



First Derryk Franson Memorial spiel a huge success

By NATASHA CABASE
Spiritwood Herald Reporter

Spiritwood's inaugural Derryk Franson Memorial Funspiel was hosted at the Spiritwood & District Recreation Centre on Jan. 27 and 28, bringing the community together to commemorate a young man who was beloved in the community.

Derryk was just 22 when he was killed in a house fire on Sept. 18, 2022. Throughout his high school years, he curled on the Spiritwood High School boy's curling team and won a number of silver medals at Provincials. He also competed in junior curling through CurlSask from U15 to U18, and saw similar success.

Given how involved he and his family have always been in the community (and in curling) Sue Kahl, the events and facilities assistant for Spiritwood Area Recreation, Culture & Sport (SARCS), felt it only appropriate to organize an event in his memory.

When the event finally came around, she got what she bargained for — and then some. From donations of door prizes, to raffle table prizes, to silent auction items, to pies and the support of volunteers, the community's response was overwhelming. Indeed, towards the end of the funspiel, volunteers had to be turned away because there wasn't enough work for all of them to do.

"When I started it, it was just to do something for the community because he was so well known and liked in the community," Kahl said. "But it ended up being such an unbelievable turnout."

With 30 teams entered, the funspiel's games kicked off at 6 p.m. on Jan. 27. Each game was four ends, and featured one end with a gimmick to keep things interesting, whether it be throwing with a stick, throwing all in-turns, or using no sweepers. There was also a hugged rock pot, which required everyone to toss in a loonie if they hugged rocks.

As the curling action continued through Jan. 28, a moment was taken in the afternoon to honour Derryk, when four of his former teammates threw a memorial rock. Garrett Reddekopp threw the rock, while Dalton Wasden and Ryan Caffet served as sweepers, and Devyn Thompson held the broom.

Though the primary purpose of the funspiel was to have a good time and remember Derryk, there were still bragging rights at stake. After all the rocks had been swept, the winners of the funspiel were Garrett Reddekopp, Lacey Gall-



Derryk Franson Memorial Funspiel winners, from left to right: Lacey Gallinger, Taylor Olson, Dyllan Franson (Derryk's brother), and Garrett Reddekopp.

inger, Dyllan Franson (Derryk's brother) and Taylor Olson. In second place was the foursome of Bruce Booth, Patrick Booth, Roger Booth, and Terry Wingerter.

In some excitement off the sheets, the funspiel's 50/50 pot grew to \$1,955, meaning lucky winner Dawn Dewhurst took home \$977.50.

Proceeds from the Derryk Franson Memorial Funspiel will go back into Spiritwood's youth curling program in Derryk's name. Kahl said that she is going to start a sub committee to decide what specifically to do with the proceeds. However, she added that they may start a couple scholarships and/or use the funds to send some local youth curlers to curling camps.

All in all, Kahl says it was a very successful weekend, and she looks forward to organizing the funspiel again next year.



Derryk Franson Memorial Funspiel second place team, from left to right: Terry Wingerter, Bruce Booth, Patrick Booth, and Roger Booth.

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Parkland Pool fundraiser splashes up \$60,000

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle
Reporter

The Parkland Pool Project Committee took its first big dive into fundraising on Friday, Jan. 27, hosting an evening of entertainment at the Shellbrook Community Hall.

The night, featuring musical bingo by Twisted Sisters Entertainment Inc., the comedic stylings of Kelly Taylor, a silent auction (with items generously donated by local and area businesses), and great food and prizes, made quite a splash with the crowd, raising about \$20,000 to help with the committee's plan to build a new pool in Shellbrook.

In addition to the money raised through the event, the Parkland Pool Project Committee also received a \$40,000 donation from the Parkside Community Club — the largest single donation in the club's long history of community service — bringing the total raised on the evening closer to \$60,000.

"We felt like the timing was right; people wanted to get out and have an evening of fun again. A couple of committee members had seen musical bingo in the past and thought it would

be a great idea to do for a fundraiser," committee chair Mark Klaassen said. "It was unbelievable to see a full house. The response was amazing by our community."

With this first major fundraiser under its belt, as well as plenty of experience running canteens and snack sales at other local events, the committee is returning to the drawing board to plan more unique fundraisers and events for the community.

As for the pool project itself, Klaassen says the committee is still in the planning stages, coming up with the design and weighing the pros and cons of potential locations.

The price tag for a new pool is currently pegged at around \$4.6 million, according to a feasibility study conducted by aodbt architecture + interior design. That same study said the cost of repairing the existing pool, which was built in 1971, would be about \$2.6 million.

With the potential for issues with major items like boilers, the pool tank, and piping, to shut-down the pool at any time, Klaassen says \$2.6 million is a high price tag for a facility nearing the end of its lifespan.

Prior to having the

feasibility study done by aodbt, Klaassen and the committee did their homework by looking at how much it's cost communities of a similar size to build new pools. Through their research, they found these other communities, including Nipawin, Foam Lake, Rosthern, Outlook, Luseland, and Raymore, have spent anywhere from \$1.2 million to \$1.9 million on new pools within the past 10 years.

Klaassen notes, however, that these costs only factor in the price for the pool itself. Meanwhile, the quote provided by aodbt includes everything: the design, the pool, and the building containing the change-rooms, space for the lifeguards, and the mechanical room. Breaking down the numbers, Klaassen says the feasibility study pegged the cost of the new building at \$1.2 million, while the new pool was quoted around \$2.2 million — putting it perfectly in line with other communities.

"We're going to need a building. Regardless of what we do, those costs are there," Klaassen said in November, when the feasibility study results first became public. "We're looking at making it bigger. The current changerooms we have are too small. There aren't enough stalls, there isn't enough room for the lifeguards. The mechanical room is pretty tight.



Parkland Pool Committee chair Mark Klaassen accepts a \$40,000 cheque from Parkside Community Club president Jory Segberg. The donation will help with plans to build a new pool in Shellbrook.

The facility itself is just dated."

Klaassen says the loss of the pool would be economically devastating, not just for the community but for the whole region, including communities like Big River, Blaine Lake, Spiritwood, and Glaslyn.

Aside from the economic rationale to repair or replace the existing pool, however, Klaassen says a new pool would also be a boon for the

Shellbrook Silverfins, as the current pool doesn't meet Swim Saskatchewan's standards to host meets and competitions.

A replacement would also allow for some other key upgrades on top of those to the building, including a zero-depth entry for little swimmers, spray features or a waterslide, and a 25-metre lane pool. And finally,

eliminating current issues with the high water table would allow the pool to open up earlier in the season, meaning more space for lessons and programming.

"Budget will remain a priority with all of our decisions, and we want to create a facility that becomes a destination for many years to come," Klaassen said.

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Notice is hereby given under *The Tax Enforcement Act* that unless the arrears and costs appearing opposite the land and title number described in the following list are fully paid before the 12th day of April, 2023, an interest based on a tax lien will be registered against the land.

Note: A sum for costs in an amount required by subsection 4(3) of *The Tax Enforcement Act* is included in the amount shown against each parcel.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY						
Lot	Block	Plan	Title No.	Total Arrears	Advertising Costs	Total Arrears and Costs
Sec	Twp	Range				
2	19	60B07120	129031815	\$ 3,794.39	\$ 22.15	\$ 3,816.54
15	33	95B14103	129030409	\$ 4,606.67	\$ 22.15	\$ 4,628.82
9, 10	20	64B00039	129031590	\$ 2,782.86	\$ 22.15	\$ 2,805.01
5	29	82B12358	129027450	\$ 3,383.75	\$ 22.15	\$ 3,405.90
4	U	73B13796	129020295	\$ 4,749.24	\$ 22.15	\$ 4,771.39
7	1	CA5071	129026549	\$ 2,303.35	\$ 22.15	\$ 2,325.50
21	21	61B02055	152889485	\$ 1,818.44	\$ 22.15	\$ 1,840.59
6	5	AP518	128907940	\$ 3,027.95	\$ 22.15	\$ 3,050.10
10	12	BK4385	131179855	\$ 2,752.66	\$ 22.15	\$ 2,774.81
5	33	78B14408	129030151	\$ 1,680.28	\$ 22.15	\$ 1,702.43
21	3	AP518	128907377	\$ 3,267.31	\$ 22.15	\$ 3,289.46
4	18	BK4385	129026639	\$ 2,821.99	\$ 22.15	\$ 2,844.14
4	33	78B14408	129030173	\$ 944.26	\$ 22.15	\$ 966.41
13	2	AP518	129031365	\$ 2,841.79	\$ 22.15	\$ 2,863.94
18	1	CA5071	129022501	\$ 2,857.41	\$ 22.15	\$ 2,879.56
10	19	67B01961	129032108	\$ 3,308.38	\$ 22.15	\$ 3,330.53
6	33	78B14408	129030139	\$ 1,924.06	\$ 22.15	\$ 1,946.21
6	34	78B14408	129029902	\$ 1,833.16	\$ 22.15	\$ 1,855.31
3	40	91B03751	128906938	\$ 8,261.90	\$ 22.15	\$ 8,284.05
15	11	CA5071	129026448	\$ 1,647.92	\$ 22.15	\$ 1,670.07

Dated this 10th day of February, 2023.
Treasurer

Ski and Snowshoe raises funds for Northern Lakes Health Committee

By NATASHA CABASE
Spiritwood Herald Reporter

The second annual Wolf Country Ski and Snowshoe was held on Feb. 4, and this time it was hosted at the Spiritwood Golf Course — marking a change in venue from last year’s inaugural event, which was held at the Spiritwood and District Sports and Agriculture Complex (SADSAAC Park).

Organizer Heather Beauchesne couldn’t stress enough how well this year’s event went.

“We had a really cool turnout. Everyone was really happy and expressed their gratitude for hosting this event and looked forward for the next year. That was really nice to hear without having to ask people,” she said.

About 40 people registered and participated in the Wolf Country Ski and Snowshoe, which consists of different age groups. The events started at 11 a.m., with everyone meeting at the clubhouse first before heading out on the groomed trail, and ended around 1 p.m.

Once they finished their ski or snowshoe, participants were treated to a warm fire, hot chocolate, and refreshments from local restaurant Merchants Café, which served as a partner for this year’s event.

Beauchesne says one of her main goals with the event is to provide a healthy winter activity and create opportunities for people to socialize while enjoying a beautiful outdoor setting.

Apart from the change in venue, this year also marked the first time the Wolf Country Ski and

Snowshoe served as a fundraiser, with proceeds totalling \$150 earmarked for the Northern Lakes Health Committee.

Beauchesne says she expects the event to continue serving as a fundraiser in the years ahead.



A warm fire and warm drinks, provided by event partner Merchants Café, were a welcome treat at the end of the trail.



