

Shellbrook Chronicle & Spiritwood Herald

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Shell Lake Curling Rink construction underway



Ground is broken on the new Shell Lake Curling Rink. Pictured, from left to right: Councillor Joe Delisle, Curling Board Member Richard Urano, Premier Scott Moe, Mayor Anita Weiers, Councillor Al Sulymka, Councillor Dillan Simonar, and Councillor Greg Ardagh.

By BEVRA FEE
Spiritwood Herald Reporter

The ruins of the old curling rink are a memory, now that ground has been broken on the Village of Shell Lake's new facility project.

The community lost its key winter recreation facility in August of 2021 when a fire tore through the structure, burning it to the ground.

The village has a year-round population of about 170, but boasts a large summer crowd and a very active winter recreation schedule and soon will have an impressive \$2.3 million building on the existing site.

More than 100 supporters of the project were on hand Saturday, Sept. 2, for the official groundbreaking ceremony, which saw local fundraising leaders, the mayor of Shell Lake, and Saskatchewan Premier Scott Moe come together to celebrate the new era of winter recreation in the small community.

Premier Moe, also the MLA for the area and a frequent summer visitor to Shell Lake, provided comments during the ceremony.

"In our small towns, these are not just curling rinks – these are places where we gather," he said, also touching on his ties to the village.

While outlining the project's grant funding partnership between the community, the federal government and the provincial government, Moe highlighted that "this is what brings our nation together."

Reflecting on the days following the loss of the curling rink, Premier Moe admitted he was unsure what the future would hold for the village.

"Not every small town can just rebuild a project of this magnitude, and I didn't know if Shell Lake would try," he said. "But in a very short time frame, the first fundraiser took place in the form of a golf tournament and the work had begun – fundraiser after fundraiser, that's what

small communities do."

Deb Hogg, emcee for the ceremony and rebuild project team member, outlined the commitment to rebuild, stating that, "we are building community for the community."

Hogg also read a statement from Government of Canada representative Dan Vandal, which spoke to the funding partnership via the ICIP (Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program) grant that will provide \$912,674 of federal funding toward the project in addition to the provincial funding of up to \$760,485.

Village of Shell Lake Mayor Anita Weiers thanked Deb Hogg and Wendy Penner for their tireless efforts in completing the grant application to secure partnership funding, and she also thanked all in attendance for their commitment and support.

Mayor Weiers reflected on the history of the 1975 curling rink, relating that it was begun by passionate community mem-

bers with "a dream and \$45."

"We can no longer build a curling rink with \$45," she said, informing the audience that of the Village's \$630,000 portion of the project (met by insurance and fundraising), several key items of the required equipment have already been sourced by the curling rink's volunteer board.

Mayor Weiers ended her comments with an invitation to all in attendance to stay and support the fundraising burger sale.

Shell Lake's new curling rink will consist of 11,000 square feet of accessible facility, suitable not only for winter recreation but also for summer activities such as pickleball, a farmer's market, and movie nights.

With construction having begun on Aug. 24, the projected date for completion is some time in 2024 (but not in time for this curling season).

More photos on page 3

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MacInnis named CANIE award finalist

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

Since they opened the doors of the Bee & Thistle Winery near Debden in 2020, Peter MacInnis and his team have applied the MacInnis family motto of "From work comes pleasure" to their products, earning the winery countless awards and accolades in its first three years.

In 2021 and 2022, the Bee & Thistle Winery was named Canada's Fruit Winery of the Year at the New York International Wine Competition. Meanwhile, the winery's signature Chiad Fhion haskap wine has been garnering industry medals almost since the very first bottle was produced, and its Loch Aline rhubarb and haskap wine, and newer innovations like Abbey haskap and Kinlochaline black currant fortified wines, have kept this streak of industry accolades going strong.

"I'd like to say good old-fashioned hard work and the willingness to initially work seven days a week [made us successful]," MacInnis said. "Both my wife, Margaret, and I have taken industry courses to make the best product possible and to learn to do it right, following the adage 'work smart, not hard.'"

Now, in addition to the accolades the Bee & Thistle Winery has won for its products, MacInnis himself has been recognized for his innovative and entrepreneurial spirit, by being named

a finalist in the 2023 Canada Innovation & Entrepreneurship Awards (CANIE Awards) in the Prince's Trust Canada Veteran Entrepreneur Award category.

As its name implies, The Prince's Trust Canada Veteran Entrepreneur Award is given to a CAF Military Veteran entrepreneur who has demonstrated outstanding entrepreneurial skills, innovation, and leadership. In addition to the award, the winner receives \$10,000 to promote and expand their business.

Though he was aware his team had nominated him for the award, MacInnis says it was still a shock to be named one of four finalists, and an



Peter MacInnis, CEO of the Bee & Thistle Winery, is a finalist for the CANIE Awards' Prince's Trust Canada Veteran Entrepreneur Award.

honour to be given the consideration. He adds, however, that the recognition isn't his alone.

"To be nominated by the team meant a great deal to me. But, as always, I feel that a successful team is built by each and every member," he said, recalling the motto of "thank the person who mops the floor" that he learned in the military.

MacInnis' military service with the Canadian Armed Forces spanned 1981 to 2001. During his 20-year tenure, he served as an electrical technician/technologist aboard various Canadian Fleet ships. Later in his military career, he also served as an electrical instructor at CFB Halifax and CFB Esquimalt, during which time he developed and revised the program that is still in place to this day.

Bringing his innovative and entrepreneurial spirit with him into his civilian life, along with all the lessons he learned in the military, MacInnis and his wife purchased a 160-acre farm in the Debden area in 2008. Shortly after, they planted 10,000 haskap plants, effectively sowing the first seeds that would one day become the Bee & Thistle Winery.

Eventually realizing that the best use for all those haskaps might lie in starting a winery, MacInnis and his wife got to work alongside his brother and sister, Collin MacInnis and Anne (MacInnis) Greeno, quickly turning the Bee & Thistle Winery into a fami-

ly-run operation with a brand that reflected their Scottish heritage.

The corporation was formed in 2018 with Peter as CEO, and the next two years were spent pouring blood, sweat, and tears into ensuring the winery would enjoy a successful launch. A key part of sustaining this success, Peter says, has been in serving the community with more than just wine.

"I believe our winery epitomizes what a small business in Saskatchewan should work toward; create a successful business that contributes to the local economy, provides employment opportunities, as well as supports the motto 'buy local,'" he said.

"We've also given back to numerous charitable and community ventures," he added, citing participation in Debden's Centennial in 2022, as well as contributions to Creative Kids, the annual Kinsmen Top-of-the-Hops in Saskatoon, and the Kinsmen Fest-of-Ale in Prince Albert, among others.

With the winners of the CANIE Awards set to be announced at the end of September, Peter says the Bee & Thistle Winery has already benefitted greatly from the exposure and promotion that being a finalist brings. Winning, however, would help the winery act on its next plans.

"The cash prize that comes with the award will help us move forward with plans to export to Japan as well as work on additional product innovation," he said.

Rose Garden Hospice opens its doors

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

After eight years of tireless fundraising and dedication, the vision for the Rose Garden Hospice has finally blossomed.

On Tuesday, Aug. 29, board members and long-time supporters of the standalone palliative care facility were joined in Prince Albert by dignitaries and special guests to officially cut the ribbon on the hospice and celebrate its opening.

Among the guests were Prince Albert Mayor Greg Dionne, Regional Director of the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan Sherry McLennan, Member of Parliament Randy Hoback, Members of the Legislative Assembly Alanna Ross and Nadine Wilson, Fran Hargrave (wife of MLA Joe Hargrave), and Dori Gaudet, executive director of primary care for the northeast (south) region.

Along with the ribbon cutting, the day included speeches and an open house, allowing attendees a look inside the hospice.

For Marina Mitchell, the Rose Garden Hospice is more than just a hospice. The facility is named in honour of her mother, Rose, who died of cancer in 2007. At this time, Mitchell says, there were no options available to families aside from in-home care and palliative



Prince Albert's Rose Garden Hospice is officially open, after a grand opening ceremony and ribbon cutting on Aug. 29.

care in hospitals.

In her opinion, what was needed (and sorely missing in Saskatchewan) was a home-like setting, which could offer services to meet the many physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of both patients and their families during the final days of life.

After her experience with providing end-of-life care for her mother, the seed for the Rose Garden Hospice

was planted in Mitchell's mind. In 2015, this seed sprouted into a vision for a 10-bed, \$4 million palliative care home situated in Prince Albert, and fundraising got under way in earnest.

A year later, a generous donation from retired local businessman Fred Trach provided the Rose Garden Hospice with the land it needed to blossom. And in no time at all, the idea of the Rose Garden Hospice attracted the support of the community, the region, and eventually even the provincial government, which in 2019 committed \$2 million in annual operating funds for the home.

With the hospice now open, Mitchell says there's still as much need for it as there was when the journey began eight years ago.

"If anyone has ever lost a loved one due to a terminal illness, you know how important it is to be in a loving, comfortable environment in those last days," she said. "As family and friends, you just want to be with them. I hope that the hospice will provide this for many families."

