

Shellbrook Chronicle & Spiritwood Herald

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Ultrasound services now available in Shellbrook



Alberta-based Wosler Diagnostics is now offering ultrasound services in Shellbrook, using space rented from the Shellbrook Pharmacy at the Shellbrook Primary Health Care Complex.

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

Residents of Shellbrook and the surrounding area no longer need to travel to Prince Albert or other larger urban centres for ultrasound services.

A wide array of ultrasound scans can now be performed at Shellbrook's Primary Health Care Complex, in space being rented from the Shellbrook Pharmacy by Alberta-based ultrasound provider Wosler Diagnostics.

The ultrasound clinic's arrival was originally teased by Dr. Isa Saidu earlier this summer at the Shellbrook Primary Health Care Clinic's grand re-opening. But after several months of planning, preparing, and lining up the right personnel, Wosler officially began providing ultrasound services on Aug. 23.

"Our company's primary objective is to enhance access to high-quality healthcare services, such as diagnostic imaging, particularly in underserved communities," said John Paolo Pana, COO of Wosler Diagnostics.

"Extensive research into rural communities in Canada that could benefit from our services led us to Shellbrook, and we are delighted to have forged this partnership with the Shellbrook community stakeholders."

With the aim of making the endeavour "mutually beneficial" for the community and itself, Wosler's current suite of ultrasound services includes examinations of the abdomen, kidneys, ureters, bladder, soft tissues, and lower extremities (for blood clots), obstetrical scans, and pelvic scans.

And though it's been less than a month

since Wosler began providing services in Shellbrook, Pana says plans are already in place to expand its offerings to include musculoskeletal ultrasound scans "in the near future." This, he says, is part of Wosler's intent to collaborate closely with the community and tailor its services to their specific needs.

"Recognizing that there is no one-size-fits-all solution, we are committed to understanding how we can best serve Shellbrook and its residents," he said.

"Our overarching goal is to improve access to diagnostic ultrasound in Shellbrook, which in turn will promote health and facilitate the early detection and management of diseases. We aim to empower community members with control over their health and healthcare services... [and] contribute to the enhancement of health and disease pre-

vention in Shellbrook."

As Wosler is renting space from the Shellbrook Pharmacy, it opted to align its hours of operation with the pharmacy and is performing scans from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday to Friday.

The clinic currently has one sonographer, who works exclusively in Shellbrook, with a team based in Calgary responsible for booking, scheduling, answering phone calls, and other admin-related work, and a radiologist to report exam results.

"It is a team effort," Pana said.

While the clinic is privately-operated, services are covered by public health insurance, meaning anyone with a health card won't need to pay out of pocket for services.

For more information, including requisition forms, visit wosler.ca

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Farm Docs hosts Spiritwood grand opening

By **BEVRA FEE**
Spiritwood Herald
Reporter

The evolution from Spiritwood Veterinary Service to the new ownership of Farm Docs has seen only four veterinarians in the 55-year history of the clinic. Built in 1968 by Dr. Jim Bone, Spiritwood's original vet, the clinic has seen

Dr. Larry Potter and Dr. Bonnie Hiebert in the years leading up to Dr. Justin Hodgson taking over in 2023.

Dr. Hodgson ("Justin is fine") arrived in Spiritwood to take over the business in August, bringing with him several new services. Included in these are equine services, such as teeth work and pregnan-

cy-checking, an x-ray machine, and blood monitors.

Trained at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine, Justin graduated in 2020 and went on to work in England and Meadow Lake before deciding upon locating in Spiritwood.

"Working in Meadow Lake gave me a glimpse at the beauty of the northern forests and lakes. I just fell in love with the scenery in the area and all the outdoor activity that it offers," commented Justin.

Similarly, visiting with Dr. Bone revealed the same allure worked on him when he made the decision to establish a vet clinic in Spiritwood.

"At the time that I arrived in Spiritwood - 1964 - veterinary medicine was practiced on-farm. There were only three or four veterinarians in the entire province, clinics were a new thing, and vet medicine was just getting going in Saskatchewan," he recalled. "The driving to farms got fairly hectic, especially in calving season, so I worked in North Battleford for a bit and then decided to build the clinic in Spiritwood. The area was beautiful, with all the lakes and trees."

Dr. Bone remained in Spiritwood for the duration of his veterinary career and beyond, selling half the practice to Dr.



Farm Docs staff, from left to right: Tess, Dr. Justin Hodgson, Hanna, Oreo the goat, and Amber.



Oreo the goat greets some children at the Farm Docs grand opening in Spiritwood.



From left to right: Dr. Hodgson, Brittany, and Amber serve up burgers at the grand opening of Farm Docs Animal Health Services.

Bonnie Hiebert in 2004.

Prior to that, in 1977 and 1978 when Dr. Bone was active in hockey, he enlisted the help of Dr. Larry Potter. Dr. Potter assisted during the 1978 calving season also, signing on full-time in 1979. He purchased half the business from Dr. Bone in 1985, and remained in partnership until selling his share to Dr. Bonnie Hiebert 29 years later.

Dr. Hiebert arrived on the scene in 1992, when she became aware that the Spiritwood Vet Clinic was seeking another veterinarian. Her husband, Blair Hiebert, was familiar with the Spiritwood area because of some friendships based here.

Dr. Hiebert and Blair knew what the area was like, and they knew that Spiritwood was where they wanted to be.

"The Spiritwood Vet Clinic was a good fit for me, as I particularly enjoy large-animal veterinary medicine," noted Dr. Hiebert.

In 2014, Dr. Hiebert bought our Dr. Potter's share of the Spiritwood Veterinary Clinic and that left her as the sole owner until now. During her 31 years with Spiritwood Vet Clinic, Dr. Hiebert references "dealing with the many clients" as one her favourite aspects of the business.

Back to present day, on Sept. 15, 2023, the grand opening of Farm

Docs includes a full staff of one full-time veterinarian, one part-time veterinarian, two vet assistants, one vet tech, and one office manager.

Justin's specialty is large animal medicine, but the full range of services will accommodate all pet and animal owners.

Hosting a barbecue and open house, the team had Oreo the goat in attendance - a hit with the "kids" and adults alike.

Many well-wishers stopped in to meet the new Spiritwood business owners at the vet clinic, providing a warm welcome to Spiritwood for Dr. Justin and the Farm Docs crew.



The crowd gathers to meet Dr. Hodgson and enjoy burgers at the grand opening of Farm Docs.

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WP Sandin, Hidden Hills host district golf

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle
Reporter

The Hidden Hills of Shellbrook Golf Course was taken over by high school golf action on Friday, Sept. 15, as 40 student golfers teed off in the North Central District Athletic Association Golf Championships. On the line for the top four boys and top four girls was a trip to Provincials.

In addition to 10 golfers (eight male, two female) from host WP Sandin High School, athletes came from La Ronge, Big River, Prince Albert, Little Red River Cree Nation, and Sturgeon Lake First Nation to compete in the 18-hole individual stroke play tournament (meaning they had to play Hidden Hills' nine-hole course twice).

Aside from a bit of smoke, the

golfers were greeted with almost perfect weather for a day of golf, and the course was in immaculate condition.

"Our golfers get in a lot of rounds here throughout the summer, so it's nice to see them play at their home course, bring people to Shellbrook, and show off the special gem that we have here," said James Meyers, WP Sandin High School's golf coach, noting that the school had to put in a bid to host the tournament.

"We've been waiting for a couple of years and wanting to host it here. And finally, we were chosen."

Despite being an individual game, golf requires just as much dedication to excel in as any other sport. WP Sandin's student golfers get started in the spring, and spend all summer working on their game without the guidance of a coach.

"Other than that, as soon as school starts, we're out here squeezing in nine holes before school starts in the morning," Meyers added, noting that this means teeing off at 6:15 a.m.

This hard work and dedication paid dividends for some WP Sandin golfers. Though none were able to claim the top male or top female scores on the day, one male and both female golfers putted their way into Provincials.

On the male side, Dade Bernatchez of La Ronge's Churchill Community School led the field by shooting a 73, putting him six strokes ahead of Max McDougall of Carlton Comprehensive High School. In third place, with an 81, was WP Sandin's Matt Muller, followed by Ronan McDougall from St. Mary High School with an 83.

As for the girls, Blayze Braaten was easily the top golfer on the day

with an 89. WP Sandin's Ava Ledding and Churchill Community School's Miranda Merrimen were her nearest competitors, shooting a 108. In fourth was WP Sandin's Josee Schatkoske, who finished

with a 116.

