



Summer ends with a splash in Shellbrook



The Shellbrook Swimming Pool enjoyed a busy afternoon during the summer's end Party in the Park.

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

Shellbrook's season of sunshine, outdoor play, and swimming came to an unofficial end on Friday, Aug. 22, as Kinsmen Park and the Shellbrook Swimming Pool played host to the annual Party in the Park.

Though some blustery winds made the afternoon feel a little less summery, the cooler conditions did nothing to deter kids from diving right into the swimming pool and all the activities organized by the pool's lifeguards, including inflatables provided by Diskotek Entertainment, face painting, mini putt, and more.

With so much to do, the park and swimming pool were abuzz with activity

from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. And as afternoon bled into evening, the Parkland Pool Project Committee kept everyone fed with a canteen and BBQ to raise vital funds for the Parkland Pool Project. As of Monday, the total raised through the canteen and BBQ hadn't been finalized.

Though Shellbrook is expected to enjoy one last stretch of summery conditions, the Shellbrook Swimming Pool will be ending its season this coming weekend, in conjunction with kids returning to school. Also ending is the Town of Shellbrook's playground program, which is now called the S-CAPE Program (meaning Summer Program — Culture, Arts, Physical Activity, Experiences).

Town of Shellbrook CAO Sigourney O'Halligan says both the playground program and the swimming pool enjoyed

successful seasons.

The S-CAPE Program runs for eight weeks throughout the summer, providing themed weekday programming and much-needed childcare for kids in the community. While in past years, the program was limited to 30 children per week, O'Halligan says the decision was made to run things a little differently this year by opening it up to more children.

"We have found over the past two years we have had a waitlist for most weeks over the summer months, and it is a recognized need within the community," she said.

"With great staff members being able to provide constructive play during the summer days, we have averaged 33 participants per week and a total of 267 registrants for the season, with the most

popular weeks being themed Water Week and Mystery Week."

Though persistently smoky conditions may have been a hindrance to both the S-CAPE Program and the Shellbrook Swimming Pool, O'Halligan says the pool also had a largely successful season, with more than 500 people registering for swimming lessons throughout the summer.

While this may be a little lower than last year's 635 registrants, O'Halligan once again notes that this year's numbers wouldn't be possible without the pool staff's dedication and care for the facility and the swimmers.

"We are blessed to have volunteers and employees that are committed to our community," she said.

More photos on page 9

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Spiritwood Horticulture Society awards top competitors

By BEVRA FEE
Spiritwood Herald Reporter

The Spiritwood Horticulture Society hosted its annual showcase on Aug. 15 at the Spiritwood Civic Centre. With 248 exhibits from 41 exhibitors (including three Juniors), the show offered an opportunity for onlookers to browse the judges' choices while enjoying coffee and pie.

The awards were given out during the afternoon, with top honours going to Vi Anderson for Most Outstanding Home Craft as well as Adult Craft Grand Aggregate, and to Claude and Adele Wasden as Grand Aggregate of the show winners.

Novice Grand Aggregate was Carol-Lynn McElheron, while Junior Grand Aggregate was won by Huntley Wasden.

Yards and gardens play a large part in the horticulture show, and this year's Best Senior Garden, Best Urban Garden, and Best Urban Novice Yard were awarded to Betty Mykietiak. Best Urban Advanced Yard was awarded to Cheryl Turgeon, Best Rural Novice Yard was won by Jennifer Buchan, and Best Rural Garden and Best Rural Advanced Yard were won by Erin Wingerter.

For commercial frontage, Marion's Burger Bar claimed top honours while Hujber's Market on Main was awarded for their Best Commercial Planters.



Junior Grand Aggregate award was won by Huntley Wasden, presented by Adele Wasden.



Adele Wasden is presented with the Suteau Shield by Horticulture committee member Sue Kahl (right).



Best Cut Flower award was presented to George Switzer by committee member Adele Wasden.



Irene Roth (seated) presents Betty Mykietiak with the Steve Lendvay Memorial Award for Best Urban Garden.



Best Junior Craft award presented by Roberta Wasden to Sawyer Henderson.



Marlene Walter (left) presents Betty Mykietiak with the award for Urban Novice Yard.



Vi Anderson's award winning craft entry.



Adele Wasden was awarded the AC Cadieu trophy, the Suteau Shield, and Best Snapdragon.

Highway 55 Waste Management Corporation
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Highway 55 Waste Management Corporation invites applications for a full-time permanent **Garbage Truck Driver/Equipment Operator**.

The successful applicant must:

- be able to carry out assigned duties without supervision;
- be mechanically inclined and answer to the Operations Manager;
- possess a valid Class 1 or Class 3A driver's licence.

Submit your resume, including relevant experience and at least two references to:

Highway 55 Waste Management Corporation
Box 10, Canwood, SK S0J 0K0
Or email: operations@hwy55waste.ca

Highway 55 offers a pension and benefits package with competitive wages based on experience and qualifications of the successful applicant. All resumes are to be in the hands of the Operations Manager on or before **4:00 pm, Wednesday, September 17th, 2025**. Only those contacted will be granted an interview.

Highway 55 Waste Management Corporation
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Highway 55 Waste Management Corporation invites applications for a casual **Scale Operator**.

The successful applicant must:

- Weigh vehicles, log data and process transactions;
- Answer phones, direct customers and haulers;
- Process payments and prepare daily financial reports.

Submit your resume, including relevant experience and at least two references to:

Highway 55 Waste Management Corporation
Box 10, Canwood, SK S0J 0K0
Or email: operations@hwy55waste.ca

Highway 55 offers a pension and benefits package with competitive wages based on experience and qualifications of the successful applicant. All resumes are to be in the hands of the Operations Manager on or before **4:00 pm, Wednesday, September 17th, 2025**. Only those contacted will be granted an interview.

NOTICE OF CALL FOR NOMINATIONS
RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF LEASK NO. 464

Public notice is hereby given that nominations for By-election candidates for the office of:

COUNCILLOR FOR DIVISION NO. 6

will be received by the undersigned at the municipal office during normal office hours until Wednesday, September 10th, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. local time.

Nomination forms may be obtained from the municipal office.

Dated this 18th day of August, 2025.

Donna Goertzen
Returning Officer

Fiddlers receive grand sendoff in Canwood

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle
Reporter

About 100 people came from near and far to enjoy an evening of music and merriment on Monday, Aug. 18, when the fourth annual Canadian Grand Masters Sendoff Fiddle Show and Dry Dance was held at the Canwood Elks Community Hall.

Sponsored by the Canwood Public Library, this year's show was headlined by the familiar fiddling talents of Emily Dubois and Austin Castle, who were selected as Saskatchewan's representatives for the 2025 Canadian Grand Masters Fiddling Competition in Kamloops, B.C. on Aug. 22 and 23.

Joining Dubois and Castle on the stage were accompanists Trent Bruner, Lucas Welsh, and Marcus Braun, and fellow lead performers James Steele (2013 Canadian Grand Masters Champion,) 92-year-old fiddler John Kushneryk, and Canwood's own Erik Weberg.

"[Erik] had a whole bunch of traditional country songs... and a little bit of country gospel to boot," said Bruner, who also served as the evening's MC, noting that Weberg has learned a great deal from well-known local and area artists like Kerri English, Dean Person, and Donny Parenteau.

"We had a wonderful opening with him, and then our fiddlers did their thing."

Though returning to Canwood from Norway, where he lives with his wife, Hilde, and daughters, Hannah Moira and Ingrid Sofie, makes for a long trip, Bruner says it all stems back to promises he made before he



Canwood's own Erik Weberg opened the show with some classic country tunes.



Emily Dubois plays with accompaniment from bassist Marcus Braun (left) and Lucas Welsh.

got married 21 years ago to never forget his country, his family, and his friends.

With 26 years as an accompanist at the Canadian Grand Masters under his belt, it's a promise Bruner has kept.

"This show and dance is representative of all three [promises]. It's a really pleasant thing to be able to come back home, see people I know, see musicians I know and am going to work with in a few days, and support the local library as well support provincial fiddle talent that hasn't had a lot of exposure," he said.

"It's critical that we have places for these people to play."

Bruner says Canwood offers the perfect venue for a show like this, because the region has a long tradition of fiddle music with the former Parkland Fiddlers group.

