

Shellbrook Chronicle & Spiritwood Herald



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Shellbrook's Kinsmen Park getting long-delayed fixes



The northwest entrance is one of three entrances to Shellbrook's Kinsmen Park that has been closed off by posts, as the Town of Shellbrook begins work on long-delayed projects to improve the park.

If you ever visited Shellbrook's Kinsmen Park in the midst of the spring thaw (or after a good rain), you no doubt noticed that there were small rivers and lakes of yellow-brown water in all of the park's ditches.

Thanks to ongoing COVID-19 restrictions, however, that may not be an issue in springs and summers to come.

"Due to only being able to rent out two camping stalls, we decided not to open at all this season and get the work done that we have been putting off due to how busy it has been in the

past years," explained Town of Shellbrook CAO Kelly Hoare.

"We are fixing some drainage issues, and moving the road inside and blocking off some of the entrances to have better control over who comes and goes, which should help with people leaving without paying," she added.

Town crews have been busy with the work for the better part of the past two weeks.

First, road blocks were set up at all of Kinsmen Park's entrances. Then, posts were put in the ground at the northwest, southeast, and southwest

entrances to fully block them off. Amidst this work, large piles of dirt were hauled into the park.

Beyond the work at Kinsmen Park, the Town of Shellbrook will also be doing its part to help out with the third phase of the Shellbrook Recreation Project Steering Committee's project to renovate the Shellbrook Recreation Complex.

Phase three of the project calls for the installation of solar panels on the property that was once the Parkland Terrace nursing home. The contract for this work was awarded to Shell-

brook-based Livewire Electric, but before the work can commence, the Town of Shellbrook will be preparing the site for the panels to be installed.

Hoare says the work on Kinsmen Park will be completed as time and weather permit throughout the summer.

Meanwhile, though there's no fixed timeline for the land for the solar panels to be ready, Hoare notes that the project is supposed to be complete before the rink opens for the season (assuming COVID-19 restrictions have been lifted by then).

LARGE SELECTION OF BATTERIES



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Shellbrook rink to get new seating

While solar panels will be the primary focus of phase three of the Shellbrook Recreation Project Steering Committee's project to upgrade the Shellbrook Recreation Complex, the inside of the rink will also look vastly different when it re-opens for the season.

"After we put all that work into the boards and the glass, we looked out and it looked really, really good. Except for the bleachers," Kris Moe said. "So we got

looking around at what seats would cost."

The search for new seating reminded Moe of the Northlands Coliseum (also known as Rexall Place), which was once the home of the Edmonton Oilers before it shutdown at the start of 2018.

Out of curiosity, Moe reached out to a contact with the City of Edmonton, and, as luck would have it, the seats from the arena were being sold off. Better yet, the sale wasn't going well,

and there were still plenty up for grabs.

And so, after negotiating a price of about \$10 per seat for 630 seats, Moe and a crew, consisting of Sheldon Moe, Colby Moe, Tyson Kasner, Jaime Capner, Les Archer, Jodi Smart, and Curtis Olsen, made the trip to Edmonton last Thursday to pick up the first load of 544 seats.

That leaves just 86 seats to grab on a second trip.

"It was tough to do with the COVID-19 [pandemic]. So we got a group of eight to go

down there, and they unlocked the doors and let us in," Moe explained. "They sold the ones we originally wanted, so we had to unbolt every one of them from the executive suites. It was quite a feat, really."

The crew had help for its first trip, with Co-op donating its reefer van, Kris Moe donating his power unit to pull it, and Tyson Kasner offering up his truck and a cargo trailer.

Kris Moe says the seats, which are currently sitting inside the

Shellbrook rink thanks to the help of volunteers and a work crew from Hannigan's Honey, should be enough to provide seating for the whole arena (both the north side, where there's bench-style seating, and the south side, where there's no seating at all).

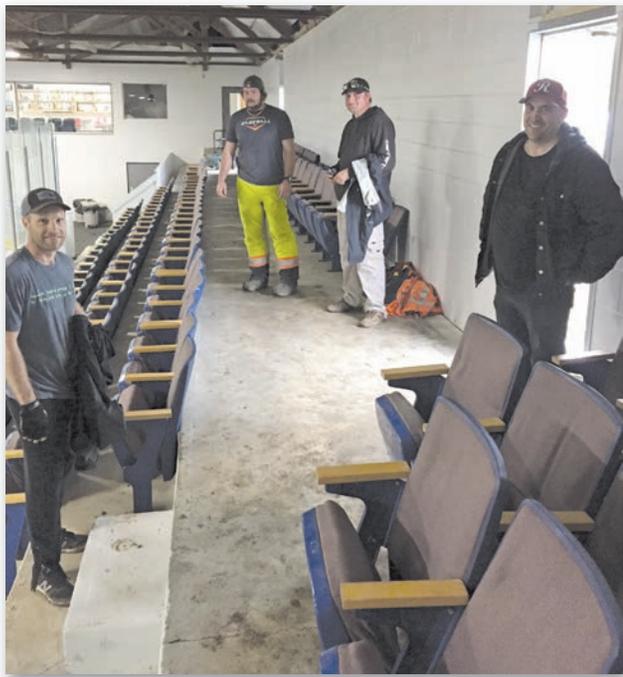
Now that most of the seats have arrived, however, the question becomes when will they be installed.

With the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Kris Moe says he's not certain about an installa-

tion date. He says it's also not clear whether the town will help with the installation, or whether it will come down to hosting another work bee.

One thing he is certain of, though, is that they will be a major improvement to the facility.

