

# Shellbrook Chronicle & Spiritwood Herald

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www.shellbrookchronicle.com | www.spiritwoodherald.com

## Studio 747 returns to the stage in style



Luka Sanchez and Aria Warkentin showed off all the right moves with their hip hop number.

The Shellbrook Theatre came alive on Saturday night, when the dancers of Studio 747 took the stage for their first performance in front of a live audience in nearly three years.

Though it was billed as a mini showcase, the show was anything but mini, packing nearly 40 solo, duet, and group routines into a two-hour package. As always, the dancers left everything they had on the stage and the audience rewarded them with raucous applause and cheers.

For Kelly Woodley, owner of Studio 747, the return to the stage was an overwhelming success.

"We were so excited to get back in front of an audience, and the community did not disappoint with their support," he said.

"Planning this year's mini showcase, I wasn't really sure if people were going to come out, but we had the biggest turn out of any mini showcase event we've thrown. I think the community was just so excited to have a night of live entertainment after missing it for so long."

Studio 747's mini showcase marked a re-

turn to some semblance of normalcy, following two years of struggle, constant change, and uncertainty brought on by the arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic in March of 2020.

The pandemic cut short the 2019-2020 dance season and deprived dancers of the opportunity to perform in recitals and competitions, which are always the highlight of the season. When Studio 747 was forced to close its doors for a time, Woodley and his team of instructors did their best to keep dancers engaged and sharp through online classes.

Then, when the studio was allowed to reopen, but with social distancing and gathering limits in place, Woodley and his team were forced to improvise again, taping grids onto the dance floors to ensure dancers were kept far enough apart while they learned and rehearsed.

If the public health mandates brought on by the pandemic were tough for the dancers, they were every bit as tough for the instructors, as dance instruction usually requires a hands-on approach to effectively impart the fine details of techniques and routines.

Physical distancing also made its way into the choreography of routines, and, given how close the dancers often get while performing, Woodley says it was tricky to think of new ways to choreograph.

Here, again, Woodley and his team improvised and adapted to give the dancers the best dance season they could.

"Having to remain socially distanced and not being allowed to be in contact with our dancers forced us as teachers to get creative and come up with ways to describe and relay the information to our dancers," he said. "But I think we did everything we could to give our dancers an experience as close to normal as possible."

In hopes of providing a little more normalcy through the 2020-2021 dance season, Studio 747's dancers were given the opportunity to participate in virtual competitions by submitting videos of routines. To make the experience more authentic, Woodley rented the Shellbrook Community Hall to give the dancers a large enough stage to perform on and brought in curtains, flooring, and light

and sound equipment.

The videos recorded for these competitions provided a little normalcy to the community as well, when they were screened drive-in style to take the place of Studio 747's year-end recital.

Fast forward to 2022, and the lifting of all pandemic-related mandates, and Studio 747's dancers are gearing up for the gauntlet of competition season. For his part, Woodley couldn't be more excited about the return to normal.

"The biggest excitement for me is to watch our dancers come to life on stage," he said. "They really light up when they step out there and it's an incredible thing to witness. Especially those who get really nervous before going out. They step on stage and all those nerves dissolve."

Once competition season is over, it will be time for the year-end recital. With this year marking the fifth anniversary of Studio 747, Woodley says the community can expect some big plans and surprises.

More photos on page 15



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# Spiritwood Skating Club puts on sweet showcase

The Spiritwood Skating Club hosted its annual Ice Carnival event called "Candy Rush" on Sunday March 20, 2022, in the Spiritwood Arena.

The event was supported by a large crowd, which showed appreciation for the routines and all the creative costumes.

The event started at 2 p.m. with the national anthem sung by Avarie Conacher. The first presentation was called "Kids in a Candy Store" and was presented by the Spiritwood Skating Club.

Secondly, the adorable Pre-CanSkaters, Adaline Caffet, Eli Goller, Theo Pomedli, Morgon Renaud, Islah Simonar and Rex Walter took their turn with their "Ice Cream" number.

The third presentation was called "M&Ms" by the CanSkate Stage 1 and 2 and was showcased by Norie Beauchesne, Ezra Ballantyne, Levi Barth, Morgan Harris, Jude Turgeon and Matvii Voloshchuk.

Furthermore, STARSkater Ava Beuker performed a solo called "Tutti Frutti", which was followed by the "Lollipops" production by the Advanced CanSkate Stage 5 and 6 kids, including Anna Nemish,



**CanSkate Boys - "Chocolate Chip Pirates". Ezra Ballantyne, Levi Barth, Maddox Bueker, Ryker Caffet, Beau Doucette, Eli Goller, Theo Pomedli, Rex Walter, Morgon Renaud, Carter Sarrazin, Jude Turgeon and Matvii Voloshchuk.**



**Program Assistants - "Peppermint Twist". Nixen Simonar, Emeri Simonar, Maya Doucette, Chance Goller, Ava Bueker and Ciara Conacher.**

Ariel Smolinski and Sierra Strate.

Afterwards, Emeri Simonar took to the ice for her STARSkate Solo, called "Candyman".

The seventh appearance was made by the CanSkate Boys, Ezra Ballantyne, Levi Barth, Maddox Beuker, Ryker Caffet, Beau Doucette, Eli Goller, Theo Pomedli, Rex Walter, Morgon Renaud, Carter Sarrazin, Jude Turgeon and Matvii Voloshchuk. Together, they entertained the crowd with their number called "Chocolate Chip Pirates", showcasing their cool pirate hats.

Closing out the first half of the show, Grace Driedger, a guest skater from the Medstead Skating Club, took the ice with her solo routine "Lucky Charm", and program assistants Ava Beuker, Ciara Conacher, Maya Doucette, Chance Goller, Emeri Simonar and Nixen Simonar performed their "Peppermint Twist" number.

The first act was followed by a 15-minute intermission, allowing guests to snag some goodies in the lobby.

After the break, the CanSkate 3 and 4 skaters, including Ryker Caffet, Liv Slater, Sara Nemish, Hallie Pomedli and Kylie Sarrazin kicked

things off with "Candy Kisses". Then, NCCP Coach Sherryl Britton skated her own solo called "The Candyman".

Next on the list were the CanSkate Stage 2 and 3 skaters, Maddox Beuker, Beau Doucette and Carter Sarrazin, who performed "Gummy Bears". This was followed by a duet by Ava Beuker and Emeri Simonar.

Continuing the performances, nine CanPower Skaters, including Gage Beuker, Lucas Buswell, Kelsey Doucette, Zayden Kotun, Dayson Laventure, Emili Loiselle, Dmitri Metrunec, Maddox Simonar and Nixen Simonar, took the ice to perform "Bazooka Bubblegum".

Keeping things gummy, the CanSkate girls, including Norie Beauchesne, Adaline Caffet, Morgan Harris, Anna Nemish, Sara Nemish, Hallie Pomedli, Kylie Sarrazin, Islah Simonar, Ariel Smolinski and Sierra Strate performed their number, "Sticky Bubblegum".

Down to the second last presentation, Josie Sadlowski, a guest skater from Skate Battlefords, performed a number

called "Starburst". And finally, all the skaters took the ice for one final performance appropriately called "I Want Candy".

The Spiritwood Skating Club said it was grateful to those who attended and volunteered to help them hold a successful event and for supporting their skaters. They were glad to see everyone back after the pandemic. It was indeed an event as sweet as candy.



**Canskate 3 and 4 - "Candy Kisses". Ryker Caffet, Liv Slater, Sara Nemish, Hallie Pomedli, and Kylie Sarrazin.**



**Guest Skater Grace Driedger of the Medstead Skating Club.**

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**Pre-Kindergarten & Kindergarten Registration**

Light of Christ Catholic School Division and Living Sky School Division are accepting students into the Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten Programs for the 2022-23 school year. Students must meet the following criteria:

**Kindergarten:** Children who are five years old as of December 31, 2022.

**Pre-Kindergarten:** Children must be 3 or 4 years of age at the time of application. Please see the LOCCSD website (www.loccsd.ca) or the LSKYSD website (www.lskysd.ca) for further Pre-K criteria.

Please contact your local school for registration details.

**Light of Christ Catholic Schools**  
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**TOWN OF BIG RIVER**

**NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF ASSESSMENT ROLL**

Notice is hereby given that the assessment roll of the Town of Big River for the year 2022 has been prepared and is open to inspection at the office of the Assessor from 8:30 a.m. to noon and 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. on the following days: Monday to Friday, March 25, 2022 to April 26, 2022.

A bylaw pursuant to section 214 of *The Municipalities Act* has been passed and the assessment notices have been sent as required.

Any person wishing to discuss the notice of assessment or potential appeal may contact the Assessor at 306-469-2112 (Town of Big River) or 1-800-667-5203 (SAMA).

Any person wishing to appeal an assessment is required to file a "Notice of Appeal to the Board of Revision", by April 26, 2022, with Mike Ligtermoet, Secretary to the Board of Revision, 642 Agnew Street, Prince Albert, SK, S6V 2P1, (norsaskboardservices@sasktel.net), along with the applicable fee of \$100.00, made payable to the Town of Big River, which will be returned if the appeal is successful.

Dated at Big River, Saskatchewan this 25<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2022.

Noreen Olsen  
Assessor

**TOWN OF SPIRITWOOD**

**NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF ASSESSMENT ROLL**

Notice is hereby given that the assessment roll of the Town of Spiritwood for the year 2022 has been prepared and is open to inspection in the Office of the Assessor from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on the following days: Monday to Thursday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022 to April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022.

A bylaw pursuant to section 214 of *The Municipalities Act* has been passed and the assessment notices have been sent as required.

Any person wishing to discuss the notice of assessment or potential appeal may contact the Assessor at 306-883-2161 (Town of Spiritwood) or 1-306-446-7660 (SAMA).

Any person wishing to appeal an assessment is required to file "Notice of Appeal to the Board of Revision", by **April 22, 2022**, with Saumya Valdyanathan, Secretary to the Board of Revision, Box 149, Meota, Sask., S0M 1X0 or by email secretary@westermunicipal.ca along with the applicable fee of \$200.00, made payable to the Town of Spiritwood, which will be returned if the appeal is successful.

Dated at Spiritwood, Saskatchewan this 24<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2022.

Hugh Otterson, Assessor  
Town of Spiritwood  
Box 460, 212 Main Street  
Spiritwood, SK S0J 2M0  
Email: tos@sasktel.net

# Shellbrook Seniors get back to normal

After these past two years of the COVID-19 pandemic, nothing will ever go back to exactly how it was for anyone. But the Shellbrook Senior's Association is determined to do its best to get back to as normal as possible.

"We've had nothing," Senior's Association member Adeline Fossey says of how the community group was impacted by the pandemic. "We tried in the beginning to play cards with masks, and that didn't go over. So, we shut everything down at the end of March 2020."

Fortunately, where other clubs may have been forced to fold due to an inability to gather and raise funds, the Senior's Association managed to keep its head above water by renting out the Shellbrook Senior Citizen's Centre for various purposes. With the help of grant funding, the club even made an addition to the facility with the purchase of a defibrillator.

Still, Fossey says it's been tough for the seniors, in many of the same ways it's been tough for everybody.

"[We faced] what everybody else faced: the isolation. Though, for many seniors the isolation was maybe more so than the younger generation," she said. "But you just did what you had to do. You talked more on the phone and on Zoom."

This isolation was eased a bit around the holiday

season, when members of the association got their first taste of normal in the form of a Christmas dinner at Arnie's Grill. Now, with no public health mandates in the way, the club is beginning a gradual return to its pre-pandemic activities.

Just last week, the Senior Citizen's Centre was bustling with activity when Monday afternoon's Games of Choice made a comeback along with Kaiser on Thursday evenings. April, meanwhile, will see the return of exercise classes, including a regular fitness session on Tuesday mornings and a modified version for the less physically able on Wednesday mornings.

