

# 2007 ANNUAL REPORT

## Message from the Chairperson Rural Development Institute Advisory Committee

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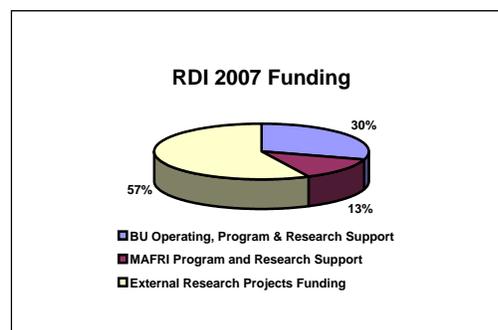


**Scott Grills, PhD**

Vice-President (Academic and Research)  
Chairperson, RDI Advisory Committee

As Chairperson of the Rural Development Institute Advisory Committee and as Vice-President of Academic and Research, I would like to congratulate Dr. Robert Annis and the entire RDI Team for an outstanding year. The research that RDI has undertaken with communities in rural and northern western Canada is responsive to the issues and concerns of rural and remote communities. With twenty-six presentations, nine reports and working papers, four book chapters and three new fact sheets, RDI's efforts in translating and transferring knowledge gained through these research initiatives and community development practices to communities, policy-makers and academia are significant contributions to rural community development.

On behalf of Brandon University and the Rural Development Institute, I would like to acknowledge the contributions of governments and granting institutions that provided research funding. As is evident in this graph, contributions to funding a rural research institute come from more than one source. Brandon University provides operating, program and research support. External funders such as the Government of Canada's Rural Secretariat, the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada provide much-needed research funding.



Since its establishment in 1999, the Rural Development Institute has had a long relationship with the Government of Manitoba facilitated by ongoing consultations and formalized through a series of Memoranda of Understanding. I am pleased to announce that the Rural Development Institute and Manitoba Agriculture, Foods and Rural Initiatives signed a new five-year agreement that supports community economic development, growth and well-being of rural Manitoba; the development of knowledge, skills and capacity to undertake research and related activities; and to introduce new strategies and models for rural and northern community development. The Province of Manitoba's support is integral to the capacity of the Rural Development Institute to connect with rural and northern communities, policy-makers and other academic institutions.

I look forward to 2008 as it promises to be another year of opportunities for research and community development, with several of the multi-year research projects in their final year, and the start of important research into rural immigration and rural and northern youth migration.

*A Centre of Excellence for  
Rural Research, Policy and Practice*

## Message from the Director



**Robert C. Annis, PhD**  
 Director  
 Rural Development Institute  
 (RDI)

The Rural Development Institute has completed another year of many opportunities and a few challenges. We continued with several ongoing research initiatives and started down the path to new research opportunities.

*The Health Care Access of Northern Residents* research findings to date include broad systems concerns which are viewed as issues that underpin the entire provincial health care system in Manitoba. The emphasis in northern Manitoba is to understand the unique needs of isolated communities because policies developed in the south often are not a good “fit” in the north. Research findings from northern Saskatchewan highlight concerns related to transportation policy, funding models and local availability of services and health care professionals.

The *Community Collaboration Model Project* is in its last year with a longitudinal study of the Manitoba regional round tables completed. The regional round tables in Saskatchewan and the Yukon have developed into self-sufficient organizations with their visions and goals reflecting the needs and cultures of their stakeholders. Initiated in late 2006, a CCP Study Group on Collaboration and Governance was formed with membership from universities across Canada and the United States. This group has identified the need for a greater understanding of collaboration and rural regional governance in academia, government and communities. The CCP Study Group has held three meetings, the first in December 2006, and then in March and November 2007. Over the next year, the group will continue to meet, exploring theoretical perspectives and formulating research questions. We look forward to their participation in the National Rural Research Network’s northern dialogue workshop in Whitehorse.

The three *Leafy Spurge* projects have enabled further research and networking throughout Manitoba and the Prairie provinces. Through these initiatives, an Invasive Plants Council was established in Manitoba and there is now a network of stakeholders in western Canada that collaborate and share information and resources on invasive species across the Prairies.

In May, we embarked on a new research initiative that emerged from our on-going work on rural immigration. As we started to look at immigration in Brandon and southwestern Manitoba, we became aware of the arrival of hundreds of temporary foreign workers to the city of Brandon and surrounding area. As we started to look at this, it became apparent that there was not a lot of information available on the temporary foreign worker process, the nature and character-

istics of the temporary foreign worker population in Brandon and the implications for Brandon and the surrounding area as well as for the province.

In November the Youth Standing Committee of Rural Team Manitoba approached RDI to coordinate and conduct research to investigate the extent of youth migration in rural and northern Manitoba. This research will be conducted in three regions in Manitoba: communities within the Economic Development Council for Manitoba Bilingual Municipalities, the Parkland and Northern regions of Manitoba. RDI researchers and student research assistants will develop a picture of youth migration in these regions and explore the reasons why young people leave rural and northern communities.

Over the past year, RDI participated in a number of policy discussions. In March, we facilitated a dialogue session on the impact and influence of the National Rural Research Network with academics, policy-makers, and community members. As part of the Standing Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry hearings on Rural Poverty, we delivered a presentation and a working paper to the committee. In April, RDI worked with the Westman Superintendent’s Group to inform and influence education policy, research, and practice in rural Southwestern Manitoba. In September, representatives of RDI met with the Honorable Christian Paradis, Secretary of State (Agriculture) to discuss rural research initiatives. In October, five representatives of RDI participated in the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundations’ Policy Conference.

Looking to 2008, RDI will continue to be actively engaged in policy discussions. In partnership with the National Rural Research Network and Yukon College, we are co-hosting a northern dialogue session with community leaders, policy-makers, and researchers in Whitehorse, Yukon. In February, RDI is coordinating a pan-western conference on invasive plant species. A workshop on access to northern health services in northern Manitoba and Saskatchewan will be hosted by RDI in April with community residents, regional health authorities, and government representatives. In June, RDI is co-hosting the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation Policy Conference in Inuvik, Northwest Territories.

I am pleased to welcome our two “newest” Research Affiliates, **Jill Bucklaschuk** and **Alison Moss**. Jill received a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) from Brandon University and a Masters of Arts in Sociology from Carleton University in Ottawa. Alison received a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) and Masters of Rural Development from Brandon University. Jill and Alison are co-leading our rural immigration research initiatives, and working together on the youth migration study.

I would like to thank the entire RDI Team for their contributions, viewpoints and energy. I am privileged to be the Director of such an outstanding team. The Rural Development Institute is a collective group of academic, community development professionals and students whose knowledge, skills and abilities are complementary, enabling us to be a centre of excellence in rural development research, policy and practice.

## The RDI Team

The RDI Team is a diverse group of individuals interested in rural, remote and northern community development. The research, community development and community outreach initiatives are conducted by practitioners with expertise, skills and experience in community development, research design and implementation, data analysis and synthesis and project management. The following is a brief summary of the RDI Team. Biographies can be found at [www.brandonu.ca/rdi/rdi\\_team.asp](http://www.brandonu.ca/rdi/rdi_team.asp).

**Robert Annis** is Director of the Rural Development Institute, Brandon University who has been actively engaged in community development initiatives across Canada for over twenty-five years. **Marian Beattie** is the project lead for the *Community Collaboration Project: Empowering communities and building capacity* project, and contributes to other projects including *Rural Immigration: Exploring demographics and temporary foreign workers in Brandon and area* and *Youth Out-migration in Manitoba*. **Jill Bucklaschuk** is the project co-lead for the *Rural Immigration* research project. **Wayne Digby** is the Chair of the Leafy Spurge Stakeholders Group. **Keith Farquhar** is a student contributor to the *Managing Invasive Species: Leafy Spurge Control* project.



**Ryan Gibson** leads the *CCP Study Group on Collaboration and Governance* and the *National Rural Research Network Whitehorse Dialogue Event*. He also contributes to many other RDI projects including the *Community Collaboration Project*, the *E-Books and Health Care Access of Northern Residents* project. **Alison Ham** is a student contributor to the *Managing Invasive Species: Leafy Spurge Control* project. **Sylvia Henry** provides administrative project support. **Beverley Lischka** provides administrative support to Robert Annis, and all of the projects that are carried out by the Institute.

**Alison Moss** leads the *Youth Migration* project and co-leads the *Rural Immigration* research project. She also contributes to many other RDI projects including the *Community Collaboration Project*, and *Health Care Access of Northern Residents* project. **Laine Mosset** is a student contributor to the *Health Care Access of Northern Residents* project. **Abayomi Oredogbe** is a student contributor to *Diversification into Farm Tourism*.

**Beth Peers** is the lead for the *Managing Invasive Species: Leafy Spurge Control* and *On the Ground: Leafy Spurge Surveillance & Management & Towards Establishing an Invasive Plant Council for the Province of Manitoba*. Beth is also the Leafy Spurge Stakeholders Group Coordinator. **Fran Racher** is the lead for the *Health Care Access of Northern Residents* project.

**Doug Ramsey** is the editor of the *Journal of Rural and Community Development*. **Karen Rempel** is the lead for the *Western Canada Regional Collaboration on Invasive Plant Species* and *Establishment of the Prairie Region Invasive Noxious Weed Survey & Mapping System* projects. **Ray Silvius** contributes to *Rural Immigration in Manitoba* research.

