

"Check out what is happening in Saskatoon Silver Springs and throughout the Province!"



Provincial Point of View December 13, 2013

GIVE THANKS THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON TO OUR SOLDIERS

I received this heart warming email and am pleased to share it with all of you! Take a moment and remember those who fought for the freedom we enjoy.

This poem was written by a Peacekeeping soldier stationed overseas. Christmas is coming soon and some credit is due to all of the service men and women for our being able to celebrate these festivities.

T'was the night before Christmas, he loved all alone, in a one bedroom house, made of plaster and stone.

I had come down the chimney, with presents to give, and to see just who, in this home, did live.

I looked all about, a strange sight I did see, no tinsel, no presents, not even a tree.

No stocking by mantle, just boots filled with sand, on the wall hung pictures, of far distant lands. With medals and badges, awards of all kinds, a sober thought, came through my mind.

For this house was different, it was dark and dreary, I found the home of a soldier, once I could see clearly. The soldier lay sleeping, silent, alone, curled up on the floor, in this one bedroom home.

The face so gentle, the room in disorder, not how I pictured, a true British soldier. Was this the hero, of whom I'd just read? Curled up on a poncho, the floor for a bed?

I realized the families that I saw this night, owed their lives to these soldiers, who were willing to fight.

Soon round the world, the children would play, and grown-ups would celebrate, a bright Christmas Day.

They all enjoyed freedom, each month of the year, because of the soldiers, like the one lying here.

I couldn't help but wonder, how many lay alone, on a cold Christmas Eve, in a land far from home.

The very thought brought, a tear to my eye, I dropped to my knees, and started to cry. The soldier awakened, and I heard a rough voice, "Santa don't cry, this life is my choice; I fight for freedom, I don't ask for more, my life is my God, my Country my Corps."

The soldier rolled over, and drifted to sleep, I couldn't control it, I continued to weep, I kept watch for hours, so silent and still, and we both shivered, from the cold night's chill.

I did not want to leave, on that cold, dark, night, this guardian of honour, so willing to fight. Then the soldier rolled over, with a voice soft and pure, whispered, "Carry on Santa, it's Christmas Day, all is secure."

One look at my watch, and I knew he was right. "Merry Christmas my Friend, and to all a good night."

MD AMBULANCE WILL JOIN THE MEDAVIE TEAM



It is with gratitude and appreciation I thank Dave Dutchak of MD Ambulance and his entire family for the outstanding service they have provided to Saskatchewan people. MD Ambulance was established by Michael P. Dutchak in 1976. David and his brothers and sisters have contributed to the excellent management of the company. I had the pleasure of working for the Ambulance team in my home town of Blaine Lake during my grade 11 and grade 12 years in highschool. I

learned a great deal from the Dutchak family and I treasure their strong friendship today. My Dad and Michael, who was the Mayor, served on Blaine Lake Town Council for many years. Our family ties are deeply rooted and I am so grateful to the Dutchak's, not only for their mentorship but the significant commitment they have made to our province.

MD Ambulance announced last week that the company has been sold to MedWest, EMS, a subsidiary of Medavie EMS effective January 1, 2014.

Many fond memories come to mind when I think of the Dutchak family. They are a family that always went above and beyond and always exceeded expectations. In the News Release following this story, Premier Wall said, "Saskatchewan's strength is in its people who have a strong history of giving back to their communities," This statement couldn't be more fitting when we talk of this family. Whether it was their community involvement, the dedication to their 150 staff members or most importantly, their management of more than 28,000 patient transports annually in the greater Saskatoon area, they were passionate about their work.

They are leaving a lasting legacy and a quality of service that will live on. To look back and see a family created company is now part of a nationally recognized EMS team has to be gratifying.

The company's contract with the Saskatoon Regional Health Authority will continue and name remains unchanged. The dedicated and hardworking staff will stay on with the new company and David Dutchak will stay on as president and CEO. I spoke to Dave and he is pleased and confident that the service to our community will continue on as it has since the company began.

Congratulations and a heartfelt thank you to the Dutchak family for all they have done.

