



Kinettes keep PIHC elders creating art



Shellbrook Kinette Amber Larson delivers some of the 20 craft boxes to PIHC long-term care recreation director, Trina Chamberlain.

In the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, which is well into its ninth month in Saskatchewan, the Shellbrook Kinettes continue to find new ways to give back to the community.

Over the past few years, the group has made a tradition of hosting one or more intergenerational paint nights per year with their children and the elders in Parkland Integrated Health Centre's (PIHC) long-term care home, leveraging Sask. Lotteries Grants through the Town of Shellbrook to help cover the costs of the art supplies.

Even with the COVID-19 pandemic limiting visitations in healthcare facili-

ties and eliminating the possibility of hosting a paint night, the Kinettes still opted to apply for the grant in the spring, hoping to improvise and come up with a new way to put the funds to good use.

The breakthrough came from Kinette Amber Larson, who, with a recommendation from PIHC long-term care recreation director Trina Chamberlain, decided to put together craft boxes for the elders, allowing them an opportunity to continue expressing themselves artistically.

"They are not able to have a lot of company," Larson said. "I hope this will bring them some cheer and some joy.

After getting the green light from the Town of Shellbrook to modify the \$250 Sask. Lotteries Grant, Larson took the idea and ran with it, putting together 20 craft boxes in total with the help of a 100 per cent matching grant from the Kinettes.

Armed with a \$500 budget, and a few suggestions from Chamberlain, Larson went about filling the crates with a plethora of art supplies, including adult colouring books, markers, crayons, pencil crayons, glue sticks, scissors, paint brushes, painter's trays, and watercolour paints.

And, thanks to a generous donation

of 20 tote boxes by Staples in Prince Albert, she was even able to secure individual storage for each of the craft kits without dipping into the grant money.

Larson recently delivered the craft boxes to Chamberlain, who has since shared them with her surprised elders. Chamberlain says the elders were very appreciative of the Kinettes' generosity.

"As a precaution residents are required to use only their own supplies, so this was a perfect way for residents to continue creating," Chamberlain said, adding that she and the elders hope they'll be able to invite the Kinettes over for a paint night soon.

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Sask. further tightens COVID restrictions

Just days before the province was expected to review its last slate of COVID-19 public health measures, Saskatchewan Chief Medical Health Officer Dr. Saqib Shahab has announced additional measures to further limit the spread of the virus.

Announced Monday afternoon, the measures will be in place until Jan. 15, 2021, at which time they'll be reviewed and revised depending on pandemic transmission patterns across the province, and officially bring an end to the possibility of families gathering for Christmas.

"We can still celebrate the holiday season," Dr. Shahab said in a statement. "After a difficult

year, it's more important than ever to connect with loved ones but it must be done at a safe distance or virtually. Share time with friends and family but keep everyone safe."

Starting Dec. 17, private indoor gatherings will be limited to immediate household members only, but single individuals are permitted to meet with one household of less than five individuals. Outdoor gatherings, meanwhile, will be limited to 10 people.

Effective Dec. 19, casinos and bingo halls must close, while personal services, such as hairdressers and barbers, massage therapists, and tattooists, will be limited to 50 per

cent capacity.

Event venues, conference facilities, arenas, arts venues, museums, movie and live theatres and banquet facilities may still have events up

to 30 individuals. However, all guests must be seated for the duration, and food and drink are not permitted unless explicitly stated in the order.

Concurrent services may not occur within multiple locations in one facility.

Finally, starting on Dec. 25, retail services must reduce their ca-

capacity to 50 per cent, and large retail locations, identified as stores with more than 20,000 square feet, will be limited to 25 per cent capacity.

PCE receives proceeds from Woytiuk Fun Family Christmas Auction



Laurie Woytiuk's granddaughters presented long-time Prairie Community Endeavours (PCE) members Shirley and Greg with a cheque for \$1,326 on Dec. 11. The amount was the proceeds from the Woytiuk Fun Family Christmas Auction. Laurie was a founding member of PCE.

Sending our **warmest wishes** this holiday season, from everyone at PCCU!



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COUNCILLOR FOR DIVISION NO. 4

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Nomination forms may be obtained from the municipal office and on the municipal website.

Dated this 10th day of December, 2020.

Returning Officer
Joan Sanftleben

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas with good health, happiness and prosperity in the coming year.

Nadine Wilson

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saskrivers@sasktel.net
306-763-0615

Hon. Jeremy Harrison

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Hon. Scott Moe, Premier

MLA for Rosthern-Shellbrook
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All SRPSD schools move to online learning

It's back to the digital books for students in the Saskatchewan Rivers Public School Division (SRPSD).

On Friday afternoon, just days after the announcement that all urban schools would move to Level 4 of the province's Safe Schools Plan after the Christmas holidays, the division did an about face. Instead, all schools, including those in Shellbrook, Canwood, Debden, Big River, and Wild Rose School, moved to remote learning only.

According to the release issued by SRPSD Director of Education, Robert Bratvold, the sudden decision was made following rec-

ommendations from public health officials based on the increased rates of community transition of COVID-19.

The remote learning measures will be in place until Jan. 18, 2021, at which time they will be reviewed and reconsidered depending on community transmission rates.

"Students will participate and engage in remote learning programming as learning expectations will remain a priority," the school division's release said.

"Schools will provide specialized programming or support for intensive learning needs on an individualized basis. In-

formation and instruction for all students and families will be forthcoming from their school administration and staff early next week."

While students will no longer be in school, the SRPSD is still urging students and families to be diligent in performing daily health screening, staying home if ill, calling HealthLine 811 if exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms, practicing proper hand hygiene, maintaining physical distancing as much as possible, wearing a mask when appropriate, and doing everything to keep each other safe.

In an FAQ on the SRPSD website, the school division emphasizes that the shift to online learning was made to support the healthcare system, which is dealing with the strain of 117 COVID-related hospitalizations, not because the division's schools are unsafe.

"Schools have been doing amazing work to prevent transmission and we have a near perfect record. Despite the 40+ cases in our schools, there has been only one where transmission might have occurred to another person at school."

In response to anticipated concerns about the impact on student learning, the school division says all schools and teachers have plans in place and have established remote learning platforms in the classrooms.

Additionally, it says staff had been asked to prepare for the eventuality of a short-notice shift to remote learning, and have learned lessons from the previous shutdown of schools.

Finally, it's anticipating this change will be temporary, and therefore less disruptive.

"There will be challenges to overcome, but this is expected to be a short-term remote learning event, not one that is months long."

Schools were expected to offer more information on the shift to remote learning early this week. In the meantime, the school division is urging parents to stay connected to their children's teachers for support and information.

For further information, or updates, visit <https://www.srsd119.ca/>

R.M. of Canwood man faces firearms charges

On Saturday Dec. 12, 2020, at approximately 9:45 p.m., an officer from the Big River RCMP Detachment was conducting a traffic stop on a rural road south of Debden, Saskatchewan. The officer heard what he believed to be a firearm being discharged in the direction of the traffic stop from a nearby residence. The subject of the traffic stop fled on foot after hearing the sound.

The officer immediately drove to the residence where he believed the firearm was discharged and located an adult male standing outside holding a firearm.

