

‘Cadillac of Métis businesses’ wins national award

JULIA PETERSON

Northern Saskatchewan is still feeling the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has affected everything from tourism to mine operations.

But in Ile-a-la-Crosse, a village of around 1,500 people located almost 500 kilometres northwest of Saskatoon, the local development corporation has spent the last two years rising to the challenge.

Sakitawak Development Corporation (SDC) is being honoured with a national award, celebrating its hard work and service to the community during and prior to the pandemic.

Earlier this month, the National Aboriginal Capital Corporations Association (NACCA) announced that Sakitawak Development has won this year’s Indigenous Community Owned Business Award of Excellence.

The award celebrates First Nations, Inuit and Métis entrepreneurs across Canada.

Tyler Morin, SDC’s CEO, said the corporation has made a point of diversifying the types of companies that operate under its umbrella, and has focused on businesses that improve life in the north.

“With the pandemic, because we had so many active investments, we were able to put our people to work,” Morin said.

One of SDC’s major successes over the last few years has been the Ile a la Crosse Fish Company, a fish processing and packing plant in the village.

“We directly employ anywhere from 20 to 30 people (at the fish company),” Morin said. “And then in our area, there are about 100 licensed fishermen that are dependent on us, and they employ anywhere from two to three workers each. So it’s quite a big operation.”

SDC also organizes a community market garden in the village, so locals can enjoy more fresh produce during the summer months.

“Little initiatives like that go a long way for a community,” Morin said.

SDC also played “an active role” in Ile-a-la-Crosse’s pandemic response, serving on the local emergency operational committee at the height of the crisis, he noted.

Still, he was surprised when the Clarence Campeau Development Fund put SDC forward for the award — and even more surprised to win, he said.

“I didn’t think we had a chance — but I guess I was wrong, because we ended up winning it. It was a little bit of validation.”

Clarence Campeau COO Steve Danners said he’s delighted to celebrate SDC’s “complete success story” on the national stage.

“As far as we’re concerned, there’s not a more deserving organization,” Danners said. “I would describe Sakitawak Development Corporation as the Cadillac of Métis organizations.”

Danners said SDC’s community leadership work, the millions of dollars of business it does in northwestern Saskatchewan and the jobs it continues to create in the community make it an inspiration and a role model.

Morin said he looks forward to flying to Ottawa in May to accept the award, but he is still focused on business.

“Whether we won the award or not, we would still be headed in the direction we’re heading in,” he said. “And that is to keep being an active participant in our local economy for our region, and be there for community residents in the Ile-a-la-Crosse area.”

— Local Journalism Initiative
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This year’s Saskatchewan Jazz Festival — running June 30 to July 7 — will be a celebration of music and community, organizers say. MICHELLE BERG

Saskatchewan Jazz Festival announces lineup for 35th edition

It’s safe to say the SaskTel Saskatchewan Jazz Festival has found its rhythm after 35 years. Organizers say this year’s festival will be a celebration of the music and community at its heart.

JazzFest, which showcases jazz, blues, funk, pop, and world music, will commemorate the occasion with Prairie Rhythms: 35 Years of Jazz, Community, and Fun, featuring the Saskatoon Jazz Orchestra. The show is to be the final performance at the TD Mainstage

at Bessborough Gardens on July 7.

“We are looking forward to celebrating our 35th anniversary and the bright future of music, jazz and the festival itself,” executive director Shannon Josdal said in a news release.

This year’s festival runs June 30 to July 7. The ticketed lineup was released online over several days, with a full list of ticketed shows announced Tuesday. The lineup for the free stage — located in Victoria Park this year — will be announced

on the website on May 13.

The TD Mainstage will also host Lucinda Williams and Megan Nash on June 30; Arkells with Haviah Mighty and Shawnee Kish on July 2 and Patti LaBelle with Jack Semple on July 5.

The Broadway Theatre Series includes Don Ross Louder than Usual with Katie Tupper on June 30, The Strumbellas on July 6 and Mo Heart with Tanika Charles on July 7.

The Strictly Jazz Series at The

Bassment includes Ernesto Cervini — Tetrahedron on July 3 and Laila Biali on July 6.