A participant makes sure their skis are ready before hitting the trails.

Town of Blaine Lake seeks PUBLIC WORKS FOREMAN

The Town of Blaine Lake is accepting applications for the position of Public Works Foreman. This full-time permanent position is responsible for the day-to-day management, operations and maintenance of the Public Works and Utilities department.

Duties include but are not limited to:

- Maintain and operate Water Treatment Plant and Lift Station
- Ability to service and maintain Town equipment as required
- Maintain Town properties
- Operating graders, payloaders, trucks, and other equipment
- Present to Council with monthly reports

Qualifications for this position are:

- Valid Class 5A driver's license, abstract must be supplied
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team
- Good public relations and communication skills
- **MUST** have Class 2 Water Treatment & Distribution Certificate
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- **MUST** be willing to submit to a criminal record check

Salary will be based on qualifications and experience. Applicants should submit a resume to:

Town of Blaine Lake
Box 10
Blaine Lake, SK S0J 0J0
blainelake@sasktel.net
Fax: (306) 497-2511

Start date will be determined.
Application close date is **February 10, 2023**.
The Town of Blaine Lake wishes to thank all applicants for their interest and advises that only those to be interviewed will be contacted.

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- Successfully pass Drug and Alcohol screening
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- Flexible and reliable
- Team Player
- Able to handle constructive criticism
- Knowledgeable with documentation (inspection reports, electronic log books, GPS, Bill of lading, trip reports, incident reports and repair reports).
- Able to perform job specific tasks such as: loading and unloading of goods, trip inspections, brake adjustments, physically able to lift up to about 50 lbs.

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“Just transition” spat serves no one’s interests

If you’ve been paying attention to headlines in recent weeks, you may have noticed a great deal of hubbub about something called the “just transition”.

In the simplest terms, the “just transition” is a framework, which is being established globally, to make the shift away from fossil fuels more fair and equitable for those in oil and gas, mining, forestry, and agriculture sectors who will be disproportionately impacted by the transition to renewable energy and net-zero carbon economies.

The idea, essentially, is to ensure these workers are given avenues to retrain, further their education, or find new employment, rather than being kicked to the back of the unemployment line.

This is a vital piece of the “just transition” puzzle. There are somewhere between 500,000 and 1 million Canadians employed in the sectors listed above, and the consequences of eliminating all those jobs without any plan for what comes next would be catastrophic.

The ideas being proposed in the “just transition” are nothing new. Since taking office in 2015, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has been unequivocal about his government’s intentions to set more ambitious environmental targets.

So why has the two-word buzz phrase been in the spotlight so much recently?

Well, it all started a couple weeks ago, when Alberta Premier Danielle Smith got her hands on a package of committee meeting briefing materials for Federal Natural Resources Minister Jonathan Wilkinson.

The document, which had already been posted publicly as early as September 2022, included speaking notes, background materials, and a list of some questions Mr. Wilkinson might get and answers he could give to them.

Through some Olympic level mental gymnastics, Ms. Smith somehow arrived at the conclusion that Mr. Trudeau’s government was planning to wipe out 2.7 million Canadian jobs and effectively leave the newly unemployed to fend for themselves.



JORDAN TWISS
~
News Editor

Smith’s reaction to the document – not to be confused with the actual document itself – set off a powder keg among Alberta’s pundits, who quickly racked up word counts lambasting the federal government for having, in the words of *Edmonton Journal* columnist David Staples, “lost all humility and common sense.”

In another context, Mr. Staples’ words might not have been far off the mark. Despite its inability to plan or execute anything effectively, Mr. Trudeau’s government has certainly never lacked for overreaching ambition and a saviour complex.

However, it’s abundantly clear that neither Ms. Smith, nor the columnists she inflamed with her rhetoric, actually read the document they were condemning. If they had, they would have realized it was outlining the reality that the *global* (key word) energy transition will impact oil producing regions like Alberta whether they like it or not. Job losses are inevitable, the document says, but they won’t be directly eliminated by the federal government, and the government must prepare to step in to help wherever it is needed.

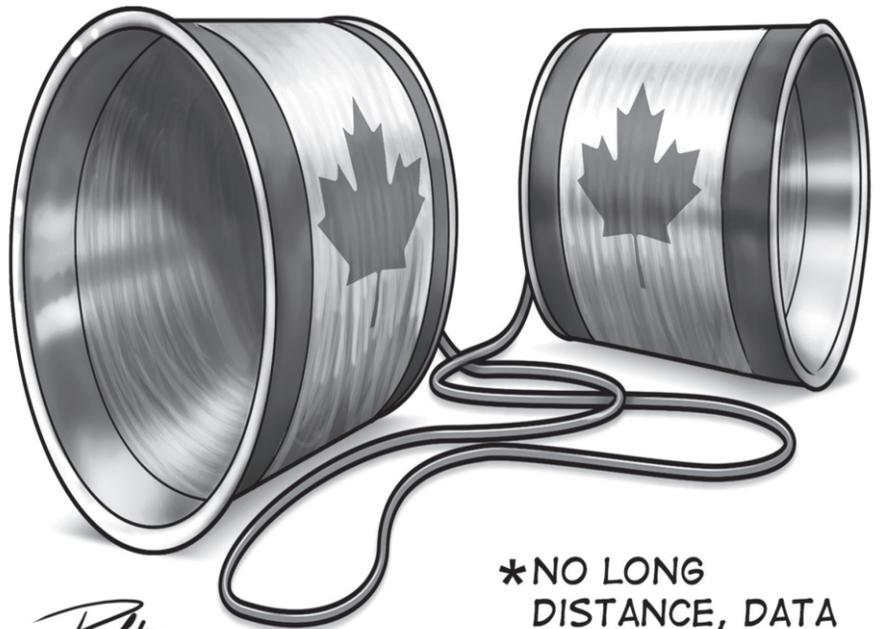
In the weeks since she misinterpreted the document, Ms. Smith has abandoned the hard-line rhetoric of fighting Ottawa with every tool at her disposal, in favour of a more conciliatory tone and a request for a seat at the table (a request that hasn’t yet been granted).

Still, her initial overblown reaction served as inspiration for the Sask. Party government. Last week, Justice Minister Bronwyn Eyre suggested the government could use a tool within its proposed Saskatchewan First to scrutinize the federal government’s “just transition” legislation.

Through the Saskatchewan First Act, which has not yet passed in the legislature, the province is looking to create an economic tribunal that would be used to evaluate the harms and costs of a federal policy. Decisions from this tribunal could also be used in future court cases.

Eyre further said the Sask. Party gov-

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ernment won’t accept any legislation that “eliminates jobs or reduces output of products.”

When federal policies impact their provinces, Ms. Smith and Ms. Eyre are well within their rights to question or criticize those policies. But we mustn’t forget one important thing: no one has laid eyes on the federal government’s “just transition” legislation, because it won’t be presented in parliament for another few months.

Based on the record of Mr. Trudeau’s government, it’s likely there will be plenty to question and criticize when the legislation is finally tabled.

By jumping the gun with their combative rhetoric, the governments of Saskatchewan and Alberta have given the federal government little reason to believe they will collaborate in good faith when any concerns about the “just transition” are raised. Why, then, should it make any effort to include them in the discussion?

What’s more, the provinces’ rhetoric doesn’t even seem to perfectly align with the thinking of the industry players they’re supposedly defending – or not all of them, at any rate.

In a recent article on Canadian oil and gas news outlet *boereport.com*, executives for oilsands companies like Cen-

ovus and MEG Energy suggested they view the “just transition” as an opportunity, not necessarily a burden.

Cenovus CEO Alex Pourbaix, for instance, says the Pathways Alliance, a collaboration between Canada’s six largest oil sands producers, estimates that reaching their goal of net-zero emissions by 2050 will create 35,000 jobs. He also says the ongoing tensions between Alberta and the federal government are hindering meaningful conversation about funding for carbon capture and storage.

Meanwhile, MEG Energy CEO Derek Evans adds he’s not worried about people being out of jobs. Instead, he’s concerned that Canada doesn’t have the labour force needed to get the decarbonizing job done.

The transition is coming. Full stop. No question about it. What remains to be seen is how “just” it will be for energy sector workers.

It’s the job of the federal government to ensure it gets the legislation right, and the best way to do that is through as much consultation as possible.

Before that consultation can happen, the provinces must make a decision.

Will they contribute to the solution?

Or will they continue to put up every possible roadblock?

Shellbrook Chronicle

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Spiritwood Herald

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

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Member of



Report from the Legislature

Saskatchewan continues to make progress in attracting healthcare workers from home and abroad as part of the Health Human Resources Action Plan. Through this plan, we are strengthening our healthcare system to provide the best care possible. This \$60 million investment will add 1,000 new healthcare professionals in the coming years.

A call was made to internationally educated health providers in Saskatchewan and Canada who may be eligible for additional educational or employment opportunities; over 600 applications were received. Options are being considered for bridging and educational programs.

Following a successful healthcare recruitment mission to the Philippines late last year, over 160 conditional offers of employment have been made to Filipino healthcare professionals. Recruited Registered Nurses (RNs) have begun working their way through the RN Pathway, which in-

cludes language, bridging education, and licensing. Another 1,000 candidates who attended information sessions in Manila during the mission have been contacted. We are excited these professionals are choosing to plant roots in Saskatchewan and build their careers here, and we are committed to making their transitions as smooth as possible.

A full staff of Health System Navigators is now in place to help internationally educated healthcare workers transition into the Sas-

katchewan workforce. The Navigators can be contacted for assistance by email at HHR@Health.Gov.Sk.ca.

We are also investing in training opportunities for healthcare providers in our province. In the fall of 2022, we added 150 new seats to Saskatchewan's nursing programs. The Saskatchewan Indigenous Institute of Technologies added 20 new seats to its Health Care Aid program. We also added seats at the College of Medicine and Saskatchewan International Physician Practice Assessment.

In addition, our government announced a separate investment of \$5.5 million for over 550 new seats in 18 different healthcare training programs. This is an unprecedented expansion and seats will be available in several programs as soon as fall 2023. These additional seats create exciting opportunities for students to build careers in healthcare right here at home.

Two brand new health training programs are be-

ginning in our province this March. The Indigenous Birth Support Worker Program, through the Gabriel Dumont Institute in a partnership with the SHA, will offer 12 seats for its eight-week course. Southwest College, in partnership with the Assiniboia Union Hospital and SHA, is offering a new 33-week full-time Continuing Care Aid program.

Learning opportunities have been made available for high school students as well. Grade 12 students are eligible for job shadowing and students over the age of 14 can participate in healthcare volunteer programs.

