

POINTS OF INTEREST:

SUN
COUNTRY
HEALTH
REGION
BOOSTS
BURSARIES

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Health Region boosts education incentive

As an extra incentive for students to enter the health care field, Sun Country Regional Health Authority (SCRHA) has approved a significant increase in the educational bursaries it offers to students. Qualified students can apply for as much as \$20,000 in educational bursaries from SCRHA over the next four years to study as Registered Nurses, Registered Psychiatric Nurses, Licensed Practical Nurses, Occupational Therapists, Physical Therapists, Laboratory Technologists, Physicians and various Diagnostic Imaging positions. The bursary applications are available immediately from Christine Schenk, SCHRA Human Resources, Box 2003, Weyburn S4H 2Z9. She can be reached at 842-



Become a health care professional

8320 or cschenk@SCHR.sk.ca "We're finding that the number of new employees, especially nurses, that we might need over the next few years is higher than predicted due to the low supply of and high demand for nurses throughout Canada and the U.S.," says Cal Tant, President and Chief Executive Officer of SCRHA. "To encourage more students to become health care professionals and to come to work for us, we

will help pay for their education," he says. Students who qualify for the bursary of \$5,000 per year of education will be required to sign a contract with SCRHA for up to two years return of service. "We're hoping that when these new graduates move here and see what a great place it is to live and work, they'll stay," says the CEO. The new SCHRA bursaries can be combined with Saskatchewan Health's grant programs for health care employees and physicians. SaskHealth offers up to \$20,000 in different grants in exchange for a four year service commitment. "We're hoping the combined grants of as much as \$40,000 will gain the attention of students and draw them into the health care field and keep them here," says Cal.

Recognizing long term employees



Long Service Awards: Employees of Sun Country Regional Health Authority gathered at a Staff Appreciation Night recently in Weyburn to honour long term employees for 20 to 40 years of service each. The staff members are listed here with the community where they work. In the back row, from left, are Donna Chessall, Weyburn; Dorothy Bjarnason, Weyburn; Earla Turner, Stoughton; Carolyn Andrews, Weyburn; Connie Milligan, Home Care West; Betty Nault, Weyburn; Henry Gobeil, Weyburn; Janet Ebel, Home Care West; Janet Veroba, Lampman; Sandra Maas, Weyburn; Jeanette Ferchoff, --- Bev Winter, Midale; Garth Unrau, Weyburn; Dr. K. Roy, Weyburn; Dr. Phillip Fong, Weyburn; John Wotta, Redvers. In the second row, from left, are Linda Olson, Weyburn; Janet Ternes, Weyburn; Jeanette Gall, Kipling; Joann Hauglaum, Midale; Sherylann Kruger, Midale; Karen Vicary, Home Care South; Geraldine Tooth, Lampman; Marcia Hirsch, Lampman; Belva Fleck, Weyburn; Bonnie Hepting, Weyburn; Mary Ann Abel, Weyburn; Sally Wiberg, Weyburn; Brenda Stein, Weyburn; Albine Martin, Home Care East; Donna Fisher, Fillmore; Laurie Cole, Gainsborough; Doris Taylor, Coronach; Carol Honig, Weyburn; Christine Beahm, Estevan; Karol Sloan, Oxbow; Janice Hanson, Weyburn; Joanne Merkel, Carlyle; Carol Figler, Home Care East. In the third row, sitting, are Bernie Johnson, Weyburn; Loretta Taillon, Stoughton; Paulette Hirsch, Lampman; Wendy Wagner, Weyburn; Denise Tourand, Weyburn; Diane Fornwald, Weyburn; Liliane Kot, Weyburn; Janis Gervais, Stoughton; Rose Oppen, Home Care East; Donna Davis, Gainsborough; Janis Sangster, Home Care South; Sharon Batters, Home Care East.

