

Thursday and in August on the 4th Thursday.



## thank you

The Village of Consul would like to express their appreciation to everyone who assisted with snow removal this winter. Thank you so much, your help has not gone unnoticed.

Mayor & Councillors



THE RENO READER





UPCOMING RENO READER DATES:

May 9 & 23

## **Contact Information**

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Deadline for the next issue

May 6 at noon

## The Joy of Community Pastor Dave Manley reflects on his 25 years in Consul by Susan Pridmore

It was the spring of 1994; Dave had just finished his Masters in Mental Health Counseling at Briercrest College, and he and Vicki were exploring their options of what to do next. Dave interviewed to be the chaplain for the Edmonton Police Force and explored counseling opportunities and ministerial positions in Consul and other places. Strong indications led them to choose Consul as their landing spot, something they hadn't really expected to do. But come May long weekend of that year they found themselves loading a U-haul and with their three young children moving to Consul....but probably only for a few years.

Fast forward 25 years and Consul and the Church of God are still fortunate to have Manleys here. When asked about some of the highlights of pastoring here, Pastor Dave first says that just growing and stretching himself has been a big highlight. Without question his greatest joy is to see a group of people intentionally shift direction, to be embracing, to be genuine and to be compassionate. The hardest thing has been the girls' home, but it has also been one of the best things. He is excited to see it come alive yet; it's very close to reopening. Other highlights include their kids growing up here, plus opening the bakery and seeing Vicki flourish. Also his doctorate work was a real joy because he got to work with a community group in that and it was a lot of fun. There were 10 people that committed to three years as Pastor Dave researched volunteer fatigue. As well, he loves Consul's kids, the youth groups, Pioneer Clubs. Working with the kids is always a joyful thing, and he finds the kids ask bigger questions than adults ever ask him, ones that challenge him the most, and he embraces that.

What does the future hold for Pastor Dave? The immediate future - planting a garden full of potatoes! His dream job? Obtaining a second doctorate and doing something with organ donation at the University Hospital in Saskatoon. That would involve a counseling component and a pastoring component plus place him closer to his grandkids. Another idea - if the community would actively engage in community development, he would love to stay and give some energy to that. He would love to see the village council and the RM council work towards a commitment and a plan for the future growth of Consul and the RM of Reno. He sees amazing creativity and inventiveness on every farm and ranch and business in the community. Bringing together people who love this area and are willing to invest time and/or ideas and/or money towards building up Consul and area for the long-term would be fantastic, and truthfully, it is necessary.

Pastor Dave shared these thoughts as well: "It is easy for me to tell people that this is one of the most fantastic places in the world to be. It's not perfect but the willingness to be community and to work together as community and to support each other is there. The job I do brings me face-to-face over and over with tragedy and with joy. From that, I think the greatest human lesson for me is that there is no one in your life that you can write off, that you can think, 'I don't need you'. If there's anything in life that keeps us sane, keeps us compassionate, keeps us authentic... as much as we may think it's small when people talk about you, can you imagine a world where no one talked about you or no one cared? Or they just didn't know you, they didn't care a flip about what you did or where you went or if you were even alive or breathing? But to actually be in a place where people notice you or will at least wave to you on the highway and recognize you...that to me is privilege. We talk about leaving or shifting, but my faith is that God will have us where he wants us to be and that's all that really matters. I'm thankful for now that this is where we are at and I'm very content in that. I think Consul is here for a long time. This is a vibrant community. We have every reason to continue to press hard for it to be a good place and a loving place, a healing place. That's my focus, that's why we came here."