

# Shellbrook Chronicle & Spiritwood Herald

VOL. 111 NO. 25 PMR #40007604

Thursday, June 22, 2023

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## WP Sandin celebrates Class of 2023



WP Sandin High School's class of 2023. Back row, left to right: Beau Ahenakew, Adam Shakul, Connor Musgrave, Carson Ledding, Tomas Beam, Mason Mamchur, Adam Schatkoske, Dylan Anderson, Brayden Payette, Noah Verbonac, and Justin Collins. Front row, left to right: Megan Cameron, Courtney Lens, Lacey Schira, Jessica Sharron, Shelby Woytiuk, Brooke Cadrain, and Kassie Ferster. Missing: Christiaan Greyling & Grace Kolodychuk. Photo courtesy of Taya M Photo

By JORDAN TWISS  
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

The 20 graduates in WP Sandin High School's Class of 2023 were honoured with a graduation ceremony that blended old and new traditions on Friday, June 16.

The afternoon's festivities kicked off with a parade, a newer feature added to graduation programs in the past three years to circumvent the gathering restrictions put in place during the COVID-19 pandemic and keep the community involved in the ceremony.

Wanting to retain this more inclusive approach to their big day, this year's graduating class toured around the town in cars, trucks, golf carts, and other vehicles, making key stops at Parkland Integrated Health Centre, Shellbrook Elementary School, Homestead Place and Heritage Place, and Centennial Park.

Once done with the parade, the graduates returned to the high school,

where the formal part of this year's ceremony was held in the gymnasium.

With introductions provided by Mr. James Meyers, the graduates entered the gym one at a time and proceeded to the stage, passing off a candle to a loved one before taking their seats. This long-standing WP Sandin tradition is meant to symbolize the passing of the flame of knowledge to the next generation of learners.

As the ceremony's speaking program got under way, Mr. Meyers first shared his own acknowledgement of the graduates, praising the students for their diversity and individuality.

"It's been a pleasure to work with all of you over the last seven years. I'm sincerely excited for you, and truly believe that your next years will be some of the best years of your lives," he said.

"Always see what you're capable of. Understand the gifts and talents you possess, and how you can use them to make the world around you a better place."

Mr. Meyers then passed the mic off to valedictorian Megan Cameron, who opened her address with a thank you to her family, friends, fellow graduates, and WP Sandin's staff, before speaking at length about the importance of challenges and the growth that comes from overcoming them.

Cameron also encouraged her fellow graduates to stay true to who they are.

"People will judge you, the world will try to change you, but you must continue to move in your own direction. You must continue to go at your own pace, because if you allow that to alter your path, you're going to end up living someone else's life," she said.

"Trust your journey, it's all going to make sense soon."

A speech by WP Sandin principal Karisa Klaassen was next on the docket. This year, her address focused on the graduating class' struggle to come up with a grad theme and one student's humorous suggestion: better late than never.

Using the idiom as a proverb that signifies "the importance of taking action and not giving up on your goals, even if you face obstacles or setbacks along the way," Klaassen encouraged the graduates to persevere in the face of hardships.

"Remember that failure is not the end. Everyone experiences setbacks. It's how you respond to these challenges. Embrace failure as an opportunity to learn and grow, and never give up on your dreams," she said.

"Keep pursuing your passions, even if it takes time to find your place in the world."

Continuing the tradition of special guest addresses, this year's honour was given to former WP Sandin teacher Kirk Pilon, who addressed the grads via video message. As the shop teacher, Mr. Pilon relied heavily on shop class metaphors to remind the grads of important lessons they've learned over the years.

Continued on page 2



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# WP Sandin celebrates Class of 2023

**Continued from 1**

“Every masterpiece starts with the same material. As you move forward in the world, remember that success is not just about the end product; it’s about the process,” he said.

“With creativity, perseverance, and a touch of craftsmanship, you have the power to build a future that is nothing short of extraordinary.”

The ceremony closed with a graduate slideshow.

For the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic, a banquet followed later in the evening.

WP Sandin High School’s class of 2023 is: Beau Ahenakew, Dylan Anderson, Tomas Beam, Brooke Cadrain, Megan Cameron, Justin Collins, Kassie Ferster, Christiaan Greyling, Grace Kolodychuk, Carson Ledding, Courtney Lens, Mason Mamchur, Connor Musgrave, Brayden Payette, Adam Schatkoske, Lacey Schira, Adam Shakul, Jessica Sharron, Noah Verbonac, and Shelby Woytiuk.



Lacey Schira rode in comfort with guests.



Tomas Beam rides with Rhonda Berezowski and Aardie the aardvark.



Mason Mamchur kicked his feet up during the parade.



Carson Ledding waves from the back of his parade vehicle.



Dylan Anderson accepts his diploma from principal Karisa Klaassen.



Courtney Lens accepts her diploma from principal Karisa Klaassen.



Adam Shakul accepts his diploma from principal Karisa Klaassen.

## INVITATION TO TENDER SHELL LAKE CURLING RINK

The Village of Shell Lake is inviting qualified contractors to bid on the following:

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**SATURDAY, JULY 1<sup>ST</sup>**  
STARTING 8:30 AM

@ the Shellbrook Pentecostal Church

**FREE PANCAKE BREAKFAST**

- Free will offering, Shellbrook & Area Food Bank
- Silent Auction



Saskatchewan  
Health Authority

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While supplies last – Weather permitting

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



saskhealthauthority.ca



## Thank You

We would like to extend a huge thank you to all the bidder and buyers at the 2023 Prince Albert 4-H Regional Sale. A special thank you to the following businesses that supported our Wild Rose 4-H Club Members by purchasing steers.

Fremont Trucking

Beau “Lac” Funeral Home & Crematorium

Lake Country Co-op (2)

JRT Excavating (2)

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# École Debden Public School fête grads

By **CORINE AMUNDSON**  
Secretary, École Debden  
Public School

École Debden Public School held its graduation ceremony on Friday, June 9. The ceremony began with Emcees, Ayla Peterson and Kayden Amundson, who welcomed the guests. Then, Mr. Prosser introduced the 11 graduates.

Next, greetings were given by Superintendent, Mr. Michaud, and Mrs. Schwehr gave her principal's message, followed by the Valedictorian address by Gracie Cyr.

The Principal, Mrs. Schwehr, and Vice-Principal, Mr. Tetreault, handed out scrolls to all the graduates, as well as acknowledged the students who received Honours, High Honours and other awards.

Gracie Cyr received the Français, History, and Physical Education Awards, and was also awarded the Outstanding School Involvement and Most Proficient awards.

Gracie graduated with High Honours, and she was also the recipient of the following scholarships: Diamond North Credit Union Member Scholarship, the PAATA Scholarship, and the Shaye Amundson Cheering You On Memorial Scholarship.

Kayce Vaadeland received the Biology, Calculus, Chemistry, English, Mathematics, and Physics awards. She was also the recipient of the Sportsmanship award and she graduated with High Honours.

Desirée Pott graduated with High Honours, and was the recipient of the SRPSD Opening Doors to Tomorrow Career & Job Fair Bursary.

Elizabeth Jean received the PAA Industrial Arts award, and she graduated with High Honours.



École Debden Public School class of 2023. Back row, left to right: Gracie Cyr, Aiden Beaulieu, Derian Demers, Kyan Bilodeau, Kaiden Couture, and Karlee Molzan. Front row, left to right: Kayce Vaadeland, Kezia Delorme, Brooklyn Amundson, Desirée Pott, and Elizabeth Jean.

Brooklyn Amundson received the PAA Home Economics award and she graduated with Honours.

Aiden Beaulieu received the Congeniality award, as voted on by his peers.

Karlee Molzan received the Greatest Improvement award, while Kezia Delorme and Derian Demers graduated with Honours.

The Governor General award for the 2021-2022 school year was presented to Kyra Johnson by Board Trustee Mr. Bill Gerow.

The second half of the ceremony was the Grand March of the grads and their escorts in formal attire. The graduates then thanked the staff and parents followed by the heartfelt rose ceremony.

Next, Kyan Bilodeau and Kaiden Couture entertained us with the 'Most Likely To' and Predictions for our graduates. The ceremony ended with a personal slideshow showcasing the

graduates throughout the years.

Thanks to the Grade 11 parents, a delicious lunch was served after the ceremony, while family, friends, and graduates mingled in the gym to wrap up a beautiful evening.

Congratulations Class of 2023.



Desirée Pott receives the SRPSD Opening Doors to Tomorrow Career & Job Fair Bursary, presented by Superintendent Tom Michaud.