**Monika Sormova** is the Brandon Community Outreach Service Coordinator. **Diane Martz** is the Director of the Research Ethics Office at the University of Saskatchewan. Diane contributed to the *Community Collaboration Project WaterWolf Regional Round Table evaluation*. **Nicole Vaugeois** of the Department of Recreation and Tourism Management, Malaspina University-College (Nanaimo B.C.) contributed to the *Community Collaboration Project*.



Robert Annis & Fran Racher



Marian Beattie, Diane Martz  
& Ryan Gibson

## Rural Immigration: Exploring Demographics and Temporary Foreign Workers in Brandon and Area

In May 2007, RDI embarked on a new research project that emerged from their on-going work on rural immigration. In particular, this new project will focus on the relatively recent phenomenon of the arrival of hundreds of temporary foreign workers (TFWs) to the city of Brandon and surrounding area. At the core of the project is a demographic projection study that will provide pertinent data to community and government stakeholders regarding expected demographic changes in the coming years. However, qualitative assessments of the TFW process, the nature and characteristics of the TFW population in Brandon, and the implications of such a phenomenon are needed to more accurately inform the assumptions that will build demographic projections.

In the city of Brandon and surrounding area, various labour market factors such as labour shortages in low to high skilled jobs and expanding operations at Maple Leaf Foods are resulting in the need to adjust recruiting and hiring practices to extend employee searches beyond the provincial labour pool to overseas countries. Regulated by the federal government, the TFW program offers an expedited process for recruiting and hiring foreign workers with lower skill levels and on a temporary basis. Of particular interest to this research project, in the case of Manitoba, TFWs can eventually apply to the Provincial Nominee Program, thus contributing to the province's annual immigration targets and dramatically changing the demographics of rural centres. In general, Manitoba's immigration policies and documented success with the Provincial Nominee Program make it a unique case in which to study immigration.

Little is known about the TFW process and the nature and characteristics of the population in Manitoba. Upon speaking with various stakeholders, there emerges a multitude of potential research topics. As this project is currently in preliminary and exploratory stages, the following areas of inquiry that may be more fully explored: retention of temporary foreign workers beyond their temporary work permit; implications of a temporary foreign workforce on the city of Brandon; challenges and difficulties with conducting demographic and rural immigration research in smaller centres; an exploratory assessment of a multi-cultural, multi-ethnic workforce within a single workplace and how such diversity translates from workplace to community; impacts of country of origin on retention rates and issues; and issues pertaining to family member arrivals.

This project seeks to bridge knowledge and communication gaps amongst those actors and stakeholders who are involved in the TFW process, at various levels of government and within the community. One of the main purposes of this research is to bridge such knowledge and communication gaps by consulting with all levels of governments and various community stakeholders through informal conversations, regularly held key stakeholder meetings, and quarterly discussion groups. To date we have consulted with Manitoba Labour and Immigration, Manitoba Agriculture, Food, and Rural Initiatives, Metropolis, Manitoba Bureau of Statistics, the City of Brandon, Maple Leaf Foods, immigrant service providers, and other members of the Brandon business community.

### Research Objectives

- To better understand the temporary foreign worker population that is arriving in Brandon. For example, understanding the nature of their employment and how they came to Brandon, their intentions (if any) for staying in Canada, and their future plans for bringing family members to the country.
- To contribute to developing collaborative, local-level research on the impacts, effects, and instances of temporary foreign workers outside of the major metropolitan regions of Canada.
- To provide community stakeholders and government representatives with pertinent information regarding businesses' intentions for recruiting and hiring temporary foreign workers in Brandon.
- To bridge information and knowledge gaps with regards to the temporary foreign worker program.
- To utilize and further develop demographic projection and analysis tools within a regional rural context and fully explore the strengths and weaknesses of engaging in such research.

### Research Questions

- How many temporary foreign workers are there in Brandon and the surrounding area?
- Primarily, what type of work are they engaging in?
- What are the implications of temporary workers for Brandon and surrounding area?
- How many TFWs remain temporary and how many become landed immigrants?
- How many TFWs apply to the Provincial Nominee Program?
- What is the process by which family members can come to Manitoba?
- Are businesses in Brandon experiencing labour shortages? If so, how do they intend to address shortages?
- Are Brandon and area businesses planning to recruit foreign labour as a strategy for addressing shortages?
- Which businesses are planning to recruit foreign workers and what is their primary strategy?

### Research Plan

This research is multi-faceted and will be conducted in multiple phases over an extended period of time.

*Phase I – Qualitative assessments and explorations* addressing the aforementioned research questions and areas of inquiry. This phase is necessary to build the requisite knowledge needed to proceed in a research area that has little available literature. Discussion papers and conceptual models will be produced from this phase of the project.

*Phase II – Demographic projections* will use the qualitative information gleaned from the first phase to develop assumptions and build more accurately informed projections for the next five to ten years. These projections will assist community stakeholders in developing forward-looking plans to ensure they are ready for any influxes in the population of region.

## Rural Development Institute's Temporary Foreign Workers Dialogue Group

The desire to better understand the impacts associated with the flow of temporary foreign workers (TFWs) into Brandon, Manitoba and area has been expressed by various stakeholders locally, provincially and federally. Immigration and associated community changes have recently become a topic of local interest with the growth of various industries and subsequent labour demands. Many employers in the area have begun to rely on TFWs as local labour pools have not addressed labour shortages. As a result of formal and informal discussions regarding knowledge gaps related to the impacts associated with the flow of foreign workers and their families into the area, a dialogue group was formed to open communication and seek clarification on related issues. The RDI TFW Dialogue Group represents various perspectives and will serve as a mechanism to better understand the TFW process, developing a network to promote and assist further related work. Vision for the dialogue group includes the capacity to choose and discuss related topics, potentially engaging guest speakers, and informing policy, programming, planning and research.

The purpose of the group is to encourage the dynamic exchange of information regarding TFWs in Brandon and surrounding area while also providing an opportunity to identify and discuss issues thus sharing various expertises.

A multitude of lessons and knowledge can come from the sharing of information across governmental departments and among various stakeholders. Meeting topics will be chosen reflecting the needs and interests of group members. Overall, this group consists of two parallel processes: (a) discussion, debate, knowledge transfer and learning; and (b) informing research that will eventually feed back in and inform subsequent group dialogue. Dynamic and open dialogue will set the context and inform what questions need to be asked.

An inaugural meeting was hosted by Brandon University's Rural Development Institute (RDI) on September 11, 2007 with the intention being the creation of a forum for open and dynamic discussion that would respond to the need for clarity and direction for community and government stakeholders. A second RDI TFW Dialogue Group meeting was held at Brandon University on November 8, 2007 focused on exploring and discussing expectations, roles and responsibilities of stakeholders involved in the temporary foreign worker process. Representation included federal, provincial and municipal government departments, private sector, service providers, and researchers. A third meeting will be hosted by RDI in January 2008 focusing on issues related to settlement.

### RDI Visiting Researcher

In December, RDI hosted Dr. Masatoshi Ouchi from the Department of Agriculture Economics, School of Agriculture of Meiji University (Kawasaki, Japan). Through the New Rural Economy research initiative, Dr. Ouchi visited Brandon from December 3 - 14, 2007. During his stay, Dr. Ouchi met with Robert Annis, Beverley Lischka, Ryan Gibson and Marian Beattie of RDI, Ken Bessant, Doug Ramsey and Karen Rempel of the Department of Rural Development, Brandon University, Marty Snelling and Lori Gould of the Brandon Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation, Roger Guy of Community Futures Westman, and Ruth Mealy of Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives. In addition, Dr. Ouchi toured the Brandon Research Station, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, and attended the Manitoba Grazing School.



*Dr. Masatoshi Ouchi*

### Youth Migration in Rural & Northern Manitoba

Rural Team Manitoba is comprised of representatives of federal, provincial and community-serving agencies and departments that have an interest in rural and northern Manitoba. Rural Team Manitoba has several sub-committees, one of which is the Youth Standing Committee. Late in 2007, the Youth Standing committee requested that RDI coordinate and conduct research on their behalf to investigate the extent of youth migration in rural and northern Manitoba communities. This research will be conducted in three regions in Manitoba, including communities within the Economic Development Council for Manitoba Bilingual Municipalities (CDEM), the Parkland and Northern regions of Manitoba. Researchers and graduate students from RDI will develop a picture of youth migration in these regions, and explore the reasons why young people leave rural and northern communities. A report for the Youth Standing Committee will be completed by December 2008.



*Youth Migration Research Team  
Alison Moss Paige Rushton Jill Bucklaschuk Lonnie Patterson*

## Presentations and Publications

An important function of RDI is knowledge translation and transfer of research findings and community development practices to rural communities, community development practitioners, academics, students and governments. In 2007, several project reports were written, as well as chapters for soon-to-be published books. In addition to updating several factsheets, RDI published three new factsheets relating to Leafy Spurge.

