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Programs introduce kids to curling, hockey



A youth volunteer offers instruction to participants during a session of the Shellbrook Curling Club's Youth Learn to Curl Program.

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

With cost-of-living struggles top of mind for many families, the Shellbrook Curling Club and the Town of Shellbrook's Recreation Department are running beginner curling and hockey programs that allow kids to get active and learn whether the sports are for them without breaking the bank of mom and dad.

"[Curling is] a very economical sport, so it's nice to have that kind of option in our town," Gayle Draper, the youth curling program's head organizer, said. "We provide the brooms and sliders for the kids to borrow and all they have to come with are their mittens and a helmet."

"Shellbrook has a lot of kids and not every family wants the year-long commitment of dance or hockey, so it's nice that our club can offer this type of sport

for the kids and families that maybe don't want to be on the run all winter long."

Though the Shellbrook Curling Club has offered its Youth Learn to Curl Program aimed at children aged five to 12 for several years, Draper says she tried to make this year's programs feel more like an authentic small-town curling league.

For their part, local kids seem to be enjoying it. The six-week programs that ran before and after Christmas both saw 14 children enroll. And for the six-week program that ran through January and February, 10 of the 14 kids were repeat participants.

In both programs, Draper and her team of volunteers (local kids who also went through the youth program in previous years and had plenty of experience to share) taught the programs' participants the basics of curling, like balance on the ice, sliding out

of the hack with and without rocks, turns, basic terminology, and how to keep score. However, they also tried to teach the kids important lessons about sportsmanship, playing on a team, and respecting each other on the ice.

And what better way to teach kids these things than by giving them the experience of playing kid-friendly curling matches in each weekly session?

"Curling is a sport that you can do at all ages of life. In our club we have five-year-olds and 90-year-olds and every age in between are on the ice," Draper said. "If we can teach someone the basics of curling at a young age, it's something they can hopefully carry with them for the rest of their life and have the confidence to join a league in the future."

Draper adds that curling is also a great family sport. And, looking toward the future, she hopes programs like the Youth Learn to Curl Program will

help secure the future membership of the Shellbrook Curling Club and bring more families out for evening leagues and other events.

Over on the hockey side of the Richardson Pioneer Recreation Centre, this year marked the first for the Beginner/Learn to Hockey Program, which is a partnership between the Town of Shellbrook Recreation Department, the Shellbrook Skating Club, Shellbrook Minor Sports, the Parkland U18 AA Elks, and local volunteers.

Like the Shellbrook Curling Club's youth program, the inaugural run of the Beginner/Learn-to Hockey Program had 14 children enrolled.

Jessica Kernohan, Shellbrook's Recreation Director, said the program, which is open to kids aged four to 12, was inspired by low and no-cost sports programming options offered by other communities.

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Programs introduce kids to curling, hockey

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“A program like this allows children to be introduced to the sport with minimal financial commitment from families,” Kernohan said. “These types of programs also allow economically disadvantaged youth in communities to have the opportunity to try the sport, when they may not have had the opportunity to before.”

Apart from making hockey more accessible from a financial perspective, a program like this gives children who may be starting hockey later than other kids their age an opportunity to learn the basics of hockey at their own pace and build the confidence to get into the sport with their

peers.

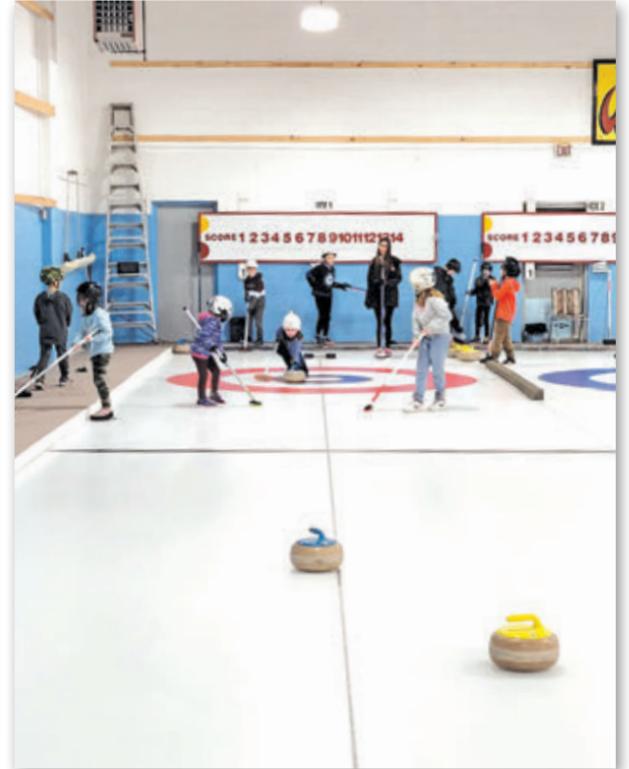
Then, of course, there are the benefits that come naturally with being active and having fun (the number one goal of the program, according to Kernohan).

“I hope that this is a step toward helping keep our community participating in physical activity and enjoying the many, many benefits it has for us,” Kernohan said.

“[I hope participants] have fun and build self confidence with the hopes of participating in future sports and/or physical activity... and feel included, as a part of a team or group, gain friendships, and are proud that they learned new skills.”



Participants practice their sweeping during a session of the Shellbrook Curling Club's Youth Learn to Curl Program.



The program offers kids the experience of playing actual curling matches.

Allchurch retires after 30 years with Canada Post

By NATASHA CABASE
Spiritwood Herald Reporter

After 30 years, Diane Allchurch has retired from Canada Post. Her last day at the Spiritwood Post Office was Feb. 25, 2023. In honour of the occasion, her coworkers prepared some coffee and colorful cookies for anyone who wanted to stop in and wish her a happy retirement.

Diane started working for Canada Post in 1984, starting at the North Battleford Post Office. There, she was a secretary for the zone postmaster, and her position was a maternity leave coverage that ended in 1986.

In 1987, she applied for a PO4 position, which was still located in the North Battleford office. The duties of this job included loading and unloading of trucks in the early hours of the morning. At that time, workers were expected to lift 65 pounds. She says her boss was very hesitant in hiring

her as she was “too small”.

“I asked him to give me a chance and if it is too heavy for me, I would voluntarily quit,” Diane said.

Her boss decided to “take a chance” on her, and she was able to handle the loading and unloading of trucks, along with sorting parcels and letter mail.

She left her position in North Battleford in 1999, when her and her husband, Terry Allchurch, bought George and Marie Staus’ farm, which prompted them to move to Spiritwood.

The following year, when Charlotte Gunderson retired as postmaster from the Spiritwood Post Office and Diana Tiringier took that position, she hired Diane as a casual employee.

In 2008, when Yvonne Gatzke retired, Diane’s permanent part-time position started. From then, until the Feb. 25 of this year, she was able to enjoy many years of work, friendship, and conversations.

Her co-workers said that she will be missed by them and many people.

Diane added that the experience she enjoyed most at work and will definitely miss is the aspect of being able to help and communicate with people.

She plans to spend her retirement working with Terry on their bee farm, and to enjoy as much time as possible with her family.



After 30 years with Canada Post (23 of them at the Spiritwood Post Office) Diane Allchurch celebrated her last day of work on Feb. 25. Pictured, left to right: Paula Lessmeister (Diane’s replacement), Diane Allchurch, and Colette Cooper.

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Stolen hockey memorabilia, items recovered by police

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

Following a nearly year-long investigation, the Ahtahkakoop-Shellbrook RCMP Detachment has arrested a 41-year-old Shellbrook man in connection with the theft of \$100,000 worth of Wayne Gretzky hockey memorabilia and a number of other items.

According to police, the hockey memorabilia was stolen from a rural yard near Shellbrook, where it was being temporarily stored, at some point between November 2021 and March 2022.

Among the items reported stolen at the time were 19 Wayne Gretzky jerseys, autographed, large Wayne Gretzky pictures and a large painting, all autographed, autographed sticks, autographed pucks all in display cases, close to 10,000 cards including 2,200 of Wayne Gretzky, some autographed and one framed; Gretzky Rookie Card PSA 8, 1979 Mattel dolls still in boxes, figurines, some autographed, and Team Canada autographed photos.

The Ahtahkakoop-Shellbrook RCMP Detachment began investigating after receiving a report about the theft in April 2022.

The detachment's ten-month investigation came to an end on Saturday, Feb. 18, when a search warrant was executed at a residence located on the 400 block of 2nd Avenue East in Shellbrook.

There, police officers conducted a search of the residence and recovered a large quantity (approximately three-quarters) of stolen hockey memorabilia, as well as other items previously and separately reported stolen to police, including a snowmobile, trailer, and pick-up truck.

"We began investigating this theft nearly a year ago and given the prevalence of online "buy and sell" sales, we didn't know for sure if any of the stolen memorabilia items would be recovered," Staff Sgt. Shannon Haggarty, the Ahtahkakoop-Shellbrook RCMP Detachment Commander, said in a statement.

"This is an excellent example of how investigations take time to complete. It was continued, dedicated efforts on the part of RCMP investigators that resulted in charges laid and ultimately, items recovered from multiple different theft investigations."

Police say the owners of the stolen property have all been informed of the recovery of the stolen items.

However, there are still some unspecified memorabilia items outstanding, and the investigation is

considered ongoing.

As a result of the investigation, 41-year-old Derek Herzog from Shellbrook has been charged with possession of stolen property obtained by crime over \$5,000.

His first appearance in court is scheduled for April 4, 2023, in Shellbrook.

In its release about the arrest, the Ahtahkakoop-Shellbrook RCMP Detachment acknowledged Shellbrook Community Safety Officer Craig Young for his assistance with the investigation.

