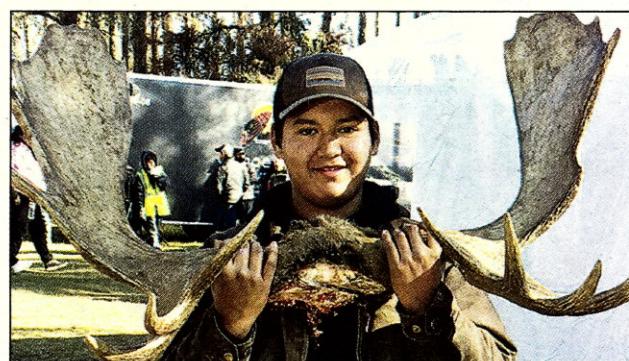


3... DENIED City of Meadow Lake employees do not need to be fully vaccinated after a vax policy was defeated by council.

Northern PRIDE



9-12

MLTC once again reaches out to its members through its monthly newsletter.

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Submitted Photo

Family Feud Canada host Gerry Dee (left) chats with the Degenhardt family, consisting of cousins Sheri, Evan, Sarah, Joe and Lynn, during a recent taping of the game show.

Goodsoil family feuding

"It's time to play the Feud!" Television viewers from Northwest Saskatchewan will likely tune in to the game show *Family Feud Canada* Nov. 11 to see just how well a group of contestants with ties to the Goodsoil area do when news broke recently of their participation in the episode which was taped in mid-September.

"It was an unreal experience," remarked Joe Degenhardt, a former Goodsoil resident who now lives in Esterhazy.

Degenhardt and four of his first cousins – Sheri, Evan, Sarah and Lynn – comprised the team and, although none of them live in Goodsoil now, they are proud of their family's history and wanted to ensure the community and region was well represented on the

national stage.

"We actually auditioned for the 2020 season, but because of COVID-19, things were cancelled," Degenhardt continued. "We put together an audition video – these little clips as a way of showing our energy, our style and just to stand out – and sent it in. Eventually, someone from *Family Feud* got in touch... That led to Zoom meetings and eventually to us appearing on the show. The whole process took about a year-and-a-half."

Degenhardt said the cousins chose to audition as a way of getting together and doing something special after the pandemic had kept them apart for so long.

"We were one crazy group of people looking for an excuse to

get together," he said. "With this whole COVID thing, we needed a silver lining around what's been going on in our world, and this has been it for us. This has been a huge secret we have been trying to hold on to because we didn't even know until recently when our episode would air."

Family Feud Canada is taped at a CBC studio in Toronto.

"They fly you there, you show up the next day, go through all the COVID testing, they put you in a room by yourselves and then wait your turn to practice your entry," Degenhardt said. "You know that pose each family does at the beginning of each episode? Well, they show that pose at the beginning. You need to practice all that, which makes sense as they know

what makes good television."

As for why the group chose to list Goodsoil as their home community while on the show, Degenhardt said it was simply a way for them to pay tribute to their family and their common roots.

"I was personally born in Goodsoil 48 years ago," he noted. "Our parents were born, raised and went to school in Goodsoil. Of our particular family, however, none have lived in Goodsoil since the late 1970s. But, there are Degenhardt cousins still in the area."

The cousins' grandparents – Adam and Anne Degenhardt – homesteaded about six kilometres south of Goodsoil by Peerless, but eventually sold their farm around 1980. They had six children, Ernie, Emil, Dorothy, Don, Theresa

and James. When it comes to the *Family Feud* participants, Sheri is the daughter of Emil, Evan is the son of James, Sarah is the daughter of Don, Joe is the son of Ernie and Lynn is the daughter of Dorothy.

Among those looking forward to watching the episode when it airs is Goodsoil mayor Don Eckel.

"It's an honour when you have people on national TV saying they're from your hometown," Eckel said. "This is great."

Eckel went on to say it should provide Goodsoil with some good exposure.

"When they mention the name, maybe people will Google it and be amazed by how great the area is," he said.

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First ignition held at MLTC Bioenergy Centre

Flame on!

Earlier this week, the Meadow Lake Tribal Council celebrated a milestone in the construction of the new bioenergy facility east of Meadow Lake when the very first flame was ignited inside the combustion chamber.

"We want to have this moment recognized because that old beehive burner (at the adjacent NorSask Forest Products) has been going for pretty much 50 years straight and for it to be replaced with this new, high-tech, environmentally friendly energy producing facility is just outstanding," remarked Al Balisky, president of MLTC Industrial Investments, the company that oversees NorSask. "It's the very first flame inside that new combustion chamber, and there's no ash, no embers and almost no smoke."

The flame was jointly lit Tuesday (Oct. 26) by MLTC Cree vice-chief Richard Derocher and Dene vice-chief Lawrence McIntyre.

"This is a formality, but there's also a technical requirement for it," Balisky said. "It's the bake-out of the refractory that's inside. The refractory inside the chamber itself needs to have the moisture driven out. The bake will last four or five-days after which the fire will be turned off and we probably won't start it again until December some time."

That is when the facility is expected to officially go online.

"We're pretty much on schedule," Balisky added with regard to the overall project itself.

The MLTC Bioenergy Centre, as it is named, will generate carbon-neutral green power using sawmill biomass residuals. It will be the first plant of its kind in Saskatchewan and is expected to produce 6.6 megawatts of baseload electricity to power approximately 5,000 homes with greener energy. The project is expected to decrease greenhouse



gas emissions by more than one million tonnes over 25 years, and reduce smoke and other harmful matter to significantly improve air quality for residents. Revenues from the plant will also support essential programs and services including child and family services, education, and health and youth development for the nine-member First Nations comprising the Meadow Lake Tribal Council.

"SaskPower will have its connection complete by Dec. 1 which will technically allow us to put power on the grid," Balisky continued. "However, with December being the month it is it will be a bit challenging with Christmas and all that. We will have to navigate around a shorter month, so January will be our big month – fully up and running. Certainly it's been a much anticipated construction project and

to get to the end of it now has been very gratifying. It's also been a very significantly supported effort by a variety of different enterprises, and we're grateful for the technical and construction support from so many competent folk and businesses. We are now able to take it and run with it, so we're very excited about that."

According to Derocher, the bioenergy centre will go a long way in supporting the MLTC's nine bands.

"I don't know if you know what this means to our communities," he told a group of assembled workers while visiting the construction site Tuesday afternoon. "This means we're on the road to being self-sufficient. It gives us the opportunity not to rely on government dollars."

He went on to say the subject of long-term care has often come up at MLTC meetings.

"We don't have anything in the way of long-term care facilities in the northern communities like Meadow Lake or all the small communities around us have," he noted. "Our elders have to go as far away as Swift Current, Big River, Prince Albert, away from their families for the last years of their lives. This (bioenergy centre) means we can start building these facilities with our own source revenue, so we can have our elders at home, so they're not all alone in a foreign community. This project is not just a money maker, it's way bigger than that. It will help us to be self-sufficient and to look after our communities the best way we know how."

He also expressed his gratitude to everyone who has contributed to the project.

"As leadership we have visions, we have ideas, but we don't have the know how," he said. "That's why we get professionals like you to help us."

This was echoed by McIntyre.

"Thank you for being here and supporting this initiative," he said.



At left: MLTCII president Al Balisky introduces MLTC vice-chiefs Richard Derocher and Lawrence McIntyre to a small gathering of workers and other project officials Tuesday afternoon. Also pictured is Clarissa McCallum, administrative assistant with the MLTC Bioenergy Centre. At right: Derocher and McIntyre prepare to ignite the first flame inside the facility's combustion chamber.