RDI was invited to present to members of the federal government including Honorable Christian Paradis, a Minister of State (Agriculture); the Standing Committee on Agriculture and Forestry at their hearings on rural and northern poverty; and the federal-provincial-territorial regionalization workshop. Internationally, RDI was invited to present at the 2007 International Business Retention and Expansion Conference and the 19th annual International Health Promotion Educators IUHPE World Conference on Health Promotion and Education. In July, Robert Annis collaborated on several presentations to students at the Fourth International Comparative Rural Policy Summer Institute in Solona Spain. RDI also presented at several national conferences, including the Connecting Communities: Rural and Urban—19th Annual Canadian Rural Revitalization (CRRF) Rural Policy conference where three presentations and two posters were presented. Other national conferences included the Prairie Division, Canadian Association of Geographers Conference and Vitalize 2007 conference. For additional information, see <http://www.brandonu.ca/rdi/publications.asp>.

### Presentations

Annis, R.C., Bucklaschuk, J., & Moss, A. (2007, November). *Temporary foreign workers in rural centres: A case study of Brandon, Manitoba*. Presented at the Annual Seminar for the Pan-Canadian Research Cluster on Immigration Outside of Major Metropolitan Cities (Observatory on Immigration Settlement in Rural and Small Urban Areas), Sherbrooke, QC.

Amoyaw, B., Bucklaschuk, J., Silvius, R., & Annis, R.C. (2007, June) *A multi-actor framework for rural regional immigration*. Presented at Federal-Provincial-Territorial Regionalization Workshop, Steinbach, MB.

Annis, R.C., Beattie, M., McPherson, R., & Guillet, D. (2007, June). *Regional collaboration: Why do communities come together?* Presented at the 2007 International Business Retention and Expansion Conference, Regina, SK.

Annis, R.C., Racher, F., & Beattie, M. (2007, June). *Community-led process for regional collaboration*. Presented at the 19th IUHPE World Conference on Health Promotion and Education, Vancouver, B.C.

Annis, R.C., Beattie, M., & Gibson, R. (2007, October). *Community Collaboration Model project: Creating regional partnerships new and different ways*. Presented at the Connecting Communities: Rural and Urban – 19th Annual CRRF Rural Policy Conference, Vermilion, AB.

Annis, R.C., Moss, A., & Gibson, R. (2007, March). *Reflections on rural and northern poverty*. Presented to the Standing Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry, Steinbach, MB.

Annis, R.C., Beattie, M., Gibson, R., Moss, A. (2007, September). *Rural Development Institute*. Presented to Honorable Christian Paradis, the Secretary of State (Agriculture), St. Boniface, MB.

Annis, R.C., & Viladomiu, L. (2007, June). *Comparisons and contrasts between Canada's and Europe's regional community development programs*. Presented at the 4th International Comparative Rural Policy Summer Institute, Solona, Spain.

Annis, R.C., & Ramsey, D. (2007, June). *Rural development policy in Canada and route-based tourism in rural Canada*. Presented at the 4th International Comparative Rural Policy Summer Institute, Solona, Spain.

Annis, R.C., (2007, June). *Canadian migration-immigration in rural context*. Presented at the 4th International Comparative Rural Policy Summer Institute, Solona, Spain.

Bucklaschuk, J., & Annis, R.C., Moss, A. (2007, October). *Changing rural settings: Temporary foreign workers and their impact on rural demographics*. Presented at the Connecting Communities: Rural and Urban – 19th Annual CRRF Rural Policy Conference, Vermilion, AB.

Digby, W. (2007, September). *Leafy Spurge in Manitoba*. Presented to the Environment Committee, Manitoba Cattle Producers Association, Brandon, Manitoba.

Digby, W., Johnston, J. (2007, August). *Leafy Spurge in Manitoba*. Presented to the Policy Committee, Association of Manitoba Municipalities, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Digby, W., Thornton, J. (2007, October). *Leafy Spurge in Manitoba*. Presented at the Manitoba Cattle Producers Association District Meeting, Carberry, Manitoba.

Gibson, R., & Annis, R.C., (2007, June). *Strengthening rural communities through volunteerism and collaboration*. Presented at the Vitalize 2007 Conference, Calgary, AB.

Gibson, R., & Annis, R.C., (2007, September). *Measuring the impacts of broadband connectivity in rural and northern communities*. Presented at the Prairie Division, Canadian Association of Geographers Conference, Weyburn, SK.

Pachkowski, K., & Racher, F. (2007, October). *Community placements teach community development to nursing students*. Presented at the Connecting Communities: Rural and Urban – 19th Annual CRRF Rural Policy Conference, Vermilion, AB.

Peers, B. (2007, October). *Leafy Spurge in Manitoba*. Presented at the MCPA District 6 Meeting, Oak Lake, MB.

## Reports and Working Papers

Oredegebe, A. (2007, October). *Diversification into farm tourism*. Presented at the Connecting Communities: Rural and Urban – 19<sup>th</sup> Annual CRRF Rural Policy Conference, Vermilion, AB.

Rempel K. (2007, February) *Rural education: past reflections and future perspectives*. Presented at Manitoba Education Research Network, Brandon MB.

Rempel K. (2007, April). *Western region invasive species inventory and map display*. Presented at Saskatchewan Weed Training Session, Regina SK.

Rempel K. (2007, April) Alberta Invasive Plant Council Annual Meeting, *Lessons learned: The Manitoba experience on invasive weeds*. Presented at Alberta Invasive Plant Council Annual Meeting, Red Deer AB.

Rempel K. (2007, December) *Western region invasive species inventory and map display* Presented at Canadian Food Inspection Agency Federal Provincial Consultations, Winnipeg, MB

Racher, F., Annis, R.C., Moss, A., & Mosset, L. (2007, October). *Northern communities collaborative to improve access to health services*. Presented at the Connecting Communities: Rural and Urban – 19<sup>th</sup> Annual CRRF Rural Policy Conference, Vermilion, AB.

Rosell, J., Stallmann, J., & Annis, R.C., (2007, June). *Rural policy in Europe, United States, and Canada*. Presented at the 4<sup>th</sup> International Comparative Rural Policy Summer Institute, Solona, Spain.

Welsted, J., Wiseman, D., & Everitt, J. (2007, September). *Manitoba from the Air: A geographical interpretation*. Presented at the Prairie Division, Canadian Association of Geographers, Weyburn, SK.

Annis, R.C., Moss, A., & Gibson, R. (2007). *Reflections on rural and northern poverty*. Brandon: Rural Development Institute, Brandon University.

Annis, R.C. (2007). *Community Collaboration Project: Empowering communities and building capacity 2005-2008: 2007 annual workshop report*. Brandon: Rural Development Institute, Brandon University.

Beattie, M. & Annis, R.C. (2007). *Community collaboration project: Integrated performance measurement and evaluation*. Brandon: Rural Development Institute, Brandon University.

Gibson, R., & Annis, R.C. (2007) *A collaborative evaluation of the Manitoba/Nunavut regional round tables and the Manitoba steering committee*. Brandon: Rural Development Institute, Brandon University.

Gibson, R., Dobson, J., & Annis R.C. (2007) *A collaborative evaluation of the Yukon regional round table and the Yukon advisory group*. Brandon: Rural Development Institute, Brandon University.

Martz, D. (2007). *WaterWolf regional round table evaluation report*. Brandon: Rural Development Institute, Brandon University.

Racher, F., & Annis, R.C. (2007). *The community health action model: Health promotion by the community* (RDI Working Paper). Brandon: Rural Development Institute, Brandon University.

Rempel, K., & Annis, R.C. (2007). *An action plan for influencing and informing education policy, research and practice in Southwestern Manitoba*. Brandon: Rural Development Institute, Brandon University.

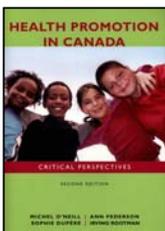
Vaugeois, N. (2007). *Northeastern British Columbia regional round table collaborative evaluation*. Brandon: Rural Development Institute, Brandon University.

## Book Chapters

Racher, F. (forthcoming). *Ethics in community practice*. In A. Vollman, E. Anderson, & J. McFarlane (Eds.), *Canadian Community as Partner* (2nd ed.). Philadelphia: Lippincott, Williams & Wilkins.

Racher, F. (forthcoming). *Promoting youth participation in community development through photovoice*. In A. Vollman, E. Anderson, & J. McFarlane (Eds.), *Canadian Community as Partner* (2nd ed.). Philadelphia: Lippincott, Williams & Wilkins.

Racher, F., & Annis, R.C., (forthcoming). *Honouring culture and diversity*. In A. Vollman, E. Anderson, & J. McFarlane (Eds.), *Canadian Community as Partner* (2nd ed.). Philadelphia: Lippincott, Williams & Wilkins.



Racher, F., & Annis, R.C., (2007). *Health promotion in Manitoba: Partnering for action*. In M.O'Neill, A. Pederson, S. Dupere, & I. Rootman (Eds.), *Health promotion in Canada: Critical perspectives* (2nd ed., pp 176-181.). Toronto: W. B.Saunders .

## Fact Sheets

Leafy Spurge Stakeholders Group (2007). *Increasing the Productivity of Range and Pastures: An Integrated Pest Management Strategy for Leafy Spurge* (fact sheet). Available at [www.brandonu.ca/rdi/leafyspurge.html](http://www.brandonu.ca/rdi/leafyspurge.html).

