

## Local nurses adapt through year of change



Tracy Dupuis, PHN. Rhonda Miller, PHN. And Tanya Zimmerman RN. – planning in the public health office.

*(The following story is in recognition of Canada's National Nursing Week, which ran from May 10 to 16)*

Lynne Farthing knew she wanted to be a nurse when she volunteered at the Shellbrook Hospital in high school. Twenty-three years after she pursued her dream and got her first job in Shellbrook, she's still here providing care to

patients and families.

For Farthing's colleague, Tanya Zimmerman, the path to Shellbrook was less straightforward. She went to university in her mid-twenties, with the hopes of finding a career that would allow her to do something that made a difference for someone every day. After stints in rural nursing and travel nursing, she ended

up in Shellbrook about six years ago.

Regardless of how they got to Shellbrook, both Farthing and Zimmerman can agree that this past year has been unlike any other for the healthcare team at Parkland Integrated Health Centre (PIHC).

"Even when we have a lower number of patients in the facility, or through the

ER, their care needs are just as high, and with the required extra time it takes to put on PPE or do extra screening or cleaning in between, we're staying busy and there's never any shortage of work," Farthing says of how things have changed at the PIHC throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

*Continued on page 2*



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# Local nurses adapt through year of change



Tanya Zimmerman, Rhonda Miller, and Tracy Dupuis with some Pfizer vaccine from some of the first vaccine clinics.



Lynne Farthing, RN, and Tanya Zimmerman, RN – Covid testing.



Rhonda Miller PHN, Meghan Fleury RN, Donna Valuck, LPN, and Tracy Dupuis, PHN.

## Continued from 1

As the COVID-19 pandemic hit Saskatchewan, Farthing found herself removed from her long-time role as an acute care charge nurse, and was thrust into a managerial role. This new role meant less time on the frontlines, but required her to lead the charge against COVID-19 at a time when public health guidelines seemed to be hanging on an hourly basis.

It was a steep learning curve, and Far-

thing says healthcare providers are still “learning as they go” when it comes to fighting COVID-19. But she also feels her team has done an excellent job of rolling with the changes and ensuring PIHC has continued to offer the same level of acute care and ER services throughout the pandemic.

“We’ve had to really think outside the box about how we can deliver care within the guidelines, but I’m still proud of the care we’ve been able to provide,” Farthing said.

Change was also in the cards for Zimmerman once the pandemic began, as she shifted from her acute care role to focus on getting COVID testing up and running, and, later, to the local vaccine rollout. Like Farthing, she sees PIHC’s COVID-19 response as a true team effort.

“The teamwork has always been what really amazed me,” Zimmerman said. “My job transitioned directly to COVID, whereas everyone else continued to do their regular day-to-day job and support everything

else that was going on with COVID. If you needed somebody to help with testing, or doing vaccines on short notice, everyone has been really supportive.”

Speaking of support, this past year has perhaps been an unprecedented one for the support and recognition given to the healthcare workers who have been on the frontlines of the pandemic.

Though she says she and her fellow nurses don’t see themselves as anymore heroic than those who clocked in at grocery stores every day throughout the pandemic, she says every parade, or flower basket, or poster, or piece of sidewalk chalk art gave her and her team members the strength to get through each day.

However, Zimmerman adds that there’s one way she’d like to see people show their appreciation.

“The biggest act of appreciation people can do is to come and get vaccinated,” she said. “That is the thing I’m so grateful for.”

With the province’s vaccine rollout proceeding at full speed, and May 30 set as the date for the province to begin re-opening, Farthing says she can’t wait to get back on the frontlines to work with her patients and their families.

“I can’t wait until we get back to what the new normal is going to look like, especially from a long-term care perspective, when we can have volunteers and more family members back in safely,” she said. “I’m just anxious to get back there when it’s safe.”

Advertising Deadline is Friday 4:00 p.m.

**AUCTION SALE**  
**Sharon Buckingham & Other Consignors**  
 Saturday, May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021 @ 9AM

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**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 2021 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 May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021 to July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

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 16<sup>th</sup> of July, 2021.

Dated at Shellbrook, Saskatchewan, this 14<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2021.

Duane Storey  
 Administrator

**MEETING LAKE**  
**REGIONAL PARK**

**Notice of Annual General Meeting**

The Meeting Lake Regional Park Authority will be holding their Annual General Meeting on June 12, 2021 at 1:00pm at the round hall, located inside the regional park. Due to provincial health restrictions, we ask that only one person per family attend. The meeting will be open to the public, while respecting all Provincial health guidelines in place at that time.

 **Metis Nation**  
 Saskatchewan

**VOTE**

**VOTER INFORMATION:**  
**mnselection.ca**

**ELECTION MAY 29**

**VOTE EARLY MAY 14-22**



# Lions help make a merry Mother's Day

The Spiritwood Lions were busy this past month helping to celebrate mothers.

Each year, the Lions Club hosts a Mother's Day writing competition at the two elementary schools, Hartley Clark and Rivier. The top two entries in each class are selected and the winners each receive a flower to take home to their mother and a laminated certificate.

This year's Mother's Day competition had to be run in different format due to the pandemic, but was nevertheless a great way for area kids to show their appreciation for their mothers.

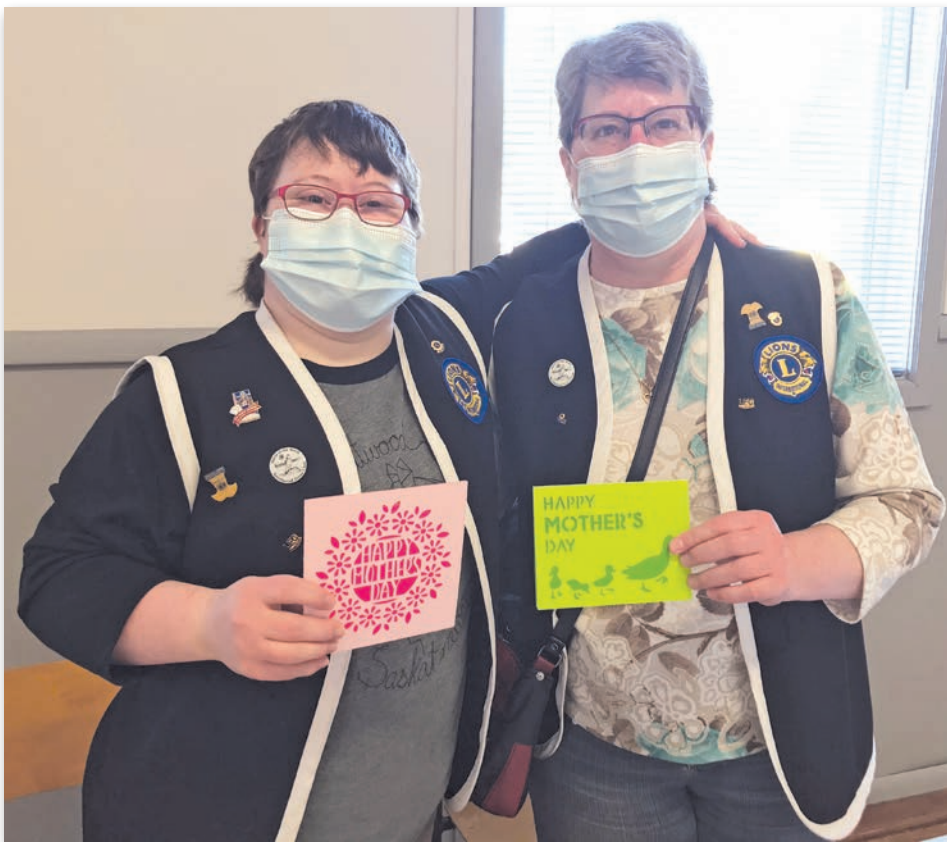
Entries were picked up curbside and passed along to Hugh and Peggy Jenner who had a blast reading all of the entries. When the winners were selected, presentations were made by teachers in the home classroom.

The following were the top entries per class for Hartley Clark: Kindergarten - William Buswell, Fred Jones, Grade 1 - Lacey Bouvier, Sara Nemish, Grade 2 - Kaidyn Blixrud, Isaac Urano, Grade 3 - Anna Nemish, Coleby Rose, Grade 4 - Emily Goller, Bronc Pritchard, Grade 5 - Heidi Paquette, Kalin Colley, Grade 6 - Summer Carlson.

*Continued on page 6*



The Spiritwood and District Lions Club was serving up a pancake breakfast down at the Legion Hall on Mother's Day.



## 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

To amend zoning district map by rezoning 1 parcel from A – Agriculture District to CR1 – Low Density Country Residential District to accommodate a subdivision application.

### AFFECTED LANDS

In NW-03-55-07-W3, a portion of land in the Rural Municipality of Big River, No. 555 shown in the sketch below within the bold dashed line.

### REASON

The reason for the amendment is to accommodate a request to subdivide a yard from the balance of the quarter.

### PUBLIC INSPECTION

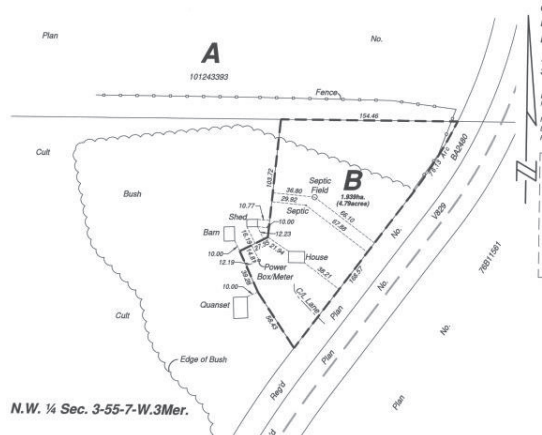
Any person may inspect the bylaw at the RM Office on any judicial day between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Copies are available at a cost of \$1.00.

