

# Plain & Valley

June 2022 • Volume 15 Number 6

Covering Southeast Saskatchewan and Southwest Manitoba

## Summer events planned across the region

There are lots of events coming up across the area this summer, from Canada Day celebrations to rodeos, to fairs, to ball tournaments and much more. Check the list below for some of the events coming up in the region, and find out more about regional events inside this issue of Plain and Valley, in the World-Spectator's 2022 Summer Fun Guide, and at the World-Spectator's online events listing at [www.world-spectator.com/events.php](http://www.world-spectator.com/events.php)

### June 11 Reconciliation Games Whitewood

All teams in the Southeast Mens' Fastball League will gather at Larson Ball Park in Whitewood Saturday, June 11 for the Reconciliation games, with the three First Nations teams taking on the three non-First Nations teams. Everyone is encouraged to wear an orange shirt in honor of the victims and survivors of residential schools.

### June 17-19 Kicking up the Dirt Fastball Reunion

This event at Asessippi Beach and Campground will include a twilight fastball round robin, a hall of fame game, a fastball tournament, and more, featuring teams from eastern Saskatchewan and western Manitoba.

### June 18 Big Daddy Street Party Moosomin

Father's Day weekend activities will include a Daddy Dunk Tank, Kids Musical Chairs, candy land game, Macho Dad hot sauce competition, and live entertainment by Lachlan Neville, Olivia Kelly, Fenton Martens, Brian Paul D.G. Ainsley Friesen, and Old Habits. Watch for specials at Moosomin's retailers that day.

### June 24 Sask Express Moosomin

As part of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebration, Sask Express will perform for free in Moosomin at 7 pm on Friday, June 24. To book a table contact the Moosomin Recreation Office at 306-435-3622.

### June 25 Rocanville Rumble

The Rocanville Rumble will include a qualifier competition for Canada's Strongest Woman, a pancake breakfast, town-wide garage sales, bouncy castles, beer gardens, and entertainment by the Kelly family and Lachlan Neville.

### June 25 Scandinavian Mid-Summer Festival, Dubuc

You can win your wife's weight in beer in the wife carrying contest at the Scandinavian Mid-Summer Festival, and no we are not joking! Among the rules—inflatable wives will be disqualified—and no we are not joking about that, either. There is much more fun at the midsummer festival including Viking games, Viking and Saami tents, craft displays, and more!

### June 30 BMX track grand opening Moosomin

There will be a community barbecue as part of the celebrations to mark the opening of Moosomin's BMX Pump Track. The pump track is being built at Bradley Park in Moosomin, and will be free for anyone to use.

### June 30-July 2 Bobby Vargo Tournament Kipling

Thursday, June 30 to Saturday, July 2 will be the big event of the summer in Kipling, the 10th annual Bobby Vargo Memorial Slow-Pitch Tournament. Friday, July 1 will include the Kipling Firefighters' Pancake Breakfast, a bounce tent, petting zoo, face painting, balloon art, dunk tank, treasure dig, a home run derby, and lots of events at



Clockwise from top left: The Back 40 Drifters performing at a street dance in Moosomin; A rider being bucked off during the Moosomin Bulls and Broncs event; A child at a petting zoo at Redvers' Rockin' the Block; A South East Men's Fastball game; Canada Day celebrations in Elkhorn; Rock Candy performing during Rockin' the Park in Esterhazy.

the pool including the Splash For Cash at 7 pm. The day will cap off with the Town of Kipling Fireworks. There will be ball games all three days, and Saturday night will feature the Kipling Kid Care Cabaret starting at 9:30 pm at the Kipling Arena.

### July 1 Kin Canada D'Eh event Moosomin

The day at Bradley Park in Moosomin will include carnival games, a dunk tank, bouncy castles, a show and shine, beer gardens, a community market, local food vendors, and the day will end off with a cabaret with Shifty Morgan and a fireworks show.

### July 1 Canada Day celebration in Elkhorn

Canada Day is always a huge event in Elkhorn. The day will feature a pancake breakfast, a parade, kids' activities at the museum, a threshing display, blacksmith display, cold plate supper, and a spark show at dusk, followed by fireworks.

### July 1 Canada Day celebration in Redvers

Redvers' Canada Day celebrations include a parade, Slo-Pitch tournament, concession, live band, and kids' activities.

Continued on page 3

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- CO Weighted Average 0.13%

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## CHINOOK 30.2

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- 76% LHV Efficiency (77% HHV)
- 30,407 BTU's/h constant output for 8 hours
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# Summer events planned across the region

Continued from front

## July 2-3 Cowboy Mounted Shooting, Moosomin

The Saskatchewan Cowboy Mounted Shooting Association is hosting a Canada Day weekend event in Moosomin Saturday and Sunday July 2 and 3. The event will start at 4 pm Saturday and at 9 am Sunday. If you have never seen a mounted shooting event, it's an exciting event that mixes riding with target shooting. Single action pistols and long guns use black powder to hit targets in a timed event with over 80 different pattern selections.

## July 8-10 All Folk'd Up, Montmartre

All Folk'd Up is a three day music festival at Kemoca Regional Park at Montmartre. This year's lineup includes Nice Horse, Dead Levee, Toronto, Prism, Amanda Hagel, Chris Henderson, JJ Voss, Dale Mac, Munro and Patrick, King For a Day, and more!

## July 16 Bulls and Broncs event Moosomin

The Bulls and Broncs event will be a full day of fun in Moosomin, starting with the Firemen's pancake breakfast. The Chamber of Commerce parade will take place at 10 am followed by the community market and international festival. The Bulls and Broncs, consisting of bull riding, saddle bronc and bareback riding, takes place at the Rodeo Grounds at 7 pm

## July 22 Maryfield Fair

The Maryfield Fair is a great old-fashioned fair featuring a horse show, games, entertainment, and so much more!

## July 22-24 Moose Mountain Pro Rodeo Kennedy

The Moose Mountain Pro Rodeo takes place over three days in Kennedy. Friday features slack and beer gardens. Saturday features a parade, demolition derby, and rodeo performance at 4 pm

## July 29-31 Food Truck Wars at Moosomin Regional Park

The August long weekend was long known at Moosomin Regional Park as the fireworks weekend, with an international fireworks competition taking place over the lake, and this year it will be a competition of a different sort, the Battle of the Prairies Food Truck Wars. It will feature food trucks Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, bounce tents, a DJ Friday night and the Blu Beach Band Saturday night, a scavenger hunt and much more!

## July 30-31 Elkhorn Western Weekend

Pony chuckwagon and chariot races are the centrepiece of Elkhorn's Western weekend Saturday and Sunday, July



Sask Express, who will be performing in Moosomin on June 24 in Moosomin

30 and 31. The event also includes live music with Lyle Baldwin both days, beer gardens, Slo-Pitch, a \$1,000 Dash for Cash and so much more!

## August 5-7 Fleming Reunion

Fleming will hold a town-wide reunion August 5-7. Friday will feature a historical town tour, beer gardens, entertainment by Merv Easton, and a Fleming Jets ball game. Saturday will include a pancake breakfast, parade, dance, and fireworks. Sunday will feature a community church service.

## August 13-14 Spy Hill Sports Days

August 13 and 14 will be the most exciting weekend of the summer in Spy Hill, featuring Chuckwagon and Chariot Racing, a kids' rodeo, slo-pitch, tractor pull, barrel racing, beer gardens, a car show, roping events, an outdoor market and a street dance.

## August 19-20 Whitewood Chacachas Rodeo

The 21st annual Whitewood/Chacachas CCA Rodeo will be held August 19 and 20, featuring CCA rodeo action, mutton bustin, a pancake breakfast, wild pony races, a steak supper, kids' activities and more!

## August 18-21 Virden Indoor Rodeo

The Virden Indoor Rodeo is a major event with four

days of fun and rodeo action, including high school rodeo, 3D barrel racing, a demolition derby, and three days of rodeo competition.

## August 20 Carlyle Fun Days

This day includes a pancake breakfast, parade, trade show, high tea, entertainment by Morgan Robertson, Brody Siebert, Dangerous Cheese, Vinyl Society and Switch, and a kids Zone with magician Chester McBain

## August 20 Wawota Heritage Day

Saturday, August 20 will be Wawota's annual Heritage Day, featuring a pancake breakfast, a parade at 11 am, kids gymkhana, petting zoo, fireworks, and a cabaret with the Back 40 Drifters.

## August 27 Rockin' The Park, Esterhazy

Classic Canadian rockers Prism will headline Rockin' The Park in Esterhazy Saturday, August 27. The event will also feature up-and-coming local band the Blu Beach Band, amazing party band Rock Candy, and 80s hair metal tribute band Snake Oil.

## August 27 Museum Market Day Moosomin

Moosomin's Community Market will be held at the Moosomin and District Museum. The market will feature food and retail vendors and will be a community gathering.

## August 27 Jacey Lee Memorial Barrel Racing, Spy Hill

This will be the second annual Jacey Lee Memorial Barrel Racing Event at Spy Hill. The event is being held in memory and in honor Jacey Lee, who passed away suddenly and unexpectedly in March of 2021. The event includes Open 5D, Youth 3D and peewee categories.

## September 10 Rockin' the Block Redvers

The second annual Rockin' the Block includes kids' activities, sidewalk sales and events sponsored by local businesses, for a fun-filled day capped off with music from the live band FogDog.

