

Shellbrook Chronicle & Spiritwood Herald

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Thursday, August 20, 2020

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Local school divisions enact mask policies

After receiving feedback from parents, area school divisions, including the Saskatchewan Rivers Public School Division (SRPSD) and the Living Sky School Division (LSSD), have unveiled updated COVID-19 policies for the return to school in September.

In a message sent out to parents on Aug. 12, the SRPSD announced that all students in Grades 4 through 12, as well as school staff, will be required to wear masks on instructional days.

While encouraging staff and students to provide their own masks, the school division said it will provide them at school start-up as required. Currently, the school division's plan is to provide each student and staff member with two re-usable masks as the supply becomes available. Until such a time, disposable masks will be provided instead.

In addition to the mask requirements, the SRPSD is planning for a staggered re-entry for students.

At the time of the message, the plan was to split classes in half and have each half attend on different days, starting on Thursday, Sept. 3. And, barring anything unforeseen, normal student attendance was expected to resume on Monday, Sept. 14.

Now that the province has pushed back the start of school to Sept. 8 to give schools more time to prepare, the staggered re-entry will take place from Sept. 8 to Sept. 11. Regular attendance is still slated to resume on Sept. 14.

"Gradual re-entry will allow for careful relationship building and mental health care as well as smaller groups to teach and practice new COVID-19 procedures," the school division said.



Due to COVID-19, the return to school will look much different for students. All local school divisions have decided to make masks mandatory for staff and students in Grade 4 to 12.

"This gradual re-entry is not without implications and challenges for families and we are thankful for the patience and flexibility of parents and caregivers."

Elsewhere, the SRPSD will make remote learning opportunities available to students with specific medical needs. Such requests should be directed to school principals, and need to be supported by documentation from a medical health professional.

Following the SRPSD's lead on masks, the LSSD updated its own back to school plan on Friday, Aug. 14 to include similar requirements for masks.

As per the LSSD's policy, all students, regardless of grade level, will be required to wear masks while riding the bus.

When it comes to in-school learning, students in Pre-Kindergarten to Grade 3 will not be required to wear masks, but can, where practical, if parents wish to provide masks.

Students in Grades 4 through 12, however, will be required to wear masks in situations where maintaining proper physical distancing isn't possible.

"This means masks must be worn upon entry to or exit from the school, while in classrooms, hallways or common

areas when 2 metres of physical distancing is not possible," the school divisions clarified.

Staff will also be required to wear masks when it isn't possible to maintain physical distancing.

And, finally, masks will be optional for outdoor activities, unless physical distancing can't be maintained.

Similar to the SRPSD, the LSSD will supply disposable masks to all students on the first day of school. However, students are encouraged to bring their own re-usable masks.

Students requiring a medical exemption from wearing

a mask will be permitted to make applications to their schools. But the school division clearly states that wearing a mask will not be a matter of preference.

"The mask protocol is a safety measure for all students and staff, so only medical exemptions will be available," it said.

Finally, the Prairie Spirit School Division will also require masks for students in Grades 4 through 12, and staff, in situations where physical distance cannot be maintained.

Students in Pre-Kindergarten to Grade 3 are encouraged to wear masks.



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Fly in breakfast cancelled, Fast looking to organize Tiger Moth flights

Harold and Marjorie Fast were sad to have to cancel their annual Fly In Breakfast due to the pandemic's restrictions. The annual event would bring in a dozen or more pilots on their small aircrafts, as well as neighbours and other members of the Spiritwood and area community for a morning of pancakes, socializing, and if the weather was permitting, a little bit of flying. The Fast family is hoping as restrictions lift that they will be able to resume the event next year and have it be even bigger and better.

While Harold and Marjorie primarily sponsored and hosted the Fly in Breakfast for community fellowship, it has been used as a fundraiser for different causes as well. Most recently, donations went towards Fast's Give Hope Wings fundraiser for Hope Air, but money has also been put towards research for Multiple Sclerosis.

While gathering restrictions make it difficult to host the Fly in Breakfast safely and responsibly, Fast still wanted to help bring a bit of summer plane activity to Spiritwood. Currently, he is

trying to arrange bringing a WWII Tiger Moth up to Spiritwood to give area residents an opportunity to go for a ride in the aircraft.

The Tiger Moth was a model used by the British Commonwealth Air Training Program to train new pilots for the Second World War. It is a British Design, some of which were built in Canada with a lot of training taking place here in Saskatchewan as prairie weather is predictable for flying.

The aircraft that would be brought up is owned by the Saskatchewan Aviation Mu-

seum and is used as a fundraiser for their museum. Those wishing to go for an open cockpit ride can pay \$250 for a half hour flight with some time for photos. Recently, a Saskatoon woman took a ride in the Tiger Moth for her 90th birthday.

A minimum of 6 people would need to be interested in going for a flight for it to be worthwhile to bring the plane up, which Fast hopes to be able to do after the Aug. 23 weekend. Anyone interested should contact Fast at harold@fastfamily.ca or (306) 883-7857.



About 120 people attended the breakfast in 2019. Here, Thalia is about to taste the delicious sausage.

Highlights of a Shellbrook town council meeting

Shellbrook's town council met on Aug. 17. Present at the meeting were Mayor George Tomporowski, councillors Lyle Banda, Bruce Clements, David Knight, Kathleen Nording, and Amund Otterson, and the town's administrator, Kelly Hoare. Councillor Lois Freeman was absent.

Mayor Tomporowski called the meeting to order at 6 p.m., and council began by approving the agenda for the meeting and adopting the minutes of its July 20 meeting.

After that, the first order of business was a public hearing regarding the town's plans to borrow up to \$7.6 million to make upgrades

to the municipal water treatment plant.

After sending out a public notice with utility bills, the town received two responses from ratepayers. Both responses were on the unfavourable side, with one ratepayer being outright opposed to the idea, and the other suggesting that council wait until after the upcoming provincial election to consider borrowing money.

In the end, the objections were moot, as Mayor Tomporowski revealed the town had learned of other sources of funding and procurement. Explaining it would be "extremely advantageous" to explore these alternative options, Tomporowski made the recommendation to delay both the first phase of the project, which had just been tendered, and the project as a whole.

Council was in agreement with the idea, and, later in the evening, unanimously carried a motion to delay the project.