This weekend, on Sept. 22 and 23, Muller, Ledding, and Schatkoske will be competing in Provincials at the Harbor Golf Course in Elbow, Sask.



WP Sandin High School was well represented at golf districts. Pictured, from left to right: Ezra Peake, Casen Keyowski, Cohen Tait, and Julian Peake.

Sask. RCMP focuses on property, violent crime

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

Residents in the Ahtahkakoop-Shellbrook RCMP's detachment area can expect to see an increased police presence in their areas in the coming weeks.

In a press release issued Friday, Sept. 15, the Saskatchewan RCMP announced it was beginning a multi-unit response to recent violent and property crimes in the Ahtahkakoop-Shellbrook, Prince Albert, and Waskesiu-Montreal Lake detachment areas.

The Ahtahkakoop-Shellbrook detachment area goes as far north as the Prince Albert National Park border, as far east as Crutwell, as far West as Shell Lake, and as far south as Leask, covering everywhere within this perimeter.

According to the RCMP, multiple detachments and units are already working together to investigate a number of recent incidents in the area surrounding Prince Albert, including a firearms discharge reported on Monday, Sept. 11. Investigation has determined that some of these reports of violent and property crime are likely gang-related.

While historically there is typically an increase in violent and property crime during the summer months, the RCMP says initial data indicates a larger-than-usual increase in the Prince Albert detachment area in August. The RCMP says formal statistics will be available later this fall, after detachments and units have time to finalize data input, to ensure the most accurate information is

being provided to the public.

Saskatchewan RCMP officers will be working to deter crime, as well as arrest those responsible for incidents already reported. Involved units include: the Prince Albert, Ahtahkakoop-Shellbrook and Waskesiu-Montreal Lake detachments; the Prince Albert, North Battleford, La Ronge and Meadow Lake Crime Reduction Teams (CRT); the Prince Albert Warrant Enforcement and Suppression Team (WEST); Combined Traffic Services Saskatchewan; and the Prince Albert General Investigation Section.

"As our provincial police service, Saskatchewan RCMP is uniquely able to deploy specialized units to assist frontline police officers at our detachments. We are also able to seamlessly investigate connections between incidents that may cross community borders," Staff Sgt. Ryan How, Saskatchewan RCMP's Saskatchewan Enforcement and Response Team (SERT)'s North Region manager, said in a statement.

"This current police operation is a prime example of RCMP officers working together to ensure community safety."

The Saskatchewan RCMP says it will provide updates on this work as it is able to. If investigation, at any time, determines an imminent risk to public safety exists, it will inform the public.

In the meantime, the RCMP asks the public to continue reporting all suspicious activity to police.

"Sometimes you see something you think may be a little off, and you brush

it off and don't report it to police. We are encouraging you to report everything. You're not wasting our time or resources – you may be holding the piece of information we need to solve a puzzle," Staff Sgt. How said.

"Saskatchewan RCMP uses intelligence-led policing. While we have analysts and other public safety professionals gathering that intelligence, the public has an important role to play, too. When you report all crimes and suspicious ac-

tivity, it helps us determine hot spots and trends, and allows us to deploy our resources effectively."

Information about suspicious persons, crimes, or the location of wanted individuals can be reported by calling 310-RCMP (7267) to reach your local RCMP detachment.

You can also report anonymously to Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or www.saskcrimestoppers.com.

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Shellbrook ratepayers deserve facts on water

If you were to survey 10 Shellbrook ratepayers about their biggest gripe with the community, odds are you'd hear a lot about the quality of the town's water supply.

From its unpleasant taste, to the toll it takes on water heaters, pipes, and faucets, Shellbrook's water has become the punchline to a seriously unfunny joke.

Despite this, it wasn't until 2017 that Shellbrook's town council at the time – aware of pending regulatory changes that would one day force it to make upgrades to the town's water treatment plant and water storage capacity – began considering its options for delivering long-desired improvements to the town's water.

By 2020, council had all but finalized a multi-phase, \$7.8 million water treatment plant upgrade project. But municipal elections in the fall brought new faces and new perspectives to the council table, and the project was paused in favour of exploring a partnership with the Prince Albert Rural Water Utility (PARWU) on a water treatment plant and pipeline project.

Nearly three years later, much about the PARWU partnership has changed, and much still remains unknown. Meanwhile, Shellbrook ratepayers are no closer to having better water.

This brings us to council's special meeting about water on Aug. 22, and the front-page article that followed it in the Aug. 31 edition of the *Shellbrook Chronicle & Spiritwood Herald*.

That article received a critical response from Shellbrook Mayor Amund Otterson, who sought to clarify the issue for readers in a letter to the editor published in last week's edition. Some of his criticisms were valid, but some were not.

Looking back, the Aug. 31 article's biggest shortcoming was its failure to clearly distinguish between the original PARWU water treatment plant and pipeline project, and the pipeline-only project actively being considered by council.

Per the original vision, PARWU would have resurrected plans to gain independence from the City of Prince Albert by building its own water treatment plant, opening the door for it to expand its customer base.

If the project had been determined to be feasible, the pipeline to Shellbrook would have been the centrepiece of PARWU'S expansion. But as cost estimates for the project increased, and no grant funding

materialized, options had to be reconsidered.

As luck would have it, a re-evaluation of its own situation caused the City of Prince Albert to reconsider limits it had placed on PARWU's freedom to expand (largely due to concerns about having an adequate water supply).

This has re-opened the door for the construction of a pipeline to Shellbrook, with the water coming from the city via PARWU.

It's this option – not the original proposal – council is now weighing against its prior plan to upgrade the town's water treatment plant and transition to a reverse osmosis system.

A third option, which council is still awaiting a proposal for, is to have SaskWater take over the water treatment plant project and operate the plant. In this scenario, the town would simply purchase water from SaskWater.

With either option, the town will have to upgrade its storage capacity to have at least two days of water. This is necessary to meet firefighting standards, and to have adequate storage in case of a supply issue.

Though clarity may have regrettably been lost in the Aug. 31 article's explanation of these options, no quotes were taken from previous articles, and old or "irrelevant" information was presented as background to provide context for how events have unfolded.

This was not a "sensationalist" article "designed to undermine and diminish the skills of Council and Administration" as Mayor Otterson alleges in his letter to the editor. It was a faithful, albeit incomplete, record of council's nearly three-hour meeting.

Even if council wasn't meeting to make a decision on Aug. 22, it wasn't incorrect to state that it is deadlocked on the issue and hasn't made much, if any, progress toward a decision.

It also wasn't wrong to cite the so-called "personal quotes" and "unsubstantiated facts" Mayor Otterson believes should have been excluded from the article to "better inform readers."

If the article had stuck solely to the information Mayor Otterson presented in his letter to the editor, ratepayers would have learned nothing. Given the new information shared at the meeting, such as Associated Engineering's breakdown of the estimated capital costs and costs over time of the two projects, this would have been doing them a disservice.



JORDAN TWISS

~
News Editor



The numbers presented in Associated Engineering's technical memorandum are estimates, yes, but they give ratepayers an idea of how much the projects might cost in both the short and long term. Similarly, the current water rates charged by the Town of Shellbrook, PARWU, and the City of Prince Albert are important pieces of contextual information, and were included to provide ratepayers with a baseline for water costs.

As Mayor Otterson correctly points out, these are financial concerns, and there are other factors to consider. But, if you were to poll most ratepayers, it's likely their top priority would be knowing how much they can expect to pay for water in the future.

This far into pursuing both the water treatment plant and pipeline projects, ratepayers should at least have a ballpark figure to work with. But instead, they're still almost completely in the dark.

At the same time that it would have been a disservice to exclude pertinent facts and figures, it also would have been poor journalism to exclude opinions expressed by council at the meeting.

While these opinions don't necessarily inform readers of details pertaining directly to the projects, they do offer important insight into questions and concerns some members of council have raised about them.

For instance, ratepayers deserve to know if some members of council have concerns about the town funding the construction of a pipeline that will be owned and operated by a third party at the town's expense (via water rates charged by PARWU).

On the surface, it seems like an odd arrangement. It's analogous to purchasing

property, putting another person's name on the deed, building a house on the property, then paying that person rent to live there.

It's also a situation fraught with risk, as the town will lose its autonomy over water to not just one, but two other entities. What if there's another oil spill like the 2016 Husky spill and the water has to be shut off for an extended period? What if, for any reason, PARWU goes out of business?

These are questions council needs clear answers to before it even considers the pipeline option, and there are surely similar questions in need of answers when it comes to the water treatment plant project.

