-normal rodeo as it always has been with a few changes. There will be a few things that won't be there but we want it to be like a regular rodeo," said Lowe.

"We are unsure if there will be a demolition derby because we're unsure if we will be able to get a demolition derby group together by then. We will have a parade but we're unsure of how it will run yet because of the restrictions. If there are restrictions in place then there won't be any candy thrown, but if the restrictions are lifted by then floats will be able to throw out candy. And if the restrictions are still in place people will have to stay near their car."

Earlier in the year, there were concerns regarding international riders from the USA, New Zealand, and Australia being able to participate in Canadian



A competitor takes down a young steer during the 2019 Moose Mountain Pro Rodeo

rodeos. But with the Calgary Stampede opening on July 9 and running until July 18, the Canadian Professional Rodeo Association (CPRA) is working to bring international riders to Canada.

Lowe says that because of this, there is a good chance that the Moose Mountain Pro Rodeo will see athletes from around

the world.

"We are waiting to hear about the border. Most of the professional athletes are in the states right now to get a proper season in, they're going to every rodeo in the states, but there are some that are being invited to the Calgary Stampede. They're hoping to get those athletes up here, so if they're up here then they can

come to ours the weekend after."

But even if international competitors are not an option, Lowe says there are many Canadian riders still in the country that can put on a show.

"According to the CPRA office, there still are lots of athletes that are in Canada," said Lowe. Because the Moose Mountain

Pro Rodeo takes place a week after the Calgary Stampede, Lowe says the Moose Mountain Rodeo receives many of the same competitors.

She says that because of this, it brings the action closer to home for many in the region and brings them close to the action.

"We always follow the Calgary Stampede so quite often those riders will come to Kennedy. So in the Calgary Stampede, you see the action from the grandstand, which is a ways away, but in Kennedy, you see it right up close," Lowe said.

Financially, Lowe says the rodeo committee is expecting fewer sponsorships but thanks those who are working hard to bring the rodeo back to Kennedy.

"We couldn't run our rodeo without the help of our committee members. We also rely a lot on our sponsorships and we realize that this year a lot of businesses have had a difficult year with Covid. We're still hoping that the sponsors will come out and help us financially get this off the ground and of course, we couldn't have this without our volunteers.

"Our sponsorships will most likely be lower this year but we still hope that people give whatever they can give we will gladly make use of it and do as much as we can in return for exposure for the businesses."

Lowe says she looks forward to the rodeo and hopes to be able to bring as much fun to the region as possible under the restrictions in place.

"We're hoping that everyone will just stick it to Covid," Lowe concluded.



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'They need to have their day in court'

Kahkewistahaw Chief calls for action following Kamloops discovery

BY SPENCER KEMP
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Following the discovery of the remains of 215 Indigenous youth in unmarked graves at a Kamloops, B.C. residential school, Indigenous communities across Canada are calling for action from the federal government.

Chief Evan Taypotat of the Kahkewistahaw First Nation says the discovery that made national headlines has brought renewed awareness to the horrors of residential schools.

"First and foremost the impact has put residential schools back in the spotlight. Sometimes we as Canadians forget that an atrocity has happened and certainly for us we never really want to recognize it but we have to admit and understand what happened at those schools. So I think that putting it back in the spotlight is a good thing. But the second part, the negative part, is it opened up a lot of old wounds for our people that attended those schools. Many of our people have attended various residential schools and underwent much mental, physical, and sexual abuse. So for them, the healing process has restarted and it's very sad what was found in Kamloops," Taypotat said.

Upon hearing the news, Taypotat says made an announcement on social media asking for prayers.

"We sent a message out on social media letting everyone know to pray and think good thoughts. For us, holding an event is a good thing but it also would open up those old wounds. So we kept it to social media and didn't do anything physical with Covid-19. We're still being cautious, but we're asking



Kahkewistahaw Chief Evan Taypotat

our people to pray for those young kids."

He says that social media has provided a way for many survivors to share their stories, noting that many of the stories have happened to the Kahkewistahaw First Nation.

"Physical, sexual, mental hardships happened here. A lot of the stories you see on social media happened to them too. For us, it's been a discovery that has opened a lot of old wounds, especially with the worldwide attention it has gathered," said Taypotat.

Taypotat says that action is needed and calls for those who operated residential schools and those who committed abuse to be taken through the judicial system.

"It's important to understand that we convict

people for doing crimes like killing children or sexually assaulting minors. This should be no different. People that ran those schools, the priests, the nuns, the administration, many of them are likely still alive and I very well know they did society wrong, they did Indigenous people and children wrong and I think they need to have their day in court. If it was any other group that did that, Canada would put them in court. We have to right that wrong, and in Canada, we do that through the judicial system and I would expect nothing less

than that to happen."

As efforts are made to investigate residential schools across Canada, Taypotat says it will cause pain for the First Nations but also provide opportunities to heal.

"This is the tip of the iceberg, there will be other mass graves found in Canada and there will be more hurt to come, but we as First Nations people have to turn this into a positive as best we can. We're going to heal, but along the way, we're going to cry. Hopefully in time we can right this wrong and move Canada forward in a positive way," said Taypotat.

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SIGA excited to open casinos as part of Step 2

BY SPENCER KEMP
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER

Step 2 of the Government of Saskatchewan's Re-Opening Roadmap is scheduled to take place on Sunday, June 20.

Step 2 will see casinos open with a 150 person maximum capacity after being closed since December 19, 2020.

Patricia Cook, Vice President of Corporate Affairs with the Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority (SIGA) says that SIGA's casinos have closed twice since the start of the pandemic and are looking forward to reopening in June.

"This past year Covid has really hit Saskatchewan and Canada and the world really hard, casinos included. Across Canada, I think all casinos were impacted at some point. For us, we were impacted twice in the past year. In the last 14 months, we were closed for around nine months. We closed on two occasions, we closed last March and didn't open until July 9, then we closed on December 19. It had a huge impact on our business and on our employees. It's been pretty devastating," said Cook.

Cook says the nine months of being closed carried a heavy financial impact on SIGA and the casinos.

"When you're closed for that length of time with no revenue coming in, it's a huge impact. We don't have any employees working but we do



Casinos across Saskatchewan have been closed since December 19, 2020 but are scheduled to reopen as part of Step 2 on June 20.

have a small crew that is just maintaining our assets and making sure that our systems are okay but other than that, everyone is off work right now. So it did impact us in a big way. One of the things that we were pleased with though was the federal government's Wage Subsidy program, so we were able to access that for our employees. The Saskatchewan government has been trying to help where they can, but there's a lot of businesses out there that require help."

But there is a light at the end of the tunnel.

Cook says that with Step 2 allowing casinos

to open, SIGA is ready to open the doors of their casinos and begin operations once more.

"We're ready and raring to go. We'll operate at a 150-person capacity and we're very thankful to be able to open our doors and we're excited to be welcoming our employees and patrons back. We've been chomping at the bit to get our doors open," Cook said.

She says the maximum capacity will not have much impact on the SIGA's smaller casinos and will be manageable for the larger ones.

"One-fifty for some of our smaller casinos is very

manageable. We have some very large properties where we can handle a capacity much larger than that and we're really excited that this won't be a long process. We're anticipating that Step 3 of Saskatchewan's Re-Opening Roadmap will happen very shortly after Step 2. They're targeting it for July 11, so once that happens all indicators are that they will essentially open a lot more opportunity for restrictions to be lifted, so we're looking forward to that."

Some services will also change, Cook says.

This includes table

games, which will be placed on hold until Step 3 of the Re-Opening Roadmap that is anticipated to take place in July.

"On day one we won't offer table games. We'll be offering everything else but table games at that point. Those will be brought back on stream in July, so it's not a long period of time. We're just really excited for this opportunity to get open and get our doors open so people can come in and enjoy the experience."

"Our restaurant service will be open at all of our casinos, so we're excited about that. It's a great

benefit to our patrons and our players when they come to the casino."

Cook notes that sanitization measures will remain in place at the casinos as they reopen.

"Safety continues to be a focus for our operation and we will continue with our enhanced cleaning and safety protocols so people can be assured that they are coming into a well-ventilated, safe, secure building when they come to see our casino."

All SIGA casinos will open on June 20 at 10 am, including the Painted Hand Casino and Bear Claw Casino.

Re-Opening Roadmap

Starting Sunday, May 30th, Step 1 of the Re-Opening Roadmap will come into effect

STEP 1 Sunday, May 30th

- Restaurants and bars open, maximum 6 at a table
- 30% capacity or 150 people (*whichever is less*) at places of worship
- Group fitness classes can resume, with three metres between participants
- Limit of 10 people at private indoor, outdoor and household gatherings
- Limit 30 people at public indoor gatherings
- Limit 150 people at public outdoor gatherings
- Measures for youth and adult outdoor sports will be lifted
- All long-term care and personal care home residents may welcome 2 visitors at a time indoors and 4 visitors at a time outdoors

STEP 2 Sunday, June 20th

STEP 3 To be determined

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Small Manitoba businesses continue to suffer under strict Covid-19 restrictions

BY SPENCER KEMP
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Businesses in Manitoba continue to struggle under the ongoing Covid-19 lockdown measures.

The most recent measures, which will remain in effect until at least June 12, include limiting the number of shoppers to one person per household in a business, and businesses are only permitted to operate at 10 per cent capacity.

Westwood Ranch makes cutbacks to keep afloat

For businesses like the Westwood Ranch and Garden Centre south of Elkhorn which relies on families and groups, these restrictions are taking their toll.

Owner Mark Humphries says these additional lockdown measures have lowered the amount of traffic in his business.

"This has affected all small businesses, us included because we are family-based and community-based shopping. Greenhouse shopping attracts friends to go out shopping with each other and families to go out, and with our setup with animals on display and a small bistro attraction as well as the garden centre, we attract a lot of families, and this has restricted all family activity.

"We can't open up for our animals at the moment ei-

ther so that restriction is being felt and we've definitely lost customers and are missing regular customers at this time because they're not allowed to bring their family," said Humphries.

With the restrictions already posing a problem, Humphries says there was a second, unexpected issue that had to be overcome.

Being located near the Manitoba-Saskatchewan border, Humphries says he frequently has customers from Saskatchewan that do not know the current restrictions in Manitoba.

"Another bit of confusion we have by being a border business is about half of our customers come from each side of the border. At certain times of the year, we actually get more Saskatchewan customers than Manitoba customers so there's confusion at the moment as Saskatchewan is opening up its restrictions. So a Saskatchewan family comes here and then realizes that only one of them can go shopping while the rest have to stay in the car. It's been quite tough for us to police and almost impossible in some cases. I think it is encouraging people to be dishonest because we only have one member of staff on reception and we can't police every vehicle that comes in and what occupants are in that vehicle. We're relying on their honesty when they're coming through that door. I think it's breeding dishonesty for some who want to come and shop. So we find that quite disturbing, because we are trying to

uphold the restrictions and requests of Manitoba Public Health. But the restriction here is very difficult, being a border community. That's what we're finding."