The Amigos Cantina Series includes Shred Kelly on July 1 and Boy Golden on July 2.

The full performance schedule is available at saskjazz.com. Tickets go on sale at noon on May 2 and will be available at the Broadway Theatre box office, by phone at 306-652-6556 or online at the JazzFest website.

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University of Saskatchewan’s Amati instruments reunite for two concerts with new performers

JOCELYN BENNETT

Nearly four years after they were last presented as the full quartet, the University of Saskatchewan’s Amati instruments will emerge for two public performances this weekend.

“This is the only example of a quartet of Amati instruments in the whole country ... we’re very lucky to have them in playing condition,” said Veronique Mathieu, U of S associate professor of violin and the David L. Kaplan Chair in Music.

Hand-crafted in Italy in the 1600s, the university’s collection remains one of only a few complete Amati string quartets in the world. The set was sold to the university in 1959 by amateur collector Stephen Kolbinson, who wanted the instruments to be played in Saskatchewan.

“One of his wishes was that these instruments would be heard by people in Saskatchewan and would be made available to everyone, because they’re so special. He really wanted to make them part of the general culture,” Mathieu said.

In a collaboration with the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra, three members of the orchestra will join Mathieu on these historic instruments: associate concert master and violinist Jacqueline Nutting, principle violist Jim Legge and acting principle cellist Scott McKnight, who is also a cello instructor at the U of S.

The concert will feature works from Henry Purcell, Mozart, Haydn, Turina and Ukrainian composer Myroslav Skoryk.

“We really adapted the program



Veronique Mathieu rehearses with one of the Amati violins. The instruments will be played in two shows this weekend. MATT SMITH

to the instruments themselves,” Mathieu said.

The last time the full quartet was used in performance was in a memorial concert for former Amati Quartet violinist Marla Cole. Mathieu said that former quartet will be honoured this weekend.

“This work by Turina is really just to pay homage to the previous Amati Quartet, because it’s one of the last works they had performed and recorded,” she said.

The piece by Skoryk was also chosen to honour Ukrainian musicians and the people of Ukraine.

Mathieu said the decision to make the concerts small and intimate was primarily due to the pandemic, but she believes this type of concert showcases the instruments in the best way.

“These instruments were really meant to be heard in salon concerts and smaller venues. I think it’s a really special opportunity for the public to be really close to these instruments and see them

well ... These are really special artworks and they’re also quite special to hear.”

Mathieu said she hopes to see new faces at the concerts this weekend, to introduce these instruments to a new audience.

“We’re really hoping that some people that may not have heard them before will get a chance to hear them.”

Plans for future performances with the Amati instruments include events at Culture Days in the fall and a concert series next year that will feature guest performers.

“We’re really looking forward to playing them more regularly,” Mathieu said.

The Amati instruments will be played in an intimate performance Friday at 6 p.m. and a coffee concert Sunday at 10:30 a.m. at the Diefenbaker Canada Centre at the U of S. The Friday show is sold out, but tickets for the Sunday show are available at diefenbaker.usask.ca. jbennett@postmedia.com

Maroon 5 bringing world tour to Saskatoon

Grammy Award-winning Maroon 5 plan to bring their 2022 World Tour to Saskatoon in August. They last performed in Saskatoon in 2015.

The American pop rock band recently released their seventh studio album, *Jordi*. Many of their singles have reached platinum sales, with two hitting diamond in the U.S.

Their first album, *Songs About Jane*, took two years to hit the top 10 on album charts. After that, the band found quicker success with their second album, *It Won’t Be Soon Before Long*, opening at No. 1 on the charts.

The band has received three Grammy Awards from 13 nominations in their 20-year career.

They have received dozens of other music awards and nominations, including three American Music Awards, eight Billboard Awards, four Brit Award nominations and two Juno Award nominations.

With chart-topping hits like *Girls Like You* featuring Cardi B, *Memories*, *Moves Like Jagger* and *She Will Be Loved*, the band has a strong fan base worldwide.

Maroon 5 is set to play at SaskTel Centre on Aug. 6 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets go on sale Friday at 10 a.m. on sasktelcentre.com.

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