

New Co-op Agro Centre nearing completion



Construction on Lake Country Co-op's new Agro Centre continued over the summer, keeping the location on schedule to open mid-November.

By Jordan Twiss

After years in the making, Lake Country Co-op's new Agro Centre and fertilizer plant are nearing the finish line, with mid-November being eyed as a potential opening date.

Work on the facility, located at 400 7th Street East in Shellbrook, began at the start of 2022 with construction of the fertilizer plant. Further groundwork and development were completed in the spring.

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

Brian Kindt, VP of agriculture for Lake Country Co-op, says the new facility will be a modern take on what the existing Agro Centre has been doing since its inception. However, the expansion will require the hiring of four or five additional staff members.

"Our current facilities have been there for

40 to 50 years," he said. "Quite frankly, our customer base has grown, and we need to grow along with it to meet their needs. The old facility's just too tiny, and it doesn't meet the needs of the modern farm anymore."

One thing that remains to be decided, is what will become of the current Agro Centre on Railway Avenue — and, of more immediate concern to some Shellbrook residents, the gas station.

"Lake Country Co-op is currently exploring our options for this location," Kindt had said when construction began (the *Chronicle* reached out to see if anything had changed but didn't hear back prior to deadline). "The current bulk fuel tanks and existing fertilizer plant will be decommissioned while retail gas pumps will remain open at this location for the foreseeable future."

When Lake Country Co-op initially brought forward its plans to build a fertilizer plant in 2019, and Shellbrook's Town Council quickly moved to rezone the land in question to industrial from highway commercial to accommodate the company's plans, ratepayers expressed concerns about

the facility.

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

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

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

"The addition of a berm and treed shelter belt also minimizes any movement of dust, wind, and noise into and out of the location,

while providing the desired look of a well-kept facility within the community," Kindt added.

Though many locations could have been considered for the new Agro Centre, Kindt says the strong community support from Shellbrook and the surrounding communities made the decision to build in Shellbrook "an easy one," especially given the location's 20 years of continual growth.

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

For his part, Tim Keller, CEO of Lake Country Co-op, sees nothing but upside.

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

With files from Rebecca Fajt



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Ukrainian family settles in Shellbrook

On Feb. 24, everything changed for Olena Nesterenko, her daughter, Mariia Pozdnyakova, and Mariia's daughter Sofia Pozdnyakova, who once called Kharkiv, Ukraine home.

"Sofia went to ballet school and music school, everyone had a job, and we lived well," Mariia recalled of their life before Russian forces invaded Ukraine. "But on Feb. 24, our lives were cut short by the war. In the morning, at 5 a.m. we woke up to an explosion."

"We spent two days in the subway in Kharkiv, because it was scary to go outside with everything being bombed," Olena added. "Then, we couldn't stand it because it was very cold. So, we stayed home and sat in the basement for four days."

Three days into the invasion, Sofia's school was destroyed by Russian forces. Olena, Mariia, and Sofia drove by the destroyed building when they decided to leave Kharkiv. As they made their escape from the city, all they could hear was the sound of bombs exploding and bullets flying.

They drove around Ukraine for five days, running into traffic jams created by those who, like them, were trying to escape the violence and devastation. Two weeks later, they found themselves in Poland. After that, they ended up in Germany near Dusseldorf,

where they moved around between homes and hostel-like living arrangements.

Once they began to get settled, Olena, Mariia, and Sofia started the long and complicated process of applying to relocate to Canada, a country they had read a lot about, and one they hoped would be peaceful and offer opportunities to work.

Due to delays with Mariia's passport and Visa, a flight that would have brought them to Canada on July 1 had to be abandoned. Fortunately, the second time was the charm, and the family touched down in Regina on Aug. 16, before making their way to their host home in Shellbrook.

"We really like the silence after the war and the explosions. We wanted to live in a quiet and cozy place, and when we arrived, our expectations were met," Olena said. "We really like to live in Shellbrook, because it is

quiet and people are friendly here. Nature is beautiful, especially the trees. The sunsets are great, and the deer are running around. But we haven't seen bears yet."

Using her experience in retail, Mariia got a job at Shellbrook Bigway just two days after arriving in Shellbrook. Meanwhile, 11-year-old Sofia is enrolled in Grade 6 at WP Sandin High School.

While their lives have fallen into a routine closely resembling normalcy, Olena says they all still think about and miss their home every day, and worry for the loved ones they left behind in Ukraine.

"We are very worried about friends and relatives. Many men cannot leave, but they do not fight either because now there is a strong professional army."

For Olena, Mariia, and Sofia's host, who cannot be named because they work in corrections, the oppor-

tunity to serve as a host arose when they made an online profile in a group called Saskatchewan Hosts Ukraine.

After communicating with five or six families, each of which was hoping to settle in or closer to a city, they were connected with Olena, Mariia, and Sofia, who were looking to live in a smaller community like Shellbrook, and began exchanging messages and video calls daily.

While some might wonder why they wanted to host a family, they would simply ask, "why not?"

"I live in a great, big four-bedroom house alone with a cat. I have room. I have the means to this. Why not?" they said. "I'm hoping this will encourage other people in our community to think about it, too, because it's been nothing but a blessing."

Thus far, they say they've been amazed by the generosity of the community,

which has stepped up to provide enough furniture and clothing for 10 people to make use of. A kind community member even agreed to provide English as a second language instruction for Olena, Mariia, and Sofia, free of charge.

Despite this, they say there's still a way to go until the family is settled in.

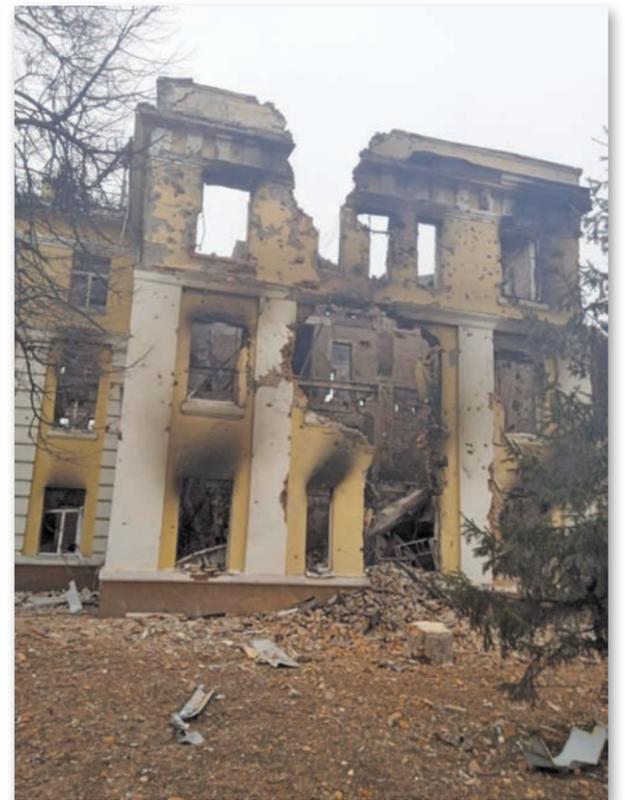
"They're very traumatized," they said. "We haven't started any kind of counselling yet. We'll get their English a little better before we try."



From left to right: Olena Nesterenko, Sofia Pozdnyakova, and Mariia Pozdnyakova have settled in Shellbrook after escaping the war in Ukraine.



Shortly after the Russian invasion began, they spent a few days hiding in their basement. Sofia (right) is pictured with other children.



Sofia's school in Kharkiv was one of many buildings to be destroyed by Russian forces.

NOTICE OF CALL FOR NOMINATIONS RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF CANWOOD NO. 494

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that nominations of candidates for the offices of:

- Councillor for Division No. 2
- Councillor for Division No. 4
- Councillor for Division No. 6

will be received by the undersigned at the municipal office during regular business hours until Wednesday, October 5, 2022, at 4:00 p.m. local time.

Nomination forms may be obtained from the municipal office located at 641 Main Street in Canwood.

Dated this 8th day of September, 2022.

Lorna Benson
RETURNING OFFICER

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Canwood Elks' Community Centre, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

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or Barb 306-468-7711 ~ \$25/table

FORM H
[Section 66 of the Act]

R.M. of Medstead No. 497 Notice of Call for Nominations

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that nominations of candidates for the offices of:

- Councillor: Rural Municipality of Medstead No. 497 - Division No. 2
 - Councillor: Rural Municipality of Medstead No. 497 - Division No. 4
 - Councillor: Rural Municipality of Medstead No. 497 - Division No. 6
- (Even Numbered Divisions will be elected for a four-year term.)

will be received by the undersigned on the 5th day of October, 2022 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Municipal Office, and during regular business hours on September 15th to October 5th, 2022 at the Municipal Office.

Nominations forms may be obtained at the following location:

Municipal Office

Dated this 8th day of September, 2022.

Christin Egeland
Returning Officer

FORM H
[Section 66 of The Local Government Election Act, 2015]

NOTICE of CALL for NOMINATIONS RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF BIG RIVER NO. 555

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that nominations of candidates for the offices of:

- Councillor: Rural Municipality of Big River No. 555 Division No. 2
- Councillor: Rural Municipality of Big River No. 555 Division No. 4

will be received by the undersigned on the 5th day of October, 2022 from 8:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. local time and during regular business hours on September 15th to October 4th, 2022 at the RM Office located at 606 First Street North, Big River, SK.

Nomination Forms must be accompanied by a completed version of the RM's Public Disclosure Statement, as required pursuant to *The Municipalities Act* and *The Local Government Election Act, 2015* and a Current Criminal Record Check required pursuant to the RM of Big River No. 555 Bylaw 1/20.

Nomination forms along with the RM of Big River No. 555 Public Disclosure Form may be obtained from the RM Office.

Dated this 15th day of September, 2022.

Michael Yuzik
Returning Officer

NOTICE OF CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF LEASK NO. 464

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that nominations of candidates for the offices of:

- COUNCILLOR FOR DIVISION NO. 2
- COUNCILLOR FOR DIVISION NO. 4
- COUNCILLOR FOR DIVISION NO. 5
- COUNCILLOR FOR DIVISION NO. 6

Will be received by the undersigned at the municipal office during normal office hours until Wednesday, October 5th, 2022 at 4:00 p.m. local time.

Nomination forms may be obtained from the municipal office located at 231 1st Ave South in Leask.

Dated this 15th day of September, 2022.

Riannon Nelson
Returning Officer

Sask. unveils healthcare recruitment plan

As Saskatchewan's pandemic-battered healthcare system continues to grapple with the challenge of filling more than 1,500 job openings, the Government of Saskatchewan has released further details on its four-point plan to recruit, train, incentivize, and retain healthcare workers.

Connected to the 2022-2023 provincial budget, and Saskatchewan's Growth Plan, the strategy will see the government spend \$60 million over the "next several years" to fill vacancies in healthcare and keep them filled.

"Bolstering our healthcare workforce through competitive recruitment efforts is a top priority for our government, and we are expanding on our four-point plan to recruit, train, incentivize, and retain healthcare providers to stabilize and steadily grow the provincial workforce," Minister of Health Paul Merriman said.

"We will be actively marketing Saskatchewan both within and beyond our provincial borders to ensure people here at home, across Canada and globally know Saskatchewan is a great place to find healthcare opportunities, build your career and enjoy a high quality of life."

Recruit

The government says hundreds of new healthcare workers will be recruited over two years from abroad and newcomers interested in working within the healthcare sector.

Additionally, senior Ministry of Health officials will lead a healthcare recruitment mission to the Philippines this fall to promote available opportunities to work in Saskatchewan, and a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is being negotiated with the Government of the Philippines on the Recruitment of Filipino Healthcare Professionals.

Elsewhere, four new health system navigators will come onboard this fall to help internationally educated healthcare workers with moving into healthcare positions, settlement, and orientation.

A provincial call is being put out to unlicensed internationally educated healthcare professionals (IEHPs), and others with healthcare experience currently living in

the province and Canada, who may be eligible for training or employment to join Saskatchewan's healthcare workforce.

Train

The government says Saskatchewan is the first province in Canada to introduce an accelerated training, assessment, and licensure pathway for internationally educated nurses that includes supports for overseas recruits to settle and start work in the province. The first cohort from the Philippines will begin online training in Fall 2022, prior to arriving in Saskatchewan.

Further program possibilities will be identified with post-secondary partners to ensure sector needs are met, such as additional training seats and the potential for new professions such as Physician Assistants.

Lastly, 150 nursing seats have been added in Saskatchewan's registered nursing, registered psychiatric nursing, and nurse practitioner education programs.

Incentivize

The government is launching a new incentive program, which will provide up to \$50,000

over three years for a return-of-service agreement for hard-to-recruit positions, mainly in rural and remote areas.

The Government also offers a suite of financial incentives including loan forgiveness programs, bursaries and supports to those interested in a health career within Saskatchewan, for example:

The Student Loan Forgiveness Program encourages nurses and nurse practitioners to practice in rural or remote communities, by forgiving up to \$20,000 of their Saskatchewan Student Loans.

The Graduate Retention Program provides income tax credits of up to \$20,000 to graduates of eligible post-secondary programs who live and work in Saskatchewan. Nurses and nurse practitioners who are eligible for the Student Loan Forgiveness Program may also qualify for the Graduate Retention Program.

The Final Clinical Placement Bursary is offered to students in an eligible health discipline that requires the completion of a final clinical placement as part of training.

Retain

To keep healthcare professionals in the province, 100 new permanent full-time positions will be added, and 150 part-time positions will be converted to full-time permanent positions for high-demand professions in rural and remote areas.

New mentorship programming will be advanced and peer-to-peer support programming will be enhanced, and the SHA will work with partners to develop a First Nations and Métis recruitment and retention strategy.

"This ambitious action plan will guide the health system as we train and recruit more health professionals and encourage them to practice in communities where they are most needed," Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, Seniors and Rural and Remote Health Everett Hindley said.

"By including competitive incentive packages and focusing on key retention practices, we will expand our healthcare workforce, stabilize health services across the province, and build a stronger healthcare sys-

tem ready to meet the needs of a growing province."

The province's healthcare recruitment strategy received mixed reviews from the Opposition NDP, which highlighted that only 14 of 26 measures contained in the plan are new ideas. Opposition Health Critic Vicki Mowat also noted that the plan doesn't address immediate problems, and leaves the healthcare system at least 500 employees short.

"The plan announced today is something the government should have

been doing for years. Instead, they sat on their hands and made excuses while Saskatchewan's hospitals were being run into the ground," she said. "While it's good to see action on our call for full-time positions and training seats, nearly half of what was announced today are repackaged old policies."

"Pledging to hire a thousand healthcare workers two years down the road when the SHA has fifteen hundred job postings today – and likely many more vacancies – simply won't cut it," she added.

Notice of Statement of Dissolution and Notice to Creditors

Be advised that on November 15, 2021, the members of The Belbutte Community Hall Co-operative Association Ltd. passed a special resolution authorizing the voluntary dissolution of the co-operative under the provisions of *The Co-operatives Act, 1996/The New Generation Co-operatives Act*. The resolution was approved by the Registrar of Co-operatives on May 5, 2022.

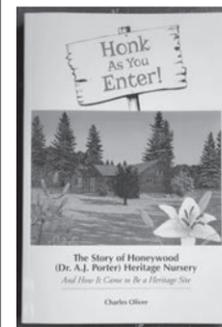
Be further advised that:

Lloyd Johnson of Belbutte, SK and Connie Gatzke of Belbutte, SK were appointed liquidators.

Be further advised that:

- any person who is indebted to the co-operative is to render an account and pay to the liquidator any amount owing at Belbutte, SK by October 1, 2022;
- any person who possesses property of the co-operative is to deliver it to the liquidator at Belbutte, SK by October 1, 2022; and
- any person who has a claim against the co-operative, whether liquidated, unliquidated, future or contingent, is to present particulars of the claim in writing to the liquidator not later than two months after the first publication of the notice.

Liquidator of the Co-operative



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Lake Country Co-op

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Our Lake Country Co-op team provides a range of products and services to support our 50,000 member-owners in 19 different communities. Through the work that we do and annual sales of over \$500 million we help to build, fuel, feed and grow our communities together.

