

Shellbrook Chronicle & Spiritwood Herald

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Shellbrook rec centre wins SPRA award



Fresh off its nearly \$2 million upgrade, Shellbrook's Richardson Pioneer Recreation Centre was recently recognized with the SPRA's Cecil Nobes Facility Award of Excellence at the 2021 RECOgnition Awards.

Shellbrook's Richardson Pioneer Recreation Centre is now an award-winning recreation facility, after being selected as the recipient of the Cecil Nobes Facility Award of Excellence at the Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association's (SPRA) 2021 RECOgnition Awards ceremony.

The Cecil Nobes Facility Award of Excellence is presented to a Saskatchewan municipality for the construction of a new facility, or the retrofit or renovation project, where the unique or outstanding design contributes to the overall efficiency or accessibility of the facility's operation.

The award comes less than a year after the Shellbrook Recreation Project Steering Committee, with the support of the community, wrapped up a three-year, almost \$2 million upgrade of the Richardson Pioneer Recreation Centre.

Amund Otterson, Mayor of the Town of Shellbrook and the project manager for the retrofit, says the town is thrilled to have received the award, but notes that it doesn't accept the award alone.

"It was the culmination of a larger community effort," he said, giving credit to the town administration and town crew, the R.M. of Shellbrook, and all others who had a hand in the project.

"It's a well-deserved recognition," recreation director Jessica Kernohan added.

To recap, phase one of the rink project included the installation of a new ice plant and the purchase of a new ice resurfacing machine, while phase two's major upgrades were the ice surface, the boards and glass, and a low-emissivity ceiling.

Phase two also included a number of minor upgrades, including new exterior and interior doors, new insulation, upgrades to the lobby and bathrooms, and an improved viewing area from the lobby. And, separate of the Steering Committee's project, a local group undertook its own project to have 630 arena-style seats installed in the rink.

Last, but certainly not least, phase three of the rink improvement project was focused almost entirely on the installation of a solar panel array. That array includes three rows

of south-facing solar panels with a total of 250 400w modules, for a total of 100kW, and will generate an estimated 120,000kW per year, or about \$16,800 of electricity at 2020 prices.

In addition to lowering the rink's carbon footprint — a key piece of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' (FCM) Municipalities for Climate Innovation Program grant — the solar array will receive full retail value for electricity generated through Saskatchewan's Net Metering program.

Looking at the financial side of the project, grants, including the \$750,000 FCM grant, accounted for \$1,060,407 of the overall revenue, while Hockey Day in Shellbrook delivered \$427,062.

The Field of Dreams, meanwhile, accounted for nearly \$294,000 of revenue with its donations to both the skating and curling rinks, and direct donations to the Steering Committee totalled \$62,678.

At the outset of the project in 2017, the committee was expecting its ambitious, three-phase project to cost \$2,167,500.

When all was said and done, the project cost just \$1,891,752.01.

According to Tasha Cyr, the Shellbrook Recreation Project Steering Committee's treasurer, the cost savings of more than \$275,000 were 100 per cent attributable to volunteers, who donated time or machinery to help the work at the rink get done.

When the project wrapped up in 2021, Cyr said volunteers had contributed about 8,900 hours to the project, giving their combined labour and contributions a total value of about \$202,000.

For Brent Miller, who served as chair of the Shellbrook Recreation Project Steering Committee, it's this volunteerism that will be remembered most of all.

"The project left an impact, not just on our town but on the province," he said.

"The legacy I hope it leaves is that 35 years from now, when it's time to upgrade the rink or fix it up again, there will be people who will be just as inspired by our efforts as we were by the people who built the rink, and the volunteerism when the rink was built."

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Knight returns to Shellbrook council

The second time's the charm for David Knight, who has been returned to Shellbrook's Town Council by acclamation.

Knight originally served as a town councillor from 2013 to 2021, at which time he was forced to cut his term short to focus on his recovery from a stroke he suffered in August of 2020.

After taking nearly a year off, Knight chose to throw his name in the hat in a fall by-election to fill the council seat left vacant by the departure of John Hughes. Knight scored a second-place finish

to Peter Halayka in that election.

Knight and his wife moved to the town of Shellbrook in December 2010. They have lived in Chase, Hope, and Vernon, B.C., High Prairie and Slave Lake, Alta., and Meadow Lake and Shellbrook, Sask.

Having retired after a long career in the forestry sector, Knight describes himself as a "business manager with 40+ years of progressive, innovative, and cost-effective management leadership," primarily in Western Canada. Knight says much of his ex-

perience was focused on government relations, leading to partnerships with Crown Corporations, Indigenous Nations and Municipal entities.

When he ran for re-election in the fall, Knight said his goal would be to serve the ratepayers and customers of the town of Shellbrook "through a new, open approach to communication founded on a collaboratively built, results-based, and best practices-driven strategic plan."

Knight also said he'd support a cultural shift "in the way we do the business of Shellbrook", benchmark mu-

nicipal best practices, push for a customer-focused organizational redesign, redesign the town's strategic planning and approach to government relations, recreate a suitable framework for tax paying new business opportunities, and encourage the town to support the local businesses that are the economic backbone of the community.

Finally, Knight promised to strive to make money available for urban renewal, attract new business to town, and work towards immediate tax reductions for all residents.



Dave Knight is back on Shellbrook's Town Council by acclamation.

Timberwolves take tough loss to Wheatkings

The Spiritwood Timberwolves played their last regular season home game on Jan. 22 against the visiting Radisson Wheatkings.

The Timberwolves racked up another hard-fought loss, as the Wheaties were able to claim victory by a one-goal margin.

During the first period, the Wheaties started and finished with a strong effort, acquiring an early two-point lead against the Timberwolves (Timberwolves-1 Wheatkings-3).

In the second period, the Timberwolves were able to play catch up, keeping the Wheaties off the board while pulling within one goal in the dying seconds of the frame (Timberwolves-2 Wheatkings-3).

In the final period, the Wheaties found their footing and tallied two goals. Though the Timberwolves were able to match their offensive output, it wasn't enough to keep Radisson from claiming the 5-4 victory.

Looking at the Timberwolves' scorecard, Tristan

Kroeker and Colin Buban earned the main offensive highlights for Spiritwood, with both scoring a goal and a helper apiece. Additionally, Jeff Caffet and Patrick Robinson attained a goal each.

In the assist column, Devin Beebe, Zach Lomsnes, and Dallyn Saam scored a point each.

Towards the Wheaties' tallies, Dustin Bezugly was the one who obtained the top offensive highlights for Radisson with a score of two goals and one assist. In addition, Talon Thomas was able to acquire one goal and two assists while Ryan Rothenburger scored a goal and a helper. Finally, Thomas Elgersma was also able to score a goal.

On the assist section for the Wheaties, Carter Am-

son was able to attain two points, while Ethan Bear and Brandon Griffiths both acquired a helper each.

Although the Timberwolves' last home game didn't go in the team's favour, it was still an exciting game that made everyone in the Spiritwood Rec Centre keep an eye on the action, and a great night of hockey.

With 13 games already played and a record of 2 wins and 11 losses, the Timberwolves are down to their last league game for the season, battling with the Perdue Pirates on Jan. 29. Puck drop for the game is set for 8 p.m.

Barring a sudden hot streak for the Pirates, Saturday's game could determine who finishes at the bottom of the Sask. Prairie Hockey League standings.



Timberwolves goalie JR Bussiere covers up the puck to force a stoppage in play.

PICK OF THE WEEK

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Notice of Advance Voting

[Subsection 83(2) 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 the returning officer has made provision for advance voting for the benefit of qualified voters who want to cast their votes in advance of Election Day.

Advance voting will take place for Councillor of Division 4 for the Rural Municipality of Big River No. 555, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. at the Big River Community Centre, 606 First Street North, Big River, Saskatchewan on: Saturday, the 12th day of February, 2022.

Dated at Big River, Saskatchewan this 27th day of January, 2022.

Michael Yuzik
Returning Officer

Identification will be required when you attend the polls. For additional information and a full list of voter ID options please visit <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/municipal-administration/elections/voting#acceptable-voter-identification>

RM OF BLAINE LAKE NO. 434

EXPERIENCED SEASONAL GRADER OPERATOR

(Full time, Position Runs Tentatively April 15, 2022 to Late Oct/Early Nov)

Requirements:

- Trained and certified as a Grader Operator
- 5 years municipal experience in grading & road repairs
- Trained and certified to operate & maintain heavy equipment
- SK class 5 (minimum); WHMIS; Powered Mobile Equipment Certification
- Capable of working with others & with minimal supervision
- Willingness to follow direction from senior grader operator
- Attention to detail & safety conscious

Start date: Tentatively April 15-20, 2022

Wages: Per IUOE pay scale.

Application Deadline: 4:00 pm on February 10, 2022

Only those selected for an interview will be contacted. Applications will close once the position is filled.

Forward resume and references to:
R.M. of Blaine Lake #434, PO Box 38, Blaine Lake, SK, S0J 0J0 or email rm434@sasktel.net.

Novus Law Group

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

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

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

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

Contact us:
By Phone: 306-922-4700 (Monday to Friday 9am-5pm)
By Email: Bill Cannon at bcannon@novuslaw.ca
Shelley Cannon at scannon@novuslaw.ca
OR princealbert@novuslaw.ca.

Shellbrook shines in Communities in Bloom

Efforts to improve Shellbrook were thrust into the spotlight this past summer, when Town of Shellbrook recreation director Jessica Kernohan entered the community into Communities in Bloom, a national and provincial program that focuses on beautification, heritage, and environmental awareness.

Co-ordinated in Saskatchewan by the Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association, Communities in Bloom sees judges visit the participating communities and evaluate them across six categories, including community appearance, environmental, heritage conservation, urban forestry, landscape, and floral display.

Communities are evaluated based on what is currently in place, future plans for improvements, and existing municipal regulations.

"The Town of Shellbrook has never entered the contest before, and I felt that Shellbrook needed that opportunity," Kernohan said, noting that she was most interested in receiving the report outlining what

Shellbrook did well and areas it can improve upon.

"We do a lot of things to make our community beautiful, and there are lots of people in the community who are involved in that. I thought that they needed some recognition for that."

Kernohan recently got her hands on the report she'd been hoping for. And, with everything tallied up, Shellbrook received a score of 640 out of 1,000, good enough for three blooms out of a possible five.

Additionally, the Hidden Hills of Shellbrook Golf Course received a special mention for the work a group of volunteers did to redesign flower beds and add an entrance display to the parking lot.

Considering Shellbrook was a first-time entrant, and nothing much was done beyond the usual maintenance and upkeep, Kernohan says she's proud of how well Shellbrook did. That said, there was still a lot done to improve the community in 2021.

For starters, the community's Main Street

entrance flower bed was given a facelift and had another location for flowers and shrubs added, and a new flower bed was planted around the columbarium at the Shellbrook Cemetery.

In major new additions, the Shellbrook Kinettes spearheaded the planting of trees and installation of a disc golf course at Centennial Park, the town partnered with both Shellbrook schools and the Shellbrook Area Ministerial Food Bank on the Live Together Grow Together Community Garden, and high school students and park staff planted trees at the Kinsmen Park campground.

"It was a lot of work, but a lot of fun," Kernohan said, noting that the plan is to enter the community again.

"I would love to put together a Communities in Bloom committee that will help with the review of the document we received from our evaluation, determine the most important aspects to improve upon, and help guide future projects."

Highlights of the town's Communities in Bloom



Shellbrook's Live Together Grow Together Community Garden, a partnership with local schools and the food bank, were praised in the town's Communities in Bloom report.

report were as follows:

Community Appearance: The town was praised for tidiness of the community, but urged to consider ways to improve the appearance of vacant lots along Main Street and to invest in furniture for outdoor spaces.

