

Shellbrook Chronicle

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NHLers share lessons at Big River FN Hockey Day



Retired NHLer Cody McCormick spent most of the Big River First Nation's second annual Hockey Day on the ice with hockey players, both young and old, trying to teach them lessons he learned throughout his own career. All photos courtesy of Samantha Stouffer

There was no shortage of activity on the Big River First Nation on Friday, March 6, when the community hosted its second annual Hockey Day in conjunction with Se-Se-Wa-Hum High School's Winter Carnival.

Where the high school's Winter Carnival was steeped in traditional activities designed to get students in touch with their culture, the action over the rink was almost exclusively focused on all things hockey.

What's more, players and fans alike got a taste of the NHL thanks to special guests, and retired NHLers, Cody McCormick and Jason Simon.

The festivities kicked off with a pan-

cake breakfast for the whole community. From then on, hockey players, ranging in age from four to 60+, were welcome to participate in hockey skills training and cross-ice games.

Throughout the day at the rink, McCormick, who spent most of his 12 years in the NHL with the Buffalo Sabres, entertained the players and coached them on their skills.

Born and raised on the Chippewa of the Thames First Nation, located near London, Ont., McCormick considers himself fortunate to have made it all the way to NHL.

Like many of the players he coached throughout Hockey Day, he remembers

growing up playing in Native hockey tournaments, and watching his father and brother play. Seeing their enjoyment of the sport, he says it wasn't long before hockey became his sole focus.

"Every time I was at the rink or playing hockey, nothing else mattered," he said.

"Whether I was having a good day or a bad day, the focus when I was at the rink was to play hockey. That focus was something I really took away from playing the game."

Calling hockey the "vehicle" that brought him everything he has in his life, including his wife and family, he says the sport taught him work ethic,

teamwork, and dedication, and that you get out of things what you put into them.

That said, he adds that some of his success came from the fact that he was Ojibway, and from a reserve, and playing hockey at a high level when few others who were born into his circumstances got the chance.

"It was motivation to me. I knew there wasn't too many First Nations players in the NHL, and that drove me," he said.

"I always used it as motivation to hopefully pave the way for another player."

Continued on page 2

FUN FACTS ABOUT SASKATCHEWAN

▪ Saskatoon has more Tim Horton's per capita than in any other city in Canada. You can't get much more Canadian than that!

▪ There are more roads in Saskatchewan than in any other Canadian province. So much so that if lined up, Saskatchewan roads could circle the equator 4 times!

▪ Now the Saskatchewan landscape is known as the Prairies, but approximately 400 million years ago most of Saskatchewan was actually the Elk Point Sea!

▪ Cree is the second most commonly spoken language in Saskatchewan with over 20,000 people who speak Cree!

▪ Saskatchewan produces the most NHL players than any other province! For every 100,000 people in the province of Saskatchewan, there were 4.8 playing in the NHL!

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NHLers share lessons at Big River FN Hockey Day



Cody McCormick (left) and Jason Simon (second from right) were gifted with traditional beaded medallions.



With some on-ice help from Brenda Cromartie, Cody McCormick spent time talking to the young hockey players.



Players watch the game, awaiting their next opportunity to get in on the action.



A young Shellbrook Elk was able to make it out to the Hockey Day festivities, and was happy to meet McCormick on the ice.



Drills and skills training made up a good portion of Hockey Day, and the kids were eager to learn.

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At the Hockey Day event on the Big River First Nation, McCormick spent the day trying to do just that, by interacting with the young hockey players and sharing the lessons he learned throughout his career.

No stranger to making public appearances, he says he always enjoys visiting First Nations communities and reserves to talk to the youth about making good and healthy choices.

"I'm a product of where they came from. Hope-

fully they can see that, and they have a vision and a dream and they can do it too," he said.

"It doesn't matter where you come from. It doesn't matter what resources you have. If you put something in your mind, and you really want to do it more than anything else, it can happen. I'm proof of that."

Having spent the day on the Big River First Nation, McCormick says he feels the community is

laying the groundwork for its youth to be successful and thrive.

"Being here in Whitefish, you see the support that these kids have, and the role models that they see around the rink. That's not something I see everywhere I go," he said.

"It's amazing to see how they're implementing hockey into their everyday lives. I hope they take away all the good things I learned from hockey."

Where McCormick spent his day interacting on the ice, Jason Simon was out and about engaging with the community. He even stopped by the school to serve as a guest judge for the middle years science fair, and gave a motivational speech to the kids.

Hockey Day continued well into the evening, with a community sup-

per. There, leaders from the Big River First Nation presented McCormick and Simon with traditional beaded medallions.

The hockey filled day concluded with some action on the ice as Whitefish's Master team, including Simon as the enforcer to protect sniper Lyle Whitefish, faced off against FSIN Chiefs.

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NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF ASSESSMENT ROLL
 Village of Parkside
 Notice is hereby given that the assessment roll for the Village of Parkside for the year of 2020 has been prepared and is open to inspection in the office of the assessor from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the following days: Tuesdays, March 17, 2020 to April 14, 2020.
 A bylaw pursuant to section 214 of *The Municipalities Act* has been passed and the assessment notices have been sent as required.
 Any person who wishes to appeal against her or her assessment is required to file his or her notice of appeal with: The Assessor, Village of Parkside, Box 48, Parkside, Sask. S0J 2A0, by the 14th day of April, 2020.
 Dated this 12th day of March, 2020.
 Assessor Gwen Olson

MARTINS LAKE REGIONAL PARK HELP WANTED/REQUEST FOR TENDERS
 Martins Lake Regional Park is accepting resumes/tenders for the 2020 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.
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 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.

Silvertips kickoff league finals against Birch Hills

With a chance to advance to the Twin Rivers Hockey League finals on the line, the Shellbrook Silvertips hit the road for Rosthern Friday evening hoping to avoid a game five.

The Tips have had a tough go of it on the road this postseason, dropping both away games they've played thus far. But on Friday night the team came out firing on all cylinders, securing their spot in the finals against the league-topping Birch Hills Blackhawks.

Game four started slow for both the Tips and the Wheatkings. Then, with just under six minutes remaining in the opening period, the Tips exploded for three goals to take a commanding lead in the game.

Continuing his consistent playoff performance, Devin Dicus started off the scoring for the Tips, finding the back of the Rosthern goal short-handed. Nick Martin provided the lone assist on the goal.

Justin Kerr tacked on an insurance marker four minutes later, scoring on an assist from John Martin. Then, on a late Shellbrook power play, Brendon Beaulac pushed the score to 3-0 on assists from Jody Blais and Wyatt Hinson.

Though the Tips didn't add to their lead in the second period, they also didn't allow Rosthern to get back into the game — thanks, in no small part, to a strong performance between the pipes by net-minder Jon Nelson. The end result was a quiet second frame, which led into a very busy third period for both teams.

In a third frame that saw the Tips and the Wheatkings combine for four goals in the span of less than two minutes, the Tips got things started. Kerr scored his second of the evening, earning an assist from Nathaniel Martin on this goal.

The Wheatkings fired right back, thanks to a power play goal from Ryan Pilon, assisted by Riley Lehmann, but the Tips were happy to re-

turn the salvo. Wyatt Hinson scored for Shellbrook, with assists from Parker Turner and Blais.

Rosthern's Nathan Gardipy capped off the game of ping pong, scoring an unassisted marker that put the score at 5-2 for Shellbrook.

After a long goalless stretch, Brett Mason put the exclamation point on the series for the Tips, scoring on assists from Braidon Turner and Dicus to give the Tips a 6-2 win.

For his play in between the pipes, Jon Nelson earned "Tip of the Game" honours.

Tips (3) @ Blackhawks (5)

After being given only one day to recover the Tips were back in action, travelling to Birch Hills for game one of the league finals.

The Birch Hills Blackhawks were the only puzzle the Tips couldn't solve throughout the regular season — their first meeting was a 3-0 loss, and their second was a heartbreaking 5-4

shootout defeat during Hockey Day in Shellbrook — making them the obvious underdog in the match-up.

Regardless of what the oddsmakers might say about the Tips' chances of winning, the team showed up to play and to win.

Birch Hills got things started in a slow first period, with Brady Keller scoring a late goal on an assist from Brandon Juravinski to put the Blackhawks up 1-0.

