

Co-op Agro Centre celebrates grand opening



Lake Country Co-op representatives, local dignitaries, and special guests took part in the ribbon cutting to mark the grand opening of Lake Country Co-op's Shellbrook Agro Centre. *Photo credit: Lake Country Co-op*

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

Three months after it actually opened its doors to customers, Lake Country Co-op's brand-new, state-of-the-art Agro Centre has officially been declared open.

The completion of the major project, which was first announced in 2019, was celebrated in a day-long grand opening extravaganza on Monday, April 24.

An estimated 1,400 people came out to take in the day's events, beginning with a pancake breakfast at 7 a.m., and concluding in the evening with a warehouse social, entertainment provided by Debden's own Stephanie Rose, and hors d'oeuvres catered by Amanda Pizza. The day also included a number of facility and equipment demonstrations, a beef on a bun lunch catered by Neighbourhood Caterers, and more than 30 supplier booths to peruse.

"It's the best feeling to have the community support. That's really what's got us

here: our member and customer support over the years," said Jeff Rothwell, manager of the Shellbrook Agro Centre. "It's a lot of work planning and executing something like this, and it's all about having a turn out."

It wasn't just members and customers who got on board with the grand opening celebration. Rothwell says more than 180 sponsors and service providers agreed to participate, either by providing door prizes, covering costs, sponsoring portions of the day, or having an on-site presence to show off what they do. Due to this overwhelming response, there was more than \$25,000 worth of major prizes available to be won throughout the day.

Without the support of members and customers, as well as suppliers, contractors, and service providers, Rothwell says the grand opening wouldn't have been possible. Nor, for that matter, would it have been possible for Lake Country Co-op's vision for the new location to come to

life.

"It's a huge investment. It's one of the larger investments that Lake Country has taken on, and certainly the largest investment in our agriculture division that we've taken on for many years," Rothwell said.

Huge isn't an exaggeration.

Located at 400 7th St. East, the new facility sits on more than 20 acres, with the warehouse, office, and retail space spanning 35,000 square feet. Factor in the fertilizer plant and seed plant, and the total space climbs closer to 60,000 square feet.

In stark contrast, the old location on Railway Avenue, which is now serving as a gas station and convenience store, was on just 2.5 acres, with 4,000 square feet between the store and warehouse.

The expansion was certainly necessary, as the Shellbrook Agro Centre serves 11 rural municipalities, with its boundaries reaching to Richard, Sask. in the west, the Petrofka area in the south, Crutwell in the east, and Dore Lake in the north.

To keep such a large business running smoothly, the Agro Centre boasts more than 40 employees.

"We had outgrown the previous location many years ago. With the volume that we do with today's agriculture [sector], we just had to make that move and get current with the types of farms and customer base we're now dealing with," Rothwell said, noting that business has been going well as the store has been getting organized over the past three months.

"Having everything mostly located on one site, and having the ability to serve our customer base out of one location, quickly and efficiently, is key to doing business in today's environment," he added.

In addition to a day filled with agriculture demonstrations, facility tours, good food, lots of prizes, and entertainment, the grand opening included all the pomp and circumstance of a ribbon cutting, complete with special guests and dignitaries.

Continued on page 2

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Co-op Agro Centre celebrates grand opening

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The official grand opening ceremony kicked off close to 11 a.m., with Brynn Jones from the Ministry of Agriculture bringing greetings and congratulations on behalf of the Government of Saskatchewan, and recognition of Lake Country Co-op as a “major employer that actively invests back into the communities it serves.”

Jones said the Shellbrook Agro Centre aligns well with the province’s growth goals to increase crop production to 45 million metric tonnes, and livestock cash receipts to \$3 billion.

“Lake Country Co-op saw an opportunity to enhance the services it offers to the active agriculture community in this area. This fertilizer facility offers producers in the area greater access to much-needed crop nutrition products,” she said. “Projects like this are a driv-

ing force behind our agriculture sector, which is among the fastest growing in Canada.”

Municipal leaders were up next, with Reeve Doug Oleksyn delivering congratulations on behalf of the Rural Municipality of Shellbrook, and Mayor Amund Otterson representing the Town of Shellbrook.

Mayor Otterson said Lake Country Co-op’s investment in the community is most welcome, especially in a time when large corporations seem to be fleeing small-town Saskatchewan. He also expressed gratitude for Lake Country Co-op’s ongoing support of local endeavours and facilities, including the Richardson Pioneer Recreation Centre.

“We until recently referred to this land we stand on today as the Field of Dreams. As part of the agricultural zoned land within the town limits that served us well as volunteer farmers raised crops on it, it supported the skating and curling rink,” he said.

“It’s now a different field of dreams, and perhaps a better fit for that iconic quote, ‘Build it and they will come.’”

The mic was next turned over to Rick Kindrachuk, president of the Lake Country Co-op Board, and Tim Keller, CEO of Lake Country Co-op. Both delivered thanks to all who played a role in making the new Shellbrook Agro Cen-

tre a reality, and said the new location will help Lake Country Co-op better serve the farming community.

“Our fertilizer storage facility is about 6,000 metric tonnes,” Keller said. “When you need it, we’ve got it, and we can get it to you quick.”

Continuing Lake Country Co-op’s his-

tory of giving back to the community, and in particular local recreation facilities, grand opening day also included a 50/50, with half the pot going to the Parkland Pool Project, and the other half going to the lucky winner. In the end, that winner was Stan Waterhouse, who took home \$1,135.



The retail space of the new Agro Centre sports a modern look.



The Shellbrook Agro Centre’s fertilizer plant has storage for about 6,000 metric tonnes. Photo credit: Lake Country Co-op



The new Agro Centre sits on 20 acres — eight times more space than the old location. Photo credit: Lake Country Co-op

RESORT VILLAGE OF BIG SHELL IS INVITING TENDERS

We are developing 16 storage lots that will need to be levelled. Please contact John Woytowich @ 306-290-8538 to have a look to see what needs to be done. Tenders needs to be in by 3:00 p.m. Thursday, May 11th to villagebigshell@gmail.com or mail to:

Resort Village of Big Shell
Box 130
Shell Lake, SK S0J 2G0

The warehouse and retail space span 35,000 square feet, while the previous location was only 4,000 square feet. Photo credit: Lake Country Co-op



Lake Country Co-op’s Shellbrook Agro Centre employs about 40 people. Photo credit: Lake Country Co-op

PICK OF THE WEEK

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SAT., MAY 6th – Donald & Jean Burdick – Farm Sale
Cookson, SK @ 10:00 a.m. – Land Location: NW 1-3-53-W3rd
Directions from Shellbrook – 5kms on Hwy 55 to Canwood turnoff, then 35 kms on Hwy 240 North. Directions from Cookson Sign 1 km. Watch for signs.
2750 JD Front Wheel Assist Tractor/ 245 JD Loader, JD 665 Skid Steer, 3788 IH Tractor, Vehicles, Shop, Tools, Yard, Harness, Vintage, Household & Misc Items

SAT., JUNE 17th – Alma & Kevin Latus – Farm Sale – Spiritwood

SAT., JULY 8th – Rene & Pauline Nicolas – Acreage Sale – Shell Lake

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NOTICE OF CALL FOR BY-ELECTION NOMINATION

RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF LEASK NO. 464

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that nomination of candidate for the office of:

COUNCILLOR FOR DIVISION NO. 5

Will be received by the undersigned at the municipal office during regular business hours until Wednesday, May 17th, 2023 at 4:00 p.m. local time.

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

Dated this 25th day of April, 2023.

Donna Goertzen
Returning Officer

Infrastructure, water top town meeting agenda

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

Ratepayers in the Town of Shellbrook were given the opportunity to let Council hear their questions and concerns, when the Town hosted a public meeting at the Shellbrook Theatre on Thursday, April 27.

Mayor Amund Otterson led the nearly two-hour presentation, touching on the town's strategic plan and budget, the Community Safety Officer (CSO), the proposed PARWU water pipeline, land development on the west side of town, and more.

With the 2023-2024 budget finalized, Otterson highlighted some of the town's top priorities for the next fiscal year, starting with the bad news of a 6 per cent increase to the mill rate. The base tax, which was implemented to even out the tax burden on ratepayers, will remain at \$1,250 for this year.

Among the key expenditures are a five or six door garage for town vehicles (\$120,000), continued studies for the west side development (\$36,000), a feasibility study for the Knox United Church (\$85,600, half covered by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities), an on-demand hot water system and HVAC upgrades at the Richardson Pioneer Recreation Centre (\$24,100 and \$49,000, respectively), and, after years in the works, a fence for the dog park (\$17,000).

