

Shellbrook Chronicle & Spiritwood Herald

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www.shellbrookchronicle.com | www.spiritwoodherald.com

Shell Lake Hey Days a traditional crowd pleaser



Horseback riders trot along during the 40th annual Shell Lake Hey Days parade.

By **BEVRA FEE**
Spiritwood Herald Reporter

The 40th Annual Shell Lake Home-steader Hey Days turned in the largest crowd in recent memory. The weekend event spanned July 14, 15, and 16, with something for everyone young and old.

After 40 years, the event is still a strong draw for many in the area, as well as the lake crowd residing at the parks in the area for the summer. With weather that was nice enough to enjoy a parade but not hot enough to be at the lake, conditions were favourable for the wide range of outdoor activities.

The popular cinnamon bun pre-order sale tallied 27 dozen, sending 324 of the baked delicacies out to the eager buyers.

Another food favourite of the weekend was the Partners in Worship pancake breakfast, held outdoors at the grounds of the church. The breakfast provided a classic kick off to visit and get an overview of who was around for the day, as well as providing the ideal preface to the Main Street parades.

First up was the children's parade, with over 100 speedy kids on bicycles or in wagons pulled by parents.

"I had to let them out early. It was impossible to hold 106 kids back any longer," commented Joy Ardagh.

One of the most beloved icons of the day is the main parade, showcasing horses and riders, antique vehicles, decked out wagons, and the clowns and unicycle. Some of the entries in

the Thickwood Trails Snowmobile Club Show & Shine joined in the parade, before idling down to the gazebo to line up for the car show.

New to the Hey Days, the Show & Shine was a smashing success, with upwards of 50 vehicles of every make and vintage. Entries were arrayed in a wide circle outlining the perimeter of the central gazebo area, and from the first arrivals until well into the afternoon, the crowd of appreciative onlookers never waned.

Nearby at the tennis court was a popular pickleball tournament. Another new event at Hey Days, the pickleball tournament also held the attention of the adults in attendance at the event most of the day.

Next to the outdoor rink at the centre of the village was the petting zoo, a hot spot for all the youngsters who were able to pet a donkey, miniature horse, mule, furry beasts, feathered creatures, and of course...cats! A stone's throw away was the hula hoop contest, the burger sale (popularity evidenced by the lineup), sno cones, and old-time music.

For an annual event that has been running for 40 years, the Hey Days provided plenty of new experiences to add to the old traditions.

Most events were free to enjoy, with many local sponsors covering the cost of bringing the show to town. Once again, the job was very well done by the organizers and vendors.

More photos on page 16



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U15 teams nab gold at softball Provincials

By **JORDAN TWISS**

Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

It was a golden weekend for Shellbrook and area ball teams and players, as U15 Provincials were played in boys and girls softball, and boys baseball.

In U15 AW girls softball, the Parkland Predators were among the pool of five teams competing down in Regina from July 14 to 16. Their fellow competitors included the Moose Jaw Ice, South Central Venom, Battleford Bandits, and Unity Panthers.

Helmed by head coach Dillan Simonar and assistant coaches Allison Simonar and Nicole Philp, the Parkland Predators are a regional team comprised of girls from around the parkland area, including Shell Lake, Debden, Shellbrook, Rabbit Lake, and Waldheim.

Going into the tournament, Philp says the team felt like it had some unfinished business from the 2022 Provincial tournament, at which it lost in the final to bring home silver instead of gold.

Playing with this chip on its shoulder, the team came out swinging from its opening game in the round robin, topping the Moose Jaw Ice 7-0. Later that evening, it kept its second opponent, the Unity Panthers, scoreless with a 9-0 victory.

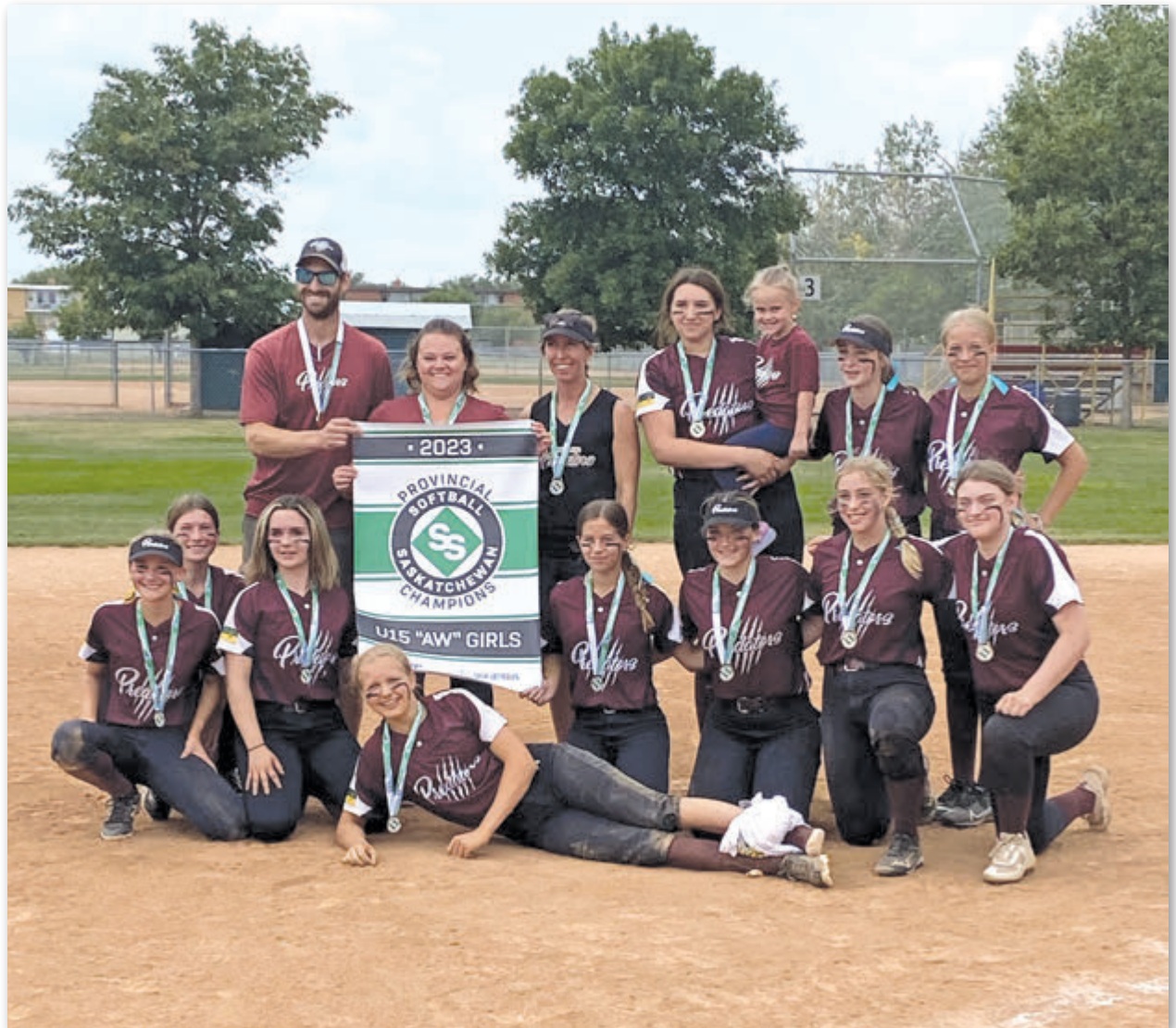
Closing out an undefeated preliminary round, the Predators faced their first test in the South Central Venom, emerging on the right side of a close 10-8 final score and earning not only a trip to the U15 AW gold medal game, but also a berth at Westerns.

Facing the Battleford Bandits with the gold medal on the line, the Predators found themselves tested like they hadn't been throughout the tournament. In the end, the team wouldn't let history repeat itself.

"[We were] down 6-5 going into the bottom of the 7th inning with last bat," Philp recalled. "Emmy Leding hit the walk-off hit to bring in two runs to win the game."

Thanks to their golden performance, the Parkland Predators will be heading off to Richmond, B.C. to compete in Westerns from Aug. 9 to 13.

U15 Boys Softball



The Parkland Predators are U15 AW Provincials gold medallists. Back row, left to right: head coach Dillan Simonar, assistant coaches Allison Simonar and Nicole Philp, Peyton Turner holding Islah Simonar, Ayli Schatkoske, and Brielle Nahorniak. Front row, left to right: Emery Simonar, Emmy Leding, Hayden Peterson, Marvail Philp, Kendall Skauge, Avery Cyr, Sarah McNabb, and Emily King.

With no local team in the running in U15 boys softball, local players suited up for both the Valley Vikings and the Prince Albert Astros at Provincials in Saskatoon over the weekend. There, they were among six teams vying for gold, including the Saskatoon Selects, Ituna Blue Jays, Delisle Diamond Dogs, and Ochapowace Loud Voice.

Both teams opened the round robin with convincing wins, as the Vikings thrashed the Blue Jays 14-2, and the Astros blasted the Loud Voice 12-1. And they continued winning in dominating fashion through day one, with the Astros downing the Diamond Dogs 17-3, and the Vikings silencing the Loud Voice 12-2.

The Astros and the Vikings cemented undefeated

preliminary rounds on day two of the tournament, as the Astros topped the Selects 15-1, and the Vikings blanked the Diamond Dogs 16-0.

