



Blaine Lake Community Centre celebrates opening



Bouncy castles were among the activities offered to kids.

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

Nearly a year after it partnered with the Town of Blaine Lake to acquire the former Blaine Lake Gospel Chapel with the hopes of transforming it into a community centre, the Blaine Lake Community Association (BLCA) celebrated the re-imagined facility's grand opening on Friday, Sept. 5.

The celebration was rolled into the BLCA's annual end-of-summer BBQ, and families were invited to come out for a free burger or hot dog (with chips and a pop or juice box) and tour the community centre. Additionally, bouncy castles, a face painting table, and a number of games and activities were set up to keep kids entertained

over the course of the three-hour event.

Though not an old building, the former gospel chapel had gone unused as a place of worship since December 2023, but was being rented by a number of community groups, including the local Playschool.

When word came down in February 2024 that the church was closing, BLCA member Jenna Englot says there was a brief period of panic that the building would be sold, because there weren't any other dedicated community spaces in Blaine Lake.

But rather than give up, the BLCA put together a proposal to purchase the building from the Mennonite Central Committee and convert it into a multi-purpose community space.

The Mennonite Central Committee greeted the proposal with enthusiasm, and so, too, did the Town of Blaine Lake, which bankrolled the purchase of the building and officially took possession of it in October 2024. The BLCA and other groups have been using the facility since then, with much of the work to renovate it beginning this past spring.

"It's been a really cool project because it's been a collaborative effort," Englot said, noting that the BLCA has taken responsibility for operating and managing the new community centre.

"The BLCA has been accessing grants and fundraising to do all of the work needed within the building. It will be a project that's ongoing as we access grants and funds to be able to

retrofit spaces and turn it into something great."

Complete with an updated kitchen and newly acquired and built furniture, the larger portion of the Blaine Lake Community Centre's main floor will be the community commons, a multi-purpose space that can be rented by local individuals or groups and used for youth programming.

Meanwhile, the former chapel space is expected to become the new home of the Blaine Lake Public Library at some point this fall. Currently, repainting of the space is under way, and there are plans to convert the stage area into a kid's reading nook. Then, it's just the matter of moving in the books and shelves.

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Island Forest given two-year reprieve

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle
Reporter

“The land has a story to tell,” says Dave Rondeau, a Métis community-based researcher and vocational archaeologist based out of Crutwell. For years now, Rondeau’s dedicated his efforts to unearthing these myriad stories in hopes of preserving the region’s Indigenous and non-Indigenous history. And now, after the Ministry of Environment’s Forest Service announced a two-year moratorium on clear-cutting in the Island Forest, which is comprised of the Canwood, Nisbet, Fort-a-la-Corne, and Torch River Provincial Forests, he

has time to continue this work. “We’re heavily invested in the archaeological study of a site not too far from here called Asowananihk, and what’s going to be going on in the interim is we’re going to be expanding our study of the territory,” he said. “We’re also going to be expanding our studies to encompass these areas in an effort to identify any other pre-contact archaeological sites, first contact archaeological sites, and areas that were used post-contact by the local Indigenous people as well.” The clear-cutting moratorium was announced following an extensive mandatory consultation process between the pro-

vincial government, surrounding First Nations, and a large group of Indigenous and non-Indigenous community members who we concerned about the destruction of the forest and the erasure of local history. While he was initially sceptical of the existing consultation framework, which he believed was more about “manufacturing consent” for forestry operations, Rondeau says he was elated when he learned that the moratorium had been granted. “They acknowledged our concerns around the heritage content of that territory, and the amount of traditional users who utilize that land for Section 35 rights,” he said. “It was also acknowledged that the land has a high number of local people from the pioneering community who utilize it also.” Though a previous clear-cutting moratorium was overturned just months after the provincial government granted it, Rondeau says he’s more hopeful the government won’t renege on its commitment this time around, because of the attention the issue received and the community’s commitment to defending the forest. “Engaging through the



Volunteer Elly Mitchell and archaeologist Bailey Pelletier screen material from a dig site during a week-long research study in the forest this past summer.

consultation process was Plan A to protect the forest,” he said. “Plan B was we were going to have people out there. We were not going to let this happen.” With the temporary moratorium granted, consultations are continuing with representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture’s Lands Branch in the hopes of making it permanent. Only then, says Rondeau, can the true work of reversing the damage done by previous logging activity begin. Rondeau says discussions are already underway to establish

Indigenous stewardship programs that would blend Western techniques with Indigenous knowledge to re-establish the berries and other sustenance in the Island Forest and return it to a semblance of what it once was. Noting that Crutwell was once a gathering place during berry season, providing plenty for all who came, Rondeau acknowledges that it will be a decades-long process to restore the forest to this state — and it won’t be anywhere near as simple as just planting a bunch of trees. “You look at the drought conditions we’re under for this summer... how well do you think saplings would do?” he said. “A lot of it has to do with controlled conditions, irrigation, and these types of things. It will probably be a slower process until it becomes established. But once you establish a forest, it does create its own micro-ecology.” Addressing naysayers, who argue that efforts to revitalize the forest are pointless when “it’s just going to burn anyway,” Rondeau says the damage done by clear cutting is far greater, because “the forest fire is as natural as the forest itself.” Indigenous people had an innate understanding of this, using ceremonial and controlled burns to ensure the forest remained healthy. This natural process, says Rondeau, simply can’t be mimicked by forestry operations. “The unnatural procedures we’ve done are really compromising the forest, and especially something as fragile as the Island Forest.”