With Elkhorn and area having very few Covid-19 cases through the pandemic, Humphries says that the Government of Manitoba should focus on the centres with high infection rates while letting rural areas remain open.

"On a widespread opinion from people coming in, it is looked upon that we're being punished for Winnipeg, Winkler, Morden, Steinbach, and that area's folly.

"There are some there that are total non-believers in the vaccine or the pandemic and as such, they're totally denying all fact that it exists. So now we have bubbles of high infections in various areas that are causing us all the problems because we are overloaded in the health systems."

As an example, Humphries pointed out that the Government of Saskatchewan imposed similar restrictions when the two centres saw surges in Covid-19 cases.

"I think Saskatchewan had it bang on right. They shut down Regina and Saskatoon when the numbers were growing in those city areas and they were trying to stop it and to isolate it where the problem was. But here we have a blanket rule that is covering every part of Manitoba, which people are finding extremely irritating because here in rural communities people can police themselves a lot better than the cities can because we all know each other.

Continued on page 17

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Moosomin Regional Park prepares for busy year



A landscaping display greets campers as they enter the park at Moosomin Regional Park.

BY SPENCER KEMP
LOCAL JOURNALISM
INITIATIVE REPORTER
Moosomin Regional Park is gearing up for another busy year.

In 2020 when Covid restrictions began to affect travel, many across the country looked for creative and local ways to enjoy the summer. Because of this, parks saw an increase in bookings and use.

Park Manager at the Moosomin Regional Park Wayne Beckett says this year has already proven to

be busier than last, which was busier than the average year before.

"We're considerably ahead of last year's schedule as far as the number of bookings and the length of those bookings. It looks to be another busy season for sure, and that's just following Covid last year. People did more camping because they didn't have many other options and some people bought campers for the first time and used them, and now they're using them again this year,"

Beckett said.

He explained that last year there were Covid restrictions in place that impacted campers that have since lifted which he attributes to an even busier 2021 season.

"Last year when Covid hit there were a lot of restrictions with spacing between campers and playgrounds weren't open and none of the facilities were available to the public. So it was very restricted when it came to anything to do other than camping,"

So far this year we have no restrictions like that, just the basic Covid restrictions regarding social distancing and wearing a mask within the store. But as far as the washrooms and the playgrounds and laundromats, everything is open.

"It looks like it's going to be busier and fewer restrictions, so that's pretty nice. I'm thinking it will be a good year, just looking at the booking program here I'm guessing we're up about 20 per cent from last year, and last year was the busiest year we've seen in a while."

Beckett notes that while there currently are not any plans for events such as the annual fireworks show through the summer, though plans may change as Covid restrictions begin to lift.

"We don't have anything formally scheduled. With the restrictions, we just can't make any plans at this point. But if things do open up later in July, let's say, we will try to work something in. We have a pretty nice stage area set up here and whether we host a band or a series of bands or something, I think we will try and do something if the restrictions allow us to."

Beckett says that the park is also working on establishing eight 50 amp sites for larger campers that will be made available by July 1.

"One thing we're working on this year is we're designing some 50 amp full-service sites, which is something the public has

been asking about over the years. It's becoming more and more of a question that people want to know about if they're traveling through the area with big motorhomes or big campers. They want more power than our regular 30 amp sites and they want full service," said Beckett.



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Attention: Karen Beauchamp

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W 1/2 10-8-25 WPM EXC ALL MINES AND MINERALS AS RESERVED IN THE GRANTS FROM THE CROWN

E 1/2 3-8-25 WPM EXC ALL MINES AND MINERALS

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CONDITIONS OF TENDER:

- Interested parties must rely on their own inspection and knowledge of the property and not on the above or any other particulars or representations made by or on behalf of the Seller.
- Tenders must be received on or before 5:00 p.m. on June 28, 2021.
- Each tender must be accompanied by a \$10,000.00 deposit cheque payable to Meighen Haddad LLP. Deposits accompanying unaccepted bids will be refunded.
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- All mines and minerals will be reserved from any Transfer.
- Land is in the Torren's Title system.
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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT
KAREN BEAUCHAMP (204) 522-3225

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Cadmus Delorme speaks out about Kamloops discovery

By SPENCER KEMP

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Over the Victoria Day long weekend, the remains of 215 Indigenous youth were found in unmarked graves at the Kamloops Indian Residential School.

The discovery caused a national uproar across Canada as various groups have begun to pressure the federal government to investigate residential school sites across Canada.

Chief Cadmus Delorme of the Cowessess First Nation says that while he did not attend a residential school himself, he feels the impact this discovery has had on those in his community.

He says the discovery has turned attention to residential schools, including both the Round Lake school and the Marieval Roman Catholic Residential School, both located near the Cowessess First Nation.

"As the elected Chief of the Cowessess First Nation, this impacts us all. I did not attend a residential school, I'm the generation after. But being the Chief you take on the mental, emotional, physical, and spiritual impacts of the negative side. So the recent discovery makes us look here at home in our First Nation. We have to do this too. The fear is what we are going to find because in our stories we have stories very similar to what was experienced in Kamloops," said Delorme.

The Cowessess First Nation held a ceremony in memory of the 215 Indigenous youth who were found in Kamloops.

"I took direction from our elders, I took direction from the ones who attended residential schools and we did have a gathering at our Powwow grounds. We laid some shoes and teddy bears and candy down in memory of the spirits of the Kamloops residential school. We then offered tobacco to survivors to share their stories and some were emotional, some were angry, and some were just sharing their story. But it allowed us to sit there and understand that we have to address ours as well and find ways to heal and to speak the truth."

Delorme says the next steps will be to investigate the schools nearby to help bring closure to those who once attended and truth to those who did not.



The Cowessess First Nation held a ceremony to honour the memory of the 215 Indigenous children who's remains were discover over Victoria Day long weekend in Kamloops, B.C.

"We want to address the truth with doing this where the Marieval Roman Catholic Residential School once was and the gravesites that came with it. We want to address our truth and once we do we want to start moving to reconciliation for our healing and making sure that every spot is identified and marked. We might not know the names of who's there, but we want to acknowledge that somebody is there. We want to put up a monument for current and future generations to acknowledge and to pay their respects to."

Delorme concluded by saying that the truth about residential schools needs to be acknowledged before reconciliation can begin.

"Everybody can do more. The Government of Canada, the Government of Saskatchewan, our municipalities can all do more. What has to happen is truth has to come before reconciliation. You cannot coincide them at the same time. You have to acknowledge that there was one truth and policies from the past were erected at what we're discovering now. It has to come from the social clubs in our community, it has to come from the homes of our community. It has to come from the schools in our communities that there's one truth. It's going to hurt, but it's not meant for people to feel bad, it's for the ones that don't acknowledge it. We feel that the ignorance will continue if not.

"Indigenous people need to mourn. We don't want to mourn for generations to come. We want action so our kids don't have to do a little more just because they're indigenous or prove themselves just because they're indigenous.

"In our sports, our politics, our business, the truth has to prevail. Then we move to reconciliation. Indigenous people are a rightsholder in the country and not a shareholder, and indigenous people from Cowessess want to grow with Canada, but we want to do it from our perspective. Not what Canada is offering us, but what we want to offer to Canada what we can be and what we know we can be," said Delorme.

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100th birthday parade held in Virден for D-Day veteran

BY ED JAMES

The celebration of 100-year event is always a major celebration for a community, but even more so for a community member. Such was the case during a recent drive-by parade for long-time Virден resident Les Downing, who can also be called Sir Les Downing as a few years ago he was awarded the French Government's "Legion of Honor" medal for his help in the liberation of France during the Second World War.

On June 6, 1944, Les was one of the thousands of Allied troops that stormed the beaches of Normandy to end the Nazi terror in Europe. Les joined the military in October 1942, leaving the family farm near Lenore, Manitoba. He trained in Shilo, Petawawa and England, with the 19th Battalion RCA.

He still has memories of D-Day and the friends he lost on D-Day and the following months. One he remembers well is a friend from Virден, who became a good friend who he would talk with about their plans after the war when they came home. He still remembers the young man who did not make it home.

In June 1946, H69677 Gunner Downing came home, and with the help of the Department of Veteran Affairs he was able to buy a farm south of Virден. A few years later, because of his fiddling skills, he was asked by a young school teacher if he would play at a local dance. Les said yes, if she might go to a movie



Captain James Lee and Warrant Officer Mike Jenkins of 1st RCHA, CFB Shilo, sharing a personal moment with Les as they talked about D-Day and the Second World War. Les is seen wiping away a tear.

with him. She did and after a few more dates, it would lead to marriage to Louise who would become a well-loved teacher at the old Mary Montgomery School for many years.

June 1, 2021 was Les's 100th birthday, so his caregivers and friends, John Fefchak, Kelvon Smith and Amanda Hrynko, hatched a plan to have something special for his birthday that works with the present Covid-19 restrictions. Plus, they had to do it on the QT, as Les did not want any-

thing special for his 100th.

The birthday event was a drive-by parade past his home, with him agreeing to come outside and sit on the lawn.

The actual parade grew in numbers as word got around of the event in the media. On a beautiful warm day, it is estimated that as many as 75 vehicles of all types, many with colorful decorations, did a drive through town with a shout-out to some local schools they passed by. The parade represented a wide cross

section of the community. There were vehicles from the RCMP, the fire department, local businesses, local Royal Canadian Legion branches, and many community vehicles with long-time friends.

However, some of the special vehicles that stood out were two LAV armored vehicles from CFB Shilo, and a Second World War-era Canadian army jeep that represented the Elkhorn Legion branch that flew the Canadian WWII Ensign flag that Les fought under

during the war. Then along came a decorated and lively Fort La Bosse School bus filled with school children singing Happy Birthday from the open windows.

After the last vehicle came by, a number of presentations and best wishes were made to Les by the Town of Virден, the local Legion branches and MP Larry Maguire.

Two soldiers from the first RCHA out of Shilo took the longest time to talk to Les, soldier to soldier, about his service to Cana-

da during the war, the life bond that exists between soldiers and the sharing of some of Les's wartime memories. As I watched, it was a moment of the special bond between all soldiers, young and old, as they held his hand. The soldiers were Captain James Lee and Warrant Officer Mike Jenkins who made a number of presentations, one which was an engraved 105 artillery shell, to Les, of the type that he and his gun crew fired during WWII.

After the last of the presentations and car window visits, Les was taken by his friend John Fefchak up to the Westman Nursing Home where Louise, Les's wife, is a resident. Les brought with him a bouquet of red roses for his wife. With help of a staff member and modern technology, a computer tablet screen and speaker was set up so that Les and Louise could talk to their daughter and other family members who were not able to attend the 100th birthday celebrations because of the Covid-19 restrictions.

