

# Shellbrook Chronicle & Spiritwood Herald

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## Spiritwood Legion, community observe Remembrance Day



Members of the Spiritwood Legion hosted a short Remembrance Day ceremony on Nov. 11. The ceremony, which will be the Legion's last, was attended by about 30 people. **Story on page 3**

### *Shellbrook remembers & honours veterans*

Shellbrook observed two days of remembrance last week, with the Remembrance Day ceremonies of Shellbrook Elementary School and WP Sandin High School held on Nov. 10, and the community's Remembrance Day ceremony held on Nov. 11.

#### **School Ceremonies**

Despite biting, cold winds and blizzard-like conditions, Shellbrook Elementary School's Remembrance Day began with a march to the Cenotaph in Veterans Memorial Park, led by bagpiper Dave Hjertaas and members of the Shellbrook Royal Canadian Legion Branch.

Once the students were assembled around the Cenotaph, Legion member Henri Dagenais explained the significance of the monument. As Dagenais has explained before, Cenotaphs honour those who served and died overseas and never made it home. Dagenais also noted

that many of these soldiers are now buried in memorial cemeteries in countries where Canadians have served.

Due to the wintry conditions, no "Last Post" or "Reveille" was played. Instead, students and staff observed a moment of silence, after which Hjertaas played the Lament.

After this, Legion president Helen Dagenais read a verse from Laurence Binyon's *For the Fallen*:

"They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old.

Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.

At the going down of the sun and in the morning,

We will remember them."

Closing out the ceremony with words to honour his fallen comrade, Cpl. Benoit Chevalier, Henri took a moment to remind students of where their freedoms

come from.

"It is not the journalist who gave us freedom of the press, but the soldier who died. It's not the organizer who has given us freedom to protest, but the soldier who died," he said.

"In Canada, you can have your own opinion and make your own decisions. The only thing you have to do if you don't agree with the opinions of decisions of other people is respect them."

With these thoughts shared, the Legion members then marched students and staff back to Shellbrook Elementary School.

Shortly after this, members of the Shellbrook Legion gathered at WP Sandin High School, which chose to hold its ceremony in the school gymnasium rather than brave the blustery conditions outside.

The high school's ceremony opened

with Legion members and attending RCMP officers being piped and marched into the gym, accompanied by Hjertaas on the bagpipes.

Following a few opening remarks, the school's Grade 6 & 7 choir, led by teacher Pam Boettcher, sang "Memories" by Maroon 5. Keeping the tributes musical, students were then asked to watch and listen to "The Soldier's Cry" by Roland Majeau.

After this, Henri was invited up on the stage to share the story of his fallen comrade, Cpl. Benoit Chevalier.

"Fifteen years ago, I lost a friend," he began.

Dagenais explained that he was posted at the Canadian Forces Base Bagotville in 2003, serving as Sgt. Major of the meteorology and operations sections, when he met Chevalier, then a Private.

*Continued on page 2*

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# Shellbrook remembers & honours veterans

## Continued from 1

"Benoit was a go-getter. He had a lot of initiative. He said he'd like to go to Afghanistan when a position came," he said.

Rather than send him off to Afghanistan, Dagenais suggested that he serve as an air traffic controller for a United Nations mission in the Sinai. After being promoted to Corporal in 2006, Chevalier went on the mission. In his first week there, he was killed in a plane crash, alongside 10 French soldiers, while delivering food and medical supplies to a refugee camp.

"For the next two years after he died, because I sent him there, I felt guilty," Dagenais said, reminding attendees that not all soldiers die in combat. "I will remember him."

Once Dagenais returned to his seat, the "Last Post" and "Reveille" were played, and a minute of silence was observed. Hjertaas ended the moment of silence with



Shellbrook Legion member Mike Sharron lays a wreath on behalf of the Legion.

## Clarification

In the Nov. 11 edition of the *Shellbrook Chronicle & Spiritwood Herald*, a story about the Haunted Forest at Meeting Lake stated the total raised by the fundraiser was \$1,750. In fact, the fundraiser brought in \$3,500, with the total evenly divided between Prairie Community Endeavours and Rose Gill Lodge. The *Chronicle & Herald* apologize for any confusion created by the error.

## RESORT VILLAGE OF CHITEK LAKE NOTICE

Public Notice is hereby given that the Council of the Resort Village of Chitek Lake intends to adopt Bylaw #155/2021 and #156/2021 under *The Planning and Development Act, 2007* for the amendment of Planning and Zoning of land; subject to Ministerial approval.

**INTENT** The proposed bylaw will allow The Resort Village of Chitek Lake to rezone the land area listed below from Future Development to Residential.

**AFFECTED LAND** The affected land is legally described as Block 14 Lots 1 – 4 Parcel G of Plan No. 77B04148 as shown on a plan of proposed subdivision dated August 13, 2021 and signed by Regan Rayner.

**REASON** The reason for this amendment is to allow for subdivision of land for Residential lots.

### PUBLIC INSPECTION

Any person may inspect the Bylaw at the Chitek Lake Village office Tuesday to Thursday between 9am to 12pm and 1pm to 4pm, Friday between 9am to 12pm and 1pm to 3pm. Excluding Statutory Holidays. Copies are available at cost.

### PUBLIC HEARING

Council will hold an online public hearing on November 25 at 6:30pm. Any person or group who would like to comment on the proposed bylaws please contact the Village office 306-984-2353 or [rvchitek@sasktel.net](mailto:rvchitek@sasktel.net) for an invite to the meeting. Signed written comments will be accepted for review in advance of Public Hearing.

Issued at the Resort Village of Chitek Lake this November 2, 2021.

Signed: Tara Westmacott, Acting Chief Administrative Officer



the playing of the Lament.

Concluding the ceremony, students and staff laid wreaths in honour of the fallen. Then, the Legion Members and RCMP officers were marched out of the gym.

## Remembrance Day

For the second year in a row, Shellbrook's community Remembrance Day ceremony was observed at the Cenotaph in Veterans Memorial Park. Fortunately, this year brought much milder conditions, allowing many people to gather outside, or in their vehicles, to pay tribute to veterans.

The Remembrance Day ceremony began with the marching in of the colours, accompanied by bagpiper Dave Hjertaas. After this, Shellbrook Legion president Helen Dagenais welcomed guests and thanked them for attending, before the community sang O Canada and Pastor David Bodvarson offered an opening prayer.

"We are here to remember the great sacrifice of those who gave the ultimate," he said. "We are here to honour and thank those who have served, and who are still serving our country, in the Canadian Armed Forces and the RCMP."

The proverbial mic was then handed to Reverend Wendell Brock, who offered a reflection on the symbol of the poppy.

"The poppy we wear every Remembrance Day is a symbol. The poppy reminds me of sacrifice. The great sacrifice of men and women who rose up to fight tyranny. The men and women who gave their lives to fight a great evil," he said.

"Men and women left their loved ones willingly to fight. They laid down their lives out of love for family, neighbours, and strangers."

Brock continued his reflection, focusing specifically on World War II and the rise of the Nazi regime, and noted that nearly all the surviving veterans of the war have been lost. This, he said, is why it's so important for us to remember for them.

"If we forget, history has a habit of repeating itself," he said. "If we forget, could our freedom be lost? Let us not forget that they died so we might live."

After Brock's comments, *In Flanders Fields* by John



Students and staff of WP Sandin High School lay wreaths in honour of the fallen.

## Christmas Hampers

Shellbrook, Parkside, Holbein,  
Mont Nebo & Canwood

Those requesting Christmas Food Hampers, pick up an application form from any church, Bigway or Parkside General Store. Complete the form and make sure the application is sent to:

Ministerial Association Food Bank  
PO Box 97  
Holbein, Sask.  
S0J 1G0

Post marked by Dec. 12, 2021 (no later)

Hamper pick-up: December 20, 5:30 – 8:30

Phone Dave Bodvarson 306-747-7235

Dave Whalley 306-747-2804



Reverend Wendell Brock (middle) offers a reflection of the importance of Remembrance Day, during Shellbrook's Remembrance Day ceremony.

McCrae was read.

The ceremony continued with the playing of the Last Post and a minute of silence, followed by the Lament played by Hjertaas.

In keeping with tradition, a roll call of local veterans who perished at war was read out, and community members, local businesses, and government officials were invited to lay wreaths in honour of the fallen.

The ceremony concluded with the singing of "God Save the Queen," at which time the colours were retired. A light lunch in the Shellbrook Legion Hall followed.

## Other Communities

Communities throughout the area each held Remembrance Day services in their own unique ways.

In the Village of Leask, The Leask Legion held a private service for legion members only at 10 a.m. followed by a car parade through the town from 10:30 to 11, ending at the cenotaph.

