

## Ahtahkakoop Training and Employment Centre opens in Shell Lake



Ribbon cutting with Ahtahkakoop Elder Sheila Reimer and Shell Lake Mayor Anita Weiers doing the honours (centre).

By **BEVRA FEE**  
*Spiritwood Herald Reporter*

The former Shell Lake school is seeing a new life, continuing its history as a local educational facility. On Oct. 6, the grand opening of the Ahtahkakoop Training and Employment Centre took place within the refreshed and re-purposed school.

Following the closure of the village's school in 2010, there have been attempts to resurrect portions of the building for other ventures, but the circle was completed with the decision of Ahtahkakoop First Nation leadership to purchase the property to address their education capacity shortfall.

Much work has already been completed to revitalize the space, with classrooms being utilized as of Oct. 2. The Adult Ba-

sic Education class is underway with 16 students currently enrolled in the 22+ age group. The 21 and under ABE (Adult Basic Education) is offered at Ahtahkakoop. A space will be adapted for daycare in order to remove attendance barriers for adult students with infants and preschool children.

ABE instructor Paul Ledoux commented that the majority of his students are female and the on-site daycare is a welcome concept. Until the daycare is operational, a space has been allocated for one of his students whose infant currently accompanies the student mother.

Other potential training courses to be offered in the facility will depend on funding and partnerships, with possibilities including computers, business, and trades.

The official grand opening ceremony began with a pipe ceremony in the morning, followed by a grand entry of dignitaries, drummed in by Neil Whitefish. An opening prayer by Elder Sheila Reimer was offered first in Cree – her first language – followed by a message in English. “Shell Lake, Ahtahkakoop has accepted you. I hope you accept us,” Elder Sheila prayed.

Emcee for the ceremony, Lyle Whitefish, opened with comments about historic agreements regarding “Indian control of Indian education, outlining the ITEP (Indian Teaching Education Program) of which he is a graduate.

“Today is another step to Indian control of our own education,” commented Whitefish.

Chief Larry Ahenakew of Ahtahkakoop

First Nation thanked the Elders present and past Chiefs, and expressed optimism for working with the leadership of Shell Lake Village Council. Chief Larry also looked ahead to next year with a potential “first graduation” from the training centre, and thanked instructor Paul Ledoux for his role in the ABE class.

Education Director, Diane Ahenakew, expressed gratitude and excitement as she thanked the Elders for the morning's pipe ceremony as well as Shell Lake Mayor and leadership. Citing the vision for education from Ahtahkakoop's strategic plan, Ms. Ahenakew specified the dedication seeing its First Nation members realize the competitive advantage of education and maximizing the human potential of Ahtahkakoop.

*Continued on page 2*



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# Ahtahkakoop Training and Employment Centre opens in Shell Lake

**Continued from 1**

On behalf of the government of Saskatchewan, Jim Lemaigre, MLA for Athabasca Constituency, was in attendance and commented on the initiative as meaning that individuals will develop skills for employment without having to leave their community.

“Having a young, vibrant Indigenous population offers a competitive advantage to Saskatchewan’s employers, in addressing their talent needs and to achieve that goal” Lemaigre commented, when speaking about growing the province’s workforce.

Mr. Lemaigre closed his address with comments in the Dene language.

Anita Weiers, Mayor of Shell Lake, offered congratulations on behalf of Council and answered Elder Sheila Reimer’s opening prayer by eliciting from the crowd of locals a resounding “acceptance” of Ahtahkakoop into Shell Lake. She teased that “if these hallowed walls could talk, they might even reveal some secrets about Chief Larry!”

Rounding out the list of dignitaries was Glen McCallum, President of Métis Nation – Saskatchewan. Predominantly spoken in Cree, Mr. McCallum’s address spoke of “creating jobs for ourselves and training the people to fill those jobs.” He also talked about applying reconciliation, understanding history and working together, “I am 100 percent behind this on behalf of Métis people of Saskatchewan.”

The ceremony was followed by a ribbon-cutting and the event wrapped up with a catered meal and tours of the facility.



Grand entry of Elders and dignitaries.



Ahtahkakoop Chief Larry Ahenakew giving his address on behalf of Band Council.



MLA for Athabasca Jim Lemaigre representing the Government of Saskatchewan.



Emcee Lyle Whitefish welcomes guests.



Shell Lake Mayor Anita Weiers welcomes Ahtahkakoop to the village.



Glen McCallum, President of Métis Nation - Saskatchewan, was on hand to offer support.

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Appendix C  
**FORM H**  
 [Section 66 of the Act]

**Notice of Call for Nominations**

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

**COUNCILLOR – DIVISION 2**

**RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF SHELLBROOK NO. 493**

Will be received by the undersigned on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of October, 2023.

From: 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
 At RM OFFICE – 71 Main Street, Shellbrook, Saskatchewan,  
 To October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023,  
 At RM – 71 Main Street, Shellbrook, Saskatchewan.

NOMINATION FORMS may be obtained at the following location(s):  
 RM of Shellbrook No. 493  
 71 Main Street  
 Shellbrook, Saskatchewan **OR** on the RM Website  
[www.rmofshellbrook.com](http://www.rmofshellbrook.com) under “Elections” tab.

**Completed Nominations Forms MUST be returned to the RM Office in person for a Nomination Receipt.**

Dated this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of October, 2023.  
**Duane Storey**  
 Returning Officer

# Blaine Lake Skating Rink getting major facelift

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

As people in communities across Saskatchewan return to their local rinks for another season of hockey and skating, the Blaine Lake Community Association (BLCA) and its community partners are working to ensure the Blaine Lake Skating Rink will continue to serve the town's residents for many years to come.

To this end, the organization has undertaken a major renovation project to modernize the facility, which was built over the course of 1964 and 1965 and has been used for everything from public skating to hockey, and community events during the off-season.

"During the pandemic, the rink saw very few users and got very little

maintenance, but during that time it also became abundantly clear how important skating/hockey rinks are to a small town's way of life and wellness," said BLCA member Jenna Englot.

"Since the end of the pandemic, the BLCA and a few key community members have been putting a lot of effort into revamping the rink and ensuring it's a space to bring community together and create opportunities for recreation and wellness."

With an estimated price tag of \$60,000 — \$10,000 of which has been provided by Manitoba-based Red River Mutual's Spruce Up Your Story grant — the project began in early 2023 and includes installation of new flooring and demolition of the old flooring, demolition of some walls to build a new seating area in the lobby,

construction of a bar and ticket sales area, replacement of the arena lighting, and boiler upgrades and maintenance.

As a small-town non-profit organization, Englot says the BLCA is dependent on fundraising and grants for these types of projects. Luckily, she says, the community has stepped up in a big way to support the rink renovations.

"The current project is unique because although it is a project that requires a lot of skilled labour, most of the labour has been donated by local community members and tradespeople, which has made the project really feasible and also [provided] an opportunity for the community to feel connected to the project," Englot said.

With the skating rink renovation project expected to continue over the next year, and the facility nearing its 60th birthday, Englot says there will likely be some need for ongoing maintenance beyond the scope of the current project.

For starters, the BLCA knows the need for a boiler replacement will one day arise. But it's also hoping to be able to rebuild the upstairs arena seating area to increase the seating area in the rink, after the inaugural hockey season of the Redberry Raiders senior hockey team brought in as many as 200 spectators at each home game.

Englot says these upgrades are necessary because community rinks like the Blaine Lake Skating Rink are essential to small-town life, and the cost to replace the rink entirely would be astronomical for a town with a population of just over 500 people.

Extending the life of the current arena ensures community members of all ages have a place to gather, engage in recreation activities, and maintain their health.

"We hope this project can be an example of community members coming together to pitch in for a common cause and donating their time and money for the betterment of our whole community," Englot said.