### PUBLIC HEARING

Council will hold a public hearing on June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021, in the Small Hall of the Big River Community Centre at 606 First Street North, Big River, SK at 3:00 p.m. Council will also consider written comments received at the hearing or delivered to the undersigned at the municipal office before the hearing.

Issued at Big River this 20<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2021

Donna Tymiak  
Rural Municipal Administrator



## PUBLIC NOTICE PROPOSED XPLORNET 45 M SELF SUPPORT INSTALLATION

### PUBLIC NOTICE:

#### Proposed Xplornet Telecommunication facility:

- 45m self support tower
- Located within Blk/Par A, Plan 101797487; Surface Parcel #149940209 within the NW 12-050-08 W3M and to be accessed using an Existing road off Memorial Drive/ Township Road 502.
- The facility will be fenced and will include a locked shelter located at the base of the tower
- The site will provide faster and reliable high speed internet and phone services in the general area of Shell Lake.

Further information may also be obtained through the following contact:

**Xplornet Communications Inc. ("Xplornet")**  
c/o Vertex Professional Services Ltd.

4240 Blackfoot Trail SE, Calgary, AB T2G 4E6  
Phone: 403-229-3969

Toll Free: 1-844-7VERTEX (783-7839)

Fax: 403-244-1202

Email: [telcocommentsab@vertex.ca](mailto:telcocommentsab@vertex.ca)

#### Innovation, Science and Economic Development

Northern Saskatchewan District Office

123-2nd Avenue South, 7th Floor

Saskatoon, SK S7K 7E6

Phone: 1-877-783-7757

Fax: 306-975-4231

Email: [ic.spectrumsaskatoon-saskatoonspectre.ic@canada.ca](mailto:ic.spectrumsaskatoon-saskatoonspectre.ic@canada.ca)

#### R.M. of Spiritwood No. 496

Box 340, 218 Main Street, Spiritwood, SK S0J 2M0

Phone: 306-883-2034

Fax: 306-883-2557

Email: [rm496@sasktel.net](mailto:rm496@sasktel.net)

### SITE LOCATION MAP





## Sask. re-opening plan offers ray of hope

Months ago, as Saskatchewan was weathering the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Sask. NDP Opposition called on the Sask. Party government to provide a clear path forward.

The call came at a time when Premier Scott Moe had been forced to backtrack on promises that no new public health restrictions would be implemented to combat the surge in COVID-19 cases.

When probed about his government's plan for flattening the surge, Mr. Moe suggested there was far too much uncertainty to set clear thresholds for his government's pandemic response.

It was a puzzling statement, to be certain. Managing a once in a lifetime pandemic is a challenge, sure, but would having a clear plan of response not have helped to ease the burden?

We're now half a year removed from Mr. Moe's statement. And boy, a lot has changed since then.

Where Mr. Moe's government might once have been seen as a laggard in its management of COVID-19, it's now considered an example to follow.

This is thanks, in large part, to the province's strong vaccine rollout program and its recently unveiled roadmap to re-opening.

Borrowing from the re-opening model employed by the United Kingdom, which began loosening restrictions on March 8, the roadmap sets thresholds based on first vaccinations and age groups.

Step one, slated to begin on May 30, requires three weeks to have passed since 70 per cent of Saskatchewan residents aged 40 and above received their first doses of the COVID-19 vaccine.

Step two, meanwhile, will come three weeks after Saskatchewan residents aged 30 and above reach the same threshold, and step three will follow



JORDAN  
TWISS  
~  
News Editor

when 70 per cent of those 18 and older get their first jabs.

For steps two and three, three weeks must also have passed since the beginning of the previous step.

In addition to setting clear goals for the vaccine rollout, each new step brings with it a gradual easing of public health restrictions, with most restrictions, save for the masking requirement, being lifted by stage three.

It's a clear and simple approach, at a time when clarity and simplicity are needed as much as ever. And barring any unforeseen surge in COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, or deaths, or a sudden drop in vaccine availability, this roadmap could allow Saskatchewan to get back to something resembling normal as early as mid-July.

"The emphasis on immunization coverage as the main metric to be looking at for a reopening strategy is a good move," Dr. Cory Neudorf, a professor in the department of community health and epidemiology at the University of Saskatchewan, said of the Sask. Party government's approach.

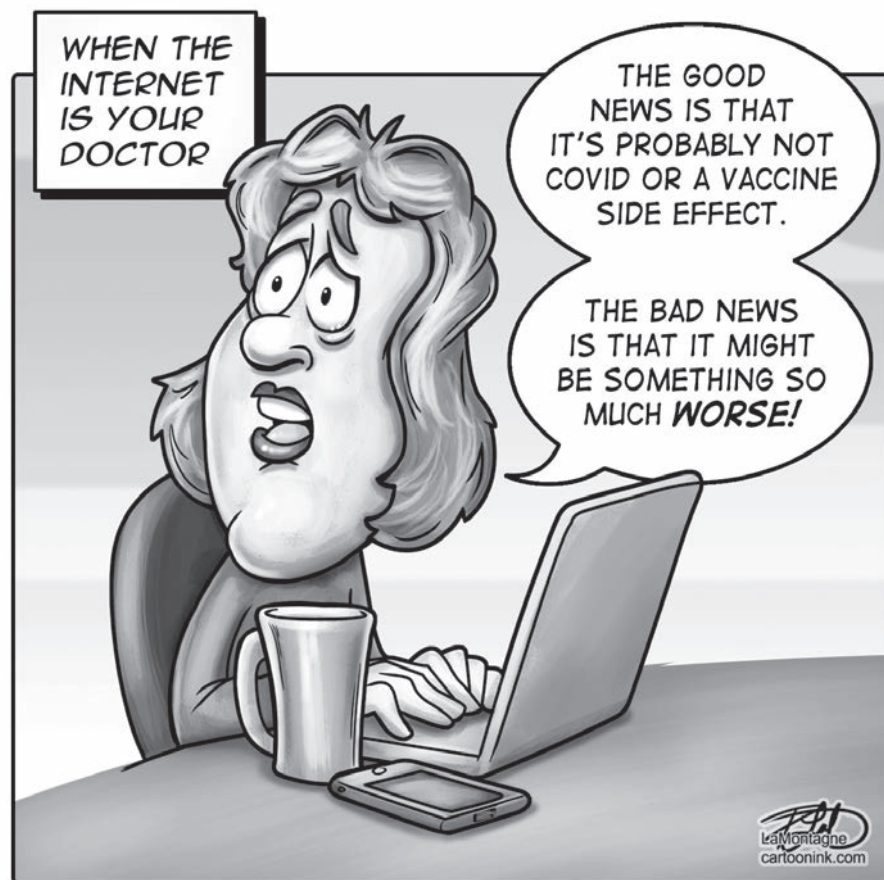
"It gives people a reason to go out and get immunized because once we reach certain marks, we're part of the solution."

Just as important as the incentive to get vaccinated, is the hope provided by the Sask. Party's plan.

After months of hearing "just a little while longer," we now have the first inkling that an actual ending may be in sight. There is, after more than a year, a proverbial light at the end of the tunnel.

This, of course, doesn't mean we should be throwing caution to the wind or taking unnecessary risks with our health or the health of others.

But as plans are put in place in other provinces, perhaps we can finally begin to share messages of hope, rather than the usual doom and gloom.



## Liberal minister puts partisan politics first

By Warren Steinley  
MP, Regina-Lewvan

As Shadow Minister for Economic Development, and Internal Trade, I was disappointed to see the Minister of Economic Development, Melanie Joly, vote against a Private Members' Bill that would support small family businesses.

Bill C-208, introduced by Larry Maguire, MP for Brandon-Souris, passed third reading in the House of Commons. This legislation would allow small businesses, farm families and family fishing corporations the same tax rate when selling their operations to a family member as they would if they sold it to a third party.

Currently, when a person sells their small business to a family member, the difference between the sale price and the original purchase price is a dividend. However, if the business is sold to a non-family member, the

sale is considered a capital gain. A capital gain is taxed at a much lower rate and allows the seller to use the lifetime capital gains exemption.

It was completely unacceptable that it is more financially advantageous for a parent to sell their farm or small business to an absolute stranger than it is to their own children.

It absolutely makes no sense why the Minister of Economic Development, who is responsible for Western Economic Diversification and is supported by the Special Representative for the Prairies, would vote against this legislation.

This government continually chooses partisan politics over common sense Conservative policies that put the interests of hard working Canadians first.

Despite the Minister's vote against this legislation, it passed third reading and will now head to the Senate.

### Shellbrook Chronicle

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### Spiritwood Herald

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

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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





## Report from the Legislature

Our focus throughout the COVID-19 pandemic has been to ensure health and safety as well as provide needed supports for individuals, families, and our economy. I am proud to say Saskatchewan has the best vaccination roll-out in all of Canada, the best re-opening plan in all of Canada, and the best jobs record in all of Canada.

In April, most provinces saw their job numbers decline and unemployment go up. In Saskatchewan, employment was up by 9,500 new jobs – the strongest job growth in all of Canada. Unemployment fell to 6.6 per cent – the lowest in Canada.

New job numbers show more women, more men, and more young people working. There were more construction jobs, more tech jobs, more jobs in agriculture, in manufacturing, health care and education. In fact, there were more jobs in almost every area.

Investing in infrastructure during a pandemic provides a unique opportunity to create jobs and improve quality of life. For example, our government continues moving forward on approved projects under the Municipal Economic Enhancement Program (MEEP).

A total of 760 Saskatchewan municipalities have now received funds through MEEP, which is a key component of our two-year, \$7.5 billion capital plan to build a strong province and stimulate our economic recovery. To learn more or to see a complete list of approved projects, visit [www.saskatchewan.ca/municipal-economic-enhancement](http://www.saskatchewan.ca/municipal-economic-enhancement).

