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Shellbrook council deadlocked over water



The future of Shellbrook's water supply continues to look murky, as council is still weighing its options.

By JORDAN TWISS

Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

Shellbrook's Town Council met for a special meeting on Tuesday, Aug. 22, in hopes of finding clarity on whether to pursue a partnership with the Prince Albert Rural Water Utility (PARWU) on a water pipeline, or chart its own course. After nearly three hours of presentations and discussion, little progress was made towards a final decision.

Water has been a top-of-mind issue in Shellbrook since 2020, when the council at the time chose to pursue a multi-phase, \$7.8 million water treatment plant upgrade project that included a mandated upgrade to the town's water storage (\$3 million), and the activation of the plant's third greensand filter and the addition of a reverse osmosis system to improve water quality (\$4.8 million).

By the end of 2020, however, council had put the project on hold to explore

the possibility of partnering with PAR-WU on the construction of a new water treatment plant and a water pipeline to Shellbrook. Soon after, the Rural Municipalities of Shellbrook, Buckland, and Duck Lake joined the conversation, a steering committee was formed, and a feasibility study was commissioned.

In a high-level estimate, Pinter & Associates, an engineering consultant, estimated the PARWU project would cost \$53 million, and also eliminate the requirement for Shellbrook to expand its water storage.

Meanwhile, the feasibility study conducted by consultant Atana found the project to be feasible, so long as "costs were kept at \$53 million, Shellbrook didn't need to pay \$3 million to upgrade water storage, and PARWU subsidized rates to Shellbrook for 10 years at the expense of existing subscribers."

More than two years later, PARWU has spent \$2 million on a design for its water treatment plant and the pipeline.

Much has also changed on the financial side, casting doubt on the project's feasibility.

For starters, the project's estimated cost has jumped to at least \$65 million (and as high as almost \$80 million based on some estimates), the cost for just the pipeline has been quoted at \$11.7 million to factor in the need for booster stations (an element that was overlooked in the initial request for proposals), and the Town of Shellbrook has learned it will be required to upgrade its water storage regardless of what path it chooses (though, the cost of this has now fallen to \$1.5 million from \$3 million).

At the same time, no grant funding has been obtained for the project, and none appears to be forthcoming.

"[If you] talk to the MLA, he'll say things like, 'When you have a \$60 or \$70 million project serving 1,000 people, it doesn't make sense,'" Mayor Amund Otterson said, explaining that the 1,000 people refers to PARWU's existing customer base, not its potential customer base after the project's completion.

Crunching the numbers the town has so far, Councillor Miller laid out four potential scenarios for how the PAR-WU project and the Town's own project would affect water rates:

- 1. PARWU Pipeline with no grant funding: \$8.67 per cubic metre
- 2. PARWU Pipeline + \$7 million grant funding: \$5.60 per cubic metre
- 3. Shellbrook WTP and RO upgrade: \$5.24 per cubic metre
- 4. Shellbrook WTP and RO upgrade + \$4 million grant funding: \$3.25 per cubic metre.

For reference Shellbrook residents paid \$2.67 per cubic metre (1,000 litres) of water in 2022, while the town's cost to produce was \$1.48 per cubic metre.

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Shellbrook council deadlocked over water

Continued from 1

As for PARWU, its current rate for customers is \$4.40 per cubic metre, plus a \$63 per month connection fee. This formula is based on a rate of \$2.39 per cubic metre to receive water from the City of Prince Albert, but given recent negotiations with the city, this could increase to as much as \$3.49.

Looking beyond just the dollars and cents, Tuesday's meeting also saw Mayor Otterson present a detailed breakdown comparing the PARWU project to the town's water treatment plant project on a number of factors, including required water treatment, distribution, water quality, operational costs, environmental impacts, and the risk of supply interruption, to name just a few.

Council then reviewed a technical memorandum by Associated Engineering, evaluating the town's water supply and comparing both the initial capital costs and the costs over 25 years of the PARWU project and the town's proposed project. It also factored in a scenario in which the town completed the water treatment plant and storage upgrades without adding a reverse osmosis system, but council has already ruled this option out.

For the town's water treatment plant project, initial capital costs are still pegged at \$7,714,000, with annual operating costs totalling \$237,092, and the cost over 25 years estimated at \$15,261,567.

Comparatively, initial capital costs for the PARWU project are estimated at \$21,901,750, including \$12 million for the pipeline, which the town will be expected to pay for in some capacity, and \$3 million for the booster stations.

Meanwhile, annual operating costs will be lower at \$34,350, as much of the management will be on PAR-WU's end, and total costs after 25 years are estimated at \$39,467,692 when the cost for water is factored in at PARWU's existing rate of \$4.40 per cubic metre.

With much still unknown, council still can't say how either project would impact the monthly utility bills for ratepayers. Up for some debate, though, was the \$12 million estimate for the pipeline, as PARWU believes it will cost closer to \$6.5 million.

With the town's money on the line for the pipeline, councillor Miller said he'd be more in favour of the project if the cost for it is \$6.5 million, and if PARWU would commit to paying any costs exceeding that estimate. However, he remained wary of the idea of the town paying for the pipeline.

"It doesn't make sense to me that we'd pay for somebody else's asset, and they get to exploit how they want. It's pre-paying a contract," he said, noting that he likes the idea of the town producing its own water and controlling its own destiny, rather than being reliant on PARWU and the City of Prince Albert.

Councillor Larry Batten, meanwhile, raised concerns about the risk of PARWU going bankrupt, which would leave the town stranded with an asset it has no use for and would mean spending more money to upgrade the water treatment plant.

Concluding discussion of the cost breakdown portion of Associated Engineering's water supply evaluation, Councillor Miller said he'd like to see council ask SaskWater, the Crown water corporation, for a proposal on the town's water treatment plant project.

In addition to its cost analysis of the projects, Associated Engineering's technical memorandum also included a weighted evaluation of non-monetary con-

Item	Cost (2023)
Building	\$640,000
Reservoir (600 m³ underground)	\$1,500,000
Filter upgrades with all new piping, valves and pumps	\$1,200,000
RO membrane and CIP system	\$1,200,000
New process pumps (one backwash, two membrane transfer)	\$150,000
MCC (Electrical)	\$350,000
Controls upgrade (PLC and SCADA interface)	\$100,000
Chemical feed system	\$30,000
New process piping	\$100,000
Distribution pumps (\$25,000 x 2)	\$50,000
Subtotal	\$5,320,000
Engineering (15%)	\$798,000
Contingency (30%)	\$1,596,000
TOTAL	\$7,714,000

A capital cost breakdown of the Town of Shellbrook's water treatment plant upgrade project provided by Associated Engineering.

ltem	Cost (2023)
Building	\$0
Reservoir (600 m³ underground)	\$1,500,000
Cost of pipeline (40 km 8" HDPE DR 11)	\$12,017,500
Booster pump station (x 3)	\$3,000,000
Demolishing and removal of existing equipment	\$50,000
Chemical system (Sodium hypo)	\$30,000
Distribution pumps (\$25,000 x 2)	\$50,000
MCC (Electrical)	\$150,000
Controls upgrade (PLC and SCADA interface)	\$50,000
Subtotal	\$16,847,500
Engineering (10%)	\$1,684,750
Contingency (30%)	\$3,369,500
TOTAL	\$21,901,750

A capital cost breakdown of PARWU's pipeline project provided by Associated Engineering.

siderations, including regulatory and environmental, water quality and treatment, constructability and expandability, and operation and maintenance.

This evaluation proved to be a point of contention, as Councillor Miller questioned the decision to weigh water quality and treatment at 40 (out of 100) and life cycle costs at just 20, when both projects will produce a similar quality of water.