But council won't arrive at the correct answers if it's not using the proper processes. And, as council's Aug. 22 meeting illustrated, there are some concerns about this.

Ratepayers deserve to know what those concerns are. As such, questions raised regarding the priority given to certain non-financial considerations in Associated Engineering's evaluation of the two projects were included in the Aug. 31 article.

As stated at the outset, there was room for improvement in how the Aug. 31 article was presented. Some points could have been removed, some points could have been given greater context and clarity, and some omitted points could have been included to better balance the summary of events.

But where the article absolutely didn't err, is in providing readers with the new facts, figures, and opinions presented.

This is what readers want, need, and deserve to know, and it's the duty of both the newspaper, and council, to ensure they are informed.

Shellbrook Chronicle

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Credit for parental rights policy belongs to the people

Last spring, I raised concerns about the inability of school divisions and school administrations to address serious, sometimes violent incidents in schools, including allegations of sexual assault. Parents then told me how little involvement they were allowed in their own children's school, that it was in fact discouraged.

On the cusp of the 2023-24 school year, then Education Minister Dustin Duncan announced new parental inclusion and consent policies for Saskatchewan schools, particularly addressing sexual health instruction. It requires Boards of Education to 'pause' involvement with any third-party organization, such as ARC Foundation and the SOGI

123 Program. This followed weeks of pushback after a disturbing incident at Lumsden last June in which pornographic 'alphabet cards' were made available to grade nine students.

The new policy is an effort to prevent special interest groups from pushing certain sexual agendas to children without parental knowledge and/or consent. A recent survey determined at least 86 per cent of Saskatchewan people support this move.

It is these same Saskatchewan people that deserve the credit for forcing this government to stop the hijacking of our taxpayer-funded public schools to promote those agendas.

I say stop, because ac-



NADINE WILSON
MLA
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cording to a news release from the Saskatchewan Teacher's Federation, "even representatives from the Ministry of Education, have been working together with an organization called the ARC Foundation to plan a pilot program for some Saskatche-

wan schools utilizing their resources in a program called SOGI 123 (Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity)."

It was the people of Saskatchewan who began holding town hall meetings to try to hold their MLAs and School Boards to account. It is the people who have been contacting my office to alert me to these issues and ask me to bring pressure to the government to act on the agendas that go beyond sexual health instruction.

In the aftermath of this new announcement, my inbox is being flooded with cc's of emails to the government, grateful for introducing the Parental Rights policies. Almost all of those emails are asking the government to go even

further with statements like, "Therefore, I respectfully request that you take the necessary further steps to publicly announce that SOGI 123 learning resources and Planned Parenthood will be fully banned permanently."

It is the people, that deserve credit for changing the course of education in Saskatchewan.

Interestingly, this groundswell is comparable to when people were betrayed and outraged about the mandates forced on them by the Moe government only two years ago.

At that time, there was a massive protest by Saskatchewan people from across the province at the Legislative Assembly. Emails and calls to government were constant in

the weeks following, yet Premier Scott Moe refused to hear the people. In his insulated bubble, Premier Moe dismissed the voices of the people he is supposed to serve.

As a result, the voice of the people has grown louder. Saskatchewan people are now connected more than they have been in decades. They are watching and analyzing the workings of government and government agencies.

Today, the people are taking back the power they entrusted to this government which had become accustomed to rule without challenge.

Bravo, people of Saskatchewan!

"Multis E Genibus Vires - From Many Peoples Strength"

YOUR TWO CENTS

Clarifying Shellbrook's water issue

Dear editor,

I'd like to thank the *Shellbrook Chronicle* for their poignant and honest reporting of the critical issue of Shellbrook water. Raising awareness is important and has finally brought council's attention on the issue to the forefront.

I encourage all ratepayers to go back to the Aug 31, 2023, edition of the *Shellbrook Chronicle* and carefully review the numbers from the Associated Engineering (AE) reports that were presented to council. This AE report is very well done and was commissioned by the Town Administrator. Mayor Amund Otterson had previously put forward a motion to council, which was passed, to hire Associated Engineering to produce such a report. The tables presented in this edition were Table 3-3 and Table 3-5, which detail the capital costs of both the Shellbrook Water Treatment Plant upgrade (Option 2) and the Pipeline from Prince Albert (Option 3).

Concerning the quality of Shellbrook water, I am assured by two different sources, Associated Engineering and SaskWater Corp, that Shellbrook can produce and treat water from our deep aquifer that would be as good as or better than Prince Albert water. Therefore, a pipeline delivering Prince Albert water will not give us better quality water than we can produce ourselves.

Concerning costs, the idea of considering a pipeline to Shellbrook from near Prince Albert has followed good industry practice of project management, which included doing assessments that outlined conditions for a new PARWU Water Treatment Plant and Pipeline project to be feasible. We now know that the feasibility conditions are not met for a PARWU Water Treatment Plant and Pipeline project to Shellbrook.

Now in consideration is a pipeline project without a new water treatment plant and purchasing Prince Albert water. This option does not appear viable, even when considering scenarios that are very favourable for the pipeline and not favourable for the upgrade of the water treatment plant here in Shellbrook (for instance, using a capital cost of only \$6.5 million for a pipeline, rather than the predicted engineering estimate of \$21.9 million in the AE report,

and inflating the operating costs for a new Water Treatment Plant to \$2.50/m³ from the AE predicted \$1.39/m³ in the same report).

In addition, a pipeline option would leave the Town of Shellbrook open to the inherent risk of managing relationships with the water provider (SaskWater Corp, Prince Albert, or PARWU) and also with the operator of the pipeline, which would most likely be PARWU. Note, the operating costs for option 3, outlined in the AE report, have a water purchase rate of \$4.40/m³, which is in addition to operating costs stated at \$0.20/m³, and capital amortization costs on the \$21.9 million.

In summary, the options are a WTP upgrade at \$7.7 million in capital with an operating cost of \$1.39/m³, or a pipeline with a capital cost of \$21.9 million, an operating cost of \$0.20/m³, and an additional water purchase rate of \$4.40/m³.

I think it is obvious that the numbers speak for themselves, and it is clear that a pipeline is not a realistic option.

With regard to the upgrade of the Shellbrook Water Treatment Plant, the Town has two options. One is to incur a big debt and build and operate it, and the other is to have SaskWater Corp incur the debt to build it and operate it and then sell the water to Shellbrook for a fee. There are pros and cons to both options. Town Council is now awaiting a proposal from SaskWater Corp for our consideration and analysis.

In our last meeting, Town Council committed to discussing the issue of water regularly to give all of us a chance to learn about the options and make an informed decision with all of council involved. As a part of this effort, my understanding is that we will soon be inviting both Associated Engineering and PARWU representatives to speak directly to council and answer questions related to the project options.

I also want to clarify that regardless of which solution we choose, the Water Security Agency of Saskatchewan requires that we add 700 cubic meters of water storage. The current projected estimate for this additional storage is \$1.5 million. This is a reasonable but not urgent requirement that provides the residents of Shellbrook with an appropriate level of safety for fire protection and reserve water for upset conditions. This expense could be delayed several years. Nevertheless, it is talked about in conjunction with the water quality upgrade because there may be synergies with the water upgrade construction that could provide savings.

I understand the long-term implications of the decision the Town of Shellbrook will be entering into, and also the passion of our ratepayers concerning this issue of improving water quality. For my part, I will be advocating for strong leadership to arrive at a good decision in a reasonable time frame.

Brent Miller,
Shellbrook, Sask.

Upgrade Canadian democracy

Dear editor,

Are you loath to upgrade to a new cell phone? I was and I regret it. My new cell has upgraded my life. This may sound exaggerated, but it is not. My new cell's space allows for audiobook downloads. Listening to them turns joyless boring chores into joyful interesting experiences. Its software supports a fitness app and its feedback inspires more steps and more sleep.

It is impossible to calculate the cost of keeping my old cell. What is possible to calculate is the years Canadians have been cheated out of an upgraded democracy.

Before 1921, Canadian elections were between two parties. The 1921 election had three. This made our majoritarian electoral system of first-past-the-post (FPTP) undemocratic. Winning a seat no longer required a majority of votes.

As the number of parties increased, our democracy decreased. In the 2021 federal election, the Conservatives won more votes, but with FPTP the Liberals won 160 seats to the Conservatives' 119. The Bloc won 32 seats with 8 per cent of the vote compared to the NDP's 25 seats with 18 per cent of the vote.

Not upgrading our democracy has cost us more than a hundred years of distorted election results.