If you have a positive, upbeat attitude apply today in person at our Shellbrook Home Centre to be part of the Lake Country Co-op team.

ATTN: Keith Mason

Team Leader, Shellbrook Home Centre

keith.mason@lakecountrycoop.ca or 306-747-2101

We thank all candidates for their interest; however, only those selected to continue in the recruitment process will be contacted.



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Sanderson case highlights flaws of justice system

For as long as anyone can likely remember, there has always been a profound philosophical and ideological divide when it comes to the Canadian criminal justice system.

Some believe it to be too punitive – or, at least, far too focused on punishing criminals. They believe incarceration should be more about rehabilitating offenders, so they serve their time and become functioning members of society, rather than acquire new skills to become better criminals while in jail.

Others see our criminal justice system as a joke (albeit, a bad one), a toothless institution that spits hardened criminals back out onto the streets with little more than a slap on the wrist, thereby endangering our communities.

Oddly enough, the unspeakable and tragic violence perpetrated by Myles Sanderson against the James Smith Cree Nation and the community of Weldon on Sept. 4, suggests both philosophical camps may be right.

Sanderson's criminal history has rightfully come into question in the aftermath of his rampage, which left 10 dead and at least 17 injured (to say nothing of the emotional and psychological damage he caused).

Over the span of two decades, he racked up a staggering 59 criminal convictions, many of them for assault, assault with a weapon, uttering threats, assaulting a police officer, and robbery. He also demonstrated a clear proclivity for knives.

In 2015, he was convicted of trying to kill Earl Burns by repeatedly stabbing him with a knife, and also attacked and injured Joyce Burns. Earl and Joyce were listed as his in-laws, and for the violent assault, Sanderson was sentenced to serve two years, less a day.

In November 2017, Sanderson was charged in Regina with both assaulting someone and possessing a sawed-off shotgun. He was also charged on the same day with robbing a restaurant. The weapons charge was dropped, but



JORDAN
TWISS
~
News Editor

he was convicted for the assault and robbery, receiving concurrent sentences of nine months and three years in federal prison.

Somehow still free seven months later, Sanderson was arrested again for stabbing two members of the James Smith Cree Nation with a cheese knife. During his arrest, he assaulted an RCMP officer, and was sentenced to another 569 days in prison, to be served alongside his other two sentences.

All these events clearly foreshadowed the violence of Sept. 4, during which Earl Burns was one of the 10 victims killed. However, they're only the tip of the iceberg.

Sanderson also had a lengthy rap sheet of domestic abuse charges. He'd been charged with assaulting his long-time partner, Vanessa Burns, five times since 2011.

In the first instance, when he was just 21, the charges were withdrawn and Sanderson received six months probation.

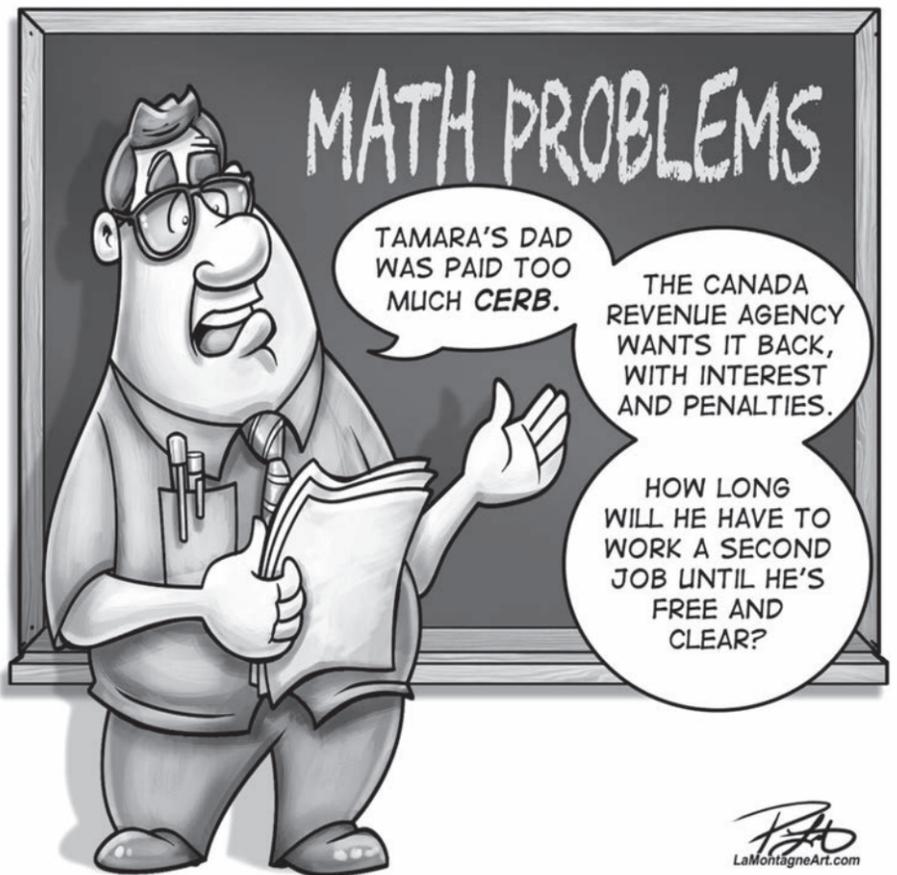
A year later, he was sentenced to two months in custody and 18 months probation.

And again, in January 2013, he was sentenced to another two months in a provincial corrections centre and ordered not to contact Vanessa – an order he showed no regard for, as he was charged with assaulting her again in 2015 and 2018.

Despite his long record of crime and violence, Sanderson was not considered an undue risk to society by the Parole Board of Canada as recently as February.

"To your benefit, you do seem to have maintained sobriety, obtained employment, engaged a therapist, were engaged in cultural ceremonies, had obtained a home for your family, and appeared to have been making good progress on reintegration," the Board wrote.

"It is the Board's opinion that you will not present an undue risk to society if released on statutory release and that your release will contribute to the pro-



tection of society by facilitating your reintegration into society as a law-abiding citizen," the decision continued.

The decision, which came with a number of conditions, was opposed by Sanderson's community parole supervisor, who was concerned about his "deceitful actions and attitude."

By May, Sanderson had breached his release conditions and found himself back on Crime Stoppers' wanted list for being "unlawfully at large."

Now, the only silver lining to be found is in the knowledge Sanderson will never again be able to harm another person.

I've always been of the opinion that all but the worst offenders should be given a second chance, an opportunity to reform themselves, make amends, and contribute to society upon their eventual release from prison.

If we want a country with lower crime rates and fewer criminals, we don't get there by locking more people in cages. We get there by addressing the root causes of crime.

Doing so would come with a cost, of course, but surely it would pale in comparison to the cost of incarcerating the nearly 38,000 adults who were in Canadian prisons in 2018/2019.

At an estimated annual cost of

\$116,000 per inmate, that's more than \$440 million per year. Comparatively, the cost of maintaining an individual in the community is pegged at \$31,000.

That all said, it's impossible to muster this sense of charity and sympathy for someone like Sanderson, who was given a dozen chances to change and availed himself of none of them.

Those who chose to release Sanderson had full access to his history of violence and criminal behaviour and even classified him as a high risk to violently reoffend. Yet somehow, they simultaneously saw no reason to believe he posed an "undue risk to society."

It's nonsensical. A clear failure of Canada's criminal justice system, both to give Sanderson the adequate tools to reform himself, and to realize he was irredeemable and hold him accountable for his actions.

As we move forward, these inexcusable failures will need to be discussed and remedied. In the meantime, we must rally around the James Smith Cree Nation, support it, and mourn the needless victims: Thomas Burns, 23; Carol Burns, 46; Gregory Burns, 28; Lydia Gloria Burns, 61; Bonnie Burns, 48; Earl Burns, 66; Lana Head, 49; Christian Head, 54; Robert Sanderson, 49; and Wesley Petterson, 78.

Shellbrook Chronicle

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Phone 306-747-2442 or Fax 306-747-3000

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

C. J. Pepper, Publisher

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

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

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

Karen Stene, Bookkeeping/Reception
accounting@sbchron.com

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

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Member of



VIEWPOINT

Highlights of a Shellbrook Town Council meeting

Shellbrook's Town Council met for its regular meeting in person and via teleconference on Tuesday, Sept. 6.

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 Aug. 15 meeting. With no business arising from said minutes, council welcomed delegates Tasha Cyr and Gayle Draper, who were attending the meeting on behalf of the Shellbrook Kinettes to discuss a pair of matters.

Up first was a recommendation from the Recreation Committee to keep the curling lounge open for the "Chase the Lucky 7 Fundraiser" on each Friday starting Oct. 7, 2022, through June 30, 2023. Council's only concern with this recommendation was the matter of adequate staffing, but later in the evening it voted to approve the recommendation. Hoare also floated the idea of contacting the owners of Arnie's Grill, to see if they'd be interested in keeping the canteen on the hockey rink side of the arena open.

Moving on, council and the delegates discussed a request to have the rental rate for the Community Hall waived for an upcoming fundraiser the Kinettes are hosting for a local family. Council said it would be unfair to waive the rate, but said the group would be charged the fundraiser/charity rental rate. Understanding council's position, Cyr and Draper departed, allowing council to move into reports.

In her CAO report, Hoare informed council that Craig Young had been offered the Community Safety Officer position. Young will have to complete a Sask. Polytech course, and be outfitted, so no start date has been set.

In his hospital and clinics report, Mayor Otterson said the arrival of two new physicians has helped reduce wait times for appointments. Prior to this, he said, the aver-

age wait time had been 13.6 days.

Rounding out the reports with an update on the library board and staff, Hoare said she was still waiting to hear back on when Wapiti will be looking at hiring a permanent librarian for the Shellbrook Public Library.

Moving on to new business, council started with a pair of housekeeping items by approving the list of tax arrears and reversing a double invoice on an account in the amount of \$725. In between these two items, it tabled discussion of the position descriptions for municipal building and grounds employees, namely for the building and grounds lead hand and the manager of recreation and community development.

Up next, council discussed declaring Truth and Reconciliation Day (Friday, Sept. 30) a statutory holiday. The day is a federally regulated holiday, and some municipalities are following the federal government's lead. In the end, council voted not to implement the holiday, and instead to continue to offer its recognition of Truth and Reconciliation at the beginning of each council meeting.

Bylaws were up next, with Bylaw 2022-07, the admin-

istration bylaw, receiving second reading, and bylaws 2022-08, the nuisance abatement bylaw (unsightly), and bylaw 2022-09, the traffic and ATV bylaw, both receiving first readings.

Council also reviewed and approved revisions to municipal policies 4000 and 4004. Policy 4000 sets out guidelines for hours of work, overtime, and days of rest for town employees, while policy 4004 establishes guidelines for holidays and on-call hours for town employees.

Continuing with new business, council approved a recommendation from the Recreation Committee to purchase a laser levelling system for the Olympia at the rink for a cost of \$21,420.00 plus taxes. Mayor Otterson said the thickness of the ice at the Richardson Pioneer Recreation Centre needs to be managed, as thicker ice is more costly to maintain. Council agreed to make use of the money the town is expecting to receive from Field of Dreams to cover the expense.

Closing out the meeting, council agreed with another recommendation from the Recreation Committee to leave the fitness instructor rate at \$50 per hour.

Council's next meeting will be Monday, Sept. 19.

The Shellbrook Housing Authority is seeking MAINTENANCE AND GROUNDSKEEPING CONTRACTORS

Reporting to the Manager, these contract positions are responsible for the maintenance of the buildings and grounds of the Shellbrook Housing Authority. Contractors are invited to bid on either or both opportunities and expected to provide their own tools and equipment including a vehicle and cell phone.

Maintenance Contract duties include: ensuring the exterior and interior of all buildings are kept in a state of good repair; ensuring timely attention to maintenance issues (light fixtures and lighting in good working order, replacing, fixing, correcting all building components); performing minor plumbing repairs (unplug toilets, changing taps) and minor carpentry repairs; conducting routine inspections (boilers, fire extinguishers and crawl spaces); acting as a contact person for the housing authority (tenants, service personnel and trades); and ensuring capital assets are maintained in good repair and operated in an efficient, effective manner. Work must be completed in accordance with relevant building code and standards.

Grounds-keeping Contract duties include: snow and ice removal from all public entrances, parking lots and sidewalks within 48 hours of snowfall; maintaining lawns, shrubs, flowerbeds and garden areas during the entire growing season -- fertilizing, watering, weeding and edging/cutting lawns not in excess of 1.75 inches. The general appearance of all grounds, parking and outdoor storage and trash collection areas must be neat, well-kept and free of garbage/litter at all times. This work is limited to Heritage and Homestead Place, duplexes and any unoccupied rental units.

Prospective Contractors are invited to quote on one or both contracts and supply resume outlining experience and qualifications by September 24th to:

Shellbrook Housing Authority
Lorraine Saam, Chair
P.O. Box 687, Shellbrook, SK S0J 2E0
Or email to waylor.saam@sasktel.net
306.747.3755

Leaders listen

As summer ends and we move into fall, families are settling into autumn routines. Happy, smiling children are back to school. People are wrapping up summer activities moving on to fall yard work. Many people I have spoken to chose to take up gardening this year, and are now busy with food preservation. Agriculturally, most of our producers are looking forward to a bountiful harvest after amazing harvest weather.

The mood of Saskatchewan people in general is optimistic. However, there is an underlying sense of caution as to how deeply the federal and provincial governments will intrude upon us as winter approaches.

Saskatchewan grain farmers, who already follow the most rigorous agriculture protocols in the world, are wondering about the 30 per cent fertilizer emission reduction that has been decreed from Ottawa. While our Premier has said the province won't implement it, producers want to know exactly how the Saskatchewan government intends to protect them from federal government overreach.

Regarding livestock producers, I was pleased to see the government respond to requests for expansion to the Saskatchewan Loan Forgiveness for Veterinarians



NADINE WILSON
MLA
~
Saskatchewan
Rivers
306-787-0615
saskrivers@sasktel.net

and Veterinary Technologists program. In January 2022, I supported these requests with a letter to Premier Scott Moe advising him of the critical status of this industry. As a result, Prince Albert's Park Range Veterinary Services is now included in the program, whereas it had previously been shut out. (See a copy of the letter at <https://nadinewilson.ca/?p=709>).

Good things happen when elected officials take time to truly listen to the public. Consultation of the public needs to be done in public, so all can be

heard. Closed door meetings by invitation is not true consultation. It simply creates an echo chamber to justify decisions already made.

We need elected officials who will consistently make listening their priority, rather than wait until people feel the need to protest the actions of government. This is the difference between being a real leader and being just another career politician.

With the recent messaging that is coming from the Canadian Prime Minister, will the current Saskatchewan government just follow along? Or will it show leadership and use a 'Made in Saskatchewan' approach when making decisions?



Looking for a career in healthcare?

The Saskatchewan Health Authority has full and part time opportunities available in a variety of healthcare professions including:

- Registered Nurses
- Licensed Practical Nurses
- Continuing Care Assistants
- Combined Laboratory & X-Ray Technologists
- and Support Services*

View job opportunities for these professions and more by scanning the QR code or by visiting: healthcareersinsask.ca/opportunities

*Includes Environmental Services Worker, Food Services Worker, and Administrative positions



Healthy People, Healthy Saskatchewan
The Saskatchewan Health Authority works in the spirit of truth and reconciliation, acknowledging Saskatchewan as the traditional territory of First Nations and Métis People.

www.saskhealthauthority.ca

PCE enjoys sun and fun at Memorial Lake

The staff and clients of Prairie Community Endeavours ventured out to Memorial Lake Regional Park on Aug. 30 to enjoy the sunny weather.

They started their day by making a list of what they needed to pack for a wiener roast. Then, with staff assistance, the members gathered their items and packed them into the van.

They had a wiener roast, including marshmallows, and afterwards went for a walk in the park. They also had a lively game of yard Yahtzee. Everyone enjoyed the beautiful weather and spending time with friends.

This event was held in memory of past Board member Jerome Weiland.



