



# Souris-Moose Mountain Update

## Ed Komarnicki Member of Parliament



FALL 2005

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Photo courtesy of Estevan Lifestyles

Ed Komarnicki, MP branding a barrel at the Grand Opening of Ross L-7 Tender Meats in Estevan.

The summer of 2005 was filled with homecoming parades where people all over the constituency gathered to celebrate 100 years of Saskatchewan heritage and tradition. This issue features an overview of my summer travels and some of the events that took place around the constituency. It was an eventful summer that will be remembered for a long time.

### Summer Reflections

Summer has gone by much too fast. It has been a summer filled with homecoming celebrations, Century Farm Awards and parades. The number of people attending homecoming were far higher than I expected. It was a great time for renewing acquaintances, sharing memories, reminiscing about old times and just having a good time visiting. The communities were trimmed up in ship shape and everyone available it seems was enlisted in helping out. Much work goes on behind the scenes. To the volunteers, a big hearty congratulations.

There is no place like home, and no matter where one may go in this world, there is always something special about coming home. I couldn't help but think that if everyone who had a connection of some sort with Saskatchewan had stayed in Saskatchewan, we would have thriving communities. At the same time, it's understandable that there is a great pull for people to leave our province. I hope we can reverse the trend and populate our province once again. I realize it will take a concentrated effort and some significant dollars to develop opportunities for those who wish and choose to remain here, but we must do something. It's a challenge and we must meet it. We cannot sit, watch and wait for our communities to shut down.

It was a joy to see the healthy stands of grain and other commodities in various parts of the constituency as I travelled through it this summer. Yields, however, are not doing as well as expected and weather has been a factor. A stretch of warm, dry weather was what was needed, not the cold, wet weather that prevailed.

In many areas of the province, the crops have been drowned out and some crops have been hit with lodging, bleaching, staining and sprouting. So much for a bumper crop. Fuel prices and cost of production continue to go up while commodity prices are in the basement. Something has to change in this situation to give farmers a fighting chance.

### Agriculture Industry Faces Desperate Times

I received a letter from a constituent recently with respect to the state of agriculture that makes its point very well. Here are edited portions:

"Dealing with the government in areas of income tax, GST and CAIS has become extremely frustrating."

"I have had to deal with the death of a close family member, watched sibling family members struggle through farm bankruptcy and near farm bankruptcy and had to deal with some health crisis. I informed CAIS personnel that I may as well just go home and shoot myself. Then I proceeded to leave work and go home to do just that. Were it not for my husband and daughter, I would not be writing this letter."

Most people have loans for machinery, loans for cattle, land loans and operating loans. The letter went on to say:

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### TIME IN THE CONSTITUENCY...

#### Langbank Homecoming



The Langbank Homecoming Celebration turned out to be a tremendous success.

#### Whitewood Homecoming Parade

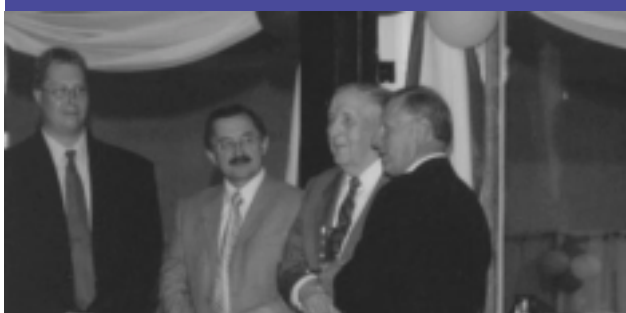
The Whitewood Homecoming Parade was a great success. A lot of hard work went into the event and it was a good time for all involved.



Laurie Johnson, parade organizer, meets with her crew.



#### Moosomin & District Centennial Celebration



Moosomin & District had many Centennial Celebrations. I was fortunate to attend on July 2nd during the presentation of the Top 10 Moosomin Century Awards.

## Radville Rodeo

There always seems to be a great turnout at the Radville rodeo. It's encouraging to see the community come together to make this event a success. I look forward to being there again next year.