In the meantime, councillor Banda suggested it would be beneficial to the town to get a better idea of how much the project will cost per household. And, in addition to providing ratepayers with

this information, he said the town should communicate its reasons for pursuing the costly project.

Hoare said a letter could be sent out with the next utility bills.

With the discussion at a close, council approved its regular accounts and financials and moved forward with its monthly reports.

In recreation news, it was reported that the new seats for the rink are being cleaned and looking good.

In other rink news, it was reported that the rink would begin opening up on Aug. 31, with an anticipated start date of Sept. 8. Due to COVID-19, there have been talks of not opening the canteen.

Discussing the future of the CN Railway Station, council said it still needed more information from the group interested in the building, but reiterated it would prefer to see it left standing. Later, council agreed to wait until June of 2021 to give readings to the by-law to repeal the station's heritage status.

In parks news, councillor Clements reported that the Royal Purple has expressed some interest in making additions to Centennial Park with a \$2,000 grant it received. The group will reportedly discuss its plans with the Shellbrook Kinettes, and may request the town's help in clearing ground.

Providing an update on the installation of the solar panels for the rink to round out

council's reports, councillor Otterson said all the com-

ponents are in place, a lot of the wiring has been done, and the permit has been applied for. Now, the only thing still to come is security fencing for the panels.

Moving onto new business, council began by transferring \$6,181.27 from the Dog Park group to a reserve for the future dog park.

It then carried motions to write-off property taxes on properties it now owns, and tender a number of other properties (meaning put them up for people to buy them) as part of tax enforcement proceedings.

Next, council transferred \$207,544, which it received through the Municipal Economic Enhancement Program, to a reserve for the water treatment plant upgrades. And, later in the evening, it carried a motion to reallocate some of its paving budget to complete curb and gutter on Brook Crescent.

Carrying on, council discussed a request from Parkland Integrated Health Centre to put up a temporary building to help with COVID-19.

Hoare said one stipulation would be that the building has to be removed within a month of the pandemic being declared over. She added that allowing the building would free up the Community Hall, which is currently being rented out to the SHA.

In a final item, council passed resolutions to rescind motions 2020-035 and 2020-118, both of which relate to disputes involving contractors. Councillor Nording was the lone councillor opposed to the motion.

Having nothing further to discuss, council set Sept. 21 as its next meeting and adjourned for the evening.

Demolition of House By Public Tender Village of Leask

Take Notice that tenders are invited for the demolition of the building described below and will be received until **2:00 p.m. local time on September 14, 2020**, at the Village of Leask Municipal Office, 15 Main Street, (Box 40) Leask, SK, S0J 1M0. The tenders will then be opened on **September 16, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.** in the Council Chambers (or Community Hall depending on where the council meeting will be held) at the Village of Leask, SK, S0J 1M0 Municipal Office, 15 Main Street, Leask, Saskatchewan.

DESCRIPTION OF LANDS

Property #1

Roll Number: 330 000
Assessment ID / Alt. #: 505003000-01
Legal Land Description (LLD): Lot 7, Block 21, Plan CS1025
Civic Address: 563 1st Street North, Leask, SK
Zoning: R1 Residential

Demolition will include all building materials, debris, shingles, and concrete removal. Concrete will be permitted to be put at the Leask dump. All other materials must be removed and disposed of by the successful tender.

Property #2

Roll Number: 341 000
Assessment ID / Alt. #: 505001950-01
Legal Land Description (LLD): Lot 17, Block 21, Plan CS1025
Civic Address: 58 Main Street, Leask, SK
Zoning: R1 Residential

Demolition will include all building materials, debris, shingles, and concrete removal. Concrete will be permitted to be put at the Leask dump. All other materials must be removed and disposed of by the successful tender.

TENDER REQUIREMENTS

Bidders are required to review the complete tender documents for important information regarding conditions of the demolition and responsibilities of the contractor regarding property condition. Property photos will not be provided.

A copy of the prescribed form of tender and the tender documents are available through the Municipal Office or on the Village website at: www.leask.ca

For further information contact the Village of Leask.
DeAnne Robblee, Administrator
Village of Leask
Box 40, Leask, SK, S0J 1M0
Phone: (306) 466-2229
Fax: (306) 466-2239
village.leask@sasktel.net www.leask.ca

MARTINS LAKE REGIONAL PARK is seeking applications for the position of SECRETARY / TREASURER

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Mail resume to:
MLRP, Box 488, Blaine Lake, SK, S0J 0J0

Shellbrook Mixed Martial Arts REGISTRATION NIGHT

Thurs., Sept. 3, 2020 @ 6:00pm – Shellbrook Legion Hall
Registration Fee – **\$15.00 per person**

Limited spots available due to COVID-19 | MUST ATTEND TO REGISTER FOR A SPOT!
1st day of class – Mon., Sept. 7, 2020 | Classes will be held every Mon. & Thurs. night

Martial Arts for all ages 5 & up – 1st class Tae Kwon Do / Karate – 6:00 pm - 6:45 pm;
2nd class Tae Kwon Do / Karate – 7:00 pm - 7:45 pm; 3rd class Kick Boxing – 8:00 pm - 8:45 pm

COVID-19 Screening at the door

Contact: **Laura Lee Hatch**
(306) 747-5976



Three arrested in traffic stop near Shellbrook



RCMP officers seized an array of guns, knives, and other weapons during a routine traffic stop in the Shellbrook area.

Three individuals are facing a slew of charges, after a routine traffic stop near Shellbrook turned into a seizure of weapons and drugs.

According to an RCMP release, officers with the Provincial Crime Reduction Team conducted a traffic stop on a suspicious vehicle turning onto a dirt road near Shellbrook at about 3 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 9.

During the course of the vehicle stop, a simple license and registration check turned into a firearms and weapons possession investigation, due to several factors that the RCMP says will be "presented as part of the court process."

The investigation, and the subsequent search of the vehicle, saw officers seize two modified firearms, bear spray, several knives, ammunition, and drug paraphernalia, and take the three occupants of the vehicle into custody.

Alphonse Durocher, a 36-year-old male from Beauval, Sask., is charged with possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose, possession of a prohibited firearm without authorization, possession of a firearm in a motor vehicle with firearm, failure to comply with a firearms prohibition, possession of ammunition while prohibited, and failure to comply with an undertaking.

