

Preston Avenue reconstruction progresses

The reconstruction of Preston Avenue by the City of Saskatoon is well underway, reports Don Drysdale, Project Management Engineer with the City's Municipal Engineering Branch.

"Work has been completed to install three new storm sewer manholes, and existing street light poles on the east side of the roadway have been removed," says Drysdale. This portion of Preston Avenue will have no street lighting, until new lights are permanently installed in the new centre median, in the latter part of July or early August.

Roadwork has now begun on the construction of two northbound lanes on the east edge of the existing roadway.

"ASL Paving will be hauling earth and gravel, compacting earth and starting to construct some of the curbs on the new northbound roadway," says Drysdale.

Road construction is very weather dependent, says Drysdale, so it's difficult to say when paving of the new traffic lanes will begin.

"The easiest part of the project will be rebuilding the existing road, which will become the two southbound lanes. We'll

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Communities of Tomorrow partnership launched at Regina Research Park

A five-year, \$30-million investment for a Communities of Tomorrow (CT) partnership was announced May 22 at Regina Research Park. Premier Lorne Calvert, Public Works and Government Services Minister Ralph Goodale, Regina Mayor Pat Fiacco, NRC President Arthur Carty and U of R President David Barnard were among the speakers and partner representatives.

Premier Lorne Calvert spoke about the partnership's importance to Regina as well as its expertise and commercialization transferability to other communities. "The Communities of Tomorrow partnership will build on established research excellence in Regina and perform groundbreaking work that will help communities across the country in their sustainability efforts," said Calvert.

Minister Goodale noted that Regina is "positioned to become a national centre for environmental infrastructure expertise." Dr. Barnard said the \$30 million could in time generate economic and research activity 10 or 100 times greater than the initial investment.

One of three core partners, the City of Regina, will provide data and act as a "living laboratory" to test and demonstrate new environmental technologies and management practices for sustainable community development.

The other two key partners, the National Research Council (NRC) and

the University of Regina (U of R), bring their respective expertise in industrial and municipal research, and in hard and soft technology development and environmental and social studies.

The U of R and the Regina Research Park have existing strengths in related research, with organizations including the Greenhouse Gas Technology Centre, the Prairie Adaptation Research Collaborative (PARC) and the Petroleum Technology Research Centre (PTRC).

The NRC's new Centre for Sustainable Infrastructure Research will be a cornerstone of the CT partnership, acting as a catalyst for commercialization processes through linkages with industry, and stimulating growth in the region's environmental technology cluster. The latter especially complements the Regina Regional Economic Development Authority's cluster strategy for environmental industries.

In addition to economic spin-offs, and because sustainable development is about "treating the world as if we intended to stay" (Robert Gray, 1993), the CT Mission statement points out that "an integrated approach will be fostered for municipal quality of life, environmental integrity and economic and social development."

For more information, check www.communitiestomorrow.ca, or call the Communities of Tomorrow Director, Dr. Rob Greenwood at (306) 787-4887.

BioScience Awards honour exceptional achievement

In celebration of the golden anniversary of the DNA double helix, Ag-West Biotech Inc. recently introduced its first annual BioScience Awards to recognize excellence in the field of bioscience in Saskatchewan. Awards were presented at a luncheon held on Friday, May 9 at Innovation Place.

The Lifetime Achievement Award recognized a leader, innovator and champion of biosciences in Saskatchewan. This year's winner is **Dr. Wilf Keller**, known worldwide for his work in championing the development and application of biotechnologies for crop genetic modification. Dr. Keller graduated from the U of S Crop Science Department in 1972. He worked for the Research Branch of Agriculture Canada in Ottawa until 1989 when he moved back to Saskatoon to accept a position with NRC/PBI as Group Leader for Canola Biotechnology and Head of the Transgenic Plant Centre. In 1999, Keller was appointed to his current position of Research Director.