The association has also lined up a line dancing instructor, in a bid to attract the younger senior crowd that isn't interested in sitting around and playing cards, and has received permission to play bocce ball on the lawn in front of the Shellbrook Museum through the summer.

Known for its meals, the association will be serving up a noon potluck meal on Wednesday, April 13. Fossey says other teas and suppers are also expected to return, along with the always popular old-time dancing.

"Hopefully we'll get back to going to the plays at Rosthern and fun days with other senior's clubs," she

said. "It's going to be interesting to see how each club survives the pandemic."

While a return to normal is welcome for the Senior's Association, Fossey notes there is a cloud of uncertainty hanging above everything. Most of the association's working members are 85 or older, presenting challenges when it comes to planning outings or meals.

Fossey says the association has been able to forge a connection with the Shellbrook Kinettes, who are willing and able to lend a helping hand. In return, the Senior's Association allows the group to rent the hall free of charge for its meetings.

Still, Fossey believes there will have to be a conversation about what the seniors will be able to continue to do as a group, and what needs to be left in the past.

Until then, she maintains she's looking forward to reclaiming some semblance of normalcy.

"I'm looking forward to getting outside. This winter was so cold; it was no fun," she said. "Just to get outside, be able to walk and go to the senior's hall, and hopefully we'll have some events we can go to."

## R. M. OF LEASK NO. 464 NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF ASSESSMENT ROLL

Notice is hereby given that the Assessment Roll of the Rural Municipality of Leask No. 464 for the year 2022 has been prepared and is open to inspection by contacting the Office of the Assessor from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on the following days: Monday to Friday, March 21, 2022, to April 25, 2022.

A bylaw pursuant to section 214 of *The Municipalities Act* has been passed and the assessment notices have been sent as required.

Any person who wishes to appeal against his or her assessment is required to file his or her notice of appeal, accompanied by \$50.00 appeal fee per roll number with The Assessor, R.M. of Leask, Box 190, Leask, SK, S0J 1M0, by the 25<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2022.

Dated at Leask, Saskatchewan, this 21<sup>st</sup> day of March, 2022.

Riannon Nelson  
Assessor



Lion George Pretli and Lion Torben Nielsen serve up Irish stew.

## Spiritwood Lions host St. Patrick's Day supper

Kicking off the return to unrestricted in-person fundraisers, the Spiritwood and District Lions Club got right to it with a St. Patrick's Day Supper. On the menu was Irish Stew, Mag's homemade buns and Bailey's

chocolate cake. The Legion Hall was decorated for the occasion, an Irish playlist provided background music, and nearly 90 people enjoyed the Irish-themed meal.

The Lions Club's next event will be the children's Cordwood Bonspiel, another annual event that will make its return after a two-

year hiatus for safety reasons during the pandemic. Following that, the annual Easter Bunny Drive will further signal the return of our small-town life as usual.



Lion Ali Sullivan and Lion Bryan Ferguson serve up St. Patrick's Day supper.

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## Saskatchewan Stands with Ukraine

The people of Ukraine need supplies and support in their hour of need. We can help.

The Government of Saskatchewan is working in partnership with the Ukrainian Canadian Congress of Saskatchewan (UCC) to provide assistance. If you want to help, contact UCC at 1-888-652-5850 or info@ucc.sk.ca.

OR

To offer employment to displaced Ukrainians, post jobs on SaskJobs.ca, using the hashtag #sksupportsukraine.

The Blaine Lake Community Association would like to thank all our sponsors, volunteers and curlers for a very successful 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Farmers' Bonspiel

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## Conservative race offers lesson in self-destruction

There's an old saying about sinners and stones.

Based on the amount of stones being flung back and forth over the past week, it seems the candidates running to be the next leader of the Conservative Party (or prime minister, in Pierre Poilievre's case) aren't familiar with the adage. That, or they've fallen victim to the delusion that they are somehow beyond reproach.

Nothing could be further from the truth, and it would be dangerous for any of the candidates to consider themselves a shoe-in for the Conservative Party leadership, much less a true contender against Prime Minister Justin Trudeau (even if he isn't as popular as he once was).

Mr. Poilievre has been the stone slinger in chief, bringing his trademark brand of attack-dog politics to bear on rivals who could very well be members of his own party if he becomes leader.

In the same breath former Québec Premier Jean Charest announced his candidacy for the Conservative Party leadership, the full force of Mr. Poilievre's campaign took aim at him to accuse him of being a Liberal in Conservative clothing (Mr. Charest was a Progressive Conservative federally, before joining the Quebec Liberal Party and serving as the province's premier from 2003-2012).

"He supported the long gun registry, raised taxes, brought in a carbon tax and worked for Huawei while the Chinese (government) detained kidnapped Canadians," said Jenni Byrne, a long-time Conservative strategist and a chief member of Mr. Poilievre's team.

Of course, it wasn't Mr. Charest himself working on Huawei's behalf; it was the law firm at which he's employed, and said law firm was fulfilling a vital function of Canada's legal system by defending an accused client (even if said client is unsavoury and near indefensible). But why let the facts get in the way of a good jab?

Speaking of facts, Mr. Poilievre next turned his attention to Brampton Mayor Patrick Brown. With this salvo, he



JORDAN TWISS  
~  
News Editor

effectively called him a "lying liar who lies a lot" after Mr. Brown blasted him for supporting some divisive policies while Stephen Harper was Prime Minister, including the unconstitutional ban on face coverings at citizenship ceremonies and a proposed "barbaric cultural practices hotline."

Mr. Poilievre tried to downplay this by saying there was never any "niqab ban". However, Mr. Harper himself floated the idea of banning face coverings for public servants in 2015, and Mr. Poilievre, serving as Employment Minister at the time, said he wouldn't rule it out. So no, there technically wasn't a "niqab ban," but only because Mr. Harper lost the 2015 election.

All this ugliness transpired in just one week of Mr. Charest and Mr. Brown stepping into the ring with Mr. Poilievre. If it's any indication of how the rest of the race is going to go, it's safe to say it's going to be a long, nasty road to the leadership election on Sept. 10.

In the meantime, one can only wonder, after the 2017 leadership race fractured the party, just what, if anything, will be left when all the dust clears.

Will there even be a Conservative Party left to offer a legitimate challenge to Mr. Trudeau?

A leadership race defined by vitriol and petty, childish attacks is not what those who will choose the next Conservative leader want, need, or deserve to witness over the next few months.

The Conservative Party has been floundering since Mr. Harper was defeated in 2015, struggling to find its identity in a Canada that seems to be shifting further and further to the left of the political spectrum and shake off the notion it's stuck in the past.

What this race needs is open and honest discussion about the party's future, and a real vision that can garner broad support from Canadians from all walks of life.

Canadians deserve a viable Conservative Party opposition. So far, all Mr. Poilievre and his fellow candidates are offering is a lesson in self-destruction.



## Op-ed: Getting Canada's Economy Back on the Rails

When the COVID pandemic hit Canada back in early 2020, Canadians quickly learned how reliant we are on healthy supply chains to provide us with essential services and products. The senseless and violent events in Ukraine are reinforcing this reality on a global and tragic scale.

Since its earliest days, Canada's railroads have played a historic role in unifying our country and growing our national economy.

Today, countless sectors vital to Canada's economic well-being continue to rely on robust and reliable rail infrastructure to get essential products to mar-

ket. This infrastructure is particularly critical in sectors like agriculture, chemistry, and forestry that operate in more rural and remote parts of the country where rail lines are often among the limited options to transport goods. In the forestry sector for example, 80% of the country's mills are served by just one railway.

While trucks could never move all the volumes that need to move by rail, the pre-pandemic ongoing truck driver shortage, with 22,990 current vacancies across Canada, has driven up the costs of inadequate rail service exponentially. In some areas of Canada, the cost of truck-

ing has increased by as much as 150% over the last quarter.

There are also GHG reduction benefits to moving more by rail. According to the Railway Association of Canada, a single freight train can remove more than 300 trucks from Canada's roads; rail can move one tonne of freight 215 kilometres on a single litre of fuel; and shifting just 10 percent of freight from trucks to rail would reduce GHG emissions by close to 3.7 megatonnes of CO2 equivalent — the same as removing some 1.1 million gasoline-powered cars from Canadian roads for a year.

*Continued on page 5*

### Shellbrook Chronicle

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

### Spiritwood Herald

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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

The Government of Saskatchewan presented the 2022 budget. This roadmap for the future will provide the framework for further economic growth and prosperity for Saskatchewan families. In recent weeks and months, our province has been making positive headlines, from economic development and private investment to record-breaking exports and job numbers. Saskatchewan is leading the way, and we are committed to keeping things on track.

We want to ensure communities have the financial support needed to grow and prosper. One way is through Municipal Revenue Sharing Grants that will see the Government of Saskatchewan invest \$262 million for 2022. This unconditional funding helps lay the foundation for stronger communities and a stronger Saskatchewan. Since 2007, more than \$3.7 billion has supported municipalities and the needs that matter most to them.

Despite the employment



**HON. SCOTT MOE,  
PREMIER**

~  
MLA for Rosthern -  
Shellbrook  
Toll Free:  
1-855-793-3422  
scottmoe.mla@sasktel.net

challenges COVID-19 presented us, our economy is off to a roaring recovery. A strong indicator can be found in February job numbers from Statistics Canada. That report indicates Saskatchewan added more than 30,000 new jobs compared to February 2021. That breaks down to three jobs created per hour, every hour, every day, for the last 365 days. Month-to-month seasonally adjusted employment increased by 7,400, the highest employment growth rate in western Canada. Unemployment for

the province fell to 4.7 per cent, the second-lowest in the country. That is the lowest unemployment rate that Saskatchewan has recorded since spring 2015.

In addition to a thriving labour market, Saskatchewan's year-over-year wholesale trade is leading the nation. Between January 2021 and January 2022, wholesale trade increased by over 34 per cent. This is yet another major indicator that Saskatchewan's economy is in a strong position. Last year, Saskatchewan recorded all-time highs in agriculture exports, forestry product sales, and merchandise exports. In January 2022, wholesale trade in Saskatchewan was valued at more than \$3.3 billion.

While our economic indicators are strong, we continue our work to keep on the right track. Our government has announced \$4 million for the Economic Recovery Work Experience Initiative to make that happen. This one-time pandemic recovery initiative will provide paid work experience for job

seekers to obtain practical skills in priority areas. Our goal is to address the skilled labour gap in several key sectors such as hospitality, agriculture, retail services, health, and child care.

To be eligible, job seekers must be working with SaskJobs Career Services or another approved service provider. The applicant must be at least 18 years of age, entitled to work in Saskatchewan, facing job search and skill-related barriers to employment and be unemployed or underemployed. Employers interested must provide meaningful work experience and then receive cost-sharing for wages up to \$6,000 for each participant per week.

We want to ensure Saskatchewan families can have access to affordable, high-quality early learning and childcare should they choose to use these services. In partnership with the federal government, we are pleased to announce that another 1,202 childcare spaces are on the way for 21 Saskatchewan com-



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munities.

This announcement is in addition to the December 2021 announcement of 601 new spaces and is part of a much larger goal to create 28,000 new spaces by the end of March 2026. This partnership with the federal government will bring down average fees for regulated childcare to \$10-a-day.

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, international students contributed more than \$252 million to the provincial economy. This week, our government

launched a first of its kind in Canada new program to deliver international education training to the post-secondary education sector. The International Education Practitioner Program is a key component of the new International Education Strategy and strengthen the international education program in Saskatchewan.

The International Education Practitioners Program will ensure service delivery of international education is consistent across Saskatchewan. Students will benefit from the same experience and level of support no matter where they study in our province.

