

Shellbrook Chronicle & Spiritwood Herald

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www.shellbrookchronicle.com | www.spiritwoodherald.com

Greygoose spiel brings fun on Sask. Curling Day

The Spiritwood Curling Club organized the Greygoose Funspiel, held in the Spiritwood Arena on Jan. 8 this year, in conjunction with CURLSASK's celebration of Curling Day in Saskatchewan.

Every year, the CURLSASK committee designates one day of the curling season to be "Curling Day in Saskatchewan" and they dated it on Jan. 8 for this year. The committee also introduced a contest for the day, challenging curling clubs across the province to demonstrate how they plan to engage curling members and the community during Curling Day in Saskatchewan.

The Spiritwood Curling Club was one of the lucky applicants to win the contest, earning a \$1,000 club improvement grant prize. As for the Greygoose Funspiel? It was certainly a success.

All told, eight teams were entered into the funspiel and each team played three four-end games. The skips for the teams were Lacey Gallinger, Ali Sullivan, Lloyd Fisher, Karstin Booth, Jim Koetse, Wayne Pauls, Travis McMaster and Craig Thompson.

In between the games, the bonspiel also had a competition called "Chuck the Puck". For \$5 a puck, people were invited to stand on a hack and toss their puck down the ice in hopes of landing closest to the centre of the house. With 40 entries, Craig Thompson was the winner.

At the end of the games, there were couple raffle draws that were held, including a draw for Greygoose vodka (considered by many to be the top prize), donated by Thompson Agencies, and a door prize that was offered up by Hujber's Market. Lloyd Fisher was the lucky winner.

The Spiritwood Curling Club says it is grateful to those who actively participated in and watched the whole event, especially with so many restrictions in place due to COVID.

The club has scheduled a lot more upcoming bonspiels for this year, including the Ladyspiel that's tentatively scheduled for March, and the Open Bonspiel.



A curler readies to take his shot during action from the Greygoose Funspiel at the Spiritwood Arena.



Curlers from the team skipped by Karstin Booth sweep hard during Spiritwood's Greygoose Funspiel.



A curler gives a wave from the hack before taking a shot at Spiritwood's Greygoose Funspiel.

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Sask. extends COVID public health orders

With the Omicron surge in full swing, the Government of Saskatchewan has opted to maintain the status quo by extending all pandemic-related public health orders through Feb. 28.

The extension of the current orders means masks will still be mandatory in all indoor public spaces. Additionally, proof of vaccination or negative test requirements will still be required for people to gain access to certain establishments, businesses, and event venues.

The policy, which was implemented as of Friday Oct. 1, 2021, covers indoor dining at restaurants; nightclubs, bars, taverns, and other licensed establishments; event and entertainment venues, including conference centres, casinos, movie theatres, concert venues, live-music venues, museums, and indoor facilities hosting ticketed sporting events; and indoor fitness centres, and gyms.

Retail businesses, including grocery stores, and places of worship are exempt from the mandate. So, too, are fast food restaurants offering takeout or delivery; healthcare services, professional services, or personal services; hotels or other lodging; facilities hosting non-ticketed amateur sporting events, including youth athletics and recreational leagues; business meetings and places of business closed to the general public, unless otherwise directed by the business or employer; and private gatherings held at an indoor public residence.

The provincial government notes that municipalities, businesses, workplaces and event organizers may also require proof of vaccination or negative testing beyond those places that are described in the public health order.

Anyone who needs proof of a negative COVID-19 test will have to get their results through a private provider at their own expense. At-home self-tests won't be accepted as

proof of a negative test.

With increased COVID case numbers resulting in greater demand for PCR tests, the provincial government has also adjusted its recommendations where COVID testing is concerned, to preserve the Saskatchewan Health Authority's (SHA) testing capacity.

Now, it's advising that those who are experiencing only mild symptoms of COVID-19 forgo a PCR test and instead stay home and test using rapid antigen tests. This will preserve testing capacity for those who are experiencing "significant or worsening" cold or flu symptoms, or those with chronic or underlying conditions.

PCR testing will also be available to those identified by a medical health officer as part of an outbreak investigation, those who require a transfer or admission to acute and congregate settings, and immunocompromised patients (including chemotherapy, hemodialysis) who require surveillance testing.

For his part, Saskatchewan Premier Scott Moe feels no further measures than those currently in place are necessary.

During a media conference last week, Moe said government officials have watched case and hospitalization numbers increase in other jurisdictions that have more stringent public health orders in place. That fact, along with the impact further restrictions could have on Saskatchewan residents, prompted his government's decision to leave measures as they were.

"There are other consequences to keeping our students home from school," Moe said. "There are other consequences to not allowing a grandmother, for instance, to see maybe her children and her grandchildren by putting in gathering restrictions. There are consequences to people not being able to go to their place of employment and actually losing their job for a time period.

"So what we are doing in this province is making every effort to make the tools available to allow people in Saskatchewan [to make their own decisions] — and they are

learning how to live with COVID — and they're utilizing those tools to reduce the risk to the greatest degree possible," he added.

Though his government has opted not to implement any official policy in line with Saskatchewan Chief Medical Health Officer Dr. Saqib Shahab's recommendations to limit gatherings, Moe says people are already making the decision to do so.

Regardless, Moe adds that numbers are expected to continue climbing, which will likely result in disruptions to some services.

"It's going to run its course here in this province and it's going to run its course across Canada and around the world," Moe said. "It will peak and then it will start to decline, which may already be happening in a couple of countries in other areas of the world.

"Until that happens in Saskatchewan, we will see some increased hospitalizations. We will see some pressure on our health-care system."

In the absence of additional public health measures, the SHA has updated its COVID-19 surge plan to address the Omicron surge and an anticipated increase in staff absences. The plan includes five key pillars:

- Establishment of "Go Teams" of medical professionals that can quickly mobilize and deploy to help maintain continuity of key services across the province;
- Optimize acute care capacity and emergency department flow;
- Maintain enhancements to Emergency Medical Services that have been put in place to manage additional demand through previous COVID case surges;
- Implement key provincial human resource strategies like cross training staff to meet multiple system needs and utilizing Supplemental Workforce Teams; and
- Time-limited, targeted service slowdowns when/where required.

The above measures will only be implemented in the event the province was to experience a significant increase in acute care patients at hospitals, or if the health care system faced potential staffing shortages in a situation where large numbers of health care providers were required to self-isolate due to COVID, the SHA says.

The plan would ensure human resources are available to step up capacity in phases as demand escalates. This will ensure any impacts to services are as short and targeted as possible.

"As we scale up to meet the increased demand due to Omicron, we know it will impact our health care teams," Interim Chief Operating Officer, and lead for SHA's emergency response Derek Miller said. "These strategies will help protect our ability to deliver essential lifesaving supports for those most in need, ensure any effects on services are as temporary as possible and position us to rapidly and safely return services to normal as pressures subside."

In addition to these measures, Premier Moe said the province is exploring the possibility of allowing health-care workers from other countries to work full-time in Saskatchewan facilities while their paperwork is being processed.

The SHA says additional updates will be provided on any service changes that may be required as demand increases.

Highway 55 Waste Management Corporation EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Highway 55 Waste Management Corporation invites applications for a permanent full-time **Maintenance & Equipment Operator**. The successful applicant must be able to carry out assigned duties without supervision and shall answer to the Landfill Operations Manager. COVID-19 vaccination or weekly negative test will be required. Mechanically inclined applicants with a Class 3A or 1 License are preferred. Submit your resume, including past experience, wages, and at least two references to:

Highway 55 Waste Management Corporation
Box 10
Canwood, Sask. S0J 0K0
Or
email: hwy55ops@sasktel.net

Competitive wages, rate will be based on experience and qualifications of the successful applicant. Pension/benefits package. All resumes are to be in the hands of the Operations Manager on or before **4:00 p.m., January 28, 2022**. Only those contacted will be granted an interview.

R.M. OF LEASK NO. 464 SALE BY TENDER

1. Under the provisions of *The Tax Enforcement Act*, the R.M. of Leask No.464 is offering the following property for sale: LSD 6-07-47-06 W3 Ext 1 & 2
2. Tender must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "Property Tender." Tender can be submitted to: Rural Municipality of Leask No. 464, Box 190, Leask, Sask., S0J 1M0.
3. Tender must be postmarked by 4:00 p.m. on February 4, 2022.
4. A certified cheque to the Municipality for 10% of the amount of the tender must accompany the tender. Tender submitted without certified funds will not be considered.
5. Highest, or any tender, not necessarily accepted.
6. The successful bidder will have 45 days to provide the balance of cash to complete the purchase. The deposit will be forfeited if the successful bidder does not finalize the agreement for sale within the required time.
7. All legal costs, title transfer fees and applicable taxes are the responsibility of the purchaser and are in addition to the bid price.

Dated this 13th day of January 2022.
Riannon Nelson, Administrator

R.M. OF LEASK NO. 464 SALE BY TENDER

1. Under the provisions of *The Tax Enforcement Act*, the R.M. of Leask No.464 is offering the following property for sale: Block B, Plan 99PA19155 Ext 1, NE 12-48-04 W3
2. Tender must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "Property Tender." Tender can be submitted to: Rural Municipality of Leask No. 464, Box 190, Leask, Sask., S0J 1M0.
3. Tender must be postmarked by 4:00 p.m. on February 2, 2022.
4. A certified cheque to the Municipality for 10% of the amount of the tender must accompany the tender. Tender submitted without certified funds will not be considered.
5. Highest, or any tender, not necessarily accepted.
6. The successful bidder will have 45 days to provide the balance of cash to complete the purchase. The deposit will be forfeited if the successful bidder does not finalize the agreement for sale within the required time.
7. All legal costs, title transfer fees and applicable taxes are the responsibility of the purchaser and are in addition to the bid price.

Dated this 16th day of December, 2021.
Riannon Nelson, Administrator

Notice of Poll

[Section 81 of The Local Government Election Act, 2015]

The Rural Municipality of Big River No. 555 Municipal By-Election 2022

Public Notice is hereby given that:

- 1) A vote will be held for the election of Councillor for Division 4 for the Rural Municipality of Big River No. 555.
- 2) The vote will take place on Wednesday the 16th day of February, 2022, 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at:

DIVISION 4 POLL AT: The Big River Community Centre, 606 First Street North, Big River, Saskatchewan.

- 3) I will declare the results of the voting at the Municipal Office on the 17th day of February, 2022, at the hour of 9:00 a.m.

Dated at Big River, Saskatchewan this 20th day of January, 2022.