One wreath was placed at the cenotaph.

In Shell Lake, the Legion held its service at the Shell Lake Lions Hall at 10:30 a.m., with provincial guidelines around masking being observed.

The Canwood Legion, in addition to its Nov. 9 service for Canwood Public School, held an in-person and livestreamed ceremony outside the Legion Hall at 10:45 a.m. It also held a march for Debden students on Wednesday, Nov. 10.



Bagpiper Dave Hjertaas leads Shellbrook Legion members and the students and staff of Shellbrook Elementary School in a march to the Cenotaph in Veterans Memorial Park.

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Rural Municipality of Big River No. 555 invites applications from qualified individuals for the position of **Foreman**.

Applications stating previous experience, expected salary and references will be received at the municipal office by mail, fax or email. The qualified candidate will possess: computer skills, effective communication skills, experience in supervision, strong organizational skills, exemplary skills operating heavy equipment, mechanical aptitude, possess a valid driver's license, be able to lift 50 lbs. and have extensive working knowledge of all aspects of the repair and maintenance of the transportation network in a rural municipality. The qualified candidate must have a willingness to work with council and follow directions as initiated by council or the administrator and be prepared to work evenings and weekends when necessary. The municipality offers a comprehensive benefits package, pension plan and competitive wages.

Further information may be obtained by phoning the municipal office at 306-469-2323. **Applications close December 10, 2021 at 4 p.m.** Please forward resumes to:

Rural Municipality of Big River No. 555

Box 219

Big River, SK S0J 0E0

Fax: 306-469-2428

Email: [rm555@rmofbigriver.ca](mailto:rm555@rmofbigriver.ca)

# Spiritwood Legion, community observe Remembrance Day

## Continued from 1

A small, short service was held in the Spiritwood Legion Hall on Nov. 11, in observance of Remembrance Day, to celebrate and honour the sacrifices made by the Canadian Armed Forces during times of war and peacekeeping.

The service was attended by almost 30 people, which was better compared to last year when there were only eight attendees due to the COVID precautions in place.

Delores Beaulac of Beau "Lac" Funeral Home led the service. She started it off by welcoming those who attended to observe the ceremony, and then led attendees in a prayer afterwards.

Beaulac said, "November 11th, the 11th hour, the 11th day, the 11th month, when time stood still for a moment as we remember those who have died to give us a world that is free and peaceful. We should never forget the sacri-

fices made for us. It is our duty to teach our children the reason behind this special day."

She also stated, in the midst of her scripture, how grateful she is for the Legion members for placing their faith in her, which is not only an honour but a huge responsibility for her to take on as well. Towards the end, Carol Brisborne, one of the Legion members, thanked those who attended their short ceremony for this year's Remembrance Day.

This year marks the 100th Anniversary of the Remembrance Poppy. Recognizing this, the Spiritwood Legion said it is grateful to those who supported the Poppy Fund. She said the Legion members also extend their deepest gratitude for all the wreaths sold in remembrance of veterans, for donations from the general public, and for everyone who bought and wore poppies.

After the service ended, Betty Hall, on behalf of the Legion

members, announced that this will be the Legion's last year. She said they have discussed it in the last few meetings, and everyone believed it's about time.

Legion members said they really don't want to see the Legion fold but noted that the reality of living in a small town meant it eventually had to come to that point. The Legion members are delighted to have received so much support throughout the years.

## Highlights of a Shellbrook Town Council meeting

Shellbrook's town council met for its regular meeting in person and via teleconference on Monday, Nov. 15.

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

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Otterson at 4 p.m., and council began by approving the meeting's agenda and adopting the minutes of its Monday, Nov. 1 meeting. With no business arising from said minutes, council carried a motion proclaiming the week of Nov. 20 to 28 as Saskatchewan Multicultural Week, then approved its accounts and financials, before moving on to oral reports.

Following the first major snowfall of the season, Councillor Miller suggested the town should remind ratepayers to be considerate of their neighbours when clearing snow. Most councillors said they'd received complaints about ridges being left at the bottoms of driveways by the snowploughs.

Hoare noted this is the most common complaint she receives about the town's snow removal, and added that not using the gate would leave a huge pile rather than a small ridge. She also said it would take a week to clear snow, and cost about \$10,000 to \$15,000 more each time, if the town decided to go back and clear all the ridges.

In recreation news, Councillor Ledding informed council about Hockey Saskatchewan's latest update to its COVID vaccination policy. With the new policy,

certain groups of players must be vaccinated, or show proof of a negative COVID test, as of Jan. 10. Ledding said this will affect the AA team and the Silvertips team.

Rounding out the reports, Councillor Miller put forward a motion to allow the golf course to use the town's backhoe to expand water storage. Council agreed to approve the motion, pending a review of the Town's liability and insurance and so long as the golf course is responsible for operating expenses.

In new business, council began by approving committee appointments

for councillors and carrying a motion to continue property tax discounts for 2022. Under the policy, the discount is 7 per cent in first month after levy, 5 per cent in second month, and 3 per cent in third month.

Council then tabled discussion about how it handles interest added to unpaid accounts for signs at the Richardson Pioneer Recreation Centre, and carried a motion to have just one meeting in January (on Monday, Jan. 17) and revert to a 5 p.m. meeting time starting with its Dec. 6 meeting.

Moving on, council set

the town office's holiday hours. The office will close at noon on Dec. 23 and remain closed through the 27th. It will then close at 3 p.m. on Dec. 31, and be closed on Jan. 3 because New Year's Day falls on a Saturday.

In other new business, council carried a motion to keep the Shellbrook Public Library's hours the same for 2022, wrote off a utility bill in the amount of \$78.22, and reversed a fee of \$250 charged to Beau Lac Funeral Home for a monument deposit (because the fee was paid by the family).

Monday night's meeting also saw council green-

light a recommendation from the Richardson Pioneer Recreation Centre Committee to allocate \$25,000 from capital funds to the AA team's proposed new dressing room for heating, ventilation, and flooring.

Following recommendations from Councillor Clements that it consider the matter more carefully, Council then delayed its decision on an upcoming recreation survey it plans to send out to ratepayers. Council also agreed to consider contracting out the drafting of the survey.

Concluding the meet-

ing, council agreed to allow a town employee to host coffee at the Curling Rink from 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. The employee in question donates his time, ensures all COVID rules are followed, and only charges for coffee to cover the cost of supplies.

Council then approved a motion to spend \$6,600 from the admin discretionary reserve for the purchase of a Viewsonic ViewBoard, before adjourning for the meeting.

Council's next meeting is scheduled for Monday, Dec. 6.

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Shellbrook Chronicle  
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### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### To Residents of the Leask District Green Family Memorial Fund

The Green Family Memorial Fund Committee is accepting applications for funding until **December 3, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.**

Application forms may be picked up at the R.M. Office. The funding will be distributed in accordance with the Last Will and Testament of Jessie Green which SPECIFIES the residue (referred to as "the Fund") being paid to the Village of Leask and the R.M. of Leask (referred to as "the Trustee") be administered in the following manner:

to invest the Fund for 20 years;

to pay one-twentieth of the Fund annually amongst organizations local to the **Village and District of Leask** (including but not limited to, Leask Sports Centre, Leask Health Clinic, Leask Cemetery, Leask Senior Citizens, Leask Golf Course and other sports organizations of Leask) the choice of organizations to benefit in any year and the amount of payment to each to be at the sole discretion of the Trustee;

That the Trustee chooses a committee comprised of councillors, mayor and/or reeve of the Village of Leask and R.M. of Leask to administer the fund.

Riannon Nelson  
Administrator

## Flu, COVID can't be compared

Over the past 19 months, there's been no shortage of arguments made to downplay the COVID-19 pandemic.

Of these often misleading, misguided, or patently false arguments, one that simply refuses to die is the claim COVID-19 is no worse than the seasonal flu.

This argument was dusted off and drugged

out again last week, by a group opposed to the Saskatchewan Rivers Public School Division's (SRPSD) vaccine policy, which requires staff to be fully vaccinated or provide weekly proof of a negative COVID test.

One member of the delegation presenting to the SRPSD Board of Education called the policy an "unethical and unnecessary" measure to control COVID-19.

The member, an educational assistant, added, "Never before have you had to show a negative test for a flu to go to work."

It's true. No such requirement exists, or has ever existed. And it's unlikely that such a mandate



JORDAN TWISS

~  
News Editor

would ever be put in place.

Is this an unfair double standard? Or is it perhaps irrefutable proof there's some nefarious government conspiracy behind the pandemic?

