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CANADIANS HIT HARD BY OIL CRASH



Photo by Alec Salloum

The IMF had downgraded expected growth in the Canadian economy 2.3 per cent in 2015. Alberta alone is set to lose \$4.5 billion in oil royalties.

Alec Salloum
@alecsalloum

Crude oil is a global commodity, and a cornerstone of several national economies. In recent months the price has fallen drastically, below the \$50 global threshold for the first time since 2009. At home this translates to companies like Suncor cutting 1,000 jobs.

A Suncor employee working in Fort McMurray, who wished to remain anonymous, lost her job in December. Her reaction was one of disbelief. "It's incredible how something so far away could have such a large effect on all of us out here... it affects everything," said the former employee.

"The bottom line is that there's a substantial increase in the supply of oil in the world market and that drives the prices down," said Dwight Bramble, an economics lecturer at the University of Regina.

Four main factors have led to this downturn. Libya has returned to the world as an oil producer, after conflicts in 2011, and saturated

the market further. America is now the world's largest oil producer and importing less oil. There is less demand from consumers and alternatives to oil are being pursued.

At the same time, OPEC nations are refusing to halt their production and export. The 12 members of OPEC are estimated to produce 40 per cent of the world's oil and export 60 per cent of all oil traded internationally.

Although the OPEC countries seem a world away, their decisions impact Canadians. The International Monetary Fund downgraded its economic prediction for Canada by 2.3 per cent. In Canada this means budgets won't be balanced and a traditionally booming sector is experiencing layoffs and hiring freezes.

"Essentially, you have an oversupply, you have a softening demand, and that old law of economics is offset by the OPEC countries," explained Ed Dancsok, assistant deputy minister with the ministry of petroleum and natural gas division

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SASK FILM INDUSTRY STILL ROLLING

Kendall Latimer
@klatimer_

Saskatchewan's film industry is still rolling despite a final cut to the Saskatchewan Film Employment Tax Credit program in 2012. But not everyone plans to remain on set.

"I do plan to move to Toronto in the next two or three years," said Lucas Frison, who graduated from the University of Regina's film department last April.

"There's been a lot of turmoil in the past years with the tax cut so a lot of people have left."

Frison, an independent filmmaker with a focus on writing and directing, said staying in Saskatchewan is no longer feasible. He recalls seeing the impact of the tax credit cut during the first two years in the program, as many of his classmates dropped out.

"Most people I've talked to are moving to Toronto, Vancouver, or bigger centres in Canada. You have to move there because that's where

the opportunities are," said Frison, mentioning those centres have tax credits, smaller production companies, and more resources.

Frison hasn't benefited from Creative Sask just yet and believes it's a little too early to assess what the agency is doing as it is still in the early stages of development. However, the Sask Film Pool Co-operative has been a huge help to his current film production, Fragments of Penny, which is set to release this year.

"There has been success here," said Frison but, "despite those successes it's still few and far between when it comes to people finding work and money for projects to get off the ground," he added.

"It's a challenge for all filmmakers to raise resources necessary for their project. However, the province's emerging talent has support from the Sask Film Pool Co-operative, the Saskatchewan Arts Board,

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FISHING FOR AN INVESTIGATION

ALBERTA TAILINGS PONDS UNDER SCRUTINY



Photo by Virginia Wright

Member of the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation, Susana Deranger, shares her stories about the leaking tailings ponds.

Virginia Wright @virginiawrightt

A toxic blend of water, clay and chemicals symbolizes the environmental footprint of oil sands production near the Athabasca River in Alberta. Tailings ponds cover 176 square kilometres and contain toxic, contaminated substances that are left once the oil is removed.

In 2010, Environmental Defence Canada filed a request for an investigation with the Commissions for Environmental Cooperation, the environmental arm of the North American Free Trade Agreement. The goal was to investigate if Canada was breaking its own laws set out in the federal Fisheries Act by failing to prevent tailings from leaking

into the Athabasca River and other nearby rivers.

"This is what the commission is mandated to do... to look and see if one of the NAFTA countries is potentially breaking its own environmental laws," said Dale Marshall, the

"OUR COMMUNITY IS RIDDLED WITH CANCER. WE ARE TOLD WE CAN'T EAT THE FISH AND ANIMALS HAVE TUMOURS. IT'S JUST INSANITY."

-SUSANA DERANGER

national energy program manager of Environmental Defence Canada.

A study released by the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation, the Mikisew Cree First Nation and the University of Manitoba in July 2014 found consumption of traditional wild foods, such as locally caught fish in the Fort Chipewyan area, was associated with cancer.

"Our community is 252 kilome-

tres downstream and the tailings ponds are leaking into that river," said Susana Deranger, a member of the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation. "Our community is riddled with cancer. We are told we can't eat the fish and animals have tumours.

It's just insanity."

"If I had my wish, I'd like to see no more tar sands but it's not going to happen so at least don't expand it," she said.

No matter the results of the NAFTA challenge, the findings of the CEC investigation will not hold judicial power. "This is one of the initial problems with the commission," said Marshall. "It can't even rule on

the fact that the law is being broken."

The CEC presents the evidence with a factual record for and against the allegations on whether environmental laws are being upheld by the government. To proceed with a factual record investigation, two of the three NAFTA member countries must vote to pursue the study. Whether or not to publicly release the factual record is also subject to a vote.

"We found that even when they do undertake to investigate it can take them many, many years just to complete the investigation," said Elaine MacDonald, a senior scientist at Ecojustice. She said the CEC is "not a very helpful tool when you want to get government to act on something."