Michael Yuzik
Returning Officer

You will be required to provide identification when you attend the polls. For additional information on voter ID options please visit: <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/municipal-administration/elections/voting#acceptable-voter-identification>

Nadine Wilson MLA Saskatchewan Rivers



306-763-0615

www.nadinewilson.ca
saskrivers@sasktel.net

Kinettes launch Shellbrook Mamas group

They say it takes a village to raise a child.

To this end, the Shellbrook Kinettes have created Shellbrook Mamas, a Facebook community and support group for new, expecting, and veteran moms. The new initiative is being spearheaded by Kinette Kat Macklin-Smith and will provide local mothers with a space to discuss, share stories, build a sense of community, and seek advice from fellow mothers and local supports like nurses, lactation specialists, and teachers.

Though the online forum will be a key component of the new initiative, the community will be augmented by a monthly in-person gathering for moms and babies. As of publication, the first event was already planned for Jan. 20. Apart from the opportunity to socialize, these in-person meetings will include sensory toys and bags for babies to play with while they have tummy time.

Macklin-Smith says the hope is to eventually grow the group enough to allow for two in-person activities per month and a weekly walking group.

“More than ever, moms are feeling isolated. So many activities have been cancelled due to gathering limitations with COVID, so, as a service to the hardworking mothers in Shellbrook and surrounding areas, this was a no-brainer for the Kinettes to take on,” she said.

“Our community is full of amazing families and moms who are looking for social time, support, and some fun for themselves and their children. Of these amazing moms, maybe there are new Kinettes and children who will become leaders in their community.”

As a mother to a six-month old daughter, Macklin-Smith says the idea to form Shellbrook Mamas came (in part) from her own desire to live, work, and have her daughter grow up in an “inclusive, spirited community.”

She adds that it’s also a perfect way for her, and others like her, to connect and build friendships with others who are in similar stages of life — especially important, given that their children will all grow up, go to school, and participate in sports and other activities together.

“Moms need an inclusive and safe space to share how they are feeling, look for advice, and have a shoulder to lean on. We also need a space to share our wins and someone to be excited about milestones with,” she said, noting that the group, and especially the in person activities, will also greatly benefit children.

“Social development for children is vital from an early age. Group settings encourage children to interact with others, foster great communication skills, and more.”

Of course, an idea can’t go anywhere without any interest in it. Fortunately, Macklin-Smith says there was already strong demand and interest locally prior to the group even launching, including from her fellow Kinettes, who gave the group an enthusiastic greenlight at a meeting in December and were quick to share their own ideas.

Indeed, as of Tuesday, 68 mothers or mothers-to-be had already joined the Shellbrook Mamas Facebook group.

Looking ahead, Macklin-Smith says her focus right



Shellbrook and area moms and moms-to-be now have somewhere to turn for friendship and support, thanks to the Shellbrook Kinettes’ Shellbrook Mamas group.

now is to grow these numbers even more, to create more opportunities for events, activities, walking groups, and much more.

Noting that similar groups exist in Prince Albert, she hopes that having a local group will make outings more convenient for moms and babies. She also hopes that moms will get as much from the group as babies.

“Moms are more often than not the primary caregiver in

their homes, which often means their own care comes last. Our hope is that mothers will find a sense of inclusivity and community,” she said, noting that future events will be geared toward physical and mental wellness for moms, such as post-partum fitness classes, mom and baby yoga, and talks from local experts that focus on mom.

The Shellbrook Mamas group can be found by searching for it on Facebook.

SRPSD restricts extracurricular activities

In a bid to keep students in the classroom, the Saskatchewan Rivers Public School Division (SRPSD) has made the decision to restrict extracurricular activities in all division schools.

The decision came down Wednesday, as COVID-19 cases in the North Central 1 and North Central 2 regions continue to rise. As of Monday, Jan. 17, there were 119 active cases in the North Central 1 area, which includes SRPSD schools in Shellbrook, Wild Rose, Canwood,

Debden, and Big River, and 340 in the North Central 2 region, which encompasses Prince Albert.

The school division has a five-phase plan for extracurricular activities, with phase five being a full return with some restrictions. On the other end of the spectrum, phase one only allows practices to happen, with students being put into cohorts.

For the time being, the SRPSD has moved to phase two, dropping down from phase four, which allows for practice and

games between cohorts among children in the same school.

“We need to keep our schools open and our classrooms running,” said SRPSD superintendent of schools Cory Trann.

Though there is currently no timeline on when a new phase will be implemented, the school division’s plan is to slowly move back to a return

to full activities, starting with phase three, which allows competitions to be held between schools.

However, this will depend on how the community does fighting back against the virus.

“It’s not just about our schools, it’s also what’s in our community because we know our families are actively involved in lots of things,” Trann said.

The SRPSD is also sharing more information on the criteria that go into declaring an outbreak at a school, in the wake of a declared outbreak at Big River High School on Jan. 11.

In a letter sent out Friday afternoon, SRPSD director of education, Robert Bratvold, explained this will only happen when at least 10 per cent of all

students are isolating after experiencing symptoms.

“Although we will not know if the illness is actually COVID, if an outbreak is declared in a school, parents will be informed.”

Bratvold added it’s likely that schools will remain open when outbreaks are declared, with the focus being on additional measures instead.

R.M of Leask No. 464
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY
ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR

The RM of Leask No. 464 invites applications for a full-time permanent Assistant Administrator in the municipal administration office. The successful candidate may have various types of experience in office assistant administration and possess well developed interpersonal communication and organizational skills. Preference will be given to candidates who possess or is willing to obtain the following:

- Local Government Administration or other Certificate from a business-related program.
- Proficiency with Microsoft Office programs
- Knowledge in basic accounting principles and practices
- Working knowledge of the Munisoft computer system
- Excellent communication skills, both verbal and written
- Ability to deal effectively with the general public and to work independently

The municipality offers a competitive salary and benefits package in accordance with qualifications and experience. The successful applicant start date will be as agreed upon. Please state salary expected.

Qualified individuals are invited to submit a resume with current references and cover letter detailing how their qualifications match those listed above. **Deadline for applications is 4:00 p.m., Friday February 4th, 2022.** Council wishes to thank all applicants, but only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

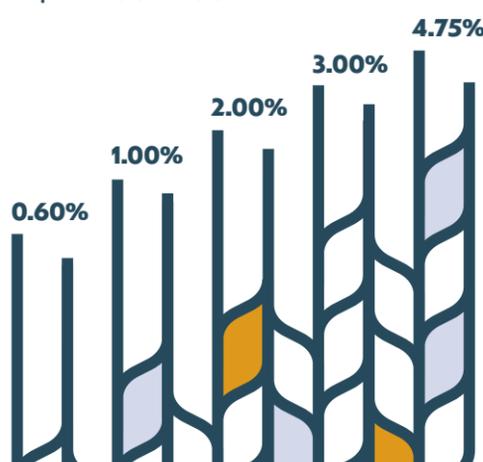
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Help Build THE Hospice

Since December 1st we have been promoting Help build the Hospice Campaign with the idea of selling 2x6's that will be used in the construction of the building. For each \$1000 donation we would give recognition of the donation along with a certificate of location where the 2x6 is in the building. You would also receive a charitable donation tax receipt!!

Our story has caught the imagination of many people and families. One of those families are Les and Irene Dube from Saskatoon. They are very well known philanthropist from Saskatoon that happened to recently learn of our project and specifically The Help Build the Hospice Campaign The Dubes have agreed to get on board with matching each 2x6 donation five times up to 500,000!!

We are just over the moon thrilled with their incentive that we are going to extend the Campaign to Jan 31, 2022 to give more people a chance to purchase a 2x6. We have set a goal of 300. Thank you to everyone for your generosity. We are almost there!!

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 ROSE GARDEN HOSPICE | rosegardenhospice.ca | 306-764-ROSE (7673)

Proposed “vax tax” goes a step too far

By now, you'd think governments would have run out of ways – short of pinning people down and forcibly injecting them – to entice or persuade the holdouts to roll up their sleeves and get vaccinated against COVID-19.



JORDAN TWISS

News Editor

Leave it to Québec, a province where governments frequently overstep their bounds, to come up with a new strategy.

Québec, of course, is home to the controversial Bill 21, which prohibits public servants from wearing religious symbols, including head and face coverings, in the name of enforcing state secularism.

The bill is the only legislation of its kind in Canada (for, most rational Canadians recognize that you don't stand for equality and freedom of religion by banishing spirituality from the public sphere).

And soon, if the government of Premier François Legault gets its way, Québec will also be the only province in Canada that taxes those who remain unvaccinated without a valid medical exemption.

Mr. Legault floated the idea of a so-called “vax tax” last Tuesday, justifying it by pointing out that the unvaccinated account for 50 per cent of patients in the province's intensive care beds, despite making up just 10 per cent of the population.

Though no actual details about the proposed tax were announced, Mr. Legault said the penalty would be “significant” and rejected levies of \$50 and \$100 as inadequate.

“Right now, these people put a very important burden on our health-care network. I think it's normal that the majority of the population are asking that there be a consequence,” Mr. Legault told reporters.

Predictably, Mr. Legault's comments ignited a firestorm of controversy on both sides of the vaccine debate. Even Saskatchewan Premier Scott Moe waded into the conversation, to state in no uncertain terms that his government wouldn't be looking at, much less introducing, a tax on the unvaccinated.

Those who see vaccination as the best way to reach the end of the COVID-19 pandemic lauded Mr. Legault. The move, they contended, would introduce long overdue

consequences for those who continue to “put others at risk”, and those who are needlessly filling up hospital and ICU beds, by remaining unvaccinated (fair, though the vaccinated are still being hospitalized, albeit in lower numbers relative to their share of the population).

Critics, meanwhile, saw the proposed tax as a dangerous shift from the comparatively subtle approach of vaccine passports and negative COVID test requirements, to a more overt form of government control that overrides bodily autonomy and the right to refuse a medical procedure.

Others pointed to the unfairness of singling out the unvaccinated, when the vaccinated can contract and spread COVID. And, as further proof of unfairness, they cited the lack of taxes on self-destructive behaviours such as smoking and drinking (imperfect analogies, given the hefty taxes placed on such goods to discourage their purchase, and the fact that self-destructive behaviours aren't inherently dangerous to others like an infectious disease is).

Even if vaccination is the right and socially responsible thing to do (it is), and even if Mr. Legault's proposal can stand up to the constitutional challenges it will inevitably face, a “vax tax” feels uncomfortably like a bridge too far.

Now that we're more than a year into the vaccination effort, with 81.5 per cent of eligible Canadians fully vaccinated and rising, we need to begrudgingly accept that there are those among us who will never get the jab, no matter how much they're encouraged or pressured.