Environmental: The town received marks for its plans to make rain barrels available, and also for the solar project at the Richardson Pioneer Recreation Centre, and was encouraged to consider uses of solar power for other facilities, such as the pool.

Heritage conservation: The town was praised for the addition of the disc golf course and plans for a walking trail at Centennial Park, and urged to find ways to keep the museum and the community's heritage

alive.

Urban forestry: The town was encouraged to establish a tree inventory to keep track of the types of trees in town and their condition.

Landscape: Hidden Hills and the outdoor area at Parkland Integrated Health Centre were considered some of the town's landscape highlights, and the town

was encouraged to continue with its work at Centennial Park and to consider ways to improve the landscape of Main Street.

Floral displays: The town and the Business Improvement District (BID) received praise for Main Street's flower displays, but were encouraged to diversify the offerings.



A flower bed was added to beautify the columbarium at the Shellbrook Cemetery.

Request for Contractor Equipment Rates

The RM of Big River No. 555 is requesting contractors interested in doing work for the RM on an "as need basis" to submit their equipment list along with their 2022 rates to;

RM of Big River No. 555
Box 219, BIG RIVER, SK SOJ OEO
or
Email: rm555@rmofbigriver.ca

The list shall be accompanied by a letter of good standing with WCB and proof of liability insurance of no less than 3 million dollars applicable to their operations.

Contractors doing work for the municipality are required to be compliant with the *Saskatchewan Employment Act* and the *Occupational Health and Safety Regulations, 1996*.

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

- 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
- 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., SOJ 1M0.
- Tender must be postmarked by 4:00 p.m. on February 4, 2022.
- 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.
- Highest, or any tender, not necessarily accepted.
- 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.
- 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 MEDSTEAD NO. 497

SEASONAL MAINTENANCE/EQUIPMENT OPERATOR POSITION

The R.M. of Medstead No. 497 invites applications for an experienced full time Seasonal Maintenance/Equipment Operator. The Seasonal Maintenance/Equipment Operator will be responsible for mowing this municipality's ditches, rock picking, mulching in conjunction with the grader operators, installing and repairing signs and other jobs as directed by the Reeve. Opportunity may be present in the future to move into a grader operator position. Pay rates depending on experience.

The R.M. of Medstead No. 497 is located in central Saskatchewan located approximately forty five minutes north of North Battleford.

Applicants must possess a valid Class 5 driver's license and have skill and experience in maintenance and operation of equipment including tractor, mower, rock picker and mulcher.

Submit written resumes stating experience, expected wage, two references and a current driver's abstract by 4:00 p.m. on February 7th, 2022. All resumes shall be marked "Seasonal Maintenance/Equipment Operator Position" and dropped off at the RM Office, mailed to the address below or emailed to rm497@sasktel.net.

R.M. of Medstead No. 497
Box 12
Medstead, SK SOM 1W0

Council thanks all applicants for their interest in this position but only persons selected for interviews will be contacted.

The R.M. of Medstead No. 497 reserves the right to reject and refuse any or all expressions of interest.

BENSON FARMS EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Benson Farms invites applications for a permanent part-time Bookkeeper. The successful candidate will have experience in office administration and possess well developed interpersonal, communication and organizational skills. Preference will be given to candidates who possess the following:

- Proficiency with Microsoft Office Programs.
- Knowledge in basic accounting principles and practices.
- Skills to effectively communicate, both verbally and written.
- Competency to maintain confidential records and files.
- Ability to deal effectively with suppliers and to work independently with minimal supervision.

Qualified individuals are invited to submit a resume and cover letter detailing how their qualifications match those listed above by 4:00 p.m., Wednesday, February 16, 2022.

BensSun Acres Inc.
Box 176 Canwood, SK SOJ OK0
Phone: 306-468-7067
Email: benssunacres@sasktel.net

Benson Farms thanks all applicants; however, only candidates interviewed will be contacted.

Sask. Party mustn't ignore small business struggles

Everything is fine.

Everything is perfectly normal here in Saskatchewan.

Don't believe me? Take a gander at what the Sask. Party government had to say, when it was criticized for failing to take steps to make federal funding available to workers and small businesses that are struggling through the COVID-19 pandemic.

Currently, due to a lack of gathering and capacity restrictions, Saskatchewan is the only province or territory in which workers can't receive the federal government's Canada Worker Lockdown Benefit. The lack of public health measures is also making it nearly impossible for small businesses to benefit from federal supports like the Local Lockdown Program.

In an emailed response to questions from the CBC, the government said workers have benefited from various supports throughout the pandemic.

It added, "Proof of vaccination or negative test has been required at a number of businesses and facilities in the province since October ... [enabling them] to remain open without capacity limits."

There's nothing false about the above statement. The trouble is, freeing up businesses to be open as usual doesn't mean that it's currently business as usual in Saskatchewan – no matter how much the Sask. Party government wants it to be the case.

We are neck-deep in the Omicron wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. Active cases have seen a 2,100 per cent increase over the past month, climbing to nearly 12,000 from just over 500 (from Dec. 20 to Jan. 20). In the same period, hospitalizations related to COVID have more than doubled (though, thankfully, ICU admissions remain low).

Regardless of how "mild" the Omicron variant is in comparison to its predecessors, its spread has significant consequences for workers and small businesses.

The nearly 12,000 active cases means there are a staggering number of people who are currently unable to work,



JORDAN TWISS

News Editor

leaving businesses without the necessary staff to operate at full capacity and hurting their bottom lines.

Couple this with supply chain issues, cost increases due to inflation, and the reality that people are limiting their outings, and you've got a perfect storm for businesses to end up closing their doors for good.

To make matters worse, the lack of public health measures is only going to prolong the pain for workers and businesses. Without access to federal supports and/or paid sick leave, many workers will choose to go to work sick because they simply can't afford to stay home, meaning more cases of COVID and more staffing shortages.

The Sask. Party government has been saying for weeks now that we need to learn to live with COVID because lockdowns have economic and social consequences. But living with more COVID in our communities than ever has consequences, too.

Granted, the federal government isn't blameless in this. Its policy of tying benefits to lockdowns and capacity restrictions is unfairly leaving Saskatchewan workers and businesses out in the cold.

However, if Ottawa is unwilling to change its policies, and if the Sask. Party government is unwilling to even consider changing course on public health measures, then it at the very least needs to step in where the federal government won't.

Last Tuesday, Saskatchewan's Chief Medical Health Officer, Dr. Saqib Shahab, said the province is two to four weeks away from the peak of the Omicron wave. This means another two to four weeks of growing case numbers and hospitalizations, and another two to four weeks of staffing shortages that small businesses simply can't afford. What's more, we don't know what awaits us on the other side of the wave.

Lockdowns and restrictions may not be the perfect solution, but neither is complete inaction. Ignoring the pandemic won't make it go away.



YOUR TWO CENTS

The feds need to end the lockdown subsidies

**By Franco Terrazano
CTF Federal Director**

When governments subsidize something, you can expect more of it. With the federal government covering the cost of keeping workers and businesses afloat during provincial lockdowns, it's no surprise that provincial politicians are biased toward new restrictions.

Since COVID-19 touched down, Ottawa has dished out \$511 billion through direct subsidies, tax deferrals and low-interest loans. This debt-fueled spending binge has sent the federal debt through the \$1-trillion mark. The entire

federal debt is expected to balloon by nearly 90 per cent by 2027, and the feds aren't projected to balance the budget until 2070. Taxpayers can't afford for this to become the new normal.

More than 80 per cent of government pandemic subsidies have come from Ottawa. Not only are federal pandemic subsidies massively expensive, but when the feds pick up the bulk of the bill that allows premiers not to consider the full costs of their lockdowns.

Take the latest round of lockdowns implemented by Ontario Premier Doug Ford. On Dec. 22,

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced that the federal government is extending its pandemic subsidies for workers and businesses impacted by provincial lockdowns. This will mean another \$4 billion for taxpayers to pay back.

Less than two weeks later, Ford closed Ontario gyms, prohibited dining in restaurants and restricted capacity in retail shops. Ford didn't have to worry about his government covering the full bill for the subsidies because Ottawa already had its credit card on the table.

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

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

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

Member of



Report from the Legislature

Saskatchewan is blessed to have the natural resources to provide the world with the food, fuel, and fertilizer it needs. We begin the year with tremendous optimism as a multi-billion dollar investment was announced that will bring economic growth for years to come.

Federated Co-operatives Limited (FCL) has announced they are working on an Integrated Agriculture Complex with AGT Foods for the City of Regina.

The partnership between FCL and AGT Foods will ensure Saskatchewan exceeds our 2030 Growth Plan goal of processing 75 per cent of the canola grown inside our borders.

Using 1.1 million tonnes of homegrown canola each year, the crushing facility will produce 450,000 tonnes of oil. That same oil will be used to produce renewable diesel at the plant on the same property.



**HON. SCOTT MOE,
PREMIER**

~
MLA for Rosthern -
Shellbrook
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scottmoe.mla@sasktel.net

This new facility will feature a \$2 billion renewable diesel facility and a canola crushing plant.

The development of this integrated facility will create \$4.5 billion in direct and indirect economic benefits. The investment will also mean an estimated 2,500 construction jobs and 150 high-paying operational positions when complete. Creating jobs and investing in new value-added ventures will be key to rebounding quickly from

the COVID-19 pandemic.

Investments are also being made in the livestock and forage sector as a result of partnerships with the federal government. This year, 28 projects will receive over \$5 million in support through the province's Agriculture Development Fund. The research and innovations that will come from this funding will ensure Saskatchewan continues to set the standard for new ideas and approaches to agriculture.

Research projects for this year will include the potential for native and tame forage species to enhance carbon sequestration, expanded reproduction diagnostics and improved animal health.

A federal-provincial partnership designed to help farmers and ranchers better prepare for drought has been extended. Due to hardships that many producers faced in 2021, many projects that should have

qualified for the Farm and Ranch Water Infrastructure Program, were not completed.

Already dealing with the drought and the troubles that a lack of moisture caused, producers found it difficult to source the supplies, materials, and contractors needed to complete projects. Changes made will allow livestock producers, who plan to claim over \$50,000 in rebates, to submit their preliminary application by the end of March 2022 to complete their projects and then submit for a rebate by the end of September.

This past year has been a brutal reminder of how precious water resources are. Having a good, reliable source can be make-or-break for producers in Saskatchewan. The Agriculture Development Fund will assist with important planning for the future. Extending the deadline will give producers more time to



**HON. JEREMY
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jharrisonmla@sasktel.net

complete projects such as dugouts, wells or pipelines to ensure a better water supply.

Outdoor enthusiasts will start planning for summer excursions this April as Provincial Parks begin accepting reservations for the 2022 season. Coming off a record-setting year in 2021 that saw over a million visitors, parks are preparing for another busy season.

Reservations for all parks participating in the seasonal site pro-

gram will start on April 18, 2022. Reservations for nightly camping will open in batches featuring four or five parks from across the province each day. That process will begin April 19 for Saskatchewan Landing, Good Spirit Lake, Candle Lake, and Meadow Lake, with more locations to follow.

In preparation for the new season, Sask Parks has created some new system features to assist with the booking process. Campers will be able to compare campsites, create a list of their favourite sites, be added to a waitlist for more popular campgrounds, purchase entry passes, as well as explore the various programs or events held at each campground. Additionally, historic parks will no longer charge individual programming admission, instead only a park entry permit will be needed. For more information, please visit saskparks.com.