OIL CRASH

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...of Saskatchewan. "Normally if they see this kind of oversupply they cut back their production and allow for the price to remain up. That is causing the price to sag because of the oversupply," said Dancsok.

In Canada, Alberta is especially dependant on oil, and with rumblings of a recession hitting the province, costly ventures like the oil sands will be hit first.

"Suncor's situation is a little bit

different. They've got a lot of oil sands production and that is a high cost way of getting oil out of the ground. So it's going to be projects like Suncor's that are going to be the

"IT'S INCREDIBLE HOW SOMETHING SO FAR AWAY COULD HAVE SUCH A LARGE EFFECT ON ALL OF US OUT HERE... IT AFFECTS EVERYTHING."

- FORMER EMPLOYEE OF SUNCOR

first to announce cut backs," said Dancsok.

"Fuck OPEC," said the former Suncor employee. Now living in Edmonton she is taking house keeping jobs, while applying for other jobs.

"What do I do? You have to invest time and money in a trade before it starts to pay off and disruptions like this cause a lot of inconveniences," said the ex-oil worker.

With the third-largest proven oil reserves, 168 billion barrels, Alberta's downturn is already being felt in the world.

Statistics Canada announced manufacturing sales had declined

1.4 per cent in province and a potential decline of \$4.5 billion in Albertan oil royalties. "I think this is a wakeup call," said Bramble.

"We need to seriously start considering alternative energy. Renewable energy, environmentally friendly sources of energy, and energy less demanding on our environment including human beings. Our health, safety, and economic safety included."

TAKING IT TO THE STREETS

"HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THE CHANGE IN OIL PRICES?"



"WE WORK FOR THE GOVERNMENT AND ACTUALLY THE OIL PRICES EFFECTS US GREATLY AS WE ARE ON A HIRING FREEZE RIGHT NOW. AND THE REVENUE THAT IS COMING IN IS JUST NOT THE SAME."

-TAMARA BISSON



"I THINK IT'S GOOD DRIVING WISE, BUT LIKE ECONOMICALLY I DON'T THINK IT'S VERY GOOD BECAUSE A LOT OF PEOPLE ARE GOING TO BE LAID OFF."

-JACOB LABOCCETTA



"RIGHT NOW IT'S GREAT, BUT I'M WORRIED ABOUT IT GOING BACK UP."

-LARENA HOEBER



"I THINK IT'S REALLY SAD THAT EVERYONE'S VERY HAPPY THAT IT IS SO LOW BECAUSE IT'S NOT GOOD FOR SASKATCHEWAN'S ECONOMY OVERALL."

-DYLAN ISTACE



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University of Regina**

WITNESS BLANKET ON DISPLAY



Photo by Dylan Bernhardt

The Witness Blanket, which is made of artifacts from Canada's residential school past, on display at the University of Regina.

Dylan Bernhardt @dylanbernhardt

A tattered drum. A pair of worn leather skates. Behind a pane of glass, two severed ponytails arranged artfully. The Witness Blanket is a large scale art installation that collects artifacts from Canada's residential school past, and displays them in a carved wooden frame.

The piece was created by Carey Newman, a master carver who travelled the country searching for pieces to incorporate in the display. The display arrived at the University of Regina on Jan. 5. It is being showcased in the university's research and innovation center foyer.

"Overall, we just want more of the story about the residential school system and the residential school experience to be out there," said Rosy Hartman, the project coordinator. "So many Canadians aren't really fully aware of what happened in residential schools, the lasting impact that the residential school experience has had on indigenous communities."

The Witness Blanket contains many artifacts from around Canada, reclaimed from sources ranging from residential schools to government buildings. Hartman explained that the artifacts were collected from survivors and those wishing to work towards reconciliation. They did so using pre-existing support networks.

"We were always very cautious about how we approached each

community. The last thing I wanted to do was cause any pain to survivors or bring up something they didn't really want to have brought up again," said Hartman.

Artifacts range from clothing and correspondence to pieces of churches and Canada's Parliament Buildings. The tapestry of unique relics weaves together a unique and sombre story.

"Carey also wanted to make sure that the blanket incorporated all sides of the story and looked at the concept of reconciliation," Hartman said.

The Blanket's arrival in Regina was no accident. "Bringing it here was very important. The last residential school in Canada to close was just down the road from here," said Shauneen Pete, the executive lead of Indigenization at the University of Regina. Pete participated in assembling the piece as well as its unveiling.

"It can be a really emotional first response for people," Pete said. "There were moments, like when we opened up one of the crates, we started to slide out the installation and there were two braids in a case with glass over them. To see it was really difficult for me."

"I'm speechless," said Telly Prettyshield, a First Nations University



Photo by Dylan Bernhardt

A leather drum is one of the many artifacts showcased by the Witness Blanket.

of Canada student who was observing the display. "My parents went to boarding school. This whole thing represents the loss and survival of aboriginal culture."

The Witness Blanket arrived at the university shortly before the unveiling of the university's new 2015-2020 Strategic Plan. The plan bears the name *peyak aski kikawinaw*, a Cree phrase which translates to "We are one with Mother Earth." It looks to indigenize the university, and to support Aboriginal students, staff, and faculty.

Hartman also explained Carey and her are hoping to create an app that will allow observers to access the stories and background information that she and Newman found while building the blanket.