## September 17 Harvest Market Day, Moosomin

Downtown Moosomin will come alive for the Harvest Market Day September 17. The Community Market will be set up on Broadway Avenue, and watch for specials and sidewalk sales in local businesses.

## September 17 Rocanville Museum Day

Rocanville's Museum Day is always a big event, with a market at the museum, a barbecue, live music, hay rides, and a threshing demonstration.

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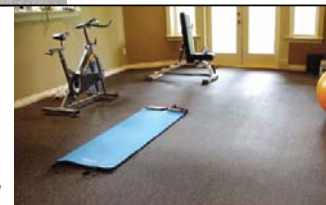


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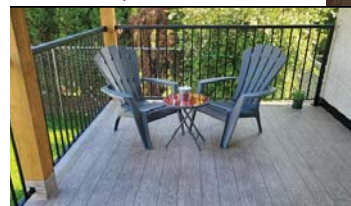
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# Fleming Community REUNION

## August 5 - 7, 2022

**ALL TIMES IN CST**

### Friday, August 5

- **Registration & "Welcome Home"**  
1 PM - 7 PM  
AT FLEMING COMMUNITY HALL
- **Historical Town Tour**
- **Beer Gardens & Entertainment by Merv Easton**  
7 PM - 1 AM
- **Fleming Jets Ball Game**  
8 PM

### Saturday, August 6

- **Registration and "Welcome Home"**  
9 AM - 11 AM
- **Pancake Breakfast**  
7 AM - 9 AM
- **Parade**  
11 AM
- **BBQ Beef on a Bun Lunch**
- **Historical Town Tour**
- **Pick Up Fastball**
- **Beer Gardens**  
2 PM - 5:30 PM
- **Pork Supper**  
WHOLE PORK ROASTED ON A SPIT  
6 PM
- **Dance**  
8 PM
- **Fireworks at Dusk**

### Sunday, August 7 ■ Community Church Service

11 AM

### Silent Auction

Friday and Saturday,  
with the draws being made  
Saturday evening

### Pre-Registration Deadline

June 30, 2022

Please register at Fleming  
Reunion Facebook Page

### Need More Information?

Please email [2022flemingreunion@gmail.com](mailto:2022flemingreunion@gmail.com)

or text or call Philip Hamm: 306-435-4140

or Chelsey Stonehouse: 306-434-6833.

To enter the parade contact

Alan Stein: 306-435-6938 or Randy Yeo 306-435-7503

Please bring a lawn chair.

Courtesy transportation will be available

*Donations and volunteers are welcomed by the Fleming Community Reunion Committee. Any profits from the Fleming Reunion will go to the Fleming Cemetery and Fleming Community Organization.*

## 3-Team Twilight Men's Fastball Tournament

Saturday, June 25, 2022 - 12:00 noon at Fleming Green Acres Ball Park

FEATURING: SOUTHEAST EXPRESS, BORDERLINE LEGENDS, ONANOLE, MANITOBA

## Fleming Jets vs. Whitewood Falcons SEFL - 8 p.m.

CONCESSION & BEER GARDENS | 50/50 DRAWS



Melville & District Scandinavian Club presents

## scandinavian MIDSUMMER FESTIVAL



Saturday,  
June 25, 2022

1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Dubuc, SK

Admission by donation

Alternate weather date: Sunday, June 26, 2022



Midsummer Pole, Viking Games,  
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## KIN CANADA D'EH

FRIDAY, JULY 1, 2022

BRADLEY PARK • ALL DAY FAMILY EVENT

ALL DAY  
BEER GARDENS  
LOCAL FOOD VENDORS

SLOW PITCH 9 A.M.

FREE CARNIVAL GAMES  
DUNK TANK  
BOUNCY CASTLES  
11 AM - 4 PM

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STARTS AT DUSK (9:15)

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PROCEEDS FROM THIS EVENT WILL GO TO THE MOOSOMIN AIRPORT PROJECT

## BIG DADDY STREET PARTY

Saturday, June 18, 2022

800 Block of Broadway Avenue, Moosomin, SK  
2 p.m. - 10 p.m.

#### ACTIVITIES

- Daddy Dunk Tank
- Kids Musical Chairs
- Candyland Game
- Dad's Watermelon Eating Contest
- "Macho Dad" Hot Sauce Competition
- 50/50 Draw

#### FOOD & DRINK

- BBQ Burgers
- Hot Dogs, Smokies
- Ribs & Fries
- Roast Beef & Cheddar Buns
- Outdoor Beer Garden

#### LIVE LOCAL ENTERTAINMENT

- Lachlan Neville
- Olivia Kelly
- Fenton Martens
- Brian Paul D.G.
- Ainsley Friesen
- Old Habits

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### Moosomin Community Market

Friday, July 1

Canada Day Market  
Location: Bradley Park  
11 am - 4 pm

Saturday, July 16

Rodeo Weekend Market  
Location: Downtown Moosomin  
11 am - 4 pm

Saturday, Aug 27

Moosomin Museum Day Market  
Location: Regional Museum Grounds  
11 am - 4 pm

Saturday, Sept 17

Harvest Market  
Location: Downtown Moosomin  
11 am - 4 pm

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For more  
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Jarrod Slugoski  
[jarrodslugoski@gmail.com](mailto:jarrodslugoski@gmail.com)  
**306-608-2675**

Moosomin  
Community Market



# BATTLE OF THE PRAIRIES FOOD TRUCK WARS CANADA

**Moosomin Regional Park**

## JULY 29 - JULY, 31, 2022

**Featuring the top Food Trucks in Saskatchewan & Manitoba, plus lots of retail vendors!**

### FRIDAY, JULY 29

- Beer Gardens
- DJ: 4 p.m. - Midnight
- Food Trucks:  
11 a.m. - 10 p.m.

### SATURDAY, JULY 30

- Beer Gardens
- DJ: 4 p.m. - Midnight
- Live Performance:  
Blu Beach Band
- Food Trucks:  
11 a.m. - 10 p.m.
- Bouncy Tents  
Noon - 7 p.m.  
(COST FOR USE)

### SUNDAY, JULY 31

- Beer Gardens
- Food Trucks:  
11 a.m. - 6 p.m.
- Scavenger Hunt  
11 a.m.
- Tennis Tournament



### FOOD TRUCKS



- |   |                                  |
|---|----------------------------------|
| ■ Beaver Tails Regina                         | ■ The Poutine Joint Yorkton      |
| ■ Booster Juice Regina                        | ■ Sugar Rush Hudson Bay          |
| ■ Pink Ladies Concessions Melville            | ■ Grub Hub Brandon BBQ           |
| ■ Chow Queen American Carnival Food Saskatoon | ■ Smoke and Sauced Brandon BBQ   |
| ■ Pinoy Fiesta Roasted Chicken                | ■ The Poutine King Brandon       |
| ■ Weenie Wagon Broadview                      | ■ Custom Shaved Ice Saskatoon    |
| ■ Lizzies Eatery Pizza & BBQ                  | ■ Benny's Bistro Breakfast Truck |
|   | ■ The Pig Bus BBQ                |



### VENDORS



- |                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
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| ■ Scentsy                   | ■ Ursa Minor Creations                       |
| ■ Express Promotions        | ■ Essential Oils                             |
| ■ Colour Street Nails       | ■ Voxx                                       |
| ■ Bandits Distilling        | ■ Dips by Amanda                             |
| ■ Ninstomi Design           | ■ Tupperware                                 |
| ■ Sara Martin Wax Candles   | ■ Colour Me Cushions                         |
| ■ Artistic Designs by Cindy | ■ Emotions Bubble Tea Food Truck             |
| ■ Tess Boehm Young Living   | ■ Snack Shack Candy Floss                    |
| ■ Frank Boehm Terra Rocks   | ■ Codys Concessions Mini Donuts and Lemonade |
| ■ Lanyna Lamps              |  |

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REGULAR GATE ADMISSION APPLIES FOR ENTRANCE INTO MOOSOMIN REGIONAL PARK

# Conexus donates over \$850,000 back into Southern Saskatchewan communities

BY SIERRA D'SOUZA BUTTS

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

Over the last five years, Conexus Credit Union has donated over \$850,000 into Southern Saskatchewan communities.

Through its Community Investment Program, Conexus donated over \$90,000 back into Southern Saskatchewan communities in 2021 alone.

"The purpose of the program is to invest back into the community; our pillars are really around supporting people's well-being, which ultimately contributes to our purpose of financial well-being for our members and communities," said Nicole Westerlund, Vice-President of Marketing and Member Engagement.

"We are often looking for ways to invest in initiatives that contribute to overall well-being, which we believe leads to the next step of financial well-being."

Westerlund said the donations to communities over the last five years have helped individuals in rural Saskatchewan.

"I think the last five years has been an interesting period of time, but it's been positive, we have partnered with a number of different organizations throughout the communities and I think it creates positivity, economic impact, volunteerism, and just a general commitment to our communities that we are always going to be giving back through our community investment program."

She said the amount Conexus donates each year varies based on the Credit Union's annual income.

"Our budget does adjust year over year, and it's based on our own income, that's why where you bank really does matter, and when the community invests into Conexus, we are able to then invest back into the community," Westerlund said.