To keep our valued healthcare workers here in Saskatchewan, our government now offers one of the top incentives packages in Canada. Up to \$50,000 is available for new employees in a three-year return-of-service agreement in rural and remote communities. To date, 31 incentive packages have been approved. Saskatchewan communities of all sizes have a lot to offer in



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paid out in 2022-23 through the Final Clinical Placement Bursary, which is offered to students in an eligible health discipline that requires the completion of a final clinical placement as part of training. Graduates may also be eligible for student loan forgiveness and income tax credits. These investments demonstrate our government's long-term commitment to helping students build their health careers in Saskatchewan.

We are investing in new permanent positions in high-priority areas across the province. The SHA has filled over 90 positions in rural and remote areas, which is more than half of the new full-time and enhanced part-time to full-time positions.

We are also taking steps to keep Saskatchewan graduates in the province to build their careers. The SHA's new Grad Nurse Expression of Interest initiative matches graduates with an area based on their skills and expertise. Of the 78 nursing graduates from December, 68 have submitted their expression of interest and 29 have accepted conditional job offers.

Over \$210,000 has been

Work continues under the Health Human Resources Action Plan, strengthening our province's healthcare system. We are committed to building a strong healthcare workforce to support Saskatchewan today and into the future.

YOUR TWO CENTS

Sask. short-changing frontline healthcare workers

Dear editor,

There aren't enough cooks or continuing care assistants in long term-care. There aren't enough licensed practical nurses or medical technologists in acute care. There are simply not enough health care workers in Saskatchewan's broken health care system.

It is common for all health care facilities to be short staffed. It happens every single day. This negatively impacts patient and resident care. It also impacts health care workers who must make do, working short every day. They are exhausted, burned out, and frustrated because they can't provide the care that their patients and residents need.

The Sask. Party government introduced a "historic" recruitment and retention plan in September 2022. It promises to "recruit, train, incentivize and retain" health care workers in the province. Just this week they issued a press release stating that they are having success. On the same day that they announced this news, however, there were 1,661 vacancies posted on the health careers in Saskatchewan webpage. This isn't much of an improvement since the plan was launched. It may be because the plan has missed the mark. It may also be because health care facilities have both a front door and a back door.

Health care workers who remain in the system are leaving. They are retiring as soon as they can, earlier than they planned in some cases. They are leaving for other jobs. While the health human resources plan tries to get health care workers in the front door, many are going out the back door. They can't continue to work short every shift, be denied va-

cation, be forced into overtime, be scheduled for shifts they don't want, and deal with poor working conditions, a lack of respect, and stagnant wages. There is nothing in the plan for retaining them. Literally nothing.

Where "the plan" hasn't succeeded, the solution is to get private companies to provide contract health care workers. Imagine paying \$90.00 per hour to a private company to get the services of a health care worker whom you could hire for \$36.16 per hour. We know that there are more costs to that in-house employee - benefits, pension, statutory payments. Even so, how is it sustainable to double your costs?

Contract employees aren't part of the community, they aren't vested in the workplace, and that isn't good for the system or care being provided. How much productivity is lost orientating and getting work ready for a steady flow of new contract workers? Privatization doesn't save money, and it doesn't provide better care.

It is time to pay attention to the back door. It is time to provide some respect and relief to the workers still on the front line.

Bashir Jalloh,
CUPE Local 5430 President

Sask. taxpayers left cleaning up the mess

Dear Editor,

On March 1 the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission will hold a hearing in Ottawa to review a request from Orano Canada (aka AMOK, AREVA) to hand over responsibility for management of the contaminated Cluff Lake Uranium mine and mill site to the province.

In the 1960s, at the Gunnar and Laredo uranium mine sites near Uranium City, "unconfined tailings" were left be-

hind on the surface and open to wind and water. The clean-up costs have ballooned to \$220 million and rising - paid for by Saskatchewan taxpayers. That work is not complete and, after 60 years of neglect, several river systems downstream are polluted to a serious level, well above the Saskatchewan drinking water standard.

At the Cluff Lake uranium mine, from 1980 to 2002, the radioactive tailings were deposited in a shallow lowland, covered with a meter or so of till in 2004-6, then planted with vegetation. There is no confining barrier between the waste and the environment; an old dam is all that separates this area from a lake. Obviously, the tailings are "unconfined" in any real sense of the word. Water flows through them into the groundwater that eventually will reach the wider ecosystem.

And our Sask. Party government is going to let Orano get away with this by taking back responsibility for the site sometime this year.

Not only that, but the government projects that Orano will leave behind only \$1.1 to \$1.2 million for monitoring into the future. Note that a radioactive pollutant such as Radium-226 has a half-life of 1,600 years!!

So much more money will be required for monitoring. And, tragically, the Energy and Resources department are only asking Orano to leave us about \$390,000 total as (1) financial assurance, and (2) for dealing with "future unforeseen events". Obviously, the climate crisis is delivering plenty of unforeseen events which are only accelerating and will continue into the future.

Don't forget the \$220,000,000 it has cost us (so far) for just a few sites at Uranium City, where the ore grade was less than 1 per cent uranium oxide. At Cluff Lake, the ore grade reached 6 per cent.

Orano, a French multinational corporation, must be laughing all the way to the bank.

Val Drummond,
Prince Albert

Shell Lake project receives major grant funding

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

The Village of Shell Lake's plans to rebuild the community's curling rink have received a significant boost from the provincial and federal governments.

The \$2.3 million project was one of 25 selected to receive joint grant funding through the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP). Per the agreement, which was finalized by the Village of Shell Lake and both governments at the end of January, the federal government will contribute \$912,674 to the project while the provincial government will pony up \$760,485.

This leaves Shell Lake on the hook for \$608,525 of the estimated \$2.3 million price tag.

"We're sitting pretty good. Once we get [word] out there, I'm sure we'll get a good response from the public as far as donations go for the rest of our portion," said Village of Shell Lake Councillor Al Sulymka, noting that the community has been waiting to see what would happen

with the ICIP grant before making too many plans.

Now that the project has received the greenlight (the Village applied for the grant on May 8, 2022, and received the provincial go-ahead in July, but was waiting on the federal government), Sulymka says the next step will be to have three sets of blueprints drafted up by three different engineers. Once that's done, getting quotes for the construction — and selecting the best quote — will be the focus.

At the end of the day, though, Sulymka says the community isn't looking for a facility with all the bells and whistles.

"It will be two sheets like

we had before. It will be on just one floor; a concrete floor with sand. It'll have a kitchen, lounge, and whatever else we can put in — maybe some lockers or something," he explained.

"It's pretty basic, but we just wanted to go with what we had before," he added, noting that the plan is to build it in the same location as the original curling rink.

Looking ahead, Sulymka says the hope is to start moving dirt in the spring. Depending on supply and demand, which hasn't fully recovered from the COVID-19 pandemic, he'd love to see the project completed for fall.

"That might be shooting a bit optimistic. But, as soon as we can in the spring, we'd like to get things going," he said.

The rebuild of the Shell Lake Curling Rink was made necessary after the facility, which was built by the community in 1967, was destroyed by a fire in August 2021.

Though the curling rink had insurance, the rising costs of lumber, supplies, and contractors meant it wasn't enough to cover the full costs of the rebuild, leading to the formation of committees to focus on fundraising and grant applications.

As a community member who has been involved with the efforts to rebuild the rink, Sulymka says it's invaluable to the community.

"It's a good thing for the community. We're not a big village, but a brand-new \$2.3 million facility for a village this size is huge," he said, calling the village a hub for the surrounding area.

"If we can use it in the summertime for other things... whether it's trade shows or pickleball... we get a very good tourist trade between the camping, the campground, and the cabins."



A 3D rendering of early plans for the new Shell Lake Curling Rink.

Celebrate the Agriculture Industry

On February 15, 2023, show your support by raising a fork for Canadian agriculture. Start a conversation about food and agriculture as we celebrate this amazing industry on Canada's Agriculture Day.



Looking for agriculture events in your area? Scan the code to view our events calendar.



Did you know the Ministry of Agriculture has 10 regional offices around the province? Contact the Agriculture Knowledge Centre (AKC) to learn more about our programs and services.

Toll-free number: 1-866-457-2377

Email address: ag.info@gov.sk.ca

AGRICULTURE

February 9, 2023

www.shellbrookchronicle.com | www.spiritwoodherald.com

Shellbrook Chronicle & Spiritwood Herald 7

It's time to reconnect with the farm

So, Feb.15 is Ag Day in Canada.

That should mean something, especially from the perspective of those who live in a Canadian prairie province like Saskatchewan, where agriculture is the foundation of our existence and still a key economic driver.

We should never lose sight of the importance of farming in terms of keeping our world fed. But the reality is that even in a province such as Saskatchewan, there is a growing disconnect

by many from the realities of farming.

In recent years, how farmers fertilize, how they spray for weeds and pests, how cattle pass gas as they graze land some suggest should be growing grain for human consumption, and even the exhaust from machinery used to grow that food, have been seen as controversial by at least some.

And in today's world, 'some' — even a very small 'some' — can create a rather loud social media voice, which can



CALVIN DANIELS

put more focus on something than might be warranted if one checked the science, or just applied some common sense.

That said, having a forum to broach concerns is not in itself a bad

thing. Taking a closer look at how we do things in this world is not a bad idea, and certainly we can point to a long list of human interactions with our natural world which have been disastrous, and may well get worse moving forward.

But in terms of agriculture, we do need to remember the shelves in the local supermarket would be empty if not for the efforts of farmers.

That doesn't mean they should be able to do anything they want in terms of operating a

farm, but what they need to succeed in feeding us should be understood, too.

That is the hope of Ag Day.

As John Jamieson, CCFI President and CEO noted at *ofa.on.ca*, "This is an ideal opportunity for everyone to learn more about where their food comes from while getting to know the people who produce it. I encourage all Canadians to join the agri-food community online to have these important conversations about food and

agriculture."

The question, though, is whether people will even be aware of the day. And if they are, will they make an effort to start reconnecting with farmers and farming?

And just how do you make a reconnection?

There is the internet. But making a more personal connection by getting to know a farmer would be better. It might surprise some to learn that farmers are just trying to make a living feeding the rest of us in the best way they can.

To clean or not to clean

By MACKENZIE HLADUN
BSc, Crops Extension Specialist,
Moose Jaw

Bin-running seed is a common practice among Canadian producers. Bin-running entails growing a crop and saving some of the harvested seed for planting in future growing seasons.

Canadian producers are allowed to bin-run seed and use it on their own farm under the Plant Breeders' Rights Act. Many producers will opt to bin-run seed for several reasons instead of purchasing certified seed every year. One downside to bin-running is you're not guaranteed clean seed for the next year and farmers often clean their seed during the winter.

