

Shellbrook Chronicle & Spiritwood Herald

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Parkland U18 AA Elks top home tournament



The Parkland U18 AA Elks topped the ISA Eagles in the A Final of their tournament at the Richardson Pioneer Recreation Centre over the weekend, skating away as champions.

Fresh off a difficult regular season, the Parkland U18 AA Elks invited five teams from Saskatchewan and Alberta to Shellbrook for a three-day tournament at the Richardson Pioneer Recreation Centre. Joining the Elks for the tournament were the Martensville Marauders, the Indigenous Sports Academy (ISA) Eagles, the Balgonie Prairie Storm, the Leduc Roughnecks, and the KC Colts.

Each team played three pool games, with their records from those games determining whether they'd play in the A, B, or C Finals.

The action kicked off Friday afternoon, with the Elks opening the tournament against the ISA Eagles.

Elks (5) vs Eagles (1)

The Eagles soared to an early lead in Friday's tournament opener, scoring when the Elks failed to hold the offensive zone. Sage Roberts found the top

shelf with a sniper shot, taking an assist from Deegan Wapass on the play.

The Elks, playing like an entirely different team, recovered from this stumble. After some back and forth action, the home team began to get the better of the scoring opportunities. With the help of a gritty forecheck, Kendon Skalicky found the back of the net on an assist from Tylee Sylvestre to tie the game at 1-1.

Getting a successful four-minute penalty kill under their belts to end the first period, the Elks headed into the second frame with momentum. They turned this momentum into a 2-1 lead when Anson Favel pounced on a turnover in the neutral zone and beat the Eagles' goalie high on the blocker side.

Gifted with a powerplay late in the frame, the Elks didn't squander it. Tyler Roy snuck a loose puck into the Eagles' goal, taking assists from Jase Martin

and Favel on the play.

The third period saw the Elks extend their lead, starting early with a harmless rush that ended in a textbook cross-ice feed. Roy netted the goal, his second of the game, with helpers from Bronson Parker and Favel.

The Elks struck one more time before the final buzzer, when Corvan Stewart slipped a shot past a sprawling Eagles' goalie to put the home team up 5-1. Cody Morash and Parker earned assists on the goal.

Elks (7) vs Roughnecks (2)

After suffering a tough 4-3 shootout loss to the Balgonie Prairie Storm on Saturday morning, the Elks closed out day two of the tournament with a show-down against the Leduc Roughnecks. The Elks struggled out of the gate and played much of the first period on the defensive, only escaping the period down 1-0 due to solid goaltending from

Shae Stewart.

The Elks found their skates in the second period, knotting the game up early when Tylee Sylvestre tapped a puck past a sliding Leduc goalie. Kendon Skalicky and Bronson Parker earned assists on the goal.

The Elks pulled ahead on a powerplay, after Jase Martin found the top corner with a beautiful wrist shot from the slot. Parker earned the lone assist on the goal.

The goals kept coming fast and furious, with Corvan Stewart burying a rebound on an assist from Cody Morash, and Skalicky taking a long lead pass from Brendon Aug and blasting it home.

Then, the Elks struck again off an offensive zone faceoff, with Corvan Stewart slipping a puck through the goalie's five-hole. Ashton Tanchuk and Morash assisted on the play.

Continued on page 2



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Parkland U18 AA Elks top home tournament

Continued from 1

Rounding out the scoresheet, Martin pounced on another loose rebound and pushed the score to 6-1, earning assists for Anson Favel and Roy.

After taking a second period beating, the Roughnecks finally got on the board with a penalty shot in the third frame. The Elks recovered, tallying on a beautiful backhand from Skalicky to put the score at 7-2. Tavis Galloway and Sylvestre assisted on the play.

With the victory, the Elks ended pool play as the first place team, earning them a rematch with the ISA Eagles (who topped the KC Colts and the Martensville Marauders in their other two games) in the A Final.

Elks (5) vs Eagles (4) OT

Having topped the Eagles 5-1 in their first tournament meeting, the Elks found themselves facing a different team in the A Final on Sunday afternoon. The Elks struggled out of the gate, but showed real grit on a full 5-on-3 penalty kill, and another two minutes of 5-on-4 action.

Thanks to some huge saves from Shae Stewart, the Elks escaped the period with the score deadlocked at 0-0.

In a play that closely resembled the first goal from the teams' first meeting, the Eagles broke the tie in the second period when the Elks failed to hold the offensive zone. Deegan Wapass scored the goal, unassisted.



Elks forward Cody Morash celebrates a goal in the team's tournament-opening game against the ISA Eagles.

After coming up short in the first, the Eagles made the most of their next powerplay opportunity, going up 2-0 when Konnor Watson tipped a puck over Stewart. Watson was unassisted on the play.

The Elks' powerplay proved it could be just as much of a threat, tallying two goals to leave the teams tied at 2-2 going into the final 20 minutes of play. Tylee Sylvestre netted both goals, with Kaiden Couture and Jase Martin assisting on the first, and Jake Boettcher earning a helper on the second.

The game took a strange turn in the opening of the third period, when the Eagles reclaimed the lead on a goal where no one seemed to realize that the puck had gone in. Coen Bear received credit for the goal, with Kaiden Healy earning assist on the play.

The Elks struck back on the ensuing play, with Sylvestre earning a hat trick. But the Eagles retaliated seconds later, when Wapass tucked a rebound into a wide open Elks goal. Sage Roberts and Watson assisted on the goal.

With time winding down, the Elks once again leaned

on the powerplay, and it came through. Corvan Stewart took a setup from behind the Eagles' goal and tapped the puck in, earning assists for Kyler Roy and Couture.

With the game knotted at 4-4, the Elks were given a number of powerplay opportunities to end the game, but the reeling Eagles held on to force overtime.

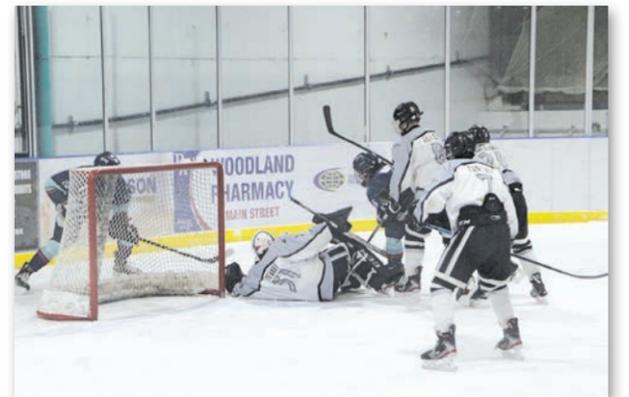
Taking the leftover seconds of a powerplay into the five-minute extra frame, the Elks had all the momentum in the early going but failed to capitalize it.

Then, with just over 30 seconds left, Kendon Skalicky pounced on a loose rebound and redirected it into the goal to give the Elks the tournament win. Sylvestre provided the lone assist on the game winner.

While the Elks topped the A Final, the Martensville Marauders topped the KC Colts in the B Final, and the Leduc Roughnecks beat the Balgonie Prairie Storm in the C Final.

In addition to the action on the ice, the tournament also included a pancake breakfast on Saturday, prepared by the canteen staff from Arnie's Grill with supplies and drinks donated by Shellbrook Bigway. There were also a number of raffle prizes and draws made throughout the weekend, all thanks to the support of a long list of local and area sponsors.

Elks goalie Shae Stewart did everything but stand on his head in the A Final, turning away every shot he faced from the ISA Eagles in the first period.



Elks goalie Shae Stewart did everything but stand on his head in the A Final, turning away every shot he faced from the ISA Eagles in the first period.



Elks forward Kendon Skalicky tips a backhand shot past the outstretched pads of Leduc Roughnecks goalie Kael Moberg.



The Martensville Marauders emerged from the tournament as the B Final champions, after topping the KC Colts.



The Leduc Roughnecks took the trophy in the C Final, beating out the Balgonie Prairie Storm.

LEASK SPORTS CENTRE LTD.
OPEN HOUSE, FREE SKATE & ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
 Thurs., Mar. 17, 2022
 4:00 – 7:30 PM | AGM @ 6:30 PM
 at the Sports Centre

MARTINS LAKE REGIONAL PARK HELP WANTED/REQUEST FOR TENDERS

Martins Lake Regional Park is accepting resumes/tenders for the 2022 camping season for the following positions:

- GOLF CLUBHOUSE RESTAURANT:** Seeking Cook/Manager, being a full-time position, for fully equipped kitchen and restaurant facility. May - September. Must be certified food handler. Will be responsible for the staffing and operations of the restaurant and golf course.
- BEACH CONCESSION:** Leased operator. June - September. Must be certified food handler.
- PARK MAINTENANCE:** 3 positions open - Full time hours. May - September. General park maintenance for campground and golf course including grass cutting, tree trimming, equipment maintenance, janitorial upkeep of washrooms/shower room, painting, beach maintenance, maintaining water system, testing water and other duties
- PARK ENTRY/CLUBHOUSE PERSONNEL:** For gate, must be 16 or older with valid driver's license. Duties include greeting visitors, collecting fees, assigning campsites with computerized reservation system, etc. For Clubhouse must be 19 years of age and provide service to the restaurant and golf sales.

For more information call Rick at 306-321-5824 or Christie at 306-221-4457. Email tenders or resumes to martinslake@sasktel.net by March 30, 2022. (Lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted.)

TOWN OF SHELLBROOK NOTICE ASSESSMENT ROLL

Notice is hereby given that the assessment roll for the Town of Shellbrook for the year of 2022 has been prepared and is open to inspection in the office of the Assessor from 8:30am to 4pm, Monday to Friday from March 3rd, 2022 to April 1st, 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 with: The Assessor, Town of Shellbrook, Box 40, Shellbrook, SK., SOJ 2E0 by 4pm on the 1st day of April, 2022.

Dated this 3rd day of March, 2022.
 Kelly Hoare, Assessor

SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Rural Municipality of Leask No. 464 is accepting applications for a full time seasonal maintenance position.

Qualifications:

- Class 3A License
- Be capable of accepting instruction and working with minimal supervision
- Heavy equipment experience is an asset

Duties include:

- To keep records of daily work performed in the manner prescribed by the R.M. administration
- To perform assigned work which may include: fencing; shop, machinery & yard maintenance; traffic sign placement & repair; cleaning and repairing of culverts and/or bridges.

Hours of work: Monday to Friday 8am-6pm, some weekend and evening work may be required
 Rate of pay: as per union agreement
 Anticipated Start Date: May 2, 2022

The R.M. wishes to thank all who apply, however, only those individuals to be interviewed will be contacted.

Please submit resume by April 6, 2022, stating work experience and references to:
rmleask.464@sasktel.net
 306-466-2091 (fax)
 Rural Municipality of Leask No. 464
 Box 190
 Leask, SK SOJ 1M0

4H speech competition held in Spiritwood

The Northern Spirit 4H club hosted the District 33 4H Public Speaking Competition on Feb. 27 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. in the Spiritwood Pioneer Centre.