George Hay, Editor of the Radville Star, taking in the Rodeo as one of the spectators.

## Fillmore Centennial Parade



Students of 33 Central School



Fillmore Lions Club Float

## Bengough Homecoming



Giant Birthday Cake at the Bengough Homecoming and the Saskatchewan Centennial Celebration.

## Coronach Outlaw Days



Coronach Outlaw Days Trick Riders.

## TWO SPECIAL HEROES



**J**ames and Neely Amell are two special heroes in my constituency.

On July 6th, James and Neely played a heroic role in rescuing their dad, Don Amell, who was pinned under a combine header in an unoccupied farm yard about 10 kilometers east of Big Beaver.

James, Don's 8 year old son, took his dad's truck and searched for a neighbor who could help.

Neely, who is 7, stayed with her dad and comforted him during the trying ordeal. James and Neely, you displayed remarkable courage. You should indeed be very proud!

## OWN USE PERMITS SUBJECT TO FAINT HOPE

**I** know that many of you have experienced some frustration with end of season own use import permits for Clearout 41. I was actively involved in attempts to extend the deadline for applications. The following was the exchange during Question Period on October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2005 which was later incorporated into a Press Release.

**Mr. Ed Komarnicki (Souris—Moose Mountain, CPC):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture. Due to weather conditions, harvest and fall operations on the prairies will extend to late October and November. Farmers require own use permits in order to purchase Clearout 41, a glyphosate product available to them at a considerable savings. The PMRA has placed a deadline of September 30 for the issuance of such permits. At a time of rising gas prices, escalating costs and low commodity prices, why would the minister take away the opportunity for farmers to purchase products at cheaper prices? Will the minister ensure that the September 30 deadline is extended at least until the end of October?

**Hon. Wayne Easter (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food (Rural Development), Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, we have been made well aware of the issue that the member raised. It is an important issue also as it relates to Invermectin, I believe, coming in for the cattle industry for treatments. The various ministries that are involved in the matter are looking into it and we will try to deal with that problem.

**OTTAWA (October 7, 2005)** - The best that the Government could do during an exchange between Ed Komarnicki and Wayne Easter, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture was to agree to look into the important issues raised by Komarnicki with respect to 'Clearout 41' a generic glyphosates and Ivermectin.

"Producers can save thousands of dollars" said Komarnicki, "when they purchase generic glyphosates and Invermectin under own use permits." Komarnicki questioned why during a time of rising gas prices, escalating costs and lower commodity prices, the Minister would take away the opportunity for farmers to purchase products at cheaper prices. "Why shouldn't farmers be allowed to save money wherever they can during these dire financial times", said Komarnicki.

Gerry Ritz, Conservative Party Vice-Chair of the Agriculture Committee following discussions with Ed Komarnicki, made a formal request to the executive director of the Pest Management Regulatory Agency to extend the arbitrary September 30<sup>th</sup> deadline. In addition, both Ed Komarnicki and Gerry Ritz intend to pursue this issue vigorously when the Director appears before the federal Agriculture committee.

## Milestone Centennial Celebration



Opening Ceremonies of the Milestone Centennial Celebration. The participants performed musical numbers at the ceremonies. They were choreographed by Kara Wolfe who is the Head Coach of the Saskatchewan Roughriders Trailblazers.

## Benson Homecoming Celebration



The Triple F Confectionery from Benson depicted a typical restaurant in a farming community with farmers around the table discussing the weather. Gail Frasz prepared the float.



Dean Allen entered his John Deere tractor in the parade. He has been actively farming in the R.M. of Benson No. 35 for 70 years and is still going because it's in the blood.

## Ogema Celebrations



Congratulations to Keith and Stephanie Bacon of Ogema, who this year celebrated the Bacon Family Farm 100th year anniversary.



Photo Courtesy of Hans Arnold Photography

Ed presenting Centennial Farm Certificate in Ogema to Ian Hudson and his sister Sheri.

## Wawota



Ed Presents certificate commemorating the 96th birthday of Dorothy Haldenby from Wawota.