Staff and clients of Prairie Community Endeavours traveled to Memorial Lake Regional Park for some late summer fun.



Campfire-roasted marshmallows made for a perfect dessert after the wiener roast.

Poilievre wins PC leadership in landslide

The Conservative Party of Canada will head into the next federal election with Pierre Poilievre as its leader, after the MP for Carleton, and the leadership race's presumptive frontrunner, was crowned the victor Saturday evening.

If the contest can be called a race, Poilievre's competitors barely made it out of the starting blocks before he'd crossed the finish line. Poilievre claimed the leadership on the first ballot with 68.15 per cent of the vote from Conservative Party members, and won in all but eight of the 338 ridings across Canada.

Poilievre's chief rival, former Québec Premier Jean Charest, claimed the remaining eight ridings,

but garnered just 16.07 per cent of the points allocated in this preferential ballot election.

As for Poilievre's other opponents, Conservative MP Leslyn Lewis — the lone social conservative candidate in the race — took just 9.69 per cent of the points. Former Ontario MPP Roman Baber, a vocal critic of COVID restrictions, took 5.03 per cent, while MP Scott Aitchison, a former mayor in Ontario's cottage country, took about 1 per cent of the points.

Poilievre dominated this leadership race all along. He racked up big caucus support — 62 MPs and seven Conservative senators supported this candidacy — and raised more than \$6.7 million.

Charest, by comparison, was endorsed by 16 MPs and raised just \$2.7 million.

Poilievre's decisive victory after a sometimes-ugly race was seen as a positive step forward and a means to unify the party ahead of taking on Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's Liberal government.

"Today, people feel like they have lost control of their pocketbooks and lives. Tonight begins the journey to replace an old government that costs you more and delivers you less — with a new government that puts you first," Poilievre said.

"Your paycheque. Your retirement. Your home. And your country. By tackling Liberal inflation, we'll put you back in control of your money and your life."

Though the next federal election may be years away, here's what Poilievre promised through-

out the leadership race:

Energy: Poilievre has promised to cancel Ottawa's carbon price on consumer goods and build more pipelines. He says Canada would rely on technology to tackle its greenhouse gas emissions but hasn't provided further detail.

Budgets: He promised to enact a "Pay-As-You-Go Law" that would cap federal spending at its budgeted amount and force it to find savings when something new is added. Poilievre says emergencies such as natural disasters and pandemics would be exempt from his rule, but new spending projects would require officials to look at existing budgets to find what can be cut or changed to curb spending.

Freedom of expression: Poilievre said a government led by him would promote free speech on university campuses

by withholding federal funding to institutions that don't commit to doing so. He also promises to appoint a former judge as a "free speech guardian" to probe any alleged violations.

Bank of Canada: Poilievre pledged to adopt a bill first introduced by former Conservative leader Andrew Scheer, who helped with his campaign, that would subject the central bank to the federal auditor general. He also received intense criticism for a promise to fire Tiff Macklem as the Bank of Canada governor over the country's high rate of inflation. Poilievre also promised to ban the central bank's proposed digital currency, although early in the campaign he also pledged that a Poilievre government would make it easier for Canadians to use cryptocurrencies such as Bitcoin.

Housing: Poilievre said he'd force cities such as Toronto and Vancouver to increase new home build-

ing by 15 per cent, under threat of losing federal funding, in an effort to bring down housing prices. He also promised a slate of other measures, including paying an extra \$10,000 to municipalities for every new home that is built, and converting federal properties into affordable housing.

Immigration: He promised to incentivize provincial governments to ensure licensing bodies rule on newcomers' applications within 60 days. Poilievre also said he would provide more study loans to those immigrating to Canada who need extra training to meet licensing requirements.

Plain language: In his last pledge, Poilievre said a government led by him would eliminate government jargon to make government policies easier for people and businesses to understand. He also said he'd introduce an online portal for the reporting of any jargon in government documents.

SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

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

Qualifications:

- Class 1A 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: As soon as possible

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

Please submit resume by September 21, 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 S0J 1M0

R.M. of Leask No. 464 Employment Opportunity

Superintendent of Public Works

The Rural Municipality of Leask No. 464 is looking for a Superintendent of Public Works to provide leadership and organization of the Public Works Department. Experience in the operation of heavy equipment and possession of a class 1A driver's license is an asset. A job description is available from the R.M. office. The successful candidate will be employed full time. Normal hours of work are from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday to Friday. Some overtime may be required. This position is not part of a union and includes a full benefit package.

Please send resumes, including certifications, references, valid driver's license and a criminal record check to:

Box 190, Leask, SK, S0J 1M0, Fax: (306) 466-2091, Email: rmleask.464@sasktel.net.

Deadline for applications is 4:00 p.m., October 5, 2022.

For more information call 306-466-2000. Only those applicants chosen for an interview will be contacted.

HELP WANTED

Public Works Assistant – R.M. of Leask No. 464

The R.M. of Leask No. 464 is taking applications for a part time public works assistant in the municipal office. The position is for 1 to 3 days per week but may occasionally be a full week. The office hours are 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Duties will include Public Works Program set up and data entry, payroll processing and includes other duties as assigned. The ability to work well with the public and other staff is important. Experience is not necessary but an aptitude for accounting is also an asset. The successful applicant will be provided with a fair hourly wage based on experience, as well as benefits.

Please forward your resume to:

Riannon Nelson, Administrator
Box 190, Leask, SK, S0J 1M0, Fax: (306) 466-2091,
Email: rmleask.464@sasktel.net

AGRICULTURE

SHELLBROOK CHRONICLE & SPIRITWOOD HERALD

7

SEPTEMBER 15, 2022 • FALL AGRICULTURE EDITION

Change is constant on the farm

When you have grown up on a farm in the 1960s and 70s, it is almost beyond belief the changes in farming we see today.

It was a mixed farm for me, and that meant pigs and grain.

In my youth I hauled a lot of ground grain to feed the pigs, using cleaned five-gallon pails that originally were filled with some weed spray or another.

Looking back over some 40-years it seems like it was such a crazy thing, but repurposing the pails was pretty standard. I'm pretty sure potatoes came from the garden to the cel-

lar bin in similar pails.

Of course, I clearly recall Dad taking plugged nozzles off the sprayer, his gloves getting soaked in the process, and then simply blowing out the nozzle with his breath.

Knowing what we do now, it's hard not to wonder what health problems were caused in a time when we didn't know better, or were reluctant to change. Dad lived to a considerable age, his heart giving out one day, but one wonders.

The world of farming then was of course so different it's perhaps not fair



CALVIN DANIELS

to compare.

Pig pens on many farms were still cleaned with a fork, shovel and wheelbarrow, and bedded after with straw – another job I actually minded less than you might expect, as I liked being around the stock.

It was the same in terms of how crops were grown. Summer fallow was still the norm, half the land sitting fallow every year, growing weeds that were killed by more tillage, but not generating production to sell.

Today, continuous cropping is the norm, and in the process of putting added acres into crop production, topsoil doesn't blow away as it did in my youth.

That is the thing about farming, it is always evolving.

Sure, a combine today still has a passing resemblance to the one my dad

and neighbours used, but the size and technology is vastly different. It's like my dad used a biplane and today farmers fly stealth jets.

I recently read about dairy farmers using satellite images to improve management of pastures. Suddenly there is picture data behind moving cows to a new pasture, not just following a long-term pattern.

Of course, when I was young, rotational grazing to maximize pastures was just in its infancy in terms of being a widely accepted practice. And of course,

change is not new in farming.

My grandfather farmed with horses, binders, and threshing machines, living long enough to see even bigger combines, and a man walking on the moon.

We are no longer farmers. This is my connection to the sector now, but I do wonder what farming might look like as my son hits his 60s in a few scant decades.

Farms will still no doubt produce food, but how they do that will certainly be different than it is today.

Crop Report: Aug. 30 to Sept. 5

Last week's conditions allowed producers all over the province to make great progress with their harvest operations. Forty-two per cent of the crop has been harvested across the province, up from 23 per cent last week and slightly ahead of the five-year average (2017-2021) of 40 per cent. An additional 20 per cent of the crop is ready to swath or straight-cut. Crops that were not ready for harvest have quickly ripened after a stretch of warm and dry days.

The southwest region continues to lead harvest operations with 83 per cent of the crop now combined. The west-central has 61 per cent of their crop harvested, the southeast 33 per cent, the northwest 28 per cent, the east-central 27 per cent and the northeast 21 per cent.

Winter cereals are very close to being completed with 96 per cent of winter

wheat and 84 per cent of fall rye harvested. Ninety-one per cent of lentils and field peas, 70 per cent of durum, 52 per cent of barley, 40 per cent of spring wheat and 22 per cent of the canola crop has now been combined.

The current estimated averages of crop yields are 43 bushels per acre for hard red spring wheat, 30 bushels per acre for durum, 34 bushels per acre for canola, 34 bushels per acre for field peas and 1,174 pounds per acre for lentils. Crop yields in the southwest and west-central regions have been greatly affected by the extremely hot and dry conditions experienced during critical growing stages this season; yields are significantly lower in these areas than the provincial averages.

There was very little rainfall across the province this past week which allowed crops to ripen to a point where they could

be harvested without delay. The Prince Albert area received 13 mm and the Garriek area received five mm.

Cropland topsoil moisture is rated as one per cent surplus, 42 per cent adequate, 34 per cent short and 23 per cent very short. Hay and pastureland topsoil moisture is rated as one per cent surplus, 35 per cent adequate, 39 per cent short and 25 per cent very short.

The majority of crop damage this past week was attributed to wind and grasshoppers. Strong winds blew swaths around fields and will result in yield loss and a difficult harvest for affected producers. Strong winds are likely to shell out very ripe crops leading to crop yield reductions as well. Grasshoppers will continue to be a significant problem until conditions are less favourable for them. Producers have noticed a slight increase of ergot fungus

in their cereal fields this year, likely due to the increase in precipitation received during the crop flowering stage.

Crop producers are busy combining, swathing, desiccating, baling straw and hauling bales. Livestock producers are busy moving cattle, hauling water and taking inventory of their winter feed supplies.

With harvest underway in Saskatchewan, we want to remind producers to take breaks, exercise caution and remain safe. Remember to ensure lights and reflectors are in good working order when moving equipment. We ask motorists to remain vigilant and to exercise patience when traveling around or near farm equipment on the highway.

A complete, printable version of the Crop Report is available online: <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/crop-report>.

MEADOW LAKE LIVESTOCK SALES LTD.



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

Wed., Sept. 28, 2022
Special Yearling & Regular Sale 10:00 a.m.

Wed., Oct. 5, 2022
Regular Sale 10:00 a.m.

Presorted Internet Calf Sale 12:00 p.m.

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

the electronic auction market
team
www.teamauctionsales.com

Your independently owned & operated livestock marketing facility - working with the producers' best interest in mind

FEEDER FINANCE PROGRAM AVAILABLE - Please contact Brent

Brent 306-240-5340 • Blair 306-240-9883 • Brody 306-240-6504

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

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

PRINCE ALBERT LIVESTOCK SALES

A division of Northern Livestock Sales



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

Mon., Sept. 19, 2022
Regular Sale 8:30 a.m.; Presort Sale 11:00 a.m.

Mon., Sept. 26, 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.

the electronic auction market
team
www.teamauctionsales.com

Your independently owned & operated livestock marketing facility - working with the producers' best interest in mind

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

Schmitz, Taylor claim bronze in Latvia

The figure skating hardware continues to pile up for Shellbrook's Ashlyn Schmitz and Regina's Tristan Taylor, after the pair competed in their first Junior Grand Prix in Riga, Latvia from Sept. 7 to 10.

Schmitz, 16, and Taylor, 20, skated their way to bronze medals through their short and free programs. The grand prix began with the short program, during which the duo scored a 40.21, putting them in third place behind Americans Cayla Smith and Andy Deng, and fellow Canadians Ava Rae Kemp and Yohnatan Elizarov.

Scoring a 73.19 on their free program, for a total of 113.40, Schmitz and Taylor easily held onto their third place position to win the bronze medals. Smith and Deng remained on top, with a score of 137.23, and Kemp and Elizarov earned silver medals with a total of 124.73.

Following their free skate program, both Schmitz and Taylor admitted they didn't

have the skate they wanted. Though they saw room for improvement, they were still happy to have earned bronze medals.

"We had an amazing time representing Canada at our first Junior Grand Prix in Riga, Latvia. To come home with a bronze medal makes it all the better," the pair said. "We are so appreciative of our coaches, our clubs (Skate Regina and Shellbrook Skating Club) and Skate Saskatchewan for all they've done for us and for helping us achieve our first ever international medal."

Including Kemp and Elizarov, Schmitz and Taylor were competing alongside nine other Canadian NextGen Team skaters who traveled to Riga to compete in the grand prix.

Coached by David and Vicki Schultz, Schmitz and Taylor train out of Regina.

The pair was named to Skate Canada's NextGen Team at the end of May of this year, opening the door for them to

represent Canada on the International Skating Union (ISU) Grand Prix circuit, in the ISU World Junior Figure Skating Championships, and in other international competitions.

Brought together as a figure skating pair in 2018, Schmitz and Taylor claimed their first competitive hardware in the form of bronze medals at the 2019 Canada Winter Games in Red Deer, Alta. The pair followed up on this performance in January 2020, claiming silver medals at the Canadian Tire National Skating Championships in Mississauga, Ont.

With all this momentum behind them, Schmitz and Taylor saw all their hard work and plans derailed for more than two years when the COVID-19 pandemic reared its ugly head in Saskatchewan. Despite this hurdle, the pair continued to train together in any capacity they could so they would be ready for the return of normal figure skating seasons.

Prior to their bronze medal

showing in Riga, Schmitz and Taylor finished sixth among junior pairs at the 2022 Skate

Canada Challenge, which was hosted in Regina in December 2021.



Shellbrook's Ashlyn Schmitz and Regina's Tristan Taylor are now international bronze medallists, after finishing third at the Junior Grand Prix in Riga, Latvia.

Seniors tee off in Canwood golf tourney

By Donna Lovberg

The Canwood Pines Golf Club held its September Seniors Golf Tournament on Thursday, Sept. 8, with 47 golfers registering.

The day started out with lots of enthusiasm but got pretty cool with the raw cold wind! Through the day, everyone was very happy for the free coffee, cakes and muffins as well as the hot meal at lunch time.

Door prizes were drawn, and won by Lori Hughes, Bob Hryniuk, Harvey Net-

maker, Luc Demers, and Ruth Ziegeman.

After the two rounds of golf, the scores were tallied, and the prizes were handed out.

First in the 1st event was the team of: Roy Gilbert, Marcel Comtois, Robert Bonneau, and Ken Hyman.

First in the 2nd event was the team of: Ruth Ziegeman, Sherry Jensen, and Harvey Netmaker.

First in the 3rd event was the team of: Art Jones, Jessie Dion, Art Young, and Glen Person.



Winners in the first event, left to right: Roy Gilbert, Marcel Comtois, Robert Bonneau, and Ken Hyman.



Winners in the second event, left to right: Ruth Ziegeman, Sherry Jensen, and Harvey Netmaker.



Winners in the third event, left to right: Art Jones, Jessie Dion, Art Young, and Glen Person.

The Government of Saskatchewan has a four-point action plan to add over **1000 health care professionals** to our health system.

Recruit

Working to recruit hundreds of outside health professionals to Saskatchewan

Train

- Accelerated training and licensing for international nurses
- 150 new nurse training seats in-province

Incentivize

Up to \$50,000 in incentives for hard-to-recruit positions mainly in rural areas

Retain

- 100 new full-time positions and 150 part-time positions moving to full-time for high-demand professions in rural Saskatchewan
- New mentorship and improved peer-to-peer support programming



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

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

Growth That Works For Everyone

Minutes of an RM of Spiritwood meeting

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

The Regular Meeting of the Council of the Rural Municipality of Spiritwood No. 496 was held on Tuesday, July 12, 2022.

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

Division 5 is vacant.

A quorum being present the meeting was called to order at 8:06 a.m. by Reeve Shirley Dauvin.

