

Shellbrook Chronicle

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Local skater wins pairs bronze at Canada Winter Games



From left: Team Saskatchewan manager Dave Schultz (also Taylor's local coach), Ashlyn Schmitz, Tristan Taylor, and Team Saskatchewan apprentice coach Tasje Sharron (also Schmitz's local coach) await the pair's results after a performance at the 2019 Canada Winter Games in Red Deer, Alta.

Shellbrook's Ashlyn Schmitz can now add a national pre-novice pairs figure skating bronze medal to her burgeoning list of figure skating accolades, after she and her partner, Tristan Taylor, skated their way to the podium at the 2019 Canada Winter Games in Red Deer, Alta. last Thursday.

Representing Team Saskatchewan, the duo has only been skating together since May of 2018 – a remarkably short time to develop as a pair in such a demanding sport.

During their 10 months as a pair, Schmitz, 12, has been making the four-hour journey to Regina to train with Taylor, and even

staying with family in the city and studying via correspondence, to prepare herself to compete on the national level for the first time (Taylor has previously competed nationally as a singles skater).

"It was a ton of work, and a lot of 'sacrifice' from the family and from [Ashlyn]. But she's following her passion, and anytime someone's following their passion, no matter what it is, there's always work," said Tasje Sharron, who coaches Schmitz with the Shellbrook Skating Club, and who was also representing Team Saskatchewan at the Canada Winter Games as an apprentice coach for the figure skating athletes.

Just last winter, Sharron was coaching Schmitz (as part of Team Lakeland) to a singles gold medal at the 2018 Saskatchewan Winter Games.

Sharron says that Schmitz's dedication and talent as a singles skater is what first opened the door to this opportunity in pairs skating, as it drew the attention of Dave Schultz, who is Taylor's coach, and also served as the manager of Team Saskatchewan's figure skating team at the Winter Games.

"Her development as a singles skater has led her to this place in her pairs skating," Sharron said, calling it a great opportunity

for Schmitz.

"If you can take two different partners, who already have the ability, and put them together, now you're just learning how to do the throws, the lifts, and the technical stuff that's are required for pairs," she added.

Of course, there's more to pairs skating than throwing two talented singles skaters together and expecting them to succeed. More than raw or honed talent, a good pair requires chemistry, trust, and the ability to work together.

Fortunately, Sharron says, Schmitz and Taylor seem to have that in spades.

Continued on page 6



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Studio 747 mini showcase delivers big thrills



Brianne Cadrain, Brooke Cadrain, Teanne Couture, Aimee Grenier, Madeline Grenier, Leah Mennie, and Madison Verbonac poured their souls into this heart-wrenching routine about loving your own body.

Studio 747's second annual midseason spectacle may have been billed as a mini showcase, but from the performances, to the costumes, to the raucous response of the audience, there was nothing even

remotely miniature about it.

Held at the Shellbrook Theatre on Saturday evening, the showcase featured approximately 30 of the studio's dancers, who, altogether, per-

formed 42 solo and small group numbers.

As has become tradition, the talented youngsters left everything they had on the stage. And, for that, Studio 747 owner and director Kelly Woodley says he couldn't be happier.

"I am so very proud of everyone for dancing so

beautifully," he said.

While the beautiful dancing is a direct result of the hard work and commitment of the dancers and their instructors, Woodley adds that it always helps to have a large and enthusiastic audience to provide encouragement.

The dancers certainly had that in spades Saturday evening, as nearly every seat in the theatre was filled, and every routine was greeted with wave upon wave of cheers, whistles, and applause.

With other events going on in the community, Woodley says he's grateful to have seen such strong and sustained support for the dancers, and that he's hopeful about the studio's future.

"Seeing so much support for the arts in small communities around the province gives me hope for the future of the studio, and its relationship with the community – a

relationship I hope continues to grow over the coming years," he said.

Though only in its second season as Studio 747 - it was formerly called Rhythm Works Dance Studio (RWDS) – the studio appears to be stronger than ever, with more than 100 students enrolled and growing attendance at its adult bootybarre classes.

With the departure of the studio's ballet instructor, Woodley has taken on those duties, in addition to jazz, lyrical, tap, primary and tiny tot programs. Meanwhile, new instructor Rebecca Cohen is teaching hip hop, lyrical, modern, and tap.

Additionally, the studio has even brought in some guest instructors, including former RWDS instructor Marisa McDonald, and Taylor Greening.

While change can be difficult, Woodley feels these new additions have been beneficial to his dancers.

"These guest choreographers have brought new challenges to our dancers, which pushes them outside of their comfort zones and helps them grow as dancers."

These new challenges will no doubt serve the dancers well as they head into a busy season

filled with five competitions. The first of these, the Prince Albert Dance Blast, is this weekend (March 7 to 10), and Woodley feels confident that his dancers are prepared.

"In the past few weeks we have been working on perfecting their technique, as well as pushing ourselves to perform our routines with energy and grace.

"Our routines are ready to hit the stage, and our dancers are feeling prepared for the start of competition season, and I think this was evident in the amazing performances on Saturday."

Following the Prince Albert Dance Blast, Studio 747 will head off to the Maximum Elite Elevation Tour in Saskatoon on March 16 and 17, then hit up the Prince Albert Festival of Dance from March 27 to 31.

After that, it's onto the Onstage Dance Festival in Humboldt from April 11 to 14, and the Battleford's Dance Festival from April 23 to 27.

Once that's all said and done, Studio 747 will end its season with its annual year-end recital. The two-day performance will run Friday, May 3 at 7 p.m., and Saturday, May 4 at 2 p.m.



Haiden Sanchez and Teanne Couture channelled a lot of charm into their hip hop duet.



Paislee and Finlee Gardiner were adorable in their Frozen-inspired ballet number.



Addison Kerber showed off strength, flexibility and balance in her lyrical solo.

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Report from the Legislature

Your Saskatchewan Party government starts the spring sitting of the legislature with a commitment to stand up for Saskatchewan and move forward with plans to build a stronger economy, all while managing spending and keeping taxes low.

Standing up for Saskatchewan means protecting the people and jobs that keep our province moving forward. This means a focus on the three Ts – trade, transport and taxes.

The United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) is a step in the right direction, but we need to keep working with our American counterparts and be mindful of the deep integration of our



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economies. From steel to manufacturing, to agriculture, we should keep working to improve the flow of goods back and forth across our borders and maximize our competitiveness.

Growing and improving the Canada-U.S. re-

lationship by reducing trade barriers was the focus of a recent trip to Washington. Premier Moe joined New Brunswick Premier Blaine Higgs and Ontario Premier Doug Ford as part of a Canadian delegation to build relationships and engage with U.S. governors on the importance of trade with our largest trading partner.

We value the relationship we have with the United States, and it is one we must continue to improve.

Importantly, we need the ability to transport our products to port.

The recent ruling by the National Energy Board on Trans Mountain confirms what we already know about the



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project: it's in our national interest, and it needs to be built. Now we need the federal government to keep moving ahead to ensure it gets done.

This reinforces the need for Canada to have a regulatory framework that gives private inves-

tors enough certainty to proceed with projects that are beneficial to our economy and create wealth for everyone in Canada. Bill C-69 most certainly is not that framework, and will only see the current trend of global energy sector investment leaving Canada accelerate.

We also need a fair tax and regulatory environment so we are competitive with other people who are producing products around the world.

Saskatchewan and its supporters recently put forward strong and compelling arguments in court, supporting the position that the Trudeau carbon tax is fundamentally unconstitutional. The

Trudeau carbon tax is just that, a tax – not a regulatory charge – and it violates the principles of federalism which underwrite our great country.

This spring, your Saskatchewan Party government will continue to stand up for Saskatchewan while delivering on our 3-year plan to balance budget while maintaining a competitive tax & business environment, and focusing on important government programs and services for the long-term.

I look forward to the spring sitting and the opportunity to keep standing up for Saskatchewan's interests in the Legislative Assembly.

Peewee Elks advance to northern finals

Having built a healthy five-goal lead in game one of their two-game total points provincials series against the Delisle Bruins, the Shellbrook Peewee Elks made the long trip to Delisle Sunday evening with plans to maintain or build on that lead.

After 60 minutes of more closely contested hockey, the Elks managed to do the latter – courtesy of a second period flurry of goals – en route to a 5-2 victory in game two, and an 11-3 victory in the series.

While the Elks would eventually go on to win, game two of this provincials series didn't start as the team would have liked, as Delisle's Kaden Wohlgemuth drew first blood for his team on the power play in what was an otherwise quiet first period. Jackson MacIver and Nicolas Sundquist drew assists on the play.

The Elks, meanwhile, had a couple of power play opportunities throughout the opening frame, but failed to make anything of them.