In a quiet moment after the busy day for Sir Les, he told me that after the war, he realized how lucky he was to make it home and he remembers many in his unit that did not return. However, he also added how pleased he was with the turnout for the day and the many kind wishes and presentations he received.

Well done soldier! The changes you have seen over the last hundred years must be amazing! Lest we forget!

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Ceres Global announces plans for new canola crushing plant near Oxbow



Northgate, SK

Site Profile

- 1,300 acres total, 700 acres open
- Tracks: 2 loops, 2 ladders, 40k track ft
- Built: 2013 -16; replace approx. \$120M
- Direct US border access; 40 employees
- "BNSF Certified Site"

Industrial Product Transload

- 50cars/ mo of lumber

Crude Oil / LPG Transload

- Direct 250cars/ mo

Grain Terminal

- 2.6mbu; 10hr shuttle train

Fertilizer Warehouse & Transload

- 26kst capacity

Industrial Chemical Transload

- 7 types of industrial chemicals

A photo of the Ceres Global site at Northgate, Sask as it exists today.

Ceres Global Ag Corp announced plans recently to build a \$350 million integrated canola processing facility in Northgate, Saskatchewan, south of Oxbow to help meet growing global demand for canola products.

The state-of-the-art facility will have capacity to process 1.1 million metric tons of canola and refine over 500 thousand metric tons of canola oil, for both food and fuel, annually.

"This is an exciting time for Ceres Global as we position ourselves to take advantage of the unprecedented demand for oilseed crush in North America," said Robert Day, President and Chief Executive Officer at Ceres.

"While there are multiple drivers contributing to this demand, the most important is the movement towards green energy and the need for vegetable oil as feedstock for the production of renewable diesel. We have been analyzing canola crush at Northgate for several years as its location along the Canada-U.S. border is ideally located to originate canola seed from our farmer partners, and with a direct connection to BNSF Railway, it provides the most efficient access to the U.S. market and U.S. ports. Our Northgate facility includes a 2.7 million bushel shuttle loading grain elevator and two 120-car loop tracks, providing 'construction-ready' infrastructure and shortening the timeline to complete this project."

The facility is expected to be operational by summer 2024 and is expected to result

in the creation of over 50 full time jobs in Saskatchewan, which is the largest canola producing province in Canada.

Premier Scott Moe, Premier of Saskatchewan said "Adding value to agriculture products right here in Saskatchewan will help us reach the goals set out in our Growth Plan. We welcome Ceres Global's investment in Northgate to support and provide southeast Saskatchewan growers with a unique and valuable option for marketing their canola. With its direct connection to the BNSF railroad, Ceres can offer Saskatchewan growers access to a variety of markets in the United States."

Jim Titsworth, Director of Agricultural Development from BNSF Railway said: "Demand for renewable diesel feedstocks is rapidly growing. The BNSF network is ideally suited to supply the production, processing and distribution of these feedstocks. A crush plant at Northgate, SK will provide an important source of canola oil to meet the growing demand. Northgate has a unique location, both in Canada's canola growing region and with direct rail access to the major renewable diesel and food processing markets via BNSF's network. This allows Ceres-produced canola oil to have an advantage in this rapidly growing marketplace. That same network also results in advantaged animal feed market access for canola meal. BNSF is excited to add this facility to its growing customer investments in the renewable diesel market."

Continued on Page 15

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Food industry code of conduct finally gains traction

A new coalition led by the Retail Council of Canada (RCC) has presented a roadmap to peace within the food industry. It's a positive step forward for the food production industry and consumers.

For years, grocers have unilaterally imposed fees on their suppliers, with questionable excuses. While grocers maintained a hard line to protect margins, food manufacturers and farmers—often family-owned and operated—were squeezed financially.

RCC, which represents Canada's major grocers, always opposed any form of intervention and maintained no changes were required.

That all changed recently.

RCC and its alliance of stakeholders suggest an industry-led code of conduct, without public regulations. The model mirrors the Code of Conduct for the Credit and Debit Card Industry in Canada and the Fruit and Vegetable Dispute Resolution Corp. These bodies operate without any government intervention.

The alliance includes several other interest groups in the food supply chain, like farmers, processors and independent retailers. Almost 40 trade groups reportedly support this model, including 19 farming groups and 15 food processing groups. The approach is incredibly inclusive.

The federal working group charged with submitting a final report in July has received the proposal.

Just a few weeks ago, another code of practice proposal was presented to the working group by Food, Health & Consumer Products of Canada, with the support of Sobeys, the number two grocer in the country. The principles were very much the same, except this proposal suggested the involvement of public authorities.

Both the United Kingdom and Australia implemented similar codes years ago. It was argued then that compliance could only be assured by getting governments involved. Since only provinces can provide oversight on these matters in Canada, a buy-in from all provinces is critical.

So two views are being presented to increase our country's food autonomy by recognizing manufacturing as the anchor to the entire food supply chain. Since many farmers produce finished products, food manufacturing includes them.

The question is no longer whether Canada will have a code of conduct to support farmers, food manufacturers, and independent grocers. It's more a matter of what it will look like and who's responsible for oversight.

This supply-chain issue may be seen as irrelevant to Ca-



Sylvain Charlebois

nadians, but it's not. This is very much about realigning a power imbalance that has been prevalent in the industry for years, and that imbalance favours grocers.

More discipline and predictability related to market conditions will give more authority to food manufacturers and farmers. Such measures will also likely give space to more diversity, excitement and innovation in food retailing.

Loblaws or Walmart may very well think they know what consumers want and need. But with consumers seeking value, and product attributes changing regularly, an efficient code will ultimately give more power to consumers.

Independent grocers could also get a chance to compete against larger operators.

Setting up the right model in Canada won't be easy. The system needs to be transparent and effective. As much as industry wants to self-regulate, it has some embarrassing baggage it needs to consider.

Given what happened in recent years with the bread pric-

ing scandal, for example, it's unclear if Canadians have an appetite for more self-regulatory arrangements.

While industry needs an effective code, Canadians need to trust it to not feel cheated at their favourite grocery store. We must remember that a code of conduct isn't just about helping the industry; it's mostly about creating a moral contract between the public and the food industry. A new code should be about serving Canadians and our economy, not just the latter.

The support of provinces, with some federal co-ordination, would be needed. And given their sizable markets and strong track records for appreciating our food supply chain's integrity, Ontario, Quebec and British Columbia should be influential voices.

But more government involvement could come with unwarranted headaches. With governance, we need to move with extreme caution. Once we create more governance, the industry will need to live with it. Change, however necessary and however small, will always be challenging. If governments are involved, and the model is ill-designed, implementing changes could be a nightmare.

But ultimately, it's a win for everyone that a federal working group is looking at the issue and that many stakeholders are already providing potential solutions.

Dr. Sylvain Charlebois is senior director of the agri-food analytics lab and a professor in food distribution and policy at Dalhousie University.

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New canola crushing plant near Oxbow

Continued from Page 13

Estevan Mayor Roy Ludwig added: "The on-going partnership with Ceres has been great for the community of Estevan and surrounding Rural Municipalities. As Estevan's Canola Crush facility, we are excited that Northgate will support families for years to come with added jobs and grain delivered to a premium market."

"With this investment by Ceres, our capacity for value-added production within our province will be further increased, producing more high-quality canola oil and meal for export to current and new markets around the world." Trade and Export Development Minister Jeremy Harrison said. "This is good news for jobs and our economy in Saskatchewan, and this also supports our Growth Plan goal to increase agri-food exports to \$20 billion in the years ahead."

"Today's announcement by Ceres is an important step forward in growing our agriculture sector and ensuring our producers are able to keep more value from the commodities they produce," Agriculture Minister David Marit said. "We are excited that Ceres has decided to locate their facility in Saskatchewan, joining the growing list of companies who recognize our industry for the high-quality and reliability that we are known for around the world."

Goals in Saskatchewan's Growth Plan

for 2030 include crushing 75 per cent of the canola produced in the province, growing Saskatchewan's agri-food exports to CDN \$20 billion, increasing agriculture value-added revenue to \$10 billion, increasing the value of exports by 50 per cent, and growing private capital investment in Saskatchewan to \$16 billion annually.

Ceres Global, along with shareholders, VN Capital Management, Highbridge Capital Management and Whitebox Advisors, are engaged in discussions with other interested financial and industry players to fund the project.

Ceres Global is headquartered in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and together with its affiliated companies, operates 13 locations across Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, and Minnesota. These facilities have an aggregate grain and oilseed storage capacity of approximately 32 million bushels.

Ceres Global has a 50% interest in Savage Riverport, LLC (a joint venture with Consolidated Grain and Barge Co.), a 50% interest in Farmers Grain, LLC (a joint venture with Farmer's Cooperative Grain and Seed Association), a 50% in Gateway Energy Terminal (an unincorporated joint venture with Steel Reef Infrastructure Corp.), a 25% interest in Stewart Southern Railway Inc. (a short-line railway located in southeast Saskatchewan with a range of 130 kilometers), and a 17% interest in Canterra Seed Holdings Ltd.



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Small Manitoba businesses continue to suffer under strict Covid-19 restrictions

Continued from page 9

"The rules that are being enforced at the moment are necessary if they're saving lives and they are necessary to help our health service, but I do think it should have been more focused on where the outbreaks are, whether it's Winnipeg or Brandon or any area like that. They should be on code red, but the rural communities and cities that aren't experiencing that should be allowed to trade and continue, and it's the thought of most of the customers that come through my door."

Humphries says that the Westwood Ranch and Garden Centre has already felt the burden of the pandemic, noting that between 30 and 40 schools tour the ranch yearly but have been unable to since the pandemic restrictions began.

He says these losses have begun to add up. "We've lost a great big chunk of our trade. After our plants go we are reliant on school visits to gain income from the animals so we can carry on feeding through the winter and develop that side of the business, but for the full year last year we weren't allowed a single school visit, and this year it looks like it's going to be pretty much the same."

"We can't do any of our training courses. We usually do planting courses, plant care courses, and gardening courses. We can't do any of those, which has also restricted our income."

Even with the restrictions, Humphries says he will keep his doors open as long as possible but expresses concern about other small businesses have also been impacted by the pandemic. "This has affected our income and also our yearly growth which we've been building over the years. It's detrimental to any business, we're not the only ones."

"We're trying to keep the doors open for as long as we're allowed to keep our doors open. At the moment we're restricted to one family member from one household shopping at a time, so we're going to carry on being open and abiding by those regulations as long as we can. We've had to cut back on staff, we've had to cut back on restocking on some of the species that we have, we've stopped taking in some of the strays that we usually do just because we've had to cut back as much as we can. We're making cutbacks to sustain ourselves in hope that at some point we get to

the other side of it. We're not destitute, but we are suffering," said Humphries.

