

Shellbrook Chronicle & Spiritwood Herald



VOL. 108 NO. 17 PMR #40007604

Thursday, April 23, 2020

www.shellbrookchronicle.com | www.spiritwoodherald.com

Town of Shellbrook makes limited COVID cutbacks



Though COVID-19 has resulted in a few cutbacks for the Town of Shellbrook, the town is mostly taking a wait and see approach as the pandemic plays out.

With the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic forcing businesses to make difficult cutbacks or close their doors altogether, some ratepayers have been wondering what sacrifices and cutbacks their municipalities are making to save money during difficult economic times.

Kelly Hoare, chief administrative officer for the town of Shellbrook, says the town office, which is closed to the public, isn't as full as it normally is. Currently she's there alone during the day, while one other staff member is working evenings and a third is working from home.

"We are considered an essential service and need to be available to our ratepayers," she said.

Hoare adds that the town's public works crew is also an essential service,

and that there have been no layoffs to date to ensure that water and waste water testing, and snow removal can be completed in a timely fashion.

Additionally, with the spring melt beginning, Hoare says that the crew is busy thawing catch basins and getting water running. With temperatures still dipping below freezing in the evening, Hoare says this is proving to be a challenge.

That said, Hoare reassures the public that proper COVID-19 protocols are being observed by town employees.

"The men are practicing safe distancing while working together, as there are many jobs around town that require two people to complete them," she said.

Elsewhere, Hoare says that the early

closure of the Shellbrook Recreation Complex resulted in a few layoffs. However, she notes that these employees would have been laid off following the end of the rink season regardless.

Another town employee was also laid off because the town couldn't provide a workplace that allowed for the practice of proper physical distancing until the snow melts and there's grass to cut.

Hoare also notes that all of the town's recreation plans are on hold for now, meaning that summer recreation staff, including lifeguards and playground program supervisors, may not end up working this summer.

With Public Health declaring that self-contained campsites can be opened, it fell to Shellbrook's town council at Mon-

day evening's meeting to decide whether the campground's four self-contained sites would be opened to the public. In the end, council decided to keep the campground closed for now and discussed the possibility of fencing off the playgrounds in local parks as well.

Also at that meeting, council tabled a motion to suspend its remuneration and redirect the money to full-time town employees whose attendance at work has been limited by COVID-19.

Finally, in a move to help ratepayers who may be struggling financially, council discussed allowing ratepayers to defer their utility bills. On that front, as well, it delayed any decision to get a better idea of how the pandemic is going to play out.

THE Shellbrook Chronicle & Spiritwood Herald

ARE STILL OPEN FOR BUSINESS! IF YOU HAVE A MESSAGE TO GET OUT TO THE PUBLIC REGARDING COVID-19, OR CHANGES TO HOURS/SERVICES, PLEASE CONTACT US.

ANY NEWS, NOTICES OR ADS CAN BE SENT TO OUR OFFICE BY
EMAIL: chads@sbchron.com, FAX#: 306-747-3000 or PHONE: 306-747-2442.



Area churches adapting to COVID-19

With COVID-19 preventing local and area faith communities from gathering in person for their usual church services, many churches have had to fully embrace the social media age to meet the spiritual needs of their parishioners.

The *Chronicle* recently caught up with four local clergy members, to learn more about how they're staying in touch with their congregations during the pandemic.

Pastor David Bodvarson of the Shellbrook Pentecostal Assembly says that he and his wife, Marlene, have started making use of Facebook and YouTube to provide weekly video services to the congregation. The first videos, appropriately titled "At Home with the Bodvarsons," were posted on April 5, and have been posted every Sunday since.

On a separate note, Bodvarson says it's been mostly business as usual for the Shellbrook and Area Ministerial Food Bank, and that the food bank has yet to see any surge in use related to COVID-19.

According to the latest treasurer's report, the food bank has handed out 13 food hampers since Feb. 1. Thanks to generous donations from

community members, the food bank had \$1,400 in income compared to just \$1,200 in expenses in that same time frame.

As the pastor for First United Church in Big River, and the supervisor of clergyless churches in La Ronge, Tisdale, and Melfort, Dave Whalley is a busy man.

Rather than embracing social media, Whalley says he calls members of his congregation in Big River on a weekly basis to keep and touch and provide a sermon.

He also provides a weekly sermon for parishioners in La Ronge, Tisdale, Melfort, and Candle Lake, and encourages them to email it out to everyone.

"Quite a few people are anxious to have a 'big party' when this is all over. I am finding people want to talk longer each week that I call," he said of his experience.

Whalley also reminds parishioners that the La Ronge United Church is sending out daily meditations and a weekly newsletter, written by its members. They also keep in touch via the church's Facebook page.

As for Shellbrook's Knox United Church, student minister Jonathan Worrall says that it has finally joined Facebook.

"Not only does this enable the faith community to remain in touch and post items of interest, it also allows us to post live worship videos every Sunday," he said. "We email services to those who

do not have Facebook. We mail and hand deliver services to those members who do not have a computer or internet access."

Worrall adds that the community has also done its part

to provide a sense of togetherness during the COVID-19 pandemic, by creating a phone tree so that congregation members can keep in touch with each other.

Worrall says this has been especially important for those who are in long-term care or retirement communities, and may be feeling the effects of isolation more acutely than others.

Emmanuel Aristide, who serves the congregations of St. John's Lutheran Church in Shellbrook and Zion Lutheran Church in Canwood, admits that "being the church in a time of global pandemic was not one of the classes taught at my Seminary."

Despite this, Aristide is helping his parishioners through these "dark times" by livestreaming Sunday worship services on Facebook (this began on Sunday, March 22). Services begin at 9 a.m., but the videos can be watched at any time.

"We even have a parishioner living at a local care home who has been faithfully watching all our services from her own iPad, allowing her fellow residents to virtually attend church together with her," he said. "We thought that was very thoughtful and wonderful."

Like Worrall, Aristide also has those without internet

access in mind. To serve these people, church members in Canwood and Shellbrook have been distributing printed sermons.

The church communities have also banded together to reach out to parishioners in hospitals or long-term care homes via telephone.

"They call them regularly to listen to their needs and ask them if the church can help them in any way. We believe that it is important to keep in touch with our members, listening to their needs, praying with them or on their behalf in the midst of this tough time," Aristide said.

On a more personal note, Aristide says that the COVID-19 pandemic has had an impact on him as well. In particular, he says his churches no longer feel like home without parishioners to fill the pews.

Despite this, he remains confident that this, too, shall pass, and even has a piece of scripture to offer those who may be struggling:

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult." (Psalm 46: 1-3.)

Leask resident offers Easter greeting



Shellbrook isn't the only community where residents did their best to make it feel like Easter, even if COVID-19 prevented family gatherings and all the usual festivities. Leask resident Margie Monus provided her community with an Easter greeting on Easter Sunday morning, by decorating her home for the occasion.

R.M. OF SHELLBROOK NO. 493 ASSESSMENT ROLL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Assessment Roll of the Rural Municipality of Shellbrook No. 493 for the year of 2020 has been prepared and is now open for inspection in the office of the Assessor from 8:30 a.m. to Friday 4:00 p.m., Monday to Friday from April 24th, 2020 to June 26th, 2020.

A bylaw pursuant to Section 214 of *The Municipalities Act* has been passed and the assessment notices have been sent as required.

Any person who wishes to appeal his/her assessment is required to file his/her notice of appeal accompanied by \$200.00 appeal fee per roll number with The Assessor, R.M. of Shellbrook, Box 250, Shellbrook, Sask, S0J 2E0, by the 26th of June, 2020.

Dated at Shellbrook, Saskatchewan, this 23rd day of April, 2020.

Duane Storey
Acting Administrator

NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF ASSESSMENT ROLL

Notice is hereby given that the Assessment Roll for the Rural Municipality of Canwood No. 494 for the year 2020 has been prepared and is open to inspection by contacting the Office of the Assessor from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on the following days: Monday to Friday, April 24, 2020, to Wednesday, June 24, 2020. Currently the office is closed to the public as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic; however, the assessment roll will be made available to the public by appointment or through electronic means.

A bylaw pursuant to Section 214 of *The Municipalities Act* has been passed and the assessment notices have been sent as required.

Any person who wishes to appeal against his or her assessment is required to file his or her notice of appeal, accompanied by a \$300.00 appeal fee per roll number which will be returned if the appeal is successful, with the Assessor at R.M. of Canwood No. 494, Box 10, 641 Main Street, Canwood, Saskatchewan, S0J 0K0, by the 24th day of June, 2020.

Dated at Canwood, Saskatchewan, this 23rd day of April, 2020.