Down by one, but still up by four goals in the series, the Elks came to life in the second period, with Jake Boettcher starting off the scoring for his team on a shorthanded goal. Cohen Tait and Brody Anderson earned assists on the goal.

This prompted a response from the Bruins, who pushed the score to 2-1 on a goal by Luke Gessell. Wohlgemuth and Mitchell Kielo provided assists on the goal.

In their responding salvo, the Elks answered decisively, netting three consecutive goals over the span of just over five minutes. Corey McDougald kicked things off for Shellbrook, with help from Layne Ferster and Talon Sandry.

Up next, Anderson scored on assists from Brandon Dingwall and Hansyn Bahnuick, and Jesse Nyberg capped off the scoring with

some help from Tait and Boettcher.

With the series win firmly in grasp, Boettcher would add his second goal of the evening in the third period, while Tait would tack a third assist onto his personal scoresheet, to give the Elks a respectable 5-2 win, and put an exclamation point on the series.

With another series down, the Elks are now set to move onto the northern finals, where they will meet with the Kindersley Klippers.

Game one of that series kicks of Saturday afternoon in Shellbrook. Puck drop for the match is set for 4 p.m.



Brendan Aug gets the edge on a Delisle defender en route to a scoring chance in game one of the provincials series.



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“It depends...”

Interesting story in a recent Star-Phoenix. A retired Mountie, while snorkeling in some warm climate, came across a ring laying in the coral. There was an inscription in the ring – Darrin and Leah, 30-11-91.

He took it upon himself to try to find out who they ring belonged to, and to return it to him. He spent the better part of the next 27 years using police research techniques and wasn't able to come up with a solution to his quest.

Then he posted it on Facebook on Jan. 28 of this year, and asked friends for help. It was shared 2,500 times, and when someone put it on Reddit it received another 25,000 shares.

Within a short period of time, he was able to locate the “Darrin”, complete with a phone number. He called, and left a message. A week or so later, Darrin called, and in the course of the conversation, he said that he didn't want the ring back. He and Leah had divorced in 2000.

The story demonstrated the power of social media when used for good.

About the same time this story came out, there was another one that appeared on Facebook. Someone from Flin Flon had been doing some renovations and came across a letter written from overseas to a loved one back home. The finder of the letter stuffed it in a drawer, where it stayed for a few years. When she decided to clean the drawer, she came across the letter and decided to try to find someone from the family to whom the letter could be sent.

It didn't take long before a former Flin Flonner now living in Parksville, BC recognized that a friend of hers was a possible relative. The connections were made and verified, and the letter was sent to the family to become a cherished souvenir from wartime.

There you go, two examples of the positive impact of Facebook and other social media.

But it's not all fun and games. Front and centre recently is concern about a phenomenon known as the “Momo Challenge”, in which video clips inserted into such sites as Kids Youtube are supposedly encouraging children to do harm to themselves or to others.

On the one hand, there doesn't seem to be any reports of children actually doing anything that the clips are supposedly encouraging them to do, and reports of suicides by children as a result of “Momo” are for the most part bad reporting and not related.

Reputable debunking sites, like Snopes.com, don't put much stock in the phenomenon, but there are some parents who have asked their children about what they've seen or heard about Momo, leading to some very emotional and uncomfortable conversations. Hoax or not, it is making many children terrified to the point where they break down when asked about it.

At this point, it is widely believed that the whole thing is a hoax, and the surest way to avoid problems is to not click on links or call any unfamiliar numbers, and for kids to seek out adult help if they do come across anything disturbing, whether it is Momo or anything else. (For more information, we recommend the Wikipedia entry.)

At the very least, it is up to parents to be vigilant with their children's activities on social media and other sites, and to keep the lines of communication open so that kids feel comfortable talking about it with an adult.

Parents of children in Spiritwood will be able to get some ideas about internet safety from a presentation March 12 by Cpl Cory Patterson of the RCMP's Integrated Child exploitation Unit.

The presentation is called “Helping Children Stay Safe”. He will speak to Grades 4-6 students in the morning and 7-12 in the afternoon.

The evening session is for parents only.



SNC-Lavalin affair must be fully investigated

Over the past three weeks, Canadians have watched Liberal apologists twist themselves into knots trying to defend Prime Minister Justin Trudeau from allegations that he acted inappropriately in an effort to protect Quebec engineering firm SNC-Lavalin from going to court over corruption and bribery charges.

Their defences of Mr. Trudeau have been multi-pronged and highly coordinated, starting with attacks on the credibility of the *Globe and Mail*, the news outlet that broke the story – the *Globe and Mail*, we were told, was making a mountain out of a molehill, and doing so without any concrete evidence of wrongdoing.

Then, following her implication in the sordid SNC-Lavalin affair, former Justice Minister and attorney general Jody Wilson-Raybould became the next victim of Mr. Trudeau's defenders, and the attacks on her were far more vicious and personal.

Targeted even by her own colleagues, Ms. Wilson-Raybould was called “difficult to work with,” or dismissed as being bitter about her “demotion” to the Veterans Affairs portfolio.

Elsewhere, even some who believed that Mr. Trudeau may have acted inappropriately in the SNC-Lavalin matter were quick to argue that he acted in Canada's best interest by attempting to shield the company from prosecution that would have barred it from bidding on federal contracts for 10 years.

Quebec's pundits, in particular, waxed political about the need to protect jobs and the economy from an avoidable blow, and they argued that, unlike the old adage, a few bad apples shouldn't be allowed to spoil the barrel.

On and on this trinity of defences has been employed, intermingled with Mr. Trudeau's own denials and deflections, and early concerted efforts by the Liberal government to quash any fulsome investigation of the allegations.

Fortunately, those latter efforts to sweep the controversy under the rug failed, opening the door for Ms. Wilson-Raybould to “speak her truth.”

That truth, delivered before the Commons justice committee last Wednesday, was a damning and detailed account of a four-month campaign of “pressure”, “veiled threats”, and “interference” with regards to her decision not to pursue a deferred prosecution agreement (DPA) for SNC-Lavalin.

According to Ms. Wilson-Raybould, that pressure came both directly from Mr. Trudeau himself, and from a number of other high-ranking officials.

And, though she can only speculate, Ms. Wilson-Raybould said she felt that her refusal to give into this political pressure led

to her ouster as justice minister and attorney general.

Naturally, Mr. Trudeau's opinion of how events unfolded differs vastly from Ms. Wilson-Raybould's. But given that it would be a serious political faux-pas to call her a liar, he instead offered reporters the following bouquet of verbiage: “I completely disagree with the characterization of the former attorney general about these events.”

And so, we're left with a case of he said-she said. But, at the end of the day, who are we to believe?

Ms. Wilson-Raybould certainly has less to gain from fabricating statements, and also seems to have far more evidence. Indeed, whether she's telling the truth or lying, she's effectively made herself persona non grata in her own party.

Would she do that over nothing? It's hard to fathom a universe in which the answer to that question is yes.

Meanwhile, we have Mr. Trudeau, who in his three-plus years in office has demonstrated that he's not above pressuring or bullying others into bending to his will – just look at how he's treated the provinces when it comes to healthcare funding, and the impending federal carbon tax.

We also have a prime minister who once spoke about the importance of believing and supporting women who come forward with allegations of sexual assault. It seems only logical that this should hold true for any allegations of wrongdoing, and yet Mr. Trudeau has already demonstrated that he doesn't believe this applies to him.

When groping allegations, dating back more than decade, emerged last year, Mr. Trudeau conveniently couldn't recall any wrongdoing, then flat-out denied it – though, he conceded that the other party could have felt differently. Now, he's taking a similar tack with Ms. Wilson-Raybould.

Lastly, we have a prime minister who, throughout his first term in office, has shown either a limited understanding of, or blatant disregard for, the code of ethics to which he expected to adhere.

Beyond questions of character, Mr. Trudeau also has the most to gain from bending the truth, and even more to gain (votes and financial contributions) from protecting SNC-Lavalin – indeed, it's telling that just days after Ms. Wilson-Raybould's testimony, a Liberal cabinet minister was talking about how a DPA could still be on the table.

Of course, these things alone are not incontrovertible proof of wrongdoing, and Ms. Wilson-Raybould has already said that nothing criminal occurred.

Still, Canadians deserve answers to their many questions.



DAVE
HYNDMAN
~
Columnist



JORDAN
TWISS
~
News Editor

Disclosure from government far too slow

For those of us who had spent our adult, working lives demanding full-disclosure from governments, the SNC-Lavalin fiasco may just be the latest depressing episode.

Or at least, this has been the case so far.

As of the writing of this, former federal justice minister Jody Wilson-Raybould was getting ready to testify before the House the Commons justice committee.

But while she had received a partial waiver that would allow her to disclose some conversations with government officials surrounding the prosecution of the international Montreal-based engineering and construction company, even Wilson-Raybould seemed to be downplaying expectations on what she could say.

