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Summer 2006



## MANAGER'S REPORT

**STAFF**

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**EXECUTIVE**

- Ken Evans**—SK Ag & Food
- Christa Marcotte**—RM of Cambria
- David Pattysyn**—Village of Torquay
- James Achen**—Village of Halbrite
- Ray Hamm**—City of Weyburn
- Rob Nelson**—RM of Griffin
- Roland Carles**—RM of The Gap
- Joe Vilcu**—RM of Cymri
- Carol Peterson**—Town of Ogema
- Denis Sidloski**—RM of Lomond
- Ron Lutz**—RM of Weyburn
- Shirley Crone**—Radville EDC

The South East REDA has continued to be busy since our last newsletter in April as we are continuing to work on a number of projects within our region. Within this newsletter you will find information on a number of these projects including the work that we have been doing on the Bio-diesel front, the Souris Valley facility in Weyburn, the Radville Subdivision rail line, and a Highway Twinning Initiative that the REDA has been assisting with. Other items of interest include valuable information on the Provincial

REDA Enhancement Fund Program and our own SEREDA Community Development Funding Program.

We also want this newsletter to relate what other projects and activities the REDA has planned for the upcoming year in addition to those previously mentioned. Some of these include the completion of a Canola Crushing feasibility study, the development of a new South East REDA Web page, which would be used to promote economic development throughout the region.

Included in this project would be the completion of a detailed profile of all the urban and rural municipalities within the region. This project will be done through the use of our summer student for which we have made an application for funding and of which we are waiting word on approval for.

These are just a few of the activities that we have planned. For more information on these or any other projects, contact the South East REDA office.

*(Manager's Report Cont.)*

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## City to Take Over Souris Valley



Locally, June 15, 2006 will be remembered as the day that City of Weyburn reached an agreement with the Government of Saskatchewan to take ownership of the Souris Valley facility. This deal was a long time coming and would not have been possible if not from the hard work of the City, Provincial Government, REDA, and local supporters. The deal, which will see 4.5 million dollars as well as the title to the property go to the City, means that that we can now market the property how we see fit. It also means that we can work with whomever might be interested in the facility and reach an agreement for sale without hav-

ing to deal with the provincial government. As part of the agreement, the City has until March of 2008 to either find a use for the building, or find developers willing to purchase the property. If no use can be found by 2008, then the building will be put up for demolition, with the remainder of the costs above the 4.5 million to be covered by the Provincial Government. This is a very good deal for the City as it gives them the freedom to market it how they choose, while at the same time offering them the security of knowing that the Province will commit additional funding if no deals can be reached.

This deal also provides us with an opportunity to continue working with the Chinese developers from Toronto who have expressed serious interest in the property. As previously stated, they have plans to bring over various types of manufacturers from

*(Cont. on Page 2)*

(Manager's Report Cont.)

Finally, if you have an idea for a project contact the REDA office and let us know. The REDA is only as strong as it's members and we need your input and support to be successful. We are very excited about the upcoming year and look forward to some potential changes to the REDA program that will help us to provide even more service and support to our members.

Dylan Clarke  
Manager

### *City to Take Over Souris Valley Cont.*

China (Including such things as clothing, furniture, fixtures and more) to display their products to the entire North American market. These products would be purchased, viewed and ordered out of the Weyburn location and then shipped directly to the company from China. Recently the Mayor and City Manager traveled to China with the developers to tour the Chinese operations and meet with Government officials. The trip and meetings went very well and everyone is optimistic that this concept can work in Weyburn as well. While things are definitely looking favorable, there is still a lot of work to be done by the developers, City, and REDA over the next year. With that being said, we are very optimistic that we can make this opportunity a reality!



## SEREDA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUND



This program allows our members to access funds for a variety of community projects such as promotional activities, feasibility studies, and business plan development for any community-based project. SEREDA may also consider applications for projects that are not community-based but will still provide benefit to the community through such things as job creation, economic spin-off, etc.

All applications are reviewed and approved on a case-by-case basis by our Board during our regular meetings. Applications should be made before the project begins, and should include a detailed description of the proposed activity as well as the project costs.