Lorna Benson, Assessor

Public Notice – RM of Leask

Public notice is hereby given that the Council of the RM of Leask intends to consider the adoption of two bylaws under *The Planning and Development Act, 2007*. The RM will establish a new Official Community Plan and Zoning Bylaw.

Intent: The proposed Official Community Plan bylaw will establish municipal land use policies, goals and objectives for the RM. The proposed Zoning Bylaw will implement land use regulations, establish zoning districts, prescribe permitted and discretionary uses within each zoning district, establish a development permit process, prescribe a process for appeals and provide a provision for amendments.

Affected Land: The proposed bylaws will affect all land within the incorporated area of the RM.

Reason: The Official Community Plan will provide the RM with direction on development decisions and municipal goals. The Zoning Bylaw will help direct and manage growth and development within the RM.

Public Inspection: Any person may inspect the proposed bylaws and associated maps at the RM office during normal office hours. Copies of the bylaws are available at cost. The bylaws and associated maps are also posted on the RM's website at www.rmleask.ca.

Public Hearing: In response to the COVID-19 coronavirus council has decided to postpone the public hearing until further notice.

The RM will continue to monitor the challenges with the COVID-19 situation and provide notification when the public hearing will be held.

Issued at the RM of Leask 13/April/2020

Judy Douglas
Chief Administrative Officer

NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF ASSESSMENT ROLL TOWN OF BIG RIVER

Pursuant to subsection 214 of *The Municipalities Act*, notice is hereby given that the assessment roll for the Town of Big River for the year 2020 has been prepared and is open to inspection in the office of the assessor from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday inclusive until May 25th, 2020.

Any person who wishes to appeal against her or her assessment or classification to the Board of Revision is required to file his or her notice of Appeal with:

**The Assessor
Town of Big River
Box 220, Big River, Saskatchewan S0J 0E0, by the 25th day of May, 2020.**

Dated this 23rd day of April, 2020.

Noreen Olsen
Assessor

PICK OF THE WEEK

(9501UA)
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*Kms and price in thousands. Taxes not included in price.

Bowl raffle nets \$1,000 for Shellbrook Food Bank

Over the last couple of years, Mike Sharron has embraced the hobby of wood turning. He's created several handmade bowls and creative pieces of art.

When he finished his last bowl on Thursday, April 9, his wife, Tasje, knew it was another very beautiful piece and they wanted to do a fundraiser to help the community.

Tasje talked to a couple of people who are very involved in the community and aware of its needs, and from there it was an easy decision where to donate the profits.

The Shellbrook and Area Ministerial Food Bank was the recipient. It is used year round, and an uptick in its use is pretty much guaranteed with the pandemic in place. Many families are either losing their jobs or getting laid off.

Tickets were \$5 each, and each ticket gave the buyer 1 entry. After just 48 hours they had raised over \$500. By April 16, the day of the draw, exactly \$1,000 was raised.

A huge round of appreciation goes out to everyone far and wide who participated in the fundraiser.

And congratulations goes to Brandee Anderson, the lucky winner.



Tasje Sharron (right) presents the \$1,000 cheque to food bank chair David Bodvarson, while trying to maintain proper physical distancing.



This bowl, crafted by hobbyist wood turner Mike Sharron, was recently raffled off as a fundraiser for the Shellbrook and Area Ministerial Food Bank. The raffle raised \$1,000.

Safety a top priority for Hujber's Market on Main

Amidst the closure of many businesses that are considered non-essential due to the COVID-19 pandemic, those providing necessities have remained open and finding ways to continue operating. Hujber's Market on Main is one such business in the town of Spiritwood.

Taking action on March 13, the local grocer implemented a variety of protocols to help keep staff and shoppers safe during these uncertain times. Their protocols have been continuously updated as more information is brought to light.

Up to date signage is the first thing a person sees when they walk through the doors, and sanitizing wipes are available near the cart pick-up.

Two-meter intervals are marked at checkout lines encouraging customers to

maintain safe social distancing as they line up to pay for their groceries.

Store employees have been encouraged to practice rigorous hand washing and have been provided disposable gloves and masks if they wish to wear them. Plexiglas shields were installed at checkouts to reduce the risk of aerial transmission between customers and staff and employees wipe down and sanitize carts after each use.

Some services have been halted in order to help keep staff safe while at work. Carry out car service is no longer an option and counter service of fried chicken and slicing of deli meats has been stopped. Chicken is also not being fried on Saturdays anymore.

Store hours have been shortened by an hour at the beginning and end of

each day to allow time for staff to sanitize all highly touched surfaces. Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays the store closes for up to two hours to allow staff to restock shelves in a safe environment.

Supply shortages have hit hard across the country and Spiritwood is no exception. With massive amounts of items out of stock or in a prorated situation, Hujber's has tried to maintain supply for customers but this remains a challenge as the food supply chain has been "playing catch-up from the onset," says Dave Hujber, owner and operator.

Many manufacturers have reduced production to focus on the core products that are considered essentials.

This has resulted in reduced selection on grocery store shelves and a very different shopping experience than two months prior. Many supply chains have started to break down as stores all across North America are scrambling to get the same products at the same time.

"We are very grateful to all customers who have visited our store and trusted us to provide as safe of an environment as possible for their shopping experience," said Hujber.

"Support of small-town business during this pandemic or anytime is the heartbeat of Saskatchewan. We thank you for your support and please be assured, we are trying our best to serve you now and always."

Botchy's GREENHOUSE

at Botchy's Campground & RV Park

Just follow signs from HWY 40 at Leask, HWY 12 south of Shell Lake to Secondary 792 or HWY 3 west of Shellbrook.

OPEN MAY 1, 2020

We will be open but because of COVID-19 we will be under federal restrictions. We ask that you **CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT** for your visit to Botchy's.

TEXT ORDERS WELCOME: 1-403-818-7229 or e-mail botchys@hotmail.com

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Other medical concerns?
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SMA | SASKATCHEWAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

Saskatchewan Small Business Emergency Payment

This \$50 million program will provide financial support to small and medium-sized businesses that have had to temporarily close or significantly curtail operations as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. This one-time grant will be paid based on 15 per cent of a business' monthly sales revenue, to a maximum of \$5,000.

For more information visit www.saskatchewan.ca/covid19-businesses or to apply visit <https://saskatchewan.ca/small-business-emergency-payment>

Business Response Team available to assist you 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM Monday to Friday toll free 1-844-800-8688

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

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

Nadine Wilson
MLA for Saskatchewan Rivers
saskrivers@sasktel.net

Sask. must be cautious about COVID-19 optimism

Remember that time, in 2003, when a certain United States president stood upon the deck of an aircraft carrier in front of a banner that proudly proclaimed “Mission Accomplished?”

How about that time when the supposedly accomplished mission resulted in eight more years of bloody conflict and a perpetually destabilized Middle East?

If you answered yes to either (or both) of those questions, then you’re likely among those who feel uncomfortable with some of the recent messages coming from the provincial government in regards to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Two weeks ago, the Saskatchewan Health Authority released its first round of modelling data on potential pandemic scenarios, with those scenarios projecting that COVID-19 could infect between 153,000 and 408,000 Saskatchewan residents and claim anywhere from 3,075 to 8,370 victims.

As they unveiled the stark figures, health experts added the caveat that the scenarios were contingent upon Saskatchewan adhering to public health orders and guidelines around physical distancing and personal hygiene.

They also warned that the pandemic could be expected to continue for “the coming weeks and months,” and that people’s behaviour would ultimately



JORDAN TWISS
~
News Editor

determine the virus’ short and long-term impacts on the province.

Given the low infection and death rate in Saskatchewan thus far, the modelling data no doubt seemed rather alarmist to some.

And, perhaps, time will prove that the three initial modelling scenarios were way off base.

Even if that turns out to be the case, and even if case numbers remain stagnant as they have over much of the

past week, there’s still no reason for us to get complacent about COVID-19.

After all, the best and fastest way to weather the storm of the pandemic is to stay the course and listen to the advice of health experts.

And the best and fastest way to ensure that Saskatchewan residents do the exact opposite of this is to float the idea of a plan to reopen the province as Saskatchewan Premier Scott Moe did last week.

To be fair to Mr. Moe, he was very careful in his word choice when he spoke about releasing at least part of that plan this week, if case numbers in the province remained low.

“We are only one outbreak away from interrupting those numbers,” he said, further cautioning that life couldn’t be expected to return to normal overnight.



“We may not be able to move on some areas for a number of months, or until we get a vaccine,” he added.

After a month of COVID-19 locking down the province and leaving people fearing for the futures, Moe’s words undoubtedly sounded, upon first listen, like music to Saskatchewan’s collective ears.