## Associates host jam session fundraiser

By **SHERRY HEYDEN**  
*The Associates Treasurer*

On Sept. 23, 2023, the Associates held their monthly jam session at the Spiritwood Pioneer Centre, and everyone enjoyed the toe tapping music.

Glen Cherry, the sound man, tuned everyone in for sound quality, while Brian Heigh, the program organizer, lined all the performers up to have their turn on stage.

The goal was to have fun and raise money towards buying a new bariatrics tub for Spiritwood's Idylwild Senior's Lodge. After expenses were paid, the jam session raised \$300.



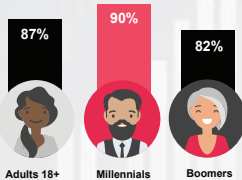
Associates treasurer Sherry Heyden (left) presents the \$300 jam session cheque to Ruth Siegel, treasurer of the Idylwild Lodge Ladies Auxiliary.



The Blaine Lake Skating Rink is in the midst of getting a major renovation, thanks to a project undertaken by the Blaine Lake Community Association.

### NEED TO REACH MILLENNIALS?

New survey results show that **nine out of ten** Millennials read newspapers weekly in print or digital formats.



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Results are sourced from a November 2020 national online research survey managed by Totum Research. Interviews were conducted with 855 English and French Canadians in every province, and results were weighted to be nationally representative.

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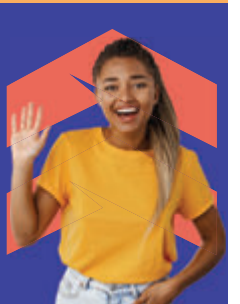


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## Canadians' affordability fears must be addressed

A common refrain sung by critics of social assistance programs – particularly those who accuse welfare recipients of being lazy resource leeches – is to point out the seeming correlation between being on the government dole and obesity.

If one gives it no critical thought, it's easy to conclude that this makes no sense. After all, how can people who are supposedly struggling to make ends meet also be eating enough to be overweight?

However, with just a little reflection, the link between poverty and obesity isn't all that hard to explain.

The reality of poverty is that healthier, nutrient-rich foods often become a luxury item rather than a necessity.

With enough couponing and flyer scouring to get the best deals, one can find a way to make fruits and vegetables a more regular part of his or her diet. But, for the most part, fruits and vegetables cost more than something like a box of Kraft Dinner and do less to fill a person's belly.

The problem with these cheap meal options, is they're packed full of added sugars, salt, and fat, all of which are leading contributors to obesity.

For those who have experienced poverty, this has been true for decades. And in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the inflationary hellscape that has followed in its wake, it's only become more true for more Canadians.

In its inaugural Poverty Report Cards study, which released near the end of September and grades the country and the provinces and territories on poverty statistics, efforts to reduce poverty, the availability of basic resources and services, and other factors, Food Banks Canada highlighted how dire the situation has become.

Per its findings, nearly 7 million Canadians, or just over 18 per cent of the population, are struggling to put food on the table in the face of the cost of living and housing crisis. Meanwhile, as many as 2.8 million Canadians, or 7 per cent of the population, are living in poverty.

Food Banks Canada has also documented a startling uptick in food bank usage. In another report, released in late 2022, it found that 4,750 food banks across the country saw 1.5 mil-



JORDAN TWISS

~  
News Editor

lion visits in March of 2022. This marked a 15 per cent increase in usage compared to 2021, and a 35 per cent jump compared to 2019 (before the COVID-19 pandemic).

Elsewhere, another report published by the Agri-Food Analytics Lab at Dalhousie University suggests that Canadians are drastically changing the way they shop.

Surveying more than 5,500 Canadians, the report found that 86.4 per cent of respondents have become

more price conscious. Meanwhile, 45.5 per cent said they're now prioritizing cost over nutritional value when shopping, even as they're worried that compromising on nutrition could have a negative impact on their health in the long-term.

If there's any silver lining to be found, it's in Canadians' changing attitudes towards food. According to the report, 79.1 per cent of shoppers say they're wasting less food at home than they did a year ago, while almost half (49.7 per cent) say they've considered growing their own food to offset costs.

That said, there is cause to believe things will get harder for Canadians before they get easier.

Canada's 2023 Food Price Report predicted a five to seven per cent cost increase for grocery items like vegetables, dairy and meat. For an average family of four, this could mean spending up to \$16,288.41 per year on food, an increase of up to \$1,065.60 from 2022 data.

It all makes for a rather dire picture. And though these economic conditions are not entirely in the control of governments (both federal and provincial), Canadians could certainly benefit from politicians who will take the matter more seriously and come up with real solutions.

At the federal level, where Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's Liberal government is still on the defensive after former House Speaker Anthony Rota sang the praises of a Nazi in the House of Commons, Canada's grocery oligarchy has become an easy scapegoat in the cost of living crisis.

Though it has yet to uncover a proverbial smoking gun to prove that major grocery chains are colluding to profiteer from inflation, Mr. Trudeau's government is threatening them with



new taxes if they don't come up with solutions to lower costs for Canadians.

This is sure to teach the grocery giants a lesson. There's no way they'd just pass these added costs on to their consumers.

On the opposite side of the aisle, Conservative Leader Pierre Poilievre has talked a big game about affordability, laying the blame for the current state of the country squarely at the feet of Mr. Trudeau's government.

Yet, aside from the release of a housing strategy, which would cut federal funding to cities that fail to increase the number of new homes built by 15 per cent each year, he's advanced no new ideas to tackle the affordability crisis.

Indeed, instead of presenting ideas in good faith and working with other parties for the betterment of Canadians, Mr. Poilievre seems to think the best use of taxpayers' time is to advance motions calling on the government to end its carbon tax, knowing full well they have no chance of passing (as he did most recently on Sept. 28).

Perhaps the only point in Mr. Poilievre's in favour, is the fact that he's at least taking affordability a little more seriously than our Sask. Party government.

Since he pledged to take action on housing and affordability in the wake of two by-election losses in August, Premier Scott Moe has had precious little to say about either – perhaps be-

cause he's been too distracted with his government's pronoun policy to focus his attention elsewhere.

In fact, the Sask. Party government has actively worked against making housing more affordable by resisting pressure to follow the federal government's lead and remove the PST charge it implemented on construction materials in 2017. Explaining the government's decision, Finance Minister Donna Harpauer called the tax a necessary tool to help the province move away from its reliance on natural resources.

Of course, this comes as no surprise. This Sask. Party government has done next to nothing on the affordability file either, except for cutting every taxpaying adult in the province a one-time \$500 cheque.

As other provinces axed their fuel taxes to provide some much-needed relief at the pumps, the Sask. Party government refused to act. It also expanded the PST to cover more goods and services, only to later frame a partial rollback of the expansion as a massive tax cut for Saskatchewan residents.

Time and again, in poll after poll, Canadians are saying that affordability and housing are among their top concerns.

Both the federal government, and the Sask. Party government, have the tools to address some of these concerns. All they have to do is start to take the issue seriously.

### Shellbrook Chronicle

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### Spiritwood Herald

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A Division of Pepperfram Limited Publications  
Mail Registration #07621

Published Every Thursday Morning

P.O. Box 10, Shellbrook, Sask. S0J 2E0  
Phone 306-747-2442 or Fax 306-747-3000

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Friday, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. & 1 to 4 p.m.;

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

Websites: www.shellbrookchronicle.com  
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: In the interest of readers of this newspaper, we will publish opinions of our readers. Letters To The Editor are most welcome; however, they must be signed and include writer's contact information and will only be published with the writer's name on it. Letters should be limited in length and be typed or clearly written. We reserve the right to edit letters depending on available space.