Meanwhile, Summer Isbister, a 20-year-old female from the Shellbrook

District, is charged with possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose, possession of a prohibited firearm without authorization, and possession of a firearm in a motor vehicle with firearm.

Finally, the third individual, an as yet unnamed 39-year-old male from Saskatoon, was issued a traffic ticket for driving without a license.

Durocher was remanded into custody and is scheduled to make his next court appearance on Sept. 14, 2020.

Isbister was released and scheduled to appear in court in Shellbrook in November.

Roads in Shell Lake receive TLC

The roads in Shell Lake are getting a much-deserved facelift this summer, thanks to budgeted spending by the Village of Shell Lake.

Road crews were busy repaving Main Street last Thursday, and Shell Lake Mayor Anita Weiers says folks can expect to see them again in a couple of weeks, when they redo 1 Avenue W going past the

Shell Lake Hotel & Bar. Though the money for the repaving comes out of the village's budget, Weiers says the village could use the \$25,000 it received through the Municipal Economic Enhancement Program (MEEP) to complete the work if it runs out of time.

However, she adds that this funding was intended for a project to replace two six-foot

culverts going west on Memorial Drive.

The culverts, Weiers explains, have been in place for about 30 years, are starting to age out, and can be quite expensive to replace.

"It's fairly costly to purchase and to install, so the \$25,000 might not even cover that," Weiers said. "But we have pretty good funding of our own."



Crews completed roadwork on Shell Lake's Main Street last week.

TOWN OF SPIRITWOOD PUBLIC NOTICE

Public notice is hereby given that the Council of the Town of Spiritwood intends to adopt a bylaw under *The Planning and Development Act, 2007* to amend Bylaw No. 487/13, known as the Official Community Plan, and Bylaw No. 486/13, known as the Zoning Bylaw.

INTENT OF THE ZONING BYLAW AMENDMENT

The proposed Official Community Plan amendment will:

- Redesignate Lot 4, Block 2, Plan AP518 from "Existing Residential" to "Existing Commercial", as indicated on Sketch "A" below.

The proposed Zoning Bylaw amendment will:

- Rezone Lot 4, Block 2, Plan AP518 from R2 - Medium Density Residential District to C1 - Downtown Commercial District, as indicated on Sketch "A" below.

REASON

The reasons for the amendments are:

- To accommodate commercial development in Spiritwood.

PUBLIC INSPECTION

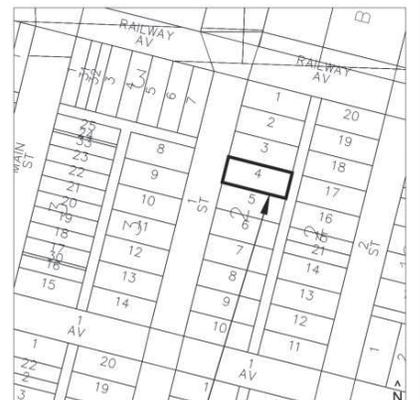
Any person may inspect the bylaw at the Town Office, located at 212 Main Street, between the hours of 9:00 AM and 4:00 PM on Tuesday to Thursday, excluding statutory holidays. Contact the Town Office by email to get a copy of the proposed bylaw at tos@sasktel.net.

PUBLIC HEARING

Council will hold a public hearing on September 8th, 2020 at 6:30 PM via Sasktel Teleconference. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, written submissions to Council pertaining to this bylaw are strongly encouraged. Written submissions must be received by September 4th, 2020 at 4:00 PM either by email, mail, or dropped off at the Town Office when open to the public on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, or Thursdays. Anyone wishing to make a verbal submission to Council must do so by phone. Please contact the Town Office by September 4th, 2020 at 4:00 PM to schedule a time slot in which Council will phone you directly to hear your concerns or suggestions.

Issued at the Town of Spiritwood this 20th day of August, 2020.
Rhonda Saam, Chief Administrative Officer

Sketch "A":



Lot 4, Block 2, Plan AP518, to be redesignated from Existing Residential to Existing Commercial and rezoned from R2 - Medium Density Residential District to C1 - Downtown Commercial District.

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More RCMP communication needed on rural crime

A local resident says she'll no longer be visiting the farm that has been in her late husband's family for generations.

The rural property was once an idyllic escape from everyday life in town. But following two break-ins at the farm's shop, and a third break-in that saw thieves force their way into the house, she says she no longer feels safe staying there.

The resident says she did everything RCMP officers have told Saskatchewan residents to do to avoid becoming a victim of crime.

She set up a 24/7 security system; she had neighbours watch and maintain the property, so that it would look lived in; and, after the break-ins at the shop, she stopped storing valuables in the building.

Despite taking all of



JORDAN
TWISS
~
News Editor

these precautions, she still became another victim of Saskatchewan's rural crime problem. And all she can do is wonder whether the RCMP will do anything about it.

If this were an isolated incident, or if her property had only been burglarized once, it could easily be chalked up to bad luck. But if you spend

enough time on coffee row, it starts to feel as if stories like hers are the norm.

And, just like her, many of the victims of rural crime are asking the same question: What is the RCMP going to do?

To be fair to the RCMP officers working in rural Saskatchewan, it isn't their fault. Rural RCMP detachments have long been charged with safeguarding vast areas of the province, despite having far too few bodies.

For example, the Ahtahkakoop-Shellbrook detachment area spans 2,620 sq. kms, and is supposed to be policed by 11 officers.

Supposed to be is the key phrase, as the detachment often finds itself short at least a couple bodies.

What's more, as local RCMP detachments strug-

gle with keeping full rosters, criminals are happy to exploit their challenges.

The end result, is that detachments are now responding to more incidents than ever, despite having the same number bodies — or, in some cases, fewer bodies.

Knowing the no-win scenario RCMP detachments across the province contend with, it's a miracle that detachments can even attract officers to fill their ranks.

The commitment and hard work of these men and women, who continue to protect and serve their communities despite the deck being stacked against them, is admirable.

These officers should be recognized by the RCMP's top brass by being provided with the funding, tools, and bodies officers need to do



their jobs safely and properly.

That said, there is still room for improvement at the local level.

When one listens to people's stories about rural crime, a common, troubling narrative thread emerges: the victims of crime are often left to wonder what's happening with police investigations, and they often have trouble reaching investigating officers for updates.