Council also found room in the budget for a skid steer (\$55,000), lowering the gas line by the 2nd Avenue West bridge ahead of its eventual replacement with culverts (\$31,200), adding streetlights on 2nd Avenue West to Dr. Spencer Drive (\$50,000), and membrane replacements at the wastewater treatment plant (\$85,000).

Lastly, it squirreled away funds for the town's paving and equipment reserves (\$61,000 and \$40,000, respectively).

Turning next to the CSO, Mayor Otterson first faced a question about the need for the officer, given that other towns of a similar size get along without one, and the cost of the position.

"Bylaw enforcement has been a challenge for us [in terms of] getting the right person to do it," Otterson said, noting that the start-up cost for the CSO was \$143,000.

In response to comments about the lack of RCMP presence in town, Mayor Otterson said the CSO is hoped to be a deterrent for property crime, and encouraged residents to report incidents to the police.

Meanwhile, councillor Bruce Anderson challenged suggestions that Shellbrook is experiencing a major crime wave. Referencing the Ahtahkakoop-Shellbrook RCMP Detachment's most recent update to council, he said that only 210 of 4,000 cases handled by the detachment were in Shellbrook. Of those, 58 were for impaired driving.

"To me that doesn't look like a big crime wave. But there's certainly an issue around drunk driving, which surprises me in 2023," he said.

This statement was challenged by Chris Gosselin

of Shellbrook Chevrolet, who noted that the business has been broken into four times in the past couple months, and questioned the feasibility of having the CSO focus his time on patrolling the highway to catch speeding drivers.

Mayor Otterson said council would bring this back to the CSO to direct his work in town (however, the day after the meeting, the *Chronicle & Herald* learned the CSO had quit). He concluded the discussion by expressing disappointment about the "disrespect" that has been demonstrated to the CSO, and a recent trend of people removing stop signs in town, noting the acts are both dangerous and illegal.

Moving on to land development, Mayor Otterson noted that the town currently owns 160 acres on the west side of town. Currently, the town is in Phases 2 and 3 of a study to determine what can be done with the land in the future.

This prompted a question about the town's decision to develop new land in town and pay for a CSO, when the streets and town's sidewalks are in disrepair. In response, Mayor Otterson said the town has been prioritizing the infrastructure beneath the road surface, so it doesn't have to dig the street up after paving it.

Councillor Miller added that paving is expensive, citing a cost of about \$400,000 to pave 2nd Avenue West from 2nd Street West to Dr. Spencer Drive. He estimated that paving the whole town would cost in the neighbourhood of \$10 to \$12 million, and adding curb and gutter would raise the cost to \$20 million.

This question served as a segue into discussion of the town's strategy of taking on long-term debt to mitigate the risk of costly infrastructure failures, including the recent completion of the sewer line replacement project. By finishing the project on an accelerated timeline, rather than over 10 years, the town says it reduced the cost of the project to \$750,000 from potentially \$3.9 million (this estimate is based on the projection of having at least a couple major infrastructure failures over the next decade).

Looking over the next couple years, the town also has plans to finance the following projects to mitigate infrastructure-related risk:

- SAGR Valve system - \$94,000;
- 1st Avenue relining 3.5 blocks of 36" sewer line (1 block 1st Ave W, 2 blocks 1st Ave E) - \$870,000;
- Removal of Lift Station #1 and sewer line replacement - \$890,000;
- Storm sewer fix on 7th Avenue (Adamson to Northridge Court) - \$216,000;
- Bypass water and wastewater pumps - \$40,000; and
- Storm sewer/sanitary sewer on 3rd Ave & Main - \$80,000.

Once the loan on the wastewater treatment plant (a \$256,000 expenditure each year) is paid off in 2026, and once the town's reserves have been fully allocated (up to \$550,000), the town anticipates having upwards of \$815,000 per year to redirect to other pri-

orities, such as potable water storage, pavement, curb and gutter, Main Street revitalization, and extra payments on long-term debt.

Turning next to the town's partnership with PARWU and a number of rural municipalities to explore the idea of an intermunicipal water pipeline, Mayor Otterson said he believes the pipeline remains the most viable option for the town, as it mitigates a cost to the town of up to \$10 million to upgrade the water treatment plant.

The town is also estimating that the pipeline will save ratepayers as much as \$100 per month, as the improved water quality will reduce the need to replace faucets and water heaters, and also lessen the need to use water softener and reverse osmosis water systems.

Questioned on the timeline for the project, Mayor Otterson said two years is reasonable. However, he cautioned that the town is still examining the economics of the project for ratepayers.

Councillor Miller, meanwhile, said he disagrees about the pipeline being the most viable option.

"There's a lot of things that need to be analyzed and looked at. The longer we look at one option without really figuring out whether or not it's viable for us, the longer we delay whatever outcome we're looking for," he said, noting that he favours going ahead with upgrades to the water treatment plant.

Closing out the discussion, council faced questions about the option of upgrading to a reverse osmosis system, like other communities in the area have done, and heard concerns about "being at the mercy" of Prince Albert for water. Mayor Otterson said these concerns would be taken into consideration.

Following brief overviews of the town's Recreation Needs Assessment, the Physician Recruitment and Retention Committee, and the Parkland Pool Project, the meeting was concluded.



CHECK IT OUT!

Shellbrook Chronicle Website:
www.shellbrookchronicle.com

Spiritwood Herald Website:
www.spiritwoodherald.com

VILLAGE OF SHELL LAKE NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF ASSESSMENT ROLL

Pursuant to subsection 214 of *The Municipalities Act*, notice is hereby given that the Assessment Roll for the Village of Shell Lake for the year 2023 has been prepared and is open for inspection at the Office of the Administrator from 9:00 a.m. to noon and 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. on the following days: Monday to Thursday, excluding statutory holidays.

Any person wishing to discuss the Notice of Assessment or potential appeal may contact the Assessor at (306)427-2272 (Village) or 1-800-824-2570 (SAMA).

Any person who wishes to appeal an assessment is required to file a "Notice of Appeal to the Board of Revision," by June 5, 2023, with Sauma Vaidyanathan, Secretary to the Board of Revision, Box 149, Meota, SK, S0M 1X0, along with the applicable fees, made payable to the Village of Shell Lake, which will be returned if the appeal is successful.

Dated at Shell Lake, Saskatchewan, this 4th day of May, 2023
Tara Bueckert, Assessor

NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF ASSESSMENT ROLL R.M. OF CANWOOD NO. 494

Notice is hereby given that the Assessment Roll for the Rural Municipality of Canwood No. 494 for the year 2023 has been prepared and is open to inspection at the Office of the Assessor from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on the following days: Monday to Friday, May 4, 2023, to June 2, 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 wishing to discuss the Notice of Assessment or potential appeal may contact the Assessor at 306-468-2014 (R.M.) or 1-800-667-5203 (SAMA).

Any person who wishes to appeal an assessment is required to file a "Notice of Appeal to the Board of Revision," by June 2, 2023, with Mike Ligtermoet, Secretary to the Board of Revision, 642 Agnew Street, Prince Albert, SK, S6V 2P1, along with the applicable fees, made payable to the R.M. of Canwood No. 494, which will be returned if the appeal is successful.

Dated at Canwood, Saskatchewan, this 4th day of May, 2023.
Lorna Benson, Assessor



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- Where the right candidate does not possess any relative experience or training, training will be provided through a 6 week course at Saskatchewan Polytechnic.

Please contact Kelly Hoare (contact information below) for a full Community Safety Officer job description.

SEND YOUR CV AND RESUME TO
Mrs. Kelly Hoare: cao@townofshellbrook.ca
or drop off in person at the Town of Shellbrook Municipal Office
71 Main St., Shellbrook, SK

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EMPLOYMENT

VILLAGE OF LEASK SUMMER STUDENT for MAINTENANCE July & August 2023

The Village of Leask is accepting applications for the above position.

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Or by email: village.leask@sasktel.net

For more information, please contact the Village Office at 306-466-2229
Yvette Hamel, Administrator

Volkswagen deal shows cost of 'doing business'

In principle, free market capitalism is a simple, straightforward economic system governed by the law of supply and demand rather than central government control of production, labour, and markets.

In practice, however, capitalism has never been implemented as envisioned.

In the face of competition, corporations will do everything in their power to manipulate the playing field to their advantage, minimize costs, and maximize profits.

At the same time, governments of all sizes can't help but reach a hand into the cookie jar, in hopes of benefiting from the economic spin-offs of luring business. Corporate investment, after all, means more tax revenue and more jobs – and, of course, a better chance of getting re-elected when the time comes.

Like expert fishermen, some governments will go to extraordinary lengths to land the big fish, either by slashing regulatory red tape or by offering subsidies and other financial incentives.

Case in point, the federal government's recent bait of up to \$13 billion in subsidies to persuade Volkswagen to build an electric vehicle battery plant in Ontario.