Vaccines and boosters remain the best protection against severe cases of COVID-19, but they aren't the only tool in our toolbox, and they won't get us to the unrealistic goal of “zero-COVID”.

In addition to not reducing COVID numbers, the vax tax ignores the elephant in the room: Canada's overstretched and inadequately resourced healthcare system.

Instead of punishing people with more financial burdens in already difficult economic times, we should focus on creating a way forward, and a stronger healthcare system, together.



YOUR TWO CENTS All Canadians need to unite against the vax tax

By Franco Terrazano
CTF Federal Director

As we head into the third year of revolving government lockdowns, Canadians have every right to be furious. But we shouldn't let politicians divide us. And we shouldn't be duped into believing that we are going to tax our way out of a pandemic.

“We're looking for a health contribution for adults who refuse to be vaccinated for non-medical reasons,” announced Québec Premier François Legault.

Legault's “health contribution” is just another tax to be added on to the heavy burden of income,

business, sales, property, payroll, import, fuel and carbon taxes that Canadians are already forced to pay. In 2020, the average family spent more on taxes than on basic needs such as food, shelter and clothing combined. More taxes won't make COVID-19 go away.

Particularly if you're vaccinated, you should fight against politicians that want to open-up this Pandora's box. Today, politicians will say the unvaccinated should pay. What about tomorrow?

Will you need to pay a tax every time you put butter on your popcorn? If you gain weight after

Christmas, will you have to write a cheque? When your kid falls off their bike trying a new jump, will a tax bill come with their stitches?

People do lots of things that land them in the hospital. It's past time to discuss private health-care options and letting people spend their own dollars on their own health. But heaping more taxes onto overtaxed Canadians won't solve the pandemic problem.

Legault's new tax follows a clear trend: The government answer to any problem is to hammer Canadians with higher taxes.

Continued on page 5

Shellbrook Chronicle

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

Spiritwood Herald

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

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

C. J. Pepper, Publisher

Jordan Twiss, Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter
jordan@sbchron.com/chnews@sbchron.com

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

Meghan Penney, Composition/Pagination
& Advertising Sales chads@sbchron.com

Karen Stene, Bookkeeping/Reception
accounting@sbchron.com

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.;

Friday, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. & 1 to 4 p.m.;

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websites: www.shellbrookchronicle.com
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: In the interest of readers of this newspaper, we will publish opinions of our readers. Letters To The Editor are most welcome; however, they must be signed and include writer's contact information and will only be published with the writer's name on it. Letters should be limited in length and be typed or clearly written. We reserve the right to edit letters depending on available space.

Member of



Message of division persists

Last September I chose to sit as an Independent because the governing party was making decisions that I believe were divisive and detrimental to the citizens of Saskatchewan. In fact, Premier Scott Moe on Sept. 16, 2021, announced to the public that “The time for patience is over”, citing unvaccinated people as the reason why the COVID-19 virus continued in Saskatchewan, thus demonizing people who believe in the right to body autonomy, or who had other reasons not to “take the job”.

In that announcement, Premier Moe declared the government would “create consequences” and make it “less comfortable” for people to remain unvaccinated. True to his word, his government did this by restricting what activities vaccine-free people could participate in, including whether they could keep their jobs. The medical system began denying health procedures to people unless

they complied. He even introduced vaccine passports after he and [Chief Medical Health Officer] Dr. Saqib Shahab stated earlier in the summer that this would not happen.

Premier Moe did not seem to care that there were thousands of people who had legitimate health considerations or that taking the vaccine would violate their conscience. He knew, or should have known, that doctors were almost never giving out exemptions, arguably in fear of being sanctioned by their governing bodies. There was virtually no discussion about adverse health effects, which by that time, many people were reporting anecdotally and trying to officially report. Later on, based on the number of people who contacted my office, it has become clear to me that doctors also seem to fear sanctions for reporting adverse effects.

Laying blame at the feet of vaccine-free people was picked up



quickly by the media, then made its rounds on social media. Employers and unions jumped on board, imposing new employment conditions on highly qualified long-term employees with the threat of job-loss for non-compliance. Suddenly, being unvaccinated for any reason made a person a pariah, an uncaring, selfish usurper of tax-paid health services. (Shall we go down the road of healthcare availability for those who smoke, use illegal substances, over-eat, have poor diets, over-drink

alcohol, are sedentary, or participate in extreme sports?)

A few weeks later, it seemed the Premier began to understand just how much his approach had divided the people of this province. Lifelong friends, family members, co-workers and acquaintances were now deciding who they would associate with by vaccination status. Christmas for some meant being shunned. In early December of 2021, the premier seemed to soften his approach when he tried to call for “an end to the stigmatization of those who remain unvaccinated.”

Unfortunately, the damage had been done, and the call to “unstigmatize” was not supported with any action to reduce the societal impact. We still have vaccine passports. People did not get their jobs back. People are still not allowed into certain private and public places unless they can show they are among “the approved” by reveal-

ing their vaccine status.

The great irony now is that we have abundant proof that the vaccinated can easily spread the virus. Just ask the thousands of completely vaccinated guests and staff on 86 cruise ships that have had outbreaks. Or ask the completely vaccinated players, coaches, staff, and volunteers of the 2022 World Junior’s whose tournament was cancelled due to COVID outbreaks.

In spite of this, the policies which created the damage and stigmatization continue. As well, there is a hangover effect that in our digital age permeates our culture.

Case in point. A video released Nov. 25, 2021, by the Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA), has Medical Health Officer Dr. Tania Diener counselling a young girl from Regina who asks, “What if my friends don’t get the vaccine? Can I still play with them?”

Dr. Diener’s response creates the same stigmatization among our chil-

dren that the Premier created in September. Dr. Diener does not ever tell the girl she can play with the unvaccinated. Instead, she coaches the girl to put pressure on her friends. It’s easy to figure out how this will play out in a classroom setting with the vaccinated children shunning the so-called unvaccinated.

If the Premier is serious about healing our province, perhaps he can ask the SHA to take down that video and review it’s messaging to make sure it isn’t divisive to children or adults.

Then he could remove the vaccine passport system. He could give people in the public service their jobs back, regardless of vaccine status, and encourage private employers to do the same. He could encourage all of us to continue with good health practices individually, and to practice safe hygiene publicly.

These things are the least that he could do.

All Canadians need to unite against the vax tax

Continued from 4

Politicians want us to drive fewer trucks, so they slap us with a carbon tax. And when carbon taxes don’t reduce emissions, they hammer us with higher carbon taxes.

Bureaucrats think home prices are too high, so they fund a report calling for a new tax on homeowners.

Instead of dividing Canadians and targeting certain taxpayers, it’s time to hold our politicians and bureaucrats accountable for the healthcare mess.

Before COVID-19, Canadians were paying more than most of our industrialized peers for health care, according to the Fraser Institute. But Canada ranked second worst on the number of acute care beds per capita and third worst on the number of doctors per capita.

“The average occupancy rate of the Province’s acute care beds was 96 per cent in 2018-19, including approximately 28 hospitals where the average occupancy rate for the year was over 100 per cent,” according to the Financial Accountability Office of Ontario.

British Columbia hospitals were also above capacity before COVID-19.

That’s why politicians were worried about the government system in the ear-

ly days of the pandemic. Alberta Premier Jason Kenney said if there were no lockdowns “our health system would collapse under the chaos.”

Two years later, the federal debt has ballooned past \$1 trillion after spending more than \$500 billion responding to COVID-19. The provinces have spent about \$400 billion on health care since the beginning of 2020, according to their budgets.

Despite two years and all that money, Ontario’s top health-care bureaucrat is still defending lockdowns as “necessary” to “protect our health system capacity.”

This leaves us with two questions.

First, how many hundreds of billions of dollars do taxpayers need to fork over before the government health-care system isn’t on the brink of collapse?

Second, shouldn’t the politicians and bureaucrats that have continued to collect their six-figure taxpayer-funded paycheques be held accountable for not coming up with better solutions to protect healthcare capacity?

Instead of dividing Canadians and hitting us with new taxes, it’s time to hold the politicians and bureaucrats accountable for their mess.



CALL FOR BOARD MEMBER

The Gabriel Dumont Institute of Native Studies and Applied Research invites applications for the following:

MEMBER, GDI BOARD OF GOVERNORS
WESTERN REGION I (Meadow Lake, Cochin, Leoville, Peirceland, Glaslyn, Chitek Lake, Livelong, Rush Lake, Brightsand, Spiritwood, Midnight Lake, Dorintosh, Paradise Hill)

Overview: The GDI Board of Governors has representation from the (12) Regions of the Organization, who are ratified by the Provincial Métis Council (PMC) of the Métis Nation—Saskatchewan (MN—S). The PMC Member who is assigned the Education portfolio sits as the Chairperson of the Board of Governors. All persons selected to the Board of Governors will be for a period of three years. A member who is an employee/staff person/manager of an affiliated organization of the MN—S shall not be permitted to sit on the Board of Governors of the Institute.

Responsibilities: The Board of Governors oversees the Gabriel Dumont Institute and is responsible for its operation and governance in all matters, including: to adopt policies for the effective operation of GDI; to formulate a strategic plan and to oversee its implementation; to approve annual budgets, audits and programs; to function as ambassadors for GDI and to encourage students and potential students in their study and career plans; to represent GDI to all levels of government, persons of Métis ancestry and to the public generally; and to appoint a Chief Executive Officer to be directly responsible for implementation of policy and the day-to-day management and operations of GDI.

Qualifications: All appointments to the Board must be of Métis ancestry with knowledge of the cultural, historical and social circumstances of Saskatchewan Métis. Ideally the collective skills on the board will represent a number of different disciplines and perspectives. Some of the preferred skill and training areas include education or post-secondary education; finance and administration; business; human resources (personnel); law; and communications. Individuals with extensive Métis culture and language experience are encouraged to apply. This will ensure a wide range of skills and perspectives are available when decisions are considered. A *criminal record vulnerable sector check* must be completed and accompany the resume submitted.

Process: Candidates can apply directly to the MN—S region or the Institute who in turn will forward the application to the appropriate MN—S region for consideration. The MN—S region then submits the name of their selected representative forwarded from a duly called and administered regional council meeting. The name of the new board member is then sent to the PMC for ratification. Finally, the name is forwarded to the Minister of Advanced Education.