"Our investments do change year over year, and what we try to do is balance throughout the community where we can



The Conexus Credit Union branch in Moosomin.

best, looking into all the communities we operate in and serve our members in, and try to give back there. It varies, absolutely year to year, but we always do have a very intentional focus on communities across the province."

Each year, Conexus donates up to 5 per cent of its pre-tax profits back into the community.

The percentage is decided by its Board and Community Investment Policy, and is "well above Image Canada's recommendation of 1% of pre-tax profits."

Westerlund was asked if Conexus has any plans for increasing the percentage of pre-tax profits that are put back into the community.

"Absolutely, I think it really does depend on what happens with our membership and the investments into Conexus," she said.

"It's a little bit of a unique situation where we don't really have a standing amount of dollars, we look at our income and then we

allocate based on that.

"Over the past five years that's changed, up and down, based on the current economic environment. We're optimistic for increasing in the future years for sure, if we see an economic recovery."

## Conexus supporting the MCC centre in Moosomin

Westerlund spoke about why Conexus chose to support the Moosomin Conexus Convention Centre.

"It's really important for us to focus on the communities that we're in, where our members work, and we want to support the capital projects that are helping to contribute to the overall well-being in the community," she said.

"That project is one that aligns and works with our purpose and our values, which I also think works for the community in Moosomin as well, so it's a win win."

She was asked why communities in

Southern Saskatchewan received \$850,000 over the last few years, compared to other areas in the province.

"One of the things I think that is the most unique, is that we operate all over the province, we have 30 locations across the province, but we also have members everywhere," said Westerlund.

"We know that banking is something you can do in your backyard, you don't have to be in a branch, and we like to support the communities where we operate and where our members are."

"We want to make sure we're giving back to the members that are supporting and banking with us, and I think that's why we're investing in the Southern region, including some of those communities that are part of our investments."

"The other piece I would say is that it does change, there's a number of different initiatives and the opportunity to support multiple organizations is exciting for us to contribute to."

Making investments back to the community is fundamental for Conexus, Westerlund said.

"It comes down to being a credit union, we are a little different than the big banks, we are a co-operative organization, we're the credit union who started over 80 years ago, and really started with the intention of pooling resources to improve the economy and to improve the community, and that's what we're doing today," she said.

"It's really a foundation that we've been built on for decades, and it's something we will continue with into the future. It's part of building the community and part of contributing to the economic impact, and really the strength and sustainability of the province overall."

"It's something we're really passionate about, something we're excited about. We love to be involved with communities all across Southern Saskatchewan."

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After two decades of leadership in carbon dioxide capture, utilization, and storage (CCUS), Saskatchewan remains the best place in Canada to invest in CCUS technology and infrastructure.

In fact, Whitecap Resources Inc. expects to expand its Weyburn CO2 facility, already the largest of its kind in the world which uses CO2 captured from industrial facilities for enhanced oil recovery. CO2 capture significantly lowers GHG emissions from industrial facilities and when coupled with enhanced oil recovery, reduces emissions when compared to traditional oil production.



This year, the province is partnering with the Saskatchewan Research Council and the private sector to research the development of a hydrogen hub using CCUS.

Interest in extracting lithium from subsurface brine water continues to grow, and inroads are being made by companies into geothermal energy.

The future is bright for Saskatchewan as industry, supported by the provincial government, continues to make strategic investments into sustainable energy technologies.

## South East Cornerstone School Division

# Division cutting 35 full-time positions due to deficit

BY NORM PARK

South East Cornerstone School Division will be cutting more than 35 full time positions due to being forced to table a deficit budget.

South East Cornerstone Public School Division is, one more time, having to submit an operating deficit budget for approval from the provincial government.

This time the deficit comes in at \$6.29 million, or using a conversion on a cash basis, a deficit of \$2.475 million.

Shelley Toth, the SECPD's chief financial officer, told the board members at their May 18 meeting that a balanced budget was just not possible.

As a result, the classroom teacher numbers will be reduced by 21.80 full time equivalent positions to accommodate the shortfall in funding. Also being lost will be one FTE literacy consultant/coach and one curriculum consultant/coach for a total loss of 23.80 positions.

The non-teacher staffing numbers will also be reduced by 11.46 FTE positions with the exception of educational assistants whose numbers will be increased by seven FTE positions thanks to a restricted grant from the government.

The non-teacher roles that will be reduced include community liaisons, psychologist, information systems, library technicians, care taking and carpenter roles among others.

Toth along with Keith Keating, the division's deputy education director and human resources manager, said that it was expected these positions being lost would be handled through general attrition and they

would not have to directly lay off many current active employees but rather it would be accommodated through natural resignations, retirements or transfers out of the division.

The budget includes total revenue of \$106.7 million with operating expenditures of \$113 million and capital expenditures of \$2.3 million.

The staffing numbers at SECPD are 1,054.52 FTE positions.

"A balanced budget was not obtainable as the funding received from the government of Saskatchewan was not enough to cover increased costs for salaries and benefits or general inflation," Toth said in her report to the board before they passed the motion to submit the budget to the Ministry of Education for final approval.

Toth later said the school division has had to prepare deficit budgets every year since the 2015-16 academic year due to decreases or minimal increases in funding from the government. She said a couple of times the budgets did manage to get balanced due to some unanticipated events such as a strike by support staffs one year and pandemic induced closures which led to overall savings due to schools being closed and buses not operating, etc.

The division is now left with a diminishing surplus that will rest at just over \$14 million, but some of that will be needed to cover some capital costs not included in government funding such as non-school buildings (bus garages or offices) and some fuel costs among other items.

Out of the \$106.7 million received in revenues, over \$101.2 million or 95 per cent came from the provin-

cial grants. The rest came from school generated fundraising at \$3.1 million, tuition fees of \$1.2 million and another \$1.2 million from other sources such as food sales and interest accumulation.

On the \$113 million expenditure side, salaries would have risen by \$2.3 million if there were no staff reductions planned. As it stands now, about \$89.85 million will be planned for staff salaries, a reduction of just under \$1 million or 1.2 per cent.

The budget for goods and services is rising from \$22.65 million to \$24.58 million thanks mainly to inflation and other issues such as supply chain problems. As an example, it was noted that insurance costs have risen by 36 per cent, fuel costs have gone up by 13 per cent or more, even with a contract agreement on supply and bus repairs and maintenance costs have risen by 20 per cent as evidenced by the fact that such items as tires for the buses have seen a price hike as much as 48.4 per cent and batteries have increased in price by nearly 34 per cent and shock absorbers have gone up by

66.5 per cent, among other items.

The \$2.3 million now assigned for capital expenditures for 2022-23 will be spent on computer hardware and equipment (\$1 million), buses (\$1 million), furniture and equipment (\$187,000) and fleet truck replacements (\$100,000).

Toth pointed out that when the downward funding spiral began in 2015, SECPD had an accumulated surplus of \$29.42 million, so the current expected leftover surplus of \$14.355 million represents an overall loss of more than 50 per cent over the past seven years.

During these years of losses, Toth said "the board has protected the pupil-teacher ratio through reductions to staffing outside the classroom, reductions to service and supply budgets while accessing the accumulated surplus."

"The board has made the difficult decision to reduce classroom teachers by 21.8 FTE compared to the prior year budget."

If that had applied to the projected enrolment for 2022-23, it would have translated to a cut of 25 FTE positions.

"Reductions were also made to administration, non-teacher instructional supports and facilities maintenance staff. The vast majority of staffing reductions will be accomplished through attrition."

"We're just not buying as much, but paying more," said Keith Keating, the incoming director of education and current deputy-director and manager of human resources.

"There are no new initiatives," said Toth, referring to provincial government funding promises.

Vice-chairwoman Carol Flynn added, "staff has spent an incredible number of hours to bring this in."

Retiring director of education, Lynn Little, said the schools in the division are

now working through the expected staffing issues now that some positions are going to disappear due to the funding shortfall.

Later in the meeting Little explained details around the endorsement of the extended interim provincial education plan that mainly dealt with pandemic issues and actions taken to meet the needs.

The plan will be extended for one more year. It will include learning response action plans, community plans, student engagement, reading support plans and oral language activities plus mental health and well-being plans specific to students in SECPD.

The motion to extend the interim plan was passed.



SOUTH EAST CORNERSTONE  
PUBLIC SCHOOL DIVISION NO. 209

**AUDIT COMMITTEE  
PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVE**

The Board of Education of South East Cornerstone Public School Division No. 209 is inviting expressions of interest from the public to serve on its Audit Committee.

One public position is available to work together with three board members on the audit committee. This position requires audit and financial expertise typically gained through the attainment of a professional accounting designation and work providing audit services. This member shall be independent to the Division and the Board and shall not have a relationship to the audit firm appointed by the Board.

The Committee will meet a minimum of twice per year, leading the external audit function and acting as a conduit between the Auditor and the Board. Responsibilities of the audit committee can be found in Policy 8 of the Board Policy Handbook located on the Division's website: [www.secpsd.ca](http://www.secpsd.ca) (under Board - Policies). Compensation will be provided to the public appointee.

If you are interested in working on the Audit Committee, please send a letter expressing your interest and describing your experience relevant to the position. Letters of interest should be submitted to the Chairperson of the Audit Committee by **August 1, 2022**. Questions may be directed to the Chairperson at 306-421-2372.