"It will finish it right off. We put millions of dollars into it, and now we're going to have seats from a rink that have seen so much," he said. "Hopefully we didn't bring a curse back with us."



From left, Mason Wallin, Jamie Capner, Dave Philp, and Richard Bell were part of a small work crew that helped carry the new seats into the Shellbrook Recreation Complex.

Magnums Hockey donates \$1000 to ball diamond restoration project

Restoration work is well under way on the SAAD SAC ball diamonds with one new backstop already standing and another in progress. Improved drainage and shale are ongoing projects along with the installation of new dugouts and fencing, moving the far diamond and kitchen, and installing bathrooms. The park is really starting to shape up but still has a long way to go.

Apart from having an improved facility for local leagues and teams to play on, Minor Ball has aspirations to one day be able to host their local Minor Ball

Tournament and maybe one day an even larger event like Provincials.

With the majority of funding coming through donation and fundraising projects, there is still more to be raised before the committee reaches its target. Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, there hasn't been a shortage of philanthropy in the community.

"We wanted to be a part of the community and help reconstruct the ball diamonds because it is a great project for the community. Our Magnum Hockey Team had some extra cash and we thought this would be a great, great spot for it," said Lloyd Fisher when asked about the \$1,000 donation. The Magnums play recreational hockey against other area teams from Spiritwood, Glaslyn, Medstead, Leoville, Debden, and Edam.



Lloyd Fisher (right) presenting Brad Nemish (left) of the SARCS board with a \$1,000 cheque to be put towards the Spiritwood Ball Diamond Restoration Project.

RESIDENTIAL HOUSE FOR SALE BY TENDER

Sealed tenders will be received by the undersigned until 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 17, 2020, for the purchase of the following land and building in the Town of Spiritwood, Saskatchewan:

413 - 2nd Avenue East
Spiritwood, Saskatchewan
("the Property")

The Property is sold on an "as is" basis. Bidders must rely on their own research of the Property to determine acreage, condition, improvements, assessment and state of title.

Property will be available for viewing by appointment only on Tuesday, June 8, 2020 and Monday, June 15, 2020. Call Prairie Centre Credit Union at 306-883-1551 to book an appointment.

Tenders must be accompanied by a certified cheque in favour of the undersigned for 5% of the tender price as a deposit, which will be returned if the tender is not accepted and the sale is not completed. The balance of the tender price will be payable by certified cheque within 30 days following notice of acceptance of the tender, following provision of a transfer authorization on conditions established by the solicitors for the Vendor. The Purchaser will be responsible for GST, if applicable, and for the costs of registering a transfer of Title.

The highest or any tender will not necessarily be accepted, and the Vendor reserves the right to reject any tender.

Tenders shall be sealed in an envelope marked "Land Tender" and shall be mailed to:

Prairie Centre Credit Union (2006) Ltd.
Attention: Janine Doucette
Box 129
Spiritwood, Saskatchewan
S0J 2M0

NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF ASSESSMENT ROLL

Pursuant to subsection 214 of *The Municipalities Act*, notice is hereby given that the Assessment Roll for the Village of Shell Lake for the year 2020 has been prepared and is open for inspection at the Office of the Administrator from 9:00 a.m. to noon and 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. on the following days: Monday to Thursday, excluding statutory holidays.

Any person who wishes to appeal against his or her assessment is required to file his or her Notice of Appeal with the two Hundred (\$200) dollar fee to:

The Assessor, Village of Shell Lake
Box 280, Shell Lake, SK S0J 2G0

by the 5th day of August, 2020

Dated this 4th day of June, 2020
Tara Bueckert
Assessor

Happy Hearts Childcare Centre Annual General Meeting Monday, June 29, 7:00 p.m.

(a short meeting will follow for board members)

@ Happy Hearts Childcare Centre

Join us to learn more about Happy Hearts.

Everyone welcome.

Those interested in joining the board can participate in the election. For more information on the AGM: breanna.happyhearts@hotmail.com

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“Fish in Schools” trout released into Olson Lake

Back in February of 2020, 100 rainbow trout eggs arrived at Hartley Clark Elementary Schools for the Fish in Schools program coordinated by the Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation. The program allows students to learn firsthand about aquatic habitats and fish lifecycles. The students follow the fish from eyed egg stage all the way until fingerling stage before they are released into a provincially stocked lake.

From the beginning of February until mid-

March, students from both Hartley Clark Elementary and Rivier Elementary were able to follow the lifecycle of the fish as they went from eyed egg stage to alevin stage to fry. Teachers were able to use the fish as a learning opportunity for many subjects. With teachers being able to touch on aquatic life and ecosystems, water cycles, and conservation, the Fish in Schools program certainly provides a unique learning opportunity for students.

Hartley Clark had

applied to be a part of the program back in September of 2019 with support from the Witcheakan Wildlife Federation.

The students' time with the fish was unfortunately cut short as students were sent home from school to help slow the spread of COVID-19.

Lane Buswell, Jeff Pederson, and Shannon Caffet continued to care for the fish in the student's absence, feeding and adjusting the water temperature and light to meet requirements for the fishes' specific developmental stage.

“I used our farm water from the well for the temperature control and nonchlorination,” said Shannon Caffet when talking about the specific water requirements for the young fish.

The fish were transferred into Olson Lake, located on the property of Hubert Turgeon, on May 24, 2020.

The Lake was named after Dean Olson's father, Sam, who was an avid sportsman and a local Conservation Officer for many years. The lake is located just North of the Town of Spiritwood and is provincially stocked with rainbow trout.

Only 10 people could attend the release to comply with current gathering limits due to COVID-19. 96 of the 100 eggs sent were viable. Some were lost in the early stages, resulting in a release total of 30.



