

Shellbrook Chronicle

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New ice resurfacer arrives in Shellbrook



It was a delicate process, but (with some help from Jay Ferster, and Livewire Electric) Dale Piprell was able to guide the Shellbrook Recreation Complex's new ice resurfacing machine onto the back of a flat bed before it touched down safely on solid ground.

It arrived a little later than anticipated, but the Shellbrook Recreation Complex now has its new ice resurfacing machine.

The machine, a brand new Olympia Millennium H Ice Resurfacer worth \$135,000, arrived in the back of a semi last Thursday afternoon, just in time for league and provincial playoffs to kick the hockey season into full swing.

After a lengthy and delicate process, which required the ice resurfacer to be transferred to a flat-bed (provided by Livewire Electric and Curtis Bloom) truck before it could safely touch down on solid ground, the machine was permanently moved into its new home in the rink's flood room beside the old ice resurfacer – that machine still saw some use over

the weekend, as the new machine was low on natural gas, and comes with a learning curve.

Though the machine was originally expected to arrive in Shellbrook in time for Hockey Day in Shellbrook 2019, Dale Piprell, the man who spends a lot of time atop the ice resurfacer, said he was glad it ended up being late, as the busiest two days of the year at the rink would have made for a terrible time to be learning the ropes.

In particular, Piprell explained that one of the biggest challenges would be transitioning to the all electronic systems of the new machine, from the mechanical systems in the old ice resurfacer. However, he noted that even that change will just be a matter of learning which buttons do what.

Learning curve aside, Piprell said that the new ice resurfacer will also be far safer than its older counterpart – thanks in no small part to the fact that it's new, but also because it runs on natural gas.

The new machine's arrival signals the official completion of phase one of the Shellbrook Recreation Project Steering Committee's three-year plan to completely overhaul and update the Shellbrook Recreation Complex.

Aside from the \$135,000 purchase of the new ice resurfacer, the committee also oversaw the purchase of a \$7,000 edger, the purchase and installation of a brand new, \$400,000 ice plant to service both the hockey and curling rinks, the completion of

\$50,000 of unexpected repairs to the flood room, and a number of smaller ticket items like new doors.

With phase one a thing of the past, phase two, which will include the purchase and installation a new ice floor and new boards, is set to get started after hockey season is over, and conclude in time for the beginning of the next hockey season.

The new ice floor is expected to carry a price tag of at least \$400,000, while the new boards will cost in the neighbourhood of \$235,000.

Tenders for the new ice floor surface officially closed on Jan. 31, and the committee is in the process of reviewing the bids to determine the best contractor for the job.



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Ratepayers air concerns at annual town hall

By Jordan Twiss

Despite the frigid conditions outside, about 50 ratepayers gathered in the Shellbrook Community Hall last Wednesday evening, when the town of Shellbrook hosted a town hall session.

Though most in attendance were seeking information on a different matter, Mayor George Tomporowski began the meeting by providing a snapshot update of the town's ongoing work and future plans for municipal infrastructure.

Beginning with water and sewer, Tomporowski explained that the town has relined about 1,500 metres of sewer line since it began its relining program five years ago. Noting that the relining will extend the life of the pipes by 30 to 40 years, he said the town is happy with the results it had to date, but noted that there was still work to finish.

"We still have a number of years to go to have all of the old concrete and clay tile pipe relined, but we've completed what we believe are the worst sections," he said. "Now, what we have left to do is a bit lower risk, but we'll continue to do it."

Similarly, Tomporowski said that the town intends to continue its valve replacement program, in an effort to make dealing with any potential water issues that arise less of an inconvenience for ratepayers.

Where in the past a water line break could mean shutting off service to half the town, Tomporowski said that this work will make it so that the town can isolate smaller sections of the town while repair work is done.

Because this is a smaller project, Tomporowski said that one of the challenges has been finding contractors to take on the work. Be-

cause of this, he explained, the town has been setting aside money for the work each year so that it can put out larger tenders for larger contracts about every other year.

Sticking with water infrastructure, Tomporowski spoke at length about the town's water treatment plant, noting that the town had made some upgrades to the facility to update its controls to current day standards.

While that work has been done, Tomporowski outlined a number of other upgrades the town would like to complete, including increasing the town's water storage capacity, and installing a third greensand filter, which would act as a back-up in case of a problem with the town's water.

Elsewhere, Tomporowski also touched on the possibility of changing to gas from solid chlorine, but said there are some safety concerns that go along with that.

Moving on to talk about roads, Tomporowski began by explaining that the pavement on Main Street is about 40 years old, and that the town will likely have to repave and replace the surface.

"That's a fairly expensive operation, probably around \$50,000 to \$60,000 a block to do it. But we can stage it," he said.

Looking down the pipeline, Tomporowski said that one of the town's goals is to complete the regrade on 2nd Avenue West from Spencer Drive out to Highway 3. That, however comes with a few challenges.

"Because of the creek and the fact that it's fish-bearing, it's going to be a significant amount of money to redo that piece of roadway, because we have to replace

the bridge," he explained, noting that the cost just to replace the bridge would be in the neighbourhood of \$600,000.

Meanwhile, the town is already in the midst of adding a second access to Parkland Integrated Health Centre. That road, which begins on 2nd Street West just north of the Hidden Hills of Shellbrook Golf Course, will go straight to the west and into the facility's parking lot.

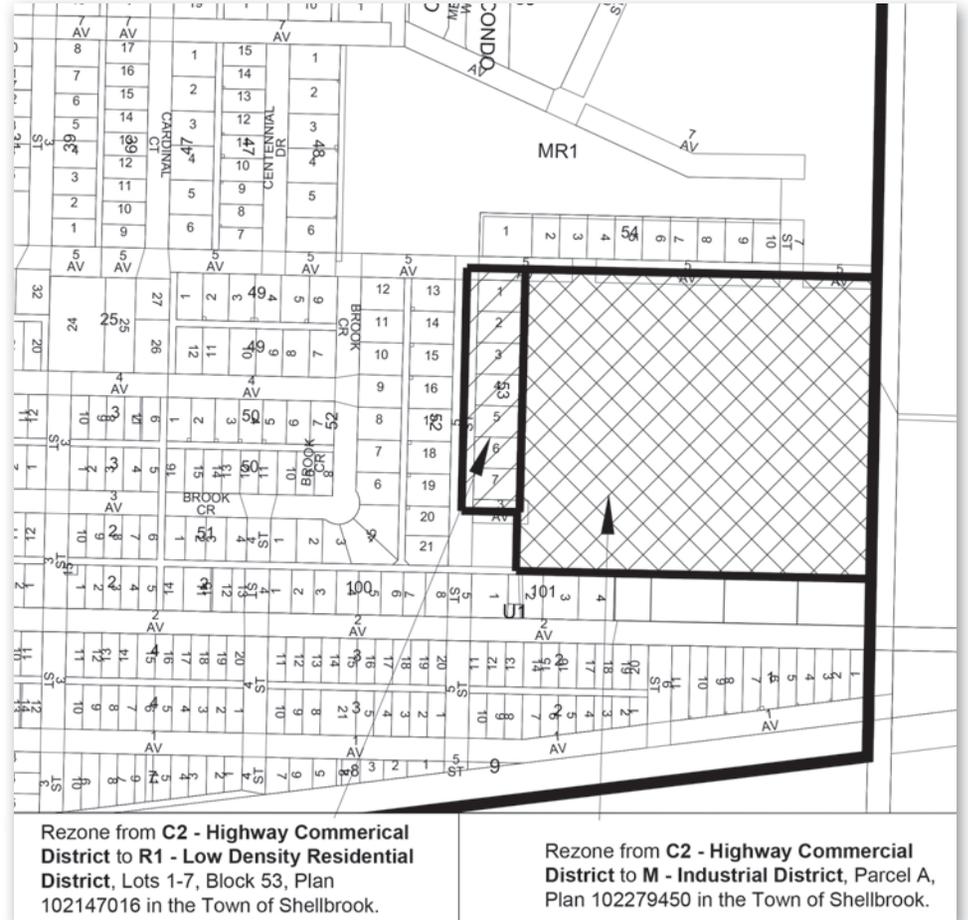
Returning to 2nd Avenue West, Tomporowski said the town would like to reduce dust on the roadway. Because paving would come with a cost of about \$400,000, he said the town would likely choose to seal it instead.

Shifting gears to one of the topics that seemed to bring ratepayers out, Tomporowski moved on to talk about the town's proposed changes to the Water and Sewer Bylaw.

Tomporowski began by outlining that the town's goal is to improve water quality, and thereby improve residents' quality of life, as well as extend the lifespan of municipal infrastructure and household items like hot water tanks.

One option the town is exploring, is a switch to a blended reverse osmosis system. However, this change could easily cost in the neighbourhood of \$2 million, and Tomporowski said that the town only had \$326,000 in reserves for this, and for other water infrastructure upgrades, as of December 2018.

To help make up the shortfall, the town's proposed bylaw would eliminate minimum usage billing, in favour of a per usage model. Under the model, water would cost 12 cents per 100 gallons used, while sewer would cost 8 cents per 100 gallons used.



If the town of Shellbrook proceeds with its plans, the area outlined will be rezoned to industrial, to allow for Lake Country Co-op to consolidate its agriculture services, and sell fertilizer. The plan has drawn criticism from a number of ratepayers, who are concerned about the impact of the development on the health of residents in the area, and on property values.

The town would also set the service rate at \$82.32 for 2019, with rates increasing by two per cent each year over the course of five years.

Furthermore, the town would no longer do seasonal or vacancy disconnects, and it would also introduce a number of extra possible charges, including account set-up fees for new residents, connecting and disconnecting service fees for repair, admin fees where they apply, and temporary service fees where required.

Despite these changes, Tomporowski said that most ratepayers' bills would be "about the same." And in response to a question from a ratepayer, he said that prices would hopefully go down once the town had made the switch to the blended RO system.

However, he couldn't make any promises.

"One of the things we find with water, is that every time we think we're close to being caught up, the environmental folks that make the regulations about how you operate and deliver come along and say, 'By the way now you've got to do this and this and this.'

"It seems like the price never goes down for what we have to do."

Rezoning plan draws ratepayers' ire

In what was the most contentious portion of the town hall, Tomporowski next brought up the issue of land development, and in particular a proposal from Lake Country Co-op to consolidate its agriculture services and build a fertilizer plant on the east side of town.

Currently, the town has applied for and gone through the process of re-

zoning the area (see the attached map) to industrial from highway commercial. But beyond this, Co-op has yet to submit any concrete plans for the proposed facility.

Despite the fact that little is known about the proposed facility, ratepayers still had many concerns and questions for council, most of them having to do with the facility's proximity to residential areas and Happy Hearts Childcare Centre.

"I'm all for having new businesses in Shellbrook, or expanding the current ones. I think it's great to see it growing. However, we moved by the daycare, and when we moved, it was not mentioned at all that this plant was coming in. It was supposed to be all residential," said one ratepayer, whose sentiments were echoed often throughout the evening.

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Send your resumes to recdirector@townofshellbrook.ca or drop off at the Town Office by February 22nd at 4 pm.

For more information please contact Jessica Kernohan at 306-747-4949 or email recdirector@townofshellbrook.ca

Shellbrook Senior Centre

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Report from the Legislature

Saskatchewan is a national leader in manufacturing sales and wholesale trade growth. This is an encouraging sign of our economic resilience. Coupled with strong job numbers, we can be optimistic that our economy will continue to grow and create opportunity for Saskatchewan people.

Agriculture is a key driver of our economy and plays an essential role on a global scale. Continued investments in research are vital to ensuring producers are growing what the world needs in the most efficient and sustainable way possible.

At the recent CropSphere conference in Saskatoon, in partnership with producers and the Government of Canada, the Government of Saskatchewan announced support for dozens of new crop and livestock and forage-related research projects.