Death on Highway 3

A 37-year-old woman is dead following a multi-vehicle collision on Highway 3 on Feb. 19.

According to police, the Turtleford-Glaslyn RCMP Detachment responded a report of a collision be-

tween a car and a semi at the intersection of Highway 3 and Range Road 3173 near Glaslyn at approximately 8 a.m. on Feb. 19.

North Battleford EMS, the Glaslyn and Turtleford Fire Departments, a community safety officer from the RM of Mervin, conservation officers with the Provincial Protective Services Branch, and a Saskatchewan RCMP Collision analyst also responded.

The adult female driver and sole occupant of the car was declared deceased by EMS at the scene, and her family was notified. The driver of the semi did not report any physical injuries.

The Turtleford-Glaslyn RCMP continues to investigate the accident in conjunction with the Saskatchewan Coroners Service.



After a ten-month investigation, police have made an arrest and recovered hockey memorabilia stolen from a property near Shellbrook.

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Inquiry shocks no one, changes nothing

Last fall, as the Public Order Emergency Commission's inquiry into the federal government's use of the Emergencies Act in response to the Freedom Convoy unfolded in Ottawa, I posited the outcome would change almost nothing.

In saying this, I wasn't suggesting that the inquiry was irrelevant or unnecessary; when a democratic government uses a measure as extreme as the Emergencies Act to effectively shutdown dissent, its decision should be scrutinized down to the finest detail.

Instead, I meant that Justice Paul Rouleau's ruling would have no impact on the fraught political and social climate in Canada.

Politically, win or lose, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau would remain prime minister and be permitted to pursue his government's agenda mostly unchecked.

Socially, win or lose, the more than 50 per cent of Canadians who supported the government's decision to invoke the act would still believe the government's actions were justified. Similarly, those who either participated in or supported the Freedom Convoy would still view the use of the act as an irreversible step toward tyranny.

Well, as the old saying goes, even a broken clock is right twice a day.

Rather than ending the debate once and for all and bringing bitterly divided opponents together, the release of Mr. Rouleau's 2,000-page report simply added more fuel to the fire.

Released on Feb. 17, the report concluded that the federal government met the "very high" threshold to justify the use of the Emergencies Act, calling the decision "drastic but not dictatorial."

While the ruling was a win for Mr. Trudeau, Mr. Rouleau didn't spare the prime minister from criticism. In particular, he criticized Mr. Trudeau's blanket dismissal of the Freedom Convoy's participants and supporters as a "small fringe minority of people" with "unacceptable views."

"In my view more of an effort should have been made by government leaders at all levels during the protests to acknowledge that the majority of protesters were exercising their fundamental democratic rights," Mr. Rouleau wrote, concluding that politicians, public officials,



JORDAN TWISS
~
News Editor

and the media should have been more balanced and "drawn a clearer distinction between those who were protesting peacefully and those who were not."

Belatedly, if not insincerely, Mr. Trudeau has since said he regrets not being more careful with his choice of words.

Even still, it took those opposed to the use of the Emergencies Act only a few hours to inform Mr. Rouleau that he'd gotten it completely wrong, despite months of

listening to testimony and poring over evidence.

Unsurprisingly, the criticism has been fiercest from the western provinces.

In Saskatchewan, Justice Minister Bronwyn Eyre reiterated that the Saskatchewan Party government was opposed to the federal government's use of the act over other existing federal, provincial, and municipal powers. She also committed to reviewing the report's findings and recommendations.

Stopping short of opposing the act's use, The Saskatchewan NDP expressed concerns about how it was applied.

Meanwhile, Saskatchewan United Party leader Nadine Wilson said the vast majority of Freedom Convoy participants were exercising their democratic rights, making the invocation of the act unjustified.

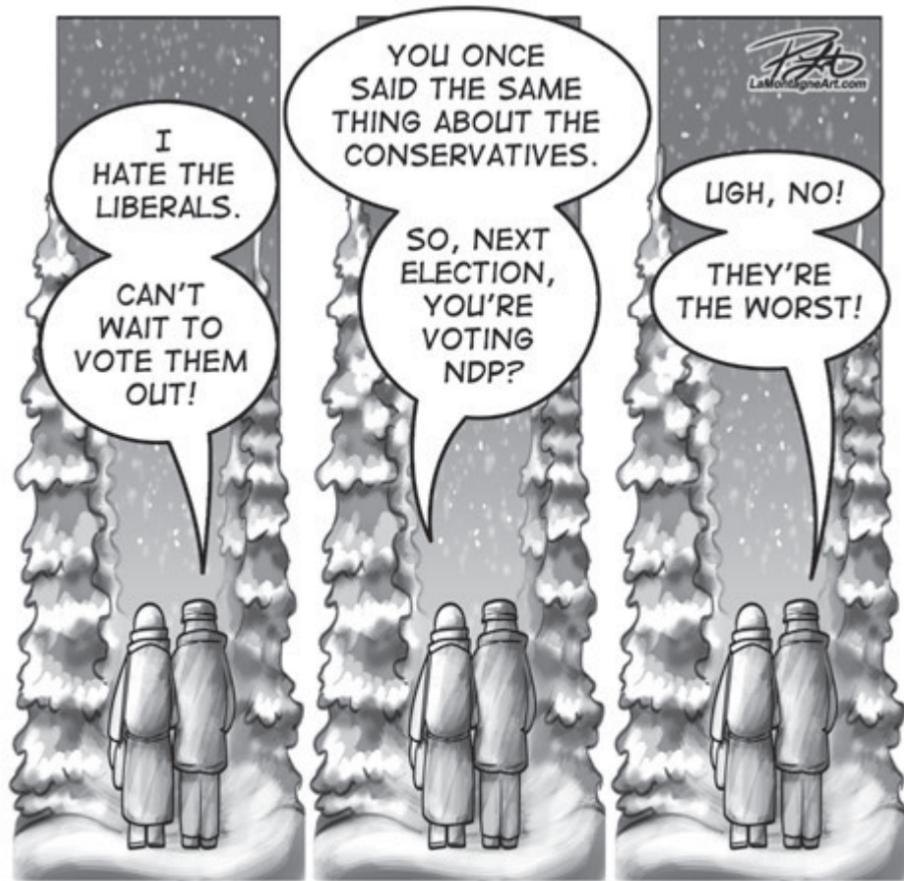
From these reasonable and balanced responses, we quickly descend into the sour grapes, conspiracy theories, and misinformation.

The Buffalo Party's Mark "The Grizzly Patriot" Friesen said he wasn't surprised by the outcome, given the "judicial corruption across the country, at every level." (Of course, Mr. Friesen could provide no evidence of Mr. Rouleau's supposed corruption.)

Nadine Ness of Unified Grassroots also issued a statement, decrying Mr. Rouleau as a "Liberal supporter" who never should have been allowed to preside over the inquiry.

This comment seems to be inspired by false claims that Mr. Rouleau is related to the prime minister by marriage, and has made donations to the Liberal Party (records show he has made no such donations since he became a judge in 2002).

Indeed, Mr. Rouleau's only clear connection to the Liberal Party is through



his post-law school experience working at the law firm of former Prime Minister John Turner, and through his cousin's marriage to former Prime Minister Jean Chrétien's daughter.

Even together, these tenuous threads are hardly enough to accuse Mr. Rouleau of being unfit for duty or incapable of being impartial enough to preside over the inquiry.

This leaves us with only Mr. Rouleau's findings, conclusions, and recommendations to critique. And, unless we've listened to the 126 testimonies and pored over the 9,000 or so documents submitted during the proceedings, who are we to say our opinions are more correct?

Though Mr. Rouleau did ultimately conclude that the federal government's use of the Emergencies Act was justified, he didn't reach this conclusion without caveats.

"The fact that circumstances evolved to the point where Cabinet reasonably considered it necessary to invoke the Act is regrettable because, in my view, the situation that led to its use could likely have been avoided," he said while introducing the report.

"Some of the missteps may have been small, but others were significant. Taken together, they contributed to a situation that spun out of control."

In outlining the factors that made the Emergencies Act necessary, Mr. Rouleau pointed first to the failure of the Ottawa Police Service and other law enforcement agencies to properly pre-

pare for and respond to the Freedom Convoy.

Mr. Rouleau also found municipal, provincial, and federal governments were guilty of similar failings when it came to putting aside politics to collaborate for the common good.

In particular, he took issue with Ontario Premier Doug Ford's hands-off approach to the Freedom Convoy, noting that the premier refused to participate in talks with his municipal and federal counterparts.

Mr. Ford similarly refused to subject himself to questioning at the Emergencies Act inquiry, citing "parliamentary privilege."

In short, as Mr. Rouleau found, and as I posited last fall, there were astounding failures at all levels when it came to dealing with the Freedom Convoy's occupation of Ottawa's downtown core. These failures compounded, making the Emergencies Act the federal government's tool of last resort.

At the same time, however, there's no denying the harm done to the residents and businesses of Ottawa by the Freedom Convoy occupation, the loss of control at key border crossings, the economic damage done to the country by this loss of control, and the potential for violence at the Coutts blockade in Alberta.

It was an unprecedented situation, solved by an unprecedented solution.

But now that the episode has come to a close, it's time for the pointless arguments and divisiveness to end.

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

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

C. J. Pepper, Publisher

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

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

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

Karen Stene, Bookkeeping/Reception
accounting@sbchron.com

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

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SARM seeks legitimate rural healthcare solutions

The Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM), alongside their member RMs, share concerns over the ongoing lack of rural healthcare support, job retention, recruitment, and operating facilities.