A camp with tipis was set up in the forest for the research study.



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“We’re so excited for the library to move in here. They’re in quite an old building in town that’s almost past the point of repair,” Englot said.

Heading down to the Blaine Lake Communi-

ty Centre’s basement, the Playschool will continue to run out of its dedicated space. And though much work still needs to be done, the rest of the basement will become a fitness centre, which will be accessed via a separate entrance.

“We’ve got a long road ahead of us. We’re going to tackle upstairs first and support the library getting moved in, and there are a few things that need to happen in the community commons before it can really be taken advantage of,” Englot said.

“The fitness centre will be the last thing, because it’s more of a niche group that would access that space.”

Beyond the work that still needs to be done inside, Englot says the BLCA is working on signage for the community centre, which

will be selected through a contest. There are also hopes to create a community mural on an exterior wall that

currently has religious paintings.

“That will be coming summer of 2026,” she said.



The grill was fired up throughout the evening, as families came out for a free burger or hot dog.



Volunteers were painting faces with a variety of designs.



The hope is to turn this wall space into a community mural in 2026.



The former chapel space will be the new home of the Blaine Lake Public Library.



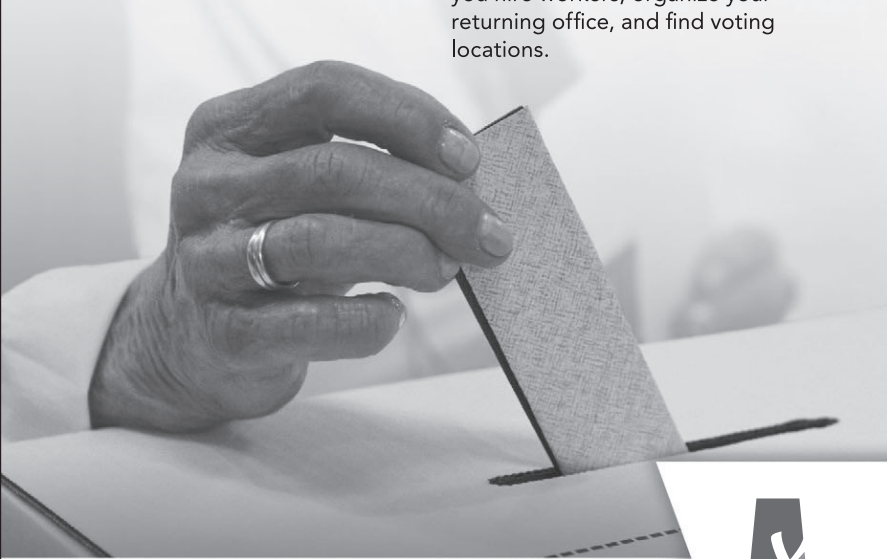
The larger portion of the centre’s main floor will serve as the community commons, to be used for programming or rented out.


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NDP leadership race off to worrying start

Though everyone knew it was coming – well, everyone who cares about the federal NDP, at least – the arrival of September brought with it the official launch of the NDP’s search for a replacement for former Leader Jagmeet Singh.

The party’s new leader will be chosen by registered NDP members on March 29, 2026, and the party is doing everything it can to build excitement for the race.

“This leadership race is an exciting opportunity for our members and for people across the country who share progressive values,” NDP president Mary Shortall said in a statement.

“It will spark important conversations about the kind of future we want to build together, rooted in fairness, justice, and hope. I know our members are eager to take part in a contest that is democratic, inclusive, and inspiring for the entire movement,” she added.

Certainly, this is a pivotal moment in history for the NDP.

After Mr. Singh led the party to claim only 7 seats and 6.3 per cent of the vote in the spring election, and finished a distant third in his own Burnaby Central riding, it’s a moment in which the party’s existence is at stake.

How did the NDP find itself in such dire straits? Well, former NDP MP Charlie Angus may have said it best when he offered his take on where the party went wrong.

“When it came to the biggest economic and political crisis in memory, we didn’t have an offer on the table because we were selling a leader and his likable personality and his style,” he said.

“We stopped being the New Democratic Party of Canada [at] some time, and we became a leader-driven movement.”

Likeable, larger-than-life party leaders have long been a hallmark of American politics, making for a stark contrast with Canada’s tradition of electing (predominantly) stodgy old



JORDAN
TWISS

~
News Editor

white guys in suits.