Since 1921, commissions, reports, politicians, and citizens have consistently and repeatedly recommended electoral reform with proportional representation (PR). Parties have promised it (and reneged after getting 100 per cent of the power with FPTP).

Other countries using FPTP have upgraded their democracy with PR. It is time we did the same.

Support FairVote.ca, NationalCitizensAssembly.ca, and/or CharterChallenge.ca.

Nancy Carswell,
Shellbrook, Sask.

PIHC recreation news highlights

By **TRINA CHAMBERLAIN**
PIHC Recreation Coordinator

Summer flew by and although elders enjoyed many nice days, several days were spent inside due to the poor air quality statements. We promise to make up for the cancelled excursions by fitting in as many as possible throughout the late summer and fall.

Luckily, a handful of elders were able to attend the Walter Willoughby Horticulture Society Show mid-August. We were overwhelmed with the variety, quality and amount of produce, plants, and such on display. The fruits of your labour paid off. Congratulations to all who partook!

Attendee Delores Thorpe, whose vision has been compromised for 17 years, particularly appreciated feeling, holding, and smelling the produce and was able to identify every one of the items except the gigantic purple bean! She was most impressed by the weight of the pumpkin and that the length of her outstretched arms matched the length of the rhubarb stock!

On the last day in August, a hunting and gathering feast was enjoyed at Tobi Featherstone's, where a meal of land-based produce and protein was prepared and served up for lunch. Elders delighted in the variety of pickles, potatoes, carrots and dill, baked squash, and three different sources of protein, followed by the most delicious blueberry crumble. Participants stated they were so full they would not have to eat until the next day!

This is the first year in the last three that we were able to partake in the annual fall harvest meal in the field hosted by Stephanie Gosselin and crew. We had an outstanding turnout of 47 people, including Whispering Pine Place and PIHC elders and family members,



Elder Dennis Cullem enjoys banana cream pie at the harvest meal in the field.

health care workers, neighbours, and friends. Among the guests were previous farmers, along with some who have never had a meal in the field.

We were grateful to come together to enjoy the bounties of the harvest season, including two delicious lasagnas, garlic bread, coleslaw, fresh cucumbers in cream sauce and sliced tomatoes completed by almost any flavor of pie you can imagine! Although the combines were not running due to the recent rain, the setting provided the perfect ambience to reminisce. Stephanie stated, "It is truly one of the highlights of our harvest season. It is so rewarding to see the smiles on the residents' faces."

We are forever grateful to have friends and community connections and involvement. If you would like to make a difference in the lives of the elders living in continuing care (former long term care), please reach out to the recreation team to enquire where help is needed.

Most recently elders enjoyed preparing apples for Honeywood volunteers to make pies for their fall fundraiser. This week included baking zucchini and banana muffins and bread to serve at the Anything for Alzheimers coffee, where donations were graciously accepted and forwarded to the Alzheimer's Society. A family member provided baked goods as well. The ABC's of Dementia presentation was offered by a representative of the Alzheimer's Society, where guests and elders were provided with valuable information.

In perfect timing for the back-to-school season, the Prince Albert Historical Society shared the Evolution of Education presentation and discussion session to elders and guests from Whispering Pine Place. The participants viewed a slide show from back in the day offering a look at Prince Albert Schools, leafed through 100 plus year old school books, and chatted about their favorite school day memories. The hardships of getting to school and Christmas concerts were a favourite topic.

Elders are looking forward to the Sept. 23 Fall Family Gathering and kick off to Special Care Home Week – a time to celebrate the people who live, work, and visit here!

Family and friends are invited to a Memorial Service, Thursday, Sept. 28 (10:30 a.m. 11:30 a.m.), to honour the lives of elders who lived at PIHC Continuing Care and have since passed on from the period of April 29, 2019, to Sept 15, 2023. Although individual invitations may not be sent, please spread the word to confirm your attendance by calling Recreation Therapy at 306-747-6841.



From left to right: PIHC manager Tayo Dahunsi, PIHC resident Pearl Evans, and harvest meal in the field hostess Stephanie Gosselin enjoy some time together.

Shellbrook Ministerial appoints new executive



Members of the Shellbrook and Area Ministerial Association gathered at the home of Pastor David Bodvarson and his wife, Marlene, to elect a new executive. After 10 years as chair, Bodvarson decided to step down and will be replaced by Pastor John Slemming. Long-time treasurer Dave Whalley has also stepped down, in favour of Pastor Josh VanZandbeek from Leask. Pictured, back row, left to right: Deacon Ron Johnson, Father Dave Butorac, Pastor David and Marlene Bodvarson, Pastor Randall McLeod, and Pastor Emmanuel Aristide. Front row: Pastor John Slemming, Lorette Palm, Pastor David Whalley, and Linda Lundy.
By DAVID BODVARSON



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

Nominations Now Open for the 2023 Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal

Individuals or groups are encouraged to nominate current or former long-term residents of Saskatchewan who go above and beyond for their community through acts of volunteerism. Nominations will be received until October 31, 2023. Online nominations are encouraged, but nominations will also be accepted by mail, courier or in-person. **For more information visit saskatchewan.ca/honoursawards.**

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



Ag tech looking more like sci-fi

It is still incredible to me how science and technology have changed agriculture so dramatically.

While the hair on my head is now sparse and my beard as white as snow, I am not quite old enough to actually remember horses working in the field. I do, however, recall my dad telling me how he quit school in Grade 9 so he could drive horses in the field to help his father.

And my grandpa told stories of arriving from England and eventually taking a homestead,

which was pretty much 160 acres of trees. The first 120 acres he cleared with an axe and horses.

Now granted, that was roughly 120 years ago, which seems like forever. But in terms of history, it's a mere blip.

With such stories being part of my youth, the idea of working fields with horses, while not exactly idyllic, it is at least nostalgic. So, taking photos of horses pulling a binder at the recent Yorkton Threshermen's Show & Seniors' Festival was, as



CALVIN DANIELS

always, a pleasure.

So was receiving photos from Kristina Just of the PALS Draft Horse Field Days in Rama.

It's quite amazing that the old machinery is still functional, and that there are people

still dedicated to training and working draft horses.

But of course, the horse as the source of field power on the farm is a thing of the past.

Flash-forward to the now, and farming is carried out by high-tech behemoths.

Take for example a new Case IH model, which according to *producer.com* took the lead in the horsepower race by introducing the 715 horsepower Steiger 715 Quadtrac recently at the U.S. Farm Progress Show. The tractor looks

like something out of a Ray Bradbury novel about farming on Mars.

My grandpa would have little reference point for such a monstrous unit, even having lived through the arrival of huge steam engines. How could he imagine a tractor with air conditioning and radio, and a connection so he could ask grandma what was for supper one minute, and the elevator agent the price of wheat a minute later?

And where does the farm sector go next?

Well, an autonomous

Versatile DeltaTrak tractor was on display at the Ag in Motion farm show in July, where it demonstrated its ability to operate on a programmed course without operator input.

At this point, grandpa would be shaking his head and telling me I was reading too many sci-fi novels. He might also mention it was nice having the horses to talk to, adding that tractors make poor listeners.

Certainly, you can't stop progress. But not everything old should be forgotten either.

Op-ed: Sask. can achieve net-zero electricity by 2035

By MICHAEL GERTLER

NFU Region 6 (SK) Coordinator

The world is beginning to recognize the benefits of decarbonizing. We must stop burning fossil fuels to prevent dangerous climate change, but there are also many benefits from the necessary energy transition.

Global greenhouse gas emissions continue to rise, reaching record levels in 2021. The world remains on an unsustainable path. The United Nations Environment Programme projects global average warming of 2.6 degrees C based on the stated commitments of the international community to reduce emissions. The primary cause of global warming is the burning of fossil fuels. We need to reduce our impact and replace fossil fuel energy with clean energy.

The prairies are warming and will continue to warm at twice the global average rate. Saskatchewan is likely to see well over 5 degrees C of warming by the end of this century without immediate action to reduce fossil fuel combustion. One would think that Saskatchewan would have double the ambition to reduce emissions because we are expected to see twice as much warming as the global average, but instead Saskatchewan has set 2050, not 2035, as its target for net-zero electrical grid.

The federal government is aiming for the national electrical grid to be net-zero by 2035. The Canadian Energy Regulator recently published Canada's Energy Futures 2023 which presents, for the first time, net-zero scenarios where the entire Canadian economy achieves net-zero by 2050. While the NFU has some reservations about the details of these proposed scenarios, decarbonizing our electricity grid by 2035 is an important part of the pathway to net zero.