“Our healthcare system is under an immense strain following the pandemic and rural Saskatchewan is feeling concerned about every facet of the flow of healthcare services in rural areas. Service disruptions and aging facilities, alongside the ongoing struggle to recruit and retain criti-

cal health care staff, are ultimately leading to closures. Many without reopening dates are becoming all too common in our communities,” says Ray Orb, president of SARM.

The competition to attract and retain qualified medical professionals is particularly fierce. As the pressure on urban health care facilities increases, there is an equally dire need to support, maintain, and grow rural healthcare programs. SARM wants to encourage young families, and industries, to put down rural roots across the

province, but can't showcase health services as a reliable resource outside of urban centers.

SARM wants to do everything possible to support provincial initiatives to recruit and retain qualified health care professionals in rural Saskatchewan.

“We call for more opportunities for youth to aspire to stay in our RMs and have a fulfilling career in health care, we believe our next generation of service workers are in our own backyard. We should start the recruitment process in high

school with educational opportunities geared towards Saskatchewan youth, which ends with employment based in their home communities,” Orb says.

We must see post-secondary investment, so youth can have the opportunity to stay closer to home, plant roots, and receive the education they need to be successful in their chosen health care profession, with the incentives to consider rural work immediately following. Our provincial government is on the right track with their

recent announcement of expanding opportunities for health care training, however, physicians are notably absent from the high-priority classification lists for rural Saskatchewan. That's a miss for our members in large.

Where is the plan to expand announced urban urgent care facilities to rural areas of the province desperate for consistent, modernized, healthcare?

“Without adding healthcare facilities, we are asking residents to disrupt not just their afternoon for appointments, but sometimes days. We want our rural families to feel less burdened to travel extensive distances for medical care, not only for specialists but for basic family medicine. For many liv-

ing in rural communities, they can't make it work because of the additional burden of costs incurred like missed work, fuel, food, and accommodations while they are away.” Orb says.

SARM is asking to be part of the rural healthcare conversation. It will take a collaborative partnership with the government, along with health care partners, to create a wholesome, informed, and triaged approach to ensure the people living in rural Saskatchewan receive the health service and care they deserve. If we can begin to integrate modalities such as paramedicine, nurse practitioners, and virtual appointments, we can begin to see our rural health care facilities be utilize their full potential.

APAS calls for rail changes for grain shippers

The Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan (APAS) is calling on Transport Canada to implement the National Supply-Chain Task Force's recommendation to expand railway interswitching zones in May 2023.

The request was made in a letter to the Federal Transport Minister, expressing support for the National Supply-Chain Task Force's Final Report that was released in October 2021.

“The National Supply-Chain Task Force identified railroad interswitching as key policy that could be introduced quickly to encourage more competition in the rail transportation system,” noted APAS President Ian Boxall. “Currently, shippers must be within 30 kms of an interchange. Of the 203 licensed grain handling facilities in Saskatchewan, 200 are captive to a single service provider, and only 23 are located within that 30 km radius.”

“From 2015 to 2018 there was a 160 km radius for interswitching so we know it is a competitive tool that is effective at giving shippers more options which improves service and rates,” Boxall added. “This leads to more accountability between shippers and railways that translates into better service for producers.”

“Interswitching as a competitive tool for captive grain shippers and short-line operators is practically non-existent in a province that produces over half of Canada's grain exports.”

APAS also supports the Task Force recommendations strengthening the

Canadian Transportation Agency (CTA) authority, providing the CTA with more funding to help fulfill its mandate, and additional supports for shortline railways.

“Saskatchewan's contributions to global food security are critically important given the uncertainty in major grain markets,” noted Boxall. “Yet we remain dependent on a rail system that requires

greater accountability and transparency to help ensure Saskatchewan farmers are competitive and major disruptions minimized. Making the system more competitive and efficient is in the best interests of all farmers going forward and we should not be distracted by the fact there haven't been any major system-wide services issues so far this year.”

“We are only two and

half months away from the targeted date for expanded interswitching. With federal pre-budget consultations also underway, we wanted to ensure elected officials and other decision-makers are aware that our members are looking for policy changes and investments that help Saskatchewan farmers get their products to market in a timely and cost-efficient manner.”



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Highlights of a Shellbrook Town Council meeting

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

Shellbrook's Town Council met for its first regular meeting of 2023 in person and via teleconference on Tuesday, Feb. 21.

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

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Otterson, and council began with its customary recognition of Truth and Reconciliation. Immediately after this, it approved the meeting's agenda, adopted the minutes of its Feb. 6 meeting, and moved on to council's reports.

In a brief update on the PARWU board and its plans to build a new water treatment plant and intermunicipal water pipeline to Shellbrook, Mayor Otterson said it's basically status quo for the project. While PARWU has now approved a 10 per cent rate increase for its customers, it is still waiting on a verdict about its Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) grant. Word on the grant is expected in the next couple of works.

Keeping ICIP grants in mind while talking about the Parkland Pool Project steering committee, Otterson suggested the committee should touch base with communities who were approved for grant funding in the latest disbursement of funds.

Noting that some rural municipalities also got funding for bridge

projects, he also suggested the grant would be good to keep in mind whenever plans to replace the bridge on 2nd Avenue West are made.

In hospital and clinics discussion, Councillor Nording asked how many times the emergency room had been closed at Parkland Integrated Health Centre recently. Though he couldn't provide an exact number, Otterson said there had been at least half a dozen closures in the past few months. Nording expressed concerns that the closures are prompting people from the surrounding area to skip past Shellbrook and go to Prince Albert for healthcare services.

Elsewhere, Councillor Miller reported speculation that ambulance services may be expanded to Shellbrook in the next 12 to 18 months, bringing a positive conclusion to the community's quest to have an ambulance depot in town.

Finally, Otterson said there's been a strong push to get the lab integrated with electronic records. While x-ray results are generally available through eHealth within half an hour, results for diagnostics like blood work currently have to be faxed, resulting in delays for patients.

Closing out the reports with policing discussion, Hoare said the town's Community Safety Officer has been actively patrolling the town, with a focus on school zones, slowing drivers down, addressing illegal parking, and dealing with dogs at large.

Moving to unfinished business, council carried a motion to decline a ratepayer's request to abate wa-

ter and sewer bills in the amount of \$1,653.82. Council agreed it should continue with its policy of charging vacant properties the minimum utility costs.

In its first items of new business, council approved the 2023 wage grid, approved signing an easement requested by SaskEnergy to bring a gas line north from the Shellbrook Airport, and unanimously gave three readings to (and enacted) Bylaw 2023-03, a bylaw to establish an emergency measures organization.

Council also authorized the use of digital signatures on town cheques, and tabled discussion about the hourly rate the town will charge other communities for use of the Community Safety Officer.

In a lengthy discussion, council revisited the idea of creating a policy that would allow residents to take on local improvements at their own cost on town property (for example, paving or adding curb and gutter).

Hoare began by saying she'd sent a draft policy to the town's lawyer, who had advised against enacting it. Mayor Otterson and Councillors Anderson and Nording were the most staunch opponents to the idea, citing concerns

about creating a mess of extra work for the town if any improvements aren't completed properly.

Councillor Batten, meanwhile, was wary of the idea, noting that some residents already do whatever they want to do on town property with very little consequence.

This left Councillor Miller as the lone proponent of the policy. He said it would be unreasonable of the town to place such strict limits on residents, and suggested the policy could be drafted to require proper engineering and prior council approval before work can begin. Miller believed the policy could save the town money in the long run.

In the end, council defeated a motion to develop a policy.

Closing out the meeting, council continued discussion about PARWU and the town's options for improving water infrastructure. Councillor Anderson expressed concern that people seem to think the PARWU project is a done deal, when the town is still exploring its options (both with PARWU and independently).

Council also mulled the idea of setting a deadline for its final decision on the matter.

SLGA retail auctions raise \$45 million

The auctions to sell the permits associated with Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority (SLGA) Retail Inc. stores have concluded, with bids totaling \$45,077,800.

"We are pleased to see these auctions come to a

successful conclusion," Minister Responsible for SLGA Lori Carr said in a statement. "The incredible amount of interest means that we will have additional revenue to put toward the high-quality public services we all enjoy."

Auctions for the 35 permits were conducted online through McDougall Auctions, beginning Feb. 6 with the final auctions closing Feb. 24. Final bids for the permits ranged from \$450,000 (Carlyle) to \$3,270,000 (La Ronge).

Winning bidders will now begin the application process for the retail store permit. Prospective retailers must meet all SLGA licensing requirements to hold a permit. The timelines for issuance of permits will vary, depending how soon prospective retailers submit and meet all application requirements, secure locations, hire staff and make other preparations to open for business. Successful bidders have 18 months to obtain their permit and open their business. Bid amounts must be fully paid before a permit is issued.

Twenty-seven of SLGA Retail Inc.'s liquor stores have now closed. The final seven will close at the end of business March 11.

PHARMACISTS AND PHARMACY TECHNICIANS

YOUR ACCESSIBLE HEALTH CARE PROVIDER

- TIMELY SERVICE
- RELIABLE CARE



NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF ASSESSMENT ROLL

VILLAGE OF MARCELIN

Notice is hereby given that the assessment roll for the Village of Marcelin for the year of 2023 has been prepared and is open to inspection in the office of the assessor on the following days: Tuesday & Wednesday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. from March 2nd, 2023 to April 6th, 2023.

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

Any person who wishes to appeal against his or her assessment is required to file his or her notice of appeal, along with a fee of \$200.00, refundable upon success of appeal, to: The Assessor, Village of Marcelin, Box 39, Marcelin, SK, S0J 1R0, by the 6th day of April, 2023. Contact for the Secretary for the Board of Revision is Western Municipal Consulting Ltd. Box 149, Meota, SK S0M 1X0, 1-306-441-4946.