Virden Footwear owner remains optimistic

Other business owners are staying optimistic through the new restrictions.

Clayton Murray, owner of Virden Footwear and Virden Sports and Fashion says that through the current restrictions he has done his best to adapt his businesses to continue to provide services to customers.

But even with new ways to shop, Murray says that most customers prefer to shop in person.

"We've been faring as good as we can. We just follow the rules and hope that it's over soon. It's a tough environment to do business in, but we do what we can," said Murray.

"We've added curbside pickup, we've done more on-line stuff too but we've also found that even though we've been trying to implement that, our customers are still wanting that face-to-face buying experience."

With shopping being limited to only a single person per household, Murray says that he does whatever he can to ensure his customers are able to shop comfortably.

"We have a lot of parents that bring kids in for footwear. There is a spot under that restriction that says that caregivers can bring one child in. So we've been asking parents to just keep it to bringing one child in at a time and we've had parents take footwear out of the store outside if they need to. We do whatever we can to make it work."

Murray believes that communities that do not have high infection rates should have eased restrictions, but remains understanding of the complications that come with city-based lockdowns.

"People are angry for sure. They're angry and frustrated. I don't believe we should be under the same restrictions as places like Winnipeg, but I don't know how we would be able to police it either. I think that we should be allowed to operate independently out here. I understand what they're saying though. If they shut down places like Brandon or Winnipeg then they'll come out here to shop. That's their fear."

Murray remains concerned about the impacts of the restrictions on border communities, however. Being close to the border, Murray says customers may choose to shop in Saskatchewan instead of in Manitoba.

He says this happened during Christmas in 2020, a time that is often the busiest time of the year for many small businesses.

"It has hurt us, it hurt us at Christmas for sure. There were people who went to Saskatchewan while we were locked down. I just hope this pandemic is over soon," Murray said.

While the financial impacts of the pandemic are taking their toll, Murray remains optimistic.

"We've had to mind every dollar we spend. We've qualified for only one grant but have fallen through the cracks with the others."

"Last year when this all started I told myself that if this lasted for a year we'd be bankrupt. But here we are. We've adapted and we just have to hang on. I feel like with being a small business we're always on the edge, but this has just made it worse," said Murray.



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Seeding and camping and grandkids—it's a good life

The countdown is on and we can see the end in sight—of seeding that is. If it hadn't been for the rain, we would have been done. Of course no farmer in his or her right mind would turn down rain in a very dry year just to be able to say they're done. When I heard those first raindrops fall the other morning (on my camper roof), I was elated. And not just for the rain that was falling, but at the thought of actually eating at the kitchen table instead of on the tailgate of a truck!

On the first day back in the field and in the twins' direct (few words) manner, they told me Grandpa was seeding on the 'long quarter' though they had just gotten off the school bus and I wasn't sure exactly how they knew or if they were accurate. But of course they were and another meal in the field was quickly devoured so hubby could carry on. "I'll be home by eight," he says.

Back at the farmyard, I stop by the greenhouse where I can see one of the boys watering flowers. "Wanna see my wheat, Grandma?" he asks as he shows me his container of four-inch high blades of wheat. "And here's my field peas, and the canola is in this one," he continues. "It's not up yet," he says. I concur as I inspect the little four-inch container of black dirt.

Later, and only because we have finally had some rain, the farm grandkids and I attempt to get a fire going. It's kind of exciting that, after a very dry spring and no campfires out by Grandma and Grandpa's camper near the shop, we can now start a fire. Of course the wood is wet and that's a story in itself, but finally, with a few back issues of the World-Spectator (sorry, Kevin), our fire is up and running and it's time for the marshmallows. I think the twins each roast one before their dad pulls up and lifts out a five-gallon pail of fertilizer and sets it on the ground.

Not a word is spoken between father and sons, but suddenly, after enjoying the company of the grandkids around the fire, they are gone. Poof! Just gone. What the heck, I ask myself and then I hear the faint sound of some rattling little tires—here comes one boy behind the fertilizer spreader, the other behind the wheelbarrow. At least we know what takes precedence in their mind and it isn't Grandma or even marshmallow roasting. Oh well, the lawn has now been fertilized—let's hope they didn't overdo it!

By the time the lawn is fertilized, it's nearly 9:30 and I can hear the call from the house: "Boys, it's time for bed," as they have one last two-minute sit-down by the fire and talk about what they will do after school the next day. Needless to say, whatever it is they have planned, it will be something done outdoors.

At 10 pm, still planted by the dying embers of the fire, I see truck lights come across the field and up to the shop. "It's past 8 o'clock," I say to him. He frowns but there's no response. I doubt he's even remembered he said he'd be back in the yard by 8. And really it doesn't much matter lol. I head into the camper, chilled to the bone, ready to make a direct line to my bed. He, on the other hand, decides (after he showers) that he might as well pre-cook breakfast (ewwww) so he can get an earlier start in the morning (as if 5:30 isn't early enough). Whatever, dear, I think as I tap the thermostat up a couple of degrees and climb into bed.

The most wonderful thing about camping at the farm is seeing the grandkids of course. The town grandkids sometimes join the farm grandkids for some good ol' outdoor fun and the odd trek through the camper door to grab a snack or two. Gramps and I can barely keep the snack supply replenished! I bought chocolate bars a couple of weeks ago, 22 of them to be exact because they were on special, thinking they would last for six weeks. I obviously misjudged because they didn't make the six-day mark!

Time at the farm (for me) is not just about meal-making or grass-cutting (which I love to do), but also being able to play some board games with the kids. My granddaughter (12) and I were in the camper playing 'hangman' the other day, just relaxing and enjoying the day when we both stopped at the same time and listened intently. "Did you hear something?" I asked her. There were no men and no boys around the yard, just her and I in the camper and her mom, presumably in the house. We continued playing and again, there's this sound. It almost sounded like someone screaming.

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



"What is that?" I asked.
"Oh, don't worry," she said, "It's probably just mom." I jump up ready to go to my daughter-in-law's aid when my granddaughter says, "It's just Joe, Grandma. He'll be attacking mom. Happens all the time." And so, relieved to know 'Mom' is okay (I guess), we carry on with our game. Who would think gathering the eggs would leave you beaten and bruised. That's one crazy rooster, that Joe!

A couple of nights ago, one of the twins was very proud of the pail full of slough grass he brought to show me. The intense deep green colour and textures were impressive. "Wow," I said to him. "Where did you get this?" "The dugout," he answers. As my mind is telling me not to overreact, my mouth is saying, "What dugout? Where? When were you at the dugout? You went to the dugout alone?!" I can't tell you how relieved I was to hear him say, "No, I wasn't alone," before I realized exactly what he was going to say: "My brother was with me." I try to appear calm and relaxed as I suggest perhaps having an adult along to the dugout is a good idea in the future.

It's a good life, this farm life, I'd say. It would have been better this year had I not marketed all my canola away before the price went up but hey, life is good and I for one try to take joy in every moment. I have even learned to relax and put my feet up a lot more than I ever did when I actually lived on the farm and you know, it's okay to do that now and then. My guy, of course, might not agree, at least at this time of year, but here's hoping that all our farmer friends get a chance (after a busy season) to do just that—put your feet up and enjoy some relaxing moments with family and friends!

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Canola Counts: A science project for everyone

BY JASON CASSELMAN
Five to eight plants per square foot is the Canola Council of Canada's recommended target canola stand for maximum yield potential. But how many fields across the Prairies

are within that range? The new Canola Counts project is a citizen-science survey to help us find out.

Through the project, we would like farm families, agronomists, certified crop advisers (CCAs) and any other interested person to count canola plants at the two to four leaf stage and enter results at canola-counts.ca.

"We want to gather data on canola plant populations across the Prairies to compare regions, and track plant establishment improvements over time," says Autumn Barnes, my colleague at the CCC who got this survey going. "To give a little more incentive, we'll have draws for prizes. The more fields you enter, the greater your chances of winning."

How to count plants

Plant counts are time well spent, and the tools needed are simple—a hoop or a metre stick. We like to use a hoop with an inside diameter of 19" and circumference of 60", which covers two square feet. Count the number of plants inside the hoop and divide by two to get plants per square foot. A hoop of this size captures plants from two seed rows to give a larger sample size and improve accuracy.

To count with a metre stick, lay the stick along a row and count the seedlings within that metre. Take that number and multiply by 100 then divide by the spacing between seed



rows (in cm) to get plants per square metre. Divide by 10 to get plants per square foot.

For your own interest, you may want to check every field across the farm and compare. Enter as many fields into the survey as you want.

How to input data

The program is mobile-friendly and data entry takes about a minute. Step one is take several plant counts across a canola field to get an average number of plants per square metre or square foot. Then visit CanolaCounts.ca and enter the field info, including average plant density, and let the tool calculate emergence. The program provides a summary email you can share with partners, clients or staff. At the end of the season, review Canola Counts maps to see

how your fields measure up to regional norms.

In an ideal world, each canola seed will germinate and grow into a seed-producing plant, but most canola fields will not see a 100 per cent emergence rate. With plant counts and emergence calculations, as well as regional benchmark information from the Canola Counts map, farmers and agronomists can evaluate seed survival rates and adjust seed placement, seeding rates and other plant establishment steps as necessary to improve the return on investment for seed.

We hope you see the value in plant counts, and share your results at canolacounts.ca. We ask for your name for the prize draw, but individual names and field locations

The screenshot shows the 'Canola Counts' web application. It includes a welcome message, a 'YOUR NAME' field with 'Jane Smith' entered, an 'EMAIL' field with 'jane@smithfarms.ca', and a 'FARM NAME' field with 'Prairie Farms'. There are also fields for 'LEGAL LAND DESCRIPTION' and 'ACTUAL PLANT DENSITY (plants/m²)' with a 'Locate Me' button. The 'EMERGENCE' field is set to '60%'. A 'Click here to calculate your emergence' link is visible at the bottom.

Above: Use the data-entry tool at CanolaCounts.ca to participate in the Canola Counts plant population survey.

are not shared when we put together the results. This is about the canola community coming together to share results so we can all improve.

Jason Casselman is an agronomy specialist and plant establishment lead with the Canola Council of Canada. Email: casselmanj@canolacouncil.org.

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Mixed margins expected for cattle and hogs

BY MARTHA ROBERTS,

China's seemingly insatiable demand for feed has kept livestock production costs high throughout the rest of the world. Feed costs have most recently fallen somewhat but they'll continue to take a chunk of revenues from both cattle and hog producers over the next three months. However, profitability in the two red meat sectors is showing different outcomes. Margins are expected to be mixed for Canada's cattle and hog sectors as finishers and feedlots struggle with rising feed costs in the short term.

