

Check out what's happening in Saskatoon Silver Springs and throughout the province!



Provincial Point of View September 20, 2013

STEADY PROGRESS IN REDUCING WAITS FOR SURGERY PATIENTS

Saskatchewan patients continue to receive surgeries sooner, thanks to improvements in how surgical care is planned and delivered.

The latest monthly data update indicates as of July 31, there were 6,105 patients waiting more than three months for surgery. This is a decrease of 61 per cent (or 9,237 fewer patients) compared to the start of the Initiative in April 2010 when more than 15,000 patients were waiting more than three months.

Increased provincial funding for the Saskatchewan Surgical Initiative has resulted in a seven per cent boost in the number of surgeries performed so far in the 2013-14 year. Patients have received 28,492 surgeries in the first four months of the fiscal year, up from 26,567 performed April 1 to July 31 in 2012.

Nine out of 10 health regions are providing surgeries to more than 90 per cent of their patients within six months.

There were 18,525 patients waiting for surgery in the province on July 31, 2013, down from 26,743 in November 2007 and from 27,585 when the Surgical Initiative was launched in April 2010.

The province committed \$70.5 million to improve access to surgery in the 2013-14 fiscal year. About 89,000 surgeries will be performed in Saskatchewan this year, an increase of 7,000 from last year.

Information about the Saskatchewan Surgical Initiative is available at www.sasksurgery.ca. The

website also features the Specialist Directory, which empowers patients and their primary care providers to compare options for surgical care.

NHL IN SASKATOON



I'm sure that those of you that had the opportunity to experience NHL hockey in Saskatoon enjoyed a great night of hockey. The Ottawa Senators edged out the Calgary Flames 4-2 at Credit Union Centre. It was an action packed game with enthusiastic fans cheering on their favorite team.

September 16th was the first of two NHL games that scheduled for Saskatoon. The second is September 27 when the Boston Bruins will take on the Winnipeg Jets at 7 pm at Credit Union Centre.

I encourage you to get out and see an exciting NHL game right here in Saskatoon. There are still tickets available for the game, go to www.ticketmaster.ca.

REMEMBERING QUINN STEVENSON



Many of us know the tragedy that has surrounded the Stevenson family in our community. They lost their son, Quinn, in a car accident suddenly in August. The family has decided that the new hockey season should not begin with sadness but with joy.

On Saturday October 12 at ACT Arena, the Saskatoon Redwings Zone is hosting a Quinn Stevenson Memorial Hockey Day. With numerous events that will take place throughout the day, including a silent auction and a progressive 50/50 where all of the proceeds will be donated to the Quinn Stevenson Athletic & Spirit Scholarship.

Other events include:

- All of new Redwing teams will play the first pre-season game.
- A family skate from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm on the figure skating rink.
- Ball Hockey will be going on in the parking lot of the ACT.
- And a BBQ.

To sign up to play Ball Hockey, register your team at: [QSMHD Ball Hockey Registration](#) The fee is only \$5/person and there will all age groups to participate in.

If you can't participate but would like to help out you can donate an item for the silent auction, contact EJ Babey at: commissioner@saskatoonredwings.ca

Or you can lend a hand by volunteering, they will need help in all areas and you don't need to have hockey knowledge to be a volunteer. Email QSMHD@gmail.com to help out for this important day.

Don't forget to save the date, and feel free to let everyone you know!

CONGRATULATIONS TO GENE MAKOWSKY!

The Plaza of Honor Dinner will be held tonight in Regina. My colleague, Gene Makowsky will be inducted into the Riders Plaza of Honour. This honour is well deserved.

Gene made major contributions to the proud tradition of the Saskatchewan Roughrider Football Club. Joining Gene tonight is another Rider great, Eddie Davis.

RECYCLING OF ANTIFREEZE AND OTHER PETROLEUM PRODUCTS SOON AVAILABLE IN SASKATCHEWAN

I was pleased to announce the new regulations in recycling antifreeze and other petroleum products in Saskatchewan.

You can now recycle antifreeze and its containers, diesel exhaust fluid containers and diesel fuel filters. This is to help increase the amount of petroleum products that can be recycled in our province and provides greater environmental benefits.

A survey commissioned by SARRC - Saskatchewan Association for Resource Recovery said the public support for the addition of these products was strong. The more types of products like these that can be recycled is valuable to all of us, and anything that can help take the strain off of the environment and lower the Carbon Footprint in Saskatchewan rewards everyone.

Manufacturers, distributors, wholesalers, and retailers can now collect and recycle the new

petroleum products through the SARRC. The changes will come into effect January 1, 2014.

For additional information contact: www.environment.gov.sk.ca/recycling



Our province is rich with culture. The 4th Annual Culture Days are taking place in communities in Saskatchewan September 27-29.

In Saskatoon, Regina and many other areas around Saskatchewan, the Culture Days are celebrating our vibrant culture. I encourage you to check out the various venues around Saskatoon where people can participate in a wide variety of activities such as: jewelry making, a children's book giveaway, costume dress-up, Archaeology Caravan, and so much more! All of the events are free for everyone to enjoy!

