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The Cutter's Edge



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Canadian Mail Publications Sales Agreement Number: 42217528 Printed in Canada
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Attention: Lynn Prevost, Box 352, Rose Valley, Saskatchewan S0E 1M0

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Cover Photos by Brooke Haney, and BVD Photography

Publication Information

The Cutter's Edge magazine is published twice a year by Sundown Graphics, Box 544, Kleeefeld, Manitoba, Canada R0A 0V0, 204-377-4384, on behalf of The Association of Canadian Custom Harvesters Inc. Sundown Graphics reserves the right to refuse any material, either for distribution, or for printing in The Cutter's Edge magazine. Acceptance of any advertising does not imply endorsement by ACCHI or Sundown Graphics. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted, in any form without prior written consent from the publisher. If you are interested in advertising in The Cutter's Edge magazine, contact Shawn Thacker at 406-750-2183. Production Manager: Terry Samborski. PRINTED IN CANADA

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President: Shawn Thacker
Phone: 406-750-2183

From the President's Desk

The first thing you may notice when you pick up this issue of The Cutter's Edge is that the thickness is somewhat reduced. I bring this up for a very specific reason. As an organization, we have a lot of timely subjects we can discuss, and the best place to do this is in our magazine, which was set up for this purpose. We have consistently printed a 24-page publication for the last five years. However, over the course of the past year, we found ourselves in a situation where we did not have enough advertising to cover the cost of the magazine. This poses a dilemma for us, as ACCHI is not in a position to cover any production or distribution costs. We must rely on advertisers, who so generously place ads, and have done so on a consistent basis. We wholeheartedly thank our advertisers; this publication would not exist without you. We also take this time to appeal to other businesses who could help us by placing ads in future editions. Your support would be greatly appreciated.

Albeit small, this edition is packed with great information and articles. We are pleased to feature the John Deere Harvester Works Harvest Support Team. Mike Barnett is a member of that team and is highlighted in an article about this great program. We are featuring the Mud Hog hydraulic rear-wheel system, produced by Terra Drive Systems, in our Product Review section. Last but not least, we are extremely happy to feature PrevoSt Harvesting in our Harvester Profile. Lynn, of course, is ACCHI's Office Manager and her husband Jerry has been a custom harvester for many years.

I hope you enjoy this edition of The Cutter's Edge. If you have any ideas for future editions, or would like to advertise, let us know. You can contact Lynn by email at: lprevost@xplornet.ca

From the ACCHI Office

Hello from ACCHI Office.

By the time you receive this magazine, spring will have arrived and summer will be just around the corner. As I write this report, snow is still on the ground, but melting fast with the warm temperatures we have been having. You know spring is around the corner when the water is running. I must admit that this winter flew by. I am not sure how that happens. It seems as though the ACCHI convention was just a short while ago, and here I am getting ready for seeding and heading back south for Harvest 17.

It was wonderful to see old faces, as well as some new ones at the ACCHI annual convention. Those of you who are new to our organization will soon find that we are a unique group of people who become like family. I would personally like to thank everyone for attending. I also want to thank all that come to my rescue and are so willing to help when I ask. I appreciate it more than words can say. Thank you to the ACCHI Executive as well for being patient and so easy to work with. I am so fortunate to work for this wonderful association.

The office has been somewhat quieter this winter. I am, however, expecting that once the fields dry up, we will get some calls from farmers. They will be needing help to get that crop from the fall off in order to seed this year's crop. If any of you are going to be available for some of those calls, let me know.

We no longer have a landline phone in the office and the cell phone I have has been giving me a few problems. I will be getting this taken care of before you receive this issue of The Cutter's Edge, so not to worry. The office cell number is 306-322-8200.

There are some issues that the Executive is dealing with right now regarding housing inspection for those that travel south of the border. We will need to have this dealt with as soon as possible. We will keep you informed.

We are always welcoming new members, if you would like to become a member or our Association please call us at 306-322-8200 with inquiries.

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ACCHI Conventions

Always Informative, Always a Good Time

Article written by: Terry Samborski, Write it Right Photos by BVD Photography

As editors of this magazine, Tammy and I have attended five ACCHI conventions since 2011. We've been every year except 2015. Six years ago, we arrived in Calgary for our first convention, not knowing what to expect. We didn't know much about the organization, having had just one edition of The Cutter's Edge under our belt. We immediately loved the warm hospitality and enjoyed talking to everyone we met. We soon realized that this was more than just people getting together to learn more about their industry. Along the way, we observed a few things that we thought we would share with you:

The people who gather at ACCHI conventions are really like one big family. This was no different this year in Saskatoon. Members gather, catch up with one other, and help each other out. There are many opportunities to eat together or talk to each other over a few drinks. What touches us the most is how this group of people help each other out when times are tough. We have been witness to this and it really is akin to one family member helping out another.