Rather than roll up our sleeves to do our part, Premier Moe and the Saskatchewan NDP opposition have called the net-zero 2035 target for SaskPower "impossible" and "unrealistic." While the rest of Canada has agreed and are making efforts to retire coal fired electrical generation by 2030, Saskatchewan recently announced plans to run coal plans beyond 2030 to end of life (potentially 2042 for the Shand power station). Saskatchewan has reneged on our com-

mitment to end coal fired generation, signed over four years ago with the federal government.

Saskatchewan has many options to decarbonize our electricity. We have the best solar resource in Canada, excellent wind resources, and the potential to become a clean energy powerhouse exporting renewable energy to other markets. The goal should be to build a clean, affordable, and reliable electricity system that will attract business to Saskatchewan fostering a sustainable economy.

Many studies (i.e. Canadian Climate Institute, David Suzuki Foundation, Trottier Energy Futures Project) demonstrate the viability of decarbonization. The most recent report released June 29, 2023 by the Pembina Institute finds that Alberta can decarbonize its grid by 2035 and it would be up to \$28 billion cheaper than previous estimates.

Zeroing In: Pathways to an affordable net-zero grid in Alberta examines six decarbonization scenarios. The report finds decarbonizing Alberta's grid by 2035 would save Albertans more than \$600 per household in electricity costs annually, while reliably meeting electricity demand. In all of the scenarios, Alberta – which historically and currently imports more electricity than it exports – becomes a net exporter of electricity by 2025.

The Saskatchewan electrical grid is like Alberta's in that we rely on coal and fossil gas generation. By transitioning to clean electricity generation, the savings to Saskatchewan households would be similar. Decarbonization makes sense and is not only possible, but necessary to achieve economy wide net-zero emis-

sions.

All sectors of the economy need decarbonized electricity to reduce impacts and prevent dangerous climate change. Agriculture also will benefit from decarbonized electricity to run equipment in livestock barns, heat buildings, power water bowls, and run ventilation and aeration fans. Clean electricity also provides the foundation for electrification of field equipment. Although it may be another decade before electric field equipment is available, it is certainly coming.

Saskatchewan people are proud to do our part and we can certainly achieve a net-zero electrical grid by 2035.

The climate crisis is a culture crisis and a crisis of imagination. We must commit to a decarbonized future and set course to that heading rather than pretending it is impossible or unrealistic. No one wants to follow a leader without ambition who says, "it can't be done." Saskatchewan people get things done, and we can achieve net-zero electricity by 2035, and we will all be better for it!

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

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

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

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

DEBDEN: Wapiti Library hours: Tuesday 10am - 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 10am - 5pm (Story Time 10:30am - 11:30am); Saturday 10am - 4pm.

SHELL LAKE: FALL SUPPER – Sunday, October 1. Shell Lake Lions Hall, Doors open 4:30 pm; Supper 5-7 pm. Adults \$20; 12 & Under \$8. Takeout Available. Hosted by: Our Lady of Smiles Catholic Church and Partners in Worship Church.

NOTICE

DUE TO STAFF HOLIDAYS, WE KINDLY REQUEST THAT **ALL ADVERTISING, OBITUARIES AND NEWS SUBMISSIONS FOR THE OCTOBER 12TH, 2023 EDITION BE SUBMITTED AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE.**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR UNDERSTANDING.

Shellbrook Chronicle
 Spiritwood Herald

TRIPLE YOUR ADVERTISING

We'll advertise your important community event in our Community Calendar FREE for two weeks prior to the event with purchase of a 2 column x 2" Display ad for only:

\$60.00 plus G.S.T. - A savings of over 30%

Available to Non-Profit & Community Organizations Only

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Shellbrook Chronicle & Spiritwood Herald

Box 10, Shellbrook, SK S0J 2E0

Ph: 306-747-2442 • Fax: 306-747-3000 • Email: chads@sbchron.com

Canwood Pines hosts Senior's Golf Tourney

By **LORRAINE BENSON**

The weather co-operated this year for the annual Fall Seniors Golf Tournament on Thursday, Sept. 7. Registration was from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m., with coffee and cake served while people waited to begin the tournament.

There were 58 seniors registered, eager to start the two rounds of golf. A deli-

cious meal of chicken, baby potatoes, mixed vegetables, and coleslaw was served and topped off with Bernice's infamous bread pudding.

Winners of the Door Prizes were: Dwayne Olson, Ed Anderson, Ray Gilbert, Percy Wright, Luc Demers, Guy Mounce, Ray Empey, Pat Radchuk, and Marc Bonneau.

The longest drive was Randy Empey, and Kathy

Mounce, closest to the pin was Ed Strelau and Rita Lepage, and closest to the line was Raymond Duret, Norman Poirier, and Corrie Rush-Battersby.

The honour of going into Punky's Pond went to Pierre De Montarral.

The 50/50 was won by Harvey Netmaker, and the bocce ball set raffle was won by Al Dion.

The First Event winners were: Adolph Benson, Guy Mounce, Kathy Mounce, and Barry Person.

Second Event winners were: Dulcie Hoffart, Dwayne Olson, Marc Comtois, and Randy Empey.

Third event winners were: Guy Cyr, Rita Lepage, Marc Bonneau, and Art Young.

Fourth event winners were: Al Dion, Frank Regel, Pierre De Montarral, and Sherry Jensen.

Overall, it was a great day of golfing and fellowship.

While the seniors ruled the Canwood Pines Golf



First event winners, from left to right: Adolph Benson, Guy Mounce, Kathy Mounce, and Barry Person.



Second event winners, from left to right: Dulcie Hoffart, Dwayne Olson, Marc Comtois, and Randy Empey.

Course on Sept. 7, junior golfers took it over for their annual Junior Golf Tournament on Sept. 9.

There were 12 participants who played 18 holes of golf with a lunch at noon. Everyone enjoyed the day and all went home with a prize.



Third event winners, left to right: Guy Cyr, Rita Lepage, and Marc Bonneau. Missing: Art Young.



The Senior Golf Tournament at Canwood Pines Golf Course saw 58 seniors come out to participate.



Fourth event winners, from left to right: Al Dion, Frank Regel, Pierre De Montarral, and Sherry Jensen.

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.
Pastor Josh
1-780-690-2100

PRESBYTERIAN

Mistawasis
Sunday worship
11:00 a.m.
Rev. Katherine Bretzclaff

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 9 a.m.
St. Henry's - Leask
Mass - Sunday 11 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 11:00 a.m.
Pastor Sarah Urano
306-841-7333

Football season gets under way at WP Sandin

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

WP Sandin High School's football team got its reps in ahead of the regular season, when it hosted the Creighton Kodiaks for an exhibition game on Thursday, Sept. 7.

With the football season being so short, the Aardvarks unofficially began their season on Aug. 24 with equipment handout. Full practices began the following week to prepare the team for its exhibition match.

Though playing football requires the commitment to come to school before the year even starts, this year saw 25 players, ranging from Grade 8 to Grade 12, come out for the team.

"Our team has a good mix of senior and junior players," Coach Devon Thorpe said. "We are fortunate to have a number of senior players who have been solid starters in past seasons."

Many of those starters from prior seasons continued to be solid in the exhibition game against the Kodiaks, as the Aardvarks controlled the action on both sides of the ball, led the game from the opening kickoff to the final whistle, and cruised to an easy 43-10 victory.

"Our team played a solid game in all phases against Creighton. The game served as a learning tool for our new players and allowed our players to get valuable reps before the first regular season game," Coach Thorpe said.

"Our areas of focus moving forward will be proper form tackling on defense, and blocking on offense. We look forward to competing at a high level this season."

Coach Thorpe says competing at a high level will be a requirement this season, as changes to the conference have brought new opponents, including Creighton and Wakaw, into the fold, making the Aardvarks' division easily one of the toughest in the province.

Thorpe says he and the team are looking forward to the challenge. And when the team travelled to Wakaw for its regular season opener on Thursday, Sept. 14, it learned how steep this challenge will be, as it was downed by a score of 52-14.

The team was on the road again this week, travelling to Rosthern on Sept. 21. Next week, on Sept. 29, the Aardvarks play their home opener against the Hague Panthers under the Friday night lights, and the week after they'll host Big River (a time and date for this

game have not been set, as the game was originally supposed to be against Birch Hills, which is no longer fielding a team this season).

The Aardvarks close out their regular season on Thursday, Oct. 12, with a long trip to Creighton to rematch against the Kodiaks. Playoffs, if the Aardvarks make it that far, will be

played the following week.