Kyra Johnson receives the 2021-2022 Governor General Award from Board Trustee Bill Gerow.



Gracie Cyr receives the Diamond North Credit Union Member Scholarship, presented by Joel Bilodeau of Diamond North.

## THE ULTIMATE ROAD TRIP PACKAGE

**EARLY BIRD DEADLINE**  
**JULY 7**

**VALUED AT \$274,712 OR \$200,000 CASH**

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EARLY BIRD DRAW: JULY 17, 2023. DRAWS WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE STARS SASKATOON BASE, 2475 AIRPORT ROAD, SASKATOON, SK. STARS MAIN LOTTERY WILL ONLY SELL 1,831,500 TICKETS AND WILL BE SOLD AT \$60 EACH. A SET OF 3 FOR \$125, A SET OF 15 FOR \$250, A SET OF 50 FOR \$375, AND A SET OF 100 FOR \$500. LICENCE LR23-0003. TICKETS MUST BE PURCHASED IN SASKATCHEWAN, MUST BE 18+ TO PURCHASE. PLEASE PLAY RESPONSIBLY.

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is looking for the right individual to work part-time with reporting of news happenings in Spiritwood and area.

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Send resume to **Jordan Twiss, Editor Spiritwood Herald** at **Box 10, Shellbrook, Sask. S0J 2E0** or by email to **jordan@sbchron.com**

*Please mark reporter position.*

## Feds should pay more than lip service to pharmacare

For better and for worse, the COVID-19 pandemic exposed the vulnerabilities and failures of our healthcare system.

The better: we now have an opportunity to fix these problems.

The worse: there's a lot of fixing to do in nearly every aspect of healthcare, whether it be the ability to find a family doctor or adequately staff hospitals, long-term care standards, or surgical wait times.

In Saskatchewan, and across Canada, there have and always will be challenges when it comes to healthcare human resources and the delivery of healthcare services. The issues we face today weren't caused exclusively by the pandemic; COVID-19 merely exacerbated the problem.

Thus far, the solution chosen by government after government has been to throw more money at the problem, to the point that Canada's budget for healthcare climbed to an estimated \$331 billion in 2022, while the per person spend reached \$8,563.

This ranks Canada fourth among Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) countries on per person healthcare spending (behind the United States, Germany and the Netherlands).

More money was once again the fix this spring, as the provinces looked to Ottawa to cover 35 per cent of healthcare costs and commit to boosting the Canada Health Transfer (CHT) by 5 per cent annually. This would have been an immediate cash infusion of \$28 billion into the healthcare system.

The feds balked at this demand. Instead, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau pledged to increase federal healthcare funding by \$196.1 billion over the next 10 years and provide \$46.2 billion in new funding. This includes annual 5 per cent boosts to the CHT and \$25 billion for individual healthcare deals with the provinces and territories.

In Saskatchewan's case, the deal amounts to a one-time \$61-million investment to address immediate needs like emergency room and surgical wait times, and an additional \$111 million annually to the province's \$6.4-billion healthcare budget.

In return, all Ottawa wants to see is the receipts (or, rather, a clear action plan that outlines how the money will be spent).

In all likelihood, the significant cash in-



JORDAN TWISS  
~  
News Editor

fusion will be little more than a treatment for the symptoms, rather than the underlying illness – a band-aid slapped over a bullet hole, a sledgehammer instead of a scalpel.

Meanwhile, policy options that could drastically reimagine the way healthcare is delivered will continue to be ignored. (No, I'm not talking about more privatization of services.)

To its credit, the federal NDP tried to start a conversation on healthcare reform last week with the introduction of the Canada Pharmacare Act, a bill that would establish a universal single-payer pharmacare system in Canada.

The timing, however, could have been better. Parliament is less than a month away from its summer recess, meaning the bill will die on the table and be forgotten by the time Parliament reconvenes on Sept. 4. (Though, in all honesty, the bill was almost certainly dead in the water to begin with, and the NDP surely knew this.)

Instead, the Canada Pharmacare Act was a symbolic gesture on the part of NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh and his cohorts. It was also an attempt to pressure the Liberal government to make good on the terms of the supply-and-confidence agreement that's keeping it in power, including a promise to implement a universal pharmacare program by the end of 2023.

The idea of pharmacare is nothing new. Federal Liberal governments have toyed with the policy since at least the 1990s, and Mr. Trudeau's government made pharmacare one of its election campaign pillars in 2019.

Despite this, there's been little movement on the file.

In 2018, Mr. Trudeau's government convened an advisory council to assess a national pharmacare plan. The council did its work, releasing a report the following year in which it recommended the establishment of a universal, single-payer public pharmacare system, and pegged the annual cost of such a program at about \$15 billion.

Since then, there's been four years of virtual silence about pharmacare from the Liberals. Well, except for the part in early 2021 where only two out of 154 Liberal MPs voted in favour of Bill C-213, another piece of NDP legislation to establish a national pharmacare program in consultation with the provinces and territories.



Indeed, by the time the federal election rolled around in the fall of 2021, the Liberal government had seemingly forgotten its campaign pledge – until it became integral to it maintaining its status as the government of the day with the NDP's backing.

What's more, Health Minister Jean-Yves Duclos recently came under fire for allegedly interfering with the Patented Medicine Prices Review Board's work to lower drug prices.

In a testimony to a parliamentary committee in May, former board member Matthew Herder said he resigned from the board due to "a lack of government support for needed reforms." He also called Mr. Duclos' interference "a dangerous precedent."

"Industry now knows that it can bypass the [Patented Medicine Prices Review Board] when it isn't satisfied with the board's policy direction and get the minister to do its bidding," Herder said.

Mr. Duclos has denied these allegations. He says he paused the board's work because he hadn't been included in discussions, and more provincial consultation was required.

However, this account is different than the one shared by Douglas Clark, the board's former executive director, who said efforts to contact Mr. Duclos were ignored.

Bizarrely, Mr. Duclos countered that these requests from the board "were only a suggestion" that he meet with them.

And while the board and Mr. Duclos debate who snubbed who, Canada continues

to have the third highest pharmaceutical drug prices in the world, after only the United States and Switzerland. In the meantime too many Canadians are having to choose between life-saving medications and other necessities.

It's perplexing. Over the past nearly eight years, we've seen how quickly this federal government can move on the issues that truly matter to it, whether it be the carbon tax or its firearms legislation.

If it wasn't genuinely interested in pursuing a national pharmacare program – and this certainly seems to be the case, based on both its actions and inaction – why even bring it up in the first place?

The NDP isn't innocent in this either. Though its agreement with the Liberals only began in 2021, the party has had the power to pressure the government since it was reduced to a minority in the 2019 election. Despite this, there's been next to no progress on pharmacare over the past four years.

Though universal pharmacare comes with costs, countries around the world have seen success with their own programs, both in improving access to medications and lowering their costs.

By making medications more affordable, and taking a preventative approach to healthcare, Canada could reap significant savings in healthcare costs by reducing the number of people who require trips to the doctor or the hospital.

Given the current state of Canada's healthcare system, it's an idea worth exploring. And it's time the feds pay it more than just lip service.

### Shellbrook Chronicle

Serving the Communities of Shellbrook, Canwood, Debden, Big River, Parkside, Leask, Marcelin, Blaine Lake, Holbein, Mont Nebo, Mayview

### Spiritwood Herald

Serving the Communities of Spiritwood, Shell Lake, Leoville, Chitek Lake, Mildred, Rabbit Lake, Medstead, Mayfair, Bapaume, Belbutte, Glaslyn

A Division of Pepperfram Limited Publications  
Mail Registration #07621

Published Every Thursday Morning

P.O. Box 10, Shellbrook, Sask. S0J 2E0  
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Friday, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. & 1 to 4 p.m.;

Advertising Deadline: Fridays at 4:00 p.m.

Websites: www.shellbrookchronicle.com  
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Member of



## Report from the Legislature

Graduation season is in full swing across the province and I want to send my sincere congratulations to all graduates! With a growing province, now is an exciting time to be stepping into the next phase of life and exploring all the opportunities available to you. Whether you want to work in healthcare, education, trades, or any other field – there is a job and a great quality of life waiting for you.

Our government has several programs and services for young people looking to build their careers here in Saskatchewan. In the provincial budget, a total of \$112 million was invested in direct support to post-secondary students, through tax credits, grants and scholarships. For example, post-secondary graduates who live and work in Saskatchewan are eligible for up to \$20,000 in tax credits through the Graduate Retention Program. You can learn



HON. SCOTT MOE,  
PREMIER

~  
MLA for Rosthern -  
Shellbrook  
Toll Free:  
1-855-793-3422  
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more about supports for post-secondary students and graduates at [www.Saskatchewan.ca/studentloans](http://www.Saskatchewan.ca/studentloans).