Officers from Ahtahkakoop,

Shellbrook, Blaine Lake and Spiritwood RCMP Detachments, a Conservation Officer from the Provincial Ministry of Environment, and the Saskatchewan RCMP Emergency Response Team (ERT) were called to assist in setting a perimeter to secure the residence and help to maintain public safety.

At approximately 1 a.m. on Sunday, Dec. 13, the male was located in the backyard of the residence by members of ERT and was taken safely into police custody. An adult female was also present at the residence at the time of the incident and was transported to a

safe location.

A search of the residence incidental to the adult male's arrest resulted in the seizure of four additional firearms and ammunition.

The Prince Albert RCMP General Investigation Section and Forensic Identification Services Units also assisted with the investigation.

40-year-old Darren Hildebrand of the RM of Canwood, SK, has been charged with the following:

- Discharge firearm while being reckless, Sec. 244.2(3) of the Criminal Code (CC);

- Discharge with intent, Sec. 244 CC;

- Unsafe storage of firearms, Sec. 86(2) CC;

- Possession of weapon for dangerous purpose, Sec. 88(2) CC;

- Two counts, pointing a firearm, Sec. 87(2) CC; and

- Resist arrest, Sec. 129 CC.

Hildebrand is scheduled to make his first appearance in Prince Albert Provincial Court on Dec. 14, 2020.

The subject of the traffic stop was later located safely at their home and did not report any injuries as a result of this incident.

Shellbrook Chronicle Spiritwood Herald

Office will be closed from

December 23/20

@ Noon

to

January 1/21

Regular office hours
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Advertising Deadline

is

Friday, Dec. 18/20

for December 24th &
December 31st papers.

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2020: the year of COVID and the broken record

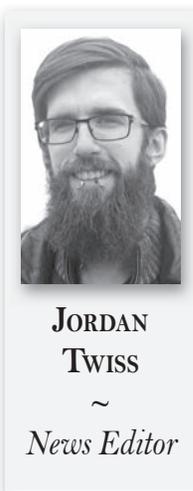
In the years to come, few of us will remember 2020 as anything other than the year of COVID-19.

It's been a difficult year.

A year in which 71 million people have been directly impacted by the global pandemic (to say nothing of the millions who have had to fear for the lives of their loved ones, or who have lost their livelihoods due to COVID-related shutdowns).

A year in which 1.6 million people had their lives unfairly cut short.

A year in which we learned who we can count upon to show



JORDAN TWISS
~
News Editor

basic human decency, and who will prioritize themselves above all others in trying times.

This year has tested us and divided us like no other in recent history. And hopefully it will be the toughest year any of us will ever have to endure in our lifetimes.

Of course, COVID-19 isn't the only thing we've confronted in 2020.

The murder of George Floyd, and the protests against racial inequality that followed, forced many of us to examine our own biases, and the biases within society's institutions.

And, while United States Presi-

dent Donald Trump will likely never admit it, 2020 was also the year in which Americans regained some semblance of sanity and voted him out of office. (Though, it remains to be seen if President-elect Joe Biden will be the improvement we're all hoping for.)

Finally, where Canadian politics are concerned, 2020 can perhaps best be described as the year of the broken record. For, while everything has changed for almost all Canadians, it's been mostly business as usual for Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and his Liberal federal government.

No stranger to scandal, Mr. Trudeau stepped out of bounds more than a few times this year.

First, in the early days of the pandemic, his government tried



to leverage the chaos of the situation to grant itself unchallenged spending powers.

Next came the WE Charity scandal, which cost Mr. Trudeau his right-hand man, former Finance Minister Bill Morneau, and forced him to shutdown parliament to evade questions from the opposition.

Aside from repeating the tired old refrains of the Scandal Blues, Mr. Trudeau has also been singing the tune of the pandemic election.

Twice, this fall, the prime minister has lamented that Canadians may be headed to the polls, if opposition parties don't support his minority government.

The first instance was in the aftermath of his government's throne speech in late September.

Here, Mr. Trudeau did his best to convince Canadians he didn't want them to head to the polls during the pandemic, while condemning his opponents for not caring about Canadians impacted by COVID-19.

More recently, he dropped this pretense with his government's fall fiscal update, knowing, perhaps, that asking the opposition

to support a nearly \$400 billion deficit is too big of an ask.

For all of Mr. Trudeau's talk about not wanting a pandemic election, however, his government introduced a most peculiar piece of legislation last Thursday.

Called Bill C-19, the legislation would amend the Canada Elections Act to allow for voting on weekends and create new mail-in voting measures in case of, you guessed it, a snap election during the pandemic.

Being prepared for all eventualities is never a bad thing. But if Mr. Trudeau truly doesn't want an election, why is such legislation necessary?

Rather than preparing to send Canadians to the polls for an entirely unnecessary election, Mr. Trudeau should be reaching across the aisle to address the opposition's concerns with his pandemic strategy.

COVID-19 is a problem that affects all Canadians, and now is the time for all parties to be working together to create a solution for all Canadians.

But all we're hearing from Mr. Trudeau is the same old song.

True solution works top, middle, and bottom

Dear editor,

To my embarrassment, a workplace solution at the bottom of a web page generated an unseen problem at the top. The Federal Minister of Natural Resources has stated that liquid natural gas (LNG) is part of the solution to climate instability. Like my workplace solution, he is looking only at the bottom.

Yes, LNG burns cleaner in an electrical power plant than coal. But this is the bottom of the LNG process. Looking up the top and middle, there are significant fugitive emissions of methane. When you extract natural gas, methane leaks. When you transport natural gas, methane leaks.

Compared to carbon dioxide, methane has a harm factor of 28 times over 100 years. Environment Canada recently found methane emissions in Canada's oilpatch are twice as high as estimated.

Consideration of alternatives is critical to finding true solutions. One alternative to burning natural gas for electricity is using it to produce hydrogen. Methane pyrolysis does not produce greenhouse gases and hydrogen can replace gasoline and diesel in our vehicles.

Another alternative frees us from the many risks of emissions and fracking. Canadian oil technology could be adapted to exploit deep heat reservoirs like those near Estevan. The earth's heat there is hot enough to run turbines. This renewable energy provides not intermittent but baseload power.

Let's hold our elected officials accountable before they invest taxpayer money. Solutions need to consider the top, middle, bottom, and all alternatives to ensure they avoid generating 28 times the problem.

Nancy Carswell
Shellbrook, Saskatchewan

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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



VIEWPOINT

Report from the Legislature

In a tough year, there is the good news Saskatchewan people can look forward to – a vaccine for the COVID-19 pandemic will be available in the coming weeks. This does not, however, suggest that it is time to ease up and become less disciplined in our approach to preventing its spread. We all have a role to play in slowing the transmission of this virus and our government continues its work to ensure that resources are available to our health care providers. We continue to ask that you to follow public health orders and frequently wash your hands, practice physical distancing, wear a mask and stay home if you have symptoms.

With your cooperation with public health orders, along with direction from Saskatchewan's Chief Medical Health Officer, our province will continue to weather this storm.

