



Chris Istace photo

Former Albertans Geoff and Denise Rutledge operate a 260-head cattle operation just south of the Pipestone Valley. Geoff was in Toronto recently promoting Saskatchewan to Ontarians as a more viable place to live and work.

Local producer promotes province in T.O.

By CHRIS ISTACE

An effort to promote East Central Saskatchewan to Albertans is now seeking potential new residents in the other direction, as well.

Since 2002, The Last Cattle Frontier has been promoting the east central portion of the province to cattle producers from Alberta as a more affordable option for setting up an operation.

The program uses seminars and agricultural shows to provide information about the region to people interested in moving to the province. Other aspects of the program reaches producers in the United Kingdom.

Recently, however, The Last Cattle Frontier has been seeking potential residents from Ontario. From Feb. 5 to 7, the promotion was represented at the Canadian International Farm Equipment Show in Toronto.

The Last Cattle Frontier is a joint project of the Gateway, Yellowhead, Good Spirit and South Parkland REDAs. Moosomin producer Geoff Rutledge joined four other program representatives in Toronto to promote opportunities available in Saskatchewan.

Rutledge and his wife, Denise, own 260 head of cattle on 12 quarters south of Moosomin. They moved to the town in the summer of 2005 after finishing a three-year contract to establish a grass and cow-calf operation near Dubuc.

When The Last Cattle Frontier was established in 2002, he was just arriving from Sunnynook, Alta. where he was employed at Carolside Ranching. That's when he was asked to participate in promoting the Saskatchewan option to other cattle producers.

"I wasn't aware of The Last Cattle

Frontier until we came to Saskatchewan," Rutledge said. "There were probably seven families that arrived in the general area within 12 months of each other. We became a bit of a support group and moved forward that way."

While Rutledge advises that newcomers do their homework before arriving—considering land prices, taxes, water quality and soil types are quite different from region to region—the number of attractive characteristics is wide-ranging.

Among them are overall land values, the cost of living and the proximity to services.

"In Alberta, we were an hour away from the closest store," he said. "It was 25 miles one way to the closest school."

Here, Rutledge said, you have everything minutes away, including dentists, doctors and sports programming for the kids. Rutledge also sees a promising future for the area, pointing out the large number of housing starts, the oil activity and the pending expansion to Potash-Corp Rocanville. Other developments have come into play, including the building of the new integrated health facility and the long-term stability of Moosomin's schools.

"We have no fear of our schools closing," he said. "In other communities all over Saskatchewan, schools are being re-evaluated. You want to provide a stable environment for kids when you choose a place to live."

Rutledge said The Last Cattle Frontier's reception in Toronto was overwhelming. He said his promotion of the region went out to more people than just cattle producers.

Rutledge suggested that young families from urban settings in Ontario find home

ownership nearly unattainable. Yet, that option is available to them here with plenty of opportunity to find work, pointing out the current boom in Saskatchewan's economy.

"There's a lot there to offer people when you look at the economy and the up-swing in the potential of the area," he said. "One of the things that can't be overlooked is the size of our workforce. There are plenty of opportunities for people not directly involved in agriculture."

Some of the people Rutledge talked to sought information about other areas of the province, as well, like Prince Albert and Swift Current, showing there is interest in Ontarians immigrating to Saskatchewan for more than agricultural opportunities.

When it does come to agriculture, however, the price of land is the primary focus of The Last Cattle Frontier's promotion.

In Alberta, Rutledge says the oil industry has pushed land prices way up. Meanwhile in Ontario, a growing population and urban sprawl have caused a spike in land prices there.

Producers can sell off their properties in Alberta or Ontario, buy land in Saskatchewan and establish a profitable operation with cash in their hands.

"I hope the (Last Cattle Frontier) program has some life to it because when we talked to people, we could see the need for information on what opportunities are available here in Saskatchewan," Rutledge said.

He was also surprised by the turnout at the Canadian International Farm Equipment Show, giving The Last Cattle Frontier representatives plenty of chances to do their work. Rutledge thought it would

be slower due to a snowstorm that hit the Toronto area on Wednesday.

"From the beginning of the day to the end of the day—all three days—it just seemed to be a steady stream of people," he said. "It was also amazing to find a lot of people there have had family members here in the past or present, but had never been here."

Rutledge said the stereotypical opinion of Saskatchewan was partly to blame for that. That's why he feels it's important that community and business leaders in the province continue to use a bit of salesmanship in other parts of the country.

"We still fight the mindset that Saskatchewan is just this flat, treeless environment," Rutledge said. "It's amazing how pervasive that mindset is with people there. The province has to act a bit like a business and advertise to make people aware of the plusses we have to offer."

The Last Cattle Frontier seems to be working in doing that. Since its inception in 2002, the program has attracted about 175 families to the east central and south-east regions of the province.

Rutledge said the work will continue.

"Toronto provided us with the opportunity to talk to producers and suppliers to see what venues would provide the best results for us (in terms of reaching people)," he said. "We may be looking at one or two other shows to promote the province."

Much of the promotion has been through trade shows. However, The Last Cattle Frontier also plans to participate in the Gateway REDA's "Make Saskatchewan Home" project, an advertising campaign that will reach 290,000 households in southern Alberta.



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Biofuels firm chooses Sask for inaugural conference

The Canadian arm of an international biofuels firm believes Saskatchewan is the natural location for a new national conference focusing on ethanol and biodiesel.

BBI Biofuels is organizing "CREW 2008," the Canadian Renewable Energy Workshop and Tradeshow, which will take place March 16 to 18 at IPSCO Place in Regina.

"We went through a selection process for location," said Lionel Grant, the Canadian Conference Co-ordinator for BBI.

"Saskatchewan was our main interest, because of the amount of feedstock available for renewable fuels, and the number of plants in planning or under development. It's got the highest activity in all of Canada.

"We were also looking for a strong agricultural presence, as well as industry suppliers and proponents. There are a lot of farmer-based initiatives that are looking to renewable fuels to be the future."

BBI Biofuels has offices in the United States, Canada and Australia. The company has three main thrusts. One is project development services related to the establishment of biofuel production sites, such as feasibility studies. A second focus is

the production and distribution of various industry publications through its media division. A third interest is conference organization, which is what ultimately led to the upcoming workshop in Regina.