They'd go up by two early in the second, thanks to a goal from Cole Jones and Keller, but the Tips would respond with two goals of their own to knot the game up heading into the third period.

Dorin Canaday opened the scoring for the Tips, with assists from Mitch Wourms and Parker Turner, then Wyatt Hinson tacked one on late in the frame with an assist from Brendon Canaday.

With the scoreboard effectively reset for the third period, the Tips shot themselves in the



With the Rosthern goalie down and out, Parker Turner (right) and Wyatt Hinson (left) look to find the back of the net in action from game 3.

foot with back-to-back penalties near the half-way mark of the frame. The result was two Blackhawks power play goals.

Kyle Njaa netted the first marker, thanks to assists from Juravinski and Reed Gunville, and Gunville followed up

with helpers from Njaa and Derek Becker.

With time winding down, the Blackhawks tacked on an empty netter in the final minute. Juravinski scored the goal, with an assist from Adam Hergott on the play.

Shellbrook's Daryl Blais responded with a too-little-too-late goal, on an assist from Brett Mason, to give Birch Hills a 5-3 win.

As of Tuesday morning, the schedule for the rest of the series hadn't been finalized.

Request for Proposal

The Village of Canwood has a fully equipped restaurant available for lease as of April 2020. The seating capacity of the restaurant is approximately 40 to 50 guests and is equipped with large coolers, deep freeze, grill with 4 burner stove and oven, deep fryer, some pots, dishes, cutlery, etc.

The lessee will be responsible for the monthly rental of \$400.00 (includes water & sewer), natural gas and power. The lessee is also responsible for acquiring a tenant legal liability and contents insurance package and applying for licensing with the Public Health Office to ensure that the business meets all health codes as required from the Public Health Inspector.

The Village of Canwood population as of 2016 census was 332 and supports a large surrounding rural community, lake lot developments, and neighbouring Ahtahkakoop First Nation. The Village boasts many services that draws potential patrons into the Village. Some of these services include a public school (Pre-K to 12), credit union, pharmacy, medical clinic, grocery store that is open 7 days a week, gas bar with cardlock, bowling alley, skating rink and Canwood Regional Park with a 9-hole grass greens golf course, ball diamonds and camping.

Request for Proposal

Our Committee is accepting Requests for Proposal until March 27, 2020, that should detail a proposed business plan to lease the restaurant. The business plan, at a minimum should include:

- » Hours of operation
- » Business ideas you may have to ensure viability (specials, steak nights etc.)
- » Any other relevant information you can provide
- » Related previous work experience
- » Must have one appropriate reference

Please note that applicants are subject to an interview process with our Committee and may also be subject to a credit check.

The successful applicant would be required to sign a lease agreement allowing them to utilize the equipment that is currently in the restaurant, stock supplies and carry out their business plan.

If you have any questions, or are interested in viewing the building, please do not hesitate to contact the Village office at (306)468-2016. Please note that only serious Requests for Proposal will be considered and contacted. The Village reserves the right to reject any or all submission.

Sincerely,
Erin Robertson
Administrator, Village of Canwood

Get ready to vote

A provincial election is coming in 2020. Review the list below to get ready to vote!

- 1 **Make sure you're registered at your current address**
Update your info at elections.sk.ca/register or by calling 1.877.958.8683.



- 2 **Registered voters get a voter information card** (choose to get it by text, email, or mail)



- 3 **Make a plan for how to vote** (election day, advance voting, or vote by mail)



- 4 **Bring ID** (you need to show ID to get a ballot)



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PA Hospital expansion marks a positive step

"It's about darn time," seems to be the general sentiment coming out of Prince Albert, the broader Prince Albert region, and much of northern Saskatchewan.

The sentiment was stirred up last Wednesday, with the Question Period revelation that the Sask. Party government was finally getting the ball rolling on a new hospital for the city.

But, for many, it probably didn't feel entirely real until the Saskatchewan Party government, and Premier Scott Moe, made the formal announcement on Friday.

That announcement promised a \$300 million-plus investment to build a multi-storey expansion of the Victoria Hospital, increasing its capacity by 69 beds (up to 242 from 173) and leaving room for further additions. The project also calls for a larger emergency department, a helipad, and enhanced medical imaging services, including an MRI.

"We are moving forward to address the health care needs of our growing population in Prince Albert and the north," Premier Scott Moe said in announcing the new facility. "This significant investment reflects the importance of Victoria Hospital in providing a wide variety of health services, not only to people in Prince Albert, but to patients and clients across northern Saskatchewan."

Conceding that the people of Prince Albert have been waiting "a long time" for the announcement of a new hospital, Health Minister Jim Reiter has said that the facility will be "different and unique" and serve



JORDAN
TWISS

~
News Editor

the healthcare needs of all residents of northern Saskatchewan.

Mr. Reiter also said that the government would explore Public-Private Partnerships (P3s), regular procurement models, and a whole variation of mixed methods, when it comes to building the new hospital.

This statement, however, runs contrary to the words of Mr. Moe, who said, during Wednesday's Question Period, that the government would fund 100 per cent of the facility.

Mr. Moe reiterated this point in the official announcement on Friday morning, stating that the government would fund all capital costs for the expansion. But it's hard not to wonder whether he's just trying to assuage any fears that this new hospital will resemble the unmitigated disaster that has been the \$407 million Saskatchewan Hospital North Battleford.

As Saskatchewanians no doubt recall, the North Battleford facility ran into issues before even opening its doors, when the P3 contractor was forced to delay completion of the project by a few months.

And, since accepting its first patients in November 2018, the hospital has been plagued by a seemingly unending procession of problems — starting with a complete roof replacement after the P3 contractor used an untested material to insulate the roof, and continuing with concerns over copper and lead levels in the facility's water systems.

Through these trials and tribulations, the Sask. Party government has remained

steadfast in its belief that the P3 model is the best way to go. It's even tried to spin the issues with Saskatchewan Hospital North Battleford as evidence that the model is working.

"Sure, there are completely avoidable and inexcusable problems with the facility," they say. "But the taxpayers aren't on the hook for fixing any of them!"

That's great and all. But, regardless of who's doing the building, a vital facility like a hospital shouldn't ever require a new hospital after only a few months of operations — and if this were anything but a government gig, someone's head would be rolling.

What's more, between Saskatchewan Hospital North Battleford, and the controversial Regina Bypass project, the Sask. Party's P3 legacy isn't exactly looking rosy.

As the Victoria Hospital expansion gets under way, let's hope that the Sask. Party holds true to Mr. Moe's words. Let us hope, too, that it heeds the advice of its NDP op-

position, which has been pushing for the project to be built by Saskatchewan-based people and companies.

Of course, with a provincial election coming, in Mr. Moe's own words, "sooner than soon," it's hard to ignore the very convenient timing of this announcement. The promise of a new hospital is sure to win the Sask. Party a lot of votes in this area.

Political opportunism aside, there's no way to look at this announcement as anything other than a positive for the region.

The construction of the expansion, alone, will bring a flood of economic activity to the city and the broader region. Then, there are the obvious local and regional benefits from a healthcare services perspective, and the good jobs that will be created by the expansion.

After years of budget austerity from the Sask. Party government, this is a breath of fresh air. But we must remember that it's only one step in the right direction.



A walk around town: The Bones Game

There is only one place you will find the locals of Rabbit Lake on a Wednesday winter evening, down at the old Community hall for burgers and bunnock. Burger and bunnock nights in Rabbit Lake serve as a small community fundraiser that help keep the power on and the water running.

Bunnock is a game believed to have been invented by Russian soldiers stationed in Siberia to pass time. The game made its way to Canada via Russian-German immigrants who settled mainly in the west. Joseph H. Gartner of Edmonton Alberta is credited with laying out the official rules of the game in the

1960s, after requesting to salvage the ankle bones of the horses at the rendering plant he worked at the time. He wanted to make a set of bunnock bones for his dad and decided that 52 bones would make a set.

And so, it stuck, 20 soldiers a side, 2 guards a side, and 8 throwing bones. Teams of 1- 4 players would line up their soldiers in a row with a guard on either end of the line opposite to the opposing team. They would then take turns chucking the throwers at each other's bones. The guards needed to go down first then the soldiers were game. Last team with bones standing was the winner.