Leafy Spurge Stakeholders Group (2007). *Leafy Spurge: Identification and Prevention* (fact sheet). Available at [www.brandonu.ca/rdi/leafyspurge.html](http://www.brandonu.ca/rdi/leafyspurge.html).

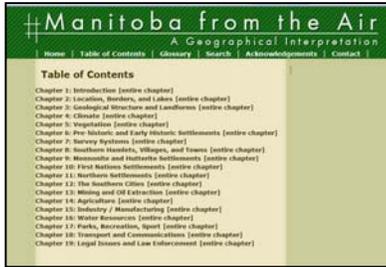
Leafy Spurge Stakeholders Group (2007). *Leafy Spurge and Gravel Pits* (fact sheet). Available at [www.brandonu.ca/rdi/](http://www.brandonu.ca/rdi/)



## E-Books

### Manitoba from the Air

Over a period of forty years, Dr. John Welsted (Professor Emeritus, Department of Geography, Brandon University) has assembled a collection of images (aerial and remote sensed) that depict the geography of Manitoba.



About 550 of these images have been selected for presentation in an

electronic book (e-book) entitled *Manitoba from the Air: A Geographical Interpretation*. The “remoteness” of the sensing varies from a few tens of metres (from building tops) to hundreds of kilometres (from satellites) with multiple image types. The collection is intended as a companion to the book *The Geography of Manitoba: Its Land and Its People* (Edited by John Welsted, John Everitt, & Christoph Stadel, 1997) and the topics are presented in the same order as in that book. Dr. Welsted’s collection is the basis of this e-book, however, it was supplemented by other images obtained specifically for the purpose.

A major advantage of an e-book is that it can be continually edited and updated and is freely available to all. The aim was to use remotely sensed images to display and describe the geography of Manitoba: this would be made readily and freely available to all interested people. The electronic format of the e-book also provides a dynamic and interactive environment for the reader.

The Rural Development Institute is serving as the publisher for Dr. Welsted’s e-book, continuing RDI’s role in publishing topics in the fields of rural and community development. Watch for the launch of this e-book early in 2008.

### Canada-Japan New Rural Economy

Dr. Peter Apedaile (Professor Emeritus, University of Alberta) and Dr. Nobuhiro Tsubio (University of Tsukuba, Japan) are editing an electronic publication based on partnerships developed through the New Rural Economy project (<http://nre.concordia.ca>). Chapters of the e-book have been written by faculty members from both Canada and Japan. The Japanese and Canadian rural economies face similar issues for revitalization. Both are experiencing depopulation, aging and economic restructuring. The traditional commodity focus of their natural resource sectors is giving way to other economic functions under market and technological pressure. Incomes and the highly valued social cohesion of rural communities are under pressure as the rural economy and its governance reorganize. Social capital is becoming even more critical to successful entrepreneurship and reinvestment, both social and individual.

## Journal of Rural and Community Development

Given the trends towards urbanization and rural restructuring throughout the world, it is important that academics, policy analysts, community practitioners, and students interested in rural and small community research be able to disseminate their peer-reviewed findings to the largest audience possible. The Rural Development Institute launched the online, open access *Journal of Rural and Community Development* (JRCD) in 2006 to provide that venue. An on-line format, offered free of charge to readers, ensures that the largest audience possible is reached and in a timely fashion. Articles and case studies in the journal include:

Albert, S. (2007). *Transition to a bio-economy: A community development strategy discussion*. *Journal of Rural and Community Development*, 2(2), 64-83.

Ani Madu, I. (2007). *Spatial patterns and the underlying factors of rural development in the Nsukka Region, southeastern Nigeria*. *Journal of Rural and Community Development*, 2(2), 110-121.

Bhandari, B., & Grant, M. (2007). *Land use and population dynamics in the Kalikhola Watershed of Nepal*. *Journal of Rural and Community Development*, 2(2), 100-109.

Cottrell, W. (2007). *Transportation economic issues in the proposed annexation of Wendover, Utah*. *Journal of Rural and Community Development*, 2(2), 84-99.

Millward, H., & French, A. (2007). *Balancing development and environmental protection in a rural commuter belt: The 2006 Halifax regional plan*. *Journal of Rural and Community Development*, 2(2), 1-17.

Nuur, C. (2007). *Stuck in the middle? A case study of the underutilised potential in peripheral regions in the developed countries in the age of globalization*. *Journal of Rural and Community Development*, 2(2), 44-63.

O’Hagan, S., & Cecil, B. (2007). *A macro-level approach to examining Canada’s primary industry towns in a knowledge economy*. *Journal of Rural and Community Development*, 2(2), 18-43.

Tefera, T. (2007). *Improving women farmers’ welfare through a goat credit project and its implication for promoting food security and rural livelihoods*. *Journal of Rural and Community Development*, 2(2), 122-129.

**Journal of Rural and Community Development**  
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JRCD Home > Vol. 2, No. 2 (2007) Open Journal Systems

The JRCD is celebrating its second anniversary with the completion of Volume Two, Issue Two. To view full papers, simply click on the 'abstract' icon. Then click the 'pdf' icon located below the text of the abstract.

The next issue of the JRCD is slated for late 2007.

We have also had several manuscripts submitted to the JRCD that address how rural areas adapt to climate change. These papers are being guest edited by Dr. Ellen Wall, the Co-ordinator, C-CHAIN Agriculture (Canadian Climate Impacts and Adaptation Research Network for Agriculture) based at the University of Guelph, Ontario, Canada. These papers will appear throughout the next three issues. Stay tuned.

Finally, the JRCD recently hired Gina K. Thornburg (PhD student, Kansas State University) as a copy-editor and proof-reader. This should improve the quality of the product and the timeliness for publication. Welcome Gina and thank-you!

The Content for the JRCD:  
Given the trends towards urbanization and rural restructuring throughout the world, it is important that academics, policy analysts, community practitioners, and students interested in rural and small community research be able to disseminate their peer-reviewed findings to the largest audience possible. The purpose of the *Journal of Rural and Community Development* (JRCD) is to provide that venue. An on-line format, offered free of charge to readers, ensures that the largest audience possible is reached and in a timely fashion. For more details, please read the 'Focus and Scope' page in the 'About the Journal' Section.

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**articles**

1. Balancing Development and Environmental Protection in a Rural Commuter Belt: The 2006 Halifax Regional Plan Abstract  
Hugh Millward and Austin French

## Journal Articles

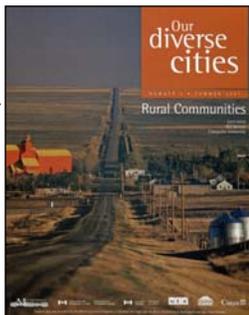
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Peers, A. (2007). *Pasturing Sheep and Goats: Worth the Work*. In *Cattle Country*, 9(8), 7.

Racher, F., & Annis, R.C. (2007). *Respecting culture and honouring diversity in community practice*. In *Research and Theory for Nursing Practice*, 21(4).

Racher, F. (2007). *The evolution of ethics for community practice*. In *Journal of Community Health Nursing*, 24(1), 65-76.

Silvius, R., & Annis, R.C. (2007). *Reflections on the rural immigration experience in Manitoba's diverse rural communities*. In *Our Diverse Cities*, 3, 126-133.



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Canadian Rural Health Research Society (2007, Winter). *Rural health research news*, 3(1). Available at <http://crhrs-scrsr.usask.ca>.

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Leafy Spurge Stakeholders Group (2007). *Best Management Practices for Industry: Top Invasive Plant Concerns for Rights-of Way*.



Available at [www.brandonu.ca/rdi/leafyspurge.html](http://www.brandonu.ca/rdi/leafyspurge.html).

## 2007 International Comparative Rural Policy Studies Program

The ICRPS Summer Institute program is an advanced program aimed at enhancing policy formulation and analysis in the rural context. The program was developed by the Rural Policy Consortium; a consortium comprising of universities in Canada, Europe, and the United States. In 2007, RDI participated in two major initiatives of the International Comparative Rural Studies Program (ICRPS).

Members of RDI, the Department of Rural Development (Brandon University), and a Master of Rural Development (MRD) student participated in the 2007 ICRPS Summer Institute, hosted by the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (Spain). Doug Ramsey (Dept. of Rural Development) and Robert Annis (RDI) contributed to the 2007 Summer Institute program. Lynn Ferguson, second year MRD student, received funding assistance from RDI to attend the Summer Institute. To assist Canadian students in attending the Summer Institute, Brandon University, the University of Guelph, and l'Université du Québec à Rimouski partnered with the Rural Secretariat to support two Canadian students.

To sustain the high level, inter-disciplinary learning environment for graduate students, nine North American universities made a joint application for an International Mobility Grant. Although the grant was unsuccessful, all partners are committed to sustaining the ICRPS program and looking at ways to continue moving forward.

In 2008, the University of Missouri-Columbia will host the ICRPS Summer Institute. For further information on the ICRPS program is available at [www.icrps.com](http://www.icrps.com).