Grant says BBI works on numerous conferences throughout the United States, either on its own or on behalf of other organizations. "We have probably the largest renewable fuel event in the world, and that is our Fuel Ethanol Workshop. That's going to occur in Nashville in June of this year," he said.

BBI has also worked with the Canadian Renewable Fuels Association for the last four years in helping to organize and plan its Canadian Renewable Fuels Summit, on which the CREW 2008 event will build.

"We are positioning CREW 2008 to be a technology—and education-based event in order to complement the Canadian Renewable Fuels Association's summit, which is directed more towards policy and marketing," Grant said. "We are planning on holding it on a yearly basis, so this is what we hope will become the 'first annual.'"

The workshop will cov-

er a wide cross-section of issues that are important to the biofuels industry, geared towards different levels of involvement. Grant says biofuel producers will have an obvious interest, but so too will the general farm community, financial institutions, equipment suppliers, governments, community leaders and researchers.

"We will have something there for everyone," he stated. "If people are considering producing, we will have information to help them make wise decisions going through the process of opening a new facility. If they are current producers, we intend the workshop to provide them with new insights that will make their production better."

Grant highlights sessions on plant maintenance, operational challenges and changes in the

production standards as topics that will appeal to those currently engaged in the industry. For prospective producers, he says presentations on how to raise cash at the community level, what banks want to know, controlling commodity costs and raw materials, and the ins and outs of building a plant will especially resonate.

There will also be ethanol-specific and biodiesel-specific streams going on to help further refine the information delivered, focusing on topics such as alternatives to distillers grains, research perspectives, emerging feedstocks and new technologies.

Speakers for the conference will come from both the United States and Canada, with a strong contingent from Saskatchewan. "As much as possible, we really wanted to

focus on the industry in North America," Grant stated.

In addition to the main workshop, there will also be pre-conference introductory courses, entitled Ethanol 101 and Biodiesel 101, "for people who aren't all that familiar with the industry, but would like to know more," Grant said.

The registration fee for the CREW 2008 workshop is \$495 per person, while the pre-conference courses

cost \$150 each.

More information on the program agenda, registration and trade show is available online at the event's website, www.crew2008.com.

"We're really excited to be hosting this in Saskatchewan," Grant said. "We look forward to listening to the attendees' questions, and building a really strong forum for the industry in Canada that will continue for years to come."




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Toy show valuable for hobbyists

The past weekend was one of those that is always marked on the personal calendar since it is the weekend the Yorkton Farm Toy Show is held each year.

It is one of those weekends where I have the opportunity to meet a lot of people with an interest in things rural, in particular in the heritage of farm tractors and equipment. It is interesting to listen to people as they pursue their passion of collecting farm toys.

For those readers who collect—and people do collect just about anything at all—they would understand the exhilaration of adding a new piece to the collection. The toy show is something of a Mecca for collectors in the Parkland region, who make the annual pilgrimage each year in search of their own versions of the Holy Grail.

This year the depth of the passion was pretty obvious when you consider the weekend was marked by a storm Friday night that had the wind swirling snow to the point where highway travel was not recommended in many areas.

The temperature also plunged, so that in combination with the aforementioned wind, it flirted with minus-50 degree lows. Even for people used to the extremes of the Canadian Prairies, that's cold.

Yet, in spite of the wind and cold, early Saturday morning, the first day of the weekend show, a couple from

Calvin Daniels

Swan River who are regulars each year walked into the hall, and began browsing tables for treasures for their collection. That's the sign of dedication to a hobby.

In the case of collecting farm toys though, I am not only intrigued by the interest in the hobby, but also the reason many started gathering their collections in the first place.

In many cases the collectors who attend the event are not from the city itself, coming from the rural areas, where of course there is a more direct tie to farming for many. It is interesting how often you hear a collector talking about initially having started by looking to obtain a model of each tractor they had on their farm, or their parents farm.

For those who work with machinery every day in pursuit of their careers, there develops a connection between

man and machine. You see it with long haul trucks and their rigs, and you certainly see it with farmers and their tractors.

Of course in the world of farm toys, there are numerous sizes, and editions of most tractors, and that simple search for a model of a tractor once used on the farm can soon add up to a basement with the walls adorned with shelf and after shelf of tractors, and of course the other implements used in a farm operation—combines, swathers, field sprayers and more.

In many cases collectors aren't even farmers anymore. They may have grown up on the farm though, and as kids they had farm toys to play with, toys fondly remembered, but long lost to time. Some forgotten in sandboxes, others perhaps sold off as attic clutter once they left home for college. There is a draw to the memories of those toys which has many heading out to recapture the moments by reacquiring the same toys years later.

There are many reasons for collecting, but perhaps the real reason is because of events such as the Yorkton Toy Show where people gather to talk about their hobby, to compare notes on farming and collecting, and most importantly to renew friendships from past events.

Those are good reasons for me to mark the toy show on my calendar each year.

CN Rail throws grain shipping into disarray

Six Prairie grain shippers have applied to the Canadian Transportation Agency (CTA) for emergency relief after the CN Rail suddenly introduced a new system for rail car allocation in the grain

industry, throwing the shipping season into disarray midway through the crop year.

"This new program will significantly impact our ability to efficiently move grain on behalf of Prairie

farmers" said Ward Weisensel, chief operating officer for the Canadian Wheat Board.

"The new system forces us to guess at our rail car orders, risking the wrong grain moving to port at the wrong times. This risks congesting port terminals and costing farmers millions of extra dollars in shipping penalties—not to mention the damage to Canada's reputation as a reliable supplier of grain to its customers."

CN's new program, which it put into effect on Feb. 1, creates a system

where grain is "pushed" from origin, instead of being "pulled" to destination. This prevents efficient matching of rail car supply to ocean vessel arrival, given that each ship must be loaded with the correct class, grade and protein level of wheat or barley.

CN's new system removes accountability for the railway, as CN ultimately determines which grain elevators it will service in a particular week, without having made a firm commitment to the CWB and grain shippers

regarding car supply.