Why should you clean your seed? Cleaning your seed improves the overall stand and quality of your next crop.

Cleaning seed removes the smaller, lower quality seeds. Also, it will remove large amounts of weed seeds that were harvested with the crop.

By removing the weed seeds, you prevent those weeds from being transported into your next field. Also, if herbicide resistance is a concern on your operation, cleaning seed is a great management tool to help prevent the issue from spreading.

Seedling blights can also be reduced by removing diseased seed from the harvested crop and preventing them from being planted. Being able to exclude weeds and disease from your fields makes seed cleaning a great integrated pest management strategy as well as an overall crop quality improvement.

There are many different types of seed cleaners available, with seed

cleaning operations scattered throughout rural Saskatchewan. Seed cleaning operations can be mobile and will drive to the yard to clean seed right from the bin. Other operations may be stationary and need to have seed hauled to and from.

The technology used in seed cleaning can vary. Fans or air streams can be used to blow out residual chaff, lighter seeds or small weed seeds. Table or cylindrical screens/sieves can be used to sort the seed based on size, with numerous different sizes of screens stacked within the machine to sort the seed on varying levels. Gravity tables are used to sort the seed based on the same principles as screens.

Colour sorting can also be used for cleaning seed; diseased or unhealthy seed will have a different colour than healthy seed. Often, more than one

of these methods are combined into a single cleaning operation, giving producers better-quality seed for their fields.

Cleaning seed is a best management practice when bin-running your seed. A complimentary practice is to also have your seed quality tested by a certified lab to determine the germination and overall quality of your seed.

If interested, you can check out Seeds Canada for more information on plant breeders' rights.

Contact your local crops extension specialist for any additional information on cleaning seed.

Advertising Deadline is
FRIDAY 4:00 P.M.

MEADOW LAKE LIVESTOCK SALES LTD.



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

Wed., Feb. 22, 2023

Regular Sale 10:00 a.m.

Presorted Internet Calf Sale 12:00 p.m.

Fri., Mar. 3, 2023

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

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

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Your independently owned & operated livestock marketing
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Mon., Feb. 13, 2023

Regular Sale 8:30 a.m.; Presort Sale 12:00 p.m.

Fri., Feb. 17, 2023

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

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

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

For market info visit: www.northernlivestocksales.ca

Canwood Library honours late librarian, welcomes new

Submitted by GERDA BRUNER
Canwood Library Board

We were honoured to have the dedicated service of librarian Judy Stempien for the last seven years, until her sudden passing in November 2022. The library board and community members will have a celebration of life and burial for her later in the spring.

Following Judy's passing, Shellbrook's Vici Hagel became our temporary librarian while we received applications for the position.

Our welcoming library continues to be an asset to our community with enthusiastic Jessica Peters, who began her librarian training Dec. 8, 2022. She continues to help us access our public computers, movies, and books for all ages and from all areas of interest. She's also working on a variety of interesting activities, and assisting with presentations, and welcomes anyone to come join the fun at the library.

Though 2022 ended on a sad note, 2023 begins as a milestone year for the Canwood Library, which is celebrating 65 years of serving the community and surrounding area. We hope to celebrate with the community once the weather is warmer.



The Canwood Public Library lost long-time librarian Judy Stempien (pictured, back left) suddenly in November 2022.

Charges stayed against Amanda's Pizza robbery suspect

By JORDAN TWISS
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

The investigation into a 2018 armed robbery at Amanda's Pizza in Shellbrook is back to square one, after the second of two men arrested for the crime had the charges against him stayed in Prince Albert Provincial Court on Jan. 27.

Crown lawyer Shawn Blackman said the Crown had no choice but to stay the charges against 33-year-old Matt Lafond, because the evidence that Lafond was at Amanda's Pizza at the time of the robbery was inadequate to secure a conviction beyond a reasonable doubt.

The court proceedings date all the way back to April 2018, when police say two armed men entered Amanda's Pizza at around midnight on Friday, April 27. Staff at the restaurant were held at gunpoint and robbed, before the suspects, who were wearing bandanas, sunglasses, and other face coverings, fled in a red sedan, heading east of Shellbrook.

Following a brief investigation, police identified Lafond and his co-accused, 33-year-old Keith Stonechild, as suspects in the armed robbery, and arrested Lafond in Shellbrook on June 13. Stonechild, meanwhile, was arrested on an outstanding warrant on July 26.

Charges against

Stonechild were stayed in 2021, with the Crown citing the same challenge of proving beyond a reasonable doubt that Stonechild was involved in the robbery. However, that same year, he was handed a four-year sentence for an incident that occurred on the Mistawasis First Nation in 2019.

In that case, Stonechild was accused of entering a house in the community with a loaded shotgun and threatening three people inside. Following a heated argument with the people in the house, and an altercation in which one of the occupants slashed him across the shoulder and chest with a machete, Stonechild fled the house.

Police located him the following day at St. Paul's Hospital in Saskatoon, where he was being treated for an eight-inch gash.

The stay of proceedings against Lafond doesn't mean the case against him is dropped. If new evidence is discovered, the Crown has a year to recommence the proceedings. In Stonechild's case, however, the one-year window has expired.

Stonechild is scheduled to be released from prison later this year. Upon his release, he will be prohibited from possessing a gun, ammunition, explosives, or any other prohibited weapon for life.



Seasonal Labourer Canwood, SK

Cargill's Agricultural Supply Chain (CASC) connects producers and users of grains and oilseeds around the globe through sourcing, storing, trading, processing and distributing grains and oilseeds, as well as offering a range of financial, risk management and customized farmer services. Working at Cargill is an opportunity to thrive - a place to develop your career to the fullest while engaging in meaningful work that makes a positive impact around the globe!

As the seasonal labourer, your responsibilities will include receiving and shipping of seed, performing basic maintenance and care of equipment, and providing excellent customer service.

Qualifications include:

- Minimum 18 years of age and legally entitled to work for Cargill in Canada
- Ability to perform physical job duties which may include bending, lifting up to 50 lbs occasionally, kneeling, climbing, crawling, and twisting safely, with or without reasonable accommodation
- Ability to understand and communicate in English (verbal/written)
- Ability to work in various weather and dust
- Ability to work in elevated areas (4 feet and above)
- Possession of a valid Class 5 driver's license
- Available to work overtime, weekends, and holidays with advance notice
- Basic knowledge of operating a computer
- Basic mechanical aptitude considered an asset

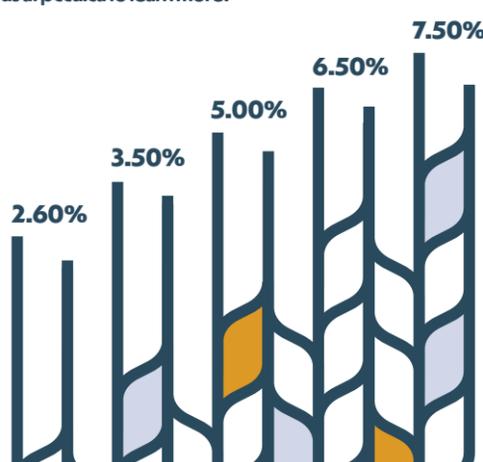
To apply online, go to Cargill.ca/Careers/ProductionJobs and select "Canwood" from the City drop down menu. Cargill is an equal opportunity employer and committed to providing accommodation to our job applicants with disabilities.



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Prairie Centre is now offering a 5 Year Upgrader GIC Term Investment. This GIC has a rising interest rate every year (as shown below), and is RRSP and TFSA eligible. Available for a limited time.

Stop by your local branch or visit us at pccu.ca to learn more!



Year	Interest Rate
Year 1	2.60%
Year 2	3.50%
Year 3	5.00%
Year 4	6.50%
Year 5	7.50%

Steady Progress in Attracting and Recruiting Health Care Workers

Saskatchewan continues to attract and recruit healthcare workers from home and abroad as part of the province's Health Human Resources Action Plan. Since last fall, progress has been made in approving a total of 31 Saskatchewan Rural and Remote Recruitment Incentive packages for various healthcare professionals. These one-time incentive packages are available in 52 Saskatchewan communities for up to \$50,000 for a three-year return-of-service agreement for nine eligible health professions. *For more information, visit saskatchewan.ca/HHR.*



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



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

U13 B Shellbrook Elks swept out of Provincials

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

With the transition from January to February, Provincial hockey season is officially under way in Saskatchewan. First up for the Shellbrook Provincials teams were the U13 B Shellbrook Elks, who drew the Melfort Mustangs as their first round opponents.

The U13 B Elks opened their Provincials run in Melfort on Jan. 28. It wasn't the beginning they had hoped for, as the hard-charging Mustangs skated to a 9-4 victory.

Returning to the Richardson Pioneer Recreation Centre on Friday night, the U13 B Elks knew they needed to win game two and force a shortened game three to keep

their hopes of a Provincials title alive.

In the end, a 6-1 stampeding at the hands of the Mustangs finished the Elks' Provincials run prematurely.

Friday night's game didn't stay scoreless long. After a brief and sloppy back and forth, the Mustangs took the reins, hemming the Elks in their defensive zone and finding an open skater in front of the goal.

The Mustangs continued to set the pace and tone of the game through the middle of the opening frame, striking again on another setup in front of the Elks' net to go up 2-0.

With the Elks reeling, a power play was a perfect opportunity for them to get back into the game. The chance was squandered, however, as the Elks failed to get a shot on

goal or apply any lasting pressure in the offensive zone, ending the period down just 2-0 after being outshot by Melfort by a tally of 8-2.

Coming out for the second period, the Mustangs took the reins once more, scoring on a soft tip-in that just barely managed to squeak through the pads of Elks starting goalie Brooklyn Anderson. Moments later, an Elks turnover allowed the Mustangs to find the back of the net again, prompting the coaches to pull Anderson from goal in favour of Brody Moe.

Though Moe looked steady in goal, there was nothing he could do when the Mustangs trapped the Elks in their own end again and scored on a top-shelf shot to go up 5-0.

Later in the frame, it was the Mustangs' turn for a power play. But with the help of both goal posts, the Elks escaped the penalty kill unscathed.

Ending the period on a high note, the Elks pounced on a Mustangs' turnover and buried the puck with a perfectly placed shot to shrink the Mustangs' lead. The Elks came

alive after this, and even had a few more close calls. But they ended the period down 5-1 on the scoreboard, and 21-8 on the shot counter.

In a comparatively quiet third period, the Elks played some of their best hockey of the game... until the power play coughed up the puck, allowing the Mustangs' penalty kill to score on a nifty backhand.

The Elks rallied late in the period, but failed to tally when given another power play, ultimately falling 6-1. The end of game shot total was 30-14 for Melfort.