No. It's as simple as looking at the numbers.

There have been 73 flu-related deaths in Saskatchewan. . . over the past six flu seasons

for which data is available (2013 to 2019).

Comparatively, there had been 896 COVID-related deaths in Saskatchewan as of Nov. 15, with 151 of those coming at the height of the fourth wave in October.

Nationally, the 2019-2020 flu season saw 306 ICU admissions and 120 deaths.

Meanwhile, there have been 17,256 COVID-related ICU admissions, and 29,246 deaths, across Canada over the past 19 months.

A similar pattern holds true globally. Where the average flu season kills between 291,000 and 646,000 people (per CDC estimates), global COVID-related

deaths have eclipsed the 5 million mark.

None of this is an attempt to downplay the flu. Every death counts, and everyone who dies, whether it be from the flu or COVID-19, matters to someone.

But there is, quite simply, no true comparison between the flu and this current pandemic.

Indeed, the closest contemporary to COVID-19 would be the 2009 swine flu pandemic. Over the course of a year, the outbreak is estimated to have infected 11 to 21 per cent of the world population, with a death toll of between 151,700 and 575,400.

Of particular note in this comparison, is the fact that masks were encouraged in healthcare settings and in cases of close contact with an infected person.

Moreover, while there were no widespread lockdowns, countries did enforce quarantines in some instances.

And finally, though it was only distributed after the pandemic had peaked, a vaccine was developed to combat the illness.

Interestingly enough, all these things happened with nary a peep from those who, today, are so vehemently opposed to governments



taking any action, no matter how small, to combat COVID-19.

Obviously, the measures taken during the swine flu pandemic are nothing compared to the restrictions we've endured these past 19 months, and some may use this fact to argue such mandates were never truly needed.

But consider the fact that this pandemic has become, arguably, the worst the world has seen since the Spanish flu outbreak in 1918, in spite of the measures put in

place.

Now, imagine a scenario in which governments had just encouraged masks, physical distancing, and quarantining, rather than mandating them – or, worse, decided to do nothing.

COVID-19 is not the flu, and it can't be beaten like the flu.

True, vaccination should be voluntary, and negative test options give people this freedom of choice.

But vaccinated or not, each of us is needed to fight this pandemic.

## Constant concern about mandates

Our Saskatchewan Rivers office continues to receive an enormous amount of phone calls and emails regarding personal stories of concerned, panicky, and angry citizens over the loss of their jobs, the loss of sending their children to school, and the loss of their freedoms. We have heard of remorse and vaccine injuries becoming more common. Not every human is responding favourably to the vaccine. Public opinion is becoming more vocal in demanding less government interference in personal choices.

A number of local families have advised me that they have taken their children, fleeing to other countries. They are fearful of expanded mandates and restrictions. This is the new Saskatchewan. Comply, or worry about possibly being sent to a camp after a neighbour phones the snitch line. The people are increasingly divided. Are these the gov-

ernment's principles?

I think not. I know in the government's heart they believe in principled leadership, developed over years by our ancestors which have worked until this recent 2020-21 pandemic. I believe the government has strayed from this path.

The absolute most bewildering, and frustrating aspect is that this government has insulated itself from credible evidence that does not support the direction they have chosen. Truth can bear scrutiny, but the refusal to even discuss these topics naturally allows people to wonder if something more nefarious is afoot. The people are suffering and deserve the respect of being listened to.

Let us not be judged by our medical sta-



NADINE WILSON MLA

~  
Saskatchewan Rivers  
306-787-0615  
saskrivers@sasktel.net

tus. I do not walk alone, as many people have talked with me. We're all created equal. We all sit at the table of humanity. I am working towards a quest for freedoms for all Saskatchewan people and the security of justice. It is obvious today Saskatchewan has defaulted on our basic rights. The rally, the demonstration of freedom held Oct. 27, 2021, on the steps of the Saskatchewan Legislative Building, will go down in history as the Throne Speech of discontent. It is obvious that the winter of discontent is upon us.

It is my hope that all people have a secure future in the great province of Saskatchewan and unify with one another. It's my hope that we can change this current sit-

uation in the province, leave our egos at the door, and salvage our province.

On another note, the recent Throne Speech discussed provincial autonomy for Saskatchewan, which I agree with. Taking back the administration of our corporate income tax system from the federal government is a very good sign. I feel considering other measures, such as provincial policing to build autonomy, is very valuable indeed and I would like to see more dialogue around the Saskatchewan Independent Banking Act. These are things that I will bring forward to my constituents for further consultation.

Our office welcomes everyone. I may be contacted by email at [saskatchewanrivers@sasktel.net](mailto:saskatchewanrivers@sasktel.net), by phone at 306-787-0615 or by mail at RR5 Site 16 Box 4, Prince Albert, SK, S6V 5R3. My office is located in the Lake Boyz building at Red Wing.

### Shellbrook Chronicle

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### Spiritwood Herald

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

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Editorial: [chnews@sbchron.com](mailto:chnews@sbchron.com)  
Advertising [chads@sbchron.com](mailto:chads@sbchron.com)

### C. J. Pepper, Publisher

Jordan Twiss, Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter  
[jordan@sbchron.com](mailto:jordan@sbchron.com)/[chnews@sbchron.com](mailto:chnews@sbchron.com)

Natasha Cabase, Spiritwood Herald Reporter  
(306) 914-3890 or [tashacabase@gmail.com](mailto:tashacabase@gmail.com)

Meghan Penney, Composition/Pagination & Advertising Sales [chads@sbchron.com](mailto:chads@sbchron.com)

Karen Stene, Bookkeeping/Reception  
[accounting@sbchron.com](mailto:accounting@sbchron.com)

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

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Member of



# VIEWPOINT

November 18, 2021

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## Report from the Legislature

With the Speech from the Throne now officially introduced and approved, our government will continue on the path to building a stronger, safer, healthier, better educated and more independent Saskatchewan.

This plan was started in the spring with the 2021-22 Budget when we committed to hiring more staff to support long-term care residents across the province. A three-year plan was announced to hire 300 new Continuing Care Assistants (CCA) and with an initial \$6 million investment, 95 CCA full-time equivalent positions have already been filled.

These positions will support residents in 43 long-term care facilities across the province and 22 smaller communities will benefit from more staff providing home care visits.

Education has been a large component of our government's plans for the future and there are several programs and funding initiatives underway that will improve access to education as well as early childhood care.

A \$4.8 million partnership



**HON. SCOTT MOE,  
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with Collège Mathieu, Saskatchewan Polytechnic and the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies will develop and deliver an accelerated early childhood education training program. The investment will help increase the number of certified Early Childhood Educators (ECEs) in the province as well as increase the certification of current ECEs.

Qualified ECEs will also benefit from \$9.6 million in funding to increase wages for the childcare workforce to support the recruitment and retention of educators. Saskatchewan has partnered

with the Government of Canada to invest \$1.1 billion to bring fees for regulated child care down to \$10 per day on average within the next five years.

Many school projects are underway to provide students and educators with state-of-the-art facilities, like the new \$47 million, 11,050 square meter joint-use school that is under construction on the south side of Regina.

Replacing Argyle Elementary School and École St. Pius X, the building will welcome 800 students when classes resume in the fall of 2023 and will also have room for a 51 space child care facility.

Moving on the promise to make Saskatchewan safer, both the La Ronge and Meadow Lake Crime Reduction Teams (CRTs) will be expanded. CRTs have been extremely effective in disrupting, dismantling and prosecuting organized crime and we are proud to support the RCMP's expansion of this program.

Teams are deployed to communities anywhere in the province that are experi-

encing dramatic surges in criminal activity. Intelligence is then collected and analyzed before targeted enforcement is carried out. High visibility patrols, tracking dangerous offenders or gangs along with executing arrest warrants are just some of the actions that can be taken.

Our government is providing \$1.5 million to get the expansion underway this year with approximately \$3.2 million in each subsequent fiscal year. This investment brings the total number of CRT units in the province from seven to nine by adding a total of 20 permanent positions, including 16 RCMP officers, two criminal analysts and two administrative assistants.

As ranchers plan for the future following a very difficult summer, applications for a second support payment are now being accepted under the 2021 Canada-Saskatchewan Drought Response Initiative. The initiative provides immediate relief to livestock producers with two payments totalling up to \$200 per head for eligible fe-



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tions have been accepted for 1.24 million animals totalling approximately \$109.6 million under Payment One.

The Government of Saskatchewan is pleased to continue a program that honours those who have served our great country. Introduced in 2019, the Saskatchewan Veterans Service Club Support Program provides grants for repairs and upgrades, special events, programs and activities to engage the community. Once again, the program will be accepting applications for funding totalling \$1.5 million.