In February, we identified African Swine Fever, feed costs and growing global demand for red meats as the three dominant forces impacting profitability of the Canadian red meat sectors. They are still exerting dominance, with the added uncertainty of weather-related impacts on global feed crops in 2021.

Hog sector to benefit from elevated hog prices

Prices should continue to improve over the outlook period from our February outlook forecasts. The average annual prices for each class of cattle and hogs through 2021 remain higher than 2020 prices. While most of this year's prices are expected to also be higher than the five-year average, Alberta fed and feeder cattle will remain lower as backgrounders and feedlots find themselves sandwiched between high feed costs pushing up slaughter rates and packers buying cheaper cattle now for fall delivery.

Farrow-to-finish operators will continue to benefit from the strong rebound that started last fall. They have much to look forward to in the next three months including the upcoming barbecue season and the enhanced likelihood of reduced restrictions. One possible caution: lingering slowdowns in pork production can impact margins in eastern Canada.

A resurgence of ASF in China and elsewhere across Asia and Europe continues to drive global pork markets and the sharp rise in prices seen since February. It seems highly unlikely that China will be able to manage the virus for possibly another two to three years, prompting speculation that their imports of both pork and beef will remain elevated until an effective vaccine is available (Figure 1).

Demand is also strong in North America, where a growing pent-up demand, the summer season and reopening of



food services are fuelling better retail sales and prices. Production in both Canada and the U.S. is expected to remain strong throughout the outlook period.

China's pork imports were at an all-time high in March of this year and their pork production in Q1 is reported to have jumped 31.9% from a year earlier. While it's certain their demand is strong and consistent with the robust economic rebound of 8.4% projected in 2021 by the International Monetary Fund, that kind of growth in Chinese pork

production and imports will, with little doubt, prove to be unsustainable for the rest of 2021. It may also be that they will even have dramatically slowed by the end of the outlook period. In the short term, pork imports may continue to be strong, but at some point, further Chinese imports will depend on their success (or lack thereof) in containing ASF and rebuilding the hog herd.

Continued on Page 22

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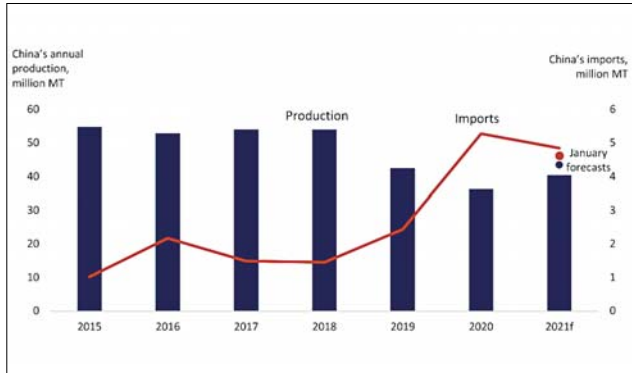
LIVESTOCK PRICES	2021 (YEAR-TO-DATE) \$/CWT	2021 FORECAST \$/CWT	3-YEAR AVERAGE	RELATIVE TO 3-YEAR AVERAGE
Alberta fed steer	\$150	\$145	\$160	+
Alberta \$50 to steer	\$220	\$220	\$240	+
Alberta \$50 to steer	\$100	\$175	\$200	+
Ontario fed steer	\$145	\$145	\$145	±
Ontario \$50 to steer	\$220	\$220	\$215	±
Ontario \$50 to steer	\$180	\$180	\$185	±
Ontario market hog	\$90	\$95	\$80	+
Ontario feeder hog	\$140	\$145	\$100	+
Manitoba market hog	\$90	\$90	\$75	+
Manitoba feeder hog	\$150	\$130	\$125	+
Locowest \$/head	\$00	\$05	\$00	+

FEED COSTS	2021 (YEAR-TO-DATE) \$/TONNE	2021 FORECAST \$/TONNE	3-YEAR AVERAGE	RELATIVE TO 3-YEAR AVERAGE
Feed barley (40)	\$315	\$320	\$222	+
Corn (30)	\$235	\$210	\$195	+

FEED RATIOS	2021 (YEAR-TO-DATE)	2021 FORECAST	3-YEAR AVERAGE	RELATIVE TO 3-YEAR AVERAGE
Cattle - barley ratio	21.9	20.2	25.6	+
Cattle - corn ratio	20.0	18.4	29.3	+
Hog - barley ratio	13.1	12.5	15.5	+
Hog - corn ratio	12.4	12.1	16.2	+

Arrows indicate a higher price (+), moderately higher (+), neutral (±), moderately lower (-) or lower (-)

Cattle and hog prices continue to rise above 2020's prices. Sources: Statistics Canada, AAFC, USDA, CanFax, CME Futures, and FCC calculations.



In April, USDA forecasts stronger Chinese pork imports and weaker production than in January. Source: USDA.

Mixed margins expected for cattle and hogs

Continued from Page 21

Hog finishers and cattle feedlots strain with growing feed costs

The hog and cattle markets differ somewhat in their outlook because hog futures have been rising faster year-to-date while cattle futures have declined recently. The North American hog backlog was cleared before the cattle backlog and production was able to respond to increased Chinese demand due to the ASF resurgence. Cattle futures are expected to pick up from their recent declines and stay steady to slightly rising.

Cattle basis levels have improved in the last month to turn positive, as packers have become more aggressive. This implies strong demand from the sector as they continue working through the back-

logged slaughter numbers. If basis levels remain strong, the relatively weak margins we expect now could improve by the end of the outlook period.

Feed prices facing sustained pressure from economic recovery and weather

While feed prices are high now, they may face sustained pressures throughout the next three months. The summer is expected to see more driving, stronger fuel demand and more corn and soy used to support them, helping keep prices elevated. Without an improved forecast for moisture, given dwindling stocks and the strong and growing demand for corn, both North and South American production may not be enough in 2021 to meet that demand.

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The Vanderstad facility at Langbank where 60 new production staff and a second shift will be added to meet growing demand.

Vaderstad adding to staff to meet growing demand

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

Vaderstad is undergoing a major ramping up of production, adding 60 production employees and a second production shift at its Langbank production facility, which manufactures tillage, drilling and planting machinery for the ag industry. Additional support staff will be added at the Langbank facility as well.

Jason Wasylyk, Director of Operations for Vaderstad, which employs 200 people in Canada, says production is ramping up because of booming sales.

"Today we're at 200 people across Canada. There's a Swedish division and a Canadian division and now a U.S. division that was announced this week," says Wasylyk.

"This production ramp up will add an additional 60 production staff (in Canada) and then some support staff around it, as well as a second shift because we are at capacity on the single shift.

"2020 wasn't a great year because of harvest 2019. But our volume from 2020 to 2021 increased almost 90 per cent, and we're expecting another 40 to 45 per cent increase this year."

Wasylyk says most of Vaderstad's units are being sold in Canada, and seem well suited for Western Canadian conditions.

"We've got some distribution in Australia as well out of this plant but it doesn't amount to a whole lot today," he says. "So it's mostly Canada. Our distribution footprint grew over the course of the last little while, so that certainly helped, but I think the real reason is that it is a quality machine and performs well, in the Western Canadian conditions in particular."

He says of the 60 new production staff, Vaderstad will be looking for people with a variety of skillsets.

"Welders, painters, assemblers, warehouse folks, shippers, receivers—it's really the full gamut because you're adding a second shift, so you're duplicating what you have," he says.

He says Vaderstad is focusing on sourcing the new employees locally.

"Our intent is always to focus local for a number of reasons," he says. "We're a little bit remote. You and I might not think so, but when you get somebody coming from a city or from somewhere else, it's a little bit remote. So our intention is always to find people locally. With some of the skilled trades, it's a little bit tough because you're competing with oil and gas, and you're competing with the mines primarily for some of those more skilled areas."

Wasylyk says most of Vaderstad's staff live fairly close to the facility at Langbank, in communities like Carlyle, Moosomin, Whitewood, Kipling, and Broadview.

"We always say draw a 50 km circle around the plant and that's really our catchment area," he says.

Wasylyk says one of the biggest challenges of having to bring people in from out of area is finding enough housing for them in the local area.

"That's probably one of the major challenges quite honestly," he says. "You're trying to recruit people of course, but then you've got to put them somewhere and it's not always that easy. It might be the biggest challenge. There are many challenges, but that one, it impedes your ability to grow in some sense."

Once the additional staff are in place, Vaderstad will have two full shifts running at its plant.

"We'll have a day shift that runs from 6:30 am to 3 pm and an evening shift from 3:30 pm to midnight," says Wasylyk. "And D shift will be slightly higher in head count just strictly because of some of the support functions, but from a production perspective it really is two identical shifts."

He says the added shift will not quite double Vaderstad's production.

"We'll still have a little bit of room left but some other things need to happen to create that kind of top up capacity," he says.

After the second shift is added, Wasylyk says Vaderstad does have some room to further expand its operations at the Langbank facility, although it wouldn't be easy without an expansion.

"We could add another 30 per cent of capacity, but 30 per cent becomes more difficult. Beyond that, we'd probably be looking at an expansion if we needed to grow further," he says. "But that's not in the cards today."

He says Vaderstad is approaching the current production ramp-up in three phases.

"There's a ramp up scheduled for August, another in September and another one in November. The reason for this is because we've got a very, very strong order book currently, and all of it needs to be produced by next April. So these are all spring 2022 machines."

Despite being in a rural area, Wasylyk says Vaderstad has been successful in adding and maintaining staff in the past and they expect the same in this situation.

"It's a bit of a struggle, but I think we've been very successful. Our turnover rate is very, very small, relatively speaking. It maybe says that we're doing something right," he says.

Wasylyk says in the future, Vaderstad will be looking to diversify its products, and the Langbank facility will continue to be part of that process.

"The plant will always be here, the plant will always produce," he says. "The challenge right now is that we don't really have the diversity in product mix that we'd like. One of Vaderstad's core values is innovation, so there are a number of projects ongoing and a bunch of effort focused on diversification of the product line."

Aside from its staff at the Langbank plant, Wasylyk says Vaderstad has staff around Canada, but most of those staff are engaged in sales and service.

"We have an Eastern Canadian operation but it's not manufacturing. It's just sale service. We also have people in north and south Alberta, north and south Saskatchewan, a little bit into Manitoba and then the east. We service B.C. through Quebec with our products. And then there's a regional office in Regina as well that houses some engineering staff, again some sales and services staff, and some other support functions—some of our IT resources are there for instance."



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Mosaic's K3 potash mine at Esterhazy in a recent shot by Kevin Weedmark. K3 should be up to full production in less than a year. K1 and K2 were to keep operating until production ramped up at K3, but increased brine flow led to the closure of both the K1 and K2 shafts.

Closure of original shafts moved forward by nine months:

K1, K2 potash shafts closed as brine flow increases

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

Mosaic announced June 4 that it is immediately closing the K1 and K2 potash mine shafts at Esterhazy after an increase in brine inflow.