With the announcement of Saskatchewan's vaccine rollout plan, the people of our province can feel encouraged for the future. We have worked closely with the Public Health Agency of Canada and

will be ready to administer the COVID-19 vaccine once the first shipment is received. The Vaccine Delivery Plan is a phased approach that will begin vaccinating residents this month. The first phase will be delivered to approximately 1,950 people at Regina General Hospital. Those eligible for the vaccine include health care workers in ICUs, Emergency Departments and COVID Units at the Regina General and Pasqua Hospitals, as well as staff at testing and assessment centres. This pilot will be delivered in two doses, with the second vaccination being administered 21 days following the ad-

ministration of the first.

Also included in this first phase are elderly residents in care homes, seniors over 80 and residents in northern remote communities. Keeping our most vulnerable populations protected has always been a priority, and I am encouraged to see that they will be at the front of the line for these vaccination deliveries.

The second phase of the Vaccine Delivery Plan is anticipated to begin in April 2021. We will continue to immunize priority populations while providing the vaccine to our general population. At this time, distribution will move to public health clinics and other vaccination delivery sites in the province.

While we are well on our way to provide safe vaccines once they arrive, there is still more work to do. Our government is committed to keeping the public up to date with accurate information on the status of the COVID-19 vaccine and delivery. For more information on our Vaccine Delivery Plan, please visit www.saskatchewan.ca/COVID19



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vaccine.

As we see increased COVID-19 cases Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) is moving forward with its surge plan to meet the expected demand for patients. Service slow downs will support the redeployment of up to 600 full-time equivalent staff to aid in our response to the pandemic.

This surge plan will create capacity for 64 COVID patients requiring ICU care by mid-December. It will also create capacity for those requiring inpatient hospitalization, as well as capacity for contact tracing to keep pace with the projected demand. To help our frontline work-

ers, please limit your social bubble as much as possible.

Redeploying our services on this scale will facilitate a service slow down to maintain an appropriate balance between the urgent needs of the pandemic response and the need for Saskatchewan residents to have access to everyday health services. The SHA and its partners have a targeted approach to minimize patient, client and resident impact while maximizing the ability to mobilize full-time staff to other areas.

It is crucial that we act now and ensure those in need receive the help that they need. By ensuring our existing capacity does not become overwhelmed, this timely slow-down has the potential to help us provide critical care for both COVID and non-COVID patients.

Soon, one hundred made-in-Saskatchewan ventilators will be available to support the needs of our province's residents. These ventilators are being made as part of a collaboration between the University of Saskatchewan, the Saskatchewan



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Health Authority and RMD Engineering Inc. based out of Saskatoon.

The President of RMD Engineering was inspired by his daughter to develop ways to assist our health care system. She is a nurse at the Royal University Hospital and knows firsthand how important this equipment is, especially to someone who may be suffering from the virus. We are grateful for their dedication to develop a Saskatchewan-made solution to support the needs of patients.

As always, for more information on the current public health measures, visit www.saskatchewan.ca/covid19.

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Cookies to sweeten your holiday season

By: Alison Sullivan

As the year draws to a close, people have dusted off their holiday decorations, strung up their Christmas lights, and undoubtedly started their annual holiday baking. Cookies, squares, fruit cakes, and meat pies are all being whipped up and put in the freezer. With most people having some extra time on their hands due to ongoing COVID-19 restrictions, there is an opportunity to try some new recipes or revisit old favourites.

Growing up, my mother was the definition of holiday spirit. Always with far too many Christmas decorations tucked into every nook and cranny of the house, she enjoyed imploring me and my sisters to help make the usual onslaught of cookies and squares to stick in the freezer for when company was over. She would be dancing around the kitchen, wooden spoon in hand with her favourite Kenny G Christmas tunes playing in the background. The volume of shortbreads, lemon squares, Skor bars, and other treats created were usually enough to last through to February despite there being seven people in the house.

Since moving out west, I no longer get to participate in the annual tradition of



Cherry Ice Box cookies.

going through far too many bags of sugar during the holiday season, nonetheless, the memories are still a treat. While I don't bake nearly as much as my Mum around the holiday season, I still like to make the odd treat or two. My favourite cookies are icebox cookies, both tasty and convenient. A large batch of dough can be made and stored uncooked in logs in the freezer, ready to be cut and baked anytime you feel like something sweet.

Here are a few traditional icebox cookie recipes to try out this holiday season.

Cherry Ice Box Cookies

(adapted from The Canadian Living Cookbook, Elizabeth Baird, 2001)

1 cup (250 ml) butter, room temperature
1 cup (250 ml) white granulated sugar
1 egg
1 1/2 tsp. (7 ml) vanilla
2 2/3 cups (345 grams) all purpose flour
1/2 teaspoon (2 ml) baking powder
1/4 teaspoon (1 ml) salt
3/4 cup (175 ml) maraschino cherries, well drained and chopped

In the bowl of your electric mixer (or with a hand mixer), beat the butter and sugar until light and fluffy (3-4 minutes). Add the egg and vanilla extract and beat until incorporated. In a separate bowl, sift or whisk together the flour, baking powder, and salt and then add to the butter and egg mixture. Mix just until a dough forms. Stir in the cherries until evenly distributed throughout the dough but do not overmix.

Divide the dough into thirds. Place each third of dough on a large piece of parchment or wax paper. Smooth and shape the dough into an evenly shaped rectangle that is about 7 inches (18 cm) long. Then thoroughly wrap the shaped logs in the parchment or wax paper, twists the ends of the paper to seal the logs, and place in the refrigerator to chill for at least three hours, or up to three days. (The logs can also be frozen for about one month. If freezing, it is best to let the logs stand at room temperature about 15-20 minutes before slicing.)

Preheat oven to 375 degrees F (190 degrees C) with the rack in the center of the oven. Line two baking sheets with parchment paper.

Using a thin bladed knife, slice the logs into 1/4 inch (5 mm) thick slices. Place the cookies on the prepared baking sheets, spacing about 2 inches (5 cm) apart. Bake for about 10 minutes, or until lightly browned. Remove from oven and cool completely on a wire rack.

Lemon Slices

(Good Housekeeping Great Cookie Swap Cookbook, 2009)

2 cups (500 ml) all purpose flour

1/4 tsp (1 ml) baking powder
1/4 tsp (1 ml) salt

2-3 large lemons

3/4 cup (310 ml) butter, softened

1/2 cup (125 ml) white sugar

1/2 cup (125 ml) icing sugar

1/2 tsp (2 ml) vanilla

1/2 cup (50 ml) white sugar

In a medium bowl, whisk flour, baking powder, and salt until just blended.

In a large bowl, beat butter, sugar, and icing sugar until creamy. From lemons, grate 1 TBSP (22 ml) lemon peel and squeeze 2 TBSP (30 ml) juice and add to creamed mixture. Beat in flour mixture and mix until just combined.

Divide dough into 2 equal pieces. Shape each piece into a 6" long log. Wrap each log in wax paper and refrigerate overnight.

Preheat oven to 350 F (180 C)

Cut 1 log crosswise into 1 inch thick slices; place slices 1 inches apart on an ungreased cookie sheet. Sprinkle slices lightly with sugar. Repeat with second log.