### ICRPS Consortium Members

Brandon University  
(Canada)

Colegio de Posgraduados –  
Puebla (Mexico)

Colegio de Tlaxcala  
(Mexico)

Corinus University of  
Budapest (Hungary)

Katholieke Universiteit  
Leuven (Belgium)

Oregon State  
University (USA)

Pennsylvania State  
University (USA)

Universidad Autònoma de  
Barcelona (Spain)

Universidad Nacional  
Autònoma de México (Mexico)

Université du Québec à  
Rimouski (Canada)

University of  
Aberdeen (Scotland)

University of  
Guelph (Canada)

University of Highlands  
and Islands (Scotland)

University of Missouri-  
Columbia (USA)

## Community Collaboration Model Project 2005-2008

The CCP Model Project held its annual workshop in Haines Junction, Yukon May 29-31, 2007. The Yukon Regional Round Table co-hosted the workshop with RDI at the St. Elias Conference Center. The three-day workshop provided an opportunity for representatives from the regional round tables and advisory groups from Manitoba, Saskatchewan and the Yukon to share lessons learned from their participatory evaluations. Each group provided success stories and lessons learned relating to partnership development and capacity building.

When asked to identify the best parts of the workshop, participants commented, *“It was good to recognize the commonalities within the different agencies”*, *“Opportunity to hear the stories of other RRT”*, and *“networking and sharing stories—both problems & solutions”*.



*George Nassiopoulos  
Mayor, Haines Junction YT*

### Yukon Regional Round Table

[www.brandonu.ca/rdi/yrrt.asp](http://www.brandonu.ca/rdi/yrrt.asp)

The Yukon RRT is a gathering of community representatives from eight communities and six First Nations in the Yukon, the first-ever organization with inclusive and open membership.



*Colin Dean & James Kawchuk*

Four themes were identified as important to the regional round table:

membership, communications, capacity building, and partnership development. From the very start of the Yukon Regional Round Table, communities and First Nations expressed the need to ensure that the regional round table was open and inclusive to everyone. Members of the regional round table spent considerable time and energy preparing and at meetings to create an environment of inclusion. Clear and concise communications are essential for current members, new members, partners, and government departments. Each regional round table member communicates back to their community or First Nation on the activities and progress of the regional round table

Over the past year and a half the Yukon Regional Round Table purposefully undertook activities to increase capacity of the regional round table and its members. The regional round table developed a series of capacity building workshops that were held in conjunction with the regional round table meetings. The Yukon Regional Round Table has also developed a number of new partnerships (both formal and informal) in its brief history. New partnerships include federal and territorial government departments, communities, First Nations, and research centres/initiatives. A regional round table member noted, *“we are leaps and bounds ahead of where we were last year”*, while a second member noted, *“I have lived in the Yukon for 30 years and never have I seen the collaboration that occurs at the regional round table.”* Partnership building was considered very important by Yukon RRT members, because *“at the end of the day, the RRT is about relationships, trust, and respect.”*

### Yukon Advisory Group

Since the fall of 2005, the Yukon Advisory Group has been working to support the Yukon Regional Round Table. The advisory group consists of six members representing territorial and federal government departments. The advisory group holds regular meetings, participates in Yukon Regional Round Table meetings, and facilitates links between government and communities and First Nations in new ways.



*Haines Junction Workshop participants*

Four key themes were identified as important to the advisory group: relationships and trust; capacity building; influencing policy and programs; and engaging government, communities, and First Nations. Numerous examples of increased trust and better relationships with regional round table representatives were noted by advisory group members. The trust that has been built, and that continues to be built, allows the Yukon Advisory Group members to increase their understanding of local community and regional concerns.

### WaterWolf Regional Round Table (Central Saskatchewan) [www.waterwolf.org](http://www.waterwolf.org)



*M.L. Whittles, Russ McPherson, Jock Witkowski, Denise Guillet*

The MidSask regional development structure of combining a Community Futures Development Corporation with a Regional Economic Development Agency to share resources and staff provided the infrastructure for WaterWolf Regional Round Table. WaterWolf is incorporated as a non-profit corporation, which allows it to be an independent organization sharing resources with MidSask. WaterWolf Regional Round Tables goals include recommending:

- a governance model to provide stewardship and oversight in development in the South Saskatchewan River valley
- potential solutions to the issue of long-term stability and sustainability in providing technical oversight for water quality to small communities in accordance with provincial regulations
- a framework for municipal sharing of the cost of infrastructure development and for the sharing of taxes on new regional developments
- a process and time-table for development of near Danielson Park as a demonstration pilot for tax and investment sharing
- a medium and long term land use planning process.

The level and type of engagement by municipalities varies among WaterWolf members. Board members are committed to the regional process, however, individual municipalities have not necessarily bought into the regional concept to the same degree. Government representatives, at both the provincial and federal levels, have been involved throughout the process and WaterWolf's projects. The WaterWolf board members describe governments' engagement as critical to the regional round table. As WaterWolf becomes more active and more recognized, there are increased demands for services. A number of groups have contacted WaterWolf for information on the model.

A number of lessons have emerged from WaterWolf's experiences to date, including:

- regional development is a cumulative process, building on the successes and challenges that have come before
- the WaterWolf process appears to have been more effective than the combined CFDC/REDA at bringing communities together to work on a regional basis
- the external environment is critical to the success of regional development and is evident in the lack of progress on some activities
- resources are needed to support regional planning initiatives
- regional development processes take time
- interest in regional planning varies by community
- success leads to success
- success builds capacity

Branding has been a very important activity of the WaterWolf Regional Round Table as it has assisted in project identification and recognition with media. The WaterWolf logo is used frequently and people are becoming familiar with it.



### Saskatchewan Advisory Group

The Saskatchewan Advisory Group consists of four members who attend WaterWolf meetings and are in continual communications with the regional round table. The advisory group has arranged meetings between WaterWolf and other departments of government not on the advisory group.



*Participants at the Haines Junction workshop*

## Health Care Access of Northern Residents 2004-2007

Community health and wellness is directly linked with the availability of health services and the capacity to access those services. Accessing health services in northern Manitoba and Saskatchewan can be fraught with difficulty, often owing to large distances, with sparse populations distributed over vast geography. Challenges related to accessing health services can occur on a number of levels: locally, regionally and provincially. Understanding difficulties associated with navigating the health care system from a community perspective enhances the potential to generate meaningful and appropriate solutions.

### Manitoba Issues Explored

This project evolved from a multi-community collaborative effort to address regional needs as identified by the Bayline Regional Round Table (BRRT). The BRRT is composed of 6 communities situated along the Hudson Bay rail line, including Cormorant, Wabowden, Thicket Portage, Pikwitonei, Ilford and War Lake. The BRRT was established in 2001 as these communities identified many shared similarities and issues related to factors of distance, geography and isolation.

Concern about the quality of access to health services within BRRT communities locally, regionally and provincially sparked interest in conducting a multi-year participatory action research (PAR) project engaging a variety of stakeholders. Conversations, interviews and focus groups were conducted with community members, service providers (itinerant, local, regional and provincial), and government representatives. Inclusion of personal experiences and community knowledge to empower participants is fundamental in PAR. This type of research activity values the process through which awareness and consciousness of issues is raised. Creative solutions and education at all levels are important outcomes of this project. In keeping with the inherent principles of community development, community members actively engaged in the process, gaining skills and knowledge necessary to take charge of their own destiny and build partnerships to improve access to northern health.

Research findings from this endeavor include broad system wide concerns, which are viewed as issues that underpin the entire provincial health care system. Emphasis is on understanding the unique needs of isolated communities in the north; policies developed in the south often are not a good 'fit' in the north. Accessing health services can be challenging locally, regionally and provincially. The ability to provide necessary services in small remote communities is difficult. It is difficult to build trusting relationships when staff turnover is high and resources are thinly spread. Emergency response, dental care and home care often were flagged as needing improvement. On a regional scale difficulties with long waiting periods, a lack of physicians, and a lack of coordination of services were identified. On a provincial scale, travel to Winnipeg for specialized services is complicated at best, but distance compounds the need for better coordination of services and appointments. Navigation of a complex system and the provision of more information about options were identified as needs by both residents and providers.

Issues related to distance and transportation weave through many of the concerns. Two of the six Bayline communities have all weather road access, while the other four depend upon rail and air travel complimented by winter ice roads. Travel to regional and provincial centres is expensive and time consuming, plus there are issues of reliability. Leaving home to get to an appointment can mean significant time away from family and other commitments. Understanding challenges associated with living in northern isolated communities is essential in generating future solutions.

### Saskatchewan Issues Explored

From its inception the project goals were to explore barriers to health care access for northern residents, and find ways to dialogue with policy makers to effect change. To understand the broadest range of issues and solutions, northern Saskatchewan communities were included as part of the project, allowing the sharing of issues and solutions between the two provinces. Five communities under the jurisdiction of the Athabasca Health Authority (AHA) in Saskatchewan's far north, and two communities from the Mamawetan Churchill River Regional Health Authority (MCRCHA) in the near north were included as part of the study. Residents and health care providers from these communities identified access issues related to distance, geography, funding models and jurisdictional fragmentation. As in Manitoba, interviews and focus groups with residents and service providers took place in the communities.

