

SASKATCHEWAN FLYING FARMERS

Newsletter

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Happy 99th Don!

Don Goranson of Weyburn, Sask.
Born Dec. 15, 1921 at SE 32-7-13

Congratulations, Don, for deservingly making the front page of the Weyburn newspaper.

MEANDERINBGS

President Dwight & Sandra Monteyne

Wow!!! What a year! I doubt if there is a person who has not been somehow affected by the pandemic. First year ever that there was just the two of us for Christmas. First time in many years that we will not be travelling for a winter vacation. Besides, we don't want to run into any of our politicians who are travelling for vacations. Haha.

Was thinking as I was entering the bank a few days ago with my mask on, if I had done this before the pandemic, they would have called the police, and now they will call the police if I don't put one on. Haha again.

Dwight is a very social person, so he finds it hard to stay home or not invite people over. He has managed to find some little projects to do and with the winter being so nice, he is often outside doing something. I can always find something to do. I like to read, do puzzles, and of course, there are always my greeting cards that I like to make. For a while I was doing more baking but then I stepped on the bathroom scale and decided I should cut back on that. And of course there is always housecleaning (UGG), but with no people coming over, people don't see your dust. Not sure about all of you, but I already have my shirt sleeve rolled up and waiting for the vaccine. As soon as they say my age group can go, I am getting in line.

We were done harvest in good time this year and it was a beautiful warm fall, so we took the plane for a few short flights. When the weather is nice Dwight gets the itch, and with the stress of this pandemic there is something that makes you feel free like a bird. On the serious side, I hope all of you and your family are all healthy and safe. I hope no one is affected financially or emotionally by the pandemic. If you are feeling down or lonely, you can always give me or some other members a call. Have a COVID free New Year!

Boyd Gerald & Cheryl

Gerald flew only 10 hours last summer because of COVID limiting conditions. He is currently undergoing cancer treatments for a cancer that is small yet but one for which no surgery is possible.

Cook Kathleen

Kathleen continues to forward words of wisdom, humour, cartoons that speak louder than words. Congratulations on your 98th birthday. January 29th!

Dion Clément & Sylvia

Looking forward to the burial of the CORONA virus. Comings and goings have certainly changed. We just do the best we can. Clément fortunately goes to the farm sporadically and I concentrate on taking daily walks. We do feel shut in but at least we are safe.

Spending Christmas just the two of us was certainly different. We did spend some time on ZOOM with the children and grandchildren., Technology can be a blessing. On a couple of ZOOM sessions, we even played BINGO. Our son, Firmin, had a little machine so we arranged to have cards. Firmin and Melanie's 17-month-old son, Theo, tapped the ball machine and 6-year-old, Zacharie, called the numbers. After two rounds, the novelty wore off for the little ones so the rest of us simply chatted.



A welcomed addition to our retirement complex was the raised gardens which arrived for planting last spring.. We have to say they were made possible by a NEW HORIZON grant. So that means all of you have a bit invested in them ! ! !!!!.

Flying hours this last year has been zero. With my restricted medical, it is not easy to get in the air. With the thru sparAD on the T210M it grounded the aircraft. NDE inspection showed a small amount of corrosion on the underside where the foam insulation pad was glued. A bad judgement and engineering boo-boo. A small sanding and anodizing will be all that is needed.



To minimize the withdrawal symptom, I purchased a drone. It is very interesting to fly and the camera gives that pilot view so needed. I can venture out a little over one kilometre, so I look at a quarter section easily.



2021 will be a little different as we have rented the land for the foreseeable future. The 2020 crop was abundant and the prices of grain and oilseed make for an enjoyable ending to farming. Clément is still involved on a few committees. Meetings are over ZOOM so travel is not needed. He would like to share this virtual experience with SFF members. Please feel free to download the app, which has been security enhanced and being that we have an account for IFF, we have a very generous amount of online time. Contact him if you want help with it. We are hoping travel to the US will be lifted and the pandemic subdued so we can go to Mitchell, SD for the IFF convention.

Donald Dale and Thelma Martin

Dale is no longer going to take farming seriously. His grandson has moved a house there and will be taking over. There is to be a photo taken shortly of three generations graduating from the College of Agriculture: Donald in 1955, his son Ross in 1980 and his grandson Ryan in 2000. Dale has moved. His new address is: Battleford Place 201 Telegraph Road, Box 2196, Battleford SK S0M 0E0. Being alone is not too difficult because he was used to being alone on the farm. Thelma is doing fine.

