

Kindle reader not recommended; end of story

COMMENTARY

I've wanted to get my hands on a Kindle ever since they were introduced in the United States a few years ago. Since some Can-west newspapers are available on a Kindle through Amazon, I finally had a reason to get one. After all, if our newspapers are being sold on a Kindle, it seems like a good idea to get one so we can talk about it in an intelligent fashion.

What was I thinking? E-book readers were one of the hottest sellers for Christmas 2009. The Consumer Electronics Show (CES), which just wrapped up in Las Vegas, also saw an explosion in the number



MURRAY HILL
Gizmos
& Gadgets

of different types of readers available. What's the big deal?

Even though I've tried several e-book readers, I continue to be mystified by them. The last one I looked at I didn't mind — it used gestures to turn the pages, so at least the technology was interesting.

The Kindle, however, I really don't get.

The first thing I did when I received the Kindle was download a book and several newspapers. The reading experience for each is very different.

Reading a book on a Kindle is OK. You touch an up or down arrow on the right side of the device to go forward or back in the book and it remembers where you're at in the book when you shut it off. The type is readable, but because it's not a backlit screen it requires a good light at night.

I can see where this unit would be nice for a long trip; having more than

one book available and in a compact package. Don't drop it, though. If you drop a book, you pick it up and find your page. If you drop a Kindle, or any other e-book reader, you shell out \$300 for another one and buy your books again.

The experience of reading a book was OK, but I didn't like it enough that I'd want to buy a Kindle or any other e-book reader.

When it comes to reading a newspaper, I don't like the Kindle at all. I've worked at a paper for 35 years and one of the greatest advances I've seen is the use of colour. When I started it was all black and white, now there's colour on just about every page. The Kindle is black type on an off-white background — period. Zero colour. Boring.

Aside from the colour issue, there are few, if any, photos. Every picture tells a story and without pictures, one of the joys in reading a newspaper

is lost. As for navigating through the various sections of the paper, it's confusing, cumbersome and irritating.

Would I buy a Kindle? Not a chance. E-book readers are evolving rapidly and the impending release of Apple's tablet device might reduce every e-book reader now on the market to a paperweight. Having a device that is a full-blown computer and is also an e-book reader makes sense. Why carry something as big as a Kindle just to read books?

I can understand their popularity at a certain level. They're definitely not for me, though, and I would never recommend spending \$300 or so on one.

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Find past columns online at: http://www.thestarphoenix.com/columnists/Murray_Hill.html

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Kindle reading device

PROS: Good battery life, holds a ton of books, slim profile makes it easy to use, Amazon has an amazing number of titles available, works well for reading books.

CONS: Where do I start? No colour, virtually no photos, I hate it for reading newspapers, expensive if you drop it.

Gold rush for Claude Resources

Claude Resources Inc. says it mined more gold in the second half of 2009 than during the same period in 2008.

The company, which mines the precious metal from its Seabee mine in northern Saskatchewan, says it produced 14,300 ounces of gold in the fourth quarter and 28,500 ounces of gold in the last six months of 2009, a 12 per cent increase from the second half of 2008.

Saskatoon-based Claude says it produced about 46,800 ounces of gold last year.

"These strong production results were delivered in conjunction with an improved safety record by our dedicated workforce," said Philip Ng, the company's vice-president of mining operations.

The company says it plans to continue mining operations at Seabee and, pending environmental approval and permits, at the nearby Santoy 8 deposit in 2010.



Delta Uranium Inc. has released more testing results from its properties in the Athabasca Basin.

The company last week announced geochemical results on boulders sampled from its C5 and C6 properties and now says results from the same type of testing on its



DRILL BITS

By Cassandra Kyle

C3 and C4 properties also contain elevated to anomalous values in uranium, boron and other pathfinder elements.

Delta says the C3 site, located 10 kilometres from the formerly producing Key Lake uranium mine, contains a broad area of elevated boron and scattered uranium and arsenic analyses. The C4 property, meanwhile, contains scattered elevated values in uranium and pathfinder elements.

The company has the option to earn an 80 per cent undivided interest in the C3 property and the option to earn a 75 per cent undivided interest in the C4, C5 and C6 properties from **Solitaire Minerals Corp.**



Diaz Resources Ltd. has been placed on notice to drill five horizontal development

wells in the Lloydminster area.