These investments help to cement Saskatchewan's status as a leader in agriculture research and create even more opportunities for our producers and agribusinesses, which in turn increases the competitiveness of our industry.

These investments also help to grow our reputation as an internationally recog-

nized leader in the biosciences. Continued investment also helps to attract more world leaders in the field to our province, fostering continued innovation.

Innovation and technology play a critical role in growing our economy.

Our province is home to a thriving technology sector, and our government is encouraging its growth through the Made in Saskatchewan Technology (MIST) Program. The program is designed to find solutions from the province's technology-based companies whose products may improve public service delivery. Innovation Saskatchewan has now started accepting applications. To learn more about the MIST Program and how to apply, visit innovationsask.ca.

Our technology sector continues to punch above its

weight, and we want to keep it growing into the future. If you have a tech startup idea, you can also check out our Saskatchewan Technology Start-up Incentive.

Thank you to all entrepreneurs for their hard work and commitment to growing industry and opportunity in Saskatchewan.

Modernizing regulations

and cutting the red tape is a priority of the Government of Saskatchewan. Unnecessary regulation and red tape costs business, residents and the governments millions of dollars and thousands of hours in lost time every year.

The Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB) recently recognized Saskatchewan for its ongoing leadership in red tape reduction by setting clear targets as well as measuring and reporting the regulatory burden. In 2017-18, regulatory modernization efforts were forecast to achieve \$132.9 million in savings over the next 10 years—across government and Crown corporations.

The Government of Saskatchewan has also introduced the 'Help Cut Red Tape' web page, which is an easy, practical way for entrepreneurs to submit their

red tape headaches directly to the government and have them addressed.

Saskatchewan's efforts to modernize regulations and reduce red tape have earned our province the CFIB's highest A grade in its 2019 Red Tape Report Card.

Effective red tape reduction also means addressing inter-provincial regulatory irritants. Saskatchewan actively participates as a member of the Regulatory Reconciliation and Cooperation Table, as part of the Canada Free Trade Agreement.

Saskatchewan and Ontario are also working with industry to identify opportunities to remove red tape for businesses selling goods or services across Canada.

For more information on how to Help Saskatchewan Cut Red Tape, visit <http://saskatchewan.ca/help-cut-red-tape>.

Rezoning plan draws ratepayers' ire at town hall

Contending that the proposed Co-op facility will drive down property values and make people sick, the ratepayer questioned why council didn't just zone the area as industrial before ratepayers built homes in the area, and asked what research it has done with regards to safety.

Tomprowski responded, explaining that council's research suggests that the proposed facility won't pose any health risks, and that it will have to be at least 300 feet away from any residential areas, and 500 feet away from the daycare.

Moreover, Tomprowski added that dumping would be done inside the proposed facility, with fans to mitigate any dust, and that a tree barrier would be planted to make it less of a nuisance to nearby residents — though he had to concede that it would take time for these trees to grow.

Additionally, Tomprowski noted that the facility would be accessed from Highway 3 via 7th Street East, meaning that trucks wouldn't be rolling through nearby residential neighbours.

Continuing on, he also pointed out that there's already a fertilizer plant in town on the west side of Railway Avenue.

"We have an existing plant that was built in the late 1990s that's been operating since then, within probably a couple hundred feet of existing residential. We've never had any feedback," he said.

Building on Tomprowski's point, councillor Dave Knight told ratepayers that he lives within 150 feet of the current fertilizer plant, and said he didn't know it was there until someone told him about it. He added that the town can't grow without investment from businesses.

"A town this size can't survive without industrial investment. We can't bleed the taxpayers and residents to death to

run this town," he said.

That statement garnered further comments from ratepayers, who argued that putting the proposed facility in close proximity to a residential area wouldn't do anything to help the town's growth. It also drew questions about why the facility couldn't go elsewhere, either further to the east (in the R.M. of Shellbrook), or on the west side of town.

To the latter, Tomprowski responded that businesses just aren't interested in other areas within town limits, because they don't see the same amount of highway traffic. As for locating the proposed facility in the R.M. of Shellbrook, Tomprowski said that wouldn't benefit the town.

"The R.M. does not contribute one penny to any of the services that you're provided within the urban municipality," he said.

To the question of declining property values, Tomprowski argued that property values are determined by the market, and noted that the market is "terribly depressed".

"We have 40 lots in that area that are serviced and ready to go. We certainly haven't had folks lined up at the door waiting to buy them," he said, adding that the town was only selling between six and 10 lots per year when the economy was stronger.

This only prompted further comments from ratepayers, contending that the town won't sell any more lots in the area if the proposed facility is built. This was especially the case when the discussion turned briefly to 5th Avenue East, where Tomprowski said that council had briefly considered opening the road through to 7th Street East.

Having nixed those plans, Tomprowski said the road will

instead end with the possible development of cul de sac.

"You'll never put that cul de sac in, because no one would ever build there," said one ratepayer.

"We're one of the few communities that's going to put an industrial park right on the edge of our community, right up against residential places, and right up against the daycare. I don't see how you could even accept that or even consider it," said another.

Though not an official spokesperson for Lake Country Co-op, a Co-op employee in attendance said that dust has never been a problem at the existing fertilizer plant, even when parking just a few feet away from the facility, and that ratepayers don't need to be concerned.

"I think the word industrial is scaring people, but we're industrial now. The real problem we have right now is there's just not enough space. We're out of space, and we can't grow and can't hire new people," the employee said.

After some further discussion, and the reading of letters from ratepayers, and in the absence of any plans from Lake Country Co-op, the town hall was eventually concluded, leaving many ratepayers hoping that another meeting will be held once more information is available.

Indigenous Services Canada Services aux Autochtones Canada

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“Lonely politicians”

I bet Francois Legault, the premier of Quebec is one of the loneliest politicians on the planet. Probably many others are pretty lonely, too, but none are in the same position as he is in.

For starters, he probably used up his last I-Love-You with the West with his pronouncement that “there was no social acceptability in Quebec for a pipeline.”

His stance pretty much put the boots to the idea of the Energy East pipeline, which would have taken western oil and gas to eastern markets.

I have difficulty understanding anyone’s opposition to a pipeline. It’s not like they are new inventions designed to run roughshod over the terrain, displacing everything and everyone in their path. For most pipelines, if you didn’t know it was there, you wouldn’t know it was there. Once buried and covered with vegetation that grows naturally, the pipeline is hidden, apart from a few monitoring stations along the way.



DAVE
HYNDMAN
~
Columnist

Canada has the most stringent environmental requirements in the world, and while denying projects – such as TransMountain – that have been thwarted due to these requirements, we seem to

have no difficulty allowing oil into the country from places that lack serious environmental controls.

Oh, did I say Saudi Arabia? Not really, but if the shoe fits....

The other issue that Premier Legault has recently been involved with is his claim that “there’s no need for a day devoted to action against Islamophobia because it’s not a problem in [Quebec].”

That stance touched off a vociferous anti-Legault response, particularly from one segment of the population, many of whom felt that a day was indeed necessary, and it ought to be Jan. 29, the anniversary of the tragedy of the Quebec mosque, in which six people were killed.

Legault was able to squirm to safety by explaining that he didn’t really mean it the way it came out.

In both cases, I feel Legault was trying to express ideas in a language with which he isn’t totally comfortable. The guy is French, and he was seeking an explanation in English, and his intent was lost in translation.

In both cases, you wonder if he was wishing he had kept his mouth shut, but if you’re wondering why politicians so often don’t give a full and insightful answer to questions they are asked, consider just how tough it is to come up with an answer that someone isn’t going to misinterpret or be offended by.

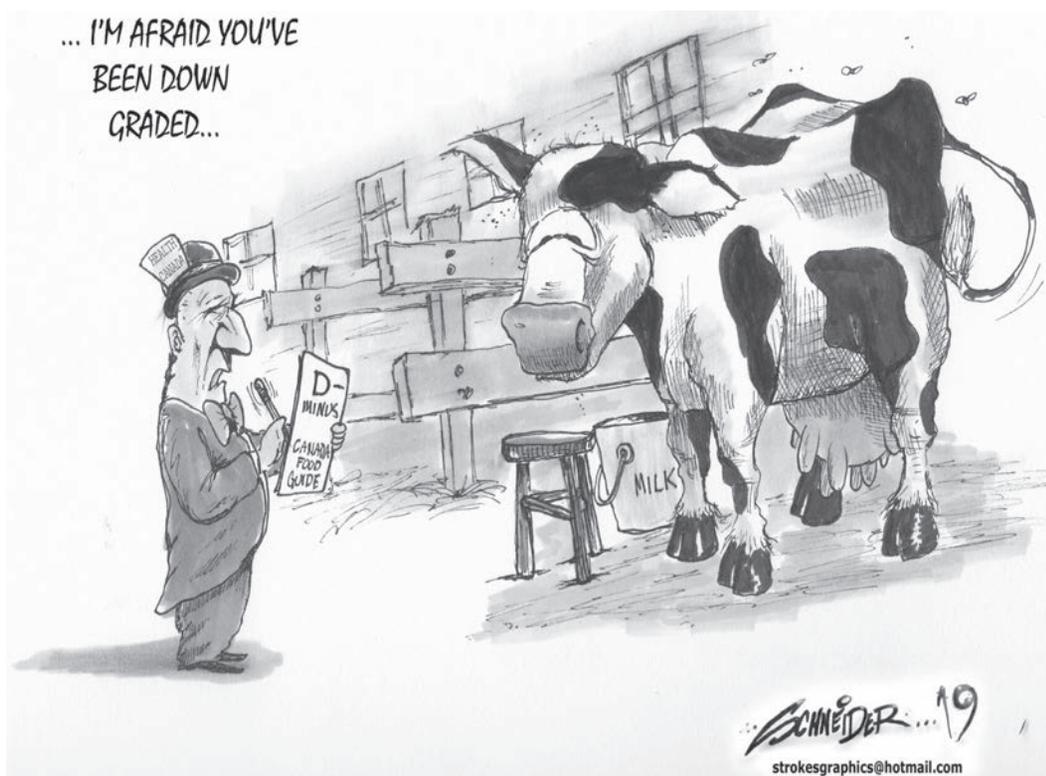
Misinterpretation? Does that happen? Well, I give you this. There is a Facebook meme that suggests that an Ontario MLA has called for the assassination of Premier Doug Ford.

“We should whack the premier,” the MLA said.

However, the statement came at the end of his assessment of Ford’s problem-solving, which he likened to the kids game “whack a mole”.

Context is everything, folks. Failing to consider context leads us into the realm of fake news, where a partial truth taken without the full meaning ends up being something else.

At any rate, it must led to a lot of lonely politicians.



Broncos bus crash trial raises new questions

When Jaskirat Sidhu, the architect of the Humboldt Broncos bus crash, pled guilty to taking 16 lives and irreparably changing 13 others at a court hearing on Jan. 8, it was likely the first time the families affected by his actions had breathed a sigh of relief since April 6, 2018.

In pleading guilty, Mr. Sidhu was mercifully sparing the families a lengthy trial in which his defence lawyers would protest his innocence, or at the very least make arguments as to why his sentence should be reduced.

Moreover, Mr. Sidhu was granting swifter closure to the families of his victims, and the entire community of Humboldt – or, at least, as much closure as is possible when a tragedy of this magnitude occurs.

If not for the seemingly glacial pace of Canada’s court system, Mr. Sidhu would already be serving a deservedly lengthy sentence, and be remembered only as a regrettable part of Saskatchewan’s history.

But here we are, nearly a month after his guilty plea, and, somehow, there are still so many unanswered questions about what transpired on that fateful day 10 months ago.

When news of Mr. Sidhu’s guilty plea first broke on social media, the response was mostly jubilant, with some even expressing gratitude for his small act of mercy towards the families of his victims.