Given the talent still being produced in the region, and across Saskatchewan, Bruner feels there remains a strong desire to pass this tradi-



Austin Castle returned to perform once again.



At 92, John Kushneryk was in fine fiddling form.

tion along to future generations.

"If you want to know where you're going, it's so important to remember where you have been," he said.

"Old time fiddle is tied very deeply to many different threads of the Canadian multicultural fabric and music is an important tie that binds so many people."

In the same way that music brings people together, Bruner says musicians are also their own community.

"When you work with good people, you become good yourself," Bruner said. "You never get to the point of musical development learning with one teacher alone. It always takes a community to assemble a foundation musically."

In addition to the entertainment on stage, there was also a raffle draw for a painted feather, which was donated by local artist Lucille Scott. Jim Hannon was the lucky winner of the prize.



Former Canadian Grand Masters Champion fiddler James Steele was among the night's performers.

TOWN OF BLAINE LAKE PUBLIC NOTICE

Public notice is hereby given that the Council of the Town of Blaine Lake intends to adopt two bylaws under the *Planning and Development Act, 2007* to amend Bylaw No. 2013-04 known as the Town of Blaine Lake & Village of Marcelin Inter-Municipal Plan and Bylaw No. 2013-05 known as the Town of Blaine Lake Zoning Bylaw.

INTENT

The proposed amendment to the Town of Blaine Lake & Village of Marcelin Inter-Municipal Plan will amend the Future Land Use Map referred to in Appendix B by redesignating Parcel M, Plan AV3863, Ext 0 from Residential to Highway Commercial / Industrial as shown within the bold cross-hatching below:

The proposed amendment to the Town of Blaine Lake Zoning Bylaw will amend the Zoning Map referred to in Section 6.2 by rezoning Parcel M, Plan AV3863, Ext 0 from R1 - Residential District to C2 - Highway Commercial District as shown within the bold cross-hatching below:

REASON

The reason for these bylaw amendments is to facilitate the development of a concrete plant on the subject property Parcel M located at Main Street North in the Town of Blaine Lake.

PUBLIC INSPECTION

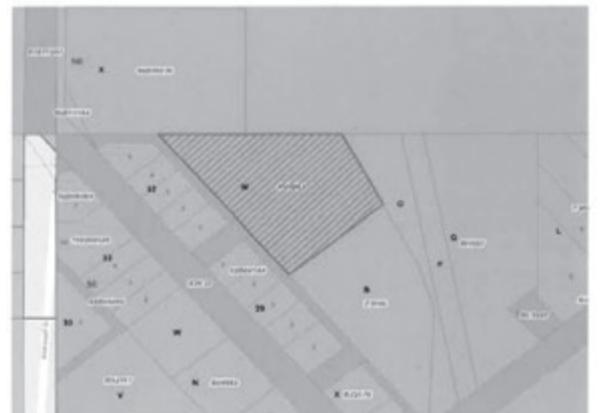
Any person may inspect the bylaws at the Town Office, located at 301 Main Street, in the Town of Blaine Lake, between the hours of 9:00 AM and 4:30 PM on Monday to Friday excluding statutory holidays. Copies of the proposed bylaws are available at the Town Office at a cost of \$5.00.

PUBLIC HEARING

Council will hold a public hearing for each of these proposed bylaws on September 15, 2025 at 4:00 PM at the Town Office to hear any person or group that wants to comment on the proposed bylaws. Council will also consider written comments received at the hearing or delivered to the undersigned at the Town Office before the hearing.

Issued at the Town of Blaine Lake this 19th day of August, 2025.

Jim Puffalt, Chief Administrative Officer
Town of Blaine Lake



Carney government lets down workers

There are few things the federal Liberal and Conservative Parties won't argue over, but one of their most enduring debates is about which of them is the best when it comes to the interests of workers.

For a political party, being seen as pro-worker is vital. Given that the majority of Canadians are workers in some fashion, currying favour with them is a good way for a party to boost its prospects of forming government.

Over the past decade, the Conservative Party has had the easiest time doing this, positioning itself as a champion for "blue collar" workers – particularly those who work in the oil and gas, agriculture, forestry, or mining sectors.

For its part, the Liberal Party, under Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, seemed all too happy to let this happen, choosing instead to focus on its efforts on environmental policies that were largely seen as detrimental to the livelihoods of these workers.

With good reason – given Mr. Trudeau's record of bungling just about everything – few were buying the notion of a "just transition" to careers in renewable energy, and so its no surprise to see that the Liberal Party has a hard time gaining any traction with voters in provinces like Saskatchewan and Alberta.

By contrast, the Conservative Party has generally struggled to appeal to unionized workers, partly due to a pair of bills passed by the government of former Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

First was Bill C-525, which made it harder for workers to form unions in their workplaces.

And second was Bill C-377, which imposed mandatory financial reporting on unions – with the reporting requirements for unions far exceeding disclosure requirements for MPs and senators.

Couple this with the fact that labour rights movements have his-



JORDAN TWISS
~
News Editor

torically been more progressive in their ideology, and it's easy to see why the Conservative Party might have trouble appealing to unions.

However, this may not always be the case. Over the past year, the Liberal Party has seemed hellbent on destroying any political goodwill it might have with unions and their members.

In 2024, with former Prime Minister Trudeau at the helm, the Liberals acting

ed swiftly and decisively to end potential strikes by rail workers, port workers, and Canada Post employees by ordering them back to work.

Now, for the fourth time in a year, the Liberal party (led by Prime Minister Mark Carney) has done the same with Air Canada flight attendants.

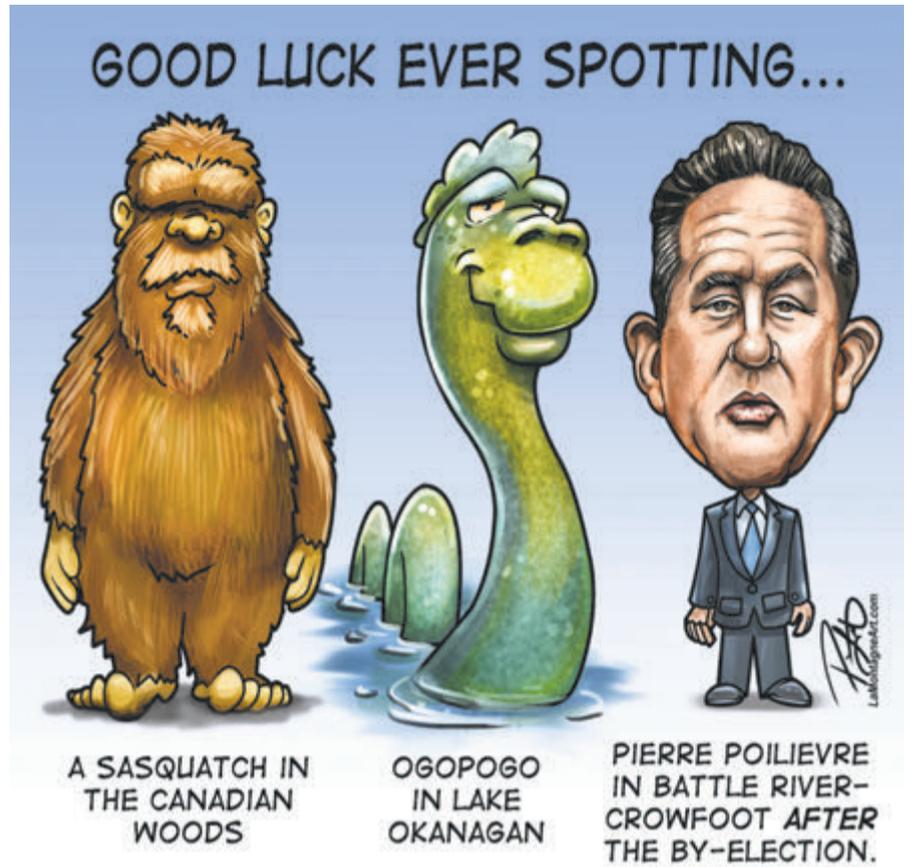
Opinions differ vastly when it comes to unions. For some, they are essential and irreplaceable safeguards for workers' rights. For others, they've been granted too much power relative to their employers, making it near impossible for bad employees to be fired.