The Calgary-based company said it has received notice from **Harvest Operations Corp.** to drill the wells and expects the work will start within two weeks.

Diaz will become the project operator after Harvest initially drills the wells.

Meanwhile, Diaz says it has recently completed drilling and has begun production on three new horizontal wells in the Lloydminster-area oil pool.



Greencastle Resources Ltd. has started its drilling program in the Boggy Lake-Cabri area of southwest Saskatchewan.

The company said this week it has spudded its first of two test wells in the area, a zone where it has agreements with three companies, including **Centaur Resources Ltd.**, covering 12 sections of land. Greencastle will earn a 50 per cent working interest in six sections of land as a result of the drill program.

The company says the main objective of the program is to test for medium gravity oil in the Upper Shaunavon and Mannville formations.

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Klein recognized for real estate innovation

By Cassandra Kyle
of The StarPhoenix

For the fifth year in a row, the CEO of Saskatoon's Point2 Technologies Inc. has been named to a list of 100 influential real estate leaders.

Saul Klein, who has worked in the industry for 35 years, has been named to the Inman News list, appearing in the technology category for the 2009 year.

Point2's real estate division develops and markets web-based marketing software.

People named to the technology category were selected for creating tools and online services to make the industry more productive, efficient and effective. The Inman category also recognizes industry leaders who are working to change the way real estate professionals do business.

"The real estate industry has only begun to tap the power of the Internet," Klein said, "and I am fortunate to have been able to play a role and grateful to my many friends and

Briefcase

colleagues who have worked with me over the years."



The Saskatchewan chapter of the Risk and Insurance Management Society (RIMS) has been recognized for expanding its membership.

The chapter will receive a RIMS Membership SuperStar award at a luncheon in Boston in April for increasing its membership by more than nine per cent in 2009.

"We are very honoured as a chapter to receive this award for the second year in a row," said **Randy Besse**, president of the RIMS Saskatchewan chapter. "Increased interest in enterprise risk management continues to drive membership growth and the relatively strong performance of the provincial economy recently has also helped."

The only other Canadian RIMS chapter to

receive the membership award this year is Newfoundland and Labrador.



Five inductees into the Saskatchewan Agricultural Hall of Fame for 2010 were announced at Crop Production Week:

Brian Rossnagel, a professor of plant sciences at the University of Saskatchewan's crop development centre since 1977

Ed Seidle, who has been growing pedigreed seed in the Medstead region since 1946;

James Halford, who has pioneered the development and adoption of zero-till farming from his Indian Head home;

Robert Brack, who worked in the U of S extension department for nearly 40 years;

Dexter Beach, an agricultural engineer who is considered a leading Canadian expert on oilseed crushing.

The five will be inducted into the Hall of Fame in a ceremony to take place in Saskatoon during the August long weekend.

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Prospects heighten for Langham refinery

SP Staff

The company planning a metallurgical processing facility near Langham announced Thursday a significant increase in mineral reserves at the Northwest Territories mine that will feed the refinery.

Fortune Minerals Ltd. has increased the mineral reserves at its Nico gold-cobalt-bismuth-copper project in the Northwest Territories by 43 per cent to 31 million tonnes.

The increase in reserves has also led to an extension of the mine's life to 18 years from 15.

Additionally, the life of the proposed Langham processing facility has been extended by three years, with the company expecting the site to process up to 4,650 tonnes per day.

Fortune Minerals has signed an agreement to buy the land for the facility, located 26 kilometres west of Saskatoon. The deal is yet to be completed.

De Beers Canada Inc. is seeking qualified and motivated underground miners to join its world-class Snap Lake Mine team.

We invite experienced underground miners to join us at our recruitment drive being held in Saskatoon on Monday, January 18, 2010.

If you would like to meet with a recruiter, please book an interview in advance by contacting Amanda Soldat, HR/Training Administrator, at 867-766-7338.

Interviews will be held at the Sheraton Cavalier at 612 Spadina Crescent East. Interviews will be available from 8:00 am until 4:30 pm.

Current resumes must be provided in order to receive an interview.

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