The Blanket will be available for viewing until Feb. 27 during university hours. "We invite people to bring families and bring their friends to come and see the installation. This is its fourth stop in a seven-year tour so we won't be seeing it again for awhile," said Pete.

WHATCOTT TALKS A LOT



Photo by Eric Westhaver

Bill Whatcott's appearance on campus is interrupted by a protester.

Eric Westhaver

Bill Whatcott's views are – to put it lightly – controversial.

His views on abortion and LG-BTQ rights are far beyond the mainstream. Some might even say they go beyond the pale. He's fought the law. He's been fined by the provincial government, gone to Canada's Supreme Court several times, and was arrested during a demonstration at the University of Regina last year.

On Jan. 12, he came back to campus.

Whatcott returned after a legal battle stemming from his arrest last April.

Whatcott and a partner, American-born Peter Labarbera, were arrested for criminal mischief after a protest, which saw them butt heads with counter-protesters and campus police.

Whatcott himself summed up his reasons for appearing, saying, "It's about exercising the right for Christians and social conservatives to freely express their opinions on publicly-funded campuses."

Whatcott brought a display and paraphernalia with him, including pamphlets from "ex-gay" activists and his now-notorious "gospel condoms," anti-gay messages packaged

in prophylactic-like plastic.

The large pictures of aborted fetuses that were prominent in his appearance last April stayed home. Whatcott also referenced what he calls "homofascism," defining it as, "silencing any speech critical of homosexuality."

Reception to Whatcott's visit was frosty at best. A Facebook group created by local activists, called "Block Whatcott", has more than 200 members. By contrast, only one or two students passing Whatcott's display voiced their support.

"We just want to demonstrate to students that might be affected by his message that there is support on campus, and not everyone stands with what he has to say," said Deidre Brandt, one of the group's founders.

Sonia Stanger, a member of the Facebook group, added, "There needs to be a differentiation in between freedom of speech and preaching hate."

Whatcott reacted to the group by labelling its members as "sodomites, anarchists, (and) transvestites" on his website, adding "If you can go onto this group's Facebook page and see their member's profiles you will quickly discern these souls are lost and 'unchurched.'"

At the protests, the mood between Whatcott and the protesters

was surprisingly civil. No violence was reported, police weren't called, and there was minimal shouting and yelling.

Protesters brought signs that were often humorous in nature, with sayings like, "Bill Whatcott's Hair is a Sin" and "Wookies Love Everyone." At one point, Whatcott even took out his phone and took a picture of the protesters.

"WE JUST WANT TO DEMONSTRATE TO STUDENTS THAT MIGHT BE AFFECTED BY HIS MESSAGE THAT THERE IS SUPPORT ON CAMPUS, AND NOT EVERYONE STANDS WITH WHAT HE HAS TO SAY."

-DEIDRE BRANDT

Whatcott added later, "Kudos to the U of R and kudos to 99 per cent of the students for being polite, and either ignoring me or even being receptive. You have the right to do both."

"We're not here to have a fight. We're not here to get in a scrap," said UR Pride vice-chair Lisa Phillipson. "We're not here to butt heads about anything, it's going to be a peaceful protest."

Free speech was one of the days hot topics, and each side had their own interpretations. The demonstrators point of view was summed

up by Stanger, who said, "Just because freedom of speech applies doesn't mean that the university has to give him a platform for that speech, especially if it's hate speech." Stanger added, "I think it's disappointing, but I don't think it has the same effect he thinks it does. I don't think he's convincing anyone."

Whatcott himself shared surprisingly similar views, saying that a

display with foul language, pornography, or racial hatred should be restricted.

However, Whatcott added, "Opinions and moral views, even you don't agree with them, you should tolerate them, and the U of R did that."

Whatcott considered the day a success, saying "They obviously have their views and one display of mine probably won't change most of them, but if they allow the display, and if the same rules apply to me as to them, then I can't complain."

HASHTAGGING FOR MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS



Photo by Rebekah Lesko

URSU's VP of external affairs, Daniella Zemlak, wears a jersey signed by Theo Fleury during "Pop the Stigma" week.

Rebekah Lesko

@bekalesko

One in five Canadians will experience mental illness at some point in their lives, according to the Canadian Institute of Health Research.

However, 27 per cent of Canadians are fearful of being around people who suffer from serious mental illness, according to the Canadian Medical Association.

Dr. Kent Klippenstine, manager at the University of Regina's counselling services, believes simply because mental illness "is not as outwardly obvious," it doesn't lessen its severity. "Mental illness is an illness. It's no different than a broken arm, cancer or anything like that. The only thing is, a lot of it's not visible," said Klippenstine.

"A lot of people, I think, don't understand unless they've gone through or have someone close to

them go through mental illness. They don't understand how severe it is."

"We're not just going to say it's a problem, but try to create solutions," Klippenstine added.

Bell Canada is hoping to continue the discussion about mental health awareness by using social media. On Jan. 28 the telecommunications company will launch its fifth annual Bell Let's Talk Day. Bell will donate five cents to Canadian mental health services for each Facebook share that uses the Bell Let's Talk Day image and each tweet hashtagged #BellLetsTalk on Twitter.

For Bell Canada and Bell Aliant customers, all text messages and wireless and long distance calls will also each contribute a nickel.

In 2014, Canadians responded with a total 109,451,718 messages, raising \$5,472,585.90. Bell committed an original donation of \$50 million. With four Bell Let's Talk days,

the total donation stands at \$67.5 million for mental health initiatives in Canada.