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## Report from the Legislature

Our government was extremely dismayed by the decision of the court blocking implementation of the Parental Inclusion and Consent policy – a policy which has the strong support of a majority of Saskatchewan residents; in particular, parents. The default position should never be to keep a child's information from their parents. It is in the best interest of children to ensure parents are included in their children's education, in their classrooms and in all important decisions involving their children.

That is why our government will take action to ensure the rights of Saskatchewan parents are protected and that this policy is implemented. Our government has recalled the Legislature for Oct. 10, 2023, and will use the notwithstanding clause of the Canadian constitution to pass legislation to protect parental rights.

As harvest wraps up across our province, Saskatchewan recognizes Agriculture Month in October. Agriculture is a cornerstone of our province, and this month is an opportunity to thank the dedicated farmers,

ranchers and agribusinesses who produce high quality, sustainable food. For a full list of Agriculture Month events or to learn how you can take part, please visit [www.farmfoodcaresk.org](http://www.farmfoodcaresk.org).

Saskatchewan's population continues to grow at its fastest pace in more than a century. The latest quarterly population estimates from Statistics Canada show the number of people living in our province grew by 8,567 in the second quarter of 2023, and by 30,685 over the past year. The annual increase is the largest increase we have seen in a single year in more than a century! Our government will continue to protect all we have built



HON. SCOTT MOE,  
PREMIER

~  
MLA for Rosthern -  
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to ensure future generations can benefit from a strong and growing economy that creates opportunities and improves the quality of life for all.

Wages have increased for early childhood educators (ECEs) as well, recognizing their key role in growing and nurturing future generations of Saskatchewan citizens. Effective October 1, more than 90 per cent of the province's ECEs saw an average increase of 8 per cent compared to September 2022. This increase is possible through a \$7 million joint investment from the Governments of Saskatchewan and Canada through the Early Childhood Educator Wage Enhancement grant.

As Saskatchewan's population and economy continue to grow, our government continues to invest in strengthening our health care workforce. We continue to

prioritize the four-point Health Human Resources Action Plan to recruit, train, incentivize and retain health care workers to our province. As part of that plan, increased funding for the Saskatchewan International Physician Practice Assessment (SIPPA) program continues to support internationally-trained physicians as they begin their practice in Saskatchewan.

This summer, 16 new doctors completed the SIPPA program and began practicing in rural and remote communities across the province. Along with SIPPA, other initiatives, such as the quadrupling of the Rural Physician Incentive Program, expanding medical residency seats at the University of Saskatchewan, and expanding post-graduate medical residency training sites across the province, continue to bring more physicians to our province and ex-



HON. JEREMY HARRISON  
MLA

~  
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scribing medications, and ordering and interpreting tests. These new PAs will help address the demand for timely and high-quality health services across the province.

With cooler weather upon us, flu season is not far behind. Saskatchewan residents can now begin booking appointments to receive this year's flu vaccine. Flu shots will be administered at public health clinics and local pharmacies starting Oct. 10, 2023; for more information, please visit [www.4flu.ca](http://www.4flu.ca).

Our government continues to work towards building a stronger Saskatchewan. If you have questions or concerns, please reach out to your Constituency office.

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### EMPLOYMENT

#### VILLAGE OF LEASK

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Please submit a resume with qualifications, references and expected rate of pay to: Village of Leask Office, Box 40, Leask, SK S0J 1M0,

Or by email: [village.leask@sasktel.net](mailto:village.leask@sasktel.net)

Yvette Hamel - Administrator

### VILLAGE OF LEASK

#### Culvert Replacements

##### BY PUBLIC TENDER

The Village is requesting Contractors to provide pricing for the following: Replacement of **two** culverts (13.4 m) & (9.8 m) within the Village of Leask. Work to be Completed by November 30, 2023.

Tenders will be received by Village of Leask Administrator in Office, by Mail P.O. Box 40, Leask, SK S0J 1M0, by fax at 306-466-2239 or email [village.leask@sasktel.net](mailto:village.leask@sasktel.net) until **4:00 pm, WEDNESDAY, October 18, 2023**. Tenders will be opened **immediately after 4:00 pm**, at the Village of Leask Office at 15 Main Street, Leask, SK.

##### Tender Requirements

Bidders are required to review the complete tender documents available through the Village Office or on the Village website at: [www.leask.ca](http://www.leask.ca)

The Village reserves the right to refuse any or all Tenders.

For further information contact Yvette Hamel, Administrator Village of Leask

Phone: (306) 466-2229

[village.leask@sasktel.net](mailto:village.leask@sasktel.net)

### EMPLOYMENT

#### VILLAGE OF LEASK

##### PUBLIC WORKS TEAM

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- Attention to detail & safety conscious
- Receptive to obtaining water certification
- Preferences will be given to trained and certified grader operators and/or certified mechanics.
- For a full job description and expected duties contact the Village of Leask office at 306-466-2229 or visit the village website at [www.leask.ca](http://www.leask.ca).

*Village of Leask offers competitive benefits & pension plan.*

Please submit a resume with qualifications, references and expected rate of pay to: Village of Leask Office, Box 40, Leask, SK S0J 1M0,

Or by email: [village.leask@sasktel.net](mailto:village.leask@sasktel.net)

Yvette Hamel - Administrator

### VILLAGE OF LEASK

#### House Burn Cleanup & Restoration of lot 209 1<sup>st</sup> Ave Leask, SK

##### BY PUBLIC TENDER

The Village is requesting Contractors to provide pricing for the following: Clean up and restoration of Lot 9 Parcel "A" Plan 63PA00509, one (1) foundation removal at 209 1<sup>st</sup> Ave, Leask, SK. All concrete, foundations, slabs and piles must be removed; void filled with granulated material. All material from demolition is the responsibility of the Contractor to remove and dispose of. Work to be completed by November 30, 2023.

Tenders will be received by Village of Leask Administrator in Office, by Mail P.O. Box 40, Leask, SK S0J 1M0, by fax at 306-466-2239 or email [village.leask@sasktel.net](mailto:village.leask@sasktel.net) until **4:00 pm, WEDNESDAY, October 18, 2023**. Tenders will be opened **immediately after 4:00 pm**, at the Village of Leask Office at 15 Main Street, Leask, SK.

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Phone: (306) 466-2229

[village.leask@sasktel.net](mailto:village.leask@sasktel.net)

### VILLAGE OF CANWOOD

#### Notice of Call for Nominations Municipal By-Election

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

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

will be received by the undersigned on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of November, 2023, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and during regular business hours, Tuesday to Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. October 26 to October 31, 2023, at Village of Canwood Municipal Office.

Nomination forms may be obtained at the following location(s):  
Village of Canwood Municipal Office, 641 Main Street, Canwood, SK

Dated this 13<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2023.

Lindsey Olson  
Returning Officer

### NOTICE OF POLL

[Section 81 of the Act]

#### Village of Canwood

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that:

- (1) A vote will be held for the election of:  
Councillor: Village of Canwood
- (2) Voting will take place on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2023, 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Canwood Village Office, 651 Main Street, Canwood, SK.
- (3) I will declare the results of voting at the Village of Canwood Municipal Office on the 26<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.

Dated at Canwood, this 5<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2023.

Lindsey Olson  
Returning Officer

### NOTICE OF ADVANCE POLL

[Section 83 and 84 of the Act]

#### Village of Canwood

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that provision has been made for an advance poll for all eligible electors.

Advance voting will take place on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2023, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. at the Canwood Village Office, 651 Main Street, Canwood, SK.

Dated at Canwood, this 5<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2023.

Lindsey Olson  
Returning Officer

# Highlights of a Shellbrook Town Council meeting

BY JORDAN TWISS

Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

(The following council highlights are not the approved minutes of council for Oct. 2)

Shellbrook's Town Council met for its regular meeting in person and via teleconference on Monday, Oct. 2.