Councillor Miller suggested life cycle costs should be weighted at 50 or 60, with water treatment being folded into operation and maintenance, and water quality being removed altogether.

Mayor Otterson conceded he may have influenced the weightings, but stood by them and said it was what was agreed upon by him, Councillor Peter Halayka, town foreman Mike Tanchuk, and CAO Kelly Hoare when they met with Associated Engineering.

"We should decide as a council what those weightings should be, and we should understand exactly what it means," Council Miller responded. "Council hasn't participated in how we set these."

Following more back and forth with little forward momentum towards any decision, council chose to adjourn the discussion with plans to seek out a formal proposal from SaskWater. It also said public consultations will need to occur in the future, starting with small focus groups comprised of experts before expanding to the general public.

VILLAGE OF CANWOOD Notice of Call for Nominations Municipal By-Election

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

Mayor: Village of Canwood
Councillor: Village of Canwood
Number to be Elected: 1

will be received by the undersigned on the 20th day of September, 2023, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and during regular business hours, Tuesday to Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. September 1 to September 19, 2023, at Village of Canwood Municipal Office.

Nomination forms may be obtained at the following location(s):

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Dated this 23rd day of August, 2023.

Lindsey Olson Returning Officer

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Fiddlers put on a show in Canwood

By JORDAN TWISS Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

Trent Bruner received both a warm welcome home and an enthusiastic send-off, when he hosted and performed in the Canadian Grand Masters Send-off Fiddle Show And Dry Dance at the Canwood Elks Community Hall on Aug. 21.

The concert, organized with the help of the Canwood Public Library, served as a showcase and a warm-up for the Saskatchewan musicians who were bound for the Canadian Grand Masters Fiddling Competition in Truro, N.S., on Aug. 25 and 26.

In addition to Bruner, who was returning as a house accompanist for the 24th time in the competition's 33-year history, the evening's entertainment also featured music by three-time Canadian Grand

Masters competitor Austin Castle from Swift Current.

The two shared the stage with local fiddlers Becky Wilson (16) and Elisha Johnson (12), Saskatoon fiddler Booker Blakley, and Meadow Lake guitarist and fiddler Lucas Welsh, giving the four musicians an opportunity to showcase their own talents.

Supporting them with applause, cheers, and a couple square dances throughout the evening, was a crowd of about 200 people, who came from Canwood, Debden, Big River, Shellbrook, Parkside, Blaine Lake, Spiritwood, Leoville, Prince Albert, Saskatoon, and Raymore.

"In the folk music world, and especially in the Canadian fiddle scene, there is a lot of talent out there that needs opportunities to be able to perform. The show and dance gave that op-

portunity," Bruner said of the importance of including young fiddlers like Johnson and Wilson in the show.

As students of Kerri English, both Johnson and Wilson are no strangers to performing close to home. But last year, Wilson became just the seventh Saskatchewan fiddler to be selected to perform in the Canadian Grand Masters Junior Showcase. The opportunity allowed her to perform a 10-minute set at the 2022 Grand Masters Competition finals in Winnipeg.

After Johnson opened last Monday's show and Wilson followed with a performance of her own, Welsh set aside his guitar to play some fiddle tunes, Bruner played an original piano composition as his solo of choice, and Blakley and Castle played individual sets and a few duets.

To close out the show,



Becky Wilson performs during the send-off concert for the Canadian Grand Masters in Canwood.

Elisha Johnson performs during the

Elisha Johnson performs during the send-off concert for the Canadian Grand Masters in Canwood.

Blakley and Castle joined Johnson and Wilson, and also helped them play along for the dance afterwards.

All in all, Bruner says it was a very successful evening.

"It speaks to the regional appeal for this type of entertainment, the desire to stay in touch with cultural roots, and to be able to give performers and students an opportunity to develop," he said of the show's warm reception.

Calling shows like these an important way to carry on Canadian folk music traditions and open doors for young musicians, Bruner fondly recalled the days of the Parkland Fiddlers.

Boasting musicians from Big River, Debden, Canwood, Shellbrook, Shell Lake, and even down to Leask, the group was active from 1990 to 2006. During this time, it hosted an annual contest at the Canwood Elks Hall, which served as one of the major contests for Saskatchewan contestants who were going to be receiving placement positions to be selected to represent the province at the Canadian Grand Masters.

"The Parkland Fiddlers' mission was to provide opportunities for those who had none in the traditional music field," Bruner said. "We have missed a lot of that local entertainment in the area."

With the Canadian Grand Masters in Truro under his belt, Bruner's next stop as an accompanist was set to bring him to the Pembroke Fiddle & Step Dancing Contest in Pembroke, Ont., from Aug. 28 to Sept. 4.

To see how the Canadian Grand Masters played out, visit: https://www.canadiangrandmasters.ca



Lucas Welsh took a break from his guitar to treat the crowd to some fiddle tunes.



Fiddlers Booker Blakley (left) and Austin Castle (middle) perform a duet, accompanied by Trent Bruner on piano.

Locals ride in Whitewood rodeo



Shellbrook's Beau Armstrong had a strong ride in the Whitewood/Chacachas Rodeo on Aug. 18 & 19, scoring 65 points. Photos courtesy of Chris Ashfield, Grasslands News Group



Gunner Armstrong got bucked off his bull during his ride at the Whitewood/Chacachas Rodeo and got hung up. Fortunately, bullfighters Ethan Barrow and Northstar Stonechild, and rodeo committee member Charlie Bear were quick to come to his rescue.



Shellbrook Chronicle Website www.shellbrookchronicle.com

Spiritwood Herald Website www.spiritwoodherald.com

Nadine Wilson MLA Saskatchewan Rivers

Parents have a right to know exactly what their children are being taught in class. They must have the final say on third-party material in classrooms.

People before
Politics

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Government can't abandon its role in public education

Following action taken by the government of New Brunswick in June, the government of Saskatchewan has introduced its own parental inclusion and consent policies for the province's schools.

Both policies require schools to seek parental consent to use the preferred name and pronouns of students who are under the age of 16. And though parents should play a role in their children's education, both policies also pose a potential danger to students who may not

be ready to come out to their parents for a multitude of reasons.

This, however, is where any similarities between the two sets of rules end.

Expanding its focus beyond LGBTQ students, Saskatchewan's Ministry of Education is now mandating that parents or guardians be informed about the sexual health education curriculum and have the option to decline their children's participation.

Additionally, boards of education must immediately pause third-party involvement with sexual health education while the ministry reviews educational resources to ensure they align with the curriculum. This means only teachers and professionals employed by government ministries or the Saskatchewan Health Authority will be able to present sex education materials in the classroom.

"Our government has heard the concerns raised by Saskatchewan parents about needing to be notified and included in their children's education in these important areas," Education Minister Dustin Duncan said in a statement, calling parental involvement critical to every student's education.

"We also determined that while all of Saskatchewan's school divisions had policies dealing with these matters, those policies varied from one division to another, so it was important to standardize these policies and ensure consistency of parental inclusion, no matter where your child goes to school," he added.

The parental concerns Mr. Duncan references were no doubt loudest in Lumsden, where an incident in which age-in-appropriate sex cards were brought into a classroom by Planned Parenthood Regina kicked off renewed debate about parental involvement in education.

Depending on who you ask, the incident was either an accident resulting from inexcusable negligence on Planned Parent-



News Editor

hood's part, or a case of a rogue organization indoctrinating children and exposing them to "pornographic" material.

The first interpretation is certainly true. The materials in question should never have made it into the classroom in the first place, and Planned Parenthood has acknowledged this and apologized for its carelessness.

Still, there are some who are not satisfied with an apology, or with Planned Parenthood's temporary suspension from pre-

senting in schools.