The announcement of the deal between Ottawa and Volkswagen was the subject of much conversation last week, including allegations that the federal government's payout is an unprecedented and egregious example of corporate welfare.

These allegations are both true and false.

The \$13 billion in subsidies being offered by the feds is certainly unprecedented. The only thing that comes close is the \$13.7 billion bailout of GM and Chrysler in 2009. But in this case, Ottawa also received an equity stake in the companies (which it eventually sold at a loss) and ended up costing taxpayers just \$3.5 billion.

Aside from this, the only examples of corporate welfare that are even in the same neighbourhood are the \$4.5 billion Ottawa spent to take ownership of the Trans Mountain pipeline in 2018, and the \$4 billion the feds spent to help the perpetually struggling Bombardier between 1966 and 2017.

While these all pale in comparison to the potential \$13 billion payout being offered to Volkswagen, there is one key difference.

According to Ottawa, none of those



JORDAN TWISS

~
News Editor

dollars will leave federal coffers until the plant is up and running in 2027, and meeting certain production quotas.

Meanwhile, the plant, which will be the largest manufacturing facility in Canada, is expected to create 3,000 direct jobs and 30,000 indirect jobs, and generate \$200 billion in value for the country.

The important distinction between corporate bailouts and financial incentives is apparently lost on some.

Ever the defender of Canada's oft-victimized oil and gas companies, National Post columnist Rex Murphy opined that Albertans had "13 billion reasons to be livid" and called the deal "another smack in the face for the oil and gas industry".

One supposes Mr. Murphy has simply forgotten that Canada's oil and gas companies are also the beneficiaries of substantial federal and provincial supports, whether it be in the form of reduced royalties (payments made to government for resources extracted), tax credits, lower interest rates or grant funding for capital, research and development, and technology, or just straight up payments so they'll clean up after themselves.

The annual value of these subsidies is impossible to calculate, because there's no consensus on what counts as a subsidy. While the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers' narrow definition of a subsidy allows it to claim it receives no such supports, the International Monetary Fund's broad definition of the term gives a total of \$81 billion.

Both figures are impossible to take seriously. But the real point is, there's nothing new about governments offering subsidies to attract businesses and incentivize economic investment.

None of this is to say that providing subsidies to companies – whether they be automakers or oil giants – just so they'll set up shop in our backyard is right. In an ideal world, businesses would succeed or fail on their own merits, without taxpayers having to fund their ventures through anything other than their patronage.

Unfortunately, in the absence of governments that are courageous enough to call big business on its bluff, it seems there's no putting the subsidy genie back in the bottle. And with Justin Trudeau's green-obsessed government at the helm, it's almost certain the Volkswagen deal will be just the tip of the subsidy iceberg.



YOUR TWO CENTS

Not all doom and gloom in healthcare

Dear editor,

This is in response to the April 20 editorial regarding ambulance and healthcare.

I would like to share my positive personal experience regarding ambulance services and our healthcare system. It's very different from what is being portrayed by the NDP, the media, and the Editor of the Shellbrook Chronicle, who continually present negative narratives about Saskatchewan healthcare. I had a very different experience and I'm very grateful for our healthcare system.

On March 26, I was snowmobiling with a friend on the groomed trails northeast of Christopher Lake. We were sledding back to my cabin around 8:30 pm, when

I lost control of my sled around an icy corner. My ski caught a small tree and threw me off my sled into another tree.

I was unable to ride so my friend called 911. The 911 operator determined we were 5 km off Highway 2 in the bush northeast of the Christopher Lake turn-off. The First Responders arrived quickly on snowmobiles. My injuries were deemed serious and STARS was dispatched.

Next the paramedics arrived, and with assistance from the Volunteer Fire Department they transported me out of the bush on a rescue sled. I was air lifted to RUH, where a trauma team determined the extent of my injuries. I'm very appreciative for the efforts of the first responders, the volunteer

fire department, and the paramedics. In my mind they absolutely saved my life.

CT scan and x-rays determined I suffered a compound fracture to my femur, cracked knee, seven broken ribs, fractured vertebrae, and a bruised lung. I was scheduled for surgery first thing that morning, in hopes that the orthopedic surgeon could repair my shattered femur and knee. The surgery was successful, and I have a plate and eight screws repairing my fractured leg.

I spent 10 days in RUH, where the trauma team stabilized me so I could be transported to further recover in the Shellbrook Hospital. The doctors, nurses, and care aides were professional and I received excellent care at RUH. I was bedridden and every time I requested assistance, a care aide or nurse attended in a timely manner.

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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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Report from the Legislature

April 24-30 was Saskatchewan Tourism Week, a week dedicated to bringing attention to the vibrant and diverse tourism sector. Now is a great time to start making vacation plans in Saskatchewan and discover something new this summer. To ensure everyone can enjoy our province's beauty, the Government of Saskatchewan continues to invest in provincial parks and highways in the 2023-24 Provincial Budget.

The 2023-24 Provincial Budget includes nearly \$14 million in capital projects and upgrades for Saskatchewan's Provincial Parks. In Rowan's Ravine Provincial Park, guests will soon be able to host large gatherings in a new group pavilion, which



**HON. SCOTT MOE,
PREMIER**
~
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will be constructed in the day use area. A new Visitor Reception Centre at Crooked Lake Provincial Park will provide enhanced customer service and visitor information to park guests. The new 40-site serviced campground project at Meadow Lake Provincial Park will be completed under this year's budget. This

budget also includes funding to improve common areas such as washrooms and showers to ensure they remain safe, accessible and modern.

New this year, Sask Parks is offering additional Camp-Easy yurts at Pike Lake, Good Spirit Lake, and Greenwater Lake. The old Camp-Easy tent at Crooked Lake has also been replaced by a new yurt. Sask Parks has also introduced a new events guide that includes all interpretive programming, theme days, special events and summer cinema locations. Parks reservations opened online on April 3 for seasonal campsites and April 4-12 for nightly reservations and remain open on the Tourism Saskatchewan website.

For those who want to

show their love of Sask Parks, there is a new line of custom-designed Sask Parks apparel. The clothing celebrates the natural wonders visitors can discover, featuring a park-inspired design that showcases the lush boreal forest and awe-inspiring living skies. Bunny hugs and t-shirts are available in various colours and sizes for youth and adults.

Whether you want to have fun with your family and friends or experience a wilderness adventure, Saskatchewan's Provincial Parks are a great place to connect with nature and recharge. To view the new events guide, make a camping reservation, shop for Sask Parks apparel or learn more, visit tourismsaskatchewan.com.

As people prepare to head out on Saskatchewan's roads for their vacations this summer, our government is investing in roads and highways to



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ensure they remain safe and accessible. In the 2023-24 Budget, \$776 million is invested into operating, maintaining, building and improving roads and highways. This includes constructing twinning projects on Highways 6 and 39 between Regina and Weyburn, completing the passing lanes and widening on Highway 5, and upgrading Highway 15 east of Kenaston. Several gravel, pavement and road maintenance projects will begin in north-

ern Saskatchewan. In addition, the budget will fund planning to extend the twinning of Highway 5 east of Saskatoon and the final phase of the Saskatoon Freeway functional study.

Our government set a Growth Plan goal of improving 10,000 kilometres of highways between 2020 and 2030. After this year, over 4,600 kilometres will be completed, which is well ahead of the pace needed to meet this target. With this year's budget, more than \$12 billion has been invested into transportation infrastructure since 2007, improving more than 19,400 kilometres of provincial highways.

Improvements to Saskatchewan's provincial highways and roads ensure everyone can get where they want to go safely. To learn more about this year's highway projects or the 2023-24 Provincial Budget, visit Saskatchewan.ca.

Not all doom and gloom in healthcare

Continued from 4

I then spent an additional 17 days in the Shellbrook Hospital, where my experience was exceptional. The acute care team of nurses and CCAs, as well as the kitchen and cleaning staff were very professional in their jobs, but compassionate and caring towards the patients. I noticed they genuinely cared for the patients, but also worked collaboratively as a team with their co-workers.

The emergency room was very busy, especially on weekends. When patients come to the emergency either by ambulance or the front door, they are priority for the nurses. When this happens in the Shellbrook Hospital additional nurses are required, and whoever is in charge at the time has authority to pull nurses from the acute care floor to staff the ER. This can lead to a decrease in nurses for the 15 acute care patients. This happened several times while I was a patient in one of the acute care beds.

Fortunately, the hospital also staffs CCAs for the acute care rooms, and they are definitely qualified to attend to most of the needs of their patients. Therefore, I felt my needs were being met.