Despite these differing viewpoints on unions – to say nothing of the opposing opinions about labour strikes as a form of protest – it seems the vast majority of Canadians are standing with the Air Canada flight attendants in this instance, and it's easy to understand why.

At the heart of the flight attendants' grievance with Air Canada is how they're paid for their work. Notably, much of the work that flight attendants do before and after flights – including safety checks, preparing the cabin, helping passengers, and boarding and deplaning procedures – is unpaid.

While workers in most industries start being paid as soon as they report for duty or "clock in," this means that flight attendants are essentially only paid for the time that a plane is in the air.

Though this is the industry standard, the very idea of employees



doing mandatory work for no pay should be rejected wholesale, regardless of the industry.

But Mr. Carney's government doesn't appear to share this opinion. Just 12 hours after the Air Canada flight attendants began striking, Minister of Jobs and Families Patty Hajdu stepped in to refer the matter to the Canada Industrial Relations Board (CIRB).

The CIRB, which is headed by long-time Air Canada attorney Maryse Tremblay, predictably ordered the flight attendants back to work and ordered both parties to submit to binding arbitration.

"These parties have had months at the negotiation table. They've had support through the federal mediation service, and they have been unable to cross the finish line," Ms. Hajdu said in a press conference after stepping in. "Arbitration is the most stable way to conclude this process for Canadians, while allowing parties to reach a deal."

Initially, the flight attendants signalled their intention to defy the back to work order. But then, last Tuesday, it was announced that they had reached a deal with Air Canada – one that offers pay for at least 60 minutes of formerly unpaid "ground work."

That Air Canada flight attendants

are coming out of this debacle better off than they were is undeniably a positive thing. However, the Liberal Party has undoubtedly done serious harm to its relationship with Canadian workers and setback labour rights considerably.

As Stephanie Ross, a professor of labour studies at McMaster University, tells *PressProgress*, the Liberals' recent track record of sending federally-regulated workers back to work during strikes and lockouts has undermined the collective-bargaining process.

She's right. Because of the Liberals' past interventions, companies like Air Canada no longer feel the need to negotiate in good faith, because they know they can run out the clock until the federal government steps in to force a deal. And if the federal government is just going to force workers back to work in every instance, what bargaining power do they truly have?

It's all well and good for Ms. Hajdu to declare that "nobody should work for free in this country" and to order probes into the allegations of unpaid work. It's equally good for Mr. Carney to say he wants flight attendants "compensated equitably."

But when their actions always favour large corporations, they're setting up Canadians workers to lose.

Shellbrook Chronicle

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Spiritwood Herald

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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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Witchekan hosts 50+ golf tournament

By **JIM BEDI**
Submitted

Aug. 20 saw 43 enthusiastic golfers enjoy great weather and perfect course conditions for the Witchekan Lake Golf Course's 50+ fun day of scramble golf. The morning started with hot coffee, fresh baked muffins, and mixed fruit to get everyone going. Teams played 9 holes, broke for lunch, and then returned to where they left off to finish play.

Prizes were awarded for seven specialty holes, low score teams, most honest team as well as a random team draw and several random prizes. Great fun was had by all.

Lowest score winners were Lawrence Thomas, Patrick Clavellen, Guy Cyr, and James Odnokon, while the trio of Dave Cornelison, Corrie Rush-Battersby, and Don Caffet won most honest team honours.

The day's specialty hole winners included:

Hole 15, Closest to Deer: Lawrence Thomas;

Hole 8, Closest to Beach Chair: Deb Steinhilber;

Hole 13, Closest to pin on 2nd hit: Reg Bartsch;

Hole 4, Closest to Pin: Glen Caffey;

Hole 6, Longest Putt: Dona Bedi; and

Hole 14, Longest Putt: Barry Murk.

In his final act as

primary organizer of this event (there are two tournaments each year), Lloyd Fisher acknowledged the many volunteers who helped with the event, the prize sponsors, and donors. He also praised the staff at the course for the excellent course conditions as well as the clubhouse staff for the efficient service and food prep.

Lastly he recognized everyone for attending from all over the region.

"You cannot have a golf tournament without golfers," he said.

Lloyd has been the primary organizer for many years and served notice after the spring event that the August event would be his last.



Lowest score winners, from left to right: Lawrence Thomas, Patrick Clavellen, and Guy Cyr. Missing James Odnokon.



Second lowest score winners, from left to right: Shirley Day, Deb Steinhilber, Don Walter, and Don Turgeon.



Random team draw winners, from left to right: Lloyd Fisher, Bev Levesque, Norman Poirier, and Laurie Mayo.



The most honest team, from left to right: Dave Cornelison, Corrie Rush-Battersby, and Don Caffet.



The 50+ tournament's specialty hole winners from left to right: Lawrence Thomas, Deb Steinhilber, Reg Bartsch, Glen Caffey, Dona Bedi, and Barry Murk.

TOWN OF BIG RIVER PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice is hereby given that the Council of the Town of Big River intends to adopt a bylaw pursuant to Section 207 of *The Planning and Development Act, 2007* to amend Bylaw No. 2015-02, known as the Zoning Bylaw.

INTENT

The proposed bylaw will amend Bylaw No. 2015-02, the Zoning Bylaw, to:

- Revise Section 4.2.2 - *Accessory Uses, Buildings, and Structures* to permit an accessory use or building to be approved prior to the construction of the principal building on the same lot, subject to specific conditions including timelines for construction, restrictions on use, and enforcement measures.

AFFECTED LAND

The affected land includes all properties zoned Residential within the Town of Big River. No specific parcel is identified, as the amendment applies broadly to all Residential Districts.

REASON

The reason for the amendment is to allow for accessory buildings to be established prior to a principal building, while ensuring that principal construction occurs within a reasonable timeframe and that regulations are enforceable.

PUBLIC INSPECTION

Any person may inspect the bylaw at the Town Office in Big River on any judicial day from Monday to Friday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon and 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING

Council will hold a public hearing on September 17, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. in the Board Room at Big River Community Centre, 606 1st Street North, in Big River, Saskatchewan, to hear any person or group that wants to comment on the proposed bylaw. Council will also consider written comments received at the hearing or delivered to the undersigned at the municipal office before the hearing.

Issued at Big River on this 28th day of August, 2025.
Noreen Olsen, Administrator

The Leask Housing Authority is seeking a **MAINTENANCE CONTRACTOR**

This is a contract position responsible for the maintenance of the buildings and grounds of the housing authority units in Leask.

Maintenance contractor responsibilities include: Develop (with the manager) and execute maintenance plans & schedules, ensure timely attention to maintenance issues and seasonal grounds requirements, act as a contact person for the housing authority when required, ensure assets are maintained in good repair and operated in an efficient, effective manner. The maintenance contractor receives general direction from the manager and reports indirectly to the Board of Directors. The portfolio consists of 18 Senior & 4 Family Housing units.

The successful candidate must be able to perform or subcontract the following duties:

- Seasonal grounds maintenance (snow removal, lawn care, etc. if required)
- Basic working knowledge of carpentry, plumbing, heating, electrical and general property maintenance practices.
- Able to perform manual labor and lifting tasks
- Provide all tools & equipment, including personal vehicle & cell phone.

NOTE: Any parties interested in performing ONLY Seasonal grounds maintenance, either snow removal, and/or summer grounds maintenance should also submit their application, indicating in which work they are interested.

In addition, the maintenance contractor must be able to:

- Communicate effectively, verbal & written
- Maintain confidentiality
- Work collaboratively with the manager

Submit applications by August 31st, 2025 to:

Leask Housing Authority, Linda Raby
Box 237, Leask, SK S0J 1M0

Or email to: lraby.blainelake@housingauthoritysk.com
For further information please call Linda Raby at 306-497-2824

Sask. RCMP highlights co-operation

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle
Reporter

This summer, the Spiritwood and Meadow Lake RCMP Detachments have had a few occasions to work with members of the provincial Protection and Response Team (PRT), including conservation officers with the Provincial Protective Services Branch from Meadow Lake, Spiritwood, Loon Lake, Pierceland, North Battleford and Dorintosh.