For them, the only acceptable solution is for the organization to be permanently banned from classrooms and defunded (government funding for Planned Parenthood totalled \$167,000 in 2022-2023).

This seems to be the stance of the Sask United Party, which made defunding Planned Parenthood a key piece of its campaign in the Lumsden-Morse by-election earlier this month, and is now taking credit for the Ministry of Education's new parental inclusion and consent policies.

In an Aug. 23 Twitter post, the party called the implementation of the policies a "victory" and celebrated the suspension of "SOGI 1 2 3 and others pushing age-inappropriate third-party material."

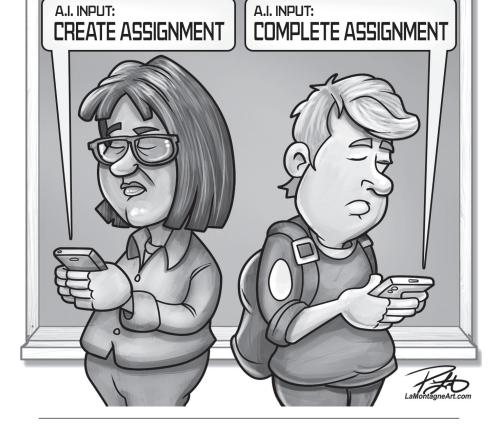
For reference, SOGI (Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity) is a program that supports inclusion for all people and focuses on resources for supporting sexual orientation and gender identity.

The fact that resources aimed at teaching children to be inclusive and compassionate towards others could be considered by anyone to be "age-inappropriate material" is disturbing to say the least. So, too, are the knee-jerk cries to defund Planned Parenthood, thereby limiting its ability to provide its vital services to both students and members of the communities it serves.

Shutting doors to information (even if we don't agree with it) serves no one's best interest – least of all the students who could find themselves ill-equipped to make informed decisions about their sexual health if sex education is watered down to appease the concerns of every parent in the province.

What's more, shutting these doors doesn't stop kids from finding the information without the guidance of teachers and parents. It only prevents it from being provided in a safe, structured environment.

The consequences of inadequate sex education are well known. Time after time,



BACK TO SCHOOL WITH A.I. TOOLS

in study after study, clear correlations have been found between the breadth and quality of sex education and rates of teen pregnancy and STIs.

The correlation is clearest in the United States, where the CDC found in 2020 that the 10 states with the highest teen pregnancy rates emphasize abstinence as the core of their sex education curriculum. Of these states, five also make the top 10 for teen STI rates.

Of course, there's no evidence to suggest Saskatchewan is thinking about eliminating sex education, and there's nothing wrong with reviewing the curriculum to ensure consistency across the province.

But in a province with some of the highest rates of chlamydia and gonorrhea in teens in the country, as well as fast-growing HIV numbers and a nation-leading teen pregnancy rate, the importance of sex education cannot be overstated.

Indeed, in a study published in the *Journal of Adolescent Health* in 2020, researchers Eva Goldfarb and Lisa Lieberman reviewed three decades of research into sex education.

What they discovered couldn't have been more clear: comprehensive sex education offers a myriad of benefits, including "appreciation of sexual diversity, dating and intimate partner violence prevention, development of healthy relationships, prevention of child sex abuse, improved social/emotional learning, and increased media literacy."

Certainly, the way this education is provided to students should be carefully considered to ensure it's age-appropriate, and parents should play a role and have a say in what sex education looks like.

However, parental influence over the curriculum should be limited, and students shouldn't be allowed to be deprived of knowledge and life skills just to make their parents more comfortable.

As Kelly Lamrock, New Brunswick's child advocate, argued in his ruling that the province's Policy 713 violates children's charter rights, "The parent has a right to teach their values to a child. The parent does not have the right to a state apparatus to force the child to live by their values."

Though no one seems to be arguing for parents to be granted this right, it is an important distinction to make.

Yes, the family unit has a vital, irreplaceable role to play in a child's formative years. But this doesn't mean the government should bow to political pressure over one mistake and abandon its role in our students' education. Public education, after all, should be about broadening children's horizons and providing them with knowledge and skills beyond what their parents can provide.

If we allowed the school curriculum to be shaped solely by parents' whims, we'd never reach consensus on what constitutes "approved learning." And at that point, we might as well abandon the charade of public education altogether and save ourselves billions of dollars.

Again, no one is arguing for this to happen. But with the uncertainty about the future of sex education in the province caused by the Ministry of Education's new policies, it offers us some food for thought.

Shellbrook Chronicle

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Report from the Legislature

In response to concerns raised by parents, Minister of Education Dustin Duncan recently announced new parental inclusion and consent policies for Saskatchewan schools. As of August 22, 2023:

- 1. Schools must seek parent/guardian permission when changing the preferred name and pronouns used by students under the age of 16 in the school. For students 16 and over, parent/guardian consent is not required;
- 2. Parents/guardians must be informed about the sexual health education curriculum and have the option to decline their children's participation; and,
- 3. Boards of education must immediately pause involvement with any third-party organization, such as ARC Foundation and the SOGI 1 2 3 Program, connected to sexual health education as the ministry undertakes review of educational resources to ensure align-



PREMIER

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ment with curriculum outcomes. Only teachers, not outside third-parties, will be able to present sexual education materials in the classroom. This directive does not include professionals employed by government ministries or the Saskatchewan Health Authority.

Parent/guardian involvement is critical in every student's education. While all of Saskatchewan's school divisions had policies in place dealing with these matters, it was important to standardize these policies and ensure consistency of parental inclusion. Saskatchewan

schools will continue to ensure safe learning environments where all students feel included, protected and respected is growth that works for everyone.

Throughout the summer, we have continued to receive great news about Saskatchewan's economy. This June, the province's wholesale trade had increased by 70.5 per cent compared to June 2022, with a total value of \$7.2 billion. Our province ranked fourth in Canada in year-over-year wholesale trade growth. As of July, housing starts are also up by 50.7 per cent compared to July 2022, ranking us second among the provinces.

Our strong and robust economy allows us to invest in the programs and services that mean the most to Saskatchewan people. As many parts of Saskatchewan continue to experience below normal levels of moisture, our government is committed to supporting the industries most impacted by drought, like agriculture.

The Water Security Agency (WSA) recently announced an investment of \$700,000 to fund water management projects for agriculture producers and local governments. Applicants can receive up to \$95,000 per project based on a cost-sharing approach.

The WSA is also launching a new \$500,000 pilot program to assist rural municipalities and irrigation districts with the cost of replacing aging infrastructure, like culverts and bridges. To be eligible, culverts or bridges must cross WSA canals or other conveyance while maintaining current flow rates.

Although it is very dry this year, we know a major rainfall event can change that and flooding can occur quickly and unexpectedly here in Saskatchewan. That's why the WSA is also investing another \$500,000 in the Flood Damage Reduction Program to help communities implement proactive flood damage prevention and reduction measures. Applications for the FDRP are open until October 1, 2023 and project work must be completed by March 31, 2024. To learn more about these programs and others offered



by the WSA, please visit wsask.ca.

Our government is committed to not only supporting agriculture producers in challenging times, but also promoting agricultural products to the province's global trading partners. David Marit, the Minister of Agriculture, recently had the opportunity to promote Saskatchewan's agriculture sector at the Tri-National Agriculture Accord, held in Saskatoon Aug. 14 to 16. Delegations from across North America, including Canada, the United States and Mexico, gathered to work together collaboratively on agricultural trade and development issues. Industry participants saw Saskatchewan agriculture in action, with visits to the Crop Development Centre Kernen Research Farm to learn about the site's ecological studies, grazing studies, crop breeding, crop production and crop and weed management research, and the Wanuskewin Heritage Park to learn about the restoration of grasslands and the return of bison.