Jim Vermeersch, Audit Committee Chairperson  
South East Cornerstone Public School Division No. 209  
80A-18th Street N.E., Weyburn, SK S4H 2W4  
Division Office Phone: (306) 848-0080  
Division Office Fax: (306) 848-4747  
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# \$50,000 anonymous donation to airport expansion

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK

There has been an anonymous \$50,000 donation toward Moosomin's airport expansion project.

RM of Moosomin CAO Kendra Lawrence said she was amazed to receive the anonymous donation. "I just said Wow! It's amazing when something like that comes out of the blue. There was no message other than they felt it was a valuable project for the community."

She said she couldn't believe the size of the donation.

"At first I thought it said \$5,000 then I took a better look and saw it said \$50,000. I was surprised. I was shocked. I am excited some people are getting behind the project in such a big way."

One of the main reasons for the airport expansion is to accommodate the Saskatchewan Air Ambulance. Local doctors say the combination of a CT Scanner in Moosomin and a longer paved runway would literally save lives for stroke patients.

Lawrence said the \$50,000 will make an impact on the airport project, which will create a 5,000 foot paved runway at Moosomin.

"This will make a huge difference, and it can be matched by the provincial government with the CAP grant if we're successful in getting it."

The Community Airport Partnership grant is a maximum \$275,000 per year grant through which



the province matches local contributions to airport projects. The Moosomin airport expansion has received the maximum grant through the program for three years in a row, for a total of \$825,000. CAP grant funding has not yet been announced for this year.

From all sources, including 14 municipalities contributing funding, the project

has now raised more than \$2 million.

The RM of Moosomin has also applied for a grant under the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program.

"That funding stream would be necessary to keep moving at a larger scale," Lawrence said. "I'm hoping the ICIP funding is approved very quickly."

## Airport expansion

The engineer's drawing of the expanded runway at Moosomin's airport. The longer, paved runway would accommodate the Saskatchewan Air Ambulance.

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**Friday, July 1, 2022**

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**Parade**

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**Canada Day Events**

AT MANITOBA AUTOMOBILE MUSEUM GROUNDS

BBQ Lunch – 1 pm

Kids Activities 1 – 4

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**Beer Gardens**

starting @ 1 pm

**Cold Plate Supper**

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# École Saint-Lazare celebrates Red River cart

BY SIERRA D'SOUZA BUTTS  
LOCAL JOURNALISM  
INITIATIVE REPORTER

On May 27, the community of St. Lazare celebrated the unveiling of the Red River cart at the local school—École Saint-Lazare.

The cart was built at the school to symbolize the history of Métis in Southwest Manitoba, and reconciling the Métis and Francophone community of St. Lazare.

On behalf of David Chartrand, president of Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) Southwest Region, vice president Leah LaPlante presented his speech.

"The Red River cart holds a lot of historic, practical, and sentimental value for the Red River Métis. Our ancestors relied so heavily on carts exactly like this one to settle the Red River Settlement," she read.

"They required no nails, they were constructed of wood, and could be disassembled when needed to float across waterways. Along with settlement, these carts literally drove the economic trade in the North-West. Our people used carts like these to transport cargo to and from the Red River Settlement all across the North West.

"We were the economic engine of the West and these were our preferred mode of transportation for decades. The Red River Settlement was known across North America as the economic jewel of the North West because of our ancestors, and their use of Carts like these, you cannot tell the history of Western Canada without first telling the history of the Red River Métis. We shaped the political and economic landscape of Western Canada like no other people."

LaPlante later shared what the meaning of hav-

ing a Red River cart at the school means to her.

"It's a perfect way for us to give opportunities to talk about Métis culture and encourage young Métis, who don't know much about who they are because of the way their parents and grandparents were treated before," LaPlante said.

"Today gives us a chance like this, for kids to stand around and talk to say hey I'm Métis, I can talk about being Métis, I can learn about being Métis. The community here of Métis people, we've been organized here for a long time and we would do things amongst ourselves, but it's time that we get out like this and talk to people who have no idea what a Red River Métis is.

"We have a lot of people who want to learn more about that, there are high numbers of Métis people in this province and they're still coming. I'm the minister responsible for citizenship too and we're at the 140,000 mark of Métis people in Manitoba. I wouldn't be surprised in another 10 years if we're up by 100,000 because more and more people are coming out.

*Continued on Page 21*



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**Thursday, June 30**

**Friday, July 1**

**Saturday, July 2**

# 10th Annual Bobby Vargo Memorial SLOW-PITCH TOURNAMENT

**Bobby Vargo Memorial Fields  
Lions Park, Kipling, SK**

**Thursday, June 30**

Ball Games start at 6 p.m.

Beer Gardens 6 p.m. - Midnight

**Friday, July 1**

**Ball Games All Day!**

**Kipling Firefighters**

**Pancake Breakfast**

7 am - 11 am • Kipling Arena

**Family Fun**

Bouncy House, Petting Zoo, Face Painting,  
Balloon Art, Dunk Tank, Treasure Dig  
11 am - 3 pm

**Kipling Swimming Pool**

Lane Swim: 7 am - 8 am  
Public Swimming: 10 am - 12 Noon  
AquaFit: 12 Noon - 1 pm  
Public Swimming: 1 pm - 4 pm  
Canada Day Celebrations: 4 p.m. - 8 pm  
Games, Contests and our  
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**Town of Kipling**

**Fireworks**

**Friday, July 1**

**Beer Gardens**

2 pm - 2 am

**Kipling Lions Food Booth**

All Weekend!

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**Home Run Derby**

Opening Ceremonies 6:30 pm



**Saturday, July 2**

**Ball Games All Day**

**Beer Gardens 11 am - 8 pm**

**Kipling Kid Care Cabaret**

**9:30 pm - Kipling Arena**

# South East Men's Fastball League hosting reconciliation games June 11

BY SIERRA D'SOUZA BUTTS

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

On June 11, the South East Men's Fastball League is hosting a day of reconciliation games where all six teams in the league will be playing league games against each other to promote reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples.

The event will be happening in Whitewood, which is also referred to as Treaty 4 territory.

There are three Indigenous teams and three non-Indigenous teams in the league, and all six are participating in the event. The teams that will be participating are the Fleming Jets, Kahkewistahaw Jays, Whitewood Falcons, Round Lake Braves, Grenfell Gems and Cowessess Royals.

The three Indigenous teams will be playing against the three non-Indigenous teams that day.

"I think it's important because there are a lot of Indigenous and non-Indigenous teams in our league, it's a good mix," said Ian Glasser, president of the South East Men's Fastball League.

"Indigenous communities have been involved in the league for as long as I can remember, and years before that. With all the ugly past that has come out that a lot of us have just learned about in the last year, they've (the Indigenous communities) known about that for as long as it's been going on.

"I think it's important as a league that we show our support for one another and the reconciliation, and that we move forward in unity."

Teams will be wearing orange shirts in recognition of honoring the Indigenous children and survivors of residential schools. The league also encourages everyone attending the games that day to wear orange as well.

"We're all going to be wearing orange shirts. Nutrien is donating the shirts so each team won't be wearing their normal jersey that day, they'll be wearing their orange shirt with the logo on the front," Glasser said.

"The shirts are to show that once you cross the lines on the diamond, you don't see color, you don't see race, you don't see culture, it's just you play ball together and that's how you should live your life, too."

Glasser said the league's executive thought it was important to create an event dedicated to reconciliation.

"I think it's an opportunity for us to learn and grow as people, and for us to have fun playing ball," Glasser said. "Hopefully it opens up conversations with everyone involved, that people come to watch and observe, to bring awareness that there is an ugly past. Let's learn about it and move forward together."

Glasser said he is excited for the camaraderie of the event.

"You see everyone and all the different teams when you play throughout the year, but it's going to be cool to see all of the teams there together at one time," he said.

"I think it's important that there's an opportunity for the teams, communities, players, families, fans, and everyone to grow together here."

Being a part of the league and playing with the other teams has built a sense of community, Glasser said. Glasser says the league is a tight-knit group.

"When you see the stuff that happened from the residential schools that you didn't learn about in school as a non-Indigenous person, but they (Indigenous peoples) always knew about it, you hear about that and you feel for them because you are friends on the ball diamond," he said.

"That's where the league ties in to being a close knit group, everyone gets along, and as someone who's not di-



The Fleming Jets will be playing against the Kahkewistahaw Jays at 12 p.m. on June 11 in Whitewood at the South East Men's Fastball Reconciliation games.



The Whitewood Falcons will be playing against Round Lake Braves at 2 p.m. on June 11 in Whitewood at the South East Men's Fastball Reconciliation games.



rectly affected, we still want to show our support."

He said there is no charge for individuals who are interested in coming to the reconciliation games.

"Our focus isn't a fundraiser, it's more the awareness part of it. There will be drinks and a concession on site, there's a group that will be doing a 50-50 too, but as a league we're not focused on making money, we're focused on spreading awareness," he said.

## Coaches excited for a day of fastball and reconciliation

The World-Spectator spoke with the managers from all six teams about what they look forward to the most about the upcoming event.

"I think it's awesome for this area of Southeast Saskatchewan, it will hopefully bring light to everyone, and the whole circumstance of reconciliation and bringing us all together," said Colton MacPherson, manager of the Whitewood Falcons.