The bats continued to lead the way for the teams in the championship round on Sunday, as the Vikings beat the Loud Voice 12-3 and the Astros bested the Selects 12-2 to clinch their spots in the gold medal game.

In the end, the Vikings outpaced the Astros, thanks to an in-the-park grand slam from Shellbrook's Aidan Tait, to end the tournament with a 13-5 victory and the gold medals.

Both the Vikings and the Astros are now bound for Nationals, which will be hosted by Prince Albert Aug. 9 to 13.

U15 Boys Baseball

In baseball action, the U15 Shellbrook Knights competed in their first Provincials in Martensville over the weekend. The team had a tough go of it, finishing second in its pool before falling to the Saskatoon Royal Thunder in the semifinals by a score of 5-3.

This weekend, it will be the U13 Shellbrook Knights' turn to get in on the Provincials action, as they head to Yorkton to compete for gold from July 21-23.

NOTICE OF CALL FOR NOMINATIONS TOWN OF SPIRITWOOD

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

Councillor: Town of Spiritwood

Number to be elected: One

will be received by the undersigned on the 16th day of August, 2023 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Spiritwood Town Office;

and during regular business hours on July 21st to August 16th, 2023 at the Spiritwood Town Office.

Nomination forms may be obtained at the following location:

www.townofspiritwood.ca

Spiritwood Town Office, 212 Main Street

Public Disclosure Statements are required to be submitted with all nomination forms.

Dated this 21st day of July, 2023.

Rhonda Saam
Returning Officer

PUBLIC NOTICE

Rural Municipality of Big River No. 555

Public Notice is hereby given that the Council of the RM of Big River No. 555 intends to adopt a bylaw pursuant to Section 207 of the *Planning and Development Act*, 2007 to amend Bylaw No. 23-01-02 known as the Zoning Bylaw.

INTENT/ REASON

To correct typographical errors and to correct the development appeal fee.

PUBLIC INSPECTION

Any person may inspect the bylaw at the RM Office on any judicial day between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Copies are available upon request.

PUBLIC HEARING

Council will hold a public hearing on August 14th, 2023, in the Big River Community Centre at 606 First Street North, Big River, SK at 10:00 a.m. Council will also consider written comments received at the hearing or delivered to the undersigned at the municipal office before the hearing.

Issued at Big River this 20th day of July 2023.

Michael Yuzik
Chief Administrative Officer

JOIN THE VILLAGE OF CANWOOD MAINTENANCE TEAM!

The Village of Canwood is currently seeking a full-time 40 hour per week Maintenance Person to join our team.

Why Choose the Village of Canwood?

1. Diverse responsibilities: as a full-time Maintenance Person, you'll have the chance to showcase your versatility and flex your maintenance and repair skills in various areas.
2. Competitive Compensation: At the Village of Canwood, we value our employees' hard work dedication. That's why we offer a highly competitive salary package and benefits, ensuring you feel appreciated for your contributions.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND QUALIFICATIONS:

- Operate and maintain heavy machinery such as grader, loader, skid steer, and dump truck.
- Conduct inspections to identify potential issues and proactively address them.
- Maintain Village property.
- Collaborate with the Village's Public Works Committee.
- Possess a strong attention to detail and excellent problem-solving skills.

REQUIREMENTS:

- Previous maintenance experience in a professional setting.
- Knowledge of basic maintenance procedures in areas plumbing, electrical systems, carpentry, and landscaping.
- Ability to work independently and efficiently, while prioritizing tasks to meet deadlines.
- Strong communication skills and ability to work well with Council and Administration.
- Ability to drive maintenance vehicles safely and possess a valid Saskatchewan Class 5 driver's license.
- Willing to obtain a Level 1 water and Wastewater Certification within 6 months.

For a full job description and expected duties, please contact the Canwood Village Office at (306) 468-2016 or canwood.town@sasktel.net.

Please submit a resume with qualifications, references and expected rate of pay to:
Village of Canwood
Box 172 Canwood, SK S0J 0K0
OR: canwood.town@sasktel.net

R.M. OF BLAINE LAKE NO. 434 SEASONAL GRADER OPERATOR

(Position Runs from July 2023 to Late October)

Requirements:

- Trained and certified as a Grader Operator
- 5 years municipal experience in grading & road repairs
- Capable of working with others & with minimal supervision
- Willingness to follow direction from senior grader operator
- Attention to detail & safety conscious

Start date: Immediately

Wages: Per IUOE pay scale.

Application Deadline: Position Will Remain Open Until Filled.

Only those selected for an interview will be contacted. Applications will close once the position is filled.

Forward resume and references to:

R.M. of Blaine Lake #434, PO Box 38, Blaine Lake, SK, S0J 0J0
or email rm434@sasktel.net.

Honeywood blossoms for Lilies in Bloom

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle
Reporter

Perfect weather made for a perfect day to get out and see the colours of summer, when Honeywood Heritage Nursery invited guests in for its annual Lilies in Bloom event on Sunday, July 16.

In a change of pace from the last few years of events, the provincial heritage site opted to forego its Artists in Bloom event in late June and make Lilies in Bloom its only summer attraction this year.

Early indications suggest the decision was a fruitful one. Though the number of guests who paid at the gate hadn't yet been tallied as of Monday afternoon, the nursery grounds were buzzing with activity throughout the day, and the wagon tours were running almost non-stop.

"It's amazing to get the exposure, to have word of mouth from one gardener to another, and just to see the passion in the people when they see the flower beds and wander through," said Janie Denton, who just joined the Honeywood team earlier this year, noting that a highlight of the day for her was seeing how happy everyone was.

"It's so peaceful and tranquil out here, and it seems everybody that comes feels the same way."

Though the nursery grounds were bursting with lilies and flowers of every colour, the flora wasn't the only thing to draw guests to the site. In addition to picking up a wide array of plants, guests had the diverse offerings of 16 artisan vendors to browse

through.

This year's line-up featured both new and returning artisans, including: Connie Sanche (artwork), Ken Tickner (photography), Cheryl Tieszen (fair trade jewelry), Vi Thiessen (quilts and jewelry), Wanda and Dave Robertson (jean bags and coin collection), Lucille Scott (artwork), Joyce and John Giesser (jewelry and antler carvings), Lorraine Adamson (pottery), Abigail Hingley (macrame and woodwork), Laura Budd (pottery), Wilfred Burton (children's books, illustrated by Lucille Scott), Evelyn McDonald (artwork), Kristina Komen-

dant (assorted items), and Hannigan Honey.

In addition to some unique gift ideas, Lilies in Bloom also allowed guests to fill up on homemade beef on a bun, coleslaw, and apple and rhubarb crisp (until everything sold out just before the end of the day, at least).

Finally, as afternoon rolled around, visitors were able to take a break from touring the grounds and shopping to listen to the musical entertainment provided by Kerri English and friends.

All in all, Denton says it made for a fantastic day.



The Honeywood grounds were buzzing with activity throughout Lilies in Bloom.



Artisan Joyce Giesser speaks to guests.



The plants for sale offered opportunities to shop and stop for chats.



Kerri English and friends provided musical entertainment at Lilies in Bloom.

SATURDAY, JULY 29, 2023

Canteen All Day Saturday
Beer Gardens Saturday all day

PARKSIDE & DISTRICT COMMUNITY CLUB
Demolition Derby ~ Sat. July 29
To enter Derby, phone Derek Olson 306-747-9114 or 306-747-2000
OVER \$11,000.00 IN PRIZE MONEY
All Derby Drivers Must Register on Grounds by 10 a.m. - Saturday, July 29
• Drivers' Meeting 12:00 noon • Barrel Races, 1 p.m. start
• Demo Derby Starts 3 p.m.

Mixed Slo-Pitch Tourney
Fri. Evening & Saturday
July 28 & 29
Gate Admission: \$10.00 • 6-12 \$5.00
• Under 6 Free • Dance \$10.00

Dance Saturday Night
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9:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m. ~ Must be 19 years of age (ID required)

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~ No gifts please ~

Political rhetoric paints misleading picture

If you were unwise enough to use politics as a barometer for the state of the world, you would almost certainly come away confused about what is reality and what isn't.

Canadian politics – once civil, polite, and boring when contrasted with the spectacle of American politics – have changed.

Like used cars dealers, Canadian politicians were once masters of selling their hopeful vision to voters. And, by and large, voters didn't mind too much if only half of that vision was realized.

But these days, who would want to buy what any of our federal politicians are selling?

According to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and the current Liberal government, Canada is built upon irredeemably corrupt beliefs and institutions that must be broken down and rebuilt from the foundation up.

From our dependence on non-renewable resources, to our relationship with First Nations, everything must be scrutinized down to the finest detail (except for the government, of course), to allow for Canada to become a global steward of environmentalism and a Shangri-La of equality.

Current Conservative Party Leader Pierre Poilievre shares the view of Canada as a broken nation in desperate need of fixing. However, he believes it's broken because Mr. Trudeau's government has broken it.

A once-in-a-lifetime affordability crisis. A healthcare system hanging on by a single thread.

A lack of adequate or affordable housing.

A rising tide of opioid deaths and mental health and addictions issues.

A surge in homicides and violent crimes.

These are all symptoms of Mr. Trudeau's policy, and good old-fashioned Conservatism is the cure Canadians need (just don't ask for any specific solutions to these problems).

Then there's NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh. Per his worldview, Canada is broken because the wealthy and privileged have intentionally designed it this way for their exclusive benefit.

