

Shellbrook Chronicle & Spiritwood Herald

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Shellbrook Food Bank hands out 35 Christmas hampers



A team of about 25 people gathered at the Shellbrook Pentecostal Assembly just before Christmas to put together the Shellbrook Area Ministerial Food Bank's annual Christmas food hampers. **Story on page 3**

Spiritwood Jesse Tree brought light this Christmas season

The Jesse Tree project in Spiritwood that was hosted by the Sacred Heart Parish has once more filled the hearts of many families in town this Christmas season.

The Jesse Tree is based on a concept of "good stewardship", and has been practiced in Spiritwood for about 25 years as a way of collecting food from the start of December each year and giving it to less fortunate families in the area.

The project was started by the Catholic Youth Group back in the day and is currently spearheaded by Christine Tkachuk, who took over seven years ago along with eight others who put together the successful ground plan.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) in Spiritwood has supported them as well, and started their food drive Dec. 12, 2021. The idea was initiated by Constable Jessica McLachlan seven years ago.

In contrast to previous years, the team that was in charge of the food hampers had been struggling to collect enough to reach their goal of having enough food for a family Christmas meal.

Nevertheless, when the RCMP started to pitch in along with the conservation officers, firefighters, and ambulance personnel, the community showed great support and rallied behind the cause.

"It's just very rewarding to see how

thankful the families are for these hampers. People around town wouldn't understand that they've done something like this. It means the world to these people. To these families. It's just the community support. If we didn't get the donations from the community, it wouldn't be worth doing and all along it's been worth doing," Christine Tkachuk said.

In addition, there were also businesses who aided with the project, including Huijbers Market which helped store the food, Spiritwood Pharmacy, Martodam Family Retail which helped with the kid's gift tags, and Prairie Centre Credit Union which gathered up food from members through a little play.

The Lakeland Community Church also helped with storing food and sorting out the gifts for kids.

This year, they were able to fill in 40 hampers and handed them out to families in and around Spiritwood, including Rabbit Lake, Shell Lake, Medstead, Leoville and Glenbush and surrounding areas the weekend before Christmas. Along with the hampers, 64 kids were able to receive Christmas gifts.

The Jesse Tree organizers say they are grateful to everyone in the community who has helped them with donations and support and helped make the Jesse Tree project a successful community effort year after year.

Photos on page 2

The logo for Tait Insurance Group Inc. features a blue stylized house and car icon. The word "TAIT" is written in large, bold, blue letters. Above "TAIT", the words "On-Line Quoting" are written in a red starburst shape. Below "TAIT", the words "INSURANCE GROUP INC." are written in smaller blue letters.

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Spiritwood Jesse Tree brought light this Christmas season



The Jesse Tree committee, front row l to r: Stacey Gaboury, Amy Schmidt, Robyn Doell, and Christine Tkachuk. Back row, l to r: Shantal Hujber, Terra Turgeon, Sheila Turgeon, and Delia Marion. Missing: Leanne Jewitt



As in years previous, the Spiritwood RCMP, conservation officers, firefighters, and ambulance personnel contributed to the effort.



The donations to the Jesse Tree project poured in this year, providing enough items for 40 hampers.



The Vergara family, who just recently came to Canada, was amongst the families chosen to receive the food hampers. They were grateful for those who donated and were glad to make use of donations for their first Christmas meal in Canada.

Lake Country Co-operative Association Limited Notice of Call for Delegate Nominations

Lake Country Co-operative Association Limited is seeking candidates to fill the following 2022 Delegate positions:

| | | | |
|-------------|-------------------|---------------|---------------------|
| BIG RIVER | - One 3-year term | LA RONGE | - One 2-year term |
| BIRCH HILLS | - One 3-year term | MARCELIN | - One 3-year term |
| BIRCH HILLS | - One 2-year term | NIPAWIN | - One 3-year term |
| BIRCH HILLS | - One 1-year term | PADDOCKWOOD | - One 3-year term |
| CANWOOD | - One 3-year term | PRINCE ALBERT | - Five 3-year terms |
| CHOICELAND | - One 3-year term | SHELLBROOK | - One 3-year term |
| DOMREMY | - One 3-year term | SMEATON | - One 3-year term |
| DOMREMY | - One 2-year term | SPIRITWOOD | - One 3-year term |
| KINISTINO | - One 3-year term | SPIRITWOOD | - One 1-year term |
| LARONGE | - One 3-year term | WAKAW | - One 3-year term |

Delegate Nominations will be held January 7 to January 13, 2022. Nominations will not be accepted after 5:00 pm on January 13, 2022. Eligibility requirements, roles & responsibilities can be found within the nomination packages which can be obtained online at www.lakecountryco-op.ca or are available at all Lake Country Co-op Food Store locations, Agro Centre in Shellbrook, and Agro Centre in Spiritwood.



Hospice fundraiser receives added boost

Brick by brick and board by board, the Rose Garden Hospice is getting closer to becoming a reality.

Since Dec. 1, 2021, the Rose Garden Hospice Association has been holding a Help Build the Hospice Campaign, selling 2x6s that will be used in the construction of what will be Saskatchewan's first standalone palliative care facility. For a \$1,000 donation, donors are given recognition through a 2x6 and a certificate of location to indicate where the 2x6 is in the building.

As has been the case throughout the hospice's journey, others were quick to jump on the band wagon and lend their support to the fundraising efforts.



The PCCU family held a "Stock the Shelf" event wherein members and non-members who donate food for the Jesse Tree get a surprise box and will either receive an entry for \$1,000, or a gift from local businesses.

TOWN OF SHELLBROOK



NOTICE OF CALL FOR NOMINATIONS MUNICIPAL BY-ELECTION

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that nominations of candidates for the office(s) of:

Councilor: Town of Shellbrook

Number to be elected: 1

will be received by the undersigned Monday through Friday, 8:30am to 4:00pm from the 5th day of January, 2022 until the 19th day of February, 2022 at the Shellbrook Municipal Office.

Nominations forms may be obtained in the following ways:

- Curb side – call ahead and we will bring the papers to you.
- From our website - www.townofshellbrook.ca
- In person @ 71 Main Street

A Criminal record check **must** accompany all nomination forms and **must** be dated no earlier than January 5th, 2022.

Dated this 5th day of January, 2022
Kelly Hoare, Returning Officer

**Nadine Wilson MLA
Saskatchewan
Rivers**



306-763-0615
www.nadinewilson.ca
saskrivers@sasktel.net

Shellbrook Food Bank hands out 35 Christmas hampers

In a second consecutive holiday season overshadowed by the COVID-19 pandemic (albeit with fewer public health restrictions on social gatherings in place), one thing remained the same in the Shellbrook area: even in the face of a pandemic, the community was as willing as ever to give to those in need.

"It was such a wonderful year. The public was so responsive to the need," said food bank coordinator Linda Lundy. "In comparison, there was not much comparison. It was so much better than it has been."

As Christmas neared, members of the Shellbrook Area Ministerial Food Bank and a small team of volunteers, including the Shellbrook Kinettes and their children, gathered at the Shellbrook Pentecostal Assembly to put together the food bank's annual Christmas food hampers.

This year, the food bank stuffed 35 hampers full of food staples and all the essentials for a Christmas dinner. All told, those Christmas hampers were expected to provide 104 people with a Christmas meal.

The 35 Christmas hampers assembled this year actually marks a slight decrease from last year's total of 38. However, last year's hampers served just 79 people (50 adults and 29 children) by comparison.

And thanks to an effort spearheaded by the Shellbrook Kinettes, those who received Christmas hampers also got to bring home a little something extra this year.

"We were able to provide not just food hampers but Christmas gifts, including toys and books for children," Lundy said. "We set it up so that people got their hamper and were able to choose what they would like to

take home from the gift table."

The success of the food bank's Christmas hamper drive is owed to volunteers, community organizations, schools, local and area businesses, the Shellbrook Kinettes, and the Green Leaf Hutterite Colony, which donated all the potatoes, provided a steep discount on meat, and signalled its intentions to continue donating meat throughout the year.

With such generosity, Lundy says the food bank is in "as good shape as it's ever been" as the new year begins in earnest and it looks to continue providing its regular monthly food hampers.

"With the generosity of cash donations and the response with food and goods, we're in good shape for the present time," she said. "I'm looking forward to having a good year."

Despite her optimism, Lundy adds that the food bank's resources generally begin to run

low in the spring and there is always a need to fill.

Lundy says the food bank always has need of cereal, which it likes to provide with every hamper, as well as canned meats like

salmon or tuna. The food bank is also always on the hunt for fresh produce, including potatoes and root vegetables, which can be difficult to provide throughout the year.