Ferguson Don & June

Much as they would have liked to, Don and June did not go south this winter because of COVID. They do have a place down there. Insurance was not a problem but there was no guarantee about a hospital bed should the necessity have arisen.

Gillis Carl & Joan

Joan has had her last intravenous chemo and is beginning to feel better. She will be undergoing more tests including a cat scan and blood tests. This will determine whether her cancer is truly treatable and it is possible that she will be on chemo pill form.

Hill Margaret

Margaret appreciated having one of her sons and his wife spend Christmas day with her. Otherwise she's home alone. She does go to Mass everyday which gives her an opportunity to see some people. She appreciates the daily meaningful homilies as well.

Hoegl Marilyn & Ken Kay

Marilyn & Ken still cross the Lloydminster border occasionally to see each other. Before stricter restrictions in December they did manage to have lunch with Dale & Thelma. Everyone is staying low since restrictions.

Knox Doug

60+family and friends honoured Doug via ZOOM on his 89th birthday. A couple months ago, Clément had initiated Doug to ZOOM. They chatted for quite some length but Doug's picture was super fuzzy. Shortly afterwards, Doug called Clément to tell him he had forgotten to remove the protective film on his camera lens.

Lalonde Arthur & Randi

Life has equalled hibernation for them too. Dogs have always been part of their life. Unfortunately, the two they had cherished and appreciated for a number of years died of old age. They decided they were irreplaceable. As nature would have it, numerous deer, moose and rabbits kept coming into their farmyard. The most recent highlight is therefore the purchase of a new dog, a big half German shepherd with lots of energy who is now keeping the situation under control.

Don Milne

Don still lives in his apartment in Sparwood, BC. He used to enjoy walking over to the coffee shop everyday but the virus has interrupted that. He has been fumbling through a Co-op training book he's had from travelling across the country helping set up Co-ops. He wishes he could have some input in what is developing in his current area. It's always pleasant to chat with him.

Murphy Rodney

Rodney is doing the best he can keeping safe.

Jim Hampson

Jim Hampson has moved to White City to be closer to his son and daughter-in-law. His new address is: 4 College Crescent, White City, SK S4L 0C6

Nash Bev

Being restricted doesn't bother me too much. I was used to being on the farm a whole week at a time without going to town. I keep busy cooking, reading and doing crafts. Clinton is continuing his on-line university classes from home. He does have friends, from university in Edmonton last year, who try to do weekly on-line assignments together.

Nash Bernie

Bernie spent 5 days at Manitou Beach resort in Watrous at Christmas time. He thoroughly enjoyed the pool and the meals. He spends a lot of time researching news on the Internet.

Pierce Ken & Colette

Hello to all our Saskatchewan flying farmer friends!

Well, 2020 has definitely been an interesting year! If nothing else, with all the shut-downs for COVID there was a lot less flying going on this past summer. I did manage to get 153 hours instead of my usual 250 and a lot of that was working on the private grass airstrip map that we updated for Manitoba this year. We ended up documenting 175 grass strips in Manitoba and since we got our map published another seven or eight were found!



This fall, the gentleman who was renting a half section of grain land from me came and said to me he wanted to buy it now so I put out some tenders and by the time the smoke all cleared, as they say, we ended up selling that 1/2 + another 3 quarters of land. It really doesn't affect my main operation too much as it only cuts down 50 cows that I won't be able to pasture for somebody next year.

With a little extra cash with which you can't make any money investing right now, I went ahead and spent it on

a real money-making project which was to buy a **1965 Citabria!** That was in early December. I haven't been able to get it up to the mechanics to get the annual so I have not flown it yet. The owner was telling me he has a set of skis for it but I haven't decided if I'm going that route or not. Seeing I needed to make more room in my hangar for the new plane and the weather through December was so lovely, we went ahead and put up a 35' x 65' hoop building for storage. It was a kit I had bought five or six years ago and never got around to constructing. However, we just managed to get it all up and filled with vehicles when we had a blizzard on the 14th with 120km winds! Well, that wind popped the tiedown ratchets on one side of the building. When I got up in the morning, there was 65' x 15' on one side all flopping straight out in the wind!



Once in a while when the wind dropped, I tried to grab it but you couldn't hang onto it so we just had to leave it flopping all day.

We have managed to steer clear of the COVID. However, Colette is working at one of the inoculation sites for giving the vaccine in Brandon.