This year's U13 B Provincials team was: Brooklyn Anderson, Brody Moe, Cash Prosofsky, Garrett Gamble, Levi Block, Wyatt Smith, Will Kasner, Carson Nordin, Camden Olsen, Jakub Palmer, Merek Tait, Tyson Hrechka, Devlin Capner, Tanner Mason, Gavin Smart, June Robin, and Lane Peters.

The coaching staff included Curtis Olsen served as head coach, James Palmer as forward coach, Tyson Kasner as defence coach, Jamie Capner as trainer, and Kris Moe as manager.



Elks goalie Brooklyn Anderson is left looking over her shoulder after another Melfort Mustangs goal.

PUBLIC NOTICE R.M. of Big River No. 555

Public notice is hereby given that the Council of the Rural Municipality of Big River No. 555 intends to consider a bylaw under *The Planning and Development Act, 2007* to adopt a new Official Community Plan.

INTENT

The proposed bylaw establishes rural land use policies under the following categories:

NATURAL & HERITAGE RESOURCES: Policies regarding heritage resource protection and cultural and tourism promotion.

BIOPHYSICAL CONSTRAINTS ON DEVELOPMENT: Policies regarding hazardous and sensitive lands, flood management and mitigation, and source water protection.

MUNICIPAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES: Policies regarding maintenance of infrastructure, asset management, transportation, servicing thresholds, and servicing agreements.

INTERMUNICIPAL & JURISDICTIONAL COOPERATION: Policies regarding the integration of planning, finance and engineering to manage infrastructure effectively, connectivity and traffic safety for all users, non-motorized transportation, servicing agreements, and infrastructure capacities.

AGRICULTURAL LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT: Policies regarding protection of farm land, agricultural subdivision, farm-based businesses, agricultural and economic diversification, intensive agricultural uses and intensive livestock operations.

RESIDENTIAL LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT: Policies regarding existing and future residential development areas, housing diversity, infill development, home based businesses, and neighbourhood design.

COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT: Policies regarding down town strength, visually appealing commercial districts, supply of commercial land, and provision for attractive highway commercial corridors.

RECREATION & TOURISM: Policies regarding cultural and tourism promotion, service management, and collaboration and integration of services.

FOREST: policies regarding forest product production, and the exploration and development of mineral and hydrocarbon deposits.

IMPLEMENTATION: Policies regarding implementation of the Official Community Plan and the implementation tools that will or may be used for same, including individual municipal Zoning Bylaws, dedicated lands, development levies and servicing fees, community engagement and provincial land use policies and interests.

The Official Community Plan contains general use maps which illustrate the and assist with the application of general rural policies.

YOUR PROPERTY MAY BE DIRECTLY AFFECTED BY PROVISIONS IN THE NEW OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN. PLEASE CHECK THE FULL VERSION OF THE BYLAW, AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW AT THE MUNICIPAL OFFICE, OR FOR REVIEW OR DOWNLOAD FROM THE FOLLOWING WEBSITE.

www.crosbyhanna.ca/downloads

AFFECTED LAND

All land within the corporate limits of the R.M. of Big River No. 555 are affected by the new Official Community Plan.

REASON

The new Official Community Plan will help direct and manage rural growth and land use in the R.M. of Big River No. 555.

PUBLIC INSPECTION

Any person may inspect the proposed bylaw at the **R.M. of Big River Municipal Office, located in the Big River Community Centre at 606 1st Street North, Big River, SK**, between the hours of 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM and 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM, Monday to Friday, excluding statutory holidays. Copies of the proposed bylaw are available to individuals at cost.

PUBLIC HEARING

The Council of the R.M. of Big River No. 555 will hold a public hearing at **3:00 PM on March 3rd, 2023 in the Small Hall of the Big River Community Centre, 606 1st Street North in the Town of Big River** to hear any person or group that wishes to comment on the proposed bylaw. Council will also consider written comments received at the hearing or delivered to the undersigned at the Municipal Office before the hearings.

Issued at the R.M. of Big River No. 555 this 2nd day of February 2023.

Michael Yuzik, Administrator

PUBLIC NOTICE R.M. of Big River No. 555

Public notice is hereby given that the Council of the Rural Municipality of Big River No. 555 intends to consider a bylaw under *The Planning and Development Act, 2007* to adopt a new Zoning Bylaw.

INTENT

A – Agriculture District: To provide for the primary use of land in the form of agricultural development, associated residences, limited single-parcel agricultural residential development, location-dependent natural resource development and other uses compatible with agricultural development.

F – Forest District: To provide for the management of extensive areas of forested Crown Land using sound integrated resource management principles and techniques and recognizing a wide variety of resource uses.

CR1 – Low Density Country Residential District: To provide for low density, multiple lot country residential development and other compatible development in specific areas with standards for such development which does not directly support agriculture.

CR2 – Medium Density Country Residential District: To provide for medium density, multiple lot country residential development and other compatible development in specific areas with standards for such development which does not directly support agriculture.

CR3 – High Density Country Residential District: To provide for high density, multiple lot country residential development and other compatible development in specific areas with standards for such development which does not directly support agriculture.

LR1 – Low Density Lakeshore Residential District: To provide for low density lakeshore residential development and other compatible development in specified areas with standards for such development.

LR2 – Medium Density Lakeshore Residential District: To provide for medium density lakeshore residential development and other compatible development in specified areas with standards for such development.

RMH – Manufactured Dwelling District: To provide for comprehensively planned manufactured and modular dwelling residential development and other compatible uses.

RPM – Park Model Residential District: To provide for comprehensively planned park model trailer residential development and other compatible uses.

C1 – Resort Commercial District: To provide for resort commercial development and other compatible development in specific areas with standards for such development.

C2 – Highway Commercial District: To provide for general commercial and other compatible development in specific areas with standards for such development.

M1 – Industrial District: To provide for light industrial, heavy industrial and other compatible development in specific areas with standards for such development.

RD – Restricted Development District: To provide for the protection of easements within the Tranquility Shores Development.

The proposed Zoning Bylaw also contains updated and new general provisions that apply to development throughout the Rural Municipality. Provisions include but are not limited to:

- Reducing the minimum square footage required for dwellings in all zoning districts to 40 m²;
- Allowing Garden/Granny Suites between 30 & 50 m²;
- Allow short term accommodation rentals
- Allowing **engineered** membrane covered structures in LR1 and LR2 zoning districts;
- Allow wet flood proofing for accessory buildings such as detached garages, workshops and storage buildings in flood prone areas requiring all electrical and mechanical equipment or connections to be located above Estimated Peak Water Level plus .5 meters.
- Recognize the NFPA 1192 RV Standard Label of certification from the National Fire Protection Association.
- Decks below .6096 meters will require a development permit but do not require a building permit
- Allow temporary greenhouses provided they are under 10 m².
- Allow in the AG or Forest zoning districts one shed on an undeveloped site that is less than 20 m² and is not on a foundation, or connected to electricity or natural gas.

AFFECTED LAND

All land within the corporate limits of the R.M. of Big River No. 555 is affected by the new Zoning Bylaw.

Maps are available to view online at www.crosbyhanna.ca/downloads

YOUR PROPERTY MAY BE DIRECTLY AFFECTED BY PROVISIONS IN THE NEW ZONING BYLAW. PLEASE CHECK THE FULL VERSION OF THE BYLAW, AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW OR PURCHASE AT THE MUNICIPAL OFFICE OR FOR REVIEW OR DOWNLOAD FROM THE FOLLOWING website:

www.crosbyhanna.ca/downloads

REASON

The new Zoning Bylaw will help direct and manage growth and development in the R.M. of Big River No. 555.

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Issued at the R.M. of Big River No. 555 this 2nd day of February, 2023.

Michael Yuzik, Administrator

Spiritwood U9-2 team wins over two Edam teams

By **NATASHA CABASE**
Spiritwood Herald Reporter

On Jan. 28, 2023, the Spiritwood U9-2 Timberwolves team triumphed over two Edam teams in a pair of road games.

The Spiritwood U9-2 team was composed of Bennett Schmidt, Cruze Kajner, Asher Simonar, Beau Doucette, Tenille Rose, Sawyer Kotun, Benson

Strate, Sawyer Doucette, Max Mitchell, and Ryker Caffet. The team is supported by coach James Caffet, who is assisted by Mike Sarrazin, and managed by Courtney Caffet and Amy Schmidt.

On the other hand, the first Edam team, called the Edam U9-1 Three Stars, was composed of Kimberly Lascelle, Thomas LaClare, Arie LaClare, Gavin Li, Austin Blaquiere, Bentley Corbeil-Craig, Jason Lascelle, Rylee

Baillargeon, Jax Wellin, and goalie Kayden Siegel. The team was supported by coach Gilbert LaClare, assistant coach Chris Blaquiere, and manager Rachel Lascelle.

During the first period between the first two teams, Spiritwood scored six goals while Edam scored just three.

On the Spiritwood side, Sawyer Doucette and Cruze Kajner were able to get the most goals, scoring three goals each for the team. For Edam, Arie LaClare scored all three goals.

In the second period, Spiritwood once again outscored their opponents, garnering four goals to Edam's three to claim a 10-6 victory. Kajner was able to gain another two goals in the second period, while Sawyer Doucette and Max Mitchell both scored a goal each. On the Edam team, Arie LaClare got another two goals, and Rylee Baillargeon scored a goal.

Referees for the game were Theo LaClare and Aiden Kappel. Hunter Weber

was the official scorer.

The next game featured the same players for the Timberwolves. This time, however, they faced off against the Edam U9-2 Three Stars.

This Edam team was composed of Wyatt Grant, Ty Weitzel, Bree Svojanovski, Brooks Weitzel, Barrett Roach, Maddox Gateley, Jayden Collins, Noah Weber, and Jase Esquirol. This team was supported by coach Kyle Esquirol, assistant coach Trevor Gateley, and manager Melissa Weitzel.

After their four goal victory over the U9-1 team, the Timberwolves found themselves in a much closer game against the U9-2 squad, winning by just one goal in the end.

In a rocky first period, the Timberwolves were outscored by their opponents by a tally of seven to three. Rather than give up, the Timberwolves rallied in the second period, scoring six goals while keeping Edam to one to claim a razor-thin 9-8 victory.



The U9-2 Spiritwood Timberwolves team with Coach James Caffet (back left) left and assistant coach Mike Sarrazin (back right).

Lake Country Co-op to eliminate plastic bags

Starting March 1, 2023, Lake Country Co-op will be eliminating single use plastic bags from checkouts at all Lake Country Co-op locations.

Lake Country Co-op is committed to ensuring the environmental sustainability of our communities for generations to come. In 2022, together with Federated Co-operatives Limited, Lake Country Co-op signed the Canada Plastic Pact (CPP). The CPP has set

clear, actionable targets, one being that businesses take measures to eliminate unnecessary plastic packaging.