It is not too late to enroll or change coverage for 2022 Crop Insurance. The deadline to enroll for 2022 Crop Insurance has been extended to April 14 to allow additional time to review all insurance options for your operation. For more information, contact your local Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation office or call 1-888-935-0000.

## Op-ed: Getting Canada's Economy Back on the Rails

### Continued from 4

Canada needs a resilient and predictable transportation system to meet increasing global demand for our products, keep workers working, and improve economic conditions in rural and northern communities. Unfortunately, over the past few years, transportation systems in Canada have proven to be fragile, unreliable, and under-performing. This challenges our ability to grow our businesses and is impacting customer relationships and investor confidence in Canada.

Given the importance of this essential service to Canada's pandemic recovery, we believe that there are three main issues we need urgent action on from our federal government and our railway partners, namely:

1. Building future-ready infrastructure that is robust, reliable, and ready to move products;
2. Ensuring rail service consistency and quality. This includes the need for greater transparency around railway fundamentals

and performance (e.g. knowing what locomotives, rail cars, and crews that are online vs offline). In the cases of when there are gaps or challenges, they need to be open about recovery plans and;

3. Retaining and building the labour force of tomorrow to ensure our transportation system is properly staffed.

Canada's railways have an important and difficult job to do that has been further complicated by a global pandemic, natural disas-

ters, frequent labour disruptions and world events. But there are long standing systemic issues, including poor performance and a lack of competition, that absolutely require solutions now and for the long-term. We remain committed to working in partnership with our railway and other transportation partners and the federal government so we can strengthen and grow economic prospects for Canadian workers and their families. It's time to get more of our products and Canada's economy back on the

rails.

*By Cathy Campbell, Executive Advisor, Responsible Distribution Canada,*

*John Corey, President, Freight Management Association,*

*Bob Masterson, President and Chief Executive Officer, Chemistry Industry Association of Canada, and*

*Joel Neuheimer, Vice President, International Trade, Transportation, HR, Corporate Secretary, Forest Products Association of Canada*



**Technology can be a useful tool, but it can also take a toll on your mental health and sleeping habits.**

- Cody Fajardo

Quarterback for the Saskatchewan Roughriders



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**Saskatchewan**

# Schmitz, Taylor ready to take on the world

Through their first couple years as a figure skating pair, Shellbrook's Ashlyn Schmitz and Regina's Tristan Taylor quickly established themselves as a duo to watch on the national stage.

After just 10 months of training together, the pair claimed its first competitive hardware in the form of bronze medals at the 2019 Canada Winter Games in Red Deer, Alta. Schmitz and Taylor followed up on this performance in January of 2020, claiming silver medals at the Canadian Tire National Skating Championships in Mississauga, Ont.

With all this momentum behind them, Schmitz and Taylor saw all their hard work and plans derailed for more than two years when the COVID-19 pandemic reared its ugly head in Saskatchewan.

"We could only do a little bit of off-ice training until things started opening," Schmitz said of the challenges the pair faced over the past two years.

"It made it tough. We'd meet up once or twice a week outside and do lifts and twists," Taylor added. "That's essentially all we could do."

Despite these limitations, Taylor still feels he and Schmitz have grown together as a pair over these past two years.

"We've grown quite a bit. Both of us have gotten a bit older, matured in our skating and in our personal lives, and learned a lot about how the other works and how we best train together," he said.

When public health mandates briefly eased in the fall, it offered hope that Schmitz and Taylor might enjoy a return to a somewhat typical figure skating season and be able to regain their lost momentum.

Though there were still some challenges in navigating the return to on-ice training, as well as some injuries, both skaters were happy to have the closest they've had to a normal skating season in two years. Both skaters also have their gaze fixed firmly on the future and the possibility of testing themselves internationally, in addition to their upcoming runs at Nationals and (hopefully) Worlds.

"We just need to train together a bit more and work out some of the specific details we still need some practice on before we compete," Schmitz said of what the pair still needs to work on before then.

"It's mostly skating skills and getting a few of our elements polished a little bit, and then just getting our new programs going," Taylor added.

Until their competitions kick off in late summer and early fall, Schmitz and Taylor will spend the rest of the current figure skating season showcasing what they've been up to at shows. Their stops even included a visit to Schmitz's hometown last Friday, during which the pair performed at the Shellbrook Skating Club's year-end ice show.



Ashlyn Schmitz and Tristan Taylor wowed the crowd when they performed at the Shellbrook Skating Club's year-end ice show on Friday evening.

## Connect to Your Highways



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Saskatchewan 

# AGRICULTURE

March 24, 2022

www.shellbrookchronicle.com | www.spiritwoodherald.com

Shellbrook Chronicle & Spiritwood Herald 7

## It seems the sky's the limit for canola prices

When you have been writing a column on agriculture for some three decades you tend to think you've seen it all.

But recently there have been reports of some marketing opportunities for canola in the range of \$24 to \$26 per bushel – a dollar figure that truly seems astronomical, especially since this writer recalls a time \$10 a bushel was thought of as the ceiling for canola.

Of course, that \$10 bill had more purchasing power back in “the day” as they say, than it does

now.

One would only need to look at the price of the largest four-wheel drive tractors, or on a tonne of nitrogen fertilizer, to understand the huge price today doesn't necessarily give producers the ability to buy more than when prices first flirted with \$10 per bushel – for example in 2008.

However, it is interesting some analysts think prices might still have the chance to inch higher. That might not be so hard to understand, given questions regarding moisture conditions



CALVIN DANIELS

headed to seeding, and of course the war in Ukraine.

In terms of moisture, locally in the Yorkton area the snowfall would also suggest a good start to replenishing soil moisture. But some ex-

perience shoveling over the past months suggests a lot of the snow this winter was fluffy, indicating it piled into significant drifts but wasn't likely to provide a great deal of moisture.

The situation is likely to be variable, and that uncertainty has to make canola markets nervous. There is huge infrastructure in place now dedicated to crushing canola, and the plants need to operate, and that demand, while having limits, appears strong enough that purchasers are willing to

pay significant dollars to access canola supplies.

The impact of the war in Ukraine is likely to hold most farm products from dropping greatly in 2022. War typically strengthens commodity prices, and the very real possibility that NATO will eventually muster up the gumption to support Ukraine in the face of the bully of Vladimir Putin has to have markets even more nervous than it would be if Ukraine was seen as an isolated conflict.

Another issue in the mix – there always

seems a variety of factors farmers must balance in making cropping decisions – is the impact of potential rail disruptions at CP.

Canola markets tend to be local for seed deliveries, but would disruptions impact the ability of crushers to access their markets?

It all makes for a volatile situation in terms of canola prices and production, but ultimately there will likely be a lot of acres devoted to canola this spring given the prices today and potential moving forward.

## Sask. introduces enhanced measures to control feral pigs

The Government of Saskatchewan is taking steps to proactively enhance and broaden the regulation, monitoring and control of wild boar and feral pigs in the province.

The Ministry of Agriculture is developing regulations for licensing existing commercial wild boar farms and imposing a moratorium on any new farms. Regulations for wild boar/feral pigs will also be developed under The Pest Control Act, which would specify the various monitoring and control efforts as well as public obligations to report.

Additionally, annual funding for the Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation (SCIC) Feral Wild Boar Control Program for surveillance and eradication efforts in the province is being doubled to \$200,000.

“Increasing feral pig surveillance and eradication efforts, along with declaring them a regulated pest, are proactive measures to help ensure the health of both the agriculture industry and the natural environment in Saskatchewan,” Agriculture Minister David Marit said. “These are substantial steps that improve risk management and protect the resilience and security of our agriculture industry, which is a critical component of our provincial economy.”

Feral pigs are invasive and established within localized regions of the province, including agricultural production areas, and represent a significant problem due to damage caused to hay and crop land and to natural areas, as well as their potential to spread invasive plant species. They also harass livestock and wildlife, and are potential

reservoirs for livestock diseases such as African swine fever, a federally reportable disease that is not yet present in North America but is a serious threat to the Canadian pork industry.

The SCIC and the Ministry of Agriculture work closely with the public, producer associations like Sask Pork, and rural municipalities to monitor and deal with feral pigs in the province. This issue is among various areas

of mutual interest and cooperation between the province and the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM) which recently requested a collaborative, long-term solution to the wild boar/feral pigs issue in Saskatchewan.

All wild boar/feral pig sightings should be reported immediately by contacting a local SCIC office or calling 1-888-935-0000 (toll-free).



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# BLCA hosts annual Farmer's Spiel

The Blaine Lake Community Association held its 24th Annual Farmers' Bonspiel on March 4-6, 2022, having 20 teams participating in good curling while enjoying a weekend with good drinks, food and laughter.



**A Event winner: Skip: Dylan Derksen, Third: Tyler Derksen, Second: Laverne Derksen, and Lead: Sheldon Derksen.**



**B Event winner: Skip: Lloyd Fisher, Third: Glen Caffet, Second: Cody Dicus, and Lead: Laurie Mayo.**



**C Event winner: Skip: Tom Spriggs, Third: Paige Spriggs, Lead: Dana Spriggs, and Second: Tyler Couture.**



**D Event winner: Skip: Layton Ferster, Third: Sam Miller, Second: Burk Gosselin, and Lead: Dallas Galloway (not pictured)/Jaira Kissick.**

# Op-ed: Canada stands behind Ukraine

**By Randy Hoback MP, Prince Albert**  
What is happening in Ukraine is an absolute tragedy.

Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine is a serious violation of international law and our collective humanity. His unprovoked attack is the most serious threat to the rules-based international order since 1945 – and because of that, a serious threat to global peace and security.

I and my Conservative colleagues support the actions taken to date by the Government of Canada against Vladimir Putin. The Government must now, however, implement visa free travel from Ukraine to Canada so that Ukrainian refugees can come to our communities and seek refuge from Putin's barbarism.

We must also develop a robust plan to defend Canada's Arctic and reform the pipeline approval process to make

it possible to build new pipelines to tidewater, so that our European allies can turn their back on Russian energy.

We know that what Ukrainians want most is to be able to live in their home nation, free, sovereign, and peaceful. Hence, the Ukrainian request for a no-fly-zone is entirely understandable given the constant and indiscriminate killing of civilians being perpetrated by the Russian military.

Vladimir Putin cannot be trusted. He is a warmonger and a violent predator with no regard for human life and suffering. Canada and our allies have a moral duty to help Ukrainians standing up for their freedom, independence, and sovereignty.

Canada and our allies must therefore do more to secure Ukraine's airspace. We need to protect at a minimum the airspace over the humanitarian corridors, so that Ukrainians can seek safe passage away from war zones and to allow humanitarian relief to reach those areas under siege.

All Canadians stand with Ukraine, the people of Ukraine, and the over one million Canadians with ties to Ukraine. They are our neighbors, our friends and our family members. They are an integral part of Saskatchewan.

Together, we condemn Vladimir Putin's actions. His contemptible aggression and invasion of Ukraine is unacceptable. And his attack on the Ukrainian people and their democratically elected government is despicable.

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# Shellbrook Skating Club dazzles with ice show

The skaters of the Shellbrook Skating Club channelled the silver screen for their year-end ice show on Friday evening, as they entertained a large crowd at the Richardson Pioneer Recreation Centre for the first time in three years.

The ice show featured more than 50 of the club's skaters and an eclectic mix of routines, including solos, pairs performances, small groups, and larger groups for the beginners and younger skaters. All of them were met with cheers and applause from the audience.

The show kicked off with solos from Jacey Keyowski, returning skater Ashlyn Schmitz, and Julia Shindle, before the red group took the ice to showcase the skills it had acquired through the skating season.

Bella Ledding, Emma Lauder, and Kayla Klaassen also skated solos in the show's first act, while the Pre-CanSkate group put on a Batman-themed number, and Schmitz and her junior pairs partner Tristan Taylor closed things out with their short routine.