Dated this 2nd day of March, 2023.

Leanne McCormick, Assessor



TOWN OF SHELLBROOK NOTICE

ASSESSMENT ROLL

Notice is hereby given that the assessment roll for the Town of Shellbrook for the year of 2023 has been prepared and is open to inspection in the office of the Assessor from 8:30am to 4pm, Monday to Friday from March 3rd, 2023 to April 3rd, 2023.

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

Any person who wishes to appeal against his or her assessment is required to file his or her notice of appeal with: The Assessor, Town of Shellbrook, Box 40, Shellbrook, SK., S0J 2E0 by 4pm on the 3rd day of April, 2023.

Dated this 3rd day of March, 2023.

Kelly Hoare, Assessor

Nothing tops face-to-face farmer's meetings

It was some time ago that a press release arrived in the mailbox announcing a veterinary professor at USask was launching a bovine health podcast.

The release caught my attention because it reminded me how dramatically the dissemination of information to producers has changed over recent years.

I grew up following my dad to occasional farm meetings and field days, and always went home with a rather thick stack of pamphlets and fact sheets, which I would du-

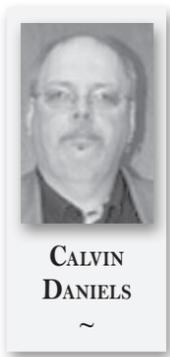
tifully file away in binders in case dad needed to look up something.

To be honest, even when I was old enough, I read only an occasional leaflet, and I doubt dad read many more.

They became a bit like a mini encyclopedia, looking nice on a shelf, but rarely accessed.

The speakers of course were listened to, although I often had the thought dad learned as much, and enjoyed the conversations as much, over coffee with fellow producers.

Flash forward a decade or so and I've moved away



CALVIN DANIELS

from the farm to cover the ag sector as a journalist.

The job meant spending a lot of days at farm meetings where producers still gathered to listen to speakers. It was a sharing of information, and a chance to get off

the farm for a few hours, which in itself is a positive. It is sometimes hard to distance oneself from the issues of farm business when you can see the combine out the living room window.

But in recent years the number of meetings has dwindled – although ironically there is one in Yorkton this week.

Still the trend is to hold fewer meetings to share information because there are other ways to accomplish that today.

The Internet has allowed for unparalleled connectivity, and that

means webcasts and YouTube videos, blogs and of course podcasts have largely taken over in terms of getting information to producers.

The evolution was given a further boost when COVID hit and the idea of meeting via Zoom became normalized.

It makes good sense, at least for the most part.

There is a time saving aspect as producers need not travel, and since anyone with Internet can join in, the chance to interact with a larger audience exists.

The meeting can be re-

corded and becomes an accessible resource too.

So, a veterinary podcast is a solid vehicle to share information.

But the element lost is the coffee and donuts, which was the time for farmer-to-farmer sharing.

Sure, at times that might have meant discussing a recent Hockey Night In Canada tilt, but it was also the time to talk about problems, and maybe solutions to farm issues.

That interaction with fellow farmers should not be discounted, but the opportunities are certainly fewer today.

Provinces urge federal agency to reconsider pesticide decision

The governments of Alberta and Saskatchewan are urging the federal Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) to reconsider its decision on a crucial insecticide for farmers.

The PMRA recently changed approved uses for lambda-cyhalothrin, an effective pesticide that many farmers rely on to control grasshoppers and flea beetles.

Among other changes, it can no lon-

ger be used for any crop that may end up as livestock feed and as a result, its manufacturers have pulled their products from Western Canada.

Due to a continued drought in some parts of Alberta and Saskatchewan, grasshoppers are again likely to be a significant concern in the 2023 growing season, and the PMRA's decision leaves farmers with one fewer tool to address potentially destructive pests.

It could also mean the inability for canola producers to sell their products as livestock feed which could impact availability for cattle and lamb producers. It could also impact total food production in a time of world food insecurity.

"Without access to effective insecticides, Saskatchewan producers are at risk of being placed at a competitive disadvantage and will be facing significant losses," Saskatchewan Agriculture Minister David Marit said in a statement. "Saskatchewan supports industry's calls for an extension to the lambda-cyhalothrin re-evaluation decision to alleviate pressure on producers and help ensure a stable supply of feed for livestock."

"Lambda-cyhalothrin has a significant market share, and it will strain farmers to source alternative products. The PMRA needs to base its decisions on sound science and be aligned with our largest trading partner," Sask-Canola Chair Keith Fournier added in a statement.

In 2019, the United States' Environmental Protection Agency removed restrictions on lambda-cyhalothrin's use. The PMRA made the opposite decision, which has led to confusion about what will be done about livestock feed com-

ing in from our largest trading partner.

"At a time when our farmers are finally finding their footing after a rough couple of years, this decision could set many of them back," Alberta Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation Nate Horner said in a statement. "I urge the federal ministers and the PMRA to reconsider their decision and make it easier, not harder, for Alberta's farmers to feed people in Canada and across the world."

Minister Horner and Minister Marit have written to the ministers of Health Canada and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, outlining producers' concerns and urging them to encourage the PMRA to reconsider its decision.

The prairie provinces' farmers need a solution for the coming growing season. It is possible for the PMRA to enact an emergency reinstatement of the product's use to ensure our farmers can use it for the coming growing season and give it time to make a more informed decision, but we would need that immediately.

To ensure western farmers have an effective solution for the coming growing season, the PMRA would need to enact an emergency reinstatement immediately, which would also give the agency time to make a more informed decision.

Snow as a water source for livestock

By DALE WEINBENDER
BSA, AAg, Livestock and Feed
Extension Specialist, Tisdale

Cattle have five required nutrients to remain productive. They are protein, energy, vitamins, minerals, and water. Of these nutrients, water is arguably the most important. Daily water requirements are dependent on livestock species, breed, animal status, activity level, stage of production (growth, pregnancy, lactation or maintenance), environment and climate. Beef cattle require 22 to 75 litres of water per day.

Several studies performed by the University of Alberta have shown that energy diverted to thawing snow will not cause herd performance to decline. These studies indicate that heat produced from feeding/grazing along with standard body metabolism is more than adequate to melt the ingested snow and bring it up to body temperature. There are no metabolic differences observed between livestock given snow or water.

Providing snow as a water source can be beneficial to an operation by reducing electricity costs associated with heated water bowls and pumping systems. To see the benefits from using snow as a water source, managing the snow and cow herd is essential. Snow must be fresh, clean and present in adequate amounts. Hard-crusting, wind-blown and trampled snow will make utilization for the cow more difficult as it will not be easily accessible. It takes ten centimetres of snow to produce one centimetre of water, so a backup water source

should be in place in case of shortfalls in snow depth or changes in snow condition. The Beef Cattle Code of Practice will help you determine when snow can be used as a water source. Snow must not be used as the sole water source for cattle that:

- are lactating;
- are newly weaned;
- have a body condition score of 2.5 or less out of five; or
- don't have optimal feed resources.

When providing snow as a water source, it is important to monitor the cattle, specifically their body condition. Mature cows consume 2.5 per cent of their body weight in dry feed daily. A drop in feed intake could mean cattle are not getting an adequate supply of water, which will cause weight loss over time. Once cattle become close to calving, their water requirements increase, so cows close to calving or lactating should have access to clean fresh water. Regardless of water source, cattle should always be provided with rations that promote proper nutrition, and access to adequate shelter to help with maintaining condition and overall health.

With proper management, snow can be used as a water source for some classes of cattle in the winter months. Monitoring snow quality and quantity, along with the feed resources and body condition of the cattle, are key factors when deciding whether to use this practice. For more information on this or other livestock related topics please contact your local livestock and feed extension specialist or call the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377.

JUNIOR CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

2023 JUNIOR CITIZEN OF THE YEAR SCHOLARSHIP

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

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

These prestigious awards are given to youth who:

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

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

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

Witchekan Wildlife Federation celebrates 50 years

By NATASHA CABASE
Spiritwood Herald Reporter

The Witchekan Wildlife Federation celebrated its 50th annual awards banquet on Saturday, Feb. 25, at the Spiritwood Civic Centre. Cocktails and socializing started around 5 p.m., with supper following at 6 p.m.

A crowd of about 130 people attended and enjoyed various dishes prepared by Ron Sawatsky Catering, including salads, chicken, fish, deer sausage provided by Northern Meats, and cakes for dessert. Additionally, two free bottles of wine were given to each ta-

ble.

Before supper, Lyla Millar welcomed everyone who came and supported the organization's 50-year celebration. In between her welcome speech, long-time members who recently passed were honoured and fondly remembered.

Following supper there were a couple of draws, including a draw for those new to the banquet, as a way to say "thank you" for attending the federation's annual celebration. 50-50 tickets were also sold, with Devin Ledinski winning the prize.

After a few draws, this year's awards were presented.

For this year, there were four award recipients.

Dustin Smolinski with his Typical Whitetail Deer – Rifle that scored 144-1/8.

Warren Schira with his Pronghorn Antelope – Archery that scored 75-5/6.

Scott Colley with his Moose – Archery scoring 123-7/8.

Dillon Bulyaki with his Typical Mule Deer – Muzzleloader scoring 158-4/8.

Following the awards ceremony, there was a slideshow commemorating the history of the Witchekan Wildlife Federation, its progress, projects, programs, and achievements, and even some fun facts.