The Rose Garden Hospice is currently in its soft opening phase, with five out of 10 beds available to patients and their families, and 21 employees hired on. If all goes according to plan, Brett Enns, the executive director of the Rose Garden Hospice, says the remaining five beds will be available at the beginning of October.

While there is currently no waitlist for beds at the hospice, Enns says a policy is in place if the demand for the hospice ever exceeds its capacity.

"The policy is based on an assessment of the person's current health condition, pain control, social support, and location (i.e. in community or in hospital)," he said.

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Shell Lake Curling Rink construction underway



Jerri Olson and local volunteers work a fundraising BBQ. See story on page 1



Shell Lake Mayor Anita Weiers addresses the crowd at the groundbreaking ceremony for the new Shell Lake Curling Rink.



Onlookers inspect the layout of Shell Lake's new \$2.3 million curling rink.

Senior Shellbrook Elks return to the ice

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle
Reporter

A proud hockey legacy in Shellbrook is being revived for the 2023-2024 hockey season, as the Shellbrook Elks senior hockey team will be taking the ice for the first time since 2016.

The senior Elks folded ahead of the 2016-2017 hockey season and haven't iced a team since. At the time, then-manager Shaun Kerber said it was getting too expensive to put together a team that could compete at the highest levels of senior hockey, because the game had shifted away from the days when dedicated local players just played "for the love of the game."

The loss of the Shellbrook Elks senior hockey club left the Shellbrook Silvertips as the lone senior hockey team in the

community. But after a rough 3-13 ride through the 2022-2023 hockey season, Silvertips mainstay Brendon Canaday thought it was time to return to the traditional Shellbrook Elks name and try to rejuvenate senior hockey in the community.

"This is keeping the same values that the Silvertips brought to town with being as local as possible while still being competitive" he said. "We have a good young core of locals that are eager to play, and we can't wait to get the season started."

Beyond the name

change, another key difference for the upcoming hockey season is that Canaday will have more help than he has in recent years. Behind the bench, Drew Ferster, Julien Cyr, and Dorin Canaday will be serving as coaches. Meanwhile, Trevor Miller and Tasha Cyr are the team's managers, and Monique Moe has been helping out behind the scenes.

Thanks to this help, key sponsors have been lined up and fundraiser plans are already in place for the season (though, more help is always needed). And as for the action on

the ice, Canaday expects the team to begin skating in October, ahead of the Twin Rivers Hockey League action beginning the first weekend of November.

Coach Drew Ferster, who was part of the Shellbrook Elks' highly successful era in the early 2000s, in which they won multiple league titles and four Provincial A championships over the course of 11 years, says the team has always been in the back of his mind.

With his children through minor hockey, and his love for hockey

still as strong as ever, he says he felt now was the right time to get involved with the Elks again.

For him, stepping behind the bench is a way to contribute to keeping senior hockey alive in Shellbrook, which he feels is also important to keeping minor hockey going in the community.

"Now, with the AA program, we have these local young kids around. They can play AA hockey, and, instead of being done, [senior hockey] can give them 10 to 15 more years of playing hockey," he said.

Looking ahead to the 2023-2024 hockey season, Ferster says there's much work to do to prepare. In addition to acquiring new jerseys and equipment, shoring up the roster, and finalizing sponsors, the Elks dressing room that was built in the early 2000s needs some rejuvenation.

He says there's also much to be excited about, including plans to get the team more involved in the community, and the team's hopes to compete in Provincials for the first time in a number of years.

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Cabinet change brings more of the same

The next sitting of Saskatchewan's Legislative Assembly may still be more than a month away, but Premier Scott Moe has already moved his chess pieces into place ahead of his government's return to work in the fall.

Cabinet shuffles have been a common theme this summer, as Prime Minister Justin Trudeau retooled his federal cabinet in July in hopes of "refocusing his government on economic growth and affordability."

In truth, though, Mr. Trudeau's cabinet shuffle likely had as much to do with salvaging his government's tanking odds at being re-elected, as it did with any significant policy direction adjustments.

A cabinet shuffle, after all, can also serve as a tool for a government leader to control the political temperature in the room. If a minister is underperforming or attracting unwanted negative attention to their portfolio, sometimes the only fix is to appoint a new messenger to deliver the government's policy.

This was most certainly the case with former Justice Minister David Lametti, who courted controversy with the suggestion he would look at reviewing a 1930 policy that granted control over natural resources to the prairie provinces, and with former Public Safety Minister Marco Mendicino, who feigned ignorance about the transfer of convicted killer and rapist Paul Bernardo to a medium security prison.

Yet, oddly enough, Environment and Climate Change Minister Steven Guilbeault and Energy and Natural Resources Minister Jonathan Wilkinson retained their roles, suggesting Mr. Trudeau sees no issue with their adversarial relationship with the prairie provinces.

Meanwhile, in announcing his own cabinet shuffle last week, Mr. Moe also attributed the changes to a refocus of his government's strategy (or rather, a doubling down on the strategy its employed since 2015).

"The mandate of our new cabinet is to build and protect Saskatchewan – to continue building a strong economy, strong communities, and strong families, and to protect all that we have built together from threats like federal intrusion and economic challenges like inflation," Moe said in a statement.

At the same time, one cannot ignore the reshuffling of some of the more high-profile ministerial portfolios, like Health, Education, and Corrections, Policing, and Public Safety.



JORDAN TWISS
~
News Editor

Having been named Minister of Health in November 2020, as the COVID-19 pandemic was taking hold of the province and the world, Paul Merriman was an obvious choice for a reassignment.

Though the pandemic is all but over, there was no way for Mr. Merriman to shed the baggage attached to it – both from those who feel the Sask. Party government didn't do enough to stem the tide of COVID-19, and from those who feel its public health measures were part of some grander conspiracy to abolish democracy and trample their constitutional rights.

Mr. Merriman is also the face of Saskatchewan's battered and beleaguered health-care system, which continues to grapple with human resources shortages, long surgical wait times, and facility closures (the latest being the Child and Youth Psych Unit at Prince Albert's Victoria's Hospital, which has been closed three times since 2020 due to staffing shortages).

Though Mr. Merriman can't be said to be responsible for all of this, he certainly is responsible for his words – or rather, the words of his government.

During his tenure as Minister of Health, he has frequently extolled the virtues of private healthcare as a saver of time and money, even as his government's own data showed this to be untrue, and even as Saskatchewan's private long-term care facilities were hit the hardest by the pandemic.

Shuffling former Mental Health and Addictions and Rural and Remote Health Minister Everett Hindley into the hot seat won't immediately solve the challenges facing Saskatchewan's healthcare system. Nor will it change the Sask. Party government's policy direction and seeming obsession with private healthcare. But it does give Saskatchewan residents someone else to be angry at.

Something similar can be said for the Education portfolio, which is now being managed by Jeremy Cockrill rather than former Education Minister Dustin Duncan.

Like Mr. Merriman, Mr. Duncan stepped into his role in November 2020. And his tenure was filled with just as many problems, if not more.

In addition to the challenges posed by the pandemic, Mr. Duncan was confronted with the Legacy Christian Academy scandal, which exposed decades of alleged abuse at the province's religious schools and saw a \$25 million class action lawsuit filed.

As part of this, the Sask. Party govern-



ment was pressured to freeze public funding for Legacy Christian Academy, and vehemently refused to do so, citing the rights of parents to have their children educated in accordance with their beliefs.

Mr. Duncan also spent much of 2023 waging a war of words against the province's teachers over contract negotiations.

While teachers repeatedly asked for the government to address their concerns over class size and complexity, supports and services, and growing classroom violence, Mr. Duncan spent the spring and summer accusing them of being in it for the money. His ministry even went so far as to make taxpayers fund a misleading billboard campaign smearing teachers.

Finally, in his last act as Education Minister, Mr. Duncan introduced the government's new parental inclusion and consent policy, which requires schools to seek parental consent to use the preferred name and pronouns of students who are under the age of 16, mandates that parents or guardians be informed about the sexual health education curriculum and have the option to decline their children's participation, and bars third party organizations from presenting sex education materials.

This policy was a response to parental concerns raised by the Planned Parenthood incident in Lumsden back in June, and it will likely face both constitutional and legal challenges. This made for a perfect excuse for Mr. Duncan to bow out.

Last but certainly not least in Mr. Moe's major cabinet shuffle is the decision to move Minister of Corrections, Policing, and Public Safety Christine Tell to the Environ-

ment portfolio.

Though her tenure in her previous role wasn't nearly as contentious as those of Messrs. Merriman and Duncan, it wasn't without its challenges. These included a startling lack of judgment during the pandemic, conflict of interest allegations, and her rush to jump to the defence of a convicted murderer who was personally invited to the legislature by a Sask. Party MLA.

The most notable item in her mandate, however, was the establishment of the Saskatchewan Marshals Service, a 70-officer provincial police service meant to augment and complement the RCMP.