John Cross, President and Chairman of Philom Bios Inc., was recipient of the Entrepreneurial Leadership and Vision Award. In 1980, Cross co-founded a new innoculant company, Philom Bios Inc. Today, this company develops, manufactures and markets high-end inoculants such as TagTeam, the world's first inoculant to combine nitrogen and phosphate. Cross has received numerous awards during his career, and was most recently granted an Honorary Life Membership in the Saskatchewan Institute of Agrologists in 2002.

The winner of the Communications and Public Awareness Award was **Lisa Jategaonkar**, Information Officer, NRC/PBI. Jategaonkar, also a U of S graduate, started her career as the Manager of Communications and Public Awareness at Ag-West Biotech Inc. where she was integral to the opening of the Saskatchewan Agricultural Biotechnology Information Centre

(SABIC). Since then, she has continued her career in science communications at NRC/PBI providing scientifically accurate information on issues surrounding biotechnology.

The Outstanding Scientific Achievement Award recognizes an early career scientist who has made a significant contribution to Saskatchewan's bioscience community. This year's award was presented to **Dr. Andrew Van Kessel**, Associate Professor, Department of Poultry and Animal Science, University of Saskatchewan. After graduating from the U of S, Dr. Van Kessel continued his career with a postdoctoral fellowship at VIDO. He is now the Director for the Animal Biotechnology Centre. Van Kessel is actively involved in research analyzing the relationship between intestinal microbial colonization and animal health performance.

Ag-West Biotech's BioScience Awards are set to become an annual event. A nominating committee for 2004 is being formed and nominations will be accepted throughout the year. Details will be posted on the Ag-West website: www.agwest.sk.ca

Preston Avenue reconstruction

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be spending more time on the northbound section of the road."

Drysdale says that traffic will not be impacted during this phase of road construction, with the exception of the east side bike lane, which has been closed.

Tenants of Innovation Place are reminded to drive carefully, obey all road restrictions and watch for work crews in the area, during the reconstruction project.

Saskatoon to host Aboriginal science conference

The Canadian Aboriginal Science & Technology Society (CASTS) is pleased to announce its upcoming sixth Conference, taking place September 18 to 20, 2003 in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. The theme of the conference is the "Integration of Science, Technology, and Traditional Knowledge in Today's Environment."

The CASTS conference is the only Aboriginal Science conference in Canada and is an exciting opportunity to promote research that involves or affects Aboriginal peoples in Canada.

The conference objectives are:

- to celebrate and showcase a national profile of Aboriginal S&T research and researchers
- to celebrate and showcase successful initiatives of Aboriginal participation and excellence in S&T
- to provide a forum for a three-day assembly of the national Aboriginal S&T community to network – sharing information, resources, and perspectives
- to provide a forum for a discussion of "the Integration of Science, Technology, and Traditional Knowledge in Today's Environment"
- to promote an interest in science-related careers among Aboriginal students

The CASTS Conference 2003 invites presenters to showcase their research by conducting an oral presentation, workshop or submitting a poster presentation.

CASTS invites your organization to purchase booth space at the event. The six main areas of interest are as follows: Science & Technology, Health, Environment, Education, Traditional Knowledge and Careers.

For more information visit the conference web page at: <http://www.usask.ca/casts2003>, or contact conference co-ordinator Philip McCloskey at the U of S Department of Chemistry, (306) 966-5533.

Bio Bus showcased in Winnipeg

The Saskatoon Transit Department's "Bio Bus" recently hit the road to attend the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' (FCM) 66th annual Conference and Municipal Expo in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Charles Stolte, manager of the City of Saskatoon's Transit Services, accompanied the Bio Bus to the FCM Conference and Expo, which was held from May 30 to June 2. Delegates to the Canadian Urban Transit Association Conference, held simultaneously in Winnipeg, also had an opportunity to visit the Bio Bus display.

Response to the Bio Bus was overwhelmingly positive, says Stolte. "People loved it! The bus is very flashy and attracted a lot of attention. It became a real talking point at the conference."