If you are interested in building a career in early childhood education, our government recently announced \$12 million in new funding to provide tuition-free training. The training and professional development opportunities will be available for both current and prospective early childhood educators, and will offer both in-person and online options. These

opportunities are provided through partnerships with 10 institutions across the province and courses will begin this fall.

No matter what industry you are interested in, there are great career opportunities awaiting you. Today, Saskatchewan is experiencing economic growth and building trade partnerships in Canada and globally. In fact, the total value of Saskatchewan's exports reached a record-breaking \$52.6 billion in 2022, well above the previous record in 2021 of \$37 billion.

That growth is seen across Saskatchewan's economic sectors. In the first quarter of 2023, our agri-food exports are up 75 per cent over the same period last year. Our province's nearly \$1-billion-a-year uranium industry made us the world's second-largest producer in 2022, ahead of previous forerunners like Namibia and Australia. This growth proves

Saskatchewan continues to supply the reliable and sustainable food, fuel and fertilizer the world needs.

A growing economy allows our government to invest into the programs and services that matter most to people. In response to calls for increased educational funding, an additional \$40 million was announced for the 2023-24 school year. Our government also recently announced funding to establish a Transcatheter Mitral Valve Repair program at the Royal University Hospital, the first of its kind in Saskatchewan. We are moving forward on plans for in-



HON. JEREMY HARRISON  
MLA

~  
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frastructure investments across the province, including new schools, hospitals, long-term care facilities, urgent care centres, and highways.

While summer activities and construction

season are well underway, the province continues to fight wildfires in northern Saskatchewan, and the Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency (SPSA) is working hard to protect people and communities. Ground crews, heavy equipment, helicopters and air tankers are responding to the fires and the SPSA is ensuring food and fuel is accessible to northern communities.

To stay up-to-date on wildfire information, please visit the SPSA website at [www.saskpublicsafety.ca/emergencies-and-response/wildfire-status](http://www.saskpublicsafety.ca/emergencies-and-response/wildfire-status) or contact the wildfire inquiry line at 1-855-559-5502.



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### Grants available for First Nation and Métis communities, community organizations and non-profit organizations



The First Nations and Métis Community Partnership Projects and First Nations and Métis Sponsorship Grant Programs are open for innovative projects and events that support First Nation and Métis communities and organizations.

These grants support community-led initiatives that promote reconciliation and cultural understanding; safe communities, strong families, student achievement, and economic growth.

Scan QR code to learn more.



# Medstead holds playground grand opening

By VILLAGE OF MEDSTEAD

The Village of Medstead and members of the community celebrated the official grand opening of the community's more than \$105,000 playground project on Sunday, June 18. The day's festivities included a ribbon cutting, a BBQ lunch with cake, and lots of play time for the children.

Construction on the project in Centennial Park near the corner of Second Avenue and Second Street began in the spring of 2021. Work included pouring gravel for a base, installation of park furniture and playground equipment, and building a fence, along with associated works. The project was completed later that same year. The project was managed and organized by the Village of Medstead's Playground Committee.

"Thanks to funding from both the Government of Canada and the Government of Saskatchewan, along with support of our village council, support from our community, along with the dedicated volunteers and members of our playground committee, this project is now a reality to be enjoyed by all of the families and children who call Medstead home," said Medstead Mayor Michael Goosney in a statement. "I'm proud of the work

our village accomplished to help make our community even better for the young families moving here and wish to once again thank everyone involved."

The Government of Canada invested \$42,379 toward the project and the Government of Saskatchewan contributed \$35,312. The Village of Medstead funded the remainder.

"Our government is proud to invest more than \$35,000 toward the Village of Medstead's playground project," said Ryan Domotor, MLA for Cut Knife-Turtleford, on behalf of Don McMorris, Saskatchewan's Minister of Government Relations. "It helps position Medstead as an attractive place to live, provides recreational opportunities for youth and strengthens the heart of the community by creating a central place where families can gather."

"Playgrounds are at the heart of neighbourhoods right across the country. Our government is proud to be a partner with the Government of Saskatchewan and the Village of Medstead to make this project a reality – one that will make a big difference in the lives of families and children in the community," said Dominic LeBlanc, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, Infrastructure and Communities, in a statement.



The Village of Medstead has a brand-new playground, thanks to the efforts of volunteers, and provincial and federal funding.

## SARCS grills up \$1,000



The SARCS (Spiritwood Area Recreation, Culture & Sport) summer barbecue season kicked off with a successful first run on June 16. Centrally located on Main Street at the Town Square in Spiritwood, the host committee served burgers barbecued on their large portable grill to 132 hungry noon time customers on a perfectly sunny Friday, raising just over \$1,000. Funds raised from the summer burger sales go toward the SARCS operating fund, as does revenue from renting out the grill.

By BEVRA FEE, Spiritwood Correspondent



The community put a lot of work into getting the new playground ready, with volunteers of all ages helping to share the load.

## 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 - 2<sup>nd</sup> 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  
1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 9:00 a.m.  
Rev. Sarah Urano

### UNITED /ANGLICAN

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

### CATHOLIC SUNDAY

Spiritwood - 9:00 a.m.  
Leoville - 11:00 a.m.  
Chitek Lake - 1:00 p.m.  
SATURDAY  
Medstead - 6 p.m.  
Shell Lake - 8:00 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 1<sup>st</sup> Ave. and 4<sup>th</sup>  
St., Spiritwood)  
Sun., 11 am - Worship  
Service & Sunday School  
Pastor Michael Kluthe  
306-883-2380

### FIELDS OF HOPE (HOFFNUNGSFELDER)

MENNONITE CHURCH  
Glenbush  
Worship - 10:00 am  
1st Sun. (June, July, Aug.)  
Worship - 10:00 am  
at Rabbit Lake  
Mennonite Church

### 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  
306-841-7333

## Food farms should be more widespread

I'm sure there has to be someone famous who long ago observed that the best ideas are often the simplest. In this case it remains relevant.

Last week, more than 370 Yorkton and area Grade 3 students learned more about where their food comes from as they participated in the now long-running 'Food Farm Program'.

It is the Food Farm Program, now in its 10th year, which is a simple idea but also one which is rather brilliant.

The simplicity comes from the basic premise of helping youth better understand and appreciate where their food

comes from – farms – by giving them a day of hands-on education related to farm production.

Classroom education is of course the core of schooling. But when students get out of the school with an opportunity to learn, it tends to stick in the mind because it was a different experience. Personally, I recall class trips to Batoche, to the Natural History Museum, to a wild area south of my hometown to investigate nature far more keenly than any class of algebra. And hands-on elements such as dissecting a frog stick too.

That the idea of Food



CALVIN DANIELS

Farms is only a decade old is perhaps the most surprising thing. But a huge pat on the back to whoever came up with the notion, when Yorkton people pioneered the idea of bringing students out in the field to learn about farming and food production when a 'Pizza Farm' concept was launched.

Not surprisingly, a good idea tends to be picked up by others -- in Swift Current it became a 'Burger and Fries Farm', and in Prince Albert the focus was on farm-grown ingredients that go into soup.

Now, 10 years later, the program is under the umbrella of Agriculture in the Classroom Sask. with 10 sites across the province hosting food farms. Frankly, it probably should be in far more communities.

The reality is that even in small and medium sized cities, youth are increasingly not connected to the farm.

We know of course that there are fewer

and fewer farms – it's a trend dating back to the end of World War One – and so less children are raised on farms.

But it goes beyond growing up on a farm. Increasingly, youth do not have close family operating farms either, so even weekend visits that would have youngsters seeing a combine up close in the fall, or young calves with their mothers, or helping collect eggs, don't happen.

These days, food is perhaps seen as something that comes from the store rather than the farm, with most having no greater understanding of the actual source of a quart of milk than a

bottle of cola. That is frightful for two very-obvious reasons.

On one hand, it's difficult to make good decisions regarding nutritious food and being food secure with limited knowledge of where food comes from.

And, an uninformed populace in terms of farming is concerning to producers, because the consumer can make decisions which are based on little understanding of food production.

Food farms are not of course the complete answer to ensuring people know more about their food, but they are a step in the right direction.

## PA 4-H Show & Sale supports worthy cause

By JORDAN TWISS  
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

Since 2001, the charity steer auction at the Prince Albert Regional 4-H Show and Sale has contributed more than \$200,000 to local charities and causes, including the Rose Garden Hospice, Ronald McDonald House, the Prince Albert Victoria Hospital Foundation, and countless others.