"CN's new system is completely inappropriate for the grain industry," said Keith Bruch, vice-president of operations for Paterson Grain.

"It does not recognize the grain industry's unique requirements and will cause substantial commercial harm to the shippers and farmers, who rely on adequate rail service."

The sudden introduction of the new system comes on the heels of a Jan. 18 CTA decision that found CN Rail guilty of a chronic

service failure in grain transportation for 2006-2007.

The agency has asked for more information to assess CN's performance for the current crop year.

Applications to the CTA raising similar issues were also filed by North East Terminals, Parrish and Heimbecker, Paterson Grain, Providence Grain Group and North West Terminals.

CN has filed a response that includes many claims and conclusions that the grain shippers reject. They will reply by Feb. 13.

Archie 4H light horse and pony club

By ISABELLE LEWIS

We finished the 2007 year off by working with Archie 4H beef club members to put together two Christmas hampers for the Christmas cheer organization out of Virden.

The new year started with a project meeting held at our leaders farm. Kari-Dawn Pearson kindly helped the members work with the horses in the barn. Jim Pollock helped us prepare for our communications event and some of the parents

worked with us on our project books.

On Jan. 9 we held our monthly business meeting.

On Jan. 20 we held another project meeting at McAuley rink. Tom Clubb gave us a lesson in auctioneering. Ramon Clubb helped us paint our picture frames for our achievement day photos and John Lewis helped us with our judging cards. We also did some work in our project books and made a collage to display in our books.

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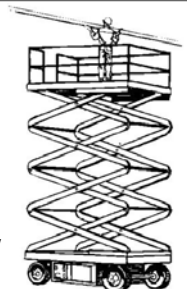
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Conservatives not big on consultation

I would be first to say that the Liberal years under Jean Chretien were not banner years for agriculture. Ag Minister Lyle Vanclief was a dismal failure. He either didn't care enough about his portfolio to understand that agriculture was in desperate shape, or he didn't care enough about farmers to do anything about it. To make it worse, Finance Minister of the day, Paul Martin, was keen to beat down budget deficits on the backs of farmers. He took away the Crow Benefit, guaranteed "in perpetuity" in exchange for a handful of beans. The Minister responsible for the CWB, Ralph Goodale, took one of the few positive steps by that government when he gave control of the CWB to farmer elected directors. Even this move proved full of holes when the Conservatives gained a minority government and stomped all over the spirit of the law.

When Paul Martin wrested the reins of leadership from Chretien, things didn't get much better. Martin finally responded to the overwhelming opinion of farm groups and decided to sell the government hopper car fleet to the Farmer Rail Car Coalition. But the agreement his officials at Transport Canada wanted was so cluttered with compromise that it would have made any gains from hopper car ownership pretty paltry. In the end, Martin didn't bother to force the bureaucracy to complete the deal. It became an early casualty of the Conservative pogrom.

Among their many other failures, the Liberals didn't manage to overhaul ineffective farm safety net programs. They didn't even try to deal with agriculture's transportation woes. Part of the reason they failed in so many areas was because the Liberals were bedevilled by the curse of consultation. They seemed to want complete agreement from all parties before they could act. Since farm groups are often at polar opposites in debates over policy, complete



Paul Beingessner

agreement was unlikely. Toss in the vested interests of agribusiness and the whole thing got so confusing the Liberals got lost in the forest while looking for the trees.

Along came the Conservative government of Stephen Harper. Though it received only 30 per cent of the votes cast, it has been governing like Canadians worshipped its every move. Decisions in agriculture have come fast and furious. Unlike the Liberals, the Conservatives have avoided the pitfalls of consultation. Take the Farmer Rail Car Coalition. The Conservatives blindsided farmers on this one, giving the railways a sweetheart deal that would have made Brian Mulroney blush. (Mulroney gave the railways a lease and right-of-first-refusal over the cars in the dying moments of his regime.) The FRCC was supported by all the general farm organizations across the prairies. The Conservatives consulted none of these in racing to their decision.

On the CWB, Stephen Harper's favourite whipping boy, the lack of consultation took on new dimensions. Only a select number of small-membership commodity groups were allowed into the circle to cheer the government on.

All this must be new and strange to farm groups that were used to endless consultation, committees and hear-

ings around farm issues. The Conservatives, while ignoring all the major farm groups, carry on merrily, claiming to have fervent support from the farm community. Take the hog industry for example. As it becomes ever more desperate in its cries, the Ag Minister says all is well. His government has taken care of the problem, and he says the industry agrees with him.

Amendments to the Canada Grain Act follow the same pattern. Newly minted Chief Commissioner of the CGC, Elwin Hermanson, assures us farmers support the proposed changes. That was definitely not what I heard when I attended the consultant's consultation meeting in Regina. Mind you, Hermanson wasn't there to tell us what we think.

While farm groups on the inside must think this is all great, and groups on the outside gnash their teeth, the grain companies are getting nervous. On the CWB issue, Harper is playing their tune. But lately, Ag Minister Ritz has thrown even these tried-and-true friends a curve. He is telling the industry it must get rid of kernel visual distinguishability (KVD) within six months as a criterion for registering new grain varieties. The whole industry was collaboratively moving that way within a careful timetable, but the grain companies are alarmed over Ritz's determination to move hastily, against everyone's better judgement.

The Conservatives have good reason to avoid consultation. Most farm groups are less than enamoured with the Conservative agenda for agriculture. The government knows this, but since it has no plans of acting differently, why consult?

Consultation with no action, as the Liberals practised it, was a disaster. Action with no consultation may prove to be even worse. It seems we are going to find out.

Colostrum is vital for newborn calves

Producing strong, healthy calves can be the difference between a profit and a loss for any cattle operation. As such, the importance of colostrum in the early hours of a calf's life cannot be overstated.

Newborn calves have virtually no immunity of their own. Antibodies are transferred to them from their mothers in the form of colostrum, or first milk.

These antibodies protect the calf from disease for the first two months until it begins to make its own antibodies.

So significant is the issue that the Farm Animal Council of Saskatchewan (FACS) devoted one of its many "Cattle FACS" fact sheets to the subject in order to help producers gain more knowledge in this area.