Thanks to the community's generosity, those who received Christmas hampers also got to take home a gift.

Sask. updates COVID testing guidelines

Saskatchewan has rapid antigen testing kits available throughout the province to help residents monitor for COVID-19 at home.

Increased use of this tool enables everyone to take the necessary actions to prevent COVID-19 transmission, preserving PCR testing capacity for high-risk populations and ensuring vaccinated individuals can safely return to workplaces and activities sooner.

Effective immediately, asymptomatic residents who receive a positive COVID-19 result on a rapid antigen test will no longer be recommended to receive a confirmatory PCR test.

the date of test or 48 hours after your symptoms have ended, whichever is later.

Notify your close contacts. This is anyone you have been within two metres of for longer than 15 minutes.

Close contacts must isolate for 14 days from the date of last exposure, unless they are fully vaccinated and do not have any symptoms. Use rapid antigen testing if asymptomatic, ideally between day five and seven of the 14-day isolation. If any symptoms develop, seek a PCR test.

Learn more about self-isolation at [Saskatche-](#)

[wan.ca/covid-19](#).

If you don't feel better after the five or 10-day period, or your symptoms worsen at any time, contact your primary care provider or call HealthLine 811. Keep self-isolating until your symptoms improve and your fever is gone (without taking medicine that reduces fever) for 48 hours.

PCR testing continues to be recommended for any resident who has symptoms of COVID-19, including cold and flu-like symptoms, and priority populations, such as health care workers, long-term and personal care home residents, and

those who care for vulnerable populations.

The self-isolation period has been updated from 10 to five days for confirmed cases who are fully vaccinated to more accurately reflect the infectious period for those who have received full protection of immunization.

Note that "fully vacci-

nated" occurs two weeks following two doses of a two-dose vaccine series (AstraZeneca, Pfizer, Moderna), or a single dose of the single dose vaccine series (Janssen). Booster doses are recommended for all adults 18 years of age and older.

Vaccination is the best tool available to prevent

COVID-19 transmission and serious COVID-19 illness.

Residents five years and older are now eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, and residents 18 years and older are now eligible to receive their booster/third dose three months after their second dose.



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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY
Town Foreman

Major Function:
Reporting to the Town Administrator, the Foreman shall be responsible for the development and implementation of the goals and objectives of the Town as approved by Council in the annual budget, and provide hands-on (working) assistance to personnel whenever circumstances warrant.

Preferred Qualifications:

1. Possess a minimum Grade 12 or adequate education.
2. Must possess a Level 1 & 2 certificate in Water Treatment/Distribution and Wastewater Treatment/Collection, and be prepared to update as required.
3. Must demonstrate knowledge of and experience in all aspects of the Town operations, systems and equipment.
4. Must be physically fit.
5. Have the ability to operate or learn to operate all town equipment.
6. Must maintain and show a courteous and professional manner to the general public.
7. Must have excellent oral and written ability to communicate, plan and organize.
8. Must be able to provide input to the budgeting process, recommend acquisition, repair or replacement of equipment and facilities.
9. Must possess a valid Class 5 driver's license with an A Endorsement.

For more information call the Town of Blaine Lake at **306-497-2531**.

OPINION

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January 6, 2022

2022 must be a year of coming back together

Just like that, another orbit around the sun is complete, marking the beginning of a brand new year. And boy, what a ride 2021 was – a ride we won't soon forget, no matter how much we might like to.

In recent history, this year-in-review column has been all about the joys and sorrows, and tragedies and triumphs, of the previous year. And, always, the goal has been to end on a hopeful and optimistic note, to call for each of us to be the best versions of ourselves in the coming year.

This call is needed more than ever, it seems, given how bitterly divided we are over nearly everything these days, whether it be climate change, truth and reconciliation, racial equality, or the COVID-19 pandemic.

Back in March of 2020, few of us, except perhaps those with a profound understanding of how pandemics work, could have anticipated spending nearly nine months of that year under varying levels of public health mandates.

It was a challenge, to be certain, but the vast majority of us rose to the occasion and did our part to "flatten the curve."

After we obeyed mask requirements, gathering limits, and other public health mandates, most of us likely expected 2021 to be the year of getting back to normal – the year of reuniting with loved ones, and gathering at the rink. However, 2021 had other things in mind for us.

Even with the rollout of COVID-19 vaccines, Saskatchewan didn't get a taste of full normalcy until early July, when vaccination thresholds were met and all public health measures were lifted.

Our summer of normalcy was short-lived, as a sharp resurgence of COVID-19 case numbers and ICU admissions forced the Sask. Party government to begrudgingly reintroduce public masking requirements and look to other provinces for assistance.

Though a vocal minority chafed at the idea of any restrictions to their freedoms being introduced, it was vaccines and

the Sask. Party government's proof of vaccination policy that proved most divisive.

It came as no surprise.

From the outset, we disagreed on the science guiding government's response to the pandemic. It was inevitable that the introduction of vaccines and vaccine passport policies (even ones that aren't all-encompassing and leave an option to provide proof of a negative test) were going to ignite a brand new debate about the safety of vaccines and so-

called government tyranny.

What was shocking was the fever pitch this debate reached, culminating with a "Freedom Parade" on Premier Scott Moe's doorstep in late November. (The protest, thankfully, was a more peaceful affair than the mass demonstration at a Build a Bear Workshop at the West Edmonton Mall, or the protests staged outside of children's vaccine clinics in Ontario.)

If there's any silver lining to be found from the year's end, it's in the knowledge that we're in a better position in the battle against the pandemic than we were at the end of 2020.

But with the turning of the calendar, and the COVID-19 pandemic showing no signs of subsiding, the protests and arguments over vaccines and booster shots are sure to continue through 2022.

To make matters worse, this year looks like it's going to be one filled with financial stresses, as rampant inflation drives up the cost of living.

According to Canada's Food Price Report, food costs in Saskatchewan could climb by as much as 7 per cent this year, leaving the average family of four paying \$966 more for food. For those earning the minimum wage, which is soon to be the lowest in the country, and those living in the far north, 2022 is sure to be a year of hardship.

Will this year be worse than 2021? That remains unknown. What remains true is that we can mitigate some (even much) of the bad 2022 delivers to our door by coming together as a community and working together for the collective good of everyone in Saskatchewan.

Shellbrook Chronicle

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Spiritwood Herald

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

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SHHHHH. NO TALKING DURING IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE.



New year means new taxes

By Franco Terrazzano CTF Federal Director

The Canadian Taxpayers Federation released its annual New Year's Tax Changes report to highlight the major tax changes that will occur in 2022.

"If you're making more than \$40,000, you'll see your federal income tax bill go up thanks to rising payroll taxes," said Franco Terrazzano, Federal Director with the CTF. "From higher carbon taxes to rising alcohol, payroll and property taxes, there's a raft of tax hikes coming in the New Year."

The report outlines the major tax changes from the federal and provincial governments in 2022. Key takeaways from the report include:

- Taxpayers making \$40,000 or more in 2022 will see the federal gov-

ernment deduct more money.

- The Canada Pension Plan tax increase will cost workers and businesses an extra \$333 each in 2022 (for maximum pensionable earnings).

- The Employment Insurance tax increase will cost each worker an extra \$63 in 2022 and businesses an extra \$89 (for maximum insurable earnings).

- The increase in the federal personal basic amount will save taxpayers \$89.

- The federal carbon tax will increase for the third time during the pandemic to 11 cents per litre of gasoline on April 1, 2022.

- Alcohol taxes will increase for the third time during the pandemic on April 1, 2022. Taxes already account for about half of the price of beer,

65 per cent of the price of wine, and more than three quarters of the price of spirits.

The governments of Alberta, Ontario, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island will impose a sneaky form of income taxation known as bracket creep. Bracket creep happens when governments don't move tax brackets with inflation and inflation automatically bumps taxpayers into a higher tax bracket, even though they can't actually afford to buy more.

"A pandemic is the worst possible time to be raising taxes," said Terrazzano. "Many Canadians lost their jobs, closed down their businesses, or took a pay cut during the pandemic, and that's why all politicians should be reversing their tax hikes."

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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



VIEWPOINT

January 6, 2022

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Report from the Legislature

The past year has presented unique challenges, and while some will continue into 2022, our province is resilient. Forecasters are looking at Saskatchewan's economy to lead the nation thanks, in part, to strong demand for exports such as natural resources. The forestry sector will see historic investment in the months ahead, creating an estimated 3,000 new jobs. In all, \$10 billion of private investments were announced this past year, a very strong indicator of confidence in the provincial economy.

