

Happy Easter! Check out what has been happening in Saskatoon Silver Springs and Saskatchewan!



## Provincial Point of View March 28, 2013

### IN LOVING MEMORY OF OUR DEAR FRIEND MIKE MORRISSEY



Losing a friend is always difficult, but sharing memories of these special companions can help us heal and guarantee that their friendship is never forgotten.

I join with so many of Mike's friends as we wish his wife Heather and their family our heartfelt sympathy.

Mike Morrissey went above and beyond to make his community and this world a better place. Throughout his distinguished 33 year career with the RCMP and his work at SLGA, he will be remembered for his compassion and work ethic. He was particularly committed to helping women and children in Saskatoon through his leadership on the Board of Directors of Saskatoon's Interval House. Mike took great pride in his involvement with fundraising activities centering around the RCMP and community philanthropy.

Mike was recognized for his commitment to his community through the RCMP Long Service Medal, Saskatchewan Centennial Medal, Saskatchewan Protective Services Medal, the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal, and most recently the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal.

Mike Morrissey was a great friend who was always there to lend a hand or an ear and was always up for a good laugh.

The Vigil for Mike will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, April 1 and the Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 2. Both services will be held at the Cathedral of the Holy Family, 123 Nelson Road.

I am truly blessed to have called Mike Morrissey my friend. He will be missed.

### **SASKATCHEWAN PARTY MLAs PASS "BALANCED GROWTH" BUDGET**

After five days of debate, the 2013-14 "Balanced Growth" provincial budget came to a vote in the Saskatchewan Legislature today, with the support of Saskatchewan Party MLAs. Opposition MLAs voted unanimously against a balanced budget containing controlled spending to improve quality of life, invest in infrastructure and support Saskatchewan's growing economy.

"The NDP's decision not to support Canada's only balanced provincial budget is troubling. We already know they don't get it when it comes to pipelines and uranium mines that create hundreds of jobs and pump millions of dollars into the Saskatchewan economy," said Saskatchewan Party MLA Rob Norris. "By rejecting the budget, the NDP voted against 7,000 more surgeries and shorter wait times, record revenue sharing for municipalities, increased benefits for society's most vulnerable and hundreds of millions of dollars for highways and schools. They just don't get it."

"The NDP voted against improving the quality of life for thousands of lower-income seniors and people with physical and mental disabilities; they voted against giving cities, towns and RMs the resources they need for important programs and services," said Norris. "The NDP voted against making it easier to get a degree or a trade; they voted against a new transition house in Melfort, providing more affordable housing and more child care spaces."

"Unlike the NDP, our government is committed to continuing to move Saskatchewan forward with our sixth consecutive balanced budget which supports those who need it most and takes action to meet the needs of a growing economy."

"We will keep the Saskatchewan Advantage."

## **PREMIER APPOINTS SPECIAL CABINET COMMITTEE TO DEAL WITH FLOODING**

On March 27, Premier Brad Wall appointed a special committee of cabinet ministers to oversee the province's preparations and response to potential spring flooding.

Government Relations Minister Jim Reiter will chair the new committee. Reiter is also the Minister responsible for the Provincial Disaster Assistance Program (PDAP). Other ministers on the flooding preparedness committee will be Highways and Infrastructure Minister Don McMorris and Agriculture Minister Lyle Stewart, as well as myself as Minister of Environment through my responsibilities for the province's Water Security Agency (WSA).

Reiter said preparations to deal with the spring melt and potential flooding problems are well underway.

In addition to the \$182 million designated in the Growth and Financial Security Fund to cover potential flooding costs, several ministries are preparing for the possibility of spring flooding.

Throughout March, the Ministry of Government Relations and the WSA held a number of meetings in at-risk regions, providing more than 200 communities with information and advice on mitigative actions they can take to prevent and respond to flooding. Individuals are encouraged to make plans and take steps to protect their property from flooding.

[Premier Appoints Special Cabinet Committee to Deal with Flooding](#)

## **SASKATOON SILVER SPRINGS MELON MAN ON CBC'S DRAGON'S DEN**



Saskatoon Silver Springs is proud to be home of the "Melon Man." Retired firefighter Ed Onishenko has invented a plastic melon bra for sports fans. Ed got the idea while at a Rider game where he saw a young lady wearing a hollowed out watermelon as a top.

He has expanded the melon bra to include the colours of all the CFL teams as well as basketballs, baseballs, soccer balls, and the wheels of a NASCAR racing car. We can also expect hockey puck bras to be introduced in the near future.