The feds need to end the lockdown subsidies

Continued from 4

It will take years to evaluate pandemic measures, but two things are already clear. First, if the feds cover the bills for lockdowns, that creates a bias toward that measure for provincial governments. Second, it raises an important issue of fairness.

Consider the contrasting approaches of Quebec and Saskatchewan. Quebec has implemented some of the strictest lockdowns in the world, including curfews, which triggers big federal lockdown subsidies for their workers and businesses. Rather than these strict lockdowns, Saskatchewan is focusing on getting boosters to a higher percentage of its population than Quebec.

Federal lockdown subsidies favour provinces with tougher restrictions, like Quebec. Yet, Saskatchewanians and everyone else are paying for Quebec's lockdowns through federal taxes.

Federal lockdown subsidies also create incentives for people to stay home, even when they're healthy, at a time when businesses are having a hard time finding workers. That's slowing the full

economic recovery we so desperately need and making it harder for more supply to ease the burden of rising prices.

Here's the reality: if a province feels it needs a lockdown, it has had more than enough time to tailor subsidies to its unique needs. Yes, provincial subsidies would put pressure on provincial budgets. But they should. Accountability dictates that it's better to link decisions to the government responsible for the costs.

Here's another reality premiers are enthusiastically ignoring: they're not just spending more money on pandemic measures, they're spending more money on virtually everything. When the federal government covers lockdown subsidies, it is enabling provinces to carry on with wasteful spending unrelated to the pandemic. If provinces covered their own pandemic bills, they would have to redirect wasteful spending to real needs.

Once again, Ontario provides an example of wasteful spending politicians should reprioritize. Ford recently gave

\$295 million to the Ford Motor Company. He also added millions to the handouts for political parties, including his own, even after he had promised to end them.

If premiers truly believe lockdowns are the best measure, they can cut wasteful spending within their own budgets

in order to subsidize the businesses and people they are locking down.

It's time for the federal government to end its wage and business lockdown subsidies. Pandemic subsidies have cost Ottawa more than half a trillion dollars. That kind of spending can't go on forever.

PUBLIC NOTICE Rural Municipality of Big River No. 555

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

INTENT

To amend zoning district map by rezoning from A – Agriculture District to LR1 – Low Density Lakeshore Residential District the land described as Lots 1 to 6 in Block 5, Parcel C Plan 93B13657 Ext 1, in Part of NE 26-56-07 W3, as shown in the sketch that forms part of this notice.

AFFECTED LANDS

Part of NE 26-56-07 W3, in the RM of Big River No. 555 shown within the bold line on the following map. The land intended to be subdivided is along the northeast side of the Organized Hamlet of Phillip's Grove.

REASON

The reason for the amendment is to accommodate residential uses.

PUBLIC INSPECTION

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

PUBLIC HEARING

Council will hold a public hearing on February 14th, 2022, in the Big River Community Centre at 606 First Street North, Big River, SK at 1:00 pm. Council will also consider written comments received at the hearing or delivered to the undersigned at the municipal office before the hearing.

Issued at Big River this 27th day of January, 2022.

Michael Yuzik
Rural Municipal Administrator



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Moe rejects calls for new health measures

Premier Scott Moe tripped down on his position that his government will not introduce any new public health measures, echoing statements he's repeated multiple times in recent weeks even as Saskatchewan set a daily new case record with 1,629 on Sunday.

The premier made his remarks on Monday, during a provincial COVID-19 update with Health Minister Paul Merriman, from the legislative building. It was the first time he had appeared at a COVID-19 provincial update since he tested positive for the virus on Jan. 13.

In his opening remarks, Moe pointed to Saskatchewan's rising hospitalization admissions, but said they remain lower compared to other provinces that have imposed stricter lockdown policies.

Later on in his statement, Moe announced his government won't be looking at reimplementing public health measures at this time.

"Omicron is spreading across Canada and spreading around the world regardless of the public health measures that are in place, which is why we have chosen to avoid

increasing those public health measures and increasing the policies surrounding lockdowns here in Saskatchewan," he said.

"We are not going to impose additional restrictions that cause significant harm for no significant benefit."

Moe compared Saskatchewan's COVID-19 situation to the situation in Québec, which currently has some of the strictest public health measures in Canada and may soon implement a so-called "vax tax" on those who remain unvaccinated for non-medical reasons.

Moe pointed to Québec's hospitalization rate of just under 40 hospitalizations per 100,000 people, which he said is nearly double Saskatchewan's rate, and said his government is avoiding the economic and psychological harm, and the infringement on personal freedoms, that are often caused by lockdowns.

"I've also been challenged by some to provide evidence that lockdowns don't work. The evidence is right here in Saskatchewan as we manage through this Omicron wave with very little in the way of restrictions on people's lives and we have lower

rates of hospitalizations, ICU admissions and fatalities through the month of January than many other provinces with much more severe restrictions," Moe added.

"We live with other diseases in our communities and in our province that are also ongoing concerns. We do this without locking down, without taking people's freedoms, and without disrupting everyone's life. We need to get to that point with COVID-19."

Speaking on his personal experience of having COVID-19, Moe said he had little to no symptoms and that he "felt quite good" throughout his infection. He used his experience to encourage people to get vaccinated and receive their booster shot if they have not done so already.

"I expect it might have been a lot worse had I not been fully vaccinated, and I had not received my booster shot a couple weeks prior."

Fielding questions from reporters, including one about the convoy of truckers travelling from B.C. to Ottawa to protest the federal government's vaccine mandate for truckers, Moe called the mandate unne-

cessary.

Per the policy, all Canadian truckers wanting to cross the border from the United States needed to be vaccinated by Jan. 15 in order to avoid a 14-day quarantine.

"This is an essential service. These are the folks that are delivering our products and our food to our communities in Saskatchewan and in Canada, and they have operated safely throughout this pandemic long before we had access to vaccines and the many tools we have in the battle against the Omicron wave," he said.

The premier also suggested that the vast majority of truckers have already been vaccinated against the virus, pointing to the province's agreement last

year with North Dakota in which the state offered vaccines at a number of border checkpoints to Canadian truckers returning to Saskatchewan.

"It's an unnecessary policy and it's one that is going to have potentially significant impacts on us accessing essential services, including food, which we need in our communities."

Predictably, Premier Moe was criticized by Sask. NDP leader Ryan Meili, who accused him of giving up on the fight against COVID-19.

"Leadership is about choices," he said in a statement. "Today, Scott Moe made a choice. He chose to mislead the people of Saskatchewan. He chose to downplay the seriousness of our current situation.

He chose to turn his back on overburdened health care workers and the patients they serve. He chose to malign legitimate public health experts and encourage anti-science extremists."

Meili called on Dr. Saqib Shahab, Saskatchewan's chief medical health officer, the leadership of the SHA, and Sask. Party MLAs who "still have any respect for the health of Saskatchewan people" to stand up and tell the truth about what the province faces in the Omicron wave of the pandemic.

As of Monday afternoon's Provincial Dashboard update, there were 262 COVID-related hospitalizations, with 233 people receiving inpatient care and 29 people in ICUs.

Sask. records 87 road deaths in 2021

Fatal vehicle collisions on Saskatchewan roads remained at historic lows in 2021, with preliminary statistics from SGI finding 87 deaths — the same number as in 2020, and slightly higher than the 2019's all-time low of 71 deaths.

Though deaths on the road have been at the lowest recorded levels since the province began gathering data in the 1950s, SGI cautions the numbers for 2021 may be adjusted as police conclude investigations into accidents that occurred throughout the year.

"It's important not to lose sight of the fact that these aren't simply numbers on a chart," said Minister Responsible for SGI Don Morgan. "No one should ever die due to a motor vehicle collision, and no family should ever have to experience this type of loss."

While not all collision investigations are complete, the preliminary data available for 2021 concludes that impairment, speeding, distraction and not wearing a seatbelt remain Saskatchewan's big four traffic safety concerns.

For the investigations that are complete:

- In more than one-third of vehicle occupant deaths, the victim was not wearing his or her seatbelt, or was improperly restrained. Since approximately 95 per cent of people consistently wear their seatbelts, the small number who don't are killed at a much higher rate. Seatbelts save lives. Always buckle up.
- Driver impairment remains the leading cause of fatalities. Drive sober, and stop impaired family and friends from driving impaired.
- Excessive speed and driver distraction/inattention are each factors in more than one out of every five deaths. Obey speed limits and avoid distractions.

"Statistically speaking, Saskatchewan roads are the safest they've ever been," said SGI Vice-President of Traffic Safety Kwei Quaye. "However, there is still significant

room for improvement, and every driver has the ability to contribute to safer roads for themselves, other drivers and all road users. SGI will continue our dedicated efforts to reduce crash fatalities, in conjunction with our road safety partners."

Even though Saskatchewan's roads are considered to be the "safest they've ever been", Morgan says more can always be done to reduce the number of traffic fatalities. Among the options being considered by the province are more police officers, tougher fines, and an increase in public education campaigns.

Through these measures, Morgan says the hope is to get the province's road fatalities below the record set in 2019.

"Our intention is to ramp up the enforcement," he said. "We had more check stops this Christmas than we ever had before. We will likely increase the use of photo radar — a lot of accidents were speed related — probably more and higher fines and then more public awareness."

Morgan said families who have been impacted by vehicle fatalities have been vital to public education campaigns. However, he also said those public education campaigns are just part of the solution.

"We'll continue to promote the public education side. On the enforcement side, we will have more police on the road, more prosecutions, and hopefully that starts to get the message [across]."

Morgan added that more police on the roads won't mean paying for more officers in communities like Prince Albert. Instead, he said the province plans to focus more on regional policing models, which he said can benefit multiple communities.

"I'm not committing to any more specific resources for any particular community, but I want to make sure we get the resources used as efficiently and as effectively as we can," he said.

Four of Saskatchewan's 87 automobile fatalities occurred on the outskirts of Prince Albert. Another two were recorded in the Big River area.

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AGRICULTURE

January 27, 2022

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Biofuel's resurgence raises tough questions

New canola markets, or expansions of existing ones, are obviously a positive for many Canadian Prairie producers.

Every time the market grows for canola, regardless of its end purpose, it means demand should be stronger and that should help bolster prices, or at least help maintain them.

So, when plans were announced for Federated Co-operatives Limited to build an estimated \$2-billion renewable diesel fuel and canola crushing plant in Regina in partnership with AGT Foods, it was huge news for the canola sector.

In this case, the crushing facility appears to have the oil extracted targeted at the biofuel sector, which would broaden the market, and might even allow an opportunity to better market lower grade canola where the oil is not destined for human consumption.

Of course, the idea of fuels from grains and oilseeds is hardly a new one.

An integrated facility at Lanigan was built years ago to extract ethanol from cereal grains to be used as a fuel additive, with the resulting grain mash being fed to cattle in an asso-



CALVIN DANIELS

ciated feedlot.

The facility was built prior to the idea of biofuels really catching on, and there was a time government was proactive in looking to mandate biofuel in fuels, and to offer subsidies to ensure biofuel such as ethanol was available for that purpose.

But since grain prices jumped, use of the grain for ethanol has simply never proved financially viable.

There, however, remains a realization that non-renewable energy sources such as oil and coal are finite in supply and ultimately not good for our atmosphere and, in the longer term, the climate of the planet — although I am sure among readers there will be a number in vehement opposition to that suggestion.

However, good science has its concerns, consumers, at least a number of them are adding their voices to that con-

cern, and government and business appear to be reacting with moves toward greener and more renewable energy sources, so biofuels seem to be swinging back into vogue.

The question of how high canola prices, for example, can go before turning it into fuel makes no sense remains unclear. The price of fuel at the pumps today, of course, is higher than a decade ago, so one would expect the fuel sector can pay more today than in the past.

