

Spiritwood's Kidzland gets new playground



New playground equipment was installed at Kidzland in Spiritwood on Friday, Oct. 22. The project was expected to be finished up this week, with backfilling and the addition of sand still to be completed.

For many kids, across many generations, the playground is an integral part of everyday life that is often looked back upon with fond nostalgia in adulthood.

From the slides, to the monkey bars, to the swings, and every piece of equipment in between, playgrounds are places for childhood play, exercise, and exploration.

And thanks to the efforts of community members and organizations, and the Town of Spiritwood, future generations of children will get to experience these important milestones of their youth for many years to come.

On Friday, Oct. 22, new playground equipment was installed at Kidzland,

located behind the Spiritwood Civic Centre, just off of 3rd Street East in Spiritwood.

"The past structure was nearly 20 years old," said Kaeli Cross, events and recreation coordinator for the Town of Spiritwood. "It had seen a lot of activity over the past 20 years, and it was just starting to deteriorate and become a hazard for the kids."

The new playground, which is the only public playground in Spiritwood (the rest are school playgrounds at the town's schools) and also the only playground on the east side of town, was made possible by many years of fundraising by local individuals and organizations, and through community

events. Funds raised were specifically earmarked for the replacement of the equipment.

All told, the new equipment cost in the neighbourhood of \$42,000, with \$17,000 coming from fundraising efforts, and \$25,000 being contributed by the Town of Spiritwood.

Installation of the equipment was handled by 1 Stop Playgrounds, and the old equipment was decommissioned and disposed of.

Though the installation of the equipment was completed on Friday, the project was expected to be finished up this week, with backfilling and the addition of sand still to be done.

Cross says Kidzland is a home for

quite a few kids after school days, and, though she's not sure when the playground was first installed, she recalls playing on the playground when she was younger.

She expects this new playground to be nothing but positive for Spiritwood.

"We've been fundraising for this playground for many, many years, and I think it's going to bring a lot of happiness to a lot of people and a lot of kids," she said.

"It's just one of those things that you've waited so long for it and it's finally happening, and it couldn't happen at a better time with COVID and everything. It's just a little something for our community to look forward to."



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Library Week highlights local seniors

The Shellbrook Public Library celebrated Saskatchewan Library Week from Oct. 17 to 23, shining a spotlight on the artistic endeavours of a pair of local seniors.

On Wednesday evening, Jim Van Eaton and Marjorie Bradley were joined by about a dozen guests for a reading of their book, *Tales and Memories of the Past*.

Jim has previously said his original intention was just to write a book about the businesses in town and the history of the area. But as he shared story after story with Bradley, who feverishly scribed them during their weekly FaceTime calls for the better part of a year-and-a-half, the book became something larger.

"Storytelling is a gift. Because Jim is a storyteller, this project happened," Bradley said.

Like its title suggests, *Tales and Memories of the Past* is a collection of Van Eaton's experiences, making it part family history and part autobiography. And, given how deeply Van Eaton's life is ingrained

in the very fabric of the town of Shellbrook, it's also, in many ways, a history of the community.

Van Eaton, 91, handled the reading duties during the evening event, focusing on the stories in the book that capture how much life has changed since he was a young boy.

"Part of the reason for writing this book was the drudgery that especially the women had, but also the men's drudgery, too," he said. "There's nothing that changed life so much as the electric light. That made it so many other things became less of a drudgery."

While Van Eaton read selected passages from the book, Bradley took questions and also asked guests to reflect about how their own lives have changed over the years.

Tales and Memories of the Past was printed through Staples, to allow Jim to look the pages over and make changes to the arrangement of stories and photos before the final product was printed.

The book is available for \$40, and those who are interested can arrange to get their copy by phoning Jim at 306 747 7511.

Any proceeds from the book will be donated to Parkland Integrated Health Centre's (PIHC) recreation therapy department to help pay for bus outings for residents. This past summer, the proceeds from book sales paid for 12 bus trips.

Looking forward, Van Eaton and Bradley are hoping to do a similar book reading at the Canwood Public Library and bring Jim's stories to students at local schools.

After Van Eaton and Bradley's reading, the focus of Library Week shifted to the visual arts, and the paintings of PIHC resident Muriel Howrie.

Howrie stopped by the library for a come-and-go meet and greet on Friday afternoon and took questions from a small crowd of guests.

Like many other budding artists at PIHC, Howrie is new to painting, having only just picked up a paint brush in February of this year.

"I remember somebody who was rather reluctant. It took a little while to get into the stream of it," said volunteer art instructor Joan Sommerfeld, who led Howrie's first lesson. "But now you've hit the high current. I'm so thrilled that untapped energy and talent was brought to the forefront."

Working in acrylic, and finding inspiration on the internet and through YouTube, Howrie says she's produced about 150 paintings since she hesitantly started earlier this year. Prior to this, her exposure to the visual arts came mostly through colouring books



Local artist Muriel Howrie discusses her art work with a curious, young guest.



Jim Van Eaton reads a passage from his book, *Tales and Memories of the Past*, while Dan and Coral Lafond listen.

and doodle art.

Based on the response to her work, and the quality of her finished products, you'd be hard-pressed to tell. Since February, Howrie estimates she's sold about 50 of her paintings, including 23 at a virtual art show held earlier this year.

While she's seen such early successes, Howrie insists her main focus is on being able to continue painting.

"I paint because I like painting," she said. "I don't paint to make money."



The works of Muriel Howrie have been on display at the Shellbrook Library throughout October.

Bodies of missing canoers recovered

The bodies of two missing canoers have been located, bringing an end to a three-day search.

The pair, identified only as an adult male and an adult female, were reported missing to the Big River RCMP on the evening of Oct. 19, after they didn't return from a canoe outing on Long Whitefish Lake earlier in the day.

Following the report,

community members, officers from the Big River RCMP Detachment, Ministry of Environment Conservation Officers and the Civil Air Search and Rescue Association began a search for the canoers, and soon recovered their canoe.

The search and rescue efforts, which ended Monday morning with the announcement by

the Big River RCMP that the canoers' bodies had been located deceased in the water, were also assisted by the Saskatchewan RCMP Underwater

Recovery Team and the Lloydminster Rescue Squad.

The Big River RCMP said the families of the canoers have been notified.

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- Assist in implementing an EMO program

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SUNDAY, Nov. 7th, 2021
Leoville Community Hall, 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Adults \$12 • 6-13 Yrs. \$6 • Preschool Free

SALE BY TENDER

The Rural Municipality of Big River No. 555 offers for sale the following property "as is":

Parcel A, Plan 1015521138, Ext 321 in the NE 24-55-07 W3 - (1.75 acres)
The following 2 properties are sold together as one tender.
Block A, Plan 101448457, Ext 33, in the SE 06-55-06 W3 - (1.26 acres)
SE 06-55-06 W3, Ext 134 - (7.57 acres)

Tenders must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "Property Tender" addressed to:

Pricewaterhouse Coopers LLP
Attention: Landon Grubb
128 4th Ave S, Suite 600
Saskatoon, SK S7K 1M8

Tenders must be received by Pricewaterhouse Coopers LLP at the above address by 3:00 pm on November 4th, 2021.

A certified cheque to the Rural Municipality of Big River No. 555 for 10% of the amount of the tender must accompany each tender.

Highest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

The successful bidder will have 30 days to provide the balance of the cash to complete the purchase.

Dated September 22nd, 2021.

Michael Yuzik
Administrator

Parkland Elks extend losing skid to seven

With nine games under their belt, the Parkland Elks have still yet to find their way into the win column in the 2021-2022 regular season campaign.

Despite the team's efforts to change that this past weekend, with a home game against the league-leading Saskatoon Riverkings and two road matches in Unity against the West Central Wheat Kings, the Elks came up short yet again.

Elks (3) vs.

Riverkings (6)

In what has been a rare occurrence throughout the season thus far, the Elks managed to get on the board first in Friday night's match-up against the Saskatoon Riverkings. Tylee Sylvestre drew first blood for the home team just over 30 seconds into the game, with an assist from Kaiden Couture.

The Elks' lead was short-lived (and the only lead they'd have for the rest of the game), as the Riverkings struck back less than two minutes later to tie the game up at 1-1. Gunnar Gabbruch netted the game-tying

goal on assists from Mason Karakochuk and Kyle Lardner.

A couple minutes later, Sam Grosso netted the go-ahead goal for the Riverkings to cap off the opening period's score sheet. Grosso drew helpers from Tanner Klezy and Gabbruch on the goal.

In a goal-filled second period, the Riverkings started the scoring early on an unassisted marker by Lardner. Given a power play just over five minutes into the frame, Rhett Ewen quickly took advantage of the opportunity to put the Riverkings up 4-1. Cade Hynd and Beck Humber earned assists on the marker.

Despite the massive momentum shift, the Elks managed to get back on the board with a goal from Kyler Roy, assisted by Couture and Tavis Galloway.

The Riverkings tacked on another goal in the dying seconds of the frame to restore their three-goal lead and send it to the final frame. Carter Degelman netted the goal on helpers from Karakochuk and Taite

Donkin.

The Elks showed signs of life in the early minutes of the third period, with Roy netting his second goal of the evening on assists from Sylvestre and Carson Favel.

However, it was too little, too late, for the home team. A late Riverkings goal by Luca Salmaso, from Donkin, put an exclamation point on the Riverkings' victory.

Elks (0) @

Wheat Kings (7)

After a hard-fought loss to the Riverkings on home ice, the Elks travelled to Unity to face off against wheat royalty on Saturday evening. Here, the team failed to tally even once on 33 shots, taking a one-sided 7-0 loss against the West Central Wheat Kings.

In a busy second half of the opening period, the Wheat Kings put in the work to fill in their score sheet, racking up four goals over the course of nine minutes.

Hunter Sperle netted what would become the game-winning goal on an assist from Leighton Partington, and Austin Burton pushed the score

to 2-0 on an unassisted marker that came less than a minute later.

Sperle scored his second of the evening shortly after this, drawing an assist from Landyn Nash. Then, after a brief lull in the offense, Kaden Veller scored with just 41 seconds left on the clock to push the score to 4-0. Partington and Jacob Wagner assisted on the goal.

Making use of the power play midway through the second period, the Wheat Kings' Nash scored on an assist from Austin Shepherd. Later, in the only other offensive highlight of the frame, Colbey Frocklage scored an unassisted marker to put the Wheat Kings up 6-0.

In a comparatively quiet third period, Kayden Cey got in on the scoring early in the frame to cement the Wheat Kings' dominant victory. Mitchell Robbie and Burton assisted on the 7-0 goal.

Elks (1) @

Wheat Kings (7)

Back in action against the Wheat Kings on Sunday afternoon, the Elks managed to tally at

least one goal in this go-around. Unfortunately, it came too late for the team to have any hope of winning.

As in the first period of their meeting the night prior, the Wheat Kings got started early, with Landyn Nash netting an unassisted goal just after the five minute mark.

Leveraging a power play later in the period, Hunter Sperle put the Wheat Kings up 2-0, with assists from Austin Shepherd and Nash. And just over a minute later, Nash netted his second of the night, on assists from Emery Cholin and Leighton Partington, to put the Wheat Kings up 3-0.

The Elks managed to kickoff the second period's scoring, when Kendon Skalicky pounced on an opportunity to score a shorthanded goal. Skalicky was unassisted on the play.

The Wheat Kings got their revenge on a power play in the dying minutes of the period, when Ben Walz scored on helpers from Kaden Veller and Shepherd.

In another goal-filled period, Walz opened the scoring for the Wheat

Kings with an unassisted marker. Colbey Frocklage followed up six minutes later, on assists from Walz and Shepherd.

Gifted another power play in the last few minutes of the third frame, Nash took advantage to score his hat trick goal and give the Wheat Kings their 7-1 win. Calvin Feader and Mitchel Robbie assisted on the goal.

With the trio of losses, the Parkland U18 AA Elks are still winless with a record of 0-8-0-1. This puts them at the bottom of the Centre Four conference standings, three points behind their nearest opponents.