This is still the way the game is played down in Rabbit Lake every week. It is an excellent time for a little exercise and some community fellowship. Spiritwood's English Conversation Circle even took a trip down a couple of weeks ago to try their hand at the game and had a great time. It is an easy game to learn and can be fun for people of all ages.

Personally, I like going down to chat with the folks in Rabbit Lake on a Wednesday evening and grab a burger. Oh, and the best part, coming from someone who needs to be in a barn early every morning, is that I'm always home by 8:30.



A line up of bones ready for some action at the Rabbit Lake burger and bunnock night.

YOUR TWO CENTS

Promoting “small” nuclear reactors is just another diversion from Saskatchewan’s high carbon emissions

Dear editor,
Premier Moe has announced he will work with Ontario and New Brunswick to bring small nuclear reactors into their energy mix. They claim this is “to mitigate the effects of climate change”. This is not only wishful thinking but very flawed and hypocritical. The premiers fiddle away, while the UN conference in Madrid confronts a planet already starting to burn.

There is no demand or market for these “small” reactors; it is the industry and those who directly benefit that are promoting them. To become a viable industry these “modular” reactors would have to be mass produced and then transported elsewhere. Otherwise they would be uncompetitive. And there would have to be some agreement on design, whereas at present, there are over 100 designs circulating.

Meanwhile the role of nuclear power is shrinking globally and there is no secure capital for such a high-risk industry. So, once again, the industry is trying to get government financial and ideological backing. Unfortunately, there will always be naive politicians who want to appear forward thinking,

and opportunistic academics who will gladly take from the public purse.

These small reactors will never be cost-effective. They would be far less cost effective than larger reactors that have the advantage of economies of scale, but face long-licensing periods, have continually overshoot construction timelines and had massive cost overruns.

Proponents will cloud these problems by exploiting the climate emergency with more greenwashing. The fatal flaw of nuclear reactors, whether large or small, is, however, that they couldn’t contribute to carbon reduction for decades, and we must reduce emissions before 2030. Meanwhile there are much cheaper and faster ways to produce electricity that can quickly reduce greenhouse gases (GHGs) by replacing coal plants and electrifying transportation. The mainstream International Energy Agency (IEA) recently reported that offshore wind turbines could produce eleven times the electricity that the world presently uses globally each year. Yes 11 times!

Wind and solar energy are both growing globally. Meanwhile, while promoting these “small”

reactors, Ontario’s Ford Government has scrapped all investments in renewables, while putting billions into refurbish old reactors. And the Sask. Party is deliberately undermining the solar industry. It should be supporting the growing number of small solar businesses, as one way to lower carbon and create green jobs. Instead, it recently undercut the Net-Metering Program.

SaskPower should also be creating Feed-In Tariffs. With advances in battery and other renewable storage it should be promoting Microgrids, which would reduce transmission costs and create a more reliable, resilient, decentralized electrical system. This will be needed as we face more extreme weather. And, the fastest and cheapest way to reduce GHGs remains investments in energy efficiency.

We shouldn’t be surprised, though, since the Sask. Party has a terrible track record on climate. It invested nearly two billion dollars in Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) to try to save coal plants. It never met its targets and the carbon is used to extract more oil, which in turn just adds more carbon to the atmosphere. If the

government had directly invested this money in renewables it could have shut down a polluting coal plant. Investing in small nuclear reactors would just be another financial boondoggle that postpones serious climate action.

Small reactors are another distraction from Saskatchewan having the highest levels of GHGs on the planet (nearly 70 metric tonnes per capita). While the rest of Canada has been lowering emissions, those here, along with Alberta, with its high carbon tar sands, have continued to rise. Saskatchewan and Alberta’s emissions are now almost equal to all the rest of Canada. Shame on us!

Meanwhile, the Sask. Party vehemently opposes carbon pricing, one way to lower carbon. The Sask. Party has done little concretely to show it truly cares about the climate emergency and promoting these small nuclear reactors is just another ill-informed diversion. Premier Moe is squandering precious time, when we must act now to prevent irreversible climate change from undermining our grandchildren’s future.

Other motives are probably at play. These small reactors can be a back-door for bringing

nuclear wastes to Saskatchewan. They will not require more uranium mining, which is already in economic trouble here, since Japan’s Fukushima nuclear accident in 2011. They would initially use enriched uranium which presents its own proliferation risks, and could end up using unused uranium in spent fuel and/or reprocessed spent fuel from existing reactors, such as the CANDU reactors in Ontario and New Brunswick. The nuclear industry clearly has a “radioactive waste problem”, which it doesn’t know how to solve, and so it would love to have the government offer us up as guinea pigs. Other Canadians may rightly be asking what is going on here that we are seemingly so gullible.

Finally, these reactors are not really small. This is just another marketing strategy (“small is beautiful”) to try to make nuclear power more palatable. It is most notable

that they are referred to as SMR’s or Small Modular Reactors, with the “nuclear” taken out. These proposed “small” reactors would likely be around 300 Megawatts, not much below those that Grant Devine and Brad Wall promoted. And the smaller they get the more cost-ineffective they would become.

Premier Moe has no mandate to risk public money on this high-risk industry, when there are cheaper, and faster ways to reduce our extremely high carbon. After his election in 2007, Sask Party Premier Wall launched his pro-industry Uranium Development Partnership, to try to steamroll us to build nuclear power plants and take nuclear wastes from abroad. Public consultations showed deep and broad opposition. So why is Premier Moe such a nuclear promoter? No means “no”, Moe!

Jim Harding,
Fort Qu’Appelle, Sask.



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Learn to Curl program teaches kids the basics



To commemorate a winter spent learning to curl, program coaches Marliese Kasner, Sean Helm, and Peyton Keyowski gathered the kids together for a group photo.



The Shellbrook Curling Club's Learn to Curl program is all about teaching kids the basics of the game. Here, coach Marliese Kasner gives a young curler some advice before he throws his rock.

With its Learn to Curl program, the Shellbrook Curling Club is helping create the curl-

ers of tomorrow — and also, potentially, securing its own longevity as a community organiza-

tion. From November to March, 16 kids in Grades 1 through 5 took part in

ten fun and educational sessions designed to teach them the ins and outs of the sport.

And, from the level of excitement and interest at the program's wrap-up session on Tuesday, March 3, it's clear that the kids learned a lot and were eager to learn more.

"The purpose of the program is to get young kids interested in curling," said program instructor Marliese Kasner, adding that the only other winter sport alternatives in a small town like Shellbrook are hockey or figure skating. "We want the kids to have fun, learn a bit about curling and be active."

Like any small-town program, the Learn to Curl program is made possible by the help of volunteers to run the program, and grant funding to provide equipment.

Helping Kasner out on Tuesday, as the kids participated in some glow in the dark curling fun, were Sean Helm

and Peyton Keyowski.

Over the course of ten sessions, Kasner and her cadre of volunteers taught the young curlers plenty, starting with the basics of proper stretching and warm-up routines. Then, of course, there are the basic curling terms and learning how to read the scoreboard, and the actual fundamentals of curling like getting comfortable with a slider and learning how to slide, sweep, and release a rock.

It's a lot to learn for anyone, but Kasner says the focus is always on keeping it engaging for the young curlers.

"We focus on having fun and we try to keep them busy and active," she said, calling the Learn to Curl program a valuable way to accomplish these goals.

"I hope they take away that curling is fun and challenging, but easy to learn, and that they can meet new friends."

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Hon. Scott Moe, Premier
MLA for Rosthern-Shellbrook
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Data helps, but price is always key

After attending an agricultural seminar in Yorkton recently, it fortified something that I have long held as a fundamental in the decision of what to grow.

The speaker that afternoon showed a myriad of graphs which tracked the prices of various grains through the years, often comparing local prices in Saskatchewan to those of its neighbouring provinces and across the line in the United States.

As graphs often do, the amount of comparative information that could be

mined was impressive.

But in the end there was one constant across all the commodities, prices go up to a point, then dive lower, reaching a bottom from which they bounce back higher.

The spikes are not always smooth as markets determine what price is too high to be sustained, or too low to be reasonable, but the overall trend is always there.