But a more basic question should be asked: too: how many acres can be dedicated to produc-

ing grains and oilseeds just for fuel?

There are already those who question grain production for livestock feed, reasoning the land could be producing crops for direct human consumption and adding meat really is not required.

As farmland is finite, actually diminishing in areas due to salinity, erosion, and urban sprawl, there will be added pressure to feed an ever-growing world population, and what gets grown, and for what purpose, are going to be increasingly difficult questions to answer.

Deadline for livestock water projects extended

The Governments of Canada and Saskatchewan are pleased to announce an extension to the Farm and Ranch Water Infrastructure Program (FRWIP) deadline for livestock producers planning to access the previously-announced temporary enhanced FRWIP funding.

Along with the drought conditions experienced in 2021, producers also found it is difficult to source materials and contractors to construct their water development projects. Due to these circumstances, the governments have adapted FRWIP to allow livestock producers who plan to claim over \$50,000 in rebates to submit a preliminary application by March 31,

2022, to complete their project(s) and submit for rebate by Sept. 30, 2022.

"The past year has been a harsh reminder of how important water reliability is to agricultural producers," said Marie-Claude Bibeau, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food. "By extending the Farm and Ranch Water Infrastructure Program, we are giving farmers more time to complete projects such as dugouts, wells and pipelines, that will help to ensure a better supply of this essential resource for livestock."

"The Government of Saskatchewan recognizes the challenges producers are facing with availability of contractors and materials," Agriculture Min-

ister David Marit said. "It is important to provide more time for producers to complete their water projects so they can take advantage of additional funding to develop secure and sustainable water sources to meet the needs of their operation and help them mitigate the impacts of future dry conditions."

On July 14, 2021, the Government of Saskatchewan announced changes to temporarily increase the maximum funding a livestock producer can receive from the Farm and Ranch Water Infrastructure Program for dugouts, wells and pipelines. For the period from April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022, the maximum rebate, for livestock producers only, increased to

\$150,000. The first \$50,000 is based on a 50-50 cost-share and the remaining \$100,000 is a 70-30 government-producer cost-share.

The Farm and Ranch Water Infrastructure Program is funded through the Canadian Agricultural Partnership, a five-year, \$3 billion commitment by Canada's federal, provincial, and territorial governments that supports Canada's agriculture, agri-food and agri-products sectors.

This includes a \$2 billion commitment that is cost-shared 60 per cent federally and 40 per cent provincially/territorially for programs that are designed and delivered by provinces and territories.

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Minutes of an R.M. of Leask meeting

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

The Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Council of the Rural Municipality of Leask No. 464 held in the Leask Community Hall on Wednesday, Nov. 10, 2021.

Council Meeting was called to order by Reeve Craig Hamilton at 9:06 a.m.

Present were Reeve Craig Hamilton, Administrator Riannon Nelson and the following Council members: Real Diehl - Division No. 2, Gordon Stieb - Division No. 3, Joan Sanftleben - Division No. 4, and Clarke Gossen - Division No. 6.

Absent: Keith Junk - Division No. 1, Robert Girard - Division No. 5

Gossen: That the minutes of the Oct. 13, 2021, Regular Council Meeting be approved. Carried

Diehl: That Council Indemnity be approved for payment as presented. Carried

Stieb: That we approve the payments as listed

on the attached "List of Accounts for Approval" for a total of \$146,733.24, Council Indemnity for November, Fire Chief Direct Deposit for November and Payroll Direct Deposit for Pay Periods 21 & 22 for 2021. Carried

Sanftleben: That we receive the Bank Reconciliation for October 2021. Carried

Gossen: That we approve the Statement of Financial Activities for October 2021. Carried

Diehl: That we send a letter to the owners of NW 07-46-08 W3 requiring them to remove the locked gate currently sitting on our road allowance. The gate needs to be removed by Dec. 1, 2021. Carried

Gossen: That a letter be sent to Robert Lane requesting the gate be removed by Dec. 1, 2021, as the Sept. 1, 2021 deadline has passed.

Furthermore, the road is required to be surveyed and registered to the Crown by Jan. 1, 2022. Carried

Councillor Stieb left the

room at 10:08 a.m.

Sanftleben: That council acknowledges the Director of Community Planning suggestion to amend LD2 front yard set back to 6 meters in a future bylaw. Carried

Councillor Stieb returned to the room at 10:11 a.m.

Stieb: That we refund a portion of the taxes on Lot 25, Block 1, Plan 87B11948 as the cabin was demolished on Nov. 1, 2021, in the amount of \$273.35. Carried

Gossen: That we require the developed road through the NE 31-46-07 W3 that is providing access to the home situated on the SW 31-46-07 W3 be surveyed and registered to the Crown. Carried

Diehl: That the administrator report be accepted as presented. Carried

Stieb: That we purchase gift cards for employees as a Christmas gift in the amount of \$250 per employee after tax. Carried

Superintendent of Public Works John Martin arrived at the meeting at 10:55 a.m.

Sanftleben: That the Landfill be closed on Boxing Day with a notice to be posted at the gate and on our website. But

will be open on Monday, Dec. 27, 2021, instead. Carried

Gossen: That we accept Superintendent of Public Works John Martin's written and verbal reports as presented. Carried

Diehl: That we approve the presented Gravel Exploration Map Plan and that it be forwarded to the Royal Community Pasture Board for their letter of consent. Once letter of consent is received, the completed application will be submitted to The Ministry of Agriculture - Lands Branch. Carried

Stieb: That we acknowledge the Advance Contract Award Notice with the advertising dates of Nov. 5, 2021, to Nov. 23, 2021, at 3 p.m. on the SaskTendering website. Carried

Councillor Gossen left the room at 12:16 p.m.

Sanftleben: That we agree to reimburse the Thickwood Trails Snowmobile Club Inc. for 1-mile of road allowance tree clearing along the South side of 27-48-08 W3. Carried

Councillor Gossen returned to the meeting during lunch.

Superintendent Martin left the meeting for the day at 12:45 p.m.

Gossen: That we recess the regular meeting

of council for the public hearing regarding the proposed road closure at 12:59 p.m. Carried

Diehl: That we reconvene the regular meeting at 1:23 p.m. Carried

Delegation: Wayne Schmalz and Margaret George at 1:23 p.m. to 1:39 p.m.

Sanftleben: That Council accept the list of lands in arrears as presented, and to exclude from the list of lands properties in which the amount of taxes in arrears does not exceed one half of the immediately preceding year's tax levy. That TAX-ervice be authorized to handle the Tax Enforcement proceedings on behalf of the Rural Municipality of Leask No. 464. Carried

Gossen: That we void invoice number 2021-00094 as it was invoiced for the incorrect owner. Carried

Diehl: That we refund the snow deposit from G.R.S.J Hubbard Holdings in the amount of \$16.25 as it is no longer applicable. Carried

Stieb: That we set up a joint meeting with the Village of Leask to discuss the function of the Fire Departments. Carried

Sanftleben: That we sign the statement of acknowledgment received

from the Town of Blaine Lake regarding the Blaine Lake & District Fire Department JAWS of Life purchase and training. Carried

Gossen: That we agree to purchase a subscription to Zoom for the months of January and February 2022. Carried

Diehl: That we set a meeting with the Village of Leask regarding the Emerald Lake Regional Park Board to discuss the function and appointments to the Board. Carried

Stieb: That we send letters to the affected landowners with offers to purchase acres within the developed roadway through sections 33 and 28-48-08 W3. Carried

Sanftleben: That we purchase a laptop for an office third workstation for use as per quote 08-Nov-21 from Munisoft. Carried

Gossen: That we acknowledge receipt of the completed Public Disclosure Annual Declaration from: Councillor Diehl, Councillor Sanftleben, Councillor Gossen, Reeve Hamilton, and Councillor Stieb. Carried

Diehl: That the correspondence be received and filed. Carried

Stieb: That this meeting be adjourned at 3:22 p.m. Carried

Advertising Deadline is FRIDAY 4:00 P.M.

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 Bretzlauff

- 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

Parkland Elks score loss, tie in home action

The Parkland U18 AA Elks continued to hobble towards the end of the 2021-2022 regular season, hosting the Saskatoon Riverkings and the Martensville Marauders over the weekend.

Following an 8-3 beating from the Riverkings on Friday night, the Elks fought their way (literally) to a 5-5 draw against the Marauders on Saturday evening.

Elks (3) vs Riverkings (8)

The Parkland U18 AA Elks came out of the gate strong Friday evening, with Kaiden Couture finding the back of the net on an assist from Kyler Roy to give the home team a rare early lead.

The Riverkings had an answer almost immediately, in the form of an unassisted goal from Mason Karakochuk. Then, just a few minutes later, Rhett Ewen put the visitors up 2-1 on assists from Carter Degelman and Cade Hynd.

The Riverkings tacked on two more in the second stanza to all but put the game out of reach. First, Hynd struck within the first 30 seconds on an assist from Degelman. Then, Karakochuk scored his second of the game with a helper from Gunnar Gabruch.

The one-sided match continued into the third period, with Kyle Lardner putting Saskatoon up 5-1 less than 90 seconds into the frame on an assist from Karakochuk.

Following a lull in the scoring, Caine Lofstrom found the back of the net on a Riverkings power play, with an assist from Gabruch, and kicked off a late flurry of goals for both teams.

Brendan Aug scored first, earning another assist for Roy, and the Riverkings' Cohen Swan retaliated just 28 seconds later with an unassisted shorthanded goal.

With time winding down, Kendon Skalicky scored one last goal for the Elks, giving Roy his third assist of the game. The Riverkings

weren't finished, however, as Karakochuk tacked on a hat trick goal in the final minute of play to put his team over the top by a score of 8-3.

Elks (5) vs Marauders (5) OT

Fresh off yet another tough loss, the Parkland U18 AA Elks struggled in the opening Saturday night's match with the Martensville Marauders, tallying just one shot on goal through the first 10 minutes of action.

Despite logging minimal time on offence, the Elks went on to draw first blood when Bronson Parker found himself in possession of a loose puck in front of the Martensville goal. Peter Bird and Kyler Roy assisted on the goal, which was the only one tallied through the first 20 minutes.

Starting the second frame with the remainder of a power play, the Marauders applied pressure early on, and kept their foot on the gas to tie the game at even strength. Mason Engele scored the goal, with assists from Raiden Clayton and Grayson Hanley.

The Elks rallied later in the period, when Tylee Sylvestre unexpectedly found himself in possession of a long lead pass from Tavis Galloway. Though he was gassed, Sylvestre outmaneuvered Marauders netminder Maxwell Peters and scored on a backhand.

The Elks hit their stride on offence after this, pinning the Marauders deep in their own end before Jase Martin blasted a shot home from the point. Bird drew the lone assist on the goal.

With the benefit of a power play, the Marauders pulled back within one when a loose puck just barely skittered into the goal past netminder Shae Stewart. Jacob Bergman earned credit for the goal, while Jack Janzen tallied an assist.

With the game close, tensions boiled over in the dying minutes of the second period, cul-

minating in a brawl that ended with a total of 92 penalty minutes being doled out between both teams.

Entering the third period with cooler heads, but also a man down, the Elks were able to extend their lead on a shorthanded screen shot from a faceoff in the Martensville zone. Jake Boettcher netted the goal, with a helper from Corvan Stewart.

A minute later, the Marauders' Brody Engele made something of his team's extended power play by scoring on a nifty backhand shot. Tarron Sabadash and Handley assisted on the play.

The Elks' penalty kill continued to show true grit through the period, killing off a 5-on-3 power play and opening the door for Martin to score his second of the game on a perfectly placed shot.