Year-over-year, Saskatchewan saw manu-



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facturing sales increase 53 per cent, the highest in the country. Saskatchewan has one of the top-performing economies in Canada, built on

a competitive business environment. Our merchandise exports lead the nation as well. Key sectors including energy, mining, agriculture, forestry and manufacturing will allow the province to continue to be a world leader for years to come.

The economy is moving in the right direction, along with our efforts to tackle environmental concerns. The first Oil and Gas Emissions Report shows significant progress was made in reducing methane gas emissions. We have surpassed the benchmarks set out in 2019 to reduce industry emissions by

40 to 45 per cent from 2015 levels by 2025. Already, emissions have been reduced by nearly 50 per cent. That means the equivalent of more than 1.1 million cars have been taken off of Saskatchewan roads each year because of emission reductions.

Over the past years, our government has worked hard to attract investment, resulting in some of the country's best trade and export growth. Saskatchewan has one of the lowest unemployment rates in Canada, while recent announcements will create thousands of additional



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jobs.

Our greatest resource is our people, now is the time to come together as neighbours and communities. 2022 will un-

doubtedly present new challenges, and our government will face these with Saskatchewan families in mind. Premier Scott Moe put it best in his Christmas message to the province.

"In times of trouble, you are there for your neighbours. It's the Saskatchewan way."

We set goals for a stronger, safer, healthier, better educated and more independent Saskatchewan. Progress has been made, and we will continue to strive to be better. The 2020s are shaping up to be Saskatchewan's decade and together, we will recover.

Work begins on Co-op's Shellbrook Agro Centre

A project years in the making officially got under way in the lead-up to Christmas, as Lake Country Co-op began work on its brand new Shellbrook Agro Centre location.

Work on the facility, located at 400 7th Street East in Shellbrook, has started with construction of the fertilizer plant. Further groundwork and development will begin in the spring, with completion tentatively slated for late 2022.

The new Agro Centre will consolidate Lake Country Co-op's agriculture services in Shellbrook, with an eye to enhancing the agronomic solutions provided to local and area farmers. The facility will also house the entire sales team and include a warehouse complex, hardware sales, high speed fertilizer facility, bulk seed offering, and equipment and feed sales.

One thing that remains to be decided, however, is what will become of the current Agro store on Railway Avenue.

"Lake Country Co-op is currently exploring our options for this location," said Brian Kindt, VP of agriculture for Lake Country Co-op. "The current bulk fuel tanks and existing fertilizer plant will be decommissioned while retail gas pumps will remain open at this location for the foreseeable future."

When Lake Country Co-op initially brought forward its plans to build a fertilizer plant in 2019, and Shellbrook's Town Council quickly moved to rezone the land in question to

industrial from highway commercial to accommodate the company's plans, ratepayers expressed concerns about the facility.

Some feared the facility would be a nuisance and a health hazard, while others expressed worries that an industrial development would drive down the value of nearby properties.

Acknowledging these concerns, Kindt says the fertilizer plant is being designed to mitigate them.

Indeed, the facility will include fully enclosed conveyance systems; access to wind curtains when required; drive over pits to unload product that provides enclosed conveyance; concrete surfaces to assist with proper housekeeping; a load out system that includes a retractable spout; and a fertilizer conditioning system on the in-load section of the shed allowing for conditioning of the fertilizer as it enters its internal bin location (this conditioning is used to significantly reduce any dust issues on products as they arrive, eliminating potential issues during the load out procedure).

"The addition of a berm and treed shelter belt also minimizes any movement of dust, wind, and noise into and out of the location, while providing the desired look of a well-kept facility within the community," Kindt added.

Though many locations could have been considered for the new Agro Centre, Kindt says the strong community support from

Shellbrook and the surrounding communities made the decision to build in Shellbrook "an easy one," especially given the location's 20 years of continual growth.

Location was also a key consideration, and Shellbrook is a central hub, reaching growers in communities from Blaine Lake and Spiritwood, to Big River and Prince Albert.

For his part, Tim Keller, CEO of Lake Coun-

try Co-op, sees nothing but upside.

"This new development will provide the capability to grow our business and better serve our members in the region," he said. "The opening of these facilities will contribute to the long-term sustainability and economic growth of the association and the continued success of the Shellbrook and surrounding area farming community."

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Construction is underway on the Co-op's fertilizer plant. More work will come in the spring, and the location is expected to open in late 2022.

Knox United Church congregation disbands

After 109 years of faith, fellowship, and community service, the congregation of Shellbrook's Knox United Church is no more.

The congregation made the difficult decision to disband over the summer of 2021 and took steps to finalize the decision just before Christmas, with the dispersal of 50 per cent of the Church's funds to the Shellbrook and District Health Services Foundation (\$49,066.67), and the Shellbrook Kinettes and Camp Tapawingo (\$16,355.56 each).

Meanwhile, in a symbolic gesture, the keys to the Church were handed to Town of Shellbrook Mayor Amund Otterson. The Church effective-

ly gave the building to the town, and the town intends to relocate the Shellbrook Public Library from its current location on Railway Avenue.

"We had a good group and an active group, as you can see from the funds we handed out," said Knox United Church board chair Larry Chalifour, calling the decision a sad one. "But to get together, guarantee a minister's wages, run a church, and more... and we lost five people to COVID... the writing was on the wall."

"Larry and I are both in our 70s, and there are probably only three couples who are younger than us," treasurer Ron

Hollowell added. "Everybody else is older than us, and we're losing them every year and no new ones are coming."

Shellbrook's original Knox United Church was built on the corner of 1st Avenue East and 1st Street East and officially dedicated on Dec. 12, 1912, but the congregation's presence in the community and wider area predates this.

The present Church building, located on the northeast corner of 2nd Avenue East and 2nd Street East, was built for \$68,500 through a mix of loans, donations, fundraising, and grants. Construction was completed in 1966, with wheelchair accessibility,

a choir room in the Christian education wing, a kitchen, and an office for minister. Renovations followed in 1985 (stained glass windows, thanks to a bequest by Reg Green), and 2009 (meeting area at back of sanctuary, contributed by Jean Moore).

Through the years, the congregation was served by a lengthy list of reverends, ministers, and student ministers, and saw its boundaries shift and change. One thing that didn't change, however, was the congregation's commitment to its community.

The congregation hosted many events that became staples in Shellbrook, including fall suppers, the United Church Women's Mother's Day Strawberry Tea & Bake Sale, Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, and blood donation clinics, to name just a few.

The congregation was also known for its music, and notable community members have played key roles in making this music. The late Dr. Jack Spencer led the Knox Choir for 15 years and kept the Church's organ healthy for 50 years.

Dave Hjertaas, meanwhile, played the organ and piano for more than three decades.

In 2011, a year before the Knox congregation celebrated its centennial, the Shellbrook Area Ministerial Association Food Bank launched with start-up costs covered by United Church Mission and Service Fund (prior to this, the congregation was known for making large donations to Prince Albert Food Bank).

Despite this, it was clear by the time of the church's centennial in 2012 that some of the writing was on the wall for the congregation.

"Our numbers are small but under the leadership of our present minister Pastor Dave Whalley, and partner Leslee, we are working hard to invite more people into our community of faith," reads a line from a book published to mark the occasion of the congregation's centennial. "The future is uncertain but with faith and prayer and hard work, we hope to be an active church for many years to come."

Now that the Knox United Church building is

in the town's possession, Mayor Otterson says the next step will be to obtain funding for a feasibility study about the relocation of the Shellbrook Public Library.

Otterson says the Church is a more central location for the library, which is currently located on Railway Avenue and rents its space from a private corporation. Moving to the Church to a town-owned and managed building, he adds, is also more economical, especially if the decision is made to relocate the town office to the church as well.

"We haven't decided to move the town office there, but if there are significant funds available, it would make it worthwhile to us," he said.

"We're pretty crowded [at the municipal office] staffwise, and there are times where there are conflicts for the board room," he added, pointing to the town office's proximity to the Shellbrook Fire Hall, and problems with sewer gases and diesel fumes forcing evacuations of the building, as additional considerations.

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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In a symbolic gesture, the "keys" of the Knox United Church are handed to Shellbrook Mayor Amund Otterson by church chair Larry Chalifour.

New Trespass Legislation in force January 1, 2022

We worked hard to balance the rights of landowners in rural Saskatchewan with those of recreational land users. This legislation clarifies existing laws and ensures consistency in the rules regarding trespassing. Most notably, it moves the onus of responsibility from rural landowners to individuals seeking to access their property.

For more information visit saskatchewan.ca/news



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

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

AGRICULTURE

January 6, 2022

www.shellbrookchronicle.com | www.spiritwoodherald.com

Shellbrook Chronicle & Spiritwood Herald 7

Warmer temperatures bring changes to prairies

As we head into a new year, farmers are going to start putting a pencil to plan for what to grow in 2022.