Others, however, weren’t so convinced, and viewed his show of contrition as a ploy. Remorseful killers, after all, are generally treated more leniently than their cold-blooded, unrepentant counterparts, and Mr. Sidhu had nothing to gain by pleading not guilty.

Initially, it was simple enough to dismiss the latter comments as being posted by those who were refusing to let go of their anger over the tragedy – even if there was likely some truth in their words.

But, though Mr. Sidhu is the sole bearer of guilt in this tragedy and has formally apologized to the families of his victims, the revelations that have come out of the court proceedings since his guilty plea raise some brand new questions, and leave all of us (the families of his victims, especially) with more reasons to be angry.

At a sentencing hearing last Tuesday, the proceedings included a report from the Saskatchewan government outlining 70 provincial and federal log book violations committed by Mr. Sidhu in the 12 days leading up to the crash.



JORDAN
TWISS
~
News Editor

Mr. Sidhu was never penalized for these violations, nor was he penalized for failing to produce a log for the day of the crash, or for the 14 days prior.

Had he been stopped and inspected before the crash, and penalized for these violations, Mr. Sidhu could have been suspended from driving for at least 72 hours.

More importantly, if Mr. Sidhu had been penalized as he deserved to be, he might not even have been on the road on the day of the deadly crash, and 16 lives might not have been prematurely ended.

So, why exactly was Mr. Sidhu still on the road when he managed to rack up such a staggering list of violations in the span of just two weeks?

It’s unlikely we’ll ever get a satisfactory answer to these and the many other questions surrounding this tragedy, beyond the explanation that Mr. Sidhu was an inexperienced driver who was in over his head – in his own way, a victim of the crash, as well.

And the fact that so many questions linger 10 months after the accident, suggests that there needs to be a change in how the trucking industry is regulated.

In her victim impact statement last week, Celeste Leray-Leicht, whose son Jacob Leicht died in the crash, put it best when she argued that more energy must be given to changing the laws.

“There are excellent truck drivers on the road, who we rely on, who are taking a bad rap for all those who are inexperienced, untrained and allowed to drive,” she said at the makeshift courtroom in Melfort’s Kerry Vickar Centre.

“It is time for change, and change doesn’t happen on its own. I choose to fight for change.”

To its credit, the provincial government has introduced more stringent regulations on the trucking industry. They require Class 1 commercial drivers to undergo 121.5 hours of training.

But although this will hopefully lead to safer, more experienced truckers driving on Saskatchewan’s roads, it doesn’t give the families of the victims of the Humboldt Broncos bus crash the peace of mind that drivers who violate the rules will be punished.

In the wake of the revelations from last week’s court proceedings, and in the lead-up to Mr. Sidhu’s sentencing hearing on March 22, that reassurance is what the families need, and deserve, more than anything.

Huawei role in rural Sask. shows complex relationship

As a province dependent on trade, we learned long ago how that we are affected by what goes on elsewhere in the world.

When our cattle industry was finally showing signs of strength, a cow with bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) shows up and we suddenly lose our foreign beef markets.

The U.S. elects a protectionist president and we suddenly have trouble selling our pipeline steel into American markets.

And we are all too familiar with tariffs on our wheat or potash or the problem with getting our crude oil to tidewater because of a lack of pipelines.

But sometimes it goes beyond international commodity trade. In a world where technology crosses borders faster than any commodity ever could, we are increasingly

see foreign communication giants integrated into every aspect of our lives.

In fact, we often don't know how integrated until there is a controversy, which very seems the case with SaskTel's decade-long relationship with China's Huawei Technologies Co. Ltd.

The U.S. Department of Justice last week levied charges against Huawei chief financial officer Meng Wanzhou, who had been detained in Vancouver for extradition.

Meng, her company, and its U.S. and Hong Kong subsidiaries, have been charged by the Americans with 13 counts that include conspiracy, bank fraud, obstruction of justice and money laundering.

This all came three days after Canadian Ambassador to China, former federal Liberal cabinet minister John McCallum, was



MURRAY
MANDRYK

fired for suggesting Meng might have a good case against her extradition to the U.S. Allegations, so far, suggests otherwise.

The whole affair became a significant international incident with the Chinese accusing the Canadians of racism and detaining Canadian businessmen in what many see as a retaliatory measures.

However, it isn't the first time concerns have been raised about Huawei's business practices.

Richard Fadden, former national security adviser to the prime minister, suggested in recent Globe and Mail article that "the evidence for banning Huawei from 5G continues to pile up."

The article noted previous charges against Huawei in Poland while New Zealand, Australia and Britain were all experiencing reluctance at Huawei's participation in either next-generation mobile data or core operations.

In Saskatchewan, SaskTel and Huawei have had significant business relations since 2010, when then-SaskTel president Ron Styles and then-premier Brad Wall travelled to China to sign an initial \$28-million deal.

That deal has led to a seven-year deal for the testing of next-generation wireless broadband technology in rural Saskatch-

ewan.

In fact, the Chinese company has done approximately \$200 million with SaskTel and the province since 2010, including a signed 2016 deal with the University of Regina to use the telecom's technology.

SaskTel chief technology officer Darryl Godfrey has described the relationship as a positive one and argues that ending the business relationship would create a "significant competitive disadvantage" in rolling out SaskTel's 5G networks.

This hasn't placated the concerns of many – including NDP Opposition leader Ryan Meili.

Meili last month wrote to Premier Scott Moe demanding a review of Huawei dealings with SaskTel.

"We (don't) have enough scrutiny being paid to

what's happening right here in Saskatchewan," Meili said. "It's important that we ask for a higher level of scrutiny on that relationship."

Although political opposition is making hay off the Huawei concerns, it won't be all that easy for SaskTel to simply cut ties.

As a small teleco in the highly competition world of telecommunication, SaskTel's decade-long relationship with Huawei emerged out of a need to find a competitive advantage. It helped provide services in an area like rural Saskatchewan where others wouldn't be eager to provide services.

What SaskTel is now left with is a complex mess.

Sometimes, this is simply the reality. We may seem isolated here in Saskatchewan, but it's difficult to escape messy international trade and business relations.

YOUR TWO CENTS

There's another way to fight for Canada's energy sector

Dear Editor,

A letter in my mailbox asserts that Canada's Conservatives are fighting for our energy sector. It lists pipelines that have been "killed" or "stalled". MP Hoback asks, "Am I on the right track by fighting for Canadian energy workers?" There seems to be an assumption that fossil fuel is the energy sector.

What would happen if all parties fought to expand the clean energy sector? If they insisted the tax money spent to support pipelines and fossil fuels be redirected to renewables? It could be win-win and bonus. Fossil fuel workers would be

able to transfer skills and live where they choose, not where the jobs are. Leaving the oil in the soil reduces greenhouse gas emissions mitigating climate change. Clean energy honours reconciliation. The bonus is more taxpayers could become producers reducing their energy bill.

If we are going to fight for anything, let's make it for a just transition to renewables. Ask your federal candidates for their energy transition strategy and how it will avoid costly stranded assets like pipelines.

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

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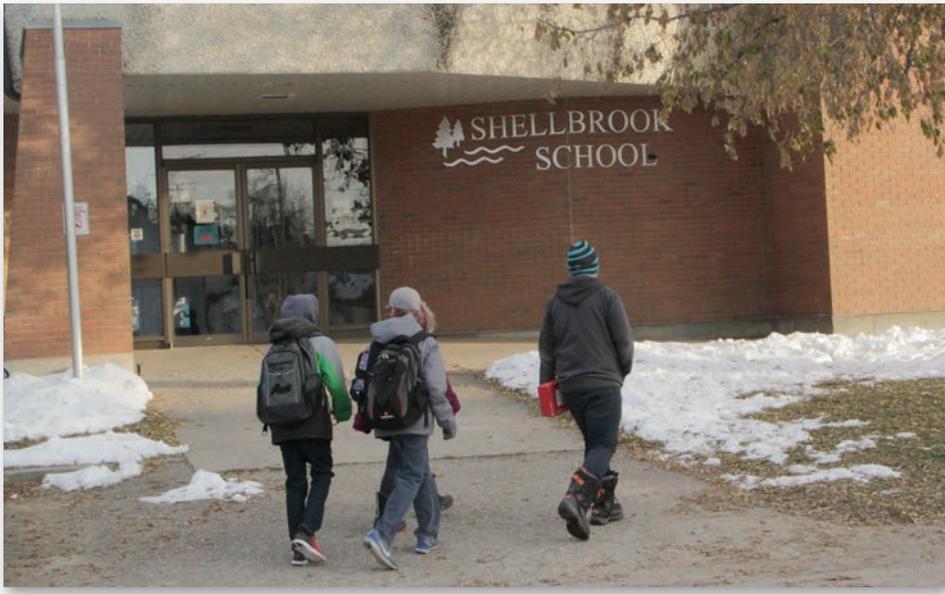
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: In the interest of readers of this newspaper, we will publish opinions of our readers. Letters To The Editor are most welcome; however, they must be signed and include writer's contact information and will only be published with 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



No traction, funding for Shellbrook K-12 School



Both Shellbrook schools will remain open for the foreseeable future, as provincial funding for a consolidated K-12 school has yet to come through.

More than four years after the Saskatchewan Rivers Public School Division (SRPSD) held an information night, at which it floated the possibility of a new K-12 school being built in Shellbrook, there's still not much news to report.

At least, that's what SRPSD director of education Bratvold told the *Chronicle* Monday morning, while explaining that, despite the school division's lobbying efforts, school capital funding from the province has been limited in the wake of a number of challenging budgets.

While the province's fiscal troubles have left the possibility of the consolidated fa-

cility in limbo, Bratvold says the new school, which had an estimated cost of \$25.2 million in 2015, remains a priority for the SRPSD.

"The consolidation of the Shellbrook schools remains on the list of the SRPSD's top three capital priorities that we submit to the Ministry each year, along with all the details and rationalization of the importance of this construction," he said, noting that the Ministry of Education sees things differently.

"The capital allocation process used by the Ministry ranks the consolidation of Shellbrook schools as a low priority on the provincial capital needs list," he

added.

In short, Bratvold says that the project "cannot happen" without more provincial funding, and without prior government approval.

W.P. Sandin Public High School was built in 1961. Since then, it has been renovated multiple times, with the last major renovations coming 34 years ago, in 1985, followed by some work that was done on the roof of the gym last summer.

Shellbrook Elementary, meanwhile, was built in 1956 and last received major renovations in 1980, when the gym was added on, and in 2001, when it received a facelift.

At 58 and 63 years of age,

respectively, both facilities are considered by the SRPSD to have reached the end of their lifespan.

Despite this, facilities that are newer than both of these schools have already been replaced by the province.

Part of the reason for this, says Bratvold, is the fact that neither school currently has any health, safety or structural issues that would place it high on the Ministry of Education's priority list.

"Most of the issues are the kind you would expect as a building ages (roof, building envelope, windows, insulation, electrical upgrades, HVAC system)," he said.

While noting that it will eventually reach a point when the cost and value of making these repairs outweighs the prospect of building a new facility, Bratvold says the decision on when the schools reach that point is in the hands of the Ministry of Education.

In the meantime, then, he says the SRPSD will continue to make any necessary repairs to the facilities, to maintain a good learning environment for students.

"Our clear decision is to pursue our mission of excellence for every learner, so we will continue to provide the maintenance necessary to ensure students have good learning environments, while we continue to lobby the Ministry for our

needs," he said.

As Bratvold explained four years ago, the project was meant to take three to five years to receive government approval and capital funding, depending on the province's available funds. After government approval was received, construction should have taken two to three years.

However, given that it's already four years later and there's no provincial approval or funds in sight, the timeline for the beginning of the project (to say nothing of its completion) is looking much longer.

