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Shellbrook Mamas join elders for cookies



Resident Maxine Smith enjoyed cookies wither her daughter, Leola Skrupski, and Leola's grandchildren Brynn and Connor Skrupski.

By JORDAN TWISS

 $Shell brook\ Chronicle\ Reporter$

Tasty, decorate-it-yourself treats were on the menu, when the Shellbrook Mamas joined residents of Parkland Integrated Health Centre's (PIHC) continuing care facility for an evening of cookie decorating on Wednesday, April

With sugar cookies prepared by Prairie Homestyle Bakery, there were plenty of cookies, candies, sprinkles, and icing on hand for all the 20 moms and kids, and 15 elders in attendance. Kat Mackin-Smith, who founded the Shellbrook Mamas as an offshoot initiative of the Shellbrook Kinettes, says the event was a sweet success.

The idea for a night of cookie decorating came from a fellow Shellbrook Mamas member, who suggested it as a way to introduce more programming targeted at elementary school aged

kids. While the group was planning the event, Trina Chamberlain, the recreation coordinator for PIHC continuing care, reached out hoping to organize another event with the group and her residents.

Since the Shellbrook Mamas (and the Shellbrook Kinettes) make regular efforts to visit with the residents, through paint nights and intergenerational play days hosted by Prince Albert Regional KidsFirst, Mackin-Smith figured it made sense to combine the two ideas and make the event the best of both worlds.

Apart from the fun and the chance to make some delicious cookies, Mackin-Smith believes there are loads of benefits to these intergenerational gatherings.

"There are a ton of social benefits and developmental benefits for the kids to interact with the elders," she said. "The elders also really love seeing the children. It often transports them back in time and gets them telling stories about their own families. It's very sweet. Some of the elders at Cookie Decorating didn't want to leave until the last of the kids were gone; they just loved watching them run around and play."

As a testament to how busy the Shell-brook Mamas have become since the community group was formed in early 2022, the morning after the cookie decorating event saw Chantelle Sprenger of PA Regional KidsFirst come out to host a mobile early learning session at the Shellbrook Senior Citizens Centre.

Part of an ongoing partnership the Shellbrook Mamas have with Kids-First, the morning included circle time, story time, arts and crafts, music, and all sorts of activity stations to foster imagination, hands-on learning, and development.

"[Chantelle Sprenger] has the most imaginative hands-on learning and play activity stations," Mackin-Smith said. "There are rarely repeat stations, so when you go to those Mommy & Me days it's always engaging for the children"

To say the Shellbrook Mamas have grown into their own full-fledged community is no overstatement.

In a little over two years, the Facebook support group, which offers local moms a space to discuss, share stories, build a sense of community, and seek advice from fellow mothers and local supports like nurses, lactation specialists, and teachers, has grown to 220 members.

Meanwhile, in-person Mommy & Me gatherings have become more than once-a-month events, with anywhere from 15-20 attendees on average, and Mackin-Smith says local daycares have started taking part in events whenever possible.

Continued on page 2

HELLBROOK ALES & ERVICE

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Shellbrook Mamas join elders for cookies

Continued from 1

"Everyone in the group takes what they need and leaves the rest," Mackin-Smith said. "It's a network more than a club that requires a membership and regular attendance. It's there to be a support system, way to

share information, and get families connected and in-the-know."

As the Shellbrook Mamas continue to grow, Mackin-Smith says she's constantly hearing from more families who want to take part, and receiving requests for more

Charlotte Honoroski takes a bite of her decorated cookie.



Cindy (mom) and Mallory Jess decorate a cookie at the decorating table with Kinette Sarah McComas (right).



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programming and activities.

With the help of a \$600 Sask. Lotteries Grant through the Town of Shellbrook, as well as some personal donations, the Shellbrook Mamas have been able to meet these requests, while also branching out to offer activities that typically have costs associated, either for free or at a subsidized rate.

"The grant is being used to start doing more after school and weekend activities so parents with older children or working parents can benefit," Mackin-Smith explained. "That programming will allow families to try new activities, and get out of the house for some fun, growing their network and trying new things."

week's cookie decorating event, the Shellbrook

In addition to last Mamas have previously hosted a family curling night.



PIHC continuing care recreation coordinator Trina Chamberlain chats with residents Dot Holmes (left) and Margaret Jonasson (right) while they enjoy their cookies.

Vidal bows out of next federal election

By JORDAN TWISS

Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

Regardless of the outcome of the next federal election, one thing is already known for certain: constituents in the Desnethé-Missinippi-Churchill River riding will be represented by a new Member of Parliament.

Citing changes to the riding's boundaries, Conservative MP Gary Vidal, who has held the seat since winning it from NDP incumbent Georgina Jolibois in the 2019 election, has announced that he will not be running for re-election.

Vidal, who lives in Meadow Lake, made the announcement in a press release, noting that, due to the riding's boundary changes, he would no longer live in the riding.

"Though it is not a legal requirement that a Member of Parliament live in the riding they serve, for me it is a personal requirement and one that I believe in very strongly," he said in a statement.

When Vidal was first elected in 2019, Desnethé-Missinippi-Churchill River was the largest of Saskatchewan's 14 federal ridings, spanning 304,711 square kilometres. One of only four Indigenous majority ridings in the country, with more than 70 per cent of its population identifying as First Nations or Métis as of 2019, it has traditionally been hotly contested, bouncing from the Liberals to the Conservatives to the NDP, and finally back to the Conservatives in 2019.

The boundary changes to the riding shrink it considerably, with the former Battlefords-Lloydminster riding absorbing Meadow Lake to become the Battlefords-Lloydminster-Meadow Lake riding, and the Prince Albert riding expanding to the west and north to include Canwood, Debden, Big River, and the Ahtahkakoop, Big River, and Mistawasis First Nations.

Calling his decision to not seek re-election "not the outcome he expected," Vidal said his decision was made necessary because the Conservative Party opted not to hold an open nomination process in the new Battlefords-Lloydminster-Meadow Lake riding.

Vidal said he was proud of the work he's done with his

team over the past five years, and will continue his work until the next election.

"Serving as a Member of Parliament for an incredible riding has been an honor and a privilege," he said. "I have made friends and built authentic relationships with many people that I will cherish for the rest of my life."

"I will be forever grateful to those who have contributed to my journey, I say a sincere thank you to each and everyone of you," he added.

Sarah Fisher, a spokesperson for the Conservative Party, said Vidal was given the option to run in the Desnethé-Missinippi-Churchill River riding, and that the party respects his decision to not seek re-election.

Since being elected in 2019, Vidal has held the role of critic for both Indigenous Services Canada and Crown Indigenous Relations. In February, he stepped away from his role as the party's Indigenous Services critic.



Conservative MP Gary Vidal, who has held the Desnethé-Missinippi-Churchill River riding since 2019, has announced he won't be running in the next federal election.



SHELLBROOK RCMP CRIMINAL RECORD CHECKS

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Criminal Record checks will be completed Tuesdays from 8:00am-12:00pm & 12:30pm-3:30pm

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Into The Weeds continues regional expansion

By JORDAN TWISS

Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

One could say that Into The Weeds Cannabis is growing like... well... a weed.

Founded in March 2023, the company, co-owned and operated by father-daughter duo Meagan and Aaron Palidwar, had already opened its first retail cannabis store in Spiritwood by early June of that year.

"We viewed Spiritwood as a promising location, because we believe if a town can support a liquor store, pharmacy, gas stations etc., it should also be able to support retail cannabis," explained Meagan.

"Our Spiritwood location has been very well received by the community," she added.

Soon after opening the store on Spiritwood's Main Street, Into The Weeds launched stores in Melfort, Birch Hills, and Langenburg. And by September 2023, it was already beginning due diligence for a fifth store in Big River.

That location celebrated its official opening on March 1, and after two months of operations Meagan says it's seen strong support from the community and the surrounding area.