Summer is winding down and hunting season is just around the corner, so now is the time to plan and prepare. The Saskatchewan Hunters and Trappers Guide can be found at Saskatchewan. ca/hunting or at Ministry of Environment field offices with front counter service, license issuers, conservation field offices and some provincial parks.

Our government continues to work towards growth that works for everyone here in Saskatchewan. Your MLA looks forward to hearing from you, whether you have questions, comments or concerns; these conversations help us create plans for the future.

Highlights of a Shellbrook Town Council meeting

BY JORDAN TWISS

Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

(The following council highlights are not the approved minutes of council for Aug. 21)

Shellbrook's Town Council met for its regular meeting in person and via teleconference on Monday, Aug. 21.

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

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Otterson, and council began with its customary recognition of Truth and Reconciliation, then approved the meeting's agenda, adopted the minutes of its July 24 meeting, and moved on to reports.

In the CAO report, Hoare mentioned she would be seeking outside opinions and expertise on how to handle the prosecution of tickets handed out by the Community Safety Officer (CSO), without tying up the officer's time in court.

Next, in an update on the PARWU Board, Mayor Otterson said negotiations between PARWU and the city of Prince Albert on water rates are still ongoing, with the city's current offer sitting at \$3.49 per cubic metre (up from the current rate \$2.39). Mayor Otterson also noted that PARWU is losing a customer in the Muskoday First Nation, which is pursuing its own options for water.

Before the report wrapped up, Councillor Miller questioned council's delay in making a decision about whether to pursue a water pipeline in partnership with PARWU or resurrect original plans to upgrade the town's water treatment plant. As council had a special meeting about the water issue planned for the next day, the conversation was swiftly closed.

Moving on to the hospital and clinics report, Mayor Otterson informed council that the ultrasound equipment is in place at the Shellbrook Primary Health Care Clinic. He said the room it will be housed in just needed some minor renovations and work before it could be set up, and that it will be run by a technician out of Prince Albert.

Closing out the reports with discussion of policing, council addressed growing concerns about shoplifting at local businesses. It agreed to advise the RCMP and the CSO of these concerns.

Shifting to its lone item of unfinished business, council once again discussed a \$44,500 quote from Associated Engineering to draft a report about whether or not the filters can be removed from the lagoon at the recommendation of public works. Hoare said town foreman Mike Tanchuk is now working on an alternative solution.

In new business, council began by unanimously giving three readings to, and enacting, Bylaw 2023-10, the Cemetery Bylaw. The bylaw allows anyone to lay a monument or dig under supervision of Public Works with a damage deposit of \$1,000. It also allows only one monument per grave site, and brings prices more in line with those of similar communities.

Next, council unanimously gave three readings to, and enacted, Bylaw 2023-11, the Civic Addressing Bylaw, which governs how streets are named and houses are numbered to ensure continuity in the town

In a housekeeping item, council carried a motion to move both the proceeds and the expenses from the sale of the dance studio to reserves, for future payout to the former Rhythm Works Dance Studio group. The total left over from the sale is \$89,874.14.

Moving on, council discussed lobbying the Ministry of Highways to ban the use of engine retarder brakes in the 80 km/h zone on Highway 3 passing through Shellbrook. After some discussion, it also decided to ask the Ministry to further reduce the speed limit to 50 km/h on part of the section of Highway 3 passing through town to address ongoing safety issues with the highway

crossing.

Wrapping up the meeting, council agreed to a request from Dr. Christine Ryan to send a letter in support of her efforts to increase capacity for specialty learners in Prince Albert and the northeast region. It then tabled decisions on approving the rental agreement and application form for the Richardson Pioneer Creation Centre, and leasing a building on the Service Road, before adjourning for the evening.

Médias d'Info Canada



Sask. needs to do more to fight carbon tax

By GAGE HAUBRICH CTF Prairie Director

Saskatchewan is falling behind in the fight against carbon taxes.

"Just watch me," Premier Scott Moe said in 2018 when asked if he would stand up to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's carbon tax.

But despite Moe's opposition, Trudeau forced his carbon tax on the province in 2019 and increased gas prices for Saskatchewan drivers. Since then, the Saskatchewan government's main tool against the carbon tax has been rhetoric alone.

Other provinces have taken real action to provide tax relief to their residents. The provincial governments of Alberta, Ontario and Newfoundland and Labrador all cut gas taxes to save their drivers money.

Drivers in Alberta filling up

a sedan every week will be saving \$430 this year. In Ontario, a family with two cars filling up weekly will save \$440 a year. In Newfoundland and Labrador, the same two-car family filling up once a week saved \$520 at the gas pumps last year.

Moe needs to follow the lead of the provinces and make life more affordable in Saskatchewan.

Trudeau's carbon tax currently increases gas prices by 14 cents per litre. This will cost the average family \$410 this year even after the rebates, according to the Parliamentary Budget Officer.

But the carbon tax isn't the only thing making you pay more at the pump. The Saskatchewan government also charges you a gas tax of 15 cents per litre — one cent per litre more than Trudeau's carbon tax.

For a government that rightly calls out the cost of the federal carbon tax, it's ludicrous that the Saskatchewan government is currently adding more to your gas bill than Trudeau's carbon tax is.

Trudeau's carbon tax adds \$9 to the bill when filling up a Nissan Maxima or \$15 for a Ford F-150. Saskatchewan's gas tax adds \$10 to the bill for the same sedan and \$17 for the pickup truck.

Moe should show that he can do more than just talk a good game. He should immediately make life more affordable for Saskatchewanians by cutting the provincial gas tax.

If Moe cut the provincial gas tax to zero, drivers filling up their sedan once per week would save \$500 each year. That's a significant amount of tax relief. And it's relief that Saskatchewanians need because Trudeau plans to keep hiking up federal gas taxes.

By 2030, Trudeau's first carbon tax alone will add 37 cents per litre to the price of gas.

And then there's the second carbon tax that Trudeau imposed on July 1. By 2030, the second carbon tax will increase the price of gas by up to 17 cents per litre and cost the average Saskatchewan family \$1,100 every year.

That means that in 2030 you will be paying \$35 just in carbon taxes every single time you fill up your family's sedan.

Along with the carbon tax, Trudeau also charges you a federal gas tax and the GST on top of all the other taxes. In 2030, you'll be forced to fork over \$57 in taxes every time you fill up.

Cutting the gas tax would show that Moe is serious about his opposition to carbon taxes, and it means Saskatchewanians would have more left over in their wallets to spend on necessities. Plus, the provincial government can afford to give drivers a break.

The government of Saskatchewan is projecting to rake in \$508 million in gas taxes this year. With a \$1 billion surplus projected, Moe could fully cut the gas tax and have \$500 million left over to pay down provincial government debt.

Saskatchewanians gassing up their car to get to work, filling up their minivan to take their kids to football practice or trying to take their families on summer road trip, need relief.

Talk is cheap and Moe knows the carbon tax is causing financial pain. There's a simple solution: Moe can step up and cut the provincial gas tax to offset the cost of Trudeau's carbon tax.

Sask. RCMP launches unmanned aircraft plan

The Saskatchewan RCMP polices 99 per cent of the 651,900 square kilometres that make up Saskatchewan. To provide efficient and effective policing services, it is important to modernize and keep up with advancements in technologies to help ensure public safety.

That's why the Saskatchewan RCMP has been employing Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS), commonly referred to as drones or unmanned aircraft, to capture aerial images and videos in support of RCMP policing operations since 2010.