A successful beautification project

By Becky Chapman

The Quality Workplace Initiative Committee (QWIC) for Mental Health and Addictions is comprised of regional staff from a variety of Mental Health and Addiction Programs in Sun Country Health Region.

The members of this committee are Helene Dorshe, Sheila Szakacs, Shauna Earl, Karen Floyd, Rod Watson, Crystal Guenther, Holly Power, Lisa Johnson Hallberg and Becky Chapman.

The goal of the committee is to create and maintain positive change in the workplace using feedback from Regional Mental Health and Addictions staff.

It was noted in the feedback obtained from regional staff that when employees take pride in their work and their workplace, they feel good about being at work.

The goal of the 'Beautification Project' was to encourage staff to come together to "beautify" the appearance of the exterior of the Community Health Services Building in Weyburn, which is the main headquarters for Mental Health and Addictions Services offered throughout the region.

The "Beautification Project" was set for Wednesday June 20th and was a great success!

About 20 employees participated from a variety of different programs housed in the building (health records, public health, adult services, addiction services, child and youth services, rehab services, physical activities, as well as upper management).

Several others helped us with the project.

The bedding plants were supplied by the maintenance department and a generous donation of bedding plants was received



Volunteers who helped beautify the Community Health Services Building in Weyburn are, left to right, Merle St. Onge, Laura Pilon, Mary Anne Paslawski, Jody Larson and Becky Chapman.

from Prairie Greenhouse.

Mary Anne Paslawski provided us with five flower pots as well as a few perennial plants. Sara Irwin and the Inpatient Unit provided us with a barbecue for the supper that followed the project.

A lot of sweat and hard work from the volunteers later, the front of the building was "beautified."



Hosting a booth in Redvers: Louanne Joanassen, Diabetic RN, is one of the staff members from the Redvers Health Centre to host the centre's booth at the Redvers AgEx 2007 this spring. Louanne set up a booth to provide information on diabetes care. Written information was provided to the public and blood sugars and blood pressure testing was available. Other displays from the Redvers Health Centre provided information about Sun Country Regional Health Authority's Falls Prevention Program, and good nutrition with Canada's new Food Guide.



Dr. Shauna Hudson

Judy Pratt attends provincial conference

Sun Country Regional Health Authority (SCHRA) was represented by Judy Pratt at the June, 2007 Safety Summit Conference in Saskatoon. Keynote speaker Craig Beesley (Program Director, Rural and Geriatric Services, Five Hills Health Region) spoke from the heart about a fatal accident involving a maintenance man operating a small tractor on hospital grounds and the many indicators that had been overlooked.

Home Care staff work alone and sometimes in isolated areas and the session on Working Alone provided excellent material that can be adapted to SCHRA. Safety Assessments, rights and responsibilities of clients, check in/check out plans and severe weather conditions protocol were some of the areas covered.

SCHRA Medical Health Officer Dr. Shauna Hudson gave a well received presentation on pandemic planning. She provided general information on pandemic planning, infection control, and Occupational Health and Safety as preparation guidelines. A useful handout was made available.



Michelle Luscombe, a newly -designated Infection Control Practitioner, takes a cool break.

Congratulations to Michelle

Grant Paulson, Regional Director of Public Health for Sun Country Regional Health Authority (SCHRA), congratulates Michelle Luscombe for fulfilling all the criteria to become a Certified Infection Control Practitioner.

Michelle is Public Health Infection Control Nurse for SCHRA. Over the past two years she has been preparing for examination by the Certification Board of Infection Control and Epidemiology (CBIC).

“This involved taking courses through the Public Health Agency of Canada and the University of B.C., including Outbreak Management, Epidemiology, Microbiology and Basic Principles of Infection Prevention and Control,” says Grant.

Michelle successfully completed the examination and met all criteria to become a Certified Infection Control Practitioner. She is now entitled to use the “CIC” designation.

“Michelle’s infection control work in all of the SCRHA’s facilities has been invaluable in preventing disease outbreaks and minimizing the effects of those outbreaks that do occur,” says Grant.