I hope all of our Saskatchewan friends managed to stay clear of COVID. It was the year for doing things differently. We have enjoyed Doug Knox's virtual birthday party as well as one other birthday party, one funeral and multiple meetings on ZOOM.

My hip replacement that was supposed to be in January of course is up in the air. The last I heard, they were 7000 surgeries behind, so it's not likely going to get done this winter.

Seeing as there was no place to go out for supper or anything this summer, I constructed an outdoor fireplace by our little cabin in the valley. Every Tuesday night, we went out and had a pizza night or barbeque or something in the woodfired fireplace. Colette said one advantage of that was she was always able to know what day of the week it was because that was our Tuesday night out!



We hope all our Saskatchewan friends are well and healthy and looking forward to a much better year in 2021.

Rogalsky Ron & Brenda

We spent a quiet Christmas and New Year at home. We were joined by our son, Joseph, for Christmas.

We moved Brenda's Mom to the Melville nursing home where she has settled in. It is hard for the entire family not able to see her because of COVID restrictions.

Hope everyone is safe and hope for a better New Year.

Sparks Louis & Darlene

Usual activities have been very limited here as well. Louis did check in for the new name tags requested. There is no rush for ordering for the time being.

Darlene's only sister will be 90 in February. Recently, Darlene had to move her to a senior home. It was a challenge.

Swanson Jerry & Innis

Hope all is well with everyone! Not much news out this way. Like everyone else, we have not done any amount of travelling this past year; even flying has slowed down somewhat. Grandsons were all geared up for flying lessons but that has been put on hold till this virus gets under control.

We had a very quiet Christmas with no outside of town family coming home. In the long run it was a good idea as daughter Nola and Dean from Viking,

Alberta were stricken with the Covid virus shortly after Christmas. Both had various symptoms and are recovering. The good part of that is that so far their two grown children did not get it. We gained three new family members this past year as our granddaughter Lachelle, married Conner Keys in Swifter Current in February.

Then on October 28th, grandson Alex and Taylor had a baby boy naming him after his great grampa Gerald! (Jack Gerald Swanson). Six days later, on November 4th, granddaughter Jeslyn and Ben had a baby boy naming him Jake Robert (Wilson), brother for 3 year old Bobby! We don't get to see them much though.

We are not actively farming anymore and after 58 years of grain cleaning for the farmers in our area, Jerry agreed to retire from that service (with a little push from me.) A notice was put in the local paper and a list of customers passed on to another fellow who was in the business and voilà, done!!! We missed the visiting part of the business as many cups of coffee were served and many of the world problems solved at the kitchen table while waiting for the truck to fill etc. etc!!! I think I missed it as much as Jerry. Fishing trips were limited this year so no fish stories to tell!!

I do hope that we will all get through this craziness this coming year and we will be able to hug our friends again! Take care everyone. Have a safe and healthy year ahead.

Wilcox Verne & Doris

Verne & Doris are just okay. Verne was dizzy and not having a good day when I called. He simply spends his days in his easy chair and watches TV. Doris just does the best she can. Family comes in to check on them. Briefly, as Doris put it, they are just hanging in there!

Yaworski Beate

Beate has moved to Saskatoon where she lives in the basement suite of her daughter Laurie's house. Laurie's husband and the two grandsons complete the 5 people bubble. She is having fun and does try to keep out of mischief. The farmhouse in Vanscoy will be vacant until Beate has the opportunity to do some sorting of contents. This past summer, one of her grandsons was married. The wedding ceremony took place in church. They were fortunate to have the reception afterwards in the Quonset at the farm. The Quonset is fairly new and could allow for more distancing. One of the highlights, other than appreciating her daughter and her family's company: she is done shovelling! Beate's new address is: 1219 Willow Grove Court Saskatoon, SK S7W 0A5

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ELDERLY

While working for an organization that delivers lunches to elderly shut-ins, I used to take my 4 year-old daughter on my afternoon rounds. She was unfailingly intrigued by the various appliances of old age, particularly the canes, walkers and wheelchairs.. One day I found her staring at a pair of false teeth soaking in a glass. As I braced myself for her inevitable barrage of questions, she merely turned and whispered, "The tooth fairy will never believe this."

Could this "Valentine" make it around the world?

For God so loVed the world

That He gAve

His onLy

BegottEn

SoN

That whosoever

Believeth In Him

Should NNot perish,

But have EVerlasting life."

John 3, 16



**Make sure you test Positive for Faith,
Keep your distance from doubt,
and
Isolate yourself from fear.
Trust God through it all.**

AMEN