Bake until the edges are just lightly browned, about 12 minutes.

Makes approximate 4 dozen cookies.

Pinwheel Cookies

(adapted from Five Roses - Canada's - Most Respected Name in Baking Cookbook, 1960s)

1 cup (250 ml) butter or Margarine

1 cup (250 ml) white sugar

1 tsp. (5 ml) vanilla

2 beaten egg yolks

6 TBSP. (75 ml) milk

3 cups (750 ml) all purpose flour

1 TBSP. (15 ml) baking powder

Pinch salt

1/2 cup (125 ml) cocoa

Cream Shortening, add sugar and blend well. Add vanilla, egg yolks, and milk and mix well. Combine flour, baking powder, and salt and add to creamed mixture.

Divide dough in half. To half of the dough, add 1/2 cup cocoa and blend well.

Roll white dough onto a thin rectangular sheet lined with parchment paper. Roll the chocolate dough onto a sheet the same way, making sure both sheets are the same size. Place chocolate dough over white and gently press together. Roll up using the larger side of the pan, similar to a jelly roll, into a tight roll about 2" in diameter.

Refrigerate at least several hours but preferably overnight to chill well.

Preheat oven to 375 degrees F (190 degrees C).

Using a very sharp knife, cut dough into thin slices.

Bake for approximately 10 minutes or until the edges just begin to lightly turn brown.



Pinwheel cookies.

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DECEMBER 17, 2020 • Christmas Edition

No saying what's around the corner for farmers

There is no doubt 2020 has been the most difficult year we have faced in Canada since at least the years this country sent troops to the Korean War with the uncertainty that would have caused for families and the threat of that conflict igniting a larger worldwide battle.

The COVID-19 pandemic has been a battle of a different kind of course, one where the world is allied in their efforts to deal with a disease that has killed thousands, 55 to-date in Saskatchewan.

Fifty-five may not sound like a huge number, but with more than

100 in our hospitals, the health care system is being stretched rather tight, and were numbers to spike even higher, perhaps after people risk gatherings for the holidays, a health system wreck could be in the offing.

As bad as COVID-19 has been, nearing 300,000 dead in the United States, and more than 12,000 in Canada, it could be worse. The disease is hardest on the aged, if the death toll were among children the effect of our public psyche would be much greater.



CALVIN DANIELS

So everyone, the farm community included, is looking forward to the end of 2020, forever to be known as the 'Year of COVID' with hopes 2021 will be better.

Certainly on the COVID front there is an ex-

pectation of a vaccine in 2021 so that is a positive.

But, farmers might be facing another serious issue arising in the next year.

In a recent Western Producer story Drew Lerner, president of World Weather Inc. was quoted as stating "We are overdue for a multi-year drought. I am totally convinced of that."

Now weather prognosticators aren't always on target. Some might suggest the only reliable indication of the weather is to stick your head out the window, with any other forecast at best being a

guess, albeit an educated guess, but anytime the word drought comes up farmers naturally shudder.

Farmers face a lot of challenges in a normal year in terms of getting a crop to market.

The annual production cycle is largely a minefield of obstacles to be avoided, or if they go off then they are dealt with.

There is spring frost, and weeds, and bugs and plant disease, and too much heat, or not enough, and rain issues, followed by early fall frost, or early snows, machinery breakdowns

and of course marketing challenges.

Most can at least be dealt with, chemicals to kill bugs and disease and weeds, careful planning of planting to best avoid early frosts etc., but if the rains don't come, the crop can easily be reduced, and in extreme drought conditions, a crop can be lost.

Few things are thus scarier than the possibility of a multi-year drought, and if it arrives in 2021, it will impact Prairie farmers harder than the pandemic that has the world in its grip right now.

Reindeer and caribou are similar, but not the same

Reindeer are symbols of the holiday season. Legend states these antlered animals have a busy evening come Dec. 24 - helping Santa Claus pull a sleigh weighed down by toys for the world's children. Why does Santa choose reindeer when caribou may be equally qualified for the job? It may be due to their greater history of domestication.

Although the terms "reindeer" and "caribou" are frequently used interchangeably, leading many people to assume they are the same creature, recent genetic mapping published in the journal Nature Climate Change shows caribou and reindeer are actually dif-

ferent animals. The journal determined that these mammals are quite similar and actually share the same scientific name, Rangifer tarandus, but they are only closely related cousins.

Reindeer may be slightly smaller and are generally more domesticated than caribou. Some people of the Nenet group in Russia keep reindeer for pets. The following are some other similarities and differences, courtesy of the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

· Reindeer are shorter, stouter and more sedentary than the long-legged caribou.

· Caribou migrate longer distances than reindeer between wintering grounds and calving areas.

· Reindeer have thicker, denser fur than caribou. Both have unique hair in their fur that trap air and provide extra insulation.

· Both male and female reindeer and caribou grow antlers. However, female reindeer antlers grow larger than those of female caribou.

· Reindeer calves are born at the end of April and caribou calves at the end of May.

· Both animals have hooves that can be used as snowshoes for walking on the snow

and for digging.

· Only in North America are wild Rangifer referred to as caribou.

· Reindeer have been herded for years throughout Alaska and some parts of Canada for their meat. However, caribou are largely wild animals that roam freely. As a result, caribou are hunted in the wild.

Reindeer may get all the glory come the holiday season, but caribou are equally impressive animals. These large mammals provide food and other materials for survival to those who live in cold climates across the world.

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Saskatchewan releases COVID-19 vaccine plan

The province has released its detailed plan for the delivery of the COVID-19 vaccine, with the first doses expected to be administered this month.

“Residents of this province can rest assured that our government will dedicate all the resources needed to provide them with the vaccine,” Health Minister Paul Merriman said in a statement. “We are putting in place the human and financial resources to successfully distribute vaccines and get Saskatchewan residents immunized against COVID-19.”

According to a press release, vaccines for roughly 1,950 people were expected to arrive by Dec. 15. These vaccines will be part of what the province is calling its “pilot” test, and will be administered to healthcare workers at Regina General Hospital and Pasqua Hospital, including those working in ICUs,

emergency departments, and COVID-19 units.

The vaccine is administered in two shots, given 21 or 28 days apart. In the case of the pilot test, the second doses will come 21 days after the first, during what the province hopes will be phase one of the vaccine delivery plan.

Phase one of the plan will focus on immunizing priority populations who are at higher risk of exposure to the virus, or more at risk of serious illness, including health care workers, elderly residents in care homes, seniors over 80 and residents in northern remote communities.

The phase is expected to begin late this month and see 202,052 doses of the vaccine provided to the province within the first quarter of 2021.

According to the province, these estimates include weekly allocations of 10,725 doses of Pfizer vaccine.

However, weekly allocations of the Moderna vaccine are currently being finalized, and allocations are subject to fluctuate and may affect sequencing plans.

Following phase one, phase two is anticipated to commence in April 2021. It will continue priority population immunization, while providing widespread access to immunize the general popu-

lation. Distribution for the phase will be handled by public health clinics or other vaccine delivery sites across the province.