Starting Date: 2022 (Once process is complete – 3-year appointment with the possibility of renewal)

Deadline for receipt of applications: January 31, 2022

Please submit resume to one of:

Rhonda Pilon
 Executive Assistant
 Gabriel Dumont Institute
 917 - 22nd Street West
 Saskatoon, SK S7M 0R9
 Phone: (306) 242-6070
 Email: rhonda.pilon@gdins.org

Loretta King
 Western Region I, Regional Director
 Métis Nation - Saskatchewan
 Box 134 Dorintosh, SK S0M 0T0
 Phone: (306) 304-7455
 Email: reddaking11@gmail.com

The Gabriel Dumont Institute has permission from the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission to hire affirmatively.

Highlights of a Shellbrook town council meeting

Shellbrook's town council met for its regular meeting in person and via teleconference on Monday, Jan. 17.

In attendance were Mayor Amund Otterson, councillors Larry Batten, 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 5 p.m., and council began by approving the meeting's agenda and adopting the minutes of its Monday Dec. 20, 2021, meeting. With no business arising from said minutes, council approved payment of the town's regular accounts, then moved on to provide its reports.

In Public Works, Councillor Miller reported that town foreman Mike Tanchuk has been directed to get a cost estimate to fix a long-standing drainage issue at the Shellbrook Primary Healthcare Clinic.

Speaking to the PAR-WU Steering Committee and Board, Miller then informed council that

the board was expecting to get a full report on the financing and funding of the proposed intermunicipal water pipeline. Mayor Otterson added that the project is moving ahead in the design phase, with Associated Engineering directing the river crossing, and the pipeline route from Peter Pond Road to Shellbrook being led by Pinter & Associates.

Going over the facility supervisor's report, Hoare noted that there had been an issue with plumbing at the rink over the weekend. Miller, meanwhile, reported that a carbon filter had been installed at the rink, which should help mitigate issues with there being too much chlorine in the water.

Elsewhere, Councillor Ledding brought up the need to create an off-ice access to the scorekeeper's box and the penalty boxes, citing safety concerns about having to leave the boxes via the ice. Mayor Otterson said the project was slated to be done once the ice is out for the season.

Shifting gears to the hospital and clinics report, Otterson informed council that the wife of Dr. Olugbenga Adebayo has completed her SIP-PA training and will be signing a three-year return for service contract to practice in town. On the not so positive side, he reported that two physicians have completed their contracts and plan to move on, meaning the SHA will have to begin the search for their replacements through SIP-PA.

Moving on to new business, council began by approving a transfer from the Recreation Centre Reserve, totaling

\$4,169.27, to pay for the house decals on the ice at the Shellbrook Curling Club. Next, council carried a motion to transfer \$116,092.97 from the Sewer and WWTP to cover pay for three blocks of sewer line to be inspected by camera and relined (these are funds from the town's Municipal Economic Enhancement Fund and Gas Tax Funds).

Council then approved a recommendation from Public Works to have Roto-Rooter clear the line @ Lot 2, Block 5, Plan CN6034, at the town's expense as needed. This is at a property on 1st Avenue East where the town

plans to rebuild the sewer line and reroute the flow to eliminate the need for a lift station.

Continuing with new business, council carried a motion to purchase the town's gravel supply, at a cost of \$56,000, prior to setting the budget, as well as a motion to amend the Tax Free for Three policy. The policy has been expanded to include RTMs being moved onto a property, so long as construction is completed within one year after receiving building permit.

Later in the evening, council agreed to decline a support request from STARS, noting that it's not council's policy to do-

nate taxpayer money.

Wrapping up a few last items, council agreed to pay an invoice from LADR Consulting and terminate the town's relationship with the firm, and voted to table discussion about its plans to develop the west side of town until budget deliberations.

Going around the table, Mayor Otterson closed out the meeting with an update on plans to relocate the Shellbrook Public Library to the Knox United Church. While the plans are still ago, Otterson said the library is likely to be in its current location for awhile yet.

Timberwolves post pair of weekend losses

With the Shellbrook Silvertips and the Parkland U18 AA Elks both taking a break (the Silvertips' only game was cancelled), the Spiritwood Timberwolves provided the primary source of hockey entertainment this past weekend, playing a pair of road games against the Turtleford Tigers and the Radisson Wheatkings.

Continuing what has been a tough season, the Timberwolves added another two defeats to their record, receiving an 8-2 mauling from the Tigers before being mowed down by the Wheatkings by a score of 10-7.

Wolves (2) vs Tigers (8)

Very little went right for the Timberwolves in their Saturday evening showdown in Turtleford, and the Tigers were quick to pounce on every opportunity to put the puck in the back of the net.

For Spiritwood, Kirk Chief provided some of the few highlights, scoring one goal and providing an assist on the Timberwolves' only other goal. Delano Tipewan netted the Timberwolves' second goal, while Dalton Bill and Tyler Cross each earned a single assist.

J.R. Bussiere earned the start, and the loss, in goal for Spiritwood.

Conversely, Damien Nordell was

essentially a one-man highlight reel for the Tigers, netting four goals and tacking on two assists for good measure. Meanwhile, Jayce Nordell netted a goal and three assists, Lyndyn Domotor scored a goal and one helper, and Karstin McDonald tallied a single goal.

The Tigers' eighth goal was not tallied on the scoresheet.

In the assists column, Piper Nordell was credited with a pair of assists, while Austin McDonald and Justin Scott were credited with one each.

Wolves (7) vs Kings (10)

In a more competitive match against the Radisson Wheatkings on Sunday evening, the Timberwolves were in it to win it nearly up until the final buzzer.

Tyler Cross led the way for Spiritwood, scoring two goals, while Jeff Caffet, Zach Lomsnes, and Colton Poulin each tallied a goal and an assist. Raymon Harris and Marcus Tipewan netted the final two Timberwolves goals.

Where assists are concerned, Patrick Robinson pitched in with three, Chad Crookedneck earned two, and Colin Buban and Delano Tipewan each ended the night with one apiece.

On the Radisson scorecard, Dana Derbowka had a big night

by scoring a hat trick, while Ryan Rothenburger netted a pair of goals. Meanwhile, Thomas Elgersma and Connor Rennie each scored a goal and two assists, Denny Night and Jamie Wuttunee both earned a goal and a helper, and Charles Debungee tallied a single goal.

Brandon Griffiths led the way in assists, tallying three, while Carter Amson, Ethan Bear, and Travis Hudson had two apiece, and Brian Clark and Connor Rothenburger both had one.

With the pair of defeats, the Timberwolves sit at 2-10 on the season, putting them just above the Perdue Pirates in the SPHL standings.

The team plays its final home game of the regular season this weekend, hosting the Radisson Wheatkings for a rematch on Saturday, Jan. 22 at 8 p.m.

SPIRITWOOD HOUSING AUTHORITY MAINTENANCE/CARETAKER CONTRACT POSITION

The Spiritwood Housing Authority is now accepting applications for a Contract Maintenance/Caretaker.

The Housing Authority manages 28 senior and 11 family housing units located in the Town of Spiritwood.

The successful candidate will report to the manager and be responsible for regular seasonal ground maintenance for the senior units and for general handyman-type minor repairs for all units. Must be able to perform manual labor and lifting tasks, and provide regular activity reports to the Housing Authority Manager.

For further details, contact Vera Cadieu, manager, 306-883-8779 (If necessary, leave message with name and phone number)

Please submit written resume by Jan 28 to:

Attention: Vera Cadieu, Manager
Spiritwood Housing Authority
Box 388
Spiritwood, SK
S0J 2M0

Partnership Launches Next Phase for Family-Based Care Options for Children with Special Needs

The Government of Saskatchewan is partnering with the Saskatchewan Foster Families Association to launch Phase Two of the Parent Resources for Information, Development and Education (PRIDE) Levels of Pay. When a child or youth cannot safely remain in their family home, placement in a family-based setting is the next best option, whether that be an extended family caregiver, trusted family connection or foster family. This funding will encourage foster parents to complete specialized training allowing more children and youth with specialized needs to reside in family-based care.

In 2019, Phase One successfully impacted participation in training, recruitment, and retention of foster families. For more information, visit saskfosterfamilies.ca.



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

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

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AGRICULTURE

January 20, 2022

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Research funding means good things for ag's future

If we hope to see improvement, then the future of just about every human endeavour ultimately relies on scientific research.

We do not have safer cars by chance.

We would not have the computers of today without research.

There is science behind human flight, and tons more to be successfully completed if we hope to one day leave this planet to live on another.

And the list goes on.

It is of course the same in agriculture, where research by scientists is crucial, from best prac-

tices in fertilizer application, to weed control, to the particular traits developed in the varieties that are grown.

Given that the crops farmers grow around the world largely feed everyone, either directly as grains and oilseeds to make everything from rolled oats and canola oil to flour for bread, or converted into the milk and eggs, bacon and beef steak we eat, every step taken in varietal development is important.

That grains feed us is also a very good reason for the public to play a role in that research



CALVIN DANIELS

through an investment of dollars, which ultimately means tax dollars being spent to fund good science.

So it was good news for both farmers and the public when it was announced recently, by Canada's Minister of Ag-

riculture and Agri-Food Marie-Claude Bibeau and Saskatchewan Agriculture Minister David Marit, that a total of \$9.1 million in funding was being provided for new crop-related research projects in 2022.

This year's funding will support 55 crop-related projects in Saskatchewan through the province's Agriculture Development Fund (ADF).

Producers in-turn stepped up too, to add their dollars to the work with approximately \$4.1 million contributed by a range of industry partners in support of these

projects including wheat, canola, and flax producer groups. Having producer dollars on the table is of course important as they stand to benefit first from developments achieved.

It is also producers who know best what areas of advancements in crop production would best help them be successful, so they are a key guide to point researchers down the right paths of study.

In a release from the University of Saskatchewan, highlighting more than \$5.7 million in funding, it was noted projects would range

“from plant-based edible 3D printing and packaging to using drones for monitoring crops and soil health.”

The funding, which came through Saskatchewan's Agriculture Development Fund (ADF), was awarded to 25 USask researchers to support 34 projects.

The return on this investment will not be an immediate one, but the dollars spent now are good ones as they will help forge a better farming future, and that means a continued source of food on our tables.

Sask. announces major value-added investment

Federated Co-operatives Limited (FCL) has announced its plans to develop an Integrated Agriculture Complex (IAC) north of the Co-op Refinery Complex in Regina. The IAC will include a renewable diesel facility, as well as a new canola crushing plant in partnership with AGT Foods.

The FCL renewable diesel production plant alone represents a nearly \$2 billion investment for the province and is expected to create more than 2,500 construction jobs and 150 permanent operating jobs. The entire IAC is estimated to have direct and indirect economic benefits of approximately \$4.5 billion.