The scribbles best be in pencil because plans need to be elastic, in the sense of being adaptable, and have options to change plans because the year ahead certainly appears to be one very much in flux in terms of conditions for seeding come spring.

We are aware that much of the Canadian Prairies were dry in 2021, too dry in many areas, and that meant lower yields. The lack of moisture even impact-

ed quality of the crop produced, with a lot of canola having lower than expected oil content, which is largely due to drought issues.

The snow that fell in many areas over the Christmas week is a good start to improving moisture come spring. Although, having shovelled more of that snowfall than I wanted to, it was evident it was a light snow, meaning it would take a lot of snow to melt into an inch of actual water.

While snow is perhaps more comforting in making people think moisture conditions are



CALVIN
DANIELS

going to be better, it ultimately comes down to rainfall through the growing season to produce a crop, and timely rain is becoming less assured, at least by some of the research out there.

A recent article at www.producer.com reported on an online

Saskatchewan Agriculture Agronomy Update, where "Dave Sauchyn, research coordinator at the Prairie Adaptation Research Collaborative, gave a synopsis of climate models and observations to help producers understand what their farms will face.

"He recently compiled average world temperatures in month-long increments from January 1880 to the end of last month."

In the article Sauchyn was quoted as stating "Ever since the mid-1970s, every single month, this is thousands of months, have

had a warmer than average temperature with one tiny exception ... I think that's December 1984."

While some see global warming as some sort of conspiracy-generated bugaboo, Sauchyn's data is rather startling, and for an industry such as agriculture, which relies so completely on weather conditions being favourable to be successful, it has to be worrisome.

The same article went on to suggest "a warmer climate over land increases drought severity."

It is one thing for

temperatures to be hot, some crops even like the heat. But less moisture, at best, reduces yields, and at its worst is a crop killer. You can even have more moisture in certain times, such as winter, but still face crop issues if rain is not timely when it's hottest in the summer.

So short term – like planning for 2022 cropping – moisture is an immediate concern. But longer term it might well mean fundamental changes to farming on the Prairies – begging the question will the industry be ready for those changes?

SaskEnergy sets new daily natural gas usage record

Extreme cold weather across Saskatchewan last week resulted in record-breaking natural gas demand in the province. On Dec. 28 and 29, natural gas consumption surpassed the previous daily record of 1.57 petajoules (PJ) which was set in February 2021.

A new daily record of 1.62 PJ was set on Dec. 28 and broken again on Dec. 29 with total system delivery of 1.64 PJ. Delivery numbers for Dec. 30 and 31 are not yet finalized, but are also expected to exceed 1.6 PJ.

Increased demand from

SaskEnergy's industrial customers, including natural gas use for power production, was the main driver of this week's record-setting consumption.

SaskEnergy measures daily natural gas consumption for the 24-hour period from 9 a.m. to 9 a.m. A PJ is a unit of measurement equivalent to one million gigajoules (GJ) of natural gas. An average Saskatchewan home consumes about 100 GJ of natural gas each year.

"SaskEnergy's natural gas system design can accommodate additional ca-

pacity to manage increased consumption even on peak days," SaskEnergy President and CEO Ken From said. "Throughout the year, SaskEnergy employees inspect, maintain and enhance the system to support safe and reliable natural gas delivery in all weather conditions. In addition, employees monitor the system 24 hours a day to ensure sufficient system capacity to meet customer demand across the province."

Here are three of SaskEnergy's top natural gas safety tips to help keep you and

your family safe this winter:

1. Keep your exterior appliance vents free of frost, ice and snow. If snow or ice blocks your home's exterior appliance vents, it can cause equipment to malfunction. Worse, it can cause a dangerous buildup of carbon monoxide—an odourless, colourless, tasteless, invisible gas formed by the incomplete combustion of fuels.
2. Keep your natural gas meter free of snow and ice, including the meter's regulator and shut-off valve. Keeping snow and ice off

and away from your natural gas equipment will help ensure it continues to operate when you need it most.

3. Have your furnace in-

spected every year.

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MEADOW LAKE LIVESTOCK SALES LTD.



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

Wed., Jan. 26, 2022

Regular Sale 9:00 a.m.

Presorted Internet Calf Sale 12:00 p.m.

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

the electronic auction market
team
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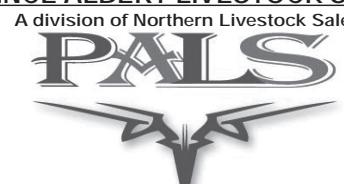
FEEDER FINANCE PROGRAM AVAILABLE - Please contact Brent

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Office 306-236-3411 ~ Fax 306-236-3412

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

PRINCE ALBERT LIVESTOCK SALES



A division of Northern Livestock Sales

To consign cattle or

for on-farm appraisals
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Glen, Boyd or Frederick

Mon., Jan. 10, 2022

Regular Sale 8:30 a.m.

Fri., Jan. 14, 2022

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

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www.teamauctionsales.com

FEEDER FINANCE PROGRAM AVAILABLE - Please contact Glen

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

For market info visit: www.northernlivestocksales.ca

Canwood Café serves Christmas kindness

**Submitted by
Gerda Bruner**

Through the generosity of Canwood's Café operators, Robin Suderman and Vivian Isbister, a person who was

alone on Christmas Day was welcomed to a free Christmas dinner of turkey, ham, stuffing, cranberry sauce, mashed potatoes, gravy, corn, salad, pickles, cheese slices, and dessert from

a variety of possible choices.

Included in the gathering at a separate table setting, were some of Robin and Vivian's own family members enjoying the delicious Christmas dinner.

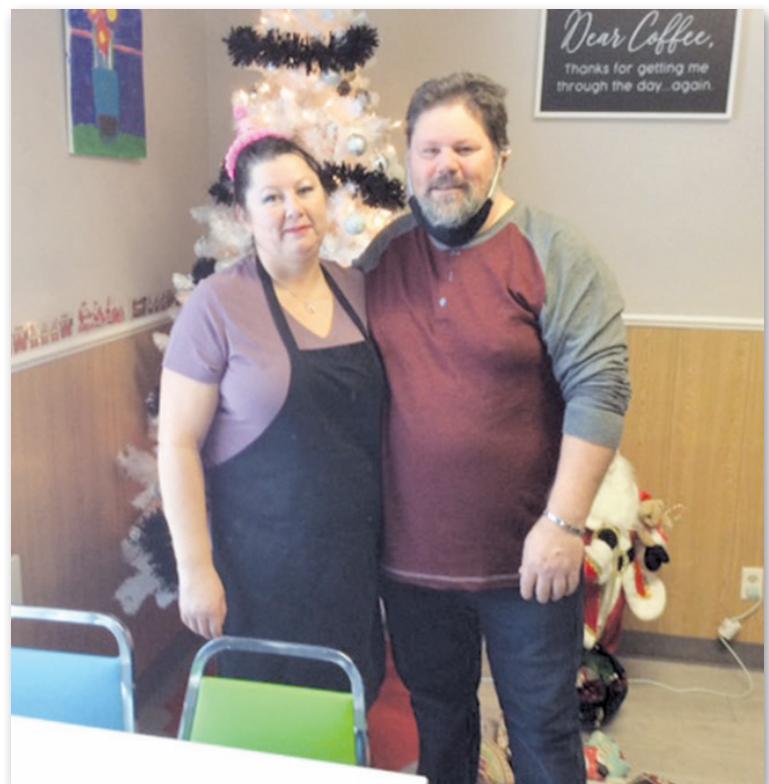
An added surprise for community members that enjoyed the free meal, was a carefully wrapped gift plus a paper bag filled with candy, wrapped chocolate treats, peanuts, and a Mandarin orange.

Our unexpected gifts reminded me of performing at the country school Christmas concert years ago, and being gifted with a wrapped Christmas gift and a paper bag of treats also containing that precious Christmas orange, sweet treats, and peanuts, after our concert performance.

To those of us who attended, what a highlight it was for our Christmas Day, leaving us with a forever memory.



Our surprise Christmas gifts (unfortunately, a good handful of the treats did not make the photo shoot).



Canwood Café owners Vivian Isbister and Robin Suderman in front of their decorated Christmas Tree.

Minutes of a Village of Canwood meeting

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

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council for the Village of Canwood, held at 651 Main Street, Canwood, Sask., on Monday, Nov. 15, 2021.

Present: Mayor – Robert Thompson, Deputy Mayor – Ken Moar, Councillors – Lorne Benson, Kaytlyn Mitchell, and Ron Willner, and Administrator – Erin Robertson.