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

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Otterson, and council began with its customary Treaty 6 land acknowledgement in recognition of Truth and Reconciliation. Then, it approved the meeting's agenda, adopted the minutes of its Sept. 18 meeting, acknowledged received correspondence, and moved on to reports.

In the reports portion of the meeting, it was mostly business as usual for administration and committees of council.

Reviewing the minutes of the Parkland Pool Project Steering Committee's Sept. 20 meeting, council was in-

formed of its fundraising efforts over the summer and current financials, as well as some of its future plans to fundraise for and market the project. One key pillar to promote the importance of the project will be to emphasize the fact that the pool put three times as many people through swimming lessons as the City of Prince Albert.

Elsewhere, in good news for the Shellbrook Housing Authority, councillor Anderson reported that all of the town's units are occupied and there is currently no waitlist.

Closing out the reports, council reviewed the monthly activity report for August submitted by Community Safety Officer Jon Bohmann.

In the report, Bohmann provided statistics for the types of legal and by-law infractions he saw throughout the month, including untidy yards (23), speeding (7), and animal control (7). Bohmann also stated that some of the month was spent introducing himself and explaining his duties to the public and the RCMP.

One area of concern he highlighted was an incident of broken windows and a garbage can at WP Sandin High School. The damage was believed to

have been caused by kids hanging out at the school and drinking, and Bohmann said he would continue to do daily checks during his shifts.

Moving to unfinished business, council once again chose to table a decision on plans to lease the old SaskEnergy building until the RM of Shellbrook weighs in on the matter. The building would be used to store the CSO's truck, as well as a new ambulance, if and when an ambulance depot is established in Shellbrook.

While the lease agreement would allow the town to sublet the building, some councillors have expressed concerns about the cost of renting the building just to store a vehicle.

Diving right into new business, council carried a motion to reverse a charge of \$81.60 on BIDC0001, as well as a motion to continue offering lots at a reduced price of \$15,000 (the regular price is \$25,000) until August 2024.

Up next, council discussed a Targeted Sector Support grant that would support the development of a regional EMO plan along with nine other municipalities that have expressed some interest. The \$54,000 grant would

cover 75 per cent of the costs to develop the plan, including the costs to hire an individual to develop it and update it as necessary.

Turning to a number of recreation-themed items, council approved a recommendation from the Recreation Committee to allow Shellbrook Minor Ball to change the locks on the bathrooms at the Centennial Building on the Shellbrook Sports Grounds to combination locks, thereby eliminating the need for coaches to keep track of keys. The locks will be paid for by Minor Ball and must be commercial grade locks, and the combinations must be changed as required.

Next, council voted against a request from Minor Ball to cap its fee at \$2,000. Currently, the organization pays \$15 per player for use of the Sports Grounds. To date, it has never reached \$2,000.

Moving on, council carried a motion to provide Mistawasis Nēhiyawak No. 103 with a complimentary night stay at the campground. It then closed out the meeting with a motion to extend the swimming pool's season to after the Labour Day long weekend in September.

## RCMP News Highlights

By JORDAN TWISS

Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

### Holbein man arrested

A 32-year-old man from Holbein is facing weapons-related charges, after officers with the Ahtahkakoop-Shellbrook RCMP Detachment executed a search warrant at a residence in Holbein on Sept. 26 as part of an ongoing illegal firearms investigation.



Weapons and other items seized by police during an investigation in Holbein.

In the midst of their search, officers located and seized three long guns, a handgun with a loaded magazine, approximately 28 grams of crack cocaine, and drug trafficking paraphernalia. They also arrested the adult male at the residence, 32-year-old Holbein resident Jon Jonasson, and charged him with four counts of unauthorized possession of a firearm, and one count of unlicensed possession of a re-

stricted weapon.

Jonasson is scheduled to appear in court in Shellbrook on Dec. 5, 2023.

Saskatchewan RCMP's Critical Incident Response Team, Prince Albert General Investigation Section, Prince Albert Warrant Enforcement and Suppression Team, Prince Albert Crime Reduction Team, as well as Prince Albert Police Service's STRT, assisted in this ongoing investigation.

### Additional victims sought

The Saskatoon RCMP's Provincial General Investigation Section has charged a 29-year-old male from Regina with sexual assault, sexual interference, and possession of child pornography, stemming from an extensive investigation that began in Saskatchewan RCMP jurisdiction in July, 2023.

On Sept. 30, 2023, as a result of continued investigation, a search warrant was executed at a residence in West Kelowna, British Columbia, where the male was located and arrested. During the search, electronic devices were located and seized for

examination. The male is alleged to have initiated communication with the youth victim over Snapchat.

Investigation has determined there may be additional victims and police would like to identify them. The accused used the following profile names on Snapchat: Maximum\_max11, Maxxy-Maxlove, and Stretch\_Enjoyer.

Anyone who's had contact with someone using those names/handles on Snapchat, or other social media/communication platforms, is encouraged to contact their local police service and make

a report. Police are cautioning youth to be vigilant when speaking with strangers online. Parents are asked to discuss safety precautions with their children.

The accused was transported back to Saskatchewan on Oct. 2, 2023, held in custody and made his first court appearance in Saskatoon Provincial Court on Oct. 3, 2023, at 10 a.m.

The RCMP will not be identifying the accused or providing specific details about the investigation to protect the identity of the youth victim and also to abide by a publication ban requested.



## CHECK IT OUT!

Shellbrook Chronicle Website  
[www.shellbrookchronicle.com](http://www.shellbrookchronicle.com)

Spiritwood Herald Website  
[www.spiritwoodherald.com](http://www.spiritwoodherald.com)

## October is Agriculture Month

Agriculture is a cornerstone of our province; this month is an opportunity to recognize the contributions of the agriculture industry and the dedicated farmers, ranchers and agribusinesses who produce the high quality, sustainable food in our province. *For a full list of Agriculture Month events or to learn how you can take part, visit [farmfoodcaresk.org](http://farmfoodcaresk.org).*

Hon. Jeremy Harrison  
MLA for Meadow Lake  
[jharrisonmla@sasktel.net](mailto:jharrisonmla@sasktel.net)

Hon. Scott Moe, Premier  
MLA for Rosthern-Shellbrook  
[scottmoe.mla@sasktel.net](mailto:scottmoe.mla@sasktel.net)

## Marketing crops not as easy as it seems

In a world where we are more connected than ever before – from jet flights to cellphone connections – one might logically think trade would be a standardized and simple thing.

That should be especially true when considering agricultural commodities.

While there might be issues regarding the standard and quality of how a refrigerator or car is manufactured, it would seem wheat is wheat, beef is beef, and honey is honey.

That might generally be true, but the world

of trade in agricultural commodities is a volatile one, where prices can turn up, or down, based on influences which can be difficult to fathom.

Certainly, grain and oilseed sales are largely based on supply and demand, but what level of supply is enough seems to vary depending on a variety of circumstances.

It's easy to understand how poor, or bumper crops, in main crop growing areas factor into the expected supply and demand looking out over a several month period.



CALVIN DANIELS

A drought, for example, can mean a major exporting nation is suddenly out of the market, and buyers have to scramble for alternative sources and may have to pay more to fill their needs.

But threats to supply

can also be enough to alter markets.

The unprovoked invasion of Ukraine by Russia sent a ripple of uncertainty through world trade, as fears of an expanded conflict were fanned.

In the case of the war, it was a double whammy of sorts for wheat sales, as Ukraine as a marketer was hampered by the invasion and Russia fire-sold its wheat to generate cash.

How a country such as India views imports of pulse crops – balancing supporting domestic farmers with feeding its

masses – creates market forces that are outside pure supply and demand.