Witchekan Wildlife Federation's accomplishments listed over the years are as follows: Covering the cost of snow shoe rentals for Rivier and Hartley Clark Elementary School, the FINS (Fish in School) program in Hartley Clark, fire-arm safety courses held over the years, a partnership with the Ministry of Environment on power projects at Chitek Lake, annual Larson Lake clean-up, purchase of two docks located in Huard Lake and Larson Lake, a 10-year lease agreement for access to Larson Lake, partnership with Ducks Unlimited, Horn Scoring, donations made to

SACO (Saskatchewan Association of Conservation Officers), annual donation to the Habitat Trust Golf Tournament in Elbow, Sask., donations made to "Bad to the Bow" archery club in Leoville, annual donation to the Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation (SWF) Clay Shoot (in which all proceeds from this event support the SWF's outdoor education programs), sponsoring "coffee breaks" at SERMS' Northern American Wildlife Federation annual meeting, a \$200 donation made to Healing Haven Wildlife Rescue in Dorintosh, Sask., and annual donations to Habitat Trust and Kids Conservation Camp.

Recently, the Witchekan Wildlife Federation received a plaque and gift in recognition of the organization donating more than \$50,000 over the years to the Habitat Trust.

In 2022, the federation undertook a tree planting project on wildlife land near Spiritwood. The federation is in charge of looking after the land, which was willed to the province of Saskatchewan by George Edmund "Peter" Eastwood for the purpose of creating a permanent wildlife refuge.

In the same year, a piece of land was cultivated, and Tree Canada planted 35,000 white spruce trees on it.

At the end of the slideshow, the federation honoured its past, current, and future members.

"You are the roots of our success," the federation stated.



Darcy Gatzke presents the Typical Mule Deer – Muzzleloader award to Dillon Bulyaki.



Darcy Gatzke presents the Moose – Archery award to Cystal Colley (receiving the plaque on behalf of Scott Colley).



From left to right: Ron Sawatsky, Karen Booth, Kathy Sawatsky, and Bernice Duhaime prepared the meal for the Witchekan Wildlife Federation's 50th anniversary celebration.



A crowd of about 130 people came out for the Wildlife Federation's 50th anniversary celebration and enjoyed a supper, prepared by Ron Sawatsky Catering, and time to socialize.



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

Saskatchewan's Economic Growth Continues

The value of Saskatchewan's wholesale trade increased by 24.1 per cent between December 2021 and December 2022, the *highest increase among provinces*. Manufacturing sales rose 25.5 per cent in the same period, *ranking second among the provinces*. Saskatchewan continues to lead the nation in several of the country's key economic indicators. Our government remains committed to attracting investment, increasing the value of our exports and expanding our international markets to ensure this growth continues.

For more information, visit [Saskatchewan.ca](https://www.saskatchewan.ca).

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



Shellbrook Legion hosts cribbage tourney

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

The Shellbrook Legion recently hosted the Royal Canadian Legion Zone cribbage tournament.

In the open category, Lloyd O’Brodovich and Alan Carswell, both from the Shellbrook Legion, finished in first and second place. The pair also topped the field in the open doubles category, repeating their performance from the previous Branch tournament.

Both earned the opportunity to advance to the District cribbage tournament to compete in singles and doubles.

In the closed singles category, An-

drew Ciona from the Leask Legion finished in first, with Hugh McIntyre of the Shellbrook Legion right behind him in second place. The results were similar in closed doubles, where Andrew and Patricia Ciona topped Hugh and Janice McIntyre in a one-two finish.

In the team event, the Shellbrook team of Helen and Henri Dagenais and Hugh and Janice McIntyre finished first. Again, both the winners and second-place finishers in these categories earned the right to advance to the District cribbage tournament.

The District tournament was scheduled to be held on the Feb. 18 at the Nutana Legion in Saskatoon.



The Shellbrook Legion’s team of Helen and Henri Dagenais and Hugh and Janice McIntyre won the Royal Canadian Legion’s Zone cribbage tournament.



Leask Legion member Andrew Ciona won closed singles in the Royal Canadian Legion’s Zone cribbage tournament.



The Leask Legion’s Andrew and Patricia Ciona won closed doubles at the Royal Canadian Legion’s Zone cribbage tournament.



Shellbrook Legion member Lloyd O’Brodovich was the winner of open singles at the Royal Canadian Legion’s Zone cribbage tournament.



Shellbrook’s Alan Carswell and Lloyd O’Brodovich were the top pair in open doubles at the Royal Canadian Legion’s Zone cribbage tournament.

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 - 6 pm; Thursday 12 pm - 6 pm; Friday 10 am - 5 pm (Story Time 11 am - 12 pm); Saturday 10 am - 4 pm.

SPIRITWOOD: SARCS (Spiritwood Area Recreation, Culture and Sport Inc.) is now accepting requests for the “Saskatchewan Lotteries Community Grant”! Non-Profit Community Sport, Culture and Recreation Programs – Programs running from: April 1, 2023 - March 31, 2024. Deadline to apply: Must be received by March 15, 2023. Email spr@sasktel.net or call (306) 883-2176 to receive Funding Request Form.

MONT NEBO: Country Comedy & Toe Tapping Tunes – Audrey Neubuhr of Hillbilly Homestead (feat. an appearance by “Minnie Pearl”), Dynamic singer/songwriter Just Bea, MC/Entertainer Joey Watson. Sunday, March 12, 2023 – 2 pm, Mont Nebo Hall. \$15 (\$10 kids 5-10 years), refreshments included. A fundraiser for Mont Nebo Hall. Funding provided by Sask Lotteries.

SHELLBROOK: Canada’s Double Portion, from North Battleford, Sask, Canada in Concert! Sunday, March 12 @ 6 pm, Shellbrook Pentecostal Assembly. Love offering accepted.

PARKSIDE: Sunday, April 23, 2023 – Celebrate the Coming of Spring!! Honeywood Heritage Nursery Inc. Spring Fundraising Event – Supper & Live Auction at the Parkside Heritage Centre. To donate an auction item contact: Dale 306-960-2702; Shelley 306-747-7287; David 306-747-2275. Email: honeywoodn8@gmail.com

SHELLBROOK: Shellbrook Royal Canadian Legion – Crib Night & Bar – Friday, March 3, 2023, 7 pm to 10 pm. \$3 entry fee.

TRIPLE YOUR ADVERTISING

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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Canada 

ADVERTISE LOCAL

Canwood Library hosts Flag Day

By GERDA BRUNER
Canwood Library Board

A National Flag of Canada Day presentation for local students was led by Canwood Legion member Mr. Lester Wyatt Friday, Feb. 17, at Canwood's Wapiti Library Branch.

Several children had questions regarding the military uniform that was part of the display. Lester explained that it belonged to his father, William (Bill) Wyatt, who served as a young soldier in the Second World War until his discharge in 1945.

A couple of the "young gentlemen" students eagerly asked if they could have the honour of trying on the historic jacket. Surprisingly, young Bill Wyatt's jacket didn't fit as loosely as we thought it might.

In addition to his presentation, Lester also gave the children several activities to do centred on our Canadian Flag.

When attending students realized that Lester's birthday was the following day, they immediately sang "Happy Birthday", followed by applause in appreciation for his presentation.

Teaching staff received Legion gifts of small Canadian Flags and lapel pins, plus treats from the library, that would be handed out to students on their return to their classroom.

Coincidentally, Feb. 17 was also Random Acts of Kindness Day.



Students were given activities to participate in during the Canwood Library's Flag Day presentation.



Canwood Legion member Lester Wyatt gives a Flag Day presentation at the Canwood Library on Feb. 17.

Premier Moe to lead trade delegation to India

Premier Scott Moe will lead a trade and investment mission to India to promote closer ties between the two jurisdictions in the areas of critical mineral and natural resource development, agriculture, post-secondary education and sustainability.

"Saskatchewan has been working alongside India for many years and I'm proud of the relationships we've built in that time," Moe said in a statement. "I'm excited to share Saskatchewan's innovative solutions with India and focus on the trade and investment opportunities that exist now and into the future."

India is an important partner for Saskatchewan and export numbers are impressive. The province opened a trade and investment office in New Delhi in March 2021 focused on growing exports, attracting investment, and strengthening relationships with partners.

In 2022, total exports to India were valued at \$1.4 billion. More than 50 per cent of lentils imported into India originate in Saskatchewan and with a population of more than 1.4 billion people, the

opportunity for growth is considerable.

This mission also serves as a platform for Saskatchewan to continue its focus on increased sustainability and growing exports, including potash. Gordon McKenzie, Chief Executive Officer of Canpotex, will join the Premier on the mission. Canpotex, based in Saskatoon, is the world's largest supplier of potash, exporting and delivering Saskatchewan potash overseas on behalf of its two shareholders, Mosaic and Nutrien.

"Saskatchewan potash is vital to India's food security goals. India is one of Canpotex's largest markets, and we have reliably supplied India with high-quality Saskatchewan potash for 50 years," McKenzie said in a statement. "We deeply value the relationships we've established in India, and we will continue to be their reliable, stable partner in achieving food security."

Saskatchewan has a vibrant and growing Indo-Canadian community. Over the past five years, nearly 10,500 applicants and their families have achieved permanent residency thanks to the Saskatchewan Immigrant Nominee Program, while more than 41 per cent of international post-secondary students in Saskatchewan are from

India.

Saskatchewan Polytechnic, which will also be accompanying the Premier on this mission, currently has two offices in India and is looking to expand its presence in the country.

"Saskatchewan Polytechnic looks forward to strengthening ties with India's institutes of higher education during the Premier's mission to India," President and CEO Dr. Larry Rosia said in a statement. "One of the key components of our international framework is a focus on enriching students' learning and preparing them for an increasingly multicultural global workplace, while enhancing faculty and staff capabilities through collaboration on research projects and other experiences."