Steinhilber: That the agenda be adopted as presented. Carried

Councillor Al Steinhilber and Councillor Larry Vaagen acknowledged a conflict of interest in agenda item 12.1 - RV Site Fee Bylaw.

Foreman, Darcy Laventure joined the council meeting at 8:14 a.m.

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

Reeve Shirley Dauvin turned the council meeting over to Deputy Reeve Al Steinhilber and left the council meeting at 8:50 a.m. to attend to a personal matter.

Reeve Dauvin returned to the council meeting at 9:10 a.m.

Foreman Darcy Laventure left the council meeting at 9:54 a.m.

Wingerter: That the minutes of the June 14, 2022, Regular Meeting of Council be approved as presented. Carried

Steinhilber: That the minutes of the June 23, 2022, Special Meeting of Council be approved as presented. Carried

Laventure: That we approve of the proposal for the RM of Spiritwood, Town of Spiritwood and Spiritwood Fire & Rescue to each purchase a 1/3 share, in the amount of \$2,500 each, of the existing office skid trailer for the purpose & use by the Spiritwood Fire & Rescue Dept. for meeting quarters. Carried

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

Wingerter: That the request by Jamell Heppner to rent office space for two afternoons a month be approved at the custom rate. Carried

Vaagen: That the bank reconciliation for the month ending June 30, 2022, be accepted as presented. Carried

Steinhilber: That the "List of Ac-

counts" as listed on the attached Schedule "A" forming part of these minutes be passed for payment: Cheque No. 13730-13776 (\$326,443.61), Payroll File No. 370, 372, 373 & 374 (\$55,449.81), EFT 2022-0026-2022-0030 (\$23,076.16). Carried

Wingerter: That the Statement of Financial Activities for the month ending June 30, 2022, be approved as presented. Carried

Delegations

10:15 am - OH of Spruce Bay Board - Berm Access

Delegates Wanda Keen, Murray Lux and Brian Sutherland representing the OH of Spruce Bay Board joined the council meeting at 10:17 a.m. to discuss the berm access. The board was accompanied by Sherry Bone, Marcia Kerekes, and Bob Keen who sat in on the discussion but did not address Council on the matter.

The delegates and members of the public left the council meeting at 11:10 a.m.

Delegate Daune Dewhurst joined the council meeting at 1:04 p.m. to provide comments on the RV Site Fee Bylaw. Daune Dewhurst left the council meeting at 1:18 p.m.

Delegates Don and Irene Giesbrecht joined the council meeting at 1:20 pm to provide comments on the RV Site Fee Bylaw. Don and Irene Giesbrecht left the council meeting at 1:41 pm.

Councillor Al Steinhilber vacated his seat at the council table at 1:42 p.m. to present his comments on the RV Site Fee Bylaw. Councillor Steinhilber returned to his seat at 1:47 p.m.

Councillor Bevra Fee vacated her seat at the council table to present her comments on the RV Site Fee Bylaw. Councillor Fee returned to her seat at 1:51 p.m.

Councillor Larry Vaagen vacated his seat at the council table at 1:51 p.m. to provide his comments on the RV Site Fee Bylaw. Councillor, Vaagen returned to his seat at 2 p.m.

Councillor Bevra Fee left the council meeting at 2 p.m. to attend a personal matter.

Laventure: That Bylaw No. 2022-3, being a Bylaw to Provide for a Minimum Tax, be read a first time. Carried (Editor's note: Council unanimously agreed to give the bylaw three readings at the meeting)

Steinhilber: That Bylaw No. 2022-3, being a Bylaw to Provide for a Minimum Tax be read a third time and adopted. Carried

Wingerter: That we ratify the email

decision that the Rural Municipality of Spiritwood No. 496 make application to the Ministry of Corrections, Policing and Public Safety to be designated an eligible assistance area under the Provincial Disaster Assistance Program (PDAP), which provides financial assistance for restoring essential services and property as a result of substantial damages caused by Heavy Rainfall & Hail on June 23, 2022. Carried

Laventure: That we abate interest in the amount of \$54.00 on Roll No. 646 000, being Par A - PT SW 10-49-12-W3. Carried

Councillor Al Steinhilber, Councillor Larry Vaagen, and Councillor Bevra Fee declared a conflict of interest in the matter of the RV Site Fee Bylaw. The aforementioned councillors did not take part in the discussion or voting on the matter of the RV Site Fee Bylaw.

Dauvin: That second reading of Bylaw No. 2022-2, being the RV Site Fee Bylaw be tabled to accommodate amendments to the bylaw. Tabled

Councillors Larry Vaagen and Al Steinhilber returned as councillors to the council meeting at 2:38 p.m.

Vaagen: That the request for the abatement of interest on Roll No. 4438 000, being Lot 19 Blk 1 Memorial Lake Regional Park be declined. Carried

Laventure: That we approve of the use of one temporary campsite on land described as PT NW 21-50-10-W3 3 for the period of time between July 1, 2022, to Sept. 30, 2022, until their residential dwelling is available for occupancy. Carried

Vaagen: That we consent to the tying of Parcel No. 202913030, being Par A Plan 1021466582 & Parcel No. 202913018, being Par B Plan 102146658 to accommodate residential development under common ownership. Carried

Steinhilber: That the RM of Spiritwood No. 496 hereby agrees to the sale of lease land described as NW 15-54-11-W3. Carried

Wingerter: That we enter into an easement agreement with SaskPower for existing utilities located on MUI Plan 102254240 also known as South Shore Ridge & that the Administrator & the Reeve be authorized to sign the agreement. Carried

Steinhilber: That we accept the quote for audit services from Sensus Chartered Professional Accountants Ltd. and that Sensus CPA Ltd. be appointed as the Auditor for the RM of Spiritwood No. 496 for the years ending Dec. 31, 2022, 2023, and 2024. Carried

Councillor Bevra Fee returned to the council meeting at 2:56 p.m.

Laventure: That the regular meeting of council be adjourned at 2:56 p.m. to move in-camera to discuss any HR concerns. Carried

Administrator Colette Bussiere left the council meeting at 2:56 p.m.

Administrator Colette Bussiere returned to the council meeting at 3:06 p.m. The meeting was called back to order at 3:06 p.m.

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

Fee: That the meeting be adjourned.

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.

PARKSIDE: 'A TOUCH OF AUTUMN' Honeywood (Dr. A. J. Porter) Heritage Nursery Inc. Provincial Heritage Site Parkside, Sask. - Sept. 18th - 11:00 am - 4:00 pm. Enjoy the 'Jam Fest' of local musicians. Artisan displays, Tours, Food, Refreshments, Potted lilies & perennials! \$5.00/person, Children 10 and under free. Cash or Cheque only due to poor internet. Ph: 306-747-3307 - email: honeywoodn8@gmail.com, Facebook @ Honeywood Heritage Nursery Inc

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Checking your fields now can help avoid issues next spring

By Shannon Friesen, PAg Crops Extension Specialist, Moose Jaw

Harvest is a great time to get out into the field to scout for late season diseases and crop damage. By monitoring and identifying issues that are found in the field now, you can gain a better understanding of potential issues in the future.

Before entering a field, ensure that you have all the tools you will need for proper scouting, including a trowel, clippers, sample bags, a hand lens and a camera. It is also a good idea to minimize the spread of soil from field to field to reduce your risk of spreading diseases such as clubroot. This can easily be done by wearing disposable boot covers between fields, parking away from the field entrance and knocking soil off equipment and vehicles. When scouting a field, there are several different patterns that can be followed, depending on what pest you are looking for. These patterns can include scouting random areas of the field in a W pattern, scouting specific areas like low spots or scouting along field edges and ditches.

Summer and into fall is also a good time to determine whether or not you have herbicide resistance on the farm. Look for patches or patterns in the field where the weeds escaped herbicide application and are now setting seed. If you are unsure why the weeds may not have died, take samples of the mature seed and send them away to the Crop Protection Lab in Regina for confirmation. A herbicide resistance management plan can then be formed for future years. This management plan should include integrated pest management techniques and focus on practical solutions such as crop rotation and layering herbicides.

As crops dry down it also becomes easier to see patterns in the field that may indicate a disease issue. In the case of canola, scouting prior to swathing can reveal if there are any patches of lodged or pre-maturely ripening plants that may be indicative of a disease such as blackleg, sclerotinia or even clubroot. Pull plants in various parts of the field and check the roots, stems, leaves and pods. Sclerotinia will infect stems and leave them hollow and bleached. Often you will be able to find sclerotia, or small black hard bodies, inside the stem that will eventually fall to the soil and overwinter. Broadleaf crops such as mustard, peas, lentils and sunflowers are also susceptible to sclerotinia infection so rotations should include cereal crops to help break up the disease cycle.

Blackleg can be easily identified by pulling poor looking canola plants and looking for lesions at the bottom and middle areas of the stem. To check for blackleg infection, use clean and sharp clippers to slice through the stem. Your yield has likely been reduced if you see significant amounts of blackened stem. If so, you may want to consider switching to a variety that has a different resistance gene.

Clubroot symptoms in the field include wilting, pre-mature ripening and the presence of galls on the roots. Check patches in the field that do not look normal and pull up any plants that you are suspicious of, especially near field entrances and in low spots. If you suspect that clubroot is in a field, contact your local crops extension specialist as soon as possible to make a management plan.

Cereal crops infected with diseases like fusarium head blight are distinguishable by their bleached heads and

un-filled kernels. If the infection is severe enough in the plant, the kernels may be shrunken with a chalky white appearance. Fusarium head blight can be properly managed with crop rotation, resistant varieties, proper fungicide timing and using seed with low disease levels and high germination and vigour.

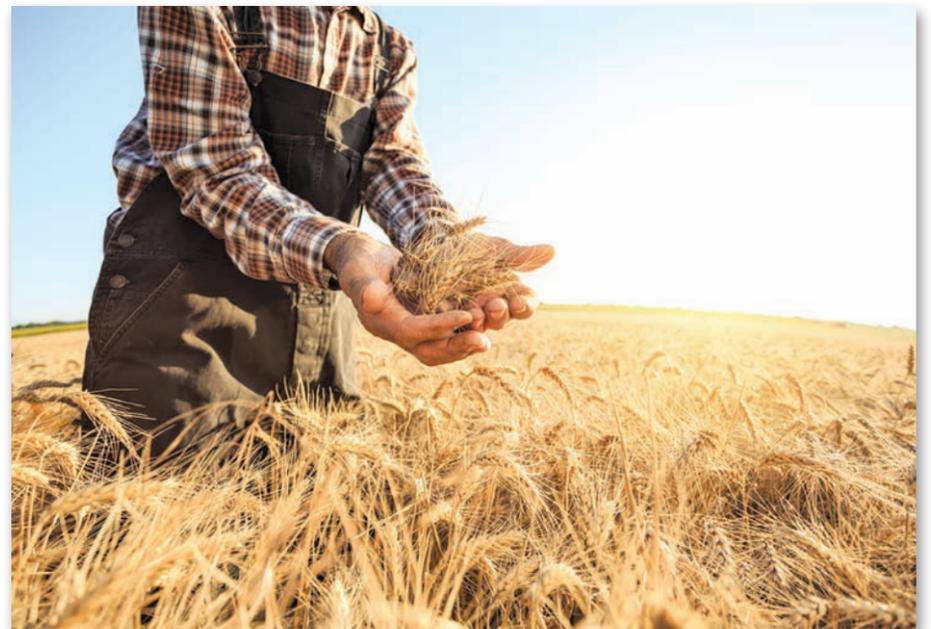
Pulse crops like peas and lentils are often affected by root rots, including Aphanomyces, that can reduce yields, if severe enough. Look for pre-maturely yellowing crops that are stunted and have not advanced normally — often these plants can be found in wet or low spots or in compacted areas of the field. Aphanomyces can be managed by cycling out of pulse crops for a minimum of six years (preferably eight years) and using good agronomics such as selecting fields that drain well and practicing proper fertility and inoculation.

Harvest also presents an opportunity to check for insect damage. Scouting for insects such as flea beetles and

grasshoppers near field edges is a good way to determine what possible issues you might have next year and what crops should be grown in rotation. Look for damage on roots, pods, leaves and kernels to determine if it was made by an insect that is of economical concern. Check forecast maps and develop a management plan if pressures were high this year. This management plan should focus on integrated pest management techniques, including using resistant varieties, considering economic thresholds and promoting beneficial insects.

By taking the time now to scout your fields, you will gain a better understanding of what's happening in the field and how best to manage it next year.

For more information, contact your local regional office, the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377 or check out these agronomic fact-sheets on weeds, diseases, insects and more.



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
306-747-3572
Shellbrook
Adult Study
9:30 a.m.
Sun., 10:30 a.m. - Worship
Pastor David Bodvarson
306-747-7235
Canwood
Summer: 10 a.m. - Worship
Pastor Bob Wrench
306-468-2138

Leask Gospel Tabernacle
Sunday 11 a.m.
306-466-2296

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
Sun. Worship - 11:00 a.m.
(10:30 a.m. June - August)
306-468-2525

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. Mariusz Zajac
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. Mariusz Zajac
St. Agatha's - Shellbrook
Mass - Sunday 9 a.m.
St. Henry's - Leask
Mass - Sunday 11 a.m.
Mistawasis
1st & 3rd Sundays 1:30 p.m.
Fr. Tuan Doan

SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST

407-2nd Ave E, Shellbrook
Sat., 9:45 a.m. - Sabbath School
Sat., 11:00 am -Worship
Broadcast on
VOAR 92.1 FM
Pastor Liviu Tilihoi
306-747-3398

PRAISE & WORSHIP

Regular services, Sunday school and special services will be listed.

PARTNERS IN FAITH

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

UNITED /ANGLICAN

Worship Services
Glaslyn
Time is on the sign
Rev. Kun Kim
Rev. Don Skinner

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Spiritwood - 11:15 a.m.
Leoville - 9:30 a.m.
Shell Lake - 2:00 p.m.
Chitek Lake - Closed for
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SATURDAY
Medstead - 6 p.m.
Father Ramel Macapala

PARTNERS IN WORSHIP

Shell Lake
Worship Services
Sunday 9:00 a.m.
Pastor Sarah Urano
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FIELDS OF HOPE (HOFFNUNGSFELDER) MENNONITE CHURCH

Glenbush
Worship - 11:00 am
September 4th
Worship - 11:00 am
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Mennonite Church

BETHEL

Medstead
1st Sunday, 10 am -
Worship
Pastor David Jensen
3rd Sunday - 10 am
Worship
Pastor David Jensen

MENNONITE BRETHREN

Glenbush
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Spiritwood Legion Hall
Pastor Rick Martin

No winner in golf's civil war

It's almost as if the shooting has stopped in professional golf's civil war of 2022.

All is now quiet. The final volley of firing took place the day after the conclusion of the PGA Tour's flagship event, the Tour Championship, as the last of the significant players to cross over from the PGA Tour to the Saudi Arabian-sponsored LIV Tour made their way to the land of milk, honey, gobs of money, and 54-hole, no-cut events.

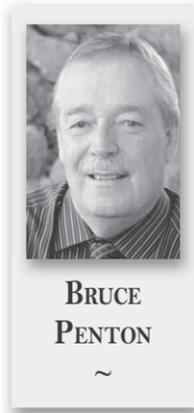
The most prominent player of the final seven PGA Tour players to join LIV was Cam Smith, the Australian with the mullet haircut who is ranked No. 2 in the world and coming off a scorching 2022 season in which he won the Players and the Open Championship. LIV commissioner Greg Norman said the implication was clear: LIV was winning the battle for professional golf.

We'll have to wait and see about that, especially considering 18 of

the world's top-20 players remain on the PGA Tour (though LIV has 12 players ranked No. 21 through 50).

Results of two court cases between the two rival leagues are currently a 1-1 tie; more litigation to follow. But as the LIV Tour and its 48-player fields played their fourth of eight 2022 events in Boston in early September, and head for Chicago later this month, the future of the pro game is very much in a state of flux.

LIV says its existence has already improved pro golfers' lives, thanks to the PGA Tour's rapid escalation of prize money and other financial perks aimed at counteracting the LIV riches. PGA Tour proponents say the LIV tournaments are mere exhibitions, with nothing at stake but huge prize payouts. Official World Golf Ranking points, a source of qualification for most of pro golf's majors, are not available to the LIV players, a bone of contention



BRUCE
PENTON

headed for court.