It is not something unique to grain commodities, but all commodities from oil to copper.



CALVIN DANIELS

What access to the piles of information now available at their fingertips — whether at work at their desk, in the combine seat, or on holidays in a warm-

er climate — does, is help farmers determine what they see as the right time to add or subtract acres of a particular crop.

While farmers have more immediate data to influence decisions, in the end it often will come down to the simplest of signals, the price the marketplace offers.

Farmers do all the modern technology that is out there to aid marketing, in the end become price takers. They cannot set prices for what they sell, ultimately taking what they see as the best price they can

achieve. Naturally when a price jumps, farmers take notice and start to scribble some numbers to see if they might opt for that crop in the spring.

When prices hit the skids, farmers consider paring back acres.

It is often the decisions producers make to alter acres being planted that sends the message to the marketplace which can topple high prices or bolster low. That is particularly true in niche crops, which realistically on the Canadian Prairies is all crops

beyond hard spring wheat, barley and canola.

The jumps in and out of a crop may be more limited today because of farmers adherence to long term cropping rotations, but the need to find a crop which can generate a positive margin over the cost of production does influence even the most stringent rotation plans, especially at times when farm incomes are pinched.

Charts and information are of course an asset, but, ultimately, price often is the key signal for farmers.

Helping Saskatchewan farmers cope with stress

Innovation Saskatchewan, in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture, is asking technology entrepreneurs to develop a way for farmers, ranchers and agricultural workers to monitor their mental health. This latest Innovation Challenge aims to address a growing concern within Saskatchewan where calls to the farm stress line in 2018-2019 doubled from the previous year.

“Mental health is a concern within every industry but particularly acute in agriculture,” Minister Responsible for Innovation Saskatchewan Tina Beaudry-Mellor said. “Our government believes technology can provide help to farm families dealing with this complex and demanding issue.”

The Innovation Challenge, launched on

March 5, asks for expressions of interest from Saskatchewan-based companies and entrepreneurs to answer the following: What technological solutions can assist Saskatchewan farmers in actively monitoring their mental health? A survey of Canadian farmers released in 2016 found over half the respondents met the classifications for anxiety and one third met the classifications for depression, which is significantly higher than most Canadians.

“There’s a lot you can’t control on a farming operation and you’re usually working in an isolated environment—both can take a toll on the mental health of farmers and ranchers,” Agriculture Minister David Marit said. “This year’s Innovation Challenge is another way the Government of

Saskatchewan can support its producers and agribusinesses. Mental health in the agriculture industry is incredibly important, and I’m looking forward to seeing the innovative ideas that come from this process.”

Solutions could take many forms including, but not limited to, a mobile phone app, website program, artificial intelligence interface or offline sensor linking to the internet. Selected submissions will be shortlisted, and a pitch competition will determine a winner. Winners will receive \$10,000 in funding and a 16-week collaboration with government to develop their concept. The deadline for submissions is April 30.

Public information sessions will be held

in Saskatoon and Regina, on March 17 and 19 respectively, as well as online on March 24. Further information on times and locations will be posted on Innovation Saskatchewan’s website.

“Innovation Challenges find inventive answers to public issues,” Beaudry-Mellor said. “We have successfully collaborated with our province’s tech sector to combat rural crime, grant permissions for hunting and fishing on private land and track the waste that ends up in our province’s landfills.”

Find previous Innovation Challenge winners and program information at <https://innovationsask.ca/initiatives/innovation-challenge/previous-innovation-challenges>.

Enhancements to 2020 Crop Insurance Program announced

Federal Agriculture and Agri-Food Minister Marie-Claude Bibeau and Saskatchewan Agriculture Minister David Marit have announced enhancements to the 2020 Crop Insurance Program.

This year, Saskatchewan producers will continue to access high coverage while seeing a decrease in premiums. The Crop Insurance Program continues to adapt to the changing agricultural landscape in the province.

“Our hardworking farmers have faced difficult weather throughout 2019 and we are committed to help them manage these risks,” Bibeau said. “Through the Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Program, we are helping give Saskatchewan farmers the tools needed to deal with unpredictable weather, so they can continue producing high quality food for the world, while sup-

porting our communities and livelihoods.”

“We are dedicated to maintaining a strong, growing agricultural economy,” Marit said. “That is why we invest in business risk management programs to provide producers with protection against the unexpected. In these times of market uncertainty and adverse weather conditions, support through a comprehensive suite of programs is important for Saskatchewan producers.”

The success of Saskatchewan’s crop production allows the Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation (SCIC) to keep premiums low and average coverage strong for producers. On average, Crop Insurance coverage holds steady at \$224 per acre, only slightly decreasing from \$230 per acre in 2019.

Continued on page 8

PRINCE ALBERT LIVESTOCK SALES
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Enhancements to 2020 Crop Insurance Program announced

Continued from 7

Premiums will see a decrease to an average of \$7.40 per acre, down from \$8.61 in 2019. For 2020, the insurable region for soybeans is expanding to the entire province. Coverage is based on a soybean producer's individual insured history instead of the regional average. Their experience discount or surcharge will be applied to premiums for soybean crops. Irrigation coverage is also now available.

"We are pleased with this year's improvements and the ongoing commitment toward Saskatchewan agriculture," Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities Division 2 Director Norm Nordguen said. "As we continue to see diversification throughout the industry, this year's changes to soybean coverage, along with last year's forage and weather-based enhancements, speaks to the relevancy

of SCIC's programs."

"It's very encouraging to see the enhancement to the program," Saskatchewan Irrigation Projects Association Chairman Aaron Gray said. "With the interest we have seen in expanding the industry in the province and the provinces growth plan including expanding irrigation by 85,000 acres in the next 10 years, changes like this help an industry to grow to its potential in Saskatchewan. Including Soybeans in the Enhanced Irrigation Program will be of benefit to irrigators. Saskatchewan irrigators can now make their decision on crop rotation based on their operations and not be penalized. Soybeans fit very nicely in an irrigators rotation. We look forward to working with SCIC on releasing the information to our industry."

For those customers looking to return to the Crop Insurance

Program, SCIC is making an administrative change. Producers now have up to seven years to rejoin the program to continue with their previous premium discount/surcharge and yields. Working with the Saskatchewan Vegetable Growers' Association, SCIC is enhancing the Vegetable Acreage Loss Insurance Program. Insured value of vegetable crops are updated to better reflect the production costs. To allow for a longer growing season before harvest begins, SCIC is extending the fall cut-off dates. For 2020, asparagus is added as an eligible crop.

For 2020, SCIC has a new approach to the Organic Option to ensure it remains relevant to Saskatchewan producers. Premiums and coverage are updated using information from organic customers. Previously, the Organic Option was based on a combination of conventional and or-

ganic crop experience. With this change, organic insured prices are higher and premium rates are lower. Average coverage is also lower; realigning to current organic risk. The impact of this change will depend upon each producer's production experience. Organic customers are encouraged to contact their local SCIC office to review the impacts to their individual coverage.

"We have been working with SCIC to ensure the program meets the needs of organic producers," SaskOrganics President Will Oddie said. "This is an important insurance program for our organic growers and it is now more relevant with SCIC using historical organic information."

Producers faced a variety of challenges throughout the 2019 growing season. Dry conditions challenged summer growing and wet conditions, coupled with early snowfall, delayed harvest. With approximately 1.3 million insured acres left out over winter, compensation for producers is estimated to reach \$350

million in claims. Crops left out over winter are covered under SCIC's Wildlife Damage Compensation Program.

This program is available to all Saskatchewan producers; Crop Insurance participation is not required. If producers notice any wildlife damage, they should contact SCIC as soon as possible. Producers with unharvested acres must contact SCIC prior to harvest, feeding or grazing any damaged crop so it can be assessed.

Ministers asked officials to change the treatment of private insurance for the 2020 program year. Private insurance revenue will be excluded when calculating a producer's program year margin. This increases the potential for an AgriStability benefit as private insurance revenue is not factored into the producer's allowable income. Premiums for private insurance will remain included as allowable expenses.

Minister Marit reminded livestock producers, under the Western Livestock Price Insurance Program, calf price insurance policies are now available for purchase. Producers can choose from a range of coverage options every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

While Feeder and

Feed price insurance policies are available year-round, the deadline to purchase a calf price insurance policy is May 28, 2020.