Wilson-Raybould had already written to the justice committee saying that

while she would be willing to speak, she wouldn't necessarily be able to speak freely because on-going constraints "do nothing to release me from any restrictions that apply to communications while I served as minister of veterans affairs and in relation to my resignation from that post or my presentation to cabinet after I had resigned."

Combined with cabinet and confidentiality by which Wilson-Raybould and all ministers who swear the oath of office must abide, it seemed increasingly doubtful the public was going to get the full disclosure it deserves from government.

This always seems to be the case in government where its members use their majority to hide information from the public.

Certainly, one gets the sense from the behaviour



MURRAY
MANDRYK

by Liberal government members that hearing the truth from Wilson-Raybould, or anyone else, was about the last thing they want.

The Conservative and NDP MPs on the committee were justifiably angry when the majority Liberal members on the committee initially used their numbers last month to block not only Wilson-Raybould, but also Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's chief of staff Ka-

tie Telford or former principal secretary Gerald Butts (who, mysteriously, has resigned his position).

According to Liberals MP's last month, having critical witnesses who could actually answer questions about allegations of undue pressure placed on the former justice minister isn't actually the kind of thing lawmakers on a justice committee do. "The role of the justice committee is not an investigative body," said Liberal MP Randy Boissonnault. "At best, committees of the House of Commons are political theatre that can occasionally achieve good studies."

But lest one feel too bad for the frustrated Conservatives on the committee, it's worth noting that under former prime minister Stephen Harper they pulled the same stunt to block key witnesses from testifying at

the Senate hearings investigating Senator Mike Duffy's expenses.

Moreover, Conservative Leader Andrew Scheer isn't exactly making any commitments to do anything differently. Nor would Scheer commit to changing the rules around criminal prosecution of SNC-Lavalin related to the deferred prosecution agreement that the engineering company was allegedly lobbying for in its meetings with Trudeau and others. (Scheer was among those that met privately with SNC-Lavalin's lobbyists.)

And here in Saskatchewan, we witnessed Saskatchewan Party government backbenchers block opposition requests that key government employees come forward to address legitimate questions on the overspending for land purchased by the Global Trans-

portation Hub just outside Regina.

But as frustrating as this is, maybe it's important to recognize that change comes slowly and in small increments.

There was a time not so long when the public didn't have accountability through freedom of information or disclosure through the timely release of budgets and quarterly and mid-year updates.

The political system resisted each and every one of these changes, too. Governments, once in power, don't want to change rules that are to their advantage. But change did happen.

Sometimes, the best we can do is watch for the events that produce small changes.

That Wilson-Raybould even appeared before this committee may just be such a small, baby step forward.

YOUR TWO CENTS

Canada should continue to lead AIDS fight

Dear editor,

With a sexy scandal in Ottawa, it is easy to ignore the mundane everyday business of the government.

Of course it is important to get to the bottom of the SNC-Lavalin/ Raybould matter, but let's not forget that there are lives at stake and decisions to be made on the international level.

This year, 2019, the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, is due for replenishment.

Canada has been a key donor since the Global Fund's inception in 2002; it holds a seat on the Global Fund Board, and shares in its values. It was clear during the 5th replenishment conference in Montreal

in 2016, that Canadians care about fighting these diseases, and believe that Canada has a strong role to play.

The Global Fund has saved 27 million lives to date. I, for one, would like to see Canada continue to play a leading role.

Connie Lebeau,
Victoria, B.C.

Dear editor,

It's time for Canada to provide its share of the Global Fund to fight HIV, Malaria, and TB, due for replenishment this year.

A fully funded Global Fund will cut the death toll of HIV malaria and TB in half, saving 16 million lives - almost half the population of Canada - and provide an economic boost for the poorest nations of \$19 for every dollar invested.

These diseases strike women and children the

hardest, the backbone of community life.

With the federal government's focus on child and maternal health, Canadians expect our share of the Global Fund contribution to be timely and robust.

May Chan
Victoria, B.C.

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Member of



Local skater wins pairs bronze at Canada Winter Games

Continued from 1

"It's like a brother-sister relationship. He watches out for her, and his job is to make sure she's always safe," she said.

Even with this solid foundation beneath them, Sharron says thoughts of medalising at the Canada Winter Games was only a secondary goal. Most important of all, was that Schmitz and Taylor skate up to their potential.

Sharron says that the pair certainly managed to do that, especially in their

long program, making the bronze medal victory a nice little bonus to their accomplishments.

"It wasn't so much about winning a bronze medal; It was the fact that they made it there as a team.

"We've got this young girl from Shellbrook, who's skating very minimal ice time compared to all of her counterparts, who have ice year-round. To get to that level with the amount of [ice time] she's had... I feel pride."

Having earned a nation-

al bronze medal in their first outing, Sharron said Schmitz and Taylor haven't yet decided what the future holds for them as a pair.

Should they decided to continue skating together, however, Sharron is certain that they have a bright future ahead of them.

"They really have potential as a pair team to really do some good things for our country. But it'll take a lot of work and dedication from both sides, and they have to want it."

While being able to watch

a skater she's trained win a bronze medal at the Canada Winter Games made her experience as an apprentice coach that much sweeter, Sharron says there were many highlights and important lessons to glean from her experience with Team Saskatchewan.

Many of those lessons, she says, were old ones that were given new significance as she witnessed them being put into practice on the national stage – lessons about the discipline and dedication it takes to com-

pete at a high level, and the importance of self-care.

But one key lesson, Sharron says, had to do with the value of mental training for athletes.

"If we could start at much lower levels with athletes with a mental trainer, that would give more athletes the edge moving forward in their craft," she said.

"I've done visualization and imagery with my skaters, and other athletes that I've worked with. But if you can introduce an outside source and have a team of

people to help an athlete move forward, that's a really important thing to do at a younger level."

With the Winter Games behind her, Sharron's attention now turns to the Stars on Ice Road Show being hosted at the Shellbrook Skating Rink this weekend.

The showcase will feature high level Team Saskatchewan skaters, including Schmitz, as well as the talented skaters of the Shellbrook Skating Club.

The show is Sunday, March 10 at 6:30 p.m.

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'Sell Canadian only' system would hamper trade

The other day, on one of those glorious afternoons when I was actually off for holidays, I was perusing Facebook primarily as a time sink, when I happened upon a post that I found interesting.

The post called for Canadian gas stations to sell only Canadian gas, and for stores to sell only Canadian beef.

While the post was rather specific in focusing attention on only two things, it made sense in terms of wanting to support the economy of Western Canada

as oil and beef are rather significant to the region.

On the surface the idea would seem to make excellent sense. Frankly I've often thought there should be a maple leaf tag on any product made in Canada so that consumers could support local producers, and local jobs.

But, then I paused long enough to remember items in a store are not so easily defined by some arbitrary border line on a map.

And, of course it's important to remember the Canadian beef and



CALVIN DANIELS

oil sectors do rely heavily on export sales to be viable.

We only need to recall what happened in 2003 when a case of bovine spongiform encephalopathy was identified

in a cow in Alberta. Borders closed to Canadian exports of cattle and beef and the country was left with mountains of beef to deal with in a country with not enough people to deal with it. The cattle sector was shaken to its core with massive losses piling up until the BSE scare passed.

The Canadian agriculture sector in particular relies on access to export markets to be viable. It would be difficult to access those markets if we suddenly went to a Canadian only in-store

system here.

The idea of a label works no better.

Producers in Canada fought long and hard against the idea of Country of origin labelling (COOL), in the United States because it was seen as a major detriment to market access of Canadian beef.

The issue becomes when does beef become only from a particular country? Is a calf born in Alberta forever Canadian? Or, if that calf is sold to a U.S. feedlot when it's 500-pounds, does it become Ameri-

can beef at some point as it grows toward being ground into hamburger?

And, what about from a Canadian perspective, what do you label that same calf born here, finished in the States and then the steaks sold in a Canadian store?

The complexity of trade, and the need for open access as possible to foreign markets unfortunately make a sell Canadian only system one more likely to hamstring key sectors than it is to be supportive of Canada's economy.

Seed synergy and value creation: a solution in search of a problem

By Cam Goff, NFU

A few months have gone by since the first round of "consultation" meetings on "value creation" and the folks at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) are in damage-control mode, trying to re-spin their message to farmers after its disastrous reception before Christmas.

In their November and December meetings, AAFC and its partner, the Seed Synergy group, were telling farmers that Canada's public plant breeding system was broken and that the federal government was not willing to increase its funding. Farmers were told that unless we help private plant breeders to step in and rescue us, Canada would become an agricultural backwater and suffer economic devastation.