The Marauders bounced back late in the frame, pulling within one once again on a slippery shot from the point that managed to slide its way into the goal. Kael Tebb netted the goal, with assists from Bergman and

Clayton.

The Marauders tied the game up just a few minutes later on a goal from Clayton, assisted by Myles Johnson and Janzen, to force overtime.

Though both teams had power plays through the five extra minutes of play, neither team was able to find the back of the net, ending the game with a 5-5 draw.

With the loss and the tie, the Elks sit at 2-24-0-2 on the season and have officially clinched last place in the Centre Four Conference standings.

The Elks close out their regular season with a trio of games this weekend.

On Friday night, the team will host the Warman Wildcats for its final home game of the season, with puck drop slated for 7:30 p.m.

On Saturday, the Elks head to Martensville for a rematch with the Marauders at 7:15 p.m.

Closing out their season, the Elks will face off against the North West Stars on Sunday afternoon. That game has a 1 p.m. start time.



Elks goalie Shae Stewart bats aside a loose puck to shutdown a Marauders scoring opportunity.



Elks netminder Shae Stewart makes a desperate reach with his glove, but can't keep the puck from sliding into the goal.



An after the whistle fracas in the second period resulted in a combined 92 penalty minutes for both teams.

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.

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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 Tuesday, Dec. 14, 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 Bevera Fee, Administrator Colette Bussiere, and Foreman Darcy Laventure.

Division 5 is vacant.

A quorum being present the meeting was called to order at 9:01 a.m. by Reeve, Shirley Dauvin.

Steinhilber: That the agenda be adopted as presented. Carried

There was no conflict of interest acknowledged by Council.

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

Steinhilber: That the minutes of the Nov. 10, 2021, Regular Meeting of Council be approved as presented. Carried

Wingerter: That the Administrator's report having been read now be filed. Carried

Fee: That we pay out 2 weeks of vacation pay for Administrator, Colette Bussiere. One

(1) week to be paid in December 2021 and one (1) week to be paid in January 2022. Carried

Dauvin: That we authorize the Administrator to proceed with contracting a graphic designer to design a logo for the RM. Carried

Council: That Administrator Colette Bussiere participate in the RMAA Curling to be held in Unity on Feb. 11, 2022, and that we provide \$100 in compensation to the host municipality to offset costs. Carried

Wingerter: That we purchase a cabinet from Colette Bussiere for the office boardroom. Carried

Steinhilber: That the bank reconciliation for the month ending Nov. 30, 2021 be accepted as presented. Carried

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

Cheque No. 13409-13467 (\$281,353.75)

Payroll File No. 347 & 349 (\$34,688.76)

EFT Grader Lease Payment (\$6,065.49). Carried

Vaagen: That the Statement of Financial Activities for the month ending Nov. 30, 2021 be approved as presented. Carried

Delegation: Christine Enmark and Shauna Piluk joined the council meeting via web

conference at 10:45 a.m. to present on SaskPower's proposed transmission line rebuild west of Spiritwood.

Christine and Shauna left the web conference at 11:14 a.m.

Laventure: The Council of the Rural Municipality of Spiritwood No. 496 confirms the municipality meets the following eligibility requirements to receive the Municipal Revenue Sharing Grant:

- Submission of the 2020 Audited Financial Statement to the Ministry of Government Relations;
- The municipality runs a Municipal Waterworks System that is not subject to public reporting requirements.
- In Good Standing with respect to the reporting and remittance of Education Property Taxes;
- Adoption of a Council Procedures Bylaw;
- Adoption of an Employee Code of Conduct; and
- All members of council have filed and annually updated their Public Disclosure Statements, as required; and

That we authorize the Administrator to sign the Declaration of Eligibility and submit it to the Ministry of Government Relations. Carried

Laventure: That the SARM

Property Insurance Schedule be renewed as updated and presented to Council. Carried

Wingerter: That we enter into road maintenance agreements with Tolko Industries Ltd. to haul timber on Amiens Grid (4,500 tonne), Grid No. 793 (4,000 tonne) & Grid No. 946 (31,500 tonne) from the following land locations:

- SW 30-50-08-W3
- 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

Vaagen: That we enter into a road maintenance agreement with Soucy Holdings to haul 4,500 tonne of timber on Grid No. 946. from the following land locations:

- E 1/2 09-54-12-W3
- S 1/2 10-54-12-W3
- NE 35-53-12-W3. Carried

Steinhilber: That we authorize TAXervice, pursuant to subsection 22(1) of The Tax Enforcement Act, to commence proceedings to request title with respect to the following lands:

- Roll No. 1436 450
- Roll No. 3181 000
- Roll No. 4255 001
- Roll No. 4271 000
- Roll No. 5851 000
- Roll No. 6225 000
- Roll No. 6270 000. Carried

Fee: That we refund prepayment of taxes in the amount of \$611.34 on Roll No. 3843 000 as ownership has changed. Carried

Fee: That the Environmental Carrying Capacity Study Report for Meeting Lake be accepted as presented, and that we proceed with contracting Northbound Planning to make recommendations for amendments to the RM Zoning Bylaw & District Plan. Carried

(Editor's note: council spent much of the rest of the meeting approving its annual committee and board appointments. Due to space limitations, the list of appointments has been omitted)

Steinhilber: That the regular meeting of Council be adjourned at 2:12 p.m. to move into an In Camera session to discuss HR matters. Carried

Administrator Colette Bussiere left the council meeting at 2:12 p.m.

Administrator Colette Bussiere returned to the council meeting at 2:19 p.m. The meeting was called back to order at 2:20 p.m.

Fee: That the correspondence having been read now be filed. Carried

Steinhilber: That the meeting be adjourned at 2:27 p.m. Carried

Sask., Alberta partner on CWD research

The Government of Saskatchewan, the Government of Alberta, and the Alberta Conservation Association are providing nearly \$1.3 million in funding toward the research and development of a vaccine for chronic wasting disease (CWD) over the next five years.

"This shared funding agreement has the potential to yield an effective tool to protect our cervid

populations across the prairies," Environment Minister Warren Kaeding said. "A vaccine could assist in reducing challenges faced with premature fatalities in the animals, as well as offering a reduction in transmission across more than just our two provinces."

CWD is a fatal, infectious disease of deer, elk, reindeer and moose (cervids) that affects the central nervous system.

Caribou, a subspecies of reindeer in Canada, are also susceptible.

Saskatchewan will provide \$400,000 to be dispersed from the Fish and Wildlife Development Fund, with a commitment of \$50,000 for the first two years and \$100,000 in each of the remaining three years.

This funding will complement a commitment from the Alberta Ministry of Environment

and Parks to support the research for two years at the University of Calgary (\$195,000) and the University of Alberta (\$186,000), as well as a \$500,000 pledge over five years from the Alberta Conservation Association.

"The ongoing spread of CWD through wildlife populations threatens a natural resource of considerable economic, ecological and social

importance," Alberta Minister of Environment and Parks Jason Nixon said. "An effective oral vaccine for CWD would complement other science-based strategies to limit the prevalence and spread of CWD in wildlife populations in Alberta and beyond."

CWD has been detected in wild cervids throughout most of Saskatchewan south of the boreal forest, with the

highest infection rates in the western and central portions of the province, as well as the northeastern areas around Nipawin and Carrot River.

For more information on CWD, please visit <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/residents/environment-public-health-and-safety/wildlife-issues/fish-and-wildlife-diseases/chronic-wasting-disease>.

GOOD NEWS

BETTER IS A NEIGHBOUR WHO IS NEAR

Better is a neighbour who is near than a brother far away.

That is what Solomon wrote in Proverbs 27:10. I don't think the third King of Israel was being disrespectful of families. I just think he saw the value of neighbours.

Take for example my family. My dad, Slim Bodvarson, was married to Theresa Marion in Hay River on Dec. 1, 1950. That would have been the pioneer days, and Hay River's population would haven't been too big. Dad being from Manitoba and mom from Saskatchewan, it wouldn't make sense

calling on family. Neighbours would become a great blessing.

We lived in the Old Town, but after the 1963 flood we moved to the New Town. Our house was on River Drive. I remember we would borrow a cup of sugar from the neighbour if we needed it. Back in the day this went on. Well, there wouldn't be any convenience stores at that time. People were just being good neighbours.

Later on, we moved to Disneyland. Not California. The Disneyland in Hay River. I discovered a lot of towns nickname certain subdivisions and

Hay River was no different. The government built some 20 or so low rental units that were all identical with exception of colour. People from the community began to call it Disneyland and the name stuck. One could appreciate I grew up close to a lot of neighbours. I think those in the North have learned to be neighbourly.

This might be a stretch, but I think of the neighbourly gesture of the Mayor of Pine Point. I remember my dad listening to the radio and he heard how Mayor Johnny got up in frigid cold weather and walked to Hay Riv-

er some 60 miles away approximately. Then, he got up the next morning and walked back, all to raise money for their new rink. People only do those things if they are invested in their community.

Marlene and I have now lived in Saskatchewan some 41 years. From time to time, I hear the phrase "We have a good neighbour." I believe those in the prairies have learned to be neighbourly. We are better together.

Blessings,
Pastor David Bodvarson
SPA

Canada's soccer men poised for success

Thirty-six years ago, the Canadian men's soccer team hit its peak by qualifying for the 1986 World Cup in Mexico City. Alas, the team under coach Tony Walters failed to score a single goal in its three games — losing by scores of 2-0, 2-0 and 1-0 — and has since been unable to qualify for the world's most prestigious sports tournament.

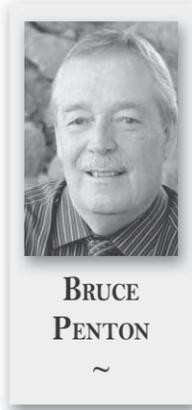
But in 2022, the soccer world has tilted and Canada is almost assured of getting back to the big stage when the World Cup is held in Qatar from Nov. 21 to Dec. 18.

The long and winding road to the World Cup began last September and stretches until March. If the Canadian team, which will be without ailing world-class superstar Alphonso Davies of Edmonton, can continue its impressive run, a major celebration across the country will happen in late March. And that's just for qualifying.

Given the national

team's history, a number of stepping stones are on the road to success: Qualifying for the tournament would be No. 1; scoring at least one goal in a World Cup game would be No. 2; winning at least one game would be No. 3; making the playoffs would be No. 4; winning the World Cup? That's an Everestian peak almost too high for even the most optimistic Canadian to consider.

Coach John Herdman's Canadian team is currently halfway through an eight-team tournament (home and away games against the other seven countries) which will determine three qualifying countries for the World Cup. Thanks to a pair of wins in November in Edmonton over Costa Rica and Mexico, Canada stands alone on top with a near-perfect 4-0-4 record. Its next three games in this CONCACAF event will be played in Hamilton: Jan. 27 against Honduras; Jan. 30 against arch



BRUCE
PENTON

rival U.S.A.; and Feb. 2 against El Salvador. Canada then wraps up the tournament in March with games against Costa Rica, Jamaica and Panama (combined record to date: 7 wins; 8 losses; 9 draws).

The world rankings would suggest Canada has a tough road ahead. But while the maple leaf boys are ranked 40th in the world by FIFA, the U.S. and Mexico, already victimized in this World Cup qualifying event by the Canadians, are ranked 12th and 14th respectively. What does that say? This Canadian squad is either over-

achieving, or is becoming an actual contender on the world stage.

Davies, recovering from a case of myocarditis that will prevent him from playing in Hamilton, is already a household name among Canadian sports fans, but the likes of Cyle Larin and Jonathan David may soon be as familiar as McDavid and Crosby.

The country's sports fans will be glued to their TVs Jan. 27 for the next episode of this exciting run to Qatar.