"I'm excited to bring all the teams together in one loca-

tion and to bring awareness to everyone. I think it's going to be an awesome day. It was Ian's idea, he and Chief Evan Taypotat have done an awesome job with trying to organize this whole event.

"We're really excited for it. I think it's awesome for the community, for Whitewood and the teams."

Randall Sparvier, manager and player of the Round Lake Braves, shared what he is looking forward to, about the event.

"I think the initiation of discussion would be great. If you hear both sides come together and say, I think we should do a recognition ball game or ball tournament for our towns and our First Nations to come together," he said.

"To have the First Nations and non-First Nations different talented ball players in the local areas come together, and put a show on for the community, just to show the unity in not only sports, but in our towns and nations too, that we work together and make a positive turn in regards to our relationship in the area."

"I think it's very good that Southeast Saskatchewan has stepped up and made it a reality of putting together a tournament that will show all the official teams, it will enlighten and give some entertainment to the crowds. I think everywhere we go we showcase the ball teams from our local towns and it's been exciting for the past couple of years.

"I think it gives people a better show for the truth of reconciliation and makes sure our hometown games are showcased in bigger crowds too. That's definitely a positive run on the Truth and Reconciliation games that we are acknowledging in the area, that we're making a step to make it a

reality."

He said he is excited about the reconciliation games. "The excitement is definitely making it be recognized, I think at the end of the day that's the first step of the Truth and Reconciliation of Canada," Sparvier said.

"To bring the communities together and show the youth that the sport is alive in our area, and to ensure that we're working together. I also want to make the recognition that the event is being hosted on the Treaty 4 territory, and it's greatly appreciated to acknowledge that too."

Tyler Thomlinson manager and assistant coach of the Grenfell Gems, shared his thoughts. "I think it's an important thing for us just because fastball is a sport that historically unites people, that's the whole spirit of Truth and Reconciliation, is trying to unite people, and fastball, at least in our area and lives," he said.

"It's a wonderful avenue to celebrate the relationships of Indigenous and non-Indigenous people have with each other. It's a nice way to come together and celebrate the culture together too."

Continued on page 19



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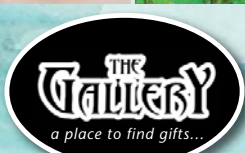
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While "saving" the animal may seem like the right thing to do, contact with

humans can significantly decrease a young animal's chances for survival.

In most cases, young animals are not abandoned at all - the mother is often nearby and sometimes even watching.

There can be hazards for humans, too. Wildlife can carry infectious diseases that can be transmitted to people, including rabies and West Nile virus. It's also illegal to take wild animals home. Only recognized wildlife rehabilitators are licensed to care for orphaned and injured animals, as they have the

expertise to provide appropriate care. This will give the animals the best chance when they are released back into the wild.

A young animal should only be picked up if the parent is found dead nearby, or if the animal is found in an unnatural situation, such as a baby bird on a doorstep. In that case, you can move the young bird to the closest suitable habitat.

A basic rule to follow is this: unless you believe they are in immediate danger, always call for advice before removing young



Sask Environment says the best thing people can do for what appear to be orphaned animals is to leave them alone.

animals from the wild.

For instance, before concluding that a deer fawn is abandoned, ask yourself:

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If the answer to any of these is yes, the animal may have been there a while and needs help.

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signs of injury or evidence that the animal has been orphaned, please contact your local conservation officer.

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### Daryl Harrison

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# Moosomin Elks donate to Visperas family

BY SIERRA D'SOUZA BUTTS

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER  
Moosomin Elks donated \$4,000 to the Visperas family of Moosomin to help with travel expenses for their sons' medical appointments.

Armisto Jr. and Danica Visperas' son, Armisto III, was born with microtia, a birth defect of a baby's ear.

The family has travelled to Regina six times for appointments in the last five months for Armisto III.

"Our national charity helps cover the procedures up to a certain point, some travel time, some meals," said Ron Potter of Moosomin Elks.

"This donation is basically what we live for, is helping children with hearing conditions, and May is speech and hearing month."

Potter said the group is happy to be able to help another local family in town.

"This is what I get out of this, being able to do something and see it progress, especially in your own town. I've seen it across Canada, I'm very lucky to have had those opportunities, but when you can do it in your own community and do this, it makes it all worthwhile," he said.

The Moosomin Elks came into contact with the Visperas family through a referral from the hospital in Regina.

"They were in Regina doing all of their doctor appointments there, and there was a lady who contacted a friend that I know, and once I spoke to him, we said we would look after their case," Potter said.

"Within an hour I contacted the lady and asked her for the family's contact information, I said let's get on it right away."

"What's funny too is that this family lives right across from our hall (in Moosomin), and they didn't know we did this."

He said the Elks' national charity—Elks of Canada Fund for Children—helps with general youth medical travel expenses, but have primarily focused on



Moosomin Elks donate \$4,000 to the Visperas family to help cover their travel expenses going to Regina, as they go see a doctor in help treat their sons medical condition of microtia. Left: Ron Potter of Moosomin Elks, Danica and Armisto Jr. Visperas, their son Armisto III, Primrose and (right) Mel Durant of Moosomin Elks.

helping families with speech and hearing needs.

"Our Fund for Children used to be about anything medical, it still sort of is, but our focus is speech and hearing because nobody looks after it," he said.

Through previous years of fundraising for Saskatchewan Pediatric Auditory Rehabilitation Center (SPARC) in Saskatoon, Potter said the group has been able to contribute to the centre.

"Our funding to that centre has diminished a little bit, we used to put millions

of dollars into it, but it's been cut back a lot because we haven't been able to raise funds, we don't have the capacity to do it anymore," Potter said.

He said communities should continue to support fundraising events held by any charities.

"I've made that plea before that if there's any charity that is selling tickets, buy one, because you don't realize that at the end of the year, you look at all the rinks, the swimming pools, the golf courses, minor hockey, minor base-

ball, none of that would survive without charitable organizations," Potter said.

"I could sell you a ticket for \$20, but if a mayor told you your taxes were going up \$20 you'd go crazy. People don't understand that this is what we're here for, to try and minimize their costs. By us selling you a \$20 ticket, we'll take that \$20 and put it into a big fund where we can help kids and families like this."

Over the last couple of years, Moosomin Elks have been able to donate to four local families.

"Generally, most of the medical expenses are covered by our provincial government plans and so, it's all the other expenses that are terribly expensive," said Mel Durant of Moosomin Elks.

Durant said the money raised by the group focuses on helping families pay for travel expenses, as multiple consultations and appointments are required for children with medical conditions.

"The last family I helped, they had to travel to Edmonton at least three or four different times, you're looking \$1,000 a trip, at least," Durant said.

"By the time you drive there and the expenses for staying overnight, those are the things that are not covered at all by any of the provincial programs. Those are the things that cost more money than what the actual procedures cost."

Potter said the group's main goal is to help fundraise for children and their families.

"We'll do everything in our power because this is what we live for, is for speech and hearing," he said.

"We want to make sure that every child has the opportunity as the next one, and hopefully cochlear implant surgery, by the time he's of age, might be beyond that. We certainly are here for whatever you need and we'll help every bit."

The elks said they wish to continue helping the Visperas' in the future, even after Armisto III surgery.

Continued on page 24

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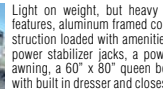


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# Reconciliation fastball games June 11

Continued from page 13

Thomlinson said the event will also bring recognition about First Nations cultural practices.

"Other than the fact it's going to be a really fun day of ball, any time we get all six teams together it will be like a mini sports day which is really exciting because it's something we haven't been able to do in a while," Thomlinson said.

"There's that part, but the other side to it is I know that there is going to be some cultural events there. There's going to be a ceremony at some point so that's really exciting."

"Any time we have some cultural ceremonies, it's a lot of fun to be part of and it's inspiring to be a part of. I think it was a great idea that was proposed by the league, and everyone coming together to put on this event, it's going to be a lot of fun for the league, not just us players but for anyone coming to watch. It's another meaningful step towards reconciliation for sure."

Braden Stewart, coach of Fleming Jets, shared why he thinks this event is important to have.

"I think it's important because the Indigenous population in our league is high, and they're very important to keeping our league up and running," he said.

"Half of our leagues teams are Indigenous teams so recognizing that when we get on the ball field, everyone's equal, there's no discrimination. When we're competing against the other teams we want to play our best when competing against them, not because of their race but because of the sport."

Stewart said he is looking forward to the June 11 event.

"I'm excited because with everything that happened with Covid, and before Covid, Cowessess joined our league, and I'm excited for us to be the first league to do something like this here in Saskatchewan,"

he said.

"I think when Ian Glasser brought the idea up it was a big yes for me, and then when we had our league meeting everyone thought it was a great idea too. Our league can lead by example, us being a small league, if we can get enough publicity by it I think it can be something that can happen all over Saskatchewan."

"If anyone wants to come out and enjoy the games, it will be free and all teams will be playing each other. There may be a speech from the mayor of Whitewood, and one of the chiefs from the First Nations. It's going to be a great day for everyone to come out, if we can get as many people out as possible to recognize this day, it would be very important for not only our league, but fastball and the problem in general."

Chief Evan Taypotat of Kahkewistahaw Jays shared his thoughts about the event.

"I think it's important to have because the year is 2022 and we live in Canada, I think it's about time that we recognize the traumas and injustices that happened to First Nation peoples, and if we can do that through sport, then I think Canada will be a better place for it," he said.