They were a breath of fresh air. A light at the end of a long, dark tunnel. A much-needed dose of optimism — albeit, a cautious sort of optimism.

The trouble with offering people hope in the midst of a pandemic, however, is that it can give them all the wrong sorts of ideas.

In particular, giving people the sense that things may soon begin to return to normal could breed the very com-

placency that Mr. Moe and health experts have been cautioning the public against. And that, in turn, could undo all the work that has been done to flatten the curve of COVID-19.

We will return to normal eventually, and, given how dire the situation in the United States is, Saskatchewan is fortunate to be in the position that Mr. Moe’s government can begin planning for that eventuality.

But the fight against COVID-19 is a marathon, not a sprint, and there’s no prize for returning to business as usual first — in fact, being the first to do so could prove costly.

We have to see the fight against this virus through to the end. We can’t afford to declare “mission accomplished” before the war has ended.

Rural communities experiencing unique COVID-19 challenges

By Senator Pamela Wallin

Our small towns and rural communities across Canada are experiencing fallout from COVID-19 in unique and devastating ways. It has once again highlighted the rural/urban divide that exists in

Canada which is reflected in our national policies and politics.

The national media has also been negligent in covering a world that too many of them simply do not understand.

Instead, they focus on

Trump’s temper tantrums or the Prime Minister’s staged photo ops every morning, when we have people fighting for their lives - not just because of the virus, but because the response to the virus is bringing economic ruin.

We should be able to do two things at once! Flatten the curve and allow low risk sectors to begin to re-open.

To risk understatement, governments have not done a great job of getting the right kind of help into the hands of those

most in need. Mom and pop businesses on main streets of small towns everywhere don’t qualify for programs designed to help more traditional businesses in the manufacturing sector.

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Shellbrook Chronicle

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

Spiritwood Herald

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

A Division of Pepperfram Limited Publications
Mail Registration #07621

Published Every Thursday Morning

P.O. Box 10, Shellbrook, Sask. S0J 2E0
Phone 306-747-2442 or Fax 306-747-3000

Editorial: chnews@sbchron.com
Advertising chads@sbchron.com

C. J. Pepper, Publisher

Jordan Twiss, Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter
jordan@sbchron.com

Alison Sullivan, Spiritwood Herald Reporter
613-915-9317 or ali.sully81@gmail.com

Advertising Sales
sales@sbchron.com

Meghan Penney, Composition/Pagination
chads@sbchron.com

Karen Stene, Bookkeeping/Reception
accounting@sbchron.com

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.;

Friday, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. & 1 to 4 p.m.;

Advertising Deadline: Fridays at 4:00 p.m.

websites: www.shellbrookchronicle.com

www.spiritwoodherald.com

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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





HELP REDUCE THE SPREAD OF COVID-19

TAKE STEPS TO REDUCE THE SPREAD OF THE CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19):



Follow the advice of your local public health authority.



Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.



Use alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.



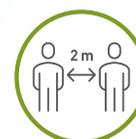
Try not to touch your eyes, nose or mouth.



Avoid close contact with people who are sick.



Cough and sneeze into your sleeve and not your hands.



Stay home as much as possible and if you need to leave the house practice physical distancing (approximately 2 m).

SYMPTOMS

Symptoms of COVID-19 may be very mild or more serious and may take up to 14 days to appear after exposure to the virus.



FEVER
(greater or equal to 38 °C)



COUGH



DIFFICULTY BREATHING

IF YOU HAVE SYMPTOMS



Isolate at home to avoid spreading illness to others.



Avoid visits with older adults, or those with medical conditions. They are at higher risk of developing serious illness.



Call ahead before you visit a health care professional or call your local public health authority.



If your symptoms get worse, contact your health care provider or public health authority right away and follow their instructions.

FOR INFORMATION ON COVID-19:

1-833-784-4397

canada.ca/coronavirus

Rural communities experiencing unique COVID-19 challenges

Continued from 4

If you run a one or two-person operation should you not be eligible for government programs? If they open for a few hours each week, should that disqualify you for aid?

The small, local newspapers have -to date-received very little advertising from the federal government. Instead Ottawa is buying ads on TV and in national chains.

More than ever these small operations need a hand up. Help needs to be more targeted and relevant for different parts of the economy.

It's as if government does not understand that small service towns in agricultural communities

exist for a reason - to ensure that those who supply our food and the energy to run our economy can carry on. The growing season is about to begin. We can't risk the food supply for another year and our producers still need a store and a school and a doctor and a shovel and fertilizer and machinery.

In the Prairies, farmers were already struggling before COVID as a result of bad weather and China's ban on exports such as canola. They, just like resource-based companies, have struggled to keep cash in hand because of a punitive carbon tax, including extra costs for grain drying.

Ottawa's response is to

offer farmers more access to loans. What nobody needs right now is more debt - with no prospect of income.

And the energy sector, which employs over 34,000 Saskatchewanians, was already in a tough spot with prices dropping and no pipelines to get the product to markets.

If farmers and energy sector workers have no income, then who will be buying the goods and services of our small local businesses? It will mean more layoffs and more permanently closed doors.

This isn't an either/or choice between lives and livelihoods. The health crisis and the economic

crisis are two sides of the same coin. You can't have a healthy economy without healthy people, and before we can get back to day-to-day life, we need available testing to determine who is, and isn't, carrying the virus.

But without people buying, creating, and contributing, we will not have the resources to fund the cost of the fight.

A total lockdown for another 6 months will take a huge human toll, leave more under or unemployed, and will push Canada's economy into depression.

The Bank of Canada says the virus has created a downturn that is already the sharpest on record.

GDP - the combined value of all our economic activity - shrunk by 9% last month alone.

Rural communities require economic activity to survive. And we need consistent, fast and reliable internet access to facilitate kids' homeschooling or local producers reaching out to local customers and telehealth services which are key in areas with no or sporadic 911 service.

Looking at past pandemics, rural communities are often hit last, but the hit is hard. So we need to make sure we have beds and PPE supplies, just in case. And we need timely access to hospitals and care facilities that are often miles away.

And we need to test as many as we can and continue to practice physical distancing. Doing so will ensure we can safely allow workers, in virus-free areas, or in areas that don't require a great deal of social interaction, to slowly get back to work.

And Canada needs to act boldly, now, to regenerate our own supply chain, and not just advocate for 'Made in Canada,' but ensure on it. We must not ever again be so reliant on China.

Right now, we should be investing in our rural communities. And fighting for them. Putting Humpty Dumpty back together is a going to be hard work. We can only hope it is possible.

Message from Premier Scott Moe

"Saskatchewan has been confronted by an unprecedented challenge with the COVID-19 pandemic. To reduce the spread of COVID-19 in our province, Saskatchewan's Chief Medical Health Officer Dr. Saqib Shahab has imposed a number of public health restrictions.

Saskatchewan people have met this challenge, showing vigilance in respecting these restrictions, and reducing the spread of COVID-19. Thank you to each and every Saskatchewan resident for doing your part.

Let's keep at it. Let's keep pulling together by staying apart."

Resources for citizens:

www.saskatchewan.ca/COVID19

Information, updates, self-assessment tool and other resources.

HealthLine811

Medical inquiries.

Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency

1-855-559-5502 — non-medical inquiries or to report non-compliance.



Resources for businesses and workers:

www.saskatchewan.ca/COVID19-business

AGRICULTURE

April 23, 2020

www.shellbrookchronicle.com | www.spiritwoodherald.com

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Oil market woes could be boon for farmers

It's sometimes easy to forget how interconnected commodity markets are.

Farm producers are generally aware that the price of oil tends to drive the overall market trend, with it certainly impacting farm inputs, both in the case of direct fuel costs, and the price of some fertilizers.

With Russia and Saudi Arabia fighting over share of the global oil, market prices plummeted, and the situation has been made worse as demand dipped massively in the face of CO-

VID-19 reducing needs internationally.

So the current disaster that is the world of international oil prices is not all bad news for farmers.

Last fall producers were generally hit with added costs to dry grain, meaning a hefty propane or natural gas bill for most.

This spring they may see the lowest fuel costs in years as they head to the field to plant their crops.

But oil prices are more than direct savings, or higher prices to fill the



CALVIN DANIELS

fuel tank on the tractor or farmers.

For example, there has been a continuing market for grains going into the ethanol sector. It has not been the market once envisioned

when ethanol was going to be the answer to the then exorbitant oil prices, but there has remained a niche.

Niche markets by their nature can be overrun rather easily, and when crude oil prices are at levels not seen in decades — some suggest below \$20 a barrel for the first quarter of 2020 — ethanol becomes a rather redundant fuel source.