Ed will pitch his melon bra on CBC's Dragon's Den on an episode that will air this fall. The producers have promised to help make the pitch fun by getting the Dragons to wear the melon bras during the pitch.

Good luck in Toronto facing the Dragons! I am sure that you will make the province proud and spread the passion for sports we have here in the province.

The melon bras sell for \$10, with \$1 from each purchase going to breast cancer research in Saskatchewan. For more information about the melon bras or to purchase one, visit Ed's [website](#).

**PROVINCE BUYS 2.3 MILLION TREES TO RENEW FORESTS**

The Ministry of Environment has signed a contract with a Saskatchewan nursery to grow and store 2.3 million tree seedlings, which will be planted in 2014 to renew the province's publicly owned forests.

PRT Growing Services will grow the pine and spruce seedlings this year and store them for the winter. In the spring of 2014, the trees will be planted in various locations as part of the province of Saskatchewan's forest renewal program. PRT operates a forest nursery north of Prince Albert.

As Minister of Environment I was pleased to be part of this announcement. "Since 1997, the province's renewal program has been proud to plant trees grown by PRT. By investing in forest renewal, we are investing in the long-term health of Saskatchewan's forests and the significant industry that they support."

[Province Buys 2.3 Million Trees to Renew Forests](#)

### **16th ANNUAL BUSINESS BUILDER AWARDS**



I was pleased to bring greetings on behalf of Premier Brad Wall and the Government of Saskatchewan, at the North Saskatoon Business Association's 16th Annual Business Builder Awards. It was great to see so many people there to celebrate business in Saskatoon, including some of my Legislative colleagues, City of Saskatoon Councilors, and business leaders in our community.

**NSBA has been working hard for the past 40 years to liaise with all levels of government to help deliver a business environment that delivers growth and prosperity for the community and province as a whole. Here in Saskatoon we can see the positive outcome of this hard work. Saskatoon is the fastest growing city in Canada for the third year in a row!**

**The NSBA is working along with the Government of Saskatchewan to sustain growth and prosperity and addressing the challenges that accompany it.**

**The organization has helped to build a better understanding that growth and prosperity is a good thing - creating an environment that is advantageous to business success.**

### **WATER SECURITY AGENCY LAUNCHES MOBILE WEBSITE**

**On March 28, as Minister responsible for the Saskatchewan Water Security Agency I announced the launch of the agency's new mobile website in time for the spring runoff season.**

**“When the snow begins to melt, many in Saskatchewan are going to be looking for up-to-date information on water conditions in their part of the province. This mobile website will give the people of Saskatchewan direct access to news and advisories so they can check stream flows and lake levels from the palm of their hand.”**

[Water Security Agency Launches Mobile Website](#)

### **AUTOMATED ONLINE HUNTING, TRAPPING, AND ANGLING SYSTEM GOES LIVE** **APRIL 1**



**Today as Minister of Environment I got the opportunity to demonstrate the new online Hunting, Trapping and Angling Licence (HAL) ordering system by purchasing my 2013-14 angling licence in Regina.**

**“Saskatchewan boasts some of North America’s best hunting and fishing, enjoyed by residents and guests from around the world. We’re making it easier for people to access the necessary licenses to enjoy these sports with the introduction of the online system. An online licensing system not only improves the experience for hunters and anglers who are contributing to our economy, but it allows the Ministry of Environment to better monitor and manage wildlife resources within the province and ensure excellent sport opportunities for generations to come.”**

**[Automated Online Hunting, Trapping, and Angling System Goes Live April 1](#)**



## **CREATIVE SASKATCHEWAN CLOSER TO GROWING THE PROVINCE'S CREATIVE ECONOMY**

The Bill to establish Creative Saskatchewan was introduced in the Legislature on March 26. Creative Saskatchewan is a new agency that was announced earlier this year. It will assist in marketing the work of Saskatchewan's creative industries.

The 2013-14 provincial budget provided \$5 million in new funding to create an investment fund for Creative Saskatchewan. The fund will be available to music, film, digital media, visual arts, crafts, publishing and the performing arts producers to bring their products to market.

"Our vision for Creative Saskatchewan is that it helps Saskatchewan's creative industries become commercially strong, market-ready, and appreciated both nationally and internationally," Parks, Culture and Sport Minister Kevin Doherty said. "This is an exciting time for both our province, which continues to grow and lead the nation and for our creative industries, which are poised to be part of that growth."