Environmental sustainability is a key opportunity for Lake Country Co-op and their future.

"Sustainable practices help us make better decisions for our members and employees and ensures the long-term success of our company" said Brittney Rosenberg, Director of Marketing

and Community Relations.

"We want to do our part in keeping Lake Country green. Plastic bags are a major contributor to plastic pollution, by doing this we are protecting our environment." Lake Country Co-op is proud of the actions they have taken to address their role in protecting the environment and look forward to continued progress in the years ahead.

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 - 3:30 pm; Thursday 3:30 pm - 8 pm; Friday 1:30 pm - 4:30 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 9 am - 2 pm; Wednesday 3 pm - 6 pm; Friday 1 pm - 5 pm

MARCELIN: Wapiti Library - Tuesday 2 pm - 7 pm; Thursday 2 pm - 8 pm; Saturday 9 am - 2 pm. For information on all your library needs, please contact 306-226-2110.

SHELLBROOK: Shellbrook Branch of the Wapiti Library located at 105 Railway Ave., West (Provincial building). Library Hours: Monday 2 pm - 6 pm; Tuesday 12 pm - 8 pm; Wednesday 2 pm - 8 pm; Thursday 12 pm - 6 pm; Friday 9 am - 4 pm.

SPIRITWOOD: Spiritwood Spirited Players present SCRAMBLED by Pat Cook. Thursday, March 2 - 7pm, \$10 at the door; Friday, March 3 & Saturday, March 4, \$50 Dinner Theatre. Presented at the Spiritwood Civic Centre. Dinner Theatre tickets available at Martodam's Family Retail or by phone @ 306-883-7882. *Produced by special arrangement with Eldridge Publishing Company.

SHELLBROOK: Junshin Judo Club, Royal Canadian Legion Hall (102 - 2nd Ave E, Shellbrook) - No Charge Introductory Judo Classes for new & returning students up to and including Sunday, February 26, 2023 - Classes begin @ 1pm. For more information, call Sensei Fred Tatler: 306-747-3143

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We'll advertise your important community event in our Community Calendar FREE for two weeks prior to the event with purchase of a 2 column x 2" Display ad for only:

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

These prestigious awards are given to youth who:

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

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

Visit www.swna.com for further information and nomination forms. Nominations close March 31, 2023



Hot dog eating champ chokes — literally

Almost guaranteed to happen in the final six months of 2023:

July — Cam Smith makes headlines by being the first LIV Golf Tour player to win a major, taking the Open Championship at Royal Liverpool; Leylah Annie Hernandez of Canada captures the women's singles crown at Wimbledon; Major news out of New York: Hot dog eating champion Joey Chestnut chokes on frankfurter No. 53 during the annual Fourth of July competition on Coney Island and is given the Heimlich manoeuvre by a quick-thinking bystander.

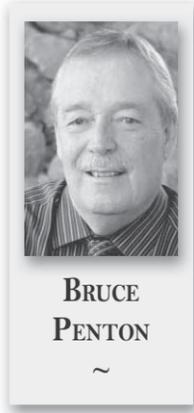
August — The Blue Jays maintain a top-two standing in the A.L. East, led by the slugging heroics of Vladimir Guerrero, Jr., the pitching of free-agent right-hander Chris Bassitt and the flashy outfield defence of Kevin Kiermaier; Canada's Alphonso Davies leads Bayern Munich to the Champions League title; Rory McIlroy's victory at the Tour Championship for the Fed-Ex Cup is mocked by Patrick Reed for having

been won "against a second-rate field."

September — It's the month of debuts, as Connor Bedard skates in his first pre-season NHL game with the (Blackhawks, Blue Jackets, Flyers ... ?); Former Calgary quarterback Bo Levi Mitchell guides his new CFL team, the Hamilton Tiger-Cats, to first place in the East Division; and Canadian QB Nathan Rourke gets his first NFL action in a pre-season game with Jacksonville, wowing the coaching staff and football fans.

October — Tom Brady leads his newest team, the Las Vegas Raiders, to a 5-0 start in the NFL while Aaron Rodgers is the toast of New York as his new team, the Jets, scoot off to a 4-1 start; Seattle Mariners knock off Toronto Blue Jays in the American League championship and then go on to beat Los Angeles Dodgers in an all-West Coast World Series.

November — The all-Connor scoring race is heating up in the NHL,



BRUCE
PENTON

with McDavid holding a slight edge over Bedard after 20 games; Winnipeg Blue Bombers knock off Hamilton to win their third Grey Cup in four years; French-born basketball sensation Victor Wembanyama makes the biggest rookie splash in the NBA since LeBron James.

December — Once again, Patrick Reed will not receive a Christmas card from Rory McIlroy; Alex Ovechkin gets to within 40 goals of Wayne Gretzky's career total of 894, and North American calls grow louder for Putin to bring the Great 8 home to fight in the war with

Ukraine; O.J. Simpson concludes another year without finding the real killer.

• Jason Sobel of Sirius SX, on Twitter: "Patrick Reed threw a tee at Rory McIlroy, which might not sound like much, but this is essentially golf's version of a bench-clearing brawl."

• From Pro Golf Stuff, on Twitter, expanding on the Rory McIlroy-Patrick Reed rivalry: "Patrick Reed spoke out against Rory saying 'He'll never win a Masters to complete a career Grand Slam.' Rory later said 'The only chance Reed has of getting a Grand Slam is at Denny's.'"

• Blogger Gregg Drinnan in his very entertaining Taking Note column, quoting 1970s Winnipeg junior defenceman Kevin McCarthy, who, when as a member of the Vancouver Canucks, was part of a group mugged by a gang of youths in Chicago: "One guy started it by suckering Jere (Gillis). 'I thought I was back in Queen's Park Arena.'"

• Comedy writer Alex

Kaseberg: "PGA golfers Patrick Reed and Rory McIlroy are in a feud. Golf feuds are different. McIlroy accused Reed of wearing white after Labour Day, and Reed mocked the pleats in McIlroy's khakis."

• Columnist Mike Bianchi of the Orlando Sentinel: "I just saw where 'Triangle of Sadness' got nominated for an Academy Award. I haven't seen it, but I'm thinking it's a documentary about the weekly meetings last season between USF's offensive, defensive and special teams coordinators."

• RJ Currie of sportsdeke.com: "The Edmonton Oilers hung updates of their 20 total NHL division, conference and Cup banners at Rogers Place. Not to be outdone, the Winnipeg Jets installed new Plexiglas"

• Headline from fark.com: "Chet Holmgren voted as an All-Star starter by several NBA players presumably because they all wanted to take turns dunking on him."

• Former junior hock-

ey player Brant Kersey, reacting to a Lethbridge Hurricanes' Wall of Honour recognition for long-time coach and scout Bob Loucks: "The guy has such a terrific eye for talent, watched me in '94 and knew I wasn't good enough."

• Steve Simmons of Sunmedia: "Depending on who you follow, listen to, or read, the Maple Leafs will be acquiring Ryan O'Reilly, Timo Meier, Bo Horvat, Patrick Kane, Jonathan Toews, Max Domi, John Klingberg, Jake McCabe, Vladislav Gavrikov and the Mormon Tabernacle Choir at or around the NHL's trade deadline next month."

• Golfer Max Homa, basking in the glow of a victory at the Farmers Insurance Open in an interview with Kira K. Dixon, when it was mentioned it was his first win since becoming a father: "This will definitely be the best-smelling diaper I have changed."

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

Elks top Marauders, inch closer to playoffs

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

With the SAAHL U18 AA playoffs on the horizon, the race is on for the Parkland U18 AA Elks, who are currently sitting in seventh place in the Centre Four Conference, to secure one of the top eight spots in the division.

Facing a stint of tough home games to close out the regular season, the Elks will need to make

every point count. And they did exactly that when they hosted the Martensville Marauders last Tuesday, fighting their way to a 3-1 victory.

Tuesday night's game was the definition of a slow burn, as the opening period saw the Elks and the Marauders play an even, back-and-forth 20 minutes of hockey — the Elks had 11 shots and two penalties to the Marauders' 10 shots and one penalty.

In the second period, the slow burn led to an explosion of offence, when Brody Anderson drew first blood on the power play, with assists from Corvan Stewart and Tyson Gagnon. Five minutes and an Elks penalty later, Nathan Barnett tied the game at 1-1 on the power play, drawing assists from Evan Skoronski and Tarron Sabadash.

The tie lasted less than 90 seconds, before Kendon Skalicky put the Elks back on top with an

even-strength goal, assisted by Cody Morash and Bronson Parker. Then, closing out the scoring for the period and the game, the Elks' power play struck late in the frame on a goal from Parker. Chase Hansen and Skalicky assisted on the goal.

The much-needed win pushed the Elks to 13-15-1-1 on the season, putting them three points ahead of the Saskatoon Sabercats and the North East Wolfpack in the Centre

Four Conference standings.

The Elks were scheduled to host the Northwest Stars on Monday evening, and the conference-leading Prince Albert Vulcans on Tuesday night. Boxscores for the games weren't available before deadline.

This Friday, the Elks close out their regular season by welcoming the Saskatoon Screaming Eagles to the Richardson Pioneer Recreation Centre.

Redberry Raiders end season with three losses

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

The maiden voyage of the Redberry Raiders came to an end over the weekend, as they concluded their first season in the Saskatchewan Prairie Hockey League with back-to-back-to-back games on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

Kicking off with a road game against the Meota Combines, followed by home games in Blaine Lake against the Turtleford Tigers and the Maidstone Jets, the Raiders added another three losses to their record to end the regular season at 1-15.

Raiders (2) vs Combines (5)

As perennial contenders in the Saskatchewan Prairie Hockey League, the Meota Combines came into Friday night's match as the

clear favourites. They didn't disappoint the oddsmakers, cruising to a relatively easy 5-2 victory.

It was a night of sparse points for the Raiders, with just two names appearing on the scorecard, but Louis Gardiner led the way with a goal and an assist and Adam Horner netted a goal.

For Meota, meanwhile, Michael Pylypow tallied two goals and one assists, Bo Gervais and Jayden Nachtegaele had a goal and an assist each, and Levin Floen scored a goal. As for assists, Dakota Tootoosis tallied three, and Daxon Collins and Brett Miller each earned one.

Raiders (2) vs Tigers (9)

Returning to home ice Saturday night, the Raiders were on the receiving end of a maul-

ing from the Tigers, who dominated the action from the opening faceoff to the closing buzzer to claim a decisive 9-2 victory.

In a more diverse offensive outing than Friday night's game against the Combines, Eric Lamontagne netted both Raiders' goals, with Cole Brochu, Louis Gardiner, Lance Lamontagne, and Colby Lavallee earning one assist apiece.