"First and foremost, I want to give the league a shoutout because they're non-Indigenous men who approached Indigenous people and said we want to do something like this, what are your thoughts?"

"Of course, me being the optimist that I am, I believe it's a good thing, but I'm certainly looking forward to spreading some awareness about reconciliation wearing the orange jerseys that we have ordered, and at the end of the day getting out on the field against a non-Indigenous team and having some fun."

"When you get on the ball diamond, or any sport in the matter, skin color doesn't matter and fastball is no different. That's what we're looking forward to, is to just bring people in, watch some good action



The Grenfell Gems will be playing against the Cowessess Royals at 4 p.m. on June 11 in Whitewood at the South East Men's Fastball Reconciliation games.

and wear orange jerseys while we're at it. "One of the big things that I'm going to preach is in Canada we have First Nation peoples that are treated like second class citizens and sometimes their cultural traditions are treated differently in a first world

country, but I think it's important that non-Indigenous Canadians understand that Indigenous people have been, and will be their neighbors for our life time and for the next. We may as well get to know each other and get along."

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# École Saint-Lazare celebrates Red River cart

Continued from Page 11

They have the genealogy and they've always had the genealogy, it was just hidden because they were too ashamed and you can't blame them, it was a different time back then."

LaPlante spoke about how happy she is to see a Red River cart built at a school, and wishes something similar existed when she was a kid.

"I always watch the kids and they're into this now, and they're going to want to know more by living in a Métis community," she said.

"Terry is a fantastic leader, he's always pushing with trying to breakdown barriers all of the time. He might get booed away the first couple of times but he's persistent, and you need that because now they're building this togetherness and I think we will be seeing a lot of things happening around this cart, now that it's here."

The Red River cart was donated by MMFS to the school. As well, the parent committee of École Saint-Lazare, fund-raised to help pay for the ceremony.

## Thankful for the community's support

At the event, Terry Haney president of MMF Fort-Ellice local thanked the community for their support in helping the project come to light in St. Lazare.

"Thank you Leah for the kind words, first I would like to thank is the guy upstairs for this beautiful weather, and I would like to thank everyone for all the support we had in putting all of this together," said Haney.

"I'm not going to mention any names because I might forget a few, but everyone who was involved thank you very much. This Red River cart is a symbol of our people, but real reconciliation starts in the school, it starts in the church, it starts in the sports world, and in public, because when I went to school here it was tough, but I've seen things grow.

"This town is better, everyone gets along, we have a great working relationship with our RM, our people. Leah mentions my name, but I'm just the leader. I have a very good local, I have a lot of people that work very hard that makes me look good, but behind the scenes there's a lot of people doing a lot of work and I get the credit, but they all know who they are, they very work hard.

"We have good locals too, a lot has changed in the last 30 years because of them, we have Métis flags. This place from the start was a Métis Francophone community. Reconciliation takes time, it takes understanding, and we're on the right path because I've never seen a community that has a great work relationship with our businesses like we do. Our businesses are great to us in helping raise money, so thank you very much."

## Cart builder shares the meaning of a Red River cart

Jerome Cartworks, a Métis homeland cart builder company, built the Red River cart for École Saint-Lazare.

"We've been experiencing a real resurgence of Métis culture over the last number of years and we are proud to be a part of it, this event that is going on today is a part of it too," said Armand Jerome of Jerome Cartworks.

"The Red River cart represents everything with Métis culture, that includes the dance, the music, the speech, the revival of all those, and the most important thing is to provide all this and teach our youth, that's why we really enjoy this.

"One of the reasons why I started getting interested in the Red River cart was because my dad, he's originally from Turtle Mountain, but when I was a little kid he told me this story about our ancestors about our great grandfather, talking about building a Red River cart.

"Once he showed me the cart he looked at my face like I was supposed to be really surprised, but back then I didn't really know what a Red River cart was or what he was talking about, and I remember him looking at me surprised that there was no emotion of excitement on my face.

"I've never really forgotten about that, it was only years later when I started working with Métis people and started build-



Terry Haney, president of Manitoba Métis Federation Fort-Ellice local, spoke about how proud he is to see the community of St. Lazare progress over the years.

ing carts, and now I know what my dad was talking about. Now you don't have to worry about that, as long as the Métis people keep on expressing their culture, teaching their culture and traditions, you won't have to go through what I did and wonder what the meaning of a Red River cart is, thank you very much."

Former mayor of the village of St. Lazare Martin Dumont, also said a few words.

He thanked the Division Scolaire Franco-Manitobaine and MMF for teaching youth in the community about Métis culture.

"Today is a day of reconciliation, by acknowledging the Red River cart as a major mode of transportation used by the Métis people, to develop our province and of course this community," said Dumont.

"As the past mayor of St. Lazare and councillor for almost 30 years, it was one of my goals and still is today, to help elevate the existence of our local Fort-Ellice Métis to become a stronger local group. The four flags that you see on the billboard as you enter the municipality, was not automatically accepted when we first designed and discussed what should be on the billboard. The reasons back then were not wanting to recognize the Métis, being reluctant to be called Métis, but what time does these old morals is to eradicate and educate everyone to respect all cultures.

"This isn't easy, but it's getting much better as we move forward. We have the four flags on the firehall that helps further identify the strong Métis and French presence we have in our village and municipality. As Terry mentioned, much of the work put in the past several years of the Fort-Ellice local has been quite positive, in elevating the great work that is being done here in the municipality, and the support received from the Métis government."

In November 2021, the school also had a tipi built to encourage teachers and students to participate in traditional First Nations activities involving the tipi.

Richard Fiola, the principal of École Saint-Lazare spoke about why it is important to have Métis artifacts present at the school.

"Especially for our community that is Métis and history based community, we wanted a strong symbol that was visible to the area," Fiola said.

"We have the Métis flag all over town, but with the school project of reconciliation, we wanted a symbol that would remind those young kids what their history is."

He said the project helps bring the whole community together.

"We have our elders here today, we had young families, grandparents, people from all over the municipality and even people from other towns, it brought everyone back and also helps celebrate the beginning of summer. With this cart, what I wish is that the students have a history class and learn about all the past of the cart, and how this town got established by the Métis people."



The Red River cart symbolizes a mode of transportation that Métis used to transport cargo to and from, the Red River Settlement all across the North West. The cart was built with no nails and was constructed solely with wood.



Mme. Renée Tremblay's grade 5 and 6 class of École Saint-Lazare sang the song "Coulée." The meaning of the song is about the life in and around running waters, and talks about the frogs singing, the birds playing in cattails while people dance and admire nature.



Left: Leah LaPlante of MMFS and (middle) Armand and Kelly Jerome were gifted a can of maple syrup by principal Richard Fiola. The school's parent committee sold cans of maple syrup as part of their fundraiser to help pay for community activities like the Red River Cart ceremony.



Former public school in Fleming.



Former street in Fleming.

## Residents prepare for Fleming Reunion

BY SIERRA D'SOUZA BUTTS

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

The Fleming Reunion Committee is hosting a massive reunion this summer from August 5 to 7.

The reunion will bring old friends together to share their stories and visit. The weekend will include entertainment, beer gardens, supper and a dance, activities for kids, pick up fastball games, a parade, a church service, a pancake breakfast and more.

"I'm getting older and some of the friends in my age group, and slightly older, just thought we hadn't had a reunion in a while," said Phil Hamm, president of the Fleming Reunion Committee.

"The last one was in 2005, and it seems like every year you lose a few good friends. When we first started talking about the reunion is when Covid happened, so we put everything on hold, then last summer we decided that things would be okay for this summer."

Hamm said people who are originally from Fleming and the surrounding area, live as far away as B.C. and Ontario.

He is expecting at least 200 people and families to come to the reunion.

"There's people right up to the coast that said they want to come and that they will be coming, we tried to get a hold of at least one person from every family and ask them to spread the word," Hamm said.

"We're optimistic that we're going to have a large crowd, it won't be as many people as it was in 2005 because a lot of those people are either gone, or they're elderly and can't make it."

"Some of the younger ones, you think of them as being really young and not really interested in a reunion, but you start asking around and a lot of these kids are in their 40s and want to come to something like this."

The committee said the reunion is not only for people from Fleming, and that anyone from the area or other towns surrounding Fleming, are also invited to attend.

The last reunion the community had was in 2005 and prior to that was in 1982.

Within the last year of planning for the reunion, Hamm said one of the committee's members passed away.

"Ted Frape was one of the key guys



President of the Fleming Reunion Committee (left) Chelsey Stonehouse and vice-president Phil Hamm are excited for the big Fleming Reunion happening on August 5 to 7.

in our committee, and he was looking after the parade, he was going to be our parade marshal. He talked to people all over, from communities all around, and he had a number of people who said they were going to bring a float, bring some instruments for entertainment and all that," Hamm said.

"His wife, Joan Marie, is a member of our committee, the three sons are going to help out and his brother Merv will be there too."

Hamm talked about what he is looking forward to at the reunion.

"The main thing is to see some of these people that we haven't seen in a long time, just refreshing the same old stories and catching up," he said.

"A lot of it is reminiscing for sure, there's been a lot of funny things that has happened and it's always good to sit and talk with everyone."