Let the minutes note that prior to this meeting being called to order our newly elected member of council had taken their Official Oath or Affirmation in the prescribed form and submitted their Public Disclosure Statement. Furthermore, all other elected members have also submitted their Public Disclosure Annual Declaration.

Willner: That we acknowledge receipt of Declaration of Results, as presented from the Returning Officer for the by-election held on Oct. 20, 2021, with candidate elected by way of vote as follows: Councillor: Kaytlyn Mitchell. Carried

Benson: That we make note and correct August and September minutes as they were called to order by Mayor Thompson, and not Deputy Mayor Moar as noted and approved. Carried

Willner: That the minutes of the Oct. 18, 2021, Regular Meeting of Council be approved as presented.

Mitchell: That the Statement of Financial Activities and Bank Reconciliation for the month of October 2021 be approved as presented. Carried

Willner: That the water report for the month of October 2021 be approved as presented. Carried

Thompson: That we acknowledge receipt of Maintenance Manager Calendar, Office Assistant and Administrator Attendance Statements for October 2021 as presented. Carried

Mitchell: That we issue Cheques 5428 to 5451 and Other payments totaling \$49,753.88 as detailed on attached List of Accounts for Approval, Pay Period 14 and November payroll advance from the general account. Carried

Let the minutes note that Mayor Thompson left Council Chambers at 7:02 p.m. and returned at 7:04 p.m.

Benson: That we instruct the Administrator

to pay Ray's Trenching, Dean Lehouiller, snow removal invoices, once monthly, for a base amount not exceeding \$2,000, if received prior to the next regular meeting of Council. This resolution will be ongoing during the snow clearing season of 2021/2022. Carried

Thompson: That we move to in-camera at 7:12 p.m., citing The Local Authority Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, section 15(l)(b)(ii) and section 23(l)(b) "personal information" and ask that the Administrator remain in Council chambers. Carried

Thompson: That we move out of in-camera at 7:57 p.m. Carried

Moar: As per Policy of Council, Resolution 195-17, we agree to acknowledge the donation made to the following organization: Royal Canadian Legion Canwood Branch #132, \$50.00 Remembrance Day Wreath. Carried

Mitchell: That the correspondence be noted and filed:

- Shellbrook and Districts Health Services Foundation Aug. 24, 2021, meeting minutes and Sept. 30, 2021, Financial Report.
- Water Security Agency, introduction of new Environmental Project Officer for the village.

Thompson: That we accept and instruct the Administrator to sign the Final Proof of Loss, in the amount of \$106,806.13, less deductible, as presented from Aon Reed Stenhouse Inc., Saskatoon, Sask., working on behalf of our insurer SUMAssure. The aforementioned represents settlement of insurance Claim: 43110-006281 CQK Canwood Curling Rink, 790 Main Street, date of loss Jan. 4, 2021, caused by snow load and paid on coverage of Actual Cash Value as defined in the village insurance policy.

Moar: That we agree to approve the draft PR - 1 Selling of Tax Enforcement Property policy, as attached to these minutes, with a review date of Jan. 30, 2024, or as legislation requires. Carried

Willner: That we agree to the registration of Maintenance Manager, Dean Andersen, and Mayor, Robert Thompson, to ATAP Confined Space Entry Training, for a cost of \$293.75 each, plus taxes. Furthermore, we agree to facilitate the training for neighbouring communities with cost shared by those involved. Carried

Thompson: That we instruct Affinity Credit Union, Canwood Branch, to rename savings sub account 001 from "Public Reserve" to "Funded Reserves". Furthermore, we transfer \$15,923.77 from our general chequing account sub 099 to savings sub account 001, Public Reserves.

Moar: That we start a funded reserve to assist with potential annual shortfall in operational costs for Canwood Housing Authority. Furthermore, we agree to transfer from our general chequing account 099 \$2,000.00 to our savings sub account 001 Funded Reserves. Carried

Thompson: That we modify the building values for the Curling Rink to be a total of \$30,000.00 for the 2022 year. Furthermore, we agree to all other adjusted Statement of Val-

ues Schedule of Contractor's Insurance Property as provided by SUMAssure with effective statement date of Jan. 1, 2022. Carried

Moar: That we agree to offer enrollment to employees and Council Members into SUMAssure Optional Accidental Death and Dismemberment, with the fees the responsibility of the enrollee. Carried

Benson: That we appoint Nor-Sask Board Services, Prince Albert, Sask., to act as our 2022 Board of Revision with the following appointments and pay the required retaining fee of \$200: Panel Members - Timothy Fur-long, Glen Neuert and Kirby Fesser; Secretary - Mike Liatemoe. Carried

Benson: That we adjourn at 10:13 p.m., with the next regular meeting to be Dec. 15, 2021, commencing at 9:30 p.m.

Royal Purple gives Christmas cheer for a cause

Wendy Kosawan (left) was the winner of the annual Shellbrook Royal Purple Christmas Draw, and was presented with her Christmas Cheer sleigh by Royal Purple secretary Pauline Mason.

The Proceeds of the draw, which totaled more than \$3,000, will be donated to community initiatives and the Saskatchewan Brain Injury Association.

The Shellbrook Royal Purple Lodge meets the

second Thursday of each month at 7:30 at the Community Hall.

Anyone age 14 and over is welcome to join the Royal Purple. For more information email shellbrookroyalpurple2019@hotmail.com.



OBITUARIES

Charles "Chuck" Eugene Lalonde



Charles "Chuck" Eugene Lalonde

It is with deep sorrow and much love that we announce that Charles "Chuck" Eugene Lalonde passed away peacefully in his sleep at the age of 77 on December 1, 2021 in Victoria, British Columbia.

Chuck was predeceased by his wife Sandra; father Joseph and mother Esther (née Slough) Lalonde; sister Esther 'Sis' and brother-in-law William 'Bill' Serhan. He leaves to mourn his passing 3 children, Clinton (Dana)

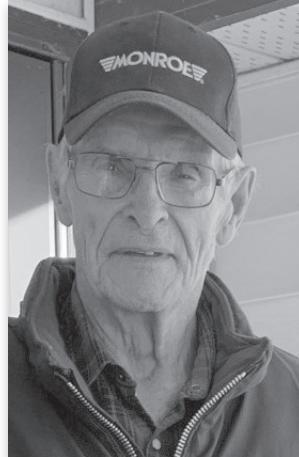
and Glendon, and Chardelle (Ian) of Victoria BC; 3 grandchildren, Cassandra, Maggie and Graeme; 2 great-grandchildren, Chani and Jude; sister Joanne Fontaine; brother Donald Lalonde; special companion Louise Ouimet and numerous nephews, nieces, cousins, friends and extended family members.

COVID permitting, a memorial service is being planned for the summer of 2022 at the place Chuck has always regarded as his home, Chitek Lake, Saskatchewan.

Memorial donations in Chuck's name can be made to the Alzheimer Society of Canada (Alzheimer.ca) or to the Kiwanis Pavilion Oak Bay (KiwanisPavilion.ca).

Condolences and shared memories may be offered at www.mccallgardens.com

McCall Gardens - Victoria, B.C.



MUIRHEAD – Neil

It is with sadness, the family of Neil Muirhead announces his passing on December 18, 2021, at the Shellbrook Hospital.

Neil was born in Shellbrook November 17, 1933, to Bill and Kate Muirhead. He was the oldest of three children and grew up on the farm in the Wildrose District. Neil and his brother Allen, rode horseback to a one-room school until his parents bought the farm at Shellbrook so the boys could attend high school. He continued to be active in the Wildrose 4-H club and later became a leader when his daughter and son were members.

Neil became an accomplished athlete in Shellbrook. He held the provincial junior and senior discus record for many years. The Canadian Olympic team even sent him a discus and asked

him to try out for the Olympics. He loved baseball and played third base for the Prince Albert Bohemian Junior Baseball team. His quick reflexes, strong arm and heavy hitting caught the attention of several major league scouts, however his commitment to the farm kept him at home. He continued to play ball in Holbein and later in the Sturgeon Valley in local leagues.

After graduation, Neil attended the School of Agriculture in Saskatoon. The highlight of this time was when he and Allen were on the Saskatchewan Livestock Judging team at the Toronto Royal and they won gold watches in the competition.

In 1956, Neil married his childhood sweetheart, Betty Mortensen. Neil and Betty lived in a tiny cabin on the farm in Shellbrook. They became parents to a daughter and son while in Shellbrook and later moved the Wildrose farm. Although Neil was a grain farmer, his true interest was in cattle. He took pride in the Shorthorns he raised with his dad and brother.

Neil showed and sold bulls at sales around the province. He took the family on 'the show circuit' and travelled with the 'Show String'. Summers were spent tenting

at many of the provincial summer fairs. The success the family had with 'Shellrose Shorthorns' gave Neil the opportunity to judge Shorthorn shows at the Toronto Royal and the Centennial Show at the Calgary Stampede.