Closing K1 and K2 was planned as part of the transition to K3 but the timeline for the closure moved forward nine months due to a recent acceleration of brine inflows.

Meanwhile, Mosaic is planning to resume production at the Colonsay potash mine and recalling workers as soon as practical.

This restart will offset a portion of the production lost by the early closure of the K1 and K2 shafts at Esterhazy.

By March of 2022, the company's annualized potash production could increase by 2 million tonnes from 2020 levels, as Esterhazy K3 ramps up to full capacity and Colonsay returns to service.

As a result of these operational changes, Mosaic expects to eliminate brine management expenses after July 2021 and materially increase 2022 available potash capacity to take advantage of the expected potash market strength.

During the expected transition period of July 2021 to March 2022, the company anticipates its potash production to be reduced by approximately one million tonnes.

By mid-2022, available annualized operational MOP capacity is expected to be 10.5 million tonnes.

"Mosaic has been managing inflows at Esterhazy since 1985, and has accelerated the development of the K3 shafts to allow for the ultimate closure of the K1 and K2 shafts," said Joc O'Rourke, President and Chief Executive Officer.

Continued on Page 31



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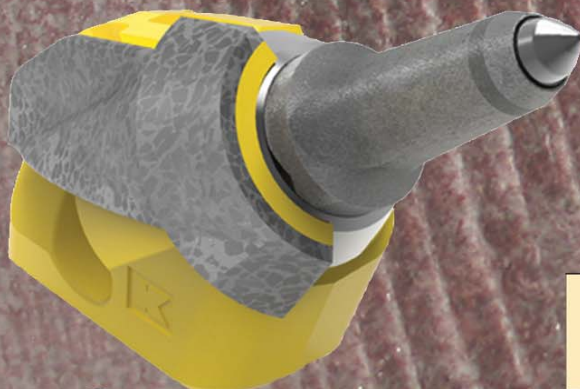
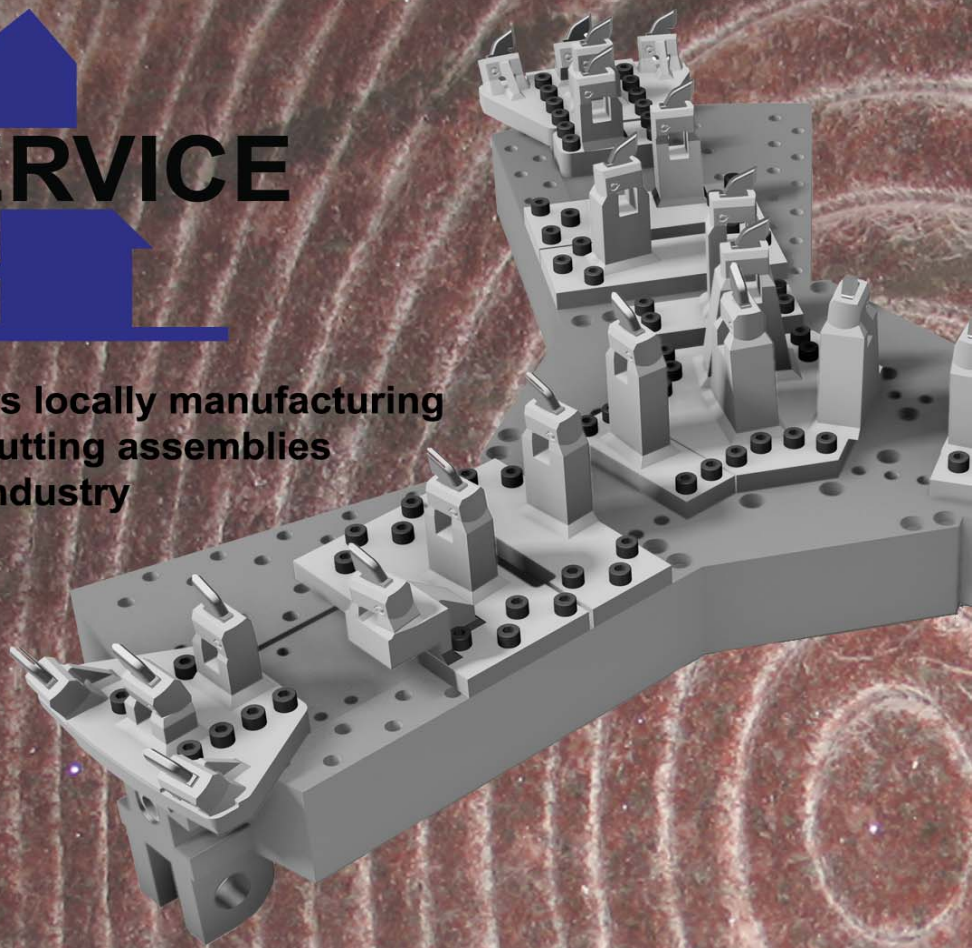
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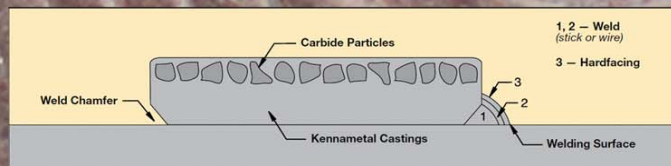


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The Nutrien potash mine at Rocanville. Work is underway on a multi-year refurbishment of the original mill, replacement of underground raw ore bins, and the addition of a power generating plant. The contractor workforce will peak at between 500 and 1,000 for the next three years.

Mill refurbishment, underground bins, power generation plant at Nutrien Rocanville: Contractor workforce to peak at 1,000 this year

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

Work is under way on refurbishment of the original mill at Nutrien Rocanville. The start of the project was delayed by Covid-19 last year. Work is also under way on replacement of some underground components including the raw ore bins, and on development of a power generating plant on the site.

The projects will bring a lot of contractors to the site, with the number peaking at between 500 and 1,000 for each of the next three years.

"We celebrated our 50th anniversary back in September and we still have areas of our operating plants that are from day one," said Nutrien Rocanville General Manager Shannon Rhynold.

"We did the major expansion and we brought a new mill on line in 2016 but the old mill—mill one as we call it—still has areas of operation and portions of it that are still original.

"So when you look at the projects over the next few years, the big one that we're doing on site is a refurbishment of our original mill. Each time we take out some of the old technology and put in something new there's a potential for investment. We question how do we improve on this. With a lot of the projects that we are doing,

it's a bit of a chess match. We're trying to make sure we can keep the operation running while replacing equipment. We use our turn around strategy (when operations cease for a few weeks for major maintenance) to do tie-ins. A lot of the work that's going on out here right now is some of that replacement work. It's things like raw ore bins and ore galleries and new electrical and the re-feed of all those cables from new buildings into old infrastructure. We have two production hoist systems as well and one of them was upgraded during the expansion, the old original one still has the original electrical drive components. So we're doing an upgrade this year to upgrade our hoists to modern drive technology. So that will be another one that we tie in during our turn around this year."

Multi-year project

So how big of a project is this?

"It's going to be in the hundreds of millions of dollars, and we're going to spend that over numerous years," says Rhynold. "Easily over the next five years we're going to spend a couple hundred million dollars investing into just the refurbishment of our mill. On top of that if there are investment opportunities that make sense, if

you come up against a bottleneck opportunity where a new piece of equipment can solve an issue, there could be some additional costs.

"There's a lot of work on the surface, and when I look at the underground, we run into some similar issues. We've got our original shaft area. It's still there. We're doing a lot of work now on replacing the original bins underground and this is a massive undertaking that requires a lot of mining, a lot of rehab mining, but also we've created three new ore storage bins underground. Those are currently being cut with a plan to tie those in and connect everything again by the turn around 2022 window."

Self-generation project

Nutrien is also investing in a power generation plant at the Rocanville site. TransGas installed a gas pipeline to its facility near Moosomin to the Rocanville mine site last summer.

"We put in the gas line last year. We didn't delay that one with Covid-19 but we did push off the Self Gen project itself, and now we're back into site prep and we have the foundations laid for the generators when they do arrive," says Rhynold. "Those generators are actually on their way to Canada. I believe they're on the ocean right now as we speak. They will be arriving on site this summer, sometime towards the end of June, and they'll be placed on the concrete pads and we'll be completing the work to actually build the building around it once they arrive. We'll get them on the pads, we'll build the building and we'll start the electrical tie in during our turn around this year as well, when we can shut down the power.

"The commissioning of the generation project will be next year. The project schedule has it ending mid 2022, although we're confident we can bring it on ahead of that. The gas line is done, it's sitting there, it's ready to be tied into. We'll do the electrical tie ins during our turn-around this year and then it's just a matter of getting the training and commissioning under way. We're budgeting and planning to turn it on in 2022."

Crews building up as work progresses

"We always see a build up of contractors particularly as we get close to our turn around," says Rhynold. "Throughout a big part of the year we're carrying probably 200 contractors per day on average throughout the year and as we ramp up closer to our turn around, which will happen mid-September and October this year, we'll peak likely around 1,000. One of the challenges that we always see and we try to work with the project team is just on 'where do you put everybody?'"

"We reach out and we work with the RM and we make them aware of the numbers and we reach out to all the hotels and campgrounds and provide a list of all of the places to stay within a 100 km radius. It gets tight, so we hit that peak and it may only be for a week or two during the turnaround when you're trying to get all the major tie ins done, but those are big numbers and we see it on our parking lots and we see it in our communities. It's something that we are cognizant of and do try to make sure that people are aware that there is this flood of contract employees coming."

Some crews have been in the area since early spring. "I think you're seeing it build up now," said Rhynold.

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Prairie pipeline exercise anything but routine



Above: A flat-bottomed boat was used to navigate the shallow river.



Right: Indigenous participation included a cultural assessment the day prior to the exercise. From left to right: Elder Dave Daniels (Long Plain First Nation), Enbridge intern Alyssa Iskierski (Manitoba Metis Federation) and Mike Sutherland (Peguis First Nation).

Ensuring the ongoing safety of the critical energy infrastructure we all rely on to fuel our economy is a job that must be done—no matter the circumstances. Such was the case when Enbridge held an emergency response training exercise along the Souris River in the Town of Wawanesa, Manitoba on May 19.

Activity was focused along the river within the town. A command post and staging area were set up and a flat-bottomed boat launched to deploy an oil containment boom over a span of some 500 feet across the shallow river. No actual crude oil products were used in the exercise scenario.

"The exercise was designed to test Enbridge's ability to respond to an oil spill near our Mainline pipeline system," explains Stephen Lloyd, Manager, Emergency Management. "In addition to meeting a regulatory requirement of our Line Three Replacement Program, this supports our ongoing effort to continuously practice and improve our emergency response capability on all waterways in proximity to pipeline operations and populated regions."