To be fair, it would be unrealistic to expect officers to update the public after every minor discovery in every investigation. And, there are times when officers must withhold information so as not to alert their suspects.

But when it comes to helping the public feel safe, a little communication can go a long way. (And it also wouldn't hurt the RCMP's image to be a little more transparent.)

After WE, can you trust the Trudeau Liberals?

By Brad Redekopp
MP, Saskatoon West

As Justin Trudeau's \$900-million scandal continues to unfold, one truth has become crystal clear: Justin Trudeau is currently using the COVID-19 emergency spending to enrich his friends. Every day new details emerge that paint a concerning picture of corruption at the highest levels of government. With this as a backdrop, can the Liberals be trusted to lead us through the recovery?

We know that the Liberals handed almost a billion-dollar program to an organization with close ties to Justin Trudeau's family and the Liberal Party. But we also know this wasn't the only pandemic program that was designed to benefit Liberal insiders. Canadians have also learned that the multi-million-dollar rental

assistance program was subcontracted to a company with close ties to the Prime Minister's Chief of Staff.

It is widely expected that the Liberal government will unleash a massive spending package in the coming months, with specific focus on the environment and infrastructure. With this much money at stake, how can Canadians trust the Liberals to not abuse taxpayers' dollars when they've demonstrated time and time again their contempt for the ethical standards Canadians expect.

Many Canadians may recall the Sponsorship Scandal of the late 1990's when the Jean Chretien Liberals used government advertising dollars to line the pockets of their friends. Liberals gave taxpayer money to Liberal Party linked advertising firms in return for little or

no work. It was after the Auditor General's investigation, and a commitment from the Conservative Party to clean up the corruption in Ottawa, that the Liberal Party was defeated in the 2006 election.

As money flows to help with the recovery, some companies will receive billions of dollars. Justin Trudeau and his inner circle will be the ones deciding which firms receive your money; they will pick winners and losers. I am deeply concerned that these decisions will not be made using proper bidding and vetting procedures. The Liberals have shown a tendency to choose their friends and allies, sometimes even bypassing the bidding process in order to award contracts directly to their supporters.

Which brings us back to the WE scandal. Almost a billion-dollar program was handed

to WE without an open bidding process. The company has very close ties to Justin Trudeau and has paid more than half a million dollars to members of his family.

Canadians have serious questions about the Liberal government's pandemic spending. We know billions of dollars of taxpayers' money have been handed out in a very short time frame. How many other Liberal insiders have received sweetheart deals?

Can you trust the scandal-plagued Liberals to make the best decisions with your money? Do you really want Justin Trudeau in charge of handing out billions of dollars? As you think about those questions, remember this: Conservatives know that it's not our money — it's your money. And that's an important difference!

Shellbrook Chronicle

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Spiritwood Herald

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

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Member of



Minutes of a Town of Spiritwood meeting

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

The regular meeting of the Council of the Town of Spiritwood was held on April 28, 2020 at 7:00 PM via Sasktel Teleconference.

In attendance were Mayor Gary von Holwede, Councillor James Bedi, Councillor Debbie Allan, Councillor Bryan Wingerter, Councillor George

Pretli, Councillor Brad Nemish, Councillor Shannon Beaulac, and CAO Rhonda Saam.

A quorum being present, Mayor von Holwede called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Debbie Allan: That the agenda be accepted as presented. Seconded by Bryan Wingerter. Carried.

Brad Nemish: That the Accounts for Ratification, Cheque No. 30753 to

30756, and CAFT Payroll payment #8, in the amount of \$2,133.44. Seconded by Debbie Allan. Carried.

Jim Bedi: That the Accounts for Approval, Cheque No. 30757 to 30773, and On-Line/CAFT payments #1-27, in the amount of \$57,747.10 be approved as presented. Seconded by George Pretli. Carried.

Debbie Allan: That the Bank Reconciliation for the month of March 2020

be approved as presented. Seconded by Bryan Wingerter. Carried.

Jim Bedi: That the Financial Statement for the month of March 2020 be approved as presented. Seconded by George Pretli. Carried.

Bryan Wingerter: That we approve Building Permit #02-2020SW to construct a Convenience Store/Gas Bar/Restaurant, with the exception that a development permit be submitted separately for the new signage, and with the condition of approval from Ministry of Highways & Infrastructure, acceptance of the Lane Closure agreement, adoption of the Lane Closure Bylaw No. 530/20, and approval from the building inspector. Seconded by Shannon Beaulac. Carried.

Bryan Wingerter: That we advertise in the Spiritwood Herald on May 7, 2020, for one consecutive week the public notice of intent to adopt a bylaw to proceed with all necessary actions required to obtain approval to close a portion of the lane within Registered Plan No. BH 2038 ext. 0, and tie or consolidate it to Lot 10 Block 6, Registered Plan BK 212 and Lots 11, 12, and 13, Block 6, Registered Plan 63B06663, which are located east of and adjacent to that portion of the lane that is being closed. Seconded by George Pretli. Carried.

Shannon Beaulac: That we renew the contract agreement with Holly Youst for the Civic Center Caretaker position for a 1 year term, effective May 1, 2020 to April 30, 2021 at a rate of \$700 per month plus 20% of hall revenues for the month, with the

exception that during the state of emergency while the Civic Centre is closed to the public due to the COVID-19 pandemic the rate of pay will be \$500 per month to maintain and monitor the building. Seconded by Debbie Allan. Carried.

Debbie Allan: That we ban all garage sales and yard sales in the Town of Spiritwood in municipal response to the COVID-19 pandemic until further notice, as the restrictions outlined in the Public Health Order continue to be in effect, and garage sales provide minimal control to reduce the transmission of this disease, such as proper social distancing between people, as well as proper cleaning and sanitation measures. Seconded by George Pretli. Carried.

Bryan Wingerter: That we hire Provincial Pothole & Paving for hot mix asphalt repairs in town for two days as per their daily rate of \$6250.00 plus tax. Seconded by Debbie Allan.

Carried.

Debbie Allan: That we approve Building Permit #03-2020SW to renovate as a Crematorium at Lot 2 Block 36, with the condition of approval from the building inspector. Seconded by George Pretli. Carried.

Bryan Wingerter: That we ratify the decision to approve Stantec drilling access within the town limits to perform drilling and install monitoring wells for the Coop Construction project, this is with the condition of approval from Ministry of Highways & Infrastructure if necessary to meet any of their requirements. Seconded by Brad Nemish. Carried.