“Once mass immunization has occurred, we will all be able to get closer to our normal routines,” Chief Medical Health Officer Dr. Saqib Shahab said in a statement. “But in the meantime, every-

one must continue following the basic advice – frequent hand-washing, physical distancing, masking and staying home if you have symptoms, and closely following public health orders.”

Currently, the province says plans are being made for safe storage, sequenced distribution across the province, public communication of vaccine availability, contingency planning and statistical reporting of vaccines administered.

The province says its plan also includes a “significant public relations campaign” aimed at ensuring timely and accurate information is provided to Saskatchewan residents.

For more information on Saskatchewan’s COVID-19 vaccine planning, visit <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/COVID19-vaccine>.

General public inquiries may be directed to COVID19@health.gov.sk.ca.



Do your part to slow the spread of COVID-19.

- ✓ Stay home if you're sick.
- ✓ Wear a mask when appropriate.
- ✓ Wash your hands often.
- ✓ Keep your distance from others.



Thank you for keeping your family, friends and community safe!

Keep up to date on the latest public health orders and advice by visiting

[saskatchewan.ca/COVID19](https://www.saskatchewan.ca/COVID19)

Saskatchewan 

Community helps library through tough 2020

By Dian Campbell

The year 2020 has been challenging for all of us. Public libraries, like all businesses, have had to adapt, change and cope with a new way of operating. We have risen to the challenge, proving that libraries are resilient and able to adapt and can continue to thrive and provide essential library services to the Shellbrook community. We could not have done this without the help of our patrons, Wapiti Headquarters, and local businesses. We would like to take time to show appreciation to those



Book lots for our online book auction.

that have helped our library to make it through this challenging year.

First and foremost we appreciate our patrons. Your support and adaptation to the new COVID rules and regulations has allowed us to continue to remain open. Patrons borrowing materials, taking part in our on-line book clubs, take-home activity kits for children, and the use of our Wapiti online services to order in materials have kept us busy and productive.

To the Town of Shellbrook and R.M. of Shellbrook, we are grateful for your continued support with the use of this wonderful large facility and continued funding through community grants.

To Wapiti Headquarters, we give gratitude for the hard work they have done to ensure a safe and healthy environment for patrons and library staff. We were one of the first regions to re-open, and to be able to once again provide inter-library resources and online resources.

To the many businesses in Shellbrook that support our library with materials and sponsorship of our FREE WIFI service, we appreciate you. For the Month of December our WIFI sponsor is the Shellbrook Kinettes. Other sponsors this year included The Bank of Nova Scotia, MJW Accounting, Mumm's Seeds, The Lafond Family, The Batten Family, The Shellbrook Pharmacy, and Shellbrook Bigway. We



New paint in our children's area.

are pleased to offer this free service to our community.

As a physical book sale was not able to happen this year, the Shellbrook library board got busy and created an online used book auction as a fundraiser for the library. It was a huge success. Much appreciation to those who donated books for the auction, those who came in to photograph and bundle the book lots, and of course to all who participated and purchased materials. Gratitude to Laura for being our online Facebook organizer. We could not have

done this without you.

A special round of gratitude to the anonymous family who donated paint for the Library. Your donation allowed us to spend our down-time making the library a colourful inviting place to come back to. It looks bright, cheery and welcoming.

The Shellbrook Library is open to the public (with a limit of 5 persons) during our regular library hours. Monday 2-6 p.m., Tuesday 12-8 p.m., Wednesday 2-8 p.m., Thursday 12-6 p.m., and Friday 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

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Rabbit Lake News December 2020

By Alan Laughlin

It is beginning to look a lot like Christmas here in Rabbit Lake. The street decorations are up and a welcome greeting as we drive into the village in the evenings. Additionally, many residents have lit up their eaves and placed decorations which bring life and vitality to community. One especially nice display can be found at the home of Marvin and Linda Price!

On Nov. 29, the Rabbit Lake Senior Sunrise Circle held its annual turkey shoot. According to the seniors of the community, this event has run continuously since the late 50s. Originally the event had the shooting in the old 2 sheet curling rink, with a bingo and a supper in the community hall. At that time the curling club sponsored the event.

Eventually the community hall board took over

running the turkey shoot and the whole event, with some modifications, took place at the community hall. Most recently, the seniors' group have sponsored the turkey shoot and held the shoot at the hall and the bingo at the seniors' hall. This year there was no bingo due to COVID restrictions and the actual shoot was held with complete precautions in place.

Not many actually came to the shoot but those who did had fun and some went home with turkeys! The top shooters were Brian Jones, with a score of 27 out of 30, and Patrick Laughlin, with a score of 28 out of 30. Additionally, turkeys were won by Doreen Lamb, Kathy Aumack, Marie Balazsi, Eric Kuffert, Rhonda Prescesky, Melissa Rowland, Colleen Toews and Margaret Seigel. I think

that Karen Vallee had the most fun at the turkey shoot this year. Ask her all about it! Appreciation to Patrick Laughlin for being the range officer this year.

Surprisingly, the first term for both regular and post secondary education will be complete by December 18th. Hanna Dzialo Hansen is attending her first year of college in Vermillion. Hanna was awarded a \$500 dollar scholarship from the Royal Canadian Legion, for which she is very grateful.

Ice shacks are beginning to fill in the landscape at the lake. Although reports suggest that there is ample ice around the shore, it remains questionable farther out. Ice fishing can be a great way to fill time alone or in family groups while remaining socially distanced or in family

bubbles, but be very careful to check the ice depth and stay safe.

Due to pandemic concerns, the annual Rabbit Lake and District Agricultural Association snowmobile rally that typically would be held on the first Saturday in March, will not happen this year. A few years

ago, the community purchased an AED which is housed at Rose Gill Lodge, but is available to all the community should an emergency occur. This device requires systematic maintenance such as batteries and other supplies and that comes with an ongoing cost. At its last meeting the Ag As-

sociation agreed to fund the necessary updates for around \$300.

Finally, and most importantly, the community of Rabbit Lake wishes each and everyone a very Merry Christmas and looks forward to a new year that is much different from 2020! Enjoy the holidays and stay safe!

Did you know?

Celebrating the new year on January 1 is a relatively recent phenomenon. The calendar as we know it today has evolved several times and months have gone by different names.

On the early Roman calendar, March was the first month of the 10-month calendar. That is why the last four months of the year have prefixes that coordinate with the seventh (September), eighth (October), ninth (November), and tenth (December) numerals.

King Numa Pompilius reformed the calendar around 700 BCE by adding the months of January and February to the original 10 months. But the calendar still required some additional tweaking to be more aligned with the seasons.

In 46 B.C., Julius Caesar introduced

a solar-based calendar that was an improvement on the ancient Roman one, which was lunar-based. During this time, the month of Quintilis was renamed July in honor of Julius Caesar and Sextilis was renamed August in honor of Augustus.

Shortly after the introduction of the solar calendar, the beginning of the year was moved from March 1 to Jan. 1.