Saskatoon is always an exciting venue as attendees get to explore the big machinery at the CNH Centre on Day 1. The men, especially, never seem to tire of gazing up at the mighty harvesters before them and always have many questions to ask about what these machines can do. Don't get me wrong...many of the women at the conference are just as interested and have just as many questions. In fact, Tammy and I are in awe of the many inspirational women we have met at ACCHI conventions over the years. They all seem to have boundless energy, working on the field, but also balancing cooking and cleaning for a crew, and in some cases, raising a family.

The businesses that display their products or speak about their services always come well prepared with great information. Many of these businesses are also convention sponsors. They are very supportive of the organization and many provide very unique and "sought-after" prizes for attendees.

As much fun as ACCHI conventions can be, there are always one or two sessions that include serious issues that the association and its members need to discuss. Most often, these sessions are about labour issues, permits, insurance matters and rules and regulations when going down south.

Presentations are always informative. This past year, Farm Credit Canada made a presentation on "Public Trust in Ag and Food" and Crop Life Canada touched upon some of the new technologies in the plant service industry.

Entertainment is always high quality. We've seen bands, comedians, magicians and astounding local talent over the years. We can always count on a great evening at the end of Day 1.

Scholarships are presented annually. It is always nice to see the recipient in person at the event. These young students are so eager to start their careers and it's so nice to see ACCHI supporting them.

ACCHI consistently recognizes those members who have made significant contributions to either the association or the industry. This past year, many past Presidents of ACCHI were in attendance, and these dedicated individuals were acknowledged at the banquet on the final evening of the conference. A long-time attendee of the conference, Mike Barnett of John Deere, was also recognized. To find out more on what Mike has been doing with John Deere over the years, check out his article in this issue of our magazine.

ACCHI does silent auctions on a grand scale...more than either of us could have ever imagined. Following dinner on Day 2, the silent auction begins...always with a professional auctioneer, and always with loads of donated prizes. Once the auction begins, it is interesting to see who is willing to pay what. The evening is always so much fun, and it's all to raise funds for the good of the organization.

Winners

At its annual convention in Saskatoon last December, ACCHI announced the winners of its **2016 Scholarships**.

Craig Edison won the **Cliff Petersen Memorial Scholarship** and **Morgan Rousseau** the **Debbie Hepworth Memorial Scholarship**.



Lee Petersen presents Craig Edison with the Petersen Memorial Scholarship

2017 Scholarships

Two scholarships in the amount of **\$1500** each are available to **family members of ACCHI members**. Applications can be sent in any time. The **deadline** this year is **November 1, 2017**.

Applications are **available online** at acchi.com on the About Us page. See the bottom of that page and click on "download the scholarship form." Winners will be announced at the ACCHI Annual Convention in December. Winners must be in attendance or have someone in attendance to accept.



This year I, Morgan Rousseau, was fortunate enough to receive the 'Debbie Hepworth Memorial Scholarship' at the Association of Canadian Custom Harvesters convention hosted in Saskatoon, SK. Since then, I have been accepted into Mount Royal University in Calgary, AB, where I will be taking my Bachelor of Nursing degree. It has always been a dream of mine to go to Mount Royal University. I am so happy that my dreams are finally coming true. I will be starting my new journey there this fall. I plan on using the scholarship I received to pay for a portion of my tuition for my first year. This scholarship is helping me with getting closer to my dream and I am thankful for the opportunity. I am very thankful for receiving the scholarship and I hope that I am using it in a way that would make both the association and my family proud.

There is no doubt in my mind that these annual conventions are the glue that holds this organization together. Reminiscing with old friends each year and having the opportunity to talk business and compare notes with other custom harvesters, ACCHI conventions are continuing to do what they are supposed to do...mixing business with pleasure. Join us at our next convention in Lethbridge this December. We'd love to see you there!

USCHI Convention

Article written by: Lynn Prevost

The USCHI Annual Convention was held in Omaha, NE January 19-21, 2017. Mike & Brittany VanDriesten and Jerry & myself attended. It is always good to keep in touch with our harvest families from the south. The trade show floor was full with many equipment dealers and other businesses associated with our industry. The trade show can keep the men busy for hours. The Ladies event kept Brittany & I busy as well.

The Peterson Farm Bros, a band made up of three young guys who promote agriculture with their music, entertained us one evening with their songs. They are on YouTube and have had millions of views. These guys are good advocates for agriculture.

The USCHI has an event for children as well a safety day, which included the importance of seatbelts, safety around machinery and what to do in case of fire.