Neil was a humble man who enjoyed the simple things in life. Neil and Betty loved to dance and enjoyed attending the local Dine and Dances at the surrounding communities. Neil loved winter. He was an avid curler and loved hockey. He followed and coached some of the local teams including the Shellbrook Elks for a time.

Neil and Betty spent their retirement following their grandsons' sporting events and 4-H shows. Neil became the official pasture checker for the farm. He loved to drive around to all the pastures in the countryside to make sure all the fences were up, the cows and calves where they should be and just admire the great job his son and grandson were doing with the herd.

Neil's love of sports continued throughout his life. He followed his grandsons, nephews and nieces throughout their sporting years, and was a known figure at the rink in the winter and the ball

Neil Muirhead

diamonds in the summer as he followed all the local athletes in their ventures.

Neil is survived by his wife, Betty; daughter Alana Ross; son Ward (Laurie); grandsons Robbie Ross (Andrew), Jason Ross (Brandy), Justin Muirhead (Amanda); Casey Muirhead (Hally); Cody Ross (Tana), Wards great-grandchildren Stran, Sawyer, Gus, Flint, Hutch; sister Marjory Brossart (Larry), Brother in law Vic Mortensen, several nephews and nieces, extended family and friends.

Neil was predeceased by his parents Bill and Kate Muirhead; Brother and sister in law Alan and Margaret Muirhead, Mother in law Elsie Johanna Maria Mortensen, Brother in law and sister in law – Edwin and Rita Sommerfeld, sister in law Evelyn Mortensen, Son in law – David Ross, Niece – Karen Morgan.

Memorial Donations made in Neil's memory may be directed to Shellbrook Minor Sports Association, Box 1114 Shellbrook, SK. SOJ 2EO.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of Beau "Lac" Funeral Home and Crematorium, Lynn Anderson Funeral Director, Shellbrook, SK 306-747-2828.

GOOD NEWS

WHO NEEDS SUPERHEROES WHEN YOU HAVE A BROTHER?

"Who needs superheroes when you have a brother?"

I read that somewhere and can't help but agreeing with it. I grew up with three brothers and later in life I discovered I have another brother who lives in the U.S.A.

Life has it that two of my brothers are gone, Doug and Danny. Doug would have been three years older than me. Danny would have been seven years older. Sure glad I still have two brothers, Tim and Ron, in my life.

Growing up in Hay River, N.W.T. I always thought it was a small town. At the time I was being raised there, it had a population of some 2,500 people.

I was thinking of Danny lately. Of all the boys he was the most musical. In many ways he was quite an extrovert. He had no problem being in front of people. He was a lead singer in a band that he and others put together.

I don't know for sure, but he might have been about 16 years old at the time. I recall one particular time when Danny and his band entered a talent

contest in Hay River. They won first place. As a result they were off to Yellowknife to the finals. I made sure that I could catch him on CBC radio the day of the contest.

I could tell he was a bit nervous. I believe because of the rules he was only able to have limited number of band members to play along with him. As a result, Danny had to play the drums and sing at the same time. He came up a little short that day and won honourable mention.

His choice of song was interesting. He sang "Jesus is a soul man". Some of the words of the song goes like this "Oh they say that he's a square, That Jesus, He ain't nowhere. I know better, He lives in my heart. Jesus is a soul man."

Danny's choice of song spoke to me that day. The seed sown in his heart never left him.

Life moves on. I left the north, and eventually found my calling. I pastored in a community called Semans along with my wife Marlene for some five and a half years. Christmas came

along and Danny sent a timely gift as we were raising three little boys. I took time to write him and thanked him for his gift. I also included a note that I was praying for him and hoped one day he would make a commitment to Christ.

Well, Danny kept the note for many years. Some 13 years ago Danny slipped into eternity. I know he made his peace with God. On his grave it says of Danny "A man with a powerful voice, steady drive and a gentle heart."

I read somewhere "Sometimes we need someone to simply be there. Not to fix anything, or to do anything in particular, but just let us feel that we are cared for and supported." That could be a spouse, a parent, a sister or a brother.

I love that Scripture in Proverbs 18:24. It says, "There is a friend who sticks closer than a brother."

Jesus is that friend. If you have not met Him, I hope you will. If you have, I hope you will cherish His friendship. God's blessings in 2022.

Pastor David Bodvarson, SPA

Jacqueline Sommerfeld



SOMMERFELD –

Jacqueline

1968 – 2021

Jacqueline Anne Sommerfeld, late of Shellbrook, SK, passed away on December 23, 2021, in Saskatoon, SK, at the age of 53 years.

Jackie was born on January 8, 1968, in Shellbrook, SK to Shirley and Armien Sommerfeld. She took her schooling in Shellbrook and lived most of her life in the same area. Jackie worked as a corrections officer in Prince Albert for many years. She loved the outdoors, going on road trips with her motorbike, quadding, boating, and camping.

Jacqueline will be lovingly remembered by her husband Dean Grimsrud of Shellbrook, and his daughters, Heather Grimsrud & Warren Rechlo of Lloydminster and grandchildren, Orion & Atlas; Jamie Grimsrud & Dustin Taylor of Lloydminster

OBITUARIES

Bernice Thall

BERNICE THALL
March 9, 1930 –
December 27, 2021

Bernice was born March 9, 1930, in Saskatoon and became the chosen daughter of John and Christina (Ahenakew) Nelson of Canwood, SK. Other than living a short while at Rapid Bend, she spent her childhood on a farm in Canwood area and attended Boro Green School.

She loved all farm animals and became her dad's right hand when he lost his arm in a hunting accident. In 1937, her parents chose a brother, Herman joined the family. There was always lots of music and dancing, at age 8, Bernice made her big music debut. With

horse and sleigh, her dad hauled their pump organ to Rapid Bend school where she performed in the Christmas Concert. A family friend gifted her a guitar and at age 12 she won 3rd prize performing in ACT Amateur Hour.

At age 16, she started work at John's Café in Canwood and the next year as a cook's helper in a logging camp at Sled Lake where she met Elmer Thall. They married June 1948, bought a farm ½ mile from Canwood, where they raised four daughters – Myrna, Monica, Margo and Mavis. There was a huge garden, sewing, keeping a sparkling house and farm work, but still time for music with her girls and grandchildren.

Bernice's mom had passed away in 1949 – Bernice spoke Cree fluently always remaining close to her Ahenakew family over the years. It was a happy time when her dad remarried in 1957 where she gained a mom, a brother and 2 sisters. During the

late 50's, Bernice and Elmer joined the square dance craze that hit the area and she soon sold a cow, bought the needed equipment and became a square dance caller and taught dance classes at several locations. When she quit calling, she began working out of the home at various Canwood businesses. She then owned and operated her own restaurant the "Cozy Corner Café". She was very involved volunteering on various boards and community events in Canwood. She was an organizer!

Although raised in a loving home, she wondered about her biological mother. Finally her attempts to locate her were successful & they were reunited in 1979 getting to know one another through visits and phone calls. Bernice also gained a sister, a niece and 2 nephews.

About age 50, Bernice decided to further her education and went on to work at P.A. Men's Correctional Centre, Multicultural Centre

and Health and Welfare. After her retirement from this type of work, she spent a summer working at a resort in Yukon and would often entertain tourists around an evening bonfire. With retirement, she also became very involved with music again, playing with various bands in P.A. and entertaining at many events. She was active helping to organize events and entertaining in PA Chapter of Country Music Association. She received many music awards and accolades. Bernice often recalled being a child and listening to the Grand Ole Opry show from Nashville and her desire to someday visit there. As an adult this dream was fulfilled many times while visiting her daughter there. As well, she had trips to other U.S. states, BC and NWT. She also fulfilled her dream of making her own recording.

She was blessed with many healthy years. Due to a decline in health the past few years, her family

is grateful for the care she received in various facilities. A private service will be held at a later date.

Bernice is survived by her daughters: Myrna (Wayne) Ritchie – Churchbridge, SK their children: Rhonda (Tim) Corrigal & Tyler (Sarah) & Jett Corrigal, Tanner (Adrianna Orosz) Corrigal, Amanda (Scott) Burkell & Kaitlyn (Logan Kawchuk), Landon & Macy Burkell, Nathan (Alicia Wolkowski) Ritchie & Harper & Harlow Ritchie, Kristen (Jamie) Antosh & Paxton, Pryce & Paisley Antosh: Monica (Merv Bobryk) Johnson – Canwood, SK; daughter: Chantelle (Frank Krijnen) Johnson; Margo English – Prince Albert, SK and children: Tobi (Tim) Featherstone & Brandon & Riley (Mataea Canning) Featherstone, Erin (Tim) Lynes, Kerri English, Mavis (Nat) Campbell – Nashville, Tennessee, Lacey Campbell, Kendra (Kamron) Kimbro & Kansas Kimbro, Rebekah Campbell: brother:

Herman Nelson, sister: Doreen (Dennis) Roberts as well as numerous nephews, nieces, cousins, in-laws and friends.