“This is a tremendous opportunity for Saskatchewan and for FCL and AGT Foods that will bolster the sustainabil-

ity and economic goals of these companies and the province,” Premier Scott Moe said. “Our province has the food, fertilizer, and fuel the world needs, including renewable energy from canola grown and processed here, which speaks to the heart of our plan for economic recovery and growth as we work to build an independent, strong and sustainable Saskatchewan.”

The FCL-AGT canola crushing facility will ensure Saskatchewan exceeds its 2030 Growth Plan goal of processing 75 per cent of the canola grown in the province. It also supports the Growth Plan goal of increasing agriculture value-added revenue to \$10 billion.

The FCL renewable diesel plant will have a production capacity of 15,000 barrels per day, or about 1 billion litres

per year. The FCL-AGT canola crush facility will use 1.1 million tonnes of canola seed to produce 450,000 tonnes of oil, supplying approximately 50 per cent of the feedstock required for the renewable diesel plant, with the remainder of the supply being contracted from other canola crush facilities.

“We know the synergies between transportation fuel production and agriculture will play a vital role in Western Canada's transition to the low carbon economy,” FCL CEO Scott Banda said. “We believe our Co-op Retailing System is well-positioned to integrate and capture the full agricultural value-chain in the production of fuel and value-added products. We are excited about our partnership with AGT and ultimately what this announcement

means for value-added agriculture in our province.

With facilities and outlets in 249 communities in Saskatchewan, FCL and local Co-ops employ more than 10,000 workers across the province.

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Fax: 306-747-3000

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

Wed., Jan. 26, 2022

Regular Sale 9:00 a.m.

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

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

Mon., Jan. 24, 2022

Regular Sale 8:30 a.m., Presort Sale 11:00 a.m.

Fri., Jan. 28, 2022

Bred Cow, Heifer & Pair Sale 1:00 p.m.



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

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

For market info visit: www.northernlivestocksales.ca

Kinnettes, Kinsmen bring back Telemiracle online auction

Sometimes change is a good thing.

This was certainly true last year, when the Shellbrook Kinnettes and Shellbrook Kinsmen raised \$14,442 through their inaugural online auction fundraiser for Telemiracle. The online auction was a bit of improvisation on the part of the two community groups, whose members were unable to do their traditional town canvass in light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

After seeing how successful the online auction was, thanks in large part to auction item donations from local and area businesses, community organizations, and individuals, the Kinnettes and Kinsmen have decided to bring it back.

Planning is already underway for the upcoming auction, and Kinette Tasha Cyr says the two

groups hope to begin collecting auction item donations at the end of January.

In the meantime, Cyr says the groups are working on a solution for those who have their Telemiracle cheques ready each year when the Kinnettes and Kinsmen come knocking, and wish to continue making their monetary donations, in case this year's town canvass is officially cancelled.

Cyr says that once a solution for collecting the community's monetary donations has been decided upon, whether it be e-transfer or mail-in cheque, the Kinnettes and Kinsmen will let the community know.

"I know there was a little disappointment with our Kin clubs not canvassing last year," Cyr said. "The year, as it was, did not allow

for us to do our annual year to year canvass, which made us think outside the box and helped us come up with a solution."

"After our online auction we received tons of great reviews from the community members," Kinette Melissa Moe added. "They found it an exciting way to contribute and were entertained by being able to outbid other members in the community."

Though the Kinnettes and Kinsmen enjoy opportunities to get out and engage with the community, the town canvass was becoming more of a challenge with each passing year. In addition to the bitter cold, the continued growth of the community was making it hard for the groups to hit everyone.

"We have had to go out more than one night in the past," Cyr

said. "We were fortunate in February 2020 to have a handful of Royal Purple members help us canvas. Even with their help, we ran out of time and did not get to every house."

This year's Telemiracle will be held on March 5 and 6.

The money raised throughout the year and during the Telemiracle telethon benefits the Kinsmen Foundation, which provides funding for Saskatchewan residents requiring special needs equipment to maintain or improve their quality of life, as well as travel assistance to those needing to leave their community to access life-saving medical treatment.

Funding is also provided to institutions and health foundations to purchase specialized, new, or innovative equipment to improve

health care.

In the past, funds raised through Telemiracle have benefitted local causes.

The Canwood Bus Association was a beneficiary of the fundraiser in 2019, receiving \$20,000 to assist with the purchase and retrofit of a wheelchair-accessible van that helps people in the community and area get to medical appointments.

In 2014, meanwhile, Shellbrook's Woodland Bus Association received \$19,578 from the Telemiracle to assist with the purchase of a wheelchair accessible van. The van, and the 16-seat bus operated by the association, help residents of Parkland Integrated Health Centre's long-term care facility, and people from other communities, get to medical appointments and other social outings.

Indexation, tax credits improve affordability in 2022

Provincial income tax credits and indexation will help make life more affordable for Saskatchewan people in 2022.

"Indexation protects Saskatchewan taxpayers from bracket creep, ensuring tax savings are not eroded by inflation," Deputy Premier and Finance Minister Donna Harpauer said. "Fair, affordable and competitive taxation is a key part of what makes our province a great place to work, live, and raise a family."

Income tax brackets and tax credit amounts will be indexed in 2022, saving taxpayers an estimated \$36 million. The level of indexation in 2022 will be 2.4 per cent, which matches the national rate of inflation.

Saskatchewan has among the lowest per-

sonal taxes in the country. Since 2007, Personal Income Tax (PIT) exemptions have removed 112,000 people from the province's income tax roll. In total, PIT reductions over the past 12 years are providing over \$720 million in annual income tax savings to Saskatchewan people.

A family of four in the province with \$100,000 in total income pays \$2,084 less in combined provincial income and sales tax in 2022, compared to 2007. Also, a family of four pays no provincial income tax on their first, \$53,435 of combined income which is more than twice as much as in 2007, when a family of four began paying income tax once their combined income reached just \$26,150.

Families in Saskatchewan with children enrolled in sports, arts and cultural activities will continue to be able to claim the Active Families Benefit on their 2022 taxes. The benefit was reinstated last year and provides a refundable tax credit of \$150 per year, per child to eligible families. Families of children with a disability will receive an additional \$50, for a total tax credit of \$200 per year per child.

Parents who enroll their children in sports, arts and cultural activities are reminded to keep their receipts so they may claim the benefit with their annual tax filings.

Saskatchewan residents who are planning to renovate their homes may also be able to claim the Saskatchewan Home Renovation Tax Credit.

Saskatchewan homeowners may save up to \$1,155 in provincial income tax in 2021 by claiming a 10.5 per cent tax credit on up to

\$11,000 of eligible home renovations on 2021 income tax returns, for expenses incurred between Oct. 1, 2020, and Dec. 31, 2021, under this non-refundable tax credit.

A further \$945 in savings may be claimed in 2022 for up to \$9,000 of eligible expenses incurred between Jan. 1, 2022, and Dec. 31, 2022. Eligible expenses include the cost of permits, contractor labour and professional services, building materials, fixtures and equipment rentals.

For more information about the Home Renovation Tax Credit, including examples of eligible renovation expenses, please visit Saskatchewan Home Renovation Tax Credit | Tax Credits | Government of Saskatchewan

For further information about the program call the Canada Revenue Agency at 1-800-959-8281 for service in English, or 1-800-959-7383 for service in French.

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 Bretzlaff

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

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

Minutes of an RM of Spiritwood meeting

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

The Regular Meeting of the Council of the Rural Municipality of Spiritwood No. 496 was held on Wednesday, Nov. 10, 2021.

In attendance were Reeve Shirley Dauvin, Division 1 Larry Vaagen, Division 2 Al Steinhilber, Division 3 Terry Wingerter, Division 4 Dennis Laventure, Division 6 Bevra Fee, Administrator Colette Bussiere, and Foreman Darcy Laventure.

Division 5 is vacant.

A quorum being present the meeting was called to order at 9:00 am by Reeve, Shirley Dauvin.

Fee: That the agenda be adopted as presented.

Carried
Steinhilber: That the minutes of the Oct. 12, 2021, Regular Meeting of Council be approved as presented. Carried

Laventure: That the Administrator's report having been read now be filed. Carried
Council: That we authorize the administrator to proceed with a civic addressing bylaw. Carried

Foreman Darcy Laventure joined the council meeting at 9:30 a.m.

Laventure: That the Foreman's report having been read now be filed. Carried

Foreman Darcy Laventure left the council meeting at 11:15 a.m.

Laventure: That we purchase a 2015 John Deere 870G grader &

trade the 2012 John Deere 872G grader & pending confirmation of price & warranty. Carried

Steinhilber: That the bank reconciliation for the month ending Oct. 31, 2021, be accepted as presented. Carried

Wingerter: That the "List of Accounts" as listed on the attached Schedule "A" forming part of these minutes be passed for payment.

- Cheque No. 13333 - 13408 (\$568,399.59)
- Payroll File No. 344 & 346 (\$40,277.27)
- EFT Grader Lease Payment (\$6,065.49). Carried

Vaagen: That the Statement of Financial Activities for the month ending Oct. 31, 2021, be approved as presented.

Carried
Steinhilber: That we enter into a road maintenance agreement with the RM of Canwood No. 494 to haul 8,000 tonnes of aggregate on Grid No. 695. Carried

Vaagen: That we enter into a road maintenance agreement with Next Generation Logging to haul 4,000 tonnes of timber on Grid No. 793 & Grid No. 946. from the following land locations:

- S 1/2 05-54-10-W3
- W 1/2 28-53-10-W3
- N 1/2 26-54-11-W3
- SW 26-54-11-W3
- NW 25-54-11-W3
- NE 22-54-11-W3. Carried

Wingerter: That we enter into a road maintenance agreement with Maurice Grimard to haul 1,600 tonnes of timber from S 1/2 19-53-09-W3 on Grid No. 793 & Grid No. 946. Carried

Fee: That we enter into a road maintenance agreement with WM Logging to haul 8,000 tonnes of timber on Grid No. 696 & Grid No. 946. Carried

Wingerter: That we renew the lease agreement with Access Communications Ltd. for another 5 years. Carried

Steinhilber: That the RM of Spiritwood No.

496 wishes to reserve the transfer of lands to TLE status until the lands can be checked for possible gravel resources. Carried

Wingerter: That we do not feel that calcium chloride is a good fit at this location (the Shell Lake Cemetery), and that we investigate soil stabilization options. Carried

Wingerter: That a tax abatement in the amount of \$815.83 be applied against Roll No. 1943 100 due to a land classification assessment error. Carried

Steinhilber: That Lacey Gallinger be appointed as the RM representative to the SARCS Board. Carried

Fee: That council members are not in a position to accommodate an appointment to the Meeting Lake Regional Park Board at this time. Carried

Steinhilber: That we acknowledge there is a premium increase and that the SARM Liability Insurance Plan be renewed for 2022; and

That we renew the Excess Liability Insurance in the amount of \$3,000,000 and the Administrative Errors & Omissions Coverage in the amount of \$1,000,000. Carried

Steinhilber: That the SARM Property Insurance Program renewal be tabled.