The Elks will close out October with a home match against the North West Stars on Friday, Oct. 29. Puck drop for the game is slated for 7:30 p.m.

On Sunday, Oct. 31, they travel to Warman for a showdown with the Warman Wildcats. That game has a 5 p.m. start time.

**Advertising
Deadline is
Friday 4:00 p.m.**

Spiritwood rec. facility to benefit from FCC grant

By Bevra Fee

Farm Credit Canada (FCC) is giving \$1.5 million through its FCC AgriSpirit Fund to 88 community groups across Canada to support rural capital projects.

Among the projects awarded in the most recent grant intake is Spiritwood Recreation Facility. The fund has approved \$10,000 to be used for replacement of one of the furnaces and one boiler within the centre.

"The current furnace in the Curling Lobby has been function-

ing since the facility was built in 2004," comments Kaeli Cross, events & recreation co-ordinator for the Town of Spiritwood.

The FCC grant will mean the existing furnace can be replaced with a high-efficiency furnace, and installations are to take place by the Spring of 2022.

"The FCC AgriSpirit Fund supports projects that make positive changes in rural communities," said Sophie Perreault, FCC executive vice-president and chief operating officer. "Giving is not

just about making a donation. It's about making a difference. We hope all the community groups that received funding will thrive and continue their good work in their communities for many more years to come."

This year, the FCC AgriSpirit Fund awarded between \$5,000 and \$25,000 for various community improvement initiatives that enrich the lives of residents in cities, towns, or Indigenous communities with fewer than 150,000 people.



Novus Law Group

To our valued clients in Shellbrook, Big River, Spiritwood, Debden and surrounding areas:

As COVID-19 re-opening considerations continue, our dedicated lawyers at Novus Law Group continue to provide legal services to the communities of Shellbrook, Big River, Spiritwood and Debden and surrounding regions.

While our branch offices in these communities are currently unavailable for in-person client meetings, we have in place a work management plan that enables the Novus Law Group team to continue to deliver legal services with minimal disruption.

For assistance during this time, please make arrangements by contacting by phone or email Bill Cannon (for Shellbrook/Debden/Big River), Shelley Cannon (for Spiritwood), or any of our firm's partners or other associate lawyers.

Contact us:

By Phone: 306-922-4700 (Monday to Friday 9am-5pm)

By Email: Bill Cannon at bcannon@novuslaw.ca

Shelley Cannon at scannon@novuslaw.ca

OR princealbert@novuslaw.ca.

Winter in Sask Parks

Remember to hold onto your park entry permit as a number of exciting winter offerings will be available once again. **New this year**, those interested in winter camping will be able to go online in early November to reserve campsites at any of the parks offering winter activities.

Stay tuned to the Sask Parks Facebook page



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

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

Extendicare's exit brings belated justice for seniors

CORRECTION: In last week's column, I stated that the federal government's vaccine mandate for federal employees included exemptions for nearly 70 per cent of employees. While the information came from sources I believed to be reputable, I have since been unable to confirm its veracity, and the Government of Canada's website includes no such list. I apologize for this mistake and any confusion or concern it may have caused.



JORDAN TWISS
~
News Editor

It's finally over. Or at least it will be at some point in the hopefully near future.

The Government of Saskatchewan has terminated its relationship with for-profit long-term care provider Extendicare. And once an exit strategy has been settled upon, The Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) will assume full responsibility for the company's five long-term care homes in Regina, Saskatoon, and Moose Jaw.

It's a small, yet critical, victory for long-term care residents and their families.

It's just unfortunate that the decision came too late to save the lives of the 39 Extendicare Parkside residents who became needless casualties of the province's worst outbreak of COVID-19 in a long-term care home.

While announcing the decision, Seniors Minister Everett Hindley apologized to long-term care residents and their families for the second time in the past two months, and expressed regret that the "measures and supports in place were not enough to prevent this tragedy."

Mr. Hindley also said the Sask. Party government is committed to making the necessary changes to prevent similar tragedies from occurring in the future.

Altogether, the words were precisely what Mr. Hindley needed to say. The trouble is, they come from a government that has spent the better part of the past decade resisting calls to improve care standards in long-term care.

Indeed, in May of 2020, just months before the deadly Extendicare Parkside outbreak, Premier Scott Moe lambasted the Sask. NDP for claiming the province didn't have minimum standards of care for nursing homes.

Calling the NDP's claims "untrue and unhelpful," Mr. Moe pointed to the province's "Program Guidelines for Special Care Homes," a 191-page document that replaced the province's minimum care standards. He said the document clearly states its contents are considered minimum standards.

The Extendicare Parkside outbreak didn't happen because the COVID-19 pandemic caught the long-term care home unawares.

COVID-19 was a known problem before the outbreak in December 2020. Both the SHA and Extendicare knew there would be dire consequences if an outbreak occurred, and chose not to prepare accordingly.

In her report on the outbreak, Ombudsman Mary McFadyen found that Extendicare Parkside's staff weren't properly screened for symptoms or made to physical distance or wear masks during breaks.



Indeed, for some time, neither Extendicare nor the SHA believed staff needed to comply with masking mandates. When the requirement was enforced, staff were given just one mask per shift, rather than the recommended four.

In addition to failing to equip the facility's staff, Extendicare also failed to establish contingency plans to replace staff who had to self-isolate. This created a staffing crisis during the outbreak, forcing the SHA to take over the facility.

Lastly, Ms. McFadyen found that Extendicare failed to develop and follow anything resembling a plan for residents who contracted COVID-19 and needed to be

isolated.

While Extendicare's failed response to COVID-19 is bad enough, the known problems with its facilities pre-date the pandemic.

It was, after all, consultants from Extendicare who led the push to loosen the province's long-term care home standards in the 1970s, advising the province to remove standards for nursing hours, and allow facilities with narrower hallways, fewer air changes, and rooms with up to four beds.

Years later, CEO tour reports of the company's facilities from 2013, 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019 all highlighted concerns about staffing levels, air quality, rooms with as many as four residents, and ageing infrastructure.

In short, Extendicare had eight years to make critical changes – eight years to decide to put the care and dignity of residents ahead of profits. At nearly every turn, it chose to do nothing.

If, as Mr. Moe said last May, the province does have minimum care standards, what are they? And more importantly, what are the consequences for violating them?

Going forward, these and so many other questions still need to be answered by Extendicare and the Sask. Party government.

After nearly a decade of stalling and pushing back against critics, it's time for action instead of more apologies.

Veterans have improved life for all amputees

Dear Editor,

As we approach Remembrance Day, I'd like to pay tribute to the veteran members of The War Amps.

The War Amps was started by amputee veterans returning from the First World War to help each other adapt to their new reality as amputees. They then welcomed amputee veterans following

the Second World War, sharing all that they had learned.

These founding members then established the Key Tag Service, which is still going strong today, to fund the Association's many vital programs including The War Amps Child Amputee (CHAMP) Program.

I was born a partial left hand amputee and grew up

in CHAMP, which provided me with financial assistance for prosthetic devices and offered emotional support. These veterans have left a lasting impact on generations of amputees as they taught us that we should be proud of our amputation and to know that it will not stop us from achieving our goals.

Everyday, but particularly on Remembrance Day, Canadian amputees like me honour these veterans who not only served their country but returned home to make life better for all amputees.

Graham Spero
Graduate member of The War Amps Child Amputee (CHAMP) Program

Shellbrook Chronicle

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Spiritwood Herald

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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

Thank you to the people of Saskatchewan who have responded to the call to get vaccinated. Over 1.6 million doses of the vaccine have now been administered with nearly 85 per cent of those 12 years of age or older receiving their first dose.

Getting vaccinated makes a difference when it comes to the pressures within our health care facilities. 70-80 per cent of the current hospitalized COVID-19 patients are unvaccinated. The vaccine can not only help to prevent hospitalization but can also prevent long-term health conditions.



HON. SCOTT MOE, PREMIER
~
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Further COVID-19 Public Health Measures came into play recently as more businesses were added to the list of places where Proof of Vaccination or a negative test,

will be needed before entering.

- Seated dining in all restaurants including fast-food restaurants
- Liquor manufacturers conducting retail liquor sales

• Liquor stores with an integrated permit that also hold a liquor restaurant or tavern permit

Effective Oct. 25, 2021, Saskatchewan's COVID-19 vaccination booster program will be expanded to individuals aged 65 and older, individuals living in the far north, those in First Nations communities aged 50 years and older, health care workers and individuals born in 2009

or earlier with underlying health conditions who are extremely vulnerable. This is in addition to those who were already eligible such as residents 80 years of age and older.

With the delivery of 2.6 million rapid antigen test kits, the Saskatchewan Health Authority started to expand delivery to the general public. Routine, voluntary testing at home will help prevent asymptomatic transmission to those who are not able to be vaccinated. Self-tests are distributed for surveillance and will not be accepted for the negative test requirement.

In addition to the numerous COVID-19 vaccine clinics, flu clinics are also underway in the province. A new website called 4flu.ca is now live and will allow residents to book online as well as scheduling the COVID-19 shot at the same time.

Saskatchewan resi-



HON. JEREMY HARRISON MLA
~
Meadow Lake
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dents helped to set some new records for our Provincial Parks in 2021. With more people exploring close to home, over one million people entered our parks in the last year, breaking the previous record from 2020. That also helped to break a 2016 record for the number of camping nights spent in the park, with more than 400,000 nights reserved.

And don't toss out those Provincial Park

passes just yet. They are valid until the end of April 2022 and will allow you to enjoy our beautiful landscape during the winter. There will be Christmas tree-cutting programs in Cypress Hills, Pike Lake and Candle Lake are preparing for a Festival of Lights tour and Echo Valley has an ice skating park. Plus, there are all of the traditional outings to be enjoyed such as tobogganing, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing.

And congratulations to the six newest members of the Saskatchewan Order of Merit. An investment ceremony is planned to honour Mavis Ashbourne-Palmer of Regina, Michael Bishop of Kamsack, Albert Brown of Saskatoon, Marie-Anne DayWalker-Pelletier, C.M. from Balcarres, Hart Godden of Regina along with Solomon Rat of Regina as the 2021 inductees.

YOUR TWO CENTS ~ MLA Wilson should resign

Dear Premier Moe,

Firstly, Happy Thanksgiving for this wonderful harvest weather and the final acres of crop going into the bin!

Secondly, I am writing to you to vent my very serious anger, frustration, and disgust with my member of the Legislative Assembly, Nadine Wilson. Please initiate the procedures and protocols necessary to immediately freeze her salary, effective the date her big lie was revealed, and she was expelled from the Sask. Party caucus!

The unmitigated gall of that person to proclaim a difference and dispute with Sask. Party COVID-19 protocols and policy and sit as an independent MLA is beyond the reasonable tolerance of any citizen. I do not want a liar representing me in the Legislature, and do not want a single dollar of my taxes going toward her salary.

If she will lie to her party affiliates, friends, and caucus members, what else has she lied (or will lie) about?

Integrity and honesty must be the foundation upon which any political leader or representative should rely. She obviously lacks that attribute.

It is one thing to avoid or misrepresent the truth to opposition members, which has been overlooked in some minor incidences, but to deceive her co-workers about something as crucial to community welfare as COVID-19 vaccination is not only a threat to the larger community, it's also a direct threat to my life.

I passed the milestone of 78 years this past September and have a diseased heart, moderate COPD, mild emphysema, and a chronic bronchial infection, all of which are being adequately treated by modern medicine and our dedicated doctors, nurses, and pharmacists.

If I get COVID-19, I will die. I am outraged by her actions and her lies. Is she a leader in anti-vaccine and conspiracy movements rampant on the internet, Facebook, YouTube,

and Twitter?

According to government protocols, due to my age and medical condition, I would be left to die in the street while anti-vaxxer who had COVID would be taken into hospital, given treatment, and potentially survive despite their anti-vaccine positions.