Preparing for a potential emergency is a routine part of pipeline operations, but the Manitoba exercise was anything but routine. For example, the recent tightening of provincial Covid-19 guidelines on outdoor gatherings (from 10 to five persons) and restrictions on out-of-province visitors led Enbridge to revise and adapt its plans for the exercise.

"We had tremendous support from the RM (Oakland-Wawanesa) and the town, including the fire department and the school next door to the exercise," says Steve Loney, Senior Advisor, Community and Indigenous Engagement based out of Winnipeg. "People were warm and welcoming and waved at us when we were driving by in our company vehicles."

"Overall, it was a positive and highly collaborative exercise," Loney says, noting an Indigenous cultural assessment and blessing the day prior and the use of Indigenous monitors onsite.

Participants followed provincial public health guidelines and Enbridge's Covid-19 Safe Work Protocol which includes, proper social distancing, hand hygiene, cleaning guidelines, a pre-access health assessment and other key activities. Covid-safe measures were in place to protect the public, Enbridge personnel and contractors during the exercise.

"Only those essential to running the exercise in the field, 30 people, were able to be onsite," explains Lloyd. "We divided these individuals into six 'pods' of five each to comply with the current maximum limit on outdoor gatherings in Manitoba. During the exercise, the pods communicated by radio—at any given time, only one pod was on the river, in the staging area or Incident Command Centre."

Another 160 people (Enbridge employees and invited observers) participated virtually via their home or office computers including the Province of Manitoba, Natural Resources Canada, the Canada Energy Regulator, and leadership of several Indigenous nations, governments and groups. They were able to see and hear Enbridge personnel responding to the simulated emergency scenario and tune into a separate online channel which guided them through what was happening, including live drone footage of the field activity.

"The pandemic created some unique logistical challenges that we were able to address and ultimately benefit from in managing this exercise," concludes Sam Munckhof-Swain, Manager, Community and Indigenous Engagement with Enbridge. "While nothing can replace face-to-face communication, implementing new ways to observe these events through the use of technology is something we expect to deploy more in the future, whether out of necessity or not."



Above: Boom deployment across the Souris River, captured by a drone.

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SPRING 2021 Mining, Energy & Manufacturing

Nutrien Rocanville contractor workforce to peak at 1,000 this year

Continued from Page 27

"The self gen group, the teams working on that, they really started to mobilize at the end of March into April and we've seen a bit of a bump in their numbers, just in the last month or so, as construction ramps up and prep ramps up for the delivery of those generators. Other projects will be similar. You'll start to see in July and August, that ramp up occur, but we really don't peak until you get into the turn around itself and that's when it's full out, everyone's on site, the plant is down for that four to five week window, and day and night you're trying to maximize as much work as you can.

"It gets tight. The capacity's there for 1,200 to 1500 people within 100 km. That's filling hotels, in Saskatchewan and Manitoba all the way up to Virden. Within the Nutrien network we try to offset our turnaround so that labor is available but we also try to make sure we're somewhat offset with what Mosaic does, so we're not having all the contractors coming at the same time, so the contractors can go between sites and plan to be here a little longer if there's work at both operations."

Projects for next three years

2021 to 2023 will all be busy construction years. "I would say 2021 to 2023, we're going to see similar levels with peaks of 500 to 1,000 contractors on site," said Rhynold. "We're hitting on some of those big projects like raw ore bins, ore galleries as part of this re-furb to our old mill. The re-furb plan stretches into 2023 and we try to level the spending over that time. I would guess for the next couple years we're going to see this level of activity on our site, and in 2024 or 2025 we start to see the decline. The major components of the re-furb will be done, so the numbers do start to drop a little bit at that point.

Plan in works for two years

"We've been planning the re-furb for a couple of years," says Rhynold. "We actually were ready to execute on it last year and so that raw ore bin, the ore gallery were projects that we deferred from last year into this year.

"With any project within a company like Nutrien there's a certain amount of capital for all the sites. We really break down the project, we follow the certain buckets and you're always going to be allocated a certain amount of sustaining

capital which is really meant to protect the integrity of your assets. That's a given.

"There is the other aspect though, when you look at things like self gen, that's an investment. That is investment dollars that you compete for within the network and within the organization as a whole. And within those, you look at what value are we going to generate. When we look at self gen for us, there are many reasons to do it. The first reason really is, it's the right thing to do and I think our ability to take natural gas and generate electricity from that, it really is going to reduce our emissions, our carbon footprint is going to go down. You're eliminating that requirement for coal fired power, buying from the grid. It becomes more efficient for us, it's better for the environment and it is cheaper, it will save us money and build efficiencies to burn natural gas to generate that electricity versus buying it off the grid. It also fits very nicely within Nutrien's overall plan—we want to help reduce emissions. So with this project we reduce our carbon footprint by not buying that coal-fired power, and also build efficiency and cost savings."

Rocanville Nutrien's cornerstone

"Rocanville's a critical part of Nutrien's potash network," says Rhynold. "We have a great network, we've got six very flexible low cost mines, but since the expansion finished here in late 2016, Rocanville really has become the cornerstone for the network. I've heard people call it the flagship. We continue to produce, since that expansion, 40 to 45 per

cent of the network's annual production and we do it as the low cost producer. We are the flagship, we're the anchor. We drive safety, we drive innovation, and continuous improvement for the company.

"Across Nutrien, we are the low-cost producer, but credit to my peers at the other sites, they're pushing us. They're all bringing their costs down as Nutrien becomes more efficient and decides to be strategic in

how we run our operations. We're really getting pushed. Some of the operations have had the odd month where they've beat us. Overall we're still holding that position but it's important to keep focusing on continuous improvement. Nutrien talks a lot about next generation potash and the things that fall into that. And those are things like automation and self-generation and advanced process control in our mills, and those are the things we try to take a lead on, but the network itself is pushing that direction. So we are the low cost producer right now and we're going to do our best to hold onto that position."

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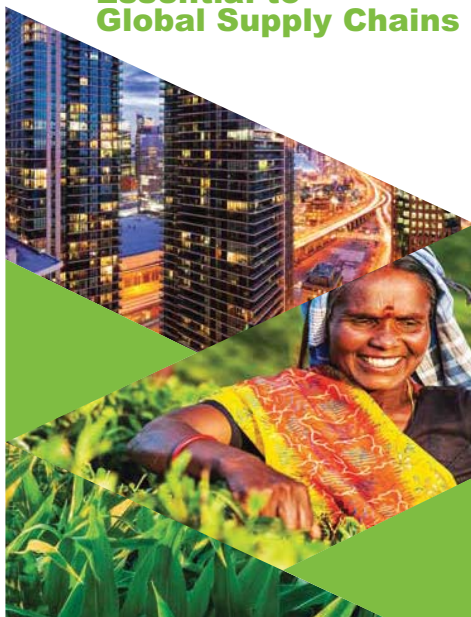
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Thank You.

As our heroic 36 years of managing inflow ends, thank you to the generations of employees, contractors and the community for keeping the K1 and K2 mines producing potash to feed the world for over half a century.

As we close one Esterhazy era, we welcome another. The future is rising before us at K3 and we can't wait for you to be a part of it.





SPRING 2021 Mining, Energy & Manufacturing

K1, K2 potash shafts closed as brine flow increases

Continued from Page 25

"For the last decade, we've run scenarios that relate to the early closure of these shafts. As a result of that planning, we expect to end up in a stronger position than ever in 2022."

"After managing inflow for decades, the end of an era has come sooner than expected," Sarah Fedorchuk, Vice President, Government and Public Affairs for North America, told the World-Spectator Friday.

"The Esterhazy team's ingenuity and commitment have ensured their legacy as Mosaic's premier potash asset, producing millions of tonnes to feed the world for over more than half a century.

"Our end goal is on the horizon, rising before us at K3—we are ready for 50 more years of potash at K3 and a bright future for Esterhazy.

"Our Esterhazy team should feel very proud of what's been accomplished here—they are part of the legacy of Saskatchewan's first successful potash mine and the longest successfully managed inflow in our industry's history."

The World-Spectator put a number of questions to Sarah Fedorchuk, Mosaic's Vice President, Government and Public Affairs for North America, regarding the closure of the K1 and K2 shafts at Mosaic Esterhazy.

Following are the questions and answers:

How will this closure affect total production at Esterhazy over the next 12 months?

We're expecting an approximate 200K impact in Q2 and the same in Q3, with about 500K in Q4 and a Q1 impact of about 100K. Total production, approximately one million tonnes.

How will this closure affect total employment at the Esterhazy operation—Mosaic staff and contractors?

We will be sending employees to K3 earlier than planned to assist with the ramp-up and do not foresee any immediate impacts to our Mosaic workforce resulting from this change. There will likely be some impact to contractors.

K3 remains on-track to have two fully operational mine shafts in early 2022, the second shaft is currently being readied for production with consistent production already coming from the completed north shaft.

How much have brine flows accelerated and when did this increase begin? Do you know what caused the increase?

As you know, Mosaic has successfully managed inflow since 1985 by pumping and grouting to limit flow and protect the mine.

The foundation of our transition plan is to eliminate this risk and substantial cost by shifting potash production from the existing mines to K3.

As part of our phased inflow exit strategy, we began a controlled withdrawal last year, with the final sprint initiated in January when pumping and grouting were further reduced.

As expected, we began to see increased inflow rates with lessened mitigation. Recently, inflow volumes have risen faster than our models predicted.

Geological changes underground point to new water inflows beyond what we had been previously managing which required additional measures.

We knew these mines were nearing end of life because of inflow, and Mother Earth operates on its own time table.

In the context of 36 years of management, 9 months off is pretty good.

Were there any safety concerns with the additional in-

flows?

Safety was our absolute top priority here—as it is every day.

The decision was made to prioritize the safety of our employees and to not take any unnecessary risks.

How certain is Mosaic that brine inflow could never be an issue at K3?

Today's geotechnical and technology capabilities are far superior to those used in the 60s when these mines were built.

When choosing the location for K3, we employed the latest state-of-the-art technology and expertise to mitigate similar risks.

Is there a plan for decommissioning/dismantling the portions of the K1 and K2 operations connected with underground mining?

Yes, our decommissioning plans were already underway. In simple terms, we will remove the shaft infrastructure and plug and cap each one.

Later on, additional surface infrastructure, like the headframes, will be removed.

At what point is it expected that K3 production will increase to the point that it will replace production at K1 and K2, or will it reach that point?

K3 remains on-track to have two fully operational mine shafts in early 2022, the second shaft is currently being readied for production with consistent production already coming from the completed north shaft.

Yes, K3 was always designed to fully supply Esterhazy's ore once complete.

Is the reactivation of Colonsay considered permanent, or temporary until K3 is up to full production?

Right now we have a team assembled who is working through the logistics to bring Colonsay back online as soon as possible.



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Colonsay has a smaller production capacity than Esterhazy.