In 2021, 77 grants have already been provided and the third intake has now been initiated on a rolling, first come first served basis.

We are also supporting the continued memory of our veterans with the Scholarship of Honour. The annual award is presented to returning Canadian Armed Forces members, as well as spouses and children of injured or fallen members. This year, 14 recipients will receive a one-time award of \$5,000, dedicated to our courageous service members.

### Black Friday Specials

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# Muskeg Lake FN wins Sask. Heritage award

The Muskeg Lake Cree Nation has been crowned a winner of a 2021 Heritage Saskatchewan Community Development award for its Food Forest (sakaw pimatan) program, which aims to improve food security and food sovereignty in the community.

“Like many First Nations communities – especially those in northern areas – we struggle with availability of fresh fruit, vegetables, and reasonably-priced, nutritious foods,” said Glenna Cayen, a Muskeg Lake resident and community program coordinator with Canadian Feed The Children (CFTC), who spearheaded the program’s development.

The first seeds of the Food Forest were planted when Cayen, who is passionate about land sustainability and water resource management,

began consulting her community about issues of access to nutritious and affordable food shortly after stepping into her role with CFTC in mid-2017.

While speaking with her fellow community members, Cay-

en heard a common refrain about returning to the traditional land practices that had sustained her people for thousands of years.

“The good news is that there is a resurgence of interest in rebuilding the connections to the land and to traditional practices around growing, gathering, fishing, hunting, and preserving food. These are what people feel are essential to regain food sovereignty,” she said.

Through these in-community consultations, and a 2018 workshop conducted by permaculturist and founder of Saskatoon-based Holistic Landscape and Design, Steven Wiig, the idea for the Food Forest eventually blossomed.

Combining Indigenous approaches to agriculture, innovative permaculture design, community involvement, and technical and financial support from CFTC and its donors, the community planted and developed a 2.5 acre food forest.

Work on the project began on bare farm land in October 2018, when people from the community and neighbouring towns planted 300 trees and bushes to attract bees and other pollinators as part of the project’s first phase.

After years of work and planting, the food forest has more than 400 trees and shrubs – most of which are food-producing – along with berry bushes.

The forest is already home to five apple varieties, cherry varieties, Saskatoon berries, grapes, gooseberry currants, raspberries, and rhubarb, among others, and vegetables are also being grown at the site for the time being, since the trees aren’t yet big enough to shade everything.

However, Wiig, who is serving as the Food Forest program’s food security supervisor, says there’s more to the project than just growing food – even if the goal moving forward is to maximize food production.

“It’s also centered like a community hub, so we’ve got a gazebo built and a fire pit and a speaking area and outdoor kitchen so we could host workshops and gatherings there,” he explained.

“We hope in the future that this space not only provides a sustainable source of good food but that it also becomes a community meeting space centred on health and wellness for youth, adults and Elders,” Cayen added.

While improving access to nutritious and affordable food is at the heart of the Food Forest program, one of its other key pillars is community engagement and improvement.

The program is already accomplishing this goal. Produce grown by the food forest is currently being distributed to school children to supplement their lunches, and through Meals on Wheels.

“It’s still in growing stages three years in. But you can visualize the beauty that it’s going to bring for years to come,” Muskeg Lake Cree Nation Councillor Cal Arcand said.

After three years of hard work by the community, it’s clear Arcand isn’t alone in his vision for the food forest.

Looking to the future, plans for the space include installing a year-round solar and wind-powered greenhouse, a children’s play area, walking trails, water catchment, outdoor cooking with a cob (clay) oven, and a compost site.

Cayen also hopes the next phase of the project will include the planting of a medicinal garden, while Wiig says there are opportunities for economic development through value-added products like jellies and jams.

Most exciting, however, is the fact that the seeds of the Food Forest program seem to be spreading.

After Muskeg Lake’s early successes, CFTC applied for grants through TD Bank and got funding to expand. With this extra funding, Ahtakakoop Cree Nation, Beady’s and Okemasis First Nation in Saskatchewan, and Atikameg First Nation in Alberta, are now starting their own food forest projects.



**In addition to growing food, the food forest serves as a community gathering place. The Muskeg Lake First Nation hopes to add more amenities in the future.**  
*Photo credit: Steven Wiig*

## Building A Better Saskatchewan

The goal of this session, and in the years ahead, is to build a better Saskatchewan.

- A **stronger** Saskatchewan • A **safer** Saskatchewan
- A **healthier** Saskatchewan • A **better educated** Saskatchewan
- A **more independent** Saskatchewan

Saskatchewan has attracted billions of dollars in new investment and job opportunities even in this very difficult year due to drought and COVID-19.

These include:

- A new potash mine;
- Three new canola crushing plants and a major expansion of an existing plant;
- Canada’s first wheat straw pulp facility;
- A new oriented strand board mill;
- A revitalized Prince Albert Pulp Mill;
- Expanded and upgraded sawmills; and
- A new seeder assembly facility.

Our potential is almost unlimited in the years ahead, and the 2020s will still be Saskatchewan’s decade.

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

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



**The Muskeg Lake Cree Nation is addressing food security in the community through the development of a food forest.** *Photo credit: Steven Wiig*

## Tough season yields high prices, high risks

Production of grains and oilseeds may be down significantly across much of the Canadian Prairies this year because of dry conditions, but prices are generally at record highs too.

The situation is such that it's difficult to envision a producer sitting with anything in the bin that has not already been sold and is simply awaiting delivery.

Selling was certainly the message from Grain Millers Harvest Showdown speaker Matt Snell, senior risk manager at Stone X in Chicago.

Snell's message to producers attending an 'Ag Appre-

ciation Evening' was that the current situation has "been a perfect bull market."

In terms of canola, Snell said he has "never seen prices as high as they are," a situation supported by a lower Canadian harvest of about 12.7 million metric tonnes.

The lower production is significant as demand remains high, offered Snell.

"Demand is still there," he said, adding it's "starting to reduce our stockpiles."

The situation is such that the veg oil carry-out in stocks to use is down to six per cent, said Snell, which "is the lowest we've seen in a



CALVIN DANIELS

very, very long time. There's an insatiable amount of demand."

The biggest driver in terms of demand is China, and there have been suggestions that country could increase

purchases further, but Snell said betting on that happening might not be the wisest move. He said to bet on China buying more "is taking a lot of risk in my opinion."

But with prices in the \$22 to \$23 a bushel range right now, things are great for canola sales.

"The market is telling me to sell right now," said Snell. "I don't know if prices are going to go higher ... They are the highest ever... But no one ever went broke making a profit."

There was a similar message in terms of wheat from Snell too.

The bigger question for producers is what they should be doing in terms of pricing their 2022 crop.

A number of producers found themselves short of production to honour contracts with 2021 crop and that has implications. For some, that means having to go out and buy bushels. For others, it means rolling contracts forward, meaning some of their 2022 crop is in essence already sold.

The key of course is limiting the risk of forward selling by having either some market insurance in place, or by limiting the amount

pre-sold to a production level all but guaranteed on the farm.

But high prices are alluring and it's easy to decide to take added risk of pre-selling more crop to take advantage of high prices.

That is likely to be the scenario in 2022, where prices might not hold at current levels, but are likely to be strong, allowing producers to determine their cost-of-production and to lock in a reasonable profit.

The key will be managing the production risk of selling crop ahead of harvest, or even seeding the crop.

## Applications open for Drought Response Initiative second payments

On Monday, Nov. 1, the 2021 Canada-Saskatchewan Drought Response Initiative launched the application for its second payment. Producers can now complete an application form, detailing eligible livestock inventory as of Dec. 31 and the Extraordinary Costs Self-Assessment. Payment Two requires a Premises Identification Number.

"Farmers and ranchers across Canada are vital to our nation's food security and the heartbeat of so many rural communities," said Marie-Claude Bibeau, federal Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food. "Through AgriRecovery, our government is assisting producers during these challenging times brought about by the devastating effects climate change is having on our sector. We will continue to work together with Saskatchewan, and all provinces affected by this drought, to make sure farmers have ongoing support that meets their needs."

"I am proud of the timely support this Ini-

tiative provides livestock producers through immediate funding relief," Saskatchewan Agriculture Minister David Marit said. "Agriculture is still the number one driver in this province, with the livestock sector a vital part of our industry. We know producers continue to struggle with the impact of drought. The launch of this second payment application follows through on our commitment under the AgriRecovery Program."

