

Check out what has been going on in Saskatoon Silver Springs and throughout the province!



Provincial Point of View August 16, 2013

SIR PAUL McCARTNEY



Trish and I were among the enthusiastic crowd of about 40,000 people at Mosaic Stadium in Regina to see the incredible performance of Sir Paul McCartney on Wednesday night.

What a wonderful opportunity to enjoy the legendary music of McCartney's great hits!

The spirit and pride of Saskatchewan people displayed was just phenomenal. Once again, concert

goers were treated to a spectacular performance. The evening showed our growing provinces capability of hosting world class events.

SASKATCHEWAN LEADS THE NATION IN EMPLOYMENT GROWTH

Saskatchewan had the strongest employment growth and lowest unemployment in Canada again in July, according to the latest Statistics Canada report released August 9.

Employment in the province rose to 564,100 people (seasonally unadjusted) in July. This was a 4.0 per cent jump over July 2012 and the highest growth rate among the provinces.

With more people entering the labour market, the province's unemployment rate rose slightly to 4.0 per cent in July, up 0.3 percentage points over June 2013. This was still the lowest rate among the provinces and well below the national rate of 7.2 per cent.

Saskatchewan's youth are also finding jobs, with the province's youth unemployment rate falling drastically from 7.5 per cent to 6.4 per cent. This is the lowest youth unemployment rate among the provinces and less than half the national average of 13.9 per cent. This coincides with a jump in the population aged 15 years and older, which reached an all-time high in July of 826,800.

"The strength of our Saskatchewan people have helped to secure our reputation as the place in Canada to live, work and invest," Energy and Resources Minister Tim McMillan said on behalf of Economy Minister Bill Boyd. "Our government looks forward to continued growth both in our economy and in our labour market, as we take advantage of new and exciting opportunities that abound in Saskatchewan."

[Saskatchewan Leads the Nation in Employment Growth](#)

FRIENDS OF THE BOWL FOUNDATION ANNOUNCEMENT



I was pleased to attend the Friends of the Bowl Foundation Announcement on behalf of Premier Brad Wall and the Government of Saskatchewan on August 13.

The Friends of the Bowl Foundation is a volunteer, not-for-profit group that has come together to raise funds and implement some long overdue upgrades to the Bowl at Gordon Howe Park.

The Foundation announced Tuesday that Wright Construction has been chosen as the construction manager for the project. The funding for the upgrades is being split between the city and the foundation. Some upgrades will include installing artificial turf, upgrading the grounds, and installing a new score clock and light posts.

Thank you to the Friends of the Bowl Foundation and the City of Saskatoon for working to ensure the our city and high school football teams have an opportunity to develop their skills in a great facility.

EVENING UNDER THE STARS

The inaugural Evening Under the Stars fundraiser in support of the St. Paul's Hospital Foundation will take place August 21 at the Whitecap Sports Centre. The evening presents "Jeans n Classics" a fantastic combination of the music of Queen accompanied by the classic sounds of the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra.

Every dollar of profit raised from the event will be donated to the Foundation's purchase of Saskatchewan's first digital electron microscope, which will dramatically advance diagnoses for renal, cardiac, and neurological patients in the province.

The event is an amazing way to celebrate the natural outdoor prairie at its finest. Enjoy the First

Nation's culture at the Whitecap Sports Centre, located approximately 30km south of Saskatoon on Hwy 219 (turn right on Sports Centre Road).

I encourage you to go casual, go hungry, and go for fun with family and friends at Saskatoon's first Evening Under the Stars. For full event information and to purchase tickets please visit www.eveningunderthestars.ca.

WATER SECURITY AGENCY LAUNCHES ONLINE DRAINAGE CONSULTATION

The Water Security Agency is launching its first ever online consultation forum to receive input from Saskatchewan residents on agricultural drainage.

As Minister Responsible for the Water Security Agency, I commented, "We committed to developing new approaches and regulations on agricultural drainage in the 25 Year Saskatchewan Water Security Plan and this is a major step in that direction. This online forum offers an opportunity to have a large number of people share ideas and information to help us develop the best overall policy."

[Water Security Agency Launches Online Drainage Consultation](#)

2013 SASKATOON EXHIBITION ANOTHER GREAT SUCCESS



Congratulations to the 2013 Saskatoon Exhibition organizers, staff, and volunteers who did an outstanding job to make the 2013 exhibition so successful.

The exhibition is always one of our family's highlights of the summer. We had a fantastic time again this year. The total attendance reached 220,008 and I am sure that everyone who passed through the gates had a great time!

We will look forward to the 2014 Saskatoon Exhibition which will run from August 5 to August 10 next year!

PROVINCE SHOWS SURPLUS AT FIRST QUARTER

Saskatchewan remains on track to balance its books in 2013-14, with a pre-transfer surplus of \$33.0 million forecast for the General Revenue Fund (GRF).

The First Quarter Financial Report, released August 8, by Finance Minister Ken Krawetz, shows revenue is up \$11.8 million (0.1 per cent) from budget, primarily due to higher oil revenue.