So Smith, Dustin Johnson, Bryson DeChambeau, Brooks Koepka and Joaquin Niemann are players who will be sorely missed by the PGA Tour. Patrick Reed has talent, but he and his dubious character won't be missed. Abe Ancer, Taylor Gooch, Kevin Na and Matthew Wolff were occasionally good, but not great players. The rest of the LIV roster consists of aging vets with little to no win equity, players who will be quickly forgotten as their places on the PGA Tour are taken by talented players graduating from the colleges

and secondary tours.

But one thing LIV players have that their friends on the PGA Tour do not: Plenty of life-changing, up-front money from the Saudi Arabian Public Investment Fund. There's no TV contract, the players' images and legacies have been stained and in my mind, it's almost as if the LIV players have retired from pro golf. The piracy has stopped for now, but no winner of the war has been declared.

• Dave Fabrizi, via Facebook, on MLB's playoff schedule ending with a possible Game 7 of the World Series on Nov. 5: "If they happen to have a rainout, the game might be shown at halftime of the Bills-Jets game on Nov. 6. I can hardly wait."

• Michael Thompson, on Twitter: "Too bad Dodger announcer Rick Monday didn't marry actress Tuesday Weld. Then she cudda bin Tuesday Monday."

• Janice Hough, of leftcoastsportsbabe.com, on

sloppy play by the Giants' bullpen and defence in a recent game: "That licorice ice cream and the pickle pizza at the State Fair don't seem quite so awful by comparison."

• Adam Herman, on Twitter: "Every women's hockey biography is like, 'she has a master's in biochemistry and is a cancer researcher at Sloan Kettering' and every men's bio is like, 'his favourite cereal is Fruit Loops.'"

• Brad Dickson of Omaha, who revels in lampooning Nebraska Cornhuskers' recent football play: "I'm looking at the Huskers' schedule and I'm pretty sure Gretna High could finish 5-7 with this schedule."

• Super 70s Sports, on Twitter: "Bo Jackson was briefly suspended by MLB for performance enhancement in 1989 after he tested positive for being Bo Jackson."

• Comedy writer Alex Kaseberg: "Brett Favre claims he had a thousand minor concussions when he played football. A minor concussion can make

you forget your app passwords; a major concussion can make you forget to wear pants."

• R.J. Currie of sports-deke.com: "Illinois' Canadian running back, Chase Brown, had 151 yards and three touchdowns on 19 carries as the Illini beat Wyoming 38-6. Two words summed up the Cowboys defensive game plan — Chase Brown."

• Dwight Perry of the Seattle Times: "Injury of the week — Ravens coach John Harbaugh reports that team mascot Poe, carted off with a knee injury, is indeed out for the season with 'a serious injury to his drumstick.'"

• Another one from Perry: "Pitcher Bartolo Colon says he'll finally retire from professional baseball after pitching one more season of winter ball in his native Dominican Republic. Just think of his farewell tour as One Last Whiff of Colon."

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

What happens when you don't advertise?

Very little.

OBITUARIES

Trevor Miller

MILLER – Trevor
1980 – 2022

It is with heavy hearts that the family of Trevor John Miller announce his passing on September 2, 2022, at the age of 42 years. Trevor was born on June 6, 1980, in Shellbrook, SK to Linda and Bob Miller.

There will be an intimate Private Family Graveside Service held for Trevor at Prince Albert Memorial Gardens in the Garden of the Last Supper with Tracy-Lynn Lenchuk as officiant.

In lieu of tributes, memorial donations may be made in memory of Trevor to either the Shellbrook & Districts Health Services Foundation or to the choice of the donor.

Trevor is lovingly survived by his parents, Robert & Linda Miller (Swan); his sisters, Tanya Miller; Michelle (Peter) Heese; Laura Miller (Travis Franke); as well as numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, and other relatives.

Trevor is predeceased by his grandparents, Joseph & Doreen Miller and Paul & Renate Swan.

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, Lynn Anderson & Tammy Smart, Funeral Directors, Shellbrook, SK. 306-747-2828.

GOOD NEWS

THE ANCHOR HOLDS

When I left high school in 1977, I got to work on the Beaufort Sea with Northern Construction. Northern Construction had built artificial islands to explore for natural gas way up in the High Arctic. When I got there, we were taking the islands apart using a huge Manitou Krane, which was on the barge I worked on. Being a deck hand, I wasn't privy to the goings on, but I think the gas company had capped the wells and marked where they were. When it came the time to turn on the tap, so to speak, they would be ready.

I did go back to the High Arctic the following two years, but this time I worked on a ship called the Nahidik. It is a Canadian Coast Guard buoy tender. We dropped buoys in Tuktoyaktuk, Coppermine, and even as far as Cambridge Bay which were all in the N.W.T at the time. These are navigational markers for other vessels to use so they can navigate the waters. One big company at the time would have been Northern Transportation Company Limited or N.T.C.L. They would use the Coast Guard markers. We also put up towers to help ships navigate.

As a seaman on the ship, I had duties. One which I enjoyed was taking a turn to steer the ship. We were given coordinates and for the most part I was able to steer the ship. There were a few times though, if we hit a storm, steering the ship became a challenge. The steering wheel would really move in a storm, and one would continuously correct it. The name Nahidik means 'passage finder' and believe me the captain loved to hide in a bay if a storm was coming. It was pretty rare, but we got in a few storms.

One way to handle storms is hide from them. Another way is to run from them. But some, you just have to ride them out.

Maybe it's because of my experience on the ship, but I sure appreciate the song that says "I have journeyed through the long dark night. Out on the open sea, by faith alone, sight unknown; and yet His eyes were watching me. The anchor holds, though the ship is battered. The anchor holds, though the sails are torn. I have fallen on my knees as I face the raging seas. The anchor holds in spite of the storm."

A fellow traveler,
D. Bodvarson, SPA

Nora Elizabeth Ann Skelton (née Riel)

Nora Elizabeth Ann Skelton (née Riel)

October 10, 1951 – August 22, 2022

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Nora Elizabeth Ann Skelton at St. Paul's Hospital in Saskatoon, SK. Nora was born in Prince Albert in 1951 as the only child of Dollard and Helen Riel. Nora grew up on the family farm in the Spruce Creek District where her father was one of the first homesteaders. Nora's early education was at Edward Lake School until she transferred to Pelican Lake School for Grades 4-8. Nora fondly remembered her childhood living on the farm and play-

ing with her friends Inez and Caroline. Nora stayed with the French family in Spiritwood while she completed Grades 9-11. For Grade 12, Nora moved to Saskatoon and she and Grandma Bowren stayed with the Jim Rankin family. Nora met Glen Skelton when she was living in Saskatoon. They were introduced by friends and went on their first date to a dance at the Manhattan Ballroom where they danced to the Cotton Pickers.

After her high school graduation in 1969, Nora attended Roberson's Secretarial School while Glen worked at the Duvall Mine. They were married at St John's Cathedral in Saskatoon on August 22, 1970 and honeymooned in a rustic log cabin in Cypress Hills. In 1971, Nora and Glen purchased Penn Store in Penn, SK where they embarked on their journey as business owners. Their son, Michael, was born November 3, 1973. Their daughter, Jennifer, was born October 20, 1975. Nora was busy being both a business owner and a mom and

she always had extra kids around. Nora and Glen hosted Sunday suppers for the Riel and Crossland cousins for many years and the house was full of laughter and fun.

Nora and Glen built the cabin at Chitek Lake in the early 80s and in 1984 hosted the Riel Reunion. Nora spent many hours organizing and contacting relatives and the reunion was a great success. Over the years, Nora, Glen and the kids shared their time between the house at Penn and the cabin at Chitek. In 1999, Nora and Glen sold the store in Penn and retired to Chitek. Following their retirement, Glen went to work in the oil patch with Michael and Nora ran the concession at the Chitek Lake Hall. Once grandkids came along, Nora started spending a lot of time between her children's homes in Martensville. She was very involved in her grandchildren's lives and spent so much time in Martensville she got a job working at Klass A Auction in Saskatoon.

Nora is survived by

her loving husband of 52 years, Glen Skelton of Chitek Lake; her son Michael (Sherylann) Skelton and their children, Jordan, Adrian and Kiersten of Martensville; and her daughter Jennifer (Rick) Skakun and their children, Cade and Bryn of Martensville.

Nora is predeceased by her father Dollard Riel; her mother Helen Riel (née Bowren), her father-in-law Richard Skelton; and her mother-in-law Helen (Lena) Skelton (née Fehr).

A Graveside Service was held at Leoville Cemetery on September 2, 2022. In lieu of other tributes, donations in memory of Nora may be made to Diabetes Canada, 1300-522 University Avenue,

Toronto, ON, M5G 2R5. Family and friends wishing to send online condolences are welcome to visit www.beaulacfuneralhome.com. Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of Beau "Lac" Funeral Home and Crematorium, R. Mark Muir Funeral Director, Spiritwood, SK (306) 883-3500

Canwood Royal Purple receives special gift

The Elks and Royal Purple Pins earned by Alloys and Elma Anderson over decades of service will now adorn the Canwood Elks Community Hall.



Canwood Royal Purple ladies, from left to right: Donna Lovberg, Glenda Wilson, Eileen Hamborg, Wendy Otterson, Linda Young, and Lorraine Benson. Missing: Amie Bather and Violet Granberg.

By Donna Lovberg

The family of Alloys and Elma Anderson donated a shadow box with the pins that the couple were awarded over their years of service to the Elks Lodge #183 and the Royal Purple Lodge #114. Alloys was a member of the Elks for 58 years and Elma was a member of the Royal Purple for 60 years.

The shadow box was made by Pamela Klatt, a grand daughter of Alloys and Elma. The Elks and Royal Purple were very honoured to receive this and will hang it in the Lodge Room of the Canwood Elks Community Hall as a reminder of their loyal service to the lodges and community.

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From farm to fork, how farmers are managing risk

The Canadian food industry fuels and feeds millions of people every day. But farmers battle many risks when it comes to keeping this food supply safe and their businesses successful. These risks include factors like drought, fuel costs, changing demand, and animal diseases.

For local pig farmers, one risk they manage is animal disease, such as African swine fever. Though this pig disease has never been found in Canada, can't spread to humans, and is not a food safety risk, it's still contagious and deadly for the pigs and could devastate an unprepared farm.

So how are pig farmers preparing? While every farmer has their own tried-and-true way of doing things on their farm, practicing good biosecurity is crucial to reduce risks from disease and contaminants like this one.

Here are some of the ways farmers are managing the risk:

Visitors

Ensure that any vis-

itors or workers have clean shoes, clothing or equipment before entering a farm, as these items can spread diseases if contaminated. If visitors or workers are going to a country where ASF is present, they should declare it at the border and stay away from any farm for 14 days after they return.

Feed

The virus can be transmitted through contaminated feed or feed ingredients. So feed must be stored securely and purchased from reputable suppliers. ASF also lasts for months in pork products, whether they're fresh, frozen or cured. So pigs can't be fed food containing meat—it's ac-

tually illegal.

Contact

It's also important to protect domestic (or captive) pigs from contact with wild pigs, as the wild animals could spread the disease if they catch it elsewhere — especially since they have wide-ranging habitats and may eat contaminated garbage or scraps. Strong enclosures and secure feed help prevent contact.

Overall, it's important to follow national and regional regulations and recommendations on farm biosecurity to limit the threat of this animal disease. Find more information at Inspection.gc.ca/protect-pigs.

www.newscanada.com



Crop termination factors to consider

By Alison Fransoo, PAg,
Crops Extension Specialist,
North Battleford

There are several different factors to consider when planning to terminate a crop. Poor establishment, resistant weed infestations, a disease issue or removing an old forage stand are a few common reasons to terminate a crop before harvest. Methods used for crop termination are mowing, tillage, herbicides or a combination of these methods. There are a number of things to take into consideration when deciding which method to use.

If protecting the soil from erosion and trapping moisture through the winter is important, consider using herbicides to terminate the crop. When choosing a herbicide, keep in mind cropping restrictions. What are your crop plans on that field for the following year and will they be impacted by the choice of herbicide? By choosing a herbicide method, the stubble will remain on the field to prevent erosion and assist with trapping moisture through the winter for the next crop but may require an operation to manage crop residue prior to seeding. Depending on the time of year a crop is terminated, more than one application of herbicide will likely be required.

Terminating a crop through mowing is most commonly used when a heavy resistant weed population establishes. You may be mowing patches or the whole field depending on how wide spread the resistant weed is. The purpose for mowing is to remove the weed population before it produces seed of the resistant type. This method would be used when there isn't an alternate herbicide group option available for the re-

sistant weed in that specific crop.

If tillage is used for crop termination, consider that it will take several passes. Tillage can destroy soil aggregation, making the soil more susceptible to erosion and moisture can be lost through increased evaporation due to tillage operations. Tillage can also bring dormant weed seeds that are buried to the surface where they may germinate.

Terminating the crop by tillage can also cause loss of organic matter in the soil. If you're considering terminating a crop by tillage early on and the soil is dry, the impact on nutrient availability should be considered. Low soil moisture decreases soil microbe activity which results in less mineralization and reduces the amount of nitrogen available for the next crop. However, leaching and denitrification losses are reduced in dry soils which may offset the effect of reduced mineralization. The combination of reduced microbial activity and dry soils may also reduce plants' ability to access and use phosphorus and potassium. Testing your soil prior to seeding a new crop will be important to determine nutrient content.

In summary, when terminating a crop by herbicide, consider the number of herbicide applications and cropping restrictions for the subsequent crop. When terminating a crop using tillage, there are more factors to consider. Using tillage may result in increased erosion and loss of moisture. By working the soil, organic matter and available nutrients may be reduced as well.

For more information on terminating your crop, contact your local crops extension specialist or call the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377.

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PN4071A (PA)
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\$299,000
U23723 (K)
NEW HOLLAND T7.270 TRACTOR
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U23749 (K)
2015 NEW HOLLAND T6.155 T4B
ENG HRS: U23749, 3 MECH HYD OUTLET, HYDRAULIC FLOW 23.8, PTO-SPEED 540/1000, 3PT HITCH CAT II, CLOSED CENTER HYDRAULICS



\$125,000
U23750 (K)
2017 NEW HOLLAND T6.155 T4B
ENG HRS: 2767, 2 MIDMOUNT HYD, 3 MECH HYD OUTLETS, 540/1000 REVERSIBLE PTO, 2017 845TL MSL LOADER W/BUCKET,



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AGRICULTURE

A tale of two ag sectors

By Natasha Cabase

Canada and the Republic of the Philippines have long enjoyed robust bilateral relations, not only because they share similar and diplomatic political and economic views, but because they have shared interests and cultures.

Despite their similarities, which include a strong emphasis on the agriculture sector, there are also important differences. With Saskatchewan's Filipino community continuing to grow, here's a look at how agriculture plays out in both countries.

Canada and the Philippines both have departments to oversee and regulate all the processes in relation to agriculture, and to provide necessary policy frameworks and support services needed for domestic and export-oriented undertakings. For Canada, it's Agriculture and Agri-food Canada, and for the Philippines, it's the Department of Agriculture.

By statistical comparison, the Philippines may seem more agricultural, having a land area of 30 million hectares, of which 47 per cent is agricultural. As the second largest country in the world, Canada has 998.5 million hectares of land. Even with only 7.1 per cent of land being used for agriculture, Canada still boasts more agricultural land (though, StatsCan notes this land share is declining, due to the "soil quality and the nature of Canadian climate and terrain.")

Similarly, both Canada and the Philippines share almost the same type of farming. They only differ on what pro-

duce is grown and the methods utilized, as the former is more technologically advanced while the latter not much so.

In Canada, where wheat is a staple crop, farmers generally grow such in fields along with other crops such as canola, barley, corn and soybeans, others grow rye, oats, white beans and mixed grains. Canadian farmers make use of the latest advancements in crop science and have pioneered practices like zero-till farming.