Another attempt to bring awareness occurred last November, when the University of Regina hosted "Pop the Stigma." The campaign was the first mental wellness week for the U of R, with the assigned hashtag, #pophstigma. The week included yoga classes, a dog therapy room and ended with presentations by

"I don't want people to go through that, because it was really years of unnecessary suffering that could have been dealt with," said Kezima.

The "Pop the Stigma" campaign was directed by Daniella Zemlak, the University of Regina Students' Union vice-president of external affairs. When it comes to mental illness, Zemlak believes "we are so afraid to tell people and ask for help."

"IT JUST NEEDS TO BE TALKED ABOUT. THE CONVERSATION NEEDS TO STAY OPEN."

-DANIELLA ZEMLAK

Kirstin Kuka, Paige Kezima and former NHL player Theo Fleury.

The CMA says two in three people suffer in silence fearing judgment and rejection, but Kezima told her personal story to a crowd of approximately 300. After she "grew up not talking about it," Kezima is now using her voice.

Zemlak said URSU raised around \$10,000, for a fund that will reimburse students who require off-campus emergency counselling.

"Mental health issues, however you do it, whether it's a day, a week, a month, I don't care, it just needs to be talked about. The conversation needs to stay open," Zemlak said.

If you'd like to join the conversation on
Wednesday January 28th:



Facebook.com/BellLetsTalk



#BellLetsTalk
@Bell_LetsTalk

#BellLetsTalk



Executive director of Carmichael Outreach, Cora Sellers.

Photo by Carlos Prieto

COLD WEATHER STRATEGY HELPS HOMELESS IN REGINA

Carlos Prieto
@carlosprietoUSB

With homelessness increasing at a faster pace than the government can assess, shelters and social service institutions have decided to step in and help. In Regina, these institutions have prepared a cold weather strategy to provide people on the streets with accommodation for nights where the temperature could represent a threat to their lives.

Started in 2013 by the ministry of social services and United Way, the strategy aims to direct both individuals and families to shelters where they could spend the night. Some shelters, like the Salvation Army, are able to accommodate the people during the day and serve meals.

Institutions like United Way, Souls Harbour Rescue Mission and the YMCA shelter more people than they are prepared to accommodate in normal circumstances. Depending on the case of the individual, however, the person might be redirected to a specific location.

John McFadyen, executive director of Mobile Crisis Services, said intoxicated people or people with behavioural issues are one of the toughest to assess. In some cases, they might be temporarily taken out of a shelter. Some cases have even demanded to keep people in brief detoxification units until their conditions allow them to return to where they would spend the night.

The community also plays an im-

portant role in the strategy. The City of Regina has told its employees to alert Mobile Crisis or the city police if they see a homeless person during extreme weather. "We have tracked the emergency shelter's space every night and that information is available on our website. It is available to anyone," said McFadyen.

For cases where no accommodation is available in the shelters, Mobile Crisis takes responsibility to find people a place to sleep. Depending on each case, the possibilities range from a hotel room to city police cells.

McFadyen said the cold weather strategy addresses immediate cases. More shelters operating in the city as well as the federal Housing First strategy are some long-term improvements he foresees.

Carmichael Outreach is another important institution for the cold weather strategy. Even though it does not provide shelter, it gives clothing and food to people in need. Like Mobile Crisis Services, Carmichael's staff and volunteers also help find shelter for people who need it.

Homelessness is an issue that goes beyond availability of shelters and affordable housing. Brain injuries and mental health issues also contribute to homelessness. In these cases, people require a supportive housing program that is able to understand their needs and help them get back on their feet.

Cora Sellers, executive director at Carmichael Outreach, said in some

cases people with addictions or mental health issues have refused to be helped. In her opinion, the people in Regina do not do enough to fight

Carmichael. Last semester, over 30 business students volunteered at Carmichael; which, to Sellers, indicates a growing commitment from

'...UNDERNEATH THE ADDICTIONS, MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES AND POVERTY, IT'S NOT ABOUT A MORAL JUDGMENT BUT SEE THAT EVERYONE IS A HUMAN BEING.'

- CORA SELLERS

homelessness in the city. "There is a certain level of apathy, where people are blaming (the affected) for homelessness and there's not a lot of general compassion," Sellers said.

Nevertheless, through Carmichael, Sellers has witnessed many acts of kindness

The director said there have been a significant number of students from the University of Regina who have decided to volunteer at

the university to helping the issue of homelessness in the city. However, she thinks the effort could be bigger.

"I'd like to see the community stop judging people. I'd like them to look past the stigma and realize that underneath the addictions, mental health issues and poverty, it's not about a moral judgment but see that everyone is a human being," said Sellers.



Photo by Carlos Prieto
Several institutions in Regina are working together to help people deal with Regina's cold weather.

FUNDRAISERS GET A BOOST

Creeden Martell

@CreedenMartell

Saskatchewan's charitable endeavours have a few more pennies in the pot. The Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Association recently handed out approximately \$1.5 million in charitable gaming grants to over 700 organizations and groups across Saskatchewan.

Groups fundraising through licensed charitable gaming activities such as bingos, lotteries, or poker tournaments received a grant equal to 25 per cent of net proceeds raised.

SLGA spokesperson David Morris explained the process with a simple and concise example. "If a group raised \$1,000, they would receive \$250 back," Morris said.

Licensed fundraisers do not have to apply for the grants, either. Once the fundraising numbers are submitted, the SLGA automatically calculates the figures and a grant issued on a quarterly basis.

Organizations can put the money toward upkeep of facilities like hockey rinks or building new facilities, for example.