About 19 members participated during the event, coming from the Big River 4H Multiple Club, the Canwood 4H Beef Club, the Canwood Light Horse 4H Club, and the Northern Spirit 4H club with four age categories in place. Those four categories were classified as Cloverbud, Junior, Intermediate and Senior.

The members who participated prior to the event had gone through their own club speeches and placed in the top two in each category to make it through the District competition.

The event started with a welcoming and introduction by Shawna Smith, one of the members of Northern Spirit 4H

Club. They were pleased to be accompanied by Kalyne Martin, their North West Regional 4H Specialist who has been with them on the whole 4H public speaking journey.

Afterwards, each participant took turns delivering their speech aloud to the people in attendance, as well as the eight judges. The judges were Megan Allard, Shelley Allard, Tracy Beaulieu, Verna Friesen, Bailie Hummel, Sonja Nielsen, Ginelle Olson, Alison Sullivan, and Barb Szasz.

The judges said that it was an honour to listen and judge all the participants, but they made a very tough decision in the end as everyone's speeches were wonderful.

In the Cloverbud contest, Rowdy Blanchard from the Canwood 4H Beef Club won first place. Two contestants from Northern Spirit 4H Club were able to claim the remaining spots in the top three, namely Ray-Elle Sanders, who

placed second, and Phoenix Walter, who was able to win third place.

In the Junior category, Reiss Podhordeski from the Canwood Light Horse 4H Club claimed the first spot, while Coleby Rose and Mackenzie Walter of the Northern Spirit 4H Club finished in second and third place, respectively.

Looking to the Intermediate placing, Harley Taylor from the Canwood 4H Beef Club won first place, with the second and third spots once again being claimed by members from the Northern Spirit 4H Club. Payton Smith finished second and Dalton Sanders came in third.

Finally, in the Senior contest, Zoe McLean from the Big River 4H Multiple Club won first place.

The kids who were able to place first in each grouping will be moving on to the Regional 4H Public Speaking in Major, Sask., which will be held on March 26, 2022.

The Northern Spirit 4H Club, which organized the current event, says it is grateful to the judges and attendees for taking time out of their busy schedules to attend and judge their public speaking event.

4H Saskatchewan is a youth empowering organization that promotes community involvement through mentorship, as demonstrated by its motto "Learn To Do By Doing," and supports nearly 3,000 youth in 175 community-based clubs led by 900 volunteers across the province.



Dalton Sanders of the Northern Spirit 4H Club finished third in the Intermediate competition at the District 33 4H Public Speaking Competition in Spiritwood.



Ray-Elle Sanders of the Northern Spirit 4H Club finished second in the Cloverbud competition at the District 33 4H Public Speaking Competition in Spiritwood.



Living with COVID-19

Thanks to high vaccination and booster rates, the availability of free rapid tests and the availability of COVID-19 treatments, Saskatchewan is transitioning toward self-management of COVID-19: self-monitoring, self-testing and self-care.

Proof of vaccination or negative tests and use of masks indoors are no longer required. This does not mean COVID-19 has disappeared. Everyday preventive actions can continue to reduce transmission of this respiratory illness.

What you can do to stay safe and healthy:

- Stay home with even mild cold or flu-like symptoms and self-test
- Consider wearing a mask if you or a loved one have health conditions or are vulnerable
- Practice frequent handwashing
- Get vaccinated – the best protection against COVID-19 is to be fully vaccinated, including a booster. Everyone 12 years of age and older is now eligible for a booster

Thank you Saskatchewan for following public health measures when they've been in place and for getting vaccinated. The health and safety of Saskatchewan residents remains the government's top priority.

Please be kind and respectful of individuals' choices.

saskatchewan.ca/living-with-covid



PUBLIC NOTICE

Rural Municipality of Big River No. 555

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

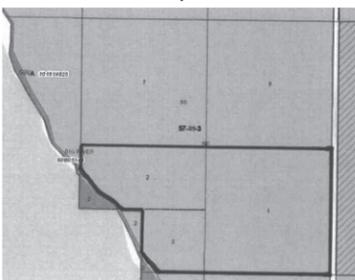
INTENT

1. To amend zoning district map by rezoning from A – Agriculture District to LR1 – Low Density Lakeshore Residential District the land described as LSD 1 36-57-09 W3 Ext 16, LSD 2 36-57-09 W3 Ext 19, SE LSD 2 36-57-09 W3 Ext 20, listed below as Map 1.
2. To amend zoning district map by rezoning from A – Agriculture District to LR1 (Hold) – Low Density Lakeshore Residential District (Hold) the land described as Blk A, Plan 101814825 Ext 21 in SW 36-57-09 W3, LSD 7 36-57-09 W3 Ext 17 and LSD 8 36-57-09 W3 Ext 18, listed below as Map 2.

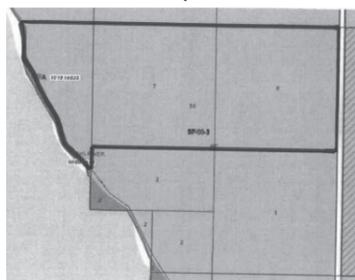
AFFECTED LANDS

South 1/2 26-56-07 W3, in the RM of Big River No. 555 shown within the bold line on the following maps.

Map 1



Map 2



REASON

The reason for the amendment is to accommodate residential uses.

PUBLIC INSPECTION

Any person may inspect the bylaw at the RM Office on any judicial day between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING

Council will hold a public hearing on March 21st, 2022 in the Big River Community Centre at 606 First Street North, Big River, SK at 10:45 am. Council will also consider written comments received at the hearing or delivered to the undersigned at the municipal office before the hearing.

Issued at Big River this 24th day of February, 2022.

Michael Yuzik
Rural Municipal Administrator

What happens when you don't advertise?

Very little.

Moe ignores his job to bicker with Ottawa

Some days, it's hard not to feel like Premier Scott Moe is auditioning to be the next leader of the federal Conservative Party. Given the combativeness with which he approaches Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's federal Liberal government, he'd surely be a shoe-in for the job.

Since stepping into the shoes of his predecessor, Brad Wall, Mr. Moe has become the most outspoken premier in the nation where federal matters are concerned. And more often than not, when Mr. Trudeau's government introduces a policy, you can bet your bottom dollar Mr. Moe will voice some opposition to it (sometimes rightly so, other times not so much).

For instance, Mr. Moe was right to question the federal carbon tax when it was first introduced. Challenging it all the way to the Supreme Court, while a waste of taxpayer dollars in the end, also made sense to some extent. But after the Supreme Court ruled in Ottawa's favour, he should have let it go and sought a more collaborative path forward on climate policy.

Instead, it's as if Mr. Moe has latched on to this, and every other perceived slight from Mr. Trudeau, becoming day by day the chief opposition to his government under the guise of "Standing up for Saskatchewan."

When the "Freedom Convoy" protest rolled into Ottawa, Mr. Moe's voice was again among the loudest to support the protesters in their call to end the federal vaccine passport mandate for truckers. He wasn't wrong here, as the policy makes no sense when we're two years into a pandemic in which truckers have continued to cross borders seemingly without issue.

However, when the protest turned into an occupation of the nation's capital and border blockades, threatening the very economy Mr. Moe accused the federal vaccine mandate of harming, his response was fairly tepid – especially compared to how vehemently he opposed the Wet'suwet'en blockade of the Coastal GasLink pipeline.

When Mr. Trudeau invoked the Emergencies Act for the first time in Canadian history, Mr. Moe was there again to oppose it. And as of last week, his government was even considering legal action against Ottawa,

promising to waste yet more taxpayer dollars on a lawsuit that will go nowhere.

Since the occupation and blockades have been cleared out, leading Mr. Trudeau to revoke the Act, Mr. Moe hasn't relented. Now, taking up the war cry of the occupiers and border blockaders, he's calling for Mr. Trudeau's government to end all federal mandates and detail a plan to return to normal for all Canadians.

Lost, or conveniently forgotten, amidst the noise he's making in Ottawa's direction, is the state of the province Mr. Moe was actually elected to represent.

Though Mr. Moe has said repeatedly that the Omicron variant of COVID-19 is less deadly than other strains, February was the fourth deadliest month of the pandemic in Saskatchewan (and this only factors in the 99 deaths as of Feb. 19, thanks to Mr. Moe's decision to scrap daily reporting).

With how busy he's been meddling in federal affairs, all Mr. Moe had to say about the increasing fatality rate was "certainly concerning." He then downplayed the deaths by pointing to slowly declining hospitalizations, and repeating calls for Saskatchewan residents not to judge each other based on their personal health decisions.

As Saskatchewan's last remaining public health mandates expired on Monday, but the province's emergency order was extended to allow healthcare personal to be shuffled around as needed, Mr. Moe also had little to say about the stress the province's healthcare system is under.

Just last week, Yorkton Regional Health Centre said it couldn't perform emergent C-sections until at least March 1 due to disruptions to anaesthesia services. Meanwhile, the Leader and District Health Centre was reporting disruptions to emergency services, Kamsack Hospital was expecting to not be able to offer X-ray services through March, and an untold number of surgeries are being delayed as workers are redirected to meet demands.

This is the post-COVID "normal" in Saskatchewan. Don't tell Mr. Moe, though. You wouldn't want to distract him from another argument with the feds.



JORDAN TWISS
~
News Editor



YOUR TWO CENTS

"Freedom Rally" a display of hypocrisy

Dear editor,

In the Feb. 3 issue of the *Shellbrook Chronicle*, MLA Nadine Wilson reports having attended a "Freedom Rally" in Regina. She says she sang "O Canada" God keep our land glorious and free!

I wonder if the thousands of homeless refugees in the world today will have second thoughts about risking their lives to come to Canada. What the protesters, and especially democratically elected leaders like Ms. Wilson and our MP Rosemarie Falk (posing with protesters) need to understand is that freedom is not divisible. We can't claim it for ourselves and deny it to anyone

else who comes in our way, as the protesters in Ottawa and other places were doing.

We hear the expression "my body, what I do with it is my business." Wrong! What I do with my body, what I say (or write) will affect somebody (unless I live somewhere on a remote island).

Instead of protesting, why not be thankful to God for our Canada, the wonderful healthcare we have and especially that God has blessed us with scientists, doctors, and researchers who have discovered vaccines in the past that have saved millions of lives.

Can we honestly say we are wiser than they?

For the past two years now, our Prime Minister, our Premiers, Health Ministers, and Disease Specialists have been advising (almost begging) people to get vaccinated. Though there may be some reasons why a person should be exempt, I am convinced that if everyone had listened to good, sound advice, lives and loss of jobs and "freedom" could have been prevented.

We also need to be thankful that the police and authorities were able to avoid violence and bloodshed. Though we heard the organizers of the claim that they planned to be peaceful, seeing some of the profane signs and even Trump flags tells me that there were people there who could have started a Washington-style insurrection.