SCIC encourages producers to review their business risk management plans annually. SCIC has 21 local customer service offices across the province with knowledgeable staff available to discuss the insurance options best suited for each farming operation. March 31, 2020, is the deadline to select insured crops and coverage levels or make additional changes to their Crop Insurance contract. Producers need to also apply, reinstate or cancel by this date.

For more information about the 2020 insurance options, call 1-888-935-0000 or visit www.scic.ca.

Crop Insurance is a Business Risk Management program supported through the Canadian Agricultural Partnership. Under Crop Insurance, premiums for most programs are shared 40 per cent by participating producers, 36 per cent by the Government of Canada and 24 per cent by the Government of Saskatchewan.

Administrative expenses are fully funded by governments, 60 per cent by Canada and 40 per cent by Saskatchewan.

DIAMOND NORTH CREDIT UNION'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday, April 14, 2020

Registration at 7:00pm

Meeting at 7:30pm

The Annual General Meeting is open to the public and our members are encouraged to join.

Our Board and CEO will share the Annual Report and highlight our ongoing commitment to our members and communities.

The AGM provides our members an opportunity to engage with the Board and Executive Management Team.

Nipawin Elks Hall
310 1st Street West, Nipawin, SK

Consolidated financial statements are available upon request on or after April 3, 2020.


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Junior Citizen of the Year Scholarship

For over the past four decades The Saskatchewan Weekly Newspapers Association, in partnership with SaskPower and with the Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan, have recognized the youth of Saskatchewan through the Junior Citizen of the Year Award.

These prestigious awards are given to youth who:

- Have a positive lifestyle
- Have had the ability to overcome life's challenges
- Have a strong sense of caring and responsibility
- Are dedicated to community and school
- Inspire others
- Are between the ages of 8 to 18



This year four deserving youth will receive \$3000 bursaries to use towards their post-secondary education.

Visit www.swna.com for further information and nomination forms

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Nominations close March 31, 2020

Minutes of a Village of Leask council meeting

(Where necessary, the following minutes may have been edited for clarity or brevity)

The Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Council of the Village of Leask which was held in the Leask Village Office on Wednesday, Jan. 22, 2020 commencing at 6:30 p.m., with Mayor Arthur Spriggs, Councillors JoAnne Lapierre and Thomas Spriggs, and administrator DeAnne Robblee present.

Absent were Deputy Mayor Gordon Harris and Councillor Brian Galambos.

A. Spriggs: The Leask Hardware Store Meeting was called to order by Mayor Spriggs at 6:30 p.m. - 6:50 p.m. Carried

A. Spriggs: The Regular Council Meeting for Jan. 22, 2020 was called to order by Mayor Spriggs at 6:50 p.m. Carried

J. Lapierre: That the Council approved the minutes of the Regular Meeting

of Council held on Dec. 16, 2019.

T. Spriggs: Robert McHanson – Title Transfer – to Leask Community Hardware Ltd. from McHansons Hardware. Tabled

Delegation: 6:30 - 6:50 p.m. Kathy Sevigny from the Leask Community Hardware Store presented the monthly financials to council along with a monthly reporting of operations.

T. Spriggs: Resolution to accept the Leask Fire Department Rates for 2020 as:

- Fire Chief honorarium: \$1,500 per year
- Fire Chief wage: \$21 per hour fire fighting, plus 1 HR paperwork
- Volunteer Firefighter wage: \$21.50 per hour
- Attending Department Meeting: \$10 per person, per meeting, no year-end bonus
- Attending meetings/workshops in other communities: per km @ current government sent rates, \$15

per person per diem
 • Stand downs: \$200 per stand down. Payment will be made to fire department, to be disbursed or spent at its discretion.

And it was further agreed that : No payment will be considered for shop time, and that only exterior (structure) fire protection services are expected of firefighters. No building entry is expected. Carried

J. Lapierre: Resolution that council recognize the Leask Happy Homesteaders Board

Happy Homesteaders for the 2020. Carried

T. Spriggs: Resolution that we recognize the Legacy Gallery Board for the 2020. Carried

J. Lapierre: Resolution that we recognize the following committee as the operating authority of the Leask Golf Course for the 2020. Carried

T. Spriggs: Resolution that Justin Nagy be appointed

dog/cat catcher Village maintenance shed on Lot 11 Block 1 Plan S3969 to be the designated pound. Carried

J. Lapierre: Resolution that the following persons be appointed to the Lotteries Committee for the 2020. Carried

T. Spriggs: Resolution that Arthur Spriggs be appointed as 55-40 Appeal Board Representative for 2020 Board. Carried

J. Lapierre: Resolution that Thomas Spriggs and Brian Galambos be appointed to the Green Fund Committee for the year 2020. Carried

J. Lapierre: Resolution that Thomas Spriggs and Gordon Harris be appointed to the Emerald Lake Regional Park Board for the year 2020. Carried

T. Spriggs: Resolution that JoAnne Lapierre be appointed to the Leask Sports Centre Board for the year 2020. Carried

T. Spriggs: Resolution that the 2020 General Office Service Fees are as follows (omitted due to space restrictions). Carried

J. Lapierre: Resolution

that the council recognize the Leask & District Recreation Board for the 2020. Carried

T. Spriggs: Resolution that we recognize the Leask Sports Centre Board for the 2020 year. Carried

J. Lapierre: Resolution that the Administrator be permitted to issue Utility Credits without Council Approval for amounts under \$15.00. Carried

T. Spriggs: That the Administrator be authorized to make payments by direct deposit, preauthorized payments, online through EFT or other online banking services for the following payable accounts:

- a. SaskTel
- b. SaskPower
- c. SaskEnergy
- d. Prairie Spirit School Division
- e. Government of Canada Remittances
- f. Municipal Employers Pension Plan
- g. SUMA. Carried

J. Lapierre: Resolution that A Special Meeting will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2020 at the Village Office at 6:30 p.m. for a preliminary budget meeting. Carried

T. Spriggs: Resolution that Jake's Plumbing & Heating Estimate #1129 for the total replacement of the furnace in the Village Shop be accepted for \$9021.75. Carried

J. Lapierre: Resolution to approve Accounts for Payment as presented. Carried

T. Spriggs: Resolution to accept the Financial Statement from the Leask Community Hardware Store - December 2019. Carried

J. Lapierre: Resolution to accept the following reports: Foreman Report, Employee Timesheets, Water Treatment Plant Report, Administrators Report. Carried

T. Spriggs: Resolution to accept the Correspondence: Leask Sports Center Inc. Meeting Agendas and Minutes, Letter from the Hudson Bay Route Association. Carried

A. Spriggs: The next meeting of council be held on Wednesday, Feb. 19, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. at the Village Office. Carried

A. Spriggs: 9:15 p.m.: That this meeting of council be adjourned. Carried

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. 10 am - 3 pm, Thurs. 10:00 am - 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 & Legacy Gallery Hours: Tuesday 10:30 am - 5 pm; Friday 10:30 am - 5 pm; Saturday 1 pm - 5 pm.

MARCELIN: Wapiti Library is open Tues. 2 pm - 7 pm; Thur. 2 pm - 8 pm; Sat. 9 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. 12 - 8 pm; Wed. 2 - 8 pm; Thur. 12 - 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 14, 2020. 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.

SHELLBROOK: Shellbrook Theatre Movie Night, Fri., Mar. 20, Norm of the North; Fri., Apr. 3, Dolittle; Fri., Apr. 17, Abominable; Doors Open 7 p.m. Showtime 7:30 p.m. Cost is \$5

SHELLBROOK: Stew Supper - Shellbrook Senior Centre. Friday, March 20 ~ 5 to 7 pm. Stew, mashed potatoes, coleslaw, buns, angel food cake & strawberries and beverage. Adults \$10; Children under 12 \$5. Take out available - Call 306-747-3553

CANWOOD: Canwood Legion St. Patrick's Day Supper - Sunday, March 15, 4:30 to 6:30 pm. Adults: \$15 | 6-12: \$7 | Under 6: Free. Takeout available. Call 306-468-7942.