The SLGA handed out 155 grants in Regina alone. The value of the



Photo by Creeden Martell

Licensed activities such as poker tournaments and bingos are just two of many activities that can generate a provincial grant.

155 grants is over \$300,000.

Regina grant recipients included the Regina Big Brothers Association, which received \$4,544.

Bright Eyes Dog Rescue received a grant of \$2,260. Carmichael Outreach received \$2,482.

"WITHOUT THIS GRANTING SCHEME, OUR FACILITIES WOULD CEASE TO RUN WITHOUT OTHER MAJOR FUNDRAISING,"

-JAIME HELGASON

The Foam Lake Recreation Centre in Foam Lake, Sask. received a grant of \$31,757.

Jaime Helgason, leisure services director for Foam Lake, explained that a Combine Lotto was responsi-

ble for the grant. "Without this granting scheme, our facilities would cease to run without other major fundraising," Helgason said.

Helgason said Foam Lake's grants help facilities such as the community hall, the golf and country club, and the recreational centre. "It's nice to have," she said. "Not a lot of communities have that guaranteed income."

"One bigger project is better than 50 bake sales," Helgason concluded.

Northern communities also benefit from such programs.

Vince Natomagan explained how this process helps a local Pinehouse Lake community radio station CFNK. Money is raised through licensed activities such as bingos and the grant helps pay Michif-speaking DJs for CFNK.

The money received also helps pay for bingo callers, bingo cards, radio equipment, rent for the facilities, and any basic necessities to keep operating.

"We would have zero income if not for these," Natomagan said.

THE RISING COST OF SAYING "I DO"

Taylor Rattray

@tayrattray

Wedding season may be months away, but Regina will see a large amount of bridal fever in the coming weeks.

On Jan. 25, Regina's annual *A Wedding Expo* will be held at the Conexus Arts Centre. The one-day event will feature over 100 of southern Saskatchewan's retailers and service providers. But despite the convenience of the event, planning a wedding can still be a stressful feat, especially on a budget.

DebraDee Weddings, a wedding-dress boutique in Regina, is one of the headliners for the fashion show at *A Wedding Expo*. Owner Naomi Braun sympathizes with brides dealing with the costs of a wedding. She believes the cost of wedding dresses in particular has gone up significantly. "I got married about 11 years ago, and the amount of money we were looking to spend on a dress was way different than now. Now, you're looking at spending \$2,000 on a dress that maybe 10 years ago, you would have to spend \$500 or \$600 on. It (has changed) substantially," said Braun.

Bride Gill Keifer got engaged in November but is already planning her June wedding. The cost of a

wedding is higher than she initially thought. "I find there are a lot of cost differences as soon as it's something used for a wedding. If you look at limo services, there's a cost difference as soon as it's used for a wedding," said Keifer. "It's frustrating that things can be a different cost as soon as it becomes (something for) a wedding."

With a budget in the \$10,000 to \$15,000 range, Keifer has cut any unnecessary expenses. "So I think the hardest thing is prioritizing. If you want to go on a budget, you have to pick (the) priorities of your wedding. If you want those pictures that are magazine-spread-worthy, you're going to pay for them," said Keifer.

Cassandra Bradshaw, one of the owners of Old New Borrowed Blue Wedding and Event Planning, recommends brides create a budget from the start, designating where they want to spend their money. Despite this, unexpected costs often spring up.

"One of the most shocking costs for our brides is once they start looking into flowers and garlands," said Bradshaw. As a result, many brides have veered from the traditional wedding. "We are seeing more and more (brides) do New Years weddings or weddings in off-



Photo by Taylor Rattray

Owner of DebraDee Weddings Naomi Braun stands next to their wedding dress collection.

seasons because it is a little cheaper," said Bradshaw.

University of Regina student Debora Warkentin is also planning a lower budget wedding. To cut costs, she's gotten creative.

"For the flowers, I'm getting my bouquets done at a flower shop. But for some of the decorations, we will just get a whole bunch of flowers from Costco or something, and then arrange it ourselves because, really, it's not that hard to do and it's a lot cheaper," said Warkentin.

To have the type of wedding she

envisioned without going over budget, Warkentin is also using any connections she has. "I have a friend who does graphic design, so she's doing my invitations. So that's a lot cheaper, too, when you have connections like that. My photographer is also somebody's friend that I know. She's really good at what's she's doing; she did our engagement pictures. So that's another cost that we've cut down," she said.

"I would say that people are pretty smart about their weddings in Saskatchewan," said Bradshaw.

CHARLIE HEBDO'S MUHAMMAD CARTOON RAISES DEBATE

Rafique Bhuiyan
@rafiquebhuiyan

On Jan. 7, two Islamic extremist brothers massacred 17 people at the Charlie Hebdo magazine's office in Paris. The magazine is known for cartoons that poke fun at Islam and other religions, as well as public figures. It's not surprising that, in its first issue since the attack, Charlie Hebdo again put Muhammad on the cover. But this time, instead of showing the Prophet in an unflattering light, the magazine struck a far different tone—and was received by some Muslims in a far different way.

"I certainly hope that it does not bring any violence. Even if you want to talk in an Islamic perspective, the Prophet Muhammad was insulted, offended many times in his life, but he never responded with violence. So respond to it appropriately or ignore it," said Amir Aboguddah, president of Muslim Student Association at the University of Regina.

While the published cartoons will inevitably be hurtful to Muslims, the reaction must be a reflection of the teachings of the Prophet all Muslims love, Aboguddah said. Not violence, but enduring patience, tolerance, gentleness and mercy will be the best option for all Muslims, he added.