Interspersed with these games are junior jamborees, which give the team's younger players valuable experience. The Aardvarks hosted the Hague Panthers for the first jamboree on Saturday, Sept. 16, and will travel to Hague for the second jamboree this Saturday, Sept. 23.



WP Sandin's Brett Stene delivers a big hit during the Aardvarks' Sept. 7 exhibition game against the Creighton Kodiaks.

Lions District Governor visits Shell Lake

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

It was a beautiful autumn day for the Shell Lake Lions Club to host District Governor Bernie Kramchynsky on Sept. 10.

DG Bernie spoke briefly on the Dog-Guide Program and the development of the new training facility in Oakville, Ont. Presently, the existing facility trains seven specialty service dogs to provide sight, hearing, special skills, seizure response, autism awareness, diabetic response, and facility support.

After the dogs are trained, they are matched with clients at no cost to them.

DG Bernie also touched on the global impact of the LCIF (Lions Club International Foundation), which has helped countries that are going through natural disasters with 24-hour funds dispersed to these coun-

tries and communities in need.

DG Bernie inducted new members to the Shell Lake Lions Club, including Allen and Cecile Sawatsky, Lori Empey, and Percy and Angie Wright. Cecile, Lori, and Angie were sponsored by Lorraine Diehl, and Allen and Percy were sponsored by John Duncan.



Shell Lake Lions vice president Bill McNeilly presents DG Bernie Kramchynsky with a donation to the Dog-Guide Program.



From left to right: Lions District Governor Bernie Kramchynsky inducts new members Allen and Cecile Sawatsky, Lori Empey, and Percy and Angie Wright.

Far from Par tourney hosted in Big River

By **MAISIE KRIENKE**

Big River Minor Sports hosted its first Far From Par golf tournament on Saturday, Sept. 9, with 36 golfers participating.

Golfers enjoyed 18 holes of golf and supper, all organized by Brent and Kari Compagna and their team of volunteers.

Nic Fortier and Taylor Olson came in at seven under par to pick up the championship title. Closest to the pin went to Brent Compagna, and longest drives were made by Celynne Morin and Evan Gilbert. These winners were presented with gift certificates to various local businesses.

Additional prizes, donated by Calvin Thiesen and Krienke's Promotional Products, were awarded by random draw.

When all was said and done, \$1,100 was raised for Big River Minor Sports' ball program.

The Far From Par tournament is planned to be an annual "classic", and 2024's tournament date has already been set for Sept. 7.

Hope to see you at the second annual Far From Par tourney!



From left to right: longest drive winners Evan Gilbert and Celynne Morin, and closest to the pin winner Brent Compagna accept their prizes.



Brent Compagna (right) presents the Far From Par championship prize to Nic Fortier (left) and Taylor Olson.

ADVERTISING DEADLINE IS
FRIDAY 4 P.M.

Spiritwood seniors have busy summer

By **ARMAND SMITH**
Spiritwood Seniors

The Spiritwood Pioneer Center has been busy in the months of July and August. Bingo was played every Thursday afternoon, with many coming to play. Cribbage was played every Friday afternoon, with four to six tables playing each week.

The second Sunday of every month saw a Kaiser night. John Roth & The Associates played once a month, providing some good old-time music. They donate the door money to worthy projects in the community.

The Pioneer Center is the hub for many of the seniors' activities, and the sign out front was refurbished by John Roth this summer.



The sign outside Spiritwood's Pioneer Center was refurbished by John Roth this summer.



Local seniors enjoy bingo at the Pioneer Center.

Wolfe succeeds in erasing guilty pleas

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

A sexual assault case against a man who identified as a traditional Indigenous healer is essentially starting over from the beginning.

Cecil Wolfe, 62, was formally charged with 12 counts of sexual assault throughout 2022, after being arrested by police in December of 2021.

According to police, Wolfe was working under the pretext of being a traditional Cree healer or medicine man, when he committed the offences against women from Loon Lake, Blaine Lake, Muskeg Lake Cree Nation, Saskatoon and surrounding areas between 2013 and 2021.

For the 12 charges against Wolfe, Crown prosecutor Lana Morelli is seeking a sentence of nine-and-a-half years.

Wolfe initially pleaded guilty to the

acts last April, and began sentencing in late October. The sentencing was put on pause in November, however, when Wolfe fired his original lawyer, Loretta Pete Lambert, and asked to instead be represented by Harvey Neufeld.

At the same time, Wolfe also filed an application to have his guilty pleas expunged or erased. Such applications could only be approved if it was determined that Wolfe was not properly informed, didn't understand, or was under duress when he initially pleaded guilty.

In a Saskatoon courtroom last Tuesday, Judge Sanjeev Anand found this to be the case, and erased Wolfe's guilty pleas on the grounds that they "were not informed."

In his decision, Anand said Pete Lambert didn't explain the criminal consequences of Wolfe's guilty pleas.

"He was not even aware that he was

agreeing to go to jail for nine-and-a-half years and would not have entered guilty pleas had he been so aware," Anand said.

"Miss Pete Lambert did not discuss that one of the ancillary orders that would flow from his convictions would be his registration as a sex offender."

Anand also noted Wolfe has limited formal education, and he pleaded guilty solely on Pete Lambert's advice.

"The only reason that Mr. Wolfe entered guilty pleas was because he was told that he would be unlikely to succeed at trial," Anand said.

Anand said Pete Lambert did not outline the pros and cons of electing for a trial in the Court of King's Bench, and did not present Wolfe the option of a jury trial.

"Because of the ineffective assistance of counsel, the process involving Mr. Wolfe was fundamentally unfair," Anand ruled.

As a result of the expungement, Wolfe can enter new pleas, and can plead guilty to some charges and not guilty to others.

The case is scheduled to be back at Saskatoon Provincial Court on Sept. 25. Wolfe remains out of custody throughout the proceedings, and has repeatedly denied touching the women for a sexual purpose.

The identities of Wolfe's victims are protected by a mandatory court-ordered publication ban issued to protect the identities of sexual assault victims.

Information for sexual assault survivors, including what will happen when you report the assault to police, is available at: <https://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/en/relationship-violence/information-sexual-assault-survivors>.

The Saskatoon Sexual Assault and Information Centre's Crisis Line can be reached at 306-244-2224.

Shell Lake Legion welcomes two new members



The membership of Shell Lake Legion Branch #15 is pleased to announce the induction of two new members. Carol and Bob Kostiuk were welcomed and inducted at the branch's regular August meeting. Pictured, left to right: Don Weiers, Carol Kostiuk, Bob Kostiuk, and Jack Klassen.

Submitted by CAROLYN LALONDE, Shell Lake Legion

What happens when you don't advertise?

Very little.

Safe bet: Gambling ads are here to stay

Ubiquitous. It's a word that means, according to *dictionary.com*, "existing or being everywhere, especially at the same time; omnipresent."

Sports betting. Gambling ads. Ubiquitous.

In one man's opinion, it's getting to be too much.

Bet MGM. Bet365. FanDuel. Draft Kings. Sports Interaction. Play Alberta. Caesars Sportsbook. Bet Rivers Sportsbook. Points Bet Canada. A sports fan can't turn on a televised sporting event these days without being bombarded by gambling-related commercials, urging the viewer to get in on the fun and chase big financial windfalls by making the correct bet. It's a \$220 billion industry in North America. Every pro league has an 'official betting partner' and 11 North American sporting venues have on-site wagering capabilities. More are likely to come.

And if you've ever wondered why the gambling mecca of Las Vegas is able to build such big

fancy hotels and over-the-top tourist attractions, it's because the house rarely loses.

Don't get me wrong. I love to gamble. Small-scale stuff, well within my limits. The sports gambling sites, however, need bigger players than me to make their money and it's worrisome that millions of sports fans, who used to watch for the excitement of the late game-winning goal, or the Hail Mary touchdown, are now induced by the excitement of covering the spread — and who cares which team actually wins the game?

Turn on a Blue Jays' game any night of the week and you'll find early in the proceedings that the Jays are, say, -115 to win. It suggests fans go immediately to the Bet365 site and put a few dollars down and then cash in when the Jays do, indeed, win the game. Hockey Night in Canada has a special segment on Sportsnet every week where Cabbie Richards, who has the title of executive producer



BRUCE PENTON

of sports betting content for the network, informs fans of the spread for the game they are watching. Former HNIC host Dave Hodge, who once quit on principle over the way things were done at the network, said he would have drawn a line in the sand on the preponderance of gambling-related content. In an online story on Hockey Unfiltered With Ken Campbell, Hodge said he would have protested by saying "It (gambling promotion) goes or I go."