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Shellbrook and area contribute \$14,792 to Telemiracle

It wasn't quite a record-setting year, but, following in the footsteps of its immediate predecessor, Kinsmen Telemiracle 44 was still a highly successful one.

Altogether the campaign, which culminated in a weekend-long telethon at the Conexus Arts Centre in Regina, saw the province raise a whopping \$5.5 million for a very good cause — just \$90,000 or so shy of last year's total.

Shellbrook Kinettes member Tasha Cyr couldn't make the journey to Regina alongside her fellow Kinettes. But, as they have done in the past, the Kinettes took responsibility for a full phone line, worked hard, and even made the on-air presentation on behalf of Shellbrook.

"We love the support this community shows every year," Cyr said, adding an extra shout-out to the Shellbrook Royal Purple, whose members helped the Kinettes and Kinsmen with the town canvas, and Lake Country Co-op's C-Store Subway, which fed the canvassers with subs on canvas night.

"It is unbelievable," she added.

Stating that the province "is amazing," and that she's grateful for the community and the area's continued support, Cyr says that the community's donation to this year's Telemiracle totalled \$14,792.50 — far exceeding the Kinettes' goal of \$10,000.

Of that, \$11,201 came from the town canvas and the Kinsmen and Ki-



The Shellbrook Kinettes were a major presence at Telemiracle 2020, working a phone line for the live telethon.

nettes, \$1,880 came from W.P. Sandin High School, \$1,113.50 was collected by Wild Rose School, and \$598 came from sales of Helping Hands at local and area businesses.

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.

In the past, money from

the Telemiracle has found its way back to the area.

In 2019, the Canwood Bus Association was a beneficiary of the fundraiser, receiving \$20,000 to assist with the purchase and retrofit of a wheelchair-accessible van that will help people in the community and area get to medical appointments.

In 2014, meanwhile, Shellbrook's Woodland Bus Association 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.

Premier announces new Prince Albert hospital project

Residents of Prince Albert and northern Saskatchewan will have access to improved and expanded health services, through a renewed and expanded Prince Albert Victoria Hospital.

The provincial government has announced a commitment of more than \$300 million to a new multi-storey addition to Victoria Hospital. The approved project concept includes a new acute care tower, replacement of the existing adult mental health space and renovations to the current facility.

"We are moving forward to address the health care needs of our growing population in Prince Albert and the north," Premier Scott Moe said. "This significant investment reflects the importance of Victoria Hospital in providing a wide variety of health services, not only to people in Prince Albert, but to patients and clients across northern Saskatchewan."

The project is anticipated to increase the number of beds in



Victoria Hospital to 242 on opening day, up from the current 173 beds, an increase of 40 per cent, with space to expand further as needed. It includes a larger emergency department, a helipad and enhanced medical imaging services, including an MRI.

The province will pay 100 per cent of the capital cost of the project. The local community

and Victoria Hospital Foundation will raise funds for furniture and equipment.

"Prince Albert is a major hub of essential health care services for the north central region of Saskatchewan," Prince Albert Mayor Greg Dionne said. "Victoria Hospital is an aging facility. We welcome new funds that will improve our capacity to respond to

the health care needs of our residents."

"The 12 First Nations of the Prince Albert Grand Council (PAGC) look forward to a hospital that will be comfortable, culturally inviting and culturally responsive to the needs of all First Nation membership and communities," PAGC Grand Chief Brian Hardlotte said. "This will be a hospital First Nations will have pride of ownership in because of our considerable involvement with the Government of Saskatchewan, helping create a hospital that is truly healing for all."

"On behalf of the Saskatchewan Health Authority, I want to thank the Government of Saskatchewan for their support of improving access to health care for the people of Prince Albert and northern Saskatchewan," Saskatchewan Health Authority Board Chair R.W. (Dick) Carter said. "The Victoria Hospital and its staff members, physicians and volun-

teers, are an important part of the provincial health system. An expanded and renovated Victoria Hospital will provide improved space to care for our patients as close to home as possible."

Detailed designs will be developed during the next phase of the project and in consultation with key partners.

"We are committed to working with Indigenous partners to make sure that culturally appropriate services and spaces are part of this project," Crown Investments Minister and Prince Albert Carlton MLA Joe Hargrave said. "Our government is proud to invest in this project, which will allow us to meet the needs of a growing population and support our evolving health care system."

Premier Moe expressed appreciation to the City of Prince Albert, surrounding Rural Municipalities, local Indigenous leaders and community partners for their ongoing support.

Shellbrook Library continues Adopt-a-Book Program

By Dian Campbell

The Adopt-a-Book campaign is a popular program that allows members of the community to support their library with a gift that keeps on giving.

Adopt-a-Book is a way for library supporters to help us add to our collection, for the enjoyment of generations to

come.

The Adopt-a-Book program encourages literacy, supports education and provides quality reading materials to children, teens and adults. It is truly a gift that keeps on giving.

Since our Library opened in 1952, people in our community have helped to nour-

ish and support our Library.

By adopting a book you can help us build a strong collection of books and continue to show your support for this community institution.

To participate, our patrons bring their donation to the library to purchase — or 'adopt' — a book for the library from our collection of

available titles, or a title of their choice.

You can adopt a book in a subject area of your choice, such as fiction, non-fiction, gardening, cooking, sports, crafts, romance, mystery, etc.

The adopter's name or a special dedication is placed on a nameplate in the book,

and the adopter can be the first to sign it out.

Books can be adopted in memory of a loved one, anonymously, on behalf of yourself or someone else, as a group or as a unique present for the person who has everything!!

Order and donation forms are available at the library.

When we receive your donation, we will place a bookplate in the book with the inscription you want.

A charitable tax receipt will be sent in the amount of your gift.

For more information call the library @ 306-747-3419, or drop in to see us 105 Railway Ave. West.

Ayres' 'Walter Mitty' story a hockey treat

The Secret Life of Walter Mitty came alive in late February in front of a nation-wide TV audience viewing Hockey Night in Canada.

In the blink of an hour or so on a Saturday night, David Ayres became a household name across Canada and by Monday, his "15 minutes of fame" splashed across North America.

And now, hockey analyst Brian Burke and other influential voices around the National Hockey League are saying they want to take steps to ensure it never happens again.

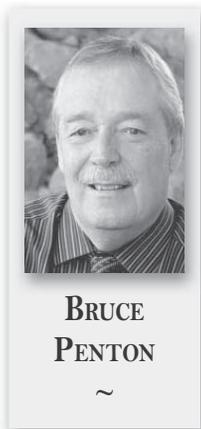
Why? It was the greatest story of the NHL season to date, shuffling to the side all the talk about concussions, injuries, assaults, suspensions and teams tanking.

Details of the story need not be told, but here's the Coles notes: If you're reading this column, dedicated to sports, you know all about Ayres, the Zamboni driver who was an emergency goalie in Toronto suddenly thrust into the middle of a Leafs-Carolina game. In true Walter Mitty fashion, he went on to win the game and then did a whirlwind circuit of talk shows, sports interview programs and late night TV comedy

programs on Monday.

He got paid \$500 for his approximate 30 minutes of work in goal for Carolina, plus he got to keep his Canes' jersey. He might also share in some of the royalties from "Ayres 90" jersey sales. As for the memories? Well, that was worth untold millions. Thirty years from now, his grandchildren will be begging him to quit talking about Feb. 22, 2020.

Less than 48 hours after Burke grouchy told TV viewers that the Ayres situation was an embarrassment to the NHL, governors reportedly started talking about a review of the "EBUG" (emergency backup goalie) situation. Hockey fans would never again have a chance to revel in the delight of a David Ayres if the owners follow through with a plan to force teams to carry a third goalie with them at all times — someone who is paid simply to be available in an emergency. That goalie would have to own some junior or collegiate experience and, oh, yes, be of an age that curmudgeons like Burke don't find embarrassing. Ayres, after all, was 42 when he stonewalled the Leafs with eight saves in the third period to cement a 6-3 Carolina win in front of



BRUCE
PENTON

shocked Leafs' fans in Toronto.

Meanwhile, the Secret Life of David Ayres goes onto the back shelf at the local library, fulfilling the wish of Brian Burke but spoiling one of the greatest Cinderella stories the NHL has ever told.