Thankfully the ethanol market is not a massive one for grain sales to access, but it is likely a market that

will be lost in the immediate months ahead, and whether it ever rebounds to relevance in the short-term is a question mark.

Producers are likely not lamenting the potential market loss in the short term. The COVID-19 pandemic is going to keep food demand strong, provided the infrastructure to get product from farm gate to production mill to the consumer table holds up. At this point we should believe the system will manage, at least in developed coun-

tries where systems are generally better.

So the demand for what farmers produce should hold at least steady, with increases in some area, such as wheat flour in North America as consumers safeguard their home food supply by stocking up on non-perishable items.

How the markets play out amid the oil market battle and COVID-19 of course is the question hanging over farm producers headed to the fields to plant a new crop.

Road bans waived for agriculture products

To help lessen the impacts of many challenges in the provincial agriculture sector, the Government of Saskatchewan and Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM) are working together to lift spring road bans for priority goods.

"We have been working with SARM and the RMs to provide consent to determine which roads can handle secondary weights," Highways and Infrastructure Minister Greg Ottenbreit said. "At the same time, we will work with these municipalities to monitor roads to prevent unnecessary road

damage."

"This measure will help producers finish last year's harvest, market last year's crop, and get this year's crop in the ground," Agriculture Minister David Marit said. "We know that the agriculture sector is under pressure and we are here to assist our producers."

Producers are currently in need of critical supplies such as seed, fuel and fertilizer.

"We are encouraging RMs to work with highway officials to determine whether or not to allow the same weights on their local roads," SARM

President Ray Orb said. "This will be important to ensure trucks have access to farms and other facilities once they leave provincial highways."

Providing higher weight limits will require close monitoring by highway and municipal officials to ensure that if conditions changes or if road damage occurs, weight restrictions can be re-applied to ensure road safety — and minimize the need for costly repairs.

Shippers are reminded to check in to ensure they understand what restrictions are in place on provincial roads at [\[katchewan.ca/business/transportation-and-road-construction/information-for-truckers-and-commercial-trucking-companies/regulations-and-road-restrictions/increased-weights-and-road-restrictions\]\(https://www.saskatchewan.ca/business/transportation-and-road-construction/information-for-truckers-and-commercial-trucking-companies/regulations-and-road-restrictions/increased-weights-and-road-restrictions\). Official spring restriction orders are issued every Tuesday and Friday by 12:30 p.m. \(CST\) during the ban period.](https://www.sas-</p></div><div data-bbox=)

For this year only, there will be no permit requirements for priority goods. Routes will be determined in collaboration with local authorities based on local conditions.

PRINCE ALBERT LIVESTOCK SALES
A division of Northern Livestock Sales



To consign cattle or
for on-farm appraisals
please contact Brent,
Glen, Boyd or Frederick

Monday, April 27, 2020

Presort Sale 9:30 a.m.

Regular Sale 1:00 p.m.



Producers wishing to market cattle prior
to sale day please contact the
office 306-763-8463 for delivery.



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facility - working with the producers' best interest in mind

FEEDER FINANCE PROGRAM AVAILABLE - Please contact Glen

Brent 306-240-5340 • Glen 306-960-4732 • Boyd 306-841-7998 • Frederick 306-227-9505

Office 306-763-8463 ~ Fax 306-763-4620

For market info visit: www.northernlivestocksales.ca

MEADOW LAKE LIVESTOCK SALES LTD.



To consign cattle or
for on-farm appraisals
please contact
Brent, Blair or Brody

Wed., May 6, 2020

Regular Sale 9:00 a.m.

Producers wishing to market cattle prior to sale day
please contact the office 306-236-3411 for delivery.



Your independently owned & operated livestock marketing
facility - working with the producers' best interest in mind

FEEDER FINANCE PROGRAM AVAILABLE - Please contact Brent

Brent 306-240-5340 • Blair 306-240-9883 • Brody 306-240-6504

Office 306-236-3411 ~ Fax 306-236-3412

Email: mlstockyards@sasktel.net ~ market info visit: www.mlstockyards.com

Minutes of a Town of Spiritwood meeting

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

The regular meeting of the Council of the Town of Spiritwood was held in the Council Chambers at the Town Office located at 212 Main Street on Jan. 14, 2020 at 6:30 p.m..

In attendance were Mayor Gary von Holwede, Councillor Brad Nemish, Councillor Jim Bedi, Councillor Debbie Allan, Councillor Bryan Wingerter, Councillor George Pretli, Councillor Shannon Beaulac, and CAO Rhonda Saam.

A quorum being present, Mayor Von Holwede called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

George Pretli: That the agenda be adopted as presented. Seconded by Debbie Allan. Carried.

Debbie Allan: That the minutes of the regular meeting on Dec. 19, 2019 be approved as presented. Seconded by Brad Nemish. Carried.

Debbie Allan: That the correspondence be filed as presented. SUMA - 2020 Group Benefits Program; SUMA 115th Annual Convention - February 2020 - Resolutions; RM Appointment - 2020 Cemetery Caretaker. Seconded by Shannon Beaulac. Carried.

George Pretli: That the

Accounts for Ratification, Cheque No. 30423 to 30502 in the amount of \$99,720.80 be approved as presented. Seconded by Shannon Beaulac. Carried.

Bryan Wingerter: That the Accounts for Approval, Cheque No. 30503 to 30522 in the amount of \$42,024.57 be approved as presented. Seconded by Brad Nemish. Carried.

Bryan Wingerter: That the Bank Reconciliation for the month of December 2019 be approved as presented. Seconded by Debbie Allan. Carried.

Bryan Wingerter: That the Draft Financial Statement for the month of December 2019 be approved as presented. Seconded by Brad Nemish. Carried.

Brad Nemish: That we transfer the 2019 Cemetery Plot Fees (GL Acct# 420-600-100) in the amount of \$2,750 and the Cemetery Internment Fees (GL Acct# 420-600-101) in the amount of \$1,500 from the General Chequing operating account to the Cemetery Maintenance Fund/Infrastructure savings account as of Dec. 31, 2019. Seconded by Debbie Allan. Carried.

Bryan Wingerter: That we transfer the 2019 Infrastructure Fees in the amount of \$54,434.84 from the General Che-

quing operating account to the Cemetery Maintenance/Infrastructure savings account as of Dec. 31, 2019. Seconded by Debbie Allan. Carried.

Brad Nemish: That we transfer the 2019 Land Sale Revenue for Parcel UH in the amount of \$30,000 from the General Chequing operating account to the Reserves Chequing Account. Seconded by Bryan Wingerter. Carried.

Bryan Wingerter: That the reports be filed as presented. Chief Administrative Officer Verbal Report; Council Verbal Reports; Fire Department - 2019 Meeting Minutes - August to December; Water Treatment Plant - Operator Report - Nov. & Dec. 2019; Northern Lakes Economic Development Corp. - Jan. 2020. Seconded by George Pretli. Carried.

Bryan Wingerter: Waste & Recycling Collection and Disposal. That we postpone this item until the next meeting. Seconded by Jim Bedi. Carried.

Debbie Allan: That we accept the SGI Provincial Traffic Safety Fund Grant for the approved projects - Two Ped-In-A-Bag Stop-School Signs and Two Pedestrian-Activated Crosswalk Signs and complete and return

the final report form after completion of the project. Seconded by Bryan Wingerter. Carried.

Bryan Wingerter: That the following appointments be set effective January 1, 2020: Deputy Mayor - Jim Bedi; SARCS - Gary von Holwede, Brad Nemish; Spiritwood Museum - George Pretli; Spiritwood Library - Shannon Beaulac; Emergency Measures Organization - Jim Bedi, Gary von Holwede, Brad Nemish; Standing Committees: General Government - Gary von Holwede, Jim Bedi; Protective Services - Bryan Wingerter, Brad Nemish; Recreation & Culture - Gary von Holwede, Brad Nemish; Public Works - Bryan Wingerter, George Pretli; Planning & Development - Gary von Holwede, George Pretli; Health & Welfare - Bryan Wingerter, Shannon Beaulac; Environment - Jim Bedi, Debbie Allan; Fire Chief - Travis Penner; Deputy Fire Chief - Ron Radke. Seconded by Shannon Beaulac. Carried.

Jim Bedi: That the following remuneration be made for 2020, effective January 1, 2020: Council and Mayor: Mayor - \$ 250/month, Regular Meetings - \$ 75/meeting, Special Meetings - \$ 75/meeting, Committee

Meetings - \$ 45/meeting, Away for Town Business - \$ 105/day, Meals are as follows: Breakfast - \$10/day, Lunch - \$15/day, & Supper - \$20/day, Mileage - \$ 0.45/km. Fire Department: Fire Chief - \$ 250/month Deputy Fire Chief - \$ 250/month, Fire Members - fire call-outs - \$ 20/hr with min 3 hour call out, Fire Members - training - \$ 20/hr plus mileage if applicable, Fire Members - \$ 10/meeting. Pest Control: Dog Catcher - \$ 350/month. Seconded by Debbie Allan. Carried.