Phase Three of the Rural Integrated Roads for Growth (RIRG) program will see 69 RMs receive \$25.7 million in funding this year. The program helps with the cost of building and upgrading infrastructure, which in

turn helps support industries like agriculture, energy, and forestry, with grants covering up to 50 per cent of each project's total cost, to a maximum of \$500,000.

More than \$50 million in joint federal and provincial funding was recently announced for 55 infrastructure projects under the COVID-19 Resilience Stream of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program. Projects include active transportation networks, walking paths, accessibility and energy efficiency upgrades in communities across the province.

While our government continues to invest in infrastructure, we are also providing a significant injection into the economy through SGI rebates. Over the next month, SGI will begin to mail out 709,000 rebate cheques to eligible individuals, non-profit organizations and businesses. If you have not received your rebate by June 30, you should call SGI's Customer Service Centre at 1-844-TLK-2SGI (1-844-855-2744).

Since last summer, Saskatchewan's forestry sector is booming as global market demand has surged for home construction and renovation materials. Our province is well-positioned to benefit from emerging opportunities with further expansion of existing mills, new mills, increased employment, and exports. Saskatchewan's Growth Plan includes a goal to double the growth of our forestry sector by 2030.

As an exporting province, it is important to diversify and grow our export markets coming out of the global pandemic, ensuring a strong economic recovery. The expansion plan of Saskatchewan's international presence includes new trade and investment offices in London (United Kingdom), Dubai (United Arab Emirates), Mexico City (Mexico), and Ho Chi Minh City (Vietnam). These new trade and investment offices will expand our international network and support Growth Plan goals such as increasing the value of our exports by 50 per cent and increasing the number of international markets to which we export more than \$1 billion.

Saskatchewan recently surpassed the COVID-19 vaccination threshold for Step One of our Re-Opening Roadmap. As a result, Sunday, May 30 is now the target date to implement the first phase of re-opening, which means:

- Restaurants and bars open, maximum of six at a table, two metres or structural barriers between tables, dance floors and buffets remain closed, VLTs may re-open;
- 30 per cent of capacity or 150 people, whichever is less, at places of worship, with physical distancing between households;
- Group fitness classes involving intense training, like aerobics and spin, can resume, with three metres between participants;
- Current restrictions remain in place for retail, personal care services, event facilities, casinos, bingo halls, theatres, art galleries, libraries and recreational facilities;



**HON. SCOTT MOE,  
PREMIER**

~  
MLA for Rosthern -  
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1-855-793-3422  
[scottmoe.mla@sasktel.net](mailto:scottmoe.mla@sasktel.net)



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HARRISON  
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~  
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[jharrisonmla@sasktel.net](mailto:jharrisonmla@sasktel.net)

private indoor and outdoor gatherings, including household gatherings;

- Limit of 30 people at public indoor gatherings;
- Limit of 150 people at public outdoor gatherings; and
- Current province-wide masking mandate remains in place.

I want to thank the thousands of health care workers who are delivering COVID-19 vaccine shots every day in every part of the province, and I want to thank the hundreds of thousands of Saskatchewan people who have done your part by getting vaccinated.

Please continue to follow public health orders and, when you're eligible for your first and second dose of the vaccine, do your part and stick it to COVID.

### Moni

Neonatal Nurse Practitioner,  
Regina

## Stick it to COVID

Get vaccinated. For all of us.

"How does a baby develop and learn to smile if they don't see anything but your eyes? That was not something we thought about at the beginning of the pandemic. Getting the vaccine and getting the herd immunity going is how we can start doing away with some of these precautions."

[StickItToCOVID.ca](http://StickItToCOVID.ca)

Saskatchewan

 Saskatchewan  
Health Authority



# Lions help make a merry Mother's Day

## Continued from 3

The following were the top entries per class for Rivier: Kindergarten - Ryker Caffet, Ireland Parenteau, Grade 1 - Sayge Lehouillier, RA Castillo, Grade 2 - Drew Haggarty, Mikayla Tkachuk, Grade 3 - Kelsey Doucette, Sierra Strate, Grade 4 - Jell Lian Rosal, Reid Swistun, Grade 5 - Olivia Haggarty, Gage Beuker, Grade 6 - Cooper Woytiuk, Niveditha Manjo.

On Mother's Day, the Lions suited up for the second time this spring in their aprons with spatulas at the ready. They were hosting a take home Pancake Breakfast at the Legion Hall, which brought in around \$740 for the club.

Many Lions donated food items or trays and a crew of 11 gathered at the hall on Sunday morning to flip the flapjacks, pack up plates, or add the special touch of a handmade greeting card donated by Lion Megan Allard.

The morning went off without a hitch, as the Lions got into their rhythm under the watchful eye of project leader Lion Sonja. Lions Torbin and George were on pancake flipping duty while Lions Bryan and Brooklyn were dishing up plates. Lions Marlene and Alison added orange slices and syrup before bagging up orders and delivering them to Lions Shelley and Megan, who added a card for Mom at the order pick up table. Lions Bevra and Marg were manning the door and directing traffic.



Anna Nemish



Bronc Pritchard



Coleby Rose



Emily Goller



Kaidyn Blixrud



Lacey Bouvier



Sara Nemish



Summer Carlson



William Buswell



Fred Jones



Heidi Paquette



Isaac Urano



Kalin Colley

## Hartley Clark's Winners from the Spiritwood Lions' 2021 Mother's Day writing competition.



## Rivier's Winners from the Spiritwood Lions' 2021 Mother's Day writing competition.

### Highway 55 Waste Management Corporation

#### LABOURER – SUMMER STUDENT POSITION

Highway 55 Waste Management Corporation invites applications for a summer student for a Labourer at the Landfill. This position will be 30 hours per week for 10 weeks to commence on or after June 21, 2021. Duties will include but are not limited to:

- Grass Cutting
- Yard Maintenance
- Sorting & Baling Recycling
- Customer Service
- Clean-up in Yard/Shop

This position is partially funded by the Government of Canada Summer Jobs Program; therefore, applicants must be:

- Between 15 and 30 years of age;
- Registered as full-time student for the current academic year; and
- Intends to return to school on a full time basis for the 2021/2022 year;

Send resumes to:

Ken Larsen, Operations Manager  
Highway 55 Waste Management Corporation  
Box 10  
Canwood, SK S0J 0K0  
Phone: 306-468-3055 email: hwy55ops@sasktel.net  
Deadline: Monday, May 28, 2021

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

### Village of Leask is Accepting Applications

### SUMMER STUDENTS

For approximately May 20 – August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021

#### Qualifications:

- Works well with minimum supervision
- Works well as a team and with public
- Takes direction
- Must have a valid Saskatchewan driver's licence
- Manual labour required
- Willingness to learn new skills, willingness to operate machinery as required

Position will remain open until suitable candidates are hired, please forward cover letter and resume to:

Village of Leask  
Attention: Tim Melnyk – Administrator  
15 Main Street, Leask, Saskatchewan  
Email [village.leask@sasktel.net](mailto:village.leask@sasktel.net)

The Village of Leask would like to thank all that apply for the position. Only those selected will be contacted.

## OFFICE ASSISTANT

Village of Leask is Accepting Applications for a Part-time Office Assistant

#### The ideal candidate would have:

- Excellent written and oral communications skills
- Working knowledge of office equipment
- Efficient in office software and applications
- Able to read and understand the Regulations and Acts required for Municipal office
- Attention to details
- Works well as a team and independently
- Customer service skills
- Problem solving skills
- Understanding of the local authority of information and protection act of Saskatchewan.

This is a rewarding position for a person who thrives in a fast paced environment that can get the job completed efficiently and on a deadline. The responsibilities are as follows, but not limited to: answering phone, addressing visitors to the office, filing, handling bill payments and communications, and documents preparation. The office assistant duties depend on the needs of the Village of Leask. Must be able to supply criminal record check and be bondable for this position.

Position will remain open until suitable candidate is hired, please forward cover letter and resume to:

Village of Leask  
15 Main Street, Leask, Saskatchewan  
Email [village.leask@sasktel.net](mailto:village.leask@sasktel.net)

The Village of Leask would like to thank all that apply for the position.

## Help Wanted

### General Manager

### Hidden Hills Golf Course

### For The 2022 Golf Season

#### General Manager

The initial job duties the Employee will be expected to perform will be the following:

1. Day to day overall operations of the golf pro shop, lounge and all related duties pertaining to the operation of these facilities.
2. Hiring personnel and management of that staff pertaining to work in the pro shop and lounge operations.
3. The organization and running of all golf tournaments and private golf functions during the years operational period.
4. The position will make itself available for off season contact related to the operations of the golf course.
5. Please state expected Salary per month.

For More Information Contact  
Clark Pepper 306-747-7755

To apply send resume by May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021 to:  
Hidden Hills Golf Course  
Box 756 Shellbrook, Sask. S0J 2E0  
Attention: Clark Pepper, President



## Even in ag, pandemics come in waves

When it comes to livestock disease, the Canadian agriculture sector is keenly aware of how devastating they can be in terms of impacting trade.

The Canadian beef sector was shaken to its foundation when Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) was initially found in a single Alberta cow in 2003.

Trade in beef and live cattle exports ground to a halt, and the border closures rippled to the sheep and bison sector too.

Imagine if the disease not

only closed export doors over possible human health impacts, but also led to massive deaths of livestock too.

That is the situation that has occurred in China in the past year or so, as African Swine Fever has ravaged to pork industry.

The disease hit the massive Chinese swine herd hard with a huge percentage of the herd lost.

It had been suggested by the Chinese government that the disease was under control, and pig numbers on course to return to pre-



CALVIN DANIELS

ASF numbers, but that may be good old fashioned government rhetoric.

Other sources in farm media suggest a third wave has taken hold, this time

a mutated strain of ASF, that while less deadly has still reportedly contributed to loss estimates over the past winter, and earlier this spring, ranging from about 20 per cent of the herd to more than 50 per cent.