Cornie Martens,
Rabbit Lake SK

Shellbrook Chronicle

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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



Government shielded from the pain it causes

By Franco Terrazano
CTF Federal Director

Politicians and government decision makers are financially divorced from the Canadians they're supposed to represent. And it shows. From higher taxes to revolving lockdowns, government decisions during the pandemic have been full of pain. But that pain hasn't been felt by those pulling the levers.

Quite the opposite.

While millions of their constituents struggled, members of Parliament gave themselves two pay raises. Their third pandemic pay raise is scheduled for April 1. After this raise, the Canadian Taxpayers Federation estimates that a backbench MP's annual salary will be \$189,702 while Prime Minister Justin Trudeau will take home \$379,404. That means their pandemic pay raises will range from \$10,802 to an extra \$21,604.

It's the same story for government bureaucrats. There were 528,347 government employees that received at least one raise while governments were busy locking down. Not a single federal or provincial gov-

ernment bureaucrat took a pay cut during the pandemic, according to research from Secondstreet.org.

Federal Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland claims Canada has "more than recovered lost jobs" during the pandemic. But whose jobs have been recovered?

There are now 305,200 more government jobs across Canada than there were pre-pandemic, but 272,800 fewer jobs outside of government.

Then there's the three-decades-high inflation.

The Bank of Canada printed about \$370 billion during the pandemic. And the more dollars the central bank prints, the less the dollars in your chequing or retirement account buys.

The Bank of Canada's primary job is to limit inflation. Tiff Macklem is the governor of the Bank of Canada and he gets paid between \$463,100 and \$544,800 per year. Has Macklem felt any pain or been held accountable in any way while the Bank of Canada hasn't kept a lid on inflation?

The federal carbon, payroll and alcohol tax hikes during the pandemic have also been driving up the cost of living. Politicians are talking about a second

carbon tax buried in fuel regulations, luxury taxes, wealth taxes and higher taxes on businesses.

Are political leaders really feeling the pinch of their tax hikes when their pay goes up every year, and when taxpayers pay for their car allowance and fly them all over the world?

The carbon tax is set to reach nearly 40 cents per litre of gas by 2030. When that happens, it's expected to cost 184,000 jobs. Trudeau's second carbon tax is expected to lead to 30,000 fewer jobs. How many of those job losses will occur on Parliament Hill?

The raft of new taxes means a raft of new bureaucrats to administer those taxes.

Take the second carbon tax, for example. Taxpayers will need to pay an extra \$85 million to fuel the bureaucracy administering this regulatory quagmire. Basically, Canadians will have the pleasure of paying higher taxes so more federal paper-pushers can increase our fuel prices and force our neighbours out of a job.

It's crystal clear that the people calling the shots are shielded from the impacts of their decisions. And it's starting to look like the politicians and bureaucrats that are supposed to be serving the people are public servants in name only.

There's no silver bullet to reverse this trend. But it must start with making sure politicians and bureaucrats aren't financially detached from the people they're supposed to work for. MPs could at least take a pass on their third pandemic pay raise in April.

Sask. continues efforts to support Ukraine

In response to the ongoing, unprovoked attack in Ukraine, the Government of Saskatchewan continues to work with ministries, crowns and agencies, as well as with partners in the Saskatchewan Ukrainian community to offer supports.

In recent days, the province has offered the following supports:

- Donating \$100,000 to support humanitarian efforts in Ukraine;
- Providing administrative support to the Saskatchewan-Ukraine Relations Advisory Committee (SURAC) through the government liaison and intergovernmental affairs;
- Waiving long distance and text message charges from Canada to Ukraine for Sasktel customers, and roaming charges for those in Ukraine;
- Prioritizing applications from Ukraine for the Saskatchewan Immigrant Nominee Program;
- Communicating with the federal government regarding Saskatchewan's ability and willingness to accept refugees;
- Working with post-secondary institutions to determine the impact on international students and potential supports;
- Raising Ukraine's flag, which will continue to fly indefinitely outside the Legislative Building; and
- Effective immediately, Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority will delist Russian products

from its distribution centre and retail stores. Private retailers are encouraged to do the same.

Russia should be met with severe and immediate trade sanctions and the Government of Saskatchewan supports the sanctions imposed by the federal government and other nations across the world. The government also continues to call for the immediate end to the importation of Russian oil and natural gas.

For any Saskatchewan individuals who may be out of the country, the following resources from the Government of Canada should be used:

- Canadians in need of emergency consular assistance can contact the embassy by email at KYIV-Consular@international.gc.ca
- At any time, Canadians can also contact Global Affairs Canada's 24/7 Emergency Watch and Response Centre by phone at +1 613-996-8885 by email at sos@international.gc.ca or by SMS at +1 613-686-3658.

As well, the Government of Canada is encouraging people to sign up for the Registration of Canadians Abroad, so that critical information and updates can be directly communicated to those individuals. Individuals can register at <https://travel.gc.ca/travelling/registration>.

Donations from the public in support of humanitarian efforts can be made to the Ukrainian Canadian Congress at <https://www.cufoundation.ca/donate/> or through the Canadian Red Cross in which the Government of Canada will match donations made between February 24, 2022, and March 18, 2022, up to a maximum of \$10 million.

Ukrainian culture and traditions are deeply embedded in Saskatchewan, as approximately 15 per cent of our province's residents trace all or part of their ancestry to Ukraine.

JUNIOR CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

JUNIOR CITIZEN OF THE YEAR SCHOLARSHIP CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

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

These prestigious awards are given to youth who:

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

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

Visit www.swna.com for further information and nomination forms
Nominations close March 31, 2022

SaskPower Powering our future® **swna**

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

RM OF SHELLBROOK NO. 493 RM MAINTENANCE SHOP JANITORIAL

The Rural Municipality of Shellbrook No. 493 is currently looking for a Janitorial Contractor to clean the RM Shop located at 702 2nd Avenue East in Shellbrook, Sk. Cleaning will be done once a week and include washroom, lunchroom, boardroom and cleaning products are supplied.

Tenders will be accepted until March 15, 2022. To view please contact Administrator Duane Storey @ 306-747-2158. Tenders can be dropped off at the Municipal Office, 71 Main Street, Shellbrook or e-mailed to admin.493@sasktel.net.

Nadine Wilson MLA Saskatchewan Rivers



306-763-0615

www.nadinewilson.ca
saskrivers@sasktel.net

Bingo a popular SARCS event

By Bevra Fee

The Spiritwood Area Recreation Culture & Sport (SARCS) committee has been hosting bingo at the Rec Centre for several years, but last Tuesday's turnout was a record crowd. Nearly 50 players of all levels, from pro to novice, turned out on a chilly -30°C evening to enjoy being together and having fun with an entertaining pastime.

When quizzed about

the reasons behind the increased popularity of this month's bingo, Events and Rec Co-ordinator Kaeli Cross speculated that it was a possible combination of the ending of COVID vaccine passports, along with increased advertising and timing.

"I know a handful of people attended because the vaccine mandate ended, but another big factor is that we are on the February break," she said.

The volunteer caller for the evening was Louis Marion, who kept the games on schedule and the players on track with the typical Lucky 7, Speedo, and Wildcard games in the mix.

Hosting bingo in the Rec Centre's Mezzanine allowed for more enjoyment with a licensed venue, as well as confectionery food service. Meanwhile, in the nearby alcove furnished by the Spiritwood Curling Club, kids were able to enjoy the comforts of home while watching a movie as parents were occupied nearby.

Intermission during the games offered a special treat, with dessert being donated by Spiritwood

Pharmacy. Everyone enjoyed free apple crisp before gearing up for the final push for prize money.

Bingo is hosted by SARCS once each month, with the next one scheduled for the Ides of March (March 15).



Bingo players, left to right: Rylee Romulus, Kelly Swan, and Rachelle Beauchesne.



Louis Marion calls bingo.



Isabel Horn enjoying dessert at SARCS' bingo on Feb. 15.

Silvertips split semi-final games in Rosthern

The Shellbrook Silvertips hit the road for games one and two of their Twin Rivers Hockey League semi-final match-up with the Rosthern Wheatkings over the past week.

The Wheatkings have been a formidable foe for the Tips throughout the 2021-2022 season. When the teams met in Shellbrook in December, the Tips came out on the wrong side of a 6-5 decision. In the teams' second meeting in Rosthern, the Wheatkings claimed a more decisive 7-4 victory.

Seeking redemption for the regular season losses, the Tips skated away with a loss and a win, leaving the best-of-five series tied at 1-1 as the action returns to Shellbrook for games three and four.

Tips (2) vs Kings (4)

Kicking off the Twin Rivers Hockey League semi-finals in Rosthern on Wednesday night, the Silvertips started the game right, taking an early lead on a goal from Easton Neufeldt, assisted by Dylan Smith and Evan Williams.

The Wheatkings had an answer late in the frame, when Matt Hildebrandt struck on assists from Brett Blatz and Nathan Gardipy.

In a game that was hardly a shooter's gallery (the Tips fired just 26 shots on goal to the Wheatkings' 29), the second period brought the same number of goals, albeit in the opposite order.

Rosthern went up 2-1 on a goal from Tyler Olsen, assisted by Justice Gardypie and Blatz. Just a couple minutes later, Braidon Turner retaliated for the Tips, with assists from Gage Helm and Smith.

Starting the third period with the remainder of a powerplay, the Wheatkings didn't waste the man advantage, as Blatz found the back of the net with helpers from Jeremy Margeson and Jakob Tournier.

Try as they might, the Tips were unable to rally, eventually surrendering another goal to the Wheatkings with less than six minutes to play. Airik Price tallied, with assists from Ryley Hawkswood and Margeson.

Tips (8) vs Kings (4)

With a few days off to recalibrate and put together a new strategy, the Silvertips headed back to Rosthern Saturday night and came out playing like a team possessed.

Dylan Smith started the scoring early, taking assists from Jody Blais and Daryl Blais, and Gage Helm put the Tips up 2-0 with helpers from Mathew Kutnikoff and Smith.

Smith struck again near the midway point of the frame, thanks to an assist from Brendon Beaulac, but the Wheatkings showed they weren't out of it just yet when Jordan Swenson netted himself an unassisted goal.

In a second period that closely

mirrored the first, the Tips tallied another three goals while keeping the Wheatkings off the board to take a commanding 6-1 lead of the game. Jody Blais struck first, on assists from Daryl Blais and Dallas Galloway, then Daryl Blais and Galloway combined on another goal just two minutes later.

Rounding out the scoresheet, Helm netted his second of the game on an assist from Beaulac.

Down but not entirely out, the Wheatkings attempted to start a rally with a powerplay goal in the early going of the third period. Matt Pilon netted the goal, with assists from Airik Price and Swenson.

The Silvertips were quick to shut this down, as Beaulac connected with Dorin Canaday and Helm to push the score to 7-2, and Parker Turner tallied on assists from Nathaniel Martin and Smith to set the score at 8-2.

Penalty troubles dogged the Tips in the last four minutes of play, allowing Rosthern to tally twice and close the gap. Jordan Greeyes netted the first marker, with assists from Brett Blatz and Jeremy Margeson. Blatz scored the second, earning assists for Pilon and Greeyes.

