

## *A Taste of Saskatchewan*

*The 22<sup>nd</sup> National ORNAC Conference was held in Regina ( May 8 – 13, 2011 ). Throughout the conference Saskatchewan's little known facts, history and items of interest were imparted. Of course Saskatchewan themes graced the many social events.*

*Regina is in The Guinness Book of Records. It has the longest bridge ( Albert Street Bridge ) over the shortest body of water ( Wascana Creek ). It also hosts the Canadian Western Agribition annually, which is the largest livestock show in Canada ( based on gross sales ).*

*Saskatchewan landscape is not just vast prairie and flat land. The great sand hills spread over 1900 square kilometers of sand dune landscape. Cypress hills are the highest point in Saskatchewan at 1468 meters ( Calgary's elevation is 1048 meters ). 44 % of all the cultivated farmland in Canada is in Saskatchewan. By area it also has more fresh water than Alberta and B C combined. Saskatchewan's road surface ( over 190,000 km ) would circle the equator four times.*

*Lloydminster is the only city in Canada situated across a border. Its main street is along the fourth meridian one of the longest straight surveyed lines on earth.*

*Estevan is the Sunshine capital of Canada, making Saskatchewan the sunniest province. The first Dairy Queen in Canada was in Estevan. Down the road, Weyburn has the only Curling Museum in the world.*

*Gordie Howe, touted as one of the greatest hockey players, was born just outside Saskatoon at Floral. Saskatchewan has produced 425 NHL'ers, more than any other province. Albert Einstein, the father of the " Theory of Relativity "(  $E = mc^2$  ), played goal for the Canwood Canucks one winter. Albert travelled north from the United States, " to find peace and silence ", for work on his theory. Apparently, Canwood with a population around 300 in the early 1930's fit the bill. As far fetched as it may seem, it's known he had played hockey in Germany in his younger years.*

*Prince Albert is the only city in Canada to have been represented by three Canadian Prime Ministers, Laurier ( 7<sup>th</sup> ), King ( 10<sup>th</sup> ), and Diefenbaker ( 13<sup>th</sup> ). Near Prince Albert ... Saskatchewan has the largest kimberlite field ( diamond-bearing rock ) in the world. The largest documented hailstone in Canadian history, was at Cedoux. On August 27, 1973 a stone measuring 114 mm in diameter and weighing 290 grams ( 10.23 ounces ) fell. Now a diamond of that size would be quite impressive.*

*Saskatoon based Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan has 4400 million tonnes reserve of the world's 9500 million tonnes potash. PCS is the world's largest potash producer, producing 20 % of the world's supply.*

*The University of Saskatchewan, houses a third generation synchrotron ( a high energy particle accelerator ), known as Canadian Light Source ( opened October 2004 ). Researchers announced in January 2011, their plan to make medical isotopes without the use of a nuclear reactor. This would be ground breaking, concerns were recently raised about Canada's isotope supply, an alternative for supply is essential.*

*Saskatchewan was the first province in Canada to adopt an air ambulance service. LIFEGUARD, is the oldest non-military air-medical transport program in the world.*

*Lastly, famous names such as Dr. Ballard and Kiefer Sutherland have a Saskatchewan connection. Dr. Ballard a veterinarian from Wolsley, developed the pet food himself. Kiefer's grandfather, Tommy Douglas' idea made Saskatchewan the birthplace of our medicare system. He is known as the father of Universal Health Care.*

*The conference's theme, " Elevating the Field of Perioperative Nursing " demonstrated that we must stand tall and have a voice to change our practice.*

*A culture of safety must be created for patient's and staff. Collaborative team work processes has improved patient safety with, site marking, briefings and safety checklists. O R nurses work to maintain safety and decrease adverse events, creating order in a fast moving and turbulent environment. Often, leaving themselves and colleagues vulnerable to work place hazards. An ethical community of practice must be created. Colleagues need safety relationships, allowing for discussion of the work atmosphere. Accountability for our actions becomes empowerment for our responsibilities. Communication is key, " make candor a core competence ". With the influx of internationally educated nurses, peer support is a huge challenge. Canadian practice is a struggle for many possibly due to a cultural knowledge deficit. Positive outcomes are necessary, setting up international nurses for success indeed assures patient safety.*

*Surgical plume is a workplace hazard and patient safety issue. If there is odor, toxic gases are present. Laparoscopically it is noticeable how particulate matter decreases surgical visibility. Surgical smoke is distributed to all present in the O R theatre, ending up in our alveoli. It is known to be associated with sinus, allergy and asthma conditions. AORN has a goal to promote 100 % plume compliance. Presently ESU plume has 25 % compliance and Laser plume has 100 % compliance.*

*Insanity is doing the same thing over and over expecting different results. Elevating the field for the future requires us to influence and embrace change. Be prepared to create our new future.*

*Karen Wyshynski  
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