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CTV Saskatoon: Dry town debates booze



The Town of Hepburn has been over 100 years and they're now debating allowing liquor sales.

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CTV Saskatoon

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A debate is brewing in the community of Hepburn.

The small town north of Saskatoon has been a dry community since 1900. But now, newcomers and longtime residents are debating whether to allow the sale of alcohol in town.

According to the Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority, the Hepburn Co-op has applied for a license to sell liquor. They will be given one as long as the community supports it.

PHOTOS



The Co-op in Hepburn has applied for a liquor license. The town has been dry since 1900.

"It's bringing something to our town that may cause problems," said Hepburn mayor, Barbara Adams-Eichendorf.

"I'm not sure this is a good idea for Hepburn. I am not sure this fits with our community or our community values," she said.

The mayor and town council have decided to put the issue to a referendum to be held May 1.

While it's not illegal to have booze in town, it cannot be sold in the community. Hepburn was founded by

Mennonites, and has a second church whose pastor is also against allowing alcohol in town.

"You end up doing things you shouldn't be doing," Dean Huber, pastor of the Hepburn Gospel Church, said. Huber has a congregation of roughly 90 people, and his message on liquor is clear: "I tell them it's best to stay away from alcohol," he said.

While the referendum isn't binding, the town will present it to the SLGA and they expect that it will determine whether or not liquor sales are headed to Hepburn.

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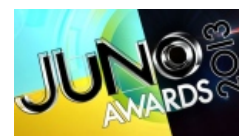
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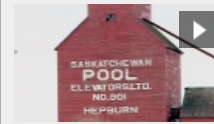


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