But starting in 2015 with the election of former Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Canadian politics began veering more towards American-style political entertainment.

Mr. Trudeau was the second youngest prime minister in Canadian history when he was sworn in, and he came into the job with youthful zeal, optimism, and sky-high ambitions for making Canada a better

and fairer country for all Canadians.

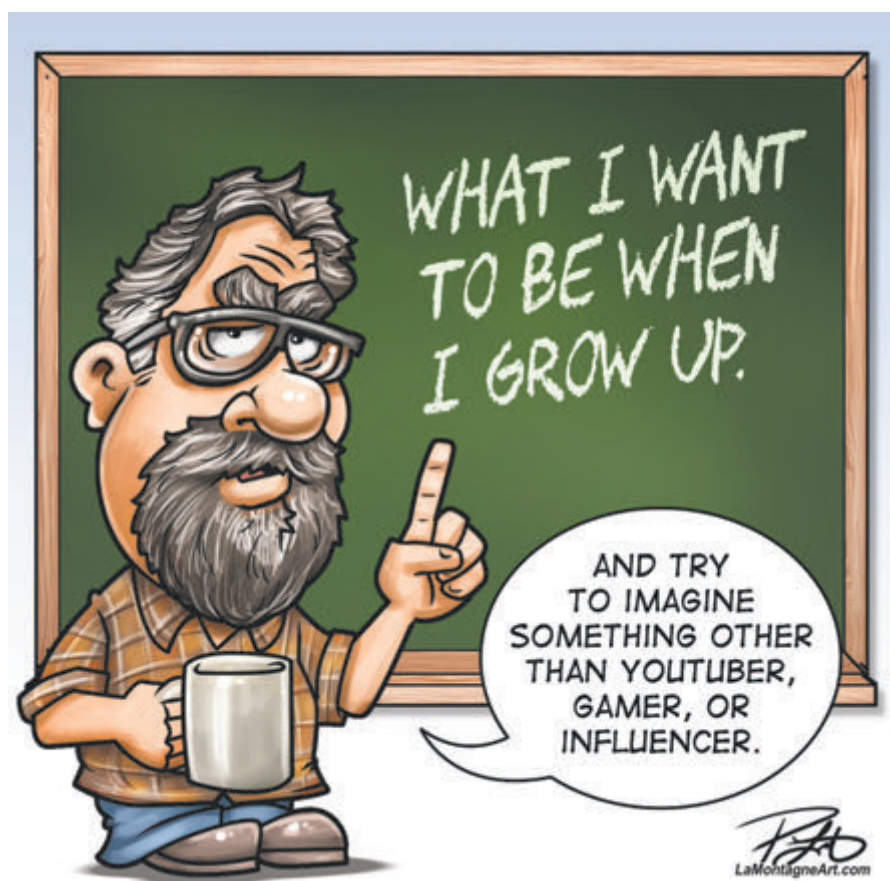
Becoming NDP Leader two years later, at an even more youthful 39 years of age, Mr. Singh tried to blaze a similar trail to Mr. Trudeau, leading with his personality and making efforts to connect with voters through burgeoning social media platforms like TikTok.

The trouble was, Mr. Trudeau and his government had already started to lose their lustre, as they became mired in scandal after scandal.

By the time the 2019 federal election rolled around, Mr. Singh hadn’t done enough to sell his party’s vision to Canadians, leading the party to lose nearly half the seats it had won under former leader Tom Mulcair in 2015 (down to 24 from 44). And a snap pandemic election in 2021 resulted in Mr. Singh’s NDP gaining just one seat.

After two less-than-inspiring outings, it was almost as if Mr. Singh gave up trying to sell the NDP to Canadians. Instead, he chose to hitch his political career to the fast-sinking ship of the Liberal government by way of a supply and confidence agreement that effectively kept Mr. Trudeau in power for another four years.

Though hated by its opponents, the supply and confidence agreement can’t be considered a total waste of time for Mr. Singh’s NDP. Through it, the NDP was able to secure legislative commitments on its priorities, such as dental care benefits, one-time rental supplements for low-income tenants, a temporary doubling of the GST rebate, and a national school food pro-



gram that began with this school year.

It also secured commitments from the Liberals on a pharmacare, and a proposed safe long-term care act – though, it remains unclear if current Prime Minister Mark Carney will honour these commitments.

Only in the fall of 2024, when the Liberals and Mr. Trudeau were at historic lows of unpopularity, did Mr. Singh choose to jump ship. But even after he dramatically tore up the supply and confidence agreement, he still lacked the courage of his convictions to force an early election via a non-confidence vote.

And at the same time, there seemed to be no new or engaging ideas coming from Mr. Singh, who had backed away from supporting a carbon tax and made “Make the rich pay their fair share” his one and only rallying cry.