Laventure: That the request to waive the charge for providing fire protection services for a fire located on NW 31-48-12-W3 be declined. Carried

Fee: That the regular meeting of Council be adjourned at 12:10 p.m. to move into an In Camera session to discuss HR matters. Carried

Administrator, Colette Bussiere left the Council meeting at 12:10 p.m.

Administrator, Colette Bussiere returned to the council meeting at 12:17 p.m. The regular meeting of council was called back to order at 12:17 p.m.

Fee: That the following correspondence having been read now be filed:

- SARM - Updates/Emails
- SARM - Policy Bulletins
- SARM - Rural Sheaf
- PARCS Update - November 8, 2021
- SaskPower Transmission Line Rebuild Memo
- Agriculture in the Classroom - October 2021 Newsletter. Carried

Wingerter: That the meeting be adjourned at 12:25 p.m. Carried

GOOD NEWS

THE KINDNESS OF A DAD

One thing I remember of my dad is that he sure owned some unique cars and a few trucks in his life. I don't recall him ever having any new ones, but the ones he did have were in good condition.

When I got older, I got to drive one. He lent me his Mercury Comet. I believe it was green in colour. Dad had done some work in the West Channel in Hay River as a carpenter. He noticed the owner had this Mercury in storage. I don't know the fine details, but I believe he negotiated some work for the car. At least, I think that is how it went.

One day, when I was almost late for school, I went out to start the Mercury. It was a cold day. When I was growing up in Hay River, I remember a lot of cold days in the winter. I found a makeshift scraper on the car floor. It was metal. I proceeded to scrape the back window. This has never happened

since, as when I scraped the window, I heard a sound like a rifle shot.

I completely shattered the back window. How does a 16-year-old explain that to one's dad? I went into the house and explained what happened. Dad said I must have hit the window. A neighbour who was visiting explained it was possible to shatter glass that way. Dad accepted the explanation and, in his kindness, let it go.

Life moves on. Eventually I moved to Calgary. I was sitting in an Adult Sunday School class where the teacher was talking about how some have a hard time addressing God as Father because of their relationship with their earthly father.

I understand what he was saying but really couldn't identify. I am grateful for the kindness of my father.

Blessings,
Pastor David Bodvarson
SPA

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 12 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.

TRIPLE YOUR ADVERTISING

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

\$60.00 plus G.S.T. - A savings of over 30%

Available to Non-Profit & Community Organizations Only

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"Don't miss out on letting your Community and others know of your event!"

Shellbrook Chronicle & Spiritwood Herald

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JUNIOR CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

JUNIOR CITIZEN OF THE YEAR SCHOLARSHIP CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

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

These prestigious awards are given to youth who:

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

This year four deserving youth will receive a **\$3000 bursary**, provided by SaskPower, to use towards their post-secondary education. Someone you nominate could be one of them.

Visit www.swna.com for further information and nomination forms
Nominations close March 31, 2021

OBITUARIES

Marian Campbell



CAMPBELL – Marian

Marian was born on April 2nd, 1937, in New Osgoode, Saskatchewan. She was the second daughter of George and Myrna Penill. Marian grew up with her family in New Osgoode, and spent her time going to school, helping with chores, and spending time with family and friends. She enjoyed track meets, county fairs, and

trips into town for ice cream. In 1957 she married Alex Campbell. In 1958, Sandra was born, and their family began. They moved to Bremen where Alex was working with the railroad. Bill was born in 1959. Irene was born in 1961. They moved a few places before settling in Canwood in 1962. Alex and Marian owned a few different businesses including a jewelry store and a furnace cleaning and repair company. Doris was born in 1962, and Diana in 1963. Mary was born in 1967, and Bev in 1974. Alex passed away in 1980. Marian stayed on the farm for several years, raising chickens, and enjoying her large garden. In 1984, Marian moved into town. She became very busy with cleaning the church, babysitting for many different families, and became an active

member in many different volunteer groups. Over the years, she helped out with just about every church, and organization she could find, whether she belonged to it or just helped when they needed it. She enjoyed cleaning at both the hall and the church, especially for weddings and events. In her spare time, she enjoyed visiting with family and friends, and would never turn down a chance to play a game of cards. She was active in volunteering at Whispering Pine Place and was one of the first auxiliary members. She enjoyed many bus trips with the senior's group and enjoyed taking care of the mini golf for many years. At home, she was busy reading, sewing, knitting, doing jigsaw puzzles and all sorts of word puzzles. She collected pins and teapots and loved to show off her collections.

She also enjoyed long phone conversations with family and friends in between their visits. She was an avid Saskatchewan Roughrider fan, so we all learned not to call during game time. In 2013, Marian moved into the Golden Acres. Although her home was much smaller, she still enjoyed having family and friends over, and her door was always open for company. If you could catch her at home that is. In 2020, she made her final move into Whispering Pine Place. She kept busy with puzzles, knitting, and attending activities, her favourite being bingo. She was always happy to tell everyone when she won a quarter, or chocolate bar. She took up colouring and blessed many of us with her pictures. She kept her sense of humour and enjoyed teasing and joking with the

staff. When visits became harder, she learned to FaceTime with the iPad, as well as watching for us to come visit at the window. Marian was always the first to help out anyone in need and instilled that virtue in her kids and grandkids. From volunteering to donating or any possible way of taking care of people or her community, she was always involved in some way.

Marian is survived by her children: Sandra, Bill (Brenda), Irene (Ken), Doris (Reg), Dian, Mary (Bill), and Bev; Two honorary daughters, Cindy (Neil) and Susan; Numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren; siblings: Georgia (Ken), Alice (Norbert), Edward (Judy), and Leona (Ron) as well as many extended

family members and friends.

She is predeceased by her husband, Alex, parents, George and Myrna, sister, Mabel, mother-in-law, Lydia, father-in-law, Hugh, sister-in-laws, Jean and Kathy, brother-in-laws, Robert and Orville, daughter-in-law, Linda, son-in-law, Les, nephew, Bradley and niece, Gail.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Recreation Department at Whispering Pine Place Recreation Department, Box 418 Canwood, SK. S0J 0K0.

Friends and family wishing to send online condolences may visit www.beaulacfuneralhome.com. Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of Beau "Lac" Funeral Home and Crematorium, Lynn Anderson, Funeral Director, Shellbrook, 306-747-2828.

Robert Stanton Dunbar

DUNBAR – Robert
1947 – 2022

Robert "Bob" Stanton Dunbar was born in Prince Albert, Sask on March 4, 1947, to Barbara Ellen (Harper) and Robert Leslie Dunbar. Bob grew up in Big

River, Sask. He joined the Navy at an early age and often talked of all the places he travelled to during this time. Upon his release, he worked at the local sawmill and later worked for McLean's Plumbing and Heating. After gaining some experience he was able to get his Boiler ticket and become employed at the uranium mine at Cluff Lake. Bob worked at the mine until his retirement. He was living in Saskatoon at this time and remained there for the next few years.

In November 2009, Bob was reunited with Lynn Nelson. Bob and Lynn had dated for a short period of time in their younger years

and hadn't seen each other for almost 40 years. A short time later, Bob sold his house in Saskatoon and moved to the acreage at Stump Lake to live with Lynn.

Bob had numerous friends from everywhere. He was a very outgoing person, interested in everything and everybody. He loved visiting with people, the outdoors, and animals of every species. He could tell you the name and breed of every dog he ever owned. He enjoyed travelling and had vacationed in Mexico many times over the years. He and Lynn continued these travels and loved the time they spent together there with

the many new friends they met. Lynn also introduced him to seasonal camping, and they spent their summers camping and fishing, first at Delaronde, then at Smoothstone. Bob also loved to garden. His motto was, "You can never have too many potatoes and carrots." He spent many hours tending the garden and yard and puttering in the shop. He kept in touch with everyone either in person or on the phone. Bob quickly became a friend and helper to his Stump Lake neighbours. He grew close to Josh and Dyan Nordquist and their four children. When Lynn didn't know where he was, chances were he was next door at Nordquists! He was known to Lynn's grandsons

as Papa Bob and filled the role as another Grandpa in their lives.

Bob passed away suddenly at home on January 4, 2022. His passing leaves a great hole in the hearts of all who knew him. We will all miss him forever.

Bob will be lovingly remembered by his partner, Lynn Nelson, and her daughters, Layla Sten and sons Cole and Jace Knutson, Cristy (Lance) Reed and sons Mason and Cody; his daughters, Candace Dunbar and son Aiden, and Crystal Dunbar; his sisters Sandra, Audrey, Joan (Fran) Abbott, Barbara-Ann and their families.

Bob was predeceased by his father Robert Leslie Dunbar, his mother Bar-

bara and stepfather Harry James Phillips, as well as three young stepbrothers and a nephew.

A private family service will be held at a later date.

In lieu of tributes, memorial donations in memory of Bob may be made to the Prince Albert SPCA (Box 1832, Prince Albert, Sask. S6V 6J9) or to your local SPCA or Animal Shelter of your choice. Family and friends wishing to send messages of condolences are welcome to visit www.beaulacfuneralhome.com

Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of Beau "Lac" Funeral Home & Crematorium, Tammy Smart – Funeral Director, Shellbrook, SK. 306-747-2828.

Myron Halko & Irene Halko

Myron Halko
January 31, 1942 –
December 20, 2021Irene Halko
July 30, 1943 –
December 31, 2021

With profound sadness, we announce the passing of our pillars of strength, both Mom and Dad, our best friends, our strongest

supporters and the best example of strong values and commitment to family.

Myron was born in Ranger, Saskatchewan, to Mary and Dmytro Halko, he was the third youngest of nine children. Myron grew up on the family farm in the Junor district and attended Edward Lake School. He worked on the family farm throughout his school years. As a young man Myron developed an interest in serving in the RCMP and went to College in North Battleford. In his grade twelve year his father became ill and Myron returned to the family farm to pursue farming.

Despite having to change course in his life's work he enjoyed farming and did well, eventually taking over the family farm. Myron was a hard worker and he loved the farm life. His passion for farming would regularly find him up at dawn to tackle his chores.