This year continued the show and sale's tradition in successful fashion. With the responsibility falling to the

West P.A. 4-H Beef Club to raise the steer and choose the charity, the group chose to support the River Valley Resilience Retreat, a volunteer-run organization that offers seasonal retreats and weekly peer-support sessions to public safety personnel (firefighters, police officers, and doctors, to name a few) and veterans.

Of course, the West P.A. 4-H Beef Club had help along the way, as JGL Livestock donated the steer to the club and Lake Country Co-op donated beef ration. And when show day came

around, the community stepped up in a big way.

The steer was sold by Dutch auction and was won by Crossroad Farms, who donated the steer back to be resold. The steer was then purchased by Glenmor Equipment for \$5,000, bringing the total to nearly \$26,000 raised for the River Valley Resilience Retreat.

On the show side of the event, winners were as follows:

Grand Champion Female - Shelby

- Woytiuk of Wild Rose 4-H Club Reserve Grand Champion Female - Rebecca Porter of Weldon 4-H Club
- Grand Champion Steer - Shelby Woytiuk of Wild Rose 4-H Club
- Reserve Grand Champion Steer - Alea Beaulac of Wild Rose 4-H Club
- Fremont Trucking Award of Merit: Roper Blanchard
- Steen Agencies Scholarship: Shelby Woytiuk
- Frank Rawlinson Memorial Scholarship: Reign Blanchard



Shelby Woytiuk's Grand Champion Steer with buyer Francis Fremont of Fremont Trucking.



The Charity Steer with Glenmor Equipment.



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

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

# Spiritwood hosts Parkland ball wind-up

By **BEVRA FEE**  
*Spiritwood Correspondent*

June 17 dawned clear and cool, with sunshine promising to bring the heat on day one of the Parkland Minor Ball windup tournament. The gusty north wind died down to a light breeze by midday, and a large crowd accompanied 18 teams for a full day of playoff ball.

The regional event's return to Spiritwood was long overdue but very well received, and made possible by much hard work over recent years to enact and fundraise for a plan for upgraded ball diamonds.

Results at the close of day on Saturday saw the Spiritwood U9-2 team taking the gold in a final against Big River, after having beaten out a pool including Spiritwood 1, Shell Lake, Leoville 1, and Leoville 2.

The U13 final was another match between Spiritwood and Big River, with Big River settling for silver once again. The pool for U13 also included teams from Mistawasis, Shellbrook, Leoville, Canwood, and Debden.

The final match-up of Saturday went into the evening, with the U18 Shellbrook team sending more silver to Big Riv-

er and taking home gold medals (although Big River rocked some solid gold banter). The final for U18 was settled from a pool of Debden, Shellbrook, Big River, and Mistawasis.

Day two of the tournament was a smoke-haze, windy day, but more great ball was showcased in the U15 and U11 categories. Full pools of both ages provided for a busy day, with the ultimate match-ups of Big River 2 against Leoville in the U11, and a final of Shellbrook versus Spiritwood 1 in the U15.

For the U11, the gold medals went to Big River, while in the late game for the U15, Shellbrook brought home the gold.

## Shellbrook teen crowned Sask Rodeo Queen

By **JORDAN TWISS**  
*Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter*

A Shellbrook teen recently became provincial royalty by claiming the Saskatchewan High School Rodeo Association's (SHSRA) Rodeo Queen crown, and already has her sights set on the national title later this summer.

Sunny Schutte, 17, grew up on a farm near Shellbrook and was raised with horses, cats, dogs, and cattle.

"I have been riding horses since before I could walk, and had my own horse by the time I was just three years old," she said, calling herself an animal lover.

As a farm kid, Schutte was exposed to the rodeo world from an early age. Watching other rodeo queens ride around with a maple leaf at every rodeo she went to, and hearing the talk of big events like nationals, she found herself drawn to the idea of the glitz and glamour and the opportunity to stand out from the crowd.

However, it wasn't until 2020, when she was in Grade 8, that she realized she was destined for the rodeo life.

"Rodeo is a very different environment. No matter how you did or where you were sitting in the standings, you could always hear people cheering loud and clear," Schutte said.

"I immediately made lifelong friendships and bonds that I will cherish forever, and learned new ways of horsemanship, drive, strength, and character."

The skills Schutte has acquired since she rode into the rodeo world in 2020 were critical to her success at the SHSRA's provincial competition in Maple Creek this past May. Not only is there a lot of preparation involved in participating in the competition — from horsemanship, to modelling, to a speech and a written test — Schutte only decided to enter the com-

petition 10 days before it began.

While it took a lot of hard work to prepare for the provincial competition on such short notice, Schutte resolved to compete with her head held high, do her best, and have fun, regardless of the outcome.

She says it's this hard work, as well as her young horse, Stormy, and the support of family and friends, that allowed her to claim the SHSRA's provincial Rodeo Queen crown.

"The feeling of the crown hitting my head was like no other; it felt as if all of my hard work was finally paying off," she said. "I was so proud of myself, my horse, and of course thankful for those who helped me get there."

Though winning the provincial crown was cause for Schutte to celebrate, it also marked the beginning of more hard work to get ready for the National High School Finals Rodeo in Gillette, Wyoming, in July.

While the competition's criteria are very much the same — a two-minute memorized speech, horsemanship, modelling, interviews, and a written test — there's much to be organized before Schutte heads down south, including veterinary checks and other paperwork, and finding sponsorships.

In addition, there's also loads of practice time to get in, finding the right outfits, sorting out sleeping and stalling arrangements, and much, much more.

For some, it would be too much. But Schutte wouldn't have it any other way, and she's excited for the chance to represent her province and country.

"I think what I am most looking forward to at the national finals in Gillette would be just the general opportunity it is giving me: to meet new friends, to have the roaring crowd watch, to put a bigger name out there for myself, and to learn and grow with my animals," she said.



Sunny Schutte shows off her horsemanship on her horse, Stormy, during the Saskatchewan High School Rodeo Association's provincial competition.



Shellbrook's Sunny Schutte is Saskatchewan's High School Rodeo Queen, and now has her eyes set on the national title.



The U13 Spiritwood team beat out Big River for gold at the Parkland Ball wind-up in Spiritwood.



Spiritwood's U9-2 team topped Big River to claim gold at the Parkland Ball wind-up in Spiritwood.



The Shellbrook U18 team beat out Big River to win gold at the Parkland Ball wind-up in Spiritwood.



The U15 Shellbrook team topped Spiritwood 1 to claim gold at the Parkland Ball wind-up in Spiritwood.



# Shellbrook Royal Purple hosts seniors for tea

By **JORDAN TWISS**  
*Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter*

An old Royal Purple tradition was continued last Wednesday, when the Shellbrook Royal Purple hosted more than 70 seniors for tea, dessert, entertainment, and some welcome visiting at the Shellbrook Community Hall.

Up until the arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Shellbrook Royal Purple's Senior's Tea was an annual event that gave the organization — and other Roy-



Brooklyn Klaassen and Sara Verbonac perform a skit about a pair of careless pilots.

al Purple lodges in the region and across Canada — an opportunity to show its appreciation for local seniors, as well as give them an opportunity to get out at no cost to them.

When the tradition was revived in 2022 after the relaxation of pandemic protocols, the tea was so well received by its guests, which always include the seniors from Parkland Integrated Health Centre's special care home, the Shellbrook Royal Purple chose to make its revival permanent.

In addition to tea and cakes prepared and provided by the Royal Purple members at each Senior's Tea, guests are always treated to an afternoon of entertainment. Both this year and last, this included music by Gerald Lanes and friends, who got a few couples up to dance with their toe-tapping tunes.

As a special treat, WP Sandin High School teacher Mrs. Pam Boettcher also brought her Grade 8 and 9 students out to provide some entertainment, including music, short skits, dancing, and some neat yo-yo tricks (Mrs. Boettcher's students made a similar appearance in 2022).

"It was nice [to have the kids out]. Seniors enjoy children," Shellbrook Royal Purple member Elaine Perkins said after

2022's event. "Also, it teaches the children to appreciate the seniors, to do something without money involved. It's a very good experience for the children."

To help complete the day and the décor in the Community Hall, the Shell-

brook Flower Shop donated a bouquet of flowers, and Beau 'Lac' Funeral Home donated some door prizes. Meanwhile, Shellbrook Royal Purple Member Leola Skrupski provided a token of appreciation for the student performers.