Research findings from Saskatchewan highlight concerns related to transportation policy, funding models and local availability of services and health care professionals. As in Manitoba, the ability to provide necessary services in small remote communities is difficult, and residents in both the near and far north expressed concerns with their ability to access many services. At the same time, the value of local and regional facilities and services was recognized and many community members spoke of their appreciation of local staff.

In both the AHA and MCRCHA regions transportation issues are of primary concern. Three of the AHA communities are accessible only by air and the remaining two have only seasonal road access. The MCRCHA communities both have road access to the south. Participants spoke of hardships experienced when traveling great distances at personal expense to obtain service. These hardships are often compounded by a lack of awareness on the part of service providers and support staff in the south, who may not be cognizant of travel and cost issues when scheduling treatment. Communication between patients and service providers is also an area where improvements are required. Ways to address language and information barriers are needed to ensure that patients can understand and manage their own health issues. Only by understanding their conditions can patients properly take medications, obtain appropriate follow-up and advocate for themselves.

Expansion of locally provided services such as dental, home care and mental health services and increased specialist visits was cited as a way of reducing the transportation burden on residents. However, health care providers highlighted the need to have long term staff in place to take advantage of the tech-

nology, citing restrictions in staff training availability and scope of practice standards as barriers that prevent technologies such as Tele-health and local specialized equipment from being used to their full potential.

The degree to which there is coordination of services between federal and provincial health care systems was identified by service providers as affecting both the quality of health care and the availability of local services, and an eagerness to address these jurisdictional barriers was expressed.

### Dissemination

In an effort to broadly disseminate research findings, a number of creative tools and venues are being explored. Reports and articles are being developed for publication and distribution and case studies have been written based on community members' experiences accessing health services and will be used as teaching tools in professional programs to educate health professionals. Presentations have been made at national conferences, most recently at the annual Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation (CRRF) conference held in Vermilion, Alberta in October 2007. CRRF partnered with the Canadian Rural Health Research Society (CRHRS) this year broadening the audience. Findings and potential solutions have been shared at workshops and meetings over the past two years. The Rural Development Institute (RDI) will host a cross-jurisdictional workshop in April 2008 to bring community members, provincial government representatives from Manitoba and Saskatchewan and federal government representatives together to discuss research findings and seek ways to further develop and implement creative solutions.



Pikwitonei



Thicket Portage



Cormorant



Wabowden



Moose Lake, Ilford and War Lake First Nation

### Other Initiatives

#### Broadband Research

RDI is a research team member on a broadband research and evaluation project led by Strategic Networks Group. The proposed project entitled, *Broadband Strategic Research and Impact Analysis: Program Evaluation Services for Rural Connections*, was submitted to the Ontario Ministry of Government Services in October 2007. The proposed project would develop an evaluation framework for measuring the impacts of broadband connectivity in rural and northern communities. The proposal builds on RDI's previous broadband connectivity research initiatives.

#### Student Engagement

To support the 2008 International Comparative Rural Policy Studies (ICRPS) Summer Institute, RDI has made two funding requests to facilitate student engagement. The submissions to the Rural Secretariat and Western Economic Diversification were made by RDI on behalf of Brandon University, University of Guelph, and l'Université du Québec à Rimouski. The 2008 ICRPS Summer Institute will be hosted in July 2008 by the University of Missouri-Columbia (USA).

## Managing Invasive Species: Leafy Spurge Control

During 2005-2007, RDI coordinated the Managing Invasive Species: Leafy Spurge Control project that aimed to enhance control of leafy spurge in Manitoba by increasing awareness, encouraging the adoption of integrated pest management (IPM) plans, encouraging prevention stewardship and enhancing biocontrol. This project built on RDI's work in biocontrol, technology transfer activities and coordination of the Leafy Spurge Stakeholders Group (LSSG).

Organizations outside of the university contributed in various ways to the project. Rural municipalities, weed districts and conservation districts provided information and assistance to project team members throughout the project and assisted with dissemination of project materials. Working partnerships were also developed with Manitoba Hydro, CFB Shilo and Spruce Woods Provincial Park.

Beth Peers, LSSG Coordinator, managed the project with input from stakeholders. Project personnel in 2007 included summer student assistants Keith Farquhar and Alison Ham, and Ryan Gibson of RDI. Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada contributed financially to this project through the Agri-Food Research and Development Initiative (ARDI). There were five components of Managing Invasive Species: Leafy Spurge Control.

### Awareness and Prevention Strategies

A major component of the project, this strategy focused on creating a broad awareness of leafy spurge and prevention strategies to control the spread of the weed. Project personnel developed a number of print materials and promotional items and distributed them throughout the province through visits to agricultural fairs and to rural restaurants. Posters, placemats and notepads originally produced in the project year 2005-06 were re-produced and distributed throughout 2006-07.

Four fact sheets were developed in 2007, as well as the document, *Best Management Practices for Industry: Top Invasive Plant Concerns for Rights-of Way*, which provides detailed descriptions of 8 noxious weeds that are of greatest concern in Manitoba, with leafy spurge being the top priority. Curriculum materials were developed and piloted for grade 4, 7 and 10 Science, as well as for delivery via Agriculture in the Classroom.

Awareness activities also included the development of five messages aired on local radio. The messages were designed to prompt producers and other landowners to implement control measures at the appropriate time. Teagan Mauthe, a youth who is keenly interested in leafy spurge, provided the voice for five messages that aired three times per day from May 25 to September 2.

Another deliverable of this project was the hosting of events. Two field tours were held: on August 2, 2006, the field tour included an Integrated Pest Management Workshop and on July 19, 2007 the tour involved site visits to 3 locations.



*Teagan Mauthe and her father Dennis  
on the 2007 Leafy Spurge Awareness Tour*

### IPM Planning

Producers in moderate and high infestation areas were involved in assessing their leafy spurge infestation, and in developing and implementing specific site-based Integrated Pest Management (IPM) plans for control and containment. A total of ten producers participated in the project.

### Biocontrol

Over the three summers of the project, approximately one quarter of a million beetles were collected from North Dakota for distribution in Manitoba. About 125,000 beetles were released at two nurse sites in the hope of establishing a population large enough to support future harvest. Eight producers who participated in the project also received beetles as part of their IPM plan.



*Keith Farquhar using a sweep net to collect  
leafy spurge flea beetles in Benson County, ND*

### Producer Assistance

Participating producers could receive financial assistance for control and management activities. Each of the ten producers who participated in developing IPM plans received financial assistance.

### Evaluation

Project personnel designed and administered a number of tracking tools and conducted interviews with project participants and other stakeholders to gauge the impact of the project.

More information and project materials can be found at RDI's and the LSSG's websites:

RDI: [www.brandonu.ca/rdi/managing\\_invasive\\_species.asp](http://www.brandonu.ca/rdi/managing_invasive_species.asp)

LSSG: [www.brandonu.ca/rdi/leafyspurge.html](http://www.brandonu.ca/rdi/leafyspurge.html)



## On the Ground: Leafy Spurge Surveillance and Management and Towards Establishing an Invasive Plant Council for the Province of Manitoba

On behalf of the Leafy Spurge Stakeholders Group (LSSG), RDI received funding for this one-year project under the Invasive Alien Species Partnership Program (IASPP) of Environment Canada. The overall goal of the project, *On the Ground: Leafy Spurge Surveillance and Management and Towards Establishing an Invasive Plant Council for the Province of Manitoba* is twofold: 1) to prevent the spread of and enhance management efforts for leafy spurge in Manitoba and 2) to provide a forum whereby stakeholders can discuss the formation of and add their support to an Invasive Plants Council for the Province of Manitoba. Beth Peers, LSSG coordinator, is managing the project.

A major objective of the surveillance and management component of the project includes providing support to frontline staff of local jurisdictions to monitor leafy spurge infestations and established biocontrol sites by collecting data and feeding it into the Prairie Region Noxious Weed Survey and Mapping System database. During the summer of 2007, summer student assistants Keith Farquhar and Alison Ham worked with seven jurisdictions, collecting data and entering it into the database.

Assisting jurisdictions in compiling existing documentation on weed management practices and the development of integrated Weed Management Plans (WMPs) is also an integral part of this project. Other activities include the production and distribution of leafy spurge information pieces targeted at hunters and recreational users as well as weed identification and prevention signage for recreational and nature lands.

In 2006, RDI agreed to facilitate discussions with a broad base of stakeholders on the feasibility of forming an invasive plants council for Manitoba. RDI also offered some administrative support for the facilitation process. At the December 2006 meeting of the stakeholders, there was agreement to form the Invasive Species Council of Manitoba (ISCM). The ISCM is working to improve cooperation between agencies, industry and management in Manitoba; coordinate a system of early detection and eradication of invasive species; establish a provincial digital inventory of existing invasive species throughout the province; identify and promote coordinated research in Manitoba; and to promote awareness and understanding in stakeholder groups and the public.