Picking up after the intermission, Shindle performed another solo and later took the ice with her pre-novice pairs partner Stefan Lotz, while the blue and green groups got a chance to showcase their skills.

Former skater turned coach, Emmalynn Lamotte, also got a chance to perform a solo, Sarah Fisher and Sarah Bruner skated a duet, and Jacey Keyowski, Kayla Klaassen, and Bella Ledding performed a creative small group number.

The show closed with another pairs routine from Schmitz and Taylor, before all the skaters took the ice for the grand finale.

Following the show, the club handed out its annual awards. Sarah Bruner was named CanSkater of the Year, Phoenix Tremain earned Most Improved Skater honours, and Aubrielle Booth and Sarah Fisher shared the CanSkate Champion award.

For Shellbrook Skating Club coach Tasje Sharron, who, along with her assistant coaches Ev Hollowell and Emmalynn Lamotte, and many program assis-

tants, cobbles the show together and keeps it running smoothly, Friday night's year-end showcase couldn't have gone any better.

Calling it a win just to be able to host a show after three years without one, Sharron says it was great to have Schmitz and Taylor travel from Regina to perform and spend time with the skaters before the show, demonstrating skills and playing games. She was also happy to have Lotz come out from Prince Albert to skate pairs with Shindle.

Most wonderful of all, she says, was the audience to perform in front of.

"It really blew me away to see all the local support. It was the first ice show in three years and I really wasn't sure what to expect."

Like every other organization, the Shellbrook Skating Club wasn't spared from the COVID-19 pandemic – even if, in the fall of 2020, Sharron says enrolments stayed the same and she was busier than ever with powerskating lessons.

As the club's coach, it falls to Sharron to be in tune with where each of her skaters is in their development and where they need to be going. This means planning out seasons one to two years in advance, but that was easier said than done when public health mandates were changing at the drop of a hat and often with very little notice given.

"The only thing we could count on being the same was constant change, and the unknown was difficult," she said. "But as the pandemic hit, I learned that when you have people working together towards a common goal you can still succeed, even under dire circumstances."

The pandemic, and related public health mandates, at times limited Sharron to coaching eight skaters at once, which meant that every lesson took a little longer to teach. Fortunately, Sharron says, the Town of Shellbrook accommodated the club's needs so it could finish the programming it had planned.

The pandemic also forced the cancellation of many

of the hallmarks of the skating season, like in-person competitions and test days, and would have robbed some of Sharron's older skaters, who were in their final year with the club, of their last opportunities if not for some ingenuity.

"This past year especially, I had to learn to let go of where I think these skaters should be in their skating and be grateful for the fact that we could be on the ice," Sharron said. "Celebrate all of the wins, no matter how insignificant they seem. It really is all about the journey."

As for the 2021-2022 skating season, even it wasn't without its challenges. Unvaccinated skaters were required to self-isolate, and with most of the club's skaters being under the age of 12, vaccinations didn't become available for them until December. Even early into the new year, many young skaters only had one dose and still had to self-isolate if they were close contacts.

"I never knew how many skaters would show up to skate. Sometimes I had one skater," Sharron said. "But we kept all of our ice to maximize the skating opportunity for those who could show up."

With no more public health mandates in place, Sharron says she was pleased at how the transition back to normal has gone, with skaters getting to experience competitions and test days once again. For this normalcy, she gives a lot of credit to her fellow coaches and program assistants, as well as the members of the Shellbrook Skating Club's executive (many of whom were new this season).

Now, with another year of skating in the books, Sharron says she's already looking forward to a truly normal 2022-2023 season.

*More photos on page 14*



The green group got to show off their skills during a routine in the show's second act.

Diamond North Credit Union's

## 2022 Virtual Annual General Meeting

Tuesday, April 12, 2022 at 7:30 pm

- The Annual General Meeting is open to our membership and all members are encouraged to join.
- Our Board and CEO will share the Annual Report and highlight our ongoing commitment to our members and communities.
- The AGM provides our members an opportunity to engage with the Board and Executive Management.

**Online through Zoom Meeting**  
Interested attendees must register before 5:00 pm April 8<sup>th</sup> at [diamondnorthcu.com/AGM](https://diamondnorthcu.com/AGM)

2021 Consolidated Financial Statements and Annual Report will available after April 1<sup>st</sup> at [diamondnorthcu.com/reports](https://diamondnorthcu.com/reports)

## Municipalities to Benefit from \$262 Million Investment

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**Hon. Jeremy Harrison**  
MLA for Meadow Lake  
[jharrisonmla@sasktel.net](mailto:jharrisonmla@sasktel.net)

**Hon. Scott Moe, Premier**  
MLA for Rosthern-Shellbrook  
[scottmoe.mla@sasktel.net](mailto:scottmoe.mla@sasktel.net)

# Highlights of a Shellbrook Town Council meeting

Shellbrook's Town Council met for its regular meeting in person and via teleconference on Monday, March 21.

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

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Otterson and council began by approving the meeting's agenda and adopting the minutes of its March 7 meeting. With no business arising from said minutes and no delegations on the docket, council addressed a piece of correspondence from the Saskatchewan Rivers Public School Division (SRPSD).

In the correspondence, which was originally addressed to Premier Scott Moe but also sent to council, the school division reiterated that a new joint school for Shellbrook remains its top priority where capital expenditures are concerned. Council agreed it should also write to Premier Moe to voice its support for the

project.

Moving onto oral reports, one of the first items discussed was the proposed intermunicipal water pipeline with the Prince Albert Rural Water Utility (PARWU). Here, Councillor Miller brought up a suggestion from town foreman Mike Tanchuk that the town investigate the possibility of refurbishing the water tower if the pipeline is unable to go ahead. Miller felt this would be a less costly option for water storage than the options council had been exploring before.

In discussion about the various recreation and culture groups, Miller said council should plan to have meetings with them all before its upcoming public meeting on April 12 to see if there are any issues they would like to bring forward to the meeting.

Providing the hospital and clinics report, Mayor Otterson said the Parkland Physician Recruitment and Retention Committee has reached out to local MLAs and the SHA regarding some local HR concerns. Cur-

rently, one doctor and one nurse practitioner circulate through the Ahtakakooop First Nation (this is a measure to help stem off emergency room visits at Parkland Integrated Health Centre). While the First Nation falls under federal jurisdiction, the Committee receives no funding for providing service in the community.

Elsewhere, Mayor Otterson reported that Dr. Adebayo has started at the Shellbrook Medical Clinic and two more physicians are expected to complete their SIPPA training and begin practicing in Shellbrook in July.

Discussing the Library Board, CAO Hoare said a call has been put out for volunteers to keep library programming running in the absence of former librarian Dian Campbell and a few have already stepped forward. Hoare also took a moment to reiterate that the town's role is to work with Wapiti to keep the library open, and that the town should do whatever it can to make things work.

Rounding out the reports, council discussed

the idea of hiring a Community Safety Officer to assist with bylaw enforcement and liaise with local RCMP. Council agreed this was a much better idea than establishing a municipal police force.

Shifting to new business, council began by passing a motion to limit the recreation and culture deficit to 21 per cent of tax revenue for the 2022-2023 budget, and to 18 per cent for all budgets afterward. When asked whether this was realistic, Hoare noted the deficit is currently at 26 per cent.

Recognizing the move may not be popular with some user groups because it shifts more of the responsibility for fundraising onto them, Miller called the move a necessary one and said it will encourage user groups to take ownership of the facilities they use and hopefully lead to more volunteerism in the community. Miller added that the change will also give user groups the responsibility for setting fees, which means council and the recreation director will no longer be the "bad guys".

Council agreed to make this one of the issues it discusses with ratepayers at its public meeting.

Moving on, council carried a motion to look into obtaining a loan to complete all of the remaining relining of sewer and wastewater pipes, rather than continuing the project by budgeting \$200,000 each year to address the worst issues.

Council agreed the

move makes sense in the long-term because it will mitigate the risks of catastrophic failures, which have cost upwards of \$500,000 in the past, and reduce the annual maintenance budget. Hoare said the high-end quote for the project was in the neighbourhood of \$3 million.

Up next, council discussed tenders for a feasibility study for the Shellbrook Swimming Pool and expressed some dismay at the costs quoted to the Parkland Pool Project Steering Committee. The Committee's request was to award the contract to Prince Albert-based aodbt, at a cost of \$32,200.

Councillor Miller said a feasibility study is vital so that the Committee knows what the best options are for the pool. However, he added that the committee needs to commit to raising funds for the project beyond a \$10,000 grant it received to help fund the feasibility study.

In the end, council gave the feasibility study the greenlight. The remaining funds (\$22,200) will be drawn from a \$76,000 reserve from an estate, which was to be earmarked for a capital project (council received approval from the estate's overseer). The Committee will be expected to top up the reserve afterward.

Moving on, council carried a motion to appoint Hoare to the Wapiti Regional Board to represent towns, and consented to a gas main expansion to accommodate Lake Country Co-op's ag centre on the east side of town.

Council then carried a motion to discontinue its administration of the signing corridor starting in 2023, citing issues with signs being damaged and improperly repaired by the businesses responsible for them. Council agreed to approach the Shellbrook and District Chamber of Commerce about taking over responsibility for it.

Continuing with new business, council approved a request from the Parkland Physician Recruitment and Retention Committee to increase the per capita levy to \$7 per resident from \$5.00 to address rising costs (mostly from the larger contingent of physicians practicing in town).

Council also approved a proposal from the R.M. of Shellbrook to auction off an old fire and rescue truck through Ritchie Bros. Auction. The town will receive 50 per cent of the proceeds from the auction.

Discussing the town's participation in Communities in Bloom, Councillor Miller was in favour of continuing with it and said council should give more serious consideration to the recommendations to improve the town. Council agreed to look into outdoor furniture and begin budgeting for it going forward.

Closing out the meeting, council gave the go ahead for the Parkland U18 AA Elks' dressing room not to be wheelchair accessible, and approved the purchase of rubber mats for the swimming pool at a cost of \$10,800 plus taxes.

## 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.

**SPIRITWOOD:** SARCS (Spiritwood Area Recreation, Culture and Sport Inc.) is now accepting requests for the "Saskatchewan Lotteries Community Grant"! Non-Profit Community Sport, Culture and Recreation Programs - Programs running from: April 1, 2022 - March 31, 2023. Deadline to apply: Must be received by March 31, 2022. Email spr@sasktel.net or call (306) 883-2176 to receive Funding Request Form.

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## Suspect in sex assault case released on bail

A 60-year-old man charged with sexual assault against numerous victims while acting as a healer made another appearance in Saskatoon Provincial Court on March 15 to face two more charges.

Cecil Wolfe faces four sexual assault charges laid by the Saskatoon Police, and seven charges from the Saskatchewan RCMP's General Investigation Section. The Saskatoon Police Sex Crimes Unit originally charged Wolfe in September 2021, but more victims came forward afterwards and more charges were also laid that month. The latest round of additional charges against Wolfe was laid on March 3.

Police believe there could be more victims from the last 20 years in Blaine Lake, Loon Lake, Muskeg Lake Cree Na-

tion, Saskatoon and surrounding areas.

Information for sexual assault survivors, including what will happen when you report the assault to police, is available at <https://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/en/relationship-violence/information-sexual-assault-survivors>.

The Saskatoon Sexual Assault and Information Centre's Crisis Line can be reached at 306-244-2224.

The investigation remains active and RCMP and Saskatoon Police investigators are asking anyone with information to contact Saskatoon Police at 306-975-8300.

Wolfe has been released on bail and is scheduled to appear in court again on March 30 to elect how he wants to be tried. The charges against Wolfe haven't been proven in court.