In recent weeks, there has been criticism of the service's lack of an oversight body until boots are on the ground in 2026, opening the door to allegations it will serve at the government's whim.

Ms. Tell and the Sask Party government also seem unclear about the service's direction and purpose, with Ms. Tell saying it won't be a full-blown police force (even as its responsibilities entail everything a full-blown police force would handle).

While hardly a scandal, this does perhaps point to the need for a messenger who can better communicate the government's vision for the Marshals Service, and justifies Ms. Tell's reassignment.

At the end of the day, though, none of these three major cabinet changes will make any significant difference, unless a similar change in government policy accompanies them.

Absent this, Mr. Moe's new cabinet is sure to bring more growth that isn't really working for everyone.

Shellbrook Chronicle

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Spiritwood Herald

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Prairie Community Endeavours celebrates 30 years

By BEVRA FEE
Spiritwood Herald reporter

Prairie Community Endeavours began in Spiritwood when a group of concerned community members came together in December 1992 to discuss ways of providing services that would enhance the lives of individuals with disabilities. The communities served would be regional and include Chitek Lake, Glaslyn, Leoville, Medstead, Rabbit Lake, Shell Lake and Spiritwood.

As a registered non-profit organization incorporated in 1993, PCE has since operated under a volunteer board of directors, whose aim is to assist adults with varying abilities

in order to meet their needs and improve their quality of life. With the set objectives of establishing and operating a residence and day program, developing and maintaining positive relationships within the community, and providing positive opportunities for individuals, PCE supports its base group of clients.

Currently, PCE supports eight clients with a total of 17 staff (varying from casual to full-time) and executive director Jennifer Peters adds that the organization's group home recently became licensed. Home to four residents, the group home provides accommodation for clients who also attend the storefront for activities that include sales of bedding plants

and fresh fruit in season, sales of used books and puzzles, and the annual silent auction.

Prairie Community Endeavours is very active in the community of Spiritwood, with clients and staff making daily outings for exercise and supporting many of the town's events and recreational opportunities. Steady fundraising enabled the organization to lease a wheelchair accessible van in 2019 in order to transport clients from the group home to the storefront, as well as for outings that take them to activities beyond the town's borders.

Commenting on the ongoing efforts of providing positive support for the goals of PCE, Jennifer Peters adds a reminder, "We are always looking for new volunteer board members to help guide our operation."

The storefront is found on Main Street in Spiritwood and if anyone stops by for books, puzzles or one of the house plants in the window, there is a good chance they will also have a friendly visit with the residents.



Prairie Community Endeavours clients and staff play games.



Client Greg Sommerfeld paints one of his craft projects.



PCE clients and staff enjoy a community event.



Sam Burak (left) working on potting plants for sale with a Prairie Community Endeavours staff member.

SPONSORED CONTENT

SASKATCHEWAN BLUE CROSS: Embracing Community, Supporting Health Literacy, & Committing to Reconciliation

With wide-reaching community impact, Saskatchewan Blue Cross is committed to enhancing the health and wellbeing of all Saskatchewan people for generations now and those to come. They place priority on giving back to the community through programs and initiatives that specifically advance Health Literacy - the degree to which individuals can obtain, communicate, process, understand and act upon basic health information and services needed to make appropriate health decisions. They envision a future where there is equitable access to health and wellness information for everyone, and each person in Saskatchewan understands how to navigate their healthcare effectively.

A key part of this commitment includes seeking out and creating new partnerships with Indigenous-led organizations aimed at improving health and wellness experiences for Indigenous communities in Saskatchewan. "It's important to us to continually listen to and learn from the communities we serve," said Kelly Wilson, President & CEO of Saskatchewan Blue Cross. "Access to healthcare and health information is a significant issue for many Indigenous people living in remote communities, and Saskatchewan Blue Cross is committed to advancing health literacy across the province, investing in programs that help everyone, regardless of their location live healthier lives. It's a process we started in 2020 and continue to practice today."

Saskatchewan Blue Cross recently formed nine partnerships to advance Health Literacy in Saskatchewan, including two formed with focus on Indigenous wellness. One of these partnerships was formed with the INDSpire team.

INDSPIRE - SASKATCHEWAN BLUE CROSS INDIGENOUS BURSARY

The Saskatchewan Blue Cross Indigenous Bursary was launched in 2021 as a four-year program in partnership with INDSpire, which is a national charity that seeks to enrich Canada through Indigenous education and by inspiring, achievement. Six Indigenous students pursuing a career in Social Work have been recipients of the support.

"Once I graduate, it is my dream to provide support back to the communities that need it most. I know that for Indigenous communities, implementing their own social services programs is critical to preservation of cultural practices and connecting the well-being of their resurgence and reclamation initiatives, and I want you to know that I'm dedicated and committed to being part of that."
- Danika Deitz, 2022 INDSpire Bursary Recipient

TALKING STICK APP (TRYCYCLE)

Another innovative partnership to advance Health Literacy was formed in support of the Talking Stick app, a First Nations peer support platform developed by TryCycle in partnership with the Saskatchewan Indigenous Cultural Centre. The app offers free and anonymous mental health support through peer advocates who are First Nations people trained to listen with compassion, respect and humility. Saskatchewan Blue Cross' funding helps to ensure the app is accessible in multiple Indigenous languages,

including translation services provided by the Saskatchewan Indigenous Cultural Centre to Swampy Cree, Woodland Cree, Saulteaux and Lakota.

TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

Saskatchewan Blue Cross supports the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's 94 Calls to Action as an organization founded to support the wellbeing of all residents of Saskatchewan. Recognizing the observance of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on September 30 is done annually alongside employee education programs to provide dedicated opportunity to learn, listen and reflect on our journeys to become stronger allies. To further encourage discussion on the legacy of the residential school system Saskatchewan Blue Cross provides orange shirts for employees, with \$10 from each shirt being donated to the Legacy of Hope Foundation, a national Indigenous charitable organization that educates and creates awareness and understanding about residential schools.

ABOUT SASKATCHEWAN BLUE CROSS

Saskatchewan Blue Cross is a local, socially responsible not-for-profit organization that puts people and community at the heart of every interaction. Saskatchewan Blue Cross has helped lay the foundation for health benefit solutions in Saskatchewan and today delivers exceptional health and wellbeing benefits as well as travel and life insurance solutions to more than 200,000 people, including more than 1,000 employers through workplace benefit programs. Saskatchewan Blue Cross employs locally in 24 Saskatchewan communities, and has employees coast-to-coast across Canada and the organization's community impact extends to 139 communities.

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Spiritwood Library wraps up summer reading contest

By **HEATHER GATZKE**
Librarian, Spiritwood Library

The Spiritwood Public Library wrapped up its TD Summer Reading Program on Friday, Aug. 25. There were 22 registrations, plus two online registrations. Out of that, there were 13 children who were first time readers.

Lots of books were read, with a total of 48 prizes given out when a child read five books. That makes a total of 240 books read.

For each of the five books read, the child's name was put in a draw box. The box was stuffed full of entries, but Eli Goller was the proud winner of the grand prize of a book and a book bag. The book was donated by the Library and the book bag was donated by Ivania Choma.

Eli's younger sister, Gemma, will help him enjoy his prize.



Eli Goller and his sister, Gemma, will enjoy his prize from the Spiritwood Library's Summer Reading Contest.

Shellbrook welcomes new nurse



Shellbrook Mayor Amund Otterson presents a \$3,000 settling assistance cheque to licensed practical nurse Angela Blakeney on behalf of the Parkland Physician Recruitment & Retention Committee. Photo courtesy of Kelly Hoare, CAO, Town of Shellbrook

Premier Moe reshuffles cabinet

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

Premier Scott Moe's cabinet got a fresh, end-of-summer makeover last week, as two new ministers were shuffled into the fold and six ministers were given new portfolios.

"The mandate of our new cabinet is to build and protect Saskatchewan - to continue building a strong economy, strong communities and strong families, and to protect all that we have built together from threats like federal intrusion and economic challenges like inflation," Premier Moe said in a statement.

The overall size of cabinet remains unchanged at 18, including the premier.

Two members who recently announced they will not be seeking re-election in 2024 - Don Morgan and Dana Skoropad - are leaving cabinet. Despite his departure, Morgan was named Provincial Secretary.

"I want to thank those two members and particularly recognize Don Morgan, who along with Donna Harpauer has been in every cabinet since our government was first elected in 2007, making them the two longest-serving current ministers anywhere in Canada," Moe said.

Moose Jaw North MLA Tim McLeod enters cabinet for the first time as Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, Seniors, and Rural and Remote Health.

Meanwhile, Prince Albert Carlton MLA Joe Hargrave returns to a cabinet role as Minister of SaskBuilds and Procurement.

Most notable among the six cabinet members with new duties are Dustin Duncan, who moved from Minister of Education to Crown Investments Corporation and Minister responsible for all the major Crowns, including SaskPower, SaskEnergy, SaskTel, SGI and SaskWater, as well as Minister responsible for the Public Service Commission. Meanwhile, Christine Tell moved from Minister of Corrections, Policing, and Public Safety to Minister of Environment, and Paul Merriman, moved from Minister of Health to Minister of Corrections, Policing, and Public Safety and Minister Responsible for the Firearms Secretariat.