So, too, do arbitrary decisions like those of Japanese honey processors who have set tolerances of residue limits on quinclorac, a herbicide used to control cleavers, a pesky weed on the Prairies at 10 parts per billion. In Canada, it is 100 parts per billion.

You would again expect reasonable countries would be at the point that shared science would have led to a standardization of such things – certainly at the

government level, and not left to sector processors.

Given the varied factors that impact the perception of supply and demand, and what markets are even open to commodities based on often conflicting elements, farmers face many unknowns in terms of marketing.

Finding a market ultimately comes down to knowing what return is needed to cover costs and generate a reasonable profit and then making the sale. But it will not be as easy a process as it should be.

## Crop Report: Sept. 26 to Oct. 2

Harvest is complete for most producers across the Saskatchewan grain belt. Ninety-five per cent of harvest is finished province wide, up from 91 per cent last week and ahead of the five-year average of 84 per cent. Damp weather slowed harvest activities; however, producers appreciate the rain. Canola and flax make up most of the crop still left to harvest across the province. Producers who still have flax standing are hoping for a frost to help stop the regrowth that is occurring due to the recent rainfall. In their favour, there were several frosts reported across the province this past week.

Harvest in the southwest and west-central regions is virtually complete with the odd field still left standing. The northwest and southeast have 93 per cent of their crop off, the northeast 92 per cent and the east central 90 per cent. Producers have finished harvesting their cereal and pulse crops and are now waiting for their remaining fields of flax or canola to dry down. Canola is now at 90 per cent and flax has reached 68 per cent completion.

There were some good showers in the province, allowing pasture lands to green up before the cold weather settles in. The

rain received this past week will not completely replenish topsoil moisture levels, but it is a welcome start. Precipitation varied across the regions, but several large showers occurred resulting in rainfall amounts ranging from 30 to 45 mm.

Cropland topsoil moisture is rated as 23 per cent adequate, 52 per cent short and 25 per cent very short. Hay and pastureland topsoil moisture is rated as 19 per cent adequate, 53 per cent short and 28 per cent very short.

Hot, dry growing conditions, along with some late summer moisture, has resulted in lower grade rating for Hard Red Spring Wheat, which is being reported as 57 per cent 1CW, 37 per cent 2CW and seven per cent 3CW. While this year's initial grades are lower than in recent years, they are still higher than the 10-year average.

The 10-year average for Hard Red Spring Wheat is 43 per cent 1CW, 32 per cent 2CW, 16 per cent 3CW and nine per cent 4CW/feed.

The majority of crop damage this week was due to wind, waterfowl and wildlife. Wind is impacting unharvested crops by blowing swaths around, as well as shelling out crops and causing lodging.

Producers are busy combining, hauling grain, bales and moving cattle. Some producers are also starting other fall field work, such as post-harvest weed control and harrowing. Fall fertilizer applications are limited due to dry conditions.

This will be the last Crop Report until

the final report is issued October 20, 2023. This will allow time for appropriate information gathering and preparation until harvest is completed.

A complete, printable version of the Crop Report is available online at <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 12 pm - 5 pm

**BLAINE LAKE:** Wapiti Library - Wednesday 11am - 6pm; Friday 11am - 5pm; Saturday 10am - 4pm. Contact us for more info 306-497-3130, [www.wapitilibrary.ca](http://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 2pm - 8pm; Wednesday 2pm - 8pm; Thursday 12pm - 6pm; Friday 10 am - 5pm (Story Time 10:30am - 11:30am); Saturday 10am - 4pm.

**CANWOOD:** Canwood Fall Supper @ Canwood Elks Community Hall – Sunday, October 29, 4:30 to 6:30 pm. Roast Beef & Ham with all the fixins!!! For in town delivery on pre-orders, please call 306-468-7616. Adults \$20; 12 & Under \$15; Pre-school Free. Proceeds to maintenance & expenses of Canwood Elks Community Hall. Sponsored by the Canwood Hall Committee.

**MONT NEBO:** Classic Country and Rock performed by Philip Miller, popular entertainer for over 60 years, originally from Shellbrook. Friday, October 20 - 7:30 pm, Mont Nebo Hall. \$15 Refreshments included. A fundraiser for Mont Nebo Hall. Funding provided by Sask Lotteries.

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## Three nurses receive settling assistance



From left to right: Jillian Kuffert, RN, Iroghama Aghedo, RN, and Karen Cromartie, LPN, accept \$3,000 settling assistance grant cheques from Shellbrook Mayor Amund Otterson on behalf of the Parkland Physician Recruitment & Retention Committee.

Photo courtesy of Kelly Hoare, CAO, Town of Shellbrook

## In today's NHL, Canadian goalies a rarity

What's so special about Vegas Golden Knights goalie Adin Hill? In addition to him being a key member of the National Hockey League team that won the Stanley Cup last year, Hill has the status of being the only Canadian-born player to statistically finish among the top 15 goaltenders in the league last season.

Where have all the Canadian goalies gone?

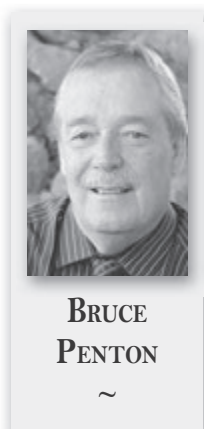
A hockey fan has to be old to remember the NHL's Original Six, but I definitely fit that category and it doesn't take much brainpower to recollect who tended goal for the six teams. And they were all Canadians, too.

There was Quebec-born Jacques Plante in Montreal, the innovator of the face mask. Aging Johnny Bower of Prince Albert played goal for the Leafs before returning to the nursing home after every game. Glenn Hall from Humboldt, Sask., was the Chicago goalie, and he was famous for throwing up before every game.

Eddie Johnston, born in Montreal, was the Bruins' goalie in the Original Six era. Terry Sawchuk from Winnipeg played almost every game for the Detroit Red Wings and Gump Worsley, born in Montreal, kept pucks out of the New York Rangers' net.

Of course, the game has changed. American players in the NHL back then were rarities. The league was a closed shop to Europeans. Russians? No way, Sergei.

Last year, the goals-against average leader was Linus Ullmark of Boston, a Swede. Runner-up was Filip Gustavsson of Minnesota, another Swede. Third was Antti Ranti of Carolina, born and raised in Finland. American Jeremy Swayman and a couple of Russian Ilyas, Samsonov of Toronto and Sorokin of the Islanders, followed. Scroll on down and ... finally, a Canadian netminder, Hill, at 15th. Two others Canadians, Logan Thompson of Vegas and Stuart Skinner of the Oilers, made the top 20.



BRUCE PENTON

Scanning all 32 teams' rosters showed only 34.8 per cent of goaltenders were Canadian-born. Four teams — Chicago, Nashville, Calgary and Florida — had not a single Canadian goalie on their rosters. At the other end of the table was St. Louis, which listed five Canadians among its six goaltenders, and Dallas, which had three of four.

There have been numerous Canadian goaltenders with Hall of Fame credentials in the past couple of years — Carey Price, Marc-Andre Fleury and Roberto Luongo come to mind — but it doesn't take much studying of the NHL

stats page to realize that non-Canadians are taking over in goal.

Maybe it's akin to the old baseball saying — singles' hitters drive Chevrolets; home run hitters drive Cadillacs. In hockey, a similar adage might be that the McDavids, MacKinnons, Crosbys, and Bedards drive Lamborghinis while the goaltenders get stuck with Volkswagens.

• ESPN broadcaster Robert Griffin III, whose parents were army sergeants: "He's got more moves than a military family."

• Steve Simmons of Sunmedia: "What I almost have in common in Yusei Kikuchi: He gets 13 hours of sleep a night. I get 13 hours of sleep a week."