There's nothing in the Quran, Islam's primary text, about depicting the Prophet. However, according

to the Hadith stories and sayings attributed to Muhammad and his companions, the Prophet discouraged Muslims from making images of him. Many Muslims think the depicting the Prophet is offensive and deliberately provocative.

"My initial thought is that the cover is a near perfect response to the tragedy because of high emotion after the attack," said Aboguddah. He also added, "I think to draw this cartoon and publish is unwise and it is not the best form of freedom of expression. Satire is generally aimed at powerful people and people of authority."

Many have criticized the magazine for satirizing the religion of a marginalized community, when satire is meant to poke at the powerful. One of the former employees of Charlie Hebdo, Olivier Cyran, quit in 2005 and said the magazine moved from satire to Islamophobia, said Aboguddah.

Aboguddah is not pleased by any depictions of Muhammad, but said it's clear that this Hebdo cover, unlike others, is not meant to make fun of Muslims. He said he respects the right to free speech, but there appears to be a double standard when it comes to what Western society and Charlie Hebdo find suitable for mocking.

The cover illustration is relatively mild by the standards of previous Charlie Hebdo cartoons — including

one showing Muhammad naked on all fours — and there is plenty in the image to cause outrage. Many Muslims consider illustrations of the Prophet to be blasphemous and will find it hard to accept the drawing.

"When I was a teenager, I used to read Charlie Hebdo a lot. I have mixed feelings because I have lots of Muslim friends, but I love Charlie Hebdo," said Angeline Dubois, a research centre coordinator at l'Institut francais, University of Regina.

She was in Paris when the Charlie Hebdo office was attacked. "I was almost crying," she said.

In Canada, no English newspaper printed Charlie Hebdo's cartoons, but nearly all Quebec newspapers showed their support and printed the cartoon on their front pages.

"It's kind of Quebec culture. To support French newspapers they took this initiative, it is normal. I am not a fan of Charlie Hebdo but I read it to laugh and I love their integrity," said Frederic Dupre, original-

ly from Quebec and now working as a manager community engagement at l'Institut francais, at the University of Regina.

The post-attack issue will be available in six languages, including English, Arabic and Turkish. Only the French, Italian and Turkish versions will be printed. The other three - English, Spanish and Arabic - will be offered in electronic form, according to their online news.

Before the attacks, the weekly had a normal press run of about 65,000. This week, it is expected to rise to 5 million — only about a million fewer than the number of people who took to the streets Sunday across France in a historic display of solidarity against terrorism.



Photo by Paige Kreutzwieser

The University of Regina School of Journalism offered "Je suis Charlie" posters to show support against the recent shootings at the Charlie Hebdo office.

OVERSHADOWS NIGERIA MASSACRE

Paige Kreutzwieser
@paigekreutz

The shootings at the Charlie Hebdo office on Jan. 7, much like 9/11, bombarded the front pages. Yet, the Boko Haram massacre in Nigeria, during the same time, failed to raise similar media attention.

Beginning with a seizure of a military base on Jan. 3, the militant group Boko Haram attacked the northeastern Nigerian town of Baga in what Amnesty International called in a press statement the "deadliest act in a catalogue of increasingly heinous attacks carried out by the group."

The Amnesty report states that hundreds — and possibly reaching over 2,000 — civilians were killed by the group in Baga and surrounding areas throughout the week. Released satellite pictures show immense devastation to the area but numbers are debated, with the Nigerian government stating 150 deaths.

John Tackaverry, media relations for Amnesty International Canada, says one factor for deciding what issues to cover is that ongoing conflicts often do not receive the same amount of attention in the media when an anomaly like the Charlie Hebdo attack happens.

Another factor for diminished attention is that "information is disseminated in the world, in the media, based upon ease of access to information about the incidents," said Tackaverry.

Jason Warick, reporter at the Star-Phoenix, agrees. "(The) reality is that Boko Haram has been killing large numbers of people for quite a long time and there's been an unspoken war in that country for a long time," he said.

Warick said even more people are dying of malaria in Africa and "it's quite arbitrary to try and pick the things that are most important."

David McGuffin, CBC's Africa cor-

respondent from 2008 to 2010, said limited resources and funding cuts "hurts the ability of Canadians ultimately to understand what's going on." CBC's Africa bureau was cut in 2012.

McGuffin, now a senior editor on National Public Radio's Morning Edition, said when mainstream media takes a "fireman approach," sending reporters into a region for just a few days, it gives a sense to the public that the Boko Haram massacre "is a forgotten conflict and probably (only) to the detriment of the people living through it."

Robert Biezenski, instructor of sociology at the University of Regina, said certain media isn't covering many issues in Africa, Latin America, and Asia for different reasons: western political interests.

"It's not a blind spot; it's not just that that they can't see. It is quite deliberate," said Biezenski.

Biezenski explained that media in

western countries give attention to stories like Charlie Hebdo because of their political allies. "Thousands of people are killed every single year (in Latin America) and we're lucky if it even makes the back page of the papers in the West, let alone the front page," he said.

Financial resources, dangerous conditions, the diminishing number of hands on deck, and political interests may all be factors in deciding what issues to cover. What remains for McGuffin, however, is that Charlie Hebdo is an important story that deserves coverage.

"I'm lucky in that I've worked for two organizations that spend money on reporting, that actually spend money sending journalists into places that are difficult and they are willing to wait for that story to come out. They are willing to spend money to take the time to get the story right."