Game three of the series was slated to be played in Shellbrook on Wednesday night. Game four, meanwhile, is scheduled for Sunday, March 6 at 6 p.m.

CONGRATULATIONS
Barb Kowerschuk



Winner of the **\$500 Gift Card of Your Choice** draw from Tru Stage - Purple Shield and Beau "Lac" Funeral Home. Barb selected **Spiritwood Home Building Centre** in support of local business.

Congrats Barb and thank you to all who entered!

Beau "Lac"
FUNERAL HOME & CREMATORIUM

Crop Insurance Deadline **March 31st, 2022**

Producers can continue to rely on the support, coverage and flexibility of the Crop Insurance Program now and in the future. March 31, 2022, is the deadline to apply, reinstate or cancel any Crop Insurance contract. Producers must select insured crops and coverage levels or make additional changes by this date.

For more information, contact a local SCIC office, call 1-888-935-0000 or visit scic.ca.



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

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

AGRICULTURE

March 3, 2022

www.shellbrookchronicle.com | www.spiritwoodherald.com

Shellbrook Chronicle & Spiritwood Herald 7

Sheep, goat investments a positive step forward

The other day a press release popped up in the email amid the dozens daily which caught my eye.

Marie-Claude Bibeau, the Federal Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, had announced an investment of \$495,000 for the Canadian Centre for Swine Improvement (CCSI) to enable stakeholders to work together to increase innovation and resiliency in Canada's sheep and goat industries.

That release was followed closely by another where Bibeau announced an investment of nearly \$150,000 for the Canadian Wool Council to help

build a more sustainable wool industry in Canada and spread awareness of the beneficial qualities of Canadian wool.

It wasn't the actual dollar amount that drew my attention — even at near \$650,000, the investment is hardly massive in today's world — but rather that the sheep and goat sector is garnering even modest attention in terms of government funding.

The sheep industry, in particular, has long been looked at by some as a farm sector with untapped potential in this country. When I say 'long' it is a reference to decades not years, dat-



CALVIN DANIELS

ing back to when I was still on a farm with a few sheep which never made us much money but were tasty to eat (the lambs at least).

However, eating lamb is not exactly ingrained in most Canadians, and for those wanting to put lamb on the supper table, finding domestically

raised product was often a sporadic thing with the source of a lot of supermarket lamb being New Zealand.

It has long been a case of trying to build a year-round production system to potentially grow the market for domestic lamb which has always been easier said than accomplished.

On the production side, you need year-round lambing, which is not so easily attained or managed, and then you need processing capacity.

When it comes to processing, we learned during the BSE crisis that much of that capacity had been lost to the

United States, leaving Canada in a bind at the time to process beef, and beef is a far larger sector than sheep and goats.

Certainly, the market today is likely more buoyant based on recent immigration from countries where lamb and goat are more often on the menu. But the same general challenges would seem to remain as decades ago.

The same can be said for the wool sector.

The press release noted, "environmental awareness has led consumers to be more particular about where they shop and what they buy, creating new op-

portunities for natural, sustainable and durable products. Developing Canada's wool industry will provide consumers at home and in international markets with a greater variety of sustainably produced products."

That may be said, but Canadian sheep producers have generally raised breeds for meat, not wool, and that has created challenges for where to market the wool at a reasonable return.

The new federal dollars have a lot of hurdles to squash for the sheep and goat sector to take the steps many have long thought it could.

NFU seeks fertilizer pricing inquiry

National Farmers Union President Katie Ward has reiterated the organization's call for an investigation into fertilizer pricing in her Feb. 17 presentation to the House of Commons Agriculture Committee's study on supply chain issues.

She said "Fertilizer companies charging exorbitant prices blame supply chain issues, yet these same companies are making huge windfall profits. The NFU has asked this Committee to investigate all the factors behind fertilizer prices, and we hope you will announce such a study very soon."

The recent publication of 4th quarter and year end results show that fertilizer company margins, profits, and

earnings are extraordinary. The companies themselves highlight huge net returns. Nutrien, Canada's largest fertilizer producer, notes "record financial results" and reports fourth quarter net earnings nearly four times higher than a year ago. CF Industries, the second largest producer, reports fourth quarter net earnings nearly eight times higher than a year ago. Yara International, also with significant Canadian production capacity, reports that for its operations in the Americas, "EBITDA [Earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization] excluding special items was 160% higher than a year earlier, as increased nitrogen prices more than offset higher energy

costs..." [emphasis added]. In many cases, the companies posted these higher net returns on lower production and sales volumes.

"The unparalleled profitability that Canadian fertilizer suppliers are realizing at the moment is disturbing by any measure of comparison," continued Don Ciparis, President of National Farmers Union—Ontario. "Canadian farmers are trying to cope with huge levels of farm debt while interest rates start to go up, and yet fertilizer companies are able to profiteer because there is next to no competition within this supply chain. It is all too easy for companies to re-name their profiteering as "inflation", but it is precisely this kind

of profiteering that fuels inflation."

"Everybody experiences supply chain problems from time to time. But when farmers encounter supply chain problems, either upstream or downstream, our profits go down—not up. The lack of competition within the fertilizer supply sector means that these companies can charge whatever they choose with no fear of being undercut by the competition. Profiteering is the result, and Canadian taxpayers — through the risk management programs — are shouldering part of the burden" said Doug Scott, NFU Board member from Alberta.

The NFU has renewed its request to the Ag Committee.

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

Fri., Mar. 4, 2022

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

Wed., Mar. 9, 2022

Regular Sale 9:00 a.m.

Presorted Internet Calf Sale 12:00 p.m.

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

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

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A Division of Northern Livestock Sales



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

Fri., Mar. 11, 2022

Bred Cow, Heifer & Pair Sale

feat. Artesian Angus 1:00 p.m.

Mon., Mar. 14, 2022

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

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

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FEEDER FINANCE PROGRAM AVAILABLE - Please contact Glen

Brent 306-240-5340 • Glen 306-960-4732 • Boyd 306-841-7998 • Frederick 306-227-9505

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

For market info visit: www.northernlivestocksales.ca

Canwood Library honours community supporters

In appreciation for the donation of a much-needed dehumidifier for Canwood's Wapiti Library Branch in our newest downstairs location, plus a "tabletop" Frigidaire, Canwood's Library Board had Canwood's Royal Purple Elks' name engraved on our Public Library Donors' plaque.

We also engraved on our library's Donors' plaque a recognition of Canwood's Affinity Credit Union Branch for their generous monetary donation. It will help with purchasing more books, additional shelving, and items for our Friday After School Kids Club gatherings.

Dannie Wreford, delegate from the North West District Council and past director from 1994 to 2020, also gave a personal monetary donation to our Canwood Library.

Our library board members, librarian, and library patrons, treasure our community support in helping us settle in our new, larger space.



Recognizing our Affinity Credit Union staff and delegate, left to right: Char Halter, Candis Dumais, Dannie Wreford, and Trenna Lukan.



Canwood's Royal Purple Ladies, left to right: Donna Lovberg, Eileen Hamborg, Lorraine Benson, Wendy Otterson, and Linda Young.

WP Sandin curling teams shine in competition



WP Sandin High School's mixed curling team, consisting of (l. to r.) Carson Ledding, Jake Boettcher, Payton Keyowski, Marcail Philp and alternate Lane Keyowski (not pictured), won the District Playoffs in Prince Albert on Feb. 11. They will be competing as district winners and host team in Shellbrook on March 4 and 5.



WP Sandin High School's men's curling team, consisting of (l. to r.) Lance Paton, Daniel Vidal, Sawyer Mamchur, Noah Verbonac, and alternate Mason Mamchur (not pictured), won the B event at District Playoffs in Prince Albert. They will return to Prince Albert for Regionals on March 4 and 5.

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
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.

- PARTNERS IN FAITH**
Lutheran/United/
Christchurch Anglican,
137-2nd St. W.
Spiritwood
Worship 11:00 a.m.
Rev. Sarah Urano
- 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

Highlights of a Shellbrook Town Council meeting

Shellbrook's Town Council met for its regular meeting in person and via teleconference on Tuesday, Feb. 22.

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 Feb. 7 meeting. With no business arising

from said minutes, and no delegations on the docket, council approved payment of the town's regular accounts, then moved on to provide its reports.

In the fire and rescue report, Mayor Otterson updated council on a recent talk with RM of Shellbrook Reeve Doug Oleksyn. Recently, there have been talks about building a new fire hall for the fire department. The town would like the RM to take the lead on this project, as most service calls are in the RM's jurisdiction. The Town would split the costs

of the project 50/50 with the RM, as it does all fire department expenses, and participate as needed.

Councillor Miller, meanwhile, wondered if the Town and the RM could develop a "grander" vision for the fire department and find ways to replace equipment or construct new buildings in a more expedient fashion.

In a lengthy chat about policing in the community, Hoare noted she had invited Sgt. Haggarty from the Ahtahkakoop-Shellbrook RCMP Detachment to attend a meeting and

hear some of council's concerns.

Councillor Batten lamented that a local church was broken into on Feb. 10 and, as of Tuesday's meeting, the police had yet to show up. Councillor Nording, who's daughter is an RCMP officer in Warman, expressed her long-standing disappointment with policing in the community, saying, "It's not right what's been happening here over the past years."

To this, Councillor Miller added that he and Hoare have begun an initial investigation of the idea of establishing a municipal police force. Most of council seemed opposed to exploring the notion, citing the cost of it.

Miller countered, "It's expensive, but we need to take into account what our ratepayers want. If they want security, that might be more important to them than other things we spend a lot of money on."

Miller also suggested that the town could talk to the City of Prince Albert

about having its police service do night patrols in Shellbrook, if having a local police force proved too costly. Though some councillors still seemed hesitant, Miller concluded by saying the idea at least warrants exploration.

Shifting to new business, council began with some housekeeping by unanimously giving three readings to Bylaw 2022-01, a bylaw to establish a water utility, and voting to enact it. The bylaw had to be passed by council as part of its partnership with the Prince Albert Rural Water Utility on a planned inter-municipal water pipeline.

Up next, council gave three readings to Bylaw 2022-02, the assessment exemptions bylaw, and voted to enact it as well, and carried motions to reverse a double charge on one account, in the amount of \$380.13, and an interest charge of \$41.29 on another account.

With all public health orders having expired as of Monday, council had a discussion regarding the

town's proof of vaccination policy for staff. In the end, council decided it should follow the lead of the province to avoid running into any issues with employees who may not be vaccinated (when asked, Hoare wouldn't say how many employees aren't vaccinated). Council agreed it should keep the policy on the books, in case it's ever needed again in the future.

Wrapping up the meeting, council discussed a complaint and a request for reimbursement from a ratepayer who had to pay for snow removal in the alley behind their property. Hoare noted the Town does try to clear alleys when time permits, but crews haven't had time this year.

Councillor Miller, meanwhile, said that most people who need back-alley access have equipment to clear snow or pay to have it removed.