In order to entice these private saviors, all farmers need to do is encourage our government to pass regulations allowed under the Plant Breeders Rights Act that would hand them a suite of control mechanisms over new plant varieties registered after February 2015.

Private breeders want the authority to impose additional royalties on farmers who use new varieties -- either on the entire crop (Option 1 - End Point Royalty) or on the portion of the crop saved for seed to grow a future crop (Option 2 - Trailing Contract Royalty). Royalty rates would be decided solely by the variety's owner, along with any other conditions they might attach to the use of the variety. The Seed Synergy group expects a new royalty regime would bring private seed companies over \$100 million per year.

The Seed Synergy group's mantra "Industry led, Government enabled" can be understood as "we'll tell you what we want, you make it legal." So, AAFC is attempting to get farmers to accept one of these two options, at the behest of the Seed Synergy group.

AAFC's "consultation" is based in large part on the false claim that Canada's public breeding system does not perform as well as the private sector.

Canada's public plant breeding system has operated for over a century. It started with farmer-scientists like Seager Wheeler and evolved into government infrastructure and programs that put the needs of Canada's farmers and citizens in first place. Its history right up to today is studded with world-class plant breeders consistently developing field crop varieties that are arguably the highest quality in the world, as well as fruit and vegetable varieties uniquely adapted to our northern climate. A peer-reviewed study showed that publicly bred wheat had 35% greater rate of yield increase compared with privately bred canola between 1981 and 2000, and 13% greater rate between 2000 and 2011.

Farmers have willingly contributed hundreds of millions of dollars to the public system by way of per-bushel crop check-offs and levies. Independent studies show returns from plant breeding range from \$7 to \$20 per dollar invested, with AAFC itself claiming an 11:1 return rate. Our public plant breeding system retains the revenue generated by its services, returns real value to our public system, our farmers and the Canadian economy.

In response to farmers' concerns that the government is trying to exit plant breeding, AAFC says the federal government is not going to get out completely, but will continue doing "discovery science" -- the long, hard background work of developing new lines - before handing promising germplasm to private industry to finish and register, which would allow the seed companies to control access to the varieties and reap the royalties from farmers.

Not surprisingly, farmers' response to

AAFC's options for "value creation" by compelling farmers to fund private sector breeding with royalty payments was overwhelmingly negative.

As a result, AAFC has changed their approach. Now they proclaim they are open to other ideas -- without a formal process for any input on alternatives. Their new pitch is a soft-sell, but they're still selling the same unwanted options.

The critical question is why does AAFC believe Canadian farmers and citizens will be better off if the returns from public and farmer money invested into plant breeding is diverted to private companies

where it can flow offshore to fatten shareholder dividends?

There is no doubt that the changes AAFC is proposing will create untold wealth and power for private plant breeders at the cost of Canada's farmers and citizens, and ultimately give them control over the very basis of our food system: seed.

Given the health and vigor of Canada's public plant breeding system, and farmers' willingness to step up and help to enhance and improve it, it appears that Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's "Value Creation" initiative is a unwanted solution to a manufactured problem.

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Bantams advance over La Ronge in provincials

Had a few bounces in game one of the second round provincials series between the Bantam Shellbrook Elks and the La Ronge Ice Wolves gone a little differently, it would have been another match, and perhaps even another series, altogether.

Fresh off trouncing the Tisdale Ramblers in round one, the Bantam Elks opened round two on home ice Friday evening but looked nowhere near as dominant as they had to open provincials. In the early going of the first period, feet weren't moving, pucks weren't being contested and even simple passes weren't being made.

This resulted in scoring chance after scoring chance for the Ice Wolves, who were kept off the board only by a solid performance between the pipes by netminder Carson Ledding.

Following this rocky start, the Elks finally got an opportunity to put some offence together when La Ronge gifted them with a five-on-three power play. Despite still not looking in top form, the Elks made something of the chance, as Tyson Gauthier buried a rebound from the La Ronge doorstep to put his team up 1-0.

Moe Norsten and Torr Gosselin earned assists on the play, which turned out to be the only goal of the opening frame.

Coming out with more fire in the second period, the Ice Wolves would draw first blood on a goal off of an offensive rush that somehow managed to trickle through Ledding. Tremayne Veteri scored the marker, with an assist from Morgan Mercredi.

For the still struggling

Elks, meanwhile, it would take another power play for them to get on the board again. Chase Hansen would score the goal, on a beautiful wrist shelf that nestled right into the top shelf. Jase Martin and Adam Schatkoske earned assists.

After this goal, something seems to have clicked for the Elks, as they would follow up to push the score to 3-1. This goal was another gorgeous high wrist shot by Logan Gareau off of a textbook give-and-go play from Gauthier and Schatkoske.

Having perhaps identified a weakness in the La Ronge netminder's game, the Elks would further exploit it in the third period, adding more cushion to their game one lead.

Gosselin would strike first for the Elks in the third period, showcasing some nice stick handling before perfectly placing a wrist shot. Gosselin was unassisted in the play.

Later on, after the Ice Wolves coughed up the puck, Michael Burechailo would lead a frantic rush, then beat the La Ronge netminder with yet another high wrist shot. That goal was also unassisted.

With the Elks having built a solid 5-1 lead out of a shaky start, that's where the score would stay until the final buzzer.

Game two followed in La Ronge Sunday afternoon,



With some help from a few teammates, Elks netminder Carson Ledding pounces on a loose puck to shutdown a La Ronge scoring chance.



Shellbrook's Moe Norsten launches a shot on the La Ronge goal. He didn't score, but his rebound was tucked in by a teammate.

and the Elks, once again, struggled out of the gate en route to a 3-2 loss.

This time, however, La Ronge was able to take advantage of the early stumbles and build an early 2-0 lead in the first period.

La Ronge's Darren Caisse proved to be a thorn in the side for the Elks throughout the opening frame, as he netted the first Ice Wolves goal less than two minutes into the match. Jonah McKenzie provided the lone assist on the play.

Later in the frame, Caisse

would strike again, this time on an assist from Drew Ahenakew.

Shellbrook's struggles would persist until midway through the second period, when Jase Martin scored on an assist from Chase Hansen to bring the score to 2-1.

But the Ice Wolves would prove to be the more determined team in the third frame, as Sage Roberts would restore his team's two-goal lead with an assist from McKenzie.

The Elks would respond with one last goal by Moe

Norsten in the dying seconds of the game. That goal was unassisted, and would both seal the Elks' 3-2 defeat, as well as their narrow 7-4 total points victory in the series.

With the series win, the Elks now head to the northern finals, where they will meet the Meadow Lake Stampeders.

Game one of that series will be played in Shellbrook Saturday, March 9 at 7 p.m.

Then, the action heads to Meadow Lake for game two on Friday, March 15. Puck drop for that game is 7 p.m.

Bourgeault & Associates support Shellbrook Skating Club



Paul Bourgeault and Paul Beaulieu are shown presenting the cheque to members of the Shellbrook Skating Club.

Bourgeault & Associates recently donated \$500 to the Shellbrook Skating Club to help with expenses they will incur when they host the upcoming Skate Canada Saskatchewan Road Show.

This year the Shellbrook Skating Club has applied for, and won, the opportunity to host the Skate Canada Saskatchewan Road Show.

On Sunday, March 10 at 6:30 p.m., Skate Saskatchewan will bring approximately 20 high performance skaters and coaches to

run sessions for our local skaters and will finish the day off with an evening performance.

The Road Show promotes the benefits of the sport of figure skating to members of Saskatchewan clubs, their community and surrounding area.

The activities organized by the Road Show are motivational for the existing members of the local club and encouraging for future club members.

Woodland Pharmacy Leask Branch

is pleased to welcome Dr. O. Egbeyemi to the Leask Medical Clinic on Fridays.

To accommodate this change, effective Friday, March 1st, Woodland Pharmacy Leask Branch will be open on Tuesdays and Fridays instead of Tuesdays and Thursdays.

To book a medical appointment with Dr. Egbeyemi in Leask, call **306-466-5510**

To contact the pharmacy in Leask, call **306-466-4747**

Woodland Pharmacy

Shellbrook and area give \$12,000 to Telemiracle

It wasn't quite a record-setting year, but Kinsmen Telemiracle 43 was still a highly successful one. Altogether, the campaign, which culminated in a weekend-long telethon at TCU Place in Saskatoon, saw the province raise a whopping \$5.6 million for a very good cause.

Shellbrook Kinettes member Tasha Cyr made the journey to Saska-

toon alongside her fellow group members. And in what Cyr calls a "fantastic weekend", the Kinettes took responsibility for a full phone line, worked hard, and even made the on-air presentation on behalf of Shellbrook.

Stating that the province "is amazing," and that she's grateful for the community and area's

continued support, Cyr says that the community's donation to this year's Telemiracle totalled \$12,101.10.