Whichever number is correct, it's a lot of pigs given as of April 2021, China was home to the largest number of pigs of any country with 406 million head, according to www.statista.com

The situation of ASF in China is of interest to Canadian farmers for a variety of reasons starting with

keeping a diligent eye on biosecurity to ensure the disease does not hit here and devastate the Canadian pork sector.

The situation is also notable for Canadian grain producers because a return to pre-ASF numbers in China will mean a greater demand for feed grains, and Canadian barley and feed wheat, and potentially canola meal, are possible feed exports to meet the demand.

Of course if ASF continues to lead to losses in China, then pork exports from

this country become a possible backfill for Chinese demand, which is good for the agriculture sector here.

And, finally, ASF rolling through the pig population on waves may provide some clues to how pandemics work, and while we might feel we are past the worst of COVID-19 in the human population, one mutant variant that has found its way past the current crop of vaccines could change that quickly.

The more we learn of how a pandemic works in waves, the better off we will be.

## Minutes of an R.M. of Canwood meeting

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

A regular meeting of the Council of the Rural Municipality of Canwood No. 494 was held at the Seniors' Room (Elks Hall), 2nd Avenue East, in Canwood on March 16, 2021, commencing at 9:08 a.m.

Present – Reeve Lyndon Pease, Administrator Lorna Benson and the following Councillors for their respective divisions: #1 Ralph Korody, #2 Dennis Benke, #3 Levi Schutte, #4 Ray Duret, #5 Richard De Bruijn, #6 Leonard Smith.

Delegations:

9:30 a.m. Dwight Diehl, Public Works Supervisor, Municipal Operations Update  
1 p.m. Councillor Indemnity

Duret: That the minutes of the Feb. 16, 2021, Regular Council Meeting be approved as amended. Carried

Benke: That we approve the payments as listed on the attached account listing for a total of \$123,661.33, Council Direct Deposits for March, Payroll Direct Deposits for 2021 Pay Periods 5&6. Carried

Benke: That the Statement of Financial Activities for the month of January 2021 for the R.M. General Account be approved as presented. Carried

Korody: That it be acknowledged in these minutes that the List of Lands with Arrears was presented to Reeve Lyndon Pease by the Administrator on March 9, 2021, and is attached hereto. Carried

Public Works Supervisor Dwight Diehl arrived at 9:33 a.m.

Duret: That in the matter of civic addressing we amend Resolution No. 26 of Dec. 15, 2020, by changing the number from Road 524A.3-.6 to 524A.s4-.6 shall be named Ormeaux Road. We instruct the Administrator to notify the appropriate Provincial Government departments of this change. Carried

Benke: That in the matter of civic addressing, the unnamed road to the north of the Mont Nebo Community Hall shall be named Hatch Road. We instruct the Administrator to notify the appropriate Provincial Government departments of this change. Carried

Smith: That in the matter of civic address-

ing, the unnamed road previously designated as 3073A.11 shall be named North Dodd Road. We instruct the Administrator to notify the appropriate Provincial Government departments of this change. Carried

Smith: That Bylaw 2021-03 attached hereto and forming a part of these Minutes, being a Bylaw of the Rural Municipality of Canwood No. 494 to provide for the redesignation of streets in Mont Nebo, now be read the first time. Carried

Benke: That Bylaw 2021-03 attached hereto and forming a part of these Minutes now be read a second time. Carried

Schutte: That we agree to give third reading of Bylaw 2021-03 at this meeting. Carried

Continued on page 8

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

Mon., June 14, 2021  
Regular Sale 9:30 a.m.



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

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

Wed., June 2, 2021  
Regular Sale 9:00 a.m.

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

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Your independently owned & operated livestock marketing  
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Office 306-236-3411 ~ Fax 306-236-3412

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



# Minutes of an R.M. of Canwood meeting

## Continued from 7

De Bruijn: That Bylaw 2021-03 attached hereto and forming a part of these Minutes, being a Bylaw of the Rural Municipality of Canwood No. 494 to provide for the re-designation of streets in Mont Nebo, now be read the third time and adopted. Carried

Korody: That Road Ban Order 2021-01 be hereby acknowledged in these minutes, setting the weight restrictions of 8.2 tonnes including load on the following municipal roadways:

1. West of Sections 4 and 9-49-04 W3
2. Through Section 29 and East of Section 32-50-04 W3

Schutte: That in the matter of the gravel crushing tender, we agree to hire Folden Construction to fulfill the municipality's gravel crushing needs for the year 2021. Carried

Duret: That we instruct the Administrator to make application to the Gas Tax Fund Program for partial funding of the MG30 Road Project on the South Victoire Grid. Carried

Duret: That in the matter of the request of the property owners of Lot 3 Block 2, Morin Lake, Plan 64B01372, to purchase the right-of-way located on the NW 13-52-08 W3, Plan Number 64B01372, we hereby agree to offer for sale, with conditions, the said roadway in the amount of \$400.00 plus the administration costs of the R.M. and the Ministry of Highways service fees for land transactions. Further to this, we instruct the Administrator to communicate the conditions to the property owners and prepare the documents as required for the Ministry of Highways and the Council of the Rural Municipality of Canwood. Carried

Korody: That we acknowledge the OHC Meeting minutes of Feb. 18, 2021. Carried

Public Works Supervisor Dwight Diehl left the meeting at 12:30 p.m.

Smith: That we approve the Council's Indemnity as presented. Carried

Duret: That we adopt Policy 4.02 Vacation and Vacation Pay as amended by adding the definition of statutory leave and changing the Labour Standards Act and Regulations (Saskatchewan) in Section 6 to The Saskatchewan Employment Act and

## Regulations. Carried

Benke: That we agree to the proposed performance-based wage increases by the Human Resources Committee in the HR Minutes of March 2, 2021. Carried

Duret: That we acknowledge the HR Committee meeting minutes of March 2, 2021. Carried

Schutte: That Bylaw 2021-02 attached hereto and forming a part of these minutes, being a bylaw of the Rural Municipality of Canwood No. 494 to provide for the borrowing of money for the purpose of buying a grader, now be read the first time. Carried

Smith: That Bylaw 2021-02 attached hereto and forming a part of these minutes now be read a second time. Carried

Benke: That we agree to give third reading of Bylaw 2021-02 at this meeting. Carried Unanimously

Korody: That Bylaw 2021-02 attached hereto and forming a part of these minutes, being a bylaw of the Rural Municipality of Canwood No. 494 to provide for the borrowing of money for the purpose of buying a grader, now be read a third time and adopted. Carried

De Bruijn: That we appoint Reeve Lyndon Pease and Councilor Dennis Benke as the Official Voting Delegates for the 2021

## SARM Annual Convention. Carried

Schutte: That we change the August Council meeting from Aug. 17, 2021, to Aug. 11, 2021, to accommodate vacation schedules. Carried

Smith: That we void Cheques 12024 to 12039 as they were spoiled during printing and EFT 1577 as it was issued in the wrong amount. Carried

Benke: That we approve the Development and Building Permit Applications of Darcy Wood, Maymont, Sask., to construct a detached garage on Lot 3, Block 1, Plan 79PA23538, Pratt Lake, with approval pursuant to Section 9.1.2 of the LD – Lakeshore Development District, Municipal Zoning Bylaw 2003-7. Carried

Duret: That we approve the Development and Building Permit Applications of Greg and Shannon Harms, Osler, Sask., to construct a cabin on Lot 8, Block 4, Plan 102074497, Morin Lake, with approval pursuant to Section 9.1.2 of the LD – Lakeshore Development District, Municipal Zoning Bylaw 2003-7. Carried

Benke: That we now file the correspondence.

Smith: That we now adjourn at 1:59 p.m. with the next Regular Meeting of Council to be held April 21, 2021, at the Seniors' Room (Elks Hall), 2nd Avenue East, in Canwood. Carried

## Shellbrook Housing Authority builds planters for seniors

Few things are more synonymous with small-town Saskatchewan than springs and summers spent in the garden.

Hoping to make gardening a little easier for local seniors, and to ease the stresses and burdens of the COVID-19 pandemic and its accompanying public health restrictions, the Shellbrook Housing Authority recently had large outdoor planters constructed for the residents of Heritage Place and Homestead Place.

Noting that it's been a "difficult number of months" for the residents of the

two homes, Shellbrook Housing Authority manager Susan Hetu says the organization commissioned Jody Weberg and Terry Bilyk to do the construction work.

The planters now sit in the alley behind Homestead Place, and the seniors reportedly can't wait to get to gardening.

"The seniors at Heritage Place already had small gardening area that will be worked up soon," Hetu said. "Seniors are now outside beautifying the outdoors with as many plants they can get their hands on."

The Shellbrook Housing Authority provides safe, affordable and adequate housing for seniors and families in need. Its housing program is intended to serve low-income households.

Priority is given to seniors aged 55+, families with children or dependents and people with disabilities. Rent is based on before-tax income. This program is made possible through contributions by the federal, provincial and municipal governments.



The new planters now sit in the alley behind Homestead Place.

### R.M. of Leask No. 464 Employment Opportunity

#### Superintendent of Public Works

The Rural Municipality of Leask No. 464 is looking for a Superintendent of Public Works to provide leadership and organization of the Public Works Department. Experience in the operation of heavy equipment and possession of a class 1A driver's license is an asset. A job description is available from the R.M. office. The successful candidate will be employed full time. Normal hours of work are from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday to Friday. Some overtime may be required. This position is not part of a union and includes a full benefit package.

Please send resumes, including certifications, references, valid driver's license and a criminal record check to:

Box 190, Leask, SK, S0J 1M0, Fax: (306) 466-2091, Email: [rmleask.464@sasktel.net](mailto:rmleask.464@sasktel.net).

Deadline for applications is 4:00 p.m., June 4, 2021.