Dr. Colin Palmer, an associate professor with the Western College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Saskatchewan, worked on the fact sheet related to colostrum.

"The significant absorption of antibodies only occurs in the first 12 hours of life, so it's essential that calves receive colostrum within that period of time

to develop an immunity to infectious agents they might meet in the first two months of life," Palmer stated. "After that, most antibodies are digested, although some can act locally in the gut."

While 12 hours is the

maximum time producers should allow, Palmer says calves should ideally nurse within the first six hours after birth for the greatest absorption of antibodies. One to two litres of colostrum should be ingested.

The Cattle FACS fact sheet on colostrum, as well as many others on a variety of important topics related to cattle care, can be obtained on the organization's website at www.facs.sk.ca or by calling (306) 249-3227.

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Let's eat!

Cheri Chartier photos

Cupid's arrow is not the only way to get to someone's heart. For students at Ecole St. Lazare, pancakes are the key to celebrating Valentine's Day. The staff and students at the St. Lazare school celebrated the annual occasion last week with a pancake brunch. Above, students line up to be served, while Brendan Fouillard (left) flips pancakes on the grill.

St. Alban's to host World Day of Prayer

The Co-operative Republic of Guyana is located on the northern coast of South America. It is the only English-speaking country on the continent. "Guyana," an Amerindi-

word which means "Land of Many Waters," is home to the highest single-drop waterfall in the world, Kaieteur Falls, nearly five times as high as the Niagara Falls. Poverty is one of the

major issues affecting a significant proportion of Guyanese population. Floods in 2005 and 2006 had a devastating impact on numerous communities in the coastal areas. Since the 1960s, there has been a

steady migration to other countries resulting in a decreasing population. There is a growing concern about the proportion increase in the proportion of women infected by HIV/AIDS in Guyana.

There is a strong link between violence against women and HIV/AIDS. Domestic violence remains at an alarming level and trafficking in persons has also been linked with this issue.

Government, church, faith-based communities, civic and non-government organizations are working to improve social conditions. Please join us, and invite your friends and family to attend the World Day of Prayer service and learn more about Guyana and its unique culture and heritage. Join Christians in more than 170 countries around the world and 2,000 com-

munities across Canada who will gather on the World Day of Prayer to pray and act in solidarity with the people of Guyana. A local World Day of Prayer service will be held at St. Albans Anglican Church on Mar. 7, 2008 at 3 p.m. For more information on the World Day of Prayer service in Moosomin, please contact Alice Davidson at 435-2117.



Cheri Chartier photo

École St. Lazare's new principal

Gilles Normandeau of La Broquerie, Man.—speaking with a student above—has temporarily replaced Laura Audet as principal of École St. Lazare while Audet is on maternity leave. Although he was previously retired for ten years, Normandeau brings more than 35 years of experience in

the education field and has been involved with the DSFM (Manitoba's French school division) since its creation in 1993. École St-Lazare is having a bit of a 'baby boom' with two teachers—besides Principal Audet—going on maternity leave in the last two months.



Spy Hill News

Linda Gander

Our Spy Hill United Church Choir entertained at the Rocanville Lodge on Monday, Feb. 4, with Dawn Wilson of Rocanville doing all of the organizing for this occasion. As usual, we had a most enjoyable time there, even though there were a few missing from our regular gang. It is always fun to put on a program for the residents there because they always go out of their way to make us all feel so special.

The next outing for our choir, will be doing the church service in Langenburg on March 30, which will include both Church-bridge and Langenburg United Churches all in the one service.

This will be a busy Sunday with some of us having three services to attend all in the one day. Services for both the St. Patrick's Catholic Church and the United Church in Spy Hill were cancelled last Sunday due to the bitterly cold weather. The brunch that was held in the town hall this month was well attended, with around 76 people

coming. This was put on by the Spy Hill United Church. Our senior curlers have been curling in Binscarrow and now the Spy Hill Mixed Bonspiel gets underway this coming weekend. Sincere sympathies are extended to all of the Kingdon families of Rocanville on the passing

of Daisy this last week. The flu bug has taken its vengeance out on quite a few people in our village and it seems very hard to shake once it gets a hold on you. All of my family has had it and my mom Polly Andrew is still fighting with it. Hopefully, she will be able to get back to normal by the weekend.



Correction

There was an error in the names of the people in the front row of this photo, which ran last week. The photo is of a \$1,000 donation by Mazer's Implements to the Moosomin Fire Department. In front, from left to right are Moosomin fire chief Rob Hanson, Mazer's Garry Wilson donating the cheque, the Moosomin Fire Department's Mike Cooper accepting the cheque, and Mazer's Alvin Hebert. We apologize for the error.

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St. Lazare News

Congratulations to Jay and Michelle Conley on the birth of a son, Logan Gaetan. Proud grandfather is Larry Fleury. Congratulations to

Aaron and Andrea Chipel-ski on the birth of a son. Proud grandparents are Cyril and Terri Laferriere. Great-grandma is Irene Laferriere.

Art and music warm a winter night in Virden

BY ED JAMES

Thirty years of being an elementary school teacher doing a lot of artwork and music has paid off for Sylvia Hanlin of Miniota.

The retired elementary teacher recently opened her "Song and Safari" art show at the C.P. art gallery in Virden where it will be showing for the rest of the month.

The opening festival had only her artwork, but her musical talents were evident as she played several selections from her new CD to a supportive group at the opening.

The majority of her artwork features African and North American wildlife animals, with most of them being done in a sketchboard medium. Most of the boards were clear, with touches of color added to them to highlight eyes, teeth or stripes.

During her song performances, she sang several folk songs about the Assinaboine River Valley connection to herself, family and life. Her voice was a mixture of mellow tones and high pitches

that brought a warm glow to the main room of the old C.P. Station with its golden oak floors that have seen thousands of footsteps over the years.

While she sang, her only competition was a long and loud freight train that almost added a rhythmic beat to her songs. In between her musical sets, light refreshments were served as she walked around to meet people and explain the meaning and purpose of her artwork.

Hanlin is well-known in the Westman area for her musical talents because of her regular involvement with the many musical jams in the Westman area, including Elkhorn. She's a triple threat with her guitar, mandolin and violin skills, along with her song writing and singing skills.