Photo by Kendall Latimer

Saskatchewan's film industry is starting to rebound from the death of the tax credit program, but some grads are still motivated to find work elsewhere.

FILM from page 1

and Creative Sask," said Mark Wihak, head of the U of R film department.

"Creative Sask can eventually fill a need to help develop a different kind of industry here, I think one more focused on productions coming out of Saskatchewan rather than the service industry, which lures productions into the province," said Wihak.

The Saskatchewan-made film *Wolfcop*, released in 2014, was the last film to receive funds from the now defunct tax credit. Despite the lack of a tax credit, a sequel is in the works.

Candy Fox, a film student at the First Nations University of Canada and U of R, was recently named one of Canada's top film students by the Toronto International Film Festival. Her documentary *Backroads* tells Camilla Stonechild's journey through family abuse.

Three recent graduates of the university's film department are developing a feature film set to release this year. Similarly, a faculty member is also working on a different feature film set to release this year.

Wihak said the tax credit cut has

"THERE HAS BEEN SUCCESS HERE BUT DESPITE THOSE SUCCESSES IT'S STILL FEW AND FAR BETWEEN WHEN IT COMES TO PEOPLE FINDING WORK AND MONEY FOR PROJECTS TO GET OFF THE GROUND."

- LUCAS FRISON

created a loss of mentorship, expertise, and infrastructure in the province but it's not all bad. "There's actually more in place now than there was when I graduated in 1990," he said. "I'm optimistic that our students who want to stay in province

could make a go of it here, but the loss of the tax credit hurt the province."

After cutting the \$8 million program, the Saskatchewan government controversially provided *Corner Gas: The Movie* a \$2 million

subsidy when cast returned to the province this summer. A quarter of the funds came from Creative Sask and the remainder was supplied by Tourism Sask.

Wihak, "but the reality is fewer Saskatchewan people worked on that film than would have if a tax credit had been in place."

Frison doesn't claim to be an expert on the issue, but points out the tax credit brought money to the province, citing the Hollywood film *Just Friends* and the award-winning *Corner Gas*. "The tax credit is why people could stay here, because they knew projects like that were coming," he said.

"For a film industry to succeed and thrive here we do need those industry professionals (who moved away). It is about the money. I think we would need a new tax credit in some form," said Frison. "You're going to hear 'No' before you hear 'Yes' and if you want to make that film you're going to keep working until you hear a 'Yes'. That would be the same with or without the tax credit," said Wihak.

"The end result was great that *Corner Gas* was shot here," said Wihak.

CROSSWORD FUN

Sports Films

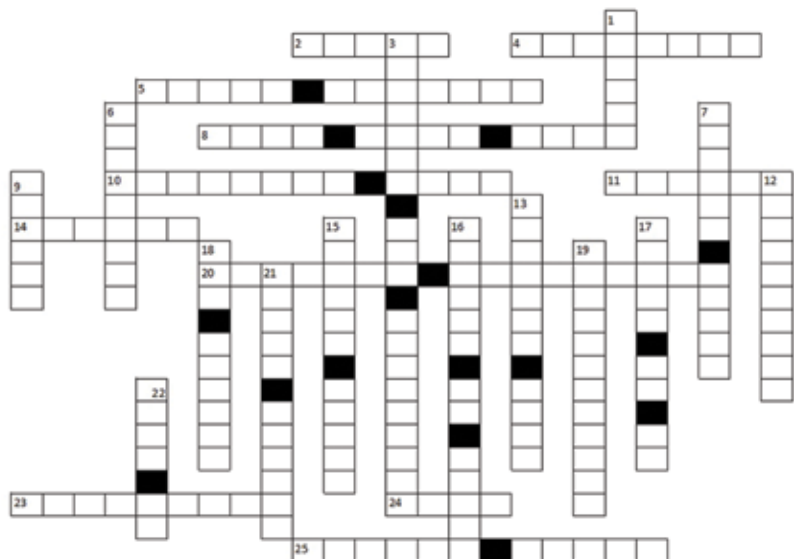
Across:

- 2. Philadelphia Champion
- 4. H2O Tackler
- 5. Bending it like....
- 8. If you build it....
- 10. Hard as "The Rock" Football
- 11. Remember the....
- 14. Golden Retriever
- 20. Small Budget Baseball team
- 23. Rubin Carter
- 24. NHL Tough Guy
- 25. Space Jam

Down:

- 1. VW Racer
- 3. Punting and Yelling
- 6. A True Underdog Story
- 7. Million Dollar Baby
- 9. A _____ Of Their Own
- 12. Tobey Maguire's Horse
- 13. The Blindside
- 15. Who's the man?
- 16. Same Sex Figure Skating
- 17. The Toro Cheer Squad
- 18. Help me, Help you
- 19. Trio of Baseball Losers
- 21. Replacement QB: Falco
- 22. Misfit Roller Derby

Created By: Kendall Latimer & Britton Gray



RINK MISSING CRUCIAL ELEMENTS



Photo by Britton Gray

Snow has covered the surface of the outdoor rink in Harbour Landing's Fairchild Park for the entire winter causing it to be unskatable.

Britton Gray

@BrittonGray

Hockey players and skaters around Regina may have noticed a brand new outdoor skating complex in Harbour Landing. Unfortunately for them, the rink is currently unusable with no timetable

drifts nearly as high as the boards themselves. The zamboni doors are chained shut and the player gates are blocked by three-foot snowdrifts. It makes the rink almost unusable.