For more information call 306-466-2000. Only those applicants chosen for an interview will be contacted.

### R.M. of Leask – Employment Opportunity

#### Seasonal Part Time Gravel Checker

The Rural Municipality of Leask No. 464 is looking for a Gravel Checker. Normal hours of work are from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., during the gravel season. Some overtime may be required. Rate of pay and benefits to be negotiated.

Please send resumes, including certifications, references, valid driver's license and a criminal record check to: Box 190, Leask, SK, S0J 1M0, Fax: (306) 466-2091, Email: [rmleask.464@sasktel.net](mailto:rmleask.464@sasktel.net). Deadline for applications will be 4:00 p.m., May 28, 2021.

For more information call 306-466-2000. Only those applicants chosen for an interview will be contacted.

## Municipal Economic Enhancement Program (MEEP) Funding will Benefit 760 Municipalities

MEEP is a key component of the Government of Saskatchewan's \$7.5 billion, two-year capital plan to build a strong province and stimulate economic recovery from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. To learn more about this \$150 million program or see a complete list of approved projects, visit [www.saskatchewan.ca/municipal-economic-enhancement](http://www.saskatchewan.ca/municipal-economic-enhancement).



You can learn more at [saskatchewan.ca](http://saskatchewan.ca)

**Nadine Wilson**

MLA for Saskatchewan Rivers  
[saskrivers@sasktel.net](mailto:saskrivers@sasktel.net)

**Hon. Jeremy Harrison**

MLA for Meadow Lake  
[jharrisonmla@sasktel.net](mailto:jharrisonmla@sasktel.net)

**Hon. Scott Moe, Premier**

MLA for Rosthern-Shellbrook  
[scottmoe.mla@sasktel.net](mailto:scottmoe.mla@sasktel.net)



# Disc golf coming to Shellbrook’s Centennial Park

Shellbrook’s Centennial Park will soon be the home of a new outdoor attraction, thanks to a partnership between the Shellbrook Kinettes and the Town of Shellbrook.

Currently the site of the local skate park, the sledding hill, some playground equipment, and a lot of wide open green space, Centennial Park has been a puzzle for the town, which has been looking to add equipment or amenities to the public space for a number of years.

In a serendipitous turn of events, a solution to the town’s puzzle came from Shellbrook Kinettes president Regan Buckingham and her husband, Jerad.



Representatives from the Shellbrook Kinettes and the Town of Shellbrook gathered at Centennial Park ahead of announcing the planned disc golf course on social media.

The couple were playing disc golf in Waskesiu, and had the thought that Shellbrook could have a disc golf course of its own. When Jerad brought the idea up to then-councillor, Amund Otterson, while the pair were working on the solar panel project for the Richardson Pioneer Recreation Centre, Otterson was excited by the suggestion.

Shellbrook’s Town Council shared in Otterson’s excitement, and recently agreed to cover \$5,000 of the estimated \$20,000 price tag for the course.

“It is just so great that it is something that you don’t have to sign up for, you don’t have to register, you don’t have to pay. If a group of kids want to go play, or a group of young adults, or a group of seniors... it is a game for everyone and hopefully puts a smile on a few faces,” said Regan, with fellow Kinette Tasha Cyr noting that it gives people something they can do while still obeying COVID-19 guidelines.

“We can all use a little fun and outside time with friends,” Regan added.

While much of the hard work remains to be done, the equipment for the disc golf course has been ordered and the hope is to have the

course up and running in Centennial Park before the end of summer.

In the meantime, one of the top priorities for the Kinettes and the town is to plan out each of the nine holes, and ensure the course will be a top notch amenity.

“We have partnered with Disc Golf Saskatchewan, and have been working closely with Evan Zimmer, president, to ensure our design and equipment is up to professional and tournament standards,” Regan said. “Along with Evan, other Disc Golf SK volunteers will be helping us with the design of the course, and the implementation of the equipment.”

With the town chipping in \$5,000 for the project, the Kinettes are getting creative when it comes to funding the course by offering sponsorship opportunities for each of the nine holes. The one-time, permanent sponsorship opportunities cost \$750, and include advertising on the hole signage and basket.

Additionally, in a bid to both beautify Centennial Park and add some obstacles for the course, upwards of 40 trees will be planted

in the park. The Kinettes are offering community members the opportunity to have the trees planted in memory of a loved one, with a single tree costing \$250, or a bundle of trees on a single hole (two to five trees) for \$200 per tree. More information on this opportunity will be available once the course has been planned.

“We think this disc golf course will be a huge addition to our community,” Cyr said. “We are super excited to see the end of the project, and to get out and play.”

Once the disc golf course is up and run-

ning, it will be featured on the UDisc app, which contains profiles of every disc golf course around the world, giving the course the potential to attract not only local players but players from far and wide. The app also allows players to track their scores while they play.

Additionally, while reiterating that the course will be free, and that the game can be played with just a frisbee, Regan says beginner sets of discs, including a driver, a mid-ranger, and a putter, will be available for purchase as the course’s opening date gets closer.

## PRAISE & WORSHIP

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

<b>PARTNERS IN FAITH</b> Lutheran/United/ Christchurch Anglican, 137-2nd St. W. Spiritwood Worship 11:00 a.m. Rev. Sarah Urano	<b>SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST</b> 407 - 2nd Ave .E., Shellbrook Sat., 9:45 am - Sabbath School Sat., 11:00 am - Worship Broadcast on VOAR 92.1 FM Pastor Liviu Tilihoi 306-747-3398	<b>Gideons International of Canada</b> Battlefords Camp Phone Art Martynes (306) 389-4633
<b>UNITED /ANGLICAN</b> Worship Services Glaslyn Time is on the sign Rev. Kun Kim Rev. Don Skinner	<b>MENNONITE BRETHREN</b> Glenbush 10:00 am - Sunday School Worship 10:50 am	<b>EVANGELICAL FREE</b> Mont Nebo Wed., 7:30 pm - Bible Study & Prayer Sun., 10:30 am - Worship Pastor Bill Klumpenhower
<b>CATHOLIC SUNDAY</b> Spiritwood - 11:15 a.m. Leoville - 9:30 a.m. Chitek Lake - Closed for the Season Everyone Welcome <b>SATURDAY</b> Shell Lake - 2:00 p.m. Medstead - 6 p.m. Father Ramel Macapeia	<b>FIELDS OF HOPE (HOFFNUNGSFELDER) MENNONITE CHURCH</b> Glenbush Worship - 11:00 am	<b>LAKELAND COMMUNITY CHURCH</b> Spiritwood Sun., 11 am - Worship Service & Sunday School
<b>PARTNERS IN WORSHIP</b> Shell Lake Online Worship 306-841-7333 Pastor Sarah Urano	<b>BETHEL</b> Medstead 1st Sunday, 10 am - Worship Pastor David Jensen 3rd Sunday - 10 am Worship Pastor David Jensen	<b>BELBUTTE FULL GOSPEL</b> 11 am Worship Service 1st Sun., 7:30 pm - Hymn Sing Pastor Floyd Berg
		<b>COWBOY CHURCH</b> Spiritwood Every Wednesday Night 7 pm Spiritwood Legion Hall Pastor Rick Martin

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

~

**SPIRITWOOD:** Wapiti Regional Library - Limited Capacity. Tuesday 9 am - 5 pm; Wednesday 9 am - 5 pm; Friday 9 am - 5 pm  
**LEOVILLE:** Wapiti Regional Library - Appointment only. Wednesday 10 am - 4 pm; Thursday 10 am - 2 pm  
**SHELL LAKE:** Wapiti Regional Library - Curb Side Pickup. Tuesday 12 pm - 4 pm; Wednesday 12 pm - 4 pm

~

**BLAINE LAKE:** Wapiti Library - Appointment only. Wednesday 11 am - 6 pm; Friday 11 am - 5 pm; Saturday 10 am - 4 pm. Contact us for more info 306-497-3130, www.wapitilibrary.ca.  
**BIG RIVER:** Wapiti Library - Appointment Only. Wednesday 11:30 am - 4:30 pm; Thursday 11:30 am - 4:30 pm. Phone # 306-469-2152  
**CANWOOD:** Canwood Branch of Wapiti Regional Library. Appointment only. Tuesday 10 am - 4 pm; Thursday 10 am - 4 pm; Friday 12 pm - 4 pm. Call 306-468-2501 to book a slot.  
**DEBDEN:** Wapiti Library hours: Appointment only. Monday 2 pm - 7 pm; Tuesday 10 am - 4 pm. Librarian: Aline Hannon  
**LEASK:** Wapiti Library & Legacy Gallery Hours - Limited Capacity. Tuesday 10:30 am - 5 pm; Friday 10:30 am - 5 pm; Saturday 1 pm - 4 pm  
**MARCELIN:** Wapiti Library - Appointment only. Tuesday 2 pm - 7 pm; Thursday 2 pm - 8 pm; Saturday 9 am - 2 pm. For information on all your library needs, please contact 306-226-2110.  
**SHELLBROOK:** Shellbrook Branch of the Wapiti Library located at 105 Railway Ave., West (Provincial building). Library Hours: Limited capacity - Monday 2 pm - 6 pm; Tuesday 12 pm - 8 pm; Wednesday 2 pm - 8 pm; Thursday 12 pm - 6 pm; Friday 9 am - 4 pm.  
**SHELLBROOK:** Registration is now open for the Shellbrook Silverfins Summer Swim Club! Due to COVID restrictions, all registrations will be done by email. For more information, please contact Mark at shellbrooksilverfins@gmail.com or by phone or text at 306-747-9494. Deadline for registration is May 24th, 2021.  
**LEASK:** Leask Sports Centre Inc. Annual General Meeting, May 25, 2021 ~ 6:30 p.m. at the Sports Centre. Info: Chris 306-466-7780

## TRIPLE YOUR ADVERTISING

We'll advertise your important community event in our Community Calendar  
FREE for two weeks prior to the event with purchase of a  
2 column x 2" Display ad for only:

**\$60.00 plus G.S.T. - A savings of over 30%**  
*Available to Non-Profit & Community Organizations Only*  
**Call Now For Further Details**  
"Don't miss out on letting your Community and others know of your event!"