Highlighting the idea that culture is for everyone, these days promote awareness and participation in arts and culture for all.

For more information and a list of all the activities in Saskatoon go to: <http://culturedays.ca/en/about-culture-days>

SASKATCHEWAN EI BENEFICIARIES DROP IN JULY

The number of beneficiaries collecting Employment Insurance (EI) in Saskatchewan dropped in July by 3.6 per cent over the previous month, according to a report issued by Statistics Canada today.

This was the third largest decline in the country, tied with Newfoundland and Labrador.

Year-over-year, there were 10,160 beneficiaries receiving regular EI benefits in the province in July 2013, a decrease of 7.1 per cent from July 2012.

Although Regina saw a small increase in regular EI beneficiaries of 0.8 per cent, Saskatoon saw a drop of 8.5 per cent annually.

SASKATCHEWAN SNOWBOARDER A FAVOURITE FOR WINTER GAMES IN RUSSIA



Mark McMorris continues to draw attention on the national stage. Many are predicting Mark to be a top contender for a gold medal in the 2014 Winter Games.

Mark grew up in Regina where the idea of snowboarding down mountains, let alone a 22- foot half-pipe is somewhat unthinkable. And like the rest of us he prefers the summers here to the winters, and since there is no half-pipe in Saskatchewan he has to travel elsewhere to get his practice in. Mark is the favourite to win the gold medal over all other competitors at the Games.

Saskatchewan will continue to watch Mark's incredible progress. I'm sure we'll see this outstanding young man compete in the Snowboarding Slopestyle Event at the Olympic Winter Games in Sochi, Russia in February 2014.

Note: Mark is the son of Don McMorris, Minister of Highways.

HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION CONTINUES WELL INTO FALL

We say that there are only two seasons in Saskatchewan, winter and construction, and it looks like the construction season is going to be as long as our winter was.

There is still a lot of work in progress and because of the recent warm and dry weather, new projects have begun.

So if you are out travelling in our beautiful province you can check the Highway Hotline for all the latest conditions at: www.highways.gov.sk.ca/road-conditions

And remember to always drive safely and to obey all road signs, especially in those construction zones!

SARCAN RECYCLES THE SIX BILLIONTH BEVERAGE CONTAINER



Within the first two weeks of September SARCAN recycled it's 6 billionth container in St. Denis, Saskatchewan.

What does 6 billion containers look like? Well if all of the beverage containers were lined up end to end they would reach to the moon and back. And it would weigh 300,000 metric tonnes and that is equal to the weight of 50,000 killer whales, just to put it in perspective!

This milestone happens to coincide with their 25th Anniversary, and what a way to celebrate than with this monumental achievement.

Well Done Saskatchewan! This just shows how much we truly care about our environment!

"DECORATION IN RIDER NATION"



People are encouraged to dress up everything from themselves, their homes and their businesses in the Green and White Spirit and send in the pictures. You can start sending your pictures in on September 27 at: <http://101greycupfestival.ca/decoration-contest>

With chances to win regular season tickets to the Roughrider's and concert tickets, winners will be announced each week in October and into November.

Here is the perfect opportunity to show off and to have fun with all kinds of decoration to support our Rider's!

DID YOU KNOW?

- The number of people collecting Employment Insurance (EI) dropped in July by 3.6% from July.

- Saskatchewan has produced more National Hockey League (NHL) players - including Gordie Howe and Wendel Clark - than any other province.
- With 250,000 km of roads, Saskatchewan has more road surface than any other province in Canada.
- The government has invested a record \$3.7 billion in transportation infrastructure since 2008.

JUST THE LINKS

- September 13, 2013 - [Public Memorial Service for Saskatchewan Residents Who Fought in the Battle of Britain and Afghanistan](#)
- September 13, 2013 - [Premier Changes Cabinet Rolls](#)
- September 17, 2013 - [Social Services Minister June Draude Respond to Report from BC Representative for Children and Youth](#)
- September 19, 2013 - [Crop Report for September 10 - 16](#)
- September 20, 2013 - [Reserve Forces Day Proclaimed](#)
- September, 20, 2013 - [Government of Saskatchewan Invests a 'STR8 UP' \\$49,500](#)
- September, 20, 2013 - [Government Invests in Community Rinks for Second Consecutive Year](#)
- September, 20, 2013 - [Government of Saskatchewan Proclaims Saskatchewan Biotech Week 2013](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Word on the Street

Date: September 22

When: 11:00 am to 5:00 pm

Where: Civic Square, Downtown Saskatoon

PREMIER - Saskatchewan's Fine Wine, Spirits, and Specialty Foods Festival

Date: September 26 to September 28

When: 6:30 pm to 10:00 pm Daily

Where: TCU Place

World River's Day Festival

Date: September 29

When: 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Where: Friendship Park

Mix Artist Collective Fall Show

Date: October 4 - October 6

Where: 539 24th Street East

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

**“Don’t ask what the world needs.
Ask what makes you come alive, and go do it.
Because what the world needs
is people who have come alive.”**

~ Howard Thurman

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 in any issues relating to the provincial government are welcomed.

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Province of Saskatchewan.

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