ADVERTISING DEADLINE IS
FRIDAY 4:00 P.M.

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

SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST

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

PRAISE & WORSHIP

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

PARTNERS IN FAITH

Lutheran/United/
Christchurch Anglican,
137-2nd St. W.
Spiritwood
Worship 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.
Everyone Welcome
Fr. Ramel Macapala

COWBOY CHURCH

Spiritwood
Every Wednesday Night
7 pm
Spiritwood Legion Hall
Pastor Rick Martin

LAKELAND COMMUNITY CHURCH

(Corner of 1st Ave. and 4th
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

Gideons International of Canada

Battlefords Camp
Phone Art Martynes
(306) 389-4633

SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST

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

BELBUTTE FULL GOSPEL

11 am Worship Service

PARTNERS IN WORSHIP

Shell Lake
Worship Services
Sunday 9:00 a.m.
Pastor Sarah Urano
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Canadians may play huge President's Cup role

When Nick Taylor of Abbotsford battled Scottie Scheffler down the stretch at the recent Waste Management Phoenix Open, he won \$2.2 million and propelled himself into fifth place on the PGA Tour's money list. His dramatic success also moved him into 77th position in the Official Golf World Ranking list, giving Canada an unprecedented five players in the top 77.

That bodes well for a huge Canadian influence on the International team in the 2024 President's Cup, an event scheduled for Royal Montreal Golf Club, where Canada's Mike Weir will captain the Internationals.

Two Canadians — Corey Connors and Taylor Pendrith — made the International team when it was held in Australia in 2022 and there's reason to believe all five could be chosen by Weir to take on the United States in the Ryder Cup-style event. The International team consists of golfers

from countries outside of the United States and Europe, which leaves Canada, Asia, South Africa, Australia, Mexico, and South America. While the likes of Hideki Matsuyama of Japan, Tom Kim and Sungae Im of South Korea, Adam Scott of Australia and Christiaan Bezuidenhout of South Africa are virtual locks for Weir's team, there's still plenty of room for talented Canadians. The overall skill pool has been weakened by LIV Golf, which has recruited former International stars Cam Smith, Marc Leishman and Joaquin Niemann. Unless there's a change in protocol, those LIV players will be ineligible for the President's Cup.

Connors, Pendrith, Taylor, Adam Hadwin, and Adam Svensson are the Canadians ranked in the OWGR'S top 77 and because the event is being played in Canada, with Weir as the captain, there will be tremendous public pressure on him to have as many Canadi-



BRUCE
PENTON

ans on the team as realistically possible.

The U.S. side is 12-1-1 all-time in the President's Cup, and will be the overwhelming favourite in Montreal come Sept. 24-29, 2024, thanks to the likes of Scheffler, Patrick Cantlay, Xander Schauffele, Will Zalatoris, Justin Thomas, Collin Morikawa, and Jordan Spieth. It would be one of the biggest upsets in all of sports if the International side were to pull out a victory, but what a great moment it would be for Canadian golf if five of our country's best players led the charge

on our own home turf. Back in 2007, when the President's Cup was last played in Canada (at Royal Montreal), the U.S. was victorious, but fans were proudly singing O Canada as they watched Weir defeat Tiger Woods in singles play.

We're still 19 months away from the President's Cup, but it's never too early to start considering how major a role Canadians could play. Our country's golf image around the world has been enhanced by Canadians' success on the PGA Tour and it would skyrocket with a Canadian-led victory in Montreal.

• Super Bowl halftime entertainer Rhianna sold a T-shirt for \$60 that said: "Rihanna Concert Interrupted by a Football Game, Weird but Whatever."

• Broadcaster Colt Knost on the raucous 16th hole at the Waste Management Phoenix Open: "We've got a loaded leaderboard and a

loaded gallery."

• Comedy guy Steve Burgess of Vancouver: "This year's Super Bowl stats will be different. Passes will be categorized as complete, incomplete, intercepted, and shot down by U.S. air defence."

• Jay Busbee of yahoo.com, on the controversial holding penalty against Philly's James Bradberry that was the deciding factor in KC winning the Super Bowl: "Mothers tuck their newborns into their cribs with more aggression than Bradberry showed on that play."

• Bryan Hayes of TSN, on Twitter: "Imagine being on the LIV Tour and watching Tiger, JT and Rory roll birdies on 18 at Riviera and thinking 'well, guess I got a big match against the Range Goats tomorrow.'"

• Mike Bianchi of the Orlando Sentinel: "Aaron Rodgers will enter a four-day 'darkness retreat' in hopes of gaining some clarity about his NFL future. In related news, the Miami Hur-

ricanes hope to come out of their two-decade darkness retreat this season in hopes of providing some clarity about their relevance."

• Comedy writer Alex Kaseberg: "The new LIV Golf tour is sponsored by major human rights violator Saudi Arabia. LIV Golf should do well unless Iraq launches a tour and outbids them."

• RJ Currie of sports-deke.com: "The winner of Russia's Most Delicious Girl contest — where women let mosquitoes bite them — took over 100 bites in 20 minutes. Good, but well short of the record 133 bites held by Miss Manitoba."

• Headline in the on-ion.com: "Donna Kelce just glad her better son won."

• From fark.com: "Red-hot Wings move to two points out of playoffs with 5-2 win in Calgary. Alright, Wings fans, get your octopus orders in."

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

U18 AA Elks end season in Warman

By JORDAN TWISS

Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

The Parkland U18 AA Elks travelled to Warman on Feb. 22, desperately needing a win in game three of their best-of-five, first round series against the Warman Wildcats to keep their SAAHL playoff hopes alive.

The odds were against the Elks, who recorded losses of 2-1 and 8-1 in games one and two, respectively. And game three offered nothing different, as the Elks' offence failed to register a single point in a 7-0 defeat.

For the most part, the Elks kept the score close in the early going of game three. But as was often the case throughout their series with the Wildcats, penalties proved costly. In the first period alone, two Elks penalties — a hooking call against Kaiden Couture and a head contact infraction by Jake Boettcher — resulted in two Wildcats goals.

Jake Kessler opened the scoring for Warman on its first power play, taking assists from Carter Bergen and Owen

Harms. Then, only 90 seconds later, Lukas Viden scored with a second assist of the night from Harms.

In a much closer second period (the only period in which the Elks outshot the Wildcats), the Elks mostly stayed out of the penalty box while the Wildcats had three infractions called against them. Though this helped keep the Wildcats off the board, the Elks' power play failed to make the most of its opportunities.

This all paved the way for a second consecutive third period collapse for the Elks, as the Wildcats fired 22 shots on goal over 20 minutes (compared to four for the Elks) and rattled off five unanswered goals.

Raiden Clayton got the scoring started for the Wildcats, striking with a lone assist from Hudson Thiessen, and Lukas Viden scored his second goal of the night just 28 seconds later. Markus Thompson and Devon Johannesson assisted on the goal.

When a hooking penalty by Tyson Gagnon put the Elks on the penalty kill

just after the halfway point of the period, the Wildcats made them pay again. This time, the goal came from Coltyn Blanchard, with assists from Owen Harms and Trey Markus.

After a brief offensive lull, Mason Obrigewitch pushed the score to 6-0 on a lone assist from Trey Markus. Then, making the most of an interference penalty by Kaiden Couture, Devon Johannesson scored on the power play with helpers from Lukas Viden and Carter Bergen.

With the 7-0 victory, the Wildcats now advance to the second round of the SAAHL playoffs to face off against the Saskatoon Screaming Eagles. Meanwhile, the Elks are left to hang up their skates for the season.

Though the early end to the season is no doubt a disappointment for the team, the Elks came a long way from their 2021-2022 season, which saw them play to a record of 2-29-2-0.

Additionally, the 2022-2023 season saw eight Elks players selected to participate in regional camps hosted by the

Sask First Under-18 Program, a Hockey Sask initiative that aims to shine a spotlight on young players who aren't playing at the AAA level.

Those players included Brody Anderson, Jake Boettcher, Kendon Skalicky, Bronson Parker, Cody Morash, Brendan Aug, Hunter Nakonechny, and Tyson Gagnon.

Of those eight, five were selected among the top 80 players in the north for the Sask First Under-18 Program, including Nakonechny, Aug, Parker, Anderson, Morash.

In other hockey playoffs action, the U18 B Shellbrook Elks saw their Provincials run come to an early end on Feb. 19.

Playing their first round, modified best-of-three series against the Eston Ramblers, the Elks dropped game one in Shellbrook by a score of 3-0. Needing a win in game two, and in the deciding mini game, the Elks were blanked again in Eston, falling by a score of 6-0.

Eston now advances to play the Dinsmore Dynamos.

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OBITUARY

Ralph D. Lange



Ralph D. Lange
July 6, 1947 – February
14, 2023
75 years old
It is with great sadness
and heavy hearts that

we announce Ralph's passing with his family by his side. Ralph is survived by his son Daniel (Sandra), their children Joseph (Jennifer), Scott (Breanne) and Alyssa (George). His Great Grandchildren Kendra, Joseph, Jankijn, Rylynn and Brian. His sisters Maggie (Mervin) Chamney, Irene Kuffert and Irma Webber also numerous nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his wife Marion and many relatives and friends.

A Graveside Service to celebrate Ralph's life will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Battleford's Union Hospital Foundation (designated to the Palliative Care Unit), P.O. Box 1358, North Battleford, SK S9A 3L8, in Memory of Ralph Lange as tokens of remembrance.