Of that, \$10,075.90 came from one very frosty town canvas by some brave members of the Kinsmen, \$448 came from Helping Hands sold by Shellbrook Elementary School, \$149.75 came from Helping Hands at

W.P. Sandin Public High School, and \$187.45 came from sales at local businesses.

Last, but certainly not least, Wild Rose School provided a large contribution of \$1,240.

As always, the money raised at the Telemiracle will stay in the province, where it can be put towards helping Saskatchewan residents acquire

special needs equipment and access to medical treatment. The money goes into the Telemiracle Fund, and people and organizations apply for these funds throughout the year.

But in the past money from the Telemiracle has found its way back to Shellbrook.

In 2014, Shellbrook's Woodland Bus Asso-

ciation received \$19,578 from the Telemiracle to assist with the purchase of a wheelchair accessible van. The van, and the 16-seat bus operated by the association, help residents of Parkland Integrated Health Centre's long-term care facility, and people from other communities, get to medical appointments and other social outings.

Gordon and Carol Mathers celebrate 50th wedding anniversary

On January 26th we celebrated the 50th Wedding Anniversary of our parents, Gordon and Carol Mathers at the Shellbrook Senior Citizen's Centre. We were joined with around 80 friends and family which is a true testament to the kindness and friendliness of our parents.

Mom and Dad were married on January 25th, 1969 at the small St. George's Anglican Church in Prince Albert. It was a really cold, clear and sunny day at a temp. of -40 C. They were young to be married by today's standard. Dad was 21 and mom was 17.

Their first home was a small house they rented for \$15 a month. It seemed like a lot of money for the time. They had their first two children, Deanna and Jason. They bought their first home in Nordale which was fox farm back then. They met many dear friends they still visit today.

They later bought an acreage in Holbein, it was the old school house and yard. They had quite a few animals at this farm and as a family would ride horses many a weekend all over Holbein.

Mom and Dad moved a few more times before buying a quarter section of land west of Shellbrook in 1978 for \$11,000, they moved a small house to the farm and dad reno'd and added on to it after work and on weekends. Jamie was born in 1979 and we moved to the farm in 1980.

Over the years they bought 3 more quarters of land and spent their time developing the farm, building fences, barns and outbuildings all while dad worked at Beaver Lumber in Prince Albert.

We lived pretty self sufficiently. We raised cattle, had pigs/chickens/turkeys and all kinds of other animals over the years. We had horses, and were all involved in 4-H when we were young. We had heavy horses to haul bales and manure. We had a wood stove for heat. AND don't forget about the pigeons, dad's true passion.

Dad was an amateur vet, he did the needles, tags, castrating and we all GOT to help with the butchering. Dad read a lot of vet books, had a black book with every cow he ever owned, listed by number, with medicines given, weight, when they calved and who knows what else!

Mom planted and harvested her garden, including canning everything and anything she could find from cucumbers to eggs, to berries and making wine and fruit juice. We had a milk cow named Harriet that she milked twice a day for years. She would also make cheese and yogurt and cream. Mom had various jobs over the years including school bus driving, working at Stedman's in Shellbrook and cleaning houses for seniors in Shellbrook and area.

The farm was a lot of work but it taught us to be loyal, generous and independent. We know a little hard work won't hurt us, not that we didn't complain about it at the time. It taught us a way of life not many people get to know these days. We are all hard working and strong because of it.

Mom and dad lived on the farm for 32 years. There seemed to be endless visiting. When you live in the country, everyone within a 10 mile radius is a neighbor. We remember people coming often and if not then we were off to someone else's house. We remember them taking us to

4-H fun days in all the small towns and competing at the PA Exhibition. We went on many winter sleigh rides. We went to many auction sales and brought home all kinds of stuff!

Eventually, we all moved away and had families of our



Carol and Gordon Mathers, 50 years later.

MARTINS LAKE REGIONAL PARK HELP WANTED/REQUEST FOR TENDERS

Martins Lake Regional Park is accepting resumes/tenders for the 2019 camping season for the following positions:

- 1) **GOLF CLUBHOUSE RESTAURANT:** Leased operator for the fully equipped kitchen and restaurant facility May thru Sept., c/w living quarters. Must be certified food handlers.
- 2) **BEACH CONCESSION:** Leased operator June to Sept. Must be certified food handlers.
- 3) **PARK MAINTENANCE:** 3 positions open - Full time hours May - September. General park maintenance for campground and golf course including grass cutting, tree trimming, equipment maintenance, janitorial upkeep of washrooms/shower room, painting, beach maintenance, maintaining water system, testing water and other duties
- 4) **PARK ENTRY PERSONNEL:** Must be 16 or older with valid driver's license. Duties include greeting visitors, collecting fees, assigning campsites with computerized reservation system, etc.

For more info call Christie at 306-221-4457. Mail resumes or tenders to Martins Lake Regional Park, Box 488, Blaine Lake, SK, S0J 0J0 or email to martinslake@sasktel.net.

own. One day mom and dad decided it was time to sell the farm and rebuild on property they had in Holbein. They bought a modular home and moved in December of 2011.

Dad has always had a love for birds, especially pigeons. He built a few pens and filled them with various breeds of pigeons. Jamie bought him a new black book so he can record everything like he used to with his cows. He has beautiful homers, fan tails, ark angels, dragoons, and helmet pigeons. He's always proud to show his pigeons to anyone who visits. It's a great hobby for him in his retirement and he's meeting all kinds of new friends in fellow pigeon lovers. They sure keep him busy!

Mom enjoys her plentiful land that produces amazing gardens and continues to can everything in sight. She also enjoys her flowers beds and will give you a tour whenever you stop by. Mom still works a few days a week at Woodland Pharmacy in Shellbrook.

They like sitting on the deck drinking their tea and walking to the local post office for their coffee visit every morning. They always welcome visitors with fresh coffee or tea and are sure to have some dainties or other dessert on hand.

Mom and Dad are the kindest most loving people we know. They are the parents that all kids hope to have and are pillars of support for each of us. They are amazing grandparents who in grandparent style completely spoil our kids.

You're at home here.



Lake Country Co-operative Association Limited

ANNUAL MEMBER INFORMATION MEETING

SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 2019

**John M. Cuelenaere Public Library
125 12th Street East
Prince Albert, SK
10:30 a.m.**

ALL MEMBERS WELCOME!

Midget Elks fall in provincial, league playoffs



Shellbrook's Rylan Moe looks to corral a loose puck by the PA Flyers goal, during action from game one of the SVMHL playoffs. Despite putting up a good fight, the Elks would lose the best-of-three series in two games.

It proved to be a rough weekend for the Midget Shellbrook Elks, who had their seasons ended in both the Saskatchewan Valley Minor Hockey League and provincial playoffs.

The first elimination for

the Midget Elks came Friday evening, in game two of a best-of-three quarterfinal series against the Prince Albert Flyers.

Having lost 5-4 on home ice in game one, the Elks travelled to Prince Albert,

where both teams took part in a real barn burner.

Unfortunately, the Elks came out on the wrong side of a 7-6 decision, allowing the Flyers to move onto the SVMHL semi-finals.

Suiting up on home ice

the following evening, the Elks were similarly in a fight for their lives in their two-game total points provincial series against the Carrot River Loggers.

Having lost game one on the road by a score of 6-2, thanks to some late penalty troubles, the Elks had a mountain to climb.

But coming out of the gate strong, the Elks initially looked like they were up to the challenge.

Playing in front of their home crowd, the Elks managed to draw first blood on a goal from Gavin Naharney.

Naharney was assisted on the play by Landon Greening and Adam Horner.

Less than a minute later, however, Carrot River fired back, with Tyrell Nicklen scoring on an assist from Ryland Patterson.

Not to be outdone, the Elks responded in kind minutes later. Dallas Galloway scored the marker, drawing assists from Sam Miller and Rylan Moe on the play.

In a more subdued second period the Loggers would get back on the board to knot things up at 2-2, and give the Elks more work to do. Nicklen scored the goal, unassisted.

This goal would be followed by nearly 20 minutes of goalless action, before Nicklen would score another unassisted marker early in the third to earn himself a hat trick.

With time winding down and a five-goal deficit to erase, the Elks got to work, as Moe scored with assists from Galloway and Horner.

But then, in what must have felt like déjà-vu, Shellbrook found itself on

the receiving end of six penalties in the final 13 minutes of the game, allowing the Loggers to rattle off four unanswered goals.

Patterson started things off for Carrot River, with an assist from Jared Wassill, and Dwayne McKenzie followed up 30 seconds later with a helper from Trey Hardie.

Adding to an already impressive scorecard, Nicklen would net his fourth goal of the evening, with an assist from Wassill on the play, and McKenzie would put an exclamation point on Carrot River's victory by pushing the score to 7-3.