Water temperature, quality, and light were all important factors contributing to the success of the Fish in Schools program at Harley Clark Elementary.



Rainbow trout fingerlings from Harley Clark's Fish in Schools were released into Olson Lake on May 24.



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DEADLINE TO APPLY: JUNE 12TH, 2020




COVID-19 Testing

Testing detects the COVID-19 virus.

That's why we've expanded COVID-19 testing criteria to include:

-  Those working outside the home or returning to work, including people working in industries, factories or in similar high volume settings.
- Beginning June 5, testing criteria will be further expanded to include:
-  Those being admitted to acute care for more than 24 hours, including expectant mothers.
-  Immunocompromised individuals and their health care providers.

Testing for the COVID-19 virus is quick and safe.

Please get tested if you have symptoms. Public Health will contact you with test results. To prevent further spread, those who test positive will need to self-isolate for 14 days.

Get a referral to be tested by:

-  Calling HealthLine 811
-  Calling your physician or nurse practitioner

For more information, visit saskatchewan.ca/covid19




All lives matter? It's not enough to just say it

It was 2013 when the phrase “Black Lives Matter” emerged as a response to the not guilty verdict handed down to the killer of 17-year-old Trayvon Martin.

It was a political statement, intended to highlight the profoundly different justice systems experienced by white Americans and black Americans and start a conversation about fixing the justice system's structural inequities.

Over the past seven years, the phrase has appeared and faded from the public spotlight in the wake of fatal encounters between police officers and dozens of black men and women, including Eric Garner, Michael Brown, Freddie Gray, Tamir Rice, and Philando Castille.

And after all these needless deaths, nothing has changed.

Now, following the death of 46-year-old George Floyd at the hands of four Minneapolis police officers last Monday, Black Lives Matter is taking centre stage



JORDAN
TWISS

~
News Editor

again. And as protests grip the city, new conversations about the racism inherent to the American justice system are beginning.

It remains to be seen whether this new round of dialogue will yield the reforms black Americans, and their allies, have been advocating for since long before Black Lives Matter was first uttered.

But now, more than ever, it's obvious that something needs to change, even if there are some who refuse to see the problem, or who hide behind the odious counterprotest phrase “All Lives Matter.”

The notion that all lives matter shouldn't be radical or controversial. It should go without saying.

But when spoken by those who will never be victims of racial profiling — or, worse, a deadly encounter with a police officer — all lives matter becomes a dismissal of the very real experiences of black people

All lives do matter. We know

this to be true. But reality doesn't always reflect our beliefs, and, in this case, the reality is that black lives are treated as though they matter less.

If you doubt this, then ask yourself this simple question:

Why are protesters, who are mostly of colour and armed with rocks and spray paint, met with tear gas, smoke bombs and rubber bullets when they decry police violence, while white protesters, armed with guns, are met with almost no police response when they storm government buildings to protest COVID-19 lockdowns?

Granted, there has been some criminal behaviour in the protests that have followed Mr. Floyd's killing, and those engaging in violence, destruction of property, or looting, should be appropriately punished in accordance with the law.

But there's a clear discrepancy in the way police officers respond to white people and black people. The underlying assumption, it seems, is that black people are more prone to criminal behaviour and, thus, more dangerous regardless of whether or not they're armed.



That's why, over and over again, we hear flimsy justifications from police officers who have shot black men or women, and why these justifications are enough to get them acquitted.

It's also why some people will contort themselves into knots to find reasons to excuse the actions of police officers who shoot first and ask questions later.

What does any of this have to do with Canada or Saskatchewan, you ask?

We're guilty of similar attitudes when it comes to indigenous people.

Fatal police shootings are nowhere near as frequent in Canada. In fact, between 2007 and 2017 the RCMP recorded just 61 police-involved shootings.

But, although indigenous people make up only five per cent of Canada's population, they were the victims in one third (or 22) of those fatal shootings. Meanwhile, in Saskatchewan, indigenous people make up 65 per cent of the federal prison population, and 75 per cent of the provincial prison population.

The overrepresentation of indigenous people in our justice system is problematic, but it's become such an enduring feature of the system, that we, like our American neighbours, have found reasons to excuse or ignore it.

This needs to end.

We can't just say all lives matter.

We have to make it so.

Essential workers, heroes, and wage slaves

Dear editor,

Manitoban nurse Emma Cloney's poem ends, “We stay at work for you, please stay at home for us.” Emma and other health care workers are on the frontline. Behind the lines are other essential workers in sanitization lines, food and grocery supply lines, and transportation lines. Why are these essential workers extraordinary heroes today while pre-pandemic they were ordinary wage slaves?

The term “wage slave” is not an exaggeration. We need money for food, shelter, and clothing. Wage slaves

are wholly dependent on their employers for their basic needs. I am a wage slave.

As food, shelter, and clothing are human rights, the right to work then is also a human right. Workers are profit-makers. Our rights must be protected from predatory profit-motive schemes. We must have fair and safe working conditions. We must also be free to choose our employer and free of the threat of unemployment.

Universal basic income enables these two rights. It provides money to meet our basic needs so we cannot be forced to work in unsafe underpaid jobs.

Capitalism depends on a “legal infrastructure devised and enforced by states.” (Empire of Cotton, p. 235). These states, our government, can modify laws and regulations to pay for universal basic income. To begin, it can end corporate subsidies and billions flowing to offshore tax havens. Talk about universal basic income within your family and community and then with your MLA and MP. Let's make sure our valued heroes don't transform back into undervalued wage slaves.

Nancy Carswell
Shellbrook, Sask.