Shellbrook Royal Purple member Rhonda Lennard serves tea to guests.



The music of Gerald Lanes and friends got guests up to dance.

## Witchekan Wildlife Fed. hosts Gun & Hobby Show

By **BEVRA FEE**  
*Spiritwood Correspondent*

The Witchekan Wildlife Federation held its annual Gun & Hobby Show at the Spiritwood Rec Centre on the weekend of June 17 and 18. With new and returning vendors in the house, the gamut was run from new guns to



Ruth from Ruth & Al's Farm Fresh Goods was a first-time vendor at the Witchekan Wildlife Federation's annual Gun & Hobby Show. She's already planning to return next year.



Patrons have a look at some guns.

hand-crafted doll clothes.

The hobbyists in attendance scored everything in between, including collector guns, archery supplies, fishing gear, knives, plenty of ammo, metal work, western leathercraft and collectibles, home baking, knitting, collector cookbooks, antiques, makeup & health products, Tupperware, and jewellery — some made from spent shell casings!

Over the two-day show, committee President Lyla Ledinski reported that approximately 400 people of all ages took in the event.

Visiting with Ruth from Ruth & Al's Farm Fresh Goods on day two, an obvious dent had been made in her plentiful supply of baking and preserves.

"This was my first year at the show, and I didn't know what to expect — I will definitely be back," she said.

Sunday saw the prize draws made for the raffle items, with prizes of a Savage Axis II 7MM-08 going to Don Booth, a Vortex Diamondback 16-48X65 Spotting Scope going to Amber Toews, and a Northern Meats gift certificate going to Clay Berg.

The kitchen was open both days from pancake breakfast and throughout the day, with Ann Castillo and her crew keeping the daily crowds and vendors well fed.



Ann Castillo and her kitchen crew kept the crowds well fed.

### COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**SPIRITWOOD:** Wapiti Regional Library - Tuesday 9am - 5pm; Wednesday 9am - 5pm; Friday 9am - 5pm  
**LEOVILLE:** Wapiti Regional Library - Wednesday 10am - 4pm; Thursday 10am - 3pm  
**SHELL LAKE:** Wapiti Regional Library - Tuesday 11am - 4pm; Wednesday 12pm - 5pm

**BLAINE LAKE:** Wapiti Library - Wednesday 11am - 6pm; Friday 11am - 5pm; Saturday 10am - 4pm. Contact us for more info 306-497-3130, www.wapitilibrary.ca.

**BIG RIVER:** Wapiti Library - Wednesday 11:30am - 4:30pm; Thursday 11:30am - 4:30pm. Phone # 306-469-2152

**CANWOOD:** Canwood Branch of Wapiti Regional Library. Tuesday 10am - 3:30pm; Thursday 3:30pm - 8pm; Friday 1:30pm - 4:30pm. Kids Club is Fridays 3:30pm - 4:30pm, Crafter's Choice is the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month.

**DEBDEN:** Wapiti Library hours: Tuesday 10am - 3pm; Wednesday 3pm - 7pm. Librarian: Aline Hannon

**LEASK:** Wapiti Library & Legacy Gallery Hours - Tuesday 9am - 2pm; Wednesday 3pm - 6pm; Friday 1pm - 5pm

**MARCELIN:** Wapiti Library - Thursday 2pm - 7pm; Saturday 9am - 2pm. 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 2pm - 6pm; Tuesday 12pm - 8pm; Wednesday 2pm - 6pm; Thursday 12pm - 6pm; Friday 10am - 5pm (Story Time 11am - 12pm); Saturday 10am - 4pm.

**SHELLBROOK:** Canada Day Celebration - Saturday, July 1 starting at 8:30am @ the Shellbrook Pentecostal Church. Free Pancake Breakfast! Free will offering, Shellbrook & Area Food Bank, Silent Auction

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# Shellbrook athletes shine at PA track & field

By **JORDAN TWISS**  
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

WP Sandin High School's track and field season came to an end early this month, as the school's junior track and field team took part in the Prince Albert and Area Track Meet.

At the meet, which includes athletes in Grades 4 through 8, there was a long list of top five finishers across four age groups: novice, atom, peewee, and bantam.

Starting with the novice level, Taylor Cameron scored a fifth place finish in the girls 600-metre event (the only top five finish in this age group).

In what was a strong showing for the atom competitors in track events, Julia Shindle earned first place finishes in the girls 600-metre and 1,000-metre events, and also captured the aggregate

award for having the highest point total. Meanwhile, on the boys side, Camden Olsen scored similar first place finishes in the 600-metre and 1,000-metre races, and Will Kasner topped the field in the 60-metre dash and came in second in the 150-metre.

Elsewhere, Jaylynn Helm placed second in the girls 150-metre and fourth in the 60-metre, Abby McNiece finished fifth in the 1,000-metre race, and Gavin Smart ran to a fifth place finish in the boys 600-metre.

In the field events, Adyson Wallin finished first in girls shot put and second in girls long jump, Julia Shindle placed first in triple jump, Jaylynn Helm came in first in long jump, and Embree Schmitz ended with a second place finish in the triple jump and a fifth place finish in the high jump.

For the boys, Caleb Philp finished second in triple jump and third in high jump, Tanner Mason placed third in ball throw, and Will Kasner finished fifth in triple jump.



Will Kasner lines up for the 150-metre event at the P4A Track Meet. He placed second in the event.



Dalen Thiel competes in the 1,200-metre event at the P4A Track Meet. He not only finished first, but he also set a new record.

With all these strong finishes, the athletes earned the highest combine score at the atom level.

Moving up to peewee, Reagan Collins had a strong day with second place finishes in both the boys 80-metre and 1,200-metre races, Brielle Nahorniak placed third in the girls 800-metre, and June Robin finished fourth in the 80-metre race.

The peewee athletes also shone in the field events, with June Robin placing first in both long jump and triple jump, Paige Herndier finishing third in triple jump, and Thora Lenz placing fourth in discus.

For the boys, meanwhile, Reagan Collins placed first in long jump, Julian Kereluk finished second in triple jump, and Hunter Smith placed fourth in shot put.

Once all the points were tallied, June Robin claimed the aggregate award in the peewee girls division, and the peewee team also earned the highest combined team score.

At the bantam level, Dalen Thiel led the way with a record-setting boys 1,200-metre run, and also earned a third place finish in the 150-metre event. Meanwhile, Cashian Sandry finished first in the 800-metre, and fifth in the 80-metre.

On the girls side, Ayli Schatkoske finished first in the 80-metre event and second in the 800-metre, while Presley Low earned second place finishes in both the 80 and 150-metre events. Finally, Samantha Kennedy placed fourth in the 800-metre, and Kendall Skauge came in fifth in the 150-metre.

In the field events, Samantha Kennedy topped the competition in girls long

jump and finished fourth in triple jump, Presley Low placed second in long jump, Kallie Smith finished second in discus, and Ayli Schatkoske placed third in triple jump.

For the boys, Arland Anderson finished first in triple jump and third in long jump, and Cashian Sandry placed fourth in long jump.

Like the atom and peewee teams, the bantam team also captured the highest combined team score.

Last but not least, in the relays, the atom boys, bantam boys, and bantam girls all finished first, while the atom girls placed second. Meanwhile, the peewee boys finished third, the novice girls and peewee girls both placed fourth, and the novice boys finished sixth.

"Overall, our athletes competed at a high level and we look forward to next season," coach Devon Thorpe said.



Julia Shindle leads the pack in the 600-metre event at the P4A Track Meet. She placed first in the event.

## Local athletes compete at Provincial Track & Field

By **JORDAN TWISS**  
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

The SHSAA Provincial Track and Field meet was held in Saskatoon on June 2 and 3, with a strong contingent of local athletes taking part in the competition.

Shellbrook's WP Sandin High School brought a total of 16 athletes to the meet, ranging from Grade 9 to 12. Of those, nine managed top 15 finishes in their respective events at the intermediate, junior, and senior levels.

Starting with the intermediate girls, Marcail Philp claimed fifth place in the 800-metre event, as well as an 8th place

finish in discus, while Emersyn Nahorniak placed 10th in the 800-metre and 14th in the 400m, and Brooklyn Klaassen finished 14th in javelin.

For the boys, Ezra Peake placed ninth in javelin, Cole Smith finished 11th in shot put, and Matt Muller placed 15th in discus.

Rounding out the results for WP Sandin athletes, Austin Helm finished ninth in the junior boys long jump, Brooke Cadrain placed 14th in senior girls triple jump, and Devin Cadrain placed fifth in the intermediate 4x100m relay as a member of team North Central.