I have a dear friend who needs an appointment for a heart condition and a potential stent insertion, and another who is in dire need of a knee replacement. Both have been put on hold while anti-vaxxers use up beds in the hospitals.

Tents should be erected for their treatment in the parking lots, and beds dedicated to people who need them for other serious concerns, like kidney transplants, joint replacements, and coronary stints.

The conspiracy theorists and anti-vaccine adherents and activists claim individual freedom of speech, decisions, and assembly, but that is a grievous error in thinking as a reasonable citizen should think. When health and welfare of the community are at risk, individual rights and freedoms in a democracy must take second place to community rights, freedoms, and safety.

Former Prime Minister Pierre E. Trudeau taught us all that when he called in the army, tramped down hard on the F.L.Q., and dealt with the Minister LaPorte murder decades ago.

Would you please forward a copy of this letter to Ms. Wilson, along with a copy of your response to me? She should do the honourable thing and resign. I do not want a deceiver representing me in the Sask. Legislature.

Stop her salary now. We will get rid of her next election.

I remain a dedicated, responsible, and concerned citizen, loyal to reasonable government and acceptable protocols.

Yours truly,
Lloyd O'Brodovich,
Shellbrook, Sask.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

LEOVILLE: Wapiti Regional Library - Wednesday 10 am - 4 pm; Thursday 10 am - 3 pm

SHELL LAKE: Wapiti Regional Library - Tuesday 12:30 pm - 4 pm; Wednesday 12:30 pm - 4 pm

BLAINE LAKE: Wapiti Library - 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 - 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. Tuesday 10 am - 4 pm; Thursday 10 am - 4 pm; Friday 1 pm - 5 pm. Kids Club is Fridays 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm, Crafter's Choice is the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month.

DEBDEN: Wapiti Library hours: Tuesday 10 am - 3 pm; Wednesday 3 pm - 7 pm. Librarian: Aline Hannon

LEASK: Wapiti Library & Legacy Gallery Hours - Tuesday 10:30 am - 5 pm; Friday 10:30 am - 5 pm; Saturday 1 pm - 4 pm

MARCELIN: Wapiti Library - 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: 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: Remembrance Day Wreath Sale - Friday, October 29, 2021, 9 am to 3 pm @ the Shellbrook Legion Hall (after Oct. 29, contact Helen Dagenais at 306-980-7028)

LEOVILLE: St. Therese Parish - Take-out Fall Supper - Sunday, November 7th, 2021, Leoville Community Hall, 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm. Adults: \$12, 6-13 Yrs: \$6, Preschool: Free

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Medal winner follows in father's footsteps

By Susan McNeil

Prince Albert Daily Herald

Receiving the Governor General's award for her 27 years as a first responder brings tears to Allison Irvine's eyes, but only because her father also won it years ago for his time as a firefighter.

Irvine, who hails from Shellbrook, was presented with the medal in Regina by Lieutenant Governor Russ Mirasty on Sept. 15. She said this particular medal is special.

"It means a lot to me," she said,



Allison Irvine, pictured with Parkland Ambulance Care head Trevor Dutchak, received a Governor General's Exemplary Service Medal after 27 years as a First Responder with the Shellbrook Volunteer Fire Department.

thinking about her father and how she came to join the Shellbrook Volunteer Fire Department in the first place.

Irvine's father was instrumental in helping her become a first responder. Her dad had several heart attacks but refused to give up his work with the fire department, and her mother was worried about him.

"I became my dad's little shadow. The fire calls would come in and I'd find out where they were going and kind of wait a bit then follow — because mom would worry about Dad and I was taking care of him," Irvine said. "Because of that, Dad said seeing as you're tagging along anyway, you might as well just join the department. So, I did."

She said the job is both rewarding and emotional, but she is glad to be doing it. That's a sentiment her parents would share, right down to the winning of the same award, even as a first responder rather than a firefighter.

"Good job, well deserved, a lot of hard work went into it, they would be very proud," Irvine said of how she imagined her parent's reactions.

She segued from working as a firefighter only to also being a first responder because there was no one else on the department with the training at the time.

"It was a particularly bad year for accidents, and we had no one trained

medically to deal with patients," Irvine remembered. She was the smallest person in the department at the time, which was a benefit in the job, and the training was available through Parkland Ambulance in Prince Albert.

The role is not without challenges, some of which can follow the responder home.

"We deal with everything from young children to elderly patients, dealing with trauma, especially with motor vehicle collisions," she said. "Sometimes that can be really trying on a person but thankfully I have good supports with my first responder partners, my family. That keeps me sane through all of that."

Spiritwood Lions host Walk for Guide Dogs

The Spiritwood and District Lions were able to host the Pet Valu Walk for Guide Dogs in person this fall after having to take the event virtual last year.

The annual event has participants raise money for Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides. The participants then bring their dogs and pledge money the day of the event for a walk around Spiritwood.

The Spiritwood Lions had perfect weather for the event, which brought out 13 walkers with six dogs. Pledges for the event totaled \$2,409. The walker who raised the most money was Susan Tatler, with her dog Keele.

The youngest walker was Blair Robertson, who was walking Piper. The oldest walker was Marjorie Fast, with Hodi. The youngest dog was Cricket, who was being walked by Susan Hetu, while the

oldest dog was Lulu, who was walked by Alison Sullivan. The smallest dog was Piper, walked by Kelsey Doucette, while the biggest dog was Keele, walked by

Susan Tatler.

There were a variety of prizes sponsored by Pet Valu, Purina, and the Spiritwood Lions.



Dogs and walkers ready to head out on the walk. \$2,400 was raised at this year's Walk for Guide Dogs.

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

PRESBYTERIAN

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

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN

Parkside
11 a.m. - Worship

ANGLICAN CHURCH

Leask - All Saint's
Sunday Service - 9 a.m.
Rev. Wendell Brock
306-460-7696
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

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

UNITED CHURCH

Big River
Sundays
10 a.m. - Worship
at Anglican Church
Rev. Dave Whalley
306-747-2804

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 9 a.m.
St. Henry's - Leask
Mass - Sunday - 11 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

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. Sarah Urano

UNITED /ANGLICAN

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

CATHOLIC

SUNDAY
Spiritwood - 11:15 a.m.
Leoville - 9:30 a.m.
Shell Lake - 2:00 p.m.
Chitek Lake - Closed for
the Season
Everyone Welcome
SATURDAY
Medstead - 6 p.m.
Father Ramel Macapala

PARTNERS IN WORSHIP

Shell Lake
Worship Services
Sunday 9:00 a.m.
Pastor Sarah Urano
306-841-7333

SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST

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

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

Gideons International of Canada

Battlefords Camp
Phone Art Martynes
(306) 389-4633

EVANGELICAL FREE

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

LAKELAND

COMMUNITY CHURCH
(Corner of 1st Ave. and 4th
St., Spiritwood)
Sun., 11 am - Worship
Service & Sunday School
Pastor Michael Kluthe
306-883-2380

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

AGRICULTURE

SHELLBROOK CHRONICLE & SPIRITWOOD HERALD

7

OCTOBER 28, 2021 • FALL HOME EDITION

Agriculture's future is anyone's guess

There are times, as a decades-long agriculture columnist, I marvel at how much the farm sector stays the same, while at the same time changing dramatically.

In terms of staying the same, farmers remain very much at the mercy of Mother Nature. The best laid cropping plans can go for naught by early spring or fall frost, too much, or too little rain, or one storm spotted with hail, or too much heat at a critical time in the growing season.

Farmers have always operated with one eye on

the sky, and that is not likely to change.

Ditto, one eye on the farm press trying to determine what the political whims of the major traders in farm commodities are. While supply and demand remains a driver of commodity prices, those trends can be diverted by tariffs and subsidies put in place typically to make a political point in a dispute that has little, if anything, to do with farming and food.

Again, there is little prospect that will change.

Countries might talk about free trade as a goal,



CALVIN DANIELS

but in reality, disputes are always arising, even between major trading partners such as the United States and Canada. Politics being what it is, that will not change.

But change is also at the

core of farming.

In the past 30-plus years how farming happens on the surface looks very much as it always has, with planting followed by a season of hope and then harvest.

However, today's high clearance sprayers with computers monitoring everything are frankly alien-like when compared to the sprayer of 1990, and even more so when I look back to the primitive tank and boom contraption my father used.

And that reality holds true across all farm equipment, air seeders,

tractors, combines and the rest. Each is a tech marvel these days, with computers fine tuning operations and gathering more information than all but the most optimistic would have dreamed 30 years ago.

Of course, the farm may be different too.

They have been growing in acreage since the end of the first great war, but can that continue? Time will tell.

Will climate change be real as many fear, and how might that change for a farmer's farm?

Will farmers face great-

er regulation in terms of chemical use? Almost assuredly that will be the case.

Whether the above changes occur is unknown of course, but change will happen, and it will change farming, whether for the better though is also unknown.

The trend to greater computer technology being integral to farming will only continue, and considering the growth of computer tech, one cannot even guess what may be a reality on farms by 2050 – 30 years into the future.

Sewer pump project underway in Spiritwood

Residents located on Block 1 & 2 of Second Street East in Spiritwood were without water for most of the day on Wednesday, Oct. 20, as the town continued work on a project to decommission and replace its two existing sewage pumping stations.

In addition to the temporary cut-off of water services, residents were also put under a boil water advisory that was expected to be lifted earlier this week.

"The contractors are currently doing underground work for this project and replacing some sewer and water lines in the areas of the east and west sewage pumping stations," Town of Spiritwood CAO Rhonda Saam

explained. "In order for this work to be completed there is water shut off to specific areas surrounding the pumping stations so they can connect the new lines."

The approximately \$2.27 million sewer infrastructure project is being funded in large part by the federal-provincial Investing in Canada Plan. Through the plan, the federal government will contribute \$844,800, the province will chip in \$703,930, and the town will spend \$563,270.

Saam says the project was necessary because the existing sewage pumping station came online at some point in the

1960s — much like the sewer and water infrastructure in so many other small towns in Saskatchewan.

"If a pump were to fail or a lift station were to fail, you're not going to find parts for it. It would definitely be a situation," Saam said.

The upgrades to the two lift stations, Saam adds, will bring everything up to code. And, in addition to those upgrades, the town is also introducing a major quality of life update by outfitting the stations with generators.

"The [current] system had risks for failure," Saam said. "Having a generator operating

will be a huge deal for us, too, because that way we're not having to tell people to limit their sewage usage if there's a power outage."

The project is tentatively slated for completion in the spring

of 2022.

In addition to last week's work on the sewer project, Saam says the town seized the opportunity to replace a section of ageing water pipe while the pipes were exposed.

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Presort Sale 9:30 a.m., Regular Sale to follow

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Sask. masking, isolation orders extended

The Government of Saskatchewan has extended public health measures requiring people to wear masks in indoor public spaces and to self-isolate after testing positive for COVID-19.

Indoor masking was introduced on Sept. 17, due to an exponential increase in COVID-19 cases, with the expectation the order would be lifted a few weeks after the province's proof of vaccination or negative COVID test policy came into effect on Oct. 1. But just as the order requiring masks was set to expire on Oct. 20, chief medical health officer Dr. Saqib Shahab signed a new order to extend the masking requirement to at least Nov. 30.

"The transmission of the infectious agent SARS-CoV-2, which has caused cases and outbreaks of a serious communicable disease known as COVID-19 among the population of the Province of Saskatchewan, is a serious public health threat," the document posted online said.

Masks are mandatory in all public indoor spaces, including places of a business restricted to staff only.

Masks aren't required for gatherings in private homes or living spaces, and children participating in sports also do not have to wear a mask while taking part in their activity.

"This order is necessary in

order to reduce the burden on Saskatchewan's health care system, enable essential services to continue, and to reduce serious illness and overall deaths as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic," the document continued.

The same public health order also requires people who test positive for COVID-19 to immediately self-isolate for 10 days after they began experiencing symptoms or from the date they were tested.