Shellbrook Chronicle

Serving the Communities of Shellbrook, Canwood, Debden, Big River, Parkside, Leask, Marcelin, Blaine Lake, Holbein, Mont Nebo, Mayview

Spiritwood Herald

Serving the Communities of Spiritwood, Shell Lake, Leoville, Chitek Lake, Mildred, Rabbit Lake, Medstead, Mayfair, Bapaume, Belbutte, Glaslyn

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: In the interest of readers of this newspaper, we will publish opinions of our readers. Letters To The Editor are most welcome; however, they must be signed and include writer's contact information and will only be published with the writer's name on it. Letters should be limited in length and be typed or clearly written. We reserve the right to edit letters depending on available space.

Member of



Report from the Legislature

As our province continues to feel the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic, I am happy to report the province is seeing the results of our collective actions to reduce the spread of this virus. Together, we have done what was needed to keep each other safe and our now we can move into the next phases of re-opening Saskatchewan.

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to all our essential workers from across this province. From those battling the pandemic on the front lines to our community grocery stores, your commitment to public safety and service has not gone unnoticed. As your MLA and your neighbour, I am grateful for your efforts.

By remaining physically distant we most certainly have come together for the future of our province. As we cautiously continue to re-open our economy, we must continue these important health practices and follow the restrictions set out by the Saskatchewan Health Authority.

As the Legislature reconvenes on June 15, our province is well-positioned to recover from the impact of COVID-19. We will continue to work for our constituents in these coming weeks on ensuring that our families, communities, and economy can remain strong.

Economic Stimulus

Recently, our government announced a two-year capital plan to stimulate Saskatchewan's economic recovery from the impact of COVID-19. This \$7.5 billion economic booster shot balances the need for smaller, short term projects to jumpstart the economy with longer-term projects to provide the services and supports our families and communities require. Investments



**HON. SCOTT MOE,
PREMIER**

~
MLA for Rosthern -
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scottmoe.mla@sasktel.net

will be made in schools, highways, hospitals, Crown utility projects, and municipal infrastructure and will get Saskatchewan people back to work.

Municipalities can access additional funding through the Municipal Economic Enhancement Program (MEEP). This investment of \$150 million can be used for shovel ready infrastructure projects and initiatives. Funding is allocated on a per capita basis to and must be used over the next two years. This means communities and RMs in the constituency of Rosthern-Shellbrook will receive \$2,671,623, Meadow Lake constituency will receive \$2,071,847 and Saskriv-

ers constituency will receive \$1,695,010.

Also included in this stimulus plan is \$10.3 million for renewal projects across the provincial park system. Major highlights include significant campground upgrades, accessibility improvements at picnic sites, the construction of day-use pavilions at Pike Lake, Buffalo Pound, Duck Mountain, Echo Valley and Moose Mountain Provincial Parks

Our government is also investing in our post-secondary institutions, with \$17 million in projects at the University of Regina, University of Saskatchewan and Saskatchewan Polytechnic's Moose Jaw campus. These projects will improve campus usability and safety in both academic and athletic pursuits

Re-Open Saskatchewan

Our government introduced a methodical phased-in approach called Re-Open Saskatchewan to lift restrictions slowly and responsibly on our businesses and services. The first phase focused on re-opening previously



**NADINE
WILSON
MLA**

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restricted medical services and allowing for some outdoor activities such as the operation of golf courses, parks and campgrounds. The second phase included re-opening retail and select personal care services.

Our government has set a target date of June 8, for Phase 3 as part of our Re-Open Saskatchewan Plan. This phase

will include the reopening of:

- remaining personal services;
- restaurants and food services at a 50 per cent capacity limit;
- gym and fitness facilities; and
- places of worship.

The size of indoor public and private gatherings may be increased to 15 people, and outdoor gatherings will increase to 30. Physical distancing and good health hygiene must continue to be practiced for our province to continue its plan to re-open. Find the most up-to-date version of the Re-Open Saskatchewan plan at www.saskatchewan.ca/re-open.

If you are looking for support as we move into the next phase, I urge all constituents to please utilize our gov-



**HON. JEREMY
HARRISON
MLA**

~
Meadow
Lake
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jharrisonmla@sasktel.net

ernment resources listed on Saskatchewan.ca. Our government has expanded capacity within our healthcare system to allow for more candidates to qualify for a COVID-19 test. I want to thank our Saskatchewan Health Authority for their hard work and guidance as we cautiously Re-Open Saskatchewan.



Novus Law Group

To our valued clients in Shellbrook, Big River, Spiritwood, Debden and surrounding areas:

Through the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, our dedicated lawyers at Novus Law Group continue to provide legal services to the communities of Shellbrook, Big River, Spiritwood and Debden and surrounding regions.

While our branch offices in these communities are currently unavailable for in-person client meetings, we have in place a work management plan that enables the Novus Law Group team to continue to deliver legal services with minimal disruption.

For assistance during this time, please make arrangements by contacting by phone or email Bill Cannon (for Shellbrook/Debden/Big River), Shelley Cannon (for Spiritwood), or any of our firm's partners or other associate lawyers.

Contact us:

By Phone: 306-922-4700 (Monday to Friday 9am-3pm)

By Email: Bill Cannon at bcannon@novuslaw.ca
Shelley Cannon at scannon@novuslaw.ca
OR princealbert@novuslaw.ca

Diamond North Credit Union's

2020 Virtual Annual General Meeting

Tuesday, June 16, 2020 at 7:30 pm

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.

