

# UPCOMING AUCTIONS

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2017 - 10:00 A.M.** - DAVIDSON COMMUNIPLEX. ESTATE OF RON LUKOUSZKI. 2006 Nissan Murano AWD SUV w/96,000 kms., Schwinn electric bicycle, Yamaha Beluga Scooter (not running), Espa Piagio Ciao Moped, JD 3010 tractor, Tools & Shop Items, Garden & Yard Items.

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8-9p

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### Elk Point Drilling Corp., North Battleford Office To Continue Water Well Drilling Operations

It is with great sadness and heavy hearts, that we announce the passing of John Soloninko on August 21, 2017.

Long-time friend and founding partner of our Saskatchewan Office. John started working with Elk Point Drilling in 1962 and opened our Saskatchewan Office in 1967.

John was an exceptional water well driller and loved his work even after he could no longer go into the field. He will be greatly, greatly missed.

John is survived by his beloved wife, Barbara.

Barb and staff thank everyone for their kind words and condolences.



Barb and staff will continue to offer all of the water well services from the North Battleford Office.

We thank you for your support and hope that you will continue to call us for all your water well needs at 306-445-4233.

- Water Wells (4"-16")
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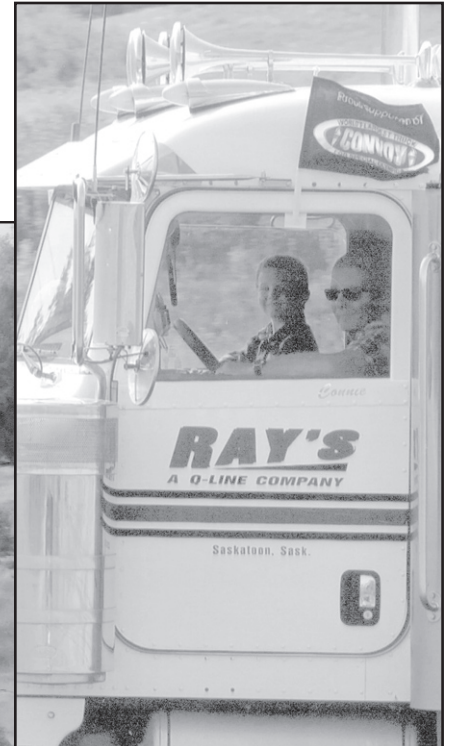
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THE DAVIDSON LEADER

## Great big convoy

Connie Nadeau and son Nicholas (at right) took part in the 11th Annual Saskatchewan Special Olympics Truck Convoy. On Sept. 9 they joined a fleet of transport trucks travelling from Saskatoon to Regina to raise money and awareness for the Special Olympics.



In past years, the Nadeaus watched the convoy roll by at Girvin, but this year, instead of watching, Connie decided to take part, much to Nicholas' delight. He raised \$2,085 towards the cause. His company, Ray's Q-Line, paid the \$100 entry fee. The total raised for the day was \$22,000.

At left: The convoy of transport trucks travels through the valley at Lumsden.  
(Contributed photos by Teresa Nadeau)

# Drought tempers hopes for crops

By Tara de Ryk

DAVIDSON — In the next week or so, farmers who took a chance on soybeans and corn this season will see if their gamble paid off.

These crops are nearly ready for the combine, or in the case of corn grown for silage, the chopper.

"I'm a bit nervous about yields," says Rob Stone, a rep for DuPont Pioneer, of the soybean situation.

He said the pod set was pretty good. "The plants are short, but there's pretty good pods on them." However, he expects the size of the seeds in the pod to be really small.

"As I follow experts in the United States, soybeans need a rain to fill out," Stone said.

That rain is needed in August, something most farms around here didn't get.

Soybeans need heat and they need rain. Heat was in abundance this summer, as were hot, dry winds. The rain that drenched the region the past few years didn't come.

But all that moisture from previous years did save the crops this season. The ground retained the moisture and plants scavenged every last drop from the soil.

Crop yields in the area are average to above average.

"Going forward, what concerns me is we've used up our depth of subsoil moisture," Stone said, adding that there's a strong



Rob Stone checks his corn crop to see if it's ready to harvest. The verdict: not ready yet. He grew this corn for grain and it did well, considering the lack of rain this summer.

(Leader photo by Tara de Ryk)

possibility there may not be the soil moisture in spring should this dry trend continue.

On the corn side, Stone said corn is doing well.

"It's a deep-rooted crop and it established well.

with their corn crop because it will supplement significantly lower hay yields," Stone said. "We won't hit the big tons like last year, but it's better than expected. It's a high-starch, high-energy feed."

He said one of his customers at Tugaska grew corn for grain. However, he decided to chop it instead for silage for cattle feed due to poor hay yields.

A dry summer like this one shows the importance of having a diversified crop rotation, Stone said.

Experimenting with novel crops is good, but Stone advises farmers grow ones that are tried and true and have the research to back them up.

"Next year I think we'll roll our acres back on corn and soybeans, but we'll still keep our hand in it. The worst thing is to throw the towel in because there's lots to learn."

He said grain companies continue developing seed varieties suited to the prairies.

"Pioneer-hybrid has the earliest maturity hybrid corn," he said, noting that they are developing corn breeds with better drought resistance.

He doesn't expect a dry year to discourage the advance of soybeans and corn in Saskatchewan.

"We're a multi-million dollar market in Western Canada for corn and soybeans and everybody wants in."

It uses a lot of moisture, especially at the later stage when filling the cob. Still, the roots were able to seek out moisture in the soil.

"Silage and grazing guys are incredibly happy