There were several days I didn't have a CCA and nurses provided all my care. During these times, I felt there were many care situations that could have been handled by a CCA instead of a nurse. I asked why there wasn't a CCA available and was told, the CCA was pulled off the acute floor to assist in the long-term care side of the hospital. The long-term care side of the hospital is short staffed. If someone from the LTC side calls in sick, and they don't have extra CCAs to call in short notice, they have to pull CCAs from the acute care floor. CCAs and nurses shared their frustrations with the shortage and staffing concerns.

We are a small town and most people in Shellbrook know at least one or more of these very dedicated nurses and CCAs and empathize with their situation. Hopefully this can get resolved soon.


I wanted to better understand where we as the public could assist with what is being described by the NDP and media as a "healthcare crisis". I was interested to know how many non-emergency patients are coming to the ER in Shellbrook and non-emergency calls for ambulances. Medical staff can't turn away any patients who come to the emergency room, even though many could be seen in primary clinics or walk-in clinics. Non-emergency patients are taking staff and time away from acute care patients as well as long-term care patients.

We are very fortunate to have a beautiful facility in Shellbrook, and as taxpayers we should not be taking it for granted. We can all work together to improve our healthcare system. Providing quality healthcare is very complex and throwing more tax dollars is not always the answer. We need to educate ourselves before we choose to judge. The management of the Prince Albert Health Authority and the nurses' unions could possibly step up their game and make patient care a priority.

Perhaps the general public could be part of the healthcare solution as well, and utilize 811, primary clinics, and walk-in clinics more often, before going to the emergency room with non-emergency healthcare concerns.

Shellbrook and area residents should be appreciative for the integrated health facility we are fortunate to have. As a Saskatchewan resident, I'm grateful for our healthcare system. We can all do our part to assist and improve what the NDP calls a "healthcare crisis".

Sally Jacobson, Shellbrook



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY FIRE CHIEF

The RM of Spiritwood No. 496 invites applications from qualified persons for the position of Fire Chief to provide strong leadership to the Spiritwood Fire Department.

The Fire Chief will be responsible for the organization and management of all related duties associated with the Spiritwood Fire Department, focusing on leadership, training, recruitment & administration.

This is a permanent ½ time (1,040 hr - \$31,200 per annum) management position with flexible work hours. Active fire duty (fire calls) will be compensated above management duties.

Duties and Responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Direction of the Spiritwood Fire Department operations and functions including planning, administration, recruitment, co-ordinating and supervision of all functions and procedures.
- Directs fire activities during emergencies for the protection of life and property.
- Assumes command during emergencies and co-operates with other Fire Chiefs, Emergency Measures Officials, Provincial Fire Commissioner's Office representatives and other officials.
- Directs the Spiritwood Fire Department's personnel, including recruitment, training, scheduling and on call/stand by rotation;
- Administrative reporting & record keeping for the operation of the Spiritwood Fire Department;
- Prepares and submits to the CAO the department's annual budget, and when approved, administers and controls the budget expenditures;
- Co-operates with other department heads to co-ordinate required activities where necessary;
- Through the CAO, reports to Council on the various activities of the Spiritwood Fire Department;
- Prepares, maintains and updates the Emergency Plan and represents the municipal authorities in continuing contact with the Emergency Measures Organization.

Requirements

- Certification or successful completion of studies related to firefighting, prevention and suppression, hazardous materials and emergency measures including the NFPA 1001 Level 2, Fire Instruction, Fire Inspection, Fire Investigation, First Aid, CPR, H2S, Defensive Driving, and Safety Codes Officer certification or willing to achieve;
- Five (5) years in a supervisory or leadership capacity with the ability to motivate and lead personnel, maintain discipline, promote harmony and co-operate with other officials.
- Five (5) years in operations of fire and rescue services;
- Ability & knowledge to plan, lead and manage administrative activities;
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills;
- Proficient in Microsoft Office applications;
- Knowledge of federal and provincial statutes and regulations relative to activities of a Fire Department;
- Thorough knowledge of the operation and maintenance of all fire apparatus and equipment, methods used in combating, extinguishing and preventing fires and in rescue operations;
- A valid Class 5 driver's license.

Applicants should submit their resume detailing qualifications, experience and education, along with 3 references to:

Colette Bussiere, CAO
RM of Spiritwood No. 496
PO Box 340
Spiritwood, SK. S0J 2M0
Phone: 306 883-2034
Email: rm496@sasktel.net

Application Deadline: May 15, 2023 at 4:00 pm.

We thank all applicants, but only those chosen for an interview will be contacted.

Soul Therapy hosts Wellness Tradeshow

By NATASHA CABASE
Spiritwood Herald Reporter

Since Soul Therapy Wellness opened in Spiritwood in 2022, owner Lise Stevens has strived not only to provide health and wellness services and products to the community but also education to help them lead healthy lifestyles.

To this end, Stevens, who has also operated the Soul Therapy Spa in Spiritwood for the past 20 years and has credentials in aesthetics, reflexology therapy, and podology, partnered with other local health and wellness experts this past weekend to host a Wellness Show.

Held at Soul Therapy Wellness, the show ran from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on April 28 and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on April 29, providing access to informational sessions, classes, and even a few vendors for those looking for unique gifts for Mother's Day. During both days, a crowd of mostly women in their 30s to 70s attended to take in the diverse offerings.

While Stevens demonstrated and imparted the benefits of reflexology, Sarah Urano held yoga sessions focused on the basic moves and practicing the exercise correctly, and Manoj Kurop from Element Balance provided solutions for hand and foot pain.

Additionally, Lyn Linklater of Balance with Lyn

showcased her Young Living Essential Oils, while Laura Shingoose offered a demonstration of Jikiden Reiki (a traditional Japanese form of healing).

On both days, Rosemary Lehouillier, an intuitive healer and reader from Sacred Roots Healing, was also present to offer a 20-minute soul reading.

Finally, Norma Galambos' Lifestyle Gift Shop was

offering a wide array of health, beauty, and other items, and Pat's Handmade Jewelry had some bling on display.

With the Wellness Show, Stevens said that the primary goal was to educate and raise awareness about what is offered in the community, while also promoting health and wellbeing through small and natural ways to improve memory, energy, and stress.

"Especially coming out after COVID, we wanted to [highlight] the importance of improving diet and showcase an accessible exercise program," Stevens said. "We want to make it more available and spread the information that we have some really good health services that we can access locally."



Lise Stevens, owner of Soul Therapy and Soul Therapy Wellness in Spiritwood, hosted a Wellness Show over the weekend.

Praying for resource booms isn't a prudent way to budget

By GAGE HAUBRICH
CTF Prairie Director

Saskatchewan has been down this road before.

Good times don't last forever.

Former Premier Brad Wall had a goal of leaving Saskatchewan debt-free. In 2009, the Wall government paid down more debt than any previous government. But then the government started borrowing again. In the years since, the debt has increased by over 300 per cent.

Farmers know when you have a bumper crop, you pay down debt and put some away for a dry year. The government needs to learn this lesson.

Praying for booms to last forever isn't a prudent budget plan.

Saskatchewan is experiencing a boom. Last year, resource revenues were \$1.6 billion higher than expected. The budget projects resource revenues at \$3.3 billion this year. Both years are record highs for the last decade.

A serious plan would include a concrete plan to pay down debt and save non-renewable resource revenues.

The resource revenue boom is allowing the government to pay down \$1 billion of debt. And that's a good thing.

That first step is important.

But after this year, the government is planning to borrow \$4 billion more by 2027.

The big debt payments in recent budgets are important. But a family doesn't pay down a mortgage by putting the occasional bonus against the principal. Families pay down mortgages every... single... month. The Saskatchewan government desperately needs a debt repayment plan.

And that leads to the second step.

Continued on page 7



Sarah Urano demonstrated the basics of yoga at the Wellness Show.

Almost There, Building Better Care
Radio Day for the Rose Garden Hospice May 12, 2023
6 am to 5 pm

The radiothon will help purchase the much needed equipment for the Rose Garden Hospice. Rose Garden Hospice is a not-for-profit organization that is committed to providing compassionate, holistic care to people with a terminal illness and their loved ones. The Rose Garden Hospice is a dedicated team of caring volunteers and committed staff. Scheduled to open in the summer of 2023, the hospice will address the physical, spiritual and emotional needs of people approaching death and provide support to family and close friends. It will offer expert pain and symptom management so that physical suffering is relieved.

Donations can be made at the future Rose Garden Hospice site (36th Street West, and 4th Ave. Look for balloons.) online at www.canadahelps.org or phone the office 306-764-7673.