This fiscal year the South East REDA Community Development Fund has budgeted \$5000 that will go back to our members. Once all of the funds have been utilized the program will be over until next year so please do not wait! If your municipality has a project, or is aware of a project, please contact our office at 842-8001 so that we can discuss it further! It is our hope that you will pass this information on to your ratepayers and business community so that they will have a chance to utilize it as well.

## Provincial Bio-Diesel Task Force Releases Final Report

On June 21st, 2006 the Provincial Bio-Diesel Task Force released their long awaited final report and recommendations for advancing the Provinces bio-diesel industry. The taskforce consulted with key stakeholders to examine the current status, challenges and opportunities of the industry in Saskatchewan. The reports recommendations ask the Province to work with the Government of Canada to do the following:

- ◆ **Develop trade-compliant programs and policies for the bio-diesel industry;**
- ◆ **Develop a national Bio-Products Centre located in Saskatoon;**
- ◆ **Fund research and testing on standards for performance-based specifications, and establish a program to help companies meet bio-diesel approved standards;**
- ◆ **Promote business structures that facilitate Canadian primary producer investment in**

### **Biodiesel production facilities;**

- ◆ **Evaluate options in a distribution system that provides equity opportunities for all interested parties, and;**
- ◆ **Continue research and development , commercialization of new products and the expansion of the Biodiesel industry**

**The Bio-diesel taskforce final report is available online at [www.agr.gov.sk.ca](http://www.agr.gov.sk.ca) or by contacting the Saskatchewan Canola Growers Association**

As you may be aware, the South East REDA has also been working with local partners who share a common interest in Biodiesel production in our region. To date, we have had three meetings throughout the region and a definite interest exists. Currently there are groups at

(Bio-diesel taskforce report Cont.)

Midale, Weyburn and Redvers that have all expressed degrees of interest. We had a joint meeting back in April that brought all of these groups together to discuss each of their interest and possibly work together to reach a common goal. Now that the recommendations from the Provincial taskforce have been released it should help those that are interested to proceed. Bio-diesel presents a very exciting opportunity for the province and the REDA will work to help facilitate that opportunity in our region.

## Progress Continues with Short Line Rail Project

The steering committee that is spearheading the purchase of the Radville subdivision from CP Rail is hard at work holding stakeholder meetings throughout the region. Over the last few months there have been meetings held throughout the area in an attempt to gain further support for this important project. The committee, whose goal is to purchase the Radville line to establish a short rail line and producer car loading facilities, has been active in trying to gather support. The topics discussed at these meetings include purchase costs, financing, income, feasibility studies, and more. In addition to this, the committee has also formed an executive consisting of Ben Hazen—Chair (Bengough), Alex Galameau—Vice-Chair (Radville), and Maurice Koszman—Secretary/Treasurer (Bengough).

The manager, as well as board members from the South East REDA, have also attended meetings and pledged their support to the project as well and will work to help this committee in anyway that we can. We feel that this is a very good opportunity for the agriculture producers in the region to increase profits and offer an alternative method to bring their grain to the markets while at the same time saving the existing rail line which hasn't been utilized in the last few years. For more information on the Radville Subdivision purchase, contact one of the board members or the South East REDA. *Remember your support is needed if this project is going to succeed!*

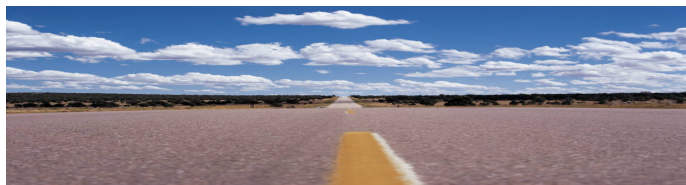
**WE ARE MOVING!! ON JULY 19TH  
OUR NEW LOCATION WILL BE .....**

**11 THIRD STREET N.  
WEYBURN, SK.**

**WE INVITE YOU TO  
STOP BY THE NEW  
OFFICE!**



## Soo Line Highway Corridor Association is Formed



On June 8th, 2006 the #39/6 Highway Twinning steering committee held their first meeting in Weyburn and as a result, the “Soo Line Highway Corridor Association” was formed. The committee consists of 14 members from the following communities:

Cities—Regina, Weyburn, Estevan

Towns & Villages— Milestone, Midale, Halbrite

RMs—Estevan, Coalfields, Caledonia, Cymri, Brokenshell & Sherwood

As mentioned previously, the goal of this committee is to promote the twinning of Highway #39/6 from Regina to the U.S. border and ultimately to Minot, ND. In addition to this, we also hope to create a trade and tourism corridor along this route which would also eventually include #9 Highway from Corinne to Moose Jaw. So far the support for this project has been very strong, with all of the urban and rural municipalities located along this route showing their support for the project including the City of Minot.