In the end, all that got him and his party this past spring was 7 paltry seats. Now, like the Liberals when Mr. Trudeau finally resigned at the start of 2025, the NDP is left to pick up the pieces and attempt to reforge them into a better future under a better leader.

But who might that leader be?

Many eyes seem to be on Heather McPherson, who managed to hold onto the NDP’s Edmonton-Strathcona seat in the spring election. There’s also

talks that Jenny Kwan, the party’s MP for Vancouver East, might throw her name in the hat.

Other names being tossed about include outgoing Montréal Mayor Valérie Plante (who has been non-committal about running), former NDP MP Charlie Angus (who chose not to run in the spring), Avi Lewis (the son of former Ontario NDP leader Stephen Lewis and grandson of former federal NDP leader David Lewis), Ruth Ellen Brosseau (who has failed to win a seat in the past three elections), and Matthew Green (who lost his Hamilton Centre seat in the spring).

Aside from Mr. Angus and perhaps Ms. McPherson and Ms. Kwan, the rest of the candidates are essentially a “who’s who” of options – as in, “Who the heck are these people?”

Indeed, over the summer, a Research Co. poll found that the majority of Canadians don’t know who many of these prospective leaders are. Of those potentially in the running, Ms. Kwan received the strongest response, with 22 per cent of respondents saying they “definitely” or “probably” want to see her run for the leadership.

Not exactly an inspiring result, but whoever becomes NDP leader next spring will have three years to lead the party down the long road to redemption.

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Publications Mail Registration #07621

Published Every Thursday Morning

P.O. Box 10, Shellbrook, Sask. S0J 2E0
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Office Hours: Monday - Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.;

Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.;

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

Websites: www.shellbrookchronicle.com

www.spiritwoodherald.com

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Love & Laughter Daycare hosts expansion fundraiser

By **BEVRA FEE**
Spiritwood Herald Reporter

The Love & Laughter Daycare in Spiritwood hosted a Jail & Bail fundraiser to renovate a recently-acquired house on Thursday, Sept. 4.

The new acquisition will add 27 spaces to the daycare's existing capacity (for a total of 50 spots). With a current waitlist sitting at 78, the expansion project will fill a great need in the community.

The Jail & Bail saw a massive cleanup of "criminals," as 35 individuals were arrested on 40 charges. Many feigned innocence, but the charges stuck and the offenders were hauled off to await discharge only after they

raised bail. Geraldine Lavoie, wanted on outstanding warrants for mostly farm-related incidents, was apprehended while trying to disguise herself while out shopping, and claimed the worn-out alibi, "They were somebody else's chickens!"

Joyce Willick was also brought under control after a long stretch on the run through the grocery store, nearly managing to escape charges of driving the Zamboni too fast. Taken away in handcuffs (under much protest), Willick was able to raise bail despite her kids not answering their phones.

In addition to the Jail & Bail activities, the Love & Laughter Daycare board members also hosted a hamburg-

er and hotdog sale at the site of the new expansion. Tours of the building were given to members of the public, while kids enjoyed the

bouncy castle outside in the yard.

Occupying a double lot, the venue will offer an ideal location as it sits directly across

the street from both of Spiritwood's elementary schools.

Reports from the preliminary accounting of

the total funds raised at Thursday's event were pegged at over \$10,000, as reported by board member Michelle Brule.



Rivier Elementary School principal Adrian Poirier was jailed on charges of eating too much TJ's Pizza.



Geraldine Lavoie is led away by expansion committee member Brendon Smith.



Love & Laughter Daycare board members set up for BBQ at the site of the expansion.

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Shell Lake seniors host Bud Dicus Memorial

By DAVID JENSEN
Submitted

The Shell Lake Fifty-plus Club hosted the Bud Dicus Memorial Golf Tournament at the Memorial Lake Golf Course on Thursday, Aug. 28. Even though the forecast called for temperatures of 30-plus degrees, 75 participants registered to golf. Teams were chosen randomly during the registration process. Golfing began at 10 a.m. with a shotgun start.

After nine holes were completed, regardless of where they were in the course, the teams gathered at the clubhouse for lunch. This year's lunch was truly special. Everything needed was purchased at the local Shell Lake Market grocery store, and a club member brought cool macaroni salad. Since last year's tournament, the store has added a bakery, so fresh baked buns, deli meats, cheezies, and condiments made

for a to-die-for lunch. But that was not everything. The culminating touch to lunch were the dessert options — and once again the ladies outdid themselves with an array of cakes and other delicious desserts. After lunch, play continued, with the teams completing a total of 18 holes for the tournament. Then, once the golfing was done, the teams once again gathered around the putting green for the awarding of prizes.

This year, the low-score winners were the team of Wade Connolly, Karl Henry, Dennis St. Amant, and Wally Tetarenko. Each of them received a keeper trophy to add to their collection. In addition, by random draw, two other teams were drawn to receive cash prizes.