Irene was born on July 30, 1943 at Laventure, Saskatchewan, and was the second youngest daughter of Napoleon and Marie Lavoie. She was one of the youngest of eleven children. She received her early education at Regent School in Laventure and then moved to Leoville and graduated from Leoville

High School.

Irene went on to teach for several years at Spiritwood School and then she went to business college in Prince Albert and subsequently worked as a secretary at the boys college.

Myron and Irene married in 1965 and they were blessed with five children, four daughters and a son and ten grandchildren. The family farm raised both cattle and grain and Myron and Irene were supportive partners in the family farm.

Myron and Irene are survived by their four daughters Janice (Brian) Romanyshyn, Cheryl (Robert) Owen, Marie Ruzesky, Josephine

Halko and one son Daniel (Lisa) Halko, and ten grandchildren. Myron was a loving husband, father and Gido and Irene was a loving wife, mother and Grandma.

Our lives are forever changed and our hearts are broken. We will hold them both in our hearts forever and our memories will be our strength.

Funeral Masses were held for Myron and Irene on Wednesday Dec. 29, 2021 and Thursday Jan. 6, 2022 respectively at St. Therese Roman Catholic Church, Leoville with Fr. Ramel Macapala and Fr. Peter Nagna concelebrating the Masses.

The family wishes to

extend their sincere gratitude to the health care workers that provided compassionate care to our father and to the emergency care workers that provided medical care to our mother.

Donations in lieu of flowers can be made to St. Therese Catholic Parish in Leoville or the Laventure Cemetery.

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 and Crematorium, R. Mark Muir Funeral Director, Spiritwood, SK (306) 883-3500.

OBITUARIES

Deborah (Debbie) Joan Rogers

Deborah (Debbie) Joan Rogers née: Campbell passed peacefully on January 12th, 2022 at the age of 68 in Saskatoon, Sas-

katchewan surrounded by her loving husband of 49 years and 3 of her children.

Debbie was the 2nd born to Charles (Chuck) and Hazel Campbell on May 23, 1953 in Edmonton, Alberta. She was raised, alongside her 2 sisters, in the home that her father had built.

Debbie met the love of her life Bruce in May of 1972 and a whirlwind courtship ensued. They married in July of that same year. Together they raised 3 daughters and in 1977 it seemed as though their family was complete.

Their hearts were so big and welcoming that in 1999 their youngest son Keith joined the family and in 2004 their oldest son Shawn cemented his place and the family of five, then six was now a family of seven. Through the years, her family grew to include 23 more.

Debbie is survived by her loving husband Bruce, her daughters Vicki (Steve), Tammy (Tracy), Lori (Darin), and her sons Shawn and Keith (Celine), her grandchildren Kyla (Mitch), Casey, Danielle (Mitch), Karen (Andrew),

Taylor (Brock), Delaney (Caleb), Jillian, Matthew, Charlie, her great-grandchildren Hazel, Bennett, Paisley, Aurora and Kassian, her sisters Penny (Larry), Gail (Ray), her brother and sister-in-laws Al (Debbie), Marlene (Rick), Gwen (Dennis), Floyd (Alice), Don (Kathy), Joe (Fran), Cal (Sharon), Roy, Bev (Mike), Kathryn (Steve), 29 nieces and nephews, 71 great nieces and nephews, 4 great-great nieces and nephews, special friend Tracy and many, many more.

Debbie was predeceased

by her father Chuck in 1985, her mother Hazel in 2011, her sister-in-law Debbie in 2006, her mother-in-law Blanche in 2013, her great niece Eva in 2018 and her nephew Chad in 2021.

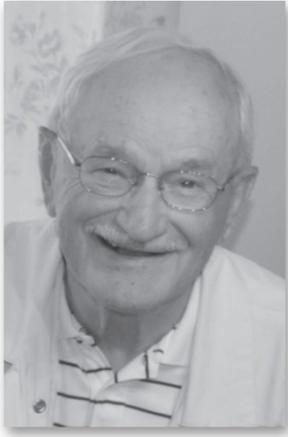
Debbie leaves a legacy behind her that is found within each and everyone that she knew and loved. She was an avid homemaker, crafter, quilter, and gardener and always had coffee ready. You never left her home hungry, sad, or feeling alone. Many people grew to love her as their own, she had count-

less "honorary children" throughout the years and the bonds created remain to this day.

Debbie will be remembered for her never ending generosity, her immense love of family, her kindred spirit and by the fact that you could not take her missed crib points but she could take yours.

Memorial donations in lieu of flowers may be made to the Heart and Stroke Foundation in her memory.

The Celebration of Debbie's life will be held at a later date.

Alfred Erwin Sommerfeld

SOMMERFELD – Alfred Erwin

Alfred Erwin Sommerfeld, aged 88, passed away peacefully the afternoon of January 7,

2022. Born August 13, 1933 to Ludwig and Emma Benke, Al grew up on the Sommerfeld homestead in Bright-holme, Saskatchewan, and later on the family farm in Shellbrook, alongside his brothers Max, Edwin, Armen, and sisters Irma and Irene.

Al approached life earnestly, but with a smile and a twinkle in his eye. He enjoyed people, and his authentic and playful way meant there were few who did not take joy and comfort in being with Al. As a lov-

ing husband, father, and provider, Al was the cornerstone of a strong and happy family.

Al knew the secret of a healthy work-life balance. He enjoyed working tirelessly, whether on the job or at home in the yard or in his wood shop. But still he always made time for family and community, including coaching baseball and hockey, and leading Beavers/Cubs. Family camping trips to the mountains, and Radium Hot Springs, Shuswap, and Penticton were mainstays for the fam-

ily, so too were regular adventures to Hawaii, Barbados, Mexico and California. Watching a good hockey or football game were treasured quiet times after all the work was done.

Al ventured away from the farming life he grew up in and carved out a career in telecommunications, first with CN Telecommunications, and then later with AGT and Telus. He met the love of his life, Maureen Riddell in Prince Albert, and his job took them to Port Arthur, Winnipeg, Regina, and eventually to Cal-

gary where they settled to raise a family. In retirement they moved to High River and came to love the town and community and friendships. Al was a man of faith and an active member of the Lutheran Church.

Al is survived by his loving daughter Rondi Sommerfeld Newman, son Mark Sommerfeld, grandson Garrett Newman, granddaughter Jasmine (Michael) Nicholson, and great granddaughter Iona Nicholson. He is also survived by his son-in-law Garry Newman and

daughter-in-law Tamara Sommerfeld, and many nephews and nieces.

Services will be postponed until the spring and will take place at that time at the High River Good Shepherd Lutheran Church as well as at the Brightholme Cemetery. Donations can be made to the High River Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (910 12 Ave SW, High River, AB T1V 1C8) and/or the St. John's Lutheran Brightholme Cemetery Fund (C/O Ron Ferster, Box 307, Shellbrook, SK S0J 2E0).

Mary Christina (Skotte) Stene

Mary Christina (Skotte) Stene

March 22, 1923 ~ December 30, 2021

Mary Stene, formerly of Shellbrook, SK, passed away peacefully at Hafford Special Care Centre on December 30th, 2021, at the age of 98.

Mary Christina was born to Christian and Laura Skotte on March 22, 1923, in the Holbein district. She was a little sister to Margaret, Katie and Norman. Mary

lost her mother, Laura at the young age of 3. While living in Saskatoon, Agnes Mills became Mary's stepmother. In 1933 they moved to a farm at Alingly near Spruce Home, SK. Her father, Christian, passed away in 1937. Mary completed her Grade 8 in 1938 in Alingly.

While working in Sturgeon Valley, at 17 years of age, she met her lifelong love, Minard Stene and was married November 9, 1940, in the Shellbrook Lutheran parsonage. Minard and Mary farmed at Mayview, SK where they raised their three daughters: Luella (Irwin) Gatzke, Inez (Ross) Larson and Shelley Brad.

In 1973, they sold the farm and moved into Shellbrook to be closer to their family. During their time in Shellbrook, Mary cleaned homes and the church for many years. Mary's spare time was spent gardening,

baking, sewing, crocheting and knitting. She handmade many quilts and clothing for the grand and great-grandchildren. Mary lived a very social life with her door always open to friends and family, and a fresh pot of coffee and/or meal waiting to be shared with those she cared about.

In March 1979, Minard passed away leaving her a young widow. She continued to clean homes and be part of the church community. Once her house became too much for her to keep, she moved into a duplex in Shellbrook. This allowed her to make coffee for new friends who all became very important to her and continued to be active at St. John's Lutheran Church.

Due to health issues she moved to Hafford Special Care Centre in 2016. Here she participated in craft classes, entertained the staff with

her family's many stories and took special care of the facility's cats. The staff at the care home also became her extended family and often shared that Mary brought feelings of joy to the other residents at the care home. Mary's final years were very difficult for her after the loss of her youngest daughter Shelley in 2018; gratefully, her steady optimistic attitude and faith were by her side at all stages of her life journey. Hafford Special Care Centre took great care of Mary until she passed peacefully in her sleep telling the staff she had somewhere special to be the next day.

Mary is predeceased by her parents, Christian & Laura; siblings, Margaret, Katie & Norman; husband of 38 years, Minard; daughter, Shelley Brad; great-granddaughter, Sophia Brad; and many in-laws, relatives and friends.

Mary is survived by: daughters – Luella (Irwin), Inez (Ross); grandchildren – Carla (Warren) Kaeding, Holly (James) Gatzke, Shawn (Tracy) Larson, Farren (Adeana) Larson, Tyler Brad, Curtis (June) Brad; great-grandchildren - Michael (Laine) Kaeding, Matthew Kaeding, Adam Rask, April Rask, Anika Gatzke, Shalyn (Moses) Pasloski, Leif Larson (Taya McKean), Cole and Rowena Larson, Izaac and Phoenix Brad; great-great granddaughters: Brynn and Tessa Kaeding; as well as special family and friends.

Mary's wish for her family and friends:

"Each night at the end of the day, I say my prayers, I name each one of my family by name, and some friends. I ask that God protect, save and guide you. May you forgive my mistakes, and with God's help love one another.

I am thankful for my

family and friends. I tried to do the best I could and hope that as you look back you will have some good memories of me. I love you all so very much.

Love your mother, grandmother, great grandmother and great-great grandmother."

A Celebration of Mary's Life was held at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, January 10, 2021 at St. John's Lutheran Church, 704 Adamson Road Shellbrook, SK. Interment was held at Prince Albert Memorial Gardens immediately following the service. Services were live streamed and videotaped. If you wish to view the service, the live stream link is www.grays.ca/memorial-videos/. Condolences may be sent to the family at www.grays.ca. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to Gray's Funeral Chapel, (306) 922-4729.