"We hope that Into The Weeds will strengthen the offering to the town's residents and visitors, as-well as contribute to taxes and local jobs," Meagan said.

The Palidwars' success in retail cannabis is a continuation of the family's history in retail sales, which includes grocery, liquor, and pharmacy businesses. For Meagan, however, retail cannabis is something she's especially passionate about due to her own personal experiences with cannabis.

At 16, after initially being diagnosed with migraines, Meagan was told she actually had intercranial hypertension, a condition which can result in

death if not treated. Meagan says she suffered for years, until her doctor prescribed her medical cannabis as an alternative to harsh narcotics after she turned 18. Meagan credits this prescription with saying her life.

"I've used medical cannabis for years. It's helped me tremendously, as well as many of our customers," she said.

With cannabis having been legal in Canada for nearly six years, Meagan says all Canadians deserve safe and legal access to cannabis, whether they use it medicinally or recreationally.

While some may continue to be wary of cannabis, or hold on to superstitions about its dangers, Meagan believes Into The Weeds can be a force for good in the communities it serves. For instance, in addition to paying municipal taxes, each Into The Weeds location employs two or three local employees.

More importantly, though, the business strives to give back to its communities. Locally, it's made donations to Spiritwood's annual professional bull riding event. Elsewhere, it's supported Hope's Home Childcare Services in Prince Albert, and the Melfort & District Senior Citizens Club.

With five successful openings under Into The Weeds' belt, the next retail location being planned by the Palidwars is Debden.

The Palidwars began exploring Debden as an option earlier this year. Seeing no suitable properties in the community's highway district, where retail cannabis was already permitted, they put in application with the village to rezone the Main Street commercial district to allow for retail cannabis.

This request necessitated a public hearing in late February, where members of the community voiced objections to the proximity of the building to École Debden Public School, concerns about the impact to community safety and children, the potential for an increase in crime and violence, and fears about the dangers of cannabis use.

Despite this, council voted to greenlight the rezoning application, and now Meagan says it's "full speed ahead" for Into The Weeds' expansion into Debden.

The goal is for the store to open some time this summer.



Into The Weeds' Big River location officially opened on March 1, and co-owner Meagan Palidwar says the store has seen strong local support.

SCGA brings Dig Safe Month to Shellbrook

By JORDAN TWISS Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

In what was a first for the organization in its 17-year history, the Saskatchewan Common Ground Alliance (SCGA) stopped in Shellbrook on Thursday, April 25, to serve a breakfast of scrambled eggs and sausage to about 40 hungry guests at the Shellbrook Community Hall.

The breakfast stop was one of 22 the SCGA made in communities across the province throughout April, which is recognized nationally as "Dig Safe Month" because it often marks the beginning of construction season.

Open to construction workers and interested members of the public, the breakfasts are meant to serve as a reminder of the potential dangers when construction projects come into contact with underground utilities, including water, power, and natural gas lines.

Beginning at 7:30 a.m., the gatherings include not only the free breakfast, but also a 20-minute Dig Safe video presentation, and an opportunity to network with digging industry colleagues and facility owners.

"These breakfasts work because they bring front line workers together to talk about and share their experiences with working safely," said Shannon Doka, executive director of SCGA, noting that 2023 saw 2,500 guests come out to the organization's Dig Safe Month breakfasts.

According to the SCGA, there were 599 damag-

es to services like water, power, and natural gas lines in Saskatchewan in 2022. That's about 2.4 for every workday in the province. These led to power and gas outages among other lost services.

While incident numbers continue to trend downward, the SCGA reminds construction workers that many of these incidents are still completely avoidable by requesting a free lo-

cate from Sask. First Call. *Visit https://www.sask1stcall.com/* or call 1-866-828-4888, as well as following best practices for digging construction.

"Nobody wants to cut off their neighbour's power or phone service, let alone a senior's centre or a hospital," said Doka. "But even more critically, there are potential financial penalties as well as the possibility of injury or even death."



Shellbrook Mayor Amund Otterson offers greetings on behalf of the town at the SCGA's Dig Safe Month breakfast on Thursday, April 25.



Pre-Kindergarien & Kindergarien Registration

Light of Christ Catholic School Division and Living Sky School Division are accepting students into the Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten Programs for the 2024-25 school year. Students must meet the following criteria:

Kindergarten: Children who are five years old as of December 31, 2024.

Pre-Kindergarten: Children must be 3 or 4 years of age at the time of

application. Please see the LOCCSD website (www.loccsd.ca) or the LSKYSD website (www.livingskysd.ca) for further Pre-K criteria.

Please contact your local school for registration details.

Light of Christ Catholic Schools

Rivier – Spiritwood (Pre-K – Joint LOCCSD/LSKYSD Program & K) 306-883-2382

Living Sky Schools

Hartley Clark – Spiritwood (K) 306-883-2183 Leoville Central (Pre-K & K) 306-984-2241 Medstead Central (K) 306-342-4600

PARKLAND EMERGENCY MEASURE ORGANIZATION (EMO) COORDINATOR

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Parkland Emergency Measures Organization (EMO) is seeking an individual with the skills, experience and passion for regional emergency management. This position will be part time encompassing approximately 14 municipalities.

The Regional Emergency Measures Coordinator is responsible for developing and leading the region's emergency measures program, including planning and providing leadership for local, regional, or intermunicipal emergencies or incidents requiring use of the Regional Emergency Management Plan. This includes coordinating training, updating the emergency plan and supporting documentation and chairing Regional Emergency Planning Committee meetings. During significant planned or unplanned events in the region, this individual will assume the role of Incident Commander.

Proposals will be accepted until 4 p.m. May 24, 2024.

Proposals can be emailed to rm494@sasktel.net or mailed to Box 10, Canwood, Sask. SOJ 0K0

Inquiries can be directed to rm494@sasktel.net or by calling 306-468-2014.



HEY, I'LL STOP *SELLING*

IT, WHEN THEY STOP BUYING IT.

Sask. healthcare harmed by partisan politics

"Knowing better, doing worse" has become somewhat of a theme in this space in recent weeks – a simple way to explain the Sask. Party government's recent track record of ignoring any expert advice or evidence it doesn't like, in favour of ploughing ahead with its own partisan agenda.

Of course, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's federal Liberal government could be accused of doing much the same thing. But as it turns out, the Sask. Party has been

knowing better and doing worse for a long time, and doing so in ways we're only just learning about now.

Though most in Saskatchewan (and around the world) would love nothing more than to forget the COVID-19 pandemic, the time that has passed since all public health restrictions were lifted has allowed for research to yield new insights about how the Sask. Party government handled it – particularly at its height in the fall of 2021.

Specifically, a collaboration by the Investigative Journalism Foundation and CBC Saskatchewan, published last week, highlights what the government and top health officials knew before one of the deadliest waves of the pandemic hit the province.

As a refresher, the lead up to the fall of 2021 saw Premier Scott Moe and then-Health Minister Paul Merriman rejecting experts' calls for his government to reinstate masking policies and impose a vaccine passport or mandatory vaccination system on the province.

"It is not the government's role to line people up and say, 'you are going to take this needle if you are going to live in this society," Mr. Moe said at the time.

"I think you're infringing on people's personal rights if you're mandating things," Mr. Merriman added. "If people don't want to get vaccinated, that's their choice."

These comments first appeared in news articles on Aug. 27, 2021, a week before Dr. Jenny Basran of the provincial modelling team presented a sixpage briefing to top health and government officials showing an "exponential" uptick in COVID-19 case numbers.

Indeed, the briefing, which was obtained via a freedom of information request that took the government more than two years to fulfill, projected there was an increase of nearly 5,000 undi-



News Editor

agnosed COVID cases in the 11-day period between Aug. 18 and Aug. 29.