The team of Lorraine Diehl, Norman Poirier, Ellis Vaagen, and John Duncan was drawn to receive \$120 to be shared. The second team of Percy Wright, Mike Seibel, Kathleen Dubé, and David Jensen was drawn for a cash prize of

\$60 to be shared. There also were prizes awarded on four specialty holes. All in all, considering the heat and a new organizing committee, the tournament was successful. The Shell Lake Fifty-plus Club looks forward to next year's event.



Tournament low score winners, from left to right: Wade Connolly, Karl Henry, Dennis St. Amant, and Wally Tetarenko.



Random prize draw winners of \$120, from left to right: Lorraine Diehl, Norman Poirier, Ellis Vaagen, and John Duncan.



Random prize draw winners of \$60, from left to right: Percy Wright, Mike Seibel, Kathleen Dubé, and David Jensen.

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 Hours: Tuesday 9:30am - 4pm; Wednesday 10:30am - 5pm; 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)

SHELLBROOK: Prairie Pickleball Club – Come out and try the fun & social sport of Recreational Pickleball in Shellbrook! New Players: Free Play and Beginner Lesson for the month of October! For more information or to register, phone/text: Betty Skarpinsky at (306)747-7377 or Dianne Roberts at (306)619-9295.
SHELLBROOK: Light & Lumber Rustic Market – Saturday, September 20th, 2025, Shellbrook Elks Sports Grounds, 9am to 3pm. Crafted with heart • Rooted in memory.
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SHELL LAKE: Annual Fall Supper – Sunday, October 5 @ Shell Lake Community Hall. Doors open 4:30pm; Supper 5 - 7pm. Adults \$20; 12 & Under \$8; Pre-school Free. Sponsored by: Our Lady of Smiles Catholic Church & Partners in Worship Church.
SHELL LAKE: Shell Lake Lions Club – Septemberfest. Dining, Dancing, Elimination Draw. September 27, 2025 @ Shell Lake Lions Hall. Doors Open @ 5pm, Dinner @ 6pm. Elimination Draw Grand Prize: \$1,000. Music By: Dixie Highway. \$60/Ticket - Tickets available at Shell Lake Market 306-427-2044 or Belinda 306-260-4531. Only 200 tickets to be sold.

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Return to nature could help ag sector

I will admit I am not exactly sure if this is an agriculture topic or not, but it is most definitely cattle adjacent and interesting.

I stumbled upon a recent *Copenhagen Post* announcement — amid the usual Facebook detritus of cartoons, the latest Trump foible, and cute pet pics (a few of our guinea pigs admittedly) — that 30 Tauros cattle will be released into Saksfjed Wilderness in Lolland, Denmark.

Why is that of interest?

Well it's a project that hopes the cattle mimic what Aurochs once did in terms of the land.

Aurochs, which ex-

isted some 7,000 years ago, were a large breed of cattle known for creating the very habitats that several endangered species depend on.

From the newspaper article posted, “now, a breeding programme backed by the Hempel Foundation, has selectively bred six of the world’s oldest cattle breeds to bring thirty Tauros oxen to life, without the use of genetic manipulation. The oxen, released into the 800-hectare Saksfjed Wilderness in southern Lolland, closely resemble the Aurochs—a species now represented only in museums and cave art—both physically and genetically.



CALVIN DANIELS

“The Tauros ox is not just a spectacular animal but also an important key to understanding how large herbivores can strengthen the effects of rewilding and promote biodiversity,” says Jens-Christian Svenning, a biology professor at Aarhus University.

By releasing Tauros ox bulls in Saksfjed Wil-

derness, biologists and conservationists hope to restore the role aurochs played in Danish nature, via promoting biodiversity and balancing the ecosystem.”

So I imagine these animals are going to do something much like what bison did in North America before man slaughtered the great herds to near extinction.

“Large herbivores can suppress woody growth, change plant communities, and reshape landscapes when they reach sufficient densities, according to an ecological framework,” explained a *www.earth.com* article on the Danish effort. “The presence of large

herbivores can influence fire patterns, nutrient cycling, and habitat structure in ways that many smaller species cannot match.

“Conservationists call these animals keystone species because their actions support many others. Grazing, trampling, and browsing create bare ground, short grass, and mixed patches that benefit plants, insects, birds, and fungi.”

It is interesting that regenerative agriculture proponent Kevin Elmy custom grazed bison on his farm near Saltcoats before retiring because the big beasts were good for the soil.

To that end, a group of some 30 regenerative ag producers from Australia recently toured farms in Western Canada, among them a Manitoba bison producer.

We have, of course, made huge strides in terms of ag production through the centuries, but there are still elements Mother Nature may well do better. Too often, we have stomped out natural systems in favour of the plough, but maybe we are finally learning we need to work more in concert with natural systems and that may mean turning back the clock on occasion — like with the release of the Tauros cattle.