In January 2023, the Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (RPAS) 'Expansion Project' began, with the objective of having at least one RPAS pilot and one unmanned aircraft in every detachment across Saskatchewan by April 2024. The objective of this Expansion Project is to ensure members have the necessary tools available to them.

To date, 29 front-line detachment officers

have been trained as RPAS pilots and 33 per cent of Saskatchewan RCMP detachments have an unmanned aircraft available

Why utilize air support for police operations?

Unmanned aircraft allow RCMP officers to approach investigations, unfolding critical incidents, and public safety concerns in a more modern, innovative, and efficient way. Calls for services can be responded to quicker, crime scenes can be seen from a bird's eye view, and suspects can be located with lower risk to them, the public and our officers.

Unmanned aircraft can cover a large area in a short amount of time when conducting a search and rescue mission for a missing person. For example, Meadow Lake RCMP recently deployed an unmanned aircraft after receiving a report of a missing hiker. The hiker, who ended up being approximately 500 metres off the marked trail, was spotted by the RPAS pilot who identified the hiker's GPS coordinates. This allowed officers on ATVs to easily locate the individual and bring them to safety.

Unmanned aircraft can increase accuracy when locating and monitoring a suspects' location and determining if they are armed. This allows for the Saskatchewan RCMP to respond to unfolding incidents with an appropriate number of officers and specialized tools if necessary. By gathering timely and accurate information, officers can also clear areas of a community if there is a safety risk.

At a crime scene, evidence can easily be spotted from the aerial view which may not be as easily spotted from ground level. For example, the Saskatchewan RCMP's

Collision Reconstruction Analysts are able to use an unmanned aircraft to gather evidence after motor vehicle collisions (eg. tire marks, pieces of a vehicle, etc.). It also allows for evidence to be presented in court from an aerial vantage point, encompassing the whole scene.

The public's privacy matters!

The safety and privacy of the public is of the utmost importance to the Saskatchewan RCMP. These unmanned aircraft are only used to assist investigations and calls for service when warranted.

- If there is an expectation of the public's privacy, officers must obtain a judicial authorization or consent from the property owner to employ an unmanned aircraft. Consent and judicial authorization are not required when operating within public property such as streets, roads, parks, Crown land, ote.
- The RCMP does not use unmanned aircraft to perform widespread surveillance under normal circumstances.
- RPAS pilots are required to document every unmanned aircraft flight – Where the flight took place, why it took place, and for what purpose.
- The video/images captured by the unmanned aircraft is not equipped with facial recognition technologies, nor does it have the ability to analyze footage or still images for the purpose of facial recognition.
- In the event that images must be retained for investigative purposes, the digital files must be stored as an exhibit on the operational file (e.g. crime scene footage to present to the Court) in a secure RCMP building.





Research priorities a matter of opinion

Scientific research is a key to our future in almost any area you wish to point to, and that most certainly includes agriculture.

But there are two huge questions related to ag research: who will supply the dollars, and who sets the agenda regarding what should be researched.

In general terms, there are three general funding sources: producers themselves (money generally collected as a levy on sales), corporate investment, and government dollars.

It's an interesting cocktail of funding dol-

lars, with the potential for significantly different views of what those dollars should be spent on in terms of research.

First comes producer dollars. There you will at least generally find some consensus – at least within a particular commodity group – about what needs to be researched, but they are not always paying the largest portion of the bill to have the final say.

That's where the other funding sources come into play.

There is always a profit associated with anything a corporation does, and while at times



those efforts can be in lockstep with producer needs, it will ultimately be about adding to the corporate bottom line before that of the farmer.

And that leaves government dollars, which can come with their own strings attached. Government of all stripes have political agendas, and those are often reflected in where dollars go.

At times, the agenda is also influenced by the general public in the sense government dollars come from all taxpayers, the vast majority well-removed from the day-to-day activities of farming.

A taxpaying voter in Toronto has little chance of knowing about the potential impact of blackleg on canola production, but they are aware of the aura of climate change. An MP in a large metro city can

'sell' investing in research to help agriculture producers adapt to climate change far more easily.

From a producer perspective, the impact of blackleg – again as an example – is more directly understood as a threat. Canola is the big dollar crop and anything that can reduce yields is a threat to profitability.

Climate change is far different.

Some see it as a great mirage with scientists and politicians around the world forming a grand cabal to fleece the public.

Others see climate

change as a natural occurrence that is simply going through another cycle – which it might be. But this still leaves the question how we adapt because there are far more mouths to feed now.

Still others are willing to kick-the-can of climate change down the road, leaving it to others.

Suddenly, research funding becomes far more complicated because there is never enough money to do everything, and which is the best path depends largely on who you might ask.

Minutes of an RM of Canwood meeting

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

A regular meeting of the Council of the Rural Municipality of Canwood No. 494 was held in the Municipal Council Chambers, at 641 Main Street, Canwood, SK, on June 20, 2023, commencing at 9:05 a.m.

Present: Reeve Lyndon Pease, Administrator Lorna Benson and the following Councillors for their respective divisions: #1 Ralph Korody, #2 Gerald Muller, #3 Gordon Andrews, #4 Mario Boisvert, #5 Kevin Olson, and #6 Cody Lockhart.

Delegations:

9:30 a.m.: Dwight Diehl, Public Works Supervisor, Municipal Operations Update

11 a.m.: Chief Watson, Mistawasis Nêhiyawak

11:45 a.m.: Councillor Indemnity

Korody: That the minutes of the May 24, 2023, Regular Council Meeting be approved. Carried

Lockhart: That the public hearing minutes of May 24, 2023, be approved. Carried

Pease: That the Statement of Financial Activities for the month of April 2023 for the R.M. General Account be approved as presented. Carried

Korody: That we approve the payments as listed on the attached account listing for a total of \$311,943.20, Council Direct Deposits for May and Payroll Direct Deposits for 2023 Pay Periods 11 & 12. Carried

Muller: That we acknowledge the letter dated June 6, 2023, from the Ministry of Environment with regard to the Mont Nebo Historical Landfill. Carried Korody: That we recall Lorne Benson on May 29, 2023. Carried

Public Works Supervisor Dwight Diehl attended the meeting at 9:40 a.m.

Chief Watson attended the meeting at 10:05 a.m.

Muller: That we support the application of Mistawasis Nêhiyawak to the Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund to improve access to the First Nation. Further to this, we instruct the Chief Administrative Officer to provide a letter to Mistawasis Nêhiyawak to show

our support. Carried

Lockhart: That the Council of the R.M. of Canwood No. 494 has no objections to the sale of the following Crown Lands and wishes to offer the following comments:

- The municipality assumes no responsibility for access to the parcels of land;
- Future development will be conditional to land abutting a developed road (Basic Planning Statement Bylaw No. 2003-6);
- The Ministry of Agriculture shall insist on the registration of parcel ties where appropriate with Information Services Corporation (ISC) to ensure access is not jeopardized by future land transactions;
- 4. The Ministry of Agriculture shall register an interest on titles that currently do not abut a developed roadway to ensure landowners are made aware of access issues; and
- 5. To the best of Council's knowledge, the following comments can be made with respect to the specific parcels of land in this specific lease:

SW 31-52-04 W3 abuts a developed municipal roadway;

NW 15-53-05 W3 does not abut a developed municipal roadway. Carried

Korody: That we agree to purchase a 2023 Ford Super Duty F350 Truck from Naber Ford Sales Ltd., Shellbrook, Sask., at a cost of \$71,995 plus applicable taxes. Carried

Lockhart: That we make application to the Ministry of Highways for gravel testing and potential extraction on the NE 11-50-07 W3. Carried