Later in the evening she had a chance to talk to me about her artwork and music. She said that she did receive formal art training, but being an elementary teacher helped her to be creative and



Sylvia Hanlin with some of her art.

Ed James photo

imaginative.

"I think that doing the sketch art animals has improved my abilities to sketch," she said. "As for music, I have about three

already underway, that will be a collection of country songs, mostly written by other song writers with a few of my own thrown in."

The opening of the Hanlin show was a musical and artistic success, which, when added to the architectural warmth of the C.P. Station Gallery,

made for a welcoming evening on a cold winter night.

The show "Song and Safari" will be on display for the month of February.

Book review

Lady With a Lantern is thought provoking

BY DAVID G. HEPWORTH

Lady With a Lantern by Saskatchewan author Kay Parley is a sobering, thought-provoking excursion into the great abyss of mental illness.

During our lifetime, many of us have seen a family member or friend disappear into the abyss, as we stood helplessly by wondering if they would return. As much as one may try to understand such things, meaningful explanations usually evade us.

Kay Parley's book helps elevate a topic many consider "taboo" to something we all need to understand. Not only does her book provide a historical review of the early years of mental health and those unfamiliar with the life on the "inside."

Lady With a Lantern takes its readers a step closer to understanding the complexity of mental illness. It provides a basic understanding of the struggle involved as

ordinary people attempt to escape the grasp of their illness. It paints a vivid picture of the up and down struggles within the abyss. Hopes, aspirations, optimism and accomplishment one day followed by depression, frustration and failure the next. It serves to illustrate the complexity of mental illness and many of the challenges facing health care providers.

Aside from its obvious historical significance, *Lady With a Lantern* provides a unique perspective of life within the walls of the Saskatchewan Hospital in Weyburn, Sask. during the late 50s—a time when Saskatchewan was leading the field.

During those years, the author was training to become a psychiatric nurse. It was a unique set of circumstances. A few years earlier, she had been admitted to the same hospital as a patient herself. There was little doubt, that in her role, she had a level of understanding well beyond

the norm.

The most striking segment of *Lady With a Lantern* revolves around the author's journal. She had been appointed the leader of a group of patients on her ward and elected to keep a journal of their activities. Parley's highly detailed passages are valuable insight to the challenges faced.

Despite their abnormal behaviours, one soon discovers the individuals of the group are as unique as any individual, each with their own personality, needs and aspirations. At the same time though, without warning each is capable of gradually skipping backward to a place beyond reach. It's a frustrating experience for health care providers, but it's also reality.

Lady With a Lantern was published by Benchmark Press (2007) and is available from Book and Brier patch, Regina, Sask. or Kay Parley.

RM of Archie council minutes

The R.M. of Archie Council met in regular session on Tuesday, Feb. 12, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. in the Municipal Office Council Chambers in McAuley. Present were Reeve Brian Bajus; Councillors Ray Towler, Derald Henry, Donald Lewis, Robbie Peters and Steven Webb; and CAO Rhonda Bajus.

Reeve Bajus called the meeting to order at 10:05 am.

ACCOUNTS: Resolution No. 3: That cheques 6757-6817 totalling \$42,345.10 for the month of January 2008 be passed and paid as presented. CARRIED

Resolution No. 4: That indemnity and mileage be paid to the Reeve and Councillors for Feb. 12, 2008 inclusive, in the amount as submitted. CARRIED

DELEGATIONS: 1:00-Gerry Lee and Joanne Sykes-McAuley Store Board Discussed the RM office relocation and the costs involved in heating and maintaining the building. Council is looking into a proposed lease agreement. CAO to draft an agreement for the next regular meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Resolution No. 5: That Betty Addison be appointed to the Elkhorn School Advisory Council as a member-at-large for a term ending Dec. 31, 2008. CARRIED

Resolution No. 6: That Joanne Judd be appointed to the Board

Regional Library Board as a member-at-large for a term ending Dec. 31, 2008. CARRIED

Resolution No. 7: That we approve the lease to own contract between the RM of Archie and Roden Policarpio for the municipal garage located at 410 Railway Avenue in McAuley and authorize the Reeve, Brian Bajus and Deputy Reeve, Donald Lewis to endorse the said agreement on behalf of the RM of Archie. CARRIED

Resolution No. 8: That we approve the following Policy and Procedure regarding "Expenses": If a Council member, Employee or Member-at-large is authorized to attend a conference, seminar or course and then fail to attend, all the expenses incurred (ex: hotel rooms, registration fees, etc) will be required to be paid back to the Municipality at the discretion of the council as a whole. CARRIED

GENERAL BUSINESS: Resolution No. 9: That we authorize the CAO to attend a computer upgrade workshop in Brandon on Feb. 21, 2008. Expenses as per policy. CARRIED

Resolution No. 10: That we authorize the CAO and Reeve (or another member of council) to attend the Mayors, Reeve and CAO's meeting on March 19, 2008 in Souris. Expenses as per policy. CARRIED

Resolution No. 11: That we grant Kid Sport \$150 for the year 2008. CARRIED

Resolution No. 12: That we authorize Council and the CAO to attend the Fort la Bosse budget consultation meeting on Feb. 28, 2008. Expenses as per policy. CARRIED

By-Laws: Resolution No. 13: That we give second reading to by-law #1532 (Procedures By-Law) CARRIED

Resolution No. 14: That we give third and final reading to by-law #1532 (Procedures By-Law) CARRIED Recorded Vote: For: Brian, Ray, Robbie, Derald, Steven & Donald; Against: 0; Abstained: 0

Resolution No. 15: That we give second reading to by-law #1531 (Indemnity & Remuneration - Reeve, Council and Members-at-large By-Law) CARRIED

Resolution No. 16: That we give third and final reading to by-law #1531 (Indemnity & Remuneration - Reeve, Council & Members-at-large By-Law) CARRIED. Recorded Vote: For: Brian, Ray, Robbie, Derald, Steven & Donald; Against: 0; Abstained: 0

ADJOURNMENT: Resolution No. 19: That we adjourn to meet again in regular session on Feb. 26, 2008 at 10:00 am at the RM of Archie Council chambers. CARRIED

Meeting adjourned at 3:50 pm.