Crop Report: Aug. 26 to Sept. 1

By MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
Submitted

Dry conditions in most of the province last week allowed producers to make significant progress in the field. Currently, 23 per cent of crops have been harvested, which is up from the 11 per cent reported last week. Harvest progress remains behind the five-year average of 40 per cent and the 10-year average of 34 per cent.

The southwest region continues to lead with 39 per cent of this year’s crop in the bin. The southeast region follows closely with 33 per cent of the crop harvested. Producers have harvested 16 per cent of crops in the east-central, 13 per cent in the northeast and 12 per cent in the northwest regions. The west-central region has the most crops remaining in the field with only 10 per cent of crops harvested.

Most winter cereal acres are off with 91 per cent of winter wheat and 88 per cent of fall rye harvested. Pulse crop harvest has also substantially increased last week with 73 per cent of field peas and 60 per cent of lentils in the bin. For spring cereal crops, triticale is the furthest ahead at 61 per cent, followed by barley at 34 per cent and durum at 30 per cent. Oats are 17 per cent and spring wheat is 14 per cent completed. Most oilseed crops are still in the field. Mustard is the furthest advanced at 10 per cent harvested, followed by canola at four per cent. No flax crops have been reported as harvested yet.

Most parts of the province were dry last week with only small amounts of rain falling in the southwest. The Piapot area reported the highest amount of rainfall for the week at 25 millimetres (mm), followed by the Dollard area at 20 mm. The Cadillac and Shaunavon areas received 18 mm over the past week.

Producers were happy with the limited rainfall that allowed them to make steady harvest progress, but this also caused a slight decline in topsoil moisture levels. Currently, cropland topsoil moisture is rated as two per cent surplus, 67 per cent adequate, 29 per cent short and two per cent very short. Hayland topsoil moisture is rated as two per cent surplus, 55 per cent adequate, 36 per cent short and seven per cent very short. Pasture

topsoil moisture is rated as three per cent surplus, 51 per cent adequate, 37 per cent short and nine per cent very short. Producers are hopeful for rain following harvest to help replenish soil moisture conditions and mitigate fire risk.

Crop damage reported over the past week was mainly due to wind and dry conditions. Crop regrowth and lodging have caused some challenges for producers while combining. Grasshoppers and bertha army worms continue to cause minor crop damage in some regions of the province.

As producers continue with harvest and other field work, they are reminded to exercise caution and remain safe in all the work that they do. Fire risk remains high in many areas due to the dry conditions. In addition to carrying fire extinguishers on equipment, producers are encouraged to have water trucks and tillage equipment on stand-by to mitigate risk.

Northwestern Sask.

Many producers have started combining as warm weather has helped crops mature. Currently, 12 per cent of crops are harvested in the northwest. Similar to the rest of the province, this is behind the five-year average of 18 per cent and the 10-year average of 15 per cent. As producers are starting to harvest, they are also swath and desiccating crops. Unfortunately, there have been a couple of equipment fires in the region this harvest season. Producers are highly encouraged to be aware of fire risks when they conduct field work and have fire-prevention measures in place.

Nearly all winter cereal crops have been combined in the region as all winter wheat and 88 per cent of fall rye crops are in the bin. Almost three-quarters of pulse crops have been combined with harvest progress for field pea and lentils crops now at 74 per cent. Producers have made some progress with their spring cereal crops. Currently, 22 per cent of barley, 20 per cent of spring wheat, and 16 per cent of oats have been harvested. No oilseed crops have been harvested yet, but approximately one-third of canola and flax crops have been swath. A full summary of individual crop harvest progress for all regions can be viewed in the attached harvest progress table.

Like most of the province, there wasn’t any notable rainfall in the northwest last week, which

caused soil moisture levels to decline. Currently, cropland topsoil moisture is rated as 55 per cent adequate, 40 per cent short and five per cent very short. Hayland topsoil moisture is rated as 41 per cent adequate, 48 per cent short and 11 per cent very short. Pasture topsoil moisture is rated as 35 per cent adequate, 52 per cent short and 13 per cent very short. Given the dry conditions for most of the year, producers are hoping for abundant rainfall after harvest to help replenish soil moisture conditions and improve pasture conditions for next year.

Crop damage over the past week was mainly caused by dry conditions and bertha army worms. There are also some reports of waterfowl feeding on swathed crops and lodging from windy conditions. Overall, the damage reported is considered minor and not widespread throughout the region.

A complete, printable version of the Crop Report is available online.

R.M. OF CANWOOD NO. 494 PUBLIC NOTICE

In the matter of Section 13 of *The Municipalities Act*, being a statute of the Province of Saskatchewan and pursuant to the Public Notice Bylaw No. 2005-10 of the R.M. of Canwood No. 494, notice is hereby given that the Council will consider at their Council Meeting on September 16, 2025, the matter of permanently closing the road allowance for the purpose of consolidation, described as all those portions of the original road allowance within the SW/SE 36-49-07 W3, as shown in the bold dashed line on the map below.



