

Myrnam 4-H Club March Report

Caitlin Jacula
Club Reporter

The Myrnam 4-H Club held its annual communications competition on February 22, at the Myrnam Senior's Centre. We had a lot of great speeches and presentations from all of our members.

The winners of the competition were: Junior Speech – Harlen Saskiw, Junior Presentation – Caitlin Jacula, Intermediate Speech – Jaeanna Saskiw, Intermediate Presentation – Hannah Saruk, Senior Speech – Riley Pashulka, Senior Presentation – Taylor Pashulka, Thank you to Altalink, Servus Credit Union, Nick Yanitski, and Taras and Diana Saruk for sponsoring the event for our club.

Club members Jaeanna Saskiw, Hannah Saruk and Caitlin Jacula, were able to compete at the district competition in Willingdon on February 25 where they did a good job of representing our club, and all girls placed 2nd in their

categories.

Thank you to our Two Hills 4-H District sponsors: MCSNet, County of Two Hills, Lakeland Family Eyecare and Northern Livestock Sales.

Our club is going bowling in St. Paul as a fun activity later this month. In April, most members will be attending the Kirk Stierwalt Clinic weekend in Myrnam, and we will also have our annual farm tour day.

We are selling flowers and garden plants as a spring fundraiser for our club. We did this same fundraiser last year, and the plants are amazing quality, big and beautiful and healthy. If you would like to support us, you can visit our fundraising website at <http://myrnam4h.growingsmilesfundraising.com> to order plants before May 12, and pick up will be at the Myrnam Arena on May 24.

The Myrnam 4-H Club is hosting the District Show & Sale this year at the Myrnam Arena on June 4, if anyone

is looking to fill their freezers with top-quality, hand-raised 4-H beef, please attend the event and bid on a great steer from any of our district 4-H members. It will be the most delicious beef you have ever had! If you have any questions about our district show and sale,

please contact our club leader, Josie Pashulka at 780-741-2188 or by email at kenpashulka@hotmail.com, or if you would like to receive a show and sale catalog when they are ready, please e-mail jjacula@mcsnet.ca, and we will get one to you.



Lorraine Saruk from the Myrnam branch of Servus Credit Union gives the Myrnam 4-H Club a \$500 sponsorship for their Club Communications event. Photo submitted

Farmwives 2 – Book Release

Angela Mouly
Reporter

Billi J. Miller is excited to announce the release of her second book, "Farmwives 2: An Inspiring Look at the Lives of the New Canadian Farmwives" on March 22.

The local author's first book, "Farmwives: In Profile," was released in January 2016. She noted that her previous provincial government job always included business writing in some aspect, but that she had dreamt of writing books since she was six years old. Having been inquisitive of other people and after moving to a farm, getting married, and having children she decided to start her own business pursuing photography and writing as a career instead of returning to a desk job.

Miller married a fourth-generation farmer in 2010 and currently lives about a half hour southeast of Vermilion. She wasn't raised by farmers but grew up completing part of her schooling in Lloydminster where she became familiar with the agricultural industry. Her husband's family has been farming for more than 100 years.

"Living with farming was definitely new to me. I fell in love with the strong sense of community and the pivotal role that the matriarchs and farm women played in that," said Miller.

She was thrilled with the response from readers of her first book and soon found that many were expecting a second book. According to Miller, the sequel also celebrates and honours Canadian farm women, but is much

but is much more extensive this time around and very different.

"The first book profiled women aged 55 - 90 specific to our local area and included photos, recipes, and interviews. The second book has more interviews than the first book and now includes the next generation of women from across Canada, ranging from their 20's to 50's. 'Farmwives 2' also goes a lot more in-depth into the lifestyle touching on many more topics, interview questions, and includes bonus chapters. It also includes more recipes! I'm very proud of this book!" said Miller.

Miller divulged information about the women in her new book saying, "Despite what some may think of the next generations, many farmwives now are just as traditional - canning, cooking and baking. Some women work in the fields just as much as their husbands; the women in this book are as varied as the beautiful parts of the country they hail from.

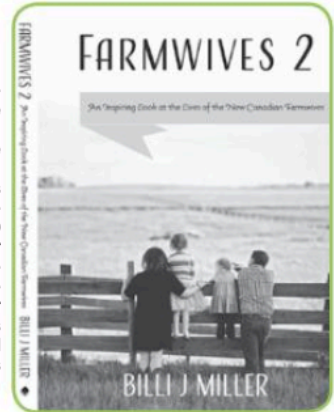
Women are turning the "traditional role of farmwife" on its head. This book represents many different kinds of people and different kinds of farms. They are representing the different ways Canadian family farms are moving forward," said Miller.

Readers can look forward to over 24 interviews; seven of them from the Vermilion - Lloydminster rural area, including Miller herself. Miller went on to say that readers may also connect to the fact that as much as this book celebrates, it opens up about some of the problematic issues involved in farming,

in particular to the roles of women.

Miller believes that the deep agricultural roots in the region prompted the positive response for her first book, and with her new book aims to share the voices of the next generations too.

Miller's book officially launches on March 22, at the Border City Farmers Market in Lloydminster at 1:30 p.m. The book will be available for sale by visiting all major online retailers, or by visiting the Vermilion Cornerstone Co-op Food Store. In April, Miller plans to attend the Vermilion Farmers Market each Tuesday to sell signed copies of her books. For more details and upcoming appearances, you can visit farmwivesbook.com.



Billi J. Miller. Photos submitted

Storytime Event: Safety & Children

Join the library and local police for a safety talk & stories. All are welcome to attend but the talk is at a level for children aged 6-12 years.

March 24th @ 10:30^{am}
Vermilion Public Library
 Call 780 853-4288 to Register