Brad Nemish: That we accept the bond insurance as presented and required as per Section 113(1) of the Municipalities Act, which is attached to form part of the minutes. Seconded by Shannon Beaulac. Carried.

Debbie Allan: That we approve the disposal of 2012 records as presented and attached to form part of the minutes. Seconded by Bryan Wingerter. Carried.

Brad Nemish: That we approve wage rates effective January 1, 2020 for Town of Spiritwood employees as attached to form part of the minutes. Seconded by Bryan Wingerter. Carried.

Jim Bedi: That Bylaw No. 526/20 being a Bylaw to Amend Bylaw No.

487/13 be read a first time, and that we advertise in the Spiritwood Herald for two consecutive weeks the public notice of intent to adopt Bylaw No. 526/20, being a Bylaw to Amend Bylaw No. 487/13. Seconded by Brad Nemish. Carried.

Bryan Wingerter: That Bylaw No. 527/20 being a Bylaw to Amend Bylaw No. 486/13 be read a first time, and that we advertise in the Spiritwood Herald for two consecutive weeks the public notice of intent to adopt Bylaw No. 527/20, being a Bylaw to Amend Bylaw No. 486/13. Seconded by George Pretli. Carried.

Bryan Wingerter: That we approve the request to parcel tie Lot 6 to Lot 7 Block 19 Plan 67B01961 and provide a letter of consent for ISC. Seconded by Debbie Allan. Carried.

Bryan Wingerter: That we send the following employees to the 2020 Spring Workshops - Election/Dealing with Difficult Conversations; Rhonda Saam to Prince Albert on March 23, 2020, Brenda Beaulac and Kristen Klassen to North Battleford on March 24, 2020. Seconded by George Pretli. Carried.

Shannon Beaulac: That this meeting be adjourned at 8 p.m. Seconded by Debbie Allan. Carried.

Bean "Lac"
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NOVUS LAW GROUP
Wilcox Holash McCullagh

Novus Law Group is pleased to announce that our Shelley Cannon will be continuing our law firm's service to the Spiritwood Community. Shelley will be attending our office at 124 1st St. E. in person on Wednesdays each week from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. by appointment (306) 922-4700. All our lawyers are available by telephone Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at (306) 922-4700.

Highlights of a Shellbrook Town Council meeting

Shellbrook's town council met on April 20 via teleconference. Present at the meeting were Mayor George Tomporowski, councillors Lyle Banda, Bruce Clements, Lois Freeman, David Knight, Kathleen Nording, and Amund Otterson as well as the town's administrator Kelly Hoare.

Mayor Tomporowski called the meeting to order around 5 p.m., and council began with a special meeting to approve the 2020-2021 municipal budget.

The budget projects that revenues and expenses will be even at \$3,815,263, and it contains no tax increases.

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the town is es budgeting for business as usual.

The Chronicle will have more on the budget in next week's edition.

Moving onto its regular meeting, Mayor Tomporowski called the meeting to order at 5:27. Council began by approving the agenda for the meeting, as well as the minutes of its March 16 regular meeting.

Then, after declaring the week of May 10-16

Canadian Royal Purple Week, and approving its regular accounts and financials, council continued with new business.

Up first, council carried a motion to continue with its tax-free for three policy, despite questions from a couple councillors about its effectiveness in driving lot sales.

Next, council carried a motion to allow first reading of Bylaw 2020-04, amending Zoning Bylaw 2018-01. The amendment will allow for the installation of a taller chain link fence around the old hospital property, which is slated to be transformed into a cannabis research facility.

Moving forward, council discussed the idea of exempting interest on utility bills, and whether ratepayers should be automatically exempted or have to apply for an exemption. Hoare noted that ratepayers who regularly pay their bills are continuing to pay them, and recommended that council make ratepayers apply for the exemption.

In the end, council decided to table the matter until its May meeting to see how the COVID-19

pandemic plays out.

Continuing, council discussed an invoice from BA Robinson for electrical supplies. The invoice was the result of a town employee purchasing the supplies under the town's name without proper authorization.

To prevent the mistake from happening again, Hoare said the town is establishing a purchase order system. It's also sent letters to local businesses, as well as businesses in Prince Albert and Saskatoon it regularly does business with, outlining who is allowed to make purchases in the town's name.

After heated debate, council agreed to pay the principal of the invoice, but refused to pay the interest.

Up next, after deferring its decision on allowing a retail cannabis location in Shellbrook for 18 months, council finally decided to vote yes on the issue on the grounds that it didn't want to stand in the way of a potential business opening in town.

While this doesn't mean a retail cannabis store will pop up in the near future, it does mean

that anyone can seek a permit to set up shop.

Keeping the focus on cannabis, council discussed whether or not it should request a detailed business plan from Greenco Garms Ltd., the company that purchased the old hospital to set up a cannabis research facility.

Councillor Knight was opposed to the idea, calling it "bad for business" in the town. In the end, council instructed Hoare to correspond with the company to get clarification on its plans.

Keeping the meeting moving, council discussed suspending its remuneration to direct wages to municipal employees whose attendance at work has been limited due to COVID-19. Council decided to table the matter to see how the pandemic continues to play out.

Up next, council carried a motion to apply to the Municipal Board to raise its debt limit to \$10 million from \$2.6 mil-

lion. Mayor Tomporowski stressed that it gives the town the ability to borrow for large projects, but doesn't mean the town will or should borrow.

Council then agreed to rent the Community Hall to the Saskatchewan Health Authority for up to \$2,000 per month.

It followed up with a motion to cover any overage costs accrued on the personal phones of municipal employees who have been forced to use their phones for town business.

Later on, council discussed opening the four self-contained camp sites in Kinsmen Park, after being given the go-ahead by Public Health. Hoare was opposed to the idea, and advised council that keeping it closed would give the town time to do some much-needed road work in the park.

Council also discussed the possibility of fencing off the playground, but arrived at no final decisions on the matter.

Carrying on, council

approved a motion to install plexi-glass around the front counter at the town office once it's reopened.

It then carried a motion to award the contract for the installation of solar panels at the Shellbrook Recreation Complex to Livewire Electric.

Councillor Banda noted that the Steering Committee had budgeted for \$300,000, but that the tender, which was one of 27, came in closer to \$200,000.

Wrapping up the meeting, council agreed to maintain the town's current property tax discount rates. The rates are 7 per cent in May, 5 per cent in June, and 3 per cent in July.

Council also agreed to forbid garage sales until further notice, to prevent people from gathering in large numbers and exchanging money and goods.

Then, council set Tuesday, May 19 as its next meeting date and adjourned for the evening.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Rural Municipality of Big River, No. 555

Public Notice is hereby given that the Council of the RM of Big River, No. 555 intends to adopt a bylaw pursuant to Section 207 of the *Planning and Development Act, 2007* to amend Bylaw No. 1/19 known as the Zoning Bylaw.

INTENT

The proposed zoning bylaw amendment will rezone land from the A – Agriculture to CR1 – Low Density Country Residential District to accommodate a residential site and Rezone an existing parcel from A – Agriculture to CR2 – Medium Density Country Residential to reflect the existing use and compliment the use of the neighboring property.

AFFECTED LANDS

Part of NW-16-55-07-W3 shown in the sketch below as proposed Parcel D with a dashed line and Parcel C shown in the thatched area.

REASON

The reason for the amendment is to accommodate a new residential subdivision and to reflect the actual use of an existing parcel of land.

PUBLIC INSPECTION

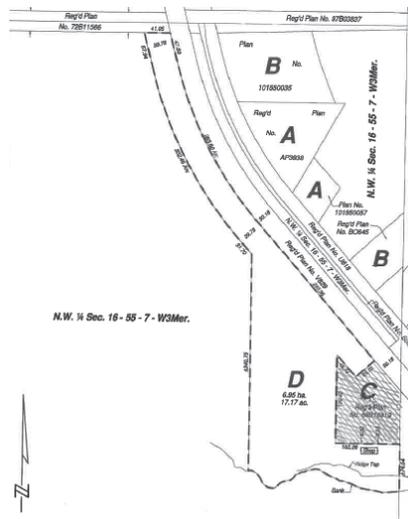
Any person may inspect the bylaw by contacting the RM Office by phone 306-469-2323 or email rm555@sasktel.net on any judicial day between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. A copy will be sent to you at no cost.