Elsewhere, Everett Hindley took over for Merriman as Minister of Health after serving as Minister of Rural and Remote Health, Jeremy Cockrill was named Minister of Education after serving as Minister of Highways, and Lori Carr took over as Minister of Highways after serving as Minister of SaskBuilds and Procurement, Minister Responsible for the Public Service Commission, and Minister Responsible for the Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority.

The nine ministers retaining their current responsibilities are:

- Donna Harpauer as Deputy Pre-

mier and Minister of Finance;

- Jim Reiter as Minister of Energy and Resources;
- Gordon Wyant as Minister of Advanced Education;
- Jeremy Harrison as Minister of Trade and Export Development, Minister of Immigration and Career Training, and Minister responsible for Innovation and Tourism Saskatchewan;
- David Marit as Minister of Agriculture and Minister responsible for Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation, and also becomes Minister responsible for the Water Security Agency;
- Don McMorris as Minister of Government Relations, Minister responsible for First Nations, Métis and Northern Affairs and Minister responsible for the Provincial Capital Commission, and also becomes Minister of Labour Relations and Workplace Safety, and the Minister responsible for Workers' Compensation Board;
- Bronwyn Eyre as Minister of Justice and Attorney General;
- Gene Makowsky as Minister of Social Services; and
- Laura Ross as Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport and Minister responsible for the Status of Women and the Lotteries and Gaming Corporation.

The new cabinet was sworn in by

Lieutenant Governor Russ Mirasty on Tuesday, Aug. 29.

At the same time as he reshuffled his cabinet, Premier Moe also named nine Legislative Secretaries:

- Terry Dennis, Legislative Secretary to the Minister of Trade and Export Development, responsible for Saskatchewan-Ukraine relations;
- Alana Ross, Legislative Secretary to the Minister of Health;
- Daryl Harrison, Legislative Secretary to the Minister of Energy and Resources;
- Jim Lemaigre, Legislative Secretary to the Minister of Government Relations;
- Terry Jenson, Legislative Secretary to the Minister of Immigration and Career Training;
- Travis Keisig, Legislative Secretary to the Minister responsible for Crown Investments Corporation;
- Warren Kaeding, Legislative Secretary to the Minister of Environment;
- Muhammad Fiaz, Legislative Secretary to the Minister of Education; and
- Lisa Lambert, Legislative Secretary to the Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport.

All Legislative Secretaries will receive \$3,000 in remuneration for their additional responsibilities, below the full remuneration amount designated for Legislative Secretaries.



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



Welcome Students Back to School!

Wishing you a great school year! Thank you to all the parents, teachers, staff and all those who are helping our children prepare for the future.



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

More local food could save our planet's future

We may need to change how we gather food for our table.

Certainly, over the years, we have changed from predominantly rural residents growing our own food to urbanites with lawns and asphalt yards and no garden.

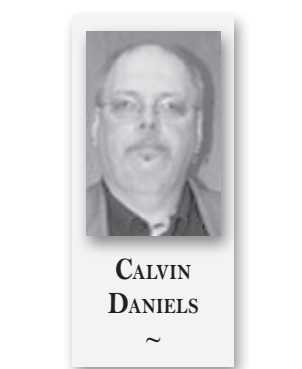
That change has shifted the source of our food to the grocery store.

In Canada at least, that has generally worked out fine in the sense that store shelves are typically well-stocked — although the COVID-19 pandemic illustrated that the supply

chain can be threatened by unexpected forces.

And of course, there is the cost factor. We all recognize food prices can climb rather quickly, but in terms of what we spend monthly it may still be more reasonable than we think.

People point to the cost of going to the grocery store, but rarely is a bag of groceries just about food for supper. Grocery store purchases tend to include everything from disposable razors to laundry soap, to batteries for the smoke detector,



CALVIN DANIELS

to cotton swabs, so that needs to be remembered when thinking about food costs.

That all said, food costs are still something the consumer needs to watch.

There is also another factor to consider in terms of our food, and that's how it impacts our world as it gets from farmer to table.

For example, there are a lot of fossil fuels involved in transporting food.

A recent television ad promoted a pizza crust that was "hand thrown in Italy." Imagine the process of getting that crust from Italy to a Saskatchewan grocery store.

Of course, we grow wheat here, so flour and pizza dough need not be

made half a world away and then transported across an ocean to get to our table.

Walk around a grocery store and you will find countless examples of foods processed far from Saskatchewan. That means diesel for trucking, and plastics or cans for containers that then go to the landfill or through to recycling, which has its own costs.

Even consider milk. There were once processors in many communities across the prairies. Today, raw milk can be

hauled hundreds of miles to process, then hauled back to a store to be sold. That consumes a lot of resources.

There is a lot of talk about reducing our carbon footprint and reducing consumption of fossil fuels to reduce emissions. Putting added focus on local food sources is certainly a step to being greener.

Devolving to an earlier time of more backyard gardens, and more local processing, could well be important to our planet's future.

Crop Report: Aug. 22 to 28

Producers are in the full swing of harvest with thirty-three per cent of the crop off, up from 21 per cent last week and ahead of the five-year average of 23 per cent and the 10-year average of 20 per cent.

The southwest has crossed the half-way point this week and is now 60 per cent complete harvest. The west-central is close to the half-way point, with 39 per cent of crop off for the year. With some moisture moving into the area this week, the northwest had to pause combining for a few days and is now eight per cent complete.

All crop types are starting to reach maturity in the province, allowing producers to make progress in all crops this week. Fall cereals are nearing completion, with 96 per cent of fall rye and 89 per cent of winter wheat in the bin for the year. Lentils and field peas are leading the way in spring seeded crops, with 80 per cent of each crop harvested. Mustard made significant progress this week, with 55 per cent of the crop harvested, ahead of other oilseeds including canola (10 per cent) and flax (seven per cent). Producers are currently focusing on getting their spring

cereals harvested and have 48 per cent of durum, 46 per cent of barley, 26 per cent of spring wheat and 19 per cent of oats harvested. Sixty per cent of triticale is harvested, with 56 per cent being used for feed.

The east side of the province generally received moisture this week, with the Bankend area receiving 50 mm and the Tisdale area receiving 34 mm. Cropland topsoil moisture ratings are improving as recent rains seep into the ground. Currently, cropland is 32 per cent adequate for moisture, 43 per cent short and 24 per cent very short. Hay and pastureland is 22 per cent adequate for moisture, 49 per cent short and 29 per cent very short.

Crop damage this week includes environmental damage such as hail, wind, drought and localized flooding. Damage from grasshoppers and gophers continues to persist. Geese have returned to the northern fields and are causing damage to crops. Producers are busy combining, desiccating and marketing grain. Others are marketing cattle, hauling water and feed. Some producers have started to move cattle home for the winter. If producers have

questions about feed, they are encouraged to call their local regional specialist.

Harvest is a very busy and stressful time for producers. 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 pow-

erlines. The Farm Stress Line is available to provide support to producers toll free at 1-800-667-4442. The public is reminded to take extra caution, time and space when encountering machinery on the roads.

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

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 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

PARKSIDE: 'A TOUCH OF AUTUMN' Honeywood (Dr. A. J. Porter) Heritage Nursery Inc. Provincial Heritage Site Parkside, Sask. - Sept. 17th - 1pm - 4pm. Enjoy the 'Jam Fest' of local musicians. Artisan displays, Tours, Desserts, Refreshments, Potted lilies, perennials and trees & shrubs! \$5.00/person, Children 10 and under free. Ph: 306-747-3307 - email: honeywoodn8@gmail.com, Facebook @ Honeywood Heritage Nursery Inc

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

Call Now For Further Details

"Don't miss out on letting your Community and others know of your event!"

Shellbrook Chronicle & Spiritwood Herald

Box 10, Shellbrook, SK S0J 2E0

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

NOTICE TO OUR READERS

Please take only as many newspapers from our newspaper bins as need to be read.

If you're looking for newsprint paper, please contact us and we can arrange a bundle(s) of recycled paper for your use at no charge.

Contact us at 306-747-2442.

Thank you for your understanding.

Shellbrook Chronicle & Spiritwood Herald

Northern Lights festival dazzles in Big River

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle
Reporter

In what was essentially a “break even or call it quits” year for the Northern Lights Bluegrass & Old Time Society and its annual music camp and festival at the Ness Creek site near Big River, the organization threw everything it had into making this year the best one ever.

Under the leadership of executive director Tanya Wagner, who was hired on a couple years ago, it went all-in on marketing and promotion. This meant attending and providing programming — like its instrument petting zoo and dance workshops — at as many other festivals and events as it could prior to its own music camp and festival from Aug. 14 to 20, and heavily pushing its music camp’s Fungrass class, which brings old time and bluegrass music to children aged five to nine.