The fix? Tax and regulate corporations and the rich into submission, so they have no choice but to share the wealth with the



JORDAN TWISS
~
News Editor

rest of Canada (I'm sure they'll just gladly roll over and accept this).

So, there you have it. Canada is broken in many ways and for many reasons (some of them conflicting).

Doesn't it all make you want to run out to the ballot box?

According to a recent poll conducted for the Globe & Mail, the overwhelming negativity coming from all sides has half of Canadians wanting Messrs. Trudeau and Poilievre to be replaced before the next

election, painting a dire picture of what voter turnout may look like in 2025.

So, if, like half of Canadians, all this political pessimism isn't your thing, who do you look to? Admittedly, the pickings are pretty slim.

In fact, your only alternative in Canada may be to tune into Saskatchewan politics.

Sure, the Sask. NDP sees plenty wrong with the way things are going in the province (as official oppositions are wont to do), but you won't meet a government more optimistic than Premier Scott Moe's Sask. Party.

From the province's growing population, to the economic tailwinds generated by strong markets for oil and gas, potash, and the agriculture sector, Saskatchewan's future certainly appears bright. Bright enough for the Sask. Party government to record a \$1.5 billion surplus to end the 2022-2023 fiscal year and pay down \$1 billion in provincial debt.

Despite these positive indicators, Mr. Moe is the first to admit his government still has work to do before its "growth that works for everyone" slogan becomes more than just another empty political slogan. But he's confident Saskatchewan can get there, and believes the province's best days still lie ahead.

Given how the pessimism in federal politics seems to have soured Canadians on all parties and their leaders, one might expect the hopeful rhetoric of Mr. Moe to inspire optimism among the people of Saskatchewan.

Here, however, the Sask. Party government appears to be living in a different reality from the people. It's also out of line with former Regina-Coronation Park MLA Mark Docherty, who last week criticized his own party's slogan on Regina-based podcast The SKoop.

"If I say that message to somebody, they kind of look at me dumbfounded," he



said. "They don't understand. They're going, 'What have you done? What has this government done for us?'"

Recent polling data suggests Mr. Docherty's comments aren't just his opinion. In its 2023 Financial Stress Index, FP Canada found residents of Saskatchewan and Manitoba are losing the most sleep over financial concerns, with 54 per cent of those surveyed admitting to doing so (an increase from 44 per cent just last year).

This continues a trend highlighted in an Angus Reid poll last December, in which 59 per cent of people in Saskatchewan surveyed said they felt worse about their financial situation than the same time in 2021.

That number was the highest amongst the provinces. And the future outlook of Saskatchewan residents is similarly gloomy, with 42 expecting to feel even worse off financially by December this year.

At the same time, in spite of its wealth, Saskatchewan has among the nation's worst rates of child poverty, with 20 per cent (or 1 in 5) living in poverty in 2020, the most recent year for which data is available. Similarly, 19 per cent of Saskatchewan adults are living in poverty, according to a University of Regina study.

In both instances, these numbers are well above the national average, and though they did mark an improvement over previous years, this was largely attributed to pandemic relief measures.

It's not just individuals who see reasons to be concerned about their finances.

With the return of the province's small business tax to 1 per cent as of Canada Day, more than 31,000 Saskatchewan small businesses are also expecting to feel the pinch.

Though some have referred to it as a tax increase, it is actually a return to the status quo after the government temporarily paused the tax in 2020 to help businesses to stay afloat through the COVID-19 pandemic.

Still, the small business tax is expected to return to a full 2 per cent next year, and the Canadian Federation of Independent Businesses (CFIB) says this could cost a business earning \$500,000 as much as \$10,000 more per year in taxes.

"They're either going to have to increase their prices to accommodate, or they may have to lay off some staff," said Brianna Solberg, the CFIB's director for the prairies and northern Canada, noting that the CFIB had hoped to see some affordability measures, or at least an extension of the tax rate break, in the province's 2023-2024 budget, given the government's projected \$1 billion surplus.

"I think that some may feel that this is the straw that breaks the camel's back," she added.

Facing higher provincial taxes, and a looming deadline to repay any federal loans they took out through the pandemic, the CFIB says more than 8,000 Saskatchewan small businesses are at risk of closing their doors by the end of 2023.

A dire omen for sure, and further proof of how political rhetoric cannot be used to accurately measure the state of the world.

Shellbrook Chronicle

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Spiritwood Herald

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

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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

Saskatchewan celebrated Parks Week July 9-15 with many events and themed programs available in provincial parks for visitors to enjoy. Whether through hiking, relaxing at the beach, fishing or water sports, people of all ages enjoyed the outdoors and celebrated the natural beauty of our great province!

Our province recently received great news on the population and labour force. Saskatchewan continues to enjoy the largest popula-



**HON. SCOTT MOE,
PREMIER**
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tion growth since 1914, with an increase of over 33,000 in the past year

reaching an all-time high of 1.221 million. In the first quarter of this year alone, over 6,000 people chose to make Saskatchewan home.

A labour force record has been broken too; over 604,700 people are working in Saskatchewan today, more than ever before. Regina and Saskatoon are seeing record employment levels at 148,300 and 198,800, respectively. The province has added 3,300 new jobs in the past year, and our unemployment level of

4.7 per cent is the third lowest in Canada.

Saskatchewan's growing population and workforce supports a growing economy and allows our government to invest in priority areas, like healthcare. Our government invested \$98.8 million in the Health Human Resources Action Plan in this year's budget and we are seeing strong results. Since December 2022, 485 grad nurses from across the province and Canada have been hired to join the healthcare system. A group of Registered Nurses (RNs) from the Philippines have arrived and begun training, the first group of over 400 Filipino RNs recruited.

Progress continues toward filling 250 new and enhanced perma-



**HON. JEREMY HARRISON
MLA**
~
Meadow
Lake
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nent full-time positions in rural and remote areas, with 157 positions now filled. Incentives of up to \$50,000 have been approved for 140 health care professionals and are still available, as well as incentives packages for physicians in rural and remote areas of up to \$200,000.

For students and adults interested in ca-

reers in health care, the Saskatchewan Health Authority offers job shadowing opportunities; learn more at www.Saskatchewan.ca/HHR.

Saskatchewan Premier Scott Moe and fellow provincial and territorial premiers were in Winnipeg July 10-12 for the Council of the Federation summer meeting. The premiers discussed several priorities and issues that impact all Canadians, including healthcare, infrastructure, and the British Columbia port workers' strike.

The Government of Saskatchewan continues to stand up for the best interests of the people of Saskatchewan. If you have questions, concerns or feedback, please don't hesitate to contact our office.

Shellbrook considering highway crossing safety improvements

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

The Town of Shellbrook is hoping to work with the Ministry of Highways to improve pedestrian safety at the intersection of Highway 3, Highway 55, and Main Street.

Shellbrook Mayor Amund Otterson says the town recently approached the ministry to see if it would conduct another study of the intersection. In an email reply, the ministry said it believed a controlled crosswalk is warranted.

"A controlled crosswalk with a pedestrian-controlled stop light would be great," Mayor Otterson said. "The province is willing to put some money into it, and it would speed things up if we contributed ourselves."

The intersection of Highway 3, Highway 55, and Main Street has been a persistent concern over the years, and not just for pedestrian safety. As a gateway to north, the intersection sees a high volume of logging and agriculture traffic, and it's only become busier in recent years.

Otterson says there have been many accidents at the intersection over the years, including one that claimed the life of one of his students when he was a teacher. For this reason, he says he avoids the intersection if at all possible when entering and exiting the town.

Over the past year, he's heard more Shellbrook residents voice concerns about pedestrian safety.

"Some people in the community have brought forward to us that they're concerned about the kids bolting across there at lunch time, because the service station and the Dairy Queen are across the highway and kids are attracted to them" he said.

Shellbrook is far from an outlier when it comes to taking steps to improve safety at highway crossings. In similar municipalities where gas

stations, restaurants, and other services are located across the highway from the community, resulting in a higher volume of crossings, measures to improve safety have included reducing the speed limit to 80 km/h.

While the speed limit has already been reduced to 80 km/h while driving through Shellbrook, Otterson says some don't feel this is enough, and don't necessarily see a pedestrian-controlled crosswalk light as the best way to improve safety.

"There's concern that it's a curve and the sightlines are limited," he said. "Even slowing further, like down to 50 km/h, might help, or [traffic] lights."

In addition to collaborating with the Ministry of Highways, Otterson says the town has also applied to SGI, to see if it can obtain funding through its Provincial Traffic Safety Fund grant program.

Additional funding could prove necessary, if the study commissioned by the Ministry of Highways identifies a different solution, such as an underpass.

"I've always thought a culvert underpass big enough to walk through or ride a bike through would be a great idea," Otterson said. "I don't know about safety issues around that, but that would probably be very expensive."

With the town and the Ministry of Highways still in the early stages of their talks, no concrete for timeline for the study or the project has been set.



The Town of Shellbrook is hoping to work with the Ministry of Highways to improve pedestrian safety at the intersection of Highway 3, Highway 55, and Main Street.

Communities across Saskatchewan are facing health care service disruptions, emergency room shutdowns, bed closures and an exodus of health care staff.

Here are some solutions.

Representative Workforce
The government of Saskatchewan has focused much of its recruitment efforts on workers from the Philippines. Saskatchewan is relying on international immigration to fill labour shortages, but our Indigenous population is growing at four times the rate of non-Indigenous populations. The Indigenous workforce is under-utilized and offers a domestic solution to staffing shortages.