"I do have to say though that I'm looking forward to this one differently than I

did in 2005, because some of these folks, either they or me, might be not be around for the next one, so I want to see some of these people while I still can."

"You never know what life has in store for you, which is very important, and making those re-connections with people is going to be good. There's always wonderful things that happen when you get a group of people together and old friends."

"That's the nice thing about old friends, you may not have seen that person in 30 years, but you see them and you have that connection, you can talk about everything, and it's just right there."

### Events planned for the reunion, and how people can register

The registration deadline is June 30. The committee encourages individuals to register online through their Facebook

page—Fleming Reunion—so that the committee can prepare for the weekend event.

Chelsey Stonehouse, president of the Fleming Reunion Committee, spoke about what is expected for the weekend.

"Friday we are going to have ball games and the beer gardens, that day would also be registration day for the people who are travelling to come into town," she said.

"We don't have much happening Friday because people might miss stuff if they are travelling or working. Saturday we'll have a pancake breakfast, a parade and then activities throughout the day, which is the whole day dedicated for the reunion."

Friday August 7, registration will be open from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Fleming Community Hall, followed by entertainment and a Fleming Jets fastball game, that night.

Saturday morning, registration begins at 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. After breakfast there will be a parade, lunch, a historical tour of the town, followed by supper, a dance and fireworks at dusk.

The reunion will end with a community church service on Sunday August 9, at 11 a.m.

"I think this will be nice to get everyone together again, people will re-connect and maybe stay connected," said Stonehouse.

"I hope that more people will stay connected for the future because who doesn't like old friends."

Tickets for the supper and dance are \$40 each for adults, and \$20 each for children ages six to 13. Children who are five and under are free of charge.

If individuals are interested in only attending the supper, tickets are \$20 each for adults and \$15 each for children ages six to 13. Tickets for the dance itself are \$20 each for adults and \$10 each for children ages six to 13.

The committee said donations and volunteers are welcomed. As well, entries for the parade are requested, along with sponsorship to help with the fireworks.

Individuals who are interested in more information about the event can email: 2022flemingreunion@gmail.com.

People can also text or call Philip at (306) 435 4140, as well contact Chelsey at (306) 434 6833.



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# Local resident gets selected as honorary chair for 2022 Gutsy Walk in Regina

BY SIERRA D'SOUZA BUTTS  
LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER

For this year's 2022 Gutsy Walk in Regina, Charlie Leslie of Moosomin was selected as the Local Honorary Chair for the event, held on Sunday, June 5.

The annual walk is in support of those impacted by Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis.

Last year, Leslie held a Gutsy Walk in Moosomin to raise awareness for the disease and raised \$4,400.

"They emailed my mom and asked me if I wanted to be the honorary chair, they usually pick someone from Regina but I guess they saw how much money we raised last year, and all the support we got from being in a small town," Leslie said.

"I've never been to one of the walks before because of Covid last year we hosted one in Moosomin at the track for friends and family, and whoever wanted to come, but I've never been to one in Regina," she said.

Crohn's disease is a type of inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) which causes inflammation to a person's digestive tract, which can lead to abdominal pain and other stomach issues.

Leslie said there are different types of Crohn's diseases and can vary depending on the person.

"With mine it's ulcerative colitis, the ulcers are inflamed and bleed in my large intestines, I have 42 cm that are currently damaged because of ulcerative colitis," she said.

She also suffers from low iron because of losing a lot of blood from the condition.

"You get a lot of pain in your stomach and all that, but I was going to Saskatoon every month for remicade infusions at the Jim Pattison Children's Hospital, which was helping for sure so that's good."

Leslie said she discovered she had ulcerative colitis

only about two years ago.

"Mine didn't show up until about two years ago, I just started feeling sick and my mom thought it was nerves because I was going away for camp, and then it turned out not to be," she said.

"It got really bad, I could never really go anywhere I had to stay home all the time, I was tired and just felt really sick. I had to go for multiple scopes and then they figured out it was ulcerative colitis.

"I was on a medication for a while that wasn't working, and then they decided to put me on an IV infusion drug, and that one wasn't working as well, but we finally found a good medication that works now."

Leslie said it felt good to bring awareness about Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis to the community of Moosomin.

"I liked seeing everyone that supported me there last year in Moosomin, it was a good feeling to raise that much money in a small town," she said.

"No one really knows about it, it's kind of like you have that type of disease, no one really understands and you can't really understand it unless you have it, but it was a really good feeling to know that I helped raise money for it, and that everyone came out to support me."

Leslie said she was excited to be a part of the Gutsy Walk in Regina on Sunday.

"I'm quite excited for that because I haven't been to one yet, it will be a great experience to see everyone who has ulcerative colitis or Crohn's disease and talk to them about it," she said.

"I was quite excited when my mom told me that Crohn's and Colitis Canada wanted to recognize me as an honorary chair, I was like yes I do for sure."

"It's quite exciting that they picked me out of a whole bunch of people that live in Regina who may also have ulcerative colitis or Crohn's disease, but, to be noticed for having it and become honorary chair felt good. I'm excited."



Charlie Leslie's family came with her to Regina in support of her being the honorary chair for the event. Part of her role was cutting the ribbon for the start of the 2022 Gutsy Walk.



## Honorary chair

Charlie Leslie of Moosomin is the Regina Local Honorary Chair for Gutsy Walk 2022, which was held Sunday, June 5. This amazing teen from Moosomin is conquering colitis and raising dollars to help everyone who is struggling with inflammatory bowel disease. More importantly, she's raising awareness and educating people.

"I am 15 years old, and I was diagnosed with ulcerative colitis in 2020," says Charlie. "I am a very active girl - I like to play baseball, volleyball, basketball and I used to dance. I had to quit dance because of my ulcerative colitis. It was just too hard and I was never feeling good, and missing a lot. Living with ulcerative colitis, I don't always feel good or healthy, and I sometimes sleep a lot. It's hard to focus in school and I just always have pain in my stomach."

"But things are finally starting to look up for me. I am feeling better, I am able to do more activities and I'm not so tired anymore, and that's thanks to research and the new medicine I am on. I walk for Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis so that they're more well known to people and just to help raise awareness for all the people out there with these diseases. I want people to understand what it's like to have Crohn's disease or ulcerative colitis. However, you can't really understand what it's like unless you have it so instead I would like to educate people on what it is."

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# Moosomin Elks donate to Visperas family

Continued from page 17

"The important thing to me is that we don't want you to forget that this is not the end, when things progress down the road even in two, or five years from now, keep in contact with us," said Durant.

"We can continue to support your family and help with his condition."

## Visperas' family grateful for donation

Danica said in the nearby future Armisto III will have to get surgery for his ear.

"Eventually he will end up having multiple surgeries, but the surgery might take place in Edmonton or Toronto," she said.

"The surgeon that we're seeing right now in Regina, said he has not done a surgery like that in many years and is not a specialist for Armisto III's condition."

"A doctor who does specialize in that field would be in either Edmonton or Toronto."

She said she was happy to hear from the Moosomin Elks about wanting to help their family out.

"It was a relief hearing from them because when I read online that the best microtia specialists for his conditions were not in Canada but actually America, I was really stressed because I knew I had to start budgeting immediately to go and see a doctor there," she said.

"The doctor in Regina referred us to a doctor in Edmonton, so I was preparing a budget for the time we were expecting to travel to Edmonton."

"I reached out to the Elks after hearing about the organization, and they were pretty fast about helping us, they didn't think twice. Ron was the one who said they could

help us.

"It had really taken the load off our backs and allowed us to focus on our well being. We found our selves to be lucky, my husband was working lots of jobs because we have kids, we have bills to pay and now with our son's condition, we were asking ourselves if we were ready for this."

"No one is ready, but as parents we just have to be ready so that our son's well being is looked after. Then again with the Elks, we're very fortunate to have their help."

Danica said their family is still learning about microtia and did not hear about the condition until Armisto III was born five months ago.

"We didn't know what microtia was until we had him, we got lots of referrals to see different specialists," Danica said.

"I've been researching and reading tons online about what microtia is because at first I thought it was my fault

his ear was like that, but then upon research they said it wasn't, I was really relieved on my part."

She said she found a Facebook page of parents who are going through similar experiences.

"I was searching for a group online where I could learn more about my son's condition, and fortunately there was one," Danica said.

"They are a group of people from different parts of the world, and when I posted in the group there was a mom who was from Montreal. She told me that what I'm experiencing right now, is what she was going through before."

Danica said at first she was hesitant to share her family's story, but she thought talking about it would help bring more awareness about the condition of microtia.

She also hopes to encourage other families who are experiencing something similar, to come out and share their stories.



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# Ukrainian refugees arriving in the area

BY SIERRA D'SOUZA BUTTS

LOCAL JOURNALISM INITIATIVE REPORTER  
Moosomin has its newest Ukrainian refugee. Valentyn Karpenko was picked up from the airport recently and brought to town by an old friend of his, Roman Chernykh of Moosomin.

Chernykh knows Karpenko from his 15 years of working on cruise ships before moving to Canada from Ukraine, in 2009. The two have kept in touch over the years, but since Russia's recent invasion of Ukraine, they have been in close contact.

Less than a day of his arrival into Canada, Karpenko shared his story with the World-Spectator.