With the dust settled on

the 2023 camp and festival, Jille Shotton, promotions and marketing chair for the Northern Lights Bluegrass & Old Time Society, says the society’s efforts paid off in a big way.

“If you asked the average person in the crowd, the answer would be that this was the best year yet. The sense of community and the talent at the music camp and festival were as good as it gets,” she said.

Where the camp was concerned, there were more than 100 students enrolled in classes led by musicians from the festival’s main acts, with some classes being so full that extra instructors were required.

Meanwhile, with the rising cost of living making it more expensive to run the festival and bring in acts, and also more difficult for people to afford to come out, Shotton says the festival itself was fortunate to have good attendance (thanks in part to group and family pricing options for tickets).

Of greater note, however, was the seeming shift in demographics at this year’s festival. Shotton says there were more children than ever in attendance, and, for the first time since she’s been involved with the festival, adult tickets outsold senior tickets.

Though she concedes that the Northern Lights Bluegrass & Old Time Society will have to get creative with fundraising to offset the challenges it and many other festivals are facing, she says these changes give her hope.

“The very good news was that there were so many new faces mixed in with the old and familiar, so we are being cautiously optimistic that you will see us again for many years,” she said. “I think that this style of music is reaching a younger crowd, and young families find this to be a very accessible and relaxing event to bring the whole family to.”

With a stacked line-up at this year’s festival, including Northern Lights-born super group Happy Trails, Prospector, North



Formed at the festival, supergroup Happy Trails, Prospector received a warm welcome back to the festival. Photos courtesy of Little Jack Films.

Carolina’s The Well Drinkers, Martha Spencer & The Wonderland Band from Virginia, and Alberta’s The Bix Mix Boys, as well as acts from closer to home like Regina’s Hummingbird Crossing and Saskatoon’s JJ Guy and Cathy Sproule, The Barrelmen, and Steph Cameron, it’s easy to see why people keep coming out.

Apart from the live music, the festival offered dances, a midnight star-

gazing tour, horse drawn wagon rides, puppet making workshops, dance workshops, garden and forest tours, children’s activities, and more.

“It is hard to narrow it all down into one experience,” Shotton said of the festival’s many highlights.

Leading into and driving the festival was the music camp from Aug. 14 to 18. Shotton says this camp experience is important, not just because it gives musicians an opportunity to meet and learn from each

other, but because it builds a true sense of community.

This sense of community, she says, is the key ingredient to the festival’s success.

“Every time someone from out of Saskatchewan comes (like the artists), they always say we have something special here,” she said. “The jamming is top notch, the people are passionate and eager to learn, and the local acts on stage are well supported and talented. It is like a family reunion in the forest every August.”



Wagon rides were among the many attractions aside from the live music.



Martha Spencer & the Wonderland Band came from Virginia to entertain the crowd.



The “dance floor” was always busy during the Northern Lights Bluegrass & Old Time Festival.

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.
1-780-690-2100

PRESBYTERIAN

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

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN

Parkside
11 a.m. - Worship

ANGLICAN CHURCH

Leask - All Saint’s
Sunday Service - 9 a.m.
St. Andrew’s - Shellbrook
Sunday, 11 a.m. Service
Canwood - Christ Church
Sunday, 2 p.m. - Service
Rev. Canon David Butorac
306-961-1634
Minister’s Warden:
306-922-5159
H.C. Service with Rev.
Butorac - 2nd Sunday of the
month

MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCH

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

EVANGELICAL FREE

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

UNITED CHURCH

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

CATHOLIC CHURCH

Debden
Sun. Mass - 9:30 a.m.
Fr. Mariusz Zajac
Big River - Sacred Heart
Sun., 11:30 a.m. - Mass
Whitefish
Sun., 2:30 p.m. - Mass.
Victoire
Sat., 7:30 p.m. - Mass.
Fr. Mariusz Zajac
St. Agatha’s - Shellbrook
Mass - Sunday 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

EK Golf Classic marks 23 years

By MAISIE KRIENKE

This year marked the 23rd anniversary of a classic event in Big River: the Eddie Krienke Memorial Golf Tournament. This event has brought family and friends from as far south as Florida, as far north as Prince Rupert, and as far west as Victoria. This year, it drew from the “far east”, as Duncan Smith travelled from Halifax with his Nova Scotian family to be part of the fun.

The tournament was held Aug. 10 to 12, with set up taking place on the Thursday evening. Many volunteers helped set up chairs, stock the bar, display prizes, and assist with food preparation.

The golf action kicked off Friday morning with registrations and getting the first flight of golfers on the course for a shotgun start at 9 a.m. They were followed by four more flights throughout the day, with everyone completing their first nine holes to get a score in for the blasting Calcutta.

Coffee and muffins were enjoyed throughout the day, and the traditional bison dog roast was once again a hit in the evening. Throughout the day, participants and guests checked out the ‘mile-long’ table of more than 150 prizes, visited the raffle tables and 50/50 booth, and kept an eagle eye on the silent auction table to ensure they weren’t outbid on their most desired items.

There were also frequent putting competitions, where successful putters were entered into a draw to win the huge Copperhead smoker donated by Nick Fouillard. And starting Friday at 6 p.m., the first draw from the Bucket List Sweepstakes was made, then a new bucket

appeared. Every two hours, two names were drawn, and the winners received a golf in SK certificate and had their name put into the final bucket for a chance to win the Elk Ridge Golf Package donated by Ryan Danberg of Elk Ridge Golf Resort.

On Saturday morning, coffee and muffins were enjoyed as golfers were preparing for the final round. This round offered several challenges. On Hole #4, golfers were (unsuccessfully) driving for a hole-in-one for a chance to drive away with the quad sponsored by Rally Motorsports. Hole #5 featured the longest drive competition, where \$1,000 was put up by Rally Group. On Hole #8, Fouillard Flooring offered a hot-tub to the first golfer to make a hole-in-one. Unfortunately, no one accomplished that, but Nick still offered up a great prize for the closest to the pin drivers. Then, on Hole #9, Travis and Emma Gould of TR Petroleum awarded cash to the closest to Pin golfers for the 23rd year in a row.

Everyone enjoyed a great lunch of grilled burgers, and many fans hung out to follow their golfing family members and listen to stories of the past 23 years (some of which were perhaps slightly exaggerated). Meanwhile, when supper rolled around, it was ribs on the menu.

Following supper, awards were presented, and all golfers were called to pick a prize from the ‘mile-long’ prize table. The big winners for 2023 were:

Champions: Derry Thomas and Mervin Morin

Most Senior/Most Junior Golfers: Gar Holbrook and Jordie Bechtel

Early birds: Matt Neufeld and Sheila



Krienke brothers present the trophy to champions Derry Thomas and Mervin Morin.

Murray

Closest to Pin on #8: Kelly Krienke and Nic Denton

Closest to Pin on #9: Kelly Krienke and Adrian Joseph

Longest Drivers: Ryan Krienke and Taylor Olson

50/50 winner: Dawson Campbell
Memorial Bag winner: Jeff Watier

Bucket List winner of Elk Ridge package: Madison Krienke

PXG Club winner: Lisa Watier

Winner of Copperhead Smoker: Ragner Olson

This wonderful, fun, memorial event

is enjoyed by nearly 200 people every year. It is made possible by the generosity of many family members and their friends with their donations of prizes and volunteer work. The list of volunteers is endless.

Over the span of 23 years, this event has donated over \$200,000 to the community of Big River for the construction of the Community Centre and the revival of the Golf Course, plus support to Ukrainian families, Ski Timber Ridge, CARRES, and more.

The 24th annual EK Classic is already set for Aug. 9 to 10, 2024.



Longest drive winners were Taylor Olson (left) and Ryan Krienke (right).



Closest to Pin winners were Kelly Krienke (left) and Adrian Joseph (right).



Jeff Watier (right) accepts his prize of the memorial golf club bag.

GOOD NEWS



TO BE BORN AGAIN IN SPIRIT

By RANDALL MCLEOD
Immanuel Lutheran, Parkside

What is the Christian life all about? Is it all about obeying a set of rules? Is it all about trying hard to be a good person? Is it all about just going to church on Sunday and giving God his due? Is it all about telling people that they have to obey the same rules as you or God will hate them? Those thoughts seem to be the way that most people think of Christianity. But... that is not what Jesus said to and about His followers, those who were first called Christians at Antioch.

To be a true Christian is something much different than that. Simply following rules and doing good things will never get us into God’s kingdom.

Jesus told us specifically about people who said: “But Lord I did all these good things in your name...” (liberal paraphrase) and Jesus said to them: “Get away from me you evildoers, I never knew you.” So, clearly, just doing good things won’t cut it!

Jesus told us: “You must be born again.” Now just what the heck does it mean to be born again? In short it means this: just the same as we inherited our physical characteristics from our parents, we also inherited our spiritual characteristics from our parents. The bad news there is that they were sinners and so are we. Full stop. There is a hard distinction being made here between the physical and the spiritual. Jesus said that which is born of the flesh is flesh and that which is

born of the spirit is spirit.