Across the province, Saskatchewan RCMP Detachments can seek the support of the PRT for assistance with traffic control, scene security, searching for missing people, and other activities. This cooperation is shared as RCMP officers, in turn, assist PRT members as needed or as jurisdiction may require.

"The PRT is another resource we can call on when needed, and we're lucky to have such great working relationships with each other.

We're all peace officers, so we're all invested in public safety and working towards the best possible outcome for any incident," says Spiritwood RCMP Detachment Commander, Sgt. Clay Parenteau.

This co-operation was underscored when, on June 28, Spiritwood RCMP responded to a call involving a large group of approximately twelve boaters and passengers stranded on Chitek Lake. The group was unsure of their exact location and called Spiritwood RCMP after boat trouble and bad weather left them stranded on the lake.

Spiritwood RCMP officer Cst. Brad Smailes immediately responded and was joined by conservation officer Sgt. Jason Reddekopp in the search that thankfully located the missing party, resulting in everyone returning to shore safe.

"Whether it's helping search teams navigate local bodies of water, or deeply forested areas, we're happy to help,"

says Sgt. Reddekopp.

The pair also teamed up when the Spiritwood RCMP Detachment received multiple reports of a stranded boater on Chitek Lake on July 8. When they arrived at the lake, the vessel was being towed by a member of the public. Officers assisted once on shore, while also confirming the well-being of the boater.

As Saskatchewan's provincial police, RCMP officers work closely with provincial peace officers including conservation officers with the Provincial Protective Services Branch. The skills and experience of officers with each partner agency uniquely contributes to the common goal of keeping the public safe.

Stolen vehicle sought

The Prince Albert RCMP Detachment is seeking the public's assistance in locating a vehicle stolen during a robbery on the Sturgeon Lake First Nation.

In the early hours of Tuesday, Aug. 19, po-

lice received a report about the robbery. Upon responding, officers determined that three suspects entered a residence, armed and wearing masks. They forcibly confined the occupant, then took their wallet and vehicle keys. The suspects then fled the residence in the stolen vehicle.

The victim did not re-

port any physical injuries to police.

Police continue to investigate the and are asking members of the public to report all sightings of the vehicle, which is described as a 2016 Chrysler 300 with Saskatchewan license plate 175 NRI.

The current location of the vehicle is unknown.

Anyone with information about this investigation is urged to contact the Prince Albert RCMP Detachment at 310-RCMP (7267). Information can also be submitted anonymously by contacting Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or www.saskcrimestoppers.com.

Province shares more mid-year RCMP stats

By **MINISTRY OF CORRECTIONS, POLICING & PUBLIC SAFETY**

Submitted

Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) of 2025, RCMP SERT executed 412 arrest warrants and seized more than 13 kilograms of illicit drugs, 49 firearms, and over \$231,000 in cash from Saskatchewan communities.

"Provincially funded RCMP Enforcement Response Teams continue to deliver tangible results across the province by addressing serious crime," Corrections, Policing and Public Safety Minister Tim McLeod, K.C. said. "The targeted enforcement executed by these officers is a key part of our government's plan to reduce crime and build safer communities and neighbourhoods for everyone in Saskatchewan."

SERT includes the RCMP's Crime Reduction Teams (CRTs), Warrant Enforcement and Suppression Team (WEST), and Saskatchewan Trafficking Response Team (STRT), each tackling critical areas of enforcement across the province.

"The collaboration between local RCMP detachments and SERT teams is incredibly important to the success of our work," acting officer in charge of the RCMP Saskatchewan Enforcement Response Teams Inspector Michelle Ireland said. "Local detachments know their communities, and paired with further intelligence and investigation by the RCMP SERT, we continue to target safety concerns all across the province and remove drugs, weapons and dangerous people from the communities we serve."

RCMP STRT is a specialized, intelligence-led enforcement team that investigates weapons, drugs and human trafficking cases. From January through June 2025, the STRT opened three human trafficking files, executed 43 search warrants and made 25 arrests, seized over 2,300 grams of cocaine and more than 1,600 grams of methamphetamine and laid a total of 22 charges.

In January 2025, Yorkton STRT arrested an individual in the city during an ongoing drug trafficking investigation. Yorkton STRT located and seized nearly 1.5 kilograms of methamphetamine, 936.5 grams of

cocaine, 133 grams of fentanyl and approximately \$6,000 in cash. Further investigation led the officers to charge the individual with multiple counts of possession for the purpose of trafficking.

RCMP CRT responds to crime surges in rural areas, targeting prolific offenders and street gangs in Saskatchewan. In the first six months of 2025, the CRT executed 277 arrest warrants, laid 379 charges, made 473 arrests, and seized over 1,800 packs of illicit tobacco, nearly eight kilograms of illegal drugs and more than \$144,000 in cash.

RCMP WEST targets high-profile offenders who pose a significant threat to public safety, such as gang members and violent offenders with outstanding warrants. The RCMP operates one WEST team out of Saskatoon and Meadow Lake and another out of Prince Albert. From January through June 2025, WEST executed 135 arrest warrants and made 102 arrests.

In February 2025, Prince Albert RCMP CRT and Humboldt Detachment executed a search warrant at a residence near Humboldt in relation to an ongoing investigation. At the residence, officers located and seized:

- 1,000 grams of methamphetamine;
- 801 grams of cocaine;
- 35,000 illegal cigarettes;
- four firearms;
- ammunition;
- bear spray; and
- additional drug trafficking paraphernalia.

During a traffic stop near this residence, Prince Albert RCMP WEST officers also located and arrested two individuals. While searching the vehicle, officers located and seized approximately \$42,245 in cash, a small amount of crack cocaine and additional drug trafficking evidence. As a result, charges were laid for possession for the purpose of trafficking and possession of the proceeds of crime over \$5,000.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

SPIRITWOOD: Wapiti Regional Library - Tuesday 10am - 5pm; Wednesday 10am - 5pm; Thursday 1pm to 5pm; Friday 10am - 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 Summer Hours (as of July 2): Tuesday 9:30am - 4pm; Wednesday 9:30am - 4pm; Phone: 306-468-2501

DEBDEN: Wapiti Library hours: Tuesday 10am - 4pm; Wednesday 12pm - 6pm. Librarian: Aline Hannon

LEASK: Wapiti Library & Legacy Gallery Hours - Tuesday 9am - 2pm; Wednesday 2pm - 8pm; Friday 9am - 12pm

MARCELIN: Wapiti Library - Saturday 10am - 2pm; Thursday 2pm - 8pm. 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.

BIG RIVER: Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting - Every Wednesday, 7:30 pm @ Train Station in Big River (Railway Avenue)

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Open Farm Days rebuild connections

With somewhat of an understated lead up this year, Open Farm Days were held recently.

The Farm & Food Care Saskatchewan-led initiative is one of those totally brilliant, yet simple ideas, which helps bridge what is sadly a broadening gap between farm operators, and their ultimate customers — those who consume what farmers grow.

When I was a youngster — admittedly a half century-plus ago, but still a relatively brief span in terms of history — few would have

been those anywhere in Saskatchewan without a rather direct tie to farming.

Whether it was a grandparent or an uncle, someone in the family you would at least visit on occasion would have been a farmer.

And on those visits, you would have seen a rather broad cross section of farming. Through the 1960s and into the '70s farming was still largely mixed in nature.

On the visit, you would perhaps help gather eggs, see a cow milked, feed some pigs, or take a truck ride out



CALVIN DANIELS

to the combine in the fall. Even if you only went for a Sunday dinner at the farm, you were still connected rather directly to where food comes from.

Jump forward over the five decades and things have changed dramatically.

Farms have grown exponentially, and as big farmers have bought out smaller neighbours, the number of farms have obviously declined, and so too the number of families with that tie which got them to a farm at least on occasion.

And even among the few with farm connections, those connections are more singular in nature.

Rare are farms with a milk cow, or laying hens, or pigs to feed.

Farms are not just larger, but far more specialized.

So, while farms have

sought consolidation and growth as a way to run more profitable operations, the connection to local consumers has been severed for many.

The disconnect is disconcerting in the sense that the loss of understanding what it is like to operate a farm has meant it is far easier for disinformation to run rampant. In the process, trust in the producers of our food has weakened. That is not a good thing.