Whereas in the Philippines, where corn and rice are staples, farmers extensively grow such in fields along with other crops such as maize, sugarcane, coconut, banana, mango, pineapple, cassava, coffee, sweet-potato, Manila hemp and eggplant.

Traditionally, Filipino farmers employ a farming method that is widely known as "daro," which means "plow" in local dialect. This method uses farm-raised buffalos and carabaos with a plow and yoke attached to their backs. The farm animals tow the plow across the field, and the painstaking nature of the work means it sometimes takes weeks before the soil is ready for planting.

While more time consuming, farmers in the Philippines still use these traditional methods, as it is believed to sustain the capacity of the soil and produce healthy crops.

Canada and the Philippines similarly favour commercial farming, where farmers grow crops and livestock for commercial purposes rather than subsistence farming, a farming type for

personal and family use. Still, several Filipino and Canadian farmers employ this.

Here in Spiritwood, there are a number of Filipinos who operated agricultural businesses in the Philippines. Dinnis Vergara, who has a family-owned corn farm called Pioneer seeds in the Philippines, comes from the province of Cagayan. His parents look after their fields, and they have about 10 workers to help them out, especially in times of planting and harvesting.

Additionally, there is Fel Marie and Rogelio Castillo who both run a family farm inspired by their two daughters Ra and Rb. They grow on 15.2 hectares

of farmland, with 5.7 hectares of cacao, 4.5 hectares of corn, two hectares devoted to rice and bananas, and 1 hectare growing pineapple. They also have two permanent caretakers, and they hire 10 more employees during seeding and harvest.

According to the Castillos, "Back home we are planting rice, bananas, corn, even mangoes, and we are aiming mid next year to grow cacaos as well."

There are two cropping periods for rice each year. And during the summer, they plant monggo, also known as mung bean, a rich source of protein often called the "poor man's meat."

"It is very marketable and demands a high price, so it can give farmers a sustainable livelihood and restore the fertility of the soil when used as a rotational crop," they said. "Now, it is our first time to plant pineapples in our corn and banana farm, so we are going to learn so much about growing pineapples and see how the market situation is out there. Hopefully it will be a success too."

Comparatively, in Saskatchewan's colder climate, the Castillos mostly grow grains. Another big adjustment has been the technology involved with Canadian farming.

"The use of farm equipment is the big difference, as we have harvesters for rice and tractors too, but the equipment here is way better and fancier. Also, the farm roads are well developed and accessible, especially for the remote areas," they said.

Continued on page 15



The harvester is hard at work on Dinnis Vergara's corn farm in the Philippines.

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A tale of two ag sectors

Continued from 14

Other locals with farm operations are Rex and Rhubie Cordero, who grow vegetables, raise free-range chickens, and own a rice field. Some of it is family owned and operated, while they own the rest personally. Rex's mom and brother look after it while he and Rhubie are both here in Canada to work.

"Back in the Philippines, we are used to manual operations but here is mostly machine operated jobs. Farming back there is all year round, unless a typhoon will strikes," said Rex.

Additionally, hog farming is also a common agricultural endeavour in the

Philippines. In Canada, there is always a specific barn/space that is used in raising hogs, and it is usually a distance away from the town. But in the Philippines, you can grow and raise pigs as near as your backyard.

In the province of Cebu, Louie Tangalagan's grandmother raises a few pigs about twice a year just for leisure, and sells them when they're grown. Often, they cook the whole pig and roast it over coal on a bamboo stick during events. Filipinos call it "lechon", also known as their national food.

Another hog farm owner is Lynie and Antonio Rosal, who raise about a

20 sows and 25 fattening hogs. Antonio's parents take care of their business while they're both here to work, and the rest of the work is performed by their family members so they don't have to hire any workers.

Here in Canada, the farm is fully automated and very strict in terms of biosecurity, and the cost to raise pigs is lower because the raw material to formulate different kinds of feeds are easily available. Meanwhile, in the Philippines, it is very challenging to do large scale pig farming because the proper feed has to be imported, making it more costly.

Antonio says sometimes the price of fattening pigs to be sold to market or for slaughter is lower than what the buyer pays you, because the price is not regulated by the government and the buyer controls the price. To add to the challenges, lots of small scale and big scale farms are just near each other, so outbreaks of diseases or viruses can be easily transmitted to the other farm.

Where commercial farming is concerned, both the Canadian and the Filipino governments offer programs and supports to aide producers, improve the agriculture sector, and amplify returns.

Canada has committed to a \$3 billion five-year investment that will run from 2018-2023 and improve, streamline, and simplify programs, implement cost-shared strategic initiatives, and support federal activities.

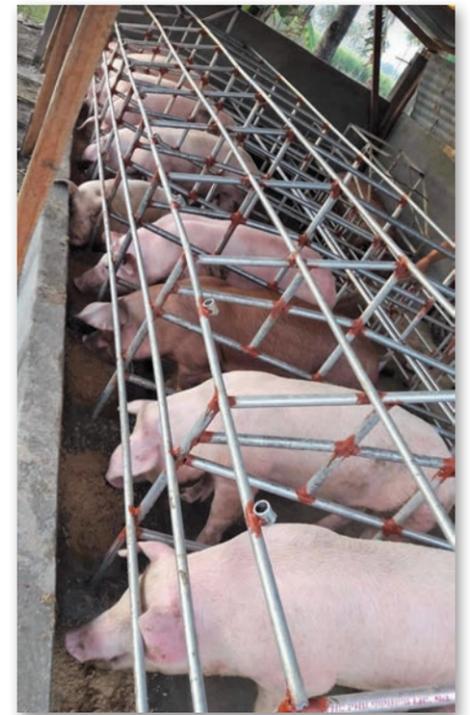
Meanwhile, in the Philippines, the Department of Agriculture has remained firm in its support for the Farm-to-Market (FMR) program,

which is designed to directly connect rural farmers to markets and process their produce. This year, the department developed the Farm-to-Market National Master Plan, which will run from 2020-2030.

As of writing this, Canada is a world leader for exportation of several agricultural products, generating at least \$100 billion in GDP in 2021. Comparatively, agriculture in the Philippines generated \$30 billion.



While large machines are the norm in Saskatchewan, the carabao, the Philippines' national animal, is still commonly used in farming operations in the Philippines.



These pigs penned on Antonia Rosal's farm don't look so different from what one might find in Saskatchewan.

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Fertilizer emissions targets draw support, ire

By Jordan Twiss

As the consultation window for the federal government's goal to reduce fertilizer emissions by 30 per cent by 2030 closed on Aug. 31, Darrin Qualman was puzzled by the overwhelming blowback the voluntary plan was receiving.

In his capacity as director of climate crisis policy and action for the National Farmers Union (NFU), Qualman has pored over the data in the federal government's National Inventory Report (a comprehensive catalogue of Canada's greenhouse gas emissions) to produce two annual reports on the agriculture sector's greenhouse gas emissions.

"One purpose [of the reports] is to track progress, and the other is to underpin policy work. Step one to reducing emissions is to really get a good understanding of the sources," he said.

"The first two things you notice are agriculture emissions are going up and emissions as a whole are going up, because emissions from nitrogen fertilizer production and use are going up. That's really the driver."

According to the 2021 National Inventory Report, agriculture accounted for 10 per cent of Canada's greenhouse gas emissions in 2019, or roughly 73 million tonnes of CO₂. The three primary sources of these emissions were enteric fermentation (24 million tonnes), crop production (24 million tonnes), and on-farm fuel use (14 million tonnes). Meanwhile, based on current data for 2019, emissions from synthetic fertilizers accounted for 12.75 million tonnes (the equivalent of the emissions from roughly 3.9 million passenger cars).

These numbers are part of a broader, long-term trend that has seen emissions from agriculture and



the production of associated farm inputs climb by 35 per cent since 1990. Similarly, fertilizer use increased by 71 per cent from 2005 to 2019, and nitrous oxide (N₂O) emissions from fertilizer application increased by 54 per cent (N₂O is said to have a global warming potential 265 to 298 times that of CO₂ over a 100-year period).

"If you double and triple the amount of fertilizer being used, there's not a lot of uncertainty around the idea that emissions are up," Qualman said, noting that nitrogen-based fertilizers are a source of all three major greenhouse gases: nitrous oxide in their use, carbon dioxide in their production, and methane from the natural gas that is their source material.

"Farmers want to continue to use fertilizer because it's incredibly valuable and contributes a lot to the profitability and viability of farms. But that has to be balanced against the desire to have a stable climate," he added.

For some opponents of Ottawa's 30 per cent fertilizer emissions reduction target, the goal is far too ambitious and arbitrary, and hasn't been set through adequate consultation with producers or acquisition of enough data.

Indeed, an industry report, commissioned by Fertilizer Canada and the Canola Council of Canada, suggests farmers can likely only achieve half the government's targeted 30 per cent reduction in fertilizer emissions by 2030.

Anything more, it concludes, wouldn't be "realis-

tically achievable without imposing significant costs on Canada's crop producers and potentially damaging the financial health of Canada's crop production sector."

This potential harm to the agriculture sector is certainly top of mind for the Government of Saskatchewan and Agriculture Minister David Marit.

"We're really concerned with this arbitrary goal," Marit said of the federal government's plan. "The Trudeau government has apparently moved on from their attack on the oil and gas industry and set their sights on Saskatchewan farmers."

Meanwhile, the Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan (APAS) is advocating for an intensity-based approach to measuring emissions, which would "allow for

production increases while also ensuring continuous improvements in efficiency and a lower carbon footprint."

APAS also wants to see emissions reductions strategies based on sound science and verifiable research, and is calling on the federal government to recognize how innovative farmers are.

"Producers care more about the environment than we get credit for, and it's frustrating because we are the first ones to see any type of change," APAS president Ian Boxall said. "It impacts our bottom line every day."

Given how important fertilizer has been to increasing Canadian agriculture exports, those who have falsely equated a reduction in fertilizer emissions with a reduction in fertilizer use also view the target as being at odds with the federal government's commitment to increase exports to at least \$85 billion by 2025 (from just \$55 billion in 2015).

For the Western Canadian Wheat Growers (WCWG), the policy will have a negligible impact on greenhouse gas emissions while harming food security in Canada and around the world.

"The proposed cut will not have any significant impact on GHGs, but will reduce grain production, cause even more inflation for consumers, and create global food insecurity at a time when markets are fragile due to events like the war in Ukraine," said WCWG president Gunter Jochum.

Continued on page 17



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Fertilizer emissions targets draw support, ire

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Qualman says the NFU believes the federal government's 30 per cent emissions reduction target is achievable, without cutting fertilizer usage or crop yields, and disagrees with assertions that the policy will harm food security.

Currently, he says, there's no problem with the amount of food being produced in Canada, and research corroborates this.

A 2019 report by Second Harvest, a Toronto agency that collects surplus food and distributes it to those in need, found upwards of 58 per cent of food, or 35.5 million tonnes, is wasted through the production process and at the consumer level. Roughly a third of this wastage could be "rescued" and redistributed.

At the same time, a 2021 University of Toronto report on household food insecurity in Canada found approximately 4.4 million Canadians, including more than 1.2 children, were living in food insecure households.

"It's important to maintain yields that support farmers. But it's not correct to think that somehow maximum production equals minimum hunger," Qualman said.

"We are using inputs to maximize production, but then at the same time, we're doing a lot of unwise and wasteful things with our food. We're turning lots of our grains and

oilseeds into biofuels into vehicles," he added, pointing to the production of junk foods as yet another example of wastage.

What's more, Qualman says there are plenty of strategies producers can adopt to reduce emissions, starting with the 4R principle for fertilizer, a philosophy of applying the right type of fertilizer, in the right amount, in the right place, and at the right time.

Producers can also conduct soil testing annually to optimize fertilizer application, add pulse crops to their rotations for nitrogen fixing, or use enhanced efficiency fertilizers, which have additives or coatings to reduce the emissions from a given tonnage of fertilizer.

Qualman is also quick to underscore the voluntary nature of the fertilizer emissions reduction target and point out the bounty of federal funding available to help producers adapt.

For instance, the \$165 million Agricultural Clean Technology Program provides support for pre-market innovation, development, and adoption of transformative clean technologies required to achieve a low-carbon economy and promote sustainable growth in Canada's agriculture and agri-food sector.

The 2022 budget bolstered this program with an extra

\$330 million to allow it to expand its scope, and offered up another \$470 more under Agricultural Climate Solutions through the On-Farm Climate Action Fund. This infusion will top-up funding for some current successful applicants, and broaden support for climate mitigation practices and for adoption practices that contribute to reaching the fertilizer emissions target.

Agricultural Climate Solutions also includes the \$185-million Living Labs initiative, which co-develops, monitors, and tests how working farms store carbon and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

"We're hoping that farmers will begin to use fertilizer more efficiently and carefully," Qualman said. "As they do, they'll not only have the benefit of the federal incentives, they'll also be able to produce a given yield with less fertilizer, and therefore lower costs."

While Qualman and the NFU are choosing to look at the federal fertilizer emissions reduction target in terms of solutions rather than challenges, he says Ottawa needs to improve on one thing: releasing data faster.

"It's just not going to work to have a two-year lag when we're measuring this as we move toward 2030," he said. "It just takes too long to see if the things we're doing are making a positive difference."

USask ag research receives federal funding

Two agriculture research projects led by University of Saskatchewan (USask) researchers have been awarded \$250,000 each, under a federal program that aims to foster innovative high-risk research with the potential to yield significant and impactful results.

Getting at the root of climate-resilient plants

Dr. Leon Kochian (PhD), professor in USask's College of Agriculture and Bioresources, and Canada Excellence Research Chair in Global Food Security.

As climate change causes more prolonged and severe droughts and floods that threaten global food security, Dr. Kochian's group is studying plant roots at the molecular and functional levels to develop climate-resilient crops that absorb water and nutrients more effectively and

sequester more carbon in soil.

In developing climate-resilient crops, plant breeders so far have focused mostly on the genetic traits of plant shoots, which are readily visible. However, breeding plants for improved root traits has lagged because it's tougher to study root systems in the soil.

Work by Dr. Kochian and others worldwide has led to the development of root growth and imaging platforms that enable scientists to determine the complex genetics that control efficient root system architectures in thousands of plants, which Dr. Kochian calls "the foundation for breeding better root systems."

"In collaboration with university computer scientists, deep learning and artificial intelligence methods are being employed

that help us, in a more automated fashion, to process and analyze the root images more quickly and use molecular breeding and gene editing to improve the plants' use of water and nutrients," he said.

Collaborating on the project are: Dr. Ian Stavness (PhD), associate professor of computer science in USask's College of Arts and Science; Dr. Curtis Pozniak (PhD), professor in USask's College of Agriculture and Bioresources and director of USask's Crop Development Centre; and research associate Jordan Ubbens from computer science.

They have pioneered a method to use images of shoots to phenotype plants' response to drought and flood stresses. Their goal is to employ deep learning technology to extend phenotyping to both the roots

and shoots of plants in the lab, and develop algorithms that would enable breeders to use images of shoot architecture to predict when plants in the field have larger root systems.

No seedy sex please, we're breeding a better canola

Dr. Tim Sharbel (PhD), professor in USask's College of Agriculture and Bioresources.

Dr. Sharbel's project holds the potential to spur a revolution in crop production, starting with canola, by applying to plant breeding the findings of 20-plus years of lab research in Germany and Canada to understand naturally occurring asexual seed formation (apomixis) in plants.

"When applied to crops, our cutting-edge engineering biology approach would be a highly disruptive, billion-dollar technology that

would greatly facilitate the production of new varieties with novel traits to feed our rapidly changing world," said Dr. Sharbel.

His research group is working with the Institute of Synthetic Biology—at the CEPLAS-Cluster of Excellence on Plant Sciences at the University of Düsseldorf in Germany—and the National Research Council's (NRC) Saskatoon division to develop a "mini chromosome" that would deliver into canola plants several apomixis-candidate genes they have identified.

"The impact on breeding programs would be enormous, as it would allow us to immediately fix any de-

sired genotype in a single generation," Dr. Sharbel said.

This would give Canada's Canola industry an enormous advantage in both time and costs to create diverse varieties with desirable traits focused on specific environmental, agricultural or economic needs, something that until now has not been achievable using other modern breeding methods, he said.