Close contacts of a person with COVID-19 are also required to isolate for 14 days after they are near the infected person, unless they were fully vaccinated at the time.

Dr. Shahab also signed a second letter extending the mandate that people are required to show proof of double vaccination or a negative test until Nov. 30.

"While issuing this order, I have determined that the restrictions herein are not disproportionate to the risk that COVID-19 poses to the people of Saskatchewan," the document read.

The province has required either proof of vaccination or a negative test to access a many public places, like gyms, restaurants and event spaces since Oct. 1.

Children under the age of 12 are exempt, but anyone older than 12 not following the province's public health orders can

be fined \$2,000. Corporations who go against the rules can face a \$10,000 fine.

The renewal of the masking and isolation requirements come as Saskatchewan's new daily case loads seem to have plateaued and even declined from some of their highest points in late September and early October. Hospitalizations and ICU admissions, however, remain near their pandemic highs, even as the province started transferring patients to other provinces last week, and deaths have risen steadily, eclipsing 800 as of Oct. 21.

While no order limiting gathering sizes has been implemented, despite calls from the NDP and some medical professionals, Dr. Shahab is encouraging people to help curb the spread of COVID-19 by limiting the size of private gatherings and keeping bubbles to two or three households.

"Same goes for private events, whether it's a marriage or a funeral, keep it small, keep it safe, (wear mask) in indoor places," Shahab said. "Only remove masks while

you're eating and I recommend proof of vaccination, or negative test, even where it's not re-

quired by an order." In addition to extending masking and isolation mandates, the provincial government has also called in the support of the Canadian Armed Forces. Ottawa confirmed the province would receive the support, including up to six critical care nursing officers, over the weekend.

The CAF will also provide "aeromedical transport" for in-province and out-of-province critical care patient transfers, as capacity allows.

"Additionally, dependent upon capacity, the CAF will also provide up to two Multi-purpose Medical Assistance Teams (MMAT) as part of a whole of Government response to backfill Saskatchewan Health Authority nurses deployed to support the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) surge and support pressure on Acute care (non-ICU) in the province," said Department of National Defence Spokesperson Andrée-Anne Poulin.

MMATs include nursing officers and medical technicians.

When MMATs were deployed in Ontario in May

2021, it was two 17-member teams.

The announcement of help from the Canadian Armed Forces comes a week after SHA CEO Scott Livingstone suggested the province wouldn't request federal assistance and would instead focus on upskilling and repositioning staff as needed.

Finally, effective Oct. 25, the province has said that monoclonal antibodies are available as treatments for COVID-19 to help reduce the severity of illnesses and the burden on hospitals.

The one-time intravenous treatment is available only at SHA treatment and testing sites in Saskatoon and Regina, and is being made available:

- For COVID-19 patients who have not been vaccinated; and certain immunocompromised or immunosuppressed COVID-19 patients regardless of vaccination status;
- Within five days of becoming symptomatic; and
- To those 55 years or older, or 18 years and older with specific high-risk co-morbidity.

Canwood Library celebrates Sask. Library Week

Submitted by Gerda Bruner

Carla Braidek, authoress and poetess of rural Big River, helped open Library Week for Wapiti's Canwood Public Library Branch, on Tuesday afternoon, Oct. 19, with a reading presentation from her published works.

It was interesting to hear that her inspiration to do creative writing began when she was in her mid thirties.

With each poem and essay she read, Carla provided background explaining

feelings and motivations that led her to create the piece.

Following her readings, Carla answered questions about her work, its ties to her love of nature, as well as about the different styles of poetry we use. She discussed co-writing with others in a joint publication, plus working with different publishers.

Her love of writing is certainly a positive encouragement for us to pursue our creative writing passions.



Masked and social distant patrons enjoyed hearing Carla's poetry and essay creations.



Carla Braidek read from each of her published works.

Hartley Clark hosts district cross country



Runners line-up at the starting line and wait for the start of the race.



A tent served as a gathering place before, between, and after races.

Tips for a treat-filled Halloween

As the little ghouls and goblins prepare to go trick-or-treating this Sunday, Parkland Ambulance Care is offering some safety tips to help parents ensure their kids have a safe and happy Halloween.

All dressed up:

- Plan costumes that are bright and reflective. Make sure that shoes fit well and that costumes are short enough to prevent tripping, entanglement or contact with flame.

- Consider adding reflective tape or striping to costumes and Trick-or-Treat bags for greater visibility.

- Because masks can limit

or block eyesight, consider non-toxic makeup and decorative hats as safer alternatives. Hats should fit properly to prevent them from sliding over eyes.

- If a sword, cane, or stick is a part of your child's costume, make sure it is not sharp or too long. Children may be easily hurt by these accessories if they stumble or trip.

- Obtain flashlights with fresh batteries for all children and their escorts.

Home safe home:

- To keep homes safe for visiting trick-or-treaters, parents should remove from the porch and front yard anything a child could trip over such as

garden hoses, toys, bikes and lawn decorations.

- Parents should check outdoor lights and replace burned-out bulbs.

- Wet leaves should be swept from sidewalks and steps.

- Restrain pets so they do not inadvertently jump on or bite a trick-or-treater.

On the trick-or-treat trail:

- A parent or responsible adult should always accompany young children on their neighborhood rounds.

- If your older children are going alone, plan and review the route that is acceptable to you. Agree on a specific time when they should return

home.

Remind Trick-or-Treaters:

- Stay in a group and communicate where they will be going.

- Carry a mobile phone for quick communication.

- Only go to homes with a porch light on.

- Remain on well-lit streets and always use the sidewalk.

- If no sidewalk is available, walk at the far edge of the roadway facing traffic.

- Never cut across yards or use alleys.

- Never enter a stranger's home or car for a treat.

- Only cross the street as a group in established cross-

walks (as recognized by local custom).

- Don't assume the right of way. Motorists may have trouble seeing Trick-or-Treaters. Just because one car stops, doesn't mean others will!

Healthy Halloween:

- A good meal prior to parties and trick-or-treating will discourage youngsters from filling up on Halloween treats.

- Wait until children are home to sort and check treats. Though tampering is rare, a responsible adult should closely examine all treats and throw away any spoiled, unwrapped or suspicious items.

- Try to ration treats for the days following Halloween.



Some homeowners in Shellbrook go all out for Halloween. Be sure to check out their displays on Halloween night!

Pumpkins for the Prairies

By Patricia Hanbidge

As Halloween is again upon us, it somehow seems fitting to devote some time to the pumpkin!

There was a time when home-grown pumpkins were a rare thing on the prairies as they are native to Central America and Mexico. The growing season there is lengthier than ours so pumpkins that usually need more time to reach maturity do well. Luckily for us, new varieties are coming out every year with shorter and shorter seasons needed to complete their growth.



Female pumpkin blossom.

Planting and care is basically the same for all pumpkin varieties so which one you choose will depend on what plans you have for your pumpkins.

Pumpkin seeds should be started indoors in late March and planted outside when the ground has warmed and all danger of frost has passed. They need to be planted in full sun but can be pruned to be less "sprawly" in limited space. Pumpkins need to be kept moist but even the forgetful gardener will be able to do this because luckily the plant helps out. The large leaves growing low to the ground shade to roots and keep moisture in.

If your pumpkin plant is healthy but not producing any fruit, the problem is most likely that it is not being pollinated. Pumpkins have separate male and female flowers and are best pollinated with the help of bees. However, each individual blossom does not live long so if the weather is cool and the bees are not flying you may have to help out as the pollinator. With a small paintbrush, take some pollen from a male flower and put it on the central part of the female flower. You can tell the males from the females because the females have what looks like a tiny fuzzy green pumpkin just behind the flower.

There are many cultivars that you might like to grow so read on and try out as many as you have room for:

'Autumn Gold' is a classic mid-size



pumpkin, with great orange colour. This is one of the first pumpkins to ripen in the season and will turn orange even before it's fully ripe. The fruit grows about 10 inches (25.4 cm) in diameter and a foot (30.5 cm) tall, perfect for carving. They weigh between 8 (3.6 kg) and 15 pounds (6.8kg) and can be used for anything: cooking, baking and carving.

'Spooktacular' is a smaller variety, about 2 (.9kg) to 5 pounds (2.3kg), 6 inches (15cm) across. It's a smooth skinned yellow-orange pumpkin that's

great for pies.

'Big Autumn' is the best large pumpkin for a Northern climate. It takes the same amount of time to reach maturity as the smaller short season varieties, but will grow to about 12 inches (30.5cm) and weigh anywhere from 15 (6.8kg) to 25 pounds (11.3kg).

'Lumina' is one of the newly developed white skinned varieties. These pumpkins have bright orange flesh but are, honest to goodness, all white on the outside. It makes a tasty and more interesting dish because of the colour contrast but is also great for carving or just painting on. The Lumina grows to 8 inches (20.3 cm) by 12 inches (30.5 cm) tall and can weigh up to 15 pounds.

'Jack Be Little' is a delightful ornamental pumpkin. One plant should produce a lot of the tiny, slightly flattened looking fruit. They make great décor for Halloween as well as Thanksgiving.

Often the weather will force the harvest of the pumpkin before it is fully ripe. Simply place your pumpkin in a warm sunlit room and rotate it if need be to ensure all sides get an equal amount of light and you'll see your pumpkin slowly turn orange.

Happy Halloween!

Hanbidge is the Lead Horticulturist with Orchid Horticulture. Find us at www.orchidhort.com; by email at info@orchidhort.com; on facebook @ [orchidhort](https://www.facebook.com/orchidhort) and on instagram at [#orchidhort](https://www.instagram.com/orchidhort).

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 at the Spiritwood Civic Centre on Aug. 24, 2021 at 7 p.m.

In attendance were Mayor Gary von Holwede, Councillor Bryan Wingerter, Councillor George Pretli, Councillor Ragnar Latus, Councillor Kiera Andres, Councillor James Bedi, Councillor Brad Nemish and CAO Rhonda Saam.

A quorum being present, Mayor Gary von Holwede called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

Nemish: That the agenda be adopted as presented. Carried

Bedi: That the minutes of the regular meeting on July 28, 2021, be approved as presented. Carried

Wingerter: That the correspondence be filed as presented. Carried

Bedi: That the Accounts for Ratification, Cheque No. 31590 to 31596 and CAFT and on-line payments #460 to 497 in the amount of \$208,633.37 be approved as presented. Carried

Wingerter: That the Accounts for Approval, Cheque No. 31597 to 31627 in the amount of \$26,639.57 be approved as presented. Carried

Nemish: That the Bank Reconciliation for the month of July 2021 be approved as presented. Carried

Nemish: That the Financial Statement for the month of July 2021 be approved as presented. Carried

Latus: That the reports be filed as presented. Carried

Wingerter: That we ratify the decision to purchase the 72”

Brushcat Mower attachment for the T66 T4 Bobcat Compact Track Loader in the amount of \$6,765 plus taxes. Carried

Wingerter: That we approve RQD Contracting to replace the damaged culvert on the road to Parcel D Plan BU323 and install a new culvert beside the existing culvert on the road to Parcel W Plan 101321840 as per their quote of \$910 plus taxes. Carried

Latus: That we ratify the decision to advertise the following property for sale by tender in the Spiritwood Herald for one week:

Parcel A Plan 101640620 Ext 16 located on NE 33-50-11-W3, and Parcel B Plan 101640620 Ext 17 located on SE 33-50-11-W3;

And, that we acknowledge that two tenders were received and we accept the tender offer from Glen Diaz in the amount

of \$37,500 plus GST and transfer the money to SARCS for their mortgage payment. Carried

Wingerter: That we approve forwarding the outstanding utility accounts past due 90 days as of Aug. 16, 2021 to the Tax Roll as attached to form part of the minutes. Carried

Nemish: That we postpone this item until we receive the updated correction letter from Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency in reference to the fire dispatch contract. Carried

Wingerter: That we approve the amended estimate from Lajcon Distributors for Phase 3 of the Sidewalk repairs, on the east side of Block 2 Main Street, Main Street Block 3, and 2nd Avenue in front of RCMP detachment, in the amount of \$44,610.30, which is to be completed in 2022 and is funded through the Gas Tax

Program. Carried

Nemish: That we approve the estimate from Lajcon Distributors for sidewalk repairs in the amount of \$11,787 plus taxes for the following areas to be completed in 2022:

- 406 First Street West - approx 91 sqft
- 100 Railway Avenue East - approx 258 sqft
- 217 Fourth Avenue East - approx 77 sqft
- 201 Fourth Avenue East - approx 122 sqft
- 317 Main Street - approx 107 sqft. Carried

Nemish: That Bylaw No. 539/21, a bylaw to fix the water and wastewater utility rates, be read a first time. Carried

(Editor's note: The bylaw was unanimously given three readings and adopted by council)

Nemish: That this meeting be adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Must-have features in your bathroom remodel

Veteran homeowners recognize the value of remodeling their kitchens and bathrooms. Kitchens and baths tend to appear dated more quickly than other spaces, such as living rooms and bedrooms, which can always be revamped with some fresh paint and new furnishings.