Brad Nemish: That we provide funds to SARCS for their general operations in the amount of \$40,000.00. Seconded by George Pretli. Carried.

Shannon Beaulac: That this meeting be adjourned at 7:49 PM Seconded by Debbie Allan. Carried.

High winds topple light post on Shellbrook's Main Street

One driver in Shellbrook received an unwelcome surprise on Friday, Aug. 7, when a light standard, located on Main Street between the intersections of 2nd and 3rd Avenue, toppled over onto their parked vehicle.

While the light standard only dealt a glancing blow to the SUV, it did cause damage to the vehicle's front end and leave it with a not-so-fresh coat of green paint.

Scott McGregor, a spokesperson for SaskPower, says the felling of the light standard is being attributed to the persistent strong winds in the

Shellbrook area on that day, as well as the age of the pole. Though he didn't know exactly how old the pole was, the bottom of the standard was notably rusted.

SaskPower crews responded to the fallen pole on the same day it toppled, and cleared it out within a couple of hours.

McGregor said the standard was slated to be replaced at some point this week or next week.

As for the damages to the vehicles, he said any compensation would be handled through SGI.



A combination of high winds and age toppled this light post on Shellbrook's Main Street, causing damage to a parked vehicle.

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Saskatchewan's Safe Schools Plan

Our government has heard concerns about our students returning to school while we are still managing our way through the COVID-19 pandemic.

We are responding to concerns by providing more information, more time, more testing and more resources to ensure a safe return to school in September.

Learn more online at Saskatchewan.ca

Nadine Wilson
MLA for Saskatchewan Rivers
saskrivers@sasktel.net

Hon. Jeremy Harrison
MLA for Meadow Lake
jharrisonmla@sasktel.net

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



Camp 747 keeps focus on fun, safety

Dancers recently returned to the studio for the first time in almost five months, when Shellbrook's Studio 747 hosted its second ever Camp 747 from Aug. 5-7.

Led by studio director Kelly Woodley and instructor Rebecca Cohen, Camp 747 taught its participants everything from tap, jazz, and ballet, to hip hop, contemporary, and acro. Most importantly, though, the 33 young dancers, who came from the broader Prince Albert area as well as Hafford and Tisdale to take part in Camp 747, had plenty of fun.

"While we are teaching new things, and dancers learn short dances in different styles, having fun is the main focus of Camp 747," Woodley said.

"We always have fun during our regular season classes, too, but there is an end goal for those classes, which is going on stage, competing and performing for our community."

Woodley says Camp 747 was initially conceived of as a means for the studio's



Safety was a priority at Camp 747, with both dancers and instructors ensuring proper physical distancing was maintained.

dancers to get back in the studio, meet new friends, learn from teachers they might not normally receive instruction from, and also learn new styles of dance they may not study during the regular dance season from September to May.

While fun has always been the focus of the camp, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic also kept Camp 747's instructors focused on ensuring the safety of their dancers.

Woodley says there were a laundry list of precautions

in place on that front.

To begin with, the number of dancers allowed per class was limited to permit room for proper physical distancing. Furthermore, dancers were screened for COVID-19 before participating in the camp, and asked to sanitize their hands upon entering the studio and store their personal items in bins.

Once they were ready to dance, they'd sanitize their hands a second time and find a square marked out on the floor, which they were asked to remain in for the duration of class.

Finally, the bins, the studio, and all touched surfaces were sanitized in between each class. And, as an added precaution, the teachers wore masks at all times.

"Sometimes, as teachers, social distancing can be tricky, so we thought masks would be the best solution to that, even though they are

not fun to wear while dancing and teaching," Woodley said.

Though COVID-19 loomed over Camp 747, its impact on the camp's proceedings paled in comparison to how the pandemic derailed the regular dance season.

Due to the pandemic, the dance season met an abrupt end in March, meaning the studio's dancers missed out on the annual mini showcase and year-end showcase, as well as the always busy competition season.

While some of the studio's dancers got to participate in the optional Prince Albert Dance Blast competition, most of the dancers never got the chance to get on stage this year.

Woodley says the months of March through May are both the busiest and most fun for Studio 747, and adds that COVID-19 has really made him miss the Studio 747 family.

"Our kids really enjoy performing at recital to a full theatre, and I really enjoy watching them dance their hearts out for their community," he said.

"Being able to showcase our talented local dancers in our home community means so much to me. I feel it shows not only how hard-working our dancers are, but also how much of a family our studio creates for them."

With COVID-19 not looking like it's going anywhere anytime soon, Woodley says he hopes Camp 747 brought its participants a much-needed sense of normalcy — in addition to all the usual fun.

Personally, Woodley says his highlight of Camp 747 is in meeting new dancers, especially the ones who come from different studios, and in watching them learn over the course of three days.

"Day one kids are usually pretty shy, and hold back in class. By day three, their confidence is up, and they are living their best lives in class," he said.

Studio 747's first day of classes will be held Tuesday, Sept. 8. For information on the COVID-19 protocols that will be in place, or for more information, visit www.studio747dance.com.

PRAISE & WORSHIP

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

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Re-opening delayed until further notice. Follow us on Facebook at St. John's Lutheran Church, Shellbrook/Zion Lutheran Church, Canwood. Live-stream worship service Sundays - 9:00 a.m.
Rev. Emmanuel Aristide

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306-747-3572
Shellbrook (starting July 5)
Sun., 10 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

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Leask 306-466-4498
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Mistawasis
Sunday worship
11:00 a.m.
Rev. Katherine Bretzlaff

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN

Parkside
11 a.m. - Worship
Pastor Chris Dean

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 Ajii
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

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

EVANGELICAL FREE

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

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 9 a.m.
St. Henry's - Leask
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Fr. Phong Tran

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What happens when you don't advertise?

Very little.

AGRICULTURE

August 20, 2020

www.shellbrookchronicle.com | www.spiritwoodherald.com

Shellbrook Chronicle & Spiritwood Herald 7

Old ag ideas could soon become new again

A recent perusal of a well-known ag media site found stories on technologies to better seed cover crops, and machinery tech allowing for cultivation for weed control between crop rows.

Both are not widely used at this juncture, at least not on Western Canadian farms, although that might well change.