Dr. Sharbel's collaborators are: Dr. Martin Mau (PhD), research scientist at USask's College of Agriculture and Bioresources, and Drs. Xingliang Ma (PhD) and Pankaj Bhowmik (PhD) at the NRC Saskatoon.

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Fall soil testing in dry conditions

By **Kim Stonehouse, MSc,**
PAg, Crops Extension
Specialist, Tisdale

With crops almost all in the bin, there are some things to consider right away. Fall soil testing, for example, is always a good practice to make the most efficient use of the fertility dollar. This year's unusually dry conditions make soil testing even more important.

In most years, crops use up a lot of the nutrients that were in the soil. This year, due to the dry conditions, some nutrients may not have been consumed or were lost to leaching and immobilization.

Some nutrients such as phosphorus and potassium, may be in sufficient amounts and you can save costs by reducing application volumes next year. This will depend on previous fertilizer practices and the amount of crop harvested this year. In the case of potassium

in light textured soils, it will also depend on the amount of precipitation received between now and spring that can result in leaching.

Nitrogen and sulphur also have the potential to be present in higher-than usual-residual amounts. However, prediction of these levels is much more complex. Both are highly mobile in the soil and are subject to leaching. How far they move depends on the level of moisture recharge and when it happens. In the case of nitrogen, other losses such as immobilization, volatilization and denitrification may also occur. These processes may have been reduced due to dry conditions but by how much is difficult to say. Therefore, it is very difficult to determine exactly what has been left behind, how available it is and where it is. The only way to know for sure is to soil test.

When soil testing, the most important thing to remember is that a test is only as good as the soil sample taken. It is recommended to take a minimum of 15 to 20 samples per field. Taking more samples improves accuracy, especially in larger fields. Avoid irregular areas of the field. If you hire someone to collect your soil samples, it is a good idea to go with them to point out unrepresentative areas in the field or give accurate directions to avoid these areas.

Fall soil sampling should be

done after the soil temperature has dropped below 10 C. This minimizes the risk of nitrogen mineralization before freeze-up. Mineralization is the process where nitrogen in its organic form is converted to a plant available form by soil microbial activity. Lower soil temperatures ensure that this activity has ceased and that the nitrogen levels measured are less likely to change before spring. Soil phosphorus and potassium are generally less affected by sampling date.

Soil testing on a regular basis has certain advantages. It will

help to establish upcoming crop nutrient need, monitor changes in nutrient levels over time and guide in nutrient management planning.

Nutrient management planning should take into account not only the requirements for the next crop, but also maintenance of the correct nutrient balance well into the future. Phosphorus is a good example of the importance of nutrient balance. Increased yields without increased phosphorus application rates has resulted in some fields approaching deficiency levels. Since fertilizer

use efficiency also decreases as availability decreases, the problem is compounded. It can take multiple seasons to restore this balance, so soil testing to avoid phosphorus deficiencies is important.

Fall soil testing can also be used to inform decisions about when to purchase crop nutrients, as it is difficult to predict where fertilizer prices are going to go.

For more information on fall soil testing, please contact the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377 or your local crops extension specialist.



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Sask. expands veterinary loan forgiveness program

By Michael Oleksyn, Local Journalism Initiative Reporter, Prince Albert Daily Herald

The Government of Saskatchewan has announced it is expanding eligibility for the Saskatchewan Loan Forgiveness for Veterinarians and Veterinary Technologists program.

Any Saskatchewan veterinary practice that offers veterinary services to livestock stakeholders from rural or remote communities is now eligible, which includes, but is not limited to, ambulatory service delivery.

"We recognize that the veterinarian shortages in rural Saskatchewan will take ongoing collaboration to resolve," Agriculture Minister David Marit said in a release. "The Government of Saskatchewan takes this issue seriously and is committed to continuing to find additional solutions."

Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association Chair Arnold Balicki of Canwood said the industry faces a shortage of vets, which makes it difficult to expand their businesses. He welcomed any changes that will get more vets out working in rural areas.

"We had raised concerns with the government previously around the



qualifying parameters for this program," Balicki said. "We truly appreciate that they took our concerns to heart and made the necessary changes to allow clinics in larger centres such as Prince Albert, who also serve rural clients, to now qualify."

Now eligible with the expansion is

Prince Albert's Park Range Veterinary Services. This expansion is in addition to designated communities previously announced in 2021, and the service

threshold continues to be a minimum of 400 hours of services over a twelve-month period.

Saskatchewan's growing economy is fueling high demand for veterinary professionals working in the province's rural and remote communities. The program aims to attract veterinary professionals to work in rural areas by forgiving a portion of their Saskatchewan Student Loan debt for up to five years to a maximum of \$20,000.

"This expansion will ensure that veterinary professionals providing services to smaller communities are eligible for the program," Advanced Education Minister Gord Wyant said. "It is a positive step forward in addressing the need for veterinarians and veterinary technologists in rural and under-served communities in Saskatchewan."

The Loan Forgiveness for Veterinarians and Veterinary Technologists program was announced in 2021, and began accepting applications on Jan. 1, 2022.

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CTF: Ottawa should stop stoking food insecurity

By Robin Speer
CTF Prairie Director

Ottawa's taxes and regulations are driving up costs for farmers and the families who buy the food they produce

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is reassuring a hungry world he personally will "drive action on food security" while Canadian farmers will put food on their tables. But back home his government makes pronouncements that are the policy equivalent of deflating the tires on tractors across Canada.

The federal government's taxes and regulations are driving up costs for both farmers and the families who buy the food they produce. Food prices were up 10 per cent in July, the highest increase in more than 40 years.

That wasn't mainly due to the carbon tax but at a time when prices are hitting heights not seen in four decades the carbon tax hits Canadians at the kitchen table as it drives up costs for farmers. Ottawa claims limited exemptions protect farmers from the carbon tax. But numbers from the Parliamentary Budget Office show the federal carbon tax on propane and natural gas could cost farmers another \$184 million per year by 2030.

This is typical of the dissonance between government claims and reality. Rather than making families better off, a PBO study released in March showed, the carbon tax's combined fiscal and economic effects will cost the average household between \$299 (in Manitoba) and \$671 (in Alberta) this year even after the rebates.

As the feds continue raising the carbon tax from 11 cents per litre of gas today to nearly 40 cents per litre by 2030, it will cost those average households a total of between \$6,400 and \$13,000 over the next eight years.

Worse, there's a second carbon tax coming. Buried within the regulatory impact assessment of the so-called clean fuel regulations (at Table 23) is the news that according to economic estimates it will add up to another 13 cents per litre at the pumps. There are no rebates. And there are no farm exemptions. The second carbon tax will have nothing but bills for everyone.

Meanwhile, modern Western Canadian farming is a carbon sink, where the agriculture sector removes a net 33 million metric tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent per year. That's like removing over seven million cars a

year from the road.

As if driving up food prices with the carbon tax on farmers weren't enough, Ottawa is now planning to further regulate fertilizer use. If its fertilizer emissions reduction target leads to hard reductions in nitrogen use, farmers won't be able to use enough fertilizer and yields will shrink. When yields shrink, there's less food and the food there is costs more.

It's odd. At the Commonwealth Heads of Government Conference in June, the prime minister lamented "the increase in fertilizer prices caused by the war [in Ukraine]" because that's "making the

food crisis worse." Yet his own policies are adding to the problem. Reports from the Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association and Fertilizer Canada estimate the losses in crop yields due to fertilizer cuts will be in the billions of dollars. Less food grown on the farm means higher prices on grocery store shelves.

This punishing policy ignores the fact that farmers are already implementing world-leading sustainable fertilizer practices and Canadian businesses are using world-class nitrogen production practices. Moreover, even the government admits that Canada accounts for only

"approximately one per cent of global agricultural emissions."

While Ottawa tightens the screws on Canadian farmers, it wrings its hands on behalf of the hungry and pontificates about putting food on their plates. In a Joint Declaration of Agriculture Exporters in June it said: "High energy and fertilizer prices are an additional constraint ... increasing world food prices for consumers, further exacerbating global food insecurity." And in June the prime minister joined G7 leaders to say they would "spare no effort to increase global food and nutrition security" — except, appar-

ently, by letting farmers get on with the job in the best ways they know how.

As most Canadians are stocking up on school-lunch groceries, Prairie farmers are getting up before dawn and working until after dark to get the harvest in the bin. They'll overcome everything from bad weather to shortages of machinery parts. Farmers are on the frontline fighting global food insecurity.

It would be nice if the prime minister could say thanks or even lend a hand but farmers would settle for a lot less: Just get soaring taxes and crippling regulations out of the way.

Fall grazing outlook

By Trevor Lennox, PAg, Range Management Extension Specialist, Swift Current

As fall approaches, the focus for many producers will shift to fall grazing and what forage options exist for the remainder of the grazing season. Each year, there is always a push to extend the grazing season as long as possible in order to shorten up the winter-feeding period. Questions such as the following may arise: "what fields will be used for fall grazing?" and "what additional forage resources are available locally, such as crop aftermath on cropland?"

Over the last several years there has been a push to extend the grazing season as it can be one way to help reduce the cost associated with winter feeding. However, there are additional risks to stand longevity when using perennial forages late in the season — such as the reduced

productivity potential due to minimal litter retained on the surface. Excessive livestock trampling late in the season can also harm the growing points of perennial pastures, reducing the productivity potential the following year.

Many producers have been heavily grazing their pastures each year in trying to get that extra one-to-two weeks of late fall grazing, but in doing so, may be sacrificing next year's grazing season. Sometimes that extra week or two of fall grazing can leave the land completely bare and less resistant to dealing with dry conditions should they arise again next year.

Research has shown that one of the key drivers for maintaining long-term productivity on pasture and rangeland is retaining adequate litter (carryover) on the surface at the end of a grazing season. On pasture-

land, litter acts as a physical barrier to heat and water flow at the soil surface. Litter conserves scarce soil water by reducing evaporation, improving infiltration and cooling the soil surface. On native pastures on the southern prairies, litter is so important that approximately 50 per cent of the yield in any given year can be attributed to litter. This is huge, especially during a drought where it is extremely important to conserve water to grow grass.

As we move into late fall and winter, producers are encouraged to retain a little extra litter (carryover) on their pastures as it will pay off next year by providing some additional drought insurance for the 2023 grass crop.

For further information, contact your local regional office or call the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377.

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NFU: Sask. playing politics with water testing

By Trevor Herriot
and Al Birchard

During World Water Week (Aug. 23 to Sept. 1), Stockholm, Sweden hosted an international conference around the belief that “understanding, valuing and caring for water in all its forms will be essential for humankind’s survival.”

Meanwhile, in Stockholm, Sask. and elsewhere in the province, people were getting different messages from our provincial government: stand your ground and keep a sharp eye out for “federal agents” who might be sneaking onto private land to test your water for nitrates.

While other governments and Indigenous water protectors take steps to defend the element that makes life possible, the Saskatchewan government issues an emergency amendment to its trespass law to make it harder for federal water samplers to do their job. For the Saskatchewan Party, it was a perfect one-two punch, appealing to both separatist rhetoric and castle-doc-

trine property defenders. Nothing says “you’re not the boss of me” like a Saturday afternoon cabinet order aimed at federal scientists testing water quality in dugouts.

With this latest change to the trespass law, this government has demonstrated that it puts private property rights ahead of human rights, public interest, health, and scientific necessity. In this case, the alleged trespass hit about every libertarian nerve in the province’s body politic: federal over-reach, property rights, environmental regulation, and the spectre of public demands to protect water, soil, and biodiversity, and to take meaningful climate action.

In the real world, where the laws of physics still apply, trespass legislation has no effect on the movement of water. Its passage through the atmosphere, the land, and all living things reminds us that the lines we inscribe on the earth to mark private and public space are convenient constructs that have little to do with the ecological realities of

land, water, and air.

Despite persistent efforts to enclose and privatize it, water is still something that we try to govern by balancing private rights and the public interest. It is part of what is sometimes called “the commons,” the shared cultural and natural resources on which all members of society, and all economic activities, ultimately depend.

If we are to retain even a modicum of respect for our common heritage, Saskatchewan will need effective water governance, and wetlands policy that will keep our farmland and waterways healthy and diverse, and the federal government will need to continue carrying out its responsibilities to protect water quality across the country.

Lacking both good water governance and policy to protect its wetlands, our provincial government seems now to be questioning the very value of scientific water monitoring, and lawful rights of access to conduct it—vital tools for striking that balance between pri-

vate and public interest.

In agricultural landscapes where pesticides and fertilizers (including manure) are applied, damaging events like blue-green algae blooms can occur. Meanwhile, rainfall carries atmospheric pollutants from agriculture and from far away industries that affect water bodies on millions of acres of private land. We all benefit from adequate testing of water quality to protect our health, food, and ecosystems. How else will we know the difference between practices that pollute water and those that keep it clean and healthy?

Under the Canada Water Act, Section IV, paragraph 26, federal employees have the legal authority to go onto private land to test the water—with or without permission—just as provincial food inspectors, agricultural inspectors, animal health officers, and fisheries officers can lawfully access private land to perform their duties.

Premier Moe and his ministers know all of this,

and they know that this kind of water testing has been going on for decades. They also know what the Provincial Auditor’s 2021 Report said: specifically, that they are the ones failing to protect the property rights of those farmers and landowners downstream when they don’t monitor and regulate illegal drainage, or follow their own legislation. As others have pointed out, it appears they simply could not pass up another opportunity to divert attention from more serious issues, while twisting the truth enough to take advantage of any private property fears in farm country.

Premier Moe’s government will undoubtedly continue to feed half-baked dreams of nation-

hood by coming up with grievances of perceived federal over-reach. Their Saturday afternoon amendment to the trespass act to stop federal employees from doing their jobs suggests they are testing the waters to see how much provincial over-reach the public will put up with, while fanning unfounded fears based on misinformation about the federal government’s plans to help farmers voluntarily adopt more efficient fertilizer practices. By lighting up social media to spread the lie that the federal officials were testing for nitrates, they knowingly created a situation that will hamper farmers’ efforts to fight climate change by reducing nitrogen emissions from agriculture.



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The risks of herbicide residues

Herbicide breakdown requires sufficient time under adequate moisture and soil temperature to support the growth of microbes that degrade herbicide molecules. Some herbicides are broken down quickly or are bound tightly to soil, preventing them from causing problems for crops that are planted the following season. Other herbicides take longer to decay, and as a result, persist into seasons following the year they were applied. These residues can injure sensitive crops that are planted in following seasons. Herbicides that have restricted recropping options are considered residual herbicides.

Rainfall and Herbicide Carryover Risk

In-season rainfall after herbicide application is the most important factor needed for the normal breakdown of herbicides in the soil. Less than normal rainfall can result in residual herbicides remaining in the soil at higher levels than expected, increasing the risk of herbicide injury to the more sensitive of the crops registered for planting in following year(s).

The map seen here is simply an alert to the possibility of greater carryover of herbicide than normally expected. However, rainfall events can be very localized. Due to potentially large distances between rainfall reporting sites used to create this map, and the smoothing process used, this map may either overestimate or underestimate the amount of rainfall at the individual field level. Producers should use their own rainfall records to estimate their specific risk of carryover injury from the herbicide

they used the previous year to following crops, or if dry conditions have been experienced over multiple years in a row, potentially residues from previous few seasons as well.

Isolated areas of higher rainfall (green) within a larger area of lower rainfall (yellow to red) may also indicate a single heavy rain event that may not provide enough ongoing moisture for the breakdown of certain herbicides. Isolated areas of lower rainfall among areas of adequate rainfall are possible due to missing reports for rainfall events. Contact the herbicide manufacturer on whether rainfall in your area is sufficient to allow their product to break down. The map indicates the amount of rain between early June and early September. Rainfall in this period is critical to the breakdown of herbicide residues in the soil. Precipitation outside of this window is not as effective because soil temperatures are cooler or frozen, minimizing the amount of breakdown that can occur.