[Creative Saskatchewan Closer to Growing the Province's Creative Economy](#)

## **TWO SASKATOON FINALISTS NAMED FOR THE CANADIAN SPORT TOURISM ALLIANCE'S PRESTIGE AWARDS**

On Monday, March 25, Saskatoon Sports Tourism announced two Saskatoon finalists for the Canadian Sport Tourism Alliance's 2012 PRESTIGE Awards. The 2012 Tim Horton's Brier is a finalist in the Canadian Sport Event of the Year category and Fritz Schumann has been named a finalist for the Volunteer of the Year Award.

The 2012 Tim Horton's Brier was held from March 3 to March 11, 2012 at Credit Union Centre. The event marked the sixth time that a Brier was held in Saskatoon. Congratulations to the Host Committee, Volunteers, and Spectators who make the 2012 Tim Horton's Brier so successful, leading to this nomination.

Fritz Schumann is a passionate supporter of speed skating in Saskatoon. As a member of the Saskatoon Lions Speed Skating Executive, Schumann is responsible for overseeing competitions, meet co-ordinators, and volunteers. He has been nominated based on his work with the club and with the Canada Cup III and Canadian Junior Long Track Speed Skating Championship. Congratulations on your nomination and thank you for all of your hard work and passion to help grow the sport of speed skating in Saskatoon.



Good luck to both nominees!

### **TARGET 8000 PROJECT SEES SASKATOON JOB GROWTH**

The Greater Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce has created the Target 8000 Project. The Project sets an aggressive target of creating 8000 jobs each year. The target represents the number of jobs that are needed to create sufficient employment opportunities for our educated young people, and is based on the number of graduates each year from secondary and post-secondary institutes.

According to Statistics Canada's most recent Labour Force Survey, Saskatoon businesses have created 800 jobs in February 2013. Saskatoon has the capacity to grow its labour force faster than any other Western Canadian cities because of the scale of training opportunities available in the community. "We want to keep this momentum going," said Kent Smith-Windsor, Executive Director of the Greater Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce, "and the best way to do that is becoming the most competitive region in terms of policies that attract new business investment, thus creating more high quality jobs for new grads."

### **HAPPY EASTER!**



**"Easter spells out beauty, the rare beauty of new life."**

**S.D. Gordon**

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

- Since 2007, our government has reduced the debt by \$3 billion, resulting in \$600 million in interest savings.
- Real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is forecasted to grow at 2.6 per cent in 2013 and 3.1 per cent in 2014.
- Funding for Education in the 2013-2014 Budget will reach \$1.7 billion, an increase of \$107.5 million.

### **JUST THE LINKS**

- March 25, 2013 - Protect Your Elm Trees: Don't Prune from April 1 to August 31
- March 25, 2013 - Crop Insurance Deadline March 31
- March 25, 2013 - RCMP Will Soon Receive Basic Health Coverage from the Province
- March 26, 2013 - Employers Support Saskatchewan Youth Apprenticeship Industry Scholarship Program
- March 26, 2013 - Exhibit Honouring Great Canadians Opens at Government House
- March 27, 2013 - Saskatchewan First in Canada to Offer Computerized Testing for GED
- March 28, 2013 - Lower Generic Drug Prices to be in Effect April 1
- March 28, 2013 - \$131 Million in New Highway Tenders Released
- March 28, 2013 - Flexible Options to Help Patrons Assume Pasture Operations
- March 28, 2013 - Amendments Introduced to the Planning and Development Act

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

#### **Imagine No Bullying**

**Date: April 10**

**When: 7:30 pm**

**Where: Broadway Theatre**

**Tickets available at The Broadway Theatre, McNally Robinson, or [online](#).**

#### **6th Annual Glass Slipper Benefit for Princesses**

**Date: April 11**

**When: 5:30 pm**

**Where: TCU Place**

**Tickets available at [6th Annual Glass Slipper Benefit for Princesses](#)**

**Saskatoon Prayer Breakfast**

**Date: April 20**

**When: 7:30 am**

**Where: Prairieland Park**

**Tickets: \$30**

**The Man Show**

**Date: April 26 to April 28**

**When: April 26: 400 pm - 10:00 pm; April 27: 12:00 pm - 9:00 pm; April 28: 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm**

**Where: Prairieland Park**

**THOUGHT OF THE DAY**

"To be happy's to be wise."

George Ogle

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**KEEP IN TOUCH**

I appreciate the many opportunities to make a positive difference in my constituency. Your phone calls, letters, and emails make a big difference in keeping me informed on the issues that matter to you. If you would like me to recognize anyone or have your event mentioned in this newsletter, please don't hesitate to call or email me.

*"From a Provincial Point of View"* is a weekly message from Ken Cheveldayoff, MLA Saskatoon Silver Springs. Your opinions are important and your letters, emails, and phone calls on any issues relating to the provincial government are welcomed.

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