Online through Zoom Meeting

Interested attendees must register before 5:00 pm June 12 at diamondnorthcu.com/AGM

Consolidated financial statements and annual report available at diamondnorthcu.com/statements



COVID-19 restrictions change funeral proceedings

Government restrictions require that no more than 10 persons be in attendance at public or private events. This applies to planned and unplanned events such as wakes and funerals. While some may choose to postpone the funeral until a later date, others may choose to go ahead with proceedings simply following the provincially mandated restrictions.

Spiritwood had one such event take place on Sunday, May 30. The

funeral of Ione Martodam took place following provincial restrictions. As it would have been a Legion funeral, the procession passed by the cenotaph with the 5 remaining Legion members flying the colours outside. The procession was joined by a few other members of the family wishing to pay their respects from their vehicles.

After the brief stop by the Legion, the procession carried on to the grave site for the burial.



Members of the Legion stood outside to pay respect to the late Ione Martodam as the funeral procession passed by the cenotaph.



The hearse led the funeral procession from the funeral home past the Legion Hall before carrying on to the grave site. The procession was joined by other members of the family, who were unable to attend the formal part of the funeral and burial due to COVID-19 restrictions.

COVID-19 shuts down Doukhobor Dugout House

Disappointing.

It's a word Brenda Cheveldayoff, founder and owner of the Doukhobor Dugout House heritage and tourism site near Blaine Lake, uses often in describing the widespread shutdown of the province due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Tourism, of course, has been included in the shutdown, and, for Cheveldayoff and the Doukhobor Dugout House, it couldn't have come at a worse time.

Following the loss of long-time board member Donna Choppe at the beginning of the year, the plan was to honour her commitment to an ongoing project to fix the roof of the Prayer Home with a special ceremony this summer.

Complete with a ribbon cutting and a release of purple balloons (Donna's favourite colour), the special event was set to have a number of A-list guests, including Carlton Trail-Eagle Creek MP Kelly Block, and, tentatively, Premier Scott Moe and Governor General of Canada Julie Payette.

"We were opening with the intent to do a re-enactment,

bring back all the characters from the past, and unveil that roof project," Cheveldayoff explains, noting that the Doukhobor Dugout House was relying on the gate proceeds from the 250 to 300 visitors the site sees each day it does tourism, to raise the necessary funds to complete the project.

Though the event will now take place during the 2021 Theme Day festivities instead, Cheveldayoff says she's still disappointed.

And, while the province is slowly beginning to re-open, she insists that the Doukhobor Dugout House site won't be able to open at all this summer.

"Even as we enter phase three, they're only allowing up to 30 people for a gathering. That's not going to work for us. When you come to the Doukhobor Dugout House for a tour, you don't just normally come there for a tour and leave," she said.

"There's no way of social distancing. You, the visitor, are the participant during the tour. We make you participate in going back to 1800."

Still determined to complete the Prayer House roof project this year, Cheveldayoff says people are welcome to donate

to the Doukhobor Dugout House through a Paypal link on its website. In turn, donors who show their receipts will be granted entry to the site in 2021.

This, she adds, means that the project likely won't be completed until at least the fall. And it's not the only way in which the COVID-19 pandemic is going to affect the Doukhobor Dugout House.

Though the shutdown of tourism means no visitors can visit the heritage site, there's still plenty of work to be done to maintain the site and preserve the artefacts. This vital behind-the-scenes work takes both time and money, and while there's plenty of time, money could prove harder to come by without visitors.

"It's going to affect the non-profit group to look at how are we going to be able to continue running," Cheveldayoff

said. "We depend on our visitors 100 per cent. It's the visitor that expands the vision for the place to stay where it is."

While some have suggested seeking grant or other funding from the federal government, Cheveldayoff says none of the existing government programs work for the Doukhobor Dugout House because they'd require large loans.

What's more, with the disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the site is already having trouble accessing grants it regularly makes use of, including the Canada Summer Jobs program grant it has used to employ a student for the past 15 years.

"Since the COVID-19 pandemic happened, it's been left on the backburner," Cheveldayoff said. "They keep telling me that somebody will get back to me or decisions aren't made yet. We're already into June here."

For more on the Doukhobor Dugout House, or to donate to the Prayer Home roof project, visit: <http://www.doukhobordugouthouse.com/>



Brenda Cheveldayoff, founder and owner of the Doukhobor Dugout House heritage site, with fellow re-enactors.

Re-Open Saskatchewan – Phase 3

As restrictions on businesses and services are gradually lifted in the province, additional information continues to be added to the Re-Open Saskatchewan plan based on direction from public health officials and input from businesses and service providers.

June 8 is the target date for Phase 3 of the Re-Open Saskatchewan plan, which includes the re-opening of remaining personal services, restaurants and food services at a 50 per cent capacity limit, gym and fitness facilities, and places of worship. The size of indoor public and private gatherings may be increased to 15 people, and outdoor gatherings will increase to 30. Physical distancing and good health hygiene must continue to be practiced for our province to continue its plan to re-open.

Find the most up-to-date version of the Re-Open Saskatchewan plan at www.saskatchewan.ca/re-open.

Hon. Scott Moe, Premier
MLA for Rosthern-Shellbrook
scottmoe.mla@sasktel.net

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Future of ag tech looks bright

I must say I am always intrigued by the possibilities that mechanization offers the farm sector.

We have particularly seen its impact recently in terms of precision farming, where new technology is allowing for ever more precise application of crop protection products and crop nutrients which both help create the best growing conditions possible and limit cost through wasted applications.

But, it is likely we are still barely on the edge of what new technology will bring to

the farm.

A little social media wandering recently brought me to an article on a drone that will, it is suggested, plant 40,000 trees in a month, and it was suggested that will mean one billion trees by 2028 (www.fastcompany.com).