The home improvement pricing resource Home Guide indicates an average bathroom remodel costs anywhere from \$5,500 to \$15,000 depending on the size and scope of the renovation. However, a bath redo can increase a home's resale value and can return as much

as 68 percent of homeowners' investments. As homeowners plan their bathroom renovations, it's a good time to consider improvements that will improve function and add design appeal for years to come.

· Floating vanity: Add an airy feeling to the room by creating space between the vanity and the floor. A floating vanity can be a counter with a vessel sink or even have cabinets, as long as the vanity doesn't extend to the floor.

· Freestanding traditional sink or tub: There's something elegant about a freestanding tub or pedestal sink.

Such features can lend a classic vibe to a space. However, freestanding fixtures also come in modern or eclectic forms, so there are options for any design style.

· Frameless showers: Switch to a walk-in shower option, which improves aesthetics and makes it easier to "age in place" in a home. Pair that frameless shower with clear glass shower doors so sightline in the space remains unencumbered.

· Natural textures: Create a calm and serene sanctuary in the bathroom with light, natural hues and materials. Na-

ture-inspired colors on tiles, walls and vanities can add to the spa vibe.

· Dual sinks and vanities: With a double vanity, two people can share the space and easily use the bathroom without getting in each other's way. One vanity with two sinks works, but homeowners can create even more personal space by dividing vanities and mirrors.

· Small textured tile on shower floors: Small textures are appealing and add safety. The added texture and grouting will keep feet from slip-

ping on wet floors. Also, opt for mold-resistant grout to make cleanup even easier.

· Special shower heads: Invest in shower heads that can run the gamut from creating steam showers to rainfall effects. Some showers will have multiple shower jets to offer an invigorating experience.

· Improve drainage: Increase the diameter of the drainpipe in the bathroom from the standard to a two-inch drain pipe. This will reduce the risk of clogs and overflow leaks.

· Install a window: Natural light and air flow can reduce the risk for mold and mildew growth, and windows add some aesthetic appeal to a space. Just be sure to choose frosted privacy glass.

Additional considerations for a bath remodel include heated floors, well-placed and attractive storage options and a toilet enclosure (water closet) for added privacy. These and other bathroom renovation ideas can add value and improve the appeal of the room.

SaskEnergy bills set to increase

The Government of Saskatchewan has approved SaskEnergy's application to increase its commodity rate — the first increase in seven years after four consecutive decreases. The new rate will be the lowest in Canada.

Effective Nov. 1, 2021, SaskEnergy's commodity rate changes from \$2.575/gigajoule (GJ) to \$3.20/GJ. The adjustment will increase the average residential customer's bill by \$6.16 per month.

"SaskEnergy's commodity rate increase is a reflection of the significant rise in natural gas prices. Gas utilities across Canada are facing the same challenge," said Ken From, president and Chief Executive Officer, SaskEnergy. "Our customers want predictable and stable rates, especially during the

cold winter months. SaskEnergy's price management strategy allows us to deliver on this expectation, and offer the lowest commodity rate in the country to customers."

The commodity rate is a pass-through of the costs to purchase natural gas from the market. SaskEnergy does not earn profit or loss on the sale of the commodity. SaskEnergy's current commodity rate is the lowest it has been in more than 20 years.

In September, SaskEnergy applied to the Saskatchewan Rate Review Panel (SRRP) for an increase to the commodity rate. After independent analysis and feedback from the public, the SRRP recommended the provincial government approve the application.



Early exit means heartbreak for Giants

Here are a few things sports fans have learned in the last couple of weeks:

— Winning 107 games during a 162-game season gets you nothing but expanded heartbreak when your team is eliminated in the first round of playoffs. Sorry, Giants.

— Emails filled with hate, racism, misogyny, homophobic references and things for which your mother would have washed your mouth out with soap, even 10 years later, can come back to haunt you. Maybe you deserve time on the unemployment line, Jon Gruden.

— Even if you believe not getting vaccinated against COVID-19 is your personal right, NBA execs have the final say if you're a professional basketball player and you're willing to forego millions of dollars to make your point. You da man, Kyrie Irving.

— Generating what might be a faux 'rivalry' can turn into millions of dollars for the combatants, because sports fans

generally love vitriol and possible combustion, perhaps even constant catfighting. Good thing the biggest bucks are for charity, Brooks and Bryson.

— Fighting in professional hockey is nothing like fighting in pro wrestling. The on-ice battles, however stupid they may be, are real. Right, Zack Kassian?

— Blue Jays' boss Ross Atkins is on the hot seat as he tries to figure out how to manage the team budget so that two free agents, pitcher Robbie Ray and second baseman Marcus Semien, can both be resigned for 2022. Sorry, Robbie, it was nice having you in Canada for one season.

— Even at age 44, a guy can still play quarterback in the NFL at the highest level. You're amazing, Tom Brady.

— Even without a reliable placekicker, a team in the Canadian Football League can win games week after week. Another Grey Cup on the horizon, Bombers?

— Mental health is nothing to scoff at, and



BRUCE
PENTON

it's especially problematic when you're constantly in the spotlight because you're a professional athlete. Isn't that right, Carey Price, Naomi Osaka, Simone Biles and countless others?

• Music publisher Sam Harrop of England: "The news that Adele has new music coming out next week is roughly equivalent to Anthony Kim announcing he's teeing it up (on the PGA Tour) next week."

• Patti Dawn Swanson, on Twitter: "This is National Coming Out Day in various countries. I wish someone with the Winnipeg Blue Bombers would come out as a place-kicker."

• NHL commissioner Gary Bettman, on ESPN-TV coverage: "With my tongue in my cheek, I've said a number of times that if ESPN is half as good at promoting us as they were at freezing us out when they didn't have our rights, this is going to be great."

• Comedy writer Jerry Perisho, on Twitter, on the controversial check-swing strikeout that ended the Dodgers-Giants series: "It was a horrible call. On the other hand, after that short nap the umpire was certainly feeling refreshed."

• Columnist Norman Chad, on Twitter: "Week 6 NFL pick: Packers (-5) at Bears. Mason Crosby was gifted four game-winning field goal attempts last week — if I had been given that many chances, I'd still be married to my first wife."

• Chad again: "Week 6 NFL pick: Jaguars (+3.5) vs. Dolphins, in London. More than 245 years after the revolution, we are still punishing the Brits by sending them bad NFL games."

• Comedy writer Alex

Kaseberg: "The NFL is still in shock over the resignation of Jon Gruden due to his offensive emails. Some NFL players were so shocked they did not abuse drugs, steroids, cause any domestic violence or drive drunk."

• Scott Ostler of the San Francisco Chronicle, on his dislike of bye weeks in the NFL. "The worst idea since sliced bread, sliced the long way."

• RJ Currie of sports-deke.com: "Canada's most decorated Olympian, swimmer Penny Oleksiak, is sister to ex-NCAA rower, Hayley, and Kraken blueliner Jamie. No wonder she's so athletic in the water, swimming in that gene pool."

• Headline at theonion.com: "Urban Meyer Still Adjusting To Speed Of NFL Cover-Ups"

• fark.com headline: "Australian cricket player suffers 10th concussion, says he's ready to try out for the NHL."

• Dwight Perry of the Seattle Times: "Bengals quarterback Joe Burrow

was on "voice rest" following a throat injury against the Packers but isn't expected to miss any playing time. 'Can we get one of those for Dick Vitale?' piped up more than one basketball fan."

• Charles Barkley, on TNT, on Wayne Gretzky not known for his defence: "He's the Charles Barkley of hockey."

• Tim Hunter of Everett's KRKO Radio, on the Mariners buying Pyramid Brewery across the street from their ballpark: "If you're a long-time Mariners fan, you'll understand why."

• Steve Simmons of Sun Media, on rapper Drake, unofficial hanger-on with Toronto Raptors, on now clinging closely to Canada's national soccer team after its recent success: "Drake has become the Forrest Gump of sports: When anything important is happening, he is there, ready to switch his allegiance and ballcap at a moment's notice."

Care to comment?
Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

Aardvarks trample Longhorns in playoff opener

Riding high off a successful regular season campaign that saw them rack up a 5-1 record and finish at the top of their conference standings, the W.P. Sandin Aardvarks football team kicked off the postseason with a showdown against the Rosthern Longhorns.

The two teams had met earlier in the season, in a high-flying back-and-forth contest that saw the Aardvarks come out on top by a score of 44-26. Despite a slow start, their playoff meeting delivered more of the same.

The Thursday afternoon playoff game began as a mirror match, with both teams trading first down fumbles and turnovers on downs. The Aard-

varks eventually got the better of the exchange, wearing down the Longhorns defence with its rushing game and cashing in on six points.

Kamden Shewchuk extended the Aardvarks' lead to 7-0 by booting the ensuing kickoff through the Rosthern endzone, and the first quarter ended with no more offensive highlights.

After the first quarter's defensive match, both teams' offences found their rhythm in the second. The Longhorns struck first, pulling within one on a short run by quarterback Zach Epp, who showed high football IQ by reaching the ball into the endzone before being knocked out of bounds.

The Aardvarks had an answer, scoring on a wide sweep by Brandon Dingwall to take a 15-6 lead into halftime.

Receiving the kickoff to start the second half, the Longhorns wasted no time marching down the field and scoring on a pass to a wide-open receiver to close the gap to 15-12.

This was the only offensive highlight of the third quarter, but the Aardvarks and the Longhorns were saving the best for the final 12 minutes.

The Aardvarks opened the scoring in the fourth quarter, when Dingwall busted through a whole team of tacklers to put the home team up 23-12.

The Longhorns responded immediately, taking the ensuing kickoff all the way to the house to push the score to 23-20.

With the Longhorns defence running out of steam, Aardvarks quarterback made what should have been a sack for a loss or a turnover into another Shellbrook touchdown, finding Dingwall in the open.

Dingwall made no mistakes with the ball, running it all the way to the en-

dzone to put the Aardvarks up 31-20.

The Aardvarks defence stepped up for the rest of the quarter, and Dingwall would bust through more tacklers to find the endzone one last time, allowing the Aardvarks to run out the clock and claim a 39-20 victory.

With the win, the Aardvarks are headed to the next round of the playoffs. As of Tuesday morning, the *Chronicle* had yet to hear word about the Aardvarks' next playoff game.



Aardvarks defenders Dominic Sten and Brett Stene combine their efforts on a big tackle.



Rosthern quarterback Zach Epp shows good football IQ, reaching into the endzone before being taken out of bounds.

OBITUARIES

Hilda (Whitt) Anderson

Hilda (Whitt) Anderson
May 8th, 1926 –
October 3rd, 2021

Hilda was born on the family farm near Medstead in 1926. She attended Daylight school and left there to begin working as a caregiver, spent a short time working in North Battleford then returned home to work in the creamery in Medstead.