The association also established a mission and vision statement that we will use as our guide, they read as follows:

### Mission Statement

**“To promote the development, maintenance, advantage and use of the Soo Line Highway corridor.”**

### Vision Statement

**“The Soo Line Highway Corridor will be the preferred choice for tourists and freight transporters traveling to or from eastern and central regions of Canada and the United States to and from North Dakota, Saskatchewan and Alberta.”**

In other meeting news, the board discussed hiring a student to help with the data collection, marketing and promotion, and to help coordinate the project. The committee also discussed establishing formal bylaws that we will follow, holding a press conference and doing some media releases to promote the project, and more. The next meeting will be in July, at which time we hope to be able to set up an executive committee and formally incorporate as a non-profit organization.

THE SOUTH EAST REDA WOULD LIKE TO THANK  
 ALL OF THE URBAN AND RURAL MUNICIPALITIES IN THE REGION  
 WHO HAVE ONCE AGAIN SUPPORTED US THROUGH THE PURCHASE OF A MEMBERSHIP  
 FOR THE 2006/2007 YEAR!

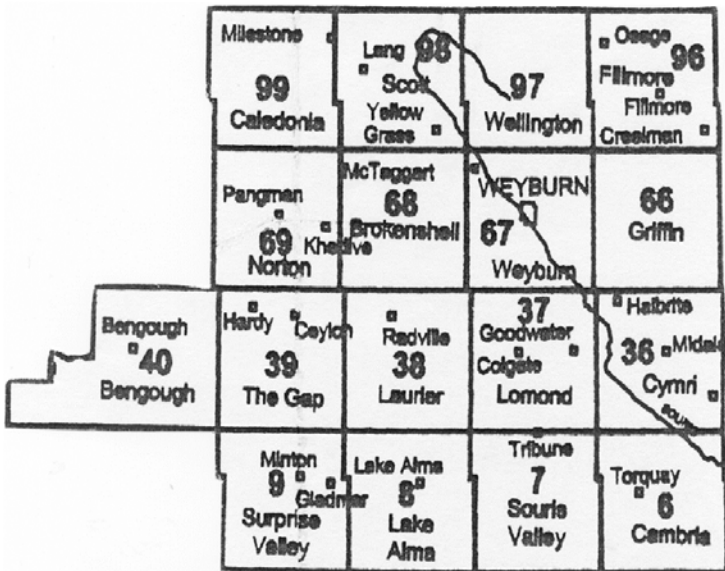
IF YOUR MUNICIPALITY HAS NOT YET JOINED THE REDA  
 AND WOULD LIKE MORE INFORMATION MEMBERSHIP, CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT 842-8001.  
 AS A FAMOUS SLOGAN STATES....

*“Membership has it’s Privileges”*

....IN OUR CASE, THAT INCLUDES SUCH THINGS AS FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES, PROJECT  
 DEVELOPMENT,  
 AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE!  
 THANKS ONCE AGAIN FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!



## SOUTH EAST REDA



**Membership in  
 SEREDA  
 Entitles You To.....**

- Representation* on the SEREDA Board of Directors
- A Strong Voice* to promote the benefits of economic and community development to your organization and the community
- Participation* in identifying the unique regional opportunities
- Access to Funding* for approved economic development projects
- Input* into the delivery of services
- Opportunities* to build new or strengthen existing partnerships while at the same time discussing common issues with other members

## 2006 SOUTH EAST REDA MEMBERS As of July 7th, 2006

RM of Norton  
 RM of Lomond  
 RM of Griffn  
 RM of Cymri  
 RM of Souris Valley  
 RM of The Gap

Village of Lang  
 Village of Torquay  
 Village of Goodwater  
 Village of Lake Alma  
 Village of Pangman  
 Village of Tribune

City of Weyburn  
 Town of Midale  
 Town of Milestone  
 Weyburn Chamber of Commerce  
 Sunrise Community Futures  
 South East Regional College