“Saskatchewan’s economy is resilient and continues to perform well in 2013, with stronger-than-

expected employment growth and higher oil prices,” Krawetz said. “Through the first quarter, Saskatchewan’s economy and finances remain on track. And while it is too soon to know the specific impact, we have reduced our potash revenue forecast by \$21.3 million, largely to reflect uncertainty stemming from recent global potash market developments.”

[Province Shows Surplus at First Quarter](#)

SENIORS RIDE FOR JUST \$10 IN SEPTEMBER

The Saskatchewan Transportation Company (STC) will once again offer seniors the opportunity to explore Saskatchewan at a great price. Throughout the month of September, seniors 60+ will be able to ride anywhere along STC’s network for only \$10 one-way.

“September is a great time of year to get out and explore our province. Whether it is to visit friends and family, or for appointments, seniors can take advantage of this great offer to travel Saskatchewan,” Minister Responsible for STC Don McMorris said.

[Seniors Ride for Just \\$10 In September](#)

SASKATCHEWAN PATIENTS ARE RECEIVING SURGERIES FASTER

The Saskatchewan Surgical Initiative and surgical teams across the province have continued their effort to improve outcomes for patients by providing surgeries sooner.

The latest provincial wait times numbers show that 79 per cent of patients are having their surgery within three months of their referral from a surgeon and 91 per cent within six months.

“I am very pleased to see our health system is steadily moving toward the ambitious target of offering surgeries to all patients within three months by April 2014,” Health Minister Dustin Duncan said. “We still have a lot of work ahead but we are committed to shorter wait times and improved quality of life for patients.”

[Saskatchewan Patients are Receiving Surgeries Faster](#)

SASKATCHEWAN VOLUNTEER MEDAL NOMINATION DEADLINE APPROACHING



Saskatchewan residents are known for their friendly, welcoming nature and strong history of volunteering. The personal commitment made by volunteers across this province is significant; Saskatchewan residents are generous - we lead the nation in volunteer activity with the highest rate of individual volunteerism in Canada! Whether it is by giving of their time, their enthusiasm, knowledge or resources, people throughout Saskatchewan are making valuable contributions to the quality of life in their communities and in our province.

A great way to show our appreciation for our province's volunteers is by nominating for the Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal people who have given of their time and talents to create a promising future for Saskatchewan people. The Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal may be awarded to Canadian citizens who are present or former long-term residents of Saskatchewan, with the exception of elected members of Parliament or the Legislature or members of the judiciary while still holding office.

Any person or organization can nominate someone they consider deserving of the Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal. Although nominations are accepted at any time during the year, October 18, 2013 is the deadline for nominees to be considered for 2013. Posthumous nominations are not accepted. An independent committee called the Saskatchewan Honours Advisory Council reviews the nominations for the medal and recommends up to ten recipients each year.

Recipients are recognized at a formal ceremony in the spring, at which they are presented with the Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal by the Lieutenant Governor.

For further information please visit www.ops.gov.sk.ca.

DID YOU KNOW?

- The youth unemployment rate fell drastically in July to 6.4 per cent from 7.5 per cent last month.
- Average weekly earnings were up to \$941.53 in May 2013.
- Retail sales went up 5.9 per cent in May 2013.

JUST THE LINKS

- August 13, 2013 - [RSM Receives Grant for Specialized Cabinets for Bio-Blitz Specimens](#)
- August 13, 2013 - [More Full Time Jobs Offered on saskjobs.ca in July](#)
- August 14, 2013 - [New Wetland Habitat Information Helps Woodland Caribou](#)
- August 14, 2013 - [Province Receives Francophone Advisory Committee's Report on Social Services](#)
- August 15, 2013 - [Province and City Supporting RCMP Heritage Centre](#)
- August 15, 2013 - [Saskatchewaner Glides Through Summer, Set to Return to University](#)
- August 15, 2013 - [Seven New Projects Underway on Saskatchewan Highways this Week](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saskatoon Folk Fest

Date: August 15 to 17

When: August 15 & 16: 5:00 pm - 12:00 am; August 17: 3:00 pm - 12:00 am

Where: Various locations around the city

2nd Annual Golf "Fore" Autism Tournament

Date: August 15

When: All Day

Where: Moonlake Golf & Country Club

Lupus Saskatchewan Golf Tournament

Date: August 23

When: 9:30 am

Where: Willows Golf and Country Club

First 36 paid teams will be accepted. Phone [1-877-566-6123](tel:1-877-566-6123) to register

Saskatoon Cruise Weekend

Date: August 23 to 26

When: All day

Where: Downtown Saskatoon

Ukrainian Day in the Park

Date: August 24

When: 12:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Where: Victoria Park

Ward 10 Coffee Meeting Hosted by Zach Jeffries

Date: Saturday, August 24

When: 10:00 am to 12:00 pm

Where: University Heights Safeway Starbucks

Zach Jeffries' Ward 10 Community BBQ

Date: Wednesday, August 28

When: 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Where: Alice Turner Library (Outside on the lawn)

(Attridge Drive & Nelson Road)

Free to attend. Fun for all ages!

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

"The most important thing is to enjoy your life, to be happy, it's all that matters."

Audrey Hepburn

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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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