

# Hat beauty crowned rodeo queen

**TODD SAEHLHOF**  
Sports Editor

**EDMONTON**

Andrea Johnston followed Susan Hargrave, Shelly Sodero, Wendy Lund and Dode Minor to the centre of the Canadian Finals Rodeo ring Friday.

The 22-year-old also followed her fellow Hatters into the hearts of Canadian rodeo fans, as Johnston was crowned the 2001 Miss Rodeo Canada.

"It's surprising," said Johnston, the 1999 Medicine Hat Pro Rodeo Queen.

"It's surprising because all the girls here were so good. All did such a good job of representing their cities."

Yet Johnston was the best, doing proud the Medicine Hat Exhibition and Stampede.

"Andrea did Medicine Hat such a job, it was unreal," said Laurie Sharland, chair of the queen committee for the Medicine Hat Exhibition and Stampede. "No matter what the outcome was tonight, she would've forever been my queen."

No worries, Laurie. She is this year's queen.

"This is unbelievable," Sharland continued. "What a crowning glory for my 30th anniversary with the Medicine Hat Exhibition and Stampede. Our fifth Canadian queen."

Hargrave was the first Hatter to be crowned in 1983. Sodero, Lund, Minor and now Johnston have followed her to the throne.

Wanda Finkbeiner, the 1999 Brooks Kinsmen Pro Rodeo princess, was this year's first runner-up.

"Two of us from right down the same highway," said Finkbeiner, a 21-year-old secretary of Berry

Creek community school. "We must be doing something right down there."

Finkbeiner was also named the best public speaker among the 11 hopefuls at the CFR.

"When they were naming all the prizes off for all the other girls, I didn't expect to hear my name," Johnston said. "A lot of people told me I'd do well, but I said 'everyone has a good chance at winning.'"

With the win, Johnston, originally from Eston, Sask., and daughter of Murray and Joanne (nee Yeast)

Johnston, carries the honour of being the nation's rodeo queen for the next year. She'll be busy attending rodeos, including the 2000 National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas in December, on behalf of the Canadian Professional Rodeo Association.

Along with the honour, she brings back to the Hat a 2001 Dodge Grand Caravan Sport, a \$2,500 academic scholarship, a full Wrangler wardrobe, a new saddle from Silver Supreme Saddles and a cell phone and an airtime package from Telus. "I'm excited," added Johnston.

## Southern water left unprotected

**ROD EDWARDS**  
Staff Writer

**MEDICINE HAT**

The rush by Alberta farmers and ranchers to stake water claims has been heavier in northern areas than in the dry south.

"The average person expects the south to be swamped with applications compared to the north," Dave McGee of Alberta Environmental Protection in Lethbridge said Friday. "The reverse is true."

McGee was commenting on the province's new Water Act which established a Dec. 31 2001 deadline for registrations to protect traditional farm water supplies.

The province recently issued a reminder to agricultural water users, urging them to safeguard historical water sources for livestock or other needs before the deadline leaves them high and dry.

The government said while registration isn't mandatory it is strongly advised.

It will protect the farmers' rights to use water by assigning the registration a priority number "grandfathered" back to the date when each

water source was first put to use. Users in the south have been slow to respond to the registration process.

"The Red Deer area has by far the most and we're lagging way behind," said McGee.

He said he isn't sure why that's the case.

But he said it might have something to do with the fact southern people through necessity looked after their water needs through the licensing system.

"They're all water smart around here," said McGee.

In the southern region 7,600 licences have been issued over the years.

The total is between 1,000 and 2,000 in the Red Deer region which has three or four times the rural population.

"We have more licences than all the other regions combined," McGee said.

"So people have likely already addressed their water shortage situations through licences over time."

Anyone who wants more information on the registration process should call Alberta Agriculture in the Hat at 529-3616.



— News photo Mike Bednar  
Scott James loads boxes of wreaths for today's Remembrance Day ceremonies at Riverside Park beginning at 11 a.m.

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## Twinning talk unites S. Alberta

**CAROLINE BOSCHMAN**  
Southern Alberta Newspapers

**Lethbridge**

Nothing has united communities across southern Alberta like the drive to four-lane Highway 3.

"There's no division in the ranks," says Wayne Craven, chair of the Twinning Highway 3 Association.

The group, with representatives from Medicine Hat to Crownsnest Pass, met in Lethbridge Friday to establish the association's bylaws as a step along the way to becoming a registered society. Society status will allow the group to issue receipts for tax purposes, a move they

expect will make membership attractive.

The group also established a fee structure for prospective members and passed a resolution to spend up to \$25,000 to fund their share of a benefit-cost study. They hope the remainder will be picked up by the province.

The fee structure was set up to provide minimum guidelines for voluntary membership. Local governments are being asked to pay four cents per capita and businesses with 50 or more employees to pay \$250. Businesses with 10 to 49 employees would pay \$100 and those

with fewer than 10 are asked to contribute \$25. A membership for individuals and other participating groups would cost \$20. Chambers of Commerce with 100 or more members are asked to pay \$250 and those with fewer than 100 members would pay \$200.

The money from memberships will be used to fund the association's portion of the proposed cost-benefit study and to pay for operating costs like newsletters and mailings.

The association has been lobbying southern Alberta politicians and has met with Premier Ralph Klein and Ed Stelmach, minister of infrastructure.

Even though local politicians have shown support for the twinning project and both Stelmach and Klein have listened to the group's concerns, it's still not a bird in the hand.

"We want a commitment by the government," Craven said.

With that aim in mind, the association plans to continue its lobbying efforts to keep the project in the forefront.

"We're going ahead to make our points wherever we can."

The association wants to appear before the Standing Policy Committee where they can speak to representatives from all political parties. A definite date has not been set, although it should be sometime early next year.

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Milo, an orange and white neutered male cat, about four-and-a-half years old, is missing. He is not wearing a collar. If found, please call 580-2414.

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A mature, female yellow lab was found about one kilometre south of South Ridge. For information call 527-8645.

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CORRECTION NOTICE

In our November 8-21, 2000 flyer, the following error occurred:

- On page 34 the Sony Playstation 2 ad should read "Limited quantities available, one per customer, no dealers, no ranches"
- On page 48 the Hoover Bagless Wind Tunnel Upright Vacuum U5720 does not have a "Dirt Sensor"
- On page 46 the Panasonic Deluxe Full Size Sensor Microwave NNS960W ad should read \$279.99 Save \$20.00 (not \$29.99)

In our November 9 - December 3, 2000 music flyer, the following error occurred:

- On page 20 the Sony Playstation 2 ad should read "One per customer, limited quantities, no dealers, no ranches"

We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused our valued customers.