Both ideas, inter-row cultivation and cover crops, seem best-suited to organic farm systems, and they do harken back to an earlier time in agriculture when the answer to the appearance of a weed

was not the immediate application of a crop protection product.

Of course huge steps in the development of such products, and the ability to do tank mixes of approved combinations, afford producers today a rather reliable way to deal with the appearance of weeds whether a singular type, or a salad of several appearing to steal moisture and nutrients from a crop.

While science has shown the use of crop protection products to be safe when used as prescribed on the label, there is concern being shown



CALVIN DANIELS

from the public. Whether it is a growing concern in terms of the number of people, or simply the squeaky wheel syndrome of people getting attention for a cause via the

myriad social media platforms that exist today is not always clear.

What is clear though is that the concern is out there, and that tends to turn the heads of politicians.

It is politicians that often impact farmers most, when they enact legislation that impacts how they operate. It is a sure bet that moving forward farmers are going to see greater restrictions when it comes to the use of crop protection products.

Glyphosate is clearly under scrutiny given the recent court decisions regarding

compensation stateside, and the decision of at least two Prairie oat processors to move away from oats where the product has been applied.

And, there have been notable headlines decrying neonicotinoid pesticides and their effect on bees which are a key plant pollinator. The range of herbicides has faced restrictions and bans in various jurisdictions.

It would be folly if agriculture did not anticipate further product bans and restrictions moving forward, whether those are supported by good science, or are largely para-

noia notwithstanding.

So options will be needed to deal with weeds, because they certainly are not going away.

That is where older concepts; cover crops, companion crops, cultivation come back into the mix.

Of course those techniques do need to be adapted to the current continuous crop systems most producers employ, but at least they are alternate technologies with a foundation to build on in a world where less crop protection products may be available to producers to use.

GOOD NEWS

IN CARING FOR OTHERS, WE ARE BLESSED

By Jonathan Worrall

Student Minister, Knox United Church

I have returned back to work from my summer break. This Sabbath provided me with ample opportunity to reflect upon that which is truly important to me; I realized what I cannot live without, and what I truly missed over the previous four months.

Like many others during the pandemic, I was separated from my family, my girlfriend, and her son. We were able to regularly keep in touch through phone calls, text messaging, and apps like Zoom and Skype, but of course nothing compares to in-person contact. While I knew that I was painfully

missing my loved ones, I was also kept busy preparing worship services and pastoral care as well as my academic responsibilities. It was only when I returned to my family and loved ones that I truly realized how much I missed them.

I had to return home early because my girlfriend had been in an accident. I stayed with her and her son, providing care to them both. While I wish that the accident hadn't happened, we both realized that it provided us with an opportunity to grow closer. At one point, while I was caring for her son while she was recuperating, I recalled a quote by Martin Luther. Before he was married and

had children he wrote, "When a father goes ahead and washes diapers or performs some other menial task for his child...God with all his angels and creatures is smiling."

As scripture tells us that all of creation is good and pleased God, Luther believed that all of our actions are divinely blessed. So, whenever we sweep, mop, cook, bake, play with our children, change diapers, and care for our loved ones in their time of need, we are partaking in the blessing of the divine, and God smiles. I truly marvelled at the blessing that a child provides. Their laughter, their smiles, watching them admire the experience of the world around them; everything is new and exciting to them! These are sacred times for parents and child-minders, as these treasured moments are what keep them sane during the frustrating periods in which they will not go to bed, make a mess

(after you just cleaned up the last disaster minutes ago) or throw tantrums, etc.

As I cared for my loved ones, I indeed felt like I was blessed. Preparing food, washing dishes, potty training and bottle weaning, I experienced some sort of connection to the divine. We can find God in everything as God is everywhere. Luther proclaimed the importance of family (long before he married), and like Luther, I too believe in the importance of family; I have always wanted to have a family, and over the Sabbath, I took the next step in that direction. I asked my girlfriend to marry me, and she said yes. Blessings abound.

In closing, let us appreciate the immense comfort which our family, friends, and loved ones can provide. It is through such relationships that we can truly experience and understand the presence of the divine.

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Golf ball flying too far, says Nicklaus

Titleist advertises itself as the company which produces the “No. 1 ball in golf.” The stats prove it; more PGA Tour players use the ball than any other, and it isn’t even close.

But according to golf legend Jack Nicklaus, the company that produces the Titleist ball is also the No. 1 culprit when it comes to preventing golf’s ruling bodies from rolling back the distance the ball is travelling these days, and he maintains it’s leading to the ruination of the game.

Nicklaus told Randell Mell of the Golf Channel that the “great distance gains players enjoy today is stretching courses, and that’s slowing play.” In the Golf Channel story, he singled out Titleist when asked about push-back from manufacturers over proposals to roll back the distance balls can fly.

“Titleist controls the game,” Nicklaus told Mell. “And I don’t understand why Titleist would

be against it. I know they are, but I don’t understand why you would be against it. They make probably the best product. If they make the best product, whether it’s 20 percent shorter ... What difference would it make? Their market share isn’t going to change a bit. They are still going to dominate the game.”

In a later interview with GolfWorld.com’s Joel Beall, Nicklaus pointed to the great distances Tour players are crushing the ball these days and said the game is suffering. Golf body officials “can’t just keep burying their heads on this. They see it, they watch television, they see where these guys hit the golf ball. It isn’t about how far they hit it. You just can’t keep making golf courses longer. You just don’t have enough land, you don’t have enough money to do it.”

The topic has raged even more this year since Bryson DeChambeau



BRUCE
PENTON

bulked up in the gym during the Tour’s pandemic hiatus and started getting astonishing distance from his drives. He hit one drive 423 yards at the Memorial, a tournament hosted by Nicklaus, and belted drives of 353, 362 and 404 yards on other occasions. The host just shook his head in amazement — and dismay.

Veteran Tour player Charley Hoffman said hard workers like DeChambeau shouldn’t be penalized by rolling back the ball. “The guy was average to long hitter prior and he went and

worked his (butt) off and found a way to hit it further,” Hoffman told golf.com. “That is a perfect example of getting better. Why would you want to roll it back?”

Why indeed?

- Patti Dawn Swanson, the River City Renegade, on Jets’ Paul Maurice, whose teams have missed the playoffs four of the past seven years: “Yet he has a new, three-year, \$9-million contract tucked in his hip pocket. You know, right beside the horseshoe, the four-leaf clover, the rabbit’s foot, the smoke and the mirrors.”