The Sask. Party government had access to this information (and much more) as early as Sept. 3, 2021.

And yet, rather than change his tune, Mr. Moe spent another week pushing back against calls for masking mandates (particularly in schools) and vaccine passports, suggesting the latter would create "two classes of citizens."

"We were giving that information through mid-August and then seeing what kind of reaction would come back from government — if they were going to or planning to announce any further restrictions or changes to approach," Dr. Cory Neudorf, an interim senior medical health officer with the Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) at the time the government was given the briefing, told reporters.

As COVID cases were trending upwards dramatically in the lead-up to the school year, Dr. Neudorf joined doctors and health officials across the province in penning a letter to the government, calling on it to reintroduce masking and health restrictions.

Dr. Neudorf says he never got a response to the letter and that it quickly became clear the government had no plans to change its approach.

"I've never encountered that before as a medical health officer," Dr. Neudorf said. "Total silence."

Finally responding with statements more than two years later, both the Ministry of Health and Mr. Moe effectively said the same thing: they were doing the best with the information they had at the time.

Noting it was a time when nobody really had answers, Mr. Moe added, "So what I truly hope coming out of the last pandemic is that we don't have to face those types of questions and that type of a situation again."

Of course, history tells us that, in the face of data it could no longer ignore, the Sask. Party government did finally reinstate masking mandates and impose a vaccine passport system for non-essential services on Sept. 17, a full two weeks after his government was briefed about rising COVID numbers.

Mr. Moe's sudden and unexpected about-face on public health restrictions

quickly became conspiracy fodder for the COVID naysayers.

To this day (quite literally), they continue to question his change of heart, always with the implication it's tied to some nefarious scheme – either coercion by the federal government, or some grander agenda to impose a global totalitarian regime. Others still, claim the vaccine passport system restricted people from accessing healthcare services, even though those services were exempted from the mandate.

While we know Mr. Moe's government did eventually change its mind, we also know its change of heart almost came too little too late.

As the Delta wave of COVID hit Saskatchewan full force, sending case numbers skyrocketing, the province's healthcare system was pushed to the brink of collapse. In response, the government was forced to cancel elective and non-emergency surgeries, suspend the province's organ donation program, shut down emergency rooms, and fly COVID patients out of province for treatment.

Though Saskatchewan's healthcare system was uniquely challenged by the COVID-19 pandemic, the challenges weren't unique to the pandemic. Instead, they were challenges that existed prior to, and that were exacerbated by, the pandemic.

To this day, Saskatchewan's healthcare system is still recovering, and the problems are especially acute in rural areas of the province. A recent study by the Saskatchewan Population Health and Evaluation Research Unit found morale among rural healthcare workers is near an all-time low, due not only to working conditions but also to the general sense among healthcare workers that the government isn't listening to or addressing their concerns.

Staffing is another challenge across the province, and the Sask. Party government's go-to solution of hiring contract nurses, at a salary of more than double that of local nurses, is expected to cost \$70 million in 2024-2025. And while the government may not have any choice but to fill staffing gaps through any means necessary, using higher-paid contract nurses comes at the cost of further demoralizing local healthcare staff.

What's more, service disruptions remain commonplace (most recently, Parkland Integrated Health Centre's ER was shut down for 24 hours, in part because the community is down three physicians), and Saskatchewan continues to have the highest wait times for hip and knee surgeries in the country (even as it's shipping patients out of province for publicly-funded private procedures).

Can some of this be blamed squarely on the pandemic? Certainly.

But at the end of the day, most of the challenges in Saskatchewan's healthcare system can be tied to this government's legacy of knowing better and doing worse.

Shellbrook Chronicle

Serving the Communities of Shellbrook, Canwood, Debden, Big River, Parkside, Leask, Marcelin, Blaine Lake, Holbein, Mont Nebo, Mayview

Spiritwood Herald

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

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Report from the Legislature

A strong economy means a bright future for our province and its people. The 2024-25 Provincial Budget makes record investments in classrooms, care, and communities - which are only possible due to our strong and growing economy. That's why our government is committed to making strategic investments that help our economy to continue to grow.

An essential part of growing our economy is expanding our markets and exports outside of Canada. This ultimately leads to more jobs at home and allows us to invest in classrooms, care, and communities. That's our reality as an export-based province.

With a budget of \$40.6 million, the Ministry of Trade and Export Development is supporting Saskatchewan's economy by growing our presence in international markets. Leading the way will be Securing the Next Decade of Growth: Sas-



katchewan's Investment Attraction Strategy, which will help grow and maintain private capital investment in the prov-

Equally important will be Saskatchewan's recently announced labour market strategy -Building the Workforce for a Growing Economy: the Saskatchewan Labour Market Strategy which outlines how the province will ensure Saskatchewan people benefit from the jobs our economy is creating. The strategy also ensures

NADINE

WILSON

MLA

that Saskatchewan employers have access to the workforce they need to succeed.

In February 2024, Statistics Canada announced that total capital investments in Saskatchewan increased by 25.9 per cent in 2023 to \$17.1 billion - second among provinces in terms of percentage change. This is expected to increase by another 14.4 per cent in 2024 to \$19.6 billion – again second among provinces in terms of growth.

As evidence of the growth of investments in Saskatchewan, private companies have committed to more than 60 large-scale investment projects across the province in recent years, totaling more than \$39 million. These include projects in the agri-value, manufacturing and processing, mining, forestry, and energy sectors.

Our government recognizes the contributions small businesses make to our economy. That's why the budget maintains the small business tax rate of one per cent until June 30, 2025. It was scheduled to return to two per cent in July 2024, but the extension of the existing one per cent rate will allow owners to re-invest in their operations.

The amount of eligible business income on which the small business tax rate applies will remain at \$600,000 - the highest threshold in Canada. Saskatchewan will also continue to have the second-lowest small business tax rate in Canada, making the provincial tax environment very competitive.

Saskatchewan's strategic economic investments continue to pay off. Our exports to the world continue to grow, reaching \$49.3 billion in 2023. Saskatchewan goods reached 163 countries, with 32 of those countries receiving over \$100 million in provincial exports. Saskatchewan ranks first in Canada for per capita exports at



Meadow Lake

Toll Free: 1-877-234-6669 jharrisonmla@sasktel.net \$40,425, which is more than double the national

average. The top exports were crude petroleum oil, potash, wheat, canola seeds and oil, lentils, uranium, dried peas, and barley.

These trade numbers are a testament to the incredible work being done by our exporters, producers, and industry leaders. The continuous work of Saskatchewan's network of nine international trade offices to showcase our story abroad is clearly having an impact on international markets.

Here at home, housing starts increased 12.1 per cent from March 2023 to March 2024. Construction investment totaled \$235 million in February 2024, up 96.2 per cent from January – the highest growth among the provinces. This is also up 22.6 per cent from February 2023.

Our consumer price index here in Saskatchewan increased only 1.5 per cent from March 2024 to March 2023 - the second lowest increase in Canada and well below the national average of 2.9 per cent. This is largely due to our government's decision to remove the carbon tax from home heating, helping to keep life affordable for Saskatchewan people.

Our government remains committed to investing in Saskatchewan's key industries, ensuring economic growth continues. As we continue this work, I look forward to hearing your feedback.

Leadership needed to stop federal overreach Canwood Elks host annual fish fry

"Nadine, do you seriously believe this statement?"

The person who emailed me this question was referring to a recent column I wrote, asking if the Scott Moe government would listen to a request from Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities, "or continue to act as an arm of the Trudeau government".

I do believe that statement. It is based on a pattern of behaviour I have observed over the last few

From my perspective, it started Sept. 16, 2021, when Premier Moe announced to the public that, "The time for patience is over", and declared the government would "create consequences" and make it "less comfortable" for people to remain unvaccinated.

But less than three weeks before, Premier Moe had promised Saskatchewan people that there would be NO mandates.