On a full Tigers' scorecard, Jacey Nordell led the offensive charge with three goals and an assist, while Austin McDonald had two goals and an assist, and Austin Sloan tallied a goal and an assist. Jarret Calvert, Colton Conacher, and Mike Little, pitched in with the remaining goals. On the assists front, Garth Matvenk had two, while Lyndon Domotor, Trey Koch, Trent MacNab, Karstin McDon-

ald, and Justin Scott had one each.

Raiders (1) vs Jets (5)

Closing out their regular season on home ice against the low-flying Maidstone Jets, the Raider struck out in their final outing, falling by a score of 5-1.

Patrick Gauthier netted the lone goal for the Raiders, with helpers from Eric Lamontagne and Caden Pushee. Meanwhile, the Jets soared to victory with two goals from Ryden Ross, a goal and an assist from Tyler Lundquist, and single goals from Cash Boggust and Dyson Rheinhart. In the assists column, Colt Peel earned two, while Barrett Foley and Chance Jurkes earned one each.

With their 1-15 record, the Raiders finished outside of playoff contention and have hung their skates up for the season.

GOOD NEWS

I WILL NEVER LEAVE YOU!

By **RANDALL MCLEOD**
Immanuel Lutheran, Parkside

The text we will consider today comes from the book of Psalms, more specifically; Psalm 27 and verse 10. Here we see these words: "Even if my father and mother abandon me, the LORD will take care of me."

In today's society, this scenario is running rampant. Broken homes abound. Children are being raised in single parent homes, blended homes, foster homes and adoptive homes at a rate we have never seen before. Those young people not only do not have a positive

male role model, but they are left with deep emotional and spiritual scars from feeling abandoned.

We are told that when a child is berated or abused, they customarily do not hate their parents, they learn to hate themselves. The same holds true for children who feel abandoned. They think it is their fault. We also commonly see this same thing in divorced homes. The children think it was their fault that the family broke up. These situations tend to leave our young people with a combination of abandonment issues, authority issues, and attachment issues. (I have heard that a deceased parent ac-

tually has more authority and influence in a child's life than does a vacant one. That ought to make us stop and think.) How can these scarred people then be expected to be able to form solid families themselves? Unfortunately, they usually can't or don't.

Given the prevalence of broken homes these days, is it any wonder we see so many deeply troubled young people? They have no firm foundation, no anchor to secure themselves. They are well and truly adrift, so they act out. They look for acceptance in all the wrong places.

What's to be done? Well, God calls us, the church, to step up and help to fill the gap. Take care of the widows and orphans, we are told. They are precious to God. Organizations like Big Brothers help to fill the gap, help to provide a positive role model. But we, the church, can

help address their spiritual wounds. We live in a sin-sick world; marriages fail because of the hardness of our hearts. Abandoned parents and abandoned children both need a spiritual salve for spiritual wounds. They need an emotional salve for their emotional wounds.

A divorced parent is still a precious soul that needs care and attention. An abandoned child needs to hear and know that "Even if my father and mother abandon me, the LORD will take care of me." Jesus cares, Jesus still loves them.

God cares for you; and He loves you too much to leave you floundering in the muck and mire of sin. He gave His life for you, He wants you to come home, to His home. Should you choose to be a part of His family, He will never leave you or forsake you. That is His solemn promise.

PRAISE & WORSHIP

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

LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

Parkside
10:30 a.m. Worship
Pastor Lorne Valuck
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 11 a.m.
St. Henry's - Leask
Mass - Sunday 9 a.m.
Mistawasis
1st & 3rd Sundays 1:30 p.m.
Fr. Tuan Doan

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Sat., 11:00 am - Worship
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PARTNERS IN WORSHIP

Shell Lake
Worship Services
Sunday 9:00 a.m.
Pastor Sarah Urano
306-841-7333

PARTNERS IN FAITH

Lutheran/United/
Christchurch Anglican,
137-2nd St. W.
Spiritwood
Worship 1:30 p.m.
Rev. Sarah Urano

UNITED /ANGLICAN

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

CATHOLIC

SUNDAY
Spiritwood - 11:15 a.m.
Leoville - 9:30 a.m.
Shell Lake - 2:00 p.m.
SATURDAY
Medstead - 6 p.m.
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Spiritwood Legion Hall
Pastor Rick Martin

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St., Spiritwood)
Sun., 11 am - Worship
Service & Sunday School
Pastor Michael Kluthe
306-883-2380

FIELDS OF HOPE (HOFFNUNGSFELDER) MENNONITE CHURCH

Glenbush
Worship - 11:00 am

BETHEL

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

MENNONITE BRETHREN

Glenbush
10:00 am - Sunday School
Worship 10:50 am

Sask. exploring ways to increase health services access

The Government of Saskatchewan is looking at innovative ways to increase patient access to a variety of health care services and to build capacity within our health care system.

In the coming days, the Ministry of Health will begin consultations with a variety of stakeholders on enhancing the scope of practice for pharmacists, nurse practitioners and advanced care paramedics. The consultations will inform any legislative, regulatory or bylaw amendments that may be needed to allow these health professionals to expand or optimize the services they can currently provide.

"Empowering our highly educated health-care professionals to utilize all of their knowledge and skills will ensure patients have greater choice and more timely access to health services," Health

Minister Paul Merriman said in a statement. "These consultations will inform system improvements which align with our ambitious four-point plan to recruit, train, incentivize and retain health-care workers in Saskatchewan."

Some examples of potential changes could include:

- allowing paramedics to stitch minor wounds or cuts rather than transporting to the emergency department;
- allowing Nurse Practitioners admitting and discharging privileges in hospitals; and
- potential for independent prescribing for pharmacists.

The proposed changes would benefit patients through anticipated shorter wait times for primary care or having additional options for

accessing certain health care services. This will also provide the opportunity to allow all of our health professionals to contribute to safe care across a number of services as we work to support our health human resources across the health system.

Consultations will include regulatory bodies, associations, unions, and health system partners and will take several weeks. These consultations are a key part of supporting the goals of the Health Human Resource Action Plan to increase and stabilize our health workforce.

As government and health system partners continue to explore ways to enhance access to health services there may be opportunities for scope optimization and expansion for additional health professionals in the future.

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NOTICE

NOTICE The Tax Enforcement Act KEVIN JOHN PENNER

TAKE NOTICE that the Rural Municipality of Spiritwood intends to be registered as owner under the above Act of the land described as NE 18-52-10-3 EXT 0, Title No. 151927476.

The municipality claims title to the land by virtue of an interest based on the tax lien registered against the existing title to the land in the Land Titles Registry as Interest Number 194097404 and you are required to TAKE NOTICE that unless you contest the claim of the municipality or redeem the land pursuant to the provisions of the above Act within six months from the service of this notice on you and, subject to the further provisions of *The Tax Enforcement Act*, a certificate of title will be issued to the applicant and you will thereafter be forever estopped and debarred from setting up any claim to, or in respect of, the land.

The amount required to redeem the land may be ascertained on application to the Clerk, Treasurer or Administrator of the municipality. For any questions about the tax enforcement process please contact Taxservice at 1-877-734-3113.

Dated this 2nd day of February, 2023.

Colette Bussiere, Administrator
Rural Municipality of Spiritwood No. 496

Growing food indoors – Part III

By PATRICIA HANBIDGE

In December, we devoted a couple of columns to growing your food indoors – even when it is minus 30°C outside. What we did not cover was some of the important information about starting the seeds themselves.

Each tiny little seed contains all the magic of life. Seeds are made up of an outer seed coat that protects the inner parts of the seed during dormancy. Inside the seed coat lies the endosperm which serves as the food supply that is essential for the early growth of the seedling. In the center of the seed is the embryo which is really a very minute undeveloped plant. It is water that penetrates the seed coat which causes this magical process to begin.

Keep the media/soil moist to ensure even germination whether you are seeding indoors or directly into the garden. Use a gentle spray to avoid washing the seeds around, or they may pool into dense clumps. Keep the humidity high until the seeds germinate by covering seed pots with plastic wrap. Keep a close eye on them as once you see the plants germinate it

is necessary to gradually uncover the seedlings to avoid conditions that are too wet for the new seedlings to survive.

Once the seeds germinate, those young seedlings will need adequate light in order to grow. Placing them directly under a fluorescent light fixture or grow light will ensure that the seedlings are strong and sturdy. If you find that your seedlings are tall and spindly it is because they are not getting enough light and are reaching for the sun.

Other than the generalization that germination begins with the uptake of water, there are a host of conditions that are necessary for successful germination. As we discussed in a prior column, light, warmth, water, nutrition and a healthy dose of love is essential to success. However, fertilization is not necessary until your seedlings are sprouting true leaves. Prior to that time, they are still living off the food contained in the seed. Once that life has begun then it is important for you to provide every little thing that will be needed in order to grow healthy plants that are ready to be transplanted out into the garden or consumed in your

kitchen.

Growing at least some of the food you consume does not need to be a difficult task. You will need some basic equipment, but it is not necessary to invest thousands of dollars. Plants are amazing and respond very well if you ensure they receive the basics of life. Also, most gardeners derive great satisfaction from growing plants, and providing quality food for our table. Starting seeds enables the gardener and the chef to know exactly what products were used on the plants from the beginning of life. Also, as we all have experienced – sometimes we cannot get basic products like lettuce without paying an exorbitant price! Growing your own is also a more sustainable alternative to purchasing food that has been grown many miles away and has had to undergo an unbelievable amount of transportation in order to get to our local grocer.