McKenzie was unassisted on the goal.

With the 13-5 series win, the Loggers now move onto the northern finals, where they will likely face the Delisle Bruins.

Silvertips swept out of SPHL playoffs by Blues

For the Shellbrook Silvertips there was no miracle comeback to be had Friday evening, when they travelled to Battleford to fight for their lives in game three of the Saskatchewan Prairie Hockey League semi-finals against the Battleford Beaver Blues.

Unfortunately, after two razor-thin 5-4 losses in games one and two of the series, the Silvertips had nothing left in the tank. The result was a 7-1 shellacking at the hands of the Blues, and a premature end to their hockey season.

Josh Elliott provided the only offensive highlight for the Tips in game three, with help from Brett Mason on the play. Other than that, Easton Neufeldt earned an impressive 15 min-

utes in penalties.

In what was a hard-hitting series between two teams that never like each other very much, Neufeldt was only outdone in the sin bin by Battleford's Mike George, who racked up 16 minutes of infractions. Battleford's Chris Risling, had 15 penalty minutes, and Mason Carriere and Brent Salzl each spent 12 minutes in the box.

Despite his rap sheet, George still managed to lead the Blues' offensive charge alongside Cody Danberg, as both scored two goals and tacked on an assist. Elsewhere, Keegan Sparrow earned a goal and an assist, and Lee Gaetz and Blake Oborowski both had single goals.

Rounding out the Battleford scorecard, Salzl earned two helpers, and Jackson Soanes had one.

Having swept the Silvertips, the Blues now face a stiff challenge in the SPHL finals in the form of the Edam Three Stars, who haven't lost since early January. Dates for the series have yet to be set.

The Tips, meanwhile, will hang up their skates for another season, having been eliminated from the playoffs by the Blues for the second season in a row (last year, the team fell to the Blues in four games in the opening round of the SPHL playoffs).

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

BLAINE LAKE: Wapiti Library - Books, Movies, Magazines, Children's Section, Internet, Printing, Study/Meeting Space, Proctor Service, Community Programming. Hours: Wednesday 12 pm - 6 pm; Friday 1 pm - 5 pm; Saturday 12 pm - 4 pm. Contact us for more info 306-497-3130, www.wapitilibrary.ca.

CANWOOD: Canwood Branch of Wapiti Regional Library. Regular Library Hours - Tues. 1 - 5 p.m., Thurs. 10:00 a.m. - 4 pm & Friday 1 - 5 pm. Storytime: Fridays 2 pm. Play cards the 1st & 3rd Wednesday of the month at 2 pm. Crafter's Choice the 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month at 10 am.

DEBDEN: Wapiti Library hours: Monday 3 pm - 7 pm; Tuesday 11 am - 4 pm. Librarian: Aline Hannon

LEASK: Wapiti Library Hours: Tuesday 1 pm - 5:30 pm; Friday 10:30 am - 5 pm; Saturday 1 pm - 5 pm.

MARCELIN: Wapiti Library is open Tues. 2 pm - 6 pm; Thur. 2 pm - 8 pm; Sat. 10 am - 2 pm. For information on all your library needs, please contact 306-226-2110.

SHELLBROOK: Shellbrook Branch of the Wapiti Library located at 105 Railway Ave., West (Provincial building). Library Hours: Mon. 2 - 6:30 pm; Tues. 2 - 8 pm; Wed. 2 - 8 pm; Thur. 2 - 6:30 pm; Fri. 9 - 4 pm. Children's Story Time: Fri. 10:30 am (Sept - June).

CANWOOD: Canwood Regional Park Supper & Auction, Canwood Elks Community Centre, Saturday, March 16, 2019. Happy Hour 5 pm; Supper 6 pm; Auction to follow. Adults \$15; 6-12 yrs \$8; 5 & under free. For information call Bob 306-468-7942 or Terry 306-468-4425. Proceeds to Canwood Regional Park & community improvements.

CANWOOD: Canwood & District Health Services Co-operative *Annual Meeting*, Wednesday, April 10, 2019, Canwood Legion Hall. Supper 6:30 pm ~ Meeting to follow. \$10/person ~ Everyone Welcome! ***A resolution to have a review of the financial books instead of an audit will be voted on by the members present at this meeting! Please come out and show your support for your community clinic. If you have any question please call Donna at 1-306-468-7040.

SHELLBROOK: Shellbrook Theatre Movie Night, Fri., Mar. 8, Ralph Breaks the Internet; Fri., Mar. 22, Mary Poppins Returns; Fri., Apr. 12, Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse. Doors Open 7 p.m. Showtime 7:30 p.m. Cost is \$5

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To apply for this position and to view the full list of required qualifications, please refer to the federal government employment website: www.canada.ca/government-jobs. The deadline for applications is March 17, 2019.

We thank all candidates who apply and advise that only those selected for further consideration in the process will be contacted. Preference will be given to Canadian citizens. We are committed to Employment Equity. The Public Service of Canada is committed to developing inclusive, barrier-free selection processes and work environments. If contacted regarding this competition, please advise of the accommodation measures which must be taken to enable you to be assessed in a fair and equitable manner.

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Canada

Super sniper Ovechkin not slowing down

Fans at the Bell Centre in Montreal sing 'Day O' when they get excited about their Habs, but in Washington, and all around the National Hockey League for that matter, a drawn-out version of "AAAAAA OOOOOO" should be part of the night's entertainment in tribute to the greatest sniper of our time, the Great 8, Alex Ovechkin.

The Capitals captain, whose personal career highlight came last June when Washington won its first Stanley Cup, is a goal-scorer's goal scorer and it seems he's getting better with age.

There's no argument about this, however: Ovechkin is the best Russian-born player to ever play in the NHL. Pavel Datsyuk, Evgeni Malkin, Igor Larionov and Sergei Fedorov had or are having terrific careers, but it's hard to argue with more than 650 goals, and counting. Just 33 years old, Ovechkin doesn't seem to be slowing down. His fans bring out their calculators, punch in a few numbers and voila! — five more 50-goal seasons or seven 35-goal campaigns and even the 894-goal total of the greatest of all time, Wayne Gretzky, would

be eclipsed by Ovechkin on the NHL's career goal-scoring list.

If he continued on his late-February pace toward a 58- or 60-goal season, Ovechkin would record the second most prolific scoring season of his career, trailing only the 65 goals he tallied in his third season in the league. But he has been a model of consistency, with seven 50-plus-goal seasons and a career low of 32 goals in 2012-13. Most NHLers would give up their red Ferrari or annual trip to Kauai in exchange for a single 32-goal season.

NHL goalies know where Ovechkin will be and what he will attempt to do while the Capitals are on the power play, but are virtually powerless to stop him. He sets up near the left face-off circle, waits while his mates pass it around enough to get the goaltender leaning a particular way and then quickly drift the puck over to Ovechkin, who's already winding up while the puck is en route. Then, in a blur, he fires the puck in excess of 100 MPH and, more often than not, beats the overmatched netminder, setting off yet another celebration.

The future Hall of



BRUCE
PENTON

Famer is not just about goal-scoring, however. He plays with an obvious joy on the ice and despite a rugged style of play, he's durable. Only once in his career has he missed more than 10 games in a season.

In Washington these days, the go-to phrase is not Russian collusion, but, thanks to Ovechkin, it's Russian celebration.

• Dwight Perry of the Seattle Times: "The Mariners, whose home becomes 'T-Mobile Park' this season, say they'll keep only the 'S' from the big Safeco Field letters that were removed from the ballpark last week. Fed-up fans, noting the team's 18-year playoff drought, immediately put in first dibs on the 'L.'"

• Comedy writer Tim Hunter, on Colorado State selling wine and beer at home basketball

games: "If you've seen them play, you'll understand why."

• Hockey Night in Canada curmudgeon Brian Burke, on the scoring woes of Jets' Patrik Laine: "This is not a slump now. This is a horrible Grand Canyon of failure."

• Norman Chad of the Washington Post, on Twitter: "If Robert Kraft's misdemeanor charge of soliciting a prostitute ultimately goes to replay review, he will be exonerated."

• Perry again: "Look who's back, back, back in the booth. Former ESPN icon Chris Berman will be among the rotating stable of announcers calling call Red Sox games on WEEI Radio this year. Mookie 'Gentlemen,

Place Your' Betts and Mitch 'This Land Is' Moreland refused comment."

• Comedy writer Jim Barach: "Zion Williamson of Duke hurt his knee when his Nike shoe fell apart in a game. Somewhere in China there is a six-year-old who is in a whole lot of trouble."

• RJ Currie of sports-deke.com: "A final score from the Canadian women's curling championship: PEI 13; New Brunswick 12. Put it this way: they exceeded the Patriots-Rams Super Bowl total by three field goals."