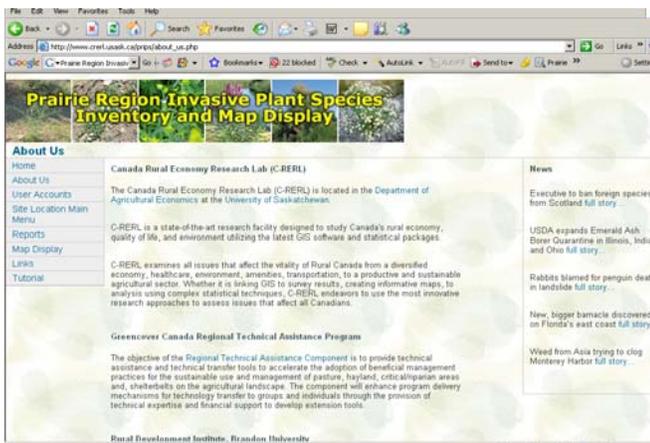


## Western Canada Regional Collaboration on Invasive Plant Species

Over the past two years, RDI has played a key role in fostering collaboration across Western Canada on invasive plant species. Some of these efforts began in 2004, when RDI was awarded funding from the Greencover Canada Regional Technical Assistance Program, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, for a three-year project aimed at increasing the use of integrated pest management (IPM) strategies for leafy spurge. The project, *Integrated Pest Management Strategies to Increase the Success of Leafy Spurge Management in Pastures and Wildlands in the Prairie Region of Canada*, focused on increasing knowledge and awareness of leafy spurge control and integrated pest management techniques in the Prairie Region of Canada.

Subsequently, RDI applied for and received funding for two more projects. One of these is funded through the Invasive Alien Species Partnership Program from Environment Canada and the other project was funded through the Greencover Canada Regional Technical Assistance Program. Karen Rempel, RDI Research Affiliate, has been coordinating the projects. The following describe some of the major outcomes of the projects and describe some on-going activities.

### Prairie Region Weed Inventory and Map Display Website



In 2006, RDI began the first stages of developing a website that would house a Prairie Region invasive plant species inventory and map display. The goals of the website are to (a) have a comprehensive database of invasive plant species across the prairies and to (b) provide spatial displays to the public of invasive plant species sites and information on control and management strategies.

Late in 2006, several individuals from across the Prairies were invited to Saskatoon to field test. The C-RERL made the changes to the site and in the spring of 2007 site began to be made available to external agencies and organizations. A manual has subsequently been prepared and several training sessions held on how to input data and use the map display function. The website continues to evolve as more local, provincial or regional needs are identified.

Karen Rempel coordinated the development of the database and web site. The Canadian Rural Economy Research Lab (C-RERL) at the College of Agriculture at the University of Saskatchewan played a major role in developing the database and website. The website ([www.crerl.usask.ca/prips](http://www.crerl.usask.ca/prips)) is comprised of a database for approximately 70 invasive weed species and a map display function. The website will enable local agencies to monitor and track new or existing invasive species over time. This information is a valuable component to invasive species management plans.

In 2007, RDI and the C-RERL enhanced the functionality of the website. In 2008, a business plan will be developed to ensure the on-going maintenance of the site.

### Prairie Region Leafy Spurge Demonstration Activities

Leafy spurge invades pastures, wildlands, parks and roadways across the Prairie region of Canada. In 2007, RDI helped establish a leafy spurge demonstration site in each of the Prairie Provinces. The sites are being used to demonstrate and explore the effects of three integrated pest management (IPM) approaches aimed at (a) increasing the competitiveness of the grass component of the area while (b) reducing the competitiveness of the spurge component. The IPM approaches used were:

1. Fertilization to increase competitiveness of the grass component and to encourage the development of more surface level feeder roots of spurge plants.
2. Mowing will be used to remove spurge top growth and inhibit seed set of spurge; and
3. Chemical application.

The sites have been used during the growing season to demon-



strate how landowners and managers can weaken the spurge stand while increasing the biomass of desirable plant species, in this case, bluegrass and brome grass. The site activities derived from evidence in the literature that indicated that spring fertilization followed by mowing will cause the main stems of spurge plants to shift their system of feeder roots closer to the soil surface. The literature indicated that this shift was an attempt by the plants to rejuvenate the stand by enabling the plant to compete for moisture and for the improved fertility. There is also evidence in the literature indicating that this shift brought the feeder roots closer to the soil surface thereby increasing the vulnerability of these plants to herbicide

application. The literature also referred to fall application of herbicide. Fall application weakens the plant again and puts it in a vulnerable position at the time of a killing frost in September. The best case scenario therefore would be four significant impacts against spurge.

Dow AgroSciences and the Greencover Canada Regional Technical Assistance Program, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada provided funding support. Dr. Byron Irvine, Research Scientist, at the Brandon Research Station provided technical assistance. Karen Rempel coordinated the activities.

### **Invitational Forum: Breaking down borders: Issues and actions for invasive plant species in Western Canada**

Until recently, the management and control of invasive plant species tended to focus on rural areas and resource-based industries. Today, a wide variety of stakeholders are concerned with the increased environmental and economic threat of invasive plant species. In Western Canada, several stakeholder groups have expressed a strong willingness to identify some key issues and explore the potential of mutually beneficial actions. This willingness to cooperate and collaborate recognizes that population shifts, land development and increasing global activity have made the control and management of invasive plant species a crucial issue across the entirety of the Western Canadian landscape.

In 2007, Karen Rempel lead efforts to establish a Western Canada network of various stakeholders that could collaborate and share information and resources on invasive species across the Prairies. Part of these efforts involves the organization of an invitational forum for key stakeholders across Western Canada to share information, discuss issues and identify mutually beneficial actions. The forum will be held in Winnipeg in February of 2008 and involves stakeholders from across Western Canada including field technicians, researchers, federal, provincial, regional and local policy and program managers, members of invasive plant councils, and members of conservation organizations.



## **National Rural Research Network (NRRN)**

Over the past year, RDI has been actively engaged with NRRN which is a network of researchers, community practitioners, and policy analysts from across Canada. In 2007 four key activities were undertaken.

### **Capturing NRRN's Lessons Learned on Rural Research, Policy, and Practice Workshop**

In partnership with representatives from the Rural Secretariat, a focused dialogue workshop was held to document lessons learned, achievements, and contributions of NRRN. The workshop brought together representatives of community, government, students, and researchers to discuss NRRN's impacts. Over the past two years, NRRN has hosted several workshops, conferences, and steering committee meetings. From these NRRN activities, a number of papers have been presented and partnerships established. The workshop's goal was to capture new or draw attention to existing documentation for the purpose of informing policy, practice, and research. RDI coordinated and facilitated the workshop in Ottawa and produced a report of the discussions.

### **2007 CRRF-NRRN Conference**

RDI and Brandon University representatives attended the *Connecting Communities: Rural and Urban – 19<sup>th</sup> Annual CRRF Rural Policy Conference* in Vermillion Alberta, delivering five presentations. In addition, RDI provided financial assistance for one Master of Rural Development student to present at the conference.

### **2008 Northern Issues Workshop**

RDI is involved in planning a workshop in Whitehorse, Yukon, of community leaders, academics, and government representatives who will come together to discuss rural and northern issues. Co-hosts for this February 2008 workshop include RDI, NRRN and Yukon College. Three themes will be explored: regional governance, Aboriginal self-governance, and management of the new northern economy. Through keynote speakers, panel and facilitated discussions, the workshop will provide opportunities to explore northern issues and engage representatives of Yukon communities, First Nations, Yukon College, territorial and federal governments. This workshop will provide opportunities to establish north-south dialogues, influence research and policy, and create new connections.

### **2008 CRRF-NRRN Conference**

RDI is a member of the planning committee for the 2008, annual CRRF-NRRN Conference which will be held in Inuvik, Northwest Territories in June 2008. Dr. Annis is serving as conference co-chair for the event with Peter Clarkson of the Northwest Territories government. This conference will bring researchers, community practitioners, and policy analysts together to discuss rural and northern issues.

## Brandon Community Outreach Service

Housed at the Brandon University Rural Development Institute, the Brandon Community Outreach Service facilitates the initiation of partnership projects between the University faculty and students, and community organizations in the region.

The Brandon University Outreach Service is a member of the Westman Association of Volunteer Administrators and participates in various community events including recruitment and volunteer fairs, presentations and meetings with other community-based organizations. The Outreach Service Coordinator, Monika Sormova, works with the Brandon University community and local organizations on behalf of the Outreach Advisory Board, consisting of faculty representatives from the University. The 2007 Outreach Advisory Committee members are: Robert Annis (Rural Development Institute), Andréé Dagenais (School of Music), Roberta Graham (School of Health Studies), Scott Grills (VP Academic and Research), Johanna Leseho (Faculty of Education), Lisa Robson (Faculty of Arts), and Dion Wiseman (Faculty of Science).

One of Outreach's programs, *Service Learning*, encourages student volunteer activities by recognizing their community contributions on their Brandon University transcripts. A number of students have taken part in the program in 2007, and volunteered their time providing crisis counseling at the Clinic and Rural Stress Line, helped as animal shelter attendants at the Brandon Humane Society, taught basic winter survival skills through Manitoba 4-H, volunteered their time at the Canadian Cancer Society and other organizations.