What changed? Why did he break his promise?

Premier Moe has never explained why, suddenly, mandates were imposed on Saskatchewan. People who did not comply could not properly access the healthcare system, let alone participate in society.

This was my wake-up call to look at the bigger picture.

Over time, the federal government has increasingly co-funded

programs that fall under sovereign provincial jurisdiction. While some programs, such as healthcare, have been negotiated as a cost-share for years, new federal money is now being offered for programs such as daycare and education lunch programs. Of course, any federally funded project comes with its own framework, Saskatchewan which the province must agree to in order to receive 306-787-0615 saskrivers@sasktel.net the funding.

> In fact, this approach by the federal government to

regulate within provincial jurisdictions started long before COVID. The push to implement "Sustainable Development Goals" into the agriculture and energy sectors has been occurring in earnest for more than a decade. It is now causing alarm in rural communities as regulations squeeze out small farmers and entrepreneurs, in favour of corporate and government interests.

Last spring, I asked the government in the Legislative Assembly why almost every announcement they make is in partnership with the federal government. Finance Minister Donna Harpauer admitted that there are numerous programs with federal "strings attached," including healthcare, agriculture, education, infrastructure, housing, mental health, and more.

More recently, Saskatchewan's Minister of Justice and Attorney General, Bronwyn Eyre, stated that the federal government "keeps moving the goalposts" in a radio interview discussing the new federal "Methane 75" regulations.

Next door in Alberta, Premier Danielle Smith has caught on to the long game. She says the feds are "operating outside their lane" and that federal funding for things like housing, harm reduction, and research needs to flow through the province. Her government is introducing legislation that will force municipalities, housing, health authorities, and other entities to secure provincial approval before striking deals with Ottawa.

It might have been advantageous to make deals with the feds not so long ago. But with this federal government, alarm bells should be ringing. Former Attorney General David Lametti even said the government was committed to "look into" rescinding provincial responsibility over resources.

In October 2015, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau stated that Canada would become the first post-national state, a radical statement that received almost no press coverage. If his government gains control over provinces and municipalities, it will be positioned to do just that.

We need to stop the federal encroachment upon our province. I call on Premier Moe to show leadership by taking action to unravel these coercive funding agreements and chart our own course for Saskatchewan.





One hundred and seventy-five people turned out to enjoy the second annual Canwood Elks Fish Fry on Sunday, April 21, 2024. They were treated to a menu of buns, coleslaw, potato salad, beans, and fish of course. The desserts were supplied by the Royal Purple Elks. The Elks did a wonderful job of organizing, preparing, and serving the meal. There was a steady stream of people filing through the food line and then they enjoyed visiting with neighbors and friends.

Submitted by LORRAINE BENSON

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 April 22.)

Shellbrook's Town Council met for its regular meeting in person and via teleconference on Monday, April 22.

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

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 April 1 meeting, and carried motions to declare the week of May 12 to 19 as Canadian Royal Purple Week, and the week of May 19 to 25 as National Public Works Week.

On the delegation docket for Monday night's meeting was Randall Johnson, who was in attendance to provide council with an update on his work to bring Carbotura's Recyclotron technology to the area.

Using industrial multiphase microwave reactors, with both thermal and non-thermal microwave plasma reactors, Recyclotrons disintegrate and convert waste into reusable materials, including fuels, minerals like graphite

and graphene, and much more.

While Johnson has been busy working to get towns in the region and cities across the country on board with the technology, Johnson says the only obstacle to rolling out the technology here is getting enough commitment to be able to process 400 tonnes of waste per day. With this commitment from municipalities in the area, Johnson believes a Recyclotron unit could be up and running within the next 14 months.

Johnson was looking for council to sign a memorandum of understanding, committing to supply all the town's waste. While councillor Miller was in favour of the idea, council agreed to discuss it at a later date.

Under council's reports, CAO Hoare reported the good news that the town received Canada Summer Grant funding totalling \$40,000. Noting the town typically applies for upwards of \$170,000, Hoare said it's never gotten \$40,000 before. The grant funds will help cover the costs of summer programming and seasonal pool and parks employees.

In the hospital and clinics report, Mayor Otterson shared the good news of an upcoming site visit for a potential physician at the end of April. Otterson noted the community is currently down three physicians, which is starting to affect the ER (ER services were unavailable at Parkland Integrated Health Centre from April 18 to 19).

Closing out the reports, council noted the Shellbrook Volunteer Fire Department has already been busy this spring, responding to a number of grass fires and incidents, and reviewed CSO Jon Bohmann's monthly report for March.

In the mayor and council forum, councillor Nording asked when the town's tax-free for three policy would be up for renewal. Nording said the policy isn't doing anything to help sell lots, and suggested the town could generate more revenue (in the form of property taxes) by selling lots for \$1. CAO Hoare noted the town currently has lots priced at 50 per cent off, and that the tax-free for three policy is typically reviewed closer to the end of the year.

Shifting to new business, council carried a motion to cover the cost of lime at the Sports Grounds (used for the white lines on the ball diamonds) for the 2024 ball season. This carries a price tag of just under \$2,000.

After some discussion, council also agreed to spend about \$500 to cover the cost of porta-potties at the Sports Grounds if water or sewer services are not available due to freezing.

Turning its focus to bylaws, all of them centred around water and wastewater, council gave first readings to Bylaw 2024-06, the Utility Bylaw, and Bylaw 2024-07, the Water Management Bylaw.

It closed out the meeting by carrying

the first reading of Bylaw 2024-08, which governs water and wastewater fees

The town's current water consumption rate is 31 cents per cubic metre (1,000 litres), with a separate sewer consumption rate of 26 cents per cubic metre. Under the new bylaw, the water and sewer consumption rates will be rolled together with a combined consumption rate of \$2.00 per cubic metre.

Elsewhere, the monthly infrastructure fee, which currently sits at \$23.84, will be replaced by a \$10 infrastructure fee devoted specifically to sewer infrastructure, and a \$50 capital fee that had been floated around by council before the end of 2023. This makes for a total increase of \$36.16.

At the current rate, a household that consumes 23 cubic metres of water each month (a high-end estimate, Shellbrook Mayor Amund Otterson says) pays a monthly utility bill of \$117.37. Under the new regime, thanks to token annual increases to water and sewer service fees and garbage and recycle bin fees, this will increase to \$188.38 — a difference of \$71.01.

In addition to the rate increases this year, the bylaw increases consumption rates by 15 per cent annually going forward.

Having expressed concerns about the rate increases at council's April 1 meeting, Councillor Nording voted against the bylaw's first reading.

Shellbrook Seniors host old-time dancing



The Shellbrook Senior's Association hosted its final old-time dancing and potluck session until the fall on Friday, April 19. The group saw its biggest turnout of the year at the dance, as folks came out to enjoy dancing, food, visiting, and music by Bruce, Terri & Friends.

BY JORDAN TWISS, Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

Streetlights installed on 2nd Ave West



Crews were in the Town of Shellbrook last week, installing streetlights on the south side of the stretch of 2nd Avenue West between 2nd Street West and Parkland Integrated Health Centre. CAO Kelly Hoare said the project, aimed at improving safety for drivers and pedestrians along the road, was a holdover from 2023. BY JORDAN TWISS, Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

Veterans Service Club Support Program

Intake Period Open

Our province's veterans service clubs work tirelessly on behalf of our communities, and we are thankful for the important work they do year-round. Introduced in 2019-20, the program provides grants for repairs and upgrades, special events, operations, programs and activities to engage communities and advance the work of veterans' service organizations across the province.

Applications being accepted until May 15, 2024.

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

For more information visit Saskatchewan.ca/budget

Hon. Scott Moe, Premier

MLA for Rosthern-Shellbrook

scottmoe.mla@sasktel.net



Earth Day's importance can't be understated

April 22 was Earth Day. Sadly, I suspect very few were aware, and fewer still gave the significance of the day much serious thought.