- Sportswriter Eric Adelson, on Twitter: “We had the Washington Bullets and now we have the Washington Blanks.”

- Comedy writer Alex Kaseberg: “Southern California had an earthquake. It was so strong it actually shook somebody into the L.A. Chargers’ gift shop.”

- Swanson again, on the orphaned Blue Jays getting rejected by To-

ronto, Baltimore and Pittsburgh before finding a 2020 home in Buffalo: “That’s kind of like trying to book John Lennon or Paul McCartney to play your birthday gig, but settling for Ringo.”

- From the Seattle Kraken Twitter feed: “Fun fact: We are the only team that Connor McDavid has not scored against.”

- Greg Cote of the Miami Herald: “Still hanging onto that nickname, Indians? I hear ‘Cleveland Baseball Team’ is still available.”

- A golden oldie from Ex-Cardinals pitcher Joaquin Andujar, as recounted by caddie John Wood in a golf.com feature: “There is one word in America that says it all, and that one word is, ‘You never know.’”

- PGA player Brooks Koepka, at a post-round press conference when asked about changing drivers, from a Callaway to a TaylorMade: “They don’t pay me, so I’m not

mentioning their name.”

- Paul Bromby on Twitter, after the Leafs blew a 3-0 lead against Columbus (before returning the favour in the next game): “Let’s look at the bright side of things here for a minute. The Leafs giving up a three-goal lead might mean 2020 is starting to get back to normal.”

- Comedy writer Brad Dickson of Omaha: “Rutgers is going to limit stadium capacity to 500 fans. That’s down from the normal 525 fans who normally attend Rutgers games.”

- Headline on fark.com: “If you build it, they will ... have to wait until next year.”

- Dwight Perry of the Seattle Times and his wicked sense of humour: “This year’s Cardinals-White Sox game at Field of Dreams in Dyersville, Iowa, has been cancelled. A bunch of those old ballplayers out in the cornfield apparently didn’t social-distance and tested positive for the Spanish flu.”

Care to comment?
Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

OBITUARIES

Christina (Tina) Blake Halsall



Christina (Tina) Blake Halsall

January 30, 1946 – July 21, 2020

With great sadness we announce the passing of Tina Halsall. A woman of many talents and interests who will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

Born in Allenby, BC, Tina

spent her childhood in Lake Cowichan and Honeymoon Bay, BC.

Lloyd Halsall entered Tina’s life in 1965, they would marry on April 22, 1966 and move to the town of Big River, SK where they raised 3 children Lyn, Mark and Maxine.

Tina is survived by her loving husband of 54 years Lloyd, her children: Lyn (Gloria) Halsall of Birch Hills, SK and family: Jessica - Dominic Chophonis, David (Heather) Schultz - Blaine, Dylan, Tayler, Adam (Ang) Schultz - Haylee, Sophia, Ayden, Aubrey, Mark Halsall of Big River, SK, Maxine Halsall Froese (Paul Metcalfe) of Clarendville, NFLD and family: Tyler Froese (Brittany Schroeder) and Courtney Froese.

Tina also leaves to mourn one brother-in-law Garry Halsall two sisters-in-law, Donna Halsall and Linda Halsall as well as many Aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Tina was predeceased by parents, Tom Blake and Christina (Bill) Johnston, brother, Tommy Blake, brothers-in-law, Don Halsall and William Brown. Mother-in-law, Mary Halsall and father-in-law, Robert Halsall.

A family graveside service has been held.

Family and friends wishing to send private online condolences are welcome to visit www.beaulacfuneralhome.com. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the care of Beau “Lac” Funeral Home, Big River, SK (306-469-2277).

Elaine Ellenora (Goudal) Kerr



Elaine Ellenora (Goudal) Kerr passed away quietly on July 18, 2020 in Wainwright Health Centre at age 79.

Surviving sons;

Jason Kerr,

Andrew (Karen) Kerr

Grandchildren; David Jr. (Caren), daughter Violet

Cody (Kayla), boys Kayden, Colton, of Wainwright

Her siblings;

Rene (Betty),

Norma,

Marie (Ed) Lackner,

Brenda (Earl) Larsen,

Gord Goudal

Predeceased by husband Jack (2017), Ernie and Ellenor Goudal, Lyle and Eva Kerr, sister Carol (2003) and brother-in-law Dennis (2009).

Elaine and Jack were laid to rest on Saturday, August 8, 2020.

Together again.



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Minutes of an RM of Spiritwood meeting

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

The Regular Meeting of the Council of the Rural Municipality of Spiritwood No. 496 was held on Tuesday, June 9, 2020 via web conference. In attendance were Reeve, Shirley Dauvin, Division 1, Doug Johnson (Deputy Reeve), Division 2, Alan Steinhilber, Division 3, Terry Wingerter, Division 4, Dennis Laventure, and Division 6, Bevra Fee, Administrator, Colette Busiere and Foreman, Darcy Laventure. Absent was Division 5, Jerome Tetreault.

A quorum present via teleconference, Reeve, Shirley Dauvin called the meeting to order at 8:04 AM.

Al Steinhilber: That the agenda be adopted as presented and that the following agenda items be added: PDAP Designation, Weed Management Plan. Carried.

Doug Johnson: The survey of the property owners of The Cove has indicated that placing a lock on the garbage dumpster at The

Cove is not the favourable solution; and there are alternate methods available for the disposal of non-household garbage (ie: reno & construction materials, and other non-household items) and that we do not proceed with placing a lock on the garbage dumpster at The Cove. Carried.

Terry Wingerter: Council for the RM of Spiritwood No. 496 is not in a position to accept Mill Creek's financial contribution toward the Environmental Carrying Capacity of Meeting Lake. Carried.

Doug Johnson: That Foreman, Darcy Laventure be given the authority to purchase a mid-size excavator, a truck and a trailer. Total dollar amount of the purchase shall be within the capital equipment budget allowance. Carried.

Terry Wingerter: That the "List of Accounts" as listed on the attached Schedule "A" forming part of these minutes be passed for payment. Cheque No. 12413-12457, Payroll File No. 0289 & 0291. Carried.