The impact of the carryover of some herbicides on the following crop is affected by soil pH. The levels outside of the neutral soil pH range (6.5 to 7.5) may increase the risk of carryover of some herbicides. Other soil properties such as high clay or organic matter content may protect crops from the damage due to herbicide carryover. Clay and organic matter bind to some of the herbicide molecules making them less available to be absorbed by the crop. As a result, sandy soils with low organic matter are at greater risk of injury from herbicide residues.

The appearance of injury symptoms

from herbicide residues in the soil is often preceded by a soaking rainfall, which releases the herbicide from soil particles and moves it into the rooting zone where it is taken up by the crop roots.

Always follow label directions on what crops to plant following the application of any herbicide. When dry conditions exist, consult with the manufacturer for additional guidance.

How does 2022 shape up for potential carryover?

Rainfall needed for breakdown of residual herbicides earlier in the spray season (May and early-June) was patchy in the northwest of Saskatchewan and short for a good portion of the rest of the province. The exception to this trend was the southeast of the province, confined by a line running from the U.S. border near Oungre to roughly Moose Jaw and then northeast from Moose Jaw to Kamsack. This area also received additional rainfall in the first two weeks of June that helped in the breakdown of products applied in May and June 9 to 12, 2021.

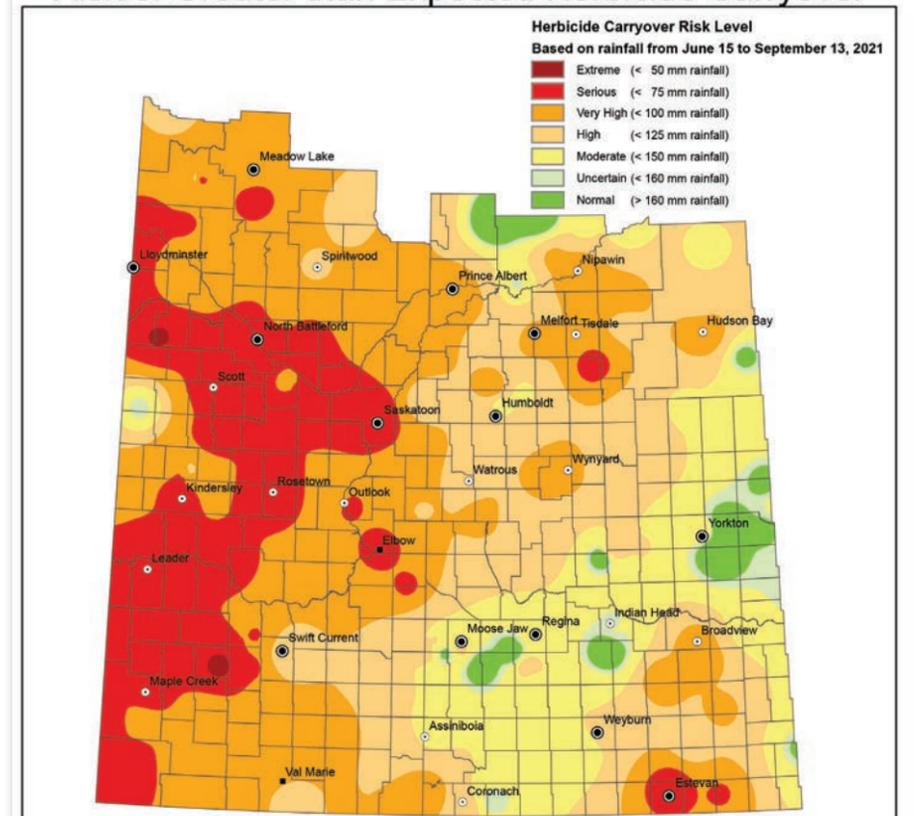
For later applications (mid-June and onward) the entire province was short on rainfall for breakdown to some degree, with the exception of small localized

areas around Smeaton to Choceland, south of the corridor between Moose Jaw and Regina, a small area between Vibank and Kendal north of Lipton, and a larger area east of Yorkton. A large area west of a line from Prince Albert to Moose Jaw and on to the border with the U.S., received less than four inches and in a large portion of that area, less than three inches was received. This places these areas at very high to serious risk of unexpected carryover that could impact the more sensitive crops listed as eligible for recropping of particular herbicides.

Even in the areas mentioned that received adequate rainfall for "normal" breakdown of most herbicides within the key months of June, July and August, much of this rainfall came in mid-August. Normally, rainfall received this late would contribute less to herbicide breakdown because of cooling soils, but a warmer, extended fall period will lessen that concern. However, soils were so dry by that date that moisture was moved from the surface to deeper layers very quickly. The layer near the surface where much of the breakdown occurs dried out relatively quickly after these rains.

Continued on page 23

Risk of Greater than Expected Herbicide Carryover



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The risks of herbicide residues

Continued from 22

While the extended dry fall was good for harvest, the lack of any additional precipitation through harvest meant that any later season breakdown couldn't be counted on.

Not only do producers need to be aware of persistent herbicide they applied in 2021, but also those they may have applied in 2020 or earlier. Those areas north of a line from Kindersley to Prince Albert and then from Prince Albert, southeast to Foam Lake and then east of a southward line, roughly following Highway 47 to Stoughton and north of Highway 13 east to the Manitoba border had adequate moisture for breakdown of residual herbicides in 2020 going into the 2021 growing season. Areas west of a line roughly transcribed by Highway 20 from Nokomis to Lumsden then Highway 6 from Regina to the U.S. border and south of a line from Ke-

naston to Rosetown and then to Leader, had high to very high risk of poor herbicide breakdown in 2020 going into the 2021 season. The remaining areas between these two were marginal for moisture needed for breakdown. This creates additional challenges for crop selection for the southwest of the province that will also have to consider herbicides applied in 2020 as well as 2021.

Saskatchewan still has large areas that are not well-covered for rainfall reporters and the ministry relies heavily on crop reporter observers to provide rainfall records for these maps. The Ministry of Agriculture is always looking for more volunteers to make data like this more complete and many rural municipalities currently do not have reporters. To inquire about participating, contact the Agriculture Knowledge Centre general inquiry line at 1-866-457-2377.

To retain or to purchase replacement heifers?

By Adriane Good, Livestock and Feed Extension Specialist, Moose Jaw

With drought conditions and feed shortages easing up in parts of Saskatchewan, some producers may be looking to rebuild their herd while others are still looking for options to reduce their feed usage this winter. Whether you've got lots of feed or you're looking at a shortage, you may start thinking about whether it's better to retain your heifer calves or buy replacements.

There are many advantages to raising your own replacement heifers. One of the big advantages is that you know the history of the heifers you are keeping. You have made the culling decisions and have had control over the genetic makeup of the herd as well as the temperament. Raising your own replacement heifers also reduces the biosecurity risk in comparison to buying breeding stock as you are not bringing any new animals and potential diseases into your herd. Other advantages of raising your own replacements include a lower up-front cash cost and heifers that may be better adapted to your facilities and environment. While there are a lot of positives to raising your own replacements, there is a significant negative—the high cost of developing a heifer into a productive cow. On average it takes six calves for a cow to pay for her own development costs and this number is climbing with increasing feed costs.

Aside from the long-term invest-

ment costs, there are other advantages to buying new breeding stock. Buying bred heifers allows you to incorporate new genetics into your herd and it gives you an opportunity to incorporate more terminal sires, since you will not be keeping your heifer calves for breeding. Buying your females also gives you the opportunity to buy cows that are three to five years old. Instead of waiting for them to hit their most productive years, they will already be there. Buying replacements also frees up resources like feed, water or pen space and gives you a chance to avoid some post weaning health issues on heifer calves.

Deciding whether to retain replacement heifers or buy them is a tough choice that needs to have several questions answered. How will this decision fit into your current man-

agement plan? Do you have a plan to limit disease exposure from new animals? Do you have the infrastructure and feed to handle heifer calves? You will also need to calculate the cost of raising and breeding your heifers compared to the price of buying bred heifers. Remember to include all the costs for each option including interest, transportation, depreciation and death loss. What is the financial risk involved with both options? Examine all your options and budget for the future.

Making the decision about whether to raise your own replacement heifers or buy breeding stock can have a lasting impact on your herd. Whatever option you choose, make sure to select the animals that most closely match your goals and will bring the most benefit to you.



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The importance of herd or flock vaccinations

By Willa Bertsch, Summer Student, North Battleford and Jenifer Heyden, M.Sc. PAg, Livestock and Feed Extension Specialist, North Battleford

It's never too early to review vaccination protocols and management practices to protect your livestock. Every operation is unique, so herd health programs vary accordingly. It's important to discuss timing and protocols with your veterinarian to ensure best management practices.

Vaccines mediate an immune response, by training the animal's immune system to recognize foreign/disease-causing viruses, bacteria and parasites. When the animal is exposed to the actual disease-causing pathogen,

it can respond promptly and effectively. To ensure the efficacy and effectiveness of your vaccination program, it's important that vaccines are provided prior to disease exposure, nutrition is adequate and biosecurity and environment are top of mind.

During the grazing season many herds will be co-mingled. A study from the Western College of Veterinary Medicine looked at 30,000 beef cows from over 200 well-managed herds in Western Canada. In the study, herds that were co-mingled during the breeding season tended to have reduced reproductive performance. Vaccinated cows were more likely to get pregnant and less likely to abort, while calves born to vaccinated cows were less likely to be treated for respiratory disease before weaning.

Collaborating with a veterinarian can benefit your herd health. Time can be spent with your vet to discuss and create a program best suited and most up-to-date for your specific operation. Vet clinics can recommend and advise on the proper dosage, timing, placement, storage, withdrawal period and stressors that can affect the performance within the herd/flock.

While some producers may question the efficacy of vaccines and the cost, it is better to be safe than sorry. Treating one or more sick animals will become another cost not everyone wants or expects to

pay at the time. In the long run, it's best to protect your livestock from diseases that could cause not only illness but death within the herd/flock.

It can be tempting to cut corners on vaccinations. Before you do, consider the risk not only to herd/flock health but also to your bottom line should a disease outbreak occur. The cost to treat a disease outbreak even in just a few animals or the costs associated with death loss in an outbreak often outweigh the cost of a good vaccine/herd health program. To promote a healthy herd, monitor health

throughout the year, choose the correct products and be sure to follow all label instructions. To maximize performance in the herd/flock, it is important that these vaccines and other animal health products are used responsibly to reduce antimicrobial/antibiotic resistance.

For more information on vaccination protocols, reach out to your local veterinarian. For more information on livestock topics, contact your local livestock and feed extension specialist or the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377.



The Construction Code Act impacts the farm

By Bill Hawkins, Executive Director, Building and Technical Standards Branch, Ministry of Government Relations

The Construction Codes Act (CC Act) came into force on Jan. 1, 2022. The new Act replaced The Uniform Building and Accessibility Standards Act

as the legislation that governs the construction and occupancy of buildings in Saskatchewan.

There are several points under this new legislation and its associated regulations that may impact farmers and ranchers:

1. Farm buildings remain exempt from construction standards. However, the CC Act has amended the definition of a farm building to exclude farm residences and buildings with sleeping quarters from being considered a farm building. Building owners should talk to their administrator to discuss if their building needs to comply with construction code requirements.

2. The Building Code Regulations state that a building is not considered a farm building if it is used in the production, processing, wholesaling or distribution of cannabis, or if it is involved in the manufacture, sale, storage wholesale or delivery of beverage alcohol.

3. Farm residences and buildings with sleeping quarters must meet the same construction code requirements as other buildings in the province. This includes the require-

ment to have both carbon monoxide and smoke alarms installed before July 1, 2022, regardless of when the building was first constructed or last renovated.

4. The CC Act requires all local authorities (including rural municipalities) to have a valid building bylaw, so they can administer and enforce construction standards. If a rural municipality does not already have a valid building bylaw, they have until Dec. 31, 2023 to adopt their own bylaw or one will be prescribed to them.

To learn more about the new Act and associated Regulations that apply to the construction, renovation, and fire safe operation of buildings in Saskatchewan, visit the Building and Technical Standards page or read the building advisories found in Publications Saskatchewan.

If you have any questions about Saskatchewan's construction legislation, contact the Building and Technical Standards Branch in the Ministry of Government Relations at 306-787-4113 or email btstandards@gov.sk.ca.

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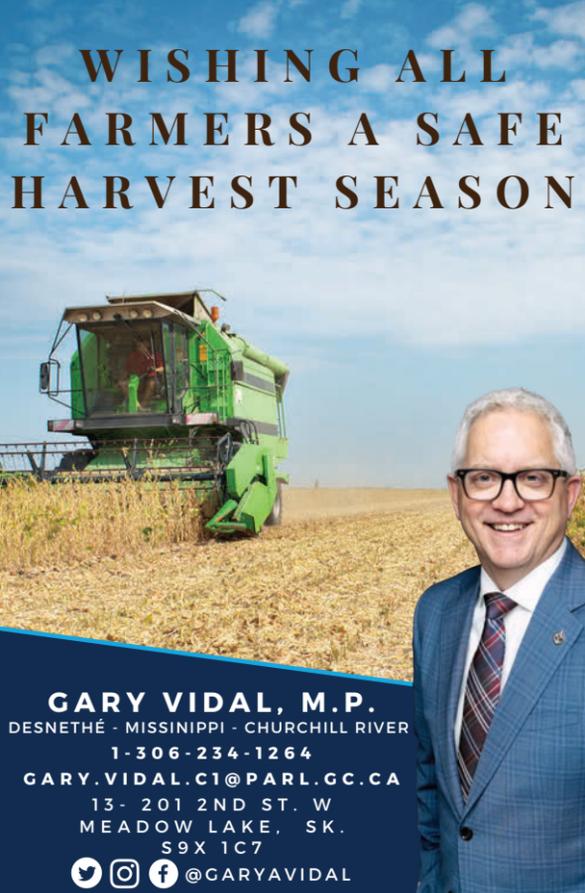
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Processing fruits and vegetables

By Patricia Hanbidge

Last week, we focused on harvesting your fruits and vegetables and ensuring that products not needing processing were stored appropriately to maintain the quality for as long as possible. It is extremely important when harvesting anything to ensure that the field heat is removed from the harvested produce as soon as possible. Also, it is best to pick prior to the heat of the day so that the produce is as cool as possible.

Some fruits and vegetables do not have a long shelf life and to ensure having these products available to you throughout the winter, it is important to process these fruits and vegetables in order to store them for any length of time. As with any storage, produce should be carefully picked to ensure that the products are free of nicks, bruises and other damage, so that you are putting away the best quality of food. If there is damage to the fruit and vegetables, then those should be consumed at the dinner table as soon as possible rather than processed and stored for winter.

During any type of processing, it is important to preserve the colour, flavour, texture and nutrition while also prolonging the shelf life. Fruits and vegetables can be stored, canned, frozen, dried, juiced or fermented. Due to modern lifestyles and diet preferences, we have developed many methods and procedures for preserving our harvest.

Heat treatment and sterilization is one of the most traditional methods of preserving fruits and vegetables. During this process, heat is used to sterilize, pasteurize, or blanch the products and then using hermetically sealed packaging that is metal, glass or plastic. After washing the product, we often trim, slice or chop the product and then blanch them using steam or water for a specific time period that is dependent on the product. A rapid cooling then occurs, and the product is most often bagged and frozen.

Life of the product essentially is ended due to the high heat and thus the produce no longer respire, which does not happen when using a variety of storage options that do not involve processing.

I have fond memories of my mom blanching and freezing huge amounts of vegetables in order to feed the family over the winter months. She would tally up the total number of bags and weights of what she processed which helped to plan for next years' garden and ensured the family had quality food throughout the year. However, sometimes freezer space is limited, produce is plentiful and needs to be processed appropriately in ways other than freezing.

The next most common way of preserving raw vegetables or fruit is to use a pickling process to ensure a long shelf life. Often the produce is again subjected to a heating process, then cooled and placed into jars with a pickling solution (which contains some type of vinegar/acetic acid) which fills the container to the required level thus limiting the amount of oxygen in the jar. The container is sealed to ensure no contamination occurs

and the products have a lengthy shelf life.

Last but not least, many fruits and vegetables can be dried using either the sun or other mechanical methods, ensuring that the products are available throughout the winter.

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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