

P.A.'s Parenteau a rising star at the CCMA's

By KAREN LONGWELL
HERALD STAFF

Prince Albert's country music star Donny Parenteau has done it again.

Parenteau is once again nominated for a Canadian Country Music Association award, this time as a finalist in the Chevy Rising Star Award category.

Last year Parenteau was nominated in the "fiddle player of the year" category.

Wednesday, just before 10 a.m., Parenteau got a call from his publicist in Toronto who told him the good news.

"It was an incredible feeling," he says. "This

is the big one."

Last year's nomination fulfilled a lifelong dream to be recognized across Canada for his fiddle playing, Parenteau says, but this nomination recognizes his solo career, which he started in 2003.

"Now they (the public) are starting to recognize more than just fiddle playing — songwriting, singing, everything — the whole package," Parenteau says. "I am really honoured to be in this category."



Parenteau

For country musicians, the CCMA's are huge.

"In the country music industry — this is as big as you go in Canada."

Parenteau has come a long way in less than four years in a solo career and he credits his success to a number of Prince Albertans.

"Everywhere I go Prince Albert always comes with me — I am a pure P.A. boy."

Another goal he also hopes achieve next year is to perform on the live broadcast at the CCMA award show.

Parenteau says he is looking forward to meeting the artists nominated in the Rising Star category this year — Jason Blaine, Jessie

Farrell, Jo Hikk, Brett Kissel and Shane Yellowbird.

The CCMA award show will be held in Regina on Sept. 10.

You can catch Parenteau at the Northern Lights Casino on Aug. 23 and 24. He will also be the ambassador for the Waniska, the national aboriginal music and arts showcase in Prince Albert in the first weekend in October.

For more information on Parenteau's upcoming shows, check out his website at www.donnyparenteau.net.

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Giant moose created by Saskatchewan artist installed in Manitoba

By MANDY HIGGINS
THE CANADIAN PRESS

MOOSE JAW — Artist Grant McLaughlin has always wanted to sculpt a moose, and his desire has been fulfilled: his large creation has taken up residence in a park.

Although the artist is from Moose Jaw, McLaughlin did the work for the community of Riverton, Man., some 600 kilometres away.

The sculpture, which stands 3.7 metres high, measures almost five metres wide and weighs 635 kilograms, now resides in a park in Riverton.

"They wanted a moose to symbolize the large population of the animal in the area," said McLaughlin.

The community of Riverton contacted him about two years ago about the project.

He submitted a design as well as an estimate of labour and materials. "It's just like a construction project," he explained.

McLaughlin's design was selected. Starting last fall, he began to study the shape of the moose and consider the stability of the struc-

ture. In March, he began welding the framework.

The sculpture has a solid steel frame, with foam to fill out the body shape. Fibreglass and paint comprise the coating.

At the end of June, McLaughlin began transporting the sculpture to Riverton on a rented car hauler. He said he was able to maintain a speed of about 100 kilometres an hour during the journey.

The moose proved to be popular on the highway, with people wanting to take pictures along the way.

"I've never attracted that much attention transporting a sculpture," said McLaughlin.

McLaughlin, who has nine sculptures on public display, said this is the first time he has transported a sculpture out of Saskatchewan.

In Riverton, McLaughlin and the moose received a warm welcome.

"They were very happy to see it. There was an unveiling, and a celebratory barbecue.

"I'd sent them a picture in advance, so they had made buttons and T-shirts with the moose on the front."

Moose Jaw Times-Herald



Artist Grant McLaughlin stands by his latest masterpiece he finished in his own backyard, and is calling it Moose Jaw's largest lawn ornament. Made of steel and fibreglass, the 12-foot-high moose was made for Riverton, Man.

CP photo by Shelby Parker/Moose Jaw Times-Herald

Cool treat



Food is all part of the experience at the Prince Albert Exhibition daily. Recreation director from Good Shepherd Villa Aime Brassard, left, and resident Bernie Schimnosky try the ice cream on Thursday, which was also seniors' day at the Exhibition. Herald photo by Karen Longwell

July was really hot, hot, hot

By JESSICA KIUNGA
HERALD STAFF

July was one hot month. Although no hot-weather records were broken, it was the third hottest July in all of Prince Albert's history.

Bob Cormier, meteorologist with Environment Canada, said at 20.6 C, the mean temperature for July was only slightly less than the all-time recorded mean high of 20.8 C recorded in July of 1941.

The second highest mean measurement was marked at 20.7 C in 1937.

The normal mean for Prince Albert in July is 17.5 C.

Most communities in the province shared the hot July experience, making it into their top five of all-time hottest mean temperatures, Cormier said.

Prevailing warm air flows from the United States for much of the month caused the abnormal weather. Normally, our airflows come from the west.

But despite almost non-stop hot weather this July, there were no records broken.

The hottest day of the month was July 23 at 32.9 C. However it did not beat the record high temperature for that day, recorded at 33.9 C in 1931.

The lowest temperature recorded last month was 14.8 C on July 9, the only day below 20 C that month.

There were eight days in July that exceeded 30 C.



July's heat wave was a long but milder temperatures are expected for August in the Prince Albert.

Herald photo by Karen Longwell

"Normally you wouldn't have more than a couple of days over 30," Cormier said.

July might have seemed extra hot because humidity levels were higher than normal in July as well, he added.

Nighttime lows were also abnormal. Usually, temperatures will drop to 11 C or 12 C. July's overnight temperatures tended to stay in the mid-to-high teens.

The average high in July was 27 C. The normal July high for Prince Albert is 23.9 C.

"There (were) a lot of days in the high 20s and low 30s," Cormier said.

It would be unusual for August to have the mean temperatures July did, but the forecast is for above normal temperatures, he said.

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Farmers battling gophers get emergency use of banned pesticide

By THE CANADIAN PRESS

REGINA — It's a harsh poison that was banned 15 years ago — but now farmers in southern Saskatchewan will again be allowed to use two per cent liquid strychnine to battle a gopher infestation.

Canada's Pesticide Management Regulation Agency has quietly approved the emergency use for one year of the controversial

pesticide.

"It caught pretty much all of us by surprise here," said Cam Wilk with Saskatchewan Agriculture.

"Producers have been lobbying for years to get the strychnine concentrate available to them."

Saskatchewan Agriculture applied for emergency strychnine use to help farmers deal with a historically high numbers of gophers, properly called Richardson's ground squirrels.

Wilk said the approval came after high-level negotiations between MP David Anderson's office and federal Health Minister Tony Clement's office.

Anderson represents the riding of Cypress Hills-Grasslands in the southwest corner of Saskatchewan — one of areas hardest hit by the gopher infestation.

"Losses to agriculture in our area have been reported in excess of tens of millions of dollars,"

Anderson wrote in a news release on his website announcing the strychnine decision.

"By granting emergency registration our government is moving today to give farmers a tool they desperately need to help control these populations."

The release also states that the emergency registration was granted with very specific provisions for its use.

That includes careful control,

monitoring and disposal by Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food, Saskatchewan Environment, and the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities.

"The program remains really restrictive," said Wilk, although he admits that even with a slew of regulations there are still worries.

"The concerns for impact on non-target species and the concerns around off-label uses of this product are very much real."