PROUDLY SPONSORED BY:

306-764-ROSE (7673) • rosegardenhospice@gmail.com
www.rosegardenhospice.ca

**R.M. OF CANWOOD NO. 494
PUBLIC NOTICE**

In the matter of Section 13 of *The Municipalities Act*, being a statute of the Province of Saskatchewan and pursuant to the Public Notice Bylaw No. 2005-10 of the R.M. of Canwood No. 494, notice is hereby given that the Council will consider at their Council Meeting on May 24, 2023, the matter of permanently closing the road allowance, described as all those portions of the original road allowance lying within the NE 36-49-07 W3, including Plan 73B03384 Ext 2, Ext 3 and Ext 6, and all those portions of the original road allowance lying within the NW 36-49-07 W3, being Plan 73B03384 Ext 2 and excluding Plan 73B03384 Ext 1 as shown in the bold dashed line on the Descriptive Type II Plan prepared by Valley Geomatics dated April 26, 2023, as shown on the map below.

Any person opposing this closure will be given an opportunity to be heard at a public meeting of the Council of the Rural Municipality of Canwood No. 494 to be held on May 24, 2023, at 11:00 a.m. in the Council Chambers, 641 Main Street, Canwood, Sask.

Dated in the Village of Canwood, in the Province of Saskatchewan, this 4th day of May, 2023.

Lorna Benson, Administrator

**R.M. OF LEASK NO. 464
PUBLIC NOTICE**

Public notice is hereby given that the Council of the Rural Municipality of Leask No. 464 intends to adopt a bylaw under *The Planning and Development Act, 2007* to amend Bylaw No. 2/20, known as the Zoning Bylaw.

INTENT
The proposed bylaw will rezone the land from Resort Commercial (RC) to Lakeshore District (LD).

AFFECTED LAND
The affected lands are lot 4B Lot 3 Plan 84B13418 as shown within the bold dashed line on the following map.

REASON
The reason for the amendment is to allow for the zoning change from Resort Commercial (RC) to Lakeshore District (LD).

PUBLIC INSPECTION
Any person may inspect the bylaw at the municipal office between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. on Monday through Friday excluding statutory holidays. Copies are available at cost.

PUBLIC HEARING
Council will hold a public hearing on May 10, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. at the Leask Municipal Office to hear any person or group that wants 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 hearing).

Issued at Rural Municipality of Leask No. 464 this 17th day of April, 2023.

Donna Goertzen
Administrator

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306-747-2442

Fax:
306-747-3000

Email:
chads@sbchron.com

Breed genetics should be preserved

Recently, as I perused *www.producer.com*, I came upon an article on rare breeds of livestock.

Rare breeds have long been an interest of mine – perhaps because when I was a youth my dad raised registered swine and when I was finally allowed my own I purchased a Lacombe gilt.

Lacombes are a breed that was developed in Canada, and when I was just a young lad there were quite a few breeders across the Prairies.

But the breed fell out of favour and is now almost extinct in Canada, with just a few animals left.

From a purely Cana-

dian agriculture history, that is unfortunate.

Somewhat surprisingly, given Canada's significant farm heritage, relatively few purebred livestock were developed here – Canadian cattle, the Canadian horse, Chantecler chickens being other examples – none of which have huge numbers today.

Of course, a breed of livestock need not be developed here to have significance to this country's past.

A breed of cattle such as the milking shorthorn was once popular because it was a dual-purpose animal, capable of supplying a



CALVIN DANIELS

reasonable quantity of milk while also serving as a decent beef type (a combo coveted on the smaller mixed farms of the past).

Today, dairy is highly specialized with breeds relied on being carefully bred to produce milk in large quantities. Similarly, beef animals are

largely reared under standardized feedlot conditions.

The milking shorthorn couldn't compete on either side of the cattle industry, and today, according to the *producer.com* article, only 10 purebred Milking Dairy Shorthorns are left in Canada.

Now, it's easy to question whether the breed's survival matters. The milking shorthorn is, at least at this point in time, as obsolete as the threshing machine is to harvesting wheat.

But what of tomorrow? We increasingly see governments seeking to impose new regulations

on farmers regarding how they farm.

For example, another *producer.com* article discussed "Proposition 12, the California initiative that could see the state ban pork from barns and places that don't have open housing for gestating sows, as well as requiring open housing that goes beyond the sorts of open housing that many new barns have built."

If allowed to pass, it will impact how swine are raised to access the huge California market.

Change a finely tuned production system and the existing genetics may not thrive as well.

If the system is changed enough, old breeds such as Tamworth and Large English Black swine may not be as useful, as they are breeds better suited to range production.

And do we see a day where huge acre farms give way to smaller holdings again? It might seem far-fetched to think that today, but climate change and other factors will be altering the script of many things moving forward.

However, if a breed goes extinct, the genetics are lost, and there are reasonable scenarios where that would be unfortunate for the livestock sector.

Praying for resource booms isn't a prudent way to budget

Continued from 6

The government needs to finally establish an independent heritage fund where the government is required to deposit non-renewable resource revenues.

Former premier Allan Blakeney actually set up a heritage fund in 1978. But the lack of protections made it easy for politicians to raid the fund. It was shut down in 1992.

The Lougheed government in Alberta also established its heritage fund in the late 1970s. Initially, the government invested \$2.2 billion into the fund and planned to deposit 30 per cent of resource revenues into it annually. But politicians refused to commit to saving and stopped depositing into the fund after 1987. When the Alberta government stopped the deposits, the fund was worth \$28 billion. The cur-

rent value of the heritage fund is only \$18.6 billion.

Saskatchewan and Alberta's history provide good examples of what not to do. Fortunately for Premier Scott Moe, there's successful case studies to copy.

Norway deposits 100 per cent of its oil revenues into its savings fund. And despite being created two years before the government of Saskatchewan shut down our heritage fund, Norway's fund is currently worth more than \$1.8 trillion.

In the late 1960s, Alaska established its Permanent Fund. Politicians must invest at least 25 per cent of resource revenues into the fund and they aren't allowed to touch the principal. Politicians can only spend the interest. Alaska's fund has grown to more than \$100 billion. In 2022, each Alaskan received a dividend of \$2,622 from

the fund.

In 2013, Wall's government commissioned a report about heritage funds. The report recommended the creation of a new heritage fund for Saskatchewan. The government failed to act, and the report has been gathering dust ever since.

If the Saskatchewan government had re-started the Saskatchewan heritage fund 10 years ago and followed Alaska's example, it would be valued at \$6.1 billion today. Assuming a five per cent return, the fund would generate \$303 million in interest annually. That interest income could be used to help pay down the debt or pay for another brand-new children's hospital every year.

Instead, the Saskatchewan government has been spending resource revenues as fast as they come in. It's raised the PST. And, despite some ad hoc debt repayments, the debt has soared and it's set to soar even higher next year.

History shows that the Saskatchewan government needs a plan. A heritage fund is that plan.

**ADVERTISING
DEADLINE IS
FRIDAY 4 P.M.**

RESORT VILLAGE OF BIG SHELL NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Public Notice is hereby given that the Council of Resort Village of Big Shell intends to adopt a bylaw under *The Planning and Development Act, 2007* to sell the following public land.

Affected Area: The affected area of land is legally described as Portion of Municipal Reserve PR3, Plan No. 89B15672 Ext. 0 Shell Lake, Saskatchewan, as shown within the bold dashed line on the proposed subdivision dated May 2021 and signed by Meridian Surveys Ltd.

Reason: The reason of the proposed alteration is to allow access to the new storage lots that will be available for sale. This will require the sale of part of Municipal Reserve PR3 that is currently undeveloped.

Public Inspection: Any person may inspect the bylaw(s) by contacting Tara Bueckert at (306) 427-2188 or by email at villagebigshell@gmail.com Monday to Friday. Copies are available at cost.

Public Hearing: A public meeting will be held on May 20th, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. at the Hall, 229 Loon Drive, Resort Village of Big Shell, Saskatchewan to discuss the proposal.

Any person(s) who wish to object to the proposed sale of dedicated land may file a written objection, stating clearly their reason for their opposition, with the administrator of the Resort Village of Big Shell at the address below. A written notice of objection must be received by the administrator by 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday May 17th, 2023.

Resort Village of Big Shell
Box 130
Shell Lake, SK S0J 2G0

Issued at Shell Lake, Saskatchewan, this 4th day of May, 2023.

Tara Bueckert, Administrator

RESORT VILLAGE OF BIG SHELL NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Public Notice is hereby given that the Council of Resort Village of Big Shell intends to adopt bylaws under *The Planning and Development Act, 2007* to amend Bylaw 3-85 known as the Zoning Bylaw and Bylaw 2-85 The Basic Planning Statement Bylaw.

Intent: The proposed bylaws will rezone the affected area and identify the policy direction for the development of areas for residential storage. As well as update mapping within the planning documents.

Affected Area: The affected area of land is legally described as Parcel A, Plan No. 101809953 and parcel B, Plan 102024638, lying within the South East Quarter of Section 5, Township 49, Range 08, West of the Third Meridian of Big Shell, Saskatchewan, which is shown in the shaded area of the map which appears as part of this notice.