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

GOOD NEWS

WE ACCEPT CHRIST, OR GO WITHOUT

By RANDALL MACLEOD
Immanuel Lutheran, Parkside

As I reviewed my column published on Feb. 9, I noticed something at the end I was not really comfortable with, so I would like to take this opportunity to clarify what I said. I mentioned that if you "choose". Technically we do not choose Jesus, as He said to his disciples: "You did not choose me, but I chose you..." That same statement holds true for all of us, but it could stand to be unpacked a bit.

First off, let me be absolutely clear on this point, God does not intend to be exclusionary. The Bible teaches us clearly that, "God does not wish that any should perish but that all should come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9). And secondly that Christ "died once for all."

So just what is this choosing thing and how does that affect me?

Martin Luther, in his small catechism, says this regarding the Holy Spirit: "I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth." You see what he is saying here: even though we are saved by faith, by our belief in Christ's sacrifice, the very belief we

have is, in itself, a gift from God.

When we look back at the nation of Israel, we see them having just been delivered from Egypt through miracles and the Red Sea miraculously parting, but still God says to them: "The great trials which your eyes have seen, the signs, and those great wonders. Yet the Lord has not given you a heart to perceive and eyes to see and ears to hear, to this very day." This then, is precisely what Luther is saying, we can't see it, or hear it, or believe it, unless God opens us up to it.

This concept has caused great discussion, dissent, and division in the church over the centuries. God has to choose, but how and who does He choose? Given what I noted above about His hearts desire, I land firmly on this: God will call and save all those who can be saved. I love the way C.S. Lewis puts it: "Either we will say to God; 'Your will be done', or He will say to us 'Your will be done'"

Our "choice" is really more like this: Your mother puts your dinner on the table in front of you; your only choice is to eat it or go hungry. God, then, puts salvation through Christ in front of you, accept what He has given (on His terms), or go without. We don't choose Him. When we truly "hear it, see it, get it (His offer)," we can really only take it or leave it. We are not "special" in that sense, but we are precious, very precious.

Minutes of an R.M. of Blaine Lake meeting

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

The Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Council of the Rural Municipality of Blaine Lake #434 which was held in the RM's Municipal Office on Tuesday, Jan. 17, 2023.

Present Council Members and Administration attended as follows: Gerry Strelloff — Reeve, Michael Chudskov — Division 1, Lee Dolezal — Division 2, Alan Lavoie — Division 4, Tim Stupnikoff — Division 5, Glenn Lamontagne — Division 6, Assistant Administrator Alan Tanchak, and Administrator Linda Klimm.

Absent: Courtney Swystun — Division 3.

The meeting was called to order by Reeve Strelloff at 8:00 a.m.

Alan Tanchak arrived at 8:02 a.m.

Stupnikoff: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 approves the Dec. 20, 2022, Regular Meeting minutes as presented. Carried

Lavoie: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 approves the Dec. 20, 2022, Public Hearing minutes as presented. Carried

Lamontagne: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 accept the December 2022 Statement of Financial Activities, Income Statement, Budgetary Control, Chequing Account Statement, and Bank Reconciliation as presented. Carried

Lamontagne: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 approves the List of Accounts for Approval, including cheques #6174 to #6218 with the total payable amount being \$179,050.28. Carried

Chudskov: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 approves the Additional Accounts for payment as presented by the Administration in the amount of \$883.02: Triod Supply \$883.02. Carried

Lavoie: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 approves the presented Council indemnity totaling \$459: Gerry Jan — \$459. Carried

Lavoie: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 authorize Administration to notify the successful applicant that he/she has received the posi-

tion. Carried

Stupnikoff: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 authorize Administration to check available warranty on grader. Carried

Chudskov: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 authorize the purchase of 3 sets of carbide blades from Dionco at an estimate of \$7,000. Carried

Stupnikoff: That Bylaw 15-2022 being A Bylaw to Recover Protective Services Costs be read a third time, signed, sealed and that it form a part of these minutes. Carried

Lamontagne: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 set Council remuneration for mileage at \$0.60 per km. Carried

Lavoie: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 set Council remuneration for Regular Meetings at a flat rate of \$150. Carried

Lavoie: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 for Special Meetings as follows: less than 1 hour — no charge, and for every hour \$35 per hour. Carried

Stupnikoff: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 set Council remuneration for Committee Meetings as follows: less than 4 hours at a rate of \$35 per hour, and for 4 hours or more at a flat rate of \$150 per meeting. Carried

Lamontagne: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 set Council remuneration for Supervision at \$35 per hour, and set mileage at \$0.60 per km. Carried

Stupnikoff: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 set Council remuneration for Conventions as follows: a flat rate of \$150 per day or \$75 for half a day, that mileage be set at \$0.60 per km, that meals at the Convention be payable to SARM on the delegate(s) behalf, and any meals paid directly by the delegate be subject to the following maximums: \$20 for breakfast, \$20 for lunch and \$30 for dinner. Carried

Lamontagne: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 add Assistant Administrator Alan Tanchak to the signing authorities, and that the signing authority be one of Reeve Gerry Strelloff and Deputy Reeve Alan La-

voie, and one of Administrator Linda Klimm, Assistant Administrator Alan Tanchak and Administrative Assistant Autumn Parchewski. Carried

(Editor's note: Council spent the next portion of the meeting making its annual appointments, including committees, building officials, and plant health and pest control officers.)

Lamontagne: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 allows RM ratepayers and residents twelve (12) half-ton loads of garbage for 2023, free of charge, at the Blaine Lake Transfer Station, and that they must provide their land location on delivery. Carried

Chudskov: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 authorizes the payment for RMAA membership dues in the amount of \$425. Carried

Lavoie: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 supports the Saskatchewan Lotteries Community Grant Program 2024 application with designating a total of \$2,393 to the following populations: Blaine Lake Community Association (BLCA) — 205 x \$7.95, total of \$1,629.75, and Village of Marcelin — 96 x \$7.95, total of \$763.25. Carried

Lamontagne: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 table discussion of "Respect Certified" training for Council and staff until the next Regular Meeting of Council on Feb. 21, 2023. Carried

Lavoie: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 acknowledges the SaskPower Project (File #20373014) to install two poles with a three-phase transformer at SE 36-42-07 W3m, and that the Administrator respond as directed by Council. Carried

Stupnikoff: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 acknowledges the SaskPower Project (File #20387469) to remove 2.5 kms of poles from SW 29-45-06 W3m, and that the Administrator respond as directed by Council. Carried

Lamontagne: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 approves Policy #2023-001 with respect to municipal employees, that the policy be distributed in the January Newsletter, and that an "Employees Only" sign be placed on the shop door. Carried

Chudskov: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 approves Administrator training for the Munisoft Assessment Processing webinar provided on Feb. 10, 2023, at a cost of \$109 plus applicable taxes. Carried

Haul and spread tenders were opened from 9:35 to 9:40 a.m.

Lavoie: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 award the Gravel Haul & Spread Tender to Gerry's Trailer Shuttle Ltd. Carried

Mowing tenders were opened from 9:40 to 9:45 a.m.

Strelloff: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 award the Mowing Tender to Lynden Butler. Carried

Councillor Lee Dolezal declared a Conflict of Interest prior to the discussion of the legal letter submitted by his lawyer, and left Council Chambers at 10 a.m.

Lavoie: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 move in camera to discuss Legal Matters compliant with s. 120(2) of The Municipalities Act, and on the basis that the discussions that take place during the meeting apply to s. 21 of The Local Authority Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, the time being 10:13 a.m. Carried

Lavoie: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 move out of camera, the time being 10:23 a.m. Carried

Lavoie: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 authorize Mike Morris from SARM to respond to the letter received from Councillor Lee Dolezal's lawyer. Carried

Stupnikoff: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 adjourn, the time being 10:37 a.m.

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And loved by all he knew,
Who left behind a trail of tears,
And precious memories too.

We loved the sunshine in his smile,
And kindness in his heart,
But Heaven saw that he was tired,
Which meant we had to part.

Now we remember him this day,
Dear angels hear our prayer,
Please guide him with your gentle wings,
And tend him with great care.

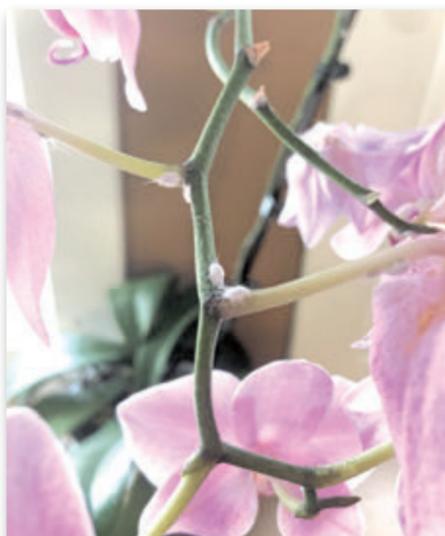
For he was someone wonderful,
And words just can't convey,
How much we wish that he was here,
Once more with us today.

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



Aphid invasion on *Aristolochia grandiflora* leaf.

Photo Credit: Jackie Bantle



Mealy bug on orchid stem.

Photo Credit: Jackie Bantle

What is crawling on my houseplant?

By JACKIE BANTLE

If you have houseplants, it is inevitable that at some point, you will also have bugs on your houseplants. There are a few insects that are familiar among Prairie houseplants. Hopefully this article will help you identify those bugs and manage them.

Fungus gnats and shore flies are the most common houseplant insect. Often described as, 'those tiny, black, annoying flying insects that tend to fly around your nose, your glass of water and even your food when guests are visiting!' Fungus gnats are weak fliers whereas shoreflies have better aim – like miniature house flies. Fungus gnats and shore flies prefer moist, cool soil to lay and hatch their eggs. To prevent fungus gnats and shore flies, ensure that the soil surface dries out between waterings.