With the launch of the Payment Two application, producers yet to apply to this Initiative can still apply for Payment One. Producers must apply for Payment One before applying for Payment Two. Producers are not obligated to apply for the second payment. Payment One is to address the negative impact, due to drought, on grazing livestock this past summer and is based on August 1, 2021, eligible inventory. Payment Two is based on your intended inventory, as of December 31, 2021. This payment is intended to address the nega-

tive impact, due to drought, of extraordinary expenses regarding winter feed. The deadline to apply for all payments is January 31, 2022.

To date, the Initiative received approximately 8,670 total applications, accounting for approximately 1.24 million eligible animals. Roughly 7,737 Payment One applications are paid to date, totalling an approximate amount of \$109.6 million. Final date to receive payment is March 31, 2022.

The launch of this second payment application follows through on Minister Marit's Aug. 10 announcement of \$119 million in direct cost-shared support for drought-affected livestock producers under the AgriRecovery program.

AgriRecovery funding is cost-shared on a 60-40 federal-provincial basis. AgriRecovery is a federal-provincial-territorial disaster relief framework intended to work together with the core business risk management programs, as part of the Canadian Agricultural

Partnership, to help agricultural producers recover from natural disasters.

The 2021 Canada-Saskatchewan Drought Response Initiative provides immediate relief to livestock producers. The Initiative consists of two payments totalling up to \$200 per head for eligible female breeding cattle and bison, with adjustments made on animal unit equivalents for other livestock.

The minimum payment will be \$500 for each payment. The maximum total payments will be \$3 million per operation. Producers do not need to be enrolled in any SCIC programs to qualify for funding.

Producers with questions can call the dedicated toll-free phone number at 1-844-723-1211 or directly email skdri@sci.ca. Further details, including application forms, are available on the Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation's (SCIC) website at <https://www.scic.ca/2021-canada-saskatchewan-drought-response-initiative>.

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Fri., Nov. 19, 2021

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Mon., Nov. 22, 2021

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

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# Canwood School observes Remembrance Day

**By Brian Linn, Principal**

Canwood Public School hosted its annual Remembrance Day Service on Tuesday, Nov. 9.

This year, same as last, the service was planned to be COVID safe by having a school-wide service over the intercom complete with Last Post and Reveille, a moment

of silence, and two poetry readings by students Emma Arcand and Sadie Schutte.

Following the intercom service, Grade 7-12 students were led on a walk of remembrance to the Canwood Cenotaph by Canwood Legion members and an RCMP escort vehicle. Kindergarten through Grade 6 students lined the playground to send off

the older students.

At the Cenotaph, Bob Thompson and members of the Canwood Legion led the students and staff in an act of remembrance, by having the students lay their poppies on a wreath at the base of the Cenotaph.

Following the laying of poppies, Bob Thompson spoke of remembrance and gratitude to the Canwood students for their respectful and thoughtful participation in the service.

The service wouldn't be possible without the Legion members, our RCMP escort, student poetry readers, staff, and all the student who took part in making it a wonderful act of Remembrance.

It was COVID that sent us outside on this walk, but I think it will become a tradition that will continue long after COVID has passed.



**In an act of remembrance, students pinned poppies on a wreath laid at the Cenotaph.**



**Canwood Public School students in Grades 7 through 12 were led on a walk of remembrance to the Cenotaph.**



**Students from Canwood Public School gather at the cenotaph, along with members of the Canwood Legion.**

## Public Health Act amendments address safety around hospitals

The Government of Saskatchewan has introduced legislation that will protect the health workforce, patients, and families by ensuring they have safe access to hospitals, and expand workforce flexibility to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Public Health (Safe Access to Hospitals) Amendment Act, 2021, was introduced last week in the Saskatchewan legislature to amend The Public Health Act, 1994.

These amendments provide the ability to create and enforce safe access zones around hospitals, so that patients and health care providers are protected from harassment. A 50-metre safe access zone would prevent sidewalk protests near hospitals that could potentially result in delays or harassment for people going into the facilities.

"Patients and families deserve to be able to access health services safely and without facing interference or intimidation," Health Minister Paul Merriman said in a statement. "This provision will also support our hospitals and staff in providing health services with safety, dignity, and privacy."

Lawful labour picketing will still be allowed within the safe access zones. The safe access zone provision in the legislation will expire two years after the legislation comes into force.

The legislation will also enable additional immunizers to support vaccination programs, including influenza vaccine, COVID-19 boosters and vaccines for children aged five to 11. This will improve the province's capacity to provide immunizations.

## 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.  
St. Andrew's - Shellbrook  
Sunday, 11 a.m. Service  
Canwood - Christ Church  
Sunday, 2 p.m. - Service  
Rev. Wendell Brock  
306-460-7696  
H.C. Service with Rev.  
Brock - 1st Sunday of the  
month

**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

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Battlefords Camp  
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**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



# Tips trounce Royals in home opener

The Shellbrook Silvertips roared back into action Saturday evening, hosting the Hague Royals for their 2021-2022 regular season opener.

Coming off a 10-6 loss to the Warman Wildcats, the Silvertips were eager to get in the win column in their first game in front of a hometown crowd in about a year. The team certainly didn't disappoint, putting on an offensive clinic to skate away with an 11-2 victory.

Saturday evening's game could have gone in a completely different way in the beginning, after the Tips found themselves two men short in the early going of the first period. The Tips managed to kill off the penalty, then get a two-man advantage of their own.

That's when Jody Blais opened the scoring, with assists from Daryl Blais and Braidon Turner, on a textbook setup in front of the Royals' goal.

The trio struck later on in the period, allowing Blais to score his second of the night on a blink-and-you-miss-it goal.

The Tips continued to apply the pressure, going up 3-0 on a breakaway and

top-shelf sniper shot from Justin Kerr. Gage Helm and Brendon Canaday assisted on the goal.

After the intermission, the Tips returned to the ice firing all cylinders and kept the Royals cornered in their defensive end. Finally, Dylan Smith was able to parley this pressure into a goal, with assists from Canaday and Helm.

The Tips struck again just past the period's midway point, with Kerr netting his second of the evening off of an offensive zone faceoff. Canaday earned his third assist of the evening, while Smith also picked up a helper on the play.

Down 5-0 and effectively out of contention, the Royals finally got on the board on an offensive rush. Ayden Lawless took a picture perfect feed in front of the goal, tapping it into a wide-open Tips goal. Carson Henrion and Colby Sawatzky drew assists on the play.

The Tips fired right back, netting a pair of goals to take a 7-1 lead into the final stanza. Smith scored the first goal, with assists from Kerr and Brendon Beaulac, while Helm netted his first home ice goal as a Silvertip on helpers from Smith and Kerr.

With victory all but certain, the Tips didn't take their foot off the gas through the third period.

Daryl Blais got to work around the midway point of the frame, making the Royals' defence look like Swiss cheese before finding the back of the Royals' goal. Nathaniel Martin and Canaday earned assists on the play.

A minute later, Helm redirected a setup from behind the Hague goal to the back of the net for his second of the night, thanks to assists from Smith and Beaulac.

The Royals were able to salvage some pride, scoring a late marker off an offensive rush and a cannon blast past Tips goalie Jon Nelson. Henrion netted the goal, with assists from Jarrett Penner and Lawless.

As they had throughout the game, the Tips had a return salvo. Daryl Blais

scored his second of the night by tapping a rebound into the Hague goal. John Martin and Torey Stewart assisted on the play.

Just 18 seconds later, Kerr scored his hat trick goal by tapping home another juicy rebound. Helm and Smith earned helpers on the 11-2 goal.

With the big win, the Tips sit at 1-1 on the season. The team hits the road this weekend, facing off against the Dalmeny Sabres on Friday, and the Allan Flames on Saturday.



Hague goalie Tyson McCallum looks to cover the puck as Jody Blais rushes in to scoop up a big rebound.



Hague goalie Tyson McCallum is left looking over his shoulder after a late second period goal by Dylan Smith.

## Canwood School student runs for Remembrance Day

The following is a Remembrance Day project completed by Canwood Public School Grade 12 student Tessa Genereaux

In English class, we were asked to come up with our own project ideas to commemorate Remembrance Day. For my project, I chose to run from my home on Ahtahkakoop First Nation to the front doors of Canwood Public School.

It was a 14 km run. I left my house at 7:30 a.m., and I arrived at the school around 9:50. It was definitely a challenge to run, considering it was the first major snowfall of the year, and so I had to push myself to finish.

I thought about all the people we have lost in the past wars and that didn't make it back. Running through the harsh winter conditions had me thinking of the struggles of weather that our veterans would have endured, and having to put up with the harsh weather and physical effort made me appreciate their sacrifice even more.



Tessa Genereaux, a Grade 12 student at Canwood Public School, ran 14 kms to the school from her home on Ahtahkakoop First Nation as part of a Remembrance Day project.