Any person opposing this closure will be given an opportunity to be heard at a public meeting of the Council of the Rural Municipality of Canwood No. 494 on September 16, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. in the Council Chambers, 641 Main Street, Canwood, Sask.

Dated in the Village of Canwood, in the Province of Saskatchewan, this 4th day of September, 2025.

Lorna Benson, *Administrator*

K-12 students begin 2025-2026 school year

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

Summer vacation officially ended for K-12 students and teachers across the province on Tuesday, Sept. 2, as the 2025-2026 school year got underway.

In the same way that last year brought changes to classrooms with the implementation of the Sask Party government’s ban on cell phones, this year will also bring changes for Grade 12 students across the province (mostly those from rural schools), as it marks the first year in which they won’t be required to write provincial exams.

The Sask Party government chose to discontinue the Grade 12 provincial examination program in April, in hopes of creating a more “equitable system for Grade 12 students in Saskatchewan.”

Prior to the change, only some students were required to write examinations in certain Grade 12 subjects. In the 2023-24 school year, for instance, only 25 per cent of students needed to complete

a provincial exam.

“The discontinuation of Provincial Exams, starting in September 2025, aligns with feedback that I have received directly from school board trustees, teachers and families all across this province,” Education Minister Everett Hindley said.

“We are pleased that work continues on developing a Saskatchewan Student Assessment program that will help our schools and government in improving student success.”

With the end of provincial exams, certified teachers will no longer need to be accredited to determine course marks for students, and all Grade 12 course marks will be determined by the teacher as they are in other grades.

The policy change was welcomed by the Saskatchewan Rivers Public School Division Board of Education as well as the student-led Saskatchewan Rivers Students for Change (SRSC), which had been pushing for an end to the examinations.

Among those advocating for the change during the last school year, on the grounds



Shellbrook Elementary School students gather outside the doors on the first day of the 2025-2026 school year.

that the provincial exams disadvantaged students in rural schools where there are fewer accredited teachers, were local and area Grade 12 students Taylor Henderson (W.P. Sandin High School) and Coral Frenette (Carlton Comprehensive High School), who served as the SRSC’s rural and urban representatives, respectively.

Along with changes in the classroom, the 2025-2026 is also bringing changes to staffing at schools.

In Shellbrook, Shellbrook Elementary School welcomed Ryan Gareau as its new principal, while Julie Gareau stepped into the role of vice principal at W.P.

Sandin High School. Meanwhile, Lou-Anne Stefankiw was moved from W.P. Sandin to serve as vice principal at Canwood Public School.

Elsewhere, Sandra Surkan became principal at Big River Public High School, and Armand Tetreault was named the new principal at École Debden Public School.

Flowers for the flight

By **NATURE SASK**
Submitted

As the breeding season for birds wraps up in the prairies, keen observers can turn their eyes to another flighted critter that sticks around into fall: the Monarch butterfly.

The well-known Monarch yearly migration encompasses a journey of nearly 6,000 miles, a journey that takes four generations of this enigmatic species to

complete. At the very northern tip of their range, Saskatchewan is lucky enough to host several generations of this butterfly over the summer months, from when they arrive in June until they depart with the frost in September.

Most generations of the Monarch will only live a few weeks, living and breeding in partnership with the Milkweed plant on the prairies; the fall generation,

however, is special, as this is the generation that lives 9 months, completing the entire migration south and propelling the population forward into the next year.

“To complete such a vast migration requires quite a bit of energy for such a small animal,” Emily Putz, Habitat Stewardship Coordinator for Nature Saskatchewan’s Stewards of Saskatchewan banner program comments.

“This is where the public can come in to help!”

Monarchs are struggling, with population declines of up to 90% and federally listed as an endangered species. One of their biggest threats is habitat loss, including both Milkweed habitat needed for breeding, but also other nectaring species.

“There is a lot of emphasis on Milkweed habitat when talking about the Monarch,” Putz notes, “and oth-

er nectaring habitat is sometimes overlooked. The adults rely on a lot of our wildflower species to gain the energy they need in their life cycle.”

For the fall generation, this means that folks can help by planting fall gardens, with species that bloom right up until frost. Native species that are particular favourites to the Monarchs and have bloom periods August-September include Goldenrods, Smooth Aster, Many-flowered Aster, Blazing Stars, and Black-eyed Susan. Including these in your garden can give not only Monarchs the boost they need, but also fuel other species late into the season, including bumblebees and migrating birds.

“You get to enjoy blooms right up until the frost, and our wild native species get the energy they need,” Putz concludes. “It’s a win-win!”

Other actions folks can do to help our Monarchs recover are to plant Milkweed and early blooming species, for the summer

generations, and to report Monarch sightings throughout the summer to Nature Saskatchewan, so the population can be tracked. Nature Saskatchewan also strongly suggests staying away from captive rearing, as this popular action is actually very detrimental to the wild population and does more harm than good. Instead, create space and observe and report the Monarchs, egg through caterpillar through adults, in their natural habitat.