PROVINCE ANNOUNCES NEW AWARD FOR SERVICE CLUBS

Saskatchewan is launching a new award for community volunteers. The Premier's Service Club Award will recognize the commitment and activities of service clubs and fraternal organizations.

"Saskatchewan's strength is in its people who have a strong history of giving back to their communities," Premier Brad Wall said. "For decades the members of service clubs and fraternal organizations have helped their communities and those in need through the actions of the clubs and organizations they belong to. The Premier's Service Club Award will celebrate the Saskatchewan traditions of volunteerism and communities helping themselves, their members and their neighbours."

Up to four awards will be given annually. They come in the form of a framed certificate which will be signed and presented by the Premier.

[Province Announces New Award For Service Clubs](#)

VISIT THE ENCHANTED FOREST



If you haven't visited the Enchanted Forest, please make plans to take your family and enjoy the spectacular lights. This Saskatchewan family tradition is celebrating it's 15th Anniversary and supports the Saskatoon Zoo Foundation and the Saskatoon City Hospital Foundation.

SASKATCHEWAN ORDER OF MERIT - DR. JIM MILLER

As a part of the six-week feature on the Saskatchewan Order of Merit winners, this week we honour Dr. Jim Miller.

An exceptional scholar, Dr. James Miller has played a critical role in bringing public understanding to Aboriginal history in Saskatchewan and Canada. His pioneering work has helped establish Native-Newcomer relations, treaty rights and the residential schools as serious areas of scholarship in Canada and he has had a profound impact in the public sphere by providing historical context for those working to resolve the many difficult issues involved in this relationship.

Dr. Miller is widely recognized as the author of the first comprehensive account of this subject in Canada, *Skyscrapers Hide the Heavens: A History of Indian-White Relations in Canada*, and *Sweet Promises: A Reader on Indian-White Relations and Canada*. He shaped the country's understanding of the residential school system in his book *Shingwauk's Vision: A History of Native Residential Schools*. This was the first history of residential schools and has been influential with Aboriginal leaders as well as provincial and federal governments. It is used for context and reference when dealing with this issue and resolving abuse claims.

His works builds understanding that the treaties are the foundation of the Native-Newcomer relationship and are a fundamental building block of Canada's history as a nation. He was co-curator of an exhibit on the history of treaty-making for Library and Archives Canada, has acted as research advisor for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and is the Canada Research Chair in Native-Newcomer Relations in the Department of History, University of Saskatchewan. He has given hundreds of media interviews on residential schools, treaties and land claims, and other critical issues and is a recognized expert on the subject.

Dr. Miller is a recipient of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal, 2012 and the Commemorative Medal for the Centennial of Saskatchewan, 2005. He has been recognized with numerous awards including the Gold Medal for Achievement in Research from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council in 2010, and is the first person from Saskatchewan to achieve this honour. He is also the recipient of the Distinguished Researcher Award from the University of Saskatchewan and is a Fellow in the Royal Society of Canada.

JUST THE LINKS

December 9, 2013 - Saskatchewan Event Hosting Strategy Unveiled

December 9, 2013 - Nine Communities Receive More Than \$13.6 Million For Targeted Police Initiatives

December 12, 2013 - Saskatchewan Children Better Served By Changes To Pediatric Services

December 12, 2013 - Program Offers Emergency Service Response Training In High Schools

DID YOU KNOW...

...Saskatchewan 15 years old students perform above the international average in math, science and reading.

...70% of CFL merchandise sold is Roughrider merchandise.

...54% of Canada's wheat is grown right here in Saskatchewan.

...MD Ambulance transports over 28,000 patients each year with 21 vehicles and 150 employees.

COMING EVENTS

Drop-In Heritage Christmas Craft

Date: December 21 - 23

Where: Meewasin Valley Centre

When: 1 pm - 4 pm

Caroling Sunday

Date: December 22

Where: Western Development Museum

When: 12 pm - 3 pm

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

**“Three Rules of Work:
Out of clutter find simplicity;
From discord find harmony;
In the middle of difficulty
lies opportunity.”**

~ Albert Einstein

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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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