When provincial approval is given, the community will be responsible for about 35 per cent of the cost of the new K-12 facility, while the province will provide the remaining 65 per cent.

Additionally, at the time it was said that taxpayers would see no rate increase, as was the case when Parkland Integrated Health Centre was built.

Bratvold also said in 2015 that he expects the new facility to have no impact on surrounding schools.

"We don't anticipate any impact. Our school division has defined attendance areas, so this school would only affect the Shellbrook attendance areas. Canwood, Wild Rose and Debden are their own entities," he said.

While a location had yet

to be chosen in 2015, Bratvold explained at the time that the existing high school grounds have been identified as a possible location.

And, despite the consolidation, he expected that Shellbrook Elementary would not be demolished.

"We don't have definite plans for it. There may be some sustained community use for the building. Sometimes community will buy it and turn it into senior's residence... or a business with offices," he explained.

Though the SRPSD knew about the need to do something with both Shellbrook Elementary School and W.P. Sandin High School, three major things took place that resulted in the facilities being put on the backburner.

These include the Big River school burning down, the environmental issues experienced by T.D. Michel school in Big River, and the major renovations needed by the Debden school.

Once school division amalgamation occurred, however, W.P. Sandin High School was put near the top of the SRPSD's list of priorities, behind only Carlton Comprehensive Public High School in Prince Albert.

That facility required a new gym, after the facility added Grade 9.

Once that seven-year project was completed, W.P. Sandin moved to the top of the list.

Memorial Lake Regional Park Clubhouse Manager

Full Time Seasonal Position
Starting mid April to Thanksgiving
Wage TBD

Duties Include

- » Starter for golfers - book tee off time, cart rental, and equipment rental
- » Food Preparation
- » Planning, promoting and hosting golf tournaments and golf nights - including meals and events
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- » Inventory Control - Tracking sales, ordering supplies, stock and products, and picking up inventory
- » Daily, Weekly and Monthly Summary Sheets
- » Staff and Public Relations
- » Promote and Advertise
- » Balancing Cash and Deposits
- » Cleaning and Maintenance of Clubhouse
- » Report to Board and Administration

Skills and Requirements

- » Well Organized
- » Work well independently
- » Strong Leader
- » Strong Computer Skills (Microsoft Office, Excel, Online Booking System and Outlook)
- » WHMIS, Serve it Right and Food Safety Courses (must possess by start date)
- » Valid Drivers License

Must be able to work early morning, as well as night shifts and weekends.

Please apply with resume, cover letter and expected wage to
Memorial Lake Regional Park
Box 10
Shell Lake, SK
S0J 2G0
Fax 306.427.2190
Email: memorial.admin@sasktel.net

Deadline for application is March 1st, 2019
Only successful candidates will be contacted.

Memorial Lake Regional Park Kiosk Campground Manager

Full Time Seasonal Position
May 1st to September 7th
Wage TBD

Duties Include

- » Monitor and take Campsite Bookings
- » Schedule and supervise staff (Office Staff, Campground Security and Greeters)
- » Inventory Control - Season Stickers, Day Passes and Boat Passes
- » Daily, Weekly and Monthly Summary Sheets
- » Staff and Public Relations
- » Balancing Cash and Deposits
- » Process Cabin and Seasonal Site Payments
- » Monitor campground
- » Cleaning and Maintenance of Kiosk
- » Report to Board and Administration

Skills and Requirements

- » Well Organized
- » Work well independently
- » Strong Leader
- » Strong Computer Skills (Microsoft Office, Excel, Online Booking System and Outlook)
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Manitoba eyeing Canada's potato crown

Even though I have covered agriculture as a significant part of my job for the past three decades, I am still at times surprised by the level of diversity in the sector in this country.

A case in point is the developing story of potatoes in Manitoba.

Like many, I have always thought of Prince Edward Island as the primary place in terms of the production of spuds in this country.

And, for years and years that has been the case.

But like wheat, long the primary crop on the Cana-

dian Prairies giving way to canola in recent years, it appears the potato crown is about to be moved from PEI to Manitoba.

Two things are converging to signal the change.

The first has Simplot spending \$400 million to expand its french fry processing plant in Portage la Prairie. The larger factory, double the size of the existing plant, will be operational in early 2020, and that will signal a need for Manitoba producers to plant some 16,000 more acres of potatoes.



CALVIN DANIELS

The additional acres won't quite bring the overall Manitoba acreage to that on PEI, where about 85,000 acres are planted, but since yields are generally better in Man-

itoba the production crown will shift.

While the passing of the torch in terms of potato production is probably not hugely impactful in term of overall Canadian farm production, it does again help to illustrate how crop production can change over time.

Such change is usually driven by advancements in crop genetics which allow crops to move into none traditional areas and be grown successfully.

That evolution of a crop is perhaps most dramatically seen in Western Can-

ada in terms of canola, once thought of as a crop confined to northern areas of the Prairies, new varieties have expanded its potential growing area across almost all areas of the region, and into the northern United States.

While genetics has pushed canola south, the same type of crop development efforts have expanded corn and soybeans north, the latter finding success into the area of eastern Saskatchewan up to the Yellowhead Highway.

At present, the crop ex-

pansion merely opens doors to greater crop diversification, but longer term, maybe not as long as most hope or imagine, it will be critical as the effects of climate change become more pronounced.

There are those who might want to argue the cause of climate change, and might even suggest it is natural as opposed to manmade, but the reasons won't alter the impact of the changes as they occur. Only changes in how we manage the new climate and what we grow where will matter.

Cereals Corner: Friends with trade benefits

By Cam Dahl,
President, Cereals Canada

Canadians and Italians like each other. Italian culture has formed a deep part of the Canadian fabric and Canadians buy hundreds of millions of dollars of goods from Italy every year.

However, there have been some hiccups recently in the trade relationship between Canada and Italy, highlighted by the protectionist measures being used to block Canadian durum exports.

I often think that the few times when differences between our countries arise, governments should just get out of the way and let ordinary people resolve the issue.

Canadian and Italian farmers met face-to-face this past December in Altamura when a team from Canada's durum wheat value chain came to Italy to talk about the high quality of the 2018 crop. Italian farmers had the opportunity to directly interact with Saskatchewan farmer, Scott Hep-

worth, who was a key part of the delegation. And guess what? Farmers in Canada and Italy have much more in common than differences. Those in attendance in Altamura saw that the quality of Canadian durum is the highest it has ever been. To quote Mr. Hepworth, "this is the most beautiful durum we have ever grown."

Farmers, from both Italy and Canada saw that by working together Italian pasta producers can make the highest quality pasta in the world, using durum from both Canadian and Italian farms. This was a great example of the positive dialog that happens when farmers from different countries meet face-to-face,

rather than trying to talk through lobbyists and special interest groups that have their own agenda.

Italy and Canada are friends who benefit from increased bilateral trade. Since the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) came into effect in September of 2017, trade between Canada and Italy has increased by almost fourteen percent. Italian exports to Canada have increased by over eleven percent. All parts of the Italian economy, including farmers, are benefiting from trade with Canada.

Yet during the same time we have seen access to the Italian market for some key Canadian products become restricted. Exports of durum wheat, the primary Canadian agricultural export to Italy, has fallen by over sixty percent since CETA has come into effect. This is a result of protectionist country of origin labelling regulations in Italy and an active social media campaign disparaging of the quality of Canadian du-

rum production. These attacks have come from special interest groups who are focused on protectionism and not healthy two-way trade.

Both Canada and Italy benefit from trade and commerce that is based on sound science. How do consumers differentiate between science facts and the latest meme on the internet? We depend on science-based regulations from the European Food Safety Authority and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. Italian consumers can be confident that Canadian exports, which meet the strict regulatory requirements for importation into Italy are safe to enjoy with family and friends. Conversely, farmers

in Italy know that their high-quality food products, such as Parmigiano Reggiano or Parma Ham will be accepted by Canadian consumers because of regulations that are based on sound science and not influenced by politics or the latest internet trend.

I am confident that open dialog between the people of our two great countries can resolve any differences that arise. Farmers from Italy and Canada have recently shown this to be true. Canada and Italy have both prospered economically and culturally because of the friendship between us. It is in the national interest of both countries that this relationship continues to grow and flourish.

Island Forests Open House

The Ministry of Environment invites you to an open house to discuss its draft annual operating plan for the Island Forests – the Canwood, Nisbet, Fort a la Corne and Torch River provincial forests. The plan provides details on proposed timber harvesting and reforestation activities for the April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020 operating year.

Tuesday, February 12, 2019 – Choiceland
6-8 p.m., Choiceland Seniors Hall

Wednesday, February 13, 2019 – Melfort
6-8 p.m., CanAlta Hotel, 100 Stonegate

Thursday, February 14, 2019 – Prince Albert
5-8 p.m., Quality Hotel & Conference Centre, South Oak Room, 67-13th Street East

For more information, contact Bruce Walter at 306-953-2324 or bruce.walter@gov.sk.ca

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SLGA sells Shellbrook liquor store building

Marking another step toward the completion of the Saskatchewan government's plan to sell nearly half of the province's government-run liquor stores to the private sector, the former Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority (SLGA) outlet in Shellbrook has joined the list of buildings that have been sold off.

Though officially approved through the

government's Order-in-Council process on Jan. 22, the sale of the building for \$215,000 to the numbered company "102065901 Saskatchewan Ltd.", was only publicly revealed by the CBC on Sunday.

That numbered company is owned by Mitch Pastuck, who is also the owner of Shelltown Plumbing and Heating.

David Morris, an SLGA spokesperson, was unable to say any-

thing about Pastuck's plans for the building, or what those plans might mean for the current tenants, including Kerb Side Convenience, and the Shellbrook Public Library.

Also of note, is the fact that the building houses the Shellbrook Circuit Point Court, which is in session once a month, as well as a SaskPower office.

With the building under new ownership, it's

unclear whether that could change.

"I understand there are a number of tenants that remain in the building, but buyers don't have to disclose their future plans as part of the sale – they are simply purchasing a building," Morris said.

With the sale of the Shellbrook building, Morris says there are now only three vacant liquor store buildings

owned by SLGA that are currently listed for sale by realtors.

The province first announced its plan to privatize half of the government-owned liquor stores in 2015.

Revenue sharing receives boost for 2019-2020

With municipal leaders from across the province gathered at TCU Place in Saskatoon for the 2019 Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association (SUMA) Convention, Premier Scott Moe announced Monday morning that the province's revenue sharing program will be receiving a noticeable boost.

For the 2019-2020 fiscal year, municipalities will split a pot of \$251 million, an increase of \$10 million (or four per cent) over 2018-2019.

The announcement comes following the review and consultations with municipalities regarding the program, which currently sees municipalities share the proceeds from one percentage point of the province's 6 per cent PST collected in the fiscal year two years prior to the current fiscal year.

"Municipalities across Saskatchewan will continue to have a consistent source of unconditional provincial revenue to invest in their local priorities," Premier Moe said. "The adjusted revenue sharing formula recognizes our current fiscal reality, evolves this key provincial program, and retains the fundamental qualities of predictability, sustainability and transparency."

While municipalities will undoubtedly be happy for the boost to their coffers, the announcement also comes with a change to the formula that will see municipalities split three-quarters of one percentage point of the PST.

Though this could undoubtedly mean a much smaller pot for municipalities to share in years in which the economy underperforms, SUMA president Gordon Barnhart welcomed the announcement.

"Through extensive consultation with the government, we believe the adjustments to this program will be a benefit to all of our members. We are also happy to see the continued commitment to stable and predictable funding, something that our municipalities appreciate and count on," he said.

Barnhart's feelings were shared by Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM) president Ray Orb.

"We appreciated the opportunity to provide input around revenue sharing consultations," he said. "Having predictable funding on an annual basis only benefits our members when it comes to planning for the future."