New process for mental health intake

Paula Ealey, Intake Worker for Mental Health Services, began conducting intake services for Child, Youth and Adult Services for the whole of Sun Country Regional Health Authority on June 20. The role of the Intake worker for the Sun Country Health Region is to:

- Determine eligibility for service.
- Assess need and refer to other resources when appropriate.
- Prioritize referrals.
- Assess the urgency of risk of each initial contact and if required, implement

interim support for clients in crisis or at risk.

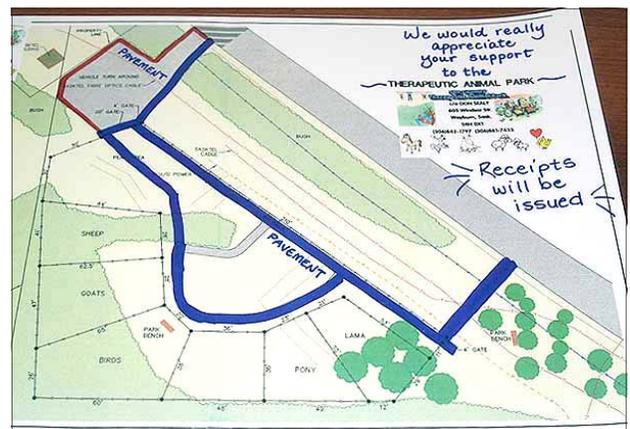
Paula also announced changes to the referral process. She asks employees to direct all new referrals to 842-8665 or toll free 1-800-216-7689. All paper referrals should be faxed to 842-8690.

All new mental health intake referrals should be directed to Paula Ealey at 842-8665 or toll free: 1-800-216-7689.

Therapeutic Animal Park reopens

Fans of the Therapeutic Animal Park in Weyburn will be happy to hear the relocated park reopened this year, after being moved from the old Souris Valley Building. The attached map shows the layout of the new location, across from Tatagwa View Long Term Care Centre. The park contains playground equipment for

children and a variety of animals that stay from spring to fall. A miniature pony, goats, sheep, ducks, chickens and a pot-bellied pig are just a few of them. Fundraiser Don Sealy is trying to raise enough money to pave the park, to make it possible for people in wheelchairs to enjoy it.



Donations welcome: All donations should be sent to Don Sealy at 605 Windsor Street, Weyburn, SK S4H 0X1. Tel: 306-842-1797.

Searching for Telehealth

Accessing the Telehealth Calendar

The Telehealth Calendar is available to all Sun Country staff who have email addresses. To access the calendar:

Go into your own Microsoft Outlook account and click on the calendar icon on the left of the computer screen. The option will come up to “open a shared calendar” in blue;

Double click on the blue print. A small square in blue and gray comes up. Click on name, type ‘Deren’;

When the optional list of names comes up, double click on Mary Deren of SCHR. You then will be looking at the Telehealth Calendar.

At this time you may choose to close your own calendar by removing the tick beside it, on the left of your screen.



Printing the Telehealth Calendar:

Choose Monthly style, 1 page/month;

Do not tick notes or task pad area;

Do tick “don’t print weekends”;