- 1) Renew the Aboriginal Employment Development Program.
- 2) Sign a new partnership agreement between First Nations for and Métis governments.
- 3) Provide training and upgrading for Indigenous workers.

Good jobs equal better care
The government needs to focus on retaining our current workforce by improving working conditions.

More full, time permanent jobs.

Higher wages.

Market supplements in hard to recruit positions and locations.

1. Expand education programming for all classifications and look at opening training programs in rural Saskatchewan.
2. Offer loan forgiveness for students in exchange for rural placements.
3. Provide funding for additional training to current staff who want to upgrade.
4. Work with training institutes and the K-12 education system to build a plan.

Work with health care providers
Front line health care workers know the issues facing health care. And we know the solutions better than anyone.

CUPE HEALTH CARE WORKERS LOCAL 5430

Learn more and take action at www.cupe5430.ca

Parkland Meats, Happy Hearts partnership raises \$3,887

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

In a small town like Shellbrook, partnerships between local individuals, organizations, and businesses are what keep the community thriving. For proof of this, one needs only look at the long-standing fundraising partnership between Happy Hearts Childcare Centre and Parkland Meats, which has helped the daycare raise more than \$21,000 over the last eight years.

This fundraiser, which sees Happy Hearts pre-sell orders for Parkland Meats' products and keep a percentage of the sales, remained in place for 2023, adding just shy of \$3,900 to the total raised since it began in 2015.

This puts 2023 on par with some of the most successful years for the fundraiser, and needless to say, both Parkland Meats and Happy Hearts are pleased with how their arrangement is working out.

"Anything we can do locally in our community to help our community, that's what we're about," Parkland Meats owner Dave Mumm said, citing a recent BBQ fundraiser for the Parkland Pool Project that raised \$1,000.

"We should be pretty proud of our community. We've got a swimming pool, a theatre, a daycare, beautiful ball diamonds. That's pretty good for a community of less than 2,000 people."

As a non-profit organization, Happy

Hearts director Natalie Smart says the daycare relies on government grants and fundraisers (like its partnership with Parkland Meats and its Trip of the Month draws) to keep its doors open.

The funds obtained through these channels allow for new toys and furniture to be added, for the children to be taken on outings, and for vital things like maintenance of the building. This year, with the funds raised through the Parkland Meats fundraiser, the goal will be to develop the daycare's yard space and gear it more toward exploration and play.

Planned upgrades include a mud kitchen area, a car area, and, with the help of grant funding, a track that will allow kids to ride their bikes. Smart says garden beds could also be added to help bring more nature into the yard.

"I find kids, when they see things grow themselves, they appreciate them more and they try and test their foods more," she said.

Of course, with a busy facility like Happy Hearts, there's always something that needs doing.

Currently, the daycare employs 15 people, with 10 working full-time and five working part-time. Collectively, these employees are responsible for providing care and early years education to 36 children, the maximum the daycare is permitted to look after.

Thanks to an arrangement between



Parkland Meats owner Dave Mumm presents a \$3,887 cheque to Happy Hearts director Natalie Smart.

the federal and provincial governments, Happy Hearts can offer \$10 per day daycare for each child aged five and under (parents of older children still pay the full amount).

Though this has been a blessing for most families, Smart says it's also highlighted the need that still exists in the community. Because the pro-

gram doesn't allow for part-time care, children who only need care for a portion of the day take up a full-time slot, meaning Happy Hearts always has a huge waitlist.

"We're seeing more, now, the lack of childcare spaces in our community," Smart said. "We need more care in the community."

Sask. can't get overconfident in its finances

By **GAGE HAUBRICH**
CTF Prairie Director

If any farmer walked into their accountant's office to finish off their year-end statements and discovered that they had made four times more than what they were expecting, they would assume their accountant was cooking the books. But in the case of the provincial government, it's true.

Initially, the 2022 budget predicted an almost \$500 million deficit, but a huge revenue windfall left the province with a \$1.5 billion surplus.

Overall, the government raked in \$3.4 billion more in revenue than the budget projected. That's enough extra money to build 12 new Mosaic Stadiums.

But this isn't something the government should expect every year.

This is the province's first balanced budget since 2015

and its largest surplus since 2008. The surplus allowed the government to pay back \$1.5 billion in debt this year. That's estimated to save taxpayers about \$6 million a month in interest payments.

But let's get one thing straight: The provincial government ran a surplus because huge piles of cash unexpectedly showed up at the legislature's doorsteps. It's not because provincial politicians suddenly decided to become prudent budgeters.

Tax collections are up \$1.7 billion from budget. That's a 21 per cent increase. Non-renewable revenues increased \$1.7 billion compared to the budget. That's a 58 per cent increase.

Even highschoolers taking their first accounting class would easily be able to balance the books with this kind of windfall.

And while the government didn't blow the budget by

spending all this new cash, it didn't hold spending to budgeted levels either. The provincial government still blew its spending budget by almost \$1.4 billion in 2022.

Looking ahead to 2023, the government is also expecting a surplus. It's more good news and the government plans to use it to pay down even more debt.

The continuing debt repayment is sorely needed. Over the last 10 years, the provincial government has increased the debt from \$4.9 billion in 2013 to a projected \$18.1 billion at the end of this year. That's including the two latest repayments.

Instead of practicing fiscal restraint, the government is counting on another year of near record resource revenues to achieve 2023's forecasted surplus. The government is projecting resource revenues of \$3.3 billion for this year.

That's higher than any number in recent history except for 2022's record amount.

But provincial politicians shouldn't get used to seeing government finances through rose tinted glasses. Even its own budget projects that the debt will start rising again in the future. Again, the debt will be \$18.1 billion at the end of this year, but, by 2027, the government projects the debt will increase by 23 per cent to \$22.3 billion.

In 2023, interest payments on the debt will be \$708 million. As the debt increases, so will the interest payments. That means more and more taxpayer money will be wasted on interest charges instead of being used for programs or provide tax relief.

It's easy to pay down debt when revenues are high and times are good, but a government that truly puts taxpayers first keeps paying down debt

when times are tough.

Before next budget day, Finance Minister Donna Harpauer and Premier Scott Moe need to sit down and figure out how to keep the debt going down for the foreseeable future, not just when it is convenient.

The volatility of resource revenues means that government can't expect this revenue joy ride to go on forever. Former premier Brad Wall commissioned a report that recommended the province set up a heritage fund. It's time for the government to give that report a second look and set Saskatchewan up for a sound financial future.

Last year was a fiscal blessing for the provincial government. It needs to make sure that it doesn't squander this opportunity with higher spending and instead focuses on keeping the surpluses going and paying down the debt.

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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



Pollinator health is crucial to human health

Humankind has tended to run roughshod over the planet since forever, thinking no matter what we do, or what problems we create, we'll somehow manage to keep the wheels on the bus and rolling forward.

In most cases, science has managed to keep pace with addressing the problems we create. Although there is a sense that with microplastics everywhere, habitat being lost, a population still growing, and the impact of a changing climate, we may well be at a tipping point where science can no longer stem the tide of the impact of humanity's mistakes.

What is perhaps most

concerning is that what might get humankind — before climate issues, or population woes — will be the loss of crop pollinators.

We tend to look at crops of canola, or rows of peas in gardens, as simply being planted and some months later we reap a harvest that we consume.

While we — farmers and gardeners — play a role, from readying the soil to combating weeds and harmful pests, those efforts are for nothing if the crop isn't pollinated, and that is largely the job of bees.

Often that means honeybees being put to work.

"There's a relationship



CALVIN DANIELS

between honeybees and canola. A very good relationship," said Marcelo Camilli, a Brazilian researcher currently in Saskatchewan studying the relationship. "What we see here is bees flourish in canola."

Camilli said it is estimated honeybees pollinate 70 per cent of canola, and in so doing generate some \$1.5 bil-

lion in value.

But worldwide there are of course native pollinators — various species of bees in particular.

In recent years, there has been an increased awareness of pollinators and their health.

But what happens when farmers need to apply herbicides to their canola? Does it impact the health of honeybee hives? Does it impact the honey produced?

"What is the safe dose range for honeybees?" asks Camilli, who is part of the team looking to answer that question.

A recent release also noted, "Canada's southern prairies are dotted with patches of active sand dunes, ecosystems

that are slowly disappearing as they become overgrown and transformed into grasslands. A new study of bees and wasps from these at-risk sites sheds light on changes to biodiversity in Canada's prairie sandhills, which are increasingly being 'stabilized' by plants that take root in the sand."

The research is based on careful examination and analysis of more than 12,300 specimens of wild bees and stinging wasps collected by Thomas Onuferko at the dunes over four months in the spring and summer of 2019. As a post-doctoral research fellow with the Canadian Museum of Nature's

Beaty Centre for Species Discovery, he visited 13 dune sites (each five times) across southeastern Alberta, southern Saskatchewan, and southwestern Manitoba.

Areas surveyed included the Great Sandhills Ecological Reserve and Douglas Provincial Park in Saskatchewan, as well as Spruce Woods Provincial Park, an important refuge for rare species in southwestern Manitoba.

These sorts of research initiatives are essential simply because we have to be aware of our impact on pollinators. If there were to be losses in significant numbers, our food production could be decimated.

Crop Report: July 4 to 10

Crops continued to progress this week with the warm temperatures across the province. Canola is beginning to pod and wheat is beginning to flower in many areas. Dry conditions are impacting parts of the province and many producers are hoping for rain immediately.