• Currie again: "An ESPN pundit suggested the Westminster Dog Show was biased because for the 47th time out of 115 events, a ter-

rier won. Why not say it's fixed — or in dog terms: call a spay a spay?"

• Another one from Currie: "The Hartford Yard Goats baseball team no longer serves peanuts or Cracker Jack due to nut allergies. A few years ago Mariners also solved a nut problem: they cut Milton Bradley."

• Headline at TheO-nion.com: "Diamondbacks settle longstanding civil suit with offspring of bird hit by Randy Johnson's fastball."

• Dwight Perry again: 20/20 hindsight: Marshawn Lynch should have run. Robert Kraft should have passed."

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

PRAISE & WORSHIP

Regular services, Sunday school and special services will be listed.

LUTHERAN CHURCH
Zion - Canwood
Sunday School,
Worship Sunday, 9 a.m.
St. John's - Shellbrook
Sunday School,
Worship Sunday, 11 a.m.
Rev. Emmanuel Aristide

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN

Parkside
11 a.m. - Worship
Pastor Chris Dean

PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

Parkside
10:30 a.m. Worship
Pastor Doug Hope
306-747-3572
Shellbrook
Sun., 10:30 a.m. - Worship
Pastor David Bodvarson
306-747-7235
Canwood
11:00 a.m. - Worship
Pastor Glenn Blazosek
306-468-2138
Leask Gospel Tabernacle
Sunday 11 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.
Pastor Lorne Valuck

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Parkside 306-747-2309
Leask 306-466-4498
Marcelin 306-226-4615

EVANGELICAL FREE

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11:00 a.m. - Worship
Bible Classes 9:45 a.m.
Summer: 10:30 a.m. - 12
306-469-2258
Youth Nite: Fridays
Mont Nebo
Bible Study & Prayer
Sun., 11:00 a.m. - Worship
Pastor Bill Klumpenhower

CATHOLIC CHURCH

Debden
Sun. Mass - 9:30 a.m.
Fr. Michael Fahlman
Big River - Sacred Heart
Sun., 11:30 a.m. - Mass
Whitefish
Sun., 2:30 p.m. - Mass.
Victoire
Sat., 7:30 p.m. - Mass.
Fr. Michael Fahlman
Eucharist Celebrations
Muskeg
Sunday, 3 p.m.
St. Agatha's - Shellbrook
Mass - Sunday - 11 a.m.
St. Henry's - Leask
Mass - Saturday - 7 p.m.
St. Joseph's - Marcelin
Mass - Sunday - 9 a.m.
Mistawasis
2nd & 4th Sundays, 1:30 p.m.
Fr. Phong Tran

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Sat., 11:00 am -Worship
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ANGLICAN CHURCH

Leask - All Saint's
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St. Andrew's - Shellbrook
Sunday, 11 a.m. Service
Canwood - Christ Church
Sunday, 11 a.m. - Service
2 p.m. Service 2nd Sunday
of the month
Rev'd Eyad Ajji
306-980-5916

UNITED CHURCH

Shellbrook - Knox United
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306-747-3434
Big River
Sundays
10 a.m.. - Worship
at Anglican Church
Rev. Dave Whalley
306-747-2804

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OBITUARIES

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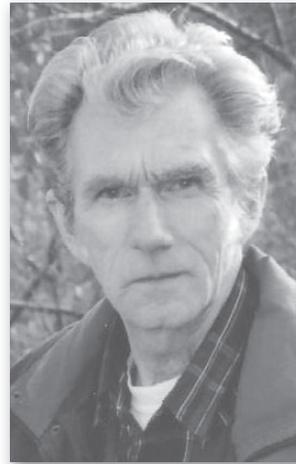
Julian Dulle

DULLE, Julian Rena
March 6th, 1930 - February 10th, 2019

The family of Julian Dulle are heartbroken to announce the passing of their dad on the 10th day of February, 2019. Julian was born in Simp-

son, SK in March of 1930. He was a proud Veteran. He lived and farmed in the Debden area with his wife and three daughters. He loved farming, but the first love was trapping, hunting and then came the farming. He had a mixed array of animals; cows, horses, goats, pigs, sheep, cats, dogs, turkeys, chickens, did we forget anything... rabbits. He is missed and remembered by his daughters; Glenda Berscheid (Arnie dod-2017), his second daughter Nada (dod 2015)(Murray Symington) and last but not least his third daughter Carmen (Tim) Endicott, all his grand-

kids, great grandkids, his brother and sister, numerous nieces, nephews and many other family and friends. There was a Memorial Service held on Monday, February 18th, 2019 at the Pentecostal Church in Canwood, SK. Family and friends wishing to send online condolences may do so by visiting www.beaulac-funeralhome.com Memorial Donations may be directed to the Canwood Legion Branch #132 Box 508 Canwood, SK S0J 0K0 in Julian's Memory. Arrangements have been entrusted to Lori Saam of Beau "Lac" Funeral home, Canwood 306-468-2244

Gordon Wood

WOOD - Gordon

In loving memory we celebrate the life of Gordon Robert Wood who passed away March 1, 2019 in Banff, AB. surrounded by his living family and friends.

Gordon will be remembered by his wife Wendy Wood of Canmore; son Jason of Calgary; daughter Annette Stewart (Wood) and husband Tom of Edmonton; three granddaughters Sabrina, Ni-

cole and Shannon and great granddaughter Triniti. He is also survived by his sister Virginia (Eddie) of Shell Lake, Sask. and numerous nieces, nephews and friends.

Gordon was born on the farm at Wood Hill, Saskatchewan August 24, 1933. He was predeceased by his parents Kenneth and Margaret Wood, sibling twins James and Margaret and one sister Alice.

Gordon first fell in love with Canmore when he arrived with his bride in 1971. They raised their family in small town Didsbury until 1992, then moving to Banff. After a short stay in Creston, BC, they returned to Canmore to once again enjoy mountain living. During his life, he worked at a variety of different jobs, the last one being at Brewster Transportation.

Gordon enjoyed spending time with family and friends, sharing stories and fond memories of old times.

Donations can be made to the Parkinsons Society of Southern Alberta, the recreation department at St. Martha's long term care in Banff or the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

Memorial service for Gordon will be held at 1:00 pm on Friday, March 15, 2019 in the Ralph Connor Memorial Untied Church in Canmore (also known as the little white church on Main street). Private family burial of the urn will be held at a later date in the Canmore Cemetery.

Condolences for the family may be sent to www.bowriverfuneral.com

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GOOD NEWS

~

TEMPTATIONS

Dave Whalley DLM(R)**First United Church, Big River**

A young man was sent to Spain by his company to work in a new plant. He accepted because it would enable him to earn enough to marry his long-time girlfriend. Their plan was to pool their resources and put a down payment on a house when he returned. As the lonely weeks went by, she began expressing doubts that he was being true to her. After all, Spain is populated by beautiful women. The young man declared that he was paying absolutely no attention to the local girls. "I admit," he wrote, "that sometimes I'm tempted. But I fight it; I'm keeping myself for you." In the next mail, the young man received a package. It contained a note and a harmonica. "I'm sending this to you," his girlfriend wrote, "so you can have something to take your mind off those girls." The young man wrote back that he was practicing on the harmonica every night and thinking only of her.

When the young man returned home, his girl was waiting at the airport. As he rushed forward to embrace her, she held up a restraining hand and said sternly, "Hold on there. First I want to hear you play that harmonica!"

If only our temptations were that easy to handle!

Every year the season of Lent starts with the story of how Jesus was tempted in the wilderness by the devil. This story is about taking sides -- about putting God first in our lives -- about remembering whose we are and what has been done for us -- about declaring our loyalties.

At first glance the temptations of Jesus seem strange. They seem so unlike our temptations. Make bread out of stones?

Leap from the temple? Worship Satan to gain the world? But are they really that different? We face the temptation of material wants. For Jesus it was turning stone into bread, for us it sometimes takes the form of fancy clothes, cars, trips, or homes. God blesses us with material wants but they sometimes lead us to the temptation of power, which is another temptation Jesus faced. We can get caught up in being important, or being "the best". Again, God blesses us with gifts and talents that put us in positions of importance at times and misuse can lead to yet another temptation that Jesus faced -- invincibility. Satan dared Jesus to prove God would not let Jesus harm himself. Do we not do the same thing when we try to live our lives without God's guidance. We sometimes say, "I can do it on my own," and forget that God is there. We are tempted to do it ourselves.

The temptations of Jesus are ours -- for Satan or evil is with us now as with Jesus. Evil is with us not so much to get us to do wrong things -- we need no help in that -- but to develop in us life destroying attitudes and beliefs; to develop in us those things that will take us further and further away from God's love till one day we discover that we have no faith at all, that we are people without hope and without purpose, that we are -- in short -- completely lost -- living only for today, living only for ourselves.