Leave the font at 24 pts for date headings,

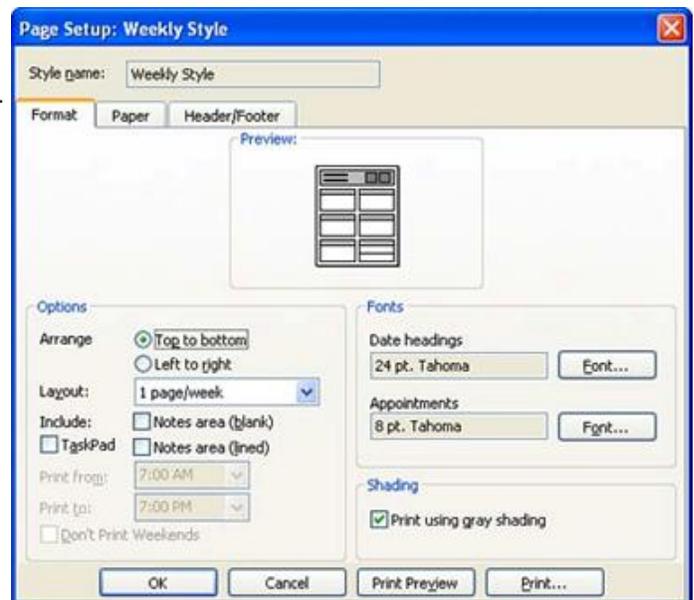
Change appointments font to 5, (click on font, highlight ‘8’ and type ‘5’, in print properties and page set up);

Make sure you have paper size at ‘letter’, using the whole page and set to landscape.

Pick the dates you wish to “print from”, usually the first day of a month to the last day, using the drop down calendars, bottom left.

In the header/footer is where you can type ‘Telehealth Calendar’ and the phone number ‘306-842-8605 (registration line)’ and “email mderen@schr.sk.ca”

Weyburn, Sask S4H 0N1



Start saving for your child's post-secondary education

The Government of Canada has established a number of tools to help Canadians save for their children's post-secondary education. The Registered Education Savings Plan (RESP) is a special savings plan that allows savings for education to grow tax-free until the person named in the RESP enrolls in education after high school.

Another tool, the Canada Education Savings Program (CESP), is a financial incentive for parents, families and friends to save for children's post-secondary education.

The CESP consists of two types of education grants:

- The Canada Education Savings Grant (CESG) is a grant paid directly into the child's

RESP. The amount of the grant is based on net family income, but provides at least 20 cents for every dollar on the first \$2,000 of annual RESP savings made on behalf of a child.

- The Canada Learning Bond (CLB) is designed to help modest-income families start saving for their children's post secondary education.

For more information on the CESP please click servicecanada.gc.ca, or call 1 800-O CANADA or visit the nearest Service Canada Centre.

Employee Recognition Tea for long term service at St. Joseph's Hospital: From left to right are Suzanne Gibson, 10 years; Dianne Green, 10 years; Sheila Farstad, 5 years; Wendy Tocher, 10 years; Vanessa Marcotte, 5 years.



Jetta Pearson, dietetic intern will work with the Nutrition and Food Services Department from June 4 to Aug 3 completing the Food Service and Administration rotations of her dietetic internship.

Sun Country Regional Health Authority Employee Recognition Evening: The evening was fun and easy at the June event at McKenna Hall in Weyburn. From left to right, Frank Daradich, Weyburn; Koreana Bjarnason and Dorothy Bjarnason of Stoughton; Donna and Wes Chessall of Weyburn shared a table.





Strategic Planning & You!

2008 - 2011

Why a Strategic Plan...

Our goal is to consult with our internal and external stakeholders in the development of a three year Strategic Plan that will:

- Set the strategic direction by providing a clear vision and road map for the future.
- Focus on the “big-picture” by providing a framework for effective internal and external stakeholder consultation, communication, organizational planning, resource allocation, and decision making.
- Re-align Sun Country Regional Health Authority’s (SCRHA’s) long-term goals and strategic directions with the Saskatchewan Action Plan for Health.
- Result in a plan that supports improved health delivery and health outcomes.

Saskatchewan Health’s Provincial Goals . . .

Saskatchewan Health has outlined four main Provincial Goals for health within its Action Plan. The four goals are as follows:

- 1: Improved Access to Quality Health Care Services
- 2: Effective Health Care Promotion and Disease Prevention
- 3: Retain, Recruit and Train Health Providers
- 4: A Sustainable, Efficient, Accountable, and Quality Health System

Sun Country Regional Health Authority’s Vision and Mission

Vision: Healthy People in Healthy Communities.