Whether the numbers are precise is not as important as the realization of the continued advancement of drone technology.

The potential of drones to precisely apply herbicides, perhaps down to a weed-to-



CALVIN DANIELS

weed basis, would be massive, especially for pedigree seed producers and those growing higher value crops such as vegetables.

The same social media outing took me to a story at www.businessinsider.com

The story was about a robot dog from Boston Dynamics herding sheep in New Zealand.

Having watched a few stock dog competitions, and recognizing the varied movements good stock dogs have to make, and adding in the natural pasture conditions of gopher holes, bushes, mole holes and stones, I don't expect the border collie union is sweating their jobs just yet.

That said for a four-legged

robot to have advanced to the point of going into the field is pretty amazing. Clearly the world of robotics is advancing rapidly.

What that will mean for farming is at present potentially as diverse as developers and producers can dream.

Farmers have always been rather proficient at going into their shops when faced with a farm problem and hammering out a solution with some new implement or attachment.

While farmers might not have a shop where they can

build the next generation of farm robot, they are capable of envisioning a use for robotic tech that can then be developed by others.

The potential of robotic and drone technology is going to move farming in new directions, helping deal with current issues, and of course creating some new ones. Robots and drones require operators who know what they are doing. Those are skills workers will expect to be well-paid for, and farmers will need to compete for those workers.

Towns taking varying approaches to re-opening

With phase three of the Re-Open Saskatchewan plan slated to kick-off on Monday, June 8, ratepayers are beginning to wonder when their municipal offices will be opening their doors again.

The simple answer, is that the approaches municipalities are taking when it comes to COVID-19 vary drastically from town to town and from village to village.

In the Town of Shellbrook, no re-opening date has been set for the municipal office, which also serves as the office for the R.M. of Shellbrook.

Town of Shellbrook CAO Kelly Hoare says there are numerous fac-

tors influencing the town's decision to keep its doors closed to the public, starting with the fact that the town is an essential service.

This, of course, means that employees need to be in the office during regular business hours to field phone calls, answer questions, and submit water and wastewater samples. But it also means that the town has to approach re-opening cautiously.

"We are taking it slow to ensure the safety of the staff and the public," Hoare said. "If one of us ends up testing positive for COVID-19, all of us will be required to be tested and stay home until they have their results. We can't afford to close the office at

all."

Noting that council is "not in a rush" to have the town office re-open, since ratepayers are still able to pay their taxes and utility bills, Hoare says the town may follow the lead of the City of Prince Albert, which isn't planning to re-open until phase four of the Re-Open Saskatchewan plan.

Currently, there's no set date for phase four of the plan. However, Hoare adds that the town may implement a policy of allowing in-person visits by appointment.

In the Town of Spiritwood, meanwhile, it's somewhat back to business as usual. Starting this week, the town office re-opened to the pub-

lic on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to noon, and from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

The town notes, however, that it is only open for essential services or emergencies, and that it is allowing only one customer in the office at a time.

For the Town of Big River, administrator Noreen Olsen says council began discussing re-opening at its May meeting, and will do so again at its upcoming June meeting, and make a decision based on how COVID-19 case numbers are looking.

That said, Olsen adds that the town's situation is a made more complicated by the fact that the town of-

lice is connected to the Community Centre.

With the town employee who operates the Community Centre temporarily laid off, Olsen explains that the town doesn't want to end the layoff if the facility can't be rented out to help pay the employee's wage. For this reason, she says phase four is looking like the best period to begin re-opening the building.

Finally, Town of Blaine Lake administrator Brenda Lockhart says conversations about re-opening haven't started yet. But that will change on Monday, June 15, when council meets to discuss re-opening the municipal office.

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OBITUARY

~

Flora "Mae" Moore



Flora "Mae" Moore was born in North Battleford, March 2nd, 1925 to Roy and Zoe Taylor. Her sister Jean Walker was born

in September 1930. They were raised on a farm in the Idylwyld District. Mae went to Log Cabin school till grade 10, then went to boarding school in North Battleford for grades 11 and 12. After graduating she worked at Veys Store in Spiritwood. She was married to Bill Moore May 9, 1944. They lived with his parents in a little log house on their farm. Their daughter Vicky was born January

1945, their son, Terry was born December 1945, their third child, Edna was born September 1948. They were farming and built a new house in the same yard they were living. Mae was a great cook, gardener, farmer and housekeeper. She made most of the clothes for her children on the old treddle singer sewing machine. She enjoyed fishing, camping, hunting, curling, dancing,

including square dancing and playing cards. She was very involved with the Idylwyld Home Makers and Idylwyld cemetery. They moved to Spiritwood in 1974 and continued grain farming. She lost Bill in 2013 but stayed in her own home until January 2018 when she moved to Rose Gill Lodge in Rabbit Lake. She moved to Spiritwood Long Term Care January 2020. She was fear-

less, she hollered at a bear when it came into the blue berry patch and that bear left. She went out and shot a Lynx that had come into her chicken pen. Mae picked up a snake and walked it down the road when it came into her garden. She was a wise, spicy, loving, caring person, leaving many memories for us all. A private family interment in the Idylwyld Cemetery will take place. Friends

so wishing may make memorial donations to the Idylwyld Cemetery in memory of Mae Moore as a token of remembrance. Family and friends wishing to send online condolences are welcome to visit www.beaulacfuneralhome.com. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the care of Beau "Lac" Funeral Home, Lori Saam, Funeral Director, Spiritwood (306-883-3500).

GOOD NEWS

~

WHAT IS SUCCESS?