• Canucks coach Rick Tocchet following a 10-0 pre-season loss to Calgary Flames, on the same day Denver Broncos lost 70-20 to Miami Dolphins: "I feel like (Denver coach) Sean Payton."

• Headline on yahoo.com, in the midst of the Taylor Swift-Tra-

vis Kielce relationship noise: "Taylor Swift visits friend at work."

• How does a team score 70 points in an NFL game, asked yahoo.com.: "Miami had the good fortune to draw the seafood-restaurant Dumpster fire that is the Denver Broncos."

• Bill Belichick on Travis Kelce/Taylor Swift (via @TheGregHill-Show): "I would say that Travis Kelce has had a lot of big catches in his career. This would be the biggest."

• David Vincent, on X (formerly Twitter), on the Kelce-Swift relationship: "Things are going so well between the two that she hasn't even started writing their break-up song yet."

• Eamon Lynch of gulfweek.usatoday.com, on the Euros' dominance through the first two days of the Ryder Cup: "This is the most lop-sided contest in Rome since the Christians were drawn at home to the lions at the Coliseum,"

• Comedy writer Alex Kaseberg: "Miami beat Denver 70-20. Tua Ta-

govailoa had six three-point shots, seven rebounds and 10 assists."

• Comedy writer Brad Dickson of Omaha: "Am I the only person in this miserable nation who doesn't care that Taylor Swift was at the Kansas City Chiefs game and that she has been romantically linked to Andy Reid?"

• Mike Bianchi of the Orlando Sentinel: "Did you see where Colin Kaepernick is lobbying to be signed by the New York Jets? Hasn't he suffered enough?"

• Headline at fark.com: "Dusty Baker complained about how often the Astros are getting hit by pitches while conveniently forgetting that his pitchers hit the other team more often."

• Toronto's Steve Simmons of Sunmedia: "This would like look nice on paper next season and certainly sentimental: Joey Votto, designated hitter, Toronto Blue Jays. Mom in Etobicoke would like that "

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

### GOOD NEWS

### OH, THE RELIEF!

By Lorne Valuck  
Parkside Pentecostal Church

One June day a couple of years ago, I went out to the woods on our farm to cut up a birch tree for firewood. I had felled the dying tree the previous fall, and snow came before I could get it bucked up and hauled out. The distinctive smell of birch, and the thought of flames in the fireplace on a cold winter day made it worth the effort.

It was getting hot, and the blocks were heavy to pack up a slight incline to the truck, but it was great to get the job done.

Then, as I was sawing, some debris flew into my eye and things changed.

All of a sudden, my world was about my eye.

The pain was awful. "Stinging", "burning", "excruciating," are some words that come to mind in describing the feeling. I thought for sure I had done some serious damage.

My first reaction was to cry out, "O God!", not as a flip-pant expression, but as a prayer for help. I grabbed my water bottle and started flushing my eye, helping out the tears that were flowing as my body responded to this foreign object.

No, I wasn't wearing protective eyewear, just my prescription glasses.

Yes, I'll wear them next time. Maybe.

I got the pain settled down to where I could cut and load the remaining blocks, while flushing my eye every so often.

The trip home wasn't fun, stopping a few times to flush and let the pain settle before I could focus and keep driving.

The next 24 hours, tears and flushing was the order of the day. I did make a trip to "emergency", but with many other patients waiting, I elected to return home without seeing the doctor. I do appreciate a nurse did have me do a thorough rinsing at the eyewash station. Finally, the next evening, about thirty hours after my mishap, after flushing yet again, I noticed a speck of debris in the corner of my

eye. I carefully removed it, and realized the pain was all of a sudden "pretty much" gone. Wow. Relief.

When I related my "adventure" to a friend of mine, he commented "Such a little thing can cause such a big problem."

Two passages of scripture come to mind as I reflect on this incident.

Matthew 7:3-5 (NLT): "And why worry about a speck in your friend's eye when you have a log in your own? How can you think of saying to your friend, 'Let me help you get rid of that speck in your eye,' when you can't see past the log in your own eye?"

Speck. Log. My speck felt like a log.

Consider Jesus' words. Look after yourself. Maintain your own spiritual standing with God and fellow man.

Notice though. This person could, and should eventually "help" the other guy, but after he's settled his own account, and is in the right attitude. Not necessarily perfect, but in the right spirit and attitude.

The other verse is Matthew 5:23-24 (NLT): "So if you are presenting a sacrifice at the altar in the Temple and you suddenly remember that someone has something against you, leave your sacrifice there at the altar. Go and be reconciled to that person. Then come and offer your sacrifice to God.

Oh, the pain of offense. Oh, the relief of reconciliation.

I was "bad" some time ago. I was a little abrupt with someone.

It bothered me. I believe I had a valid point but presented it in the wrong way.

It's funny. I tried to reason away the nagging in my conscience, but it got worse.

So, I took the log out of my eye, I left my sacrifice at the altar, and called my friend and apologized.

Oh, the relief!

Love God. Love Others. Father, forgive me and take away sin in my life. Fill and renew me with Your Spirit. And Father, reveal to me, the specks and logs in my eye, sins against you, and offenses toward others. Give me the strength and grace to deal with them. It may take a few tears, and Your living water to wash them away, but, "Oh, the relief".

I ask this in Jesus Name. Amen

## Spiritwood Library acquires new materials with donation



The Spiritwood Public Library was privileged to receive a cheque for \$800 from the Spiritwood Grand Ole' Opry, on June 16, 2023. Funds from this cheque were used to purchase a much-needed new bookcase for the children's area. The remainder of the funds will be spent on new books and DVDs for the library. The new bookcase arrived in the middle of August, and the new books and DVDs will arrive over the next few months.

By HEATHER GATZKE, Librarian



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## OBITUARIES

*Sharon Lynn Bradley*

Sharon Lynn Bradley was born April 13, 1954, Prince Albert, SK and passed away September 25, 2023, Prince Albert, SK at 69 years of age.

Sharon is lovingly remembered by: her loving husband of 50 years: Hal, her daughters and grandchildren: Tanya (Spencer) Beaulieu of Clavet, SK and their children: Gabriel (Ab-

bie), Mackenna, Ethan, and Samantha, Leanne (Dean) Fonos of Big River, SK and their children: Ryder and William, her brothers: Clifford (Shirley) Cookman of Nanaimo, BC and Gregory (Carla) Cookman of Kitscoty, AB, her mother-in-law: Barb Bradley, her siblings-in-law: Blair (Cindy) Bradley of Big River, SK, Arlene (Ron) Gilbert of Big River, SK, Heather Bradley of Big River, SK, Lori (Gord) Bahm of Fort St. John, BC, Greg (Kathy) Bradley of Fort St. John, BC and Holly (Ron) Abel of Calgary, AB also her nieces/nephews, and the many to whom she was Auntie/Grandma.

She was predeceased by her parents: Sidney and Margaret Cookman, her sister: Sheryl Cookman, her father-in-law: Ed Bradley and

her brother-in-law: Kelly Bradley.

A Funeral service was held Saturday, September 30, 2023, at 2:00 pm in the Big River Community Hall, Big River, SK with Delores Beaulac officiating. Carla Gear looked after the music for the service, honorary pallbearers were considered "All who knew and loved Sharon" Hal Bradley served as urn bearer. Sharon's final resting place is in the Big River Cemetery.

Donations may be made to the Telemiracle Foundation in memory of Sharon Bradley as tokens of remembrance.

Family and friends wishing to send online condolences are welcome to visit [www.beaulacfuneralhome.com](http://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.

also survived by a foster sister and brother, Lorna Thompson and Herb Goldhawk. He also leaves behind many nieces, nephews, cousins, friends, with Wayne Gerard being his best friend for many years.