Super Bowl champ? Likely the pack

Playoffs are under way in the National Football League, and the next couple of weeks will determine which two teams will meet Feb. 13 in Los Angeles to play in Super Bowl 56 (or LVI for you Roman numeral fans out there).

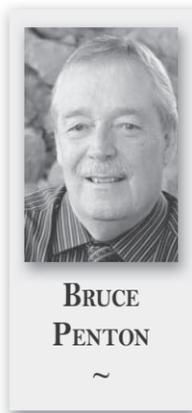
A couple of points to consider in the lead-up to the big game, which has evolved into almost a national holiday in the football-crazed United States: 1. Tampa Bay Bucs, the defending champions, are in the hunt with their aging quarterback, 45-year-old Tom Brady, to try to win it again; 2. The amount of money wagered on the game, legally and illegally, will be greater than the GDP of many Third World countries; 3. Pre-season Super Bowl favourites, Kansas City Chiefs and Los Angeles Rams, had pre-playoff legitimate cracks at the game's biggest prize; 4. Injuries and COVID-19 will undoubtedly play major roles in the playoff

games.

Trying to predict a winner is a fool's game (and I know that only too well, after finishing in the lower half of my NFL football pool this year, with about a 46-per-cent success rate on picking winners). But it's an annual custom to go out on a limb, and worry not about making a fool of one's self. So here goes:

Green Bay Packers will win it all. Pretty solid limb.

Brady's age is catching up to him, and the Bucs have too many injuries. Patrick Mahomes and the Chiefs were cool to start the year, hot in the middle (eight straight wins) and then levelled off toward the end. Tennessee will welcome the return of running back stud Derrick Henry, and the Titans have the best coach in the league in Mike Vrabel, but mediocrity at QB (Ryan Tannehill) leaves them on the outside. Up-and-comers Buffalo, Cincinnati, and Arizona have three of



BRUCE
PENTON

the game's most exciting quarterbacks (Josh Allen, Joe Burrow, and Kyler Murray, respectively), but they're still a year or two away. The Rams have talent galore, but QB Matt Stafford's throws are too often caught by players wearing enemy jerseys.

So is this a Green Bay lock? Rival NFC teams wanting to get to the game in L.A. Feb. 13 will likely have to win a road game in frigid Green Bay in January, and that's a scenario best suited to Aaron Rodgers and his Pack, who live in igloos and eat cheese-flavoured

Popsicles for dinner. Winning the NFC title in bitter cold and then playing an indoor game in L.A. two weeks later will be a breeze, a warm one at that, for Rodgers, who will then bid adieu to Green Bay and play elsewhere next year.

My head says Green Bay. My heart says Cincinnati. My TV set will likely say something completely different on Feb. 13. Owning a 46-per-cent win rate likely guarantees that last point.

Dwight Perry of the Seattle Times: "Hope the Mets signed 18-year-old Venezuelan outfielder Miriojaycey-Rachidny-cander Ray Jean Tadeo Benita. Good luck trying to get him to fit all that on an autographed baseball."

Gene Collier of the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, on an overused hockey phrase: "Cycling Down Low . . . sounds like a problem in the lower digestive tract. You wanna go out? No, I just had

some chalupas and I'm, uh, Cycling Down Low."

Headline at the on-ion.com: "Rob Manfred Confirms Pete Rose Remains Ineligible From DraftKings Official MLB Hall Of Fame At Cooperstown"

Bob Molinaro of pilot online.com (Hampton, Va.): "The self-created trials and tribulations of the world's No. 1 men's tennis player have turned into a bad Djok."

RJ Currie of sports-deke.com: "Novak Djokovic has no business getting into the Australian Open. As far as we know, he has not had one COVID vaccination, never mind two — the ultimate double fault."

Blogger Patti Dawn Swansson: "The American Kennel Club has added two dogs to its roster. You know, kind of like what the Edmonton Oilers have been doing with their defence every year for the past 15 seasons."

Janice Hough of left-coastsportsbabe.com: "The Washington Foot-

ball Team will unveil its new name and uniforms on Feb. 2. Unfortunately for fans, the new uniforms will have the same old players in them."

Comedy writer Brad Dickson of Omaha: "Novak Djokovic will not be allowed to play in the Australian Open because he is unvaccinated. The news isn't all bad for Novak. He just signed to be the new backup quarterback for the Green Bay Packers."

Alex Kaseberg again: "The Tampa Bay Buccaneers have officially cut Antonio Brown. He was released and not put on waivers because even waivers did not want anything to do with him."

AP's Greg Beacham, via Twitter, after Utah's Micah Bernard caught a TD pass and led his team in tackles vs. Ohio State: "I believe he is the first player to do that in the Rose Bowl since Shohei Ohtani."

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

Top three winter safety tips from SaskEnergy

Winter has been packing a punch this year, leaving many of us with snow on the roof while we listen to the rumble of our furnaces.

In keeping with the season, here are three of SaskEnergy's top natural gas safety tips to help keep you and your family safe this winter.

1. Keep your exterior appliance vents free of frost, ice and snow

If snow or ice blocks your home's exterior appliance vents, it can cause equipment to malfunction. Worse, it can cause a dangerous buildup of carbon monoxide—an odourless, colourless, tasteless, invisible gas that occurs through the incomplete combustion of fuels. Any appliance that burns fuel can cause carbon monoxide to build up—including furnaces, fireplaces, water heaters and gas stoves.

2. Keep your natural gas meter free of snow and ice, including the meter's regulator and shut-off valve

Leaky eavestroughs or melting snow from your roof can sometimes drip onto your meter and cause it to ice up.

To safely clean snow or ice off your natural gas meter, use a soft-bristle brush or broom or gently remove the snow by hand.

Never use a shovel or other tool to chip or scrape ice or snow off your meter, and never hit or kick your meter to break up

any ice. And don't use hot water or chemical de-icers as these can also damage the meter.

Also avoid using a snowblower or snowplow near your meter and don't shovel or pile snow around it.

Keeping snow and ice off and away from your natural gas meter, regulator and shut-off valve will help ensure this equipment continues to operate when you need it most.

3. Have your furnace inspected every year

Annual maintenance can help keep your furnace running safely and at peak efficiency—giving you peace of mind.

SaskEnergy Network Members offer a Home Heating Tune-Up which includes inspecting your furnace's chimney, heat exchanger, blower compartment and fan, gas pilot and drive systems and high-limit controls. Your furnace's motor and fan will also be cleaned and lubricated, and your burners will be cleaned and reset.

As an added safety incentive, customers who book their annual furnace maintenance service with a participating SaskEnergy Network Member will receive a free carbon monoxide alarm at the time of their appointment.

For more safety tips, visit saskenergy.com/staying-safe

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The Salt of the earth

By Sara Williams

Salts are naturally present in our soils, and in small amounts, do no harm. It's when the percentage of salt increases that plant growth is affected. Soils containing enough salt to retard plant growth or kill plants are called "saline." Such soil is often found in low-lying areas with poor drainage. It occurs in areas where water collects, bringing in the salt either as surface runoff or groundwater. But the water can only leave via evaporation, leaving salts behind that build up over time. When these soils dry out, they are characterized by a white crust. In the same way that our skin will dry out when we swim in the ocean, plant tissue will dry out in the vicinity of salt.

It's notoriously difficult to grow trees and shrubs in the vicinity of a septic tank mound because of the accumulation of salts. They grow slowly, are of a smaller size, and wilt quickly when under stress. Leaf burn is common. It took me ages to figure out why bur oaks and Siberian crabapples languished and died near my septic mound, while sea buckthorn never even blinked and continued to sucker rampantly.

Applying too much fertilizer or irrigating with water with a high salt content also contributes to the accumulation of salts in soil. Chemical fertilizers are, after all, salts, and should be used in moderation. If using well water, it pays to check its salinity before applying it to your garden. Adding manures with a high salt content should also be avoided.

If you have areas of saline soil, there is no "magic cure" or chemical that will make them better. It

is difficult to remedy soils that are naturally high in salt. But there are some practices you can follow that will lessen their effect on your plants.

Begin by growing plants that are salt tolerant. If they have the word "sea" in their common name, or maritima in their botanical name, that generally indicates that they are natives to areas close to the sea. And if you happen to be a plant living on a cliff overlooking the North Sea or the Atlantic Ocean, chances are that you're being continuously sprayed with salt water, and have developed a greater tolerance to salt than a member of the same genus further inland. Think of sea holly, sea lavender and sea thrift.

Vegetables with a fairly high tolerance to salt include beets, asparagus, kale and spinach. Among the trees and shrubs with salt tolerance are false indigo bush, bearberry, sagebrush, barberry, broom, smooth sumac, Ural false spirea, sea buckthorn, Siberian salt tree, silver buffaloberry, hawthorn, Russian olive, elms, and villosa lilac. Trees and shrubs with moderate salt tolerance include Manitoba maple, caragana, wolfwillow, green ash, Tartarian honeysuckle, and chokecherry.

Leaching salts out by improving drainage is possible but often difficult and expensive and may involve the use of drain tiles. Not always an option! But preventing plants from drying out by keeping the soil moist is an option. Avoid frequent light waterings. Instead, irrigate deeply but infrequently. The object is to dissolve the salts and then leach them down into the soil profile, out of reach of plant roots.

Incorporate organic soil amendments that are low in salt such as peat moss, compost, or grass clippings. These materials act in the opposite manner of salts, helping to increase the soil's moisture holding ability. In effect, by increasing the amount of water held by the soil, they are diluting the salt concentration within the soil.

This can be tricky. One needs to ensure adequate water is available, as the salts make it harder for plant roots to extract water. But too much water will prevent good soil aeration and increase the loss of nitrogen.

Increasing the height of the planting beds also allows better drainage. In vegetable gardens this can be done through traditional raised beds. In flower and shrub borders, try "berming", adding additional soil (well amended with organic matter) to a height of one to two feet. Remember,

adding height also increases the exposure of the soil and plants to wind and drying out, so monitor the soil moisture carefully and irrigate when needed. Mulching the soil surface with an organic mulch reduces surface evaporation considerably.

Sara Williams is the author and coauthor 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). Check our website (www.saskperennial.ca) or Facebook page (www.facebook.com/saskperennial) for a list of upcoming gardening events.



Sea buckthorn is one of a handful of salt tolerant trees, bushes, and shrubs. Photo credit: Sara Williams



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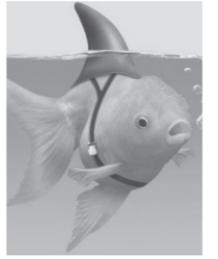
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