The saddest aspect of this is when two of the greatest hockey stars of all-time, Wayne Gretzky and Connor McDavid,

team up for a BetMGM commercial to promote betting. Impressionable kids of all ages look to those two in hero worship fashion, but the message they're getting is not how to improve your skating, or beat the goalie on the short side, it's about putting down money to win even more.

It's ubiquitous. It's out of control. But it won't stop, because too much money is involved and money makes the world go around.

• **Headline at theonion.com:** "FanDuel Promo Offers Complimentary \$100 Bet To First-Time Gambling Addiction Hotline Callers"

• **Former Nebraska coach Tom Osborne**, reprinted on Jack Finarelli's sports curmudgeon.com website: "My hardest job is to convince the people of Nebraska is that 10-1 is not a losing season."

• **From Club Pro Guy**, on Twitter, from an unnamed golf course: "Members — Cart No. 39 has a punctured fuel tank and could be a tick-

ing time bomb. If you get that cart, please proceed with caution."

• **RJ Currie of sports-deke.com:** "Canadian Olympic swimmer Penny Oleksiak's sister was an NCAA rower, and her brother is an NHL defenceman with the Kraken. No wonder she's such a talent, swimming in that gene pool."

• **Bob Molinaro of pilotonline.com (Hampton, Va.):** "The NFL season begins with 10 players suspended for sports gambling and ends with a Super Bowl in Las Vegas, the gambling capital of the world. A little bit of a mixed message, don't you think?"

• **European Ryder Cup veteran Paul McGinley**, offering proof that teams from his era had more fun than today's golfers do: "We had consumed 72 bottles of wine, by Saturday."

• **Golf writer Eamon Lynch on X (formerly Twitter)**, on the European Ryder Cup selections: "Crafty move by Luke Donald in choosing Nicolai (Hojgaard).

If he isn't playing well or gets tired, he can send in (twin brother) Rasmus the ringer and only the swing nerds will ever know."

• **Mike Bianchi of the Orlando Sentinel:** "Did you see where Pac-12 teams went 12-0 last week — the first time every league team won its opener since 1932? Stanford and Cal celebrated the feat by each sending \$2 million of their TV revenue to the ACC."

• **RJ Currie of sports-deke.com:** "Someone reportedly hung a 30-foot banner of Russian president Vladimir Putin off the Manhattan Bridge. Cheeky, but at least New York baseball fans get to see a pennant hanging this fall."

• **Another one from theonion.com:** "Cheerleaders have special celebratory routine for when paramedics announce football player not dead"

• **Headline at fark.com:** "Pac-2 sues for control of Pac-12's money"

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

Parkland Elks kickoff preseason with tie

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle
Reporter

The Parkland U18 AA Elks put their offseason preparations to the test on Friday, Sept. 15, welcoming the Martensville Marauders to the Richardson Pioneer Recreation Centre for their first preseason match.

Both teams started with the preseason jitters, but it was the Marauders who got the better of the early back-and-forth action, forcing the Elks into taking penalties.

Facing a lengthy 5-on-3 penalty kill, the Elks tightened up their defences to keep the Marauders off the board. However, sloppy play behind their own goal, just seconds after the penalty kill ended, allowed the Marauders to draw first blood.

The Elks rallied and responded moments later, when Brendan Aug blasted a shot from the point that was tipped into the goal by Kenden Skalicky. Skalicky and Aug received the lone credits on the goal.

From this high, the Elks sank back into the lows by putting themselves in another 5-on-3 penalty kill situation late in the period. Once

again, they were able to bail themselves out of trouble with strong defensive play and solid goaltending from net-minder Hunter Nakonechny, and ended the period with the game knotted up at 1-1.

Following a rough outing in the first period, the Elks showed some promise in the second period with the help of some power play opportunities of their own. During the first, the team applied good zone pressure and controlled the puck well, but failed to generate scoring opportunities. Later, with their own 5-on-3 advantage, they came close a few times but failed to break the scoring stalemate.

As the action moved to the third period, the Elks found themselves shorthanded following an after-the-whistle scuffle. This allowed the Marauders to swing the game's momentum in their favour, as they took a 2-1 lead on a breakaway that ended with a cross-ice feed and a top-shelf tip.

With time winding down in the third period, the Elks were gifted with three power plays that allowed them to pull their goalie to have a 6-on-3 advantage over the Marauders. After some frantic play in front of the Martensville net, Kenden Skalicky buried the game-tying goal to force over-

time. Skalicky earned the lone assist on the play.

In what was their best five minutes of hockey, the Elks applied continuous pressure on the Marauders throughout overtime, with Skalicky coming close to scoring on a breakaway. However, the Marauders were able to hang on until the final buzzer, ending the game with a 2-2 draw.

Following Friday evening's game, the Elks' coaching staff decided it had seen enough to name this year's final roster.

Playing at forward for the

Elks this year is: Corvan Stewart (6), Ashton Tanchuk (7), Tyson Gagnon (8), Brody Anderson (10), Kamden Shewchuk (12), Kenden Skalicky (17), Brady Hjuher (18), Kaiden Couture (19), Cohen Tait (20), Jake Boettcher (21), and Aiden Tait (24).

On defence is: Kaiden Ross (4), Lane Keyowski (9), Jesse Nyberg (11), Colton Sommerfeld (14), and Brendan Aug (27).

And between the pipes is: Matt Muller (29) and Hunter Nakonechny (31).



Aiden Tait tries to tap home a loose puck from beside the Marauders' goal.



Kaiden Ross rushes the Marauders' goal as the puck sails harmlessly across the front of it.

OBITUARIES

Louisa Bruneau



BRUNEAU – Louisa

It is with profound sadness, that we announce the passing of Louisa Bruneau (née Laventure) on Wednesday, September 13, 2023.

Louisa, was born on September 26, 1932, on the family homestead

near Leoville, SK. She was raised with her 5 siblings, Hilda, Laurent, Laurette, Doris, and Denise. Sadly, Denise passed away at the age of 16. In 1944, the family moved a mile east of Leoville. This was Louisa's home until she met the love of her life, Paul. At the age of 18, they married, and this started the journey of a blessed family of 12.

They soon settled on a farm in Leoville, where they raised their 12 children, Lucy, Andy, Albert, Doris, Louise, Diane, Norman, Laurette, Daniel, Pauline, Marcel and Gilles.

Life changed in 1994, when Paul passed suddenly. The first link in the

family chain was broken. In 2015, her son Norman passed away.

Louisa loved the simplest pleasures in life. She was an avid gardener, baker, and loved playing games and puzzles. Above all, she enjoyed spending time with all her children, family, and friends. A heart so full of love, to share with everyone.

Louisa is survived by her children, Lucille (Maurice), her children Lorna and Real, Andrew (Deborah), children Jacqui, Karen, Michelle and Kerry, Albert (Audrey), children Kevin, Calvin and Rachel, Doris (Lorie) Lubyk and family: Danielle and

Joe Michel (Jesslyn), Louise (Gordon), children Devin and Mandy, Diane (Wade), children Ken and Derek, Laurette (Allen) Scutt of Lloydminster, AB and family, Jade (Crystal), Daniel (Chantal), his children Jeannine and Brendon, Pauline (Michael), children Ashley and Jeremy, Marcel (Donna), children Samantha, Brittany, and Tanor, Gilles (Heather), his children Jordan and Delaney; grandchildren, Shawn, Richard, Trendon; and her daughter-in-law, Carol, her children Chris, Kyle, and Brandon.

She was predeceased by her parents, Napoleon and Delia Laventure; husband, Paul; son,

Norman; sister, Denise; brother, Andre; son-in-law, Arthur; daughter-in-law, Colleen, step-grandson, Lance; and grandson, Jared 'Brook'.

A Celebration of Life, was held at St. Therese Catholic Church, 225 Highway, 24 North, SK-946, Leoville, SK, on Monday, September 18, 2023, at 1:00 pm. Interment will follow. Fellowship to follow at the Leoville Community Hall, 3 Ave, Leoville, SK S0J 1N0, proceeding the cemetery.

In lieu of other tributes, memorial donations may be made to the Leoville Health Care Auxiliary, Box 216 Leoville, SK, S0J 1N0, under the name

Bruneau.

"Almighty God, we rejoice in your promise of love, joy and peace. In your mercy turn the darkness of death into the dawn of new life, and the sorrow of parting into the joy of heaven; through our Saviour Jesus Christ, who died, rose again and lives for evermore". Amen.