Muller: That the Rural Municipality of Canwood No. 494 apply to the Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency to be designated an eligible assistance area under the Provincial Disaster Assistance Program (PDAP), which provides financial assistance for restoring essential services and property as a result of substantial damages caused by a wind and rain event on June 14, 2023. Carried

Olson: That we make application for participation under the Gopher Con-

trol Program (GCP) for the year 2023 – 2024 as administered by the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities. Carried

Korody: That we acknowledge the closure of the Affinity Credit Union, Canwood Branch, effective June 30, 2023, and agree to the application for a night deposit box. Carried

Muller: That we authorize the Public Works Supervisor to hire Folden Construction, Melfort, Sask., for short-term contract gravel hauling. Carried

Olson: That it be acknowledged in these minutes that the Chief Administrative Officer provided the following to Council: Office of the Saskatchewan Information and Privacy Commissioner What's What: Freedom of Information for Rural Municipalities Advisory Services, and Municipal Relations: Public Disclosure. Carried

Muller: That we agree to accept the donation of Lot 9 Blk 2 Plan BD532 Ext o from the current registered owners free of any encumbrances registered against the title, upon the condition that the 2023 property taxes are paid in full and the property located on the SW 33 49-06 W3 is cleared of any unsightly items. Further to this, the property owners will be responsible for any costs associated with transferring the title to the municipality. Carried

Muller: That we advise the Community Planning Branch of the Ministry of Government Relations that we recommend approval of the Application to Subdivide Land of Dean Person, for the purpose of subdividing Parcel A from the NE 36-50-04 W3, as the site has physical and legal access and exceeds the minimum site area requirements of Section 5 of the Municipal Zoning Bylaw 2003-7. Carried

Olson: That we approve the Permit Extension Application of David Zdunich to complete the house renovation and deck construction by April 30, 2024. Carried

Muller: That we approve the Development and Building Permit Applications of Brian Turcotte to construct a detached garage, with approval pursuant to Section 9.1.2 of the Municipal Zoning Bylaw 2003-7. Carried

Lockhart: That we approve the Development and Building Permit Applications of Collin MacInnis to construct a house, with approval pursuant to Section 5.1.1(1)(c) of the Municipal Zoning Bylaw 2003-7. Carried

Muller: That we approve the Demolition Permit Application of David Thistlewaite to erect solar panels. Carried

Muller: That we approve the Development and Building Permit Applications of Ralph and Yvonne Schoff to move in a shed, with approval pursuant to Section 9.1.2 of the Municipal Zoning Bylaw 2003-7. Carried

Boisvert: That we approve the Development and Building Permit Applications of Greg Johnson to construct a detached garage, with approval pursuant to Section 9.1.2 of the Municipal Zoning Bylaw 2003-7. Carried

Andrews: That we approve the Permit Extension Application of Genevieve St. Denis to complete the crawl space and move house onto foundation by May 2, 2024. Carried

Muller: That we approve the Permit Extension Application of Dale Miller to complete the interior and exterior finishing of the house by June 30, 2024. Carried

Muller: That we approve the Development and Building Permit Applications of Murray Junek to construct an attached deck, with approval pursuant to Section 9.1.2 of the Municipal Zoning Bylaw 2003-7. Carried

Muller: That we approve the Permit Extension Application of Donald Brezden to complete the plumbing and exterior staircase and railing by June 30, 2024 Carried

Muller: That we approve the Development and Building Permit Applications of Jordan Trefiak to move in a home, with approval pursuant to Section 5.1.1(c) of the Municipal Zoning Bylaw 2003-7. Carried

Muller: That we agree to the request of Malcolm Leggett to consolidate Lots 15 and 16, Block 1, Plan 81-B-08884, Fur Lake. Carried

Korody: That we approve the Council's Indemnity as presented. Carried

Korody: That we now adjourn at 1 p.m.

Karlsson will add 'power' to Pens' power play

Like a poker player pushing all his chips into the centre of the table and declaring "all in," new general manager and president of Hockey Operations Kyle Dubas of the Pittsburgh Penguins is going for the gusto in the approaching National Hockey League season.

Scanning the birthdates of players on his roster, Dubas, 37, the former Maple Leaf wonder kid who was sent packing after last season but quickly caught on with the Penguins, saw that his best players were, well, aging.

While 37 may be considered young for an NHL GM, the same can't be said for players. Sidney Crosby, 36. Evgeni Malkin, 37, Kris Letang, 36, the three pillars of the team's relatively potent power play, had perhaps two, maybe three more years of brilliance before Father Time took over

Hence, chips all in.

Dubas struck a deal with the San Jose Sharks to acquire Erik

Karlsson, 33, who may or not be the league's best 'defenceman' but is undoubtedly the NHL's most potent offensive defenceman. Last year, the Swedish superstar racked up 101 points for the Sharks, 27 of them on the power play, and was 25 points better than the next highest-scoring defencemen – Quinn Hughes of Vancouver and Josh Morrissey of Winnipeg. By the way, Karlsson also won his third James Norris Memorial Trophy as the NHL's best D-man.

Karlsson Penguins power play alongside Crosby, Malkin, Letang and perhaps Richard Rakell or Bryan Rust (Jake Guentzel had ankle surgery and will miss the first couple of weeks of the season) and it could be red-light horror for opposing teams' netminders. Crosby is one of the most creative players in the league, but Karlsson may be even better with the puck. Those two controlling the play while Malkin and Le-



tang get into position to fire rockets could result in an offensive explosion

Scoring power play goals is not the whole reason for Karlsson's presence, though. It's to try to win a Stanley Cup, and the addition of the super Swede could be an important piece of the puzzle for Pittsburgh. If goalie Tristan Jarry has an above-average season in goal, the Pens should score enough goals to be a Stanley Cup threat.

"I was very excited about the opportunity to have a chance to go somewhere where I could be on a team that is contending," Karlsson said in an NHL.com story. "It was exciting when I heard that (the Penguins) were interested, so I'm happy that it worked out in the end here."

NHL training camps don't open for about another three weeks, and while many eyes will be on Chicago and the Connor Bedard Show, Penguins fans will be excitedly watching how Karlsson, Crosby, and Co. work on developing their magic to make life miserable for NHL goalies.

- Headline from the onion.com: "Theatrical Farce Features Teammates, Parents, Coaches Pretending Little Leaguer's 12-Error Dribbler Was Real Home Run"
- Headline at fark. com: "Anthony Davis got a \$186 million contract extension to continue to get injured for the Lakers through 2028"
- Mike Bianchi of the Orlando Sentinel: "Is it just me or does the ACC seem to be shopping at the second-hand thrift

store? The ACC adding Stanford and Cal is like your old Uncle Al coming home from Goodwill wearing a wrinkled, too-tight, out-of-style Hawaiian shirt."

- Brendan Porath of The Fried Egg on the PGA Tour's 'designated' events now being called 'signature' events: "So we're continuing to work our way through the entire thesaurus to find a word that will suggest that some events are more important than others."
- LIV-bashing English pro golfer Eddie Pepperell, on Twitter, after Harold Varner III said it was easier to win on the PGA Tour than on LIV: "Unlike money, brains aren't in abundance on LIV."
- Steve Simmons of Sunmedia: "The Jays don't need a new hitting coach. They need better hitters."
- Simmons again: "The Arizona Coyotes sent out a press release calling Logan Cooley the best prospect in hockey. Apparently, they've never

heard of Connor Bedard down Phoenix way."