## Shellbrook Chronicle & Spiritwood Herald

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# Highlights of a Shellbrook Town Council meeting

Shellbrook's town council met for its regular meeting via teleconference on Monday, May 17.

In attendance were Mayor Amund Otterson, councillors Larry Batten, Bruce Clements, John Hughes, Cheryl Ledding, Brent Miller, and Kathleen Nording, and the town's CAO, Kelly Hoare.

Mayor Otterson called the meeting to order at 4 p.m., and council began by approving the agenda for the meeting and adopting the minutes of its May 3 regular meeting and its May 10 budget meeting. With no business arising from said minutes, council acknowledged its correspondence, approved payment of its regular accounts, then welcomed delegates and interested ratepayers to a discussion about the golf course and the golf cart shed project.

Currently, there are 14 golf cart sheds at the golf course. Starting in May of 2002, they were leased out under an agreement stating that taxes would be charged on the sheds starting in 2003. However, the taxation policy was never enforced, leaving the town out revenues.

As one potential solution to the matter, the town is looking for a new agreement to be put in place and enforced, so it can begin collecting taxes on the sheds.

Another suggestion, meanwhile,

would see the golf course lease the land from the town for a fee and takeover responsibility for maintenance of the property, and golf cart shed fees. With plans to put up new golf cart sheds on the horizon, each shed would require a building permit to ensure continuity of design and proper construction.

While council seemed to be generally in favour of this second proposal, it agreed to table the matter to allow for more feedback and discussion. And with the delegation dismissed, council moved on to provide its oral reports.

The reports began with a question from councillor Hughes regarding the mess on the west side of the old Shellbrook Hospital property. Councillor Clements agreed to talk to the property owners to create some movement on the issue.

In public works, Clements questioned whether the ice resurfacing machine was going to be used at the outdoor Kinsmen Rink. Confirming this to be the case, it was also explained that the rink would initially be flooded for the season using town tanks and fire trucks. This reportedly worked well when a crokicurl rink was set up during the town's Winter Festival, and solves an issue with the town not being able to flood the rink directly from the water treatment plant.

In some news from the hospital and

clinics portfolio, Mayor Otterson reported that the possibility of bringing an ambulance depot to Shellbrook isn't off the table, even though there was no money for it in the provincial budget.

In a couple final items, Hoare reported that the fire ban in the town and the R.M. of Shellbrook will be left in place, given the dry conditions in the area, and said she'd look into setting up a meeting with the new Sergeant of the Ahtahkakoop-Shellbrook RCMP detachment.

Moving into new business, council unanimously carried motions to give three readings to Bylaw 2021-05, a bylaw to establish a public utility, and also agreed to enact the bylaw. The bylaw allows for the town to participate in the Prince Albert Regional Water Utility (PARWU). In a separate but related matter, council approved the appointment of Mike Tanchuk as a representative from the Town of Shellbrook to PARWU.

Moving on, council carried a motion to name the street intersecting with Dr. Fung Drive, which is currently signed 3rd Street W, as Dr. Hughes Drive.

Wrapping up the evening's business, council discussed an issue with water meters the town hasn't been able to be read and meter heads the town hasn't been able to replace. Hoare explained that this has been an issue for years, as it requires the town to get inside people's houses or businesses, but added that the town bears some responsibility for not being proactive in getting the reads or the meter head replacements done.

In the end, councillor Clements suggested that council approach the property owners for the meters in question to discuss and negotiate half payment of any charges for usage.

With nothing further to discuss, council adjourned for the evening. Its next meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 7.

## Province unveils second dose strategy

Saskatchewan's vaccine delivery effort will soon begin administering second doses of the COVID-19 vaccine to the general population. As most residents over the age of 18 are anticipated to receive their first dose by the end of May, second doses will start to be offered to overlap with the completion of first doses.

As of May 17, anyone who is 85 and older or anyone who received their first dose before February 15 can book their second dose. It is anticipated that all Saskatchewan residents will be able to be fully vaccinated with two doses by July 31. Second dose administration will be distributed according to the age-based and priority sequencing of first doses.

"There will still be people receiving their first doses as we begin to offer second doses to those residents in the order of priority that we started our provincial vaccination program," Health Minister Paul Merriman said. "But with a reliable vaccine supply and the exceptional capacity we have built in Saskatchewan, we will start booking those second doses and ensure full immunity to every resident who chooses to be vaccinated against COVID-19. Vaccination is our path out of the pandemic."

While the interval between first and second doses can be up to 16 weeks, Saskatchewan is starting second doses at an interval of 13 weeks or sooner based on the availability of vaccines distributed by the

federal government.

Second dose vaccinations will be available at participating pharmacies across the province, through the Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) patient booking system, drive-thru and walk-in clinics as well as through clinics operated by Indigenous Services Canada and the Northern Intertribal Health Authority (NITHA).

Notification of second dose eligibility will happen through broad public communication including public service announcements, Government of Saskatchewan news releases, the COVID-19 vaccine website, social media posts and additional channels as deemed necessary.

*Continued on page 11*

## 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,  
Live-stream worship  
service on Facebook,  
Worship Sunday, 9 a.m.  
Rev. Emmanuel Aristide

### PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

Parkside  
10:30 a.m. Worship  
Pastor Daniel Mooseely  
306-747-3572  
Shellbrook  
Adult Study  
9:30 a.m.  
Sun., 10:30 a.m. - Worship  
Pastor David Bodvarson  
306-747-7235  
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  
Leask 306-466-4498  
Marcelin 306-226-4615

### PRESBYTERIAN

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

### IMMANUEL LUTHERAN

Parkside  
11 a.m. - Worship

### ANGLICAN CHURCH

Leask - All Saint's  
Sunday, 9 a.m. - Service  
St. Andrew's - Shellbrook  
Sunday, 11 a.m. Service  
Re-opening for services  
Sun. Mar. 14, 2021, 11 a.m.  
Canwood - Christ Church  
Sunday, 11 a.m. - Service

### 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

### 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. Dong Doan  
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. Dong Doan  
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

### 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  
306-747-3398



Photo age-enhanced to 30 years (2006)

### Missing: Kevin Charles

Date of Birth: Aug 7, 1976  
FROM: Chitek Lake, SK  
Weight: 120 Lbs.  
Eyes: Brown

MISSING SINCE: Apr 3, 1993  
Height: 5' 6"  
Hair: Dark Brown  
File: 3065 - U

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

Anyone with information, please contact Local Police or Child Find at 1.800.513.3463 or 306.955.0070. All calls are confidential - you do not have to leave your name.

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## World's best golfers tempted by big bucks

Big money is causing big rumblings in the world of professional golf.

Two rival entities, the Super Golf League and the Premier Golf League, both backed by millions of Saudi Arabian loot, are trying to lure some of the world's best golfers into their folds, and challenge the PGA Tour and European Tour for supremacy. Both have similar concepts — a number of team events, with guaranteed money, and reports of \$20 million and \$30 million offers for certain individuals to merely sign up.

Some of the world's best, such as Rory McIlroy and Justin Thomas, have already poo-pooed the concept and pledged allegiance to the PGA Tour. Others, such as Dustin Johnson, Justin Rose, Phil Mickelson and Brooks Koepka, have admitted to being approached, and still haven't said no.

The gusher of big Saudi money is reportedly behind the recent deci-

sion by the PGA Tour to establish the Player Impact Program (PIP), a \$40 million pot of dough to be distributed to the 10 PGA Tour players deemed to be most responsible for bringing attention to the tour via TV and online exposure. Active or not, Tiger Woods will likely finish first (for a cool \$8 million) among the PIP recipients for the foreseeable future, and other obvious recipients would be Koepka, Thomas, Dustin Johnson, McIlroy, Bryson DeChambeau, Jon Rahm and Rickie Fowler.

PGA Tour commissioner Jay Monahan, meanwhile, has said that any golfer who signs up with one of the rival entities would be banned from the PGA Tour, but since the Tour doesn't run any of the majors — Masters, U.S. Open, PGA or British Open — any renegade golfer would be banned from Quad Cities or Phoenix, but still be eligible for the major championships. That might be enough for



BRUCE  
PENTON

some of them.

Ultimate success for the proposed upstarts remains a long shot. Because the game's very best are the only players being courted by the renegade leagues, and they are already multi millionaires, a few extra million likely won't mean much to them. McIlroy told Golf Digest it was a "money grab ... which is fine if that's what you're playing golf for ... to make as much money as possible."

But if enough stars sign up with the PGL or SGL, the PGA Tour would suffer in a multitude of ways. Weekly

fields would consist of a lot of Adam Schenks, Matt Joneses and Akshay Bhatias, while the big stars were frolicking for huge dollars in a Middle East tournament. As well, big-name stars who spurned the upstart leagues, like McIlroy or Colin Morikawa, would find their victories tainted, and carrying an asterisk, because of the weaker-field events.

Is there validity to the old phrase 'money talks'? The golf world will soon find out

• RJ Currie of sports-deke.com: "A Wall Street Journal report said psychologists can consistently pick the loser of a fight by seeing who has the biggest, toothiest smile before they square off. Good luck trying this predictor on NHL players."

• Comedian and Mets fan Jerry Seinfeld, to Newsday, on why he didn't bid to buy the team when it was recently sold: "I don't need more people yelling at me on 79th Street when the Mets are

on a losing streak."

• Patti Dawn Swanson aka the River City Renegade, skeptical of the proposed Aug. 5 start date for the CFL season: "Circle (the date) in pencil rather than a Sharpie, and make sure there's an eraser handy."