Stolte says the project was supported by a number of provincial and federal agencies. "The federal government's Minister of

Agriculture thought this would be a great opportunity to promote the bio-diesel project that's going on in Saskatchewan to all of Canada. By showcasing the Bio Bus at the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Conference and the Canadian Urban Transit Association Conference, we received a great deal of exposure and attracted a lot of attention."

The Bio Bus comprised the largest static display at the FCM Conference, occupying a space equal to four exhibit booths. In addition to exploring the actual Bio Bus, displays, pamphlets and brochures explained the benefits of using bio-diesel fuel blends.

"We had demonstrations which showed the soot emissions from regular diesel fuel versus the canola product," says Stolte.

The display was staffed by members of Saskatoon Transit Services, representatives

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Ag-West funding brings Syngene Biotek to Saskatoon

SynGene Biotek Inc., a privately-owned molecular agribusiness company incorporated in Victoria, British Columbia, is establishing a subsidiary company in Saskatoon with help from Ag-West Biotech Inc. in the form of an investment of \$200,000 over two years.

"The investment from Ag-West Biotech will help to establish the company at the National Research Council-Plant Biotechnology Institute Industry Partnership Facility. Our first PhD level employee started work in the new laboratory earlier this month. We plan to hire additional scientific staff to carry out research in the coming year," said Dr. Santosh Misra, President of SynGene Biotek Inc.

SynGene's mission is to develop and market disease-resistant plant and crop species. Their discoveries are based on "Protectin™" platform technology.

Protectins™ are novel, naturally-occurring antimicrobial molecules which, when modified to maximize plant compatibility and introduced into plants, provide powerful resistance to a broad range of destructive microbial diseases. The need for such novel plant products is striking - they can prevent crop losses both in the field and in storage and reduce food contamination by microbial toxins and carcinogens. They will also reduce dependence on pesticides while improving crop yield.

"The Saskatchewan agbiotech cluster is renowned for its capability for adding valuable traits to numerous crop species. The addition of SynGene and their broad-spectrum microbial resistance technology to Saskatchewan's technology infrastructure is a perfect match," says Peter McCann, President of Ag-West Biotech Inc.

SPAM eliminator: Loose Foot Computing

Loose Foot Computing Limited (LFC Hosting), headquartered at Regina Research Park, is pleased to announce the launch of their new LFC Control Panel v.3. The easy-to-use system offers, among hundreds of hosting management features, the capability for local businesses to completely eliminate unsolicited e-mail (SPAM) at a time when e-mail abuse is at an all-time high.

LFC Hosting President Robert Sauchyn says, "Our new state-of-the-art control panel offers unsurpassed administration of new technologies such as .NET while breaking new ground in the industry with the automation of those features that we have always provided, such as FrontPage, SQL Server and mySQL, DNS and daily file/database backups."

Webmasters who are able to control every aspect of their web presence themselves have a key advantage. Programmatic administration is faster, more straightforward and drastically reduces the margin for error. LFC Hosting's advanced automation eliminates many of the manual tasks typically associated with the maintenance of a website and makes self-help a breeze, giving LFC's clients the distinct advantage over their competition and raising the bar for web-hosting management in the industry.

LFC V-P Andrew MacCorquodale says, "The new LFC Control Panel v.3 is likely the most powerful control panel offered by any virtual hosting company and will propel LFC Hosting to a leading position in the market of quality small- to medium-sized business hosting services."

LFC clients will be able to utilize the features of the new LFC Control Panel v.3 with all business-level plans starting at only \$3.60/domain. An on-line demo of the LFC Hosting Control Panel v.3 is available at: <http://demo.lfchosting.com>.

updates

Changes of address

Please note the following changes of address for these Innovation Place companies:

- **Amanah Tech Inc.** has relocated to 108 - 116 Research Drive.
- **iEQ Development** has relocated from Office I to Office E, in the Network Centre at 116 Research Drive.

Jazz in the Bowl June 18

It's the definition of a perfect summer day: Hot sunshine, cool jazz and groovy grilled treats!

You're invited to join in the fun as Innovation Place presents its annual Jazz in the Bowl luncheon, Wednesday, June 18 from 12 noon to 1 p.m.