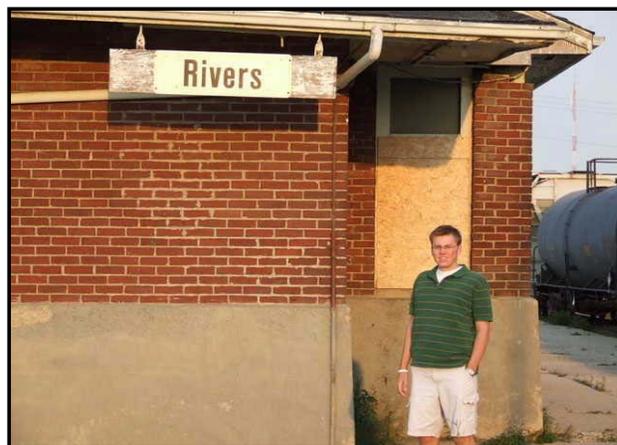
With special funding provided by Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives, Brandon Community Outreach holds Fall and Winter *Call for Proposals*, and supports several community-based projects each year.



### Winter 2007 Call for Proposals

#### Rivers Train Station Restoration Business Plan

Funding Received: \$3000. Project Partners: *Rivers Daly Community Development Corporation and Michael Malazdrewicz, Department of Business Administration, Brandon University* The Town of Rivers has a heritage designated railway station on the main line of the CN Railway. The Rivers/Daly Community Development Corporation in conjunction with the Town of Rivers Heritage Committee is looking at the restoration of the station for viable business opportunities, tourism, as well as preservation of a heritage site. In cooperation with Michael Malazdrewicz and Brandon University, a business plan was developed to calculate costs associated with restoration of the building, alternative energy implementation, as well as to identify potential funding sources, tenants and other businesses for the space, and the benefits to the community at large. In the fall, the completed project will be presented to the Rivers/Daly CDC for their discussion as well as the Town of Rivers for their decision on the acquisition of the station.



*Brandon University student, Brad Zander, worked on the Rivers Train Station Restoration Business Plan project.*

#### Manitoba Civic Addressing Mile Road & Hydrology Identification

Funding Received: \$3000. Project Partners: *Medical Transportation Coordination Centre and Wenonah Fraser, Department of Geography, Brandon University*. This project is a component of a much larger project being conducted to support the dispatching of emergency services (EMS) in Manitoba. Under the supervision and technical expertise of the instructor, Brandon University students were hired to compile data and gain valuable hands-on experience applying GIS skills. The collected data are being incorporated into a project exploring the dataset and techniques to support the computer-aided dispatch spatial database which facilitates effective EMS dispatching in rural Manitoba.

## Fall 2007 Call for Proposals

### Masaki's Rising Stars of Brandon University

Funding Received: \$2,500. Project Partners: *Viscount Cultural Arts Centre, Dauphin and District Allied Arts Council, Minnedosa United Church Building Committee, Virtuosi Concert & SKYWALK Winnipeg Millennium Library, Dr. Megumi Masaki and School of Music students, Brandon University.* Professor Masaki, with two graduate and five undergraduate piano students, will work with local and rural non-profit and arts organizations throughout Manitoba to develop bi-annual joint fundraising concerts. The concerts will heighten public awareness of a specific cause agreed upon by both parties in the community. In addition, free master classes, recorded on a DVD, will be offered in each community to allow for a sharing of information and establishing new connections between University and local music teachers and pianists. Participating music students will undertake two regional tours, one in November 2007, and another one in April 2008. The performances will prepare The Masaki Rising Stars for an international tour and exchange with China in spring 2008.

### Tourism Inventory & Market Packaging Development

Funding Received: \$2,500. Project Partners: *Southwest Trails Association for Regional Tourism (START) and Dr. Doug Ramsey, Department of Rural Development, Brandon University.* Under the supervision of Dr. Ramsey, a Brandon University student will compile a comprehensive inventory of tourism-related amenities and attractions in Southwestern Manitoba. After completing the inventory, the student will develop two or three packages for the region, concentrating on Leisure Touring, Adventure Travel and Ecotourism. The packages will be used as a key marketing tool for local communities to promote off-season tourism, new business and community partnerships, improved target marketing, and redirecting traffic to lesser-known attractions.

### Fisher River Cree Nation Enhancement Year Program Study

Funding Received: \$2,500. Project Partners: *Fisher River Cree Nation with Dr. Amjad Malik and Jerry Storie, Faculty of Education, Brandon University.* "Enhancement Year Program," designed by the Fisher River Cree Nation, will offer academic and personal skill enhancement to each student for approximately six months, beginning Fall 2007. In cooperation with the Fisher River Cree Nation, Brandon University will conduct a program review to assess the impact on the participating students. The study will assess the effects of the Enhancement Year Program on the development of academic, personal skills and strengths of the participants, based on compiled data by the Fisher River Cree Nation.

### Brandon Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation Outreach Mapping Project

Funding Received: \$2,500. Project Partners: *Brandon Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation and Dr. Derrek Eberts, Geology Department, Brandon University.* The Brandon Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation (BNRC) has compiled data on numerous partnership projects completed over the past six years in the community. Under the supervision of Dr. Eberts, a Brandon University geography student will be hired to create a geospatial database of the projects that could be regularly updated and used as informational and presentational tool for stakeholders, partners, and the general public. The project will enhance the BNRC's ability to sort relevant information and display their work accurately and efficiently. The database will also help with programming, planning, and establishing strategic direction of future projects.

## CCP Study Group on Collaboration and Governance

The CCP Study Group on Collaboration and Governance commenced in December 2006. Initiated by RDI, the Study Group formed with three purposes. First, the Study Group was an opportunity for researchers to provide feedback on the evaluation frameworks that have been developed by Regional Round Tables and Advisory Groups and to seek feedback on the roll-up of all the evaluation frameworks of the CCP model project. Second, the Study Group is a venue to explore linkages between CCP and existing and future research in collaboration and governance. Third, the Study Group provides a forum for researchers to discuss collaboration and regional governance.

Consisting of thirteen members from across Canada and the United States the Study Group has identified the need for a greater understanding of collaboration and rural regional governance in academia, government, and at the community level.

Study Group members include: Robert Annis (Brandon University), Marian Beattie (Brandon University), Kenneth Bessant (Brandon University), Mark Drabenstott (Rural Policy Research Institute – USA), David Douglas (University of Guelph), Ryan Gibson (Brandon University), Christine Gosselin (Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation), Tom Johnson (University of Missouri-Columbia), Diane Martz (University of Saskatchewan), Alison Moss (Brandon University), Darell Pack (Rural Secretariat), Bill Reimer (Concordia University), and Nicole Vaugeois (Malaspina University College).

In 2007, the Study Group held two meetings continue exploring theoretical perspectives and formulating research questions. Over the next year the Study Group will continue meeting. Members of the Study Group will participate in the National Rural Research Network Northern Dialogue Session in Whitehorse in 2008 and an application to the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada will be made to support Study Group activities

## Looking Ahead to 2008

### National Rural Research Network Workshop in Whitehorse Yukon

In February 2008, a small group of community leaders, academics, and government representatives will come together to further discussions on rural and northern issues. The session will provide an opportunity to establish north-south dialogues, influence research, influence policy, and create new connections. RDI is co-hosting the workshop with the National Rural Research Network and the Yukon College.

### Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation Annual Conference

RDI is a member of the 2008 planning committee for the Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation annual conference scheduled for June 2008 in Inuvik, Northwest Territories.

### International Comparative Rural Studies Program Summer Institute

In 2008, the University of Missouri-Columbia will host the International Comparative Rural Studies Program Summer Institute. RDI and the Department of Rural Development will be actively engaged in the development and delivering of the program. It is anticipated that MRD students will participate in the Summer Institute.

### Launch of Manitoba from the Air E-Book

RDI is publishing an electronic book by Dr. John Welsted (Professor Emeritus, Dept. of Geography, Brandon University). Featuring interactive aerial photographs from across Manitoba, the e-book will be launched in 2008.

### Preparation of Canada-Japan New Rural Economy E-Book

Dr. Peter Apedaile (Professor Emeritus, University of Alberta) and Dr. Nobuhiro Tsuboi (University of Tsukuba) are editing an electronic book based on partnerships developed through the New Rural Economy project. Chapters of the e-book are being written by faculty members from both Canada and Japan.

### Rural and Northern Manitoba Youth Migration Research

Researchers and graduate students from RDI will conduct research on behalf of the Youth Standing Committee of Rural Team Manitoba to develop a picture of youth out-migration in three regions of Manitoba, exploring the reasons why young people leave rural and northern communities.

### Manitoba-Saskatchewan

#### Access to Health Services in the North Workshop

The Rural Development Institute will host a Manitoba/Saskatchewan Access to Health Services in the North workshop in Saskatoon, SK April 16 and 17, 2008. Findings from a 3 year Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) project exploring challenges experienced by northern Manitoba and Saskatchewan residents and services providers in accessing health services will be shared. The workshop presents a unique opportunity to share experiences and learn from our neighbours; participants will include federal and provincial representation, community residents, researchers and service providers. This workshop will focus on creatively generating innovative solutions to old challenges.

### Breaking Down Borders Issues and Actions for Invasive Plant Species in Western Canada Forum

The aim of this invitational forum hosted by RDI in Winnipeg February 25 and 26 is to provide a networking opportunity for key stakeholders in Western Canada to share information, discuss issues and identify mutually beneficial actions on invasive plant species.

#### Contributors

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