Reason: The reason of the proposed amendment is to allow for the development of storage lots to be titled.

Public Inspection: Any person may inspect the bylaw(s) by contacting Tara Bueckert at (306) 427-2188 or by email at villagebigshell@gmail.com Monday to Friday. Copies are available at cost.

Public Hearing: A public meeting will be held on May 20th, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. at the Hall, 229 Loon Drive, Resort Village of Big Shell, Saskatchewan to discuss the proposal.

Any person(s) who wish to comment on the proposed bylaw amendments may file a written comment, stating clearly their reason for their opposition/support, with the administrator of the Resort Village of Big Shell at the address below. Written notices must be received by the administrator by 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday May 17th, 2023.

Resort Village of Big Shell
Box 130
Shell Lake, SK S0J 2G0

Issued at Shell Lake, Saskatchewan, this 4th day of May, 2023.

Tara Bueckert, Administrator

Local first responders recognized

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

Medical First Responders were among the many volunteers recognized during National Volunteer Appreciation Week, which ran from April 16 to 22.

Prior to this special shoutout, however, local and area first responders from Shellbrook, Spiritwood, Canwood, and the Ahtahkakoop Cree Nation gathered in Spiritwood in March for an appreciation breakfast, the presentation of annual recognition awards, and an afternoon of training.

The day was a special one for Shellbrook's medical first responders, Al Dion and Allison Irvine, who were presented with the 2022 Group of the Year award. Dion also received the 2022 Medical First Responder of the Year Award.

While Shellbrook's medical first responders scooped up the 2022 recognitions, 2022 was also a milestone year for Canwood's first responder group, which celebrated 30 years of service. When it started in 1992, the group was only the third of its kind in the province, and the first located north of Saskatoon.

Additionally, the appreciation day saw awards for years of service milestones handed out to Darla Ahenakew of Ahtahkakoop and Opal Johnson of Canwood, who have both served their communities as medical first responders for 10 years.

Overseen by the Provincial Medical First Responder Program, medical first responders are trained and certified volunteers who respond to emergencies and care for their fellow community members while waiting for the ambulance to arrive.

"As a volunteer first responder, we attend calls at all hours of the day and night. Outside our ordinary lives, we spring into "call mode" to help people on their worst days," Canwood's Lorna Benson says of being a first responder.

With a large geographical area to cover, Benson says more hands on deck are not only welcome, but desperately needed.

"There are two first responders in Ahtahkakoop, two in Canwood, and two in Shellbrook. That's not enough. That's a lot of weight for us to carry," she said. "It's not that

we're doing a call every day, but we want to try to encourage more people to participate."

In addition to extra first responders to help lighten the workload, Benson says the province also needs to figure out who will be responsible for managing medical first responders.

In the past, the Ministry of Health looked after the licensing portion, while delegating recruitment and training to the former health regions. With the amalgamation of the health regions into the Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA), medical first responders were supposed to fall under the new organization's governance.

While this may still come to pass in the fall, the SHA and the Ministry of Health seem to be at odds about who is responsible for managing first responders. As a result, funding for the groups has been stopped.

"We have not received our annual funding for the past few years," Benson said. "Without funding, these groups struggle to keep up with supplies and equipment such as AEDs and so on."

For more on medical first responders, visit: <https://app.betterimpact.com/PublicOrganization/1e131561-da00-46f1-8b9c-b9d39fe2d7dd/1>



Local and area first responders, from left to right: Allison Irvine (Shellbrook), Darla Ahenakew (Ahtahkakoop), Jennifer Epp (Spiritwood), Denley Regier (first responder coordinator), Al Dion (Shellbrook), Lorna Benson (Canwood), Opal Johnson (Canwood), and Terry Isbister (Ahtahkakoop).



Opal Johnson accepts her 10-year service recognition from first responder coordinator Denley Regier.



Al Dion (right) accepts the First Responder of the Year award from first responder coordinator Denley Regier.



Darla Ahenakew accepts her 10-year service recognition from first responder coordinator Denley Regier.



Allison Irvine (left) and Al Dion (right) accept the Group of the Year award from first responder coordinator Denley Regier.

R.M. OF MEDSTEAD NO. 497

SEASONAL MAINTENANCE/EQUIPMENT OPERATOR POSITION

The R.M. of Medstead No. 497 invites applications for an experienced full time Seasonal Maintenance/Equipment Operator. The Seasonal Maintenance/Equipment Operator will be responsible for mowing this municipality's ditches, rock picking, mulching in conjunction with the grader operators, installing and repairing signs and other jobs as directed by the Reeve. Opportunity may be present in the future to move into a grader operator position. Pay rates depending on experience.

The R.M. of Medstead No. 497 is located in central Saskatchewan located approximately forty five minutes north of North Battleford.

Applicants must possess a valid Class 5 driver's license and have skill and experience in maintenance and operation of equipment including tractor, mower, rock picker and mulcher.

Submit written resumes stating experience, expected wage, two references and a current driver's abstract. Deadline closes once the position is filled. All resumes shall be marked "Seasonal Maintenance/Equipment Operator Position" and dropped off at the RM Office, mailed to the address below or emailed to rm497@sasktel.net.

R.M. of Medstead No. 497
Box 12
Medstead, SK S0M 1W0

Council thanks all applicants for their interest in this position but only persons selected for interviews will be contacted.

The R.M. of Medstead No. 497 reserves the right to reject and refuse any or all expressions of interest.

The Village of Debden invites applications for the Full-Time position of VILLAGE FOREMAN

The successful candidate will be responsible for the overall organization, day-to-day management, operations and maintenance of our Public Works and Utility Systems. The Foreman is expected to operate within approved policies, programs and budgets of the Village.

Requirements:

- Strong communication, organizational and record keeping skills;
- Self-motivated and be able to work independently;
- Must possess a valid Class 5 Drivers;
- Willing to obtain their Level 1 Water and Wastewater Certification (Grade 12 or equivalent will be required for this)

Experience in machinery operation/maintenance, road maintenance and/or municipal water is a valuable asset. For a full job description and expected duties, please contact the Village Office at (306)724-2040 or villagedebden@sasktel.net.

Please submit resume with qualifications, references and expected rate of pay to:

Village of Debden
Box 400, Debden, Saskatchewan S0J 0S0

Council thanks all interested candidates, however only candidates chosen for interviews will be contacted.

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



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

Moe announces candidacy for 2024 election

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

In what was mostly a formality, Premier and Rosthern-Shellbrook MLA Scott Moe became the first candidate to officially announce his candidacy for the next provincial election on Oct. 28, 2024.

Moe was acclaimed as the Saskatchewan Party Candidate during a brief meeting of the Rosthern-Shellbrook Saskatchewan Party Constituency Association, held at the Shellbrook Senior Citizens' Centre on Friday, April 28.

Moe has served as the MLA for

Rosthern-Shellbrook since 2011, and as premier since 2018. Despite more than a decade in office, he says he still wants to make a difference for the people of the constituency and the province.

"Our communities are changing and growing, and that's true in urban and rural Saskatchewan," Moe said. "I still want to represent the folks in this constituency with respect to some of that growth and some of the needs that may arise."

With the large Rosthern-Shellbrook constituency spanning communities like Rosthern, Shellbrook, Blaine Lake, Spiritwood, Glaslyn, and many

more, Moe says each of these communities has seen significant investments during his tenure as MLA, whether it be for infrastructure or capital.

That said, Moe has no intentions of resting on his government's laurels.

"We have new schools, new hospitals, and new highways, but we also have some more work to do. At the MLA level, I want to be part of working alongside communities and achieving some of what we have yet to do," he said.

"Provincially, we have more opportunity and more work to do. With 'growth that works for everyone,' you're not able to get to 'that works for

everyone' if you aren't able to do your part as a government to lay the environment for that growth to occur."

With the next provincial election just under 18 months away, Moe says the real campaigning won't begin until about a year from now.

In the meantime, he plans to spend this summer getting around locally to visit with old friends and talk to some new ones.

"I enjoy every conversation across the province, and appreciate the advice that is provided on whatever the topic might be, whether it be economic investment or the needs in a certain community," he said.

Lauder retires as Lake Country Co-op Board president

Lake Country Co-op has announced that Ian Lauder has retired from his position as Board president, after more than two decades of serving as an instrumental part of its organization.

Lauder's journey with Lake Country Co-op began in 1993, when he became a member of the Co-op Committee in Shellbrook. He was then elected to the Delegate body in 1996, and became a member of the Board of Directors in 1999. During his tenure as a board member, sales grew from \$60 million to over \$650 million, a testament to his leadership and dedication to

the Co-op's vision.