PUBLIC HEARING

Council will hold a public hearing on May 11th, 2020, at the Big River Community Centre at 606 First Street North, Big River, SK at 10:00 am. Public interested in attending must contact the RM Office in advance of the hearing date to confirm how they can participate. If on the day of the hearing the Big River Community Centre is still closed to the public, any person wishing to participate may request the participant pass code, so they can dial into public hearing by conference call. Due to the restrictions on public access to public buildings, Council requests written submissions be submitted by mail to RM of Big River, No. 555, Box 219, Big River, SK, S0J 0E0 or email rm555@sasktel.net in advance of the hearing date.

Issued at Big River this 23rd day of April, 2020.

Donna Tymiak
Rural Municipal Administrator



Join us
for our VIRTUAL
ANNUAL
MEETING



Tuesday, April 28, 2020

Virtual meeting time is set for 7:00 p.m. CST.



Featuring Nathan Wiebe from the The Centre in Swift Current



Information on how to join our virtual meeting is available by visiting our website at www.innovationcu.ca.

Sask. confronting a 'pandemic deficit'

The economic storm generated by COVID-19 could cost the province between \$1.3 billion and \$3.3 billion over the course of the 2020-2021 fiscal year, depending on how long pandemic-related economic restrictions remain in place.

At least, that's what the provincial government's projections are telling it.

"We are less than three weeks into the new fiscal year and right now we just don't know how long restrictions will remain in place in Saskatchewan, in Canada and around the world," Finance Minister Donna Harpauer

said in a statement.

"That's why it is still incredibly difficult to forecast with any certainty. We believe however it is important that we release these different scenarios, to let Saskatchewan people know just how much of an impact the pandemic is having on our economy and revenues."

The potential revenue declines are based on three economic scenarios. Each scenario includes assumptions on a number of economic factors, including the duration of current economic restrictions, how quickly resource prices rebound, and consumer behaviour once restric-

tions are lifted.

Regardless of the scenario, Saskatchewan's GDP will take a hit in 2020, with a decline of 4.1 per cent in the best scenario and a drop of 14.9 per cent in the most pessimistic scenario.

Despite the gloomy fiscal outlook, Harpauer says the province is managing spending to keep it within the amounts allocated in the condensed spending estimates it released on March 18.

"Our government has committed to provide all financial resources necessary to address the COVID-19 pandemic, and this will likely result in spending

increases beyond the amounts allocated in the 2020-21 Estimates," Harpauer said, noting that the inevitable outcome of the COVID-19 pandemic will be a deficit budget for the province.

"The 2020-21 deficit is not a structural deficit. It is a pandemic deficit. Saskatchewan will manage through this, because we have the strength, the foundation and the people to do it"

According to Harpauer, the province was on track to deliver a surplus budget before the COVID-19 pandemic gripped the world and oil prices collapsed.

While a deficit is unavoidable this fiscal year, Harpauer says the province has a "solid fiscal foundation" to endure the economic pressures created by the virus and ultimately recover once it has passed.

"The foundation of our budget is solid. Our revenues surpass our expenses," Harpauer said. "When the economy recovers, then we will be back in a position where our revenues surpass our expenses."

However, Harpauer also added that it will take some time to return to balance following the pandemic.

"It's a significant deficit," she said. "It will

take a couple of years to return to that balance."

Where businesses across the province have been forced to lay off workers, make other cuts, or shutter completely during the pandemic, Harpauer said the government has yet to had discussions about reducing the size of the province's workforce.

"There have been no discussions of needing to reduce the public service at this point in time," she said. "With each and every budget cycle, we review all of that. And we're going to have to be very mindful of our expenditures going forward. But presently, no."

Gardening with the family

By Jill Thomson

Now that most of us are confined to our homes, and the schools are closed, it seems an excellent opportunity to garden with our children. Many of us have involved our families in helping in our garden(s) in past years, but here are a few ideas to help make gardening fun and interesting for all age – and to include learning in all phases of gardening.

Early spring is an ideal time to look at seed catalogues, select what you would like to grow and order seeds. Activities involving children might include: browsing through old catalogues, cutting out pictures of plants they like, making a collage of plants, flow-

ers, vegetables, shrubs and trees; making lists of plants they like to eat and checking out information about them on line; discussing companion planting and the needs of plants in terms of water, sun/shade, support, etc.

Creating a timeline for planting, growing and harvesting vegetables involves research, working with numbers and making charts. Working in the garden includes helping with soil preparation, planting seeds, weeding, watering and thinning as necessary (older kids only!). Making markers for rows using popsicle sticks uses skills such as artwork, writing, and, of course, eating popsicles.

Use planters and raised beds if you don't wish to give up your whole garden. Let each child have their own planter in which to grow whatever they like. They could try writing their name by sowing seeds of lettuce, peas or some other quick-growing plant and watch it take shape. Or, plant a colour wheel using different flower colours.

For many years we have put up a pole and planted scarlet runner beans in a circle around it in a two-three ft radius, and then run strings from the beans to the top of the pole. This makes a teepee-shaped



Picking cherries. Photo credit: Bernadette Vangool

shelter for the children, who can also pick the beans from inside their bean-house. Ensure that they don't have a bee allergy as insects are attracted to the flowers that develop in mid-summer.

If your garden is short of space, consider sacrificing your front lawn for this year, placing raised beds on it; or digging up some lawn so each family member can have their own plot. See who can grow the biggest vegetable, perhaps everyone trying to grow one of those huge Atlantic pumpkins.

There are many ways science can be included in gardening. Record and graph the growth of beans, the size of tomatoes or the height of lettuce. Grow climbing plants to check which way, and how, the climbers orientate to the sun. Give plants different water regimes and measure the effect on their yield. Children may have many questions that you can help them to an-

swer by growing plants.

Finally, there is the harvesting and preparation of our fruit and vegetables. Children generally love to eat fresh peas, tomatoes and fruit. Even toddlers enjoy hunting for potatoes in the soil as we dig through the summer and harvest in the fall. Children also like to cook. Here is a chance for them to try different recipes using the harvest

from their gardens. We usually freeze a lot of vegetables but of course there are other ways to process produce. Older children can research methods of food preservation. Younger ones usually enjoy shelling peas - as long as they can snack.

I am sure readers will have other good ideas involving gardening with children. Please share them on our Saskatchewan Perennial Society Facebook page.

Jill Thomson is a plant disease specialist (retired) who enjoys gardening in Saskatoon with her family, including the dogs and young granddaughters.

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).



Watering. Photo credit: Bernadette Vangool



Weeding. Photo credit: Bernadette Vangool

Rooting for a return of live sports

When all this ends — and it will end — how grateful will a desperate sports fan be to finally have normalcy in the world of sports?

Let us count the ways:

— Sportsnet can bring back Don Cherry to spew his absurdities — daily, even — and I wouldn't care.

— Those dumb National Football League and Canadian Football League players can do all those silly choreographed end-zone celebrations they want and there wouldn't be a single complaint from me.

— Never, ever again will I have to watch a replay of a 'classic' game played last year, or last month, or several years ago, and try to pretend I can't remember the final result. (Exception: Will never get tired of watching Game 6 of the 1995 World Series, when my Atlanta Braves beat the Cleveland Indians 1-0 — thank you, Tom Glavine — to win a World Series for the first time since 1957).

— Booth reviews ... coaches' challenges. Bring 'em on. As long as the game is live.

Will never complain again about games being lengthened by replay delays. At least for a year.

— When the live golf telecasts begin and the announcing crew spends at least 10 minutes reviewing how Tiger Woods has been doing — even if he's in a four-way tie for 54th place and zero chance of contending — I won't complain. I know they're bound to get to live golf within a couple of moments, instead of the current situation — a couple of months (hopefully).

— Gulp! I'd even agree to watch a half-hour Sportscentre hosted by Kate Beirness — as long as live sports were involved, even though during ordinary times she's an immediate channel-changer for me.

— Bring on local sports, no matter how horrible the weather conditions. Thirty-five below with a nasty northern wind? Not a problem. If my local hockey team has a home game — a live home game — it'll be straight to the arena's box office for



BRUCE
PENTON

me.

— Nightly sportscasts on TSN — for good reason sarcastically named the Toronto Sports Network by angry Western Canadians — can broadcast all the Leafs, Blue Jays, Raptors and Argos reports they want for six straight months and, as long as a few other 'live' sports results are interspersed, we can live with it.

Live sports, no matter what negatives accompany them, will be wholly embraced. Because, of course, that will mean that COVID-19 will be a thing of the past.

• Dwight Perry of the Seat-

le Times: "Hated AFC North rivals Pittsburgh and Baltimore agreed to a rare trade recently— the first between the teams this century — bringing defensive end Chris Wormley to the Steelers. So see, folks, there is still hope for peace in the Middle East."