- Comedy writer Alex Kaseberg: "Buffalo Bill Damar Hamlin played in his first football game after having a heart attack. Amazing. Once I missed a basketball game because of a case of the hiccups."
- RJ Currie of sports-deke.com: "What Winnipeg Goldeyes fans could expect at a recent 'bring your dog' baseball game: 5. Several pup flies; 4. Fair balls for the home team, growl balls for the visitors; 3. A few hound-rule doubles; .2 The seventh-inning fetch; 1. An inside-the-bark home run."
- Another one from theonion.com: "England's World Cup Success Inspires New Generation Of Young Girls To Become Hooligans"
- Another fark.com offering: "James Harden has expressed interest in spending next season disappointing fans in China."

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

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.

SHELLBROOK: Junshin Judo Club @ Royal Canadian Legion Hall [102-2nd Ave E, Shellbrook]. Classes begin Sunday, September 10, 2023 @ 1:00 p.m. Registration/Classes begin Sept. 10 – Ages 8+. Season: early Sept. to end of April 2024. Anyone wishing to register, call Sensei Fred Tatler: 306-747-3143

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Crop Report: Aug. 15 to 21

Producers continued to make progress harvesting their crops this week. Scattered rain helped with moisture levels as systems moved through the province. Saskatchewan is now 21 per cent completed harvest, ahead of the five-year average of 14 per cent and the 10-year average of 11 per cent.

The southwest continues to lead the province in harvest progress, with 38 per cent of the crop harvested. This is followed by the west-central, which has 27 per cent harvested so far. The northwest has received moisture these past few weeks and as a result only four per cent completed harvest.

Harvest progress advanced in all crops this week. Fall cereals continue to lead the crops being harvested; 89 per cent of fall rye and 74 per cent of winter wheat crops are harvested. Field peas and lentils continue to lead the spring-seeded crops in harvest progress; 66 per cent of field peas and 60 per cent of lentils are harvested. Barley leads the spring seeded cereals, with 30 per cent of the crop harvested. With 27 per cent of crop in the bin, mustard leads oilseed harvest progress, ahead of canola and flax.

All crop districts received rain as scattered moisture moved through the province again this week. The most rain reported was 59 mm in the Barthel area. The Cabri area in the southwest also received significant moisture, with 52 mm reported. The scattered showers resulted in an increase in topsoil moisture across the province. Thirty-two per cent of crop land has

adequate moisture, 41 per cent is short and 27 per cent is very short. In hay and pastures, 24 per cent have adequate moisture, 42 per cent are short and 34 per cent are very short.

Pasture conditions in the province have improved with the recent moisture. Twelve per cent of pastures are in good condition, 29 per cent are fair, 40 per cent are poor and 19 per cent are very poor. Nine per cent of forage acres did not get cut or baled this year due to drought conditions.

Crop damage this past week was due to wind, localized flooding, drought, grasshoppers and gophers. Producers are also noting aster yellows in crops this week. Producers are busy combining, desiccating crops to encourage dry-down and monitoring moisture levels. Many are also busy hauling water for their animals and moving live-

Harvest is a very busy and stressful time for producers, and they are reminded to take safety precautions in all the work they do. This includes having fire mitigation resources at the ready and taking precautions when working around powerlines. The Farm Stress Line is available to provide support to producers toll free at 1-800-667-4442. The public is reminded to use extra caution when encountering machinery on the roads, and to give extra time and space.

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

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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

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Sun., 10:30 a.m. - Worship Pastor David Bodvarson 306 - 747 - 7235Canwood

Summer: 10 a.m. - Worship Pastor Bob Wrench 306-468-2138 Leask Gospel Tabernacle Sunday 11 a.m. 1-780-690-2100

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Leask - All Saint's
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Sunday, 11 a.m. Service
Canwood - Christ Church 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.

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Butorac - 2^{nd} Sunday of the

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Blaine Lake
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Worship

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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 9 a.m. St. Henry's - Leask Mass - Sunday 11 a.m. Mistawasis

1st & 3rd Sundays 1:30 p.m. Fr. Tuan Doan

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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

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

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PARTNERS IN WORSHIP

Shell Lake Worship Services Sunday 11:00 a.m. Pastor Sarah Urano 306-841-7333

are completing their metamorphosis into the beautiful iconic butterflies that we all This month, watchful eyes can be lucky

By EMILY PUTZ

Nature Saskatchewan

As our summer gears up for the last warm

days before Autumn settles in, so to do our

prairie monarch butterflies gear up for their

August is an eventful month for the mon-

arch on the prairies. Milkweed is in full

bloom, starting to develop pods, and the

last of this summer's monarch caterpillars

enough to catch monarchs in all forms of their life stages, and it is one of the best times to give monarchs a helping hand in "Migration takes an enormous amount

of energy," Emily Putz, Habitat Stewardship Coordinator at Nature Saskatchewan explains. "The adults that emerge now are in a race to get the nutrients they need to survive the journey."

The summer generation of butterflies will survive up to nine months, journeying 4,000 kms south to their wintering site in Mexico, where they fast throughout the winter before producing the next generation to begin the flight northward in the spring.

Foraging before they begin their flight can give them the boost they need to get going.

"That's were the public can come in to help" further explains Putz. "Lots of people know about the importance of milkweed to a monarch caterpillar, but it's often forgotten that ample late-blooming nectaring species are equally important to the adults in late summer."

If you already have milkweed incorporated into your yardscape, planting other nectaring plants completes the picture for the monarchs, and will attract them to your milkweed more readily.

Planting your garden with monarchs in mind can create a habitat that blooms late into the fall season, while benefitting a huge number of our other native insect and bird species alike. When looking to which spe-

Plant a fall garden for Monarchs! cies to plant, perennial native plants will

> give Monarchs the energy they need. "These flowering species are already adapted to our climate, making them low maintenance once established, there's also the added benefit that our native pollinators are also adapted to their bloom times and

> know to look for them." Putz states. The large yellow blooms of our goldenrod species produce right into the fall, as well as golden and purple native asters, purple vervain, and pink blazingstar. Planting these species creates an attractive landscape to insects and humans alike.

> Stay away from tropical species, especially tropical milkweed, which may be colourful and advertised as butterfly benefitting, but can do more harm then good to monarchs, spreading wing deforming disease and tricking them into staying too long before the frost.

> Saskatchewan's monarchs begin their flight southward by the end of August into September. If you happen to spot one on its journey, or at anytime of its lifecycle, please report your sighting to Nature Saskatchewan's toll-free HOOTline, 1-800-667-HOOT (4668) or email Emily Putz at outreach@naturesask.ca. Every sighting helps fill the knowledge gap of this iconic butterfly in its prairie range.

> If you have monarch habitat with consistent use year to year by this butterfly, consider joining Nature Saskatchewan's voluntary stewardship program, Stewards of Saskatchewan, which currently partners with 274 private land title holders and managers to help conserve habitat and monitor population numbers of monarchs and other species-at-risk in the province. All Caller and program participant information is kept confidential.

> Nature Saskatchewan is a charitable conservation and cultural organization of naturalists dedicated to conserving and promoting nature, its diversity, and the processes that sustain it. Its supporters include over 800 individual members and 15 local naturalist groups. Its vision is "Humanity in Harmony with Nature".

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COMING EVENTS

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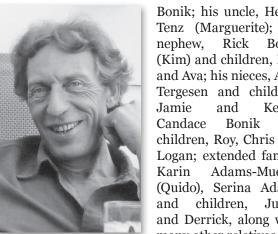
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OBITUARIES

Alfred Gerard Bonik



It is with deep sadness we announce the passing of Alfred Gerard Bonik, late of Marquette, MBformerly of Shellbrook, SK, on July 24, 2023, at the age of 64 years. Alfred will be lovingly remembered and sadly missed by his siblings: Sylvia Kisiloski (Len), Carol Markling (Dave), Abraham, Janet Hartman (Neil); his sister-in-law, Peggy

Bonik; his uncle, Henry Tenz (Marguerite); his nephew, Rick Bonik (Kim) and children, Bria and Ava; his nieces, Amy Tergesen and children, Kevin, children, Roy, Chris and Logan; extended family, Adams-Mueller (Quido), Serina Adams children, Justin and Derrick, along with many other relatives and friends.