In 1946 she married her sweetheart James (Pat) Anderson. It was on the same farm she was born, they farmed together and raised their family of five children. Hilda was an amazing homemaker who had many talents including cooking (canning), gardening (often using her own seeds), knitting, crocheting and

quilting. She loved celebrating important moments (like birthdays) with family and friends over a good meal or with tea and goodies (lots of goodies!) and always lots of laughs! Any day she was surrounded with a house full of family and friends was when she was happiest.

Spending time supporting her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren was important. Hilda did this through prayers, lots of berry picking, going to rodeos, cheering at hockey games, ball games and other sports and attending as many birthday parties and grads as she possibly could.

Hilda and Pat moved to Spiritwood where she continued homemaking, was involved in her church and in recent years enjoyed going for coffee with her friends.

She was loved dearly and will be greatly missed by her children: Louise (Ken) Mills, Jim (Deb) Anderson, Doris (Grant) Schweitzer, Edna (Remi) Boissonnault, Kevin (Becky) Anderson; grandchildren and great grandchildren, her sister

in law Joyce Anderson, numerous nieces, nephews and other relatives & friends.

She is predeceased by; her husband James (Pat), her parents Louie and Harry Whitt, parents in law James and Grace Anderson, brothers and sisters in law, Bob (Lucy), Bill (Doris), Alf and Herb, Belle Gresdal and Agnes (Bill) Grice. Her step granddaughter Jana-Lea Schweitzer.

Funeral Service was held on Saturday October 9, 2021 – 2:00pm at the Medstead Community Hall with Rev. David Jensen officiating. Interment followed in the Medstead Lutheran Cemetery.

Friends so wishing may make memorial donations to the Medstead Lutheran Cemetery in memory of Hilda Anderson.

Family and friends wishing to send online condolences are welcome to visit www.beaulacfuneralhome.com Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of Beau "Lac" Funeral Home & Crematorium, Mark Muir - Director, Spiritwood, SK. 306-883-3500.

How to make your kitchen your favourite room

(NC) No matter the size of your home, the kitchen is likely the hub of your everyday life. It's where you gather for meals, experiment with recipes and maybe even host impromptu dance parties. Since it's the centre of your home, why not make it your favourite room too?

Add a TV

Consider installing a TV so you can catch up on the news at breakfast or follow along with a cooking show for testing out a new meal.

A smaller TV is ideal as you don't want to overcrowd the space. Before installation, ensure the unit is away

from your oven and other electrical equipment. If you find a perfect spot but there isn't an outlet close by, don't worry. You can hire a licensed electrical contracting (LEC) business to install an extra outlet for you, hide wires from view and make sure your space is safe from electrical harm.

But be careful when hiring someone to work in your home. Sometimes, unlicensed contractors offer their services for a lower cost. Always remember that in Saskatchewan, only a licensed electrician can be hired to do electrical work in your home. So before getting started, verify their ECRA/ESA licence number to ensure they are authorized to do electrical work.

Turn up the volume

Larger kitchens allow for a variety of social gatherings, like having extended family help make a holiday meal together, or entertaining guests for a celebration. Setting up a sound system can add extra ambience for relaxing music,



GAGNON, George
Albert
1921 – 2021

Mr. George Albert Gagnon of Red Deer, Alberta formerly of Debden, Saskatchewan passed away on Wednesday, October 6, 2021 at the age of 99 years.

George was born in Ottawa, Ontario and moved with his family to southern Saskatchewan

at the age of two. George married Iona Braden in 1945, and the couple resided and farmed in Debden, Saskatchewan for over forty years. He was a farmer, finishing carpenter and a "Jack Of All Trades". George loved woodworking and he was immensely proud of his kids, grandkids and great grandkids. He was loved and respected by all that knew him.

George will be lovingly remembered by his two sons, Al (Jennifer) Gagnon of Sparks, Nevada, and Mal Gagnon of Kelowna, British Columbia; his daughter, Gail Paquette of Red Deer, Alberta; his three grandchildren, and his seven great grandchildren. George will also be sadly missed by his brother, Lucien Gagnon of Ponteix,

Saskatchewan. George was predeceased by his loving wife, Iona and his many brothers and sisters.

A Funeral Service will be held at Parkland Funeral Home, 6287 – 67 A Street (Taylor Drive), Red Deer, Alberta on Friday, October 29, 2021 at 2:30 p.m. Cremation entrusted to Parkland Funeral Home and Crematorium, Red Deer, Alberta. If desired, Memorial Donations in George's honor may be made directly to the Red Deer Hospice Society at www.reddeerhospice.com. Condolences may be sent or viewed at www.parklandfuneralhome.com. Arrangements in care of Parkland Funeral Home and Crematorium, 6287 – 67 A Street (Taylor Drive), Red Deer. 403.340.4040.

Lillian "Tina" Wasden

WASDEN – Lillian
'Tina' Wasden

Lillian Christina Wasden was born on August 30, 1925 in Mildred, Saskatchewan to William and Eva Roth. Lillian, known as Tina to her family, grew up on the homestead in Mildred, SK. She took her schooling at Mirror Lake in a one room schoolhouse. Tina met Ernest Peter Johnson at a barn dance and she later married

him. They were blessed with 8 beautiful children, seven girls and one boy. Tina shared her birthday with four of her daughters. As well, her oldest daughter and her youngest daughters share their birthday.

Tina moved back to Saskatchewan from Victoria, BC and married Ron Wasden. Tina worked long hours at the farm, raising her cows, chickens and a large vegetable garden, along with learning how to drive a car and getting her license at almost 60 years old, after spending hours riding a tractor around the fields! Tina was a loving but firm, no nonsensical Mama! We remember coming home to fresh baked bread and cinnamon buns. Her grandchildren aspired for the day when they were taller than Grandma, which

was around their 12th birthdays! She loved knitting and fortunately her children are all recipients of her knitted kitchen towels and dishcloth sets!

Tina was predeceased by both her husbands: Ernest Peter Johnson and Ron Bryce Wasden; her parents, William and Eva Roth; her brothers, Ben and George; and sisters, Ruth and Cyla. She is survived by her children, Dorothy, Marilyn (Robert), Carolyn (Dave), Sandra, Ervin (Elaine), Jackie (Brian), Verna (Ted) and Bev; her step-son, Dale; her 16 grandchildren; her 30 great-grandchildren; her 1 great-great grandchild; and her brother, John.

Funeral Arrangements have been entrusted to Rosemarie and staff at Heritage Funeral Home Ltd., Nipawin, Sask. www.heritagefuneral.ca



podcasts or even party tunes. Choose a spot away from the sink to put speakers and any other equipment, so moisture doesn't affect any wires or cause a fire.

Major appliances for a facelift

If you're planning to fully renovate, dedicate some time for choosing the best appliances to fit your style and needs. Before putting everything in place, make sure you have the right electrical outlets. Some appliances like microwave ovens, refrigerators and dishwashers require dedicated circuits

to protect you from potential accidents caused by overheating or overloading.

Use a ground fault circuit interrupter outlet for anything less than 1.5 metres from the sink. Hire a LEC business to assist with any electrical installation and be sure that they file a notification of work with the Electrical Safety Authority when the work begins.

With the right resources and expert help, small or big changes can transform your kitchen and make it your favourite room. Find more electrical safety tips at esafe.com/safety

Tips before deciding to do a DIY demo

Home improvement projects can range from relatively inexpensive undertakings to complex endeavours that cost homeowners thousands of dollars. In an effort to make expensive projects more affordable, homeowners may look for ways to pitch in, and do-it-yourself demolition is a common way to cut costs.

Due to geographical fluctuations in price as well as the scale of a project, it's hard to pinpoint just how much homeowners can save by doing demolition work themselves. HomeAdvisor estimates that the average small interior demolition project costs just over \$3,000, though more significant demolition projects can cost considerably more than that. Given the cost, it's no surprise that so many homeowners volunteer to do demolition on their own. Though it's possible to do so safely, homeowners can take steps to determine if it's in their best interest to take on a DIY demolition or leave it to the professionals.

Conduct a cost analysis. Demolition projects seem simple, but they often require the use of equipment most homeowners don't have on hand. Rentals can be considered in such instances, but the cost of renting equipment can reduce the amount of money homeowners are saving by going it alone. For example, homeowners may be able to pull up vinyl or tile flooring on their own, but not all floors are installed the same. Some floors may have been glued more effectively than others, making it hard and/or time-consuming to pull them up by hand. A walk-behind floor scraper can make it easier to remove such floors, but that equipment must be rented. A cost analysis comparing the contractors' demolition

cost estimate and the cost of DIY, complete with equipment rental projections, can give a more accurate picture of how much money homeowners will save by going it alone. If the savings of DIY are negligible, homeowners should probably let the contractor handle the demo.

Speak with your contractor. Prior to saying they'll do the demo work on their own, homeowners should speak with their contractors to get an accurate idea of what the project will entail. Demolition projects may seem simple enough, but contractors can illustrate the correct way to do things so as to minimize potentially costly damage. Some contractors may offer to help homeowners start the demo project and then leave them to their own devices once they get a knack for what to do. Once homeowners see what it will take, they can then decide if DIY is best for them.

Enlist help. No DIY demo should ever be done alone. The risk for accident and injury is simply too great for homeowners to go it alone. Homeowners who can't enlist some volunteers to pitch in should leave the job to the professionals.

DIY demolition can save homeowners a lot of money. But such projects are not necessarily as simple as they seem. Homeowners should take steps to see exactly what they're getting into before they volunteer to take on demo duty.



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How the pandemic will have lasting impacts on home design

(NC) The last year and a half has not only transformed how we live — it's altered where we live, too. With many of us moving to a totally different location or undertaking a major reno, new design trends have emerged, which are going to have a lasting impact far beyond COVID. Here are the top trends to keep in mind if you're house hunting or planning a makeover.

Multigenerational homes

With property prices skyrocketing and parents needing more help with the kids at home, more families are trying multigenerational living on for size. In fact, according to a recent report from insurance company Aviva Canada, this is now a reality for 16 per cent of

Canadians.

This means houses are being adapted to accommodate multiple families under one roof, whether it's with an addition or an in-law suite in the basement. Homes that offer this flexibility are in demand, and your property value could increase if you decide to adapt your home for multifamily living.

Creative custom adaptations

While many people moved because of the pandemic, others preferred to avoid the added stress and have modified their current home so it works better. A fully independent home office, luxury entertainment space and decked out kids' playrooms are some of the most popular renovations. However, keep in mind



that any changes you make may impact your insurance.

"With people spending so much time at home last year, it's no surprise Canadians are changing their spaces to fit their current needs. These renova-

tions may change the home's rebuild value. It's always good practice to check in with your insurance broker or agent when considering renovations so you are adequately covered," recommends Phil Gibson, man-

aging director, personal insurance and data science at Aviva Canada.

Outdoors becomes essential

The outdoors has provided a much-needed escape and an opportunity to interact safely with friends and family. So, it's no surprise that much more time and money are being invested in upgrading our patios, balconies and backyards.

Whether it's a pool, hot tub, fire pit, outdoor kitchen or even outdoor home movie theatre, people are stepping up their outdoor living game. Beautiful landscaping, flowers and vegetable gardens are part of this trend, and don't expect the focus on outdoors to go away anytime soon.

Fall home maintenance checklist

(NC) A harsh Canadian winter is just around the corner. If you're a homeowner, that means it's prime time to start getting your home ready for cooler weather.

Be sure to inspect these areas inside and outside to keep your home in tip-top shape through the season:

Driveway and porch

Take some time to repair any cracks that may have appeared in your walkways, steps and driveway. Filling in these gaps will help prevent additional damage from rain and harsh weather.

Walls and exterior finishes

Look out for peeling paint and cracks in the exte-

rior — these are common signs of water damage. Repairing any flaws by repainting, caulking and sealing cracks will help prevent further damage and help retain heat in your home.

Roof and gutters

It's a good idea to have a professional inspect your roof for missing or loose shingles — you'll want to make sure it's up to par and ready for the season ahead.