When sin came into the world through Adam, we lost our spiritual connection to God. We became creatures of the flesh, born of the flesh and destined to die in the flesh. Our only hope for eternity is to be born of the spirit, and only God can do that. We must die to self, die to the flesh (not in the flesh) and then be born of the spirit, the Spirit of God — that is to say, The Holy Spirit.

No matter what I do in this body, I cannot undo my wrongs, and neither can I come into the presence of God. Only in a righteous spirit can I approach God, and only God is righteous.

That seem impossible then! Well, for us it is, but not for God. We are sin-

ners, so we sin, and only if someone else pays the fine, the debt, the penalty for my sin can I be forgiven. That is what Jesus did. He paid the price for our sin(s) when He died, so we can now receive a new life, a new birth, a spiritual re-birth, and be welcomed back into the family of God.

Why is behavior important? Simply because we want to please the one who gave so much for us. Why the Bible? In the Holy Bible, He informs us exactly what pleases Him and what breaks His heart. Do not grieve the Spirit we are cautioned, but even better: “the Spirit works in us both to will and to do that which is pleasing to God.”

Those who are born again don’t “have to” do things. We *want* to do what pleases God.

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 July 18, 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

11:45 a.m.: Councillor Indemnity

Pease: That the minutes of the June 20, 2023, Regular Council Meeting be approved. Carried

Lockhart: That the special meeting minutes of June 20, 2023, be approved. Carried

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

Lockhart: That we acknowledge the proposed increase to the levy for the Doctor Re-

cruitment Fund, from \$7.00 per capita to \$10.00 per capita. Further to this, we instruct the Chief Administrative Officer to issue payment in the amount of \$13,510.00. Carried

Korody: That we approve the payments as listed on the attached account listing for a total of \$189,469.50, Council Direct Deposits for June and Payroll Direct Deposits for 2023 Pay Periods 13 & 14. Carried

Councillor Muller left the meeting at 9:45 a.m. declaring a pecuniary interest in the matter of Bylaw 2023-02.

Korody: That Bylaw 2023-02 attached hereto and forming a part of these Minutes, being a Bylaw of the Rural Municipality of Canwood No. 494 to provide for the closing of a municipal road, now be read the first time. Carried (Editor's note: council voted unanimously to give the bylaw three readings at the meeting.)

Pease: That Bylaw 2023-02 attached hereto and forming a part of these Minutes, being a Bylaw of the Rural Municipality of Canwood No. 494 to provide for the closing of a municipal road, now be read the third time and adopted. Carried

Councillor Muller returned to the meeting at 9:50 a.m.

Public Works Supervisor Dwight Diehl attended the meeting at 9:50 a.m.

Muller: That we instruct the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) to prepare and send a letter to the Minister of Parks, Culture, and Sport, expressing Council's concerns with regard to the newly issued permit for a campground at Fur Lake. Carried

Muller: That we agree to enter into an agreement with Bernal Crawford, Mont Nebo, for the storage of gravel on the NW 31-49-06 W3 (LSD 14) at a cost of \$1,000.00 annually. Carried

Muller: That Bylaw 2023-06 attached hereto and forming a part of these Minutes, being a Bylaw of the Rural Municipality of Canwood No. 494 to permit the operation of golf carts on the public roadways within the limits of the municipality, now be read the first time. Carried (Editor's note: council voted unanimously to give the bylaw three readings at the meeting.)

Korody: That Bylaw 2023-06 attached hereto and forming a part of these Minutes, being a Bylaw of the Rural Municipality of Canwood No. 494 to permit the operation of golf carts on the public roadways within the limits of the municipality, now be read the third time and adopted. Car-

ried

Olson: That we decline all bids for the 4815 Bush Hog Mower. Carried

Muller: That we accept the bid of \$5,800 from the Village of Canwood for the 2008 1 ton dually truck. Carried

Lockhart: Further to Resolution No. 9 of August 2022, we offer the following comments on the Mistawasis TLE Land Selections:

FILE 839.008 11.03: The original road allowances along the east and north side of the SE 17-49-06 W3 are undeveloped. The Rural Municipality wishes to retain the original road allowances on the north and east boundaries. Carried

Muller: That we decline the request to abate the 2023 improvement taxes on the improvement located on the SE 21-52-04 W3 owned by Olwen Jensen, Prince Albert, Sask. Carried

Muller: That we acknowledge the Court of King's Bench for Saskatchewan Order, dated May 16, 2023, with respect to the unpermitted development on the SW 04-50-06 W3. Carried

Olson: That we approve the Permit Extension Application of Jake and Wilma De Bruyn to complete the cabin construction by July 5, 2024. Carried

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

Boisvert: That we approve the Permit Extension Application of Ronald Blais to complete the garage and start the cabin construction by July 5, 2024. Carried

Korody: That we approve the Development and Building Permit Applications of Greg and Karen Spencer 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 advise the Community Planning Branch of the Ministry of Government Relations that we recommend approval of the Application to Subdivide Land of Mark Thompson and Robert Thompson, for the purpose of subdividing Parcel A from the NE 14-54-08 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 Council's Indemnity as presented. Carried

Pease: That we now adjourn at 12:15 p.m.

New ALS treatments covered by drug plan

People living with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) may benefit from the addition of two medications to the Saskatchewan Drug Plan Formulary.

The Government of Saskatchewan is expanding treatment options for those living with ALS by listing Albrioza (sodium phenylbutyrate and ursodoxicoltaurine) and the oral suspension of Radicava (edaravone) on the Saskatchewan Drug Plan Formulary. Effective September 1, eligible ALS patients who meet certain medical criteria may be considered for coverage of these med-

ications under the Saskatchewan Drug Plan.

"Providing patients living with ALS additional treatment options is crucial, given the speed at which this disease progresses," Minister of Health Everett Hindley said in a statement. "Saskatchewan residents living with ALS know how debilitating this disease can be. Including these medications on the Saskatchewan Formulary gives patients access to potentially life-changing treatments."

ALS is a fatal neurodegenerative dis-

ease that affects around 3,000 Canadians. ALS rapidly causes patients to lose the ability to move and speak. As their condition progresses, ALS patients are significantly impacted in their ability to perform routine daily activities, such as feeding or grooming themselves. Ultimately, the disease leads to the loss of essential functions like swallowing and breathing. There is currently no cure for ALS, but medications such as Albrioza and Radicava may help slow the rate of disease progression.

"On behalf of the ALS Society of Sas-

katchewan we would like to thank the government for adding these to the Formulary as this will support those affected by ALS in the province," said Denis Simard, Executive Director of the ALS Society of Saskatchewan. "Anything that can help those living with ALS hold on to a quality of life for a longer period of time makes a big difference."

Patients and families who think they or their family member may benefit from therapy with these medications are encouraged to speak with their physician.



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Expectations high for Rodgers in New York

Aaron Rodgers is headed for the Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio — that's a given — but the 39-year-old quarterback is first making a pit stop in New York.

How long his stay with the National Football League's Jets will be remains to be seen, but Jets fans on the eve of the 2023 season are already making playoff plans after a 12-year post-season drought. They're expecting the Rodgers magic that resulted in a decade or more of success with the green and yellow in Green Bay will transfer to the green and white of the Jets.

But does Rodgers have any magic left in his football backpack? The world will find out when the Jets play host to the Buffalo Bills in Week One's Monday night. It's scheduled for 9/11 in New York.

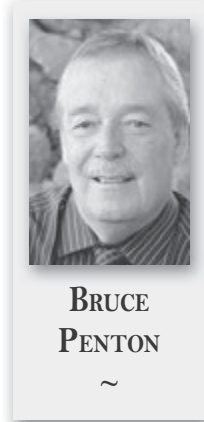
After a brilliant 15-year career in Green Bay, Rodgers and the Packers' management had a falling out that resulted in an off-season trade to the Jets. Rodgers made it clear he did not want to return to Wisconsin, but also made it clear he wanted to continue playing. Age 39 is ancient in most sports, but since Tom Brady didn't retire

until he was 45, Rodgers looks absolutely childlike at 39.

While he didn't set the world on fire with the Packers in 2022 (an 8-9 record as a starter was only his second losing season in 12 years), his resume is sublime. A Super Bowl win in 2010. Four Most Valuable Player crowns. Ten Pro Bowl selections. He has thrown for 475 touchdowns in his career and carries an impressive 1.4 per cent interception rate. While opponents won't have to worry about Rogers scrambling around or rushing the ball, his ability to find receivers and be in control of an offence is something coach Robert Saleh doesn't have to worry about teaching.

For the past two seasons, Saleh and the Jets have pinned their hopes on 2021 first-round draft pick Zach Wilson, but the former Brigham Young QB hasn't panned out. With Rodgers at the helm for this year and perhaps a couple more, Wilson can be tutored in the finer points of NFL quarterbacking so that when Rodgers finally retires, the student will be able to take over.

Rodgers will see some familiar faces when he begins guiding the Jets'



BRUCE PENTON

offence. Former Packers Alan Lazard and Randall Cobb are new faces with the Jets, and former KC Chief wide receiver Mecole Hardman has also joined the team. For offensive variety, the Jets recently signed former Vikings' star Dalvin Cook to lead their running game.