Very little rain was received this week. The most rain was in the Dinsmore area, with 14 mm. A large decrease in soil moisture accompanied the warm weather this past week. Crop land topsoil moisture is currently 21 per cent adequate, 55 per cent short and 24 per cent very short. Hay and pastureland topsoil moisture is currently 17 per cent adequate, 55 per cent short and 28 per cent very short.

Crops are either ahead or at normal stages of development for this time of year. Fall cereals are 31 per cent ahead and 66 per cent at normal stages of development. Spring cereals are 33 per cent ahead and 60 per cent at normal stages of development. Oilseeds are also 33 per cent ahead and 58 per cent at normal stages of development. Pulse crops are 28 per cent ahead and 67 per

cent at normal stages of development.

Crops are generally in good to fair condition. Provincially, winter wheat and soybean crops are in the best condition, with 60 per cent of winter wheat in good condition and 67 per cent of soybean in good condition. Mustard and canary seed are the crops in the poorest condition. Thirty-five per cent of mustard and 21 per cent of canary seed is in very

poor condition.

Producers have made swift and steady progress with haying this week. Fifty-one per cent of the first cut of hay has been baled or silaged, while 26 per cent is cut and 23 per cent is still standing. The quality of hay ranges from excellent to fair, with 59 per cent in good quality.

Crop damage this week comes from heat and moisture stress and grasshoppers. Pro-

ducers are reminded to keep in mind economic thresholds when scouting for grasshoppers and to reach out to their local regional office if they have any questions.

Many producers are haying and monitoring their pastures now. With the heat, water quality is at the top of mind for many. If producers are concerned about the quality of their water source for livestock, they can bring in sam-

ples to their local regional office for testing.

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

The growing season is stressful time of year and producers are reminded to take all safety precautions in all the work they do. The Farm Stress Line is there to help by providing support for producers toll free at 1-800-667-4442.

Spiritwood Library names June, July dessert winners



The Spiritwood Public Library's Dessert of the Month fundraiser winner for June was Donna Bedi. The lovely dessert was made by Library board member Stacey Gaboury. *By HEATHER GATZKE, Librarian*



The Spiritwood Public Library's Dessert of the Month fundraiser winner for July was Mary Lou Haugen. The perfectly crimped and luscious looking pie was made by library board member Ruth French.

ADVERTISING
DEADLINE IS
FRIDAY
4:00 P.M.

Albers hosts clinic for Shellbrook Knights teams

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

For most of us, the closest we'll ever come to receiving guidance from a professional baseball player is watching them live on TV or at an MLB stadium.

Thanks to a familial connection, however, the 22 players on the U13 and U15 Shellbrook Knights baseball teams got this experience in person at the Shellbrook Sports Grounds, during a pitching clinic put on by Andrew Albers.

Born and raised in North Battleford, Albers' pitching arm has taken him to the highest levels of Canadian and international baseball. Playing for Team Canada, he won a bronze medal at the 2011 Baseball World Cup and a gold medal at the 2011 Pan American Games (a feat which earned him Sask. Athlete of the Year honours, and his team an induction into the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame in 2012).

Two years after winning gold, Albers

made his MLB debut with the Minnesota Twins on Aug. 6, 2013, picking up the win after pitching eight scoreless innings against the Kansas City Royals. In his next start, he recorded his first complete game and shutout against the Cleveland Indians.

Albers' MLB career has also seen him play for the Toronto Blue Jays, the Seattle Mariners, and the Atlanta Braves, as well as their affiliate teams. And internationally, he's played seasons with the Hanwha Eagles of the Korea Baseball Organization, and the Orix Buffaloes of the Nippon Professional Baseball league in Japan.

In between ball seasons at the moment, Albers decided to share all his expertise with the U13 and U15 Shellbrook Knights, spending one-on-one time with each of them and providing instruction and tips on both pitching and hitting.

"Albers talked about hard work, discipline, and focus and fun — pretty much all the fundamentals you need to get somewhere in baseball, and re-



Professional baseball player Andrew Albers shared pitching tips with the U13 and U15 Shellbrook Knights players.

ally in life," Shellbrook Knights founder and coach Jamie Capner said.

"It allows them to see that a small-town kid like Albers, who comes from North Battleford, can make it to the MLB," he added of the significance of hosting a session like this.

While getting a group of 22 kids to listen would normally be a Herculean task, Capner was pleased to see the young players sit and listen intently to what Albers had to share with them. At the end of the day, he's confident that they see and appreciate the value of the opportunity they were given.

"The kids absolutely loved it," Capner said. "You can see the kids taking

what they learned from Albers and instantly incorporating it into what they're doing."

Albers' pitching clinic came at an opportune time for the Shellbrook Knights, as both the U13 and U15 teams were gearing up for Provincials.

The U15 team made its run at the Tier 6 title this weekend (July 14 to 16) in Martensville. Meanwhile, Capner's U13 Knights are off to Yorkton this weekend to compete in the Tier 3 Provincials.

"Our big thing is staying positive on the field, and keeping our energy level where we'd like it to be," Capner said of his focus going into the tournament.



Albers spent one-on-one time with some of the pitchers, giving them further instruction.



The U13 and U15 Shellbrook Knights teams took part in a pitching clinic hosted by professional baseball player Andrew Albers.

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 - 2nd Sunday of the
month

MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCH

Blaine Lake Gospel Chapel
109 Railway Ave. W.
Blaine Lake
306-497-3316
Sunday, 10:30 a.m.
Worship

EVANGELICAL FREE

Big River
11:00 a.m. - Worship
Bible Classes 9:45 a.m.
Summer: 10:30 a.m. - 12
306-469-2258
Youth Nite: Fridays
Mont Nebo
Sun. Worship - 11:00 a.m.
(10:30 a.m. June - August)
306-468-2525

UNITED CHURCH

Big River
Sundays
10 a.m. - Worship
at Anglican Church
Rev. Dave Whalley
306-747-2804

CATHOLIC CHURCH

Debden
Sun. Mass - 9:30 a.m.
Fr. Mariusz Zajac
Big River - Sacred Heart
Sun., 11:30 a.m. - Mass
Whitefish
Sun., 2:30 p.m. - Mass.
Victoire
Sat., 7:30 p.m. - Mass.
Fr. Mariusz Zajac
St. Agatha's - Shellbrook
Mass - Sunday 11 a.m.
St. Henry's - Leask
Mass - Sunday 9 a.m.
Mistawasis
1st & 3rd Sundays 1:30 p.m.
Fr. Tuan Doan

SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST

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

PRAISE & WORSHIP

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

PARTNERS IN FAITH

Lutheran/United/
Christchurch Anglican,
137-2nd St. W.
Spiritwood
Worship 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 1st Ave. and 4th
St., Spiritwood)
Sun., 11 am - Worship
Service & Sunday School
Pastor Michael Kluthe
306-883-2380

FIELDS OF HOPE (HOFFNUNGSFELDER)

MENNONITE CHURCH
Glenbush
Worship - 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

Shellbrook Legion hosts provincial golf tourney

By **HENRI DAGENAIS**
Shellbrook Legion Member

The Shellbrook Royal Canadian Legion Branch #111 hosted this year's Provincial Golf Tournament for the Saskatchewan Command on Sunday,

July 16. Prior to the tournament, on July 15, a meet and greet was held at the Shellbrook Legion Hall at 6 p.m., with pizza from Amanda Pizza + More at 7 p.m. (several golfers from around the province told the organizers from the

Shellbrook Legion that the pizza was excellent).

The golfers stayed at the Shellbrook Motel and hotels in Prince Albert, and, with a bus provided by Kris Moe and driven by David Bodvarson, were transported to their accommodations after the meet and greet on Saturday evening to ensure everyone made it home safe.

All together, 66 golfers from all over the province took part in Sunday's tournament, which was played at Kachur's Golf Course due to the need for an 18-hole course. The tournament included 10 flights of 18 holes and two flights of nine holes.

Men's winners were: Gerald Sinclair (75+ Flight #5), Larry Fiddler

from Prince Albert (70+ Flight #4) Wade Connolly from Prince Albert (60+ Flight #3), Kevin Ducchscherer (men's Championship Flight #1), Brian Connolly from Prince Albert (longest drive), John Leonard Moncrief (60+ nine holes Flight #6), Paul Totarski (Open men Flight #2), and Raymond Brad (closest to the hole).

Women's winners were: Shari Gardiner (60+ 9 holes Flight # 12), Ila Tatomir (75+ Flight #11), Aby Thompson from Canwood (women's Championship Flight #7), Violet Akers from Prince Albert (70+ Flight #10 and closest to the hole), Karen Zach women (open Flight #8), Janice McIntyre (longest drive), and Jodi Bruce (60+ Flight #9).



Men's winners. Front row, left to right: Gerald Sinclair, Larry Fiddler, and Kevin Ducchscherer. Back row, left to right: Henri Dagenais, representing the Shellbrook Legion, Brian Connolly, John Leonard Moncrief, Paul Totarski, and Raymond Brad.



Women's winners. Front row, left to right: Shari Gardiner, Ila Tatomir, Aby Thompson, Violet Akers, and Karen Zach. Back row, left to right: Janice McIntyre, Henri Dagenais representing Royal Canadian Legion Shellbrook #111, and Jodi Bruce.