Birthday Tea held in honor of Dorothy Haldenby's 96th Birthday. L-R Top Row: Carol Husband, Helen Weatherald, Ed Komarnicki, Margeurite Vandressar, and Irene Dorrance. L-R Bottom Row: Dorothy Haldenby, Denise Dash, Jone Wilson and Pearl Wilson.

## Carlyle

Carlyle Centennial Parade on July 31, 2005. This is a picture of the 1st Carlyle Scouting Group float being pulled by a car decorated by Shirnell Video.



## Carnduff



Reverend Flora Christie & Reverend Clark McCutcheon, Minister Emeritus, cutting the cake commemorating the Carnduff United Church 80th Anniversary.

From all accounts, Carnduff had the longest parade and some great weather. I missed the parade, but did attend and speak at the opening ceremonies of the Carnduff Centennial Celebration.



## Agriculture Industry Faces Desperate Times

(Continued from page 1)

"For two years we lost our crop to hail and frost and now when we finally have grown one, we have to pile it on the ground while the fuel bill reaches \$15,000.00 and we can't sell it. What are we supposed to do? What am I supposed to do? I love my family, but this farming is killing me. I do all the things my mother did to raise a family, plus hold down a full time job, and when I look at my bank account today, I have \$91.00 to buy groceries until the end of the month. When will this end?"

That's a good question. There must be an end to this frustration, and not only an end, but a way out of the present crisis. We must as a government arrive at a policy that is fair and equitable, that is simple to apply and one that will not change if weather, global trade or other circumstances beyond a farmer's control require a significant payout. We must as a nation be prepared to help in the time of need and not dole out help based on how much money it's politically advantageous to pay out. We must, we have to, do things differently if we want our farmers and our farm communities to survive. The status quo, simply put, is not good enough. The letter goes on to state:

"We are doing our best to keep the farm going. It sometimes becomes overwhelming trying to keep straight all the deadlines and rules for all the government programs (which include: income tax, payroll, GST, NISA wind down, CAIS, Saskatchewan crop insurance, hail insurance, feeder calf set aside, TISP, Canadian farm income plan, business risk management, Saskatchewan farm fuel program and Canadian Wheat Board permits to name a few) while trying to expand your operation and hold down a full time job while watching our bottom lines shrink and our costs go up."

This letter says it all and not much can be added to it.

## Oungre and District Celebration

This summer, the R.M of Souris Valley hosted a Saskatchewan Centennial Celebration at the Oungre Memorial Regional Park. Approximately 670 people were registered to attend from surrounding municipalities. Given the large turnout, the event was a great time for all involved.



Organizer, Dallas Pederson, M.C., and the organizing committee of the Centennial Celebrations.



Congratulations to the Century Farm Award Recipients who were recognized at the Oungre event.



"Cutting the Cake!"

## Century Farm Award

The Pederson family farm was founded by Emma Pederson's parents, Kjelberg and Anna Ofstie. Emma and her husband, Ole Pederson, were followed by Harold and Ruth Pederson and now Emma's grandson, Dallas, and his son, Glenn, who farm the same land with their wives, Wendy and Stephanie. It's a modern, mixed farm augmented with a grain cleaning operation and computers. The risk however, associated with farming remains.

The Pederson's century farm was featured in the Western Producer's Centennial Special Edition Magazine on August 4th.



## Ted & Lillian Fai's Auction

The fact that there were a great many auctions in our constituency this year was an issue that I raised in the House of Commons. With our farmers getting older and wishing to retire, one has to wonder who's going to farm our land and where farming as we know it is headed. It is always sad to see a lifetime of farming coming to an end.

I wish to personally express my best wishes to Ted and Lillian Fai on their retirement. Ted brought a pure simple joy to farming and the many tasks that go with it. Whether unplugging a piece of equipment or haying, you might see Ted chewing on a strand of hay and happy as a lark. He had a way of hitting the nail on the head and not mincing any words. You're one of a kind Ted!



Ed with Ted and his five daughters L-R Ed Komarnicki, Nickie Aumiller, Jackie Malaryk, Donna Selk, Jane Moriarty, Kendra Fai, and Ted Fai.