Open Farm Days is a two-day event where a number of Saskatchewan farmers 'open'

their farms to visitors, offering tours and talks to educate a generation without that farm connection of old.

Two days out of a year is not a reconstruction of lost connections, nor will it instantly re-establish any lost trust, but it is a step in the right direction.

And as a result, a thank you needs to go out to those farmers inviting visitors to look inside their operations, but also one goes to those taking a summer afternoon to visit a farm and learn a little more about where their food comes from.

Op-ed: Bill C-2 harms farmers, farm workers

By JENN PFENNING
NFU President

The National Farmers Union (NFU) urges the federal government to withdraw Bill C-2, The Strong Borders Act. Bill C-2 jeopardizes the safety and rights of migrants and refugees, threatens agricultural production, and grants sweeping powers for the government to pry into the private lives of all Canadians.

The Bill empowers the government to cancel, suspend, or change immigration documents including applications, work permits, or study permits under the pretext of an undefined "public interest."

Even the Liberal Minister of Justice reports in his Charter Analysis that the new powers to cancel or modify immigration documents could interfere with fundamental provisions for life, liberty, and security that are afforded to all migrants and refugees.

Migrant Rights Network warns that the powers granted to immigration officials will impede refugees seeking asylum, increase the risks of deportation, and put the lives of migrants in danger. Other organizations warn that these changes could increase la-

bour trafficking by making migrants vulnerable to deportation.

The Bill also allows for the deportation of asylum-seeking refugees without a hearing if they entered Canada more than a year ago. Setting time limits on refugee hearings is considered a violation of international law.

By limiting the time period for claim dates for refugees coming from the United States, the Strong Borders Act would increase the likelihood of their deportation back to the U.S. where they have been subject to extrajudicial policing and a campaign of terror. Undocumented farm workers in the U.S. have described being "hunted like animals" by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

"The NFU is horrified by ICE's treatment of migrant food producers in the United States. Apparently as an appeasement to Trump, this Bill threatens to make Canada complicit in the abuse of migrants both here and south of the border," says Jenn Pfenning, NFU President.

The NFU calls for the repeal of the Safe Third Country Agreement (STCA) between Canada and the United States. Refugees should be able to transit between Canada and the U.S.

or vice versa in the process of making their refugee claim.

Farmers are concerned that the changes proposed by Bill C-2 will prevent migrants and refugees from building a stable life in Canada.

NFU membership includes immigrants, new Canadians, and farmers who hire migrant workers.

In 2022, one in four farm workers in Canada were temporary foreign workers (TFWs). The NFU is worried that the human rights of TFWs may be violated and that the Bill would have a chilling effect across the agricultural sector.

"The NFU has long advocated that the expansion of rights and protections to migrant workers would strengthen agricultural production, while Bill C-2 threatens to undermine them," says Pfenning.

The NFU is also concerned about Bill C-2's impact on privacy rights and the potential to pry into the personal lives of all residents.

Bill C-2 subjects Canadians to warrantless surveillance of their electronic and paper communications. A warrant is a legal document issued by a judge or government official that authorizes law enforcement to arrest or

search.

Warrants are necessary safeguards to protect individuals from arbitrary search of property or personal information. The Act would permit law enforcement to open any mail handled by Canada Post and "demand information from various [communications] companies without any judicial oversight and with less proof of suspicion."

The Strong Borders Act would also create provisions to share Canadians' data with U.S. law enforcement.

"The expansion of surveillance enabled by this legislation sets a dangerous precedent for intrusion into our personal lives. I object to the government collecting any of my electronic or paper communications without warrant," says Matthew Wiens, NFU board member.

The NFU joins other civil society organizations in their calls to withdraw Bill C-2. To uphold Canadian values of respect, fairness, and hospitality we must guarantee rights to all immigrants. Finally, the privacy of all who live in and work in Canada must be guaranteed — no one should be subject to warrantless searches of their personal information.

FCC extends supports for canola producers

By FCC
Submitted

In light of continued global trade disruptions, including new tariffs affecting Canadian canola seed, Farm Credit Canada (FCC) is reiterating its support for agribusinesses, farm operations and food processors through its Trade Disruption Customer Support program.

"The agriculture and food industry is resilient, but global trade uncertainty can create real pressure on cash flow and operations," said Justine Hendricks, President and CEO at FCC. "Our role is to ensure our customers, and the broader industry, have access to the capital and flexibility they need to adapt, stay competitive and keep delivering high-quality products to markets at home

and abroad."

The program offers relief for existing customers and new clients who meet lending criteria. The program offerings include access to an additional credit line of up to \$500,000, new term loans, and the option for existing FCC customers to defer principal payments for up to 12 months on existing loans.

FCC will continue to work with industry partners to

ensure that Canadian agriculture and food businesses can navigate changing market conditions and keep the industry moving forward despite uncertainty.

Customers and non-customers are encouraged to contact their local FCC office or call 1-800-387-3232 to discuss their individual situation. Lending due diligence will be carried out on all applications.

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WWHS continues to grow with 62nd show

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

It may have been a less than ideal growing season, but the Walter Willoughby Horticulture Society (WWHS) still showcased plenty of growth, when it hosted its 62nd annual Horticulture Show at the Canwood Elks Community Hall on Thursday, Aug. 14.

Though this year's show brought the sad news that it will be the last one with long-time member Judy Harley serving as WWHS president, society member Joan Sommerfeld says it was still "loads of fun with visiting, treats of wonderful squares, comparing notes, and competing with good spirit."

Once again, this year's show was made possible by the dedication of its exhibitors, who work throughout the year to ensure their handicrafts, baking, photography, fruits and vegetables, and plants are in show-worthy shape.

This year, there were 20 exhibitors, with four youth exhibitors and four first-time exhibitors among them. All told, these 20 exhibitors submitted 293 exhibits to be judged — a notable increase over the 239 exhibits at last year's show.

The winners of this year's show were as follows:

Grand Aggregate (Honeywood (Dr. A.J. Porter) Heritage Nursery): Toni Sommerfeld

Reserve Aggregate (Back to your Roots Soil Solutions): Whispering Pine Place, Canwood

Best Craft in Show (donated in mem-



Winners of this year's WWHS Horticulture Show. Back row, from left to right: Darlene Otet, Allison Irvine, Judy Harley, Layne Cobb, Mindy Cobb, Toni Sommerfeld, Londyn Bodnarchuk, Louise Person, Jessie Dion, and Hilda Gaboury. Front: Shayla Cobb, Trystan Cobb, and Muriel Robin.

ory of Myrtle Naslund by Beryl Peake): Parkland Integrated Health Centre Long-term Care Home

Best Photograph in Show (donated by Gloria Cameron): Darlene Otet

Best Plant in Show (donated in memory of Gerda Hansen by the Sven Hansen family): Whispering Pine Place, Canwood

Best Dahlia in Show (donated by Thelma Bazley): Jessie Dion

Best Gladioli in Show (donated in

memory of Irene Bischler by Judy Bischler): Hilda Gaboury

Handicrafts Aggregate (donated by Shellbrook Flowers 'n More): Hilda Gaboury

Baking Aggregate (donated by Barb Person): Louise Person

Junior Aggregate (donated by Thelma Bazley in memory of Sharon Cymerys): Layne Cobb

Junior Reserve Aggregate (Mumm's Sprouting Seeds): Londyn Bodnarchuk

Beginner Aggregate (donated by Tait insurance): Shayla Cobb

Beginner Reserve Aggregate: Trysten Cobb

Fruit Aggregate (donated in memory of Dr. A.J. Porter by Judy Harley): Darlene Otet

Vegetable Aggregate (donated in memory of Jake Jacobs by Joan Sommerfeld): Toni Sommerfeld

Potted Plant Aggregate (donated by the Dobson family): Toni Sommerfeld

Cut Flower Aggregate (Irene Kustiak): Whispering Pine Place, Canwood

Flower Arrangement Aggregate (Beau Lac Funeral Home): Mindy Cobb

The Walter Willoughby Horticulture Society also actively encourages new entrants (both young and old) by donating \$30 as prize money for the top three new entrants. This year, Tyler Sten was the top newcomer, earning \$15. Meanwhile, Allison Irvine earned the second prize of \$10, and Lauren Donaldson and Trystan Cobb both claimed the third prize of \$5.