Apart from the funds being split by municipalities, the program will also see \$1.5 million from the total municipal revenue sharing amount co-managed with municipal partners to invest in initiatives that support good governance, capacity building and regional planning.

"It just makes sense to cultivate potential innovative ideas that can help improve services at the local level that are so important to everyone's quality of life," Government Relations Minister Warren Kaeding said.

From 2007-08 to the current fiscal year, Saskatchewan municipalities overall have received more than \$2.6 billion in provincial funding through the revenue sharing program.

More details will be available when the upcoming provincial budget is released.



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CREDIT UNION

No curling rink? No problem

Submitted by Grant Person

This year has been a bit of a challenge for the Canwood Curling Club. With the problems with the failing rafters in the current curling rink, the club has had to use alternate ice surfaces in order to maintain the Curling Club's activities.

The local curlers have taken up to the offer to rent the ice at the Shellbrook club to continue the regular Tuesday night league. Hosting the annual "Billyspiel" posed another problem.

The solution? Make ice in the Canwood Skating Rink.

The only thing that could have stopped the 12 team Bonspiel on Feb. 1 and 2 would have been above freezing temperatures.

There was no problem with that, as winter arrived in full force with -32 degree temperatures combined with a winter blizzard.

Some of the curlers had not curled on "Natural Ice" for many years, while others had never thrown a rock on the natural surface.

It took the ice crew about 20 hours to transform the hockey surface into curling ice. It was not quite like the arena ice that you see on TV, but it seemed to work for the event.

Most curlers wore several layers of clothing to combat the lower rink temperatures. This did not deter from the great shots and some of the unexpected shots with some tricky spots in the ice.

The ice was surprising-

ly keen on the weekend. There were many comments by the curlers on how they enjoyed playing on natural ice and that the non-perfect ice evened out the teams to some extent.

The bonspiel started out with a steak supper on Friday, which was followed by two draws.

After the curling was completed on Saturday evening, the Corey Tomporowski foursome defeated the Grant Person squad to win the "Olympic Bound Event," and first place in the event.

The "Missed One Shot Event" saw the team skipped by Valray Wi-deen outshoot the Jesse Wyatt crew.

Team Terry Hamborg defeated Team John Johnson to take the Third Event ("Had Too Many

Shots Event").

After the last rock was thrown on Saturday, the annual Elimination Draw to help raise funds for the Curling Club took place. The \$50 winners were Lori Ness Wolfe, Marie-Anne Grimard, Kori Sansom, Grant Folden and Bev Wyatt. Corey Tomporowski won the \$300 second prize.

The last ticket out of the draw barrel belonged to Jesse Wyatt. He has a choice of a \$4,000 travel voucher or a \$3,500 cash payout.

The Canwood Curling Club appreciates all of the curlers, spectators, volunteers and those who purchased the Elimination Draw tickets.

Continuing the annual Billyspiel was a great way to keep the curling spirit alive in Canwood.



Winners of the Billyspiel from left to right: Harriet Tomporowski, Kirk Berezowski, Rhonda Berezowski, and Corey Tomporowski.

Bantam Elks trounce Tisdale in game one of provincials

With hockey's playoff season getting into full swing, the Bantam Shellbrook Elks travelled to Tisdale on Sunday for game one of their first round provincials series against the Tisdale Ramblers.

As always, provincial playoffs are played in a two-game total point series format. And thanks to a solid offensive outing, resulting in an 8-2 victory, the Elks are in good shape for when the action returns to Shellbrook for game two this weekend.

Despite going on to win by a six-goal margin, the Bantam Elks didn't come out of the gate racking up the goals. In fact, it was the Ramblers who drew first blood, near the midway point of the opening frame, on a goal from Luc Fortier.

Hunter Donald and Landon Thibault earned assists on the play.

Down by one, the Elks finally began generating offence, starting with a goal by Braidan Onishenko. Tavis Galloway and Moe Norsten drew assist on the goal.

Later in the frame, with only 38 seconds left on the clock, Jase Martin would put the Elks up by one with helpers from Chase Hansen and Norsten.

If the first period could be said to be a close race, the second frame was even more of a dead heat, as both teams managed only one goal through 20 minutes of action.

First, Tisdale's Hunter Bleile knotted the game back up at 2-2, courtesy of assists Brolan Mennie and Nolan Patterson.

Then, Lynden Kerber

put the Elks back on top, scoring with helpers from Onishenko and Torr Gosselin.

After 40 minutes of tight action, the Bantam Elks must have received one heck of a pep talk in the dressing room, as the team came out flying and quickly overwhelmed the Ramblers with five very important goals.

Martin kicked off the parade of Elks goals with his second of the night, drawing assists from Hansen and Gosselin on the play. Next, Hansen would follow up with a goal of his own later in the frame, thanks to a helper from Onishenko.

Even with a 5-2 lead, the Elks continued to step on the gas, with Tyson Gautier scoring courtesy of an

assist from Martin. Later on, Kerber would score his second goal of the evening, earning Hansen another helper.

Finally, in the last minute of play, Martin would earn himself a hat trick. Kerber provided the lone assist on that play.

With the 8-2 victory, the Bantam Elks look like locks to advance to the next round of provincials, where they will meet up with the La Ronge Ice Wolves. But they'll still have to play to win when they return to Shellbrook for game two on Sunday, Feb. 10.

Puck drop for the game is set for 6:30 p.m.

TOWN OF BIG RIVER PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice is hereby given that the Council of the Town of Big River, pursuant to Section 207 of *The Planning and Development Act, 2007* intends to pass a bylaw to amend Zoning Bylaw No. 2015-02 as hereinafter provided:

It is proposed to amend the said Zoning Bylaw as follows:

- 1) To provide a discretionary use in C1 - Commercial District (Downtown) for the purpose of an establishment for the sale of operable motor vehicles on Lot 2 Blk A Plan AK1410 Big River, Saskatchewan, as outlined in bold on the map which forms part of this notice.

Explanation:

The intent of the bylaw is as follows:

- 1) To provide for an area to accommodate an establishment for the sale of operable motor vehicles.

Bylaw Inspection: The Bylaw may be inspected by any interested person at the Town Office in Big River on any judicial day from Monday to Friday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon and 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Copies are available to person at a cost of \$1.00 each.

Public Hearing: Representations respecting the amendments will be considered by Council at 1:00 p.m. February 19th, 2019 in the Board Room at Big River Community Centre, 606 1st Street North, in Big River, Saskatchewan. Council shall hear any person or group of persons or person acting on their behalf who wish to make a presentation.

Issued at Big River this 25th day of January, 2019.

Noreen Olsen
Administrator



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY



Automotive Sales Representative NABER FORD SALES LTD. - Shellbrook, SK

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Are you a top performer and consistently deliver the best numbers in your Automotive Sales Department? Is your compensation package reflecting you "TOP DOG" status? We are looking for a talented Automotive Sales Person to join our team of all stars. Apply online to Naber Ford Sales and bring your "TOP DOG" results to a dealership that will reward them. You deserve great pay and good benefits and we here at Naber Ford believe in paying for performance.

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DUTIES:

We are looking for someone who:

- is self-motivated, professional, and driven to sell
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- has basic knowledge of computer skills
- is able to build relationships before and after a sale
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- is a team player, a hard worker and willing to put the customer and their co-workers first

Please send resume to: naberfordgmcfo@sasktel.net
by February 18th, 2019

Children with a mental illness deserve access to the new hospital

By **Danielle Chartier**
**MLA, Saskatoon-
 Riversdale**

Growing up with a mental illness is a struggle not only for the child directly impacted, but also for families who try to provide their children with the best care possible. These vulnerable young people face stigma and judgement; they often feel isolated from their peers, and insecure about having an illness others don't under-

stand. Families, doctors and other mental health professionals know how important it is these children have access to a dedicated children's health facility, but the Sask. Party government did not fulfill their wish.

This year, the doors of the Jim Pattison Children's Hospital will open to serve sick children from across our province, but those same doors will be closed to children with acute

mental health conditions, and that is shameful.

There is no acute mental health unit in the new hospital. The only sick children and youth not served by the beautiful, state-of-the-art, much-bragged-about facility will be those who already face the stigma of living with a mental health concern.

All sick children in Saskatchewan should benefit from the special-

ized facility tailored to care for the unique needs of children and families, no matter if their health concern is physical or mental. Mental health care is health care.

We may talk about mental health more these days, but the stigma is still very much a reality for those living with a mental illness. Ensuring there was space at the new hospital for all children, including those with mental illness, would have gone a long way to help reduce the stigma. Instead, the Sask. Party has chosen to entrench it from a young age.

There is a 10-bed child and adolescent unit in the Irene and Leslie Dube Mental Health Centre, along with 54 beds in the adult unit. For the past three years, the adult area of the

Dube Centre has consistently been overcapacity. Adult mental health patients often stay in less than ideal conditions, including in the basement of the Dube Centre in the Electroconvulsive Therapy suite where they are shuffled around during the day so others can get treatment; or they stay wherever there is space in the Royal University Hospital. This is incredibly disruptive to the patients who desperately need a quiet place to heal.

Had there been space allocated in the new children's hospital for children's acute mental health, these child and youth beds at the Dube Centre could have been converted to adult beds to create better conditions. Or the extra beds could have been dedicated to geriatric patients.

We have an ageing population but no real recognition of the needs of older adults with mental illness.

Creating space for children with acute mental health concerns in the new Jim Pattison Children's Hospital could have been a win-win situation – good for the children who would benefit from all the new hospital has to offer, and good for others who need a mental health hospital stay who could have been better accommodated at the Dube Centre with more adult beds. The Sask. Party ignored this key opportunity and missed their chance to do the right thing for patients with mental health needs.

Danielle Chartier is the NDP Critic for Mental Health and Addictions.

Shellbrook RCMP seeking truck involved in Highway 55 collision

On Feb. 2nd, 2019, at approximately 12:11 PM, the Shellbrook RCMP Detachment, Shellbrook Fire Department, and Parkland Ambulance responded to a head-on collision between two pickup trucks on Highway #55, near Canwood, SK.

The lone drivers of each vehicle were taken to hospital. Injuries sustained were determined to be relatively minor. After investigation, it was found that a third vehicle was involved, described as a blue Ford F-150.

The driver of the blue Ford F-150 was said to have caused the collision by clipping the mirror of one of the trucks that had been heading in the opposite direc-

tion. The blue F-150 continued northwest on the highway without stopping.

The unidentified blue F-150 will have damage to driver's side mirror that occurred during the first collision. At this point the driver of the blue pick-up is unknown, and the Shellbrook RCMP are attempting to identify the driver and determine the circumstances of the two collisions.

If you have information about this or any other incident, please contact the Shellbrook RCMP at 306-747-2606 or you may contact Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers anonymously at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or submit a tip online at www.saskcrimestoppers.com.



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Junior Citizen of the Year Scholarship

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

These prestigious awards are given to youth who:

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



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

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




Nominations close March 31, 2019

Tips end regular season with two road wins

After a forgettable trip to the Battlefords the weekend prior, the Shellbrook Silvertips Road Show made its final two stops of the regular season campaign this past weekend, with back-to-back matches in Maymont and Spiritwood.

With nothing on the line in either of the two games, the Silvertips nonetheless managed to restore some of the momentum they lost in the second half of the regular season, by eking out a tough 4-3 win over the Settlers in Maymont, and trouncing the Timberwolves 8-2 in Spiritwood.

In that Maymont match, the Tips' short bench put together a solid offensive display, with Nick Martin leading the charge on the strength of a goal and an assist.

Brendon Canaday, Josh Elliot and Braydin Turner netted the other three goals for the Tips, while Dorin Canaday, Nathaniel Martin and Shane Pickett pitched in with

single helpers on the evening.

On the Maymont scorecard, Chad Bernier and Ty Steacy each notched a goal and an assist. Kinley Sevick scored the Settlers' third goal, and Trenton Eckel earned the only other assist throughout 60 minutes.