Thank you to Mental Health for providing care and support for our brother over the years.

Greg's Celebration of Life will be held at 11:00 a.m., on Saturday, October 14, 2023, at River Park Funeral Home, 301 River Street West, Prince Albert, SK, with a luncheon to follow. Private Interment will be at South Hill Cemetery.

Rest in Peace our dear brother.

Funeral arrangements are entrusted to the care of River Park Funeral Home, (306) 764-2727, Colette Harnett, Funeral Director.

ta, cribbage, checkers); flowers (especially the tiger lily, which was her favorite); and acting in a variety of venues.

Hazel was a world traveller – she went on many motorcycle Retread Rally's in Canada and the USA; she traveled to Istanbul, Turkey (due to a plumbing & heating promotion); she traveled all across Canada – Yukon Territory to the Maritime Provinces and into the USA where she and her life partner wintered in Arizona for several years.

Her greatest love was her children, whom she often said she loved all of them equally. Hazel will be deeply missed.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations to the Big River Health Centre.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, October 14th, at 2:00 pm in the Evangelical Free Church, Big River, SK.

Cremation has been facilitated by Mackenzie Funeral Home in Prince Albert, SK.

*Doris Person*

PERSON – Doris Elizabeth (Schwehr) Person was born July 20, 1933. Passed away September 23, 2023 at the age of 90. She married Wayne Person on April 22, 1953 and together they had 5 children. Harley (Eva Warkentine)-Breanne (Charlie Geres-Codd); Dennis (Susan Duvall)-Alexandria (Conner Sander)-Edin; Wanda (Gary

Granberg)-Alicia (Dan Greenwood)-Arlo and Violet; Lesli (Jonathon Bodvarson)-Willow and Hazel; Cody-Cohen; Luella (Jack Klamot)-Josh, Joel (Ashley Lider)-Emmett and Wyatt, Krista (Trevor Ballas); Cory (Karen Cross)-his children Hayden and Liam.

She will be dearly missed by her brother-in-law Dorwin (Wendy Tipton) Person; sisters-in-law Loretta (Vaughn) Person; Dorothy (LeClaire) Person as well as numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Doris is predeceased by her husband of over 65 years, Wayne; her parents Joseph and Anne (Servatius) Schwehr; parents-in-law Axel and Alice (Waller) Person; brother Ernest Schwehr and sister Laura McAndrew; Sister-in-law Doris Schwehr; brothers-

in-law Ted McAndrew; Gordon Person and Lorne Person; niece Janice (Ed Sten).

A short Graveside Service for Mom will be held Saturday, October 14, 2023 at the Dry Creek Cemetery at 2 p.m. followed by a time of lunch and fellowship at the Canwood Community Hall provided by the Royal Purple (which she was a Lifetime Member).

Memorial Donations can be made in memory of Doris to Whispering Pine Place Rec. Dept. (Box 418 Canwood, SK S0J 0K0) or Alzheimer Society of Canada.

Family and friends wishing to send online condolences are welcome to visit [www.beaulacfuneralhome.com](http://www.beaulacfuneralhome.com) Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of Beau "Lac" Funeral Home & Crematorium, Tammy Smart, Funeral Director, Shellbrook, SK. 306-747-2828.

*Gregory Robillard*

Gregory Robillard July 1, 1952 ~ September 20, 2023

Gregory Melvin Robillard passed away on September 20, 2023, at the age of seventy-one. He grew up in the Mont Nebo district, ended up

in Edmonton for a few years before moving back to Prince Albert where he resided until his death.

Greg spent many years working in the bush and doing survey work for mineral companies in Quebec and across the northern part of Canada. Greg was a quiet and humble man. He loved to sit beside a lake or the bank of the North Saskatchewan River and listen for the call of a loon or the yip of the coyotes off in the distance.

Greg was predeceased by a brother, Gerald Sanderson; and is survived by his brothers, Ozzie and Mervin Robillard; sisters, Sandra Robillard, Allana, Norma, Myrna Johnson and Gloria Schick. He is

*Hazel McLean*

Hazel McLean passed away peacefully at the Big River Health Centre on Thursday, October 5, 2023.

The oldest of five children, Hazel is survived by her children: Stuart (Therese) McLean; Terri Leah Myshyniuk; Shelley McLean; Russell (Margo) McLean and their families. Her sister Helen Bechtel, as well as nieces and nephews.

Hazel was born to Henry

and Helen Woods in Rose Town, SK, on Friday, February 28, 1930. She worked hard on the farm; milking 15 cows morning and evening. She moved to Saskatoon with one of her sisters and worked at a community apartment. From there she lived in Milestone, SK, Brandon, MB, Reston, MB and then to Big River, SK where she was instrumental in helping to put in the plumbing and heating in this community.

Hazel's life was full. She enjoyed knitting, riding motorcycle, baking for farmer's market, singing (she had a guitar and sang in a band as a teenager), gardening, picking wild berries, going on weekend (and longer) trips with her family; attending the Evangelical Free Church Service faithfully in the home until COVID; reading (especially the Senior's Paper); playing games (whist, canas-

*James Richard Schmalz*

James Richard Schmalz July 13, 1947 – September 24, 2023

James ("Jim"), passed away at Kelowna General Hospital on September 24 after a brief but valiant battle with cancer. Jim was grateful to have dear friends and family with him in his final days and hours.

Jim was born on July 13, 1947 in Shellbrook, Saskatchewan, where his parents ran the family farm.

Following high school, Jim attended and graduated from the University of Saskatchewan with a degree in Commerce.

As his parents had moved from the farm to Kelowna in the late 1960's,

Jim eventually joined them and lived there from time to time as his career developed with the BC Dept. of Highways.

Jim worked on a number of highways projects around BC in the ensuing years. If you have ever driven the highways and byways of places like the Upper Levels Highway in Vancouver, or the roadways of Ashcroft, Cache Creek, or Barrier, then you have actually travelled where Jim once journeyed and worked.

Always the entrepreneur, Jim had purchased a lot in Rutland, BC in the early days after his university graduation. This is where he first gained a sense of the need and value of homes for people.

In the mid 1970's, Jim also purchased a home on Colette Road in The Mission where he lived for a number of years. In the early 90s, Jim's abilities in creating value for families through providing homes allowed him to be a key factor in a variety of successful endeavors.

The demand for his skills allowed him to be in-

involved in projects in locations as varied as Kelowna, Kamloops, the Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island.

Even more than his fondness for developing spaces for people to live, was his love for his family and friends. It was that loyalty which returned him to his Kelowna roots in the latter decades of his life.

Jim is predeceased by his loving parents, Richard and Muriel, and his dear brother, Lorne. Jim is succeeded by his beloved nephews Ryan (Jenn) and their children Carson and Mia of Rock Creek; and Brett (Kiera) their children Farrah, London, Von and Blue of Kelowna; and his sister-in-law, Brenda of Rock Creek, as well as other relatives and friends too numerous to mention but always precious to him.

Among his final words, were his deep appreciation for all of those in his life, and his abiding and loving anticipation of soon being in the presence of his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Funeral services will be held on Thursday, October 12 at 2 PM at Evangelical Church in Kelowna with a reception to follow.

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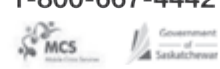
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# Shellbrook mom calls for more supports in schools

By **JORDAN TWISS**  
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

Myer Lajeunesse was in Grade 2 when his mother, Stacey Lajeunesse, began to suspect he was having problems with reading.

“Myer always put great effort into his learning, but it just seemed that things would not ‘click,’” Stacey said. “I knew it wasn’t for a lack of trying that he was unable to keep up with his peers and read at his grade level.”