## Handful of teams have shot at Stanley Cup

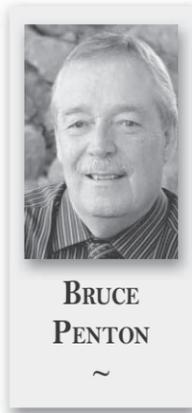
Unless there are some extraordinary transactions at the National Hockey League's March 21 trade deadline, it's becoming fairly obvious that only six or seven teams have a legitimate shot at this year's Stanley Cup.

Sorry, Leafs fans, your team's probably still one of the outsiders. But 1967 was a great year, right?

For the third straight season, there's a good chance the Stanley Cup will be won by a team based in that frigid, ice-capped hockey hotbed of Florida. The Tampa Bay Lightning were winners in 2020 and 2021, and they have a good shot at making it three in a row, thanks to their packed lineup featuring Sergei Vasilevskiy in goal, Steven Stamkos, Brayden Point and Nikita Kucherov up front, and the game's best (or second-best) defenceman, Victor Hedman. But if it's not the Lightning, then it could be their cross-state rivals, the Florida Panthers. Florida lost its coach, Joel Quenneville,

in the first month, but didn't skip a beat, leading the Atlantic Conference almost all season. Florida is strong in goal with Sergei Bobrovsky and feature the highest-scoring team in the NHL — led by Sasha Barkov, Jonathan Huberdeau, Sam Reinhart and defenceman Aaron Ekblad.

If the Cup winds up being displayed outside of Florida, watch for it being paraded around by players from one of the 'C' teams — Carolina, Colorado, or Calgary. The Hurricanes posted the league's best winning percentage most of the season and coach Rod Brind'Amour seems to get the best out of his personnel; Sebastian Aho, Andrei Svechnikov and Teuvo Teravainen leading the way up front, with Jacob Slavin on defence and Frederik Andersen in goal having outstanding seasons. Colorado has the big offensive quartet of Nazem Kadri, Nathan MacKinnon, Mikko Rantanen and Gabriel Landeskog, along with



BRUCE  
PENTON

arguably the game's best (or second best) defenceman, Cale Makar. Flames' fans have been encouraged by a resurgence by Johnny Gaudreau, and his powerplay pals Matthew Tkachuk and Elias Lindholm have been stalwart. Goalie Jacob Markstrom gives Calgary stability in the net that their northern cousins in Edmonton wish they had.

Who else? The Rangers have a chance, thanks in part to their Panarin-Kreider-Zibanejad trio on offence and starry goaltending by Igor Shesterkin. Can't ever

count out Sidney Crosby and Pittsburgh, who have picked up steam after a slow start. Two other dark horses might be Minnesota Wild and the Leafs, who just may ride the coattails of Auston Matthews and Mitch Marner to playoff success.

But hey, it's still early. Teams still have 20 or so games to play and, who knows? Maybe the Oilers will start a rebuild by shipping Connor McDavid off to the Leafs for a package of draft picks, the entire CD collection of Drake, and lifetime admission for Edmontonians to the CN Tower. Hey, if the Oilers could trade Gretzky...

• Nick Canepa of The San Diego Union-Tribune, on Falcons owner Arthur Blank calling the NFL's lack of minority head-coaching hires 'just not acceptable': "It's apparently acceptable in Atlanta, where his Falcons are one of 13 franchises never to have a Black head coach."

• Bob Molinaro of pilotonline.com: "Lent is the

season for giving up things. Or possibly in the case of the Lakers, just giving up."

• Susie Maxwell Berning, inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame the same night as Tiger Woods: "Tiger, I know it's hard to believe as young as I am but I won all of my majors before you were born. I won \$16,000 for all four. I was wondering if you'd like to swap cheques?"

• Comedy writer Erid Stangel, on Twitter, just before the lockdown ended: "If #MLB cancels any more games, the Pirates are going to get mathematically eliminated from the playoffs."

• Golf broadcaster David Feherty at the Hall of Fame induction ceremony, looking around the Global Home facility: "This building is so big it's almost big enough to contain the egos of Brooks and Bryson."

• RJ Currie of sportsdeke.com: "Whenever I see BJ Neufeld, former third for Manitoba's Mike McEwen, playing for Kevin Koe in Alberta, I think the

same thing. Sweeping with the enemy."

• Headline at fark.com: "Green Bay Packers punish Rodgers with 4-year, \$200 million contract."

• Dwight Perry of the Seattle Times: "Falcons receiver Calvin Ridley has been suspended for the 2022 season for betting on NFL games. Evidently he didn't get the express written consent of the NFL's official betting partners, Caesars, DraftKings and FanDuel."

• Another one from Perry: "Packers QB Aaron Rodgers officiated at teammate David Bakhtiari's wedding on March 5. No word on whether Bakhtiari got the Rodgers rate, but the QB did get the bridesmaids to jump offside with a hard count."

• TNT's Charles Barkley, to ESPN Radio, on Packers QB Aaron Rodgers: "I think he's the pretty girl that you gotta tell her she's pretty every day."

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

## Tips fall to Blackhawks in league finals

It's game over for the Shellbrook Silvertips' hopes of claiming their first ever Twin Rivers Hockey League championship.

Already down 2-0 in their best of five league final against the Birch Hills Blackhawks, the Tips headed to Birch Hills on Friday night needing a win to bring the action back to Shellbrook for a prospective game four.

Game one of the series, played in Birch Hills, was a close one, with the Blackhawks squeaking out a 6-4 victory with a pair of goals in the third period. Game two in Shellbrook was even closer, as the Tips outplayed the Blackhawks through 60 minutes of hockey only to lose in overtime to a lucky shot.

Five days removed from this crushing defeat, the Tips hit the ice in Birch Hills and didn't seem to have the jump in their step they needed to keep up with the high-flying Blackhawks. This allowed Reed Gunville to give the Blackhawks an early lead on assists from Kyle Njaa and Boedy Donald.

Barely firing any shots on goal (the Tips had just six shots through the first 20 minutes of play), the Tips held on for another 12 minutes until the Blackhawks struck again. Njaa put the Blackhawks up 2-0, with assists from Chad Grambo and Gunville.

The Tips managed to make one of their few shots on goal count, scoring within the final minute to take a 2-1 deficit into the second stanza. Justin

Kerr netted the goal, with helpers from Dorin Canaday and Dallas Galloway.

Though they only managed eight shots on goal in the second period, the Tips once again made the most of their opportunities and reversed their fortunes from the first frame. Dylan Smith started the scoring with an assist from Mathew Kutnikoff, then followed up with his second of the night on assists from John Martin and Nathaniel Martin.

The Blackhawks had an answer in

the form of a goal from Brandon Juravinski, assisted by Donald, to end the period with the game tied at 3-3.

After 40 minutes of penalty-free hockey, the Tips shot themselves in the foot by taking three penalties in the third period. They also continued to struggle to get offensive pressure and direct shots on the Birch Hills goal, managing just six for a game total of 20 shots on goal.

Gunville was ready once again to take advantage of the Tips' low offen-

sive output, scoring his second of the night, unassisted, just over a minute into the period to put Birch Hills up 4-3. He earned himself a hat trick just over five minutes later, scoring unassisted again.

Cementing their victory, the Blackhawks struck once more on a late power play. Adam Hergott netted the goal, unassisted, to give the Blackhawks a decisive 6-3 win.

Though the Tips ended their season without the hardware they were looking for, they still have plenty to be proud of.

Dylan Smith earned Twin Rivers Hockey League's top scorer award during the regular season, after racking up 33 goals and 31 assists for a season total of 64 points (18 points ahead of the next highest scorer). Smith's performance also earned him the regular season MVP award.

Elsewhere, Gage Helm was crowned rookie of the year after the regular season. Helm tallied 17 goals and 28 assists, or 45 points, in his first season as a Silvertip, good enough for him to finish third in the league's scoring charts.

Smith was once again the top scorer in the postseason, netting 15 goals and adding on 11 assists for a nine-game total of 26 points. Helm, meanwhile, finished second on the scoreboard, with nine goals and 10 assists for 19 points over nine games.



The 2021-2022 Shellbrook Silvertips were runners up in the Twin Rivers Hockey League. Missing: Jody Blais, Daryl Blais, Sam Miller, Shayden Smith, Austin Lamotte, and Torey Stewart.

Photo taken from Shellbrook Silvertips Facebook page

## OBITUARIES

## Bernice Crawford



Bernice Crawford, 83, of Mont Nebo, Saskatchewan passed away peacefully on March 13, 2022, surrounded by her family. Bernice was born to Charles and Mary Unyi, on August 2, 1938. She was the eldest of 4 siblings raised on a homestead northwest of Leask, Saskatchewan. She attended school in the Leask area. She married Donald Crawford on December 18, 1959, and were married

for 53 years until his passing in 2012. They raised seven children, 4 daughters and 3 sons on their homestead in Mont Nebo, Saskatchewan.

Bernice loved to be surrounded by people and spend her time gardening. Summer found her shoulder-deep in her raspberry patch, tending to 30-pound cabbage plants, and a truck box full of potatoes. When she wasn't in the garden, you could find Bernice in the farmhouse baking and cooking for her children, grandchildren, and anyone else that showed up. Bernice was known for her homemade bread, buns, poppy-seed roll, retes, raised donuts, Hungarian desserts to name a few. Everyone had a seat at the table. Over a lifetime, Bernice perfected the art of preserving fruits, vegetables, and fish. She was known for her jellies, and syrups that were harvested from the land.

When the snow covered the ground, Bernice kept busy at her sewing machine, with her knitting needles, paintbrush, hammer, or crochet hook. Every piece she created, whether it was a quilt, slippers, mitts, or yard ornament, came from the heart.

She is survived by her son Bernal Crawford of Mont Nebo and his children Drew (Chantel), Stacey (Cameron) and their son Barrett, Pierce (Kelsey) and Tyson (Janaya); her daughter Dawn Crawford (Robin Prutton) of La Ronge and their children Christopher (Andrea) and their daughter Alyssa, Crystal, and Cody and his daughters Linnea and Autumn; her daughter Beverly (Gerald) Breland of Blaine Lake and their children Ashley (Chad) and their son Brixton, Amanda (Christian) and their children Gabriel and Madilyn, and Jeromy; her son Dwayne (Rita) Crawford of Kerrobert and their children Durrell and D.J.; her daughter Darlene Crawford Kitscoty and her daughter Dana (Dylan) and their children

Dalton, Davina, and Deacon; her daughter Barbara Crawford of Delisle and her children Mason and Chase (Frankie); her son Darcy (Stacey) Crawford of Major; her brother Victor Unyi (Celia); her sister Marjorie Kreese; her brother Vern Unyi, as well as numerous other family members.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in Bernice's memory may be directed to the Shellbrook and District Health Services Foundation, Box 33 Shellbrook SK. S0J 2E0 or Canadian Cancer Society.

Funeral Service for Bernice will be held on Friday, March 25, 2022, at 10:30 AM at St. Andrew's Anglican Church, Shellbrook followed by lunch at the Shellbrook Pentacostal Assembly followed by a private family interment.

Friends and family wishing to send online condolences may visit [www.beaulacfuneralhome.com](http://www.beaulacfuneralhome.com). Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of Beau "Lac" Funeral Home, Lynn Anderson, Funeral Director, Shellbrook, SK. 306-747-2828.

## Robert Girod



Robert Girod  
June 18, 1939 – March 20, 2022

It is with heavy hearts that the family announce the peaceful passing of Robert Girod, surrounded by his family, on Sunday, March 20, 2022, at the age of 82 years.