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

### 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 & AREA:** Christmas Hampers (Shellbrook, Parkside Holbein, Mont Nebo & Canwood) Those requesting Christmas Food Hampers, pick up an application form from any church, Bigway or Parkside General Store. Complete the form and *make sure* the application is sent to: Ministerial Association Food Bank, PO Box 97, Holbein, Sask., SOJ 1G0, post marked by Dec. 12, 2021 (no later). Hamper pick-up: December 20, 5:30 - 8:30. Phone Dave Bodvarson 306-747-7235 or Dave Whalley 306-747-2804.

**BLAINE LAKE:** Homemade Goodness, Crafts & Trade Show - December 4th, 2021, 10am - 3pm, Blaine Lake Skating Rink. Chili & a Bun Lunch To-Go. Gift Baskets, Baking, Art, Honey, Wood Signs, Macrame, Crochet, Jewelry, Ornaments, Suncatchers, Chimes, Tupperware, Norwex, Pampered Chef, Tumblers, Skin Care and much more! Pictures with Santa - 10:30 to 12:30. Hosted by the Blaine Lake Community Association

**PARKSIDE:** The birth of Christ Nativity Parade. Saturday, December 11, 2021 - 7pm, Parkside. For more information find us on Facebook, phone (306)714-0150 or email parksideparade@gmail.com

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# Gatzke begins new chapter at Spiritwood Library

As you enter the Spiritwood Public Library, you will notice a new face greeting you. Heather Gatzke has been hired as the new librarian, and began her duties in early October. She has been busy learning her new responsibilities, while setting up beautiful holiday displays.

Heather is currently busy shopping for new children's and young adult books to add to the library, as the library was recently a grant recipient from the Canada Post Community Foundation. The money will be used to expand the youth sections of the library.

The Spiritwood Public Library Board would like to share Heather's story with you.

Growing up, books were always in our home from the time I was little. Bedtime stories were read often and trips to the library were taken. Books were often given as presents, as well as getting books from school in Edmonton – especially getting Scholastic books was always a treat.

Long weekends and holidays were spent visiting in Spiritwood, with books for the long drive always a staple. We would stay with grandma and grandpa Cooke. I believe that Mary Cooke was instrumental in getting the Spiritwood Library going.



**Heather Gatzke.**

There was a story that was told to me about the Library being housed in the Anglican Church, which was under renovations. It caught fire because they were trying to thaw out the ground with burning hay bales so as to put in the basement. Grandma was returning from the post office with many parcels in her arms to find everything on fire. The one thing she rescued was the brand new Library chair that was on castors.

Shortly after, the Library was moved to the old Post Office (now known as the Hearing Clinic). It was always a

treat to see grandma at the library and have her check out my books – but back then it was with cards, not the computer system we have now. Grandma retired shortly before we moved to Spiritwood in 1980.

I joined the summer reading program as soon as it started and plowed through tons of books. Choosing a career after school led me to two choices. Flower arranging was my favourite but I looked into the Library Technician course as well. I was told it was one of the toughest courses offered at SIAST in Saskatoon (now Saskatchewan Polytechnic).

I took my flower tech course in Olds, Alta., then worked in a flower shop in Alberta – eventually moving to Prince Albert to work in a flower shop there. I found I wasn't happy and with much soul-searching I moved back to Spiritwood and decided to go back to school and get my Library Technology course. I missed books too much.

I graduated from the one-year course in 1994 and soon after I was working at Hartley Clark Elementary School as librarian. Several years later, cutbacks and dropping enrolment had the School Board moving me to Glaslyn Central School to run its K-12 Library.

I spent about 13 years there, but again had some hard decisions to make. The

library had flooded during repair work on the skylights and roof. There was lots of mould in the library as well as the computer lab, which shared the same air-heating and cooling vents. My health was compromised and I had to leave after about 13 years.

I spent the next several years subbing at Hartley Clark Elementary School, Spiritwood High School, and Medstead Central School, but I missed the library dreadfully.

Good things come to those who wait, and I was so happy to be chosen for this job, but I have big shoes to fill. Grandma was librarian for 25 years. My Mother – Kathleen – is substitute librarian, plus Joyce was librarian for more than 40 years.

I have to thank Joyce for keeping a special piece of furniture around when the library moved to the old Bank of Nova Scotia. Grandma's black chair that she saved from the fire, the one that I remember her sitting in all those years ago, is still in perfect shape. Now, I get to sit in it. I just hope that I can live up to the high quality of service that all my predecessors have given to our library patrons.

We are very excited to have Heather join the library! Please stop by the library and give Heather a warm welcome!

## Shellbrook Library news highlights

### By Dian Campbell

The Shellbrook Library has been staying busy this fall. Librarian Dian Campbell reported circulation numbers are holding steady, with many patrons ordering in their books online, then coming in to pick them up.

Our Library Week activities, which included a puppet show, author reading and art displays, which were enjoyed by many. Meanwhile, Jennifer Thiel was the lucky winner of our 'Rest, Relax and Read' book basket.

Story Time continues to be busy for children ages 2-6. November's theme is Bedtime Stories. Crafts included starry night lights and a monster in my bed craft. Coming up is a pyjama craft.



**Jennifer Thiel was the winner of the Library Week gift basket.**

The library is planning its very first 'Teddy Sleepover' on Nov. 26. Young patrons can bring their teddies to story time on Friday the 26th, then leave them at the library for a sleepover. Kids can come to the library on Saturday morning to pick up their teddies and see what they have been doing while the library was closed. Check in with the librarian for more details.

The teen/preteen craft for October was pebble art. Kits sent out included pebbles, glue, and a base board. Kids were encouraged to create their own pictures using the pebbles and any sticks, feathers or paint they had at home.

Our Book Clubs are meeting monthly at the library, both in person and on ZOOM. The November evening book club had the follow-

ing book recommendations: *Angel Killer* by Andrew Maine; *Drawn from Nature* by Helen Ahpornsiri; and *First We Have Coffee* by Margaret Johnson.

The afternoon book club will meet on Nov. 19 at 2 p.m. The book selection for November is *Becoming*, by Michelle Obama. December's meeting will be held on the 17th; we will be reading *To Everything There is a Season* by Alistair MacLeod.

The library was very pleased to accept a \$300 donation from the newly formed Shellbrook Youth Council.

The council is a group of students wanting to do some volunteering in the community. They are led by council member Bruce Clements and community member Nicole Philp.

Funds were raised at their first event, The Halloween Howl, held at the old Knox United Church.

Watch for our Online Book

Auction (library Facebook page) beginning on Nov. 22nd, and our regular book sale at the library starting Dec. 6.



**Story Time craft (starry night).**



**Librarian Dian Campbell receives a \$300 donation from Shellbrook Youth Council members Mya Sommerfeld, Amy Larsen, and Marissa Skavlebo.**



**Amaya Archibald with her unique pebble art.**



**Pebble art created by June Robin.**

## Another Canadian shines on PGA Tour

There's a new Canadian threat on the PGA Tour.

Taylor Pendrith, a 31-year-old Ontario native who qualified for the Tour in 2020 via the developmental Korn Ferry Tour, but had to wait a full year to strut his stuff because of a COVID-related graduation freeze, has wasted little time in showing he belongs among the world's best.

Twenty and thirty years ago, Canadians challenging for victories on the PGA Tour was a rarity, but in recent years, the likes of Corey Connors, Adam Hadwin, Nick Taylor and Mackenzie Hughes have been in contention, and occasionally winning, periodically.

Now, Pendrith has been added to the list of Canadians making a splash. One of the longest hitters on tour, according to U.S. network golf announcers, Pendrith dominated the recent Bermuda championship for three days before falling victim to

first-year jitters on the final day and plunging to fifth place. Still, Pendrith won \$251,000 and served notice that he's got enough game to be a regular threat.

Pendrith shot a tournament record 61 on the second day of the tournament, and followed it up with a 65 in Saturday's third round, opening up a three-shot lead heading into Sunday. A victory would have come with perks galore — two years of Tour security, a berth in the 2022 Masters, a spot in January's Tournament of Champions at Kapalua in Maui, not to mention nearly \$1.2 million in prize money. But it was an Australian, Lucas Herbert, who picked up the Bermuda win on a windy and rainy final Sunday as Pendrith struggled.

Pendrith, Connors and Hughes all attended Kent State before turning pro. Pendrith got married two weeks before his near-triumph in Bermuda, with Connors standing up as his best



BRUCE  
PENTON

man.