As always, flowers brought a flash of bright colour to the show.



Exhibitors showcased their green thumbs with an assortment of veggies.



PIHC long-term care residents with their winning welcome banner. Pictured, left to right: Shirley Dutka, Sharon Plantz, Victor Mortenson, Doreen Gibb, Ronald Brad, and Jerry Clark.



Sandra Boyle and Muriel Robin, on behalf of Canwood's Whispering Pine Place, receive the Reserve Grand Aggregate award from WWHS President Judy Harley.



Layne Cobb got creative with his Mr. and Mrs. Potato Head entry.

Summer ends with a splash in Shellbrook



The diving board saw almost constant use, with kids getting big air and making big splashes.



The pool's lifeguards were kept busy painting faces throughout the afternoon.



A nine-hole mini putt course wound its way around the playground.



Inflatables provided by Diskotek Entertainment offered a variety of ways to bounce and play.

Shellbrook Seniors Golf Club hosts tournament

By **BRUCE CLEMENTS**
Club President

It may have been a week later than planned, but the Shellbrook Seniors Golf Club was finally able to host its annual tournament at the Hidden Hills of Shellbrook Golf Club. With the possibility of heavy rain on Aug. 6, the tournament was postponed until Wednesday, Aug. 13.

All told, 59 golfers came out for a day of fun and fellowship, with 24 of them being senior golf club members, 3 local golfers, and the remaining 32 coming from other communities to participate.

After registration and some visiting, golfers were randomly sorted into their teams and the action got under way at 10 a.m. sharp with the tournament being played in a best ball format.

With the first nine holes completed, the golfers returned to the clubhouse for a wonderful lunch prepared by the Hidden Hills staff. During the lunch break, a 50/50 was drawn for \$195, with Jeannette Bowes being the lucky winner. The other half deservedly went to the kitchen staff. Following lunch, the golfers returned to the greens for the second round.

Once the final putt was sunk, cash prizes were given to the foursomes who finished in the top three in each of the three flights. The overall flight winners were as follows:

1st Flight: Barry Person, Diane Dreaver, Greg

Spencer, and Brian Person

2nd Flight: Mark Mintenko, Sharron Dreaver, Ralph Harris, and, Ken Hyman

3rd Flight: Kelly Greenhough, Roger Herteg, Tim Kelly, and Kelly Mattock

While the Senior's Tournament doesn't focus too much on prizes, the community's generosity meant that every golfer went home with a door prize. Also, the Senior's Club held a raffle for six rounds of golf with a cart, generously sponsored by the Candle Lake Golf Course. The lucky winner was Carol Svendsen.

All in all, it was a great day for seniors to get out and have fun and enjoy the fellowship of other golfers where everyone feels comfortable and no one is left out. See you all next year.



First flight winners: Barry Person, Diane Dreaver, Greg Spencer, and Brian Person.



Second flight winners: Mark Mintenko, Sharron Dreaver, Ralph Harris, and Ken Hyman.



Third flight winners: Kelly Greenhough, Roger Herteg, Tim Kelly, and Kelly Mattock.

Dagenais wins King Charles III Medal

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

On Saturday, Aug. 23, Prince Albert MP Randy Hoback hosted a ceremony in the mezzanine of the E.A. Rawlinson Centre to present constituents who have made contributions to their communities with King Charles III Coronation Medals.

All told, 27 individuals received medals during the ceremony, includ-

ing a mix of service men and women, business leaders, former politicians, and more. The 27 medals were just a small part of the 30,000 medals being presented across Canada.

Like the Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal before it, the King Charles III Coronation Medal is awarded to recognize outstanding individuals of all ages and from all walks of life who have "made a significant difference in their com-

munities, provinces, territories or who have attained an outstanding achievement that brings credit to Canada."

The medal, created in celebration of King Charles III's coronation, is awarded across a wide range of contributions, including arts, media, business, industry & economy, community service, education, healthcare, politics and governance, sports, and science.

Among the recipients on Saturday afternoon was Master Warrant Officer and former Shellbrook resident Henri Dagenais, who was recognized for his military service as a meteorologist with the Canadian Armed Forces and for his contributions to the Shellbrook Legion (and other Royal Canadian Legion branches) following his service.

Dagenais was unable to attend the ceremony and receive his medal.

Minutes of an RM of Blaine Lake meeting

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

The Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Council of the Rural Municipality of Blaine Lake #434 which was held in the RM Municipal Office, on Tuesday, June 17, 2025.

Present at the meeting were the following Council Members and Administration: Reeve Glenn Lamontagne, Division 1 — Michael Chudskov, Division 2 — Lee Dolezal, Division 3 — Courtney Swystun, Division 4 — Alan Lavoie, Division 5 — John Priestley, Division 6 — Lionel Casavant, Administrator Linda Klimm, and Assistant Administrator — Alan Tanchak.

The meeting was called to order by Reeve

Glenn Lamontagne at 7 a.m.

Assistant Administrator Alan Tanchak arrived at 7:03 a.m.

Chudskov: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 approves the agenda for the Regular Meeting of Council held on June 17, 2025 with the following additions: Town of Blaine Lake added as a delegation. Gord Androssoff added as a delegation. AgriTeam Invoice #INVH32292. Dennis Osachoff AR Invoices #2019-00049 & 2019-00064. Carried

Priestley: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 approves the May 21, 2025, Special Meeting minutes as presented. Carried

Priestley: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 ap-

proves the June 6, 2025, Special Meeting minutes as presented. Carried

Dolezal: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 accept the May 2025 Statement of Financial Activities, Income Statement, Budgetary Control, Chequing Account Statement and Bank Reconciliation as presented. Carried

Swystun: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 approves the List of Accounts for Approval for May 2025, including cheques #7363 to #7392 with the total payable amount being \$68,427.09. Carried

Casavant: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 approves invoice #INVH32292 received from AgriTeam Services Inc. for 400 pounds of grass seed in the amount of \$2,360. Carried

Chudskov: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 approves the presented Council indemnity totaling \$4,983.72. Carried.

Mark Curry presented his lead hand report to Council from 7:18 to 7:47 a.m.

Councillor Courtney Swystun declared a Conflict of Interest and left the meeting at 7:40 a.m.

Casavant: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 hire a worker of Courtney Swystun's to seed grass. Carried

Councillor Courtney Swystun returned to Council Chambers at 7:41 a.m.

Mayor Amund Otterson from the Town of Shellbrook addressed Council from 8:00 a.m. to 8:24 a.m. to discuss recreation spending with regard to three facilities.

Councillor Michael

Chudskov declared a Conflict of Interest at 8:48 a.m. and left the meeting.

Councillor Lee Dolezal declared a Conflict of Interest at 8:48 a.m. and left the meeting.

Casavant: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 agree that all costs incurred be the responsibility of the applicant or landowner of SE 09-43-06 W3 prior to the maintenance of the road, as laid out in the servicing agreement, and that Administration be directed to prepare a servicing agreement with respect to the subdivision of SE 09-43-06 W3. Carried

At 8:50 a.m., Councillors Michael Chudskov and Lee Dolezal returned to the meeting.

Lamontagne: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 buy 106 spec crushed gravel from Darrell Fehr at \$14 per yard based on 10,000 crushed yards, and that a vote be recorded. Carried (6 for, 1 against)

Swystun: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 direct Administration to send a letter to Cynthia Popoff that she is notify RM before setting up residence or building anything, and that she requires development permit and/or building permit. Carried

Mark Curry presented an update on grader #618 and the repairs needed from 9:33 to 9:39 a.m.

Councillor Jack Androssoff from the Town of Blaine Lake addressed Council from 9:39 to 9:55 a.m.