Robert was born on June 18, 1939 in D'Amour, SK where he continued to reside, with his beloved wife, of 57 years, Madeline Girod. He is survived by his wife, Madeline; his children, Marc Girod, Monique Girod (Gil Desharnais); grandchildren, Rene Girod (Jaycee Wells), Brodie, Riley, Kirk; brothers, Maurice (Doris) Girod, George (Susan) Girod; numerous nieces and nephews; and countless friends whose lives he touched and held a special place in his heart and life. He was predeceased by

The Funeral Service for John will be held at the Shellbrook Community Hall in Shellbrook, SK, on Friday, March 25th, 2022, at 1:00pm. Lunch to follow.

John loved the community of Shellbrook and throughout the years was involved with minor sports, community theatre, Kinsmen, Town Council as well as volunteering for numerous town projects.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made in

his father Serge, his mother Leontine, and grandson Brady Girod.

Robert took pride in family and took pride in being councillor for the R.M. of Leask No. 464 for the last 40 years. He truly enjoyed hunting, fishing, carpentry, trapping, dancing, grain and cattle farming. Most of all spending time with family and having coffee and chatting with friends.

Robert Girod's most notable accomplishments, have been Hunter & Safety Instructor for 23 years and Secretary for Leask & Marcellin Fish and Wildlife for 6 years. He was an active board member of Martin Lake Board and Shellbrook Hospital Board. His most outstanding accomplishment was councillor for R.M. of Leask No. 464 for Division 4 and 5, over a period of 40 years, as an avid R.M. Councillor. Special thanks to the Hafford Home Care, Dr. Shah, and most of all Dr. Chris de Villiers.

In lieu of memorial donations, in memory of Robert Girod, can be made to Leask Marcellin Fish and Game, Box 163, Leask, SK S0J 1M0.

There will be a Celebration of His Life held at a later date. Arrangements are entrusted to Funk's Funeral Home, Rosthern, SK.

John's name to the Parkland Pool Project c/o Town of Shellbrook (Box 402, Shellbrook, Saskatchewan, S0J 2E0).

Family and friends wishing to send online condolences are welcome to visit [www.beaulacfuneralhome.com](http://www.beaulacfuneralhome.com). Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of Beau "Lac" Funeral Home & Crematorium, Tammy Smart & Lynn Anderson – Funeral Directors, Shellbrook, SK. 306-747-2828.

## John Hughes



HUGHES – John  
1945 - 2022

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of our husband, father and grandfather, John

Hughes, late of Shellbrook, Saskatchewan. Dad passed away at home in Shellbrook, Saskatchewan, on March 16th, 2022, at the age of 76 years.

John was born on October 2nd, 1945, in Coventry, England to Anne and Ted Hughes. He had three siblings, two brothers (David & Michael) and one sister (Mary). John grew up in England and gained a degree in dentistry from the University of Edinburgh in Scotland. He then had an opportunity to come to Canada to start his career as a dentist. Shortly after his arrival in Canada, John met

the love of his life Lois. John married Lois Marie Waterhouse on December 9th, 1972, in Parkside Saskatchewan. John & Lois had three children, Iain, Stephanie & Christopher. Dad had many friends and was a popular person with all who knew him. Dad had a strong faith in God and found comfort in attending church whenever he was able. His dedication to his family was incredible and he would do anything for them. Dad also loved his sports and some of his finest moments in life were spent on the ball diamonds coaching his kids. He also cherished all the times he was able to watch his grandchildren compete in their sports and extra curricular

activities.

John will be lovingly remembered by his wife Lois, his children Iain (Erin), Stephanie (Jeff), Christopher (Kathy); grandchildren Anna, Jack, Zara, Lilly, Sawyer, Madeline, Noah; sister Mary (John); as well as many nieces, nephews, relatives, and friends.

John was predeceased by his parents Anne and Ted; Brothers David and Michael; as well as other relatives and good friends.

We would like to thank Shellbrook homecare and special friend of the family (Iloria Catacutan) for the wonderful care and attention given to John in recent months.

## Leo Samuel Joannette



Leo Samuel Joannette

It is with the greatest appreciation for a long life that we announce his passing at Wheatland Lodge in Leask with family at his side.

Leo's education was cut short because the family farm

needed the extra manpower. He never did learn how to read and write, but that never stopped him from becoming an exceptional farmer. He was well known far and wide. In later years he loved going to auction sales to find a good bargain, but his favorite part was visiting with the people he saw there. He worked hard all of his life to make the farm successful, even when he was living in Wheatland Lodge he was still working hard in his mind.

He married Florence McCarron in 1946. They lived on the Joannette family farm all of their lives. They celebrated 75 years of marriage last October.

Leo had a very loving heart

and was loved by everyone. He loved when family came to visit the farm in the summer. He loved talking politics and religion to anyone who would engage, he would find out their beliefs, then he would argue for the other side whether it was his belief or not just for argument sake, I think he should have been a politician. He was always joking around, every woman he saw was one of his girlfriends. One of his favorite things to do all of his life was playing Kaiser. There were many games played between Leo and his brothers. They took it so seriously, some of the games went all night into the next day. They were served lunch and coffee during these games. In 2010, Leo received the Century Family Farm Award for the

Joannette farm.

Leo was born on July 31, 1922, on the Joannette family farm. On March 15, 2022, at the age of 99, he passed away at Wheatland Lodge in Leask.

He is lovingly remembered by:

His wife: Florence Joannette (McCarron)

His children: **Jim** (Linda) Joannette and family: Sherry Joannette, James and Eric Dodge, Tom (Amber) Joannette, Ava & Liam.

**Philip** (Sherry) Joannette and family: Chris (Alysha) Joannette, Noah, Mae, Maddi and Evie. Steven Joannette. Amber (Kyle) Joannette, Ashlyn.

**Lorraine** Joannette and family: Nathan (Laura) Hudson, Terrance, Micah, Keagan, Jayden.

His sister-in-law: Hazel Carter; his brother-in-law: Fred Ross Grandson and Bill Dodge; as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

Leo was predeceased by: His parents: Napoleon and Dorila (Corbeil) Joannette; His siblings: Albert (Adeline) Joannette, Mary (Pat) Joannette, Ludger (Lucy) Joannette, Paul (Sadie) Joannette, Cordelia (Lloyd) Cournoyer, Arthur (Augustine) Joannette, Leona (Roger) Beaugard and Jim Lyons, Louis (Effie) Joannette, Wilfrid (Phyllis) (Petrina) Joannette, Eva (Mike) Schreiber, Lillian (Gerry) Foster, Giselle (Alphonse) Provencher, Theresa (Peter) DiPalma, Oscar (Rose) Joannett; His In-laws: Edward (Dora) McCarron, James (Mary)

(Marion) McCarron, Annie (George) Armitage, Helen (John) Dobrowolski, Bridget (Jim) Lalonde, Nellie Ross, Leon Carter; and His great-grandson: Hunter Hudson.

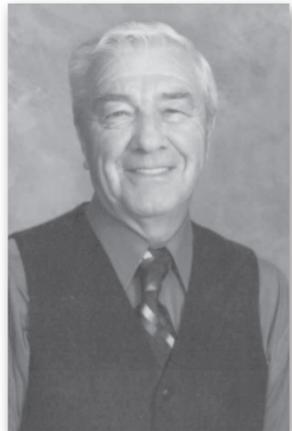
A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date when we can celebrate Leo and Florence together.

Memorial donations can be made in honor of Leo Joannette to either St. Joseph's Parish in Marcellin, or Wheatland Lodge Foundation in Leask.

Family and friends wishing to send online condolences are welcome to visit [www.beaulacfuneralhome.com](http://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.

OBITUARY

Raymond Bernard Lamontagne



Raymond Bernard Lamontagne

It is with great sadness that we announce the sudden passing of Raymond (Ray) Bernard Lamontagne at age 74 on Tuesday, March 15, 2022 on the family farm in the D'Amour District west of Leask, SK. Ray was born on December 25, 1947 the youngest of eight children of Claire (Archambault) and Leo Lamontagne. He was raised on the farm in the D'Amour District where he attended Beausite School. He also attended Leask School before joining his father in working full time on the family farm. For a brief period in 1968 he worked for a cartage business in Edmonton, and in 1969 he married Myrna Burrows. They were blessed

with three children: Renee Lynn, Dion Shelton, and Steven Christopher who were all raised on the family farm—an experience they would not trade for the world. As a dad, Ray instilled a strong work ethic through his example, and indulged and supported Renee's obsession with horses and the boys' obsessions with anything horse-powered. The tragic passing of his son, Steve on February 6, 1994 was a loss Ray would face with his characteristic calm and strength.

On April 14, 1998 Ray married Julia Yakubchuk (Sander), a teacher from Prince Albert. Ray greatly valued family roots and connection to the land. Together with Julia he continued his stewardship of the land in the place he loved and where he was most happy. Raymond also found his next favorite place on earth on the island of Kauai where he and Julia holidayed in the winter for more than a decade. There he would exchange his usual farmer and Western gear for shades and Hawaiian print shirts and he would fully embrace

the "Spirit of Aloha".

To his friends and neighbors, Ray was the "Go-To Guy" and as such he will be terribly missed as will be his gifts for listening, his storytelling, his strong but gentle spirit, his sense of humor and his sensible real-life advice. He was a creative and resourceful craftsman in all regards, and a patient teacher and mentor to anyone who showed interest. His skills in mechanics, welding, machining, and wood working were no less than amazing. He could literally build anything you wanted. If parts were unavailable for a project, he would create them. He could look at a prototype of an object or device and recreate a new and better version. Most important, however, was his selfless giving spirit, always willing to help anyone who came to his shop or telephoned at any hour. He donated his time and expertise to community projects including building the altar for St Henry Church, and being the "sound man" in support of Julia and the Music Ministry. He did many commissioned projects

and contributed to the building of numerous family homes over the years. He also ventured into logging in the 1990's and later he enjoyed his work for Claude Robin at Done Rite Here Homes.

Ray loved family and as the youngest brother and the keeper of their family home he enjoyed special relationships with his siblings and nieces and nephews. Visits to Uncle Ray's farm were always an adventure as he loved cars and vehicles in general and was always ready to go for a drive to explore the countryside. He also so loved nature and God's creatures. It was not uncommon for Ray to come to the house with a tiny kitten tucked inside his overalls, often the one he felt was most vulnerable and in need of his warmth and protection. Those traits were also found in his relationships. He was a gentle man and a loving and devoted husband. He loved watching things grow and he shared this passion with Julia creating and tending bountiful vegetable gardens and beautiful flower gardens and planters. They also shared a love for music and Ray so enjoyed going to concerts and live performances, especially

ly of Country music artists and Hawaiian slack key guitar

Ray was a wonderful father, but where he shone the brightest was as a grandfather. He had a way with children, especially his grandkids. So many fond memories stem from time spent with Grandpa on the farm. He would spend countless hours playing, exploring, mentoring and passing on his knowledge and skills all the while entertaining the whims of his grandkids. His patience was limitless, and no matter what they wanted to do he was willing to do it— including playing Barbies. He had a great sense of humor, a quick wit and loved to tease. Not much got past him.

At the core of Ray's character was a solid willingness to serve others. He worked hard and faced the challenges of life with calm acceptance and strength, drawn from his connection to the land and his belief in a loving God. He was loved and respected by family, friends and community and will be greatly missed by all who had the privilege to share the gift of his life—especially Julia, his forever love.

Left to mourn his passing and to honor his

life are his wife, Julia (née Sander); children, Renee (Dwayne) Rurka and Paul and Rebecca; Dion (Juliane) and Graham and Dustin; step-son Tyler (Janick Bender) Yakubchuk and Peyton; sisters Beatrice (Emile) Brad, Jeanine de Kock, Bernadette (Arnold) Hoffman, brother, Emile (Lilly) Lamontagne, sister-in-law Loretta Lamontagne and many nieces, nephews and cousins. He was predeceased by his parents Claire and Leo Lamontagne, His son, Steven, brothers Fernand and Maurice Lamontagne and sister Adrienne LeBlanc.