Bernice was predeceased by her husband: Elmer Thall, their parents: John and Christina Nelson, her biological mother – Amy Palmer, her step-mom – Martha Nelson, brother – Erling Gull, sisters – Belva Neale, Josephine (Carl) Swanson as well as numerous aunts, uncles & cousins, nieces, nephews, in-laws & friends.

A Private Family Service will be held at a later date. Private Family Interment will be held at Canwood North Cemetery, Village of Canwood. Memorial donations in Bernice's memory can be made to Canwood North Cemetery c/o Village of Canwood, Canwood, SK SOJ OKO. Condolences may be sent to the family at www.grays.ca. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to Gray's Funeral Chapel, (306) 922-4729.

Jerome Weiland

Jerome Weiland
March 11, 1944 –
December 18, 2021

It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of our loving husband, father, and grandfather Jerome Weiland at the age of 77 years.

Jerome was the eldest of five born to John and Bertha Weiland of Lake

Lenore, SK where he grew up on the family farm. In 1964 his family moved to Medstead to manage the hotel. Jerome met Vivian in Medstead and they were married in 1969. They made Saskatoon their home where Clinton and Renee were born. Jerome worked in shipping and receiving for Eaton's Warehouse on Quebec Avenue.

In 1978, Jerome and Vivian set their roots in Spiritwood and would go on to spend most of their 52 years in the area. Jerome worked with the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool in both Bapaume and Spiritwood. In addition, he spent many hours at our farm working and farming with his in-laws. Upon the

closure of the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool in 2000, Jerome transitioned to Fast Genetics where he worked with his favorite animals. In 2006, Jerome and Vivian moved to Shell Lake and in 2015 he retired at the age of 72.

Jerome was a devoted Christian; guided by his strong faith and values. He always put others before himself. His kindness and empathy were evident in his everyday interactions. Jerome was an active member of the Sacred Heart Parish, Knights of Columbus, the Catholic School Board of Trustees, and later Prairie Community Endeavors.

Family traditions of making sausage and homemade ice cream,

skating in the backyard, watching home movies, games of bingo, shuffleboard, and last tag will remain cherished memories. He loved spending time at the cabin where you would often see him cruising the lake in his little yellow speedboat.

Jerome truly was one of a kind and he touched the hearts of many. He had the most gentle demeanor and a heart of gold. He was known for his quirky sense of humor, infamous one-liners, and the mischievous twinkle in his eye. The following quote was special to him. "The most satisfying thing in life is to have been able to give a large part of oneself to others." This is how he lived his life every day.

Jerome will be fondly

remembered and forever missed by his wife, Vivian Weiland, his children and their families, Clint (Tricia) Weiland of Saskatoon (Avery, Evan), and Renee (Ron) Gilchrist of Bermuda (Jack, Charleigh), his siblings, Mike Weiland of Warman, Matt Weiland, and Mary Lou Weiland both of Saskatoon, brothers-in-law John Schulkowsky of Glenbush, Mervin (Catherin) Volk of Belbutte, sister-in-law Shirley Kraus of Prince Albert also numerous nieces, nephews, and extended family.

Jerome was predeceased by his parents, John and Bertha Weiland; his sister, Glorianne Schulkowsky; his father and mother-

in-law Philip and Anne Volk; and his brother-in-law, Bill Kraus.

The celebration of Jerome's life was held on Monday, December 27, 2021, at 1:00 p.m. at Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church in Spiritwood, SK, with Fr. Ramel Macapala as celebrant. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Prairie Community Endeavors at Box 736, Spiritwood, SK, SOJ 2MO.

Family and friends wishing to send messages of condolence are welcome to visit www.beau-lacfuneralhome.com.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of Beau "Lac" Funeral Home & Crematorium, R. Mark Muir, Spiritwood, SK 306-883-3500.

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SPORTS

Ready to shine in 2022

Instead of focusing on the biggest names in sports as the earth begins a new trip around the sun, here's a quick look at some not-so-huge names that are bound to hit it big in the next 12 months.

Major League Baseball's next superstar is Wander Franco, a 21-year-old infielder with Tampa Bay Rays. He made his major league debut last June and batted .288 with seven home runs and 39 runs-batted-in in 70 games. When he plays his first full season in 2022 — if the owners-imposed lockout ends, that is — fans will be hard-pressed to avoid hearing his name and seeing regular video highlights.

Unsung PGA player about to make a big splash? How about Australian Min Woo Lee, brother of the LPGA's Minjee Lee? Min Woo was ranked 272nd in the world last December, and now stands No. 49. His ascension has been swift and if you're looking for a

fantasy league longshot in 2022, Min Woo might be your man.

Canada is becoming a power in world tennis and the biggest splash in 2022 might be made by Felix Auger-Aliassime of Montreal. Only 21, Auger-Aliassime is already ranked 10th in the world among male tennis pros. In December, he was named Canada's male pro of the year and the most improved. He's poised to take on the world, now that the big three (Federer, Nadal, Djokovic) are on the backstretch of their careers.

Irish golfer Leona Maguire became a household name among golf fans when she led Europe to the Solheim Cup over the U.S. last summer. She has vaulted 134 spots in the Rolex World rankings in the past 12 months, currently sitting 43rd. The LPGA Tour's dominated by Asian and American golfers, but fans should get ready for an Irish star on the rise.

Koe? Gushue? Homan? Jones? Canadian curlers



BRUCE
PENTON

are among the world's best, but there's a great crop of youngsters waiting for glory. Watch out for B.C.'s Tyler Tardi and Manitoba's Mackenzie Zacharias to not only be competitive, but dominant, on the national scene.

Scotty Barnes of the Toronto Raptors might soon become an NBA superstar, but for now, 'on the rise' will have to suffice. The Raptors' first-round draft choice will earn plenty of votes in rookie-of-the-year voting and has an extremely bright future.

The CFL hasn't had a superstar Canadian

quarterback since Russ Jackson in the 1960s (Greg Vavra doesn't count), but Victoria's Nathan Rourke is giving B.C. Lions fans hope. As a rookie last year, he started twice and steamrolled Edmonton Elks 43-10 in his second start, passing for 359 yards and a touchdown, and rushing for three TDs. He's exciting. And he's Canadian!

• Dwight Perry of the Seattle Times: "Seattle experienced its wettest fall in history, with 19 inches of rain between September and November. It got so bad, the Seahawks practiced swimming for a first down."

• Comedy writer Alex Kaseberg, on Steelers WR Chase Claypool celebrating his catch as precious seconds ticked away against the Vikings: "It was the stupidest thing done in the NFL, besides saying, 'Trade me to the Jets.'"

• Patti Dawn Swansson, in her excellent three-dot column on Twitter, on the Moulding-Bottcher curling controversy,

where skip Bottcher said Moulding was leaving the team for 'personal reasons': "Bottcher has since conceded that his wording was wonky, but he stopped short of admitting he lied. Not that it mattered. The fact his pants were on fire was a dead giveaway."

• Janice Hough of left-coastsportsbabe.com, just before Urban Meyer was fired as coach of the Jacksonville Jaguars: "Urban Meyer has become such a dysfunctional leader you almost expect him to resign and run for Congress."

• Bob Molinaro of pilotonline.com (Hampton, Va.): "The great Urban Meyer experiment in Jacksonville is to football what the Hindenburg was to air travel."

• Tim Hunter of Everett's KRKO Radio, on interest rates expected to go up: "Except for Jacksonville Jaguar fans."

• Alex Kaseberg again: "New Orleans Saints coach Sean Payton tested positive for COVID-19 in December. This news is

almost as bad as when Payton found out Kevin James has been cast to play him in a movie."

• Steve Simmons of SunMedia, on Jacksonville Jaguars saying coach Urban Meyer was fired 'for cause': "I wonder: What was cause — hiring him or firing him?"

• Columnist Norman Chad on Twitter: "If Tom Brady had any mobility, he might be the best quarterback in the NFL. I still have him in my top 10 over the past decade."

• Bob Molinaro again: "Two years ago, Urban Meyer taught a course at Ohio State on character and leadership. Cue the laugh track."

• Another one from Kaseberg: "The Saints, in their 9-0 shutout of the Buccaneers, sacked Tom Brady four times. Honestly, I have not seen the 44-year-old Brady this upset since the time those punks would not get off his lawn."