Rodgers, who has never met a video camera or publicist he hasn't embraced, will be a star in New York. 'Broadway Aaron' doesn't quite have the same theatrical ring as 'Broadway Joe' but if Rodgers and the Jets were to win — or even contend for — a Super Bowl, they'll be ordering up a statue in no time.

• **Headline at fark.com:** "Houston Texans expected to be really good on offence in 2023 up until all their quarterbacks get hurt."

• **Comedy writer Gary Bachman:** "It's National Pickleball Day. Are they sold in a jar and hard to open?"

• **RJ Currie of sportsdeck.com:** "Over 150 Santas have recently met at the World Santa Claus Congress in Copenhagen to discuss next Christmas. It was unanimous: no presents for 76ers malcontent James Harden."

• **Jack Finarelli, at sports curmudgeon.com.,** being reminded of a line from his father after two Iowa athletes were suspended for wagering on games in which they were playing: "I remember when I was a kid and I did something stupid, my father would tell me, 'You must be twins because no one person can be that dumb.'"

• **RJ Currie again:** "The city council in Jerez de la Frontera, Spain, discovered two employees had been collecting roughly two years of pay without working. 'That's a bad thing?' asked Randy Moss."

• **Mike Bianchi of the Orlando Sentinel:** "The NBA fined 76ers star James Harden \$100,000 for trying to force his way out of another contract by demanding a trade. Like that's a real deterrent! Hell, Harden

spends \$100,000 making it rain at his favourite strip clubs!"

• **Headline at fark.com:** "Auston Matthews agrees to help the Toronto Maple Leafs come up short in the playoffs for four more years."

• **fark.com again:** "Yankees LLLLLLLLLLlast place LLLLLLLLLLosing streak continues."

• **Former Major League Baseball executive Theo Epstein,** on the changes made this year to speed up the game: "If we had let this game evolve on its own, we were on our way

to an unwatchable sport."

• **Eamon Lynch of golf-week.com** on the questionable U.S. captain picks made by Jim Furyk for the 2018 Ryder Cup in France; "He was carved up . . . five years ago when not a single point came from three of his four picks, one of whom — Phil Mickelson — was more likely to hit Luxembourg with his driver than the punishingly narrow fairways of Le Golf National.

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

Bud Dicus Memorial held in Shell Lake

By JANICE DELISLE
Shell Lake Seniors

The Shell Lake Seniors' Bud Dicus Memorial Golf Tournament was held Aug. 24, 2023 at the Memorial Lake Regional Park Golf Course.

Due to Mother Nature, the tournament was stopped short before golfers could finish the 18 holes, but everyone seemed to have a good time and winners were still crowned.

Tied for first place, with a score of 54 after 15 holes, the winners of the top prizes were the teams of Patrick Clavet, Mike Looman, Lorraine Diehl, and John Duncan, and Karen Harbaruk, Glen Harbaruk, Robert Heinbigner, and Oral Zacharias.

In a close third place, with a score of 55 after 15 holes, was the foursome of Dennis Pilipick, Katherine Delisle, Dennis Simonar, and Ken Hyman.

More proof carbon taxes make life more expensive

By FRANCO TERRAZZANO
CTF Director

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau claims he's "making life more affordable," but his own government agencies continue to prove his carbon tax makes life more expensive.

"Nova Scotians saw prices at the pump increase by 14 per cent in July compared with June," Statistics Canada reported. "The introduction of the federal carbon levy in the province and higher wholesale prices contributed to higher gasoline prices."

It's not just Statistics Canada.

The Canada Revenue Agency shows the carbon tax currently increases the price of gasoline by 14 cents per litre, the price of diesel and home heating oil by 17 cents per litre and the price of natural gas by 12 cents per cubic metre.

The Bank of Canada is the federal government's central bank and is tasked with keeping inflation low.

"If the charge were to be removed from the three main fuel components of the consumer price index (gasoline, natural gas and fuel oil) it would reduce the inflation rate by 0.4 percentage points," the Bank of Canada wrote in a note to Parliament's finance com-

mittee.

In other words: life would be more affordable if Trudeau scrapped the carbon tax.

The Parliamentary Budget Officer is the federal government's non-partisan, independent budget watchdog. The PBO also notes the carbon tax makes Canadians poorer.

"Most households will see a net loss, paying more in fuel charges and GST, as well as receiving lower incomes, compared to the Climate Action Incentive payments they receive and lower personal income taxes they pay," according to the PBO.

The carbon tax will cost the average family between \$347 and \$710 this year, even after the rebates are factored in, according to the PBO.

Trudeau's carbon tax bill is only getting bigger. The carbon tax will increase the price of gas by 37 cents per litre in 2030, according to the CRA.

Trudeau also imposed a second carbon tax through fuel regulations. The second carbon tax doesn't come with rebates and it's layered on top of Trudeau's original tax.

Analysis from the Department of the Environment shows the second carbon tax will "disproportionately impact lower and middle-income house-

holds," including Canadians "currently experiencing energy poverty," "single mothers" and "seniors living on fixed incomes."

Independent government regulators in Atlantic Canada estimate the second carbon tax initially costs between four and eight cents per litre of gas.

By 2030, when the fuel regulations are fully implemented, Trudeau's two carbon taxes will increase the price of gas by about 55 cents per litre and cost the average family more than \$2,000 every year.

While Ottawa has made life more expensive with yearly carbon tax hikes, other countries provided gas tax relief.

The United Kingdom announced billions of dollars of fuel tax relief. Australia cut its gas tax in half. South Korea cut its gas tax by 30 per cent. Germany temporarily cut its fuel tax

by 30 cents per litre of gas. The Netherlands cut its gas tax by 17 cents per litre.

India cut its gas tax to "keep inflation low, thus helping the poor and middle classes."

While Canadians are now paying two carbon taxes, more than 75 per cent of countries don't pay a national carbon tax, according to the World Bank.

Trudeau knows the carbon tax makes life more expensive. After all, the objective of his carbon tax is to increase the price of gasoline, diesel and heating fuel.

Trudeau wants Canadians to think he's trying to make life affordable. In reality, Trudeau is failing to do the one thing that would immediately make life more affordable: scrap his carbon taxes.



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OBITUARIES

David James Millar

Gary (Donna) Lonoway of Spruce Grove, AB, Chris Lonoway of Battleford, SK, Sherry (Darren) Scherle of Regina, SK, and Gordon (Lisa) Millar of Battleford, SK, 30 grandchildren, 26 great grandchildren and 1 great-great grandchild, his brother: Alwin (Esther) Millar of Spiritwood, SK and numerous nieces, nephews, other relatives, and friends.

He is predeceased by his parents: Alex and Dora Millar, his son-in-law: Frank Bulyaki, his great grandson: Colt Bulyaki, his sister and brother-in-law: Doreen and Bill Baynes and his nephew: Roger Baynes.

A funeral service was held Friday, August 11, 2023 - 11:00 am at the Civic Centre, Spiritwood, SK with Delores Beaulac officiating.

David James Millar was born August 23, 1936, North Battleford, SK and passed away August 4, 2023, Spiritwood, SK at 86 years of age.

David is lovingly remembered by: his wife: Fern Millar, his children: Wes (Terry) Lonoway of McTaggart, SK, Kathy Bulyaki of Spiritwood, SK,

The eulogy was given by Lyla Millar, Brookes Lonoway and Jody Howard. An Honor Guard was formed by the Directors of Witchekan Wildlife Federation and Honorary Pallbearers were considered all those who shared in David's life. David's final resting place is in the Idylwild Cemetery.

Donations may be made to the Witchekan Wildlife Federation in memory of David Millar as tokens of remembrance.

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, R. Mark Muir Funeral Director, Spiritwood, SK (306) 883-3500.

Marlene Rausch

Marlene Rausch
January 19, 1948 ~
August 9, 2023 (age 75)

Marlene Rausch of Yorkton, SK, passed away on August 9, 2023, at the age of 75 years.

Mom was born January 19, 1948, in the Polwarth District near Canwood, SK. Her family remained there until they moved to the island, in the municipality of Chamainus, near Cowichan, BC, for her father's employment. They later returned to the Polwarth area where she spent much of her young-

er years.

Mom enjoyed music, playing her guitar and singing ("Delta Dawn" was a favourite), swimming, being in nature, sharing her spiritual beliefs, and just going out for coffee with friends and family.

She was predeceased by her twin Darlene in their infancy; mother Margaret; father Jake; brother Milen; sister Audrey; and brothers-in-law Bill and Ben.

Mom's memories will be cherished in the thoughts and hearts of all who knew her and shared in her life.

She will be lovingly remembered by her children, Richelle Markwart and Kevin (Kathy) Lajeunesse; along with their families, granddaughters, Taylor and Maddy Markwart, Jana and Sara Lajeunesse and great-granddaughter, Ayla Gabriel. Also mourning her loss are brother Milton (Paulette); sister Betty; sister-

in-law Diane; and many nieces and nephews.