The Celebration of Life will be held on Thursday, March 24, 2022 at 2pm at St Henry Parish, 32 Main St, Leask, SK. Interment will take place at the Leask Cemetery, Leask, SK. In lieu of flowers the family requests memorial donations be made to St. Henry Parish: Music Ministry, Box 70, Leask, SK, S0J 1M0 or to Saskatchewan Abilities, 2310 Louise Ave, Saskatoon, SK, S7J 2C7.

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

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

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Zion - Canwood  
Sunday School,  
Worship Sunday, 9 a.m.  
St. John's - Shellbrook  
Sunday School,  
Live-stream worship service on Facebook,  
Worship Sunday, 11 a.m.  
Rev. Emmanuel Aristide

PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

Parkside  
10:30 a.m. Worship  
Pastor Daniel Mooseely  
306-747-3572  
Shellbrook  
Adult Study  
9:30 a.m.  
Sun., 10:30 a.m. - Worship  
Pastor David Bodvarson  
306-747-7235  
Canwood  
11:00 a.m. - Worship  
Pastor Glenn Blazosek  
306-468-2138  
Leask Gospel Tabernacle  
Sunday 11 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.  
Pastor Lorne Valuck

PRESBYTERIAN

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

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN

Parkside  
11 a.m. - Worship

ANGLICAN CHURCH

Leask - All Saint's  
Sunday Service - 9 a.m.  
St. Andrew's - Shellbrook  
Sunday, 11 a.m. Service  
Canwood - Christ Church  
Sunday, 2 p.m. - Service  
Rev. Wendell Brock  
306-460-7696  
H.C. Service with Rev. Brock - 1st Sunday of the month

MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCH

Blaine Lake Gospel Chapel  
109 Railway Ave. W.  
Blaine Lake  
306-497-3316  
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 11 a.m.  
St. Henry's - Leask  
Mass - Sunday - 9 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.

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Zion - Canwood  
Sunday School,  
Worship Sunday, 9 a.m.  
St. John's - Shellbrook  
Sunday School,  
Live-stream worship service on Facebook,  
Worship Sunday, 11 a.m.  
Rev. Emmanuel Aristide

PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

Parkside  
10:30 a.m. Worship  
Pastor Daniel Mooseely  
306-747-3572  
Shellbrook  
Adult Study  
9:30 a.m.  
Sun., 10:30 a.m. - Worship  
Pastor David Bodvarson  
306-747-7235  
Canwood  
11:00 a.m. - Worship  
Pastor Glenn Blazosek  
306-468-2138  
Leask Gospel Tabernacle  
Sunday 11 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.  
Pastor Lorne Valuck

PRESBYTERIAN

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

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN

Parkside  
11 a.m. - Worship

ANGLICAN CHURCH

Leask - All Saint's  
Sunday Service - 9 a.m.  
St. Andrew's - Shellbrook  
Sunday, 11 a.m. Service  
Canwood - Christ Church  
Sunday, 2 p.m. - Service  
Rev. Wendell Brock  
306-460-7696  
H.C. Service with Rev. Brock - 1st Sunday of the month

MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCH

Blaine Lake Gospel Chapel  
109 Railway Ave. W.  
Blaine Lake  
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# Shellbrook Skating Club dazzles with ice show



Ashlyn Schmitz returned to Shellbrook and skated a solo routine during the ice show.



Skating club member turned coach Emmalynn Lamotte took to the ice to perform a solo of her own.



Tristan Taylor hoists Ashlyn Schmitz up high during a guest performance of their short program.



Shellbrook Skating Club coach Tasje Sharron leads the blue group in a showcase of their skills.



Jacey Keyowski performs her *Frozen*-themed solo number, *In Summer*.



Pre-novice pairs skaters Julia Shindle and Stefan Lotz showed off their short program.



Jacey Keyowski, Kayla Klaassen, and Bella Ledding perform a creative small group number.

# Studio 747 returns to the stage in style



Kyra Parsons shows off her ballet skills during a solo routine.



Teanne Couture and Kyra Johnson had the crowd laughing with their musical theatre number.



Jordyn Verbonac soars during her contemporary solo.



Hayley van Hereweghe displays flexibility during her lyrical solo.



Kayla Klaassen and Embree Schmitz strike a pose during their jazz duet.



Julia Shindle leaps over Myla Henry during their jazz duet.



Addison Kerber leans on Madison Verbonac in their contemporary duet.



Brienne Grenier performs her lyrical solo.



Myla Henry gives Audrey Rask a piggyback during their tap duet.

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# Minutes of an RM of Shellbrook meeting

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

Minutes of a regular meeting of Council of the Rural Municipality of Shellbrook No. 493 held on Wednesday, Jan. 12, 2022, in the Municipal Office Council Chambers at Shellbrook, Sask.

Present: Reeve - Doug Oleksyn, Division 1 - Cliff Skauge, Division 2 - Phil Hamel, Division 3 - Christine Strube, Division 4 - Jay Ferster, Division 5 - Derwin Joelson, Division 6 - Ron Herzog, and Administrator - Duane Storey.

Delegations:

10 a.m. Chelsea Neuberger, Plant Health Officer Clubroot update

10:30 a.m. Allen Bekolay, Brandt Industries update on warranties

11 a.m. Foreman Bill Aug update on municipal activities

Deputy Reeve Joelson called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m.

Strube: That the following items be added to the agenda: Legion Request, 2022 Beaver Listing. Carried

Hamel: That the Agenda be adopted as amended. Carried

Strube: That the minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council of Dec. 8, 2021, be approved as presented. Carried

Skauge: That the minutes of the Special Meeting of Council on Dec. 20, 2021, be approved

as presented. Carried

Skauge: That the Statement of Financial Activities for the month of December 2021 be approved, as presented. Carried

Skauge: That the bank reconciliation for the month of November 2021 be approved as presented. Carried

Skauge: That the bank reconciliation for the month of December 2021 be approved as presented. Carried

Councillor Christine Strube left the Council Chambers at 9:06 a.m. declaring a pecuniary interest with the following agenda item.

Ferster: That the accounts payable dated January 5th, 2022, as attached hereto and forming part of these Minutes, being regular cheque numbers 12547 to 12575 in the amount of \$151,297.70 and payroll cheque numbers 14123 to 14154 in the amount of \$47,552.67 be approved. Carried

Councillor Christine Strube re-entered the Council Chambers at 9:20 a.m.

Strube: That a letter be sent to HJR Asphalt LP advising that if the extractions fees are not paid in regards to the Passing Lane Project on Highway 3 by Jan. 31, 2022, Council may exercise their option to impose a fine for extracting gravel from the municipality without a license in accordance with Bylaw 03/2019 (9). Carried

Delegation Chelsea Neuberger, Plant Health Officer SARM, joined the Council meeting by teleconference at 10:15 a.m. to discuss municipal clubroot inquiries.

Delegation Chelsea Neuberger, Plant Health Officer SARM, left the Council meeting at 10:17 a.m.

Delegation Allen Bekolay, Brandt Industries joined the Council meeting by teleconference at 10:31 a.m. to discuss John Deere extended warranties.

Delegation Allen Bekolay, Brandt Industries left the Council meeting at 10:47 a.m.

Foreman Bill Aug entered the Council Chambers at 11:15 a.m. to update Council of Municipal Operations.

Skauge: That the request from Hidden Hills of Shellbrook Golf Course for the use of the municipality's Cat Dozer be denied. Carried

Strube: That the Administrators Report for the month January 2022 be accepted as presented. Carried

Strube: That the custom rates for 2022 be approved (the full list of rates is available in the minutes on the RM of Shellbrook website, or at the municipal office). Carried

Delegation Foreman Bill Aug left the meeting at 1 p.m.

Hamel: That Rural Municipality of Shellbrook No. 493 employees be paid for 8 hours per day if directed to stay home

due to the threat of COVID-19, and that employee leave to be compliant with Saskatchewan Health Authority guidelines. Carried

Skauge: That Administration write a letter to Community Planning, Ministry of Government Relations requesting that the municipality be given an extension to Community Planning's Jan. 14 deadline, to allow the municipality to explore options to remedy the subdivision proposal on SE-19-49-11-W3. Carried

Skauge: That the SARM Property Self-Insurance Schedule in the amount of \$10,346.10 be renewed for 2022. Carried

Skauge: That the SARM Membership Fees in the amount of \$3,319.93 be approved for 2022. Carried

Hamel: That the 2022 Council Renumeration and Mileage rates be approved as follows:

1. Per Diem Mileage: \$0.70 per KM;
2. Per Diem Council Meetings: \$250 Regular Meeting and \$30 per hour for Special Meetings; and
3. Per Diem Committee Meetings: \$30.00 per hour. Carried

Skauge: That information provided in regards to Section 14(1)(b) of The Employment Standards Regulation be received and filed. And that Administration bring back more information to the Feb. 9 regu-

lar meeting of council. Carried  
Councillor Jay Ferster left the Council Chambers at 3 p.m. declaring a pecuniary interest with the following agenda item.

Strube: That the information provided by Canwood Sno-Blazers be received and filed. Carried

Councillor Jay Ferster re-entered the Council Chambers at 3:03 p.m.

Hamel: That the receivable in the amount of \$18,900 from the Prince Albert National Park for 2020 road maintenance be written off as non-collectable. Carried

Ferster: That the following be approved for the Beaver Bounty 2022 Grant: Brett Morrison, Travis Curran, Charles Schlitter, Harvey Gosselin, Dallas Morrison, Terry Herzog, Calvin Harris, and Ralph Harris.

And that the following be contacted to receive confirmation of their participation in the 2022 Beaver Bounty program: Daniel Hannigan. Carried

Hamel: That a 1/10-page (Business Card) ad be approved at a cost of \$205 for the Military Service Recognition Book 2022. Carried

Ferster: That the following correspondence be received and filed: North Central Transportation Planning Committee and 2022 SARM fees. Carried

Strube: That the meeting be adjourned at 3:42 p.m.

## Minutes of a Town of Spiritwood meeting

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

The regular meeting of the Council of the Town of Spiritwood was held at the Spiritwood Civic Centre on Jan. 25, 2022, at 6:30 p.m.

In attendance were Mayor Gary von Holwede, Councillor Bryan Wingarter, Councillor George Pretli, Councillor Ragnar Latus, Councillor Kiera Andres, Councillor James Bedi, Councillor Brad Nemish, and Acting Administrator Hugh Otterson.

A quorum being present, Mayor Gary von Holwede called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Pretli: That the agenda be adopted as presented to form part of the minutes. Carried

Pretli: That the minutes of the regular meeting on Dec. 15, 2021, be approved as presented. Carried

Wingarter: That in the matter of the 2022 quarterly funding request from the Northern Lakes Economic Development Corporation we agree to issue a cheque in the amount of \$20,000. Carried

Nemish: That in the matter of the required SaskPower upgrades to the two new lift stations we agree as follows:

1. Lift station located at 124 Fifth Street West - we accept revised Quote No. 133245 for the construction charge of \$14,171.63 plus \$708.58 (GST)

for a total of \$14,880.21 and that we now issue a cheque in the amount of \$3,720.00 as the down payment to move this project ahead.