CTV came down to film some of Ted Fai's auction sale.



Ed visiting with Peter and Irene Tarnes and Dan LaCoste.

## Estevan

This summer, Estevan held an "Art in the Park" Celebration commemorating 100 years of Culture. There were events for the whole family to enjoy. The organizers and volunteers did an excellent job hosting the event. Thanks for your hard work!

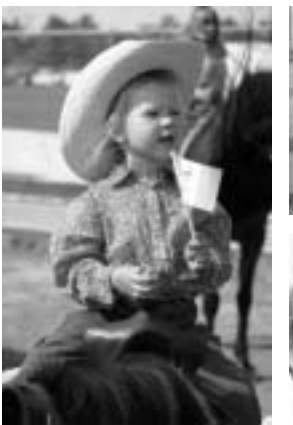


ECS Iron Chefs who baked the Centennial cake LR Theo Bryson, Adam Johnson, Curtis Hack, Roxy Mutton, and Megan VanDewoestyne.

**Cake Facts:** 96 Duncan Hines Cake Mixes; 28 Litres of Water; 288 Eggs; 11 Litres of Oil; 198 Pounds of Cake; 65 Pounds of Icing.

## Weyburn Centennial Celebration

Weyburn had wonderful weather during the centennial celebrations. A great crowd was on hand to enjoy the day long festivities and the spectacular fireworks.



John Fowler accepts Darcy Schaver print given in appreciation to the Estevan Lion's Den.

## Commemorative Medal for the Centennial of Saskatchewan.



L-R Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan, Lynda Haverstock, Bob Burns, and Doreen Eagles, MLA for Estevan.

A warm congratulations goes to Bob Burns who was nominated to receive the Commemorative Medal for the Centennial of Saskatchewan. This medal is awarded to individuals who have made a significant contribution to our province. Bob has completed 55 seasons of umpiring ball and was inducted into the Saskatchewan Baseball Hall of Fame in 2003.



## Leniczek 60th Wedding Anniversary

Jack and Renee (Sherburn) Leniczek met on October 10, 1943 on a blind date in England when Jack was at a British Artillery Camp. Jack and Renee kept up correspondence while Jack went to Normandy, France and to the Pacific Theatre when the war in Europe ended. They were definitely meant for each other, as evidenced by their love expressed during their sixty years of marriage. They still have all of their love letters. Great example Jack and Renee to the rest of us.



Grand opening of Trendsetters Clothing store.



Sears Dealership opens under the new ownership of Heather & Randy Smith.



Photo courtesy of Teresa Grass

Ed discussing Farm Tribute Concert with producers, Lisa Donahue and Ron Goetz of Q2Q Productions, at a meeting held in Estevan. If the community goes ahead with the concert, it will be one of the biggest events this constituency has hosted.

## "The Family Place"

### Happy 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary to "The Family Place" from Ed Komarnicki, MP. Souris-Moose



I thoroughly enjoyed my visit with Linda Rudachyk and Helen Stepp at "The Family Place." What a fine facility with a great hum of activity in every nook and cranny. I found the whole experience not only encouraging, but uplifting and invigorating as well. Keep up the good work girls. The staff was so pleasant and to see moms out there working and expending

their energy with a wonderful group of kids warms one's heart.

I was touched by the children who were spontaneous and open to a visit. It made my day. It is my hope that many lives will be touched in a unique way and that the effect will have a ripple throughout the community. Needless to say, I was impressed.

#24 4<sup>th</sup> Street NE What a place. It is a must to visit. There is a whole lot going on inside.

"A small investment in early childhood today is a wise investment in our future" is their philosophy. They charge no fees. They depend on funding from Saskatchewan Action Plan for Children, Department of Learning and the community of Weyburn and various donations and support from community members. They are a non-profit community volunteer organization.

Here are some comments from participants: "We are not alone." "We are fortunate to have The Family Place." "Children learn to respect and appreciate others." "A positive, supportive environment and my daughter just loves it. She peeks out the window just waiting to get picked up. It's great to see her so excited about going to such a great program."