At this point, we're focused on pursuing production options there to offset some of the production and take advantage of the strong potash markets in 2022.

How many workers would be working at the Colonsay mine?

At this time, it's too early to predict exact numbers. Currently, there are 40 people on site and at its peak there were close to 500.

Does Mosaic have a workforce available for Colonsay or might workers be transferred from Esterhazy or other operations?

Mosaic has a highly skilled and talented workforce in Saskatchewan and around the world. Offering new opportunities and meaningful careers allows us to shift talent quite often—it's an important part of being a successful global business.

We will be preparing a plan, and working with the local union as we move forward.

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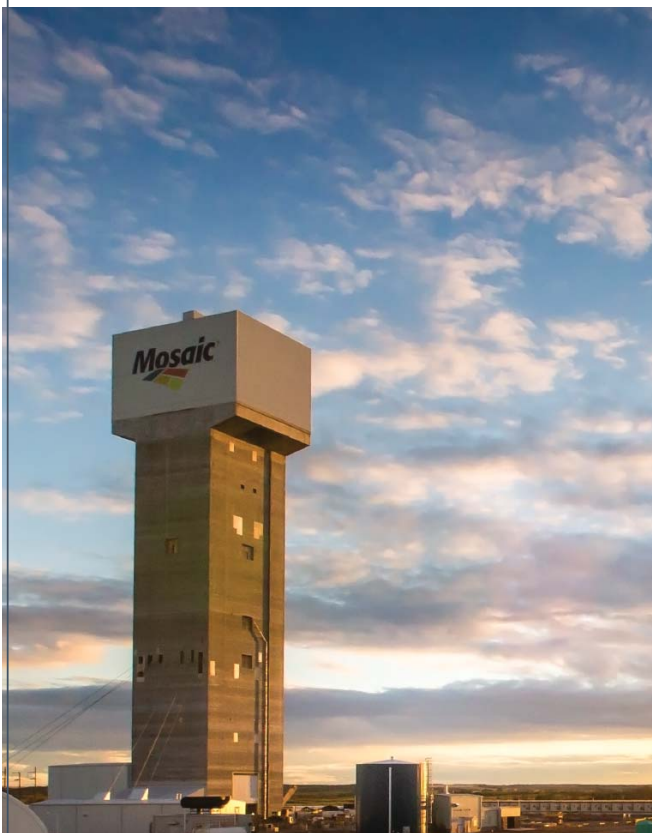
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SPRING 2021 Mining, Energy & Manufacturing

June oil and gas public offering raises \$516,069.98 in revenue

Saskatchewan's June public offering of Crown petroleum and natural gas rights held on Tuesday, June 1, 2021, generated \$516,069.98 in revenue for the province. This public offering is the second of six

oil and gas sales scheduled for the 2021-22 fiscal year.

The Estevan area was, again, the major focus for bid activity, bringing in \$438,874.00 for 16 parcels totalling

1,519,862 hectares. The highest bonus bid received on a parcel was \$226,911.20 for a 129,500-hectare lease in the Estevan area.

This was also the highest dollars per hectare received on a parcel in this offering at \$1,752.21 per hectare. The lease was awarded to Crescent Point Energy

Corporation and is prospective for oil in the Bakken Formation.

Of the total 42 parcels posted, 24 parcels received acceptable bids. These bids covered 3,814,759 hectares and the average bonus bid was \$135.28 per hectare.

The next public offering is scheduled for August 10, 2021.

Sask raises \$1.9 million in revenue from April oil and gas public offering

Saskatchewan's public offering of Crown petroleum and natural gas rights held Tuesday, April 6, 2021, generated \$1,925,873.51 in revenue for the province.

This is the first of six oil and gas public offerings for the 2021-22 fiscal year.

The Estevan area was the major focus for bid activity, with leases within the region receiving both the highest bonus bid for a parcel of land as well as the highest dollars per hectare on a lease.

The highest bonus bid received on a parcel in this offering was \$324,786.00 (or \$627.00 per hectare) for a lease in the Estevan area. This lease totalling 518,000 hectares was awarded to Cougar Creek Land Ltd. and is prospective for oil in the Bakken Formation.

The highest dollars per hectare received in this offering was for a 64.8-hectare lease in the Estevan area by Crescent Point Energy Corp. They bid \$220,554.04, or \$3,406.24 per hectare, for this parcel that is prospective for oil also in the Bakken Formation.

In total, the Estevan area brought in \$1,631,515.03 for 23 parcels encompassing 4,079,254 hectares, while the Kindersley area brought in \$196,691.89 for 11 leases encompassing 2,489,006 hectares. Lloydminster and Swift Current were the other two areas each bringing in \$64,574.16 for 420,878 hectares, and \$33,092.43 for 259,000 hectares, respectively.

The scheduled date for the next public offering is June 1, 2021.

Sask manufacturing sales stay strong

Saskatchewan continues to show strong signs of economic recovery with manufacturing sales increasing by nearly 30 per cent year-over-year, the second highest percentage growth increase in Canada. Nationally, manufacturing grew by 14.8 per cent.

"Significant growth in leading economic indicators like manufacturing sales, wholesale trade and job growth show that our economy remains resilient and we are showing strong signs of recovery," Trade and Export Development Minister Jeremy Harrison said. "Saskatchewan has one of the most competitive business environments in all of Canada and the recent large private sector investments worth billions of dollars will create more jobs and opportunities for Saskatchewan people."

On a month-over-month basis, seasonally adjusted manufacturing sales grew by 10.6 per cent, above the national average of 3.5 per cent. This was also the second highest percentage

increase among the provinces. The value of manufacturing sales in March 2021 was \$1.49 billion.

Wholesale trade also recorded a seasonally ad-

justed increase of 13.2 per cent over last year, above the national average of 12.8 per cent. The value of wholesale trade in March 2021 was \$2.58 billion.

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Why Canada's heavy oil is an integral part of U.S. production

The United States banned exports of crude oil in the mid-1970s, as the result of an oil embargo directed at the U.S. by Middle Eastern countries.

The embargo began as a result of American support for Israel during the 1973 Yom Kippur War. In response, some members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) halted shipments of oil to the U.S. The OPEC embargo ended in 1974, but U.S. Congress, fearful of a repeat, banned most American oil exports to preserve stocks for domestic use.

It was only in December 2015 that President Barack Obama lifted restrictions on exports of U.S. oil to the rest of the world, effective the following year. The result has been a boom in crude oil exports, rising from 465,000 barrels of oil daily in 2015 to almost 3.2 million barrels a day in 2020.

America's lifting of its self-imposed 40-year ban on oil exports meant the U.S. was now in competition with Canada for oil export customers.

It also meant that some U.S. refineries would need more Canadian heavy oil. As Oil Sands Magazine has pointed out, this need arose as a result of increasing production from U.S. shale fields.

Heavy oil has a relatively high American Petroleum Institute (API) density. API measures the density of a crude oil or refined products. Crude oil will typically have an API between 15 and 45 degrees. (The higher the API, the lighter the crude, the lower the API, the heavier the crude.)

The problem for some U.S. refineries is that as the American-sourced domestic supply of crude became increasingly lighter, approaching 40 degrees on the API scale. That created a mismatch with the desired refinery feedstock density, which averages about 32 degrees.

That's where heavier Canadian crude oil from the oil



Mark Milke & Lennie Kaplan



sands comes in, as refineries seek to blend light domestic crude with heavy and medium-grade oil imports. By adding imported heavy crude oil to domestic light crude oil during production, the U.S. has significantly increased its ability to export refined oil.

Declining exports from U.S. heavy oil suppliers in Venezuela and Mexico have also opened the door to more Canadian heavy oil in the Gulf Coast refining cluster, which is the world's largest heavy-oil processing area.

The percentage of total imports of Canadian heavy oil to the U.S. rose from 25.1 per cent in 2000 to 55.8 per cent in 2019. American imports of oil from Canada have risen from 1.3 million barrels daily in 2000 to two million daily in 2010 and reached 3.8 million barrels daily in 2019.

This American need for heavy crude oil has been positive for Canada's oil exports. However, increasing Canadian oil exports to the United States doesn't mean the various attempts to obstruct Canadian crude oil exploration, production, pipelines and exports have been unsuccessful.

The Obama administration blocked the Keystone XL pipeline, then former president Donald Trump allowed it to proceed, followed in January by President Joe Biden killing the project on his first day in office.

In Canada, proposed pipelines such as Northern Gate-

way and Energy East were thwarted by a combination of politics and activism: tanker bans on the northern coast of B.C., and anti-oil activism and political opposition in Quebec.

Killing access to markets that would have offered Canada an alternative to American sales has been costly. A lack of extra pipeline access to coasts means it's difficult for Canadian producers to sell oil into non-American markets.

And crude oil shipped by train is sold at a discount to its price if shipped by pipelines.

Before the Covid-19 pandemic temporarily cut into demand, Canadian oil-by-rail shipments to the United States reached nearly 412,000 barrels of oil daily in February 2020, a monthly record. In 2012, the earliest year of data, daily crude oil shipments peaked at only 125,000 in December and had been as low as 9,725 barrels in January.

Shipping oil by rail presents higher risks and is more expensive. In 2019, the Fraser Institute estimated that from 2013 to 2017, after accounting for quality differences and transportation costs, the depressed price for Canadian heavy crude oil resulted in C\$20.7 billion in foregone revenues for the Canadian energy industry. In 2020, IHS Markit estimated the loss of income for Canadian producers at US\$14 billion between 2015 and 2019. IHS called that number "conservative."

If anyone thinks the U.S. can do without Canadian oil, especially Canadian heavy oil, they're misinformed. Canadian oil is critical to the United States and, increasingly, for blended oil for its own oil exports.

Mark Milke and Lennie Kaplan are with the Canadian Energy Centre, an Alberta government corporation funded in part by carbon taxes. They are authors of the report *Analyzing the Contributions of the Canadian Crude Oil Sector to U.S. Petroleum Refineries*.

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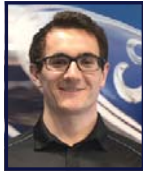
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Friday, July 23, 5 pm: Rodeo Slack

Saturday, July 24

- 12 pm: Parade on Main St.
- Demolition Derby following parade
- 5 pm: Rodeo Grand Entry
- Beer Gardens with Entertainment after rodeo

Sunday, July 25

- 9 am - 12 p.m. Pancake Breakfast at the Friendship Centre
- 9:30 am: Cowboy Church Service at Rodeo Grounds
- 2 pm: Rodeo Grand Entry
- Beer Gardens
- Following the Rodeo Performance
 - Roast Beef Supper

RODEO ADMISSION

Adults: \$20
17 & Under: \$10
Pre-School: FREE

Weekend
Family Pass: \$85
Includes 2 Adults & Children

For more information contact Curtis Smyth (President): 780-991-3112