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## SASKATCHEWAN

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### Creating Communities of Tomorrow

by Heather Waldern-Hinds

Regina residents might not realize it, but their city is a living laboratory in the new five-year, \$30 million **Communities of Tomorrow**

partnership. The partnership and its key component, the National Research Council's \$10 million Centre for Sustainable Infrastructure Research (CSIR), were launched in May 2003.

Together, the National Research Council, University of Regina's (UofR) Centre for Sustainable Communities and City of Regina will develop, test and commercialize environmental and building infrastructure technologies to help communities be more sustainable.

Under the Centre for Sustainable Communities and Communities of Tomorrow partnership, 11 research projects are underway on issues such as water quality, air pollution, energy conservation, waste management and affordable housing. About 15 scientists will be hired at the CSIR, and UofR undergraduate and graduate students will participate in partnership research projects.



New technology developed by the partnership will help the city better manage environmental elements such as potable and waste

water. Regina and area firms participating in partnership projects will gain expertise they can offer to other municipalities.

Partnership members, Western Economic Diversification Canada (WD) and Saskatchewan Industry and Resources, are each committing \$5 million over five years to the initiative. The city and university will match those contributions.

WD also provided \$400,000 to the initiative's development. The Regina Regional Economic Development Authority provides support and a link to local businesses.

For more information on the Communities of Tomorrow partnership, visit [www.communitiestomorrow.ca](http://www.communitiestomorrow.ca), or call (306) 787-9317. ♣

## Dollar Store Offers More For Your Money

by Regan Brady



The discount store's first year gross sales of \$1.2 million surpassed all expectations for the chain, becoming the first store in Canada to exceed six figures.

Liebreich attributes the store's success to its location, its loyal customers and the franchise itself.

"The customers come back every week to see what's new because it changes so quickly," she said.

Joyce Liebreich is an entrepreneur with more.

This may be the reason why after the Prince Albert resident opened **Your Dollar Store With More** in October 2001 she was breaking franchise records all over Canada.

"She [Joyce] has an entrepreneurial spirit, strong management skills and the desire to succeed," said Wayne Cameron, manager of **Prince Albert & District Community Futures Development Corporation (CFDC)**. "She's providing a valuable service to this community."

She also acknowledged that the store would not have been a reality without the help she received from the Prince Albert CFDC. "They were very supportive when we approached them for the first time. They said it was going to be a success," Liebreich added.

"It's a prime example of when somebody's getting started and the chartered banks wouldn't touch them. We were able to help," indicated Cameron. Because Liebreich required a substantial loan, Cameron enlisted the help of **Women Entrepreneurs of Saskatchewan Inc. (W.E.)** in Saskatoon.

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“It’s a great example of a success story. We’re quite proud that we were able to play a part in the financing required to launch this business,” said Laura Small, executive director of W.E.

In June 2003, the Prince Albert CFDC honoured Liebreich with the Director’s Choice Award for small business. And, in the spring, Your Dollar Store With More received the Prince Albert and District Chamber of Commerce’s Samuel McLeod Award for job creation.

For more information on Your Dollar Store With More, call (306) 763-0202 or the Prince Albert & District CFDC at (306) 763-8125.

Saskatchewan’s 13 Community Futures Development Corporations and Women Entrepreneurs of Saskatchewan Inc. are members of Western Economic Diversification Canada’s (WD) Western Canada Business Service Network. For more information on WD or its network partners, call 1-888-338-WEST (9378) or visit [www.wd.gc.ca](http://www.wd.gc.ca). 🍁



*Joyce Liebreich has broken franchise records and taken home awards for her thriving Prince Albert business, Your Dollar Store With More.*

*Photo courtesy of the Prince Albert & District CFDC.*

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# Enzymes and Proteins Meet Their Match

by Cameron Zimmer

The **University of Saskatchewan** added a world-class research centre filled with high-powered lasers, X-rays and microscopes when it opened the \$11.4 million **Saskatchewan Structural Sciences Centre (SSSC)** last September.

If this is sounding too scientific and you're starting to yawn, check out two SSSC researchers whose work is anything but boring.

**Fighting Food Fraud** — Food packaging is plastered with claims of 100 per cent natural and genuine ingredients. Dr. Nicholas Low is using SSSC equipment to find out if these labels are telling the truth.

Low believes he has discovered the equivalent of food fingerprints in enzyme groups called glycosidases. He can now search for additives' fingerprints to see if a product was altered. Exploring this fingerprint theory is only possible because of the SSSC's equipment and facilities, Low says.

But his enthusiasm doesn't end there. "The Structural Sciences Centre is more than just a building and equipment,"

Low said. "For me, this is the ultimate — the opportunity to use my expertise, along with others', to attack bigger scientific issues."

*Western Economic  
Diversification  
Canada invested  
\$937,000 in the  
SSSC through  
the Canada-  
Saskatchewan Western  
Economic Partnership  
Agreement.*

**Clingy Cells** – Doctors and scientists know that during the early stages of heart attacks and in diseases such as coronary artery disease and cancer, cells clump together. Researchers are now trying to find a way to stop cells from binding.

Canada Research Chair Dr. Thomas Haas is studying proteins called integrins on the surface of blood cells, platelets and cancer cells that control their stickiness. His research could lead to the design of new drugs for use in the prevention and treatment of diseases by blocking cells from binding.

"The Structural Sciences Centre is one of the reasons I chose to come to the University of Saskatchewan," Haas said. "Without the centre and its equipment, I wouldn't be able to do my research." ♦