Throughout his 23 years as a director, Lauder has worked alongside four different CEOs and made numerous friendships and business associates within Lake Country Co-op and the entire Co-operative Retailing System. His vast knowledge and experience have been invaluable to the Co-op's success.

As Lauder moves on to his next chapter as Board vice president, he will continue to use his expertise to assist the newly elected Board president, Rick Kindrachuk. Lauder will play a crucial role in guiding Kindrachuk to ensure

a smooth transition of leadership.

Kindrachuk came to Lake Country Co-op as a Wakaw delegate in 2012 and joined the Board of Directors in 2016, where he served as vice president before being elected as board president.

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Premier Scott Moe officially announced his candidacy for the 2024 provincial election in Shellbrook on April 28.

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 - Thursday 2 pm - 7 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.

LEASK & CANWOOD: Walter Willoughby Horticultural Society - Bedding Plant Sales. Leask - Seniors Hall: Thursday, May 18 from 1-3 pm - To book a table call Doris @ 306-466-9179. Canwood - Seniors Hall: Tuesday, May 23 from 1-3 pm - To book a table call Barb @ 306-468-2841. Both sales will have strawberry shortcake, tea & coffee!

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Phone: 306-747-2178 Fax: 306-747-4315 email: rm493@sasktel.net
website: www.rmofshellbrook.com

RM of Shellbrook No. 493 Expression of Interest Form

AS CONTRACTOR, I am available to perform the following spot work for the municipality in the 2023 construction season:

Type of Work

AND shall provide the following equipment to perform this work:

Equipment	Make/Model	Serial Number	Rate*

*Rate - per hour, day, mile, as the case may be, including labor

AND acknowledge that:

1. Completion of this form does not constitute a guarantee of work.
2. Prior to starting any work, I/we shall provide evidence to the Rural Municipality of Shellbrook No. 493 of my/our minimum liability insurance coverage of \$2 million.
3. The municipality expects quality workmanship and promptness in starting and completing any work and that these attributes will affect future decisions to award more work of this type to the contractor.
4. Farm tractors shall be equipped with a beacon light and ROPS at a minimum.

Dated this _____ day of _____, 20__.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Fax _____

Email _____

GST Number _____

Note: The Foreman of Public Works and/or Administrator Officer can assist in providing information about the work and any equipment that you may be required to supply, as well as information about the equipment owned by the municipality (if any) that may be used for each type of work.

For more info contact the RM Office.

Shell Lake Lions receive honours

By **CORRIE RUSH-BATTERSBY**
Shell Lake Lions Club Member

The Shell Lake Lions Club was honoured to host Lions 5SKN District Governor Beryl Bauer and his wife, Phyllis, from Lake Lenore on April 28.

District Governor Bauer's message was motivational, featuring the Lions' "We Serve" motto and noting that leadership and teamwork are all qualities of a successful club.

During the day, District Governor Bauer inducted two new Shell Lake Lions members, Richard Urano and Sheila Nickolat.

Additionally, outgoing Shell Lake Lions president Gary Taylor received a President Appreciation Award for his many years of service as president and co-president of the club.

Finally, Larry Vaagen and Don Weiers were presented with plaques for 45 years of dedication and service to the club, and chevron awards for 5, 15, and 35 years of service were handed out to various club members.



The Shell Lake Lions with 5SKN District Governor Beryl Bauer (front row, centre).



Outgoing Shell Lake Lions president Gary Taylor (left) accepts a President Appreciation Award from District Governor Beryl Bauer.



Lion Sheila Nickolat with sponsor Lion Gary Nickolat.



Lion Richard Urano (right) with sponsor Lion John Dykster.



Lion Don Weiers (right) accepts his plaque for 45 years of service to the club.



Lion Larry Vaagen (right) accepts his plaque for 45 years of service to the club.

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. Canon David Butorac
306-961-1634

Minister's Warden:
306-922-5159
H.C. Service with Rev.
Butorac - 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/Unite/
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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Fr. Ramel Macapala

COWBOY CHURCH

Spiritwood
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7 pm
Spiritwood Legion Hall
Pastor Rick Martin

LAKELAND COMMUNITY CHURCH

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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

Gideons International of Canada

Battlefords Camp
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(306) 389-4633

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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

306-841-7333

Arraez a big hit in both major leagues

Luis Arraez may be the best hitter hardly anyone in North America knows about. His middle name is Sangel, but it may as well be Anonymous.

Avid baseball fans surely know about Arraez, because he won the American League batting championship last year with the Minnesota Twins. In the off-season, he was traded to the Miami Marlins, but he brought his bat along to the National League team and appears ready to accomplish a rare feat: back-to-back batting titles in two different leagues.

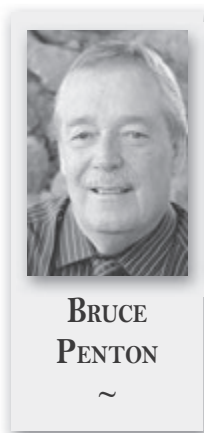
Only a few players, in the era going back more than half a century to the 1970s, were so-called natural-born hitters. Only a handful could seemingly bat .340 or .350 without blinking, such as Rod Carew, Wade Boggs, George Brett, Larry Walker, Tony Gwynn and Ichiro Suzuki. In the past 50 years, pitchers have become dominant in the mano a mano

battle with hitters. Need proof? In 1987, for instance, major league batters hit a combined .261. Last year, that figure was .243.

Thirteen batters in MLB history have won batting titles with an average over .400, with Ted Williams in 1941 the most recent to do so. That's 82 years ago.

Since 1970, the highest winning batting average was Gwynn's .394 in 1994, but that season ended prematurely, on Aug. 12, because of labour problems. Since then, Brett hit .390 in 1980 and Carew batted .388 in 1977. Walker's .379 in 1999 stands out. Suzuki and Todd Helton both hit .372 to win batting titles since 2000.

And now, it appears Arraez is about to be included in the unofficial list of natural hitters. In 2022, Arraez won the A.L. batting title by hitting .316. The pitching-deficient Twins needed fresh arms and got them from Miami, but had to give up the A.L.'s best hitter to do



BRUCE
PENTON

so. Arraez's batting title accomplishment was no fluke. In his first three MLB seasons, the Venezuelan posted batting averages of .334, .321 and .294.

There has been no production reduction since he joined the Marlins. Through 20 games, Arraez was leading the majors with a .444 batting average, going hitless in only three of those games. His closest rival, Ronald Acuna, Jr., was a distant .375.

Wrote Do-Hyoung Park of MLB.com about Arraez, "When Arraez goes up to the plate, he scans the infield to look for the gaps. His special-

ty is to dump line drives in front of the outfielders for singles. He rarely swings and misses, and he still has more career walks than strikeouts."

Luis Arraez may be the most anonymous player bordering on superstardom who exists in Major League Baseball. Fans will be following his progress this season to see if his career .320 batting average has been a fluke, or just a harbinger of hits to come.

• Comedy writer Gary Bachman: "Buccaneers unveil Baker Mayfield's new number — 6. He should have chosen 13 — a baker's dozen."

• From the parody website The Beaverton: "Rogers Centre renovations include private nook where fans can tell Blue Jays mascot everything they can't say to their dad."

• Winnipeg broadcaster Nicole Welsh, on Twitter: "If I wear a Leafs shirt under my Jets sweater am I going to NH-Hell?"

• Bob Molinaro of

pilotonline.com, on a Virginia brewery producing Bye Dan IPA in commemoration of unpopular Washington Commanders owner Dan Snyder selling the team: "Tastes like 23 years of bitterness."

• Molinaro again: "NBA playoff TV ratings were the highest in 12 years the weekend after the Masters drew its biggest audience in five years. America's couches are getting a workout."

• Golden Knights Twitter feed after Mark Stone's two goals led Vegas to a 5-2 win over the Winnipeg Jets on April 20: "Nothing like getting Mark Stoned on 4/20."

• Mike Bianchi of the Orlando Sentinel: "Still can't believe the PGA Tour fined Rory McIlroy \$3 million for withdrawing from the RBC Heritage — one of the tour's mandatory 'designated' tournaments. In related news, Brooks Koepka of the LIV Tour just found \$3 million in his couch cushions."

• Scott Ostler of the San Francisco Chronicle: "Gad, what a horrible day. Lost my blue check and heard that the A's are NOT rooted in Oakland. Like learning that Santa Claus has joined the LIV Golf Tour."

• RJ Currie of sports-deke.com: "UCLA and the USC ended their century-old affiliation with the PAC-12 to join the Big Ten. This reduces the west coast conference to the unPack 10."