Swystun: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 authorize the application of 400 meters of calcium chloride at SW 31-42-07 W3 along Grid #781, and that the cost be the

responsibility of Delta. Carried

Lavoie: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 authorize the application of 600 meters of calcium chloride for 3 residences along the haul route in the RM of Redberry. Carried

Casavant: That Bylaw 06-2025 being A Bylaw for the Encroaching of Roads, be read a first time. Carried (*Editor's note: the bylaw was unanimously given three readings and enacted at the meeting.*)

Casavant: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 direct Administration to send letters to local MLA and SaskTel concerning the poor cell service and that the service is unacceptable and improvements need to be made for safety reasons. Carried

Swystun: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 acknowledge receipt of the Withdrawal Listing received from SMHI, that Council approves all the withdrawals as per the withdrawal listing and that the Reeve and the Administrator sign the SMHI withdrawal listing on behalf of the municipality. Carried

Dolezal: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 acknowledge the letter received from the Canadian Postmasters and Assistants Association-Saskatchewan Branch, and that Administration be directed to send a letter to our local MP. Carried

Chudskov: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 authorizes a payment to Wade Fiala for monthly mowing of \$125 a month payable starting in April 2025. Carried

Dolezal: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 ac-

knowledge receipt of the statement of account received from Saskatchewan Workers' Compensation Board, and that a payment for the first installment of \$6,561.61 be issued. Carried

Priestley: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 authorize payment of the final installment of the 2025 grant for the Wapiti Regional Library in the amount of \$3,133.41. Carried

Swystun: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 authorize payment of our grad advertisement for the 2025 Grad Edition on July 17, 2025, for the Shellbrook Chronicle in the amount of \$30 plus GST. Carried

Chudskov: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 authorize payment to Les Derkachenko for 60 beaver tails in the amount of \$1,800. Carried

Lavoie: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 direct Administration to order pest control supplies as per quoted amount of \$3,684.36 plus applicable taxes. Carried

Lavoie: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 authorize a donation of \$200 to STARS. Carried

Chudskov: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 approve the payment for cleaning up trees to Brian Verbonac in the amount of \$150 plus applicable taxes. Carried

Swystun: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 confirm receipt of the signed road maintenance agreement from the RM of Redberry No. 435. Carried

Chudskov: That the Council of the RM of Blaine Lake #434 adjourn, the time being 11:12 a.m.



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Raleigh the best baseball story of 2025

We'll worry about playoff teams and who will contend for the World Series as late September and October nears, but for now, here's a look at six of the best Major League Baseball stories of 2025.

6. Just in case an argument breaks out, here's the truth: Shohei Ohtani is still the best player in baseball. Through the middle of August, the man they call Showtime had belted 43 home runs, led the league in four or five categories, including OPS and slugging. And, oh yes, he's back pitching after a year away from the mound, with 25 strikeouts in 19 innings as the Dodgers

5. Red-hot teams — the Toronto Blue Jays shocked the baseball world in June and July by winning 24 of 28 games and vaulting into first place in the A.L. East, practically guaranteeing them a playoff spot. But lately, the Milwaukee Brewers

have held the hottest hand, putting together two streaks of 10 or more consecutive victories. It's the first time a team has accomplished that in six years.

4. Jen Pawol made MLB history by becoming the first female to umpire in a regular-season game. She was at first base for a Braves-Miami game on a Friday, at third base the next day and behind the plate on Sunday. She missed a couple, as all umps do, but her overall grade was positive. But what's the big deal? NBA and NFL games have had female officials in the past and by now, it's at the hohum stage.

3. Nick Kurtz of the Homeless Athletics (currently based in Sacramento until their new stadium in Las Vegas is completed) — Almost certainly to be named the American League rookie of the year, Kurtz stunned the baseball world on July 25 with four home runs, eight RBI, went 6-for-6 and finished with 19 total



BRUCE PENTON

bases. It was an astonishing display of power for the 22-year-old 6-foot-5, 240-pound first baseman.

2. Who is Pete Crow-Armstrong and why is he such a big deal? He may be the most popular player of any sport in the city of Chicago (sorry, Connor Bedard). The second-year Cub centerfielder has speed, power and the most important ingredient when it comes to winning over fans — charisma. And a great name, to boot. Crow-Armstrong has a huge following on Instagram and a recent story on ESPN.com said "For a league in search

of superstars, MLB sees Crow-Armstrong as the next big thing." While his batting average is hovering in the .260 range, Crow-Armstrong displays power (27 homers) and speed (30 stolen bases.)

1. Cal Raleigh — The breakout champion of 2025. The Mariners' catcher had never hit more than 34 homers in a season, but after 121 games, he had a majors'-leading 46 to his credit, plus 100 RBI. He also won the mid-season Home Run Derby. The game's best individual story for 2025. Raleigh's bat has turned Seattle into a playoff-bound unit.

• Headline at fark.com: "Bill Belichick's girlfriend Jordon Hudson cold-calls sports gossip podcast host regarding episode about her infamous appearance at Miss Maine pageant, proves very quickly she's a certifiable mess."

• Mike Bianchi of the Orlando Sentinel, on the 'massive mess' in U.S. college football:

"Fixing it is like trying to stop a tornado with a 'no trespassing' sign."

• RJ Currie of sports-deke.com: "Three by-products of Dennis Shapovalov being driven by what the ATP website calls 'puppy power:' 3. His forehand will get unleashed; 2. He'll play with more dogged determination; 1. He can give his opponents 'what fur.'"

• Greg Cote of the Miami Herald, on the 'oddity' of President Trump having former Giants linebacker Lawrence Taylor attend the official announcement of the Presidential Fitness Test: "Taylor's past, of course, includes cocaine, tax evasion and a guilty plea to the statutory rape of a 16-year-old. Are Trump's advisers all on vacation?"

• Comedy writer Alex Kaseberg: "A racehorse in Ohio tested positive for meth. They first suspected a problem when the horse wouldn't shut up about his screenplay."

• Retired QB Tim Te-

bow, reciting one of his favourite quotes: "Hard work beats talent when talent doesn't work hard."

• Former MLB pitcher Jim Boutin: "Baseball players are smarter than football players. How often do you see a baseball team penalized for too many men on the field?"

• RJ Currie again: "Alica Schmidt, dubbed the world's sexiest athlete, has blamed COVID for her poor performance at the German national track and field championships. Trust me, COVID is a real Schmidt disturber."

• Headline at theonion.com: "Panicking NBC Realizes They Left Cris Collinsworth In Broadcast Booth All Offseason"

• Another one from fark.com: "SF Giants manager Bob Melvin talks about how the team can pull out of its current mess. Surprisingly absent: Firing Bob Melvin."

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

Youth services hub opens on Sturgeon Lake FN

By **MINISTRY OF HEALTH**
Submitted

The province's fourth integrated youth services (IYS) location opened its doors in Sturgeon Lake First Nation, delivering supports to young people ages 12 to 25 and their caregivers.

The hub is located about 30 minutes northwest of Prince Albert and will operate under the name HOME-BASE. It will provide co-located access to mental health and addictions services; physical health services; peer supports; education, employment and training supports; cultural and traditional supports; and social and community supports.

"I am pleased that Sturgeon Lake First Nation is home to a new

HOME-BASE hub," Mental Health and Addictions Minister Lori Carr said. "Integrated youth services are an effective way to connect young people with the resources they need in the right place, at the right time."

The HOME-BASE provincial team within the John Howard Society of Saskatchewan (JHSS) is leading the implementation of four hubs across the province with \$4.5 million in 2025/26 from the Government of Saskatchewan for development and operations.

"We are proud to launch an integrated youth services hub on Sturgeon Lake First Nation, in collaboration with the Sturgeon Lake Health Centre, formerly home to a national research project, Saskatchewan's Access Open Minds site," HOME-

BASE Director of Integrated Youth Services JHSS Pamela Reimer said. "This partnership allows us to build on the incredible work already underway in the community and to expand culturally responsive services for all youth."

Sturgeon Lake First Nation Health Centre has been contracted to operate the hub.

"The HOME-BASE Sturgeon Lake First Nation hub will empower youth to achieve a vision for success through the delivery of integrated services and holistic teaching," HOME-BASE SLFN Integrated Youth Services Manager Sandra Felix said.

IYS is a national and international movement, aimed at reimagining how youth and their caregivers find and access the resources, services

and supports they need.

In January 2024, the JHSS announced that four IYS hubs would open in Saskatchewan, operated by partner organizations. The first HOME-BASE hub in Humboldt opened its doors in September 2024, the second hub opened in Moose Jaw in November 2024, while the third hub opened in Regina in December 2024. Sturgeon Lake First Nation is the fourth community to launch service at a HOME-BASE hub.

HOME-BASE services are available to any young person wishing to access them, regardless of where they live in Saskatchewan.