Travelling to Spiritwood the following evening, the Tips had to make do without their leading scorers, Jody Blais and Devin Dicus, who were perhaps earning some well-deserved rest ahead of the upcoming playoffs.

Fortunately, they were facing the Timberwolves and not the Battleford Beaver Blues, and they were able to skate away with an easy 8-2 victory on the strength of a solid performance between the pipes from Jory Segberg.

The Tips started Saturday evening's match off right, scoring just under six minutes into the game on a marker by Parker Turner, assisted

by Nathaniel Martin.

Then, less than a minute later, Martin would score, with Turner returning the favour, to put the Tips up 2-0.

With some dogged determination, the Timberwolves would keep the Tips off the board for the rest of the period. Not only that, but they would even draw first blood in the second frame, after Anthony Radke took feeds from Patrick Robinson and Tyler Cross on the power play late in the period.

The Tips, however, would respond in kind, as Dorin Canaday scored his first on the night with an assist from team captain Nick Martin.

If the second period was a draw, the third and final frame for both team's regular season enders was an absolute bloodbath in Shellbrook's favour.

Canaday got things started early for the Tips scoring with assists from Turner and Nathaniel Martin. Then, Turner



Close but no cigar. The Timberwolves had all kinds of trouble getting one by Shellbrook goaltender Jory Segberg, and they didn't score here.

and Martin would team up for the third time on the evening to lift the Tips to 5-1 lead.

Later in the frame, Easton Neufeldt would get on the board with an unassisted marker, then follow up with his second of the night courtesy of an assist from Matthew Kutnikoff.

Then, to round out the dominant display, Nathaniel Martin would notch his second goal of the game with a helper

from Shayden Smith.

To salvage some pride before the end of the season, the Timberwolves would tack on a last-minute goal and secure their 8-2 defeat. Nick Jarvis netted the marker, drawing assists from Jeff Cafet and Tyler Cross on the play.

With the pair of victories, the Silvertips have finished their regular season campaign with an 11-5 record, good enough for fourth place in the

standings. This sets them up with the 8-8 Glaslyn North Stars, a team that surprised them earlier in the season, and is riding a four-game win streak into the postseason.

Game one of that series will be played in Shellbrook this Friday, Feb. 8. Puck drop is at 8:30 p.m.

After that, the action returns to Shellbrook for game three on Monday, Feb. 11. That game is also scheduled for an 8:30 p.m. start.

FINAL STORE CLOSING!

Parkside General Store will be closing

Starting Feb. 11

Groceries
40% off

Hardware & Fireworks
50% off

While items last (excludes tobacco, dairy, bakery and a few misc. marked items)

Cash or Cheque Accepted | Debit/Interac **NOT** available

S&I Licensing Office will remain open

Parkside General Store
Monday - Saturday: 8:00 am - 6:00 pm
David Moe - Proprietor
Parkside - 306-747-2275

Your Community Needs Your Support!



Shellbrook needs its own ambulance bay

- Minimum wait time for an ambulance out of Prince Albert is **30 minutes**
- Ambulance fee is **\$325** for residents under 65 & **\$275** for seniors
- Shellbrook residents pay an **additional \$2.30 per kilometre** for ambulance rides

Jim Van Eaton is lobbying the provincial government, but needs your support!

Send letters of support, or with personal experiences to:

Jim Van Eaton
Box 730, Shellbrook, SK
S0J 2E0

Minutes of an R.M. of Shellbrook council meeting

Minutes of a regular meeting of council of the Rural Municipality of Shellbrook no. 493 Held on Wednesday, Dec. 5, 2018 in the municipal office council chambers at Shellbrook, Sask.

Present: Reeve – Doug Oleksyn, Division 1 – Cliff Skauge, Division 2 – Phil Hamel, Division 3 – Sean Helm, Division 4 – Jay Ferster, Division 5 – Derwin Joelson, Division 6 – Ron Herzog, and administrator Bertha Buhler.

Delegations: 9:55 a.m. - Ken Hamilton: trees/wind rows on RM Road Allowance

Public gallery: Carmen Kowalczyk

Reeve Oleksyn called the meeting to order at 08:35 a.m.

Hamel: That the RM of Shellbrook No. 493 adopt the Agenda with additional items as presented this date: Don

Philps- stray dogs, Mu- niSoft Client Care Correspondence, Olsen Beaver Cage recommendation. Carried

Helm: That the RM of Shellbrook No. 493 approves the minutes of the Regular Meeting of Nov. 7, 2018 as presented. Carried

Jay Ferster arrived at the meeting 8:55 a.m.

Joelson: That the Statement of Financial Activities for November 2018 be approved as presented. Carried

Hamel: That the RM of Shellbrook No. 493 appoints the following Council Committees and Appointments for 2019 (list omitted due to length).

Helm: That the RM of Shellbrook No. 493 approve the custom rates for 2019 as follows:

a. Backhoe - \$120.00 per hour

b. Brush work payout - \$400.00 per half mile

c. Cat - \$165.00 per hour

d. Gopher getter - \$50.00 per day with a \$50.00 deposit (minimum charge \$10.00)

e. Grader - \$150.00 per hour

f. Grave digging within RM - \$600.00 dig only, \$800.00 dig & close

g. Gravel delivered with RM trucks - \$325.00 per 10-yard load of crushed gravel, \$475.00 per 20-yard load of crushed gravel, CN gravel not for Sale

h. Loader - \$120.00 per hour

i. Motor Scraper - \$170.00 per hour in Municipality, \$185.00 per hour outside of Municipality

j. Pit run delivered - \$290.00 per 10-yard load, \$365.00 per 20-yard load

k. Plow Driveways - \$200.00 per plow

l. Tandem gravel truck - \$105.00 per hour

m. Track hoe - \$160.00 per hour

n. Tractor & mower - \$100.00 per hour

o. Tree Planter - \$20.00 per day with a \$50.00 deposit (minimum charge of \$10.00). Carried

Ken Hamilton arrived at 9:55 a.m. To discuss trees/wind row on RM road allowance.

Phil Hamel declared pecuniary interest and left council chambers.

Joelson: That the RM of Shellbrook No. 493 retains R & B Customs' services for 2019. Carried

Phil Hamel returned to council chambers.

Hamel: That the RM of Shellbrook No. 493 compensates Council Members the new Federal tax One-Third exemption with a one-third top up of total annual taxable Council indemnity at year end. Carried

Council Reports received at 10:20 a.m.

Foreman reports received at 10:50 a.m.

Hamel: That the RM of Shellbrook No. 493 has received request from William Lee for Micro Cultivation of Cannabis (SW 16-50-01 W3) and Mr. Lee follows all necessary regulatory requirements. Carried

Skauge: That the RM of Shellbrook No. 493 pay the Forest Product Permit fee of \$17.23 for clearing trees at Junction of Nisbet Road and Old Highway #3 East Junction to improve site line. Carried

Wild Rose Landfill Inspection Report tabled until January 2019 Regular Council meeting.

Deer Ridge Landfill Inspection Report tabled until January 2019 Regular Council meeting.

Joelson: That the RM of Shellbrook No. 493 purchase two landfill entrance signs "Landfill Closed for Public Use" for Wild Rose and Deer Ridge landfills. Carried

Skauge: That the RM of Shellbrook No. 493 opts out of Ministry of Highways Winter Weight Restrictions for 2018-2019. Carried

Hamel: That the RM of Shellbrook No. 493 approves the Building Permit on NE 29-49-

03 W3, Parcel A, Plan CM6063 (Dennis Bannerholt) for an addition to be built onto house subject to Building Inspector's approval. Carried

Skauge: That the RM of Shellbrook No. 493 approves the Development Permit on Block A, Plan #101440572, Ext. 67 (Leon & Jacey Strube) as presented. Carried

Skauge: That the RM of Shellbrook No. 493 approves the Building Permit on Block A, Plan #101440572 (Leon & Jacey Strube), Hamlet of Holbein, for a new home subject to Building Inspector's approval. Carried

Skauge: That the RM of Shellbrook No. 493 approves the Potential Land Sale on Highway No. 55-10 Roadway Parcels V, W, and Z, Plan# 70PA09392 on SW 21-49-03 W3 and that no known existing issues of future municipal access concerns; road maintenance contract issues or existing and future utility services availability. Any future developments will be reviewed by the RM Council at time of application for approval. Carried

Skauge: That the RM of Shellbrook No. 493 agrees to the build of a driveway and placement of a 300 mm x 10 m culvert on Wade Gilbertson for a total amount of \$1,565.66 and cost to be shared 50/50 between the RM and Wade Gilbertson.

Skauge: That the RM of Shellbrook No. 493 writes a letter informing landowners of NE 19-49-01 W3 (Tyson & Toni Brooman) that a complaint has been brought to Council's attention of their dogs straying on Complainants' property. Carried

Sean Helm declared conflict of interest and left the meeting at 2:37 p.m.

Joelson: That the RM of Shellbrook No. 493 come

out of in-camera at 3:15 p.m. Carried

Skauge: That the RM of Shellbrook No. 493 has received the Lorne Olson email requesting to take into consideration a cage for beaver control at culverts, and that a second letter be sent to the Olsons stating that the RM of Shellbrook No. 493 will continue to maintain culverts and beaver issues as in the past. Carried

Joelson: That the RM of Shellbrook No. 493 received and file the following Correspondence:

a. Winter Weight Season Restrictions- First Order

b. Parks Canada "Let's Get Together"

c. Wapiti Regional Library 2019 Proposed Budget

d. Ministry of Labour Relations & Workplace Safety

e. Steering Committee Minutes Nov. 13, 2018

f. Steering Committee Minutes Nov. 20, 2018

g. RM of Buckland-Community Safety Officer

h. Shellbrook & Districts Health Services Foundation Minutes - Nov. 6, 2018

i. Saskatchewan Municipal Awards

j. SARM Property & Liability Insurance rates for 2019

k. North Central Transportation Planning Committee Report - Nov. 6, 2018

SARM

Correspondence:

a. Trespass Changes (legislation)

b. Fit for Work. Carried

Phil Hamel declared pecuniary interest and left council chambers for accounts payables.

Derwin Joelson declared pecuniary interest and left council chambers for accounts payables.

Ferster: That the RM of Shellbrook No. 493 approve the accounts payables, as attached hereto these Minutes, being regular cheque numbers 10337 to 10397 in the amount of \$212,007.57 and payroll cheque numbers 13282 to 13298 in the amount of \$40,289.92. Carried

Oleksyn: That the meeting be adjourned at 3:18 p.m.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

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

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

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

MARCELIN: Wapiti Library is open Tues. 10:30 am - 5:30 pm; Thur. 2 pm - 8 pm. For information on all your library needs, please contact 306-226-2110.

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

SHELLBROOK: Shellbrook Theatre Movie Night, Fri., Feb. 8, Beautiful Boy; Fri., Feb. 22, Incredibles 2. Doors Open 7 p.m. Showtime 7:30 p.m. Cost is \$5

SHELLBROOK: Shellbrook Curling Club's Annual Open Bonspiel. Friday, February 8th & Saturday, February 9th. For more info or to register contact: Gayle @ 306-714-0027

SHELLBROOK: St. Andrew's Anglican Church will hold a Valentine Bake Sale at the Shellbrook Affinity Credit Union, Friday, February 8th beginning at 11 am. Everyone welcome!

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

SHELLBROOK: Shellbrook Senior Centre Valentine's Tea & White Elephant Sale, Desert & Coffee/Tea. Friday, February 15, 2 - 4 pm. Admission \$5. Everyone welcome!

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Red-hot Flames eyeing cup chase

How dominant would the Calgary Flames be if James Neal wasn't playing like Neal James, the 54-year-old overweight right-winger on an old-timers hockey team in Saskatoon who sometimes goes over on his ankles and has trouble raising the puck?