• Ryan French, who runs the Monday Q Info twitter feed, on Monday qualifying for a PGA Tour event: "It's like going in a free-throw contest to play for the Lakers."

• New York Post headline after the Jets drafted QB Zach Wilson with the No. 2 pick in the draft: "ZACHPOT!"

• One more from Swansson: "You've heard of the Gordie Howe hat trick, we now have the Phil Kessel hat trick: 900 points, 900 consecutive games, 900 hot dogs."

• Headline at fark.com: "In light of the success of football's Super League, golfers want to create one for themselves."

• Dwight Perry of the Seattle Times: "Two words for the Astros' complaints that fans

are mercilessly taunting them for their cheating ways en route to winning the 2017 World Series: Can it."

• Comedy writer Brad Dickson of Omaha, on why Nebraska scheduled a football game against Fordham: "Very simple: (AD Bill) Moos and (coach Scott) Frost desperately need wins to keep their jobs, and their first choice — a driving school in Denison, Iowa — doesn't field a team."

• Warriors forward Juan Toscano-Anderson, to ESPN.com, on what it's like playing alongside teammate Steph Curry during his torrid shooting streak: "If you get into a street fight and you've got Mike Tyson standing on the side of you, how you gonna feel?"

• Phil Mushnick of the New York Post, on the Nets' Kyrie Irving adding his own twist to the "DNP" designation: "DFLP — didn't feel like playing."

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

## Province unveils second dose strategy

### Continued from 10

Priority for second doses will be given to those diagnosed with or being treated for cancer and those who have received solid organ transplants. These patients are eligible as of May 17. Patients starting B cell depletion monoclonal antibody therapy (including Rituximab and ocrelizumab) are eligible to receive their second doses with a minimum interval of 28 days. Both of these groups will receive a letter of confirmation in the mail from their physician to present upon vaccination.

### Saskatchewan youth 12+ added to vaccine roll-out

With the approval of Pfizer Biontech vaccines for the ages of 12 to 15, the Ministry of Health and Saskatchewan Health Authority are adding Saskatchewan youth 12 years and older to the provincial vaccination program sequenc-

ing.

This will expand the provincial population eligible to receive vaccination by approximately 91,000. Saskatchewan is aiming to have first dose administration for eligible youth completed by the end of June with delivery of first doses anticipated to occur in school-based programs, pharmacies, or SHA clinics before the end of the school year. Parental consent will be required prior to the administration of the COVID-19 vaccine to Saskatchewan youth.

Details on school-based programs, including the parental consent process and eligibility dates, are being finalized. Prior to the commencement of school-based programs and youth eligibility, parents can anticipate a public announcement along with communication from public health and school divisions regarding the administration of the CO-

VID-19 vaccine.

Due to the high amount of Pfizer vaccines anticipated in May and June, Saskatchewan's vaccine delivery system will have sufficient capacity for simultaneous delivery of vaccines for youth and second dose delivery for the general population.

Individuals 12 to 15 years of age who are considered clinically extremely vulnerable are immediately eligible to receive the Pfizer vaccine. Clinically extremely vulnerable individuals ages 16 to 17 have been eligible since April 14.

A list of those conditions is available at [www.saskatchewan.ca/government/health-care-administration-and-provider-resources/treatment-procedures-and-guidelines/emerging-public-health-issues/2019-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-vaccine/vaccine-delivery-phases](http://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/health-care-administration-and-provider-resources/treatment-procedures-and-guidelines/emerging-public-health-issues/2019-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-vaccine/vaccine-delivery-phases)

Parents whose children are eligible as clinically extremely vulnerable, will require a letter for presentation at time of immunization. For youth receiving Rituximab and Ocrelizumab, you need to obtain a letter from your physician and physicians have been provided a template for this use. For youth with a cancer diagnosis or in treatment or have received a solid organ transplant, this letter will come

from the Government of Saskatchewan.

With the eligibility letter, appointments for immunization must be booked by calling 1-833-SaskVax (1-833-727-5829). This is to ensure that the appointment will be booked in a clinic offering the Pfizer vaccine. Additional information on how to book your appointment is available at [www.saskatchewan.ca/covid19-vaccine-booking](http://www.saskatchewan.ca/covid19-vaccine-booking).

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## OBITUARIES

~  
*Henriette Bilodeau*

er in life saying the rosary was still a daily ritual of Henriette's. Even while she had her sight on "Eternity" with some of her family gathered by her bedside, some via "Zoom meeting" a final rosary and prayers were said with her. All the while nestled in her tiny hands was her rosary.

Those tiny hands tell a lifetime story;

\* Nurturing hands... Gentle and loving touch while holding her children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, and even great great grandchildren.

\* Helping hands... Toiled in fields with her husband picking roots and rocks to threshing, combining, milking cows, feeding chickens and pigs and so much more.

\* Working hands... Harvesting a huge garden, preparing meals, kneading daily bread, rolling out pie crusts, to sewing and countless hours of mending and ironing.

\* Enjoyment hands ... Playing cards, puzzling, tending flowers, tossing the old bowling ball down the lane to her hobby of quilt making, knitting, and crocheting which many of us will preserve and treasure

for ever.

\* Writing Hands.... that wrote in a daily journal which now we can reflect on past events, her joys, and her sorrows.

\* Volunteering hands ... Countless hours for her community which she was so proud of.

All in all, those tiny hands blessed us and so did their gracious and unassuming spirit in which they served.

Left to cherish her legacy is her family

Gilles (Ida) Bilodeau, Claude (Pauline) Bilodeau, Celine (Paulin) Tremblay, Monique (Marcel) Lamontagne, Luc (Claudette) Bilodeau, Roseline (Benoit) Duret, Urgel (Diane) Bilodeau, Aurelie (Jacques) Duret, Ginette (Laurent) Prefontaine, Paul (Lorraine) Bilodeau, Guy (Linda) Bilodeau, Leane (Rick) Nordhagen, and daughter/law Madeleine Bilodeau. 41 grandchildren, 97 great grandchildren, 9 great great grandchildren. Brother Laurent Ruel, sisters Denise Lajeunesse, and Rebecca Paquette; as well as numerous nieces and nephews and her loving family at the Debden Heritage Manor.

She was preceded by her husband Wilfrid, children Bibiane, Leonard, Pierre and daughter/law Anita Bilodeau; as well as a grandson Martin Bilodeau.

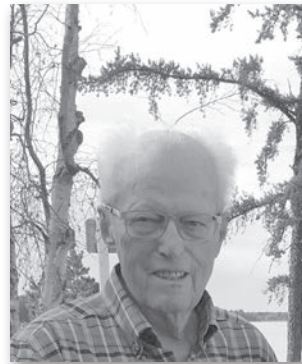
Due to Covid restrictions there will be a private family viewing on May 22.

Celebration life will be held at a later date this fall.

*Rest in Peace.*

*You can shed tears that she is gone, or you can smile because she has lived. You can close your eyes and pray that she'll come back, or you can open your eyes and see all she's left. Your heart can be empty because you can't see her, or you can be full of the love you shared. You can turn your back on tomorrow and live yesterday or you can be happy for tomorrow because of yesterday. You can remember her and only that she is gone, or you can cherish her memory and let it live on. You can cry and close your mind, be empty and turn your back or you can do what she'd want: smile, open your eyes, love and go on. Rest in Peace.*

In lieu of tributes, memorial donations may be made in memory of Henriette to the Debden Heritage Manor (Box 608 Debden, SK S0J 0S0). Family and friends wishing to send online condolences are welcome to visit [www.beaulacfuneralhome.com](http://www.beaulacfuneralhome.com) Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of Beau "Lac" Funeral Home, Tammy Smart – Director, Shellbrook, SK. 306-747-2828.

*Maurice Gerard Lafond*

LAFOND – Maurice

It is with profound sadness that the family of Maurice Gerard Lafond announces his passing on May 16, 2021, in the comfort of his home, with family by his side. Maurice was born on July 10, 1943 in Leoville, SK, to Lucien and Rose Lafond. Maurice and his five siblings were raised on the family farm in Leoville. On July 31, 1965, Maurice married the love of his life, Hellen and was blessed with four children. Maurice proudly worked in his positions with the government for 33 years. Maurice will always be remembered for his loving, outgoing and kind nature. He was truly a "social butterfly." He loved people and was known to introduce himself to everyone, always leaving a lasting impression on each person he met. Besides his wife and children, Dad's other love was time spent at his cottage in Chitek Lake, fishing, hunting, and spending time with his grandchildren and many special close friends.

Maurice leaves to cherish his memory his wife of

55 years, Hellen; his four children: **Brian** (Lianne) and their children Tyson (Lyndsie) and Ranee (Shawn); **Deanna** (Leroy) Murphy and their children Rory, Shane, Colin and Emily; **Lea** (Rick) Zimroz and their children Matthew, Joshua, Nicholas and Noah; and **Sheila** (Ken) Georget and their children Keanna (Danny), Colton and Kaley; Maurice's brothers: Paul (Rose Hélène), Leo (Marguerite), Gerard (Paulette) and Roger; sister and brothers-in-law: Alexandria, Elsie (John), Walter (Pat), Harry (Sharon), Linda, Vera and Jim (Marleen); as well as numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, extended family, other relatives and countless friends.

Maurice was predeceased by his granddaughter Sarah; parents Lucien and Rose Lafond; his sister Cecile (Louis); mother-in-law and father-in-law Harry and Annie Tracz; sister and brothers-in-law: Steve, Mike (Mary), Bill, Olga (Don), John (Sophie) and Les; nephew Kim and niece Maryann.

A Private Family Mass will be held.

Family and friends wishing to send online condolences are welcome to visit [www.beaulacfuneralhome.com](http://www.beaulacfuneralhome.com). Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of Beau "Lac" Funeral Home & Crematorium, Lorne Adams, Funeral Director, Prince Albert, SK 306-763-3322.