Now you might ask why Earth Day is included here in a column on agriculture, but I have always thought – at least for the more 'grassroots' farmer – there is a natural connection with the earth and agriculture.

In broader terms, we all need to care about this planet we call home because, at least in terms of what is known today, this is the only world capable of supporting life.

If we ruin our world, we doom our future.

And therein lies a significant problem for our species and our world.

There are far too many people who do a fine impersonation of an ostrich with its head buried in the sand when it comes to the damage our species is doing to this planet.

Ignoring the problems is not a solution. Nor is it constructive in the least, in terms of coming up with solutions to problems we know exist.



And the issues are many. For example, are the world's pollinator species – the bees – in trouble? It certainly seems so.

What do we do to ensure they remain healthy? Be-

cause without them doing their job we humans and other species as well are in dire trouble.

Then there is the concern for deforestation around the world.

Trees are largely the plants' lungs, for what they do in creating oxygen. Plants are able to convert carbon dioxide and water into oxygen through photosynthesis.

And what do we do as climates change?

You might nay-say the impact of human activity – but that doesn't mean cli-

mates aren't changing. So how do we adapt?

That is a hugely important question for farmers, who might not be able to

grow the crops they do to-

day in 10-20 years because the climate has changed. Then, there is the crazy situation of garbage, in particular plastics, and what it is doing to the planet as it is piled in mountains at landfills, stuffed

tains at landfills, stuffed down abandoned mine shafts, and dumped into the oceans like they are

merely waste lagoons.
Since plastics take de-

cades to degrade (if they degrade at all), dumping from an ever growing world population makes no sense, given its negative impact on the planet.

That's why the official 2024 theme for Earth Day — first held in 1970 — is "Planet vs. Plastics."

The list of issues goes on. But in the end, it comes down to our collective need as a species to recognize we need to do a better job of looking after the Earth, because it is all we have if we want a future as a species.

Bunge-Viterra merger will harm producers

The Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan (APAS), Alberta Grains, SaskBarley and Sask Wheat are raising serious concerns about the proposed merger between Bunge and Viterra and the resulting economic losses for producers.

A recent study on the potential effects of the proposed merger on the grain sector in Western Canada by Dr. Richard Gray, Dr. James Nolan, and Dr. Peter Slade, from the University of Saskatchewan (U of S), with research support from APAS, Alberta Grains, SaskBarley and Sask Wheat, found the merger is likely to cause substantial economic harm to grain producers.

The results support the findings of the Competition Bureau's review that the merger is likely to result in substantial anti-competitive effects and harm competition in markets for grain purchasing.

"The results of both of these studies validate concerns producers have been raising about the impact of the proposed merger on competition in the grain handling industry and ultimately returns to farmers" said Jake Leguee, Sask Wheat Chair.

The U of S report examined the impact of the proposed merger on grain export

services at the port of Vancouver, BC, the canola crushing sector, and competition at primary elevators, and found worrisome levels of market concentration in all three scenarios.

The merger would result in over 40 per cent of the export capacity at Vancouver controlled by one firm, which would increase the export basis by 15 per cent. For the canola crushing sector, concentration of market shares would increase canola crush margins by 10 per cent. The merger may also reduce incentives for Viterra to build its proposed canola crushing facility in Regina, SK. The increase in export basis and canola crush margins would reduce producer income by approximately \$770 million per year.

The analysis of primary elevator competition revealed concerns over market power in many areas in Western Canada, which will only get worse if the industry continues to consolidate.

"The proposed merger brings to the forefront concerns about market concentration and its potential ripple effects on grain producers" said Tara Sawyer, Alberta Grains Chair. "Competition in the grain sector will directly influence concerns producers have raised regarding trans-

parent, consistent, and efficient delivery contracts and market information."

The groups strongly urge the Federal Government to consider the impact of the proposed merger on the profitability and sustainability of farmers. Given the lack of existing competition within the grain sector, further consolidation will lead to substantial economic losses for both farmers and the Canadian economy.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

SPIRITWOOD: Wapiti Regional Library - Tuesday 9am - 5pm; Wednesday 9am - 5pm; Friday 9am - 5pm

LEOVILLE: Wapiti Regional Library - Wednesday 10am - 4pm; Thursday 10am - 4pm

SHELL LAKE: Wapiti Regional Library - Tuesday 11am - 4pm; Wednesday 12 pm -5 pm

BLAINE LAKE: Wapiti Library - Wednesday 1pm - 6pm; Thursday 1pm - 6pm; Friday 1pm - 6pm; Saturday 10am - 3pm. Contact us for more info 306-497-3130, www.wapitilibrary.ca.

BIG RIVER: Wapiti Library - Tuesday 11:30am - 4:30pm; 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 2pm - 6pm; Friday 1:30pm - 5pm. 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 11am - 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.

SHELLBROOK: TOPS Club Inc – Interested in taking off pounds sensibly? Pop into our open house & see what we are all about! May 7th @ 5:30 pm, Shellbrook Pentecostal Assembly – 61 2nd Street W

SPIRITWOOD: Spiritwood Horticulture – Plant Sale – Friday, May 10, 2024 at the Farmers Market in Spiritwood 8am - 2pm. Call or text Sue to arrange pick-up for any unwanted plants @ (306) 824-0486

BIG RIVER: The Northern Lights Bluegrass and Old Time Music Camp and Festival, running from August 12-16 and 16-18, 2024, at The Ness Creek Site near Big River, SK, features a dynamic lineup of music, workshops, dances and outdoor activities for all ages. At the music camp (Aug 12 - 16) there will be classes of all skill levels by renowned artists and the introduction of the Wild Sky Forest Kids Camp for children ages 3 - 12. Learn more at northernlightsbluegrass.com

SHELLBROOK: Shellbrook Royal Canadian Legion – Last Meat Draw & 50/50 (until fall). Saturday, May 4, 2-4 pm @ Shellbrook Legion. \$2/ticket or \$5/3 tickets. 50/50 tickets: \$5 each. Bar is open, games available to play!

Blaine Lake hosts Stand With Ukraine fundraiser

By PAT CIONA

A Third Stand With Ukraine Fundraiser was held in Blaine Lake School gymnasium on Sunday, April 14, 2024.

A receptive crowd of more than 200 people were welcomed by two men, Andy Ciona and Tom Kendra, dressed as Ukrainian Cossacks. The band, the Ukrainian Connection with members Walter Kyliuk, Russ Fountain, Norm Waytowich and Darlene Hupaelo, provided music as people entered the school.

MC Pat Ciona greeted the guests and stressed the need for continued support for the Ukrainian people and others in war torn areas. The Holosy Choir from Saskatoon sang O Canada in three languages, followed by a Ukrainian Prayer. Guests attending the fundraiser were treated to a delicious Ukrainian meal, prepared by volunteers in the community.

All the sausage for the meal was donated by Kyle and Wendy Oneshinko. Other contributors to the meal were The Leask Brethren Hutterite Colony, Lakeview Insurance, and Greg Krysak.

The 50/50 winner of

\$470 was Keith Ethier of Shellbrook. A Silent Auction was held with donations provided by local businesses and Blaine Lake and area residents. Specialty items for the auction were traditional Ukrainian foods.

After the supper, the choir entertained the guests with traditional Ukrainian songs then the band played again. Committee members for this event were: Pat Ciona, Dorothy Androsoff, Darcie Glencross and Shirley Markowsky.

Over \$7,000 was raised at this event. Very positive feedback has been received.

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The NHL's best family affair: the Hughes brothers

There have been some tremendously talented family combinations over the years in the National Hockey League — the Richards, the Sutters, the Tkachuks, the Hulls — but the current trio of Hughes brothers might be the best family act yet.