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

SPIRITWOOD: Wapiti Regional Library - Limited Capacity. Tuesday 9 am - 5 pm; Wednesday 9 am - 5 pm; Friday 9 am - 5 pm

LEOVILLE: Wapiti Regional Library - Appointment only. Wednesday 10 am - 4 pm; Thursday 10 am - 2 pm

SHELL LAKE: Wapiti Regional Library - Curb Side Pickup. Tuesday 12 pm - 4 pm; Wednesday 12 pm - 4 pm

BLAINE LAKE: Wapiti Library - Appointment only. Wednesday 12 pm - 6 pm; Friday 1 pm - 5 pm; Saturday 12 pm - 4 pm. Contact us for more info 306-497-3130, www.wapitilibrary.ca.

BIG RIVER: Wapiti Library - Curb Side Pickup. Monday 12:30 pm - 4:30 pm; Wednesday 12:30 pm - 4:30 pm; Friday 12:30 pm - 4:30 pm

CANWOOD: Canwood Branch of Wapiti Regional Library. Appointment only. Tuesday 10 am - 3 pm; Thursday 10 am - 4 pm; Friday 1 pm - 5 pm

DEBDEN: Wapiti Library hours: Appointment only. Monday 2 pm - 7 pm; Tuesday 10 am - 4 pm. Librarian: Aline Hannon

LEASK: Wapiti Library & Legacy Gallery Hours - Limited Capacity. Tuesday 10:30 am - 5 pm; Friday 10:30 am - 5 pm; Saturday 1 pm - 5 pm

MARCELIN: Wapiti Library - Appointment only. Tuesday 2 pm - 7 pm; Thursday 2 pm - 8 pm; Saturday 9 am - 2 pm. For information on all your library needs, please contact 306-226-2110.

SHELLBROOK: Shellbrook Branch of the Wapiti Library located at 105 Railway Ave., West (Provincial building). Library Hours: Limited capacity - Monday 2 pm - 6:30 pm; Tuesday 12 pm - 8 pm; Wednesday 2 pm - 8 pm; Thursday 12 pm - 6:30 pm; Friday 9 am - 4 pm.

SPIRITWOOD: Witchehan Wildlife Federation - There will be no horn scoring this year. However, we will accept big game, angling & bird entries that have been scored or weighed in 2020! Entries will be accepted until December 31, 2020. Any questions, contact: Lyla 306-841-8284 or Eric 306-883-2835 / 306-619-9214

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A year in sports to forget

The best thing about 2020 is that it's almost over.

Can 2021 or '22 possibly be worse? Not a chance. Or so the world hopes.

The COVID-19 pandemic killed hundreds of thousands of people around the world and, in a truly immaterial sidebar, dealt chaos and confusion to the world of sports.

Professional sports leagues stopped abruptly in mid-March, leaving league officials, team owners, players, fans and TV networks in the dark for a couple of months about what the future might hold. Thousands of people were suddenly on the unemployment lines — people who sold hot dogs, took tickets and provided stadium security, among dozens of other tasks associated with a game of a professional team sport.

No longer will a pitcher's injured elbow, a basketball player's torn Achilles tendon or a hockey player's broken nose

be regarded as the worst thing that could possibly happen to a player. Having his or her job suddenly taken away is worse.

The sport least affected by the COVID-19 outbreak was professional football, at least in the United States. The National Football League's season wrapped up with the Super Bowl in early February, and the pandemic reared its ugly head in North America in March, so the NFL had a full six months to put in place a plan to run its 2020 season. It's been able to, with only a few pandemic-related hiccups. Pro hockey and pro basketball resumed action, in bubble setups, to determine champions and, for the most part, it worked, even though fans could watch the action only on television or streaming services. Baseball manufactured a modified season and determined a champion. Will there be asterisks beside the titles won by the NHL's Tampa Bay Light-



BRUCE
PENTON

ning, the NBA's Los Angeles Lakers and MLB's L.A. Dodgers? Probably, but the victories were legit.

Too bad for the Canadian Football League, however. While NHL, MLB and NBA teams have owners with deep pockets, and able to absorb a season without fans, the same could not be said for the CFL, which abandoned the 2020 season entirely, while making plans for a full restart in June, 2021.

Professional golf was another sport that semi-survived the pandemic. It took three months off, rearranged its schedule,

resumed in mid-June, did regular testing of its players, allowed no spectators, and TV networks reaped the benefits of regular sports programming.

Sports fans have been promised — no guarantees, though — of a near-normal 2021. The NHL and NBA are both planning late-starting, shortened seasons, with regular players in mid-2021. MLB is on track for a late-winter start. Post-vaccine, fans will be allowed to return, merchandise will be sold, raucous cheering will fill the stadiums and beer will be spilled.

And if we're lucky, we can program our minds to forget that 2020 even happened.

• Dwight Perry of the Seattle Times: "The No. 19 who made the biggest impact in pro-football history was: a) Unitas; b) Alworth; c) COVID"

• Saints coach Sean Payton, after his team's 31-3 win over hometown Denver Broncos, who played

the NFL game without a legitimate quarterback, thanks to COVID-19: "I felt bad for the cardboard fans."

• Comedy writer Alex Kaseberg: "Anthony Davis has re-signed with the Lakers for a five-year deal for \$190 million. That works out to \$190 million for each of his eyebrows."

• Kaseberg again: "Fifty-four-year-old Mike Tyson and 51-year-old Roy Jones Jr. fought to a draw. They're talking about a rematch in Las Vegas. It will be billed as 'The Geezers at Caesars.'"

• RJ Currie of sports-deke.com: "Scientists say video evidence has proven fetuses can yawn hundreds of times in the womb. Thousands of times if Mom is a New York Jets fan."

• Headline at fark.com, after the Russell Westbrook-to-Washington Wizards trade for John Wall: "Washington is finally giving Texas a Wall."

• Dwight Perry again: "The Ravens-Steelers game, originally sched-

uled for Nov. 26, was moved to Nov. 29 and then Nov. 30 because of COVID-19 before finally getting played on Dec. 1. Broncos fans — forced to watch their team play on without a bona fide QB — are calling for an illegal shift."

• Raiders coach Jon Gruden, to reporters, on what it was like watching film of his team's 43-6 loss to the Falcons: "When you go to the dentist and have to have your teeth pulled out? It's pretty much like that."

• Ryan Brown of Birmingham's WJOX Radio, via Twitter, after watching six consecutive quarters of Kentucky football: "Hoping if I'm ever convicted of a major crime this will count as time served."

• Rapper Snoop Dogg, commentating on the pay-per-view telecast of the Tyson-Jones fight: "Like two of my uncles fighting at a barbecue!"

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

Federal government unveils new climate plan

In a move Saskatchewanians will likely see as the equivalent of receiving a lump of coal for Christmas, the federal government has unveiled its revised plan to combat global climate change and meet Canada's Paris Accord commitments.

Announced last Friday, the strategy includes more than \$15 billion in funding and incentives for green vehicles and infrastructure. However, the plan's centrepiece is to hike the federal carbon tax to \$170 per tonne by 2030.

"During the campaign, our government committed to exceed Canada's existing 2030 climate target and support new jobs for Canadians," Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said while revealing the plan.

"Today, we have delivered our plan to reach that goal. At the same time, we are laying out new, more ambitious targets for the coming years. Canada will continue to lead in the fight against climate change."