• Scott Ostler of the San Francisco Chronicle, on MLB's need for robotic umpires to call balls and strikes: "Human umps were fine in the old days. So were phone booths and stage coaches."

• RJ Currie of sports-deke.com: "Rumour has it Tim Tebow has been trying to become a ventriloquist. Unfortunately, whenever he throws his voice it goes way over everyone's head."

• Patti Dawn Swanson, on Oilers' GM Ken

Holland saying he believes in 'second chances' while musing about signing troubled forward Evander Kane: "Fine, except Kane goes through second chances like Liz Taylor went through wedding rings."

• Greg Cote of the Miami Herald, on the firing of Dolphins' coach Brian Flores after two winning seasons: "Team owner Stephen Ross might as well have bought a billboard alongside Interstate 95 that depicts him wearing a big red Bozo nose and the word 'IN-COMPETENT' stamped across his forehead."

• Blast from the past (courtesy Don Pottinger and Dan Sutherland): Harry Neale, professional hockey coach: "Last year we couldn't win at home and we were losing on the road. My failure as a coach was that I couldn't think of anyplace else to play."

• Late comedian Phyllis Diller: "The reason women don't play football is because 11 of them would never wear the

same outfit in public."

• Another blast from the past: "Arkansas coach Lou Holtz, when his team was pelted with oranges after winning a trip to the 1978 Orange Bowl: "I'm glad we're not going to the Gator Bowl."

• Dwight Perry of the Seattle Times: "A fan has filed a \$6 billion lawsuit against the Jets and Giants for deceptive practices, on the grounds that they: a) call themselves New York but play in New Jersey; b) claim to play professional football."

• RJ Currie of sports-deke.com: "At the Australian Open it's been serve, volley, serve, volley, serve and volley. And that was just the Novak Djokovic COVID deportation case."

• Comedy writer Torben Rolfsen of Vancouver, via Twitter, with a sure sign too many NHL games have been lost to COVID: "I've forgotten the words to 'O Canada.'" Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

Silvertips top Royals, fall to Blackhawks

The Shellbrook Silvertips returned to action after a week off, hitting the road for a pair of matches against the Hague Royals and the Birch Hills Blackhawks.

The weekend road trip brought mixed results for the Tips, as the team battled to a tough 5-3 victory against the Royals on Friday night, before being downed 10-4 by the Blackhawks on Saturday.

Tips (5) vs Royals (3)

Down a couple key players in their match against the Royals, the Tips played hard from the opening faceoff and battled their way to an early lead on a goal from Nathaniel Martin. Brendon Canaday and Evan Williams earned assists on the game-opener.

After the teams spent much of the rest of the period feeling each other out, Dylan Smith extended the Tips' lead to 2-0 on an assist from Brett Mason.

This lead would hold until midway through the second frame, when Nick Fehr got Hague on the board with an unassisted power play goal. And the lead evaporated altogether just past the halfway point of the third stanza, when Teagan Zacharias knotted the game up on assists from Carson Henrion and Fehr.

Fehr continued to be dangerous, putting the Royals up 3-2 on a shorthanded goal with an assist from Zacharias.

With time quickly winding down, the Tips finally found their offensive stride

again. Nathaniel Martin tied the game back up with an unassisted power play goal, then Dallas Galloway put the Tips up 4-3 on assists from Mathew Kutenikoff and Smith.

Rounding out the score card, Smith tallied his second of the night on an empty netter with just 20 seconds left to give the Tips their 5-3 win.

Tips (4) vs Hawks (10)

Facing much stiffer competition in the second place Birch Hills Blackhawks, the Tips found themselves in a deficit early on in Saturday night's match, as Trent Swenson scored on an assist from Scott Swenson in the first four minutes of the game.

The Tips proved they were up to the challenge, tying the game up on a power play marker from Austin Lamotte, assisted by Dylan Smith, but the Blackhawks took control of the game in the last few minutes of the opening period.

Brandon Juravinski struck first, on assists from Chad Grambo and Adam Morrison, then Grambo put the Blackhawks up 3-1 just 50 seconds later, with helpers from Reed Whitrow and Brady Keller.

Birch Hills poured it on in the second period, tallying another pair of unanswered goals to take a commanding 5-1 lead. Juravinski started by netting his second goal of the game, with assists

from Riley Lajeunesse and Grambo. Then, Boedy Donald scored on the power play with helpers from Reed Gunville and Adam Hergott.

With his team facing a four-goal deficit, Gage Helm tried to get the Tips back into it with a shorthanded goal, assisted by Smith. But the Blackhawks retaliated with two more late goals to put the game out of reach again.

Kyle Njaa struck first, with assists from Donald and Gunville, then Austin Ravndahl found the back of the net courtesy of helpers from Swenson and Whitrow.

The Blackhawks refused to let up in the third period, with Gunville tacking on a power play goal to push the score to 8-2. However, The Tips showed they

had some fight left in them, with Lamotte scoring his second of the game on assists from Brendon Beaulac and Smith.

In a late flurry of offence, Njaa put Birch Hills up 9-3 on an assist from Juravinski, and Justin Kerr tallied for the Tips with a helper from Jody Blais. Gunville closed out the game with his second of the match, with Njaa earning the lone assist.

Following the win and the loss, the Tips sit at 9-4-0-1 on the season, good enough to be tied for fourth place in the Twin Rivers Hockey League Standings.

This weekend, the team closes its regular season with a road game against the Waldheim Warriors on Saturday night. Puck drop is set for 7:30 p.m.

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OBITUARIES

Robert "Bob" Bovair



Robert "Bob" Bovair
January 14, 1954 –
January 7, 2022

It is with great sadness that the family of Robert "Bob" Bovair announce his sudden passing on January 7, 2022, at his home in Prince Albert at the age of 67 years.

Bob was the second child born to Jim and Paula Bovair in North Battleford, SK and younger brother to Shirley.

He grew up in the Medstead – Robinhood

area, going to school in Medstead. On leaving school he went into the job market working at various jobs until entering barber school. Once he completed his education, he started working in Prince Albert at Kens Barber Shop. He then proceeded to spend many years in the business, working with different people. He made many good customers and friends over the years. Due to health issues, Bob was unable to continue working and so retired in September.

Bob was kind, loving and had a good sense of humour. He loved to tease and joke with the girls at work, laughing and enjoying the comradery. He enjoyed playing cribbage with long time friend and boss Cliff. He loved riding his motorcycle – taking his aunt for rides and doing trips with his friend Doug,

and also enjoyed going for coffee with David and other friends.

He enjoyed travelling to Barbados, Thailand, and Norway. During the summer he golfed, went camping and fishing. He enjoyed sitting around the campfire relaxing. He really enjoyed the golfing trips with his good friend Greg.

Bob was a collector of hats and had many from different parts of the world. He enjoyed collecting John Deere tractors and things related to John Deere.

Bob was active in his church – his religion meant a lot to him. When he was a teenager, he played the organ and in his later years played the guitar in church in Prince Albert.

Bob had three nephews who thought the world of him and was so proud to be called "U Bob" as they lovingly referred to him.

He will be greatly missed by these boys.

Bob is remembered by his loving family, his sister; Shirley (Dale) Bertsch of North Battleford, SK; his nephews, Brad (Anne-Margrete) and children Oliver and Jenny of Norway, Colin (Casey) and son Channing of Grand Prairie AB, Tyson (Ashley) and children Tayla and Benton of North Battleford, SK; his aunt, Margaret Bruns; cousin Randy and family, Ernie (Jean), cousin Myles, Marlyce (JP) and children; his aunt, Lil (John) Urban, cousins Dawn Marie, Michelle (Mike) and children, cousins Mryna, Myra and family, and cousins Kathy (John) and family. He was predeceased by his parents, Jim and Paula Bovair; grandparents, Bill and Edna Bovair and Gustav and Gretchen Bruns; Aunt Mary and

Uncle Bill.

The family of Robert Bovair wish to thank all the doctors and nurses who cared for Bob, his friends and everyone who sent messages, food and donations in Bob's memory.

Funeral service will be held at 11:00 a.m., on Friday January 28, 2022, at Gateway Covenant Church, 1500 15th Avenue East, Prince Albert, SK. Those unable to attend the service are welcome to join via the livestream link. <https://youtu.be/LtqzFWDGJIE>

LtqzFWDGJIE

Donations in memory of Bob may be made to the Heart and Stroke Foundation, 26 - 1738 Quebec Ave, Saskatoon, SK, S7K 1V9. 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, Marianne Turcotte Funeral Director, Prince Albert, SK, (306) 763-3322.

Charles "Eric" Frick

It is with profound sadness the family of Mr. Charles "Eric" Frick resident of Speers, SK formally of Marcelin, SK announce his passing on Thursday, January 20, 2022 at the Royal University Hospital in

Saskatoon, SK at the age of 78 years. A Graveside Service for Eric will be held in the Spring at the Leask Cemetery. Arrangements have been entrusted to Trevor Watts of Eternal Memories Funeral Service & Crematorium.

Rick Trent Gunderson



GUNDERSON – Rick Trent

It is with profound sadness that the family of Rick

Gunderson announce his sudden passing on January 19th at the age of 59.

Rick was raised in the Mont Nebo / Shellbrook area, the oldest child of Arnold and Frances Gunderson. He is lovingly remembered by his wife Elaine, Saskatoon, and children Cole (Allyssa) Gunderson and family Elsie and Mae, Martensville; Kendall (Jordan) Person and family Sawyer and Cash, Canwood; and Shelby Gunderson, Saskatoon.

Rick is also survived by his:

Brother Terry (Alice) Gunderson, Sherwood Park, and family Marty (Tracy) Gunderson and children Lindy, Dylan, Cole, and Jade; Kurt (Karen) Gunderson and children Ellie and Nathan; TM (Julie) Gunderson and children Kayden, Tristan, and Alyx.

Sister Karen (Morley) Rudolph, Mont Nebo, and family Chris and Jaimie (Rachelle) Rudolph.

Sister-in-law Laurel (Blair) Hildahl, Estevan, and family.

Brothers-in-law Robert (Trish) Duncan,

Estevan, and family; Bruce (Margaret) Duncan, Estevan, and family.

Aunts Vivian McNeilly, Armella (Al) West, Elsie Gunderson.

Uncle Bill (Brenda) McNeilly.

Numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

He is predeceased by: Parents Arnold and Frances Gunderson.

Parents-in-law Barry and Doreen Duncan.

Grandparents Gunder and Asborg Gunderson, Tom and Sarah McNeilly, (Elzzie

McComas).

Uncles Jacob, John, Isaac, and Ingvald Gunderson; David and Gordon McNeilly.

Aunts Ilma, Edna, Dorothy, and Marg Gunderson.

Rick was a generous and humble man who exhibited love and graciousness to those he met. He thoroughly enjoyed spending time with his family and friends, and all were touched by his sense of humor and kindness. Rick studied Agriculture and made farming his work passion.

A celebration of life

service will be held in Shellbrook, SK within the next few months.

In lieu of flowers, those so wishing may make donations in memory of Rick to Mont Nebo Cooperative Association Limited (MNCAL - Mont Nebo Hall), Mont Nebo Evangelical Free Church (directed to Aaseral Cemetery Fund), or a charity of your choice.

Arrangements entrusted to Cherished Memories Funeral Services.

Cherished Memories
FUNERAL SERVICES AND CREMATORY INC.

Barry Joseph Moule



Barry Joseph Moule
September 1, 1949 –
January 13, 2022

The family of Barry is saddened to announce

the passing of our much-loved husband, father, grandfather, and brother on Thursday January 13, 2022.