In the end, council voted not to reimburse the ratepayer.

Council's next meeting is on Monday, March 7.

PARWU awards regulatory and permitting contract

A proposed water treatment plant and intermunicipal water pipeline being considered by the Town of Shellbrook, in partnership with the Prince Albert Rural Water Utility (PARWU), and the Rural Municipalities of Shellbrook, Prince Albert, and Duck Lake, is continuing to take steps toward certainty.

To this end, PARWU has announced the awarding of the contract for all regulatory and permitting matters related to the \$52.5 million project to Canada North Environmental Services (CanNorth), a private company owned by Kitsaki Management Limited Partnership, the investment arm of the Lac La Ronge Indian Band.

The RFP for this piece of the project, which will focus on regulatory requirements for aquatic habitat, environmental impact, heritage resource impact assessment, site evaluations, and the duty to consult, was sent to select companies in the fall of 2021.

CanNorth is expecting to begin environmental and heritage studies in the spring. Then, working in conjunction with PARWU, it will be marketing engagement opportunities early this summer to explore the positive and negative impacts as a result of the planning, construction, and operation of the project.

"The knowledge and expertise brought to the table by CanNorth is tremendous," said PARWU general manager Ken Danger. "The PARWU Board was astonished by the level of detail provided in each report. They investigate everything from amphibian auditory reports, and heritage resource impacts, to the engagement with the First Nations, Métis, and Stakeholders."

The idea for PARWU to build its own water treatment plant and the intermunicipal water pipeline was first floated at the start of 2021. When a feasibility study, conducted over the summer, showed the project was feasible, PARWU's board approved the purchase of a \$900,000 piece of land on Peter Pond Road to serve as the home and operations hub for the plant and pipeline.

Since then, PARWU's board has awarded a number of contracts related to the project, all with an eye to weeding out any fiscal uncertainties about the project before it votes to abandon the project or proceed with it.

Aside from the most recent contract awarded to CanNorth, three other contracts have been awarded.

Associated Engineering was first awarded the contract for the design of PARWU's new water treatment plant, and is expected to deliver a pre-design for the plant in early 2023.

More recently, the firm received the contract for the horizontal directional drill under the North Saskatchewan River, which is expected to be one of the most difficult pieces of the project. Under this contract, the firm will handle the planning for the horizontal directional drill, including a field investigation, a geotechnical exploration, and tender-ready documents for its completion.

Finally, the contract for the pipeline, hydraulic, and sizing design was given to Saskatoon-based engineering firm Pinter and Associates.

There are four pipelines incorporated into this portion of the plan: a line from the water treatment plant, a line going under the Shell River, and then a line continuing to Shellbrook. The fourth pipeline will connect to the river crossing under the North Saskatchewan River from the water treatment plant, and then will continue to PARWU's Gerald Barden Pumphouse on the south side of Prince Albert.

Phase 1 will entail the Hydraulic Analysis and Design of the Pipelines. Pinter will engineer layout schemes, barriers, determine the pipe requirements and any potential booster stations along the way. Phase 2 encompasses the detailed design, fine-tuning the cost estimates, and preparing the tender ready drawings and specifications.

The final plan for the pipeline engineering has a targeted completion for this spring.

With all this work getting underway, Brent Miller, councillor for the Town of Shellbrook and PARWU Steering Committee board member, expects PARWU to be in a position to make an informed decision about the future of the project some time in the fourth quarter of 2022 — depending, of course, on the question of funding and financing.

In the meantime, he's also anticipating the Town will give ratepayers an opportunity to share their thoughts and concerns about the project at some point this spring.

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.

CANWOOD: Canwood Regional Park "Facebook" On-line Auction - March 14th to March 20th. Bidding STARTS online Monday, March 14th at 5pm and CLOSES Sunday, March 20th at 5pm. Proceeds go to Canwood Regional Park to help funding for upcoming projects like 6 new campsites and a WATER SPRAY PARK in 2023! The Canwood Regional Park Facebook Page will be OPEN for VIEWING, Saturday, March 12th at NOON. For more information: Grant Person 306-893-8085 or Trevor Kvinlaug 306-468-4443

LEASK: Leask Sports Centre Ltd. - Open House, Free Skate & Annual General Meeting. Thurs., March 17, 2022, 4:00 - 7:30 pm | AGM @ 6:30 pm at the Sports Centre.

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Minutes of an RM of Canwood meeting

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

A regular meeting of the Council of the Rural Municipality of Canwood No. 494 was held in the Municipal Council Chambers, at 641 Main Street, Canwood, Sask., on Jan. 18, 2022, commencing at 10:39 a.m.

Present – Reeve Lyndon Pease, Administrator Lorna Benson and the following Councillors for their respective divisions: #1 Ralph Korody, #2 Dennis Benke, #4 Ray Duret, and #6 Leonard Smith.

Vacant: Division #3 & #5

Delegations:

9:30 a.m. Dwight Diehl, Public Works Supervisor, Municipal Operations Update

1 p.m. Councillor Indemnity Public Works Supervisor Dwight Diehl attended the meeting at 10:40 a.m.

Benke: That the minutes of the Dec. 14, 2021, Regular Council Meeting be approved. Carried

Benke: That the Statement of Financial Activities for the month of December 2021 for the R.M. General Account be approved as presented. Carried

Duret: That we approve the payments as listed on the attached account listing for a total of \$398,448.60 Council Direct Deposits for December and Payroll Direct Deposits for 2021 Pay Period 26 and for 2022 Pay Period 1 & 2. Carried

Pease: That in the matter of civic addressing we request the Controller of Surveys issue

an order to amend the plan recorded as Number 102030635 on the SW 30-52-04 W3, in the Land Surveys Directory by renaming the street referred to as Lakeview Avenue, Plan 102030635, to Lakeside Avenue, for the purposes of the provincial civic addressing registry. Carried

Korody: That in the matter of custom work, the Rural Municipality no longer provide this service effective Sept. 1, 2022. Carried

Korody: That we approve the Council's Indemnity as presented. Carried

Pease: That we authorize the following payments: Lamp-light Cuisine \$189, Ken Aiken \$985. Carried

Benke: That in the matter of planned procurement, the Rural Municipality of Canwood No. 494 intends to participate in one or more procurements offered through the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM) between Jan. 1, 2022, and Dec. 31, 2022. Carried

Benke: That we instruct the Administrator to make application to Service Canada for the 2022 Canada Summer Jobs for two public works general labourers. Carried

Korody: That we acknowledge the OHC Meeting minutes of Dec. 22, 2021. Carried

Benke: That we authorize the purchase of a Karrykrimp portable hose compact design crimper with a supply of hoses and fittings from Peerless Engineering Sales Ltd., Prince Albert, Sask. at a cost of \$55,500 plus applicable taxes.

Carried

Public Works Supervisor Dwight Diehl left the meeting at 2 p.m.

Duret: That we amend Resolution No. 38 of Dec. 14, 2021, by changing the wording as follows: "That we appoint Timothy Furlong, Kirby Fesser, Glen Neuert and Sabrina Sacucci as panel members and Mike Ligtermoet as secretary for the Board of Revision for the year 2022." Carried

Benke: That we amend Resolution No. 42 of Dec. 14, 2021, for the Canwood Public Library, by replacing Barb Person with Bev Wyatt. Carried

Benke: That we agree to purchase an additional \$3.0 Million Liability Insurance through S.A.R.M. at the premium rate of \$923 plus applicable tax (PST). Carried

Korody: That we instruct the Administrator to complete the required form(s) requesting cancellation of the respective leases and payment of taxes on provincial Crown land which is in arrears of taxes in accordance with the Provincial Lands Policy of the Ministry of Agriculture. Carried

Benke: That for the year 2022, the Reeve and each Councillor be insured under The Saskatchewan Workers' Compensation Act at the rate of \$38,442.00 per Council member. Carried

Benke: That the following rates of remuneration be set for 2022 Municipal Elections:

- Returning Officer \$300 plus \$0.60/km
- Deputy Returning Officer \$250 plus \$0.60/km

- Poll Clerk(s) \$200 plus \$0.60/km. Carried

Korody: That we designate the following polling place for 2022 Municipal Elections: R.M. Office, 641 Main Street, Canwood, Sask. Carried

Duret: That it be recorded in these minutes that the following Election Officials have been appointed by the Returning Officer:

- Division 1, 3, 5, Polling Station: Canwood R.M. Office, Deputy RO Michele Person, Poll Clerk Courtney Canaday
- Division 2, 4, 6, Polling Station: Canwood R.M. Office, Deputy RO Michele Person, Poll Clerk Courtney Canaday
- Nomination Officers (in the absence of the Returning Officer): Courtney Canaday and Michele Person. Carried

Duret: That in the matter of the correspondence from Jeremy Morin, Big River, Sask., advising Council of the improvement destroyed by fire in February of 2021, we hereby notify him that the house will be removed from the 2022 assessment roll. Carried

Smith: That we abate the 2021 improvement taxes on the NE-06-51-05 W3 owned by Jason Bischler, Canwood, Sask., as the house exemption was missed at assessment time. The abatement is as follows: Roll# 1207.100, NE-06-51-05 W3, Municipal: \$1,726.72, School: \$962.65, Total: \$2,689.37. Carried

Smith: That we advise the Community Planning Branch

of the Ministry of Government Relations that we recommend approval of the Application to Subdivide Land of Candice Armstrong, Shellbrook, Sask., for the purpose of subdividing Parcel A from the SW 3-54-07 W3 as the site exceeds the minimum site area requirements of Section 5 of the Municipal Zoning Bylaw 2003-7. Carried

Benke: That we approve the Development and Building Permit Applications of Bettina Correns, Saskatoon, Sask., to construct a cabin on Lot 17, Block 1, Plan 101955102, Lake Nebo, with approval pursuant to Section 9.1.1(l)(a) of the LD – Lakeshore Development District, Municipal Zoning Bylaw 2003-7. Carried

Duret: That we approve the Development Permit Application of Ben Wilson, Saskatoon, Sask., to remove a hazard tree that has died along the shoreline from recent flooding on Lot 1, Block 6, Plan 78B04973, Morin Lake. Carried

Duret: That we approve the Permit Extension or Renewal Application of Robert and Jantine Collins, Saskatoon, Sask., to complete cabin construction on Lot 6, Block 1, Plan 62B01425, Morin Lake, by Jan. 11, 2023. Carried

Benke: That we approve the Permit Extension or Renewal Application of Stacy and Shawn Schwindt, Martensville, Sask., to complete cabin construction on Lot 11, Block 1, Plan 101995102, Lake Nebo, by Jan. 11, 2023. Carried

Benke: That we now adjourn at 4 p.m.

GOOD NEWS



A MIRACLE OF SONG

I read recently, "Frederick M. Lehman was a California businessman that lost everything through business reverses. He was forced to spend his working hours in manual labor, working in a Pasadena packing house packing oranges and lemons into wooden crates. Not an ideal environment for writing love songs, but this was the environment the Lord chose to use."