2. Lift station located at 301 First Avenue East - we accept Quote No. 133168 for the construction charge of \$15,344.31 plus \$767.22 (GST) for a total of \$16,111.53 and that we now issue a cheque in the amount of \$4,028.00 as the down payment to move this project ahead. Carried

Wingarter: That the correspondence be filed as presented. Carried

Bedi: Accounts for Ratification, Cheque No. 31823 to 31849 & Payments 636 to 673 in the amount of \$129,940.13 be approved as presented. Carried

Wingarter: That Accounts for Approval, Cheque No. 31850 - 31878 in the amount of \$518,017.67 be approved as presented. Carried

Nemish: Accounts for Approval, Cheque No. 31879 - 31884 & Payment #674 in the amount of \$1,726.27 be approved as presented. Carried

Latus: That the Bank Reconciliation for the month of December 2021 be approved as presented. Carried

Wingarter: That the Financial Statement for the month of December 2021 be approved as presented. Carried

Andres: That we ratify the transfer of funds for the 2021 Cemetery Plot Fees (GL Acct# 420-600-100) in the amount

of \$750 and the Cemetery Interment Fees (GL Acct#420-600-101) in the amount of \$1,250 from the General Checking Operating Account to the Cemetery Maintenance Fund/Infrastructure Savings account as of Dec. 31, 2021. Carried

Wingarter: That we ratify the transfer of the 2021 Infrastructure Fees in the amount of \$54,436.39 from the General Checking Operating Account to the Cemetery Maintenance/Infrastructure Savings Account as of Dec. 31, 2021. Carried

Bedi: That the Acting Administrator, Mayor and Council verbal reports be filed as presented. Carried

Andres: That we approve forwarding the outstanding utility account past due 90 days as of Jan. 25, 2022, to the Tax Roll as attached to form part of the minutes. Carried

Wingarter: That we ratify the decision to repair the laminator as per the attached quote for \$1,401.99. Carried

Bedi: That we ratify the application submission to Canada Summer Jobs for two Summer Student Positions. Carried

Wingarter: That the Council of Town of Spiritwood agree to accept the Transfer of the Property know as 505 Highway Drive, Lot 2 Blk 14 Plan #BK4385, on the condition that the Battle River Law Firm is responsible for all legal costs relating to said property transfer. It is further agreed that this is in exchange for

the outstanding taxes and further said property shall be free and clear of all encumbrances and interests. Carried

Latus: That we accept the bond insurance as presented and required as per Section 113(1) of the Municipalities Act, which is attached to form part of the minutes. Carried

Wingarter: That we approve the Utility Account #0525 0010 refund request of \$1,386 as per the attached request. Carried

Wingarter: That we approve the request for refunding the homeowner \$299.70 for the attached invoice for blockage of the sewer lines with tree roots from trees located on town property under the direction of the foreman. Carried

Latus: That the Council meeting proceed in Camera at 8 p.m. as per Section 23 of the Local Authority Freedom of Information to discuss performance evaluations and ask that the Acting Administrator remain in the Council Chambers. Carried

Nemish: That the Council come out of in camera at 8:15 p.m. Carried

Wingarter: That we approve the following wage rates effective Jan. 1, 2022, for the Town of Spiritwood Employees as attached to form part of the minutes. Carried

Bedi: That this meeting be adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

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## Creating an arsenal of COVID-19 therapeutics

It has become clear that we need a variety of tools to effectively control the pandemic. Scientists are shifting their focus towards treatments that can help manage the disease for patients who develop serious symptoms.

Using the Canadian Light Source (CLS) at the University of Saskatchewan, Anthony Mittermaier, Nicolas Moitessier, Martin Schmeing, and their McGill University team have discovered a small molecule that may help combat COVID-19 and could contribute to a new arsenal of treatments slowly making their way to market.

COVID-19 turns your cells into virus factories that make thousands of copies of itself. However, the virus can only replicate this way if it has functioning proteins. The team is focused on small molecules that can bind to these proteins and block the replication process - like throwing a wrench into the machine that builds viruses. These molecules can kill the virus and clear an infection.

"There is a need for therapeutics, in addition to vaccine-related efforts," said Mittermaier, an associate professor in McGill's Department of Chemistry. "As we've become more knowledgeable about how COVID-19 works, it's becoming clear that it will be extremely beneficial to have some additional ways of fighting the pandemic."

He added that we need to turn to additional strategies to tackle COVID-19 in the wake of immune-evading variants and low vaccine uptake across the globe.

"I think it will be really important to eventually find a new normal in which

our lives can return to something like what we knew before," said Mittermaier.

The first small molecule therapeutic from Pfizer was recently approved in Canada and it targets the same protein. However, this molecule is different from the one the McGill team analyzed at the CLS. Having a variety of molecules for therapeutics is necessary to prevent the virus from developing resistance.

"It's nice to have a toolbox of different tools to target this. We're looking at the same protein, but what's really important is that our molecule is very different," says Moitessier, a professor in McGill's Department of Chemistry. "If this COVID-19 protein mutates to block the activity of the Pfizer drug, we hope our molecule would still offer effective protection."

There are other benefits to having a therapeutic developed by researchers from a Canadian university. The team is hopeful that its molecule can be effective as an oral treatment for COVID-19 patients, and a Canadian-developed drug might make the treatment more accessible to patients and physicians in Canada.

He added that the synchrotron's crystallography beamline was instrumental in figuring out exactly how the molecule binds to the protein, allowing the researchers to visualize just how effective their molecule is.

"We use software to design these new molecules, then we go to the lab and make them, yet we don't have any proof that it really binds to these proteins. To confirm the mechanism of action or the binding, crystallography was key," said Moitessier.

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# Province pegs municipal revenue sharing at \$262 million

Premier Scott Moe has announced more than \$262 million of provincial funding will be invested for the overall Municipal Revenue Sharing (MRS) Program in 2022-23 to benefit Saskatchewan municipalities and support their priorities.

"This annual and predictable provincial revenue allows local decision makers the flexi-

bility to address the needs that matter most to their municipalities," Moe said. "This unconditional provincial funding helps lay the foundation for stronger communities and a stronger Saskatchewan."

Total funding for 2022-23 for MRS represents a more than 106 per cent increase from the 2007-08 provincial fiscal year. The average annual

overall provincial funding for this municipal program for the previous five years from 2017-18 to 2021-22 is more than \$260 million.

The annual provincial funding is based on three quarters of one point of the provincial sales tax revenue collected from two years prior.

As in previous years, the Targeted Sector Support Ini-

tiative will receive a \$1.5 million investment from the total MRS Program. Co-managed by the provincial government and municipal partners, the initiative invests in municipal projects advancing priority areas, such as good governance, regional planning, and inter-community collaboration.

Following this announcement, more than \$3.7 billion

in provincial funding will have been allocated to support municipalities across Saskatchewan through the MRS program from 2007-08 to 2022-23.

More details about this year's Municipal Revenue Sharing Program were expected to be available following the release of the provincial budget on Wednesday.

## Keeping Dutch Elm Disease under control

By Jill Thomson

Dutch Elm Disease (DED) has been with us for many years. It is thought to have originated in Southeast Asia, travelled to Europe in the late 1800s, and was first observed in North America in 1930. It was found in Quebec in 1944, and has since moved across Canada, being found in Manitoba and Saskatchewan in the 1970s and 80s. In Saskatchewan, the disease has travelled west along natural corridors of native elms that grow beside waterways such as Carrot River in the north and the Qu'Appelle valley in the south.

It is particularly important to keep the disease out of our urban areas because elms are invaluable shade trees that line our city streets – there are few trees that are as long-lived, sturdy and hardy. Some cities like Winnipeg have lost nearly all their elms and the city takes extreme measures to save the few that remain. Infected trees were identified in Saskatoon in 2015, 2020 and 2021. In Regina, it first appeared in 1981 and has popped up sporadically since.

The disease is caused by *Ophiostoma ulmi*, a fungus that clogs the water and nutrient transport tissues in the elm tree, killing branches and ultimately the whole tree. The fungus spreads from tree to tree by spores that cling to elm bark beetles. The spore-laden beetles bore into dead or dying elm wood to make cavities where they lay their eggs. Spores get dislodged inside the tree during this process, and fungal infection develops. The insect eggs hatch into larvae and feed inside the

tree. They eventually emerge as mature beetles, which will likely be coated with fungal spores that can then be spread to other trees during egg-laying. This complex life cycle provides several points that allow us to reduce or prevent infection.

Many dollars have been spent to try and contain DED. The City of Saskatoon Parks Department has a crew dedicated to DED surveillance and testing during the season. The City also has programs for distributing educational materials, DED inspections, permits, specialized pruning schedules and monitoring. Additional budget resources are provided to promptly remove and dispose of infected trees when a positive infection is detected in the community. Infected trees in Saskatoon are removed immediately, chipped, and disposed of in the landfill. Neighbouring trees are monitored for up to 4 years to make sure that the disease hasn't spread. There is also funding for educating the public on ways to recognize and deal with diseased trees.

Pruning elms at the correct time is critical to remove the dead or dying branches that are attractive egg-laying sites. The provincial elm pruning ban runs from April 1 to August 31; this coincides with the elm bark beetle's egg-laying period. However, if infected trees are identified during spring and summer they are removed immediately, chipped and disposed of in the landfill site (not as compost waste).

Several years ago, in April, we noticed a broken elm branch above our garage, that was likely to fall and damage the

roof. Also the same tree had branches overhanging and brushing against our neighbour's roof, with the potential to damage the shingles. We contacted the city, and within 24 hours an inspector came to assess our tree. He wrote a permit which allowed us to prune specific branches, with instructions for the correct disposal of material (chipping on site and transfer to landfill in covered transport). This prompt response ensured the potential hazard was removed quickly, and no dying branches or cut wood offered an egg-laying site for the beetles.

Another way to minimize spread of the disease is to dispose of any dead elm wood correctly and not to use as firewood. Storing and transporting elm wood is prohibited by provincial regulation at any time of the year.

In order to prevent DED from ruining our urban landscape it is important to follow these guidelines:

- Keep your elms healthy by pruning dying or dead branches during September 1 – March 31.
- Dispose of elm wood by chipping and taking to landfill.

- Do not store or move elm wood.
- If you see signs of DED (such as large, dead branches or individual branches with wilting and browning leaves that do not fall off in the summer), report them to your municipal authority.

*Jill Thomson is a plant disease specialist (retired) who enjoys gardening with her family in Saskatoon.*

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



**Damaged elm branch removed in May. Photo credit: Jill Thomson**

## GOOD NEWS

### ~ LOVE YOU ALL THE SAME

Love you all the same. I am not sure you heard that from your mom, I did. Growing up in Hay River with three brothers and two sisters my mom wanted to remind me she loved us all the same.

As much as I like Jacob in the Old Testament, I think it is pretty plain from Scripture he didn't treat all his children alike. Jacob showed favouritism to Joseph. It got so bad we read that Joseph's brothers hated him so much (Genesis 37:4) that they eventually sold him down the river. More specifically they sold Joseph into Egypt.

I got thinking when we love we will want to practice fairness. I always enjoyed the comment the little guy made when he was asked "how his teacher was." To paraphrase he said "oh, she is tough." And then he was quick to say "Well, she is tough on everyone."

God doesn't play favourites read Acts 10:34. John 4:19 says, "We love Him because He first loved us."

There is a song by songwriter Fredrick M. Lehman I have grown to love. I understand he was inspired to write the first two verses but was stumped on the third. He couldn't write the third. He had

a breakthrough when he came across the words he had heard in a camp meeting. Though, I also read Lehman found it printed on a card that was given to him.

Either way, Lehman got it into his hands. His third verse went like this: "Could we with ink the ocean fill, and were the skies of parchment made; were every stalk on earth a quill, and ev'ry one a scribe by trade; to write the love of God above would drain the ocean dry; nor could the scroll contain the whole, though stretched from sky to sky."

I read these words that Lehman used and quoted were either found in an asylum or a prison. But those words go back even further. They're a translation of an Aramaic poem written by a Rabbi in the 7th century, preserved all those years. It has been suggested God, knowing one day Fredrick would be able to write two verses but could use help with the third, preserved the poem for him.

Lehman called his Hymn "The Love of God". It's a great reminder God loves us all the same. If you haven't yet, would you accept His love today? (John 3:16)

Blessings,  
Pastor David Bodvarson  
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