

WEYBURN *this week*

Pesâkâstêw Solar Power facility officially opens in RM of Weyburn

By Greg Nikkel
Special ceremonies and gift-giving were held on Tuesday afternoon for the official opening of the Pesâkâstêw Solar Power facility located just southwest of the city in the RM of Weyburn, with representatives from SaskPower, the government, and the two First Nations which are partners in the project.
The ceremonies were held at the Credit Union Spark Centre, and those attending were invited to go to the site of the solar power project to view the facilities.
The 10-megawatt (MW) Pesâkâstêw Solar facility will provide enough clean, renewable power for approximately 2,500 Saskatchewan homes, utilizing about 32,000 solar panels set up on 95 acres of land.
The addition of the new facility brings Saskatchewan to a total of 70 MW of solar power connected to the grid, with two additional 10 MW projects in the Regina area, Awasis and Foxtail Grove, also currently underway.
Pesâkâstêw Solar Limited Partnership, a partnership between George Gordon Development Ltd., the economic development arm of George Gor-

don First Nation, Red Dog Holdings Ltd., the economic development corporation of Star Blanket Cree Nation and Natural Forces, a private independent power producer, owns and operates the facility and will sell the power generated to SaskPower as part of a 20-year Power Purchase Agreement.
“It’s George Gordon Development’s vision to be a leader in First Nation business development as a partner while working to improve the quality of life for our first nation members,” said Glen Pratt, CEO of George Gordon Development Ltd., one of the emcees for the ceremonies on Tuesday.
“With the Pesâkâstêw Solar Project, we are delighted to have been able to lead our nation by improving life sustainability by providing renewable power; the ability to create opportunities to educate and employ our First Nation members; engaging in reconciliation by building lasting relationships with large corporations, federal and provincial government bodies; and lastly, creating unity within our community by working in partnership with a neighbouring Nation, Star Blanket First Nation.”



Ribbon cut for Pesâkâstêw solar project

Photo 0269 — Greg Nikkel

The ribbon was cut to officially open the Pesâkâstêw solar power project on Tuesday afternoon, in a ceremony held at the Credit Union Spark Centre. From left are David Pratt, vice-chief of the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations; Robert Apold, Natural Forces Solar; Rupen Pandya, new CEO and president of SaskPower; Don Morgan, minister responsible for SaskPower; Chief Byron Bitternose of George Gordon First Nation; Chief Michael Starr, Star Blanket Cree Nation; and Guy Lonechild of the First Nations Power Authority.
Pratt noted there were supply chain issues as they worked through the time of the pandemic, and their initial supplier of solar panels was not able to provide the panels they needed.
The two First Nations worked with Guy Lonechild of the First Nations Power Authority to negotiate an agreement with SaskPower, and a direct line was able to be built from the solar power facility to a SaskPower power station on an adjacent property southwest of Weyburn.
“Our goal is to reduce SaskPower’s greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) by 50 per cent from 2005 levels by 2030, and to achieve net zero emissions by 2050,” said Rupen Pandya, SaskPower’s new President and CEO. “Pesâkâstêw is contributing to our GHG reduction efforts, while providing revenue opportunities for First Nations communities.”

Continued on page 2



Pesâkâstêw solar power project now in operation

Photo 0357 — Greg Nikkel

The Pesâkâstêw solar power project is now up and running in the RM of Weyburn, providing 10 MW of power to SaskPower’s power grid with the use of 32,000 solar panels. The power-generating farm is a partnership between George Gordon Development Ltd., the economic development arm of George Gordon First Nation, Red Dog Holdings Ltd., the economic development corporation of Star Blanket Cree Nation, and Natural Forces Solar, a private wind and solar power development company. The partners have a 20-year agreement to sell power to SaskPower.

PROVINCIAL SWIM MEET Saturday, July 23 at the Weyburn Leisure Centre hosted by Weyburn Silver Seals

STOP BY AND ENTER TO WIN

\$1000000

IN WEYBURN CASH!

Brought to you by Weyburn This Week

Time is Running Out!!

Christmas in JULY

Every purchase gives you a chance to win!

Maurer's Meats Ltd.

CITY CENTRE MALL, WEYBURN

"Where quality & customers are No. 1"

Store Hours: Mon. - Sat. 8:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

306-842-4689

We reserve the right to limit quantities. Prices are subject to change.

"SYSCO"

NEW YORK STRIPLOIN STEAK

24 - 8 oz. AAA Beef Individually vacuumed

\$16000 BOX