• Comedy guy Torben Rolfsen of Vancouver's TSN, the Rolfsen Report: "If the Zamboni driver had gotten injured, next in goal for the Canes would have been Drake."

• Headline in theonion.com: "Victorious Patrick Mahomes Thanks Bears For Drafting Mitchell Trubisky"

• Norman Chad of the Washington Post, on the ever-growing allegations against the Houston Astros: "Eventually, we'll discover the Astros also had a hand

in the Great Chicago Fire, the kidnapping of the Lindbergh baby and the Watergate cover-up."

• Another one from Chad, on inaction from Astros' owner Jim Crane: "Harry S. Truman famously had a sign on his desk that said, 'The buck stops here.' Crane's version of that is, 'The buck stops down the hall and to the right, in an office adjacent to the men's restroom.'"

• Bob Molinari of pilotonline.com (Hampton, Va.): "With scream queen Maria Sharapova announcing her retirement, women's tennis is less glamorous. But a lot quieter."

• Comedy writer Jim Barach: "Reds pitcher Trevor Bauer says 70 per cent of Major League Baseball pitchers cheat. The other 30 per cent can throw the ball

over 95 mph so they don't have to."

• RJ Currie of sports-deke.com: "The Christian Science Monitor estimated eight in 10 NFL players are bankrupt two years into retirement. This is different than CFL players, who are bankrupt two years into their careers."

• Comedy writer Alex Kasberg: "A self-titled daredevil, 'Mad Mike' Hughes, tried to prove the earth was flat in his homemade rocket in his homemade Nevada desert. Legally they had to then name the rocket the New York Knicks."

• Patti Dawn Swansson, aka the River City Renegade, reacting to Tony Romo's \$17 million CBS contract: "Hmmm, I wonder how much it would take for Fox to get Terry Bradshaw to stop talking."

• Bob Molinaro again, on the Orioles playing split-squad games in spring training: "C'mon now. The Birds don't have enough big-league players for even one squad."

• Greg Cote of the Miami Herald, on NASCAR's Dixie Vodka 400 at Homestead. "Hmm. Should a bunch of guys driving 180 mph in heavy traffic be sponsored by vodka?"

• Joe Burrow, projected No. 1 draft pick, on Twitter, after measurements taken at the NFL Combine showed his throwing hand had a nine-inch span: "Considering retirement after I was informed the football will be slipping out of my tiny hands. Please keep me in your thoughts."

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

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Sunday School,
Worship Sunday, 11 a.m.
St. John's - Shellbrook
Sunday School,
Worship Sunday, 9 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
10:00 a.m. - Sunday School
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

**SOVEREIGN GRACE
BAPTIST CHURCH**

Currently meeting in homes on Sunday morning & Wednesday evenings
Parkside 306-747-2309
Leask 306-466-4498
Marcelin 306-226-4615

EVANGELICAL FREE

Big River
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 - Sunday - 9 a.m.
Mistawasis
2nd & 4th Sundays, 1:30 p.m.
Fr. Phong Tran

PRESBYTERIAN

Mistawasis
Sunday worship
11:00 a.m.
Rev. Katherine Bretzlaff

**SEVENTH DAY
ADVENTIST**

407-2nd Ave E, Shellbrook
Sat., 9:45 a.m. - Sabbath School
Sat., 11:00 am -Worship
Broadcast on
VOAR 92.1 FM
Pastor Liviu Tilihoi
306-313-8685

ANGLICAN CHURCH

Leask - All Saint's
Sunday, 9 a.m. - Service
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 Aji
306-980-5916

UNITED CHURCH

Shellbrook - Knox United
Sun., 10 am - Worship
306-747-3434
Student Minister
Jon Worrall
Big River
Sundays
10 a.m.. - Worship
at Anglican Church
Rev. Dave Whalley
306-747-2804

MENNONITE

BRETHREN CHURCH
Blaine Lake Gospel Chapel
109 Railway Ave. W.
Blaine Lake
306-497-3316
Pastor: Rick Schellenberg
Sunday, 10:30 a.m.
Worship

What happens when you don't advertise?

Very little.

OBITUARY

Dorothy "Dot" Fleming



home-grown food and freshly-baked pies. Visits were keenly anticipated and especially visits from grandchildren. Dorothy loved to dance and enjoyed companionship and a good laugh.

No service will be held at this time; the family will hold a memorial in the spring of 2020. The family would like to express their heartfelt thanks to the nurses and staff at Whispering Pine Place for their loving care. Anyone wishing to do so can make donations in Dorothy's memory to Whispering Pine Place, Canwood, SK. Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of Beau "Lac" Funeral Home, Shellbrook, SK. 306-747-2828. Family and friends wishing to send online condolences are welcome to visit www.beaulacfuneralhome.com

FLEMING – Dorothy ("Dot"), age 97, passed away peacefully on March 1, 2020, at Whispering Pine Place Care Home in Canwood, SK.

She was born on November 1, 1922, to Fred and Lily Arn and raised in the Crescent Hill area near Kinistino, SK. She was predeceased by her sister and brothers, Evelyn, Alex, Herbert and John. Dorothy farmed in the Kinistino area with her husband, Gordon, who passed away in 2016. She will be lovingly remembered by her daughter Deb (and her husband

Jim Jensen) and son Doug (and his wife Pat). Dorothy had four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren: Carla Jensen and her husband, Ben Heumann (with daughter, Isla), Laura (Jensen) Marshall and her husband Karl (with daughter, Scarlet), Adam Fleming and his wife Carly (with sons, Cameron and Bowen), and Derek Fleming and his wife Loretta Kong (with daughter, Violet, and son, Hugo).

Dorothy's family fondly remember the love she put into her cooking; the big Christmas dinners and other meals featuring



As hospital woes continue in North Battleford, NDP calls for public hospital in Prince Albert

The Saskatchewan Hospital in North Battleford is currently on a boil-water advisory and sewage has flooded the basement, according to an internal memo obtained by the Saskatchewan NDP.

"This new facility has been an unmitigated disaster because of the Sask. Party's embrace of a P3 model that rewarded shoddy construction by out-of-province companies," said NDP Leader Ryan Meili.

"The walls, roof, and plumbing have all needed to be redone. There has been extensive flooding leading to mould damage. Staff and residents have been left drinking poisoned water.

"And now the basement has been inundated with raw sewage and patients are unable to use the water to bathe. What is the Sask. Party doing to address these failures, and how can we expect that their promised PA hospital rebuild will turn out any better?"

The year-old facility is still not operating at full capacity months

after its opening, and the company managing the P3 facility recently had its credit rating downgraded by Moody's credit agency.

Moody's indicates that in addition to the roof replacement, the facility requires "significant remediation work for water damage as a result of faulty shower assemblies that leaked behind the walls across the facility."

"One company has already gone bankrupt while building this facility, now another one is facing financial stress, and the Health Authority appears to have bypassed the opportunity to reduce the value of the contract," said NDP Health Critic Vicki Mowat.

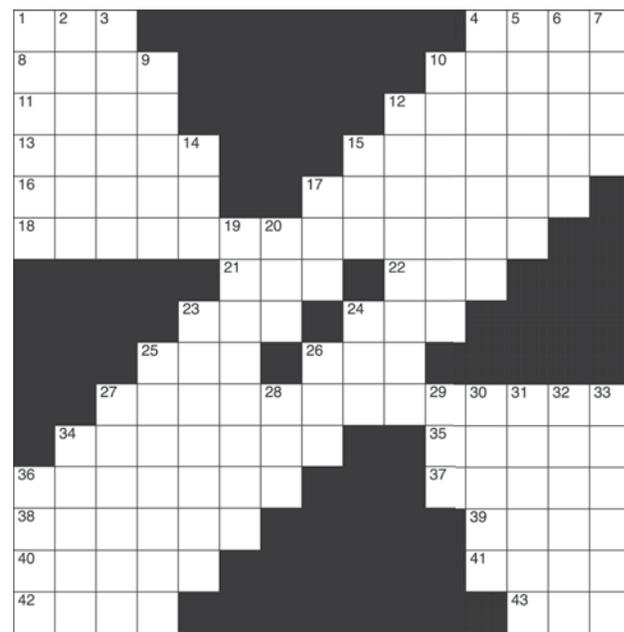
"This P3 model isn't working for North Battleford, and it won't work for the promised hospital in Prince Albert.