Other Canadians with some Tour status include veteran David Hearn, Michael Gligic, Roger Sloan and Adam Svensson. Technically, Graham DeLaet of Weyburn is still a PGA Tour member, but medical problems have prevented him from playing a full schedule since 2017 and it's possible his playing career is over.

Meanwhile, Pendrith has full Tour status for at least all of 2022. His early showings give a pretty strong indication he's going to be more than a one-tournament wonder.

• Dwight Perry of the

Seattle Times: "The expansion Kraken is putting a Seattle spin on the 'three stars' postgame hockey tradition — having each of the stars toss a stuffed salmon into the stands. What's next, throwing a can of 30-weight at Oiler games?"

• Comedy writer Alex Kaseberg: "A Rams receiver stole an athletic crotch protector made out of light, pinkish-orange metal alloy from a covered kitchen shelf. That's right, Cooper Kupp copped a copper cup from a cupboard cabinet."

• Tim Hunter of Everett's KRKO Radio, on a survey of 2,000 Americans revealing that men cry more than women: "Especially men who are also Detroit Lions fans."

• Sportswriter Chris Burke of The Athletic: "The bye week opens as a 13.5-point favourite over the Lions."

• Columnist Steve Burgess of Vancouver, on Twitter: "I now believe football helmets are use-

less. I did my own research, mostly by listening to Aaron Rodgers."

• Glenn Howard's daughter Carly, on Twitter: "Can't decide if I'm more impressed that my dad is still curling at the top of his game or that he has yet to use his broom for balance."

• Alex Kaseberg again: "You think Aaron Rodgers is furious his unvaccinated status was leaked? Wait until they reveal his emails to Jon Gruden."

• Herb Page, a member of the Canadian Golf Hall of Fame, who coached at Kent State when Corey Connors, Mackenzie Hughes and Taylor Pendrith were on the school team: "YOU'D be in the hall of fame if you coached that team!"

• Kaseberg again: "Did Aaron Rodgers really compare himself to Martin Luther King Jr.? That's like comparing Rob Gronkowski to Albert Einstein."

• Comedy writer Brad Dickson of Omaha, on Twitter: "A high school

football team in L.A. just won a game 106-0. Hey, that reminds me that Nebraska plays Ohio State tomorrow."

• Janice Hough of leftcoastsportsbabe.com: "Give Aaron Rodgers credit. He's doing his part to make sure Tom Brady doesn't get the NFL fan 'QB we most love to hate' award."

• Headline at theonion.com: "Astros Start Nolan Ryan in Game 6 on 10,268 Days' Rest"

• fark.com headline: "After bombshell report, NBA hires law firm to probe the dark side of the Suns."

• Dwight Perry again: "The Seahawks' Russell Wilson (broken finger) and the Packers' Aaron Rodgers (unvaccinated arm) will face off Nov. 14 in Green Bay — maybe. Just call it the Pins and Needles Bowl."

• Another one from Perry: "Astros win the World Series this year? No can do."

Care to comment? Email [brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca](mailto:brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca)

## WP Sandin girls persevere through Regionals

Fresh off hosting 3A Conferences, at which they posted a respectable 2-2 record and a third place finish, the WP Sandin High School girls volleyball team traveled to Lanigan to compete in the 3A Regional tournament over the weekend.

Including the girls from WP Sandin and host team Lanigan, six teams were in the running for the Regionals title, with Dalmeny, Watrous, Creighton, and Rosthern Junior College rounding out the field.

The tournament was played in round robin format, and the teams separated into two pools to compete against one another.

Competing in Pool A, WP Sandin opened the Regionals tournament against Watrous. Though the team put on a good showing, it ultimately felt short, losing in two sets with scores of 25-18 and 25-14.

After a short break, the girls returned to action against Dalmeny. Here, too, they lost after just two sets, both with identical scores of 25-15.

With their 0-2 record, the WP Sandin girls team failed to qualify for the playoff brackets. In the end, Dalmeny went on to claim the Regionals championship, topping the host team in three sets with scores

of 25-16, 21-25, and 15-12.

Watrous won the consolation final, besting Rosthern Junior College in two sets with scores of 25-21 and 25-5.

After the tough Regional outing, the WP Sandin team will now play host to Provincials this weekend. The action takes place at WP Sandin High School and Canwood Public School on Nov. 19 and 20.

Coach Natasha Kostyniuk says her team learned a whole other side of competition while playing against stronger squads and showed improvement by working together to overcome challenges.

"We had some huge blocks from our front row, which developed so much energy," she said. "I was proud of how far they have come, and how they worked together even when plays and games became more difficult."

Looking ahead to the upcoming Provincials competition, Kostyniuk says her team will spend this week preparing, with a focus on developing strategy and improving teamwork. At the end of the day, though, she's most interested in seeing her girls have fun and make some positive memories.

With the staff and community effort that has gone into hosting the

Provincials tournament, Kostyniuk says fun and good memories will be the most important part of this weekend.

"I am looking forward to having a great group of players to be able to experience volleyball provincials and make memories as a team," she said. "Whatever the outcome of this weekend is, I am excited to see them grow as individuals and experience such a wonderful event."

In other girls' action, Medstead Central School played host to the 1A Regionals contest. The home team had a strong outing, going

undefeated in the round robin before topping Edam in the final to claim the Regionals title.

The team now heads to 1A Provincials in Davidson this weekend.

### Boys' Conferences

In Boys' volleyball action, this weekend also saw Conference tournaments played across the province. Leoville Central School played host to a 1A Conference tournament, struggling to an 0-2 record against teams from Goodsoil and Paradise Hill.

In the 1A Conference tournament in Edam, teams from Glaslyn

Central School, Medstead Central School, and Canwood Public School were among the pool of four teams. Glaslyn finished atop the standings with a perfect 3-0 record, while Medstead finished second at 2-1, and Canwood came in last place at 0-3.

The 2A boys Conference volleyball tournament in Birch Hills included teams from the Pelican Lake and Mistawasis First Nations. Both teams had tough outings, with Pelican Lake fighting to a 1-3 record and Mistawasis going 0-4 on the day.

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## OBITUARIES

*Emely Anne Premech*

Alexander (Camille) Bunko, Andrew Bunko, Ashlee (Brian) Lechelt, Shaylee Premech and Christopher Premech; step grandchildren, Jennifer and Michael; 12 great grandchildren; sisters, Jennie Dolynny and Elsie Ripley; and numerous nieces, nephews and extended family.

Emely is predeceased by: her husband, Steve Premech; granddaughter, Stephanie; brother, Julian Sulyk; and parents, Alexander and Anastasia Sulyk.

A Private Family Service for Emely will be conducted at a later date.

Donations in memory of Emely may be made to donor's charity of choice.

McCaw Funeral Service Ltd., of Lloydminster, Alberta administered the funeral arrangements.

Premech – Emely Anne Premech passed away at Lloydminster Hospital, Lloydminster, Saskatchewan, November 11, 2021 at the age of 82 years.

Emely is survived by: children, Gary (Susan) Premech, Cheryl (Bruce) Bunko, David (Delpha) Premech and Ken Premech; grandchildren, Simon (Mary) Premech, Torie (AJ) Nolin,



Edward Nicholas Stadnyk was born August 24th, 1942 in Saskatoon. He died peacefully on October 13th, 2021 at St. Paul's Hospital in Saskatoon.

Ed is survived by his loving wife Shari, son Jason (Rene Cote) Tanner, Tyler, Colton (Canmore, AB), Son Mark (Pam Squire) Emma, Avery (Saskatoon, SK), Daughter Sara (Aaron

*Edward Nicholas Stadnyk*

Lorenz) McKenzie, Kyler, Gabriella (Wilkie, SK), Son David (Laurie Kingwell), Vancouver, BC, Sister Nadine Newman (Kelowna, BC), Sister Sonia (Bruce Gordichuk) Penticton, BC, Sister in Law Gill Stadnyk (Edmonton, AB), Wendy (Wes Ledding), Parkside, SK, Cathy (Terry Topping), Saskatoon, SK, Reni (Ed Ness), Kelowna, BC, and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by parents Helen and Nicholas Stadnyk, brother Morris, brother-in-law Don Newman.

Ed grew up in Shellbrook where he completed his schooling. After school he worked as a surveyor for highways and at Esterhazy Potash Mines. In 1966 he mar-

ried Shari Aug from Parkside. In 1968 they moved to Saskatoon. Ed sold insurance for Predential then bought a semi and started trucking. Ed and Shari moved to Prince Albert in 1971 where he hauled logs for the pulp mill then opened a kitchenware store. In 1979 Ed started working for Old Dutch Foods as a salesman and they moved to North Battleford. In 1990 they moved to an acreage then into Wilkie in 1995.