The Ladies event was once again a highlight for me. This year, they had Kate Dilse speak; her topic was "Heart to Heart." She is definitely an energetic lady that brings life to her speeches.

The Auction at the USCHI Convention always brings many good items to the table for members to bid on. The USCHI also dedicates one evening to induct members to their Hall of Fame and present the Scholarships.

If any of our members have the chance to go to the USCHI Convention, know that the members and Board of Directors of USCHI will welcome you and treat you well.



Jerry and Lynn Prevost

Hand in Hand with ACCHI

Article written by: Terry Samborski, Write it Right



Jerry has been a custom harvester for almost 25 years. He started in 1993 by joining a team from North Battleford. In that first year, he went to Oklahoma for a few jobs and also worked on a few farms in North Dakota. During this run, he met Tom Kyle from Manor, Saskatchewan. Tom taught Jerry a lot about custom harvesting and the two worked together on a few jobs. Soon thereafter, Jerry built his own custom harvesting business. Eventually, he built up a clientele that became repeat customers for many years. Each harvesting season, Jerry went to many states in the US including Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota, North Dakota and the Texas panhandle.

In 1995, Jerry and Lynn started dating. They had met a few years earlier, when, in an ironic twist of fate, Lynn's ex-husband bought Jerry's boat. Sometime later, Jerry decided to call Lynn to see if she would want to go out for lunch, and Lynn, being a single mother at the time, said she could not say 'no' to a free lunch. So then it started. In 1996, Lynn moved to Jerry's home town of Rose Valley, Saskatchewan. During their first ten years together, Lynn rarely took part in the harvest, other than going south for a few weeks during the summer to help where needed. Eventually, she became involved in doing the books and the paperwork. Then, in 2006, Lynn began participating in the run, where she began cooking for the team (now SHE was providing lunch!), run the cart, but also eventually ran harvest machinery. Over the years, these various jobs have been handed to others to do (i.e. hiring a firm in the U.S. to help with the paperwork) but on the whole, Lynn is prepared to help anywhere she is needed.

Jerry was instrumental in teaching Lynn how to work the farm machinery. Even though her dad had an agricultural background, (he was a grain buyer) Lynn had not ever operated farm equipment. So Jerry taught her how to work various machines. What Jerry didn't teach her initially were the various hand signals used to indicate lift header, shut off the engine etc. When Lynn was first on a combine and Jerry began flinging his hands around, she had no idea what he was doing and decided to give him the only hand signal she knew (I'm sure you can all surmise what finger she held up.) Needless to say, as time went by, Lynn learned the proper hand signals.

When Jerry and Lynn got together, they became a blended family; Jerry had three children and Lynn had two. Between the two of them, they had five children between the ages of 12 and 16. Lynn says that having that many teenagers in the house initially made for a few trying times, but now, all these years later, they are definitely "family." All five children have helped to work on the harvest one way or another. They also now have 11 grandchildren between the ages of two and sixteen, and one step-granddaughter who is 16 years old.

Lynn Prevost has worked for ACCHI since 2004. She began by helping Debbie Hepworth and Karla Petersen at convention registrations. Eventually, she evolved to the position she holds today – Office Manager for the organization. The 'office' is one room in her home designated for ACCHI. It is also wherever she may be when she is travelling and close to a telephone or a computer. This could be while she is sitting in a hotel room, attending a harvest-related convention or out in the field. Most likely, if it is between May and September, she is on the seat of a tractor. Nonetheless, she performs her duties as Office Manager and organizes whatever task needed for the good of the organization. So how did Lynn become involved with ACCHI, or with custom harvesting, you may ask? Enter Jerry Prevost.



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Balancing the work required for ACCHI with a harvest run can sometimes be trying, especially at peak season in the fall. "At that point, many of my phone calls are done while I'm driving a tractor or the grain cart," says Lynn. She claims that she does her best brainstorming on a grain cart, as she plans each fall for upcoming annual conventions.

What resonates with this couple is that they both love what they do, and their dedication to custom harvesting makes working for ACCHI go hand in hand.

"As Office Manager for ACCHI my office is often on the seat of a grain cart"



John Deere Harvest Support Team

Mike Barnett Takes His Last Run in 2017

Article written by: Terry Samborski, Write it Right

In the spring of 1991, two teams of John Deere employees set out on two separate journeys – one starting in Texas, the other in Oklahoma – and both heading north. They each had a 53 foot trailer in tow, filled with approximately 270 line items of critical combine stock. The purpose was to provide parts and service support to harvesters across the country... essentially bringing the products to them, rather than the client having to order parts and have them shipped. These runs turned out to be a great success. John Deere has continued the program every year since then and has never looked back.