• Dwight Perry again: "Hall of Fame goaltender Dominik Hašek is mulling a run for president in his native Czech Republic. Morning-line favourite for his campaign slogan, of course, is: The Puck Stops Here."

• Omaha comedy guy Brad Dickson: "The 2020 college football season may be cancelled due to the need for social distancing. Here's the ironic thing: in the Big Ten you can stay six feet away from your opponent and still be called for Targeting."

• Bob Molinaro of pilotonline.com (Hampton, Va.):

"It's still puzzling to me that Tom Brady chose to leave the Patriots for Tampa Bay. A mid-life crisis can make a man do funny things."

• TV star Larry David, on toilet paper: "In a few months, if I walk into someone's house and stumble onto 50 rolls of toilet paper in a closet somewhere, I will end the friendship. It's tantamount to being a horse thief in the Old West."

• Gypsy Oak, on Twitter: "Me and my 4-year-old boy made a Billy Martin mask today. He put it on and then punched me in the nose and stole my beer!"

• Tod Leonard on golfworld.com, on the abnormally quiet second week of April in Augusta, Ga.: "The Hooters, where John Daly always hawks his merchandise from his bus during the Masters, is open for 'curb side take out'

only, which will really test the theory that some men just go there for the wings."

• PGA Tour player Max Homa, on Twitter: "U know what helps on a cold November day in Augusta, Georgia? A brand new green jacket."

• Dan Barnes of Postmedia in Edmonton, on Twitter: "If the CFL returns to action this year, the offensive and defensive linemen will have to be two yards apart on the line of scrimmage. #PhysicalDistancing"

• Headline at Fark.com: "EXFL."

• One more from Dwight Perry: "Attention, Astros: Updated catchers' signals if the baseball season gets pushed all the way into December: One's a fastball; two's a curveball; three's a snowball."

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

Hargrave family donates \$1,000 to Rose Garden Hospice



Prince Albert-Carlton MLA Joe Hargrave, and his wife, Fran, recently donated \$1,000 to the Rose Garden Hospice. Here, Joe and Fran stand at the future location for the hospice with the Rose Garden Hospice's Ralph Boychuk (left) and Marina Mitchell (right).

PRAISE & WORSHIP

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

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

**IMMANUEL
LUTHERAN**

Parkside
11 a.m. - Worship
Pastor Chris Dean

**PENTECOSTAL
CHURCH**
Parkside
10:30 a.m. Worship
Pastor Doug Hope
306-747-3572
Shellbrook
Sun., 10:30 a.m. - Worship
Pastor David Bodvarson
306-747-7235
Canwood
10:00 a.m. - Sunday School
11:00 a.m. - Worship
Pastor Glenn Blazosek
306-468-2138
Leask Gospel Tabernacle
Sunday 11 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.
Pastor Lorne Valuck

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

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

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

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

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

ANGLICAN CHURCH
Leask - All Saint's
Sunday, 9 a.m. - Service
St. Andrew's - Shellbrook
Sunday, 11 a.m. Service
Canwood - Christ Church
Sunday, 11 a.m. - Service
2 p.m. Service 2nd Sunday
of the month
Rev'd Eyad Aji
306-980-5916

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

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

GOOD NEWS

THE F.F.A. OF THE GOOD LIFE

**By Dave Whalley,
First United Church,
Big River**

Since COVID-19 is spreading in our country and also the world, I have talked to many people on the phone because we cannot have person to person contact in our churches. That is my way of trying to stay connected with the people of our church.

I have re-learned again how Fear, Faith, and Acceptance affect different people differently.

I am reminded of three quotes from the Bible:

1) "Don't be afraid, I am with you. Do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you. I will help you. I will uphold you with my victorious right hand." (Isaiah 41:10)

2) "They do not fear bad news; they confidently trust the Lord to care for them. They are confident and fearless and can face their foes triumphantly." (Psalm 112: 7)

3) "For you are my hiding place; you protect me from trouble. You surround me with songs of victory." (Psalm 32:7)

Fear is the fear of the unknown, it hasn't happened yet. Fear is related to our mortality. The fear of harm and/or death. My experience is those people who have fear of the unknown most likely have a lack of faith in an afterlife. Those people are the most likely to look at life in

a negative light. They sometimes say things like; "Why me, why is this happening now in my life, in my world?"

Faith is a belief that it will be OK because of our belief in Jesus Christ, and knowing that "this too will pass." Having faith in a life in the hereafter gives us the hope and strength to deal with death when it comes, knowing that eternal life awaits us.

I have sometimes used the story about the caterpillar that died and through metamorphosis became a beautiful monarch butterfly. While we are on this earth we are the caterpillar and when we leave this world we become that monarch butterfly in eternal life. When we have faith in a life hereafter we are the positive people who are looking at the good that will come out of all this chaos. That is what becomes acceptance.

There is a prayer that I have used so many times over the last number of years, that keeps me grounded in my faith. "God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change. Courage to change the things I can and wisdom to know the difference." So in this time of chaos with COVID-19

I pray that we all put our trust in God with faith that he will bring us through to the other side and we will be safe in the arms of Jesus.

OBITUARY

Zane B. Olson



Zane B. Olson
1958 - 2020

With profound sadness, the family of Zane Olson announces his death on Friday, April 17, 2020. Zane was found on The Land, one of his favourite places, with his boots on, shovel in hand, and dog by his side.

Zane was predeceased by his father, Perry Olson; father-in-law, Elmer Bowes; mother-in-law, Madge Bowes; brother, Wesley Olson;

nephews Eric Olson, Blake Olson,

Sherry; son, Dustin (Sabrina); daughter, Brandi (Alex); granddaughters, Iyla and Mirren; mother, Clara; brothers, Todd (Sharon) and Randy (Wendy); sister, Jocelynn (Marvin); brother-in-law, Robert (Lorrie); sisters-in-law, Maureen, Marilyn (Dave), Betty (Martin); Linda (Glenn); as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

Sherry, Dustin and Brandi are incredibly grateful for the overwhelming support received from the community of Estevan and people across the world. We appreciate the meals, phone calls, and messages of solidarity. We know you grieve

with us.

When travel restrictions are lifted, there will be a Celebration of Life for Zane. We look forward to sharing stories about the many ways he positively impacted our lives.

In place of flowers, please consider donating to an organization Zane was a dedicated member of the Southeast Saskatchewan Search and Rescue.

Southeast Saskatchewan Search and Rescue
Box 603
Estevan, SK
S4A 2A2

Yvonne Clark at Hall Funeral Services, Estevan is assisting Zane's family.



PRAISE & WORSHIP

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

PARTNERS IN FAITH

Lutheran/United/
Christchurch Anglican,
137-2nd St. W.
Spiritwood
Worship 11:00 a.m.
Rev. Nora Borgeson

UNITED /ANGLICAN

Worship Services
Glaslyn
Time is on the sign
Rev. Kun Kim
Rev. Don Skinner

Pre-service Prayer
Sunday, 10:30 am
Sunday Service 11:00 am
Kids Club Tuesday
3:30 pm - 5 pm
Wednesday Prayer
7 pm - 8 pm
Pastor Ruth Phillips

CATHOLIC SUNDAY

Spiritwood - 11:15 a.m.
Leoville - 9:30 a.m.
Chitek Lake - Closed for
the Season
SATURDAY
Medstead - 6 p.m.
Shell Lake - Closed for the
Season
Father Peter Nnanga MSP

PARTNERS IN WORSHIP

Shell Lake - Sun. 10 am
(Worship in Lutheran -
United Church)

Gideons International of Canada

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(306) 389-4633

SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST

407 - 2nd Ave .E,
Shellbrook
Sat., 9:45 am -
Sabbath School
Sat., 11:00 am - Worship
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Pastor Dan Guiboche
306-930-3377

MENNONITE BRETHREN

Glenbush
10:00 am - Sunday School
Worship 10:50 am

FIELDS OF HOPE (HOFFNUNGSFELDER) MENNONITE CHURCH

Glenbush
Worship - 11:00 am

BETHEL

Medstead
1st Sunday, 10 am -
Worship
Pastor David Jensen
3rd Sunday - 10 am
Worship
Pastor David Jensen

EVANGELICAL FREE

Mont Nebo
Wed., 7:30 pm -
Bible Study & Prayer
Sun., 10:30 am - Worship
Pastor Bill Klumpenower