Only one of the three — likely Norris Trophy winner Quinn Hughes of Vancouver Canucks — will be skating in the playoffs this year, while the younger two, Jack and Luke, both ply their trade with New Jersey Devils, who finished a disappointing seventh in the Metropolitan Division and didn't come close to a post-season berth.

American-born and all products of the U.S. college system, the Hughes boys come by their hockey talent honestly. Their father, Jim, played college hockey, later becoming an assistant coach for the Toronto Marlies of the American Hockey League. He went on to play a key role in the Maple

Leafs' player development program, retiring 10 years ago, so the boys spent most of their formative youth learning the game in Toronto. Their mother, Ellen, played for the U.S. national women's team in the world championships of 1992. As player developers, Jim and Ellen Hughes just might be the best ever.

"Whenever we got the chance to watch a game with my dad, it was like watching video with an NHL coach," Jack said in an ESPN.com story in 2018. He said the Hughes boys were getting hockey tutoring at the age of 10-14 that many others didn't get until turning professional at 19 or 20.

All three Hughes boys were first-round draft picks, which has no NHL precedence. Quinn is 24 and went No. 7 overall to the Canucks in 2018. He runs the Canucks' power play, finished second on the team in scoring with 93 points, and will likely wind



up winning numerous Norris trophies. Jack is 22, was the No. 1 overall selection in the 2019 draft and this year, despite missing the last two months of the season due to a shoulder injury and subsequent surgery, racked up 74 points in 62 games after amassing 99 points last season. Luke, at age 20, was the fourth overall selection in the 2021 draft and has established himself as the Devils' No. 1 blueliner. He finished fifth in team scoring this year and is a regular on the New Jersey power play. He, too,

will garner a few Norris trophy votes.

Quinn and Luke both wear No. 43 for their respective teams, while Jack wears 86 for the Devils. Does the numbering mean Jack is twice as good? Hardly. If a poll were taken, Jack and Quinn would be 1 and 1A while Luke would be on the cusp of that talent level. Jack says Quinn is the best of the brothers; Quinn says it's Jack. Regardless, they're both all-stars, soon to be joined by Luke, and likely en route to hoisting more than one Stanley Cup over the next dozen or so

Quinn hopes to start that Cup-hoisting this June.

- Super 70s Sports: "If they made Bull Durham today, Nuke LaLoosh would be on a pitch count and never see the fifth inning."
- Mike Bianchi of the Orlando Sentinel: "Deion Sanders got defensive recently when USA Today pointed out how Sanders doesn't make recruiting

visits to high schools or do in-home visits with recruits and their parents. Maybe Primetime needs to change his name to Downtime!"

- Janice Hough of leftcoastsportsbabe.com: "Tom Brady says he's 'not opposed' to a late-season NFL return. What about as a captain for the Pro Bowl?"
- RJ Currie of sports-deke.com: "Ex-NASCAR driver Danica Patrick was among the first passengers to ride a new driverless bus in Las Vegas. To make her feel comfortable, they had it follow 33 cars."
- One more from Janice Hough: "At least two teams, the Las Vegas Aces and the Washington Mystics, have moved their games against (Caitlin Clark and) the Indiana Fever to larger arenas because of higher than expected crowds. Good for them. Now pay the women more."
- Canadian satirical website The Beaverton: "'Maybe this is the year the Leafs beat Boston,' says delusion-

al idiot who doesn't know (anything)."

- Another Beaverton offering: "NHL to expand to every city in North America except Quebec City."
- Former U.S. college basketball coach Al McGuire: "Winning is overemphasized. The only time it is really important is in surgery and war."
- Headline at the onion. com: "Nobody In Entire Dodgers Organization Has Heart To Tell Ohtani What's Going On With Interpreter"
- Headline at fark.com: "Bring your family, bring your wives to see the new NHL team in Salt Lake City."
- Steve Simmons of the Toronto Sun, on uniforms for the new Utah NHL team: "Please don't hire whoever came up with these San Diego Padres uniforms that look like clown costumes."

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo. ca

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 March 19, 2024, commencing at 9:05 a.m.

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

Absent: #1 Ralph Korody.

Delegations:

9:30 a.m.: Dwight Diehl, Public Works Supervisor, Municipal Operations Update 11 a.m.: Heath Robinson, Big River RCMP

11:45 a.m.: Councillor Indemnity

Muller: That the minutes of the Feb. 14, 2024, Regular Council Meeting be approved. Carried

Olson: That we approve the payments as listed on the attached account listing for a total of \$244,881.37, Council Direct Deposits for March and Payroll Direct Deposits for 2024 Pay Periods 4 & 5. Carried

Olson: That Bylaw 2024-01 attached hereto and forming a part of these Minutes, being a Bylaw of the Rural Municipality of Canwood No. 494 to authorize the closing and leasing of certain roads pursuant to Section 13 of The Municipalities Act, now be read the first time. Carried (Editor's note: the bylaw was unanimously given three readings at the meeting.)

Pease: That Bylaw 2024-01 attached hereto and forming a part of these Minutes, being a Bylaw of the Rural Municipality of Canwood No. 494 to authorize the closing and leasing of certain roads pursuant to Section 13 of The Municipalities Act, now be read the third time and adopted.

Pease: That we hire Beatrice Hansen, Mont Nebo, Sask., to maintain the Hawkeye Cemetery for the 2024 season at a cost of \$1,000. Carried

Boisvert: That we hire Raymond Boutin, Prince Albert, Sask., to maintain the designated areas at Goldridge Enterprises Inc. for the 2024 season at a rate of \$130 per cut. Carried

Muller: That we agree to continue with hosting the Employee Breakfast each spring and fall. Further to this, we set the spring breakfast for May 22, 2024, to be held at the Seniors' Room at the Canwood Elks Hall. Carried

Public Works Supervisor Dwight Diehl attended the meeting at 9:45 a.m.

Muller: That we acknowledge the efforts of the Boundary Review Committee and propose to change the boundaries as illustrated in Scenario Two. Motion Defeated

Andrews: That we acknowledge the Government of Saskatchewan funding announcement for the Larsen Bridge to Culvert Project with proposed construction in 2025. Further to this, we authorize the Reeve and Chief Administrative Officer to sign the agreement. Carried

Olson: That we hire Triple M Daylighting to clear right-of-way one half mile along Range Road 3053.24 for \$3,500 plus applicable taxes. Carried

Public Works Supervisor Dwight Diehl left the meeting at 10:55 a.m.

Muller: That the Statement of Financial Activities for the month of February 2024 for the R.M. General Account be approved as presented. Carried

Lockhart: That we renew our agreement with Affinity Credit Union as outlined in the Proposal to Provide Financial Services dated Jan. 24, 2024, for a one-year term. Carried

Lockhart: That we donate \$500 to Agriculture in the Classroom. Carried

Muller: That we appoint Cody Lockhart to the Canwood Local Library Board, effective March 15, 2024. Carried

Olson: That we appoint Cody Lockhart to the Wapiti Regional Library Board as the primary representative for a term of three (3) years. Further to this, we appoint Bev Wyatt as the alternate representative to the Wapiti Regional Library Board for a term of three (3) years. Carried

Muller: That we direct the Chief Administrative Officer, in preparation of the List of Lands with Arrears pursuant to Section 3 of the Tax Enforcement Act, not to include land in respect of which the amount of taxes in arrears does not exceed one half of the immediately preceding year's tax levy with respect to that land. Carried

Olson: That it be acknowledged in these minutes that the List of Lands with Arrears was presented to Reeve Lyndon Pease by the Chief Administrative Officer on March 11, 2024. Carried

Boisvert: That in the matter of the Special Events Permit Request of Tyler Couture for his wedding on June 22, 2024, held at the NW 01-53-07 W3, located within the boundaries of the R.M. of Canwood No. 494, we hereby approve and acknowledge the said event but do not accept liability which may arise from the event. Carried

Boisvert: That in the matter of policing, we instruct the Chief Administrative Officer to send a letter advocating for more resources as outlined by the National Police Federation – Western Advisor to show support of the current police force. Carried

Lockhart: That we cancel the 2023 taxes on the following parcel of land leased by Wayne Isabelle, Debden, Sask., as the parcel was selected under Treaty Land Entitlement. The cancellation is as follows: Roll #1969 — Legal Description: NE

22-52-07 W3 — Municipal: \$372.84 — School: \$67.25 — Total: \$440.09. Carried

Pease: That we adopt the amendments to Policy 5.05 Conduct and Behaviour.