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Brad Campbell of Moosomin receives his award for Most Impressive Big Game.



Doug Lett of Regina receives his award for Most Impressive Big Fish.

Wapella Pipestone Wildlife Federation holds awards banquet

The Wapella Pipestone Wildlife Federation Awards Banquet and Fundraiser was held on Feb. 2 at the Wapella School with 170 people in attendance.

The meal consisted of buffalo, beef and smoked venison roasts, deer salami, perogies, potatoes, salads, cabbage rolls and dessert. The meal was prepared and served by Sharon Baker.

The 11th fundraiser was held along with the banquet. Ron McDougall and South East Auction Services conducted the live

auction. There was a silent auction and raffle tables. In the special raffle, Alfred Steinke of Wapella won a \$100 gift certificate from Borderland Co-op, Marg Dumville of Moosomin won a \$80 gift certificate from the Red Barn and Carol Sawatzki of Whitewood won a hand painted saw blade.

Hide draw winners were Stewart Dayle of Langbank, and Ray Bond of Whitewood.

Early membership draw winners were Adrian Gaudet of Moosomin and

Carmela Dodd of Wapella. Winners of the Best Deal in Dodge were Brenda Onofreichuk of Wapella who won \$250, Bruce Easton of Moosomin who won \$100, and Graham Manlle of Moosomin who won \$50.

The awards were presented by Philip Hamm to the following:

Brad Campbell, Typical Whitetail 176 4/8, Glenn Dearle Family; Jason McDougall, Non-Typical Whitetail 189 1/8, Margaret's Gravel and Construction; Brandon Gray, Most Uniform Whitetail

119 diff 1, Montgomery Stock Farm.

Dylan Bachtold, Typical Mule Deer 177 5/8, Beier's Welding; Brad Campbell Most Uniform Mule Deer 166 1/8, Diff 4 2/8, A&H Contracting; Hugh Garrett, Non-Typical Mule Deer 183 5/8, Dave and Pat Skiba; Lawrence McGonigal, Sr. Typical Mule Deer 157 3/8, Lawrence McGonigal Family.

Matthew Beutler, Junior Typical and Most Uniform Whitetail 136 1/8 diff 1 4/8, Flatland Enterprises; Dana Stanick, Junior Typi-

cal Mule Deer 147 6/8, Able's Eavestroughing; Dana Stanick, Junior Typical Mule Deer 147 6/8, Able's Eavestroughing; Chelsea Lyons, Junior Most Uniform Mule Deer, 143 4/8 diff 8, Murray's Auto.

Brent Bachtold, Largest Moose 141 3/8, Derald Henry, Boundary Blacks.

Chris Bachtold, Largest Elk 223 1/8, Prairie Insulation.

Verna Cherry, Summer Southern Pike three pounds, Mazers Implements.

Joshua Kelly, Junior Winter Southern Pike 11.5 pounds, Whitewood Service Centre; Jace Cherry, Junior Summer Southern Pickeral 1.2 pounds, Higgin's Machine Shop; Jace Cherry, Junior Summer Southern Pike 1.4 pounds, White's Ag Sales and Service; Jaridan Cherry, Junior Summer Southern Perch 10 ounces, I Scream U Scream, Ice Cream.

Doug Lett, Most Impressive Big Fish, R.M. of Martin.

Burns Night held in Wapella

On Jan. 25, the Wapella Happy Go Lucky Club held a very successful Robbie Burns Night to honor the birthday of Scotland's favorite lord.

George Flaman as president welcomed the guests. Fern Katzberg piped in the haggis carried by Karen Holloway.

David Miller gave the address to the haggis and Karen gave Burns Celtic grace after which about 90

guests enjoyed a lovely beef supper.

Supper was followed by an informative address to "the immortal memory of Robbie Burns" by John Gordon.

A humorous toast to the ladies was given. Lorne Crawford accompanied by Bea Middleton performed Scottish songs for the crowd.

Dr. Barrie Davidson recited the poem "Tam

O'Shanter" and other pieces of Burns poetry.

Dave Gillard and Fern Katzberg, both of Yorkton, played selections on the bagpipes, which all thoroughly enjoyed.

Frances McDougall and his ever popular southern country band entertained a most receptive audience.

Auld Lang Syne was sung and coffee and oat cakes concluded a very enjoyable evening.

Land sale records smashed

A record-breaking 2007 for sales of Crown petroleum and natural gas rights has now been followed by the best single land sale and the best fiscal year in Saskatchewan's history.

February's sale of Crown petroleum and natural gas rights raised \$197 million in revenue for the province, more than doubling the old record of \$85 million set in 1994. This brings the 2007-08 fiscal year total to \$419 million, eclipsing the previous record of \$202 million set in 1994-95.

February's sale included 16 exploration licences that sold for \$120.5 million and 308 lease parcels that brought in \$76.7 million.

Another record shattered was the aver-

age price paid on a per hectare basis at \$2,495, beating the old mark of \$1,515 set in October.

On the strength of the hot Bakken oil play, the southeast Saskatchewan area dominated the sales activity, bringing in \$132 million.

The highest price paid for a single parcel was \$30.7 million. Saskatoon Assets Inc. purchased a 2,900-hectare exploration licence in the Shaunavon area.

The highest price paid on a per-hectare basis was \$15,255. Saskatoon Assets Inc. picked up this lease parcel of deeper rights, located in the midst of the Bakken play at Stoughton, for just under \$2 million.

Moosomin Family Resource Centre

The Moosomin Family Resource Centre is open every Monday to Thursday from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. for Drop-In Playtime.

This week's theme is "Knock, knock." Come out and enjoy a story, a game, a craft and some active play.

Every week at the MFRC we feature a different section of the Canada Food Guide to promote healthy

eating. This week's food group is dairy products.

Our next Time for Baby session will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 19. Time for Baby will be held on the first and third Tuesday of every month from 1:30-3 p.m. Time for Baby is geared toward children from newborns to 18 months, but older siblings are welcome as well. This

program is for moms and their new babies to come and interact with other new moms and babies and talk about all the day-to-day baby activities.