Alfred was predeceased by his parents, Gustav and Stella Bonik, his grandparents, Gotlieb Karoline Bonik and Jacob and Mary Tenz; and his brothers, Richard Bonik Kenneth Bonik.

Alfred was born and raised with his six siblings in Shellbrook, SK and moved to Manitoba when he was a teenager to live with his brother

Richard. He worked as a labourer for many years but was best known for always lending a helping hand to anyone in need. He loved hosting family dinners and visiting over drinks. Special thanks to Justin Slegers for the loving support he provided for Alfred over his last few years.

Memorial Service will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 1, 2023, at the Shellbrook Seniors Hall, Shellbrook, SK. Interment will follow at Brightholme Cemetery. Family and friends wishing to send online condolences are welcome to visit www.beaulacfuneralhome Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of Beau "Lac" Funeral Home and Crematorium, Tracy-Lynn Lenchuk, Funeral Director, Prince Albert, SK 306-763-3322.

caretaker. eventually

Pearl Marie Hawkins (née: SWAYZE) was born in central Saskatchewan in 1939. The eldest of 7 kids, Pearl was early in life the caregiver and Cleaning house, cooking meals and helping care for her siblings. In 1955 Pearl was married to Hubert Clifford Hawkins, the father of her three children: Elaine (Randy), Alan (Naomi) and Blaine (Janice). Pearl and Hubert lived in Saskatoon and purchased land in the Belbutte area where they farmed until Hubert's passing in 1975. Pearl then moved to Saskatoon where she met

and married Albert (Bert) Joseph Koteles and went back to school where she successfully completed diploma. LPN nursing career predominantly Saskatoon where she worked in several medical and care home facilities. Pearl and Bert eventually parted ways as they chose different paths. She remained in Saskatoon to continue her nursing and spent a great deal of time with her good friend and partner Garnett James (Jim) Maggs. In 2002 married Pearl Breeschooten and the two of them moved to Meota where, while in her 70's, Pearl took on the roles of town councillor, community volunteer and concession business owner. Pearl was known by many as an incredible cook and an unbelievable seamstress. If there was anyone who could make a silk purse out of a sow's ear, that would be Pearl! She was a knitter and zipper fixer-upper right up until

Pearl Marie Hawkins

her passing. She has made cowichan (siwash) sweaters, blue jean quilts and crocheted many a blanket used by babies, children and adults alike. Pearl had three children, eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by her mother, Eugina Ellen Swayze; father, Lloyd Vincent Swayze and grandson, Derek Richard Hawkins. Pearl is loved by many and will

be missed by all. remembrance social for family and friends will be held at the Meota Community Hall, Saturday, August 26th from 2pm-5pm. Lunch and refreshments will be provided. In lieu of flowers, please make any donations of remembrance in Pearl's name to the Do Drop In Senior Centre, Meota, Saskatchewan – Box 116 Meota, SK SoM 1X0. Arrangements have been entrusted Eternal Memories **Funeral** Service Vanessa Macnab Funeral Director.

Donation supports mobility for Whispering Pine residents

By JORDAN TWISS Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

After a generous donation from a community member, and fundraising efforts supported by the community, residents of Canwood's Whispering Pine Place can now travel in style in the special care home's wheelchair accessible van.

The van, which is maintained and paid for by the Canwood and District Bus Association alongside a wheelchair accessible bus, now has a BRUNO lift chair in the front passenger seat. Controlled by remote, the chair turns and lowers almost to the ground,

allowing for easy transfers from wheelchairs to the van for residents who are more mobile.

BRUNO The chair was donated to Whispering Pine Place by Bob Demers, who previously had it installed in his own vehicle to allow his wife Rolande (a resident of Whispering Pine Place since 2013) to go on outings with him.

Having received

the chair due to the generosity of an old friend who paid the full bill of \$11,000 to have it installed for him, and with the chair not suitable for Rolande's needs these past four years, Bob decided to pay it forward and approached Whispering Pine Place this past April to ask about donating it.

Whispering Place, and the volunteer board members of the Canwood and District Bus Association were more than happy to accept the offer.

"It is beneficial to have at Whispering Pine Place because many of our residents who don't fundraise for a garage require a wheelchair still for the van to be stored struggle to get into vehi-

cles," said Erica Archer, Whispering Pine Place's recreation coordinator. "So, this provides them with the opportunity to maintain their independence and sit in the passenger seat of a vehicle and get in safely and comfortably."

The BRUNO chair was installed in the van by Saskatoon-based Motion at a cost of \$985, with funds for the work coming from a combination of donations and fundraisers like craft sales, BBQs, and raffles.

Now that the chair is operational, Archer says the special care home's next major project is to



Canwood and District Bus Association member Hugh Otterson (right) shows off the new BRUNO chair in Whispering Pine Place's wheelchair accessible van alongside donor Bob Demers.

GOOD NEWS

GOING UNDER FOR THE LORD

By LORNE VALUCK

Parkside Pentecostal Church

Jeannie C. Riley, The Oakridge Boys, Tanya Tucker, and I'm sure many other country artists sang a particular song about baptism – "The Baptism of Jesse Taylor", written in 1973 by Dallas Frazier and Whitey Shafer.

We may chuckle at the song, but really there's nothing funny, or trivial about it. It actually a seriously sobering story (pun definitely intended).

The catchy chorus of the song goes: "They baptized Jesse Taylor in Cedar

Creek last Sunday Jesus gained a soul and Satan lost a

good right arm They all cried, "Hallelujah", when

Jesse's head went under 'Cause this time he went under for

the Lord." The verses tell us of the positive change that occurred in "Jesse's" life relating to addictions, anger and rela-

tionships. He was a different man. Of course, as the word of God tells us, it's not the physical act of baptism that changed "Jesse Taylor", but God's gracious, loving provision in sending Jesus to die on the cross so that "Jesse", and I, and the man I had the privilege of baptizing a couple Sundays ago, would not have to perish in our sins, but have eternal life.

When we repent of our sins, believing and accepting that Jesus' death is necessary and effective in paying for our sins, we are born again spiritually.

2 Corinthians 5:17 says it well, "If any man be in Christ, he is a new creation. Old things are passed away. All things have become new".

The Holy Spirit does a work of regeneration in our lives - a work we cannot do on our own. And as in the case of our friend, "Mr. Taylor", a changed heart shows up in how we live.

Then, as the scriptures encourage us, it's so important to take this step of baptism, identifying with Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection, and demonstrating our commitment and desire to give up our sinful lives and follow Him.

I asked Jesus into my life when I was 7 or 8, and was baptized at the age of 12 in the Shell River. As a follower of Jesus, I'm definitely not perfect, but thankfully being perfected by a patient, loving God. And life doesn't all of a sudden become trouble-free, but it's so great to have the God who created the wind and the water in the boat with me as I go through storms.

If God can change "Jesse Taylor" and me, what about you?

If you have given your life to Jesus, rejoice with us as we celebrate a fellow believer's step of obedience in water baptism, and take some time to recall the joy and excitement of your initial commitment to Christ.

If you have not taken up Jesus' offer of salvation and eternal life, consider it today. Turn to God, asking for forgiveness. Believe that Jesus is the Son of God, and that He died to pay the penalty for your sins, and rose again demonstrating His power to give eter-

Then plan on making a public profession of your faith in baptism.

"Oh they baptized Jesse Taylor in Cedar Creek last Sunday..."