Barry was raised on the family farm in Tossachs, here he attended Tossachs School until it closed, then attended Yellow Grass School where he met his wife Carolyn. They began their marriage living in a basement suite in Weyburn, before moving to Yellow Grass, where their three children were born. (Wanda, Twila and Barry Jr.)

In 1972 they moved to Uranium City where Barry worked for Eldorado Nuclear. This is where Barry discovered A.A. which he remained an active member of for 46 years. Uranium City is also where he learned to auction and formed Circle M Construction.

In 1980 Barry, Carolyn and their family moved to Swift Current where they purchased an auction business. From there they moved to Big River in 1982 where they still reside. Barry worked on the construction

of the nursing home and hospital. When completed, Barry became the maintenance man until he retired. After retirement, he worked for Beau "Lac" Funeral Home.

Barry enjoyed life to the fullest, playing hockey, working with 4-H and being with his family.

Barry is lovingly remembered by his loving wife: Carolyn Moule, his children and grandchildren: Wanda (Ron) Gostola of Outlook, SK and her son: Johnathon Pederson,

Twila Meyers (George Harder) of Big River, SK and children: Tyler Meyers, Jessica Meyers (Kris Harder), Barry Jr. (Angie) Moule of Outlook, SK, his great grandchildren: Corben, McKayla, Angela and Aliyah Harder, his brother: Robert (Anna) Moule of Trossachs, SK, his mother-in-law: Florence Weber of Outlook, SK, his sister-in-law: Sandra Weber of Calgary, AB, and numerous nieces, nephews, other relatives, and friends.

Predeceased by his parents: Ernest and Jessie Moule, his father-in-law: James David "Dave" Weber, his brother-in-law: Larry Weber.

Interment will be held at a later date.

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, Big River, SK 306-469-2277.

TOPS members see success with weight loss

The Shellbrook chapter of TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) has done well in 2021. From its inception in early January 2020, there has been some growth in numbers. It just keeps on keeping on.

As a group we were challenged and encouraged. Many have reached personal goals and as a group we surpassed last years weight loss. In 2020, we lost 162 lbs and in turn donated that amount in dollars to Shellbrook and Area Food Bank.

Through 2021, our total weight loss was 226 pounds, and as a community-oriented group, have decided to donate that dollar amount to the Refugee

Fund through Shellbrook Pentecostal Church. Plans are in place for SPA to sponsor a refugee family and, as TOPS, we are excited to be part of it.

If you are having trouble with weight loss and would desire to have some like minded people to encourage you, TOPS is the support group for you. It is led by Brian and Vici Hagel, and they are warm and capable leaders who would love to hear from you.

You can contact Brian @ 306-841-7966 for further information, or visit www.tops.org.

A fellow traveller and a member of TOPS,

David Bodvarson

The upside of snow

By Patricia Hanbidge

From the perspective of us humanoids, we may not enjoy the mountains of snow to shovel from our driveways and walkways, being forced to stay at home due to impassable roads or worse yet get stuck while driving! However, from the perspective of the garden, snow is a wonderful thing. Plants are heavily influenced by interactions with their surroundings and the environmental conditions of an area shape the length of the growing seasons and the hardiness zones. As plants are not mobile, they are restricted to utilizing the resources that are in their area and to adapting to the various degrees of environmental harshness. Depending on where we live, the level of biotic and abiotic stress relates directly to our climatic conditions.

The annual distribution and duration of snow is of great importance as it influences the variety of herbaceous plants that can be grown that

are considered perennial in nature. This of course in turn affects the growth and survival of herbivores and this effect continues up the food chain. Thus, the snow is of greater importance than just looking good as it plays a crucial role in maintaining healthy soils through the winter months.

Early winter snows act as a natural blanket, or insulator. The effectiveness of this insulative layer depends on the amount of snow that collects before the weather gets really cold. These early snows prevent heat from escaping into the atmosphere and by blocking cold air from moving into the soil. This is demonstrated very effectively where I live, as there was freezing rain that fell just prior to the heavy snowfall. The ample amount of shoveling to move the snow finally revealed that the sheer ice beneath the snow had become quite mushy. More importantly, the heat energy that is trapped by an early or heavy snow results in a thinner frost area in the ground which is truly a refuge for animal and plant life that call this upper topsoil level home. This in turn allows these soil organisms to continue to live during the winter months.

Furthermore, early snows or snow that falls when the air is warmer is a better insulator than snow that falls in the bitter cold of winter. Snow is an awesome insulator and if we get a heavy snow early in the winter season, the

ground stays substantially warmer than it would otherwise. For example, if the air temperature is -14 and the ground has not yet frozen, under a foot of snow, the ground temperature would be -2 C. Just think of what we could grow if we received such a heavy snowfall every year prior to the ground freezing solid!

Another really important occurrence is that with little or no snow cover, soils are more exposed to the freeze-thaw cycles which can be very damaging to life in the soil and the plants in our gardens. This of course is due to the expansion factors that occur when water freezes. Bare soils are also defenseless, as they have no protection from wind, rain, and runoff while an early snowfall acts as an armour to protect soil from wind and water erosion.

So, the next time you are out shovelling, not only should we enjoy the ability to be able to do this regular winter chore, but take a moment to give some thought to the benefit of the snow as insulation. It blankets the crown of many plants that are more marginal and allow us to enjoy growing some herbaceous perennials that otherwise would not survive the cold winter temperatures.

Hanbidge is the Lead Horticulturist with Orchid Horticulture. Find us at www.orchidhort.com; by email at info@orchidhort.com; on facebook @orchidhort and on instagram at #orchidhort.

Sask. NDP calls for poverty, housing strategy

Following an emergency consultation tour on Saskatchewan income support programs and the housing crisis in Saskatchewan, Social Services and Housing Critic Meara Conway released a solutions-based report on her findings and called for a comprehensive housing and poverty reduction strategy.

"Across the board, this Sask. Party government has not stepped up when the chips are down. We find ourselves today in a position where poverty is worse and food bank usage has increased despite a period of economic growth in the province," said Conway. "What we need to be doing is working with those on the frontlines to find comprehensive solutions. This is what responsible governments do – they consult with those who know best."

Conway's Report also emphasizes the significant economic fallout of the current approach: "This patchwork system is far more costly overall

due to the expenditure of preventable resources across major systems. If we don't see immediate course correction from this government, Saskatchewan will continue to see an entrenchment of poverty, and the continued waste of public funds on crisis response rather than prevention," said Conway.

Conway's tour involved meetings in Regina, Saskatoon and Moose Jaw, Prince Albert, North Battleford, as well as consultations with Northern, rural, and remote communities where she heard from service providers, income assistance recipients, Ministry of Social Services staff, and landlords. These consultations resulted in a Report on the Housing and Poverty Crisis, outlining solutions to reform income assistance programs and address the poverty and housing crises in Saskatchewan. The Report includes recommendations to:

- Increase income assistance rates, ensure

shelter benefits are set based on existing rental market rates, and return to covering the actual cost of utilities for clients;

- Provide Ministry of Social Services staff with the tools to meaningfully assist clients through evidence-based programming, supports, and manageable caseloads;

- Simplify and demystify Ministry processes and create multiple ways for people to access supports: a "no wrong door" policy, including a return to direct payment option for those who need extra support;

- Block fund homeless shelters sufficiently and abandon per diem funding model so community-based organizations have stable and predictable funding; and

- Adopt a comprehensive multi-Ministry approach that brings together Justice, Health, Education and Social Services to implement a Housing First plan and implement supportive housing.

In a recent survey of adults 18+ living in communities of less than 100,000 population on the prairies, the majority of the respondents indicated they prefer their printed flyer

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How Geography Impacts Media Access, Usage and Engagement: January 2020

Totum Research: Interview timing Dec. 2019/Jan. 2020. Random Sample Adults 18+ Using Computer Assisted Telephone Interview (CATI) Method with a margin of error of +/- 3.3% at 95% confidence level with 900 interviews AB/SK/MB





2022 Guide to Post-Secondary Education

Personal approach builds student success at Brandon University

Written by the Brandon University
 BRANDON, Man. — Choosing Brandon University is the right move for anyone looking for the support of a positive, close-knit environment. “Brandon University really does have the best of both worlds,” said Erin Mills, Director of Recruitment and Retention at BU. “We offer a full spread of course and degree choices, so there’s lots for you to choose from, and we offer personal support

and caring relationships to ensure a solid chance of success for everyone.” She says that BU offers 19 separate undergraduate programs, plus many pre-professional pathways — plenty of options for every student entering university. Plus, she notes that BU has an additional half a dozen graduate degrees for those pursuing advanced education like a master’s degree. “Your Brandon University education can take you anywhere,” she says. “And

it all starts with a simple conversation. Talking to one of our Student Success Officers sets you on a path to success.” Interested students can book a virtual tour or an introductory conversation at BrandonU.ca/Your-Future, where friendly and knowledgeable Student Success Officers can go over options, and introduce opportunities that are unique to BU. “So many students are interested in our Indigenous Transition Program, which provides unique cultural supports for first-year Indigenous students,” Mills said. “It’s a great way to get to know our Elders and Knowledge-Keepers, as well as all

of the social and educational opportunities at our Indigenous Peoples’ Centre.” Many students also get a chance to earn while they learn, thanks to the explosive growth of BU’s Co-op Education program. “A BU education puts you on the fast track to a great career, and Co-op gives you a head start,” Mills said. “Employers from across Canada are eager to hire Co-op students, so you can build your resumé with relevant experience, kickstart your network, and bring home a paycheque. Co-op is a true win-win-win.” Balancing student health and safety with a great hands-on education hasn’t

been easy for anyone over the past couple of years, but BU has consistently delivered a high-quality blended experience that students can rely on. “Our small class sizes mean we have the flexibility that’s needed these days,” Mills said. “It also means you get to really know your professors, and your fellow classmates. You can be sure you’ll make great friendships that last a lifetime while earning a degree that will build a solid career.” Learn more at BrandonU.ca/Your-Future and join the more than

3,000 students who choose Brandon University every year.



Photo courtesy of Brandon University

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Start your degree at Medicine Hat College

Written by the Medicine Hat College

Dr. Nicoelle Wanner has been going to Medicine Hat College (MHC) for as long as she can remember. She recalls following big footprints through the hallways when she attended early learning programs as a child, singing with the MHC Girls’ Choir as a teen, and studying in the cafeteria for high school finals. More recently, she goes to the college to work as one of the physicians in the campus medical clinic. “Medicine Hat College has always been here for me,” says Wanner. When the time came to start her post-secondary education, the decision was a no brainer. “I could have moved away to another city or another university, but that was never really high on my priority list. I knew that I could get a very good education here with the added logical benefits of cost saving and smaller class sizes,” she explains. “The college gave me the education and training I needed, in the environ-

ment that I needed during that time in my life. I never had to sacrifice anything by staying here.” After completing two years of university transfer science courses, she went on to finish a Bachelor of Science at the University of Calgary. It was there she had her first real ‘a-ha’ moment about what made a MHC education so special. “I was sitting in my first big lecture hall with four hundred students and thinking ‘Oh my God, what is happening?’ because that was not what I was used to. At MHC, you just had so much more one-on-one time with your instructors which improved the education for sure, but quite frankly it improved the fun.” In addition to the solid education she received at MHC, she also had the opportunity to connect with people and develop relationships — skills that have served her well in her career. Wanner finished her medical degree at the University of Alberta and returned to Medicine Hat for her residency. With strong roots in the community, she es-

tablished her medical practice, started her family and began building the life she wanted to have. After 13 years, the busy mom of three closed her practice and moved to the MHC campus clinic, allowing her more time for family activities and non-clinical initiatives. “The thing I love most about my job is the opportunities it’s given me. My training has allowed me to create the job that I want and give me that independence to really tailor my work,” says Wanner, who is also involved with improving pediatric mental health services in Medicine Hat. Being back at MHC, Wanner says she has come full circle. “In a way, I see myself in so many of the students that come to see me. I know they just want to get to where they’re going, but I want to tell them to sit back and take their time. Enjoy the ride - you’re going to get there eventually if that’s where you’re meant to be.” Learn more about the programs that MHC offers at www.mhc.ab.ca/ProgramsandCourses.