Additional information on HOME-BASE's integrated youth services is available at homebasesask.ca and Integrated Youth Services.

What happens when you don't advertise?

Very little.

Spiritwood Library activity highlights

By **HEATHER GATZKE**
Branch Librarian

The Spiritwood Public Library was host to some strange and exotic animals on Wednesday, Aug. 6.

The library invited The Adventure Wranglers Zoo to come and visit. Ashley and Trevor presented the various animals, describing and talking about each one, peppered with questions and comments from the audience.

After the presentation, they formed line-ups to allow either holding or petting of the 10 animals. Some animals were very special and were not allowed to be pet, but everyone had a chance to see them and have their picture taken with them. There were corn snakes, a ball python, a leopard gecko, another type of gecko, an African bullfrog, red-footed tortoise, a pygmy African hedgehog, a bearded dragon by the name of Moo-shoo, and Charlotte the tarantula.

Sixty-five adults and children of all ages were delighted to see all the animals. Some kids were a little nervous to hold them but still wanted a picture with them. That also included a librarian with arachnophobia who was even able to give Charlotte a gentle hi-five with her pinkie finger.

Everyone enjoyed the program, which was made possible with the financial and medical support of Farm Docs Animal Health Services.

The Spiritwood Public Library Dessert of the Month winner for August was Megan Allard. Board member Stacey Gaboury created a pistachio ice-cream cake just perfect for Tuesday, Aug. 19, as it was a very warm day.



A crowd of 65 adults and children came out to the library to meet some exotic animals.



Megan Allard (left) accepts her Dessert of the Month from Stacey Gaboury.



Trevor and Ashley show off a snake and its shed.



A young attendee works up the courage to touch Charlotte the tarantula.



An attendee takes a close look at Moo-shoo the bearded dragon.

Province expands pharmacist training

By **MINISTRY OF HEALTH**
Submitted

The Government of Saskatchewan is expanding the ability of pharmacists to offer more care to patients with new training that will allow them to substitute medications under specific conditions.

With this new training, pharmacists will be able to prescribe alternative medications under conditions approved by the Saskatchewan College of Pharmacy Professionals (SCPP) such as during a supply disruption or shortage of a prescribed drug. For example, if a patient's prescription heartburn medication is unavailable, a pharmacist would be able to substitute it with a different appropriate prescription heartburn medication.

"Pharmacists are trusted, highly skilled health professionals, who, in many communities, are the primary

access point for health-care services," Health Minister Jeremy Cockrill said. "Giving pharmacists the ability to prescribe alternative medications means Saskatchewan patients can benefit from more timely and accessible health care."

Pharmacists will be required to take training and meet competency requirements as established by the Saskatchewan College of Pharmacy Professionals and follow mandatory guidelines.

"Therapeutic substitution under Advanced Prescribing A enables pharmacists to respond more effectively to medication availability and patient needs," SCPP President Scott Livingstone said. "By supporting access to equivalent therapies when a prescribed product is unavailable, this change helps minimize treatment delays and disruptions in care."

Pharmacists will have the ability

to prescribe an alternative drug under other circumstances, including when a drug is officially withdrawn from the market; the patient's safety is at risk and the prescriber cannot be reached in a reasonable timeframe; or the patient is unable to take the initial drug and would benefit from a different drug with an alternative dosage or way of administering it, such as by mouth instead of by injection.

"We want to thank the Government of Saskatchewan for their ongoing commitment to enhancing health services including those in rural and small-town Saskatchewan, and for their leadership in health care," Pharmacy Association of Saskatchewan CEO Michael Fougere said. "Pharmacists are the health system's medication experts. By expanding pharmacists' scope and enabling them to replace a patient's prescribed medication, the government is increasing

health system capacity for Saskatchewan residents."

To date, nine other provinces and territories have implemented similar policies concerning therapeutic substitution.

The scope expansion is guided by the Government of Saskatchewan's Health Human Resources Action Plan to recruit, train, incentivize and retain more health care workers in Saskatchewan.

Saskatchewan pharmacists were first granted the authority to prescribe for four minor ailments in 2012. Since then, the list has grown to more than 30 conditions. The full list of conditions is available at the Saskatchewan College of Pharmacy Professionals website.

There are almost 1,300 practising community pharmacists in more than 430 licensed community pharmacies in Saskatchewan.

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White flowering plants for your garden: Part 1

By **BERNADETTE VANGOOL**
Sask. Perennial Society

Some time ago, a trip to England, included the white garden in Sissinghurst. I have always been attracted to white flowering plants so upon my return home, I decided to make a central flower bed featuring white flowers. You have to be careful what you wish for, because you might get it. Pretty soon I had a flower bed of white, surrounded by a lawn that also included white Dutch clover. I had effectively created a winter landscape in the middle of summer. Needless to say, it was a bit overpowering, and I have been adding in some colour ever since. So, for those who want to start a white garden, I would suggest that you plan to incorporate some blues, pinks or greys right from the get go.

Nevertheless, white can provide great accents and contrast in an otherwise coloured landscape. Here are some white plants that I really love.

Early Spring

'Spring Snow' is a fruitless crabapple with fragrant flowers and dense foliage developed by Bert Porter of Honeywood Nurseries. It is drought-tolerant and extremely cold-hardy. It grows to 6m tall and wide. I was sold a crab apple as 'Spring Snow' but my specimen has small fruit. Since it is not near a walkway, this is not a problem, and it does provide me with great spring

interest, whatever variety it is.

Viburnum opulus 'Snowball Bush', is a beautiful shrub with 10cm round snowball like flowers. Relatively short lived, it was a great addition while in my landscape. About 150cm high, unfortunately, after about five years, it became confused with the seasons and began blooming a second time in late fall. This resulted in not being prepared for winter. It never leafed out the next spring.

Lebanon onion (Allium zebdanense) is a flowering onion that hails from the Middle East. Planted in the fall about five years ago, it is naturalizing in my front garden. It grows to about the same height as common chives with beautiful, delicate flowers in late May.

Allium stippitatum 'White Giant' is about 90cm tall and has 10+cm round globes of densely packed flowers. A great pollinator plant, it naturalizes easily and blooms in early June.

Late Spring

'White Swan' large-petaled clematis (Clematis macropetala), a vine hybridized by Frank Skinner from Dropmore Manitoba, is featured at the Heritage Rose Garden at the Saskatoon Forestry Farm Park. Supported by an arbor about 150 cm in height, it starts blooming on old wood at the end of May.

Peonies come in colours from white to pink, red and even yellow. One of the very beautiful single bloom peo-

nies is 'Krinkled White', blooming in the gardens in mid-June. The large blossoms of crinkled white with golden stamens in the centre are borne on flexible stems and do not require support. It is slightly fragrant, makes a great cut flower and the foliage remains attractive through the summer. Another white variety is 'Frances Willard', which has sturdy stems, but some years requires staking because of its very large double flower heads. 'Festiva Maxima' is a popular choice and has been in cultivation for over 150 years. The large white flowers (15+cm) with crimson accents are on 90cm sturdy stems, and need to be supported in my garden.

Next to flower are the roses. I have 'Morden Snow Beauty' which always puts on a great show. Although it often suffers die-back in early spring it never fails to recover and delight, with slightly fragrant flushes of white semi-double flowers. So far it has remained disease free. It is well established and I have had it for over twenty years. Roses benefit with careful pruning in spring, once they

begin leafing out as well as careful deadheading to encourage a second flush of blooms. 'Oscar Peterson' is a white rose, released in the Artist Series of Canadian roses, after the rose breeding was discontinued in Ottawa, along with 'Henry Hudson', a fragrant rugosa rose in the Explorer series of roses, would be great addition to a white garden.

A unique plant in my garden is the white gas plant (Dictamnus albus). It forms a bushy, upright mound with spiky, fragrant, pure white flowers. The seedpods, formed after flowering, continue to give the plant interest. It grows about 60 to 90cm tall. Wear gloves when handling the plant as some people are sensitive to its touch. It has a lemony smell and produces volatile oils, which can be ignited on hot summer days. The burning bush referred to in the bible may well have been a gas plant.

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



Krinkled White' peony at the Heritage Rose Garden in Saskatoon.

Photo credit: Bernadette Vangoool

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