While some of Myer’s struggles could be attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic, which caused widespread school shut-downs through much of his Grade 1 and Grade 2 years, Stacey believes the worst part of the pandemic was that it prevented Myer’s reading problems from being discovered sooner.

On a positive note, however, Stacey says Myer’s teachers at Shellbrook Elementary School, along with his education support worker, have been supportive and helpful in working with him, providing constant encouragement, alternatives, and positive feedback. Stacey, meanwhile, has done her best to stay engaged with Myer’s education.

“I have maintained consistent communication with all his teachers throughout all his grades and had been hopeful that in time Myer would catch up,” she said. “At home, we reinforced the same teachings happening at school and have seen little progress.”

At the beginning of his Grade 4 year in 2022, Myer was finally placed on the list to have a psychoeducational assess-

ment completed through the school division. But while this news was cause for initial optimism, it came with the caveat that the long waitlist meant the analysis might not be completed until Myer’s Grade 6 year.

As Myer continued to struggle with his reading through Grade 4, Stacey decided she couldn’t wait any longer and opted to pay out of pocket for an assessment by a private psychologist. Within a couple of months, Myer had a full assessment from the psychologist, including a diagnosis of dyslexia and recommendations for next steps.

“When we received the diagnosis, we felt a sense of relief to know that there was indeed a reason for Myer’s struggles,” Stacey said. “Myer is an intelligent, kind, and dedicated student and has a desire to learn. His struggles with learning to read fluently have nothing to do with his intelligence, and absolutely nothing to do with the time and effort he has put in to learn and improve his reading.”

Dyslexia is a neurobiological condition characterized by difficulties with accurate and fluent word recognition and by poor spelling and decoding abilities. Having spent the past year researching the condition, Stacey says it’s now obvious that dyslexia has been Myer’s problem all along.

According to Dyslexia Canada, dyslexia is the most common learning disability, affecting 750,000 Canadian students. It’s also believed that about 20 per cent of the world’s population has dyslexia or a language-based learning disability — however, this figure could be higher, as

many cases go undiagnosed.

“It is my hope that awareness and education regarding this learning disability can be shared with all educators so that early intervention can be provided,” Stacey said.

Though Myer’s dyslexia diagnosis did provide a sense of relief, Stacey says the challenges persist. For starters, finding dyslexia-specific tutoring programs is difficult. And when they can be found, the costs are very high.

Stacey says she’s also fearful adding more schooling to Myer’s life would be detrimental to his overall well-being and detract from time spent with friends and sports he loves to play, like hockey, lacrosse, football, and baseball. These social factors are just as important to Myer’s healthy development, and Stacey says they helped him maintain his confidence through his struggles with dyslexia.

Instead, Stacey believes the true problem lies in the lack of funding provided to schools to allow for early detection and early intervention for those identified as having a reading disability.

In sharing her story, Stacey hopes to encourage all teachers to educate themselves on learning disabilities like dyslexia, so that they can identify issues and recommend assessments earlier and provide assistance as necessary. She also hopes the government will provide additional staff and resources to better support children with learning disabilities.

She also notes that parents have an important role to play in helping their own children.

“A dyslexic student needs the support, encouragement, and assistance of their family and their teachers to be successful,” she said.

“If you suspect your child is having trouble with reading, please educate yourself on learning disabilities as soon as possible. Reading disabilities diagnosed after Grade 4 are much more difficult to remediate, and early detection leads to successful intervention.”

Stacey’s story isn’t an anomaly or a case of a single student slipping through the cracks. A new report, published by the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission in September, shone a spotlight on the systemic gaps in the province’s

supports for literacy and learning disabilities.

Undertaken in response to a group complaint filed by 29 families of children diagnosed with dyslexia, the Commission’s report was compiled through consultations with students, families, educators, healthcare professionals, advocates, and community organizations.

Surveying these groups, the Commission learned that learning disabilities like dyslexia don’t just create obstacles to learning, they also have detrimental impacts on the mental health of students.

“The emotional trauma from school even now, two years out of it, I am still unravelling,” one student told the commission. “Constantly being stressed and in fight or flight mode for 12 years can leave scars deeper than you realize.”

The stress of a learning disability doesn’t just impact students socially and emotionally. Because resources are limited, wait times for help can be long, and the education system can be difficult to navigate, it also affects their families, creating further emotional strain as well as financial challenges.

“As a parent I have to see a psychologist because of the emotional trauma I went through trying to get my son help,” one parent told the commission. “This is a heart wrenching process to go through. It causes years of pain for both the students and the families... I have put in everything I have emotionally and [financially] into this struggle but it has been hard to do it year after year.”

In response to the feedback it received, the Commission made several recommendations to the ministry of education, starting with calls to focus on early detection and establish a universal screening strategy, which is to focus on students in Kindergarten to Grade 3 and be used two to three times per school year.

The commission also called for increased professional support for educators teaching reading as well as dealing with students with reading disabilities, enhanced data collection to track the effectiveness of new literacy programs, and building on current reconciliation efforts to help bridge the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous students’ success in the classroom.

## Government announces new approach to homelessness

The Government of Saskatchewan is investing \$40.2 million in new funding over the next two years to create 155 new supportive housing spaces, 120 new permanent emergency shelter spaces, and enhance community safety and outreach responses that include 30 new complex needs emergency shelter spaces.

The integrated approach between the ministries of Social Services, Health, and Corrections, Policing and Public Safety (CPPS) provides a continuum of services with targeted supports in appropriate settings, that are aligned with the needs of the individual.

“Together, and with community partners, we will work to improve the lives of Saskatchewan people who are struggling with addictions and mental health challenges to support their transition to stable and supportive housing,” Social Services Minister Gene Makowsky said in a statement.

The government will invest \$7.16 million to develop 155 new supportive housing units in Regina and Saskatoon for individuals who need more than a home to remain connected to housing. Supportive housing provides on-site and visiting support and connection to wrap-around services to help individuals find stability.

“With an investment of \$665,000 this fiscal year and up to \$4 million in 2024-25 for operations we can ensure access to effective mental health and addictions services and programs in the supportive housing units,” Mental Health and Addictions Minister Tim McLeod said in a statement.

A \$14.1 million investment will cre-

ate up to 120 new permanent emergency shelter spaces in Regina, Saskatoon, Prince Albert, Moose Jaw and other communities based on need. This means there will be approximately 500 permanent emergency shelter spaces available this winter.

Government will also invest \$19 million to enhance community safety and outreach responses.

- Two complex needs emergency shelters will be established in Regina and Saskatoon that will provide a secure and medically supervised place to go for up to 24 hours for individuals who are intoxicated and exhibiting behaviours that present a danger to themselves or the public.

- Government will also work with municipalities to mitigate community safety issues around emergency shelters, and continue to expand delivery of homelessness outreach services.

“Public safety is a critical part of addressing the needs of people experiencing homelessness and mental health and addictions issues,” Corrections, Policing and Public Safety Minister Paul Merriman said in a statement. “By working together across government and within communities, we will build supports that protect our communities and help people overcome the challenges they may be facing.”

Working with our Indigenous partners, municipalities, and community-based organizations, the Government of Saskatchewan is committed to building and enhancing our housing and addictions programs, while protecting all Saskatchewan communities.

## Shell Lake Legion hosts Steak Night



Shell Lake Legion Hall was full to capacity for the club’s 1st Annual Steak Night. The branch hosted the event in honour of Veteran’s Week, which falls on the third week in September. Guests were treated to a three-course meal, which featured their choice of steak or chicken breast. Pictured: Guests dish up appetizers.



Ron Weir, co-owner of Amanda Pizza, volunteered his time to grill steaks and chicken breasts for the Steak Night. By CAROLYN LALONDE, Shell Lake Legion