The Flames' Neal was signed last summer to a five-year contract worth more than \$5 million a year, decent money for a proven — at least 20 goals in each of the past 10 seasons — sniper.

Guided by a new coach, Bill Peters, and led by Johnny Gaudreau, who has blossomed into an NHL superstar, the Flames are running away with the Western Conference and could be destined to bring a Stanley Cup to the Stampede City for the first time since 1989.

The Grey Cup already resides in Calgary; there's room on the city's trophy shelf for Stanley, too.

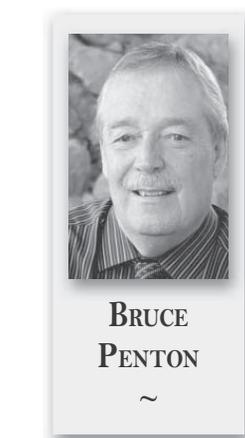
The Flames have been on fire all year, with 33 wins in 51 games at the all-star break. They were the only team to have five players with 50 or more points; the only one with four players with 20 or more goals. And if Neal was scoring at a standard

James Neal pace instead of his pathetic five in 49 games, those team numbers would be even more impressive.

Calgary's wide lead in the Western Conference standings has been led by the second-best offence in the league and a solid defence led by Norris Trophy contender Mark Giordano.

When Neal signed in the off-season, many assumed he would flank the wing with Calgary's top line of Gaudreau and Sean Monahan. Instead, Peters has linked those two stars with Elias Lindholm, a player Peters coached last year in Carolina. That Flames trio had 192 points at the all-star break, second only to Colorado's red-hot Nathan McKinnon, Mikko Rantanen and Gabriel Landeskog, who had 199. Neal, coming off last year's 25-goal season with Vegas Golden Knights, may be pouting about being taken off the Flames' big line, and getting only secondary power play minutes. Or maybe at age 31 he's just slowing down, content to collect his U.S. \$28.75 million through 2023 as he goes through the motions.

Perhaps Neal will pick up the pace in the



BRUCE
PENTON

second half of the season. Or maybe he's saving himself for a long playoff run, which the Flames are almost certain to have.

When the Stampeders begin defence of their grey Cup in June, the Flames might just be winding down their chase for Lord Stanley's mug. It would be quite the Cowtown double play.

• Dwight Perry of the Seattle Times: "U.S. gymnastics star Aly Raisman broke her right elbow in a fall down the stairs. Needless to say, she didn't stick the landing."

• Comedy writer Alex Kaseberg: "Phillip Rivers and his wife, Tiffany, are expecting their ninth child. Apparently, Phillip has decided, since there are no Chargers fans in L.A., he is going to manufacture them."

• Patti Dawn Swans-

son of the River City Renegade: "I really don't believe CBS football gab guy Tony Romo can see the future, but if he tells me it isn't safe to get on an airplane I'm taking a bus."

• TC in BC: "Trumpty called his buddy Robert Kraft and congratulated him and The Patriots for making it to The Super Bowl. He did not do the same for The Rams. So make that two non-calls involving the Rams last Sunday."

• Greg Cote of the Miami Herald on rumours that running back Le'Veon Bell might sign with the Dolphins: "The Dolphins and new personnel boss Chris Grier owe it to themselves to imagine it could be Miami for whom this Bell toils."

• Norman Chad on Twitter: "The Patriots just lost a replay review. Robert Kraft has asked Roger Goodell to shut down the replay centre in NY."

• Chad, on the plethora of three-point attempts in the NBA this season: "The other night, I believe Steph Curry even took a shot from the locker room — it would've gone in, but it was blocked by Draymond Green's ego."

• RJ Currie of sportsdeke.com: "An ESPN tennis expert said Maria Sharapova was looking good at the baseline. With an annual income of \$21 million, I'm thinking she looks even better at the bottom line."

• Dwight Perry again: "Pitcher Adam Ottavi-

no will become the first player in Yankee history to wear jersey number 0. Manny Machado and Bryce Harper, not to be outdone, are holding out for the symbol \$."

• Perry again: "CBS has rejected a Super Bowl ad for medicinal marijuana. But if you thought the pot moguls were upset about the news, you should've seen the folks at Frito-Lay."

• Jack Finarelli of SportsCurmudgeon.com, on being required to wear loose-fitting clothing to an exercise class he signed up for: "If I HAD any loose-fitting clothing I wouldn't need the bleepin' class!"

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

PRAISE & WORSHIP

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

LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN

Parkside
11 a.m. - Worship
Pastor Chris Dean

PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

Parkside
10:30 a.m. Worship
Pastor Doug Hope
306-747-3572
Shellbrook
Sun., 10:30 a.m. - Worship
Pastor David Bodvarson
306-747-2335
Canwood
11:00 a.m. - Worship
Pastor Glenn Blazosek
306-468-2138
Leask Gospel Tabernacle
Sunday 11 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.
Pastor Lorne Valuck

SOVEREIGN GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH

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

EVANGELICAL FREE

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

CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

PRESBYTERIAN

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

SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST

407-2nd Ave E, Shellbrook
Sat., 9:45 a.m. - Sabbath School
Sat., 11:00 am - Worship
Broadcast on
VOAR 92.1 FM
Pastor Scott Manly
306-747-3305

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
Diocese of Saskatchewan
Synod Office 306-763-2455
and leave message.

UNITED CHURCH

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

MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCH

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

Shellbrook RCMP makes drug bust on Ahtahkakoop FN

On Wednesday, Jan. 30, RCMP members from Shellbrook, Spiritwood, Ahtahkakoop, Blaine Lake, Traffic Services and RCMP police Dog Services all assisted in the execution of a search warrant under the Controlled Drug and Substances Act, at a residence on the Ahtahkakoop First Nation.

Fourteen people were located in the residence and arrested. Three of the persons had outstanding warrants for their arrest.

A large amount of controlled substances, weapons, a stolen vehicle, and

drug paraphernalia were located at the residence. Small amounts of cocaine and 65 individual packages of Methamphetamine, weighing approximately 5 grams each, were also located.

Three people have been charged with possession for the purpose of trafficking under the Controlled Drugs and Substances act, including Dustin Nigel Ratt, Russell George Bird, and Jo Dee Ratt.

The three accused were scheduled to appear in court in Prince Albert on Friday Feb. 1.

Money Matters

How to maximize your retirement savings

(NC) In today's economy jobs have changed and many of us work outside the nine-to-five model as freelancers, gig workers, job jumpers and post-

poned professionals. But if you're part of this flexible workforce, how can you plan and save for a healthy retirement?

According to a recent TD survey, 55 per cent of working Canadians who are part of the "flexforce" say they are not able to save as much as they need to each year to meet their retirement goals.

As job statuses fluctuate, your retirement goals may naturally evolve too. To keep up with these changes, it's important to have a plan, review it regularly and see it through in order to maximize your saving and investing potential.

Jennifer Diplock, associate vice president of personal savings and investing at TD Canada Trust, offers these quick tips to help navigate retirement planning:

Educate yourself. Spend time learning about retirement savings options and what your ideal retirement would look like. Once you've determined your goals, establish a plan to help you stay on track.

Contribute early. Remember to start planning early to maximize the benefits that time provides. For example, long-term investing gives you a longer period of potential investment growth and can help mitigate shorter-term fluctuations in the market.

Work and save your way. With challenges associated with flexforce employment – such as the unpredictability of an untraditional job and a potentially inconsistent cash flow – many people find making smaller weekly, bi-weekly or monthly contributions easier than making large lump-sum contributions. Setting up a pre-authorized purchase plan can help with finding the right timing and amount that works for you.

Plan regular check-ins with your financial advisor. Given the number of variables you may experience as a freelancer, it's important to speak to a financial advisor on a regular basis. Receiving financial advice early and regularly will allow you to evolve your plan to help keep your financial goals in check.



Tips as the tax deadline approaches

(NC) With your taxes due soon, keep in mind these top tips for a smooth experience.

Keep your receipts in a safe spot. If you make one-time donations to charities throughout the year, make sure you keep your tax receipts in a safe spot that you remember – either electronically or filed away. This way, you won't be left scrambling at the April filing deadline last minute.

Get help from a professional. Tax season can be overwhelming, and the last thing you want to do is make a mistake. If you're confused, don't be afraid to seek professional help. Many accounting firms will take walk-ins right up

until the deadline.

Keep track of donations throughout the year. Be sure to keep track of your gifts if you've donating to multiple charities throughout the year. This way, you know what receipts to look for and can file an accurate and up-to-date return. If you are a monthly donor, charities are required to send you a cumulated tax receipt early in 2019. Be sure you know how to follow up with charities if you haven't received a receipt.

File on time. Even if you don't have all the paperwork in order, it's important to file your taxes on time. It's better to request an adjustment after the deadline than to miss it.



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Satellite office attendances:
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Money Matters

Protect yourself from new banking risks

(NC) Financial technology is constantly evolving, and the nonstop influx of new digital banking options is proof of that.

Financial technology, or fintech, refers to any kind of technological innovation used to support or provide financial services, such as online transactions through you tablets or smartphone. These innovations are bringing about major changes in the financial industry and giving rise to a range of new business models, applications, processes and products.

Although fintech apps can give you easy access to your personal finances, there are also some risks involved. For instance, your banking information — such as your debit or credit card number, user name, or personal

identification number (PIN) — could be stolen.

That's why it's important to be very careful about sharing your personal and banking information online. In fact, did you know that by providing your banking or credit card information to a fintech app, you may risk violating your financial institution's user agreement?

This means that no matter what security features a fintech app has in place, your financial institution may hold you responsible if your personal information is stolen and used without your knowledge or approval.

Here are a few tips to help you protect your personal, banking and credit card information when using fintech apps:

- Check your bank's user agreement before you share

your personal, banking or credit card information.

- Check your financial institution's fraud protection policy to confirm who is responsible for any unauthorized transactions.

- Make sure you understand what security measures are in place and how your personal information may be used.

- Check your credit report regularly for any applications for credit or transactions you did not make. You can have a fraud alert placed on your credit report file to tell lenders to contact you and confirm your identity before they approve any applications for credit.

If you suspect that your information has been compromised, change your passwords immediately. Review your bank account

and credit card statements and look for anomalies, and immediately report any un-

authorized transactions to your financial institution. You should also order and

review your credit report. Find more information at Canada.ca/money

Top 3 money lessons to teach your kids

(NC) We all want our kids to be safe, happy, healthy and successful. One critical way to help them have a great future is to teach them about finances and how to take care of their money and savings. Here are three lessons experts recommend sharing with your kids.

1. Protect your information. Bank accounts and credit cards are vulnerable to hacking and identity theft, especially in our digital age. In fact, every year, thousands of Canadians lose millions of dollars to fraudsters. Teach your children to never provide their personal or financial information over the phone, via text message, email or the internet when someone asks for it unsolicited.

2. Shop online securely. Depending on their age, your child may already be doing some shopping online, even if it's just buying a new character or setting in an app or video game.

Educate them on the importance of using a secure connection — like their home Wi-Fi or cellphone data — as well as setting strong passwords and checking with a trusted adult to make sure it's safe.

3. Trust your instincts. Part of understanding the value of money is being able to spot a great deal. But shocking offers, unbelievable discounts and unreal rates may signal that the offer isn't quite what it seems. Ridiculously low prices usually equal cheap products or counterfeit goods. Free offers may require providing your credit card for shipping. Small tactics like these can lead to big profits for scammers, so it pays to trust your instincts — anything that sounds too good to be true usually is.

Find more information at www.competitionbureau.gc.ca/fraud.