If you already have a fungus gnat or shore fly problem, dry out the soil surface. Drench the houseplant's soil with *Steinernema feltiae* nematodes (available at your local garden center). These nematodes will destroy fungus gnat and shore fly larvae in the soil. Place yellow sticky cards in various locations among houseplants. The yellow color of the sticky cards attracts insects. When the insects land on the card, they are trapped by the sticky substance on the surface of the card. Not only do these cards help to trap insects, but they also help monitor the type and number of insects that may be flying amidst the houseplants.

Spider mites are also common among houseplants. These tiny mites (<1mm long) suck juices from a plant. Signs of spider mite infestations include tiny yellow spots on leaves, fragile webbing near the growing points, wilting leaves and eventually, plant death. Tiny spiders are sometimes visible in the webs or on the underside of the leaves. Spider mites prefer hot, dry conditions. Control spider mites by increasing humidity around the plant: misting the plant several times each day for at least seven consecutive days should disrupt the life cycle. Insecticidal soap sprayed on the mites can also be helpful.

Aphids are small (1-10mm) sap sucking insects varying in color from light green to red to brown or black and are usually found on the undersides of leaves. Signs of aphid infestation include plants that have poor vigour and/or have a sticky substance on their leaves (aphid feces or 'honeydew'). Wash aphid infested plants

with a daily blast of water to disrupt the aphid life cycle or treat the plants with insecticidal soap. The insecticidal soap must cover the aphid to be effective. Parasitic wasps like *Aphidius colemani* can be purchased as beneficial insects however, their success rate can be variable, depending on the environment around the plants and the type of aphid present.

Whiteflies are small (1-2mm long & 3mm wide) white insects, triangular in shape and usually found on leaf undersides. Plants of the Solanaceae family (tomatoes, pepper, eggplant) and poinsettias are especially prone to whitefly invasion. To control a whitefly infestation, lightly vacuum plants or use sticky cards to reduce whitefly numbers.

Thrips are tiny (1mm), slender, oblong shaped light brown insects that are poor fliers but fast movers. Signs of thrip damage include distorted growing points and small brown lesions on leaf surfaces. Thrips are difficult to identify in a plant. Place a white sheet of paper beneath the suspected plant and gently shake the leaves of the plant. Thrips will fall on to the surface of the white paper where they are easy to see. Thrips are difficult to control: lightly vacuum plants, use sticky cards to reduce thrip numbers and apply a soil drench of nematodes (*Steinernema feltiae*) to control their larvae.

Mealybugs and scale can become significant problems in well-established houseplants. Mealybugs are soft bodied, oval shaped insects up to 5mm long and are white to pinkish-white in colour and covered in a white waxy material. They are usually found in groups on stems or in the axils of leaves and produce honeydew which turns into a white sooty mold growth. Scale insects are 5-10mm long and light to dark brown in color. They are found on the stems or undersides of leaves and are covered with a hard, shield like cover over their soft body (like body armor). Both mealybugs and scale can be controlled using Hort oil or dormant oil sprayed directly on the insect. Multiple applications may be necessary.

Prevent insect infestations by keeping your houseplants healthy. Remove any dead or dying leaves. Always place any new plant additions in quarantine, far away from other houseplants, until you are sure they are bug-free.

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

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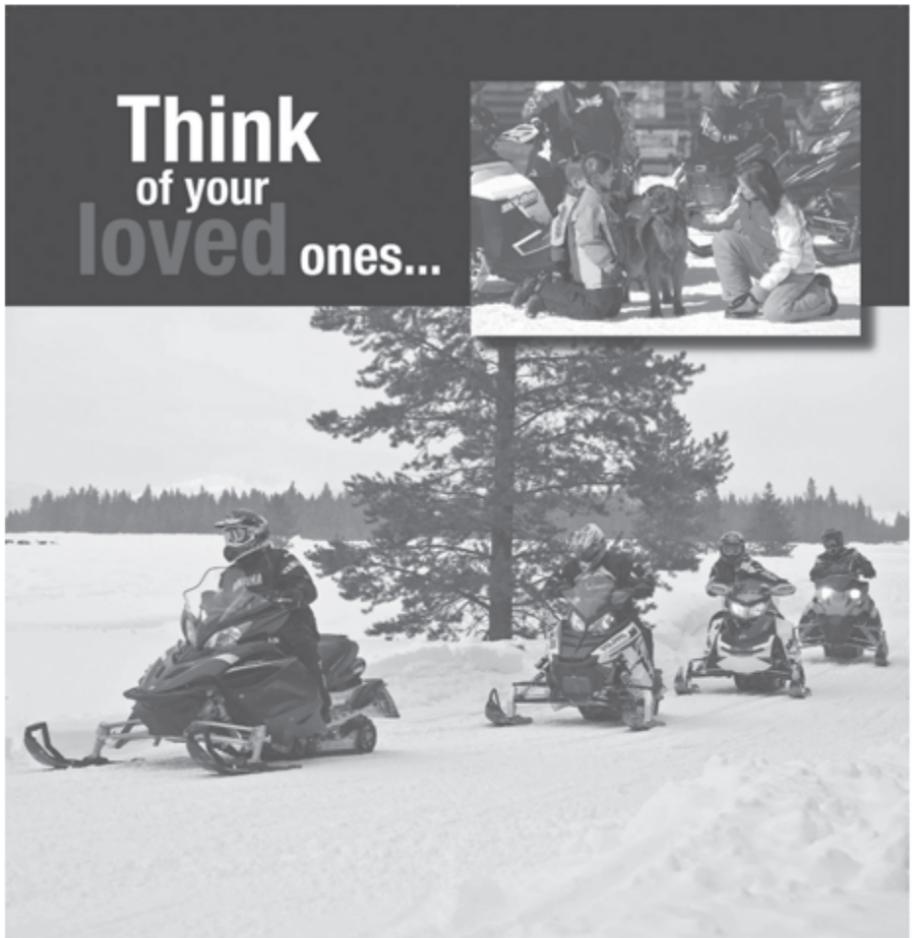
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Governments announce crop insurance program enhancements

Federal Agriculture and Agri-Food Minister Marie-Claude Bibeau and Saskatchewan Agriculture Minister David Marit announced details of the 2023 Crop Insurance Program.

“Through improvements to the Crop Insurance Program, Saskatchewan farmers continue to get coverage they can count on,” Bibeau said in a statement. “We encourage farmers to use risk management tools to help them minimize the economic effects of production losses caused by natural hazards.”

“As we look forward to the 2023 growing season, I want to acknowledge the drive and resilience Saskatchewan farmers and ranchers continue to show year after year,” Marit said in a statement. “We had some rough years and while last year was a step forward, there were still very dry areas in the West side of the province and Crop Insurance responded with quick action on claims. That is why it’s important for producers to evaluate their current risk man-

agement options and ensure they have the right coverage for their farm.”

Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation (SCIC) continues to provide Saskatchewan producers with higher Crop Insurance coverage. The average coverage for 2023 is at a record-high level of \$446 per acre, due to increased commodity prices and yield coverage. With this increased coverage and higher insured prices, the average total premium is \$14.79 per acre, an increase from \$12.05 in 2022.

Starting in 2023, Crop Insurance customers will see an Individual Premium calculated for each crop they insure. Premiums are individualized based on a producer’s personal claim history compared to the area risk zone. This adjustment (increase or decrease) from the base premium rate is calculated for each customer, and independently for each insured crop. This means, a producer’s claim on one crop does not impact their premium for a different crop. Premium Discounts and Sur-

charges previously used in the Crop Insurance Program are discontinued.

“It’s always good to review the program to ensure it continues to serve farmers and remains efficient,” SaskCanola Chair Keith Fournier said in a statement. “It is important for farmers to open their insurance packages, review their information and learn about their coverage options.”

Also effective for 2023, SCIC is increasing the maximum dollar coverage levels of the Unseeded Acreage feature. While the minimum coverage remains the same at \$50 per acre, additional Unseeded Acreage coverage levels are increasing to \$75, \$100 and \$125 per acre. Unseeded Acreage coverage, included with all multi-peril Crop Insurance coverage, helps offset costs associated with summer fallow acres too wet to seed due to excessive spring moisture.

“We appreciate the ongoing commitment to Saskatchewan agriculture,” Saskatchewan Rural Municipality Associa-

tion (SARM) President Ray Orb said in a statement. “The increases to unseeded acres coverage stands out as an example of SCIC listening and incorporating the concerns of our members.”

March 31, 2023, is the deadline to apply, reinstate, cancel or make changes to Crop Insurance contracts. Producers must also select insured crops and coverage levels by this date. If no changes are made, a producer’s coverage will remain the same as last year. To make changes or discuss the different features and coverage levels, producers can contact their local SCIC office or call 1-888-935-0000.

While Crop Insurance provides coverage from seeding through harvest, AgriStability provides further coverage against uncontrollable events like rising input costs or falling commodity prices. For the 2023 program year, the AgriStability compensation rate will increase from 70 per cent to 80 per cent to better support farmers in times of need. This allows AgriStabili-

ty to be more responsive when a farm experiences a large margin decline, providing additional compensation to address the operation’s financial shortfall.

SCIC offers a full suite of business risk management programs, including AgriStability, Crop Insurance and Livestock Price Insurance and the Wildlife Damage Compensation and Prevention Program, to help mitigate risk for Saskatchewan producers.

For more information, call SCIC at 1-888-935-0000 or visit scic.ca.

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



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