"When my contract for the cruise ships finished, it was an eight-month contract, at the time I finished my luggage and everything was already packed. When I went to go contact my wife, she sent me a video from our building and it was being bombed," said Karpenko.

Due to the war, all of the flights going to Ukraine and surrounding areas were canceled. Karpenko said he had to stick around and wait until he could go back.

"I stayed at the airport and started to plan on how to bring my family out from Ukraine, I stayed a tourist and was planning how to help them," he said.

"My wife, niece, and mother-in-law they jumped the train after one week I believe, or 10 days after the war started. They planned to stay in the city, when there was just shooting, it was still okay to be there, but when bombing and rockets started, they were panicking and in stress.

"That's why my son, my wife, my niece and mother-in-law went to the train station, but there were huge crowds there. My wife stayed there, she told me she was there 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., in order to get on the train."

He said there was at least one million people waiting at the train stations.

"The three of them got on the train except my son, the train attendant let them come, it was completely packed, but my son could not go inside because there was no space for him," Karpenko said.



Roman Chernykh of Moosomin, left, welcomes Ukrainian refugee Valentyn Karpenko, right, to town. Chernykh and Karpenko have known each other for a while since their time of working together on cruise ships years ago in Ukraine.

By train, his family started to move to the west part of Ukraine. During this time, his son waited for hours to get on another train and went to a different city in the country.

"He moved to a different city, it didn't matter what city, everyone was going on the train just to get out of that area," Karpenko said.

"My wife told me it was extremely stressful and extremely dangerous because at the time, a military jet was coming very low, everyone was sitting very close together on the only platform next to the train.

"We have a small dog, she grabbed it and was holding it for hours so the crowd of people wouldn't step on him. They were on the train for three days to travel to Kyiv," he said.

"It was an extreme three days, people

could not even go the restrooms because everyone's kids, everyone's mothers were sleeping on the floor. The train at-

tendant really helped people, they would give some water, they even took my dog to a separate room because it was impossible to sit there, one bench would have four people sitting like fish in a can.

"My son caught another train and went to a different city, and my family is in Poland. My mom is still in Kharkiv because my grandma was born in 1935, so she cannot move, my mom cannot leave her so they're in Kharkiv right now.

"I cannot move my family from Poland to the U.S. or Canada, because it was an emergency evacuation at the time and my wife grabbed a different passport which expired six months ago."

His wife recently applied for a new passport which can take a couple of weeks to arrive.

The Government of Canada had expedited flights from Ukraine to Canada for refugees, however in order for individuals to apply for the flights, they need to have an eligible passport and visa.

"She cannot apply for the free flights until she has a passport and visa, the paperwork may take a while, but at least Valentyn's family is in a safe place right, that is most important part," said Chernykh.

He said from the time the war started until now, time has moved quickly.

This whole experience still feels surreal, he said.

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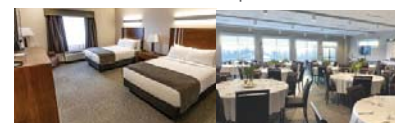
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## Cannington MLA Daryl Harrison

# Harrison named legislative secretary in cabinet shuffle

BY KEVIN WEEDMARK  
In the recent provincial cabinet shuffle, Cannington MLA Darryl Harrison was named Legislative Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture, responsible for value-added agriculture and livestock engagement.

He said he was honored to be chosen.

"I got a call, before the press release went out and it was a complete surprise to me. I had no idea it was coming, it was all news to me. An opportunity like that is a real honor, it's an opportunity you just don't say no to and I look forward to working with Minister Marit and the ministry staff."

"I will be working on primarily livestock engagement and value added agriculture. I think agriculture is a very rewarding industry like no other."

"I am looking forward to the opportunity and I was already booked to go to the stockgrowers' AGM in Assiniboia so this will

just fit into that."

Harrison said he will be working with Agriculture Minister Dave Marit on key files.

"As the Legislative Secretary I will be primarily focused on livestock engagement and value added agriculture. I am a stockgrower myself with a cow-calf operation. I am assuming that has led to this opportunity and I can't wait to meeting some of my colleagues on the beef side. I will be working with and substituting in for the Minister on occasion, and we'll see where it goes."

"I will be working with the Minister and his staff. You certainly have a greater opportunity to have meetings with the Minister. Cabinet meetings I believe would just be by request."

"The Stockgrowers AGM is the first on the list. I'll be working with livestock related industries and associations, meeting one-on-one with

their executive, going to public meetings and AGMs. Those meetings will be an opportunity for me to go out and listen to the people with their boots on."

He said there are several current issues around value added agriculture.

"In the area of value added agriculture, canola crushing took the lion's share of the announcements last year. I think the demand for clean energy, and bio-diesel took the lead, but there is certainly more to it than canola crushing and we are finding their are all kinds of

pulses and cereal grains, development in agriculture. The industry has grown so much."

"I quite often reference Dr. Red Williams who came to a Stockgrowers meeting in Alameda once and he was talking to us about getting us as close to the kitchen table as we possibly can, to retain as much as that value you make on your farms and ranches, and I think that is important."

"The more value we can add right here in Saskatchewan, the better it is for the people of Saskatchewan and the economy."



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# Ukrainian refugees arriving in the area

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 "To be honest everything has felt like a movie. For me, I feel like everything has taken a long time, but when I really look back it's all happened in only three months," he said.

## Chernykh emphasizes the importance of helping others

Roman and Valentyn have been friends for years. Before coming to Canada himself, Chernykh worked with Karpenko on cruise ships in Ukraine just over a decade ago.

He has been in close contact with Karpenko these last couple of months trying to assist him with the process of leaving the country and coming to Canada.

"We worked together on the cruise ships for a very long time, on Carnival Cruise Lines," said Chernykh.

"To work on the cruise ships, it's similar to the army as well, you're building that brother hood. Every contract you get you're working with people with many different nationalities, you work together day by day, 12 hours a day, four people in the room, you stay together, the connection just grows inside of you.

"Of course in this situation, it doesn't matter how much money you have it's how many friends you have. Valentyn was able to find someone in Poland, in Bulgaria, and as soon as he came into contact with me, I said no problem we'll do that, we'll do everything just come to Canada, and that's how it all works, if you can help one person, then they are definitely helping someone else and other people, and that's how we can all help each other."

## Karpenko plans on building a new life in Canada

Now that he is in Moosomin, Karpenko was asked if he plans on going back to Ukraine after the war, or staying in Canada.

"I'm looking forward not back, I still have an apartment and family in Ukraine, but I'm a positive person I want to move forward," Karpenko said.

"I'm not scared to try something different, that's what I want, I want to try and make it here. It's another step in my life so I'm moving forward, not looking left or right.

"In a situation like this, I have to build my new life, and that's the reality. I don't even want to look back. Later, there will be a lot of stories to tell, but that's going to be later."

Karpenko said once he gets all his documents sorted out and brings his family to Moosomin, he will start working as soon as he can.

"I don't want to stay and wait for a miracle to come to me, I've worked all my life, I've worked 17 years with Carnival. Fortunately I have a lot of friends so I can communicate with them, but my family is my priority," he said.

"In this moment I'm okay, I made it here because everyone was helping me, but I'll be really happy when my family is going to be with me because at this moment, I've already spent 18 months without my family. I want to move forward and build a family reunion."

He said he hopes his family will come to Canada in two weeks.



Valentyn Karpenko and Roman Chernykh are interviewed at the World-Spectator on Valentyn's arrival in Moosomin.

da in two weeks.

Chernykh said Karpenko is interested in working as a truck driver in Canada.

He spent the day with Karpenko applying and getting all the necessary information for him to live comfortably here.

"The situation continues to go by faster, my first day here so much information was brought to me that I have to do and complete to be here, and this is a positive thing," Karpenko said.

"I really appreciate it, and I'm really happy with this, I'm not thinking any

bad things, nothing bad is in my head because I'm looking forward in a positive way.

"If I have to go to driving school, then why not, I want to drive so why not. It's a new profession, if I want to move ahead, I have to go. You see a target, you have to reach that target no matter what the costs are, you have to reach it."

Chernykh said there are currently four Ukrainian refugees in town right now, his mother, mother-in-law and sister-in-law, who came to town this past weekend.

"I've been in contact with the Ukrainian congress and I sent them a list of jobs that we have available here in town," Chernykh said.

"After May 24, we might expect more people coming because 300 people are scheduled to arrive in Winnipeg, 300 in Toronto and 300 in St. John's."

From all the fundraising and donations the community of Moosomin has made, Chernykh said he has a garage full of furniture for the families and people who expected to arrive in town.

He spoke about how grateful he feels to be helping refugees from Ukraine.

"It's been great to help, we're hoping we can help more people, it's good for our community. We need to grow this community and the only way we can make it grow is by having more people here. That's the important part of it and it's just a win win situation," he said.

"We don't think about how great it is, but it does feel good to bring people here, if you can do it, then why not do it. Because it's not just one person, it's affecting the lives of 10 or 15 people around that one person."

"Helping one person just reflects back to their families, to their kids, to their wives, if you make a connection to help one person, that helps a lot of people. If you're able to make a purchase for a helmet or a bullet proof vest, that helps one person's life already, and that person, he's probably got a wife in Poland who's waiting for him, hoping he will be alive after all of this. If you can make that step to help someone, it takes just one step at a time."

Chernykh said as of right now, they have enough items for a couple more families to come to the community.

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