Dennis Laventure: That the request by the prop-

erty owner to clear brush & trees from the road allowance adjacent to the N 1/2 22-53-10-W3 be approved. Any trees, brush, rocks & debris cleared from the right of way shall be stockpiled on the aforementioned lands for future disposal by the property owner. That compensation in the amount of \$500.00 per 1/2 mile be paid to the property owner for brush clearing as both parties benefit from the brush clearing. Carried.

Al Steinhilber: That Bylaw No. 2020-3, being a Bylaw to Provide for General Election Procedures be read a second time. Carried.

Terry Wingerter: That Bylaw No. 2020-3, being a Bylaw to Provide for General Election Procedures be read a third time. Carried.

Bevra Fee: That we enter into an agreement with BuildTECH for additional building official services. Carried.

Terry Wingerter: That we enter into a funding agreement with the Government of Saskatchewan for financial assistance

through the Municipal Economic Enhancement Program 2020, for the construction of a public works building, which will support investments in infrastructure, stimulate economic recovery and encourage local job creation. Carried.

Terry Wingerter: That we approve of the Water Security Agency's Emergency Flood Damage Reduction Program (EFDRP) initial inspection report dated May 26, 2020 for the berm proposal for the protection of private property in Spruce Bay from flooding. Carried. Berm Proposal - Lot 7 Blk 4 Spruce Bay: The property owner is no longer pursuing the berm proposal for Lot 7/ Blk 4 in Spruce Bay.

Al Steinhilber: That the application to remove dead & dying trees from the Environmental Reserve (ER) in front of Lot 1/Blk 1 in The Cove be approved under the condition the work be conducted in accordance with WSA regulations. Carried.

Doug Johnson: That we are not interested in becoming a member of the

North Saskatchewan River Basin Council. Carried.

Bevra Fee: That the weed management plan be approved as presented. Carried.

Terry Wingerter: That the Rural Municipality of Spiritwood No. 496 apply to the Ministry of Government Relations to be designated an eligible assistance area under the Provincial Disaster Assistance Program (PDAP), which provides financial assistance for restoring essential services and property as a result of substantial damages caused by Heavy Rain and/or Wind on the following dates: May 21, 2020, May 31, 2020, June 6, 2020. Carried.

Dennis Laventure: Due to the COVID-19 precautions and recommendations from the Saskatchewan Health Authority and the province that the office staff continue with the janitorial services and the custodial contract for janitorial services be terminated. Carried.

Al Steinhilber: That the budget for the 2020 fiscal year be adopted as

presented and attached hereto forming part of the minutes. Carried.

Terry Wingerter: That the Mill Rate, Mill Rate Factors and minimum taxes remain the same for the 2020 tax year which are as follows: Mill Rate - 8.8, Mill Rate Factor (MFR) of 0.84 shall apply to all types and classifications of property with a residential or seasonal residential assessment; MFR of 1.0 shall apply to all types and classifications of property with an agriculture assessment; MRF of 1.1 shall apply to all types and classifications of property with a commercial assessment; That the following minimum tax be applied: \$150.00 on agriculture land; \$600.00 on agricultural improvements where no residential or commercial improvement exists; \$250.00 on residential land; \$650.00 on residential improvements; \$500.00 on commercial land; and \$500.00 on commercial improvements. Carried.

Doug Johnson: That the meeting be adjourned at 11:37 AM. Carried.

More lessons for saving seeds

By Patricia Hanbidge

Recently we talked about some basic background knowledge of pollination and flower types. This week, we will get into a bit more about the genetics, and in subsequent articles will focus on specific plant types so you will have more detailed help in harvesting seed from your favourite plants.

For thousands of years, people have been saving seeds. Most of these people have no formal training and certainly their focus was on food production and ensuring their families and communities could continue to grow plants whose production was successful in the coming years.

For gardeners, we often save seeds to preserve the production of their favourite vegetables or for the growth and harvest of improved crops. Depending on personal needs and preferences, selection of seeds to harvest and store might be for plants showing better flavour, size, resistance to pests or other disease issues, storability, colour, hardiness, shape of product or any other important factors.

As home gardeners, we have smaller production areas, and gen-

erally will pay more attention to individual plants and their habits of growth. We enjoy an extended production of produce to ensure we have longevity in providing food for our families and communities. In more industrial production, the focus is generally on a larger scale that will have crops ripen all at the same time so efficient harvesting can occur using machines rather than by the human hand.

We who cherish the romance of growing what some of our favourite people have grown or growing what was produced in the old country, take pleasure out of the process of the harvesting of seeds as well as the enjoyment of the product it-

self. The practice of saving seeds is rewarding and even empowering and is actually quite easy. First it is important to grow plants that will breed true or produce a seed that when grown again will produce the expected product that is the same or very similar to the parent plant. After ensuring you are growing open pollinated, heirloom or heritage seed, you basically harvest the seeds when they are ready, ensure they dry down and then you store them!

One of the important considerations of harvesting quality seed at the right time is understanding the life cycle of the plant that is growing the seeds. Plants are annual,

biennial or perennial and need to be harvested accordingly. Annual plants (lettuce, tomatoes etc.) will flower and produce mature seeds in the same year as long as the growing season is adequate. Biennials (carrots, beets etc.) are usually harvested in their first summer or fall but will not produce seed until the next year. If your climate is mild enough to allow survival of the plants with a bit of mulching that is wonderful but where I live in the middle of Saskatchewan, most biennials must be carefully lifted and stored elsewhere and replanted in the spring to ensure survival for the second year of growth when they will produce seed. Perennials will

live and bear seed year after year.

Plants are also classified as either self-pollinating or cross-pollinating and sometimes will be classified as being both. Self-pollinating plants have both male and female plant parts and will not need other plants for successful pollination. In most cases pollination will occur successfully with a single bloom, thus creating seeds which are characteristically very close to the parent plant or considered to be true. Cross-pollinated plants will be pollinated by other flowers or by other flowers on other plants so the resulting seed shows great genetic variability so a plant growing from a cross-pollinated seed will rarely exhibit the same characteristics and the parent plant. If your wish is to harvest seed from cross-pollinated plants, care must be taken to separate those plants from each other in order to be able to harvest seed that is true.

Hanbidge is the Lead Horticulturist with Orchid Horticulture. Find us at www.orchidhort.com; by phone at 306-931-4769; by email at info@orchidhort.com; on facebook @orchidhort and on instagram at #orchidhort.