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OBITUARIES

*Marvin Betker*

BETKER - Marvin Lloyd Betker

October 25, 1952 - January 27, 2019

The family of Marvin Betker are brokenhearted to announce that he passed away suddenly on January 27, 2019 at his home. Marvin was born on October 25, 1952 at Shellbrook, SK to Rudolph and Lucy (nee: Crawford) Betker. He lived and farmed with his two brothers

and mother on the family farm for many years after Rudolph passed away. Then he carried on farming after they passed away. He was still doing what he loved.

Marvin loved all animals, especially his cattle. He was named Saler Commercial Breeder of the year in 2013. He enjoyed family, reading, sports and fishing.

Marvin carried on the family tradition of being a good neighbour. He would drop whatever he was doing to help anyone however he could. He is missed and remembered by: his sisters, Judy Jordan (Rick Maines) and Brenda Betker (Les Jessop); his nephew, Chris Jordan; his niece, Haley (Tom) Flemington and his great nephew, Zack Flemington; his brother-in-law, David Dawson; his friends and best

neighbours ever, Carol Murray and Bill and Eileen Dobson as well as other family and friends.

Marvin was predeceased by: his parents, Rudolph and Lucy Betker; his brothers, Maurice and Roy Betker; his sister, Gloria Dawson and an infant sister as well as other relatives.

A memorial service for Marvin will be held at a later date. Donations in memory of Marvin may be made to Heart and Stroke Foundation, 1738 Quebec Avenue #26, Saskatoon, SK S7K 1V9.

Family and friends wishing to send online condolences are invited to visit www.beaulacfuneralhome.com. Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of Beau "Lac" Funeral Home, Fred Pomrenk, Funeral Director, Shellbrook (306-747-2828).

Norma Gampe

GAMPE - Mrs. Norma 1948 - 2019

The family of Norma Jean Gampe are heartbroken to announce that she passed away suddenly on January 28, 2019 at her home in Shellbrook at the age of 70.

Norma was born in Prince Albert, SK, on June 4, 1948 to Stanley and Janetta Horricks. She was the second of 4 children. Norma grew up in Shellbrook and attended Hazel Ridge School until grade 5 then was bussed to Shellbrook School until 1968 when she graduated her grade 12.

In November 9, 1968 she married Arthur

Gampe and moved to the family farm in the Silver Grove District. They have 3 children, Bradley (Angela) Gampe of Cudworth, SK, and their children, Bradley Jr, Cody, Austin and Joshua Gampe; Karen (Ken) Trischuk of Cudworth, SK, and their children Makayla and Brayden Trischuk; and Kevin Gampe of Cudworth, SK, and his children, Colby, Kaitlynn, and Nicolas Gampe; her siblings, Marie Trueman of Shellbrook SK, Gordon (Lana) Horricks of Shellbrook, SK, and Heather (Troy) Anderson of Saskatoon, SK. Norma was predeceased by her parents, Stanley and Janetta Horricks; her mother and father-in-law, Ewald and Anna Gampe; and her brother-in-law's, Norman Trueman, George Staus, Walter Gampe, and Harry Gampe.

Norma will be remembered most of all for always being there for her children and grandchildren. At the drop of a hat she would always

be there to lend a helping hand to anyone that knew her. Norma enjoyed her gardening, reading, her bell collection, playing her weekly canasta games and belonging to the Shellbrook Health Care Auxiliary as the secretary.

The Funeral Service for Norma was held on Saturday, February 2, 2019 at 1:00 p.m. from the Shellbrook Seniors Centre with Susan Sorensen officiating. Norma was laid to rest in the Silver Grove Cemetery following the luncheon. Those wishing to make a donation in memory of Norma may consider either the Shellbrook Health Care Auxiliary (Box 576 Shellbrook, SK S0J 2E0) or to the Heart & Stroke Foundation. Family and friends wishing to send online condolences are welcome to visit www.beaulacfuneralhome.com Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of Beau "Lac" Funeral Home, Tammy Smart & Samantha Chel - Director (Shellbrook 306-747-2828).

Grace Valuck

VALUCK - Grace

Born Oct 10, 1925 in Kennedy Saskatchewan, to Joseph and Rose Barsi, Grace joined three other siblings, Margaret, Elsie and Joe.

The family would have one more addition, Mildred. A few months after Grace was born, the family moved to the Leask area where, Grace would spend the rest of her life.

Grace grew up on a farm, about 5 miles north of Leask, attending Bramshott School. She spoke, fondly of her school days, the long walk, and sometimes buggy rides to and from school, and how she'd

stay with Aunt Mary and Uncle Andrew in the winter on school days because they lived a mere mile or so from the school.

I gather from photos and the odd story, that at a time when it seemed work was the flavor of the day, dolls, music, visiting and other fun things had their place as well. A couple "interesting" jobs Grampa Barsi had the girls do was roguing the fields for weeds, and turning the forge crank in his shop. And a few of the pleasures mom spoke of was when Grampa let the kids ride on a piece of farm equipment going out to pick wild flowers, attending church picnics and family get togethers.

On October 24, 1944, Grace married Fred Valuck and together they raised 4 boys, Darryl, Mervin, Ben and Lorne.

As many women of the time, mom was cook, gardener, farmhand, seamstress, barber, secretary, counsellor and more. Emphasis on cook. There was always lots of

food on hand and it was never a problem having friends come to visit and eat. We "had our cake and ate it too", and there was still lots more.

In addition to her home life, mom enjoyed serving and fellowshiping with the God she loved, being active in the church, teaching Sunday School, playing piano, singing, participating in women's ministries... and praying. In the last few days, several people of this community have commented on sharing times of prayer with mom.

Even in the last months, while visiting with mom at Wheatland Lodge, when the conversation turned to Sunday's church service, Ladies Brunch, Kid's club, or someone going through a difficult time, she would say, "I'm praying for you" or "O no. That's too bad. I'll pray for them".

And in her last couple of weeks, mom continued to talk to God, specifically praying that people would be ready,

asking God for forgiveness if she had hurt anyone, and repeatedly appealing to God to "Bless the Children".

Over several years us boys got married. Barb, Judy, Colleen and Donna joined the clan, and Mom took on role of Grandma, and eventually, Great Grandma.

Dad passed away in 1984, and mom, at the age of 60 entered into another stage of her life. Widowhood and town life certainly brought changes, but mom seemed to cope quite well, continuing to be active as long as her health allowed.

She stretched herself a bit: cooking on an electric stove, travelling alone by bus and airplane to visit family, taking on a baby sitting job, hosting 5 Day Club for Kids in the summer, and coordinating rides for Seniors Transportation.

Town life also brought

more time for shopping. Mom enjoyed shopping, and every so often she and Aunt Elsie Jacobs would organize a trip to PA or Saskatoon with family or friend as a driver, and shop the day away.

O yes, mom did shop local, first walking down town, then using her scooter, and in later years, phoning in her orders. Thank you to the Spriggs, McHansons, and Woodland Pharmacy for their great service.

Mom loved her home, and as her health deteriorated we are so grateful for the care of her friends & neighbors, and the Home Care staff that allowed mom to stay in her home as long as she could.

We are also grateful for Wheatland Lodge- the facility, the staff and the volunteers that made it possible for mom to stay in her community until the time of her passing from an earthly sleep to her Eternal Rest.

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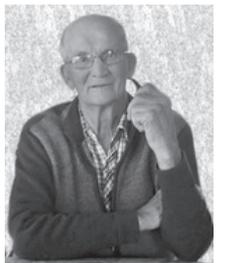
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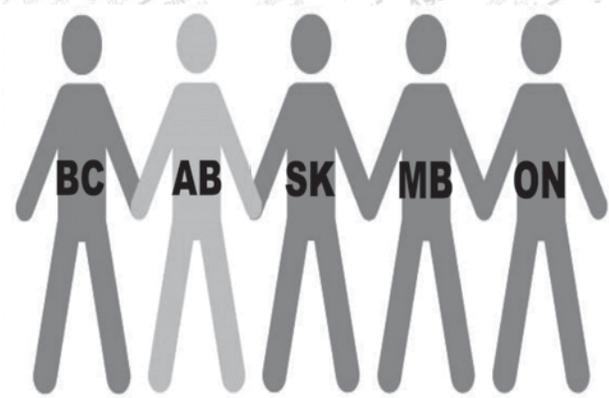
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University of Saskatchewan fruit breeders receive award (Part I)

By Sara Williams

Bob Bors and Rick Sawatzky, fruit breeders with the Department of Plant Sciences, University of Saskatchewan, are the joint recipients of the prestigious Stevenson Award for their development of hardy sour cherries and haskaps.

Inaugurated by the Manitoba Horticultural Association in 1932, it honours in-

dividuals who have "made a conspicuous achievement in the field of practical horticulture." Named in memory of A. P. Stevenson, a pioneer Manitoba horticulturist who arrived from Scotland in 1874, it has been given only 21 times in 83 years.

As gardeners, we seldom give much thought to their origins as we eat haskaps fresh off the bush or take a

cherry pie out of the oven. But it took more than 50 years of breeding and selection work at the University of Saskatchewan before you planted your prairie-hardy cherries and over 20 years went into the development of those haskaps.

Sour Cherries

The first sour cherries planted in the University experimental plots were

from seeds from the Central Siberian Botanic Garden in Novosibirsk. These were just beginning to fruit when Rick began work as a technician in 1971. They had low productivity and lacked winter hardiness. Asked to discard them, Rick took two home which he tried (unsuccessfully) to cross with sweet cherries. His goal: to develop a hardy, large shrub with



'Cupid' is part of the Romance series of hardy sour cherries released by the University of Saskatchewan in 2003. Image credit: Bob Bors.

large, high quality fruit.

Rick's next crosses involved a collection of sour cherries, mainly from Europe, received from Les Kerr (who had worked on them for at least 20 years). All these were controlled crosses in the greenhouse with help from Rick's kids on weekends. "It was a great botany lesson for them."

Rick crossed the best of these, 'Kerr's Easy Pick', with 'North Star', a sour cherry tree introduced from Minnesota. The result was 'SK Carmine Jewel', the first hardy sour cherry introduced by the University of Saskatchewan in 1999.

Bob arrived at the University of Saskatchewan in 1999 when a new generation of Rick's seedlings were coming into production. He tasted them, began taking data and thought, "These cherries are exciting!" Bob jokingly says, "Rick was their Dad and I became their Godfather."

Bob tested them, further selected the best and developed a protocol for their tissue culture propagation. He gathered additional cherries from local growers and Ontario and made more crosses. When making selections he looked at flavour, size, pitting ease and the possibility of mechanical harvesting.

Bob introduced the Romance series of cherries in 2003: 'Crimson Passion', 'Cupid', 'Juliet', 'Romeo' and 'Valentine.' Rick's favourite is still 'Carmine Jewel' while Bob's favourites are 'Romeo' and 'Juliet'.

Marketing

The next step was introducing the new dwarf sour cherries and haskaps to commercial fruit growers and the

nursery trades. Thousands of open-pollinated plants were sold through Western Producer ads and dozens of clones were distributed free to carefully chosen co-operators.

Bob became the consummate marketer and publicist of both cherries (and later the haskaps), writing a growers manual (with Linda Matthews), giving many talks and courses, leading plot tours, posting articles on the Fruit Program's web site (www.fruit.usask.ca) which gets 2 million hits per year, and taking cherries and haskaps with him for folks to taste wherever he went. Once people became aware of their existence, both fruits became very popular.

Rick's advice on the care of sour cherries: "Grow them as a shrub with multiple stems rather than in tree form." Bob concurs and adds: "Keep the soil around cherries weed-free."

[Next week – Giving birth to a new Industry – Prairie haskaps]

Sara Williams is the author of many books including *Gardening Naturally with Hugh Skinner*, *Creating the Prairie Xeriscape*, and with Bob Bors, *Growing Fruit in Northern Gardens*. She continues to give workshops on a wide range of gardening topics throughout the prairies.

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

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