Mission: Sun Country Regional Health Authority exists so there will be:

- Optimum health throughout lifespan;
- Primary Health care available to everyone within the region;
- People taking personal responsibility for their health;
- A significant decrease in the incidence of preventable diseases;
- Public policy supporting healthy living
- Healthy environments

What’s the next step for our Strategic Plan?

During June, our consultants conducted consultations with our internal and external stakeholders to gather information and input into the three year Strategic Plan. There will be another opportunity for input during a second round of consultations in the late fall. The findings will form the foundation of the Strategic Plan. We will continue to communicate our progress and findings with you in a series of newsletters.

We want to hear from you!

Our goal is to consult with our internal and external stakeholders in the development of a three year Strategic Plan for Sun Country Regional Health Authority (SCRHA) that will:

1. Set the strategic direction by providing a clear vision and road map for the future.
2. Focus on the “big-picture” by providing a framework for effective internal and external stakeholder consultation, communication, organizational planning, resource allocation, and decision making.
3. Re-align SCRHA’s long-term goals and strategic directions with the Saskatchewan Action Plan for Health.
4. Result in a plan that supports improved health delivery and health outcomes.

Tell us what you think

Please take the time to fill out this questionnaire. It can be clipped and mailed to:

Mark Pettitt

Sun Country Health Region,
P.O. Box 2003, Weyburn, SK S4H 2Z9

or dropped into a drop box at one of our 28 facilities.

All responses will be dealt with in a confidential and anonymous manner. Thank you.

1. List your top 3 priority areas for Sun Country Regional Health Authority to consider.
2. What is going well with meeting the health needs of your community?
3. What health needs are not being met in your community?
4. Any other comments or suggestions.

What is Strategic Planning...

It is a process that asks the following questions:

- Who are we?
- Where are we now?
- Where do we want to be?
- How do we get there?

Our Consultants...

Together our team of consultants brings almost 40 years of Strategic Planning and Change Management Experience.

- **Brenda Rebman, B. Admin, CHRP.** Brenda is a 25 year veteran human resource executive and management consultant.
- **Kathryn York B. Comm., MBA.** Kathryn is a change management specialist; born in Southern Saskatchewan, has consulted to Saskatchewan companies and government since 1994.



Please send information about your activities to:

Joanne Helmer
Communications Coordinator
Sun Country
Regional Health Authority
Box 2003,
Weyburn SK S4H 2Z9
Tel: 842-8353
Email: Helmer, Joanne SCHR

We want:
Healthy People
in Healthy Communities

**Sun Country
Regional Health Authority
Administration**

President and Chief Executive

Calvin Tant 842-8718

Vice President Finance & Corporate Services:

Ken Adams 842-8714

Vice President Human Resources:

Don Ehman 842-8724

Vice President Primary and Integrated Care:

Marga Cugnet 842-8729

Vice President Community Health:

Janice Giroux 842-8652

**Regional Director, Primary Care/
Rehabilitation:**

Gale Pryznyk 634-0410.

Director of Rural Facilities:

Murray Goeres 842-8706

Director CQI & Strategic Planning:

Mark Pettitt 842-8739

Quality of Care Coordinator:

Dianne Green 637-3642



Welcome some of the Region's newest staff

Carol Claypool retired from her Home Care positions in Home Care South, effective June 30. **Tracy**

Scholpp and Deborah Augey are the new relief office assistants in Home Care South.

Donna Kitchen is the new Estevan Home Care Case Manager position.



Donna brings a vast amount of experience to the home care program. She has been involved in a number of working committees, both at the community and professional level. She has an extensive repertoire and

knowledge of the health care system, including experiences in acute care, long-term care, home care, and teaching the SIAST Continuing Care Aide program.

Donna can be reached at 637-3630, fax 637-2494 or e-mail dkitchen@schr.sk.ca