The voice Jesus heard as he wandered through the wilderness, is the voice that we so often hear as we walk through the wilderness in our lives...the wilderness of a world that does not care -- of a world that does not provide anyone an easy time of things -- but rather is coldly indifferent if not openly hostile to us and

to what we want and what we feel.

The voice of evil is the voice of doubt. That doubt usually takes two forms. 1. Doubt in the goodness of God, and 2. Self-doubt, doubt that questions who we are and what we are about.

One of the biggest occasions of doubt that arises in the life of believers is related to the reality of temptation -- and to the fact that we all too often succumb to it. You try to do something -- or to not do something and you fail -- and you feel guilty about it. Self-doubt -- soul destroying doubt. It is a common thing. Like the other doubt that evil throws at us -- the doubt that says to you when you're are in trouble: "If God really cared, then I would not be in this mess". God does care. God cares like a parent cares for their child as they are learning to walk.

Temptation is a reality of the Christian life. It is there for two reasons. The first reason is that evil is a pull to separate us from God -- to create a distance between us and God -- to destroy our relationship with God. The second reason for temptation is this: God wants us to choose freely. God does not want you or anyone else to be obedient robots -- God wants us to be whole human beings who freely love the Great Spirit and others who are in every way made in the Creator's likeness.

In the doing of this, it is not a sin to be tempted -- indeed often it is part of God's plan for us -- that same plan that led to the spirit driving Jesus out into the wilderness where he was tempted. Nor is it a sign that we are lost, that we are beyond hope, when we succumb to tempta-

tion and do those things we ought not to do and fail to do those things we ought. For that to be so would mean that the cross of Christ was to no avail and that his sacrifice on our behalf means nothing.

That most certainly is not the case. Jesus' love is not without power and impact and effect. As a loving parent helps their children back to their feet when they stumble and fall, so God helps us back to our feet when we fall and call out for help. Over and over again -- until we finally are strong enough to go onto the next lesson. What God wants from us is not that we be perfect -- but that we strive to be that way -- that we give it our best shot -- and keep on trying. Evil is present to try and make us give up entirely and abandon faith in God and the idea that we are made in God's image for a purpose and a reason.

Don't give up. Have faith -- it is all a question of whose side we are on. We know that our Creator is on our side. Do not give up faith in God because of the temptations you feel -- nor because of the ones you give in to -- but instead get up on your feet, turn afresh to God, and begin walking once again, remembering the word that God has given us -- the word of faith that says simply and clearly -- "if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Savior and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."

That is what we believe - that Jesus is our spiritual leader and Jesus' spirit still lives with us today through every temptation. May Jesus be with us through this Lenten season and always.

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NOTICE



Noreen Dicus (Bourassa) passed away peacefully on February 24, 2019 at the Wheatland Lodge, Leask, Sk. Noreen was born May 1, 1931, she was a twin and the youngest of 9 siblings. She was predeceased by her husband Willard Dicus, her parents Abraham and Ernestine (Lucier) Bourassa. A celebration of her life will be held on April 30, 2019 at 7:00 pm (prayers), funeral on May 1, 2019 at St. Henry's R.C. Church in Leask, Sk, 1-10C

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MEMORIALS

IN MEMORY OF IRENE RUDE
Passed away March 13, 2018
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A year has passed us by,
We miss the ringing of the phone,
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Your life was a blessing,
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You are loved beyond words,
And missed beyond measure.
You had a smile for everyone,
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You left behind many memories,
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We love & miss you,
Carla & Brian and family. 1-10C

In Memory

may be put in the Chronicle for **\$24.00*** (30 words)
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CARD OF THANKS

The Family of Selma Weiss would like to thank her faithful family, those near and far, for their support, encouragement, visits and prayers. Thank you to her friends whose friendship she treasured.

A special thank you goes to the Caregivers, Staff and Volunteers at the PIHC-LTC whose amazing care made her last years richer. Words cannot express the comfort it gave us knowing she was in your care. Thank you for your gentle and loving ministrations during her final hours - both to her and to her family. Angels come in many disguises.

Thank you to Tammy and her co-workers at Beau Lac Funeral Home for their caring hearts and for being very good at what they do.

Thank you to Pastor Bodvarson for your ministry to our Mother and to us, her family.

Thank you to Mindy at the Shellbrook Flower Shop who caught our vision for flowers, to the Cameo Ladies for the serving of lunch after the funeral, and to Randy Whitter and his staff of 'My Place' for catering our family supper.

Thank you for the many cards with thoughtful words. Thank you as well for the many

donations in Mom's memory. Mom loved, was loved and will be missed. 1-10C

We wanted to send out a thanks to Betty Deck (Carol's Sister), Kathy Alexander (Carol's Sister), Ina MacDonald (Carol's Sister in Law) and mom for preparing the wonderful supper. A special thanks to mom who put a lot of time into the evening's planning. Thanks to Eva Stene for recording the evening in pictures and Ina MacDonald for making the beautiful centerpieces.

We also wanted to thank everyone who participated in telling stories after supper, there were many memories shared with a lot of laughs!

And lastly, we want to thank our parents, Gordon and Carol Mathers. Without them we certainly wouldn't be the people we are today. Congratulations on your 50th Wedding Anniversary!
Deanna, Jason and Jamie 1-10C

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Growing sweet potatoes in Saskatchewan

By Jill Thomson

For several years we have been growing sweet potatoes in our garden in Saskatoon, harvesting enough tubers that we eat them several times a week until the New Year. We were introduced to the idea of growing our own sweet potatoes by our gardening friends, Cedric and Anne Gillott, who started growing them in 2015. They shared their experience, and some produce, with us, and now we have grown them for 3 years and are preparing for our 2019 crop.

Sweet potatoes (*Ipomoea batatas*) are native to tropical America, and are related to the Morning Glory flowers that grow in many of our gardens. They are not closely related to our common potatoes (*Solanum tuberosum*) or yams (*Dioscorea* spp.). They require a longer frost-free period than is normal for Saskatchewan and

extra care must be taken to give them warm soil and adequate water during the summer, and to protect them from frost in late spring or early fall.

Sweet potatoes are planted as slips, which are rooted shoots taken from parent plants. We have been buying our rooted slips from Mapple Farm (New Brunswick). Vesey's (Prince Edward Island) sell slips, and it is also possible to start your own plants from tubers sold in grocery stores. This winter our tubers produced small shoots and I have started plants from these. We will either plant them out in late May, or take shoots off them and root them (typically roots appear after 3-4 days in water).

We have tried about 8 of the cultivars available. Our favourite is Beauregard, an older cultivar with orange flesh and tan skin. Covington and Carter are similar cultivars that do well in our

growing conditions. The book "Sweet Potatoes for the Home Garden" by Ken Allan, gives excellent information on growing this crop, and describes most of the cultivars. There is also an article in the Gardener magazine that provides information on cultivation of sweet potatoes in the prairies (Summer 2017, Vol 23 Issue 2).

We dig our soil bed in mid May, adding in compost, watering the soil well, laying down a soaker hose, and then covering the bed with plastic (either clear or black). In early June we usually put 20-24 plants in a 3.5m bed, which is 1m wide, in a staggered pattern (about 45cm apart). A circle or slit is cut out of the plastic at regular spacing and the rooted slips are planted in the soil, through the holes in the plastic. A saucer-like depression is left around the slip, to catch water, and the edges of



Harvest in 2016. Image credit: Jill Thomson

the plastic are held down by a layer of earth. We water frequently, every 2-3 days depending on rainfall and temperature. Our bed has sandy soil so frequent watering is required. If there is a risk of frost then we cover the beds at the beginning and end of the season. This extends the growing season for the plants, as they require a temperature above 10°C to grow, and will be killed by frost.

The plants require very little attention during the summer, apart from frequent watering. There may be small caterpillars, of the morning glory plume moth, that will eat new leaves but these likely do not impact yield. I did apply one spray of Bt in our first year.

Harvest is exciting, as you really don't know what to expect. Cut the

green leaves and stems off before rolling back the plastic and carefully dig away the soil. Most plants have a cluster of tubers hanging down near the main stem. Occasionally the roots go searching for water, and then a tuber will be found away from the main plant. Our biggest tubers are usually about 300g, and 20-30cm long. The mice (or voles) do like them too and in our first year several bigger tubers were hollowed out. The following year we were careful to keep the edges of the plastic sealed in with earth and we had no further rodent problem.

Jill Thomson is a plant disease special-

ist (retired) who enjoys gardening in Saskatoon with her family, including the dogs.

This column is provided courtesy of the Saskatchewan Perennial Society (SPS; saskperennial@hotmail.com). Check our website (www.saskperennial.ca) or Facebook page (www.facebook.com/saskperennial) for a list of upcoming gardening events.

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