A celebration of life ceremony was held at the Peter Carscadden Funeral Chapel in Esterhazy, SK on Tuesday, August 15, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. with Pastor Mark Lautumus officiating. Interment to follow at the Hazel Cliffe Cemetery with a lunch immediately after at the Esterhazy Golden Jets, 620 Main Street.

Pallbearers are Kevin Lajeunesse, Richelle Markwart, Sara Lajeunesse, Regan Bittner, Brayden Gabriel and Tucker Sharp.

Honorary pallbearers will be all friends and family who shared in Marlene's life and those that cared for her over the years.

If you so choose, donations in her memory can be made to the Saskatchewan Division of the Canadian Mental Health Association or a charity of choice.

Valerie Jean Pawliw

five clients for 2 years through Mental Health.

She graduated in 2006 from Sask Polytech as a CCA, which led to over 11 years on staff at Pineview Care Home.

Val ended up in the hospital on May 1, 2023, with liver disease and remained there until she passed.

Valerie is lovingly remembered by: her children and grandchildren, Kyle Pawliw (Kaitlan) and his daughters Payton, Hallie and Brooklynn of Saskatoon, SK; Dawn Qamara Thomas of Quebec; her partner Bernie Markiewicz of Prince Albert, SK; her mother Fern Chaykowski of Spiritwood, SK; her siblings, Keith (Tammy) of Quesnel, BC, Brenda (William) of Nashville, TN, Kathy (Dave) Glenbush, SK, Chris of Spiritwood, SK; and numerous nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

She was predeceased by

father, Henry Chaykowski, siblings, Linda, Corine, and Bruce.

A funeral service to celebrate Valerie's life was held Sunday, July 23rd, 2:00 at the Carlton Park Community Club in Prince Albert, SK, with Delores Beaulac officiating. The eulogy was prepared by her siblings Kathy, Brenda and friend Betty and read by Betty Taylor. Urn Bearer was Kathy Lange.

Donations may be made to the Canadian Liver Foundation or to Crohn's and Colitis Canada in memory of Valerie Pawliw as tokens of remembrance. 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, R. Mark Muir Funeral Director, Spiritwood, SK (306) 883-3500.

Iris Salter

Iris Salter was born February 26, 1934 in Richmond Surrey, England and passed away February 28, 2023, in Prince Albert, SK at 89 years of age.

Iris is lovingly remembered by her daughters: Sarah

Watamaniuk (Alfred) and Clair Watamaniuk (Barry), her grandchildren: Quinn McKee (Sky), Kaiden Paddison and Tayler Paddison, her great-grandchildren: Shaniqua Walkingbear, Kodiak Walkingbear, Ariyah McKee and Zaren McKee, Robert Salter's daughter: Bev (Brian) and family and numerous other family and friends.

She was predeceased by her first husband: George Watamaniuk, her second husband: Robert Salter, her daughter: Jane Watamaniuk, her parents: Wilfred and Emily Mason, her brother: Cyril Mason and many other loved ones.

A funeral service was held Saturday, September 2, 2023, at 1:00 pm at the Glenbush Mennonite Church, Glenbush, SK with Pastor Monty Buhler officiating.

Iris' final resting place will be in Campbell River, BC.

"The soul would have no rainbow if the eyes had no tears"

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, R. Mark Muir Funeral Director, Spiritwood, SK (306) 883-3500.

Douglas Scott Woodcock

WOODCOCK —
Douglas Scott

October 25, 1950 —
July 13, 2023

Doug died early in the morning on July 13,

2023 with his family by his side. He is survived by his wife Mary, his son James (Shelby), his daughter Allison, his brother Jim, and his sisters Dale and Merne. He was predeceased by his mother Mildred and his father Patrick.

Doug was born in Humboldt, Saskatchewan and moved with his family to Saskatoon when he was a teenager. As a young man he worked on rail bridges from Sudbury to Kamloops, and oil rigs from Drayton Valley to the Mackenzie Delta.

Doug's lifelong fascination with the natural world led him to complete the water science technology program at the Kelsey SIAST campus in Saskatoon along with additional engineering training at the University of Saskatchewan. This launched a 30 year long career in the Saskatchewan public service. While working in Regina Doug met his wife Mary. Together they moved to Meadow Lake before settling on their acreage near Holbein.

Doug was a devoted husband and father. He

had a passion for the outdoors and loved to hunt and fish. When he wasn't outside you could find him reading a book, visiting with friends and family on the phone or watching football, hockey or baseball.

Doug was proud of his family's pioneer history in Saskatchewan and contributed to that legacy through his work across the province from Cypress Hills to Stoney Rapids. Those who knew him knew a kind person who could find the humour in any situation. He was a principled and

incredibly hard working man who would do anything for those he cared for.

He will be fondly remembered and dearly missed.

Please join us at the Prince Albert Wildlife Federation on Thursday September 14th, 2023, for a celebration of Doug's life. Come anytime between 3:00 to 7:00pm. The eulogy will be given at 3:45 with coffee and a light buffet dinner to follow. Share some stories and have a laugh or two with us as Doug would have wanted.

Val was the second daughter to Henry and Fern Chaykowski. She grew up in Mildred, SK and attended school in Spiritwood, she quit school in grade 10 but later in life completed her grade 12.

Val was an awesome seamstress and artist; many family members have something she created with love. She was her daughter Dawn's biggest mentor, supporter, and caregiver when she was diagnosed with cancer; she never left her side and never gave up that Dawn would "kick the cancer to the curb". She even went to the news station in PA asking them to put it out there that she needed prayers for her daughter, calling every church in the phonebook asking for prayers. She was flying high when her prayers were answered. Her son Kyle was always there for her and a steady shoulder to lean on.

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Roses in a pollinator garden

By BERNADETTE VANGOOL

Many gardeners, having been made aware of the beneficial work of bees and other pollinators in food production, are starting to incorporate native plants into their landscape to encourage the success of native pollinators.

The best roses for the native bees are most likely the native roses, such as Rosa arkansa, Rosa woodsii and Rosa acicularis. But these may not be appropriate for many of our gardens as they can spread aggressively and may not bloom profusely.

Scent, colour, and shape attract bees to flowers. The stronger the scent in a rose, usually the higher the nectar content. Some bees prefer tube like flowers whereas many bumblebees prefer a large landing pad. It is not uncommon to see several bees foraging on the heads of large sunflowers.

Roses bred for our harsh prairie climate, often have traded their heavenly scent for hardiness. So to attract bees to your yard, it is essential to provide that scent with other companion plants such as centaurea, catmints, giant hyssop and spireas. Another way is to incorporate rugosa roses, which tend to be more fragrant and will attract bees throughout the day. Among the rugosas are: 'Hansa', (found in old farm yards); the Bugnet roses developed by Georges Bugnet in Alberta; 'Henry Hudson' developed in Ottawa by Felicitas Svejda; and finally the Pavement roses which were developed in Germany, but are perfectly hardy here on the prairies. The 'Purple Pavement' rose thrives in the Heritage Rose Garden at the Forestry Farm Park, where others are eaten to about a foot off the ground by deer. 'Purple Pavement' roses appear to be somewhat deer resistant and are always teaming with bee activity.

It is thought that bees do not like dark colours or can't see the colour red. So, if you are trying to attract pollinators, avoid the dark red hues such as 'Cuthbert Grant.' It's a beautiful rose, but I have never seen bees on it.

Compared to other flowers, roses produce very little nectar, so bees won't stop at each flower for very long. Bee activity among the Parkland and Explorer roses is heaviest in the early morning hours, when they are most fragrant and new flowers are opening. To pro-



Leafcutter bee damage on Cuthbert Grant rose. Photo courtesy of Bernadette Vangoool

vide roses with a larger landing pad, plant varieties that have single to semi-double flowers (those with 5 to 15 petals). They provide lots of pollen and have more stamens for bees to forage.

Many other insects aid in the pollination of roses and are beneficial for different reasons, such as ants or lady beetles that control aphids. However, some insects can prove quite destructive, chief among these are the rose weevil or rose curculio which frequents the light-coloured Pavement roses, but can also visit other varieties. Weevils drill holes in the rose buds and then suck out all the juices of the young bud, often preventing the buds from opening. Like the lily beetle, the best method of control is to pick them off and crush them underfoot. Or catch them in a jar of water, as they drop from the plant to the ground.

Sawflies are important pollinators of crops, but their larvae, which resemble little green caterpillars which hang out underneath freshly grown leaves, can do considerable damage. If a small area is of concern, often just the new lower branches, you can pick them off and prune out any unsightly growth. I often disregard minimal damage, but keep an eye open to ensure it stays localized. For larger infestations, consider the use of insecticide soap to deter larvae from attacking the rest of the plant. Finally, leaf cutter bees may take some nice circular pieces from the edges of some of your rose foliage, but this scarcely hurts the rose and provides good nesting material for the bees.

And how do you tell that the pollinators have been on the job? Well, rose hips of course!

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

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