After 25 years with Old Dutch Foods he retired, although he always said he wasn't retiring only re-treading. He went back to driving semi again.

Ed loved to travel and see new things and places. He enjoyed visiting with people and shared a special connection with each person he met. He

was never too busy to talk to people.

He represented what is right in life, family, love, and faith. He got great joy out of the simple things in life – a sunset, a nap, long drives, hard work, hauling grain for farmers, warm wood stoves, and old westerns. He also had a special place in his heart for farming, horses, having coffee with friends, and helping others.

Ed had a love of music and the past 20 years he started singing in church, at nursing homes, and funerals. He was a man of God who was satisfied and felt the fullness of his blessings.

Funeral service was held October 18th, 2021 at Living Faith Chapel with Pastor Rick Martin as Officiant.

## GOOD NEWS

## IT IS INSTANT, YET IT IS A JOURNEY

I read of a mountain man who winters in a back country ranch all alone. He doesn't have a radio and he doesn't read much. Most of the time the mountain man is snowed in. He was asked what he does while he is there all by himself. "Well," he mused, "I get to know myself real good."

One preacher commented "There's old Adam within, with vast potential

for greed and selfishness. I know I can't change him much. Frontal attack has never worked for me. As soon as I resist sin, I endow it with more power. This same power it uses against me. Inner transformation, thus, is God's work. As Mother Teresa put it, we may will holiness, but He must do it.

What is needed is more God in me. He must work His work. Righteousness

is His gift, which I may receive. David's prayer in Psalm 19:12-14 becomes my own. The Psalm says:

"Who can understand his errors?

Cleanse me from secret faults.

Keep back Your servant also from presumptuous sins;

Let them not have dominion over me.

Then I shall be blameless,

And I shall be innocent of great transgression.

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart

Be acceptable in Your sight,

O Lord, my strength and my Re-

deemer."

In March I turn 63 years of age. I ask myself where the time has gone. It seems like yesterday I was raising three small boys with my wife Marlene. It seems like a blink away when I cemented my decision to follow Christ in the High Arctic in 1977. I discovered that was the best decision I ever made but it turned into a journey. So, if I learn to yield to Jesus more each day, I become more like Him. There's no greater goal than that to be like Jesus.

Blessings,

Pastor David Bodvarson, SPA

*Timberwolves lose two to open season*

The Spiritwood Timberwolves started their 2021-2022 Saskatchewan Prairie Hockey League regular season campaign with a pair of road games against the Meota Combines and the Maidstone Jets over the weekend.

Neither match went the way the Timberwolves would have liked, as they were trampled by the Combines by a score of 9-2, and ended with a hard fought 9-5 loss to the Jets.

**Wolves (2) @ Combines (9)**

In Friday evening's match-up with Meota, Aiden Nielsen-Clark and Marcus Tipewan provided the lone offensive highlights for Spiritwood, scoring a goal apiece. Raymon Harris, Zach Lomsnes, Pat-

rick Robinson, and Delano Tipewan all earned assists.

On the Meota scorecard, Brett Miller and Justin Waskewitch led the offensive charge with two goals and an assist on the evening. Ty Anderson, meanwhile, earned a goal and a helper, and Drew Felner, Bo Gervais, Kyle Gregoire, and Gavin Nolin tallied a goal each.

In the assist column, Jayden Nachtegaele tallied a pair, while Riley Albert, Tyler Gamble, Bryce Gatzke, and Michael Pylypow each had one apiece.

**Wolves (5) @ Jets (9)**

In a stronger showing against the Jets the following evening, Kirk Chief was the Timberwolves' of-

fensive leader, scoring a hat trick on the evening. Raymon Harris chipped in with a goal and three assists, while Colton Poulin netted a goal and two helpers.

Dalton Bill and Tyler Cross rounded out the Spiritwood scorecard, both earning a single assist.

Due to errors on the Jets' scorecard, the *Chronicle & Herald* is unable to provide a breakdown of the Maidstone's offensive highlights.

With the pair of losses to start the season, the Timberwolves will be looking to get in the win column with their home opener against the Perdue Pirates. The game is set for Saturday, Nov. 20, with puck drop at 8 p.m.

## Sask. expands alcohol delivery services for restaurants

Effective Nov. 15, Saskatchewan restaurants that hold a liquor permit will be able to sell alcohol with takeout/delivery orders. The change is the result of regulatory changes recently made by the Government of Saskatchewan.

"The pandemic hit the service industry particularly hard," Minister Responsible for Sas-

katchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority Jim Reiter said in a statement. "These regulatory changes will provide additional service options for liquor-permitted restaurants and retailers to consider."

The province's 900 liquor-permitted restaurants will be able to provide delivery of food/alcohol orders without

obtaining a separate home delivery permit. This includes beer, wine, mixed cocktails and growlers, providing a range of options for restaurants to best serve their customer preferences.

While restaurants will be able to sell alcohol with food orders for takeout/delivery, they will not be authorized to operate as

full-scale liquor retailers, meaning they cannot establish retail displays or have in-location shopping for takeout alcohol.

In addition, the province's approximately 620 Retail Store Permittees will have the ability to provide home delivery of alcohol without having to apply and pay for a separate home delivery permit.

"Customers have new expectations about access and convenience when it comes to the way alcohol is sold in the province," Reiter said. "We will continue to look for ways to modernize liquor regulations while also balancing social responsibility and acknowledging the roles of the province's different liquor permittees."

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# Garden soil part 2: topsoil and soil amendments

By Sara Williams

Once you've tilled your existing soil to a minimum depth of 15 cm (6 in.) (more is better), you're ready to add topsoil, soil amendments or a combination of these. Add a minimum depth of 15 cm (6 in.) for lawns. For flower beds or mixed borders of perennials and shrubs, add 30 to 45 cm (12 to 18 in.). If this seems like a lot, visualize the root balls of most shrubs or even perennials, such as peonies or delphiniums.

If your existing soil is poor and verging on unworkable, you're well advised to go with topsoil. If it's predominantly loam, you will benefit more from added soil amendments.

In either case, start with adding about 10 cm (4 in.) of topsoil or amendment to the existing soil, rototill to establish a gradient and avoid layers, add more of the topsoil or amendment, till again, and continue in this fashion until the desired depth has been reached.

There are reputable topsoil dealers with proven customer satisfaction. Ask friends, neighbours, or coworkers for a recommendation. If in doubt, it's best to meet your topsoil face to face before purchasing. Make an on-site field visit and ask if you can take a small amount

(half an ice cream pail) home.

Check for salt content. Excess salt is often indicated by white powder or crystals on the dried soil. A high salt content stunts plant growth. This might not be apparent on a load of moist topsoil, but generally shows up once the soil is dry.

Weeds, especially perennial weeds such as thistles and quack grass, can introduce new problems to your yard. If quack grass rhizomes or other long white roots are present, that's grounds for rejection.

Using the soil from your ice cream pail, follow the guidelines in the previous article to determine the soil's texture and organic matter content. Then place some in a pot and sow seeds with a high germination percentage and quick germination rate (such as grass seed or lettuce,) water and place in bright indirect light. If the seeds germinate and grow as expected, the soil is fine. If the seedlings are stunted or fail to germinate, the soil may have a high salt content or residual herbicides may be present. If a multitude of weed seedlings emerge, it's an indication of weed seed contamination.

If your existing soil is a loam, or a san-

dy or clay loam, you may only need to add soil amendments or materials that increase drainage, productivity, workability, nutrient or water-holding ability.

If your soil is predominantly sand, add as much coarse organic matter as possible such as home-made, commercial or municipal compost; well-rotted manure; or coarse peat moss. Coarse peat moss has been sifted or screened the least, is stringy and chunky rather than powdery, and may contain bits of sticks. You may have to order it and it may be slightly more costly than the powdery type, but it is peat moss is much more effective and longer lasting.

If you have a predominantly clay soil, add equal volumes of coarse organic

matter and "sharp" (or coarse) sand. Look at the sand particles under a magnifying glass. The particles should be large and their edges irregular or jagged. Avoid using fine sand with small and round particles. Never add sand alone to clay or you will end up with something resembling concrete. And always thoroughly incorporate the amendments into the soil. Do not leave them layered.

Although new soil amendments appear on the market with alarming regularity, there are few if any "miracle" soil cures. Neither perlite nor vermiculite are recommended for outdoor use. They become ineffective within a season or two and may compound existing soil texture problems.

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

This column is provided courtesy of the Saskatchewan Perennial Society (SPS; saskperennial@hotmail.com).



**Berms improve drainage by raising the level of the root systems. Photo credit: Sara Williams**

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