Muller: That we approve the Development Permit Application of Greg Johnson, for the installation of a bored line through the municipal reserve, subject to the condition, that the work must follow the parameters set out in the approvals obtained from Water Security Agency, or any other governing body issuing permits pertaining to this matter. Carried

Olson: That we approve the Development Permit Application – Discretionary Use of Rose Freeman for an additional residence to aid in the farming operation of a multigenerational farm, subject to the applicant's submission and adherence to the setbacks of the Residential District site requirements. Carried

Muller: That we approve the Development Permit Application of Edith Schoff for shoreline stabilization on the municipal reserve, subject to the condition that the work must follow the parameters set out in the approvals obtained from Water Security Agency, or any other governing body issuing permits pertaining to this matter. Carried

Olson: That we advise the Community Planning Branch of the Ministry of Government Relations that we recommend approval of the Application to Subdivide Land of Colby Brown, for the purpose of subdividing Parcel D from the SE 14-49-04 W3, as the site has physical and legal access and exceeds the minimum site area requirements of Section 5 of the Municipal Zoning Bylaw 2003-7. Carried

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

Muller: That we now adjourn at 12:35 p.m.

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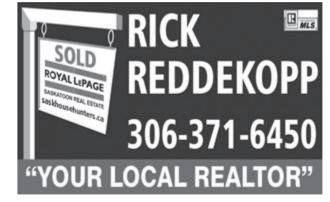
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Kirkham Law Office: **Assessed Value** \$188,200.00 (2011) SW 12-52-07 W3 - Pcl. # 131199330 156 ACRES (Currently 150 cultivated acres – 2011 assessment based on 123 cultivated acres)

(4 Steel Grain Storage Bins – Capacity 6600 Bushels) SE 02-52-07 W3 - Pcl. # 131198924 160 ACRES \$259,400.00 (2011)

RM of Canwood No. 494

- All bids must be submitted in writing and delivered to Kirkham Law Office at the address below by Noon on Friday, **May 10, 2024**.
- Bids will be accepted for individual quarters.
- Each bid shall be accompanied by a certified cheque or solicitor's trust cheque in the amount of 10% of the bid made payable to "Kirkham Law Office". If the bid is unacceptable the certified cheque or the solicitor's trust cheque shall be returned to the bidder.
- Within 15 days of the opening of bids, the successful bidder shall provide either:

 - The balance of the purchase price; or Payment of a sum equal to the difference between the balance of the purchase price and any mortgage financing, together with an unconditional and unequivocal letter of commitment from a recognized financial institution to the mortgagee to finance within 15 days of the confirmation of sale, the successful bidder's purchase of the land for the
 - price stated in the bid.

 Possession date to be arranged but no title will pass until Letters Probate have been obtained.
 - Purchaser responsible for all 2024 property taxes.
- If the successful bidder does not complete the purchase on the terms and within the time specified, the deposit will be forfeited.
- The highest or any bid may not necessarily be accepted.

KIRKHAM LAW OFFICE 1652 - 100 Street NORTH BATTLEFORD, SK S9A 0W6 **Att: Randy Kirkham** Phone: (306) 446-2900; Fax: (306) 446-2242

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NW 14-50-27-W-2nd RM of Buckland #491

Quarter Section of Rec., Hunting or Pasture Land



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BLACK ANGUS BULLS FOR SALE - by Private Treaty. A good selection of responsibly bred and fed 2 year olds, ready to work for you. Also developing a pen of yearling bulls for those interested for later use. The bull bloodlines are: Diversity and Four Seasons. These bulls are reasonably priced. Please call Christopher at West Cowan Apiaries 306-469-4970 or 306-469-7902 (cell) to set up an appointment

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2-19

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HOUSEKEEPING for seniors only in Shellbrook. Phone: 306-747-2575 3-18

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Praise & Worship

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

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Zion - Canwood Sunday School, Worship Sunday, 9 a.m. (in-person only) St. John's - Shellbrook Sunday School, Worship Sunday, 11 a.m. (in-person and online via Facebook live) 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 306-468-2138Leask Gospel Tabernacle Sunday 11 a.m. Pastor Josh

1-780-690-2100

UNITED CHURCH

Big River Sundays 11 a.m.. - Worship at Anglican Church Rev. Dave Whalley 306 - 747 - 2804

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

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)

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN

Parkside 11 a.m. - Worship

PRESBYTERIAN

Mistawasis Sunday worship 11:00 a.m. Rev. Stewart Folster

CATHOLIC CHURCH Debden

Sun. Mass - 9:30 a.m. Fr. Mariusz Zajac Big River - Sacred Heart Sun., 11:30 a.m. - Mass Whitefish Sun., 2:30 p.m. - Mass. Victoire

Sat., 7:30 p.m. - Mass. Fr. Mariusz Zajac St. Agatha's - Shellbrook Mass - Sunday 11 a.m. St. Henry's - Leask Mass - Sunday 9 a.m.

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

SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST

407-2nd Ave E, Shellbrook Sat., 9:45 a.m. - Sabbath School

Sat., 11:00 am -Worship Pastor Myshan Irving 306-747-3398

Praise & Worship

306-468-2525

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

PARTNERS IN FAITH

Lutheran/United/ Christchurch Anglican, 137-2nd St. W. Spiritwood Worship 11:00 a.m. Rev. Sarah Urano

UNITED /ANGLICAN Worship Services

Glaslyn Time is on the sign Rev. Kun Kim Rev. Don Skinner

CATHOLIC

SUNDAY Leoville - 9:30 a.m. Spiritwood - 11:15 a.m. Shell Lake - 2:00 p.m. SATURDAY Medstead - 6:00 p.m. Everyone Welcome Fr. Ramel Macapala

COWBOY CHURCH

Spiritwood Every Wednesday Night 7 pm Spiritwood Legion Hall Pastor Rick Martin

FIELDS OF HOPE (HOFFNUNGSFELDER) MENNONITE CHURCH Glenbush

Worship - 11:00 am

BETHEL Medstead 2nd Sunday, 10 am -Worship Pastor David Jensen 4th 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

BELBUTTE FULL GOSPEL

11 am Worship Service

PARTNERS IN WORSHIP Shell Lake

Worship Services Sunday 9:00 a.m. Pastor Sarah Urano 306-841-7333

LAKELAND **COMMUNITY CHURCH**

(Corner of 1st Ave. and 4th St., Spiritwood) Sun., 11 am - Worship Service & Sunday School Pastor Michael Kluthe 306-883-2380

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WANTED



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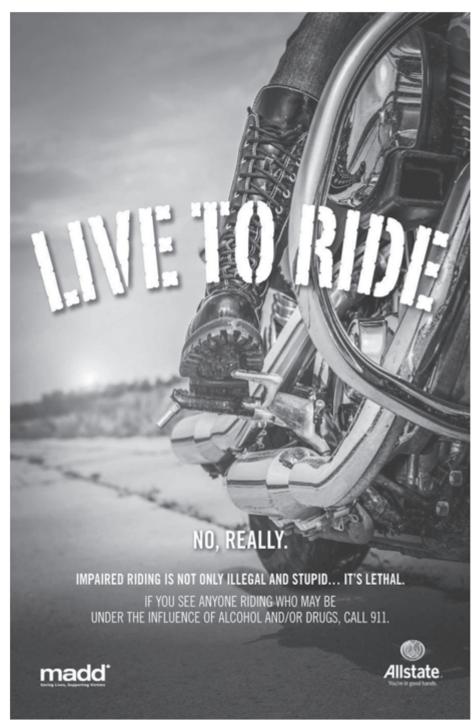
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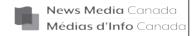


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OBITUARY

Phillip William Bartley



PHILLIP WILLIAM **BARTLEY**

May 20, 1951 – April 21, 2024

Phillip William Bartley, born on May 20, 1951, passed away at home in Buffalo Narrows on April 21, 2024. A Celebration of Life was held at 2:00

PM on Saturday, April 27, 2024 at the Canwood Royal Canadian Legion Hall, Canwood, SK. There will be a Celebration of Life held at Buffalo Narrows at a later date, an update will be made when the date is confirmed.