Increase to the Saskatchewan Advantage Scholarship

As part of our continuing effort to create a better educated Saskatchewan, our government has increased the *Saskatchewan Advantage Scholarship*. Funding has increased from \$500 to \$750 per year, up to a maximum of \$3,000 over ten years, to eligible grade 12 students, including Adult Basic Education and GED students. For details, visit Saskatchewan.ca.



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

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



2022 Guide to Post-Secondary Education

Build careers with new opportunities at Medicine Hat College

Written by the Medicine Hat College

Prepare for exciting careers in sustainable innovation, sport & event marketing and management, and service dog and canine studies management with new program opportunities at Medicine Hat College (MHC) starting in Fall 2022.

Sustainable Innovation

MHC's Sustainable Innovation program offers majors in business and science and provides learners with career paths that will lead change, drive new ways of doing business, and create a future that is pros-

perous in response to the United Nation's Global Sustainable Development goals.

"The term sustainability is often associated with climate change, but it involves so much more. Sustainability recognizes that economic, social, and environmental hardships naturally coincide with strategies that improve health, education, equality, innovation, economic growth, and environmental systems. Modelling these integrated systems will drive sustainable innovation," explains Clayton Bos, dean for the School of Arts, Science & Education at MHC.

This two-year diploma, the first of its kind in Canada, will teach students how to take a holistic approach in measuring sustainability with the use of the triple bottom line – people, planet and profit – and implement creative solutions in a strategic manner. They will also be prepared to research, analyze, apply and communicate new practices that can change the status quo of an organization.

Sport & Event Marketing and Management

From the presentation of professional sports and entertainment events to the coordination of

private functions, recreational activities and e-sports, learners will gain broad perspective and a competitive edge through MHC's Sport & Event Marketing and Management diploma.

"We have been working closely with industry to ensure this program gives our learners a distinct career advantage," says Timothy Spielman, dean of the college's School of Business and Continuing Studies. "This isn't your typical 9 to 5 job. It's fast-paced, it's dynamic, it's in constant motion. Individuals in this field are creative, collaborative and committed to delivering exceptional experiences."

Students will develop a range of skills including project management,

business analysis, marketing, communications and fund development in this two year program.

Both Sustainable Innovation and Sport & Event Marketing and Management programs will be delivered via HyFlex, providing learners the option to complete their studies online, in person or a combination of the two.

Service Dog and Canine Studies Management

Another first of a kind for Canadian post-secondary, this program prepares students for a variety of careers ranging from owning and operating a kennel, dog grooming business or training operation, to training dogs that assist individuals living with autism,

dementia and diabetes or requiring emotional therapy.

Work integrated learning will be an integral part of the experience, providing students on the job training. Learners will have an opportunity to work directly with the dogs, which will be placed with an actual client at the end of their schooling.

"We have been working with industry to get an idea of the career paths related to both the private canine industry and service area, and by adding the focus on business we are able to accelerate a graduate's career outcomes."

Start planning for your future today! Visit www.mhc.ab.ca to apply for Fall 2022.

Saskatchewan Polytechnic becomes Microsoft Global Training Partner

By: Michael Oleksyn, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Saskatchewan Polytechnic has received Microsoft Global Training Partner status, the school announced on Thursday.

Dr. Larry Rosia, Sask. Polytech's president and CEO, said the move will help ensure Sask Polytechnic graduates and instructors receive the most up to date training in a variety of fields. "Saskatchewan Polytechnic is honoured and thrilled that our relationship with Microsoft continues to expand and grow," Rosia said in a press release.

"As a Microsoft Global Training Partner, Sask. Polytech faculty, have developed the expertise to incorporate Microsoft technology virtually and in-person to enhance the student learning experience and ensure our students are empowered with future-relevant skills. Our faculty will also have the privilege to share their knowledge and experience with educators around the world."

Rosia said that innovation and technology are key factors that making sure graduates students have future-relevant skills. Their role as a Microsoft Global Training Partner will enable Saskatchewan faculty and instructors to connect with institutions around the world for training, resources and technology.

Rosia said it was difficult to say just how much of an affect their new status would have, but he expects it to be significant.

Sask. Polytech faculty are well-established specialists in adult learning and training other educators. It is the exclu-

sive in-house expertise and mentorship, when equipped with Microsoft tools and technologies, that positions Sask. Polytech to be able to assist other post-secondary institutions across Canada and abroad, to build capacity and grow their own proficiencies in Microsoft technologies.

"Canada's innovation economy continues to accelerate at an unparalleled rate, and the need for skilled talent has never been more important," Marc Seaman, vice president of Education, Microsoft Canada, said. "Saskatchewan Polytechnic becoming a Microsoft Global Training Partner is an example of how industry and post-secondary institutions can work together to provide students and educators with the necessary skills and experiences to fully take part in Canada's digital future."

They added that Sask. Polytech worked closely with Microsoft throughout 2020 and 2021 to empower learners across Canada with digital skills that are foundational to a strong post-pandemic economic recovery and future economic growth.

Sask. Polytech previously won the 2021 Microsoft Global Training Partner of the Year Award for Skilling in the Americas. As one of the only Microsoft Global Training Partner for higher education in Canada, Sask. Polytech is uniquely positioned to accelerate digital skilling and transformation among post-secondary peers and Canadian industry leaders.

Visit saskpolytech.ca/microsoftskills for more information.



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Sask., feds invest in livestock research

The Governments of Saskatchewan and Canada have announced a total of \$5.1 million in funding for new research projects in 2022 related to livestock and forage.

This year's funding will support 28 projects through the province's Agriculture Development Fund (ADF).

"Research and innovation provide sustainable growth for the Canadian agriculture and agri-food sector," said Parliamentary Secretary Francis Drouin. "Our government is committed to investing in these areas to continue to increase both the productivity of our businesses

and their resilience to climate change."

"Research and innovation are major priorities for our government, and the ADF was created to reinforce work being done that is relevant to the future growth and competitiveness of Saskatchewan's agriculture industry and the many producers and processors who make it what it is," Sask. Agriculture Minister David Marit said. "These investments in research will ensure Saskatchewan continues to set the standard when it comes to new ideas and approaches that support progress and best practices in

agriculture not only here but around the world."

Subjects of this year's research projects include the potential of native and tame forage species to enhance carbon sequestration, expanded methods for reproduction diagnostics and improved control and treatments with respect to animal health.

The Ministry of Agriculture has a research budget of \$32.9 million in 2021-22 to support research and innovation, and concentrates its investments on projects that will help make Saskatchewan producers more profitable and more productive while increasing

the competitiveness of the provincial industry.

In addition to this year's federal and provincial ADF funding, a total of \$483,000 in support of 13 of these projects was contributed by three industry co-funders: the Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association (SCA), the Saskatchewan Forage Seed Development Commission, and Sask Milk

"Investment in research is a cornerstone for the advancement of our industry," SCA Chair Arnold Balicki said. "We're pleased to see both the federal and provincial governments place a similar priority in ensuring research is ade-

quately funded."

The ADF is supported through the Canadian Agricultural Partnership, a five-year, \$3 billion investment by federal, provincial and territorial governments to strengthen and grow Canada's agriculture, agri-food and agri-products sectors. This includes a \$2-billion commitment that is cost-shared 60 per cent federally and 40 per cent provincially/territorially for programs that are designed and delivered by provinces and territories, including a \$388-million investment in strategic initiatives for Saskatchewan agriculture.

Sask. expands OBPS after carbon tax increase

The Government of Saskatchewan is honouring its commitment to protect Saskatchewan families, workers, and businesses from the harmful effects of the federally imposed carbon tax by expanding the provincial Output-Based Performance Standards (OBPS) program to include more sectors and more companies, saving them a total of \$2.3 billion compared to the federal industrial pricing system.

Effective Jan. 1, 2022, industrial facilities in five additional sectors are eligible to be covered by Saskatchewan's provincial OBPS instead of the federal government's industrial pricing system. These sectors include chemical manufacturing, wood product manufacturing, mineral product manufacturing, agricultural and industrial equipment manufacturing, and food and beverage processing.

The threshold for participation in

the provincial OBPS has also been lowered from 10,000 tonnes carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e) to 0 tonnes CO₂e, meaning that more facilities are now eligible for coverage.

It is expected that 30 additional facilities will register under the expanded provincial OBPS, bringing the total savings to Saskatchewan's industries to \$2.3 billion by 2030 under the provincial OBPS, compared to the federal industrial pricing system that would otherwise be imposed by the federal government.

In the coming months, Saskatchewan will once again submit a proposal to take control of the federally imposed carbon tax and bring the final two remaining sectors - electricity generation and natural gas transmission - into Saskatchewan's provincial OBPS.

"Saskatchewan's plan to bring the

federally imposed carbon tax under provincial control will ensure that the revenues from the carbon tax stay in Saskatchewan, instead of going to Ottawa as they currently do," Premier Scott Moe said. "We fully expect the federal government to accept Saskatchewan's plan and give us the same treatment that they have given to other regions of the country."

The OBPS is a made-in-Saskatchewan industrial emissions pricing system under the Prairie Resilience climate change plan. The Saskatchewan OBPS is designed to maintain economic competitiveness and protect against carbon leakage - industry moving production and jobs to other countries with less stringent climate policies. The OBPS provides relief to industrial emitters from the federal carbon tax that would otherwise lead to harmful carbon leakage and increased green-

house gas emissions.

"The federally imposed carbon tax does not help families, workers and businesses be more resilient to climate change," Environment Minister Warren Kaeding said. "In fact, it makes them more vulnerable. Under Saskatchewan's provincial OBPS, regulated emitters will save more than \$2.3 billion compared to the federal industrial pricing scheme. This helps keep industries, jobs, and the families they support in Saskatchewan, and avoid carbon leakage that ultimately results in higher overall global emissions."

The Government of Saskatchewan is asserting regulatory control over the carbon tax on fuel consumption, as well as the pricing of industrial emissions from electricity generation and natural gas transmission pipelines - the only two remaining sectors not covered by the province's OBPS.

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for upcoming 2022 Maintenance Turnarounds in Alberta and Saskatchewan.

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to the winners of the 2021 Best Editorial Page (Class C Circulation)



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Support advertisers that power your community voice.

NEWSPAPERS MATTER NOW MORE THAN EVER



“When recycling make sure your newspapers are not bagged. It will save recycling facilities time.”



Support Recycling It is up to all of us!

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Plastic Bags & Newspapers

Don't Mix

This program may not be available in all communities.

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is proud to serve as your trusted local newspaper and advertiser!

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2 x 2 (Bus. Card Size)	\$69.00
2 x 4	\$138.00
1/8 Page	\$172.50
1/4 Page	\$350.00
1/2 Page	\$650.00
Full Page	\$950.00
Colour is an additional \$90	

**All rates are subject to applicable taxes (5% GST)*

Is your community group or non-profit organization holding an event?

Take advantage of our
COMMUNITY CALENDAR

With the purchase of a 2 column x 2 inch display ad, we will advertise your community event in our Community Calendar **FREE** for two weeks prior to the event!

\$60 + GST - A savings of over 30%

Don't miss out on letting your community and others know about your event!

We are also your local supplier for:

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