The MFRC is holding our second annual Body, Mind and Soul Day on Saturday, March 8. This is a day that is designed by women, for women—a day of pampering for your

body, mind and soul. Registration forms are now available throughout the community or at the MFRC. If you would like to register or for information, please contact Trina at 435-2955.

If you loved our pizzas last time, now's your chance to get them again. We are taking orders now for pizzas. If you would

like to buy some or could help us out by selling some please contact Jenelyn at 435-3993. We really appreciate all the support.

We will once again be holding a six-week reading circle at the MFRC. Every Thursday for the next six weeks, come out to the MFRC and listen to some classic fairy tales and do some great crafts. You nev-

er know who you might run into!

The Moosomin Family Resource Centre is a non-profit, family support organization funded by our community and government grants. We have a variety of programs running at different times of the year. For more information call the MFRC at 435-3993.

KINSMEN KINETTES



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Helping People Every Day

A parent's nightmare: Finding out your 12-year-old son has cancer

Cindy Green of Lampman, Sask. recently found out that her 12-year-old son, Austin, has cancer. This is her account.

Austin Barclay Green, born first of our four children, received news that would change his life. We, his parents Jason and Cindy (Bertalon) Green, were horrified when this one word entered our family, bringing complete chaos.

Just after October 16, 2007, Austin's 12th birthday, his 12-year-old molars came through and caused nothing but problems. On both sides of the lower gum were white, infected bumps that made it hard to chew. I took him into the dentist on Oct. 22. It was suggested that the molars had come up but took either plaque or food particles back under with them. The dentist could not do anymore at this time until they came through, and we were to go home and use Orajel and Tylenol to control the pain.

In the first week of November, after a vigorous three-day-weekend AA hockey tournament in Saskatoon with the Moose Mountain Wild team, Austin started complaining about pain in his knee. Austin and his dad mentioned that they had gone bowling and that Austin had skidded, so maybe that was why his knee was sore. The only thing was, it did not heal, it got worse, and then the pain went into the other knee, then moved into his hips.

At first we thought it was growing pains. We spoke with many parents and most of them said their children experienced severe growing pains, and that it could last a long time. We rubbed him down with A535, bathed him in Epsom Salts and alternated between Tylenol and Advil.

He continued to play hockey, but the coaches started noticing Austin's hockey skills and his drive were decreasing.

I spoke with a friend about Austin's conditions—being tired, the growing pains, his sore neck, and his loss of appetite. I had my own conclusions. The tiredness was the Advil and Tylenol, playing hockey and school. The pain was from the growing pains, and his teeth were causing the sore neck and loss of appetite. Until she mentioned West Nile, and seeing that we have an Educational Assistant from Lampman with it, I thought it could be possible. So on Tuesday, Nov. 13, Austin had a doctor's appointment and had his blood work done.

During the next week we kept helping Austin the best way we knew how. On Tuesday, Nov. 20, I went back to the clinic for Austin's results. His levels looked normal until the second page where this one level ESR was relatively high. It is the inflammation of the body. A man's range is 0-10, and a woman's is 0-20, and this 12-year-old boy was sitting at a 68.

Growing pains still played in our minds. After three attempts, we finally were booked into a pediatric specialist. The first two were on holidays.

The next day Austin asked me to run his Orajel over to the school for his molars. As he was applying the gel I noticed how loose his teeth were and that the molars were starting to turn inward. I went home and phoned the dentist, but no appointments were available, even with saying what was happening. I then phoned three other dentists and then two other towns. No one could see him.

Then our dentist's office called back to say have him there by 9 a.m. Thursday morning. The dentist took one look and told us he had never seen anything like this before so he was sending us to a specialist in Regina.

Until now, Austin has not had any problems with his teeth. The specialist in Regina looked over the X-rays, looked in Austin's mouth and told us that he could not do anything for us either. We needed to see an orthodontic surgeon. They closed at 12 p.m. on Fridays and we were now at 12:30 p.m., so we would have to come back next week.

Next was the pediatric appointment. He did his assessment on Austin, turned and said it looks to be something malignant, but we came to him on a Friday at 4 p.m. He said we were to come back next week

and left the room.

That is when my heart started pounding. Did he just say malignant? If I recall, that word has something to do with cancer.

Then Austin's pain in his hips started, taking my thoughts to helping him. Austin started crying and screaming because it hurt so bad. The doctor came back in. I said to him that this is the pain he is dealing with, and could he not do something now. He explained to me that he did not have a magic wand and left the room again.

While I was trying to calm Austin down and get him dressed, the doctor returned saying Austin was being admitted into the General Hospital, and that they could control his pain better than we could at home. I was to go home and rest.

Austin then went out to the vehicle while I went to speak with the doctor. In there he asked if I understood what was happening. I repeated the word malignant, and he looked at me and said yes, cancer.

“I am not sure where that boulder came from, but it slammed into me and took the air out of me. My heart echoed in my chest, my ears started ringing and my head started pounding. I felt that I was going to be sick.

This could not be. My boy had cancer.”

—Cindy Green

I am not sure where that boulder came from, but it slammed into me and took the air out of me. My heart echoed in my chest, my ears started ringing and my head started pounding. I felt that I was going to be sick.

This could not be. My boy had cancer. No, this had to be a mistake and this doctor did not know what he was talking about.

Not this AA hockey player, this blue belt in Tae-Kwon-Do, this Level 10 swimmer, and this honors of distinction child.

Why? Why him? Why this family? This was supposed to be about growing pains. All the way home with two hours to drive, I yelled, cried, felt guilty about what I had done wrong as a parent.

On Monday, Nov. 26, Austin had a bone scan, a CT scan with a dye injected into him, an ultrasound, then he went back for another bone scan with another dye injected into him. An MRI finished the day.

That evening our lives changed. We were told that Lymphoma was in his neck and that it was an aggressive growth. It was growing into his right cheek, across his chin and up the other cheek. It was pushing inside his mouth making it hard for him to close his mouth.

On Tuesday, he fasted so that a biopsy of his neck could be done, but it was canceled at 5 p.m. and re-scheduled for Wednesday.