Mr. Lehman was a Christian who rejoiced in his salvation. He was so moved by a Sunday evening sermon on the love of God that he could hardly sleep. The next morning, the thrill of the previous evening had not left him. As he drove to the packing house, the makings of a song began to come together in his head, with God's love as the theme.

Throughout the day, as he packed oranges and lemons, the words continued to flow. Perhaps he jotted down words on various pieces of broken crate as he went along. He could hardly wait to get home and commit these words to paper.

Upon arriving home, he hurried to

his old upright piano and began arranging the words and composing a melody to fit them. He soon had finished two stanzas and the melody to go along with them, but now what was he to do? In those days, a song had to have at least three stanzas to be considered complete. (A far cry from the songs of our day that only need have three words!) He tried and tried to come up with a third stanza, but to no avail. The words just would not fall into place.

It was then that he remembered a poem someone had given him some time before. Hunting around, he found the poem printed on a card, which he had used as a bookmark. As Mr. Lehman read the words, his heart was thrilled by the adequate picture of God's love they depicted. He then noticed this writing on the bottom of the card:

"These words were found written on a cell wall in a prison some 200 years ago. It is not known why the prisoner was incarcerated; neither is it known if the words were original or if he had

heard them somewhere and had decided to put them in a place where he could be reminded of the greatness of God's love - whatever the circumstances, he wrote them on the wall of his prison cell. In due time, he died and the men who had the job of repainting his cell were impressed by the words. Before their paint brushes had obliterated them, one of the men jotted them down and thus they were preserved."

Lehman went to the piano and began to voice the words with the melody he had just written. They were a perfect fit. It was a miracle! The song was published - and remains today - with these words as the last stanza.

In later years, the origin of these words became known to Alfred B. Smith, which reveals an even greater miracle in the writing of this song. The original third stanza was written in Hebrew around the year 1000 by Meir Ben Issac Nehoria, a Jewish Rabbi. God, knowing that Lehman was going to write a song, also realized that Lehman would have trouble

writing a third stanza and so He chose this Rabbi, who though not accepting Christ as the Messiah, did possess the skills to graphically paint a picture of God's love in words. He would preserve these words and then hundreds of years later He would have them translated by this prisoner into a language that did not as yet exist, namely English.

And to think, he did it in the exact meter to fit Lehman's melody!

"Could we with ink the ocean fill
And were the skies of parchment made,

Were every stalk on earth a quill
And every man a scribe by trade,
To write the love of God above
Would drain the ocean dry,
Nor could the scroll contain the whole

The stretched from sky to sky.
O love of God, how rich and pure!
How measureless and strong!
It shall forevermore endure
The saints and angel's song."

Blessings,
Pastor Bodvarson, SPA

Battle of Alberta starting to heat up

It may be irrelevant to a hockey fan in the Greater Toronto area, or to a puckster living in Raleigh, N.C., but to a Western Canadian, the Battle of Alberta is real.

This season in the National Hockey League appears to be no different, as Calgary Flames and Edmonton Oilers are once again in the hunt in the Pacific Division, with fans dreaming of another post-season playoff battle.

To date, the red-hot Flames are winning the lead-up to the battle, a few points ahead of the once-struggling but now back-to-normal Oilers. Edmonton coach Dave Tippett was fired in mid-February after a stretch of poor hockey capped by back-to-back home-ice losses to Vegas and Chicago in which they were outscored 8-1. New coach Jay Woodcroft produced immediate positive results, going 5-0 to start his stint with the Oilers, outscoring their opponents 22-8. Whether the new coach

will carry on that success through the rest of the season, or suffer the Bruce Boudreau effect (start fast, then level off) remains to be seen.

The Flames, meanwhile, have been surprisingly good most of the season. Superior goaltending from Jacob Markstrom has been a huge key, with the former Canuck who signed last year as a free agent with Calgary already posting eight shutouts, by far the best total in the league. As a team, the Flames' winning percentage and goals for-and-against differential are tops in the Pacific Division. Then, to add to that quality, general manager Brad Treliving went out and acquired top-six forward Tyler Toffoli from Montreal for the equivalent of two rolls of tape and a Jann Arden CD.

Toffoli, the long-time L.A. King who has since played for the Canucks and Montreal, is a five-time 20-plus goal man who will add a jolt of



BRUCE PENTON

offence to a team that's already in the upper half of scoring in the league, thanks to the play of Johnny Gaudreau, Matthew Tkachuk, Andrew Mangiapane and Elias Lindholm.

While the Flames get set to roll with Toffoli et al, their neighbours to the North are trying to figure out why they aren't an elite team while employing arguably the two best offensive stars in the league, Connor McDavid and Leon Draisaitl. Maybe the new coaching staff will change the atmosphere in the Alberta capital.

The Flames are almost

assured of a berth in the post-season, while there are no guarantees of playoff action for the Oilers, who must continue to perform as they did in the first few games under the new coaching staff. It just wouldn't be the traditionally exciting Stanley Cup playoffs without the two Alberta teams battling it out.

- Surfer Kelly Slater, 50, to AP, not worried about any retirement plans: "Everyone who retires from surfing just goes surfing more."

- Janice Hough of leftcoastsportsbabe.com: "Due to outrage about Kamila Valieva being able to keep her gold medal AND compete as the favourite for the women's figure skating gold medal despite positive test for banned supplement, I fully expect the IOC to say they will at least keep her out of the Baseball Hall of Fame."

- Gene Principe, Edmonton Oilers between-periods host, on top performers in a re-

cent game vs. Anaheim: "In the first period, it was Sonny (Milano). In the second, it was McLeody (Ryan)."

- RJ Currie of sportsdeke.com: "At the Waste Management Open, Harry Higgs lifted up his shirt after a two-putt par to get a reaction from the crowd. Which showed us, among other things, that Higgs needs better waist management."

- Headline at theonion.com: "Tom Brady spends first day retirement studying tape of people to learn how they work"

- Comedy writer Alex Kaseberg: "A Chinese news outlet revealed U.S. born-and-raised skier, Eileen Gu, has earned over \$42 million in Chinese endorsements since 2021. Interestingly, Gu is a Chinese word that means 'Ka Ching.'"

- Kaseberg again: "Not sure why I am such a fan of Olympic curling. It combines so many bad memories: ice, cold, shouting, sweeping and passing a stone."

- Kaseberg just keeps

on coming: "After being reinstated despite a positive dope test, Russian skater Kamila Valieva finished fourth. Finishing first? Karma."

- Comedy writer Marc Ragovin, on the Russian figure skater claiming she must have inadvertently taken her grandfather's heart medication: "No wonder her long program consisted of skating in circles with her turn signal on."

- Steve Simmons of SunMedia, on the NBA all-star game in Cleveland and recalling an old Wayne and Schuster airport crack: "Will all those flying to Cleveland please report to the gate to explain why?"

- Golf reporter Sean Zak, on Twitter, during the third round of the Genesis Invitational: "Adam Scott has now worn a tan sweater for three straight rounds. Still looking into it, but I believe that is a PGA Tour record."

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

Elks dominated by Dynamos in provincial quarterfinal

The U18 B Shellbrook Elks find themselves facing a steep uphill battle in their Provincial quarterfinals against the Dinsmore Dynamos, after losing game one of the series on home ice by a score of 9-0.

Prior to being goose-egged by the Dynamos on Sunday night, the Elks faced off against the La Ronge 89ers and squeaked out a pair of one-goal wins in

both matches of their best of modified three series. The Dynamos, meanwhile, had a longer road to the quarterfinal, steamrolling Melfort in their first round of playoffs, then topping Tisdale with a win and a draw.

If either team had a clear advantage over the other, neither showed it in Sunday night's series opener, as both teams were deadlocked in the early going of

the first period. All it took was an ill-timed penalty for the Elks, and the Dynamos were able to break the tie by tipping home a rebound. Rylan McLachlan netted what would go on to be the game winning goal, with assists from Ryder Meyers and Carter Edgar.

The Dynamos would strike again the next time the Elks took a penalty, when Cohen Larson scored with a top-shelf floater from the point. Otto Lammers assisted on the goal.

With the momentum from these two goals, the Dynamos all but took control of the game while the Elks struggled to find their skates and get shots on goal.

Early in the second period, the Elks finally managed to generate a handful of scoring opportunities, but any comeback hopes were dashed when the Dynamos struck again on a goal from Clay Gamble.

Gamble followed up with his second of the night just moments later, on an assist from Levi Erickson, after the Elks coughed up the puck in their own end. And the Dynamos refused to relent, pinning the Elks in their own end to go up 5-0 on a textbook setup from behind the goal. Reed McLachlan netted the goal, with helpers from Will Campbell and Larson.

The Elks would get a 5-on-3 powerplay late in the second stanza, but failed to make anything significant of it.

In the third period, penalties once

again proved to be the Achilles heel for the Elks, as the team surrendered another three goals on the penalty kill. Lammers struck first, with assists from Edgar and Larson, then Reed McLachlan tallied with a helper from Lammers. Finally, Rylan McLachlan netted an unassisted goal to put the Dynamos up 8-0.

The Dynamos kept the pressure on, opening the door for Colby Gibson to score the final goal of the night, with an assist from Rylan McLachlan. Meanwhile, another Elks powerplay late in the frame yielded no serious scoring opportunities, preventing the Elks from getting on the board.

After Sunday's beatdown, the Elks needed a win in Dinsmore in game two to force a shortened game three. Those games were scheduled to played Wednesday night.



Elks netminder Aiden Nett makes a huge stick save on a scoring opportunity for the Dinsmore Dynamos' Ryder Meyers, during action from game one of the provincial U18 B quarterfinals.

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OBITUARIES

*Floyd Edward Berg*

Floyd Edward Berg
April 21, 1932 – February 13, 2022

Floyd was born on the family farm near Laird, SK on

April 21, 1932. Floyd's school years were spent in Laird till Grade 8. He worked helping his parents with the livery barn, the butcher shop, and then later with the dray. The family moved to Belbutte in 1955, and Floyd stayed working in Saskatoon at that time. Within a few years, he moved to Belbutte to settle down and farm. In 1956 he met Dora Viberg, and they were married by 1958. They had two children. Kevin was born in 1959, and Kim followed in 1960. Horses, cattle, and pigs were part of their farming. They attended the Belbutte Church, and

when Mr. Schalm retired from pastoring, Floyd was asked to pastor the church. Floyd pastored in the church for more than 50 years. He held services at Spiritwood and Leoville Lodges for many years. In 1978, Floyd along with many volunteers, helped start the Timberline Bible Camp with Mr. Arneson from Battleford. After retirement, Dora and Floyd took many trips to BC to visit family, travelling across Canada, and to PEI and the USA. But the best trip was to Alaska. In Europe, they visited 10 countries and he had the chance to drive the

autobahn. His pride and joy were his grandchildren: Tessa-Rae, Cole, Clay, and Reed. Floyd spent every-day reading and studying the Bible that followed with prayer. He left us the following lessons by how he lived: Accept who you are and your limitations, you trusting God is enough. Be loyal to your friends and family and be there when needed, no questions asked. One of his favorite Bible passages: Trust in the Lord with all thine heart, and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths. Proverbs 3:5-6

Floyd is lovingly

remembered by his wife: Dora Berg, his children: Kevin (Natalie) Berg of Spiritwood, SK and family: Clay Berg (Robyn Voldeng) and Reed Berg, Kim (Ricky) Omelchenko of Saskatoon, SK and family: Tessa-Rae Nedelec (Aaron Kaliszewski) and Cole Omelchenko also numerous nieces, nephews, and other relatives.