It's also important to take a look at your gutters and downspouts and replace any old or damaged parts. Be sure to clear out any debris that may block the flow of water away from your home, as congested

gutters can cause water to overflow onto the ground, possibly leading to water damage.

Smoke and carbon monoxide detectors

Check to make sure your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are working properly. The turn of the season is a great reminder to replace old batteries, test functionality and give them a quick clean.

Preventative maintenance is key, but some mishaps aren't avoidable. Be prepared for the unexpected with a home insurance policy.



Ask me about home warranty!

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Go for bold with the return of maximalism

(NC) This season, it's time to embrace a "more is more" design philosophy with the return of maximalism. To help you bring this season's hottest interior trend home, Sharon Grech, Benjamin Moore colour and design expert, shares her top three tips to go all out with maximal style.

Be bold

Saturated colour, vibrant prints and a mixture of furniture from different eras and styles help define a maximalist aesthetic. Looking for colour inspiration?

"Look to the exuberant colours of the 70s and opt for jewel tones and striking hues of mustard yellow or a bright turquoise," suggests Grech.

Show off your style

Maximalism gives you permission to show off and celebrate your prized possessions throughout your space. If you enjoy collect-

ing items, and tend towards a more eclectic, glamorous look, this trend will help bring out the best in your space.

However, don't give into the temptation to clutter every surface. "Allow your favourite pieces to shine by creating styled vignettes throughout your space following the designer trick of grouping objects in threes," says Grech.

High drama in small spaces

Not ready for a full house of dramatic colour? Choose a small room to make a maximalist splash. "Powder rooms are the ideal space to experiment with bold hues and dramatic accents," says Grech.

Create a mirror-selfie-worthy powder room by selecting a bold hue in a matte finish, using humidity-resistant paint such as Aura bath & spa and pairing it with an extravagant mirror for instant drama in the smallest of spaces.



Create a home office that works for you

(NC) This year's home must-have is an office space that offers flexibility to go seamlessly from video calls to virtual classroom to everything in between. To help you create a workspace that works for you, Sharon Grech, Benjamin Moore colour and design expert, shares three affordable tips to create a stylish office no matter your style or budget.

Choose colours that promote productivity

Struggling to find focus when working from home? Your wall colour can help promote a sense of calm and concentration to help you through your busiest days. "Tints and shades of green... can help foster a sense of calm and support your productivity," recommends Grech.

Giving your home office a coat of green paint



select where you want to set up your workspace, clean up any clutter that could be distracting. Grech suggests shopping your home for baskets, mason jars and catch-alls to store office supplies such as notebooks, pens and loose papers.

Create a chic background

On video calls all day? You can create an

envy-inducing backdrop in just one weekend by painting out a bookcase, including the backs of shelves, in one solid hue.

Make room for your workspace

If you don't have a dedicated home office, you can easily create a place where you can focus by making a work area in your home.

A floating shelf or a side table can double as a compact desk in small spaces. Once you

Grech recommends choosing a durable paint designed to adhere to wooden surfaces such as Advance interior paint for results as professional as your new office.

Once dry, position your bookcase, with styled shelves of books and decorative objects, behind you for a put-together background.

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How to help houseplants survive a long winter

As fall gradually gives way to winter, gardeners expend ample energy preparing their flowers and plants for the months ahead. Plants may be pruned to increase the likelihood that they will return in full bloom come the spring, while lawns may be aerated so cool-season grasses can get the nutrients, water and oxygen they need when the temperatures dip. But what about houseplants? Do indoor houseplants need the same type of pre-winter TLC that outdoor plants need before winter arrives?

As the seasons change, so, too, do the conditions outside. And those conditions affect indoor houseplants much like they do lawns, gardens and trees. So it's vital that people with houseplants do not overlook the need to keep houseplants going strong as fall gives way to winter.

Location

Hours of daylight shorten in winter, which means some houseplants won't get as much sun as they were accustomed to over the last several months. That means plants may need to be relocated closer to windows where they can make the most of each day's sunlight. However, it's important that there's ample distance between the plant and the window, especially when winter temperatures get especially cold. If the plants are too close to a window on cold days, they could freeze. Keep them close enough to the windows to get ample sunlight but far enough away so they don't get too cold. In addition, keep plants away from drafty windows as well as heating vents, as extreme temperatures are not conducive to healthy houseplants.

Watering

Watering needs also may change when the temperatures drop. The indoor plant

experts at Pistils Nursery in Oregon note that all houseplants need less water in winter. In fact, overwatering in winter can be especially harmful to indoor plants. Plant owners can try decreasing the frequency of their watering by half each winter and see how the plants respond.

Cleaning

Cleaning plants is another way to help them survive a long winter. Dust settles in many homes in winter, when windows tend to remain closed for months on end and fresh air isn't circulating around the house as much as it is in spring and summer. Pistil's Nursery notes that dust inhibits a plant's ability to photosynthesize, thus compromising its ability to make it through a winter unscathed. Better Homes & Gardens recommends using a soft-bristle paintbrush, a toothbrush or pipe cleaner to remove dust from African violets and other fuzzy-leaved plants. Gently washing plants with a paper towel or cloth that's been moistened with water can remove the dust. Oils and polishes should not be used to make leaves shine, as these substances can block pores on

the plant.

Houseplants may need some extra attention in winter as hours of daylight dwindle and indoor conditions make it hard for plants to survive.



Cut down winter costs with energy-saving tips

(NC) When the winter weather turns frightful, staying warm indoors is delightful. But the arrival of cold temperatures also means taking on the added costs that can come with spending more time at home.

By finding ways to save on energy during these months, you can combat this impact on your wallet and help your home operate more efficiently, which is better for the environment, too. Kickstart your energy savings with these three tips:

Lock in warmth

The first step toward saving energy in your home is to stop the heat inside from escaping. Check for drafts and extra space around your

windows and doors where you can feel cold air and apply weatherstripping or sealant.

Curtains and blinds can also play a leading role. Allow natural heat and sunlight in by opening them in the morning and closing them in the evening to trap warmth.

Your ceiling fan can also help your home feel warmer. Change its rotation to pull cold air upwards and push warm air near the ceiling down.

Be water savvy

Saving can be as simple as finding ways to make everyday tasks more energy efficient, such as doing laundry in cold water and only running the dishwasher when it's full.

Being savvy with your

water also includes knowing what you are covered for in your home insurance policy — and where you can save. For example, if you have up-to-date mechanical systems that are kept in top operating condition you may be eligible for savings.

Remember to unplug

Your electronics and appliances still use energy when plugged in, even if turned off. Try disconnecting electronics when not in use and, for larger appliances, see where you can use a toaster oven, microwave or electric kettle before turning on your stove or oven.

Saving energy can start small to have a big difference.



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How to pick paint for home interiors

Many components combine to define a home's interior. Some homeowners may be partial to certain styles, such as ultra modern or farmhouse, while others may opt for a more traditional look that cannot necessarily be categorized as one style or another. Though many homeowners may spend considerable time and devote a lot of energy to making their home embody a certain style, those who aren't willing to commit to a particular look can lean on one component to make a stylish statement all their own: paint.

Colour can be a part of every homeowner's design arsenal. Bold colours can be used to create a stunning accent wall, while homes with open concepts often utilize colour to define rooms. Homeowners who want to revitalize their home interiors can do so with paint, and this approach doesn't require homeowners to commit to a whole new design style.

Though paint may seem simple to novices, homeowners who have painted home interiors in the past recognize how complicated the process of picking paint can be. Paint retailers have a seemingly endless swatch of paint colours to choose from, and before long homeowners' heads may be spinning as they try to narrow down their options. The following tips can help

homeowners pick the perfect paint for their home interiors.

- Take stock, and photographs, of your current furnishings. Many interior designers rely on a simple technique when recommending colour schemes to their clients. Choose a standout colour from existing furnishings, such as the dominant colour from a patterned decorative pillow or piece of furniture, and then look for the same shade to paint the walls. A photograph of the item can be handy when visiting the paint store.

- Lighten colours as you go up. The home renovation and design experts at HGTV recommend picking darker

colour values for the floor, medium colour values for the walls and light values for the ceiling. This approach mimics the look of the great outdoors, where the ground tends to be darker than the trees, and the trees are darker than the blue sky.

- Utilize paint to create the vibe you want. The home renovation experts at This Old House note that colours evoke an emotional response. Cool colours like blue and green give off a relaxing vibe, which makes them ideal for bedrooms and bathrooms. Red is an intense colour that can up

the energy ante in any room, which can make it an option for homeowners who want to spark debate around their dinner tables.

- Give personal preference its place at the table. Though interior designers may have

years of experience picking paint colours for a home and researchers may have determined how certain colours can be utilized to create a desired ambiance in a given room, ultimately homeowners are the ones who will be living in the home. So it's important that homeowners pick colours they like for their home interiors.

Paint is an inexpensive way to transform a room. Homeowners can rely on a combination of colour strategies and their personal preferences as they try to decide which colours they want on their interior walls.



Three DIY projects to tackle solo

(NC) Home renovations are on the rise. A new report by Re/Max Canada found that more than half of Canadians renovated their home last year for personal, non-ROI reasons. Of this, 29 per cent did so for recreation-inspired DIY projects.

When it comes to do-it-yourself home renovations, there are things you can easily try and some that are better left to the pros. Here, Zac Matchett-Smith, a professional contractor, shares some popular DIYs.

Swapping your shower head

A simple shower head swap can truly transform your bathroom experience. Most shower heads easily unscrew from the shower head arm — a job that can be completed in 10 to 15

minutes. Changing the colour of your shower head can also instantly enhance your bathroom. Matchett-Smith recommends replacing old shower heads and moving away from a chrome finish.

Try choosing a sleek and functional matte black shower head. Almost all shower heads share the same threaded connection, so compatibility should not be an issue.

Pro tip: Always apply fresh Teflon tape to the shower head arm connection before attaching your new shower head. Using tape as a proactive measure can prevent future leaks.

Replacing your faucets

Bathroom and kitchen faucets can also be replaced easily for an instant refresh, but

don't forget to shut off the water lines before getting started. The clean lines of the Delta Kitano collection deliver elevated style to any contemporary bath for a fresh look.

Pro tip: Prior to purchasing, make sure your new faucet is compatible with the holes cut in your countertop.

Applying a fresh coat of paint

While re-painting can take time, it is a rewarding and doable task that is the first step to transforming the feel of any space.

Pro tip: Before getting started, remove everything that you can from the area and cover up the rest with drop sheets, including your floors, or you'll end up with paint in undesired places no matter how careful you are.

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Seven uses for fallen leaves

By the time autumn hits full swing, many trees will have shed their leaves for the season, and the last vestiges of red, yellow and orange magic will have faded to brown. Raking, blowing and collecting leaves becomes the primary chores of lawn and yard maintenance, and presents most homeowners with large piles of gathered leaves to tend to.

It is impossible to count just how many leaves fall to the ground each year, or just how many pounds of leaves get collected curbside, but the

numbers are substantial. Cleaning up leaves is considerable work, but not all of those leaves need to be carted away. In fact, there are several different uses of leaves that can be beneficial.

1. Spread leaves as a protective mulch to cover tender perennials or root crops/bulbs in the ground. The leaves will form a natural insulating cover that keeps the soil and the plants within a bit warmer over winter.

2. Create a pile of leaves that will break down and form a crumbly, compost-like material called leaf

mold. Even though leaf mold may sound like a blight, it's actually a good amendment to garden soil, improving its structure and ability to hold water. Leaf mold also attracts beneficial organisms that are vital in healthy soil.

3. Brown leaves can be added to green materials in compost piles to improve the health of the compost being formed. According to the healthy living resource Care2, the ideal ratio is 75 percent brown to 25 percent green materials in compost. Turn compost piles

regularly to aerate them.

4. Store dried, mulched leaves in a dry spot so they can be used in the spring as a weed barrier for spring plantings. They will keep weeds at bay and help retain soil moisture to ensure small sprouts have the resources to grow.