Marching of the colour during the opening ceremony at Kachur's Golf Course. Pictured: Shellbrook Legion President Helen Dagenais (right), Sergeant at Arms Henri Dagenais, and Legion member Alan Carswell carrying the Canadian flag.



Golfers attended a meet and greet at the Shellbrook Legion Hall the evening prior to the tournament.

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 12 pm - 5 pm

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 - 4pm; Wednesday 1pm - 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 10 am - 5pm (Story Time 11am - 12pm); Saturday 10am - 4pm.

LEASK, MARCELIN, HAFFORD: 12-40 and Beyond Self-Guided Tour - July 22 & 23, 2023. Visit artists showcasing their work: original paintings, prints, art cards, silk screened scarves, wooden treasures, denim creations, stained glass, leatherwork and much more. Demonstrations in woodturning and blacksmithing. For more info contact 306-852-9139 or visit our website: www.12-40andbeyond.com or www.facebook.com/1240andbeyond

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Minutes of an RM of Shellbrook meeting

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

Minutes of a regular meeting of Council of the Rural Municipality of Shellbrook No. 493 held on Wednesday, May 3, 2023, in the Municipal Office Council Chambers at Shellbrook, Sask.

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

Delegations:

9 a.m. Town of Shellbrook Council and CAO

11:20 a.m. Foreman Bill Aug update on municipal activities

Reeve Oleksyn called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m.

Joelson: That the following items be added to the Agenda: May staff cost of living wage increases, Fire Ban, Road Ban Order 3-2023. Carried

Hamel: That the minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council on April 10, 2023, be approved as presented. Carried

Ten Bos: That the minutes of the Special Meeting of Council on April 19, 2023, be approved as presented. Carried

Skauge: That the Statement of Financial Activities for the month of April 2023 be ap-

proved as presented. Carried
Joelson: That the bank reconciliation for the month of March 2023 be approved as presented. Carried

Hamel: That the accounts payable dated May 1, 2023, as attached hereto and forming part of these Minutes, being regular cheque numbers 13418 to 13466 in the amount of \$226,280.13 and payroll cheque numbers 14479 to 14499 in the amount of \$35,916.36 be approved. Carried

The Town of Shellbrook delegation entered the Council Chambers at 9 a.m. to discuss mutual concerns, the delegation included: Mayor Amund Otterson, Kathleen Nording, Peter Halayka, Bruce Anderson, Brent Miller, Larry Batten, and CAO Kelly Hoare.

The Town of Shellbrook delegation left the meeting at 10:13 a.m.

Strube: That the Administrator's Report for the month of May 2023 be accepted as presented. Carried

Skauge: That The Saskatchewan Assessment Management Agency be advised that all updated assessments affected by the 2022 Agland Reinspection Program be postponed until 2024. Carried

Strube: That fundraising opportunities be offered to the schools and local 4-H Clubs in regards to picking garbage

from municipal ditches. Carried

Strube: That the updated Purchasing Policy 2019-05 be approved. Carried

Delegation Foreman Bill Aug and Todd Lande entered the Council Chambers at 11:40 a.m. to update Council on municipal operations.

Division 4 Councilor Jay Ferster left the meeting at 12:44 p.m.

Delegation Foreman Bill Aug and Todd Lande left the meeting at 1 p.m.

Strube: That the rates be set as follows for over-dimensional and overweight permits on unfunded municipal corridors;

- Houses and over-dimensional buildings: \$1,000
- Over-dimensional Bins and Hoppers: \$500
- Bins and Hoppers for RM ratepayers: \$0
- Overweight and over-dimensional mining equipment: \$1,500. Carried

Joelson: That Bylaw 2023-03, being a Bylaw to require all persons moving buildings or overdimensional loads on municipal roads to acquire a permit to do so, be given first reading. Carried

Strube: That Bylaw 2023-03, being a Bylaw to require all persons moving buildings or overdimensional loads on municipal roads to acquire a permit to do so, be given sec-

ond reading. Carried

Hamel: That Bylaw 2023-03, being a Bylaw to require all persons moving buildings or overdimensional loads on municipal roads to acquire a permit to do so, be given a third reading at this meeting. Defeated

Strube: That the 2023 Revised Town and RM Emergency Response Plan be approved. Carried

Skauge: That the 2023 Rural Municipality No. 493 Budget in the amount \$3,137,764.15 be adopted as presented by the Administrator. Carried

Joelson: That membership be requested by the municipality to The District 32 Agriculture, Development and Diversification Board and that Division 3 Councillor Christine Strube be appointed as municipal representative Carried

Skauge: That the request by Administrator Duane Storey to attend the Rural Municipal Administrator's Association Annual Convention Golf Tournament to be held May 15, 2023, at a cost of \$130 in Saskatoon be approved. Carried (4 for, 2 against)

Strube: That a quote for a Heritage Resource Impact Assessment be acquired for NE-21-51-02-W3. Carried

Skauge: That a cost-of-living increase in the amount of \$2.60/hour be given to all em-

ployees effective May 1, 2023. Carried (4 for, 2 against)

Skauge: That the road construction project located west of SW-27-49-03-W3 be put up for tender, that Associated Engineering (Sask) Ltd. be hired to provide services. Carried

Strube: That the road construction project located west of NE-08-51-02-W3 and bridge SW-31-50-01-W3 be prioritized and associated costs be acquired. Carried

Hamel: That the request for a wage and stipend increase for the Shellbrook Volunteer Fire Department effective May 3, 2023 be approved as follows:

- Chief and Deputy Chiefs stipend \$120/month
- Training \$25/hour
- Service calls \$30/hour
- Call out minimum \$100. Carried

Skauge: That Kathy Stewart be hired as Maintenance Shop Janitor effective May 1, 2023, at a rate of \$300/month. Carried

Joelson: That the RM of Shellbrook No. 493 authorizes implementation of Spring Road Ban Order 3-2023 effective May 3, 2023. Carried

Skauge: That the following information provided by administration be received and filed: Foreman Job description. Carried

Hamel: That the meeting be adjourned at 3:09 p.m.

Minutes of a Village of Leask council meeting

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

The Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Council of the Village of Leask Held at the Leask Community Hall on May 17, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.

Present were Mayor John Priestley, Deputy Mayor Zach Waldner, Councillors Valerie Priestley, Charles Smith, and Eugene Verbonac, and acting administrator Yvette Hamel.

The mayor called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.

5:34 p.m. - 5:44 p.m. Delegate Lind-

say Burym, Principal Leask School

Verbonac: That the agenda be adopted as presented with the following additions: 1. Blaine Lake Ambulance Service Ad, 2. Administrator Vacation Request, 3. Rink Roof, 4. Red truck, 5. Street sweeper, 6. Post Office, 7. Water Bylaw. Carried

V. Priestley: That the additions to the agenda be approved. Carried

J. Priestley: That the Minutes of April 19, 2023 Regular Council meeting, be approved as presented. Carried

Waldner: That the Village of Leask accept the Maintenance report as presented. Carried

Waldner: That the Village of Leask accept the Water Treatment and Lab Testing reports as presented. Carried
V. Priestley: That the Village of Leask rent a seven-yard garbage bin from TJ Disposals, Locate at Village shop, for garbage collected by Public Works from playground, campground, barrel garbage cans by the school, etc. Carried

V. Priestley: That the Village of Leask approved the attached list of Accounts Payable, being Cheques 9950-9972 & on-line payments 23063-23087, totalling \$96,852.63 & Cheques 9973-9977, being Council indemnities and totalling \$2,215.58, be approved as presented. Carried

6:32 p.m. Due to pecuniary interest, Deputy Mayor Waldner left the meeting.

Verbonac: That the Village of Leask approve payment of cheque 9978 totalling \$1,025.06 to Leask Mechanical as presented. Carried

6:25 pm Deputy Mayor Waldner re-

turned to the meeting.

V. Priestley: That the Village of Leask accept the April 2023 bank reconciliation and the statement of financial activities as presented. Carried

Waldner: That the Village of Leask approve request for students in the Career Experience & Workplace credit class at Leask Community School job shadow the Village Administrator and or Public Works, for five afternoons. Carried

Waldner: That the Village of Leask accept the Leask Community Hardware Store report as presented by Yvette Hamel. Carried

V. Priestley: Village of Leask appoint Tanner Paslawski as Village of Leask pest Control officer @ \$32.50 per site + cost of poison. Carried

Waldner: That the Village of Leask accept memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Carbotura, a Gravitas Infinitum business, whereas, the Village is interested in contracting Carbotura's Zero-Fill Recycling Services for the purpose of achieving 100% recycling of MSW within its authority. Carried

Waldner: That the Village of Leask accept the building permit as presented by Sheldon Jupe. Carried

V. Priestley: That the Village of Leask partake in the School Tree Planting Project, where approximately sixty Black Spruce trees will be planted on the west and north sides of the new cemetery. Carried

V. Priestley: That the Village of Leask promote "Save Your Post Office" on the Village Website and Facebook. Carried

Smith: That the following correspondence having been supplied to council for information be approved as presented. Carried

V. Priestley: That the Village of Leask decline the request by rate payer to reduce the base tax on properties that do not have water and sewer services provided and that taxes remain as is. Carried

Verbonac: That the Village of Leask accept the Cemetery Committee report as presented by Councillor Eugene Verbonac. Carried

Waldner: That the Village of Leask accept the library report as presented by Councilor Valerie Priestley. Carried

Waldner: That the Village of Leask approve Administrators report as presented. Carried

V. Priestley: That the Village of Leask tender the Bobcat sweeper and stand behind sweeper on Kijiji, noting lowest and/or highest bid may not necessarily be accepted. Carried

V. Priestley: 8:32p.m. That the Village of Leask Council move to in camera. Carried

Waldner: 8:51 p.m. That the Village of Leask Council return from in camera. Carried

V. Priestley: That the Village of Leask acknowledge the urban office inspection report for board of examiners as presented by Sandra MacArthur. Carried

V. Priestley: That the Village of Leask accept the 2023 Budget with the changes made as presented. Carried

J. Priestley: That this meeting be adjourned at 9:15 p.m.



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Be careful out there, Connor Bedard

Now that he's officially a member of the Chicago Blackhawks after being chosen No. 1 in the NHL draft, Connor Bedard will be under more scrutiny than a paroled shoplifter at Walmart. So here's some advice for the soon-to-be 18-year-old:

- Don't get discouraged after finding out the NHL goaltenders aren't fooled as easily as the kids you faced in junior hockey.