During the surgery Austin had his biopsy, his two molars extracted, and a bone marrow aspiration on his hip. This is where they put a large needle into his hip and remove bone marrow to see if and how much cancer cells are occupying his bone cells. He had a hickman line or port line put into his chest just under the skin. It goes down the vena cava vein and sits on the atrium of his heart. This line would now access his blood work and, if need be, be used to administer chemotherapy. Over time and with the amount of blood work needed, a person's veins could collapse or roll, making it hard to give or receive anything.

On Thursday, feeling pretty rough, Austin still managed a smile during a visit by Chris Szarka of the Saskatchewan Roughriders before being sent to the Regina Pasqua Hospital. Austin got to ride in the ambulance, which was pretty neat

he thought.

On Nov. 30 the oncologist confirmed that Austin has Burkitt Leukemia and Lymphoma. He said that we would discuss the treatment together on Dec. 3. The doctor told us that for the next 6 to 7 months, Austin would be receiving very high and extensive toxic levels of chemo. He told us about the side effects of the drugs, that he would get very sick and could end up in ICU. At times, he might need blood transfusions and could end up requiring a bone marrow transplant, so the family would need to be tested at that time.

Today the cure rate for this type of Leukemia is 80 per cent, and treatment would be done in one to two years, where other Leukemias can take three to five years.

Before they started the chemo, Austin's bottom gum had doubled in size, his teeth looked like they were sitting in jelly and that a dime could sit between each of the teeth.

Austin's protocol started the afternoon

of Dec. 3 with the reduction phase, which introduces chemo to the body slowly. They also started hydrating him, making him pee every two hours, day and night, measuring his inputs and outputs.

If they were to start off with a strong dose of chemo, the cancer cells would form a thick mass somewhere in the body, causing far more damage or complications. The cancer cells are very tricky and may hide in the spinal fluid that travels up to the brain, causing spinal meningitis. Spinal taps are performed, extracting fluid from the spine, which is then sent to the lab, and chemo is replaced in case cancer cells are found.

The next phases are two induction phases. The second phase is doubled in dose and there are six different chemicals given in six days. Each day during this time, Austin has blood work done and we watch four levels closely. If the hemoglobins, which carry oxygen in the blood, drop less than a count of 80, he needs a blood transfusion. Blood transfusions will increase only the hemoglobins; they do not restore the white blood cells. Austin has had four of these transfusions already.

The white blood cells and the neutrophils tell us if he is neutropenic, meaning his immune system is low and that he may become very sick and get a high temperature. The white blood cells are produced in the bone marrow but are suppressed by the chemicals during chemotherapy. White blood cells fight infection and bacteria in the body. When low, a person is susceptible to infections. There are no pills or food that will increase white cells, so injections of GCSF are given to stimulate bone marrow and produce white blood cells. This needle may have to be taken for several days to show any signs of an improvement. If the platelets fall to less than 20, he needs a platelet transfusion. He has had two of these. Platelets are needed for the blood to clot in case the shin becomes cut or bruised.

Then, after that phase come two consolidation phases and four maintenance, which completes the chemotherapy.

With all these poisons entering his body destroying good cells as well as the cancer cells, damage can be done to any one of the main organs. His magnesium and potassi-

um levels have been low, and if not treated it could lead to arrhythmia problems in the heart. On weekends he takes another drug that helps prevent pneumonia.

Once a phase is complete and levels are in the normal range, Austin might get to go home for a few days. Austin has ended up back in the hospital for treatments of a bacteria infection along with terrible mouth sores. This can happen anywhere from 10 to 14 days after the first day of chemo was given. That is why his neutrophils have to be watched carefully and visitors limited. Venturing out in the public is stopped.

Once recovered from that outbreak, he goes home and prepares his body, mind and soul for the next round of chemotherapy.

We have been told that Austin is in remission, meaning that the formula of medicines that they are using are giving him relief, but cancer cells are very aggressive and will come back double time until completely destroyed.

Austin will not be returning to school or hockey this year. The school is trying to get internet broadcasting to assist Austin so that he can take his four core subjects from home and be ready for the following year.

The report from the paleontologist confirmed that Austin's molars had been affected by the Lymphoma.

On another note, we have had a little fun. While on morphine Austin told the nurses to "shut the damn bird up, he had enough of its beeping." He was talking about his IV pole.

He also got very mad at the nurses. They told him to go to bed because the day had been very long, but every hour they came in to do their check. He finally yelled at the 2 a.m. nurse, "How the hell do you expect me to sleep if you keep waking me up!"

Next we learned that the morgue is on the fifth floor by the stairwell. I found this out when I met the gurney on the way down for my morning tea. When I mentioned my encounter to the nurses, I told them that morgues are supposed to be in the basement. They suggested that I watch too much TV, and that, with it being on the fifth floor, the souls were closer to heaven. I had one nurse tell me that now I had a reason to use the elevator and not the stairs. The elevators are another story.

We even experienced a contamination spill. At 11:30 p.m. one of the chemo bags popped a plug and sent liquid everywhere. I was evacuated right away, and once Austin's IV pole was cleaned, so was he. The nurses were very worried because no one knows the effects that chemo would have on a non-cancer person; not only with the liquid but the vapors. Housekeeping came right away, wearing their required outfits and looking like moon walkers. They started cleaning the spill. We were not allowed to return to our room until 2:30 p.m. the next day, allowing them to make sure that proper protocol had been followed.

We are at home in Lampman for a while. Some of the chemicals have effected his nerve endings and caused Austin's fingertips to darken and the palms of his hands and feet to blister. The doctor is worried if we continue with the fourth treatment that the hands could become seriously infected when the immune system becomes very low. We will try once they have healed.

My husband, Jason and I find that being a parent and watching your child go through a life threatening sickness is one of the hardest things in life. The fear continuously shows on your face, through your voice, and in your eyes.

Many of us have experienced hardship in our lives, and worry about traveling the path alone. We have been very blessed that this is not the situation with us. The families, friends, patrons, and so many communities that are helping us down this terrifying path is overwhelming. One cannot imagine the support a small community brings until they themselves have felt the impact. Once this is all over and Austin reports a clean bill of health, we will have learned the importance of family, friends, and communities, as well as the strengths of prayer, friendship and believing.