Up until last Friday's announcement, the carbon tax was expected to climb by \$10 each year and cap out at \$50 per tonne in 2022. Prior to the 2019 federal election, then Environment Minister Catherine McKenna said the tax would not increase after this.

Under the new plan, the levy will climb by \$15 per tonne, starting in 2023, until it reaches its new cap of \$170 per tonne in 2030.

Alongside the carbon tax, the rebates issued to Canadians will also continue to climb. For an average Saskatchewan family of four, a \$170 per tonne carbon tax would mean \$3,829 in annual rebates, doled out quarterly.

"The increasing price will make cleaner options more affordable and discourage pollution-intensive investments," said the government in its 79-page plan.

"A longer price trajectory will allow businesses and individuals to plan ahead, providing predict-

ability for longer-term investments and growing the market for clean solutions in Canada."

On the flip side of the rebate coin, the rising carbon tax will also mean an increase in prices at the pumps and in the cost of groceries, home heating, and other items.

As of 2022, it was expected that Canadians would be spending an extra 12 cents per litre on gasoline. With the new plan, Canadians can expect to be paying an extra 39.6 cents per litre of gasoline by 2020.

However, government officials would not provide an estimate on the effect the increase would have on home heating costs across the country, noting that will change depending on the energy source and how Canadians use the retrofit incentives being rolled out through the plan.

Responding to the climate plan, Saskatchewan Premier Scott Moe, who has been adamant about getting the carbon tax overturned, blasted the fed-

eral government for being dishonest, and for failing to consult the provinces.

"Justin Trudeau and Catherine McKenna lied to Canadians," Moe said in a statement Friday. "Just before the last election they vowed that they would not raise the carbon tax. Trudeau has now announced that the carbon tax will be jacked up nearly six times what it is today by 2030."

Moe's statement triggered a response from Environment Minister Jonathan Wilkinson, who rejected the idea that the government had been dishon-

est about its carbon tax plans. Wilkinson said the plan is just a proposal, and consultations with provinces will happen later on.

Wilkinson went on to call Moe's comments "unhelpful," and criticized him as "coming of as a climate sceptic."

Moe, meanwhile, said Saskatchewan "will continue fighting this ineffective and unconstitutional carbon tax."

The province took its arguments to the Supreme Court of Canada in September to challenge the tax.

It is still awaiting a decision.

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OBITUARIES

~

*David Wayne Burt**(RCAF Warrant Officer Ret'd)*

BURT, David Wayne

At the Grove Nursing Home in Arnprior on Saturday morning, December 5, 2020, David passed away at the age of 77.

Cherished husband and best friend of Louise (nee Ferguson). Loved "Dad" of Tara Burt-Wadman (Ed Wadman) of Para-

dise, N.S. and Darren Burt (Tina) of Pembroke. Proud and cherished "Grampa" of Tawnya Youden (Tyler), Shayne Clendenning (Courtney), Todd Clendenning (Alynn), Alek Burt and Jayden Burt. "Great-Grandpa" of Keeley, Paisley, Lyra, Thea, Ethan and Emma. Dear brother of Donna Neil (late George), Lawrence Burt (Doris), Murray Burt (Thelma), Ruth Loepky (late Henry) and Barbara Eymann. Predeceased by his parents Roland and Olive Burt; his brothers Neil (Debbie) and Richard Burt as well as his parents-in-law: Les and Peggy Ferguson. Also survived by many nieces and nephews.

David's final care and arrangements were entrusted to the Pilon Family Funeral Home and Chapel Ltd., 50 John Street North, Arnprior. Extended family and friends were invited to join us for a live webcast Tribute on Saturday afternoon, December 12th at 2 o'clock.

In memory of David, please consider a donation to your local Humane Society or The Grove Nursing Home Re-development Fund.

Condolences/Memories/Donations/Webcast pilonfamily.ca

*Karen Goodwin*

GOODWIN – Karen

It is with sadness that the family of Karen Vi-

ola Goodwin announce her passing on December 7th, 2020 at the age of 73.

Karen leaves to cherish her memory; her loving husband Frank and their family; Kevin, Lisa (Dale) and their children: Shaylene and Jesse, her sisters: Lorraine (Gordon) Selkirk, Marilyn (Peter) Lamothe, her brother-in-law Scott Reed, numerous nieces, nephews, other family and many friends. Karen is predeceased by

her sister Maureen Reed and her parents; Carman and Viola Weir.

A Celebration of Life will be held in Big River in May 2021. Donations in memory of Karen may be directed to the Lakewood Lodge Auxiliary in Big River, SK. Those wishing to send online condolences are welcome to visit www.beaulacfuneralhome.com Arrangements entrusted to Beau "Lac" Funeral Home, Lori Saam, Spiritwood, 306-883-3500.

Svend Sigfred Jacobsen

SVEND SIGFRED JACOBSEN

December 1, 1925 – December 7, 2020

Sigfred was born on December 1, 1925 in Denmark where he was raised after spending some time in the Danish Army. Following the Second World War he emigrated to Canada in 1952 where he worked for his uncle at his farm at Stump Lake north

of Canwood. After his uncle passed away, Sigfred worked on a ranch in south central Alberta and also spent a winter as a bartender in Uranium City.

In 1964 Sigfred move to Canwood to start a bakery which he operated for a number of years before relocating it to Hudson Bay where he stayed for a few years before selling out and returning to Canwood to work at Greenland John Deere Equipment and following that business several years later when it became Parkland Equipment in Prince Albert.

On June 22, 1990 he married Dorothy Ann Louise Ferguson from Prince Albert. The couple moved to an acreage in the pines just a few miles out of Canwood where they were very

happy for 9 years. Sadly cancer claimed the life of his Dorothy much too soon on February 7, 1999. Sigfred is also predeceased by his parents, 3 brothers and 3 sisters in Denmark.

Svend Sigfred Jacobson passed away peacefully in Shellbrook Hospital on December 7, 2020. His humorous stories and vivid presence will be missed by all who knew him.

Rest in Peace Sigfred. Due to the COVID-19 restrictions no services will be held at this time.

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, Mark Muir, Funeral Director, Spiritwood (306-883-3500).

GOOD NEWS

~

PREPARING THE WAY

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

We know that God loves us for who we are and for whom we can become. There is nothing that will stop God from loving us and wanting the best life for each of us and peace is essential for us to receive the benefits of a good life. It is through the life and teachings of Jesus Christ that we learn about the good way of living as Christ taught us. Jesus taught us that God's love has no limit what-so-ever. We are assured, that through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, we learn that the forces of evil cannot overcome the love of God. The Great Spirit's love of us is much stronger than death.

This week as I was studying the letter to Philippians, Chapter 1 verses 3-11, I was struck how three things tied together: peace, repentance and love-love that is filled with knowledge and insight. I would ask that you follow me and I pray that in your thinking God may speak to you personally today.

I believe that all caring

people want peace in this world. I believe that we want more than the absence of war; we want true peace that is justice for all and the sharing of all the resources of the world in a just and equitable manner. Peace that is filled with love, joy and hope for the future. This would be the same peace that the Israelites hoped for in the arrival of the Messiah.