## GOOD NEWS

~  
THE CHOSEN ONES

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

It is generally agreed that Christ's conversation with his disciples as recorded in John, Chapters 15-17 occurred at the close of the Last Supper. It could be called Jesus' last sermon to his disciples. Christ is remarkably calm, although Judas is about to betray him, the other disciples are about to abandon him and he is about to be arrested unjustly as a criminal. Instead of being worried about himself, he chose to leave his disciples with words of comfort, hope and instructions on how to survive the days and weeks after his death.

Particularly in Chapter 15, verse 15, he shares with the disciples that he now considers them as friends rather than servants or students. He reveals to them the Creator's plan, including the startling idea that the disciples were chosen to carry on God's plan.

On the night of his betrayal, Jesus spoke these words to his disciples, in John 15: 14-16; "Now you are my friends, since I have told you everything the father told me. You didn't choose me. I chose you. I appointed you to go and produce fruit that will last, so that the father will give you whatever you ask for, using my name."

Some of the best and some of the worst moments of my life have to do with being chosen....what about you? For me, being chosen last in school for games, and being chosen to become a minister have been two of the highs and lows in my life. In John, we hear that Jesus, the Christ, the chosen one of God, has chosen us—and chosen us not simply to be servants, but to be his friends—and this without us even seeking him, without us even choosing him.

This is incredible to me. We, you, and I, are of value, of worth, to Jesus. Let's think about what this means to us today. So

many of us are so frightened—so afraid—so uncertain—that even when we are chosen we don't feel the joy that being chosen can bring to us.

Hear, this day and everyday my friends, that we are chosen by the Christ, the chosen one himself! Jesus wants us—not for what we can or cannot do, not for our abilities or lack thereof, but because Christ loves us, and wants to show love to us, and through us—to others. Jesus knows who we are—and calls us, knows what we have done and what we will do—and still chooses us. Chooses us—not to be a servant or a slave—but to be a friend. Such is Christ's love and the love of God, for us.

Jesus calls us friends. Jesus has chosen us for that role, that position, that intimacy, even when we, like the first disciples, had not thought or dared to chose him in that same fashion. That is a tremendous feeling! We are allowed to see that God will listen to all things upon our hearts, those things that excite us and those things that disturb us.

Jesus knows us and loves us so much that he became one of us. That is part of what makes the Gospel such good news for us to-

day. Jesus has walked our walk and done it as a friend does it-- not simply to show us how things should be done, but to accompany us on our way, to be our companion as well as our guide, supporter and teacher. And all this without a word of judgment, except that judgment which a friend makes—the judgment of mercy, of encouragement, and of gentle correction.

We are his friend—chosen and appointed to bear fruit, fruit that will last—fruit that will please the Creator. As you go forward in your daily lives—go knowing that Christ has chosen you; that you are worthwhile—that you are valued—that you are important, and that you are wanted as a friend. Rejoice in it!

And as you go, go resolved to make friends of others, no matter who they are, or what they are about, or what they have or have not done. For that is what it means to have been appointed by Christ to be fruitful. Remember my friends, that Christ has chosen you to be his friend—despite the fact that you and I, at the first, did not choose him. One of my favourite hymns is "What a Friend We Have in Jesus".. Read the words and may they bring you comfort and joy.



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Under the provisions of *The Alcohol and Gaming Regulations Act, 1997*;

Notice is hereby given that 102049082 Saskatchewan Ltd has applied to the Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority (SLGA) for a Restaurant permit to sell alcohol in the premises known as Arnie's Grill at 133 Main St, Shellbrook, SK S0J 2E0.

Written objections to the granting of the permit may be filed with SLGA not more than two weeks from the date of publication of this notice.

Every person filing a written objection with SLGA shall state their name, address, and telephone number in printed form, as well as the grounds for the objection(s). Petitions must name a contact person, state grounds, and be legible. Each signatory to the petition and the contact person must provide an address and telephone number. Frivolous, vexatious or competition-based objections within the beverage alcohol industry may not be considered and may be rejected by the Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Licensing Commission, who may refuse to hold a hearing.

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MEMORY  
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January 8, 1945 -  
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May the winds of  
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And whisper in  
your ear  
How much we love  
and miss you  
And wish that you  
were here.  
Missing you,  
Estelle and family



DOUCETTE, Shirley  
November 21, 1954 -  
May 21, 1998  
Dear Mom,  
Gone are the days  
we used to share  
But in our hearts you  
are always there.  
The gates of memory  
will never close  
We miss you more  
than anyone knows.  
With tender love and  
deep regret  
We who love you will  
never forget.  
Forever loved and  
forever missed,  
Rick and family

IN MEMORIAM  
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December 22, 1911 -  
May 15, 1966



Ottelia Bittner  
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May 26, 2009



IN LOVING MEMORY  
Though your smiles  
are gone forever  
And your hands we  
cannot touch,  
Still, we have so  
many memories  
Of the parents we  
love so much.  
Your memory is our  
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Missing you today  
and everyday,  
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# Ground covers for dry shade

By Sara Williams

Mention the term “ground cover” and many gardeners visibly tense. There is a change in body language as visions of goutweed and ribbon grass come to mind. Quite literally, ground covers are plants that cover ground – often aggressively and without inhibition. When planted where they don’t belong – in a border or a rock garden – they soon take over.

But in the right location, they solve landscape problems rather than creating them. Consider dry shade. The worst scenario? The shade below a spruce tree. Use ground covers! They survive with little maintenance and sometimes provide a long season interest through colour and texture.

Begin by amending the soil in the planting holes with organic matter such as compost, peat moss or well-rotted manure, mixing it thoroughly with the existing soil. Then place a 10 cm (4 in.) layer of mulch over the soil between the plants. Water deeply during their first growing season. Once established, they should do just fine.

Here are some prairie hardy ground covers to consider

**Windflower, snowdrop anemone**  
(*Anemonoides sylvestris*,  
syn. *Anemone sylvestris*)

Native to sunny open forests in Europe and Asia, windflowers effortlessly naturalize in northern gardens, perhaps too effortlessly. Put them where

they can happily spread, for spread they will.

Both the common name, windflower, and the genus name, derived from *Anemone* (from the Greek, *anemos*), refer to the flower’s gentle movement in the wind. *Sylvestris* means of the woods, its native habitat.

Single, pure white, five-sepaled, yellow-centred nodding flowers bloom in early spring above mounds of foliage about 40 cm (15 in.) in height. The palmately cut foliage remains attractive throughout the growing season. The creeping rootstock makes it ideal as a ground cover.

Windflowers grow in sun or shade. Well-drained soil with even moisture is preferred, but they are amazingly drought tolerant once established. Windflowers self-seed and have rampant roots.

‘Flore Pleno’ is the double form that is a bit shorter than the species, with flowers resembling lovely white pom-pom chrysanthemums. It looks delicate but is as tough as a Mack truck.

**Canadian ginger, wild ginger**  
(*Asarum canadense*)

*Asarum* was the classical Greek name for the genus, while *canadense* refers to the native region of this species, the northern woodlands of Canada. The roots was once used in cooking as a substitute for ginger. The rhizomes contain aristolochic acid, an antimicrobial substance, and according to Robert

Shosteck, a botanist with an interest in plant history, “...used as a contraceptive, the root was boiled slowly in a small quantity of water and the bitter liquid taken as hot tea. There is no record as to its effectiveness.”

Canadian ginger is grown primarily for its foliage, which forms a low, dense mound of about 15 to 20 cm (6-8 in.). The pairs of 15 cm (6 in.), light green leaves are kidney- or heart-shaped. Handling them may cause dermatitis in sensitive individuals. The brownish-purple flowers bloom in spring and are usually at ground level and hidden by the foliage. (They may be viewed by lying on one’s belly with your face almost but not in the foliage because of the chance of dermatitis.)

Place it in shade in well-drained but evenly moist soil, well amended with organic matter. It is drought tolerant once established. Use it as a ground cover or in shade or woodland gardens. The plants spread by rhizomes, and propagation is easiest by division.

**Bergenia, pig squeak, elephant ears**  
(*Bergenia crassifolia*, syn. *B. cordifolia*)

*Bergenia* is one of the most adaptable ground covers for the prairies, equally at home in sun or shade. The genus is named after Karl A. von Bergen (1704-1766), a professor of botany at Frankfurt University. Native to eastern Asia from the Altai Mountains through Mongolia and Siberia, *Bergenia* was introduced to Europe in 1779, so it is unknown if the good professor ever saw it. The species name, *cordifolia* in the synonym, means heart-shaped foliage and, of course, refers to the leaves.

Many gardeners simply call this plant *bergenia*, allying the common name with the botanical one. Pig squeak originated from the sound that’s made if you rub the leaf between your thumb and your forefinger, and elephant ears from the size of the leaves.

As a ground cover, *bergenia* has everything going for it: evergreen foliage through the winter which turns a lovely purple in fall; a non-invasive nature; pink, red, purple, or white flowers in spring; and adaptability to almost any site. About 25 to 30 cm (10-12 in.) high, it forms broad, dense clumps. The leaves are large, thick, and leathery, rounded to heart-shaped with an undulating margin.

It is happy in full sun to full shade on a variety of soils. Adaptable to various moisture levels, it is very drought tolerant once established. Place *bergenia* in a rock garden or the front of a border or use it as a ground cover or waterside planting. It is easily increased by spring division, basal cuttings, or rhizome cuttings (each with a bud).

Sara Williams is the author and co-author of many books including *Creating the Prairie Xeriscape*, *Gardening Naturally with Hugh Skinner*, and, with Bob Bors, the recently published *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](mailto:saskperennial@hotmail.com)). Check our website [saskperennial.ca](http://saskperennial.ca) or Facebook page ([facebook.com/saskperennial](https://facebook.com/saskperennial)).

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Bergenia Baby Doll.

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