Care to comment?
Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

OBITUARY

William (Willie) David Morin



William (Willie) David Morin was born October 18, 1939, in the Holy Family Hospital in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan. Due to complications at the time, Dad had to walk to get help, and Mom was taken by plane to the hospital. He was the second son of Louis and Edith Morin. For the first eight years of his life, the family lived at the "old farm" and during the summer months, they moved to "Fourteen" to make hay

and take care of the cattle. Lorraine, Ralph, Willie, and Joe went to Winter Lake School — walking a few miles to get there. Willie completed Grades 1 and 2 at the school.

In 1946, the family bought their first lumber house at Hanson's farm. Willie attended school in Bodmin until he was in Grade 8. He spoke fondly about Mrs. Laurin and the ways she helped him. At that time, the Bodmin School closed, and Willie decided that the Big River School was not for him — so his school education ended.

However, much learning continued when he went to work for Uncle Dick Smith. Willie loved that family and some of the kids thought he was just another big brother. Uncle Dick and Auntie Lily shared their home and their family with him for several years. He

loved to tell stories about cards, poker games, making hay, milking cows, harvesting, and even driving the school bus to help out.

Willie's adventures then took him to Lac du Bonnet, Manitoba to work on McIntosh farms with Reg and Meada. He learned how to operate large farm equipment and to run the alfalfa plant. Ramsay loved his work ethic and his jovial personality. Willie made many good friends in this area.

In about 1964, Willie came back to Saskatchewan to go into the logging industry cutting pulp at Camp Seven near Hackett Lake. Then, Willie and his brother, Joe, bought a skidder and began serious logging in the Meadow Lake area. He was well known for being one of the best "fallers" in the bush and was named Top

Faller by the P.A. Pulp Mill.

Around this time, Willie started dating the love of his life — Helen Lakner. They lived together for about 10 years in Meadow Lake. Helen had a family of six children, Michael, Gloria, Cynthia, Darrell, Rocky, and Linda. Gloria lived with them until Helen's passing in 2009. The other children were older and on their own, but Linda was about 9 years old when Willie joined the family.

After about 10 years slipped by, Willie and Helen moved to the farm and raised cattle, pigs, sheep, and chickens. Willie continued to work in the bush and according to stories — Helen would cry every Sunday night when Willie had to leave and go back to the bush camp. Eventually, however, due to health reasons, Willie had to give

up logging and become a full-time farmer. Willie and Helen shared a happy life for about 40 years where music filled the air so many days. Everyone was welcome to join them out in the yard by their lilac bushes. They both had hearts of gold and would share a beer with you anytime.

Helen became ill and passed away on July 9, 2009. A while later, Willie moved down to the "old farm" where he resided until he passed away on December 24, 2021, after a battle with COVID and other health issues.

He was predeceased by his partner — Helen Lakner; his parents, Louis, and Edith Morin; his brother — Ralph Morin; a niece — Linda Lepage; and a brother-in-law, Reg Wilson.

He will be lovingly remembered and missed by his siblings, Lorraine,

Joe, Meada, Louella, Tom, and Chuck and their spouses and children; his sister-in-law — Shirley Maguire and her family; a nephew — Kelly Sinclair (Ralph's son); his aunts — Bertha and Leona Smith; Helen's children; numerous great-nieces, great-nephews, cousins, and friends.

There will be a Memorial Service held for Willie at a later date.

In lieu of tributes, memorial donations may be made in memory of Willie to the Lakewood Lodge Auxiliary (Box 846 Big River, SK S0J 0S0). Family and friends wishing to send online condolences are welcome to visit www.beaulacfuneralhome.com. Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of Beau "Lac" Funeral Home & Crematorium, Tammy Smart, Funeral Director, Shellbrook, SK. 306-747-2828.

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Is it time to replace my garden seeds?

By Jackie Bantle

In the deep, dark cold of winter, gardening season seems like a distant memory or wishful thinking. I have too many houseplants so, to satisfy my gardening itch, I have decided that I am finally going to clean up and organize my extensive flower and vegetable seed collection. I am harbouring seed from many years and it is time to unclutter that mess!

I'm often asked, "How do you know if your vegetable or flower seed is still viable? How long can I store my vegetable seed? Should I buy new seed this year?" Storage conditions and storage time varies for each vegetable and flower. Flower seeds generally last longer than most vegetable seeds. Some seeds are easily kept for up to five years, while others should be replaced annually.

A general rule of thumb is that high moisture and high temperature reduce the quality and viability of flower and vegetable seeds. This doesn't mean that you need to invest in a dehumidification system for your "high tech, airtight, temperature controlled, underground seed storage unit." For most seeds, storage temperatures between 5 and 10°C are more than adequate for at least one year of storage, as long as the seeds are dry and stored under dry conditions (air tight containers or plastic bags are adequate).

Vegetables that have a seed storage life of five years, under dry conditions with average to cool temperatures, include: cucumber, endive, lettuce, muskmelon and radish. At the other extreme, some vegetables that should only be stored for one year include: onion, parsley and parsnip. Seed storage of sweet corn, leek and okra should be limited to two years. Germination rates will decline significantly after that time. A maximum of three years of seed storage is

recommended for asparagus, beans, broccoli, carrots, celery, kohlrabi, peppers, spinach and peas. Beet, Brussels sprout, cabbage, cauliflower, Swiss chard, eggplant, kale, pumpkin, squash, rutabaga, tomato and watermelon seed should have good germination rates even after four years of storage.

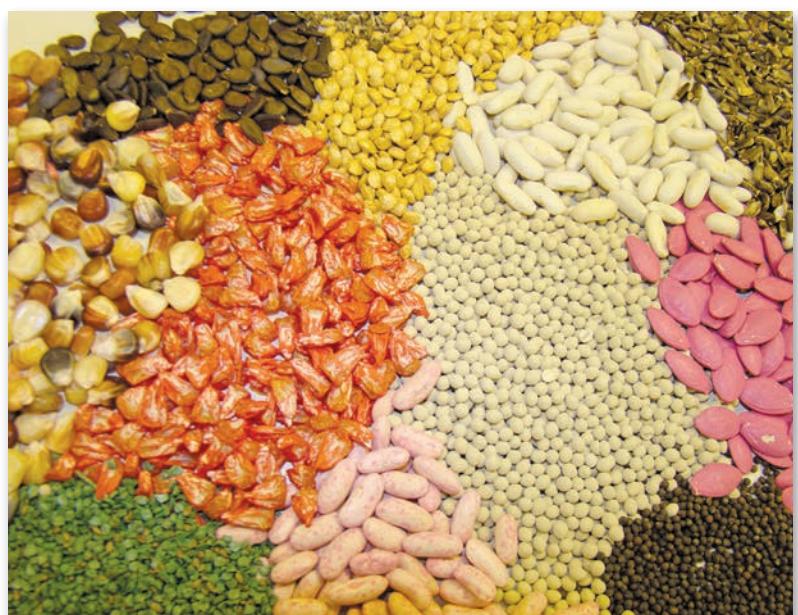
Flower seed viability varies immensely. For example, nasturtium and zinnia seeds can easily last up to 7 years whereas pansy and impatiens seeds may remain viable for only 1 or 2 years.

Even though some of your seed might be older than these recommended dates, there is no need to throw it out. Instead, do your own simple home germination test this winter. Take two pieces of paper towel. Place one piece of moistened paper towel on a plate. Spread out ten seeds on the paper towel. Moisten the second paper towel and place it lightly over the seeds. Keep the paper towels lightly moistened and place the plate in a warm location (20°C), out of direct sunlight. After several days, check the seeds for germination. Some seeds germinate faster than others,

so be patient. For example, the average germination time for radish and lettuce is four days at 20°C, whereas beans can take up to 18 days to germinate at that temperature. If seeds haven't germinated after 20 days, they are probably not going to.

By counting the number of seeds that have germinated, you can determine your germination percentage. For example, if 4 seeds out of the 10 have germinated, your germination rate is 40%. This number is important when it comes to seeding time. A 40% germination rate tells you that in order to have plants at your desire spacing, you will need to seed 2.5 seeds for every desired plant. Since half seeds don't grow very well, you will need to seed 3 seeds for every desired plant to ensure you have an adequate plant stand. If all 3 seeds germinate, your hoe can easily take care of the extra plants.

This column is provided courtesy of the Saskatchewan Perennial Society (SPS; saskperennial@hotmail.com). Check out our website (www.saskperennial.ca) or Facebook page (www.facebook.com/saskperennial).



A variety of treated and untreated vegetable seeds, including corn, carrots, beans, melons and cabbage.

Photo credit: Jackie Bantle

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