"A number of athletes were able to improve their personal best scores and we are very proud of all our athletes," coach

Devon Thorpe said. "Our program continues to grow and we look forward to raising the competition level next season."

Taking a look at the wider area, there was also plenty of representation from Spiritwood, Debden, Big River, and Blaine Lake.

Starting with Spiritwood, Emeri Simonar placed fourth in the intermediate girls 3,000-metre event and fifth in the 1,500-metre, while Sarah McNabb finished eighth in the intermediate girls 400-metre race and placed 4th in the 4x100m relay with the Battle West relay team. Last but not least, Alex Tkachuk placed 15th in the intermediate boys 1,500-metre event.

From Big River, Fallyn Klassen came third in intermediate girls discus, Austin Hetu placed fourth in senior boys shot put, and Kuba Pisz finished 11th in junior boys discus.

As for Debden's athletes, Kim Rabbitskin placed sixth in intermediate girls high jump and eighth in hurdles, while Elizabeth Jean finished ninth in senior girls shot put.

Finally, Ty Mix from Blaine Lake finished seventh in the intermediate boys 100-metre event, and 10th in long jump.



Spiritwood High School student Emeri Simonar receives her fourth place ribbon from the intermediate girls 3,000-metre race at the SHSAA Provincial Track and Field Meet.



Emersyn Nahorniak goes for distance in intermediate girls triple jump at the SHSAA Provincial Track and Field Meet.



Marcail Philp readies to throw in the intermediate girls shot put at the SHSAA Provincial Track and Field Meet.



Spiritwood High School student Sarah McNabb with her eighth place ribbon from the intermediate girls 400-metre race at the SHSAA Provincial Track and Field Meet.

## Bo Levi hoping to resurrect career in Hamilton

Bo Levi Mitchell is hoping a change of scenery will lead to a return to Canadian Football League stardom.

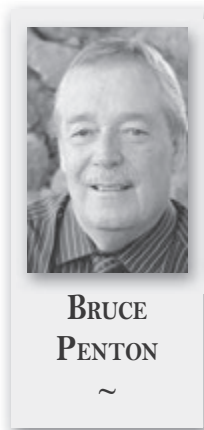
The starting quarterback for the Hamilton Tiger-Cats after 10 seasons with the Calgary Stampeders, Mitchell is draped in the black and yellow colours of the Ti-Cats this year after an off-season trade. Hamilton acquired his 'rights' in exchange for a couple of draft picks, but Mitchell made it known he planned to test free agency. The Ti-Cats, though, opened the bank vault and seduced Mitchell with an offer of \$500,000 per year for three years.

Mitchell had an outstanding career in Calgary, guiding the team to Grey Cup victories in 2014 and 2018. He was twice honoured as the CFL's Most Outstanding Player. But things went sour in 2022. A series of injuries and sloppy play (13 interceptions compared to 10 TD passes) eventually led to Mitchell's benching, with Jake Maier taking over as the Stamps' starting quar-

terback and deeming Mitchell expendable.

The Ti-Cats, who opened their season in Winnipeg with a 42-31 loss to three-time Western Conference champion Blue Bombers, need to have the 2016 version of Mitchell at the helm, because his Steeltown backup is Matthew Shiltz, whose CFL experience consists of only 35 passes — 24 of them complete. The Ti-Cats' season could be a disaster if Mitchell happened to get injured again, or resumed his habit of throwing the ball to opposing players.

While Mitchell's situation in Hamilton is one of the more interesting quarterback stories in the CFL this year, there are many other QB storylines. Only two teams this year — Winnipeg and Edmonton — are starting the season with their full-time 2022 quarterbacks — Zach Collaros with the Bombers and Taylor Cornelius with the Elks. Otherwise, there has been substantial QB movement around the league: Trevor Harris starts in



BRUCE PENTON

Saskatchewan after former stops in Ottawa and Montreal; Cody Fajardo will guide the Alouettes in Montreal after a pretty good run in Regina; Vernon Adams takes over as starter in B.C. after the departure of Nathan Rourke to the NFL; Chad Kelly is the man on the spot in Toronto, where he started only one game last year for the Argos but sparked the team to the Grey Cup title in November; and Jeremiah Masoli gets the starting call in Ottawa, where he started only four games for the Redblacks last year before suffering a season-ending injury following a dangerous hit by Saskatchewan's

Garrett Marino.

Mitchell, who turned 33 in March, has put together a 90-25-2 regular-season record over his career, and win No. 100 shouldn't be out of reach in 2023. Offensive co-ordinator Tommy Condell told sportsnet.ca "I think what's great about seeing him out here is his level of control of everything and just the aura he brings." At 33, Mitchell is far from old as a quarterback. Tiger-Cat fans will be overjoyed if the new surroundings bring out the best in the CFL vet.

• Comedy guy Steve Burgess of Vancouver: "Just watch, this Stanley Cup Final is going to be great for hockey. Fort Lauderdale and Vegas kids are going to be out on backyard rinks this winter with brand-new flippers."

• Vancouver comedian Torben Rolfson: "Remember when 'Fear the Beard' meant James Harden, instead of an Alek Manoah start?"

• Another one from Burgess: "Relax people. Sportswriters covering the pro golf tour can now

be killed and dismembered ONLY if written permission has been received from tournament organizers."

• Golf journalist Geoff Shackelford on the PGA Tour-LIV merger: "And now the world has PGA Tour Chairman Yasir Al-Rumayyan. Or, as DP World Tour chief Keith Pelley called him in a Golf Channel interview, His Excellency. Barf."

• Golf journalist Shane Bacon, lamenting the recent focus on off-course instead of on-course news: "The focus has been on wallets instead of wedges."

• Comedy writer Alex Kaseberg: "Don't get so upset yet golf fans, the PGA merger with Saudi-backed LIV isn't final yet. Rumour has it ISIS might start a tour and make better offers."

• Comedian Gary Bachman: "The Miami Heat are not as tall and physical as the Denver Nuggets. They need to make a trip to Rent-a-Centre."

• Bachman again, with a non-sports note: "The smoke from Canada has actually improved New

Jersey's air quality."

• Columnist Sally Jenkins of the Washington Post: "Why would the PGA Tour join forces with a vermin-populated fourth-rate start-up such as LIV Golf, a comedic failure that can't command any ratings, headed by that king of the white mice, Greg Norman?"

• RJ Currie of sports-deke.com: "Sportsnet president Scott Moore once said he roots with his heart for the Habs and with his wallet for all Canadian NHL clubs. So he no longer has a team to cheer in the playoffs — not for love nor money."

• fark.com headline: "Everyone has a price; the Saudis found the PGA Tour's."

• Phil Mushnick of the New York Post: "Well, shut my laptop! Just when I'm ready to ridicule MLB Network for scrolling another absurd stat — 'Mariners are 0-8 when allowing 10+ runs' — the Braves beat the Mets, 13-10."

Care to comment? Email [brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca](mailto:brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca)

## Parkland Chapter of superannuates celebrate

On June 1, 2023, the Parkland Chapter of Superannuated Teachers celebrated the 50th anniversary of the provincial organization at Shell Lake. Forty-nine people were in attendance, some from as far away as Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, and British Columbia. The oldest member in attendance was Phyllis Johnson, at an age of 93 years young.

President Emile Tetreault welcomed everyone, and souvenir anniversary pins were given to each superannuate. Sylvia Jones, one of the two surviving founding members of the Parkland Chapter, had the honour of cutting the ceremonial cake.

Sylvia also gave an excellent presentation of the history of the Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan (STS) and the Parkland Chapter. She reminded those in attendance of the #1 goal of the creation of the STS organization, which was to unite the superannuates socially and professionally, and be a self-help group to look after each other as they age together. Sylvia had also brought three huge albums of pictures, which she had been compiling for over 30 years.

Various games, such as ladder golf, bean bag toss, and ring

toss had been set out for people to enjoy, but unfortunately the rain brought this possibility to a halt. Nevertheless, under the shelter of the gigantic gazebo, everyone was able to peruse the albums, socialize, and reminisce.

A delicious supper was served by the Shell Lake Café. Following the meal, everyone sat back and enjoyed the music and singing of our special entertainer, Gilles Francoeur. At the age

of 81, Gilles still entertains as often as three or four days per week at nursing homes and special events.

Gilles sang many songs, some dating back to the 50s, as well as songs popular today. Many superannuates enjoyed singing along with Gilles.

Around 9 p.m., the evening came to a close, and as people said their goodbyes, many expressed positives comments on the celebration.