- Don't allow too much of your spare time to be eaten up by commercial enterprises that want to use your name, image, and likeness for product endorsement.

- Be cautious around gorgeous gold-digging females, who will only be after you for your money.

- Be nice to members of the media, just because they're probably really nice people.

- Avoid getting too big-headed when you see your face emblazoned in lights on the side of the Sears Tower.

- Be careful about getting a sore arm from

throwing out the ceremonial first pitch at Cubs and White Sox games on back-to-back days.

- Consider keeping your hair at a decent length so you'll always be ready for Great Clips commercials

- Be wary of those reprobates in Edmonton who will be stuffing the ballot box in the vote for 'NHL's Best Connor'

- Lie if you have to

- and you'll have to, because you have never in your life eaten fast food — but tell Chicagoans how much you love Chicago-style deep dish pizza.

- Do not antagonize Chicago citizens by mispronouncing 'the Bears'. It's 'Da Bears.'

- Don't worry about living up to expectations in your rookie year. Like, if you don't hit your sweater number in goals (98), there's always next year.

- Never forget to tell people how much you admired Richard Daley, even though you might have to check Wikipedia to find out who Richard

- Maintain your humility when you're vot-



BRUCE PENTON

Daley was.

- Don't become buddies with Chicago's most famous athlete, Michael Jordan, because he's likely to take you for a financial ride on the golf course.

- Do not skip hockey practice and slack off downtown just because a neighbour said it was the 37th anniversary of the release of the Chicago-based movie 'Ferris Bueller's Day Off.'

- Avoid telling the media that you don't like windy days.

- Don't try too hard in practice to avoid ruining the confidence of the Blackhawk goalies.

- Maintain your humility when you're vot-

ed the most wholesome and nicest player in the NHL.

- Laugh at the jokes people make about you being able to skate on water, whether it's frozen or not.

- RJ Currie of sportsdeke.com: "ABC news reported a pair of bald eagles with twin hatchlings were nesting above an Arizona golf course. If you're scoring at home, that's a double eagle on top of two birdies."

- Steve Simmons of Sunmedia: "With signings of Corey Perry, Nick Foligno, and the deal for Taylor Hall, the Blackhawks are apparently surrounding (Connor) Bedard with the 2015 NHL all-star team."

- Comedy writer Gary Bachman: "Tuesday, July 11 is the MLB All-Star game or as Mets players call it — a day at the beach."

- Mike Bianchi of the Orlando Sentinel: "Nothing says the Fourth of July in today's America like Joey 'Jaws' Chestnut winning the Nathan's Hot Dog Eating Contest. After all,

- as our founding fathers said in the Declaration of Independence, 'All men are endowed with certain unalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of gorging ourselves on processed animal parts.'

- Jack Finarelli at his website sportscurmudgeon.com, on a proposed NBA in-season tournament helping to spike interest in the playoffs: "Hey, it could happen — just as it could happen that next year's Kentucky Derby winner will be a latter-day Mr. Ed and give his own interviews after the race."

- Finarelli again, after referencing the 16-inning 1963 MLB game in which Juan Marichal of the Giants threw 227 pitches and the Braves' Warren Spahn threw 201 as both went the distance: "A pitching coach somewhere just felt a twinge in his elbow simply because I typed that information."

- A groaner from RJ Currie of sportsdeke.com: "A recent workspace disagreement be-

- tween two German circus families escalated into a melee with stick swinging, fisticuffs and finally shots being fired. Police at the time said it was like a hockey brawl, but more in tents."

- Headline at fark.com: "Good idea: Livening up the ballpark with events like a dog night or a fireworks show. Bad idea: Livening up the ballpark with a dog night and fireworks show on the same night."

- Another one from fark.com: "Wimbledon dismayed to find its prayer rooms are being used by patrons to score love-love."

- Steve Simmons again, quoting the late sports columnist Jim Hunt, who posed a question to Argos QB Chuck Ealey, a religious man, after he threw five or six interceptions. Ealey explained it by saying it was 'God's will.' Without missing a beat, Hunt from the back of the pack, said: "Can't God read defences either?"

- Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

Idylwild Lodge Ladies Auxiliary news highlights

By IDYLVILD LODGE LADIES AUXILIARY

(Editor's note: the following is a reprint of an article first published in the July 6 edition of the Shellbrook Chronicle & Spiritwood Herald. The article is being reprinted to include the photos that were meant to accompany it.)

The Idylwild Lodge Ladies Auxiliary made its Spring Raffle draw on June 16 at Spiritwood Long-Term Care. All prizes were from Northern Meats in Spiritwood. 1st Prize went to Phyllis Madden, 2nd prize went to Lorne Long, and 3rd prize went to Esther Welsh.



Mary Hujber draws names for the Idylwild Lodge Ladies Auxiliary Spring Raffle draw, which was held June 16.

On June 17, members of the Lodge Auxiliary and other volunteers were given the opportunity to run the canteen at the Latus Auction, with supplies donated by Alma Latus.

Over the years, the Auxiliary has made numerous purchases for the long-term care home. Between April 2022 and the end of June 2023 the Auxiliary has purchased: fuzzy blankets for each resident bed, a yearly membership fee that assists the recreation department with planning materials, flowers to fill the garden beds and flower pots around the long-term care area in 2022 and 2023, Christmas gifts for each resident, new blinds

for 25 resident rooms, TV trays for the common area, a wagon to assist with gardening projects, money to pay for live entertainment, five new chairs for the common areas, a donation towards a new bathtub, and new furniture for

our palliative care room.

All of these projects combined have come to a total of \$29,105.39.

The Auxiliary will continue to fund-raise to improve the lives of those who reside in the long-term care facility.



Alma Latus presenting proceeds from the Latus Auction's canteen to Idylwild Lodge Ladies Auxiliary members. The auction was held June 17.

OBITUARIES

*Debra Bergen*

BERGEN - Debra

It is with great sadness that the family of Debra Bergen announce her passing on July 12, 2023, in Shellbrook Long Term Care with her family by her side.

Debra was born to Armien and Shirley Sommerfeld on January 30th, 1964, in Shellbrook, SK which she proudly called home for her entire life. She was the oldest of 3 girls and spent much of her younger years playing in bales or tree forts, riding in 4-H light horse, trail riding, playing softball, and enjoying family farm life. After high school she went on to obtain her cosmetology degree and started her own hair business - Head Waves. In 1986 she married Gerald Kendel and they went on to have 2 children - Ashley and Brooks. Her children were always her pride and joy - and she instilled in them the same work ethic that she was taught by her parents. They spent a lot of time camping and fishing as a family and

enjoying the outdoors. From 1998 - 2014 she ran the local confectionary store - "Dee Gee's" and trained countless staff - being a mentor to many. She had a heart of gold, despite being stern on the outside. In 2009 she married Larry, and they enjoyed their years together traveling, playing poker, and gathering with family and friends.

After an early retirement, Debbie was able to spend more quality time with her grandchildren whom she loved deeply. No one could make her smile bigger than her grandkids. Her favorite pastimes were watching movies, cooking, gardening, canning, playing cards, traveling, and spending time with family. She always loved Christmas and bringing everyone together. She was an incredibly strong, hardworking, and passionate person and through many challenges - always persevered. Her life motto was "Live Love Laugh" which will continue to be our words to live by. She will be deeply missed by many.

Debra leaves to cherish her memory her husband Larry Bergen; daughter Ashley (Shane) Doell, and children Easton & Everly; son Brooks Kendel (Crystal Tremain) and children Zach, Abby, Phoenix, & Rylan; sister Tammy (Kyle) Soderberg, and nephew Drew; brother-in-law Dean Grimsrud; aunts Donna (Wayne)

Ford, and Rhonda (John) Swain; mother-in-law Donna Bergen; brother-in-law Corey (Regena) Bergen and children Andrew, Lucas, & Joseph; step-daughter Kendal (Kelsey) Galloway, and son Owen; step-son Ryan Bergen (Kiara Pauls) and daughter Hazel; and numerous other cousins, family members and friends.

Debra is predeceased by her parents Armien (Shirley) Sommerfeld, sister Jaqueline Sommerfeld, father-in-law Al Bergen, the father of her children Gerald Kendel, her maternal grandparents Arnold and Agnes Stene, her paternal grandparents Ludwig and Emma Sommerfeld, and many other aunts, uncles, and loved ones.

A Funeral Service was held for Debra at the St. John's Lutheran Church in Shellbrook at 11:00 am on Saturday, July 15, 2023.