Phillip was a very loving, caring and thoughtful man. He was a great wood worker and had made a few pieces of furniture for his children and wife. He was an avid reader and spent many hours on the computer reading novels from his favorite authors. He loved watching curling championships on tv as much as he could and also watched golfing tournaments.

Phil began his career

with the government in the early 1970s as an equipment operator with the Department of Northern Saskatchewan (DNS) based in Beauval. He was responsible for the maintenance of Beauval, Patuanak, Ille A La Crosse, Buffalo Narrows and La Loche Airports and also the ice roads to Dillon and Patuanak. In the 1980 & 90s Phil was the Area Manager for the Ministry of Highways in Buffalo Narrows and was responsible for the area from Beauval to Cluff Lake. In the later years of his career, he was based in Prince Albert and was instrumental in developing a Maintenance Management Program for Highways and was the Area Manager for the Athabasca area from Wollaston Lake to Uranium City. One of his responsibilities was constructing and maintaining the ice roads in the Athabasca area. Safety was a huge part in Phils work and he was key in developing an ice road maintenance manual, which is still used today. Phil loved working in the north and was only out of sorts when he had to go south for meetings!

Phillip will be forever loved and remembered by his wife, Denise (née Pedersen) and his two children, Travis (Melanie) Bartley, Geraldine Eldridge; two stepsons, Russell (Jolene) Pedersen,

Thomas Pedersen, as well as eleven grandchildren: Apesis, Kenley Aubichon, Chance Bouvier, Keirstin Chartier-Eldridge, Kerissa Petit-Eldridge, Kiara Pedersen, Kiana Pedersen, Makenna Pedersen, Malia Pedersen, Thomas Pedersen Brighton Pedersen; one great grandson, Brandon Campbell. He is also survived by his brother, David (Carmen) Bartley; his sister, Regena (Darrell) Liski and their families; his aunt, Patricia (Gordon) Bartley; his mother-inlaw, Germaine Pedersen; his father-in-law, Teddy Pedersen; siblings-inlaw, Bev (Herbie) Norton, Sankey, Dora (Dan) Russell Sr. (Janet) Pedersen, numerous nieces, nephews and other relatives.

He was predeceased by his parents, Roy and Vera Bartley and his brother, Gary Bartley. Phillip will be dearly missed by all his family, relatives and friends.

Donations in memory of Phillip can be directed to the Canwood Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 132. 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, Lori Saam Funeral Director, Shellbrook, SK 306-747-2828.

Minutes of a Spiritwood Town Council meeting

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

The regular meeting of the Council of the Town of Spiritwood was held in the Council Chambers at the Spiritwood Town Office, 212 Main Street, on March 12, 2024, at 7 p.m.

In attendance were, Mayor Gary von Holwede, Councillor Jim Bedi, Councillor George Pretli, Councillor Bryan Wingerter, Councillor Mark Corfield, Councillor Ragnar Latus, Councillor Shane Colley, and CAO Rhonda Saam.

A quorum being present, Mayor Von Holwede called the meeting to order at

Colley: That the agenda be adopted as presented. Carried

Wingerter: That the minutes of the regular meeting on Feb. 27, 2024, be approved as presented. Carried

Bedi: That the Accounts for Ratification, Cheque No. 33070 & payments #1599 to 1622 in the amount of \$49,815.32 be approved as presented.

Wingerter: That the Accounts for Approval, Cheque No. 33071 to 33084 & payments #1623 to 1624 in the amount of \$28,733.07 be approved as presented.

Wingerter: That the Bank Reconciliation for the month of February 2024 be approved as presented. Carried

Latus: That the Financial Statement for the month of February 2024 be approved as presented. Carried

Colley: That the reports be filed as presented. Carried

Corfield: That Bylaw No. 554/24, a bylaw to establish a code of ethics for council members, be read a first time. Carried (Editor's note: the bylaw was unanimously given three readings and adopted at the meeting)

Colley: That we enter into an agreement with Marcy Johnson to contract services for a Code of Ethics Investigator, as attached to form part of the minutes. Carried

Bedi: That we rescind Policy No. 31 Municipal Employees Code of Conduct and replace with option 1, Policy 2-6 Employee Code of Conduct, as attached to form part of the minutes. Carried

Wingerter: That we approve a donation to the Spiritwood & District Museum for the 2023 year in the amount of \$103.35.

Wingerter: That we approve Building & Development Permit #01-2024SW to renovate a residential property on Lot 8 & 9 Block 11 Plan BK4385, with the condition of approval of compliance to the Town of Spiritwood Zoning Bylaw, and the building permit pending authorization from the Building Inspector. Carried

Wingerter: That we support Spiritwood Recreation Culture & Sports application to the Co-op Community Spaces Funding for the construction of a gazebo facility at SAD SAAC Park ball diamonds area. Carried

Colley: That we authorize to proceed with application for title acquisition in accordance with the tax enforcement act for Lot 14 Blk/Par 11 Plan No CA5071 Extension o. Carried

Latus: That we authorize to proceed with application for title acquisition in accordance with the tax enforcement act for Lot 7 Blk/Par 5 Plan No AP 518 Extension o. Carried

Colley: That we approve Access Communications request to replace their existing damaged cable lines along 5th Street West, with the condition that they contact Sask First Call to locate any utilities, as well as contact our Town Foreman before proceeding with the drilling. Carried

Bedi: That we approve Access Communications request to build new conduit and place a new plastic pedestal within town limits as presented, with the condition that they contact Sask First Call to locate any utilities, contact any other affected parties such as Ministry of Highways, as well as contact our Town Foreman before proceeding with the drilling.

Wingerter: That we approve Lottery License #02-2024 for the Cross Country Quilters for a Local Authority Raffle under \$2,500.

Latus: That this meeting be adjourned

Parkland STS hosts meeting, bowling

STS Parkland Chapter

On Tuesday, April 16, 2024, the Parkland Chapter of the Superannuated Teachers of Saskatchewan (STS) gathered in Canwood for its regular meeting and some fun bowling. Thirty-three people were in attendance.

The event started at noon with an excellent lunch served by the local Royal Purple Ladies. The meal was followed by a formal meeting.

The special guest was Alan Laughlin, an STS Councillor. He updated chapter members about the

latest Health and Dental Agreement with Blue Cross. There was a discussion

LE TETREAULT about the concept of social prescribing, where doctors, instead of prescribing medication, are encouraging seniors to get involved in more socialising, exercising and getting out of their home. There is a great need for many seniors to make connections with other people which helps to reduce loneliness and illness.

Bowling and games followed the meeting. A highlight was a 96-year-old chapter member, Marion Rude, who bowled like a pro. Some seniors recovering from hip surgeries and others walking with canes were also bowling with great enthusiasm. Many Parkland Chapter members look forward to meeting again in June in Shell Lake, Sask.



Members of the Parkland chapter of STS enjoyed an afternoon of bowling after their regular meeting in Canwood.





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