He is predeceased by: his parents: William and Alvina Berg, his brothers and sisters-in-law: Willis and Jean Berg, Ivan and Elnora Berg, his brothers-in-law: Ken Agrey and Allan Viberg, his mother-in-law: Gunhild Ziegler and his father-in-law: Edwin Viberg.

A Graveside service was

held Saturday, February 19, 2022, 1:00 pm at the Belbutte Lutheran Cemetery with Pastor Lawrence Trafford officiating. Pallbearers were Floyd's grandchildren: Tessa-Rae Nedelec, Cole Omelchenko, Clay Berg and Reed Berg. Friends so wishing may make donations to Samaritans Purse in memory of Floyd Berg.

Family and friends wishing to send online condolences are welcome to visit www.beaulacfuneralhome.com. Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of Beau "Lac" Funeral Home & Crematorium, R. Mark Muir, Funeral Director, Spiritwood, SK, 306-883-3500.

Ella Mae Leach (née Reilly)

Ella Mae Reilly was born January 24, 1922. Making her 21 days short of 100 years old when she passed away Monday, January 3, 2022.

Her parents Albert and Olive Reilly lived at Green Mantle, west of Big River and mom had 2 siblings, Doris and Bill Reilly. They had a quarter section of land which they farmed. She lost her mother suddenly to an illness and was then depended on to help raise her brother and sister and help with the household chores. It was a very tough time in her life. She loved the animals, especially the mules and horses they had to do the farm work. She often talked fondly of the horses and mules in later years.

Mom was a teenager when a handsome bachelor moved onto the quarter next to them and they fell in love. She married Ivan Leach and soon started a family. Fern, Nancy, and Orville were the first 3 born in the Green Mantel area. Then came Melvin, Ellen, Caroline, Jeannie, Raymond, and Vernon. A family of nine children came from that union.

Mom's life was not easy, caring for nine children, I'm sure it was no picnic.

After moving here and

there, eventually dad and mom bought a quarter of land in the Delaronde area and they got the farm they always wanted.

Mom was very happy as she was a farm girl and enjoyed having a mixed farm with cows, horses, chickens, pigs, dogs, and cats. Our whole family was excited.

Her kids were growing up and we all had a job or 2 to do. Mom's physical health was not really good, so we all did our share. Things were pretty primitive; log house needed the cracks mudded and still was cold. Dad was no carpenter, so everything was lacking as far as comfort was concerned, but it was home... our home.

However, after many years the family helped mom and dad build a house which was modern and warm. Ella was happy. She learned to drive late in life. Caroline says she got her license the same year as her mom which was 1968. Mom was 46 years old. From that time forward when the car left the yard, Ella was behind the wheel. It gave her a new found independence.

Mom loved her grandchildren, but she never really fussed over them. There were so many that she didn't think she could favor any. But her love shone through because the grandchildren all had their own relationship with grandma. Going fishing with grandma, first at the creek every spring and as she got older it was the dock and the swimming hole on Cowan. Chad, Kent, Dean, Tanya, Terence, Lacey and on and on went fishing with grandma.

Raymond's boys lived near her and had fond memories of time spent and treats from grandma. She liked playing

cards, especially kings on the corner with grandpa and the kids. She joined the senior citizens finally, because she didn't feel old enough for some time. She enjoyed their activities and company at her choice. Mom loved music and singing. She bought us an accordion and guitars to promote our learning. She loved to sing along when the family was singing.

Mom enjoyed the company of small dogs and had 3 at once when she lived in the trailer. Shadow, Freddy, and Zoe were good company, and they kept her active by running away and mom would have to get in her car and find them.

Mom had sad times to deal with too. She lost her daughter and son in law Joe in a car accident and her grandson Kent to cancer. She persevered and carried on, but they were big losses.

Ella had the misfortune of breaking her foot and ended up in the Big River Long Term Care. Her foot did not heal, and she could no longer look after herself at home. She moved into the lodge in 2015 and was still very alert and enjoyed activities and the staff and ended up spending 6 years there.

Dementia slowly took over and was a journey of frustration, good days became few and far between and with COVID restrictions it was almost impossible to keep up the family support that we were so proud and happy to do when she was first there.

Mom passed away on January 3, 2022 only 21 days to her 100th birthday. She had been so looking forward to this milestone and to celebrate with everyone.

Ella is survived by her



It is with heavy hearts the family of Mrs. Karin McGratten, resident of Rabbit Lake, SK announce her passing with family by her side on Sunday, February 20, 2022 at the age of 81 years. Interment was held prior to the Funeral Service at the Spiritwood Cemetery and the Funeral Service was held at the Fields of Hope Mennonite Church East of Glenbush, SK with Pastor Keith

children, 24 grandchildren, 55 great grandchildren, 22 great-great grandchildren.

Fern Martin and family Elaine Dyck (Jamie); Greg Martin (Cindy); Norma Ostrass (Rod); Terry (Jim) Collins.

Nancy (Kurt) Fast and family Neil (Carol) Fast; Diane (Jerry) Toovey

Carolyn Leach (daughter-in-law) and family Sheldon (Cari) Leach; Dani (Chris) Brown; Raeleen (Jason) Mccutcheon; Rochelle (Eric) Jacobsen; Trina (Clint) Kerr; Terrance Leach

Melvin (Jeanette) Leach and family Jolene Johnson; Trevor Leach (Jennifer Moyer)

Ellen (Paul Fonos) and family Dean (Leanne) Fonos; Tanya (Brian) Pratt

Klippenstein officiating.

Mom is lovingly remembered and survived by: Mary (Marcel) Tetreault of Leoville, SK & children: Brigitte (Brian) Johnson of Medstead, SK & great-grandchildren: Mackenzy, Owen and Everly, Melinda (Landon) Laventure of Leoville, SK & great-grandsons: Keaton and Hudson, Landon Tetreault (Serena Liu) of Saskatoon, SK, Shelby (Jordan) Henri Turgeon of Turtle Lake, SK & children: Jordan (Janelle) Turgeon of Lloydminster, AB & great-grandsons: Ellis and Rhodes, Shawn Turgeon & Fiancé, Luke Thwaites of Squamish, BC; Kathleen (Vince) Martinello of Mont Nebo, SK & children: Justin Mueller of Saskatoon, SK, Megan (Steve) Blackwell of Kitchener, ON, Jason (Lindsay) Mueller of

Caroline Wilson (Norman Desjardins) and family Lacey Wilson; Maxine Wilson (daughter-in-law)

Grandson Chad Lukan (son of Jeannie and Joey)

Raymond (Laurie) Leach and family Brian Leach; Craig Leach; Adrian (Kim) Leach

Vernon (Karen) Leach and family Janine Leach and Megan Leach

Her special friend Eleanor Homenuik, numerous nieces, nephews, and other relatives

Ella is predeceased by her husband Ivan Charles Leach, her parents Albert and Olive Reilly, her daughter and son in law Jeannie and Joey Lukan, her grandson Kent Wilson, her son Orville Leach and 6 children at birth. Her brother and sister Bill Reilly

Brantford, ON; Christine (Corey) Penner of Glenbush, SK & children: Brittany (Adam) Kotun of Spiritwood, SK & great-grandsons: Zayden, Huxley, and Sawyer, Brett (Katie) Penner of Glenbush, SK and great-grandson, Maverick; Melody Laventure of Lloydminster, AB & children: Brecken, Tyson and Ashton.

Mom was predeceased by her parents: Walter and Mary Kuchta; daughter, Stephanie; her first husband, Norman McGratten; her spouse, Dymtro Lychak; sister, RoseMarie; three great-granddaughters: Kinsley Laventure, Hannah and Chloe Penner.

Memorial donations in memory of Mrs. Karin McGratten may be directed to the Rose Gill Lodge - Po Box 157 Rabbit Lake, SK SOM 2L0

Funeral arrangements were entrusted to Trevor Watts of Eternal Memories Funeral Service & Crematorium.

and Doris Sandry.

Her sons-in-law Ken Martin and Marty Wilson.

The family would like to thank everyone who was part of mom's life. The Senior Citizens, the wonderful staff at BRHC, Home care staff whom she appreciated so much, and all her special friends in and around Big River. Thank you for being there for her and making her at home wherever she needed to be. She was very loved by her large family and will be missed by all.

Memorial Donations in Ella's memory may be directed to Big River Health Centre Auxiliary. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the care of Beau "Lac" Funeral Home and Crematorium, Big River SK.306-469-2277.

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Until we meet again. Sadly missed and forever loved, Lucy and Family



CELEBRATION OF LIFE



A Celebration of Life for the late Rick Gunderson formally of Mont Nebo/Shellbrook District will take place on Saturday March 26, 2022 1:30 PM at the Shellbrook Elks Hall.

Soils in Winter - Part II

By Patricia Hanbidge

Last week we delved into what is happening in the soil when winter arrives. We learned how the water within the soils freezes and that it is important to keep the frost levels from going deeper into the soil by ensuring our gardens are watered prior to freeze up. Thankfully, Mother Nature often takes care of this chore for us with late fall rains or early snows that melt into the soil.

We introduced the soil food web which is still living below the frost layer there in winter. There are many techniques used by plants, animals and even the tiniest critters that allow them to survive the winter. Some animals will burrow beneath the frost layer in the soil and either hibernate or exist on stored food but some of the soil animals have evolved to withstand temperatures below freezing. At least five species of frogs in North America make their own natural antifreeze which allows them to become completely frozen for long periods of time without suffering serious damage to their cells. Many of the soil microbes (bacteria and fungi) are active in winter months. Studies done in Antarctica, show microbial life in permanently frozen ground or permafrost.

Many of our plants that are perennial in nature and grow in cold climates are also able to withstand extremely cold temperatures due to evolving factors. Some will develop root systems below the frost layer while others will also develop an antifreeze-like

situation. The roots will release a lot of water into the surrounding soil and within the cells themselves a higher concentration of sugars and salts will lower the freezing point of the water that is still within and between the cells.

Other tiny organisms within the soil are able to survive by living in a microscopic film of water that adheres to soil particles. The bond energy between the water molecules and soil particles is so great that the thin layer of water does not freeze even at extremely low temperatures. The microbes living within this unfrozen water are able to survive and continue to work consuming organic matter and exhaling carbon dioxide. It is important at this point to think about the fact that a handful of soil contains more microbes than there are humans on earth! Being confronted with facts that are incomprehensible, we are getting into the real science of soil!