Gilles Francoeur provides entertainment for those in attendance.



Sylvia Jones, founding member of the Parkland Chapter of Superannuated Teachers, cuts the cake commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan organization.

## OBITUARY

## Leonard Raymond Schock



his three children: Dwight (Cyla) Schock, of Cold Lake, Alberta, Wes (Tamara) Schock, of New York, USA, and Rae Ann (Jeffrey) Paziuk, of Prince Albert, Saskatchewan; eight grandchildren: Gunnar (Joanna) Schock and their children, Gracie and Ayrton, Kiersten Schock (Jonathan Hall), Joelle (Justin) Barney; Tyler (Sara) Schock and their son, Weston, Danielle Schock (Kolten Anderson); Koleban (Brianna) Paziuk and their sons, Carter and Liam, Zachary Paziuk (Hailey Kristian), and Adam Paziuk (Andrea Dodig).

Leonard is also survived by his brother, Louis (Leona) Schock;

sister, Sylvia (John) Medvesky; sister, Joyce Guay; sister, Doreen Feduniw; sister, Dail (Bill) Fusick; brother-in-law, Arnold Nielsen; and sister-in-laws, Connie Schock and Sharon Schock.

He was predeceased by his mother and father, Myrtle and George Schock; his sister, Louise Nielsen; his brothers, Lawrence Schock, Stanley Schock, Floyd Schock (in infancy), and sister, Loretta Schock (in infancy); his brother-in-law, Noel Guay, and his brother-in-law, Arsen Feduniw.

Born and raised on the family farm, farming was Leonard's passion. He also worked at the body shop in Spiritwood

with Phil Dufour, drove a school bus for 25+ years, owned and operated with Shirley 'L+S Feeds' in Spiritwood, and had a home-based meat cutting business, 'The Butcher Block', all while farming and raising cattle and pigs.

Leonard loved to fish at West Lake and Little Shell. He enjoyed watching sports, especially his favourite teams, the Toronto Maple Leafs, and the Toronto Blue Jays. As a young man, he played softball, and was the pitcher for the Spiritwood Imperials. Leonard was a great dancer, and enjoyed hall dances and good old time country music.

On May 7th, 1966, Leonard and Shirley

were married in Spiritwood, where they made their home and started their family. In 1969, they bought the family farm from his parents, Myrtle and George Schock. Their home was a warm, welcoming place for anyone; the coffee was always on, and Leonard loved to sit and share stories and jokes for hours.

Travelling wasn't Leonard's forte, because it meant leaving the farm, but a few times he made the sacrifice, and he and Shirley enjoyed vacations in Las Vegas, Hawaii, Yuma, Mexico, and Florida.

In 2016, Leonard and Shirley made the tough decision to move to Saskatoon, due to Leonard's

health issues. Although leaving the farm was difficult, it wasn't all bad, as it brought them closer to several of their grandchildren, and Leonard's brother, Louis, who faithfully took him for coffee every week.

In April of 2020, Leonard had to be moved into Samaritan Place, where he received the best of care until his last day. Shirley and the family will always be grateful for the care he received there, and the support given by so many.

A celebration of Leonard's life will be held on July 22nd at 2:00PM in the Shell Lake Hall, where we can remember together one who loved so much, and was loved by so many.

## GOOD NEWS

## SMALL THINGS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

By RANDALL MCLEOD  
Immanuel Lutheran, Parkside

Recently a friend of mine told me of a high school yearbook entry where a beautiful young woman noted that she felt like the "p" in Raspberry. Taking a giant leap of presumption, one could easily think that she means that she feels unimportant, unseen, unnecessary even. That is what I would like to address.

If we are to assume that small, quiet things are unimportant, we would be horribly wrong. Consider: to, two, too. All sound precisely the same, but one silent letter changes everything. There, their, they're. Again one small silent thing changes everything. Your, you're, yore, same thing. Or what about punctuation, as Jesus notes, every "jot and

title" is important. Let's eat, gramma. Let's eat, gramma?

Let's eat gramma.

Punctuation is small, but it matters. So how about our current text?

Raspberry - a. a loud, abrasive, vibrating or spluttering noise made with the lips and tongue to express contempt. Or b. any sign or expression of displeasure or derision.

Raspberry - Raspberry derives its name from raspise, "a sweet rose-colored wine" (mid-15th century),

So, we see that one small, timid letter, changes something rude and abrasive into something sweet and beautiful to behold. We tend to think that to be meaningful, our lives needs to be loud and proud and up front like the capital "R".

Not so. If that were true, then why do

we see so many "rock stars" and "movie stars" suffering and dying from suicide or drug and alcohol abuse. Should they not be the happiest people on earth?

The truth is, every life has meaning and purpose, beginning with the fact that you are made in the image of God and rapidly followed with the fact that God Himself formed you in your mother's womb. He has a plan for your life, and it is a plan for something good, not evil. God loves you and cares for you, so much so that He died for you.

The world is made better by the millions of small, quiet people who do the millions of small quiet things for others, every day. Our feelings in this matter are not what truly matters.

Let me leave you with the comforting words of Jesus: "Then the King will say to those at His right hand, Come, you

blessed of My Father [you favoured of God and appointed to eternal salvation], inherit (receive as your own) the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

"Then the just and upright will answer Him, Lord, when did we see You hungry and gave You food, or thirsty and gave You something to drink? And when did we see You a stranger and welcomed and entertained You, or naked and clothed You? And when did we see You sick or in prison and came to visit You? And the King will reply to them, Truly I tell you, in so far as you did it for one of the least [in the estimation of men] of these My brethren, you did it for Me. [Prov. 19:17.]" Matthew, 25:34, 37-40 AMPC

Small things make a big difference, so can you.

## Spiritwood Library hosts Regional KidsFirst

By HEATHER GATZKE  
Librarian, Spiritwood Library

Chantelle Sprenger with Regional KidsFirst visited the Spiritwood Library on Friday, June 2 to host activities for children. The session started at 10:30 a.m. and finished at noon.

Chantelle brought with her lots of activities, each one to promote development and learning in the early years. They started with some group songs and action songs, then stories. After, she had different stations set up that included colouring, bowling, tunnel play, playdough, mud pies, and blocks.

She ended with a special session of cupcake decorating with lots of sprinkles. Each child was then able to eat their cupcake.

A fun morning was had by all. This was the last program at the library before a break for summer. Regional KidsFirst will return in the fall, with dates to be announced closer to September.

Regional KidsFirst provides group opportunities, events

and tools to families in smaller urban and rural communities across the province where early learning opportunities may be limited. Programming is focused on making early learning opportunities more accessible and growing parent knowledge and skills.



From story time to colouring, there were lots of activities for early learners to take part in during Regional KidsFirst's wind-up at the Spiritwood Library on June 2.

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## CARD OF THANKS

A huge thank you to family and friends who celebrated my 95th birthday with me.  
- Katie Hoehne

We would like to express thanks to all the staff at the Debden Manor and Shellbrook Hospital for their wonderful care of Jean Springett. Also thanks to all who visited Jean at her home, manor and hospital.  
- The Family

The family of Francis Kinnaird would like to thank everyone for their kindness and support. A monetary donation has been made to Telemiracle in memory of Francis Kinnaird.

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# The flax mill at Petrofka

By **JONATHAN J. KALMAKOFF**

Following their arrival on the Canadian Prairies in 1899, the Doukhobors regularly grew crops of flax. The fibers of the plant were retted, spun and woven to produce linen, while the seeds were fried, ground and pressed to extract cooking oil. The following is a history of the mill erected by the Doukhobors of Petrofka (aka Petrofka) village on the North Saskatchewan River to manufacture flax seed oil.

## Background

In August 1899, 155 Doukhobor immigrant settlers arrived at the North Saskatchewan River, 12 miles south of present-day Blaine Lake, SK. There, on its west bank, they chose a site with a strong spring of clear water, rolling grassy hills and warm sandy soil that reminded them of their former home in the Kars region of Russia. They named their village Petrofka (Петрофка) after their spiritual leader, Peter Vasil'evich Verigin, and his name day, Petrov Den, a Doukhobor religious holiday.

The village initially consisted of 24 crude half-dugouts built into the side of a ravine running down into the river. However, by the following year, the Doukhobors moved to a more level upland site, where they built 28 log houses facing into a single central street. Labouring under the motto, "Toil and Peaceful Life", the Petrofka Doukhobors strove to improve their material circumstances.