There is a Bible verse way back in the Old Testament that says "Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it." (Genesis 2:15) Notice this was before the Fall that God gave Adam work. Work is not a curse, it is a blessing.

When I grew up in a town some 658 miles (or 1,059 kilometres) north of Edmonton, I remember one particular family who operated a local garage. As the years

rolled by, these brothers started a dealership that did very well. I have no idea why the business thrived, maybe it was because of the right timing or some breaks they received. I suspect one reason it succeeded was because of a lot of hard work.

Living in Saskatchewan since 1981 in some farm communities, I see a lot hard working people. I realize things like timely rains are important. We need the right amount during the growing season. There

is a lot faith involved in putting seed in the ground and asking God's blessing on it. Along with all that, there is a lot of work.

Some succeed maybe because they are destined to. I think most succeed because they don't give up and put a lot effort into what they are doing.

I read of a preacher; his name is Gordon McDonald. Gordon went to a school along with regular classes he was required to memorize 300 verses of Scripture over the course of the year. Now that is a lot of work! The Head master, Dr. Frank, would meet students on the pathway from class to the dining hall, he might say give me John 13:34 please.

One passage Gordon had to memorize was Psalm 46:1-2 "God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, even though the earth be moved. And though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea."

Some 56 years later Gordon McDonald got a call from his doctor. This is what he said: "Gordon, I have some difficult news for you." There is a tumour in the back of your head in the lining of the brain. It has to be removed."

Preacher Gordon confessed, "I have spent my whole life helping people face doctor call moments like these. Now it is my turn and the very thing that began to surge through my mind was God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in the time of trouble. Therefore we will not fear, even though the earth be moved..."

When I was a teenager, Gordon McDonald recalls "a brilliant and godly man pumped my friends and me full of Scripture. But his effort is paying off. Thanks to Dr. Frank and Psalm 46, I may be concerned and cautious, but I am not fearful."

That is one way at looking at success.
Blessings,
Pastor Bodvarson, SPA

R.M. OF SPIRITWOOD NO. 496

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Public Notice is hereby given that the Council of the Rural Municipality of Spiritwood No. 496 intends to alter the proposed Zoning Bylaw, referred to as Bylaw. No. 4-2015.

INTENT OF ZONING BYLAW ALTERATIONS

Section 7 - "Agricultural Resources District", Subsection 7.4 - "Subdivision and Site Regulations"

- Add a provision to the maximum residential site area table to accommodate a larger residential site size where physical limitations of the site exist on land with marginal agriculture value.

Section 11 - "Lakeshore Development District"

- Move the accessory building maximum floor area from the table under Subsection 11.4 to Subsection 11.5 "Accessory Buildings and Uses"
- Remove the restriction for tree removal on private property.

Section 3 - "Administration and Interpretation", Subsection 3.16 - "Minor Variance"

- To allow minor variances to be granted in relation to all properties, not just residential.

Remove the maximum building heights from the Subdivision and Site Regulations table in the following sections:

- Section 8 - "Low Density Country Residential District"
- Section 9 - "Medium Density Country Residential District"
- Section 10 - "Hamlet District"
- Section 11 - "Lakeshore Development District"

AFFECTED LANDS

All lands within the corporate limits of the Rural Municipality of Spiritwood No. 496 may hereby be affected by the alterations.

REASON FOR ZONING BYLAW ALTERATIONS

The reason for the Zoning Bylaw alterations are to:

- Clarify regulations throughout the Zoning Bylaw to improve interpretation and implementation.

PUBLIC INSPECTION

Any person may request a copy of the Zoning Bylaw Amendment during regular office hours by calling or emailing the municipal office. Printed copies are available at cost.

PUBLIC HEARING

A Public Hearing shall be held on July 14, 2020 at 1:15 pm. Due to the uncertainty of the COVID-19 situation, **only written comments & concerns will be accepted** until 3:00 pm Friday, July 10, 2020. Written comments can be mailed to Box 340, Spiritwood, SK. S0J 2M0 or emailed to rm496@sasktel.net.

Issued by the RM of Spiritwood this 27th day of May 2020.
Colette Bussiere
Administrator

Wapiti Summer Reading Club moves online

Wapiti Regional Library's annual Summer Reading Club is moving online for 2020.

The TD Summer Reading Club is a nation-wide literacy program in which Wapiti Regional Library's 45 branches participate every summer. In previous years, branches have offered special programs, guest appearances by entertainers, and reading contests. Due to COVID-19, in-person programs at libraries will not be possible this summer, but that isn't going to stop Wapiti Regional Library from providing the program to its

patrons.

Starting June 1st, Wapiti Regional Library will launch its online Summer Reading Club. Storytimes, crafts, online escape rooms, and weekly challenges are planned. Starting June 15th, a Reading Contest for kids up to 13 will also launch, giving kids the chance to read for prizes. Programs will be recorded and posted to Wapiti's Facebook and Youtube channel for patrons to enjoy. More details can be found on Wapiti's website: <https://wapitilibrary.ca/SummerReading>.

Wapiti also encourages

all youth within the region to sign up for the TD Summer Reading Club online, to take advantage of other free activities, ebooks, and more, available for free through the TD SRC website: <https://www.tdsummerreading-club.ca>.

Community Services Librarian, Lindsay Baker, hopes that Wapiti's online program will help kids keep reading and learning over the summer, as well as provide entertainment to patrons of all ages, who are missing the programs normally offered at the region's branches.

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Mae Atkinson 1-23C

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Mowat: Closing essential rural health infrastructure a mistake

I grew up in a small town, but I've been a city dweller for most of my adult life. I've always lived near an emergency room, and I know the comfort that comes from close access to health care.