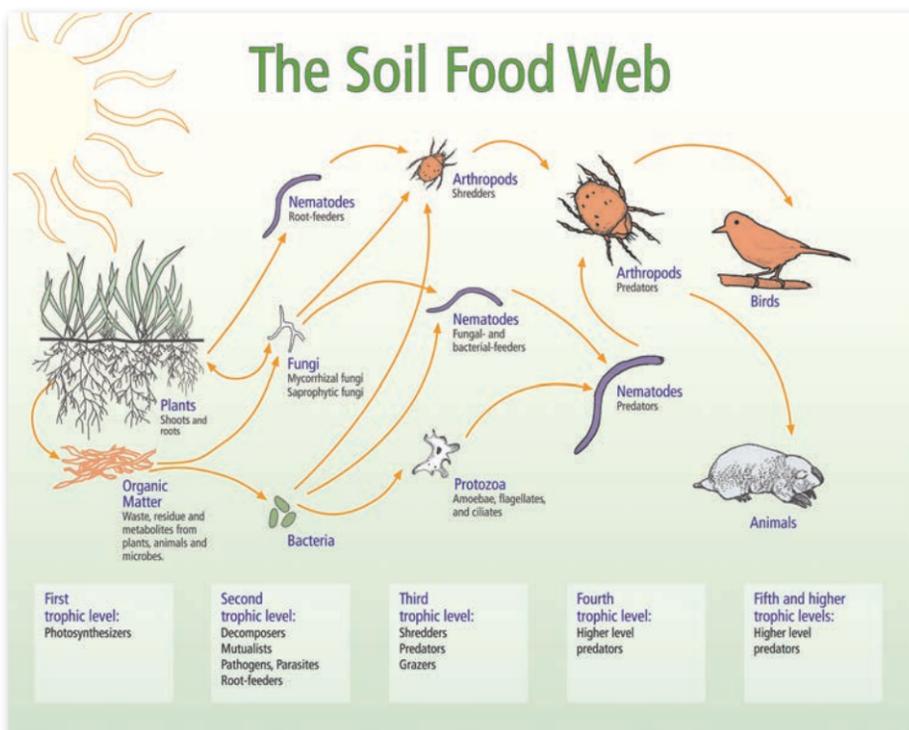
Microbes, like bacteria and fungi, need food and energy to live. They depend on soil for their homes and their work is to decompose organic matter as well as weather rocks and minerals which provides nutrients within the soil in a form that plants can use. Many species of fungi will overwinter in the form of spores which, as the soil warms, they begin to sprout, sending out masses of thread-like hyphae. Fungi recycle chemical elements that

would otherwise remain locked up in dead plants and animals. Some decompose plant debris as they utilize the carbon and energy that come from the breakdown of dead and decaying plants. Bacteria perform a wide range of chemical transformations which are critical to growing and maintaining a healthy food supply. These millions of different microbes that live in the soil create a biodiversity that is in the most part beneficial to human health. It is our job to ensure that we do our part to keep our soils healthy!

A soil that is rich in organic matter helps these microorganisms to overwinter without harm. Recently, it was discovered that archaea microorganisms are likely the most ancient living things on earth. They have been found in every known environment including Yellowstone's hot springs to ice floes in the Arctic. As they can live and reproduce in extraordinarily harsh ecologies, they are called extremophiles or lovers of the extreme!

Watch next week for the final article devoted to soils in winter and learn about how to keep your soil healthy and the role that larger organisms play in the soil food web.

Hanbidge is the Lead Horticulturist with Orchid Horticulture. Find us at www.orchidhort.com; by email at info@orchidhort.com; on facebook @ [orchidhort](https://www.facebook.com/orchidhort) and on instagram at [#orchidhort](https://www.instagram.com/orchidhort).



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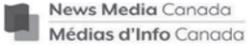
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Sask. COVID mandates come to an end

After nearly two years of COVID-related public health measures, it's back to life as normal in Saskatchewan.

Saskatchewan has become the first province in Canada to lift all COVID-19 restrictions as it transitions to treating the virus like a common respiratory illness.

The Saskatchewan Party government on Monday removed its two remaining pandemic health orders, which included mandatory masking in indoor public places and a requirement to self-isolate for five days if positive for the infection.

The province had previously scrapped its vaccine passport mandate on Feb. 14, and shifted from daily to weekly reporting of COVID-19 data.

Dr. Saqib Shahab, the province chief medical health officer, said residents should be optimistic, but added that people who have not had a vaccine booster shot should get one.

"Booster shots are extremely

protective against hospitalizations," Shahab said. "The best thing we can do for ourselves, and reduce pressure in the health-care system, is to get boosted."

So far, Saskatchewan is one of the provinces with the lowest uptake on booster shots in Canada, and immunization rates appeared to be declining as the province stripped away all public health measures.

In the weekly EPI report for Feb. 6 to 12, just 11,000 first or second boosters were administered. Comparatively, the weekly report for Feb. 13 to 19 reported 7,600 booster doses being administered.

As of Feb. 20, 51.28 per cent of Saskatchewan residents aged 18 and over had received a booster, putting the province ahead of Alberta, which is well below the national average at 44.5 per cent.

The last weekly report before all measures were dropped also

showed a decline in hospitalizations, with 372 people in hospital compared to 410 the week prior, and 27 ICU admissions compared to 32. Deaths also dipped to 37 from 42 in the week of Feb. 6 to 12.

Though all public health measures have been removed, the province is keeping its emergency order in place to allow it to shuffle around healthcare personnel to meet any surge demands.

In the meantime, Dr. Shahab is urging Saskatchewan residents to be cautious, especially around those who may be at higher risk.

"Sometimes it may be someone in class or you are visiting someone that's immune suppressed or has other risk factors, just being extra careful around them," he said. "I will still keep my best mask and wear it in crowded, indoor locations if it's not with people I'm usually with."

On the same day the province's final public health measures were lifted, the Saskatchewan Health Authority announced that long-term care homes will begin to move to open family presence, with the exception of a small number of homes where enhanced precautions are deemed necessary by the local medical health officer.

"This return to pre-pandemic family presence protocols provides the opportunity for all residents to welcome more family and visitors," the SHA said in a release. "Family members/support people are essential to the well-being and care of residents, and the SHA has remained committed to allowing as much family presence as safely possible throughout the pandemic."

The SHA says outbreaks in long-term care facilities will continue to be managed on a case-by-case basis, with the commitment to maintaining a minimum of essential family

presence with additional precautions — an approach it says is more closely aligned to outbreak management for other communicable diseases.

The SHA also says homes will continue to maintain safety protocols, and processes will remain in place for enhanced protocols when necessary (for example, if an outbreak is declared). The SHA will continue to use information from residents and families through the Family Presence Expert Panel to guide decision-making as they transition to Living with COVID takes place.

As of Feb. 22, 55 per cent of SHA long-term care homes (including affiliates) had already transitioned to recovery family presence, accepting additional family and visitors, which is part of the progression to open family presence.

The status of all long-term care facilities can be found on the SHA's website.

Sask., Feds continue crop insurance support

Federal Agriculture and Agri-Food Minister Marie-Claude Bibeau and Saskatchewan Agriculture Minister David Marit have announced details of the 2022 Crop Insurance Program.

"The resilience and determination that prairie producers have shown through this incredibly challenging year is an inspiration to all Canadians," said Bibeau. "The drought of 2021 demonstrated the value in risk management programs, such as Saskatchewan's Crop Insurance, to ensure producers have the best coverage to meet their needs. I encourage producers to continue to subscribe to government programs and private insurance that will protect their crops against ongoing climate-related challenges."

"Reflected through the historically high claim year, the challenges Saskatchewan farmers and ranchers faced during the 2021 growing season reinforces the importance of our Business Risk Management Programs," Marit said. "The Crop Insurance Program remains an actuarial sound program, with strong funding. Producers can continue to rely on the support, coverage and flexibility of the Crop Insurance Program, as they work toward the future of their operation."

Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation (SCIC) continues to provide relevant pricing and coverage levels. Average

coverage will reach a record level of \$405 per acre, due to higher commodity prices and increased yield coverage. Due to this year's 48 per cent increase in coverage, the average total premium is higher, at \$12.05 per acre, compared to \$8.59 in 2021. The average premium rate is lower, due to the strong production in 2020. As there is a one-year lag when calculating premium rates, 2021 production is not used until 2023.

"We appreciate the changes to these programs for 2022-23," SARM President Ray Orb said. "SARM has always valued working with the Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation and the Ministry of Agriculture to make programs better for our producers and looks forward to that continued collaboration in the future."

Last year, producers faced a provincial-wide drought, resulting in reduced available moisture to pasture and hay land. In response to experiencing extreme heat temperatures and dry growing conditions, a heat adjustment factor was added to rainfall data used in claim calculations for the Forage and Corn Rainfall Insurance programs. When temperatures reach 31 degrees Celsius or higher, precipitation amounts are now reduced in the 'monthly per cent of normal' calculation. This adjustment helps recognize the impact of extreme heat on forage

and corn yields.

"Business risk management programs are critical tools for producers to address market volatility and severe weather conditions," Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association President Kelcy Elford said. "We appreciate SCIC responding to producers needs to make coverage levels more reflective of increased forage costs and to adjust for moisture loss due to extreme heat."

With the Contract Price Option, producers can use their contract prices to blend with the Crop Insurance base price for higher coverage. This allows producers to establish an insured price reflective of the actual market value they would receive for their production. New for 2022, this price option is available on all commercial crops. New crops added include fababeans, Khorasan wheat, fall and spring rye, sunflowers, triticale, winter wheat, extra strong wheat, hard white wheat, all classes of chickpeas, caraway, irrigated dry beans and soybeans. Producers can select the crops they want covered under the Contract Price Option by March 31, 2022, and submit their contracts to SCIC by May 31, 2022.

"We appreciate the changes SCIC has made to the Contract Price Option," Saskatchewan Pulse Growers Chair Shaun Dyrland said. "It could be an attractive

option for pulse growers with the new inclusion of chickpeas, soybeans and fababeans."

March 31, 2022, is the deadline to apply, reinstate or cancel their Crop Insurance contract. Producers must select insured crops and coverage levels or make additional changes by this date. Producers can speak to their local SCIC office to make any changes or coverage will remain the same as the previous year.

SCIC provides a diverse and relevant suite of risk management programs: AgriStability, Crop Insurance and Livestock Price Insurance. Producers can reduce their risk by reviewing all SCIC options to find the right insurance and coverage package for their operation. For more information, contact a local SCIC office, call 1-888-935-0000 or visit *scic.ca*.

Crop Insurance is a federal-provincial-territorial Business Risk Management program under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership. Under Crop Insurance, premiums for most programs are shared 40 per cent by participating producers, 36 per cent by the Government of Canada and 24 per cent by the Government of Saskatchewan. Administrative expenses are fully funded by governments, 60 per cent by Canada and 40 per cent by Saskatchewan.

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