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

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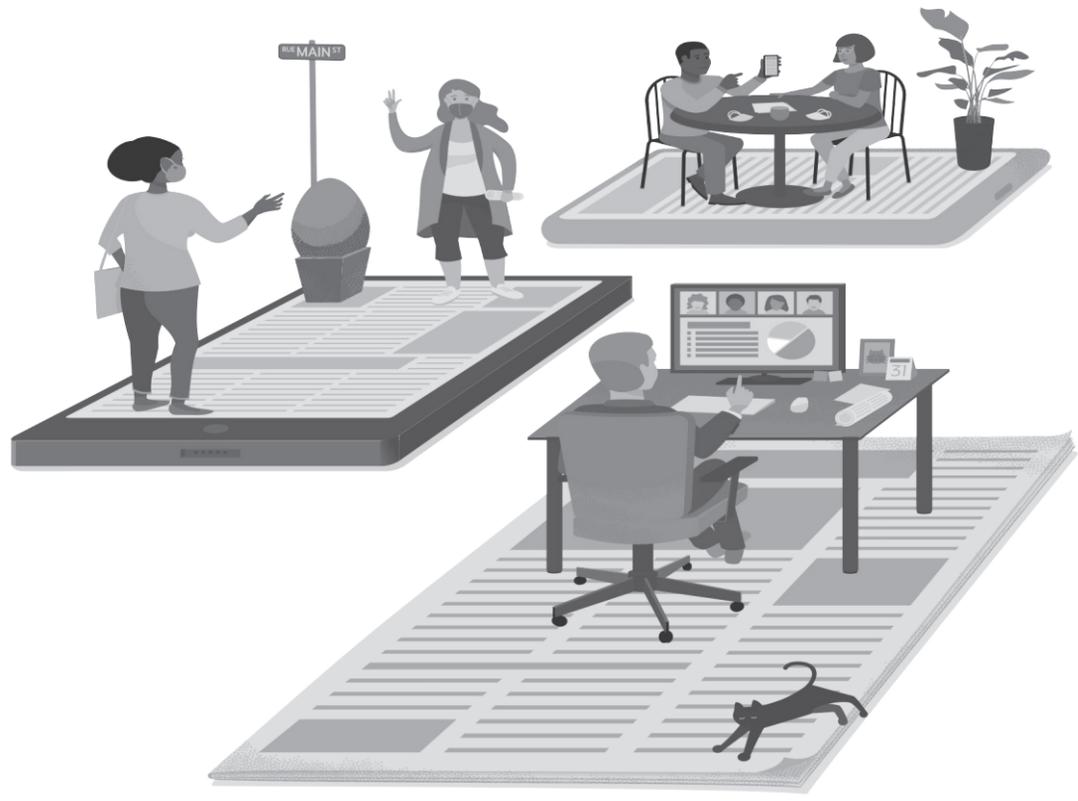
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Minutes of an RM of Shellbrook meeting

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

Minutes of a regular meeting of Council of the Rural Municipality of Shellbrook No. 493 held on Wednesday, Dec. 7, 2022, in the Municipal Office Council Chambers at Shellbrook, Sask.

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

DELEGATIONS:

10 a.m. Shannon Haggarty, Royal Canadian Mounted Police

10:30 a.m. Mike Guitard and Justin Hirtle, Ministry of Highways

11 a.m. Mark Klaassen, Parkland Pool Committee

11:30 a.m. Brandt Repts, Nathan Wiebe and Owen Solberg

11:40 a.m. Foreman Bill Aug

Reeve Oleksyn called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

Joelson: That the Dec. 7, 2022, agenda be adopted as presented. Carried

Skauge: That the minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held on Nov. 2, 2022, be approved as presented. Carried

Strube: That the minutes of the Special Meeting of Council held on Nov. 18, 2022, be amended as follows: Addition of Oath of Office. Carried

Ferster: That the minutes of the Special Meeting of Council

held on Nov. 18, 2022, be approved as amended. Carried

Skauge: That the Statement of Financial Activities for the month November 2022 be accepted as presented. Carried

Skauge: That the reconciled bank statement for the month of October 2022 be approved as presented. Carried

Strube: That the List of Accounts dated Dec. 1, 2022, as attached hereto and forming part of these Minutes, being regular cheque numbers 13118 to 13166 in the amount of \$308,716.59 and payroll cheque numbers 14372 to 14391 in the amount of \$44,435.63 be approved for payment. Carried

Ferster: That the Administrator's Report for the month December 2022 be accepted as presented. Carried

Delegation Shannon Haggarty, Royal Canadian Mounted Police entered the Council Chambers at 10:05 a.m. to update on rural issues.

Delegation Shannon Haggarty, Royal Canadian Mounted Police left the Council Chambers at 10:24 a.m.

Delegation Mike Guitard and Justin Hirtle, Ministry of Highways, entered the Council Chambers at 10:25 a.m. to discuss Highway 240 permitting.

Delegation Mike Guitard and Justin Hirtle, Ministry of Highways, left the Council Chambers at 11:10 a.m.

Delegation Mark Klaassen entered the Council Chambers at 11:10 a.m. to discuss the Parkland Pool Project.

Delegation Mark Klaassen, left the Council Chambers at

11:25 a.m.

Delegation Foreman Bill Aug and Todd Lande entered the Council Chambers at 11:30 a.m. to update Council on Municipal Operations.

Delegation Nathan Wiebe and Owen Solberg, Brandt Tractor entered the Council Chambers at 11:30 a.m. to discuss equipment concerns.

Delegation Allen Bekolay, Brandt Tractor entered the Council Chambers at 12 p.m. to discuss equipment concerns.

Delegation Nathan Wiebe and Owen Solberg, Brandt Tractor left the Council Chambers at 12:15 p.m.

Delegation Allen Bekolay, Brandt Tractor left the Council Chambers at 1:05 p.m.

Delegation Foreman Bill Aug and Todd Lande left the Council Chambers at 2:10 p.m.

Ferster: That in compliance with Section 9(b) of The Dedicated Lands Regulations 2009 that a donation be approved for the Parkland Pool Project in the amount of \$5,000 from the Dedicated Lands Account. Carried

Joelson: That the information provided in regards to the Property Self Insurance Program be received and filed. Carried

Skauge: That the Council of the Rural Municipality of Shellbrook No. 493 confirms that the municipality now meets the following eligibility requirements to receive the Municipal Revenue Sharing Grant:

- Submission of the 2021 Audited Financial State-

ment to the Ministry of Government Relations;

- In Good Standing with respect to the reporting and remittance of Education Property Taxes;
- Adoption of Council Procedures Bylaw;
- Adoption of an Employee Code of Conduct;
- All members of council have filed and annually updated their Public Disclosure Statements, as required; and

That the Administrator be authorized to send a letter to the Ministry of Government Relations acknowledging the municipality meets all eligibility requirements to receive the Municipal Revenue Sharing Grant. Carried

Ferster: That in accordance with Section 3 of the Tax Enforcement Act, it be acknowledged the Administrator has presented to the head of council a list of Lands in Arrears dated Nov. 25, 2022, to be annexed to and form part of these minutes, and unless sooner paid will be advertised in the Shellbrook Chronicle. Carried

Ten Bos: That an advertisement be approved for the Christmas edition of the Shellbrook Chronicle at a cost of \$61.00. Carried

Strube: That the proposal for audit services for the period covering 2022-2025 as submitted by SENSUS Chartered Professional Accountants Ltd., Yorkton, SK., be accepted at the All-inclusive fee, for a total of \$50,259.90. Carried

Joelson: That \$100 Co-op

gift cards be given to all employees. Carried

Hamel: That the time being 2:34 p.m., Council close a portion of this meeting to the public to go in-camera under the authority of Part III of The Local Authority Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, to discuss Human Resources issues, the public gallery be vacated and those present for this closed session be Reeve Doug Oleksyn, Deputy Reeve Derwin Joelson and Councilor's Cliff Skauge, Phil Hamel, Christine Strube, Jay Ferster and Ivan Ten Bos. Carried

Strube: That the time being 3:25 p.m., Council go out of in-camera and invite Administrator Duane Storey and the public back into the Council Meeting. Carried

Skauge: That the request from Administrator Duane Storey, to carry 5 days of Holidays from 2022 to 2023 be approved. Carried

Strube: That the following Correspondence be received and filed: APAS AGM Invite Letter, APAS AGM Agenda. Carried

Skauge: That the following Correspondence be received and filed: North Central Transportation Planning Committee Minutes, Governance, Decision Making and Risk Management Carried

Ten Bos: That the following SARM Correspondence be received and filed: Bill C-21. Carried

Hamel: That this meeting be adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Heritage minister can't define Canadian content

By **JAY GOLDBERG**
CTF Ontario Director

One of Canada's most acclaimed authors is drawing a clear line: he doesn't want politicians telling him what counts as Canadian content or Big Brother looking over his shoulder when he writes.

If ever there was doubt about whether Bill C-11 represents a gateway toward government censorship, that doubt was put to rest by Senator David Adams Richards earlier this week.

"This law will be one of scapegoating all those who do not fit into what our bureaucrats think Canada should be," warned Richards from the Senate floor.

Richards is far from a Trudeau government skeptic. He was first appointed to the Senate by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in 2017 and is a member of the centrist Canadian Senators Group.

Richards is also one of the most accomplished authors in Canadian history, having won prizes in fiction and non-fiction throughout his career. If anyone has authority to speak to the impact government rules and regula-

tions might play in the creative process, it's Richards.

And Richards foresees Bill C-11 putting the power to define what counts as Canadian content in the hands of unelected bureaucrats and unqualified politicians.

"I do not know who would be able to tell me what Canadian content is and what it is not, but I know it won't be in the minister of heritage's power to ever tell me," Richards declared.

Bill C-11 would hand the power to regulate what counts as Canadian content to unelected bureaucrats. It would require the content bureaucrats define as Canadian, determined through government algorithms, to be amplified while, in effect, quieting all other content, which doesn't meet the government's narrow criteria.

That raises the spectre of content viewed as unfavourable toward the government being less likely to be classified as Canadian, making it harder for critics to hold the government to account.

If government bureaucrats get to choose what content to push on Canadians, there's a very real risk the government will be tempted to use its

filtering powers to quiet its critics.

But Bill C-11 also poses a danger even for creators whose content is classified by the powers that be as Canadian.

If the government forces platforms like YouTube to push content on Canadian viewers based on nationality, and not on interest, viewers choosing not to click on that content will lead internet algorithms to conclude that the content isn't desirable among viewers.

That means viewers outside of Canada would be less likely to see that content. That will hurt, not help, Canadian creators.

Richards foresees that very danger.

"We have filled the world with our talent, but not because of the minister of heritage," said Richards. "Drake is known worldwide, but not because of the CRTC."

Canadian stars like Drake, Justin Bieber, and others, who rose to fame through viewership on platforms like YouTube outside of Canada, may never have come to be had Bill C-11 been the law of the land.

Drake and Bieber are already on the popularity mountain top, but those still climbing are worried. Regi-

na-based TikTok sensation Teshar has stated: "C-11 would limit that reach by requiring creators to prioritize government criteria for domestic distribution over making content optimized for global audiences."

The government's misguided desire for more control over what Canadians can see and say online, a move unprecedented in a democracy, will hurt Canadian creators far more than it will help them. And it also puts Canadians' civil liberties at risk.

Richards foresees that too, warning that "Stalin again will be looking over our shoulder," should Bill C-11 find its way into law.

Richards' fellow senators would do well to listen to Richards' concerns. Bill C-11 will soon come to a vote in the full Senate, and every senator should be asking themselves whether they want Canada to head down such a dangerous pathway.

It's time for Canada's senators to say no to censorship and government control.

Senators have the power in their hands to stand between Canadians on the one hand and the road to serfdom on the other.