Too many people across this province live in fear that they won't have access to an emergency room during life-or-death situations. They live in fear that the government is trying to take this peace of mind away from them, and they've witnessed years of service disruptions, health care facilities that are crumbling, and an ambulance system in need of serious reform. The government's recent off-again on-again messaging around closing 12 emergency rooms across Saskatchewan has left citizens rightfully

concerned about their access to rural health care.

And they have reason to be concerned. Of the 12 hospitals that were chosen to be closed, 11 of those communities have had serious disruptions to their emergency room services under the Sask. Party. The Davidson Health Centre saw 230 days of service disruption between 2013 and 2018, while Biggar's emergency room was offline for 175 days. And in Wolseley, community members went 368 consecutive days where they had no emergency room to turn to in their time of need.

Residents of these communities aren't taking these closures lying down. Less than a week old, the Facebook group Citizens Concerned about Rural Health Care has grown to

2,100 active and engaged members. They're writing petitions, contacting their MLAs, talking to the media, and fighting to keep something we all value: health care that's there when we need it.

Of course resources should be shifted if needed to fight COVID-19 outbreaks, but closing 12 rural emergency rooms before there was a surge in cases was premature. It was wrong. And instead of apologizing, Premier Moe decided to take a cheap shot at the NDP.

Rural residents I speak to aren't concerned about what happened 20 years ago — they're concerned about what's happening in their communities right now. They're concerned that the current government is taking them for

granted. The Sask Party government's inaction on rural health care speaks for itself: the expected cost of needed repairs in our hospitals, long-term care homes and clinics has skyrocketed to over \$3.3 billion over the past decade. The government fails to recruit and retain staff to rural communities, which leads to lab closures, emergency closures, and other 'pre-existing service disruptions' that have become the status quo for far too many rural folks. And with the increased centralization of services, we're all still waiting on the ambulance system reform that was promised over a decade ago.

Saskatchewan people have done our part in flattening the curve, and we will continue to

do what's asked of us. But we expect the government to do their part, too, and put people first by ensuring we've got access to health care when we need it.

Years of underinvestment in health care have been laid bare by this crisis. We need to reopen these ERs right away, and keep them open until or unless COVID-19 cases surge. Emergency rooms are essential rural health infrastructure, and closing them before the pressures of increasing cases made that absolutely necessary was a mistake. It's time for the Premier to admit his mistake, stop taking rural Saskatchewan for granted, and start putting people first.

Vicki Mowat is the Saskatchewan NDP Health Critic.

A history of prairie cherries

By Patricia Hanbidge

Prairie Cherries (Dwarf Sour Cherries) are one of my favourite fruits to grow. The shrubs are spectacular in bloom and even more enticing when the fruit is ripening. Needless to say, they have also been very popular in the neighborhood in which I live! During cherry season, countless people come knocking on my door, just to see if they could share my cherries!

In order to understand how this fabulous fruit was developed it is necessary to understand a little bit of fruit breeding history. Thousands of years ago, the sweet cherry (*Prunus avium*) was crossed with the Mongolian cherry (*Prunus fruticosa*) which resulted in the sour cherry (*Prunus cerasus*). During the 20th Century, much breeding has occurred to increase the cold hardiness of the sour cherry which results in better survival in colder areas (like ours). For over

60 years there have been many, many people involved in the quest to develop a successful cherry for our region. For those involved with these breeding programs the fabulous dwarf sour cherry is often fondly referred to as the

prairie cherry!

The dwarf sour cherry (*Prunus cerasus*) is truly a dwarf sour cherry and is not grafted but grows on its own rootstock. In 1999, 'SK Carmine Jewel' was released by the University of Saskatchewan as a named



dwarf sour cherry cultivar. It is a very attractive shrub with glossy leaves and reaches a height of about 2 metres (6.5 feet). Each spring you will be rewarded with a showy bloom. The flowers are white and large and look spectacular against the glossy green foliage. The fruit when ripe has a dark purple skin and flesh and has a small pit in relation to the fruit size. It matures in late July or early August.

After growing this cherry and a number of other cultivars, a few things have become apparent. They do sucker which makes them less attractive due to increased maintenance. I have found that the Romance series of cherries do sucker more rapidly than 'SK Carmine Jewel'.

The cherries also have more disease issues than they had originally. When conditions are right my cherries will develop a number of common fungal diseases of stone

fruits. This year, I am experiencing Brown rot which affects most of the stone fruits and occasionally apples when grown in close proximity to stone fruits. Unfortunately, this unsightly condition does affect the amount of fruit suitable for harvest.

A secondary concern is to ensure fruit that is picked is appropriately treated to minimize post-harvest disease problems. Personally, I like to pick and process in basically the same time frame and usually try to pick when the ambient outside temperature is cool. With any harvesting it is important to reduce the temperature of the produce quickly to maximize the quality of the produce. Also equally important is to minimize the exposure of fruit to twigs, leaves and other debris which could harbour spores or other disease causing factors.

Our harvesting practice is to pick and pit simultaneously to avoid fruit loss.

We simply use a home style cherry pitter made by Westmark which is actually very efficient and easy to use. I have used it for many years and it just keeps on pitting. The other alternative is to juice the cherries. For this process we either put the fresh cherries through a fruit press either fresh or frozen. We have found that the best way to do this is to rent a commercial wine press used for making wine rather than a domestic table top juicer. Just for the record, five years ago we had such a bumper crop of cherries that we made a couple of carboys of cherry wine. After five years, it has aged into a lovely flavourful, dry red wine.

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