"New Democrats would ensure a new hospital for Prince Albert, and we'd build it right the first time, with our companies and our workers."

CROSSWORD

CLUES ACROSS

1. A team's best pitcher
4. Designer Jacobs
8. Hip joint
10. A dialect of English
11. Portrays
12. Panic
13. The head of a team
15. High priest
16. League of Legends locale
17. Protective folds
18. Treats allergies
21. Voodoo spirits
22. Single unit
23. Unit of measurement
24. Brew
25. Burundian franc
26. Self
27. Bengals great
34. Making letters overlap
35. Piece of pizza
36. Illegal drug
37. Card game
38. The highest point in the development
39. Oh, God!
40. Wives (law)



41. Monetary unit of Samoa
42. Supplements with difficulty
43. Valentine's Day color

CLUES DOWN

1. Warm climate tree or shrub
2. Silky case spun by larvae
3. Still in existence
4. Light, two-stranded rope
5. Wear away
6. Beginnings
7. Essence
9. American Standard Code for Information Interchange
10. Path
12. Repeated tones
14. Expresses surprise
15. Monetary unit of Burma
17. When you hope to get there
19. Brighten
20. Fifth note of a major scale
23. Dark brown timbers of tropical trees
24. We all do it
25. Scrounges
26. Unit of energy
27. Begin to be
28. Midway between northeast and east
29. Distinctive practice
30. Succulent plants
31. Performer
32. Gas station term
33. Required
34. Soviet monetary unit
36. Eating house

Answers on page 14

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Pancake Breakfast – S7
Fishing 12 noon – 3:00 pm

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
IN THE ESTATE OF ROSE IVY AUG, late of Shellbrook, in the Province of Saskatchewan, deceased. All claims against the above Estate, duly verified by statutory declaration and with particulars and valuation of security held, if any, must be sent to the undersigned before the 31st day of March, 2020.

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Barristers & Solicitors
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Prince Albert, SK S6V 4V8
Attention: Bill Cannon
Solicitors for the Estate
2-12C

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4-13CH

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10-11C

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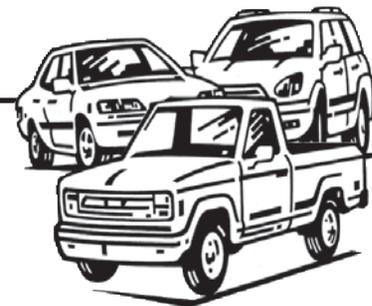
IN MEMORY OF Glen Thorburn
I remember the day I met you and the day we said I do.
I remember the night I lost you and will till the end of time.

But through the dark rainy days and nights,
There is one thing that makes me glad,
That you chose me to share with you the wonderful years we had.

There is a book of memories
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Crossword answers

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T	E	N	O	M		E	N	I	V
C	E	I	T	S		G	N	I	N
N	O	S	A	S		R	E	R	E
			O	G		F	B	U	F
			E	T	V		L	T	E
			E	N	O		V	O	L
			E	N	I	M	I	S	I
			S	D	I	T	E		V
			A	T	E	R		H	C
			R	O	R	R	E	T	S
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Shellbrook Hosts Novice hockey tournament



A first for the Big River First Nation, the girls Atom team took part in the Novice tournament on Feb. 29, topping Shellbrook in the A-side final.



Coached by Tyson Bloom and Conrad Smart, and managed by Adam Brad, The Novice C Elks were A-side runners up at their home tournament Feb. 29.

Designing your first flower border

By Sara Williams

Too often we select plants at a nursery or garden centre, bring them home, and place them haphazardly wherever we happen to have space in our yard. Sometimes it works, but usually it doesn't. Having a plan, before you buy, is a better option. Winter is a good time to start planning.

Begin with a location

Study a potential location for a flowerbed from both your perspective and that of the plants. From your point of view, it should be where you'll see it – from a deck or patio, as you enter your yard, or from a window while washing dishes – horticulture therapy of the best kind. "Secret gardens," those tucked around a corner or hidden from immediate view, are fine, but they generally come later in one's horticultural evolution. Put your first flowerbed where it will give you the most pleasure.

From the plant's point of view, think about sunlight and shade, of soil, drainage, and root competition. There are a great number of flowers that adapt well to either sun or shade (although typically, plants prefer either one or the other). Almost all prefer good drainage. An area in which water sits

for long periods after snow melt, rain or irrigation makes an excellent site for a bog garden, but not a flower border.

Note whether there are elms, poplars, spruce or maples nearby. All of these trees have shallow, spreading root systems which efficiently (and somewhat ruthlessly) absorb water and nutrients at the expense of flowers planted below or near them. Keep flower borders well beyond the drip lines of these trees.

The external shape

If your landscape, home and spirit tend to be formal, then so should your border. Long rectangular ones are classic. Double borders, facing each other across a path, are very traditional. But these take space and may not be adapted to all gardener's personalities and properties.

If you're more comfortable with an informal design, use a garden hose and begin at ground level. Lay out a shape. Then step back and study it from where you'll be viewing it most often – a sitting area, the entrance to your yard, the back (or front) of your house. It may be as simple as a curved border in a corner of your yard, or a free-form bed enveloping your sit-



A small bermed border with pink and white plants. Photo credit: Sara Williams.

ting area or patio with an entrance to the lawn beyond.

Island beds are situated in a lawn and are meant to be viewed from all sides. They may be kidney-shaped or free form, conforming to the space available to them.

Finally, there are "walk-within" or "walk through" flower borders, not meant to be viewed from outside at all. These act as a "room" in themselves, one you stroll through, or enter and sit in, and from where you view the world and your border.

Study the shape created by your

garden hose over a few days and from various perspectives. Continue to make changes until you're comfortable with it. The final check is with a lawn mower. Will the mower fit the curves when cutting the adjacent lawn?

Soil preparation

You may have to remove existing vegetation, most likely lawn. Cover the proposed area with black plastic. As long as the air temperature is well above 20°C, the grass below the plastic sheet will be killed by light and water exclusion, and heat build-up within two to three

weeks. Once it's dead, cultivate it and incorporate it into the soil to increase the bed's organic matter content.

Dig the bed to a depth of 30 to 45 cm (12-18 in.), equivalent to the rooting depth of many perennial flowers. Once dug, add generous amounts of organic matter. A 10-cm (4-in.) layer of peat moss, well-rotted manure or compost, thoroughly incorporated, is not too much.

[Part Two next week: Plant selection]

Sara Williams is the author or coauthor of numerous books including *Creating the Prairie Xeriscape*, *Growing Fruit in Northern Gardens*, *Gardening Naturally* and *Best Trees and Shrubs for the Prairies*. Retired as the Horticultural Specialist, Extension Division, University of Saskatchewan, she continues to give workshops throughout the Canadian prairies. 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.

Sask. Health Authority volunteer opportunities

The Volunteer Service Department is in need of caring, compassionate and committed volunteers to fill the following service positions:

Recreation Opportunities – Big River Health Centre (306) 469-2220

Responsibilities include assisting with crafts, shopping trips, special functions, exercise

programs, bowling groups, horticulture, painting, baking, etc. Volunteers assist staff with set up and take down of program.

Shifts: Flexible

"Loving Spoonfuls" – Parkland Integrated Health Centre, Shellbrook (306) 747-6841

Duties include escorting residents to and from dining rooms, assisting residents with

meals when necessary, sitting with residents, and helping to make mealtime a pleasant time.

Shifts: Breakfast, Lunch and/ or Dinner meals.

Monday – Sunday, once or twice per week.

Friendly Visiting – Wheatland Lodge, Leask (306) 466-4949

Make a difference in some-

one's day by visiting residents on a one-to-one basis or in small groups, chatting, playing cards, reading or strolling with residents.

Shifts: Flexible

If you are interested in this or any other Volunteer service position, or if you have a particular skill or talent you would like to share with the patients,

residents or clients, please call your local health care facility to apply. You can also reach the Volunteer Services Department at (306) 765-6010, by email at volunteers@paphr.sk.ca or find us on the web at www.paphr.ca. We look forward to matching your talents and interests with the right position for you.