

Clean-up continues in train derailment

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REGINA — Clean-up at the site of a train derailment near Raymore is expected to run into the new year.

“There’s still a lot of work going on,” CN spokesman Jim Feeny said Friday, a week after 35 rail cars left the tracks.

Pulling a total of 135 cars, the westbound train derailed on the CN main line about three kilometres west of Raymore around 9:45 a.m. Dec. 12.

According to Feeny and witnesses, it’s believed the derailment was caused by a sheet of steel that came off one of the cars on the train, causing a chain reaction that left rail cars twisted and toppled along a stretch of the track. “How it came off is still under investigation because it involves a number of different parties from the time it was loaded to when it came off,” he added.

Feeny said the two tracks were reopened the day after the derailment. But there’s still plenty of work to do picking up and carting away the damaged pieces. The freight train was loaded with steel, canned goods, new vehicles, lumber, and mineral oil, among other items. Only one car carried hazardous goods but remained upright and didn’t leak.

As of Friday, Feeny said work was still underway “cutting up cars” — those damaged beyond repair — and hauling away the scrap, salvaging lumber, and removing loads of tinned tomatoes.

Aside from breaks for Christmas, the work will likely continue well into January.