In lieu of flowers those so wishing may make donations to the Alzheimer Society of Saskatchewan (301 - 2550 12th Ave Regina, SK S4P 3X1) or a charity of your choice.

Family and friends wishing to send online condolences are welcome to visit www.beaulacfuneralhome.com Arrangements are entrusted to the care of Beau "lac" Funeral Home & Crematorium, Tammy Smart, Funeral Director, Shellbrook, SK. 306-747-2828.

Mervin Elwood Senum

It is with heavy hearts, we announce the passing of a great man, Mervin Elwood Senum. Merv passed peacefully on July 2nd with the sun shining, and Sheri, his

wife and best friend of 54 years at his side.

Left to mourn is his favourite son, Tobin (Jennifer) and his #1 daughter, Tanis (Ed). His siblings, Maureen & Terry, grandkids Cole & Rylee, as well as numerous friends and relatives. Predeceased by his parents, Earling & Myrtle.

Merv was born May 16, 1946 in Duncan, BC and spent his childhood in Shellbrook, SK. He raised his family, worked and played in Prince George for 40 years, then retired and divided his time between Kelow-

na and Arizona. Merv always had a story to tell and lived a full and happy life until the last few painful years but he never complained. He will be remembered for his love of his family, golf, hockey, curling and music... especially his rendition of Hello Dolly. He was a social guy who loved talking to everyone and made friends everywhere he went. Swervin Mervin is now pain free, at peace, and telling his stories to a new audience.

A celebration of Merv's life will be held later this summer.

GOOD NEWS

GOD OF THE MOUNTAIN IS STILL
GOD IN THE VALLEY

By DAVE BODVARSON
Shellbrook Pentecostal Assembly

I have always liked the song "God of the Mountain is Still God in the Valley."

The song speaks of testing and God's love amidst the trials. It goes like this, "The God on the mountain is still God in the valley. When things go wrong, He'll make them right. And the God of the good times Is still God in the bad times. The God of the day Is still God in the night."

You talk of faith when you're up on the mountain. But talk comes so easy when life is at its best. But down in the valley of trial and temptation is where your faith is really put to the test.

Jesus is our great example. The Gospels speak of Jesus facing temptation in the wilderness. The devil not only tempted Christ, he tempted Him three times. The one temptation is quite subtle because Satan uses or misuses Scripture.

What has always helped me is to remember that God tests us to bring out the best in us, whereas Satan tempts us to bring out the worst.

Satan brings Jesus to the highest place of the temple and tells Him to do a ridiculous thing. The Gospel of Luke says it this way, "Then he brought Him to Jerusalem, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, 'If You are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here. For it is written: He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you, and in their hands they shall bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone.'"

The passage he selected was Psalm 91:11-12. The devil actually misquoted the promise and omitted the words "in all your ways."

The temptation we as believers can fall into here is being tempted to stand on an isolated Bible verse when God is calling us to stand on the whole Bible

— all the counsel of God.

I like the way Jesus handled this temptation. Jesus balanced Scripture with Scripture.

One preacher put it this way, "When a child of God is in the will of God, he can claim the Father's protection and care. But if he willfully gets into trouble and expects God to rescue him, then he is tempting God."

Jesus had a wide knowledge of Scriptures and defeated the Devil by applying it correctly. And so can we!

Growing up, I faced temptation and still do. Temptation is not sin; It is only sin when we yield to it. For some this might be pretty simplistic, but I have always felt I had a choice. I didn't have to take the wrong path, and if I did take it, by God's grace, I could back on the right one.

Someone suggested to beat temptation is as simple as walking down another street! It goes like this:

"I walk down the street.
There is a deep hole in the sidewalk.
I fall in.
I am lost... I am helpless.
It isn't my fault.
It takes forever to find a way out.
I walk down the same street.
There is a deep hole in the sidewalk.
I pretend I don't see it.
I fall in again.
I can't believe I am in the same place.
But, it isn't my fault.
It still takes me a long time to get out.
I walk down the same street.
There is a deep hole in the sidewalk.
I see it is there.
I still fall in. It's a habit.
My eyes are open.
I know where I am.
It is my fault. I get out immediately.
Walk down the same street.
There is a deep hole in the sidewalk.
I walk around it.
I walk down another street."

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I would like to send a thank you to the people who put on a Celebration of Life for Roz Blando Neufeld of Oromocto, NB, wife of Tyler Neufeld, mother of Sebastian, Gabriel and Cece. I would like to thank the people for the cards, flowers and food.

Tyler & Rosalind's Gramma,
Evelyn Neufeld & family

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Edging, rock garden or groundcover? - Part 2

By SARA WILLIAMS

With attractive flowers and foliage, and a fairly low height, these are easy to grow and hardy. They can edge a border or path, are at home in a rock garden, and given time, can act as groundcovers in "difficult" areas.

Dwarf baby's breath (*Gypsophila repens*). An old-fashioned flower, baby's breath is native to the Alps and Pyrenees Mountains of Europe but does very well on the Canadian prairies. The Latin name says it all: *Gypsophila* means a lover of chalk and refers to its preference for lime-based or alkaline soils, which we have in abundance, while *repens* refers to its creeping or prostrate form – ideal for a rock garden or edging. Soft, misty clouds of pink or white flowers appear from early to mid-summer above narrow grey leaves about 20 cm (8 in.) in height. But its deep roots make it difficult to transplant once established. It does best in full sun in average well drained soil. Among the varieties are: 'Alba' with white flowers; 'Rosea' which is mat-forming with single, rose-pink flowers; and 'Rosyveil', developed by Karl Foerster of ornamental grass fame in 1933, with semi-double, pink to white flowers in late summer.

Coral bell Morden hybrids (*Heuchera richardsonii* x *H. sanguinea*) were developed at the Brandon and Morden Research

Stations. Unlike many of the newer introductions, these are dependably hardy and long lived. Henry Marshall combined the hardiness of our native coral bells with the beauty of the tender *H. sanguinea* to develop 'Brandon Glow', 'Brandon Pink' and 'Northern Fire' which were released in 1983. Lynn Collicut continued this work and released 'Ruby Mist'. All of these are 50-60 cm (20-24 in.) in height, exceptionally hardy, long lived, with excellent scalloped foliage and flowers with a long blooming period during June and July. 'Brandon Pink' has deep coral pink flowers and faintly mottled foliage; 'Brandon Glow' has darker pink flowers and distinctly mottled foliage; 'Northern Fire' has darker red flowers; and 'Ruby Mist' has ruby red flowers and dark green foliage. Place them in full sun to light shade in average well drained soil. They are easily propagated by spring division.

'Dropmore Blue' catmint (*Nepeta*) is a hybrid developed by Frank Skinner and introduced in 1932. It has spikes of small, tubular blue flowers above oval, gray-green leaves, forming an informal mound of about 40 cm (16 in.). Because the flowers are sterile, it blooms all summer and does not produce unwanted seedlings. Place it in full sun to partial shade in well-drained soil. It is easily propagated by spring division.

Wild strawberry (*Fragaria*

virginiana) is only 30 cm (12 in.) in height with attractive semi-evergreen foliage, white flowers that bloom in early summer and small but exceedingly sweet and tasty red strawberries. Native to the prairies and parklands, it has long been enjoyed by Indigenous Peoples. Easily propagated by separating the plantlets produced by the stolons, it should be planted in full sun to partial shade in average well drained soil enriched with organic matter.

Soft lungwort (*Pulmonaria mollis*) differs from most lungworts in that its foliage does not have the variegation that many gardeners have come to expect in a lungwort. Its leaves are instead a soft, hairy green and 30-45 cm (12-18 in.) high. The small, bell-

shaped flowers are among the earliest, changing from red to blue as they mature. In its favour, it's more adaptable and much longer lived than most lungworts. It will flourish in full sun to full shade, given an average to moist soil well amended with organic matter. Propagate by division after flowering.

Sara Williams is the author of many books including *Gardening Naturally with Hugh Skinner*, *Creating the Prairie Xeriscape*, and with Bob Bors, *Growing Fruit in Northern Gardens*. She gives workshops on a wide range of gardening topics throughout the prairies.

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



Catmint as edging.

Photo Credit: Hugh Skinner

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“When recycling make sure your newspapers are not bagged. It will save recycling facilities time.”

Plastic Bags & Newspapers Don't Mix

This program may not be available in all communities.

Support Recycling It is up to all of us!

Shell Lake Hey Days a traditional crowd pleaser



The pancake breakfast, hosted by Partners in Worship, was a perfect kick-off to Shell Lake's Hey Days weekend.



The children could hardly contain their excitement to take part in the Hey Days children's bike parade.



The Shell Lake Lions took parade watchers back to the farm for their parade float.



Shell Lake Mayor Anita Weiers took part in the parade.



Lake Country Co-op's float made parade watchers long for the lake.



The petting zoo was a popular attraction among the children.



This vehicle had one mean looking guard dog.



The parade was led by the Royal Canadian Legion 63 Pipes and Drums Band.



A classic pink Ford Thunderbird was among the many vehicles in the Show & Shine.



A classic 1957 Chev was the topic of much conversation during the Show & Shine.



Gordon Franson came out for the Show & Shine with his 1968 Bug.



The Thickwood Trails Snowmobile Club Show & Shine was a new attraction, bringing out unique vehicles like this GMC truck.



This vehicle drew many comments, likening it to the famous car from Smokey and the Bandit.