Within a few short years, the industrious villagers increased

their horse herd from 11 to 41, cows from 5 to 93, sheep from none to 38, plows from 6 to 15, and cultivated acreage from 30 to 1,257 acres. In 1901, they established a water-powered grist mill for grinding wheat into flour on a creek 3 miles north of the village jointly with the villages of Troitskoye and Terpeniye. That same year, they began operation of a river ferry crossing and established a Quaker-run school in the village.

It was during this period of rapid progress and development that the Doukhobors of Petrofka decided to build a mill (Russian: mel'nitsa) for the production of flax oil in their village.

## Building the Mill

The task of designing, building and operating the flax mill was given to Ivan Fedorovich Strel'ioff. Strel'ioff had established a reputation in the village for being a "very inventive and capable" individual with a knack for improvisation and innovation.

For instance, Strel'ioff built a boat with a foot-crank-operated paddle wheel for crossing the North Saskatchewan River in half the time it took a boat with oars. Before there was a ferry crossing, and villagers had to walk 20 miles east to Rosthern for supplies, then carry them home on their backs, he assembled a wheelbarrow-like cart with a large, 4-foot diameter wheel, enabling him to easily push large loads of supplies over rough terrain to Rosthern and back. Strel'ioff also made a bicycle, using wheels from spinning wheels, homemade sprockets made from

a spade and a chain with links shaped from wire.

Harnessing his creativity, Strel'ioff designed a rolling stone crusher mill of the type used by the Doukhobors in the 19th century Russian Caucasus. Using a slab of limestone drawn from the riverbank, he dressed it by hand to fashion a large, circular 3-foot-diameter, 8-inch-thick millstone. He dressed another limestone slab to form a 5-foot-diameter, 8-inch-thick circular concave base.

Standing the millstone upright on the base (which lay flat), he fixed a long horizontal shaft through the hole in the middle of the millstone. The horizontal shaft was fixed to a vertical shaft that freely rotated in the hole in the middle of the base. The millstone was thus held upright by the axis and the handle of the horizontal shaft could be pushed, causing the millstone to roll along the circumference of the base.

Strel'ioff also designed and built various ancillary equipment for the mill, including a frying plate and oil press, both of which are described in detail below.

A two-storey log structure with clay-plaster and a sod roof was erected in the village to house the grinding mill, frying plate and oil press. The millhouse was located at the northwest end of the village.

## Processing Flax

With the flax mill operational, the processing and milling of flax (Russian: len) at Petrofka followed a fairly well-established routine.

*Continued on page 16*

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Petrofka village, c. 1903. The millhouse (circled) appears at the upper northwest end of the village. BC Archives, C-01623.

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# Royal Purple recognizes poster contest winners



Royal Purple member Pauline Mason presents to Grade 2 student Ellia Johnson from Leask who placed 1st at the local level. *Photos courtesy of RHONDA LENNARD*



Royal Purple members Pat Radchuk and Rhonda Lennard present to Grade 5 student Gwyn Phan from Shellbrook who placed 1st at the local level.



Royal Purple members Pat Radchuk and Rhonda Lennard present to Grade 3 student Karmen Eashappie from Shellbrook who placed 1st at the local level.



Royal Purple member Pauline Mason presents to Grade 2 student Sayward Holowachuk-Cooper from Leask, who placed 1st at the local level.

## The flax mill at Petrofka

### Continued from 14

In late summer, the women of the village harvested the flax fields. The flax was pulled up from the roots (rather than cut with a scythe or sickle) and tied into a bundle or sheaf. The sheaves were then hauled to a hardened, well-trodden area of the harvested field, known as the 'threshing floor' (Russian: tok) where the women beat the heads of the sheaves with a hand-held wooden mallet (Russian: chekmar'), loosening the seeds from the seed heads.

Once the seeds were threshed, the sheaves were tak-



Doukhobor women threshing flax with wooden mallets in Saskatchewan, c. 1904. BC Archives, I-67671.

## Katie Hoehne turns 95



A great celebration was held for Katie Hoehne's 95th birthday at the Leask Senior's Centre on June 10 and 12. Family and friends were present to celebrate the milestone with her. *Submitted by SANDY HAMILTON*

en down to the river for soaking or 'retting'. They were placed in 6 to 18 inches of water, anchored down by smooth river rocks so that the current would not carry them away. After a week to ten days, the flax was cleared of its outer, wood-like straw, leaving the inner, cotton-like fibers. The fibers were given a final washing, then carried up the steep bank to the village, where they were placed on clotheslines to dry. Once dry, it was spun on spinning wheels into yarn, then woven on a loom into linen for sewing garments.

Meanwhile, the women and children rubbed the skins off the threshed flax seeds by hand at the threshing floor, then hauled the seed in bags to the village flax mill for processing. When there was a sufficient volume of flax seed for milling, Ivan Fedorovich Strelieff operated the mill as follows:

### Milling Process

As raw flax oil has a flat, unpalatable taste, the flax seeds were first fried on a frying plate (Russian: skovoroda) set upon a stone base; the stone was plastered around to keep the smoke, fire and heat concentrated under the plate. The flax seeds were roasted over a low fire and stirred frequently, until a certain taste was obtained.

The next step was grinding. A horse was hitched to the horizontal shaft of the grinding mill (Russian: mel'nitsa). Roasted flax seeds were spread along the track of the rolling millstone. The horse was then walked around the mill, causing the millstone to roll along the circumference of the base, crushing the seed. Several rounds were made, with the seeds continually mixed to ensure thorough grinding. Once ground, the crushed seeds were removed and the process was repeated with more seed.

The final step was extraction. This was done by a homemade oil press (Russian: stupa) made of a hollowed-out log with grated metal filters at the bottom. The ground flax seed was placed inside the hollowed-out log. A second, upper log (that fit smoothly into the hollowed-out log, via a spiral screw drive) was then attached. The miller then walked around, turning this wooden spiral to create proper pressure; thus the oil was extracted and oozed through the grated metal filters at the bottom of the press into pails. To release the pressure and to take out the oil cakes left at the bottom of the press, the spiral lever was spun in reverse. Once the extracting process began, it continued day and night until completed.

The oil cakes, a nutritious byproduct of the extracting process, were fed to the village cattle. The raw extracted oil was run through a fine filter, then poured into bottles or cans for domestic use.

The flax oil (Russian: olifa or oleya) was used by the Doukhobors for frying potatoes and other foodstuffs, and for pouring over sauerkraut, a particularly favorite dish of their people.

### Operation and Dismantling

The flax mill at Petrofka was the only one of its kind in the district; the only other plant in the Doukhobor 'Saskatchewan Colony' was operated by Mikhail Mikhailovich Chernoff, 16 miles north in the village of Spasovka. The Petrofka mill was community owned and maintained, serving not only the village, but also

the neighbouring villages of Troitskoye and Terpeniye. It operated for a decade, from 1901 to 1911, at which time most villagers moved out onto their individual homesteads.

Thereafter, the millhouse ceased operation and was dismantled for building material, with the millstone and base laid out on the ground beside. Peter P. Markoff (1906-1997), whose family homesteaded the village quarter, recalled playing near the abandoned millstone as a young boy. Jeanette (née Postnikoff) Lodoen (1936-2023), whose family later purchased the village quarter, similarly recalled playing near the stone in her girlhood. Indeed, the millstone lay at the former village site, half-buried and largely forgotten, for over seventy years.

### Commemorative Monument

In 1985, Gregory and Zonia Postnikoff, then-owners of the village quarter, donated the millstone and its base to the Town of Blaine Lake to serve as a commemorative historic marker. Peter Esakin excavated and hauled the stones to their new location. The stones were installed in a memorial garden on a concrete pad and enclosure beside the Blaine Lake Wapiti Public Library.

In 2012, as part of the Town of Blaine Lake Centenary, a bronze plaque was installed at the millstone marker, inscribed as follows: "This plaque commemorates the GRAIN MILLING STONE from the Doukhobor village of Petrofka. In 1899 the massive immigration of some 7600 Doukhobors from villages in Russia came to Canada. They settled in villages of similar identity to their homes in Russia. The village of Petrofka was established in 1900 (1899). The milling stone became part of their ability to sustain themselves. The village was disbanded in the late 1920's. The milling stone was donated by Gregory and Zonia Postnikoff in an effort to remember "our past"."

Today the millstone marker at Blaine Lake commemorates the industry, ingenuity and pioneer spirit of the Doukhobors of Petrofka and their expert miller, Ivan Fedorovich Strelieff. It also stands as a testament to what can be locally achieved, using the material resources at hand, when neighbours work together for a common purpose.



Millstone monument facing west with Blaine Lake grain elevators in background.

*Photo by Jonathan J. Kalmakoff*