Family and friends wishing to send online condolences are welcome to visit www.beaulacfuneralhome.com. Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of Beau "Lac" Funeral Home and Crematorium, Delores Beaulac, Funeral Director, Spiritwood, SK 306-883-3500.

Peter Skarpinsky



SKARPINSKY – Peter

Peter was born in Hawkeye, SK on March 22, 1935 to Mike and Mary Skarpinsky. He spent his childhood at the homestead and attended the Lyndwood School until he was 15 years old. He worked on his parent's farm until he was employed by the CN. He then took a job with the community pasture at Davidson before returning to Mont Nebo to work for the RM of Canwood.

In 1956 he met Eleanor Crashley and they were married the next year in Big River on July 26th, 1957. This summer they celebrated 66 years of marriage. Peter and Eleanor had 4 children; Ken, Evie, Patti and Cory. Peter and Eleanor lived in Mont Nebo in their farm house for 64 years.

Peter worked for the RM of Canwood for 37 years as a grader and snowplow operator. At the same time, he was a cattle and grain farmer.

Peter enjoyed playing the violin, curling, getting together with friends to play cards, dancing, hunting, fish-

ing, farming and all the family gathering through the years.

Peter passed away peacefully on Tuesday, September 12th at Nipawin hospital with his family by his side.

Peter lives on in the hearts and minds of his wife, Eleanor; his children Evie (Monty), Patti, and Cory (Cherie); his daughter-in-law Betty; his grandchildren Lisa (Mason), Robin (Tegan), Brett (Jamie), Heidi (Adam), Curtis (Hillory), Katie (Zach), Hali (Dan), Allison (Morgan), Joel (Hannah), Nikita, Erika (Quinten); his great grandchildren Adyson, Avery, Jaxon, Ethan, Ella, Ollie, Blake, Rosalie, Sawyer, Miya, Brooklyn, and Rylie; his sister, Rosie; sisters-in-law Joyce, Lena, Dorothy, Karen and Vicki.

A Funeral Service will be held at the Mont Nebo Community Hall on Tuesday, September 19th at 1:00 pm with Pastor Bill Klumpenhower officiating. Those wishing to make a donation in Peter's honor may do so to the Cancer Foundation of Saskatchewan.

Family and friends wishing to send online condolences are welcome to visit www.beaulacfuneralhome.com

Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of Beau "Lac" Funeral Home and Crematorium, Tammy Smart, Funeral Director, Shellbrook, SK 306-747-2828.

NOTICE OF PASSING

Hilda Yarych

On Tuesday, September 29, 2023 Mrs. Hilda Wilson, Gatzke/Yarych passed away at the Lloydminster Hospital at the age of 81 years.

Hilda is loved and remembered by her children and their families.

In keeping with Hilda's wishes cremation has taken place and a family service will be held at a later date.

Donations in memory of Hilda may be made to the Cross Cancer Institute or the charity of your choice

Creech's Funeral Home in care of arrangements (780-875-3200).

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GOOD NEWS

HEY LORNE! SAVE ANY DEER LATELY?

By LORNE VALUCK
Parkside Pentecostal Church

I worked at the Men's Correctional Centre in Prince Albert for 29-and-a-half years. Time certainly went fast, and it was a good career with a variety of placements – Security/Case management, Young Offenders and Program facilitation.

During my employment at the centre, I commuted to Prince Albert from our farm north of Leask, then from our home in Shellbrook and an acreage just south of that town, and finally, for the last six months of my career, from the Village of Leask.

People ask me if I liked all the driving. I actually did. I enjoyed the driving and the "perks" that came with it: Challenging weather and road conditions, interesting behaviour of drivers, great conversations and interesting situations with hitchhikers, and wild-life – I saw lots of wildlife, especially deer.

In all those years and miles though, I only hit one bird that took out half the grill, and one deer that took out the complete grill, and a few other things.

That brings to mind an interesting, kind of morbid wildlife story from my travels. Sorry, but there's a lesson here.

I was heading home after a day shift around 3:31 p.m. It was nice to be off work, and I was looking forward to getting to our daughter's sports event.

I'm cruising along just out of Prince Albert, crossing the Shell River bridge, when I noticed a fawn, a baby deer, caught in a page wire fence by a golf course. I was in a hurry, but I just couldn't leave that little animal stuck and suffering there.

So, I pulled onto the service road, got out and "worked" the fawn's hips through the wire square in the fence, all the time a little anxious that his protective mother may show up.

Hey! I got him free!

Feeling pretty good about that, I watched the little deer, apparently free of injury, prance with a mix of freedom

and apprehension through the ditch, up onto the highway, and into the path of a car. I couldn't believe it.

I could see he was still alive, so I walked across the ditch, onto the highway, and carried him back to a spot in the shade of a tree. Then I called the Conservation Department in PA with the sad story.

I found out later that the poor little guy didn't survive.

What an odd incident.

A friend of mine doesn't let me forget, and teases me about it every so often by asking if I've saved any deer lately.

No "B....e", I haven't saved any deer lately.

What do we do when we come upon a crisis?

Our efforts sometimes work, sometimes not so much.

We don't know what's ahead, and how things will play out in specific situations.

We don't know what the future holds, but we can know Who holds the future.

The all powerful, everywhere present, all-knowing God, who knows and holds the future, offers to hold our hand and guide our steps

So, what do we do when we come upon a crisis?

In Psalm 50:15 (NLT), God invites us: Then call on me when you are in trouble, and I will rescue you, and you will give me glory."

Hebrews 4:16 (NLT) encourages us: So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most.

Whether it's a social, economic, political, relational, emotional, or especially spiritual, crisis or issue, call on the One – talk to the One who not only knows the answers, but even knows your questions.

Whether it's a need you have, a concern for family, friend, community, or our nation, take it to God.

Let's Pray: You are God. You are Good. You are Righteous. Work in my life. Work in my world. Thank you!

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A guide to fall lawn care

By **PATRICIA HANBIDGE**

Even though our days are getting shorter and cooler, it is important to continue to care for your lawn. While the other autumn chores are getting done, it is autumn that is actually one of the most important times of the year to ensure you continue to have a healthy and happy lawn.

One of the guiding principles of having a healthy lawn with a more “organic” approach is to nourish the soil. In the autumn it is a good time to apply finished compost to the surface of the lawn to help add nutrients but also to help in the overall health of the soil. The addition of organic matter like compost that is top dressed on the lawn will add microorganisms that will help break down the thatch which in turn will ensure a healthier lawn.

If you would like to apply a fall fertilizer, which is very much recommended, then apply a slow-release fertilizer that is higher in potassium. This helps to toughen up the grass to help be ready for the impending winter. There are many slow-release fertilizers that work well to apply at this time of year that make nutrients available to the turf in the early spring.

If your lawn was getting a bit thin in any area, fall is the per-

fect time to overseed. A lawn area that is the healthiest is one that is so dense that weeds are unable to grow due to the competition. Ensure that you choose cultivars that will suit what is already growing there but also consider some varieties that are able to withstand specific cultural conditions. For example, some of the perennial rye grasses and some of the fine fescues might better suit areas that have light soil that is not well watered.

If your lawn area is compacted, then consider fall aeration. The process of aeration involves removing small plugs of earth from the top layer of the soil. This helps in allowing water, air, and any applied nutrients to penetrate the soil more easily which in turn helps to make your lawn healthier.

You should continue to mow your lawn until the temperatures drop low enough for the lawn to stop growing. Do not let your lawn go into fall too long or too short. A turf that is too long will encourage the development of snow mold in the very early spring. A lawn that is too short will often show more injury during fall conditions that are less than ideal. If you have been cutting your lawn at a higher level (i.e., about three inches) then continue to mow at that height until growth ceases.

Don't forget to put your lawn mower away well maintained. Sharpen the blades so it is ready to go first thing in the spring. Clean the air filters, change the spark plug or even spring for a tune-up. If your lawnmower has done its term with your lawn, then consider getting a new one this fall – while the sales are on. In fact, why not choose a sustainable alternative and purchase a reel mower that relies on your power rather than electricity or fuel?

Last but not least, do not forget to rake up those leaves. Make it a fun chore involving the family or friends by making a time-consuming chore into a game. When was the last time you played in a pile of fallen leaves? If it has been too long, find a child to help you and then everyone will understand your childish joy in this great fall activity. Make the task easier using blowers or mowers to help with the biggest part of the job. Finish it off by mulching those leaves in order to help protect your plants against the cold winds of winter and compost the extra.

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



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