LAKELAND COMMUNITY CHURCH

Spiritwood
Sun., 11 am - Worship
Service & Sunday School
Pastor Gerry Zak

BELBUTTE FULL GOSPEL

11 am Worship Service
1st Sun., 7:30 pm
- Hymn Sing
Pastor Floyd Berg

COWBOY CHURCH

Spiritwood
Every Wednesday Night
7 pm
Spiritwood Legion Hall
Pastor Rick Martin

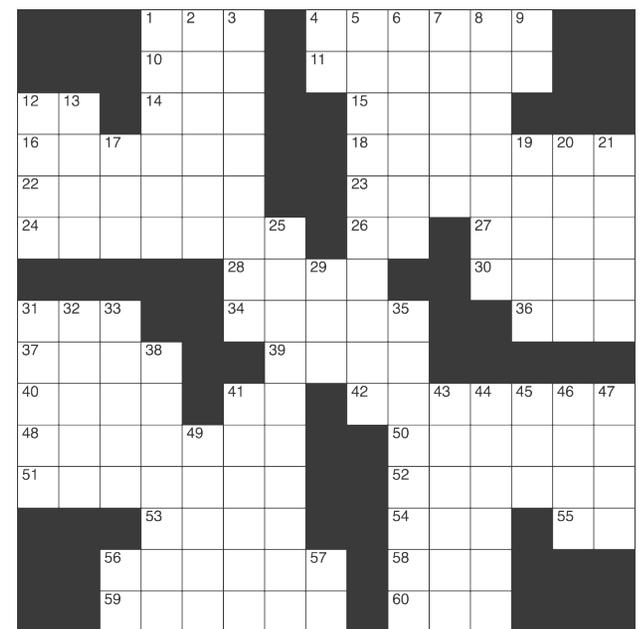
CROSSWORD

CLUES ACROSS

- Revolutions per minute
- Hymns
- Brew
- Did not acknowledge
- Atomic #77
- Partly digested food
- Not one
- Lesotho capital
- Copyreading
- Living organism that feeds on organic matter
- One's biological father
- An aggregate of molecules
- Equally
- Khoikhoi people
- Jump in figure skating
- Lantern
- TV network
- Georges ____, French philosopher
- Sharp, shrill bark
- Albanian monetary units
- Launched Apollo
- One who graduated
- Exist
- Passed by
- Very unpleasant smell

CLUES DOWN

- Flower cluster
- A form
- Inner organ regions
- Local law enforcement
- A citizen of Senegal
- Positively charged electrodes
- Connects granules
- Business practice
- The Mount Rushmore State
- Leader
- Hindu queen
- Proofreading mark
- European country
- Greek mythological nymph
- Grandfather
- Clears
- Amount of time
- Mollusks
- German municipality
- Body part
- City of Angels hoopsters
- Suffocate



- Graduates
- Seedless raisin
- Self-protection
- Clue
- Life-savers
- Ingest too much

- Misrepresented
- Small Eurasian deer
- Most mocking
- Soviet Socialist Republic

- Pleasing to the eye
- Poplar trees (Spanish)
- Ship officer
- Individual investment account (abbr.)
- Prefix meaning within
- Ceased to live
- Day by day
- Not color
- Condition of withdrawal (abbr.)

Answers on page 14

Shellbrook Chronicle BUSINESS DIRECTORY

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Canadians rely on newspapers to be their trusted source of accurate information. Helping us shed more light on the world.

Newspapers matter. Now more than ever.

Shellbrook Public Library news highlights

Submitted by Dian Campbell

It has been a quiet time at the Library without any patrons coming in, but we are keeping busy with cleaning, painting and program development.

Our Summer Reading Club theme this year is "GAME ON!!" We are excited and hopeful that we can have a great summer of reading and activities. Lots of things in the works including, music, crafts, science and technology. We are making plans to have an 'online' reading program if the COVID-19 "Stay Safe At Home" is still in effect. In the meantime check out the following list of educational sites for children.

Stay Safe - Stay Healthy - Stay Home.

Three exciting educational ideas for your children during the COVID-19 "Stay Safe At Home"

National Film Board

Looking for educational Fun for your kids? The National Film Board of Canada has opened up its films for everyone to view. Here are just a few items you can find at <https://www.nfb.ca>

Just scroll down to "based on chil-

dren's books" and check out these short films: "Blackberry Subway Jam" by Robert Doucet (based on the book by Robert Munsch), "The Girl who Hated Books" by Joe Meuris (Based on the book by Manjusha Pawagi), and "The Sweater" by Sheldon Cohen (based on the book by Roch Carrier)

Under <https://www.nfb.ca/education/>, you'll find educational playlists, including Mini-Lessons, Ocean School (ages 11-15), and Home-School weekly Activities.

Amazon

Amazon has cancelled the subscription of books and audio stories for children and students of all ages as long as schools are closed.

Kids everywhere can instantly stream an incredible collection of stories, including titles across six different languages, that will help them continue dreaming, learning and just being kids.

All stories are free to stream on your desktop, laptop, phone or tablet using the following link <https://stories.audible.com/start-listen>

Lists are endless but include favou-



Lancelot the Lonely Library Lion is now on display at the Shellbrook Library with a window story for people to read.

rites such as Harry Potter, Literary classics, Fairy tales, Little Listeners and much, much more.

Online Zoos and Aquariums

Check out these online tours of animals at Zoos and Aquariums

<https://www.centralfloridazoo.org/education/zootoyou/>

<http://cincinnati.zoo.org/education/zoo-to-you/>

<https://www.montereybayaquarium.org/animals/live-cams>

Lancelot the Lonely Library Lion

Lancelot invites you to walk down to the Library and read a story with him.

Of course you can't come in, but Lancelot has provided a "Window Story" for you to enjoy. This week's story is 'Lola plants a Garden' by Anna McQuinn.

Lancelot has also been growing some bean seeds. Check in and see how they are growing.

Please, please share this with your friends in Shellbrook, and pop a note into the book drop and let us know if you enjoyed the story.

A new story will be posted on April 24.

Credit to Connie Peake, librarian at the Leask Library, for sharing this idea with us. If you live in or near Leask, there is a "Window Story" to enjoy there too.

COVID-19 numbers remain low in Sask.

Saskatchewan added just one new confirmed case of COVID-19 on Monday afternoon, continuing a 12-day streak of single-digit increases in total cases of the virus and lifting the province's overall total to 316 cases.

As has become the norm over the past week, the new case was offset by four recoveries, leaving the number of active cases in Saskatchewan at 74. Of those 74 active cases only four people are hospitalized, with three receiving in-patient care and one person in intensive care.

Meanwhile, of the 316 total cases in the province, 134 are related to travel, 132 are the result of community transmission or linked to large gatherings, 30 have no known exposures, and 20 are still under investigation by local

public health officials.

While the spread of the virus appears to have been slowed to a crawl, Saskatchewan's state of emergency remains in place until April 29. The provincial government has shown no sign that it will consider lifting it early, or that it will relax its current public health measures.

That said, the government also hasn't moved to introduce new restrictions on businesses or public gatherings. And given that new COVID-19 cases have remained consistently low over the past week, it looks likely that the provincial government will begin to reveal its plan for a gradual return to normal as Premier Scott Moe promised last week.

Despite the mostly positive news, the province is continu-

ing to urge people to adhere to the public health measures that remain in force — especially as Saskatchewan receives its first taste of spring in the coming weeks.

When they do choose to go outside, Saskatchewan residents are cautioned to continue physically distancing from other people, avoid shared public surfaces, keep children away from group settings, and wash their hands with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds upon returning home.

The province is also reminding people that provincial parks remain close, and advising them to check with their local municipalities about the status of playgrounds and other municipal facilities before visiting them.

Even with all the good news

on the COVID-19 front, NDP leader Ryan Meili is calling on the provincial government to do more for Saskatchewan most vulnerable residents.

"When people are hurting, they need a government that is willing to step up, to invest in what they need," said Meili in a statement. "But our government has done exactly the opposite. They have failed to provide meaningful support for the most vulnerable, including refusing to provide even modest support to food banks to ensure no one in our province goes hungry during this crisis.

"We're calling on this government to re-examine their priorities. Now is not the time to cling to outdated numbers that no longer reflect our reality."

Meili noted that, exclud-

ing tax deferrals, the government has committed a total of an additional \$73 million in response to the crisis, or \$61 per person, significantly lagging behind what is offered by other provinces.

According to the Sask. NDP, British Columbia has committed to spending an additional \$2.8 billion, or \$548 per person; Alberta \$2.1 billion, or \$481 per person; while Ontario has committed \$7 billion, or \$476 per person.

"Failing to act now will mean more people will lose their homes, more people will lose their jobs, more small businesses whose doors are closed now will never reopen. For the long-term economic and social wellbeing of Saskatchewan, the time to invest in people is now," Meili said.



CHECK IT OUT!

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www.shellbrookchronicle.com

Spiritwood Herald Website
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