Thanks to a few residents, the gate has been dug out so that people can still squeeze in. For most, that

“THEY LOOKED INSIDE AND JUST TURNED AWAY.”

- AMANDA FEDERINK

on when it will be opened.

The project by Dream Development, formerly Dundee Developments, includes a regulation-sized rink with composite boards, multiple gates and screens on all sides. There are two sets of basketball nets for use in the summer.

Then there's the skate shack which is unlike any other in the city. Unlike the wooden sheds of old, this shack is the size of a medium-sized house. It has faux rock siding, wooden benches on the outside and a rubberized pathway to protect your skates. It seems like a skater's outdoor paradise with everything a skater could want.

It's only missing one thing: the ice.

Currently the rink's concrete surface is covered with snow

gives them the opportunity to let their dogs run around off the leash.

Amanda Federink, a resident of the townhouses near the rink, takes her dog there often in the winter because of the enclosed space and lack of ice in the rink.

“If you're going to put in a rink, you may as well utilize it,” Federink said. “There's a shack and everything.” She explained that she and others use it as a place to let their dogs run around but that “it should be utilized for its actual purpose.” When asked if she knew who was in charge of the rink she replied by saying, “Not a clue.”

So who is in charge of maintaining the rink and courts?

Louise Folk, director of development services for the City of Re-



Photo by Britton Gray

Snow drifts as high as the boards themselves have formed inside of the rink.

gina, said the property is the “asset of the developer” and that the city is currently in the process of transferring the rink from Dream Development to the City of Regina. Folk also said the city is “hoping to have the space programmable as soon as it's ready to be developed.” While she wasn't able to give a timetable on when that might be, she did say that it was unlikely that the rink would be in use this season.

Dream Development was unable to give a comment as of press time. “I think it was last night we were out here and a car pulled up and they got out and you could see sticks and skates. They looked inside and just turned away,” Federink recalls.

The new outdoor rink is set up to be a place for families and individuals alike to go out and enjoy the weather, no matter the season. For now, however, looking is the only thing residents can do.

FARMING FROM YOUR PHONE



Photo by Ashley Robinson

The landscape of farming is changing and smartphones are becoming an important part of farm equipment.

Ashley Robinson @ashleymr1993

Farming on your phone is not something that first comes to mind when you think of agriculture, yet farmers across the prairies are using smartphone apps more than ever in daily work on their farms.

Chris Claeys, a grain farmer at Deloraine, Man., said his farm has been almost completely paperless for the last five years. Claeys uses apps on his phone for almost anything you can think of for farming. "I use DTN: Ag Weather. I use iFarm for my scale on my grain cart, it's linked together.

helpful to farmers. "Farmers' business and activities are very mobile. They're out of their residences most of the day and it's very inconvenient for most producers to carry around a computer or anything like that," he said.

There are even apps that can help you to monitor your farm equipment. One app that Claeys uses is JDLink from John Deere. "On the JD Link (app) you can tell how much fuel is in all of your equipment, and when all of your service has last been done, and where your equipment is at. And then if there's any problems like code wise... like if

to do anything and everything off of your phone, he said.

Weather apps are particularly popular with farmers. "I use the weather network app like six times a day," said Wood.

Claeys uses DTN: Ag Weather Tools on his farm. "DTN is really cool because for every piece of land you own it has a virtual rain gauge that can tell how long the radar has been over and how intense the rain has been on your land," said Claeys.

A popular agriculture app is the myViterra app. "That one is pretty cool because it tells you the prices for all the month and all the grains...

"FARMERS' BUSINESS AND ACTIVITIES ARE VERY MOBILE. THEY'RE OUT OF THEIR RESIDENCES MOST OF THE DAY AND IT'S VERY INCONVENIENT FOR MOST PRODUCERS TO CARRY AROUND A COMPUTER OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT."

-RICHARD GRAY

I use Dropbox a lot. I have GoHarvest on here. I have Evernote," said Claeys.

Another tech-savvy farmer is Levi Wood from Pense, Sask. "I think that they (apps) save me time and are easy to use... I have a quick glance at them during the day when I'm busy... Rather than having to phone someone or go to a computer and look, you can easily access that information," said Wood.

Richard Gray, a professor of agricultural economics at the University of Saskatchewan sees apps as

there is a problem with the header or something it shows up on your phone," said Claeys.

It's not surprising that you can monitor all of your equipment easily on your phone when you talk to other people in the world of apps. Alec Couros, a professor of education and media at the University of Regina, is well known for his knowledge of apps. "It's almost impossible to have a new product today and not have an app," said Couros. Agriculture is just following the growing trend in the tech world of being able

Every second as the markets are open it changes live," said Claeys.

"(Apps) certainly have made farmers more connected. They can in real time get information on prices. It certainly helped them as well with some of the calculations and other things that they need make to farming faster and more efficient," said Gray.

Popular smartphone farming Apps

DTN: Ag Weather

The next generation of on-farm weather information -- including field-level observations, forecast information and analysis

iFarm

iFarm app from the Irish Farmers' Association communicating and servicing the needs of Agri-business.

GoHarvest

The GoHarvest application gives S, W and T series combine operators the ability to optimize their 2012 or newer machine as they enter the harvest season.

JD Link

Using JDLink™ information to optimize a machine is no different than pulling a soil sample to identify what nutrients are needed to produce a high yield.

myViterra

myViterra mobile is a commodity price app that allows you to access Viterra commodity prices 24/7.