The program is the John Deere Harvester Works Harvest Support Program. When the 9000 Series combines were introduced in the early 1990's, a decision was made to find a way to better support John Deere dealers and custom harvesters. And what better way than to follow them along the harvest trail? The size and scope of the program has grown steadily over the years. The teams now carry over 1400 line items and there are two 53-foot trailers with each team.

The Harvester Works Harvest Support Program especially helps smaller dealers (where not many combines are sold) by providing them with parts that these dealers would not normally stock. The trailers carry a lot of inventory - items that, because of their weight, size and cost, are difficult to ship in a timely manner. For the harvesters who suddenly find themselves needing these parts during a run, having the Harvester Works trailer nearby is a huge benefit. With the Harvester Works trailer near their job site, a harvester can avoid downtime much quicker if his equipment is in need of repair.

The Harvester Works run generally starts in May and ends in September. There is no set schedule due to weather, crop conditions and other factors that come into play, but once a van is in a certain location, (usually staying for ten days to two weeks) an email is sent to dealers and company personnel to let harvesters know where they are. Each team has eight van stops along the trail. (These stops are shown on the map in the right column.)

Mike Barnett has been with the John Deere Harvester Works Harvest Support Program since the beginning. He is known in the industry as a dedicated member of the team and many custom harvesters have come to know him as a friendly, helpful and highly supportive individual. While some members of the team have "shift changes" every so often, Mike generally stays out for the entire run, from start to finish...and loves it! "I have had some long, hard days and some rough times on this journey, but they were far out-weighted by the



good times," says Mike. "If I had to do it all over again, I would jump at the chance."

Mike Barnett will be taking his last run in 2017. After all these years with this program, Mike feels it is time to retire, even though he knows he will miss the entire harvest experience. "The harvest is an exciting time. It does get in your blood. I've had the opportunity to make some great friends from Munday, Texas all the way to Edmonton, Alberta. The guys that I work with are a great bunch of individuals and they all do a fantastic job taking care of our customers. I will miss seeing the country, the machines, the customers, the dealers and the Harvest Support Team."

Mike also enjoyed working with ACCHI. "It has been my pleasure and my privilege to work with Canadian Custom Harvesters and their organization for the past 25 years. Working in this business has been a great opportunity and I feel fortunate to have been a part of all this."

Mike Barnett has set the bar high. As a dedicated member of the John Deere Harvester Works Harvest Support Program, he has given his best. Those associated with him know that he will be dearly missed on future runs by members of his team, dealers and customers alike.



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ANY WEATHER IS MUD HOG WEATHER

Article by: Katie VerHoeven, Marketing Specialist
Terra Drive Systems (TDS)

Mud Hog began in 1976, as a family owned company with a revolutionary idea to power the rear wheels of harvesting equipment with hydraulic power. Today, thousands of farm equipment dealers in North America and around the world sell and install reliable Mud Hog rear-wheel drive systems on their machines. With over 100 models, the Mud Hog product line provides custom solutions for nearly every make and model of combine harvester and is also available as a factory installed option for most brands.

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Being a leading designer and manufacturer of steerable hydraulic drive systems for on-and off-highway motorized specialty equipment, TDS continues to innovate. Recently they hosted a ride and drive event bringing attention to their new prototype featuring a TDS adapted powered rear track system on a combine harvester. A local farmer, Danny Brettnacher, while harvesting with the new system aptly said, "This takes combining to a new level." TDS looks forward to bringing this new technology to its already loyal customer base.

Mud Hog, which has served the Agricultural industry for the past 40 years, will continue to be the trademark of Terra Drive Systems, Inc. "We've provided solutions for the Ag industry for 40 years." - C. Phillip Joy, President & CEO, Terra Drive Systems



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Cooking for a Crew

Thank you to Nancy Eberts of Eberts Harvesting Inc. for her Facebook submission of this easy peasy recipe to HarvesterHer.

Cherry Bars

- 1 cup butter (No substitutes)
- 1 3/4 cup sugar
- 4 eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 can cherry pie filling (I use more)
- 3 cups flour
- 1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt

Cream butter and sugar. Add eggs (one at a time) and continue to mix.

Add vanilla.

Sift dry ingredients together and add to mixture.

Spread 3/4 of the mixture into a greased jelly roll pan (will need to use fingers). I often spray my fingers with Pam Cooking Spray before spreading.

- Spread cherry pie filling onto dough. Drop remaining dough on top of the cherry pie filling in small portions (see picture).
- Bake at 350 degrees for 45 minutes.
- When cool, drizzle with a simple powdered sugar frosting. (Powdered sugar, water and vanilla)



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