5. Use shredded leaves as a lawn supplement. Pass a lawn mower over leaves left on the lawn

to break them down into pieces too small to rake. This will help keep the lawn healthy throughout the winter without blocking out needed sunlight.

6. Bag dried leaves and pack them tightly together in cold areas of the home, such as basements or garages. They can act as added insulation. Bags of leaves also can be placed around planting containers to protect

them from frost.

7. Gather a few of the best-looking leaves and preserve them. Use an iron on a low setting and press leaves between two pieces of waxed paper until the waxed paper seals together. Or use clear contact paper to achieve the same effect.

Fallen leaves can be used in many different ways throughout the year.



Signs it is time to overhaul your kitchen

Remodeling a kitchen adds value to a home. Remodeling Magazine's "Cost vs. Value Report" indicates mid-range kitchen remodels cost about \$66,000, and homeowners can expect to recover about 60 to 80 percent of that cost at resale.

Homeowners may wonder if remodeling their kitchens is worth the investment. But homeowners should not just consider cost, but also the current conditions of their kitchens when deciding if a renovation project is the right move to make. These signs indicate it may be time to renovate a kitchen.

• Breakers are triggered: If the lights go dark from a tripped circuit breaker

every time you try to microwave and run the toaster oven at the same time, your wiring is likely not up to the task of handling the workload and could be out of date. A kitchen remodel will assess wiring load needs and an electric overhaul may be necessary.

• Lack of storage: One of the biggest hassles homeowners encounter in their kitchens is a lack of storage space. If making a meal involves a Jenga-like stacking and rearranging of kitchen tools, or if an avalanche occurs whenever you search for an item, you might need more storage. A carefully planned redesign can achieve this, even in a smaller kitchen.

Continued on page 19

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Signs it is time to overhaul your kitchen

Continued from 18

· **Outdated appliances:** Even if your appliances are not avocado green or mustard yellow relics of the 1970s, they might still need to be replaced. According to CRD Design, appliances are only expected to last around 10 to 15 years. If

appliances have become unsafe or energy hogs, it could be time for a remodel.

· **Family is expanding (or shrinking):** Kitchens often are the heart of a home. They need to meet the needs of the family that resides in that home. A remodel can add space as needed. On the

flip side, when a couple becomes empty nesters, kitchens can be redesigned and downsized to reflect their new needs and desires, such as the addition of a wine chiller or espresso station.

· **Poor lighting:** Task lighting is essential in a kitchen, but older homes may

not be equipped with lighting where it's most needed. A carefully designed remodel can improve lighting with under-cabinet lights, pendants, overhead lighting, and even natural light to make the space attractive and more functional.

· **Frequent run-ins:** The notion that you can have too many cooks in the kitchen refers to having too many people trying to pitch in or offer their opinions. However, it also can apply to when too many people are gathering in a small space. Redesigning a kitchen can improve the efficiency of a space and make the room feel larger.

· **Aesthetic appeal:** Many kitchen remodels have been inspired by unsightly kitchens. Cosmetic changes can lead to big improvements.

Kitchen renovations can add instant appeal and help address issues that tend to plague outdated rooms.



How to safely make your home office permanent

(NC) As businesses continue to develop and implement new hybrid work policies, we know that working from home is here to stay for many employees. Whether a few days a week or full time, many people have found their groove working remotely over the past 18 months.

So with flexibility having a more prominent position in our working lives, what at-home fixes and safety tips can we adopt?

Setting the scene

At the beginning of the pandemic, lots of us resorted to kitchen tables or makeshift desks for our at-home workspaces. Now that employers are introducing permanent hybrid work models, it's time to set up a stable home office if you haven't already.

If your space allows, consider a closed room for privacy and away from any distractions. Establish a desk and computer setup that you're comfortable with and won't need to rearrange.

Sufficient electrical outlets are a must

When choosing a spot for your home office, make sure you have access to multiple electrical outlets — two to three should do. You will probably need outlets for several things, including your laptop, monitor, phone charger and lamp.

If you can, avoid using

extension cords, especially for long periods of time. Under no circumstance should you plug your fan or space heater into an extension cord or power strip. The potential to overload the outlet and cause a fire isn't worth the risk.

If your new permanent workspace doesn't have any outlets close by, you can hire a licensed electrical contracting (LEC) business for safe installation of additional outlets. Verify their ECRA/LEC licence number to ensure the business is authorized to do electrical work and ensure a notification of work is filed with the Electrical Safety Authority.

Proper lighting for optimal working conditions

Good lighting can make all the difference to your home office. If you plan to fully renovate your workspace, ensure new lights aren't positioned behind you when seated so your face stays visible on video calls. Always check and use the correct wattage for lights and lamps, as they can otherwise overheat and cause a fire. An LEC business can help with safe light installation too.

With the right resources and expert help, setting up a safe, permanent workspace in your home will be a breeze. Find more electrical safety tips at esasafe.com/safety.




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Budget-friendly dining room renovation ideas

If the kitchen is the heart of the home, then the dining room may be akin to one of its arteries. The mood created in the kitchen spreads to the dining space where family and friends gather to eat and enjoy one another's company.

Dining rooms can get lost in the home renovation shuffle, as many homeowners tend to focus on renovating kitchens and bathrooms instead. Homeowners do not have to invest a lot of money in renovations to give their dining spaces awe-inspiring makeovers. Here's how to do so on a budget.

· Lighten and brighten.

Dining rooms were once very formal spaces. Dark woods, large pieces of furniture, over-the-top chandeliers, and other details could be found in many homes. But now that houses are being built with open floor plans, dining rooms can blend with other spaces, which have moved to lighter coloured walls, flooring and furniture. A fresh coat of vibrant paint can work wonders and it doesn't cost much. If you can't remove a floor, cover it with a brightly colored area rug.

· Switch things up with slipcovers. Slipcovers can be changed each season to dramatically alter the look

of a dining room for little investment. Slipcovers also protect chairs and can be easily laundered after spills.

· Add floating shelving. Floating shelves provide much-needed storage or display space without the need to invest in another piece of furniture. Depending on the shelving, they can work in modern design schemes or even farmhouse dining spaces.

· Clear out the clutter. It might be time to say "so long" to that large curio cabinet and the knick-knacks within it. Curio and china cabinets used to be de rigueur, but plenty of people now prefer more open

and airy dining rooms. For those who want to keep the cabinet, try decluttering inside to only include the very best display pieces and see if the cabinet can be refinished with paint or a lightly colored stain.

· Improve lighting. Make the chandelier the statement piece of the space. Go for a bold color or an innovative design. Then add accessories throughout the space that coordinate with the chandelier.

· Add bench seating. Those who need additional seating may not have to get entirely new furniture. Swap out some chairs for benches, which can fit a

couple more guests than chairs.

· Create depth with colour. HGTV says that using various shades of the same color in a space can add depth. Coordinate drapes, walls, seat fabrics, and accessories for a cohesive de-

sign.

Renovating a dining room doesn't require a large investment of time and money. A few simple steps can give dining spaces a whole new feel without busting homeowners' budgets.



Most popular spaces to renovate and their costs

(NC) After spending so much time at home last year, it's no surprise many of us are changing our spaces to fit our current needs. Canadian homeowners who renovated this past year spent an average of \$4,525, according to a recent report by insurance company Aviva Canada.

Thinking about improving your home? Check out how much Canadians have spent on average for the most common renos, and with costs coming in lower than you might think, it's time to find some inspiration for your next project:

Addition — \$10,800

Creating more livable space with an addition can boost the resale value of your home. There are plenty of options, including a kitchen bump out, new mudroom or small second-storey deck outside the primary bedroom.

Backyard — \$6,200

With outdoor hangouts becoming a safer option for gathering with friends and family, many invested in sprucing up their yard or patio. Fire pits, hot tubs and comfy outdoor furniture are great ways to make your outdoor living

space more useful and enjoyable throughout the year.

Entertainment — \$3,800

As leisure activities undergo rotating shutdowns, we've all had to find our fun at home. The basement is a prime spot for creating a recreation hub, whether it's soundproofing and lighting upgrades to create a home movie theatre or splurging on old-school video games and fresh flooring for an 80s arcade.

Office — \$2,800

While most of work-from-home arrangements were intended as short-term measures, today many

offices are embracing permanent remote work or hybrid models. This means it's worth fixing up your makeshift home office with a fresh coat of paint, ergonomic furniture and some inspiring artwork.

Playroom — \$2,250

Many families chose to help their kids enjoy spending more time at home by creating a playroom with fun activities to do and creative stations. Experiment with fun colours, soft rugs and double-duty pieces to create different zones for tactile play, arts and crafts, board games and more.

If you're planning to make major changes to your home, keep in mind that finishing a basement, removing structural supports or building an addition could impact your insurance coverage.

"These renovations may change the home's rebuild value," explains Phil Gibson, managing director, personal insurance and data science at Aviva Canada. "That's why it's always good practice to check in with your insurance broker or agent when considering renovations so you are adequately covered."



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Again, many, many thanks to everyone. You know who you are and how greatly appreciated you are.

Fred is having a well deserved rest awaiting the call of the Lifegiver on resurrection morning.

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Ideas to give your home a farmhouse feel

Farmhouse style homes are having a moment. A 2020 survey from Homes.com asked more than 5,000 adults across the United States about their favorite house style from a list that included bohemian craftsman, mid-century modern ranch, French chateau, and Tudor, among others. Modern farmhouse was the runaway winner, as participants in 42 of the 50 states indicated this simple, cozy style was their favorite.

Home renovation projects can help homeowners put their own unique stamp on their homes, and such projects can be both aesthetic and functional in nature. The following are some farmhouse design elements homeowners can consider as they look to transform their home interiors with this popular style in mind.

• **Exposed beams:** Exposed beams instantly evoke images of a farmhouse. The home improvement experts at BobVila.com note that this rustic renovation project

can utilize real wood or faux beams that look like the real thing. Decorative beams that have nothing to do with a home's structural integrity can be installed by skilled do-it-yourselfers. However, even faux beams are heavy, and BobVila.com recommends homeowners have an engineer assess their existing structure prior to installation.

• **Distressed wood finishes:** Distressing is designed to make something look less than perfect. Distressed wood finishes can be found throughout many farmhouse style homes. Furniture and picture frames can provide the distressed look farmhouse fans are looking for. This is a relatively inexpensive project that many homeowners can tackle on their own after watching some online tutorials that recommend the right tools and techniques to get the job done right.

• **Kitchen sink:** Many components combine to create a truly classic farmhouse kitchen. But

perhaps no component is more essential than the classic farmhouse sink. The renovation experts at HGTV note that a classic farmhouse sink features a deep, wide basin. Farmhouse sinks are large enough to handle all the dishes that come after a big family meal. Old-fashioned porcelain sinks are worth consideration by homeowners who want their kitchen sinks to evoke a traditional farmhouse feel.

• **Countertops:** HGTV recommends butcher block countertops for homeowners who favor European farmhouse style. Homeowners overhauling their kitchens to create a farmhouse feel should consider installing a large island with a walnut butcher block countertop for an authentic farmhouse feel.

Farmhouse style homes are wildly popular. Some simple renovations can help homeowners with a fondness for farmhouse style bring this classic look into their homes.



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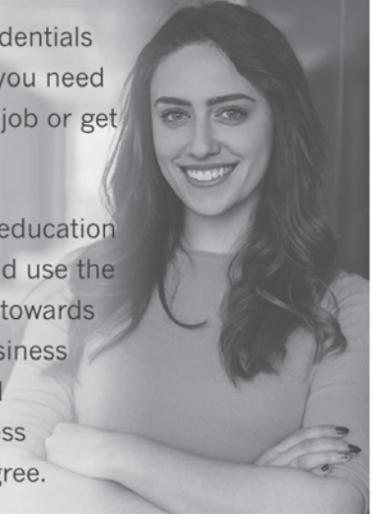
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