Enjoy a live performance by Kenny Marco and Sanctified Creole, served with a delicious barbecue lunch from the culinary cool cats at Boffins. *Be there or be square!*

Spice Research Day

The Saskatchewan Herb and Spice Association (SHSA) will hold its third annual Research Update Day, June 17 at the Delta Bessborough Hotel.

The conference theme is "Focus on Crops and Products for Enhanced Health: Linking Research and Processing from the Shelf to the Field."

The one-day conference will feature 35 speakers representing industry, researchers, processors and funding agencies.

Registration to attend the conference is \$35.00, which includes lunch. More information is available by calling the SHSA at 1-306-694-4622 or emailing: shsa@imagewireless.ca. The SHSA website also offers details: <http://www.saskherbspice.org/June172003/>

Regina Research Park sizzles June 17

Add some sizzle to your summer by attending the Regina Research Park's Tenant Barbecue. This year's event will be held on Tuesday, June 17, from 11:45 a.m. until 1:15 p.m.

The theme of this year's Tenant Barbecue is focused on the City of Regina's Centennial Celebration. Mayor Pat Fiacco will be in attendance offering special greetings from the City. Proceeds will be donated to the United Way of Regina. Please check your recently delivered invitation for full event details.

Wascana Week fun option for kids

Exciting summer vacation memories await for children who attend the unique day camp opportunity offered by Wascana Centre, July 7 through 11, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily.

This action-packed day camp, for children ages 8 to 11, emphasizes much of what's special about Wascana Centre. Culture and recreation are blended in a week filled with lots of activity and fun. Children will spend a week meeting new friends, exploring science and technology, participating in field trips, appreciating nature and discovering the world of art.

Each day, children travel to a different location, including Regina Research Park, Wascana Centre Authority, Royal Saskatchewan Museum, Legislative Assembly, MacKenzie Art Gallery, Kramer IMAX Theatre, the Science Centre, Centre of the Arts and City of Regina Parks and Recreation.

Registration is \$90.00 per child. Call (306) 522-3661 or pick up a registration form at Wascana Place, 2900 Wascana Drive.

Changes of address or other updates can be directed to: Wonda Kirychuk, Innovation Place, 114 -15 Innovation Boulevard, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, S7N 2X8, or call (306) 933-6581. Email: wkirychuk@innovationplace.com.

Bio Bus showcased in Winnipeg

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from the Canola Growers' Association, the federal government Department of Agriculture and the University of Saskatchewan.

Saskatoon is the only city in Canada to boast a Bio Bus that is canola-based, says Stolte. "There are a few other bio bus projects going on, one using soya-bean fuel additives, but their bio-fuel has to be transported up from the United States. Here, in Saskatchewan, we grow it, we refine it and we use it right in our own province as a renewable resource."

The City of Saskatoon Transit Department boasts two Bio Buses, which operate on a fuel blend of 95 per cent diesel mixed with five per cent methyl ester, an additive derived from canola oil. The Bio Buses operate as part of a research project involving the Saskatoon Research Centre of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Milligan Bio Tech Inc., the University of Saskatchewan and Ag-West Biotech.

Fuel for the Bio Buses is processed at the Innovation Place Bio Processing Centre. The state-of-the-art bio processing facility converts canola oil into the bio-diesel fuel additive, as a result of technology developed by Dr. Martin Reaney, a research scientist with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada in Saskatoon.

The switch to canola bio-diesel has demonstrated many benefits for the City's transit fleet, including less pollution, lower operating costs through improved fuel economy, reduction of engine wear and noise.

"The Bio Bus is a showcase program for our city, for our staff and for the bio-diesel project itself. We're ecstatic that we have the opportunity to participate in this initiative," says Stolte.

The Innovation Place Newsletter is published monthly for Saskatchewan's research parks by the Armstrong Creative Group. For information, call Jeannie Armstrong at (306) 249-2459, or email: armstrongcreative@shaw.ca