I ask you to look at Mark, Chapter one sometime, or indeed the first few chapters of any of the Gospels. Ask yourself, what is God trying to tell us about being prepared for the coming of Christ? The words the Creator speaks through John the Baptist-- "Prepare the way of the Lord" are quoted many times in the Bible. What is the relationship between preparing the way for the Prince of Peace, in our own lives, and also in the lives of the rest of the people of the world?

Peace is perhaps the greatest social and political need that our world has today. We pray that peace be everlasting. I believe that we can only

prepare for the Prince of Peace by making the paths straight, and the rough way smooth. I believe that by living our lives and our personal commitment to what peace really is, and through our commitment to who God really is, and what the kingdom of God is all about—the essence of peace, we can achieve peace in our world. We make ourselves ready, and the world ready, for the reign of the Prince of Peace by striving to be peacemakers, and we can only become peacemakers when we ourselves live by the laws of peace, the laws given by our God, and by Jesus the Christ. That is why all the different 12 step groups that I am aware of insist that we make a list of all persons we have harmed and be willing to make amends to them all, except when to do so would injure them or others. We have to be at peace with ourselves before we can be at peace with others and the God of our understanding. That is the message in all four Gospels.

Real people, and not just dreams communi-

cate God's call to us. Real people and not just visions, show us god's way of peace. Real people, not just heavenly revelations, lead us toward God's kingdom, and prepares us for God's work in our lives. God's grace, my friends, is upon all of us. All we have to do is lift up our eyes to see it, and open our hearts so the Great Spirit's power may work in us. We can straighten out the paths of the Lord on this earth and make the rough places smooth, when we live by the love of Jesus, and by his love alone. This is the

only way that we can receive our

God and it is the only way that our world can be made ready for his coming into our everyday lives.

Remember, God is love, each and every day of our lives and when we live our lives with our Creator's love in our hearts, we will have a fruitful life and peace in our hearts. When we truly repent and ask for forgiveness of our mis-steps on this earth, we will be truly following what Jesus asked of us. We can prepare ourselves and we can prepare our

world, for true peace, everlasting peace, by living our personal lives under the guidance of Christ's love and wisdom and insight. All it takes is humility and the desire to walk in the path of the Great Spirit.

With peace in our everyday lives, repenting of the errors in our ways and our lives, and filled with love of ourselves, others and God's creation – we will be living a holy, spirit-filled life. Our lives will be fulfilled beyond our wildest dreams. Have a Blessed Advent season.

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14

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2-51

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3-53

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Thank you to everyone who sent us cards, phone calls, texts, flowers, gifts and food.

Big thanks to all my family for seeing me through the worst time and for their help and encouragement.

Special thanks to the Spiritwood Home Care nurses that came to the farm every day to care for me.

Thanks so much, Margaret McNabb

MEMORIAM

IN MEMORY OF



Frank Zawada
August 31, 1931 – December 19, 2018
Time speeds on
Two years are gone
Your presence we miss
Your memory we treasure
Loving you always
Forgetting you never
Sadly we are left
With the heartache
That never goes away.
Your loving wife
Jean, Craig
(Dianne), Ross,
Lana (Dale), Bev

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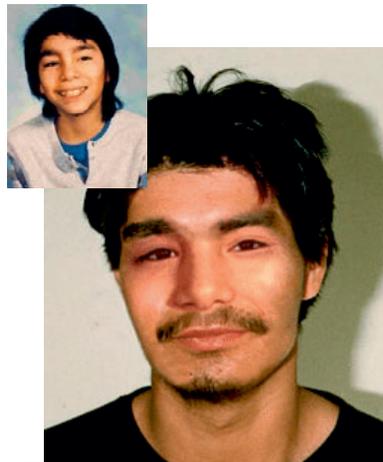


Photo age-enhanced to 30 years (2006)

Missing: Kevin Charles

Date of Birth: Aug 7, 1976
FROM: Chitek Lake, SK
Weight: 120 Lbs.
Eyes: Brown
MISSING SINCE: Apr 3, 1993
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Hair: Dark Brown
File: 3065 - U

PARTICULARS: Birthmark on upper left arm. Scar over right eye. Allergic to green peppers.

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Christmas Trees – the rest of the story

By Patricia Hanbidge

The last couple of weeks, we have been focusing on Christmas trees. Today, the focus will still be on Christmas trees but will focus on another part of the industry.

This article stems from a conversation with Ray Gaudet of Gaudet Trees located close to Prince Albert Saskatchewan. How I met Ray was through Master Gardener Leo Mareschal who has had a partnership with Gaudet Trees for over thirty years selling Christmas trees behind what was Mayfair Hardware on 33rd St in Saskatoon.

Learning what happens to a tree over the ten to twenty years of the life of the tree prior to filling your house with the scent of the forest is really quite interesting. Speaking with Ray, he shared that this year was definitely the most challenging year he has ever experienced as a Christmas tree grower and broker.

Growing quality trees is for sure challenging as each and every year every single tree needs to be touched to promote appropriate growth for this industry. There is a wide array of tasks done over the years including initially preparing the ground, planting the stock, irrigation, pre-shearing care, basal and leader care and shearing, side shearing, pest, disease and weed management and then of course harvesting, wrapping and shipping the stock.

The multitude of skills and equipment to get us beautiful real Christmas trees every year is almost unbelievable.



Christmas trees in growth.

Gaudet Trees has been in this business for many years and in addition to supplying the landscape industry, helps grow a variety of non-profits from Whitehorse, the NWT and throughout Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba by brokering these organizations with trees to sell to their community each Christmas.

Ray and his wife are doing more than just growing trees as is really typical for those involved in any aspect of the horticultural industry.

If you have driven on Highway 11 north to Prince Albert, you can see some of the love they are sharing with each and everyone of us. They have planted a forest to leave behind along the highway by managing their tree business by not clear cutting but instead choosing to harvest sustainably and to leave behind trees to grow to

maturity and beautify our land and provide natural environments for all our feathered and furred friends of the forest.

There needs to be love connected to your life's work and having intimate knowledge of ecosystems and environments allows better management of our lands. Ray shared that this year, he couldn't manage to hire labourer help at a cushy \$18 per hour due to many potential labourer employees collecting benefits due to COVID-19 and not willing to work hard for a few extra dollars each month.

For Gaudet Trees the tasks associated for growing Christmas trees run all season long and ramp up in October when harvest preparations are finalized. The cut occurs in November, and culminates when trees are shipped. The heavy snowfall buried cut trees and added to the challenges of getting the trees to market.

The only benefit of everyone wearing masks was an added layer that helped to keep faces warm while the harvest was occurring, as meeting guidelines ensured the day was long as even meals were eaten outside for safety reasons.

Frustrations over the management of our lands by people who do not have firsthand knowledge of best practice but make the regulations is tough on growers who really care about ensuring good stewardship of our lands.

Watch for the new sign that Ray will be erecting in the hope of helping to educate the public on best practice

on leaving an appropriate background profile or border area between cultivated and natural areas that may not be pristine but essential to sustainable management of lands and the wildlife that lives there.

Ray believes an area should be left that is twenty feet wide and ten feet high. Think about that when you see the new sign Re Wild.... Bring Nature Back!

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

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