• Headline at fark.com: "Ultramarathon runner banned for using an illegal substance: A car"

• Another one from fark.com: "Jacob deGrom is already in mid-season form as he leaves game early due to a wrist injury"

• Steve Simmons of Sunmedia: "Yusei Kikuchi is 3-0 with a 3.80 earned run average. I'm not like Al Michaels here. I don't believe in miracles."

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

What happens when you don't advertise?

Very little.

Rural landowners discuss crime concerns

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

When Doreen Kemp moved from Saskatoon to establish a rural, off-grid eco community on Lac La Peche Grid Road, she thought crime was more of a city problem. Five years later, she says she feels like barely a day goes by without hearing of a break-in at a neighbour's property.

With the RCMP overstretched and understaffed, and no relief in sight, Kemp decided to take matters into her own hands and organize a public meeting.

"I just kept hearing more

about all these break-ins, and I thought we could get together and talk about things we could do, like watch each other's places, and notice if we see strange vehicles driving around and tell each other," she said.

Held at Kemp's property on Friday, April 21, the meeting saw about 20 people come out to share their own experiences with rural crime, including representatives from the Rural Municipalities of Redberry, Meeting Lake, and Leask.

Kemp says an invite was also sent to the office of MP Kelly Block, but no one was able to attend. Due to staffing short-

ages, the RCMP was also unable to send a representative.

"We really wanted them to be here to answer some of our questions," Kemp said, citing concerns she heard at Friday's meeting about the lack of RCMP presence in rural areas.

As the meeting's attendees went around a circle and shared their own experiences, other common threads of concern emerged.

"Even when the RCMP gets these guys — and they've gotten a few — it seems like they only go into jail overnight, and then they're out. There aren't really consequences," Kemp said, noting that this is leading

to a lot of frustration.

"A lot of people up here are feeling like their hands are tied. You can't shoot at anybody or do much to protect yourself. People are feeling vulnerable. What can we do?"

Another thread of concern, is the changing pattern in the break-ins. Where thieves once seemed to be targeting vacant properties, or properties where the owners go away for the winter or extended periods of time, one recent break-in occurred while the owner was home.

Though last Friday's meeting won't necessarily yield any immediate solutions to these

issues, Kemp says she was pleased with some of the things that came out of the meeting, such as a commitment from the rural municipalities to hold town hall meetings with their ratepayers, and early talks to form a neighbourhood watch group for the area.

Another idea being explored is for landowners in the area to pool funds together to hire someone to conduct rural patrols between the hours of 3 a.m. and 6 a.m. — when a lot of the break-ins seem to be occurring.

"We're just trying to look after each other up here," Kemp said.

GOOD NEWS

GROWING THROUGH OUR TRIBULATIONS

By **RANDALL MCLEOD**
Immanuel Lutheran, Parkside

This week one of our study texts is Psalm 148. Thirteen times in fourteen verses it tells us to praise the Lord. Synonyms for praise include celebrated, blessed, lauded, extolled, applauded, hymned, commended, saluted. We have so many reasons to praise the Lord, not the least of which is the sacrifice that Jesus made on the cross so that we could be restored into relationship with our heavenly Father and then to live forever with our Lord Jesus.

There are, however, places in the Bible that counsel us to give praise and thanks where it seems utterly counter-intuitive. In Romans 5 we see this:

"we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope."

What? GLORY in our troubles? How bizarre is that? And James, Chapter 1, totally supports that same position: "My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing."

Count it all JOY, he says! Count your trials as JOY!

Then again, in 1 Peter: "In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials".

Greatly REJOICE in your trials.

REJOICE in your trials!

It sounds like madness. Why would God counsel such a thing? Because HE LOVES YOU! God is more concerned about your development, and your eternal future, than He is about your ease and comfort. Truth be told, HE WANTS YOU TO GROW UP! And growth requires overcoming difficulty and stress.

Years ago, as part of preparing for space exploration, they set up a domed environment to test living and surviving in confined spaces. They found that trees, having attained a certain size, would just randomly fall over. The reason... without the stress and strain of the wind, they never developed any inherent internal strength. Same with a butterfly or a

chick, if they don't face the stress of freeing themselves, they just die.

So, the next time you face trials and troubles, remember, that facing our troubles is the pathway to growth and strength. We just gotta do it. I will leave you with these two thoughts.

First, in everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. (1 Thessalonians 5:18)

And second, know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. (Romans 8:28)

It may seem strange and even counter-intuitive, but I can assure you, throwing a pity party is of no help whatsoever. None, nada, zip, zilch.

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Canwood Public Library hosts crafters



The Canwood Public Library held its final crafter's show and tell session of the season on April 25, allowing guests to showcase current projects and share crafting ideas. The crafters will now be taking a seasonal gardening break until the fall. Around the table, from left to right: Lorean Nichol, Gerda Bruner, Hilda Gaboury, Barb Person, Barb Benson, and Lila Olson.

Submitted by Gerda Bruner

Congratulations to the Recipients of The 2023 Junior Citizen of the Year Award



The Saskatchewan Weekly Newspapers Association, in partnership with the Office of the Lieutenant Governor and SaskPower, is pleased to announce the names of the Junior Citizen of the Year Award recipients.

VICTOR SANTOS CARDOZA, MOOSOMIN
LANEA LAFONTAINE, REGINA
SOPHIA YOUNG, REGINA
WINSTON ZHAO, REGINA

Each of these four deserving youth will receive a \$3000 bursary from SaskPower for their future postsecondary education.

Visit www.swna.com for more information on the Junior Citizen of the Year program



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More apples for the prairies

By **PATRICIA HANBIDGE**

Last week the focus of the column was some of the basic knowledge about apples that we can grow on the prairies and that when the fruit is pollinated there is much genetic diversity. Apples are also classified by other criteria as well.

The size of the fruit will classify whether the apple tree is a crab apple or an apple tree. Fruit that is smaller than two inches in diameter is generally classified as a crab apple while fruit that is larger than 2 inches (5 cm) in diameter is classified as an apple. There are also early-, mid-, and late-season apples. Apples that we can grow also have many different flavours from very tart to very sweet. Some are better suited to preserves, while others are fabulous to eat fresh. Worldwide, there are over 2500 different types of apples that are grown and although we may not be able to produce all of the different types, we can certainly hold our own and produce enough variety to keep any palate happy.

A good early season apple is the 'Norland' which is a good quality, medium sized, (6-7 cm) apple suitable for fresh eating or cooking. Fruit shape is oblong conic, slightly ribbed; skin has greenish yellow base colour and a 50-60% washed and striped dark red over colour. Flesh is cream-colored, tingled slightly green and slightly coarse in texture. It has good flavour with moderate acid. Fruit ripens in mid- late August and stores very well especially if picked slightly before full maturity. Trees are semi-dwarf, upright spreading and annually productive. Trees are considered hardy to zone 2a but somewhat susceptible to fire blight.

A good mid-season apple will ripen in late August to late September. 'Battleford' has fruit of 7 cm in diameter with greenish-yellow skin mottled and streaked with red. The flesh is yellowish-white, somewhat coarse, and slightly acidic. It stores

for one month and can be eaten fresh, used for cooking or juicing. It has limited resistance to fire blight, and is of reliable hardiness only to zone 2a.

A good late season apple will ripen in late September to late October. 'Edith Smith' is a seedling of 'McIntosh' selected by Leonard Smith of Lucky Lake, Saskatchewan and introduced in 1964. Fruit is 6-7 cm in diameter, yellowish green washed with pale orange-red. The skin is somewhat tough and bitter. Flesh is greenish-white, medium texture, slightly tough and pulpy. It is fair for fresh eating and good for cooking. It will store well for up to three months. Plants are hardy to zone 2b but highly susceptible to fire blight.

'Haralson' is another late season apple that was released from the University of Minnesota in 1923. 'Haralson' has been used in much breeding work of hardy apples. Fruit is 6 cm in diameter, round to cone shaped, greenish-yellow almost completely covered with red. Flesh is slightly tough. It is good for cooking and fair for

eating. It stores for up to 25 weeks with flavour being enhanced during storage and is only reliably hardy in zone 3a if growing in a protected microclimate.

'Luke' is yet another late season apple but the parentage is unknown but we do know that it originated with Mr. John Luke of Rosthern, Saskatchewan, and was introduced by the Morden Research Station in 1961. At 9 cm in diameter, 'Luke' is the largest apple that can presently be grown on the prairies. The fruit takes on a barrel shape, has a green undercolour that is mottled and heavily streaked with dark red. It is fair for eating fresh, and good for cooking. It keeps for ten weeks. The tree is large, vigorous and rounded to spreading, but fruit is late to ripen, and may be damaged by frost on all but the longest seasons.

Hanbidge is the Lead Horticulturist with Orchid Horticulture. Find us at www.orchidhort.com; by email at info@orchidhort.com; on facebook @orchidhort and on instagram at #orchidhort.



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