If you spot a Monarch, call Nature Saskatchewan’s toll free HOOT-line at 1-800-667-4668 or email outreach@naturesask.ca. Every sighting helps monitor the population size and distribution. Stewards of Saskatchewan also works directly with rural landholders and managers to conserve and monitor this species at risk. As well, rural landholders can get involved in Nature Saskatchewan’s Milkweed pasture monitoring, which aims to close knowledge gaps on Milkweed use in the prairies.



Parkside Community Club supports VBS

By JORDAN TWISS
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

This summer, the Cameo Vacation Bible School, organized by Pauline Mason and a dedicated team of community volunteers, welcomed its largest turnout ever, with 76 kids coming from the local area, neighbouring communities, and even a few families from Alberta taking part in the fun.

In recent years, the VBS program has been supported by the Parkside Community Club with annual donations of \$500. But with the cost of everything always rising, the cost of running the week-long program is now about \$3,000.

Even with support from other organizations, small fundraisers, and a modest registration fee of just \$15 per child, the numbers rarely added up. Wanting to keep the program affordable and accessible for all families, organizers have often gone

above and beyond, covering funding shortfalls out of their own pockets or even recycling bottles and cans, just to make sure the kids could enjoy this special week of learning, fun, and friendship.

Seeing the organizers' commitment to keeping the program going, the Parkside Community Club decided to up its own commitment, donating \$3,000 to cover the costs of this summer's program.

"This program is such a gift to the children in our community, and it wouldn't be possible without the tireless efforts of the organizers and volunteers who pour their time, energy, and love into making it happen," The Parkside Community Club wrote on Facebook.

"They deserve a huge round of applause for creating such meaningful experiences and memories for local kids. We hope this tradition continues to thrive for many more years to come."



Parkside Community Club vice president Derek Olson (left) and president Jory Segberg (right) present a \$3,000 cheque to VBS organizer Pauline Mason.

Shell Lake seniors celebrate summer birthdays

By DAVID JENSEN
Shell Lake 50+ Club

Twenty members plus two guests of the Shell Lake 50+ Club gathered on Aug. 25 at the Seniors' Hall to celebrate birthdays and anniversaries for the months of July and August.

Entertainment was provided by Marilyn McGown. Marilyn's instrument of choice is the keyboard, especially when accompanying her duet partner. But on this occasion she was playing solo and chose to play her guitar and sing along. She plays and sings a collection of old-fashioned pre-rock and roll music like She'll be Coming Around the Mountain,

Clifton Clowers, Wolverton Mountain, and many of those old-time favourites, which take us back to the decades of the 1950s and 60s AM Ra-

dio. After the entertainment, the birthday celebrants were directed to the birthday table. Marilyn led us in singing

Happy Birthday. Once again Anita Weiers provided the delicious cakes. One was the classic angel food topped with fruit

and whipped cream. The other was an iced chocolate bundt cake.

Celebrating their birthdays were Corrie

Rush-Battersby, Ray Lier, Donna Prafke, Chris Lindsay, and Nellie Heckle. A good time was had by all.



Marilyn McGown provided the entertainment at the birthday celebration.



Birthday celebrants, from left to right: Corrie Rush-Battersby, Ray Lier, Donna Prafke, Chris Lindsay, and Nellie Heckle.

Scam using Prime Minister, Alberta Premier

By FCAA
Submitted

The Financial and Consumer Affairs Authority of Saskatchewan (FCAA) is warning Saskatchewan people of an impersonation scam claiming Prime Minister Mark Carney and Alberta Premier Danielle Smith are endorsing an online investment platform called AllRealGroup, also known as AllReal Investments Pty Ltd.

"Always check the registration status of an entity at aretheyregistered.ca before you invest, and do not deal with any unregistered entities," FCAA Securities Division Executive Director Dean Murrison said. "Scammers often create fake news articles

to mimic legitimate media and try to get you to make an investment based on a notable figure endorsement."

AllRealGroup claims to operate a foreign exchange (forex) trading platform and offers Saskatchewan residents trading opportunities in forex via leverage trading and currency pairs.

This alert applies to the online entity using the website "all-realgrou.net" (this URL has been manually altered so as not to be interactive).

AllRealGroup is not registered with the FCAA to trade or sell securities or derivatives in Saskatchewan. The FCAA cautions investors and consumers not to send money to companies that are not

registered in Saskatchewan, as they may not be legitimate businesses.

If you have invested with AllRealGroup, or anyone claiming to be acting on their behalf, contact the FCAA's Securities Division at 306-787-5936.

In Saskatchewan, individuals or companies need to be registered with the FCAA to trade or sell securities or derivatives. The registration provisions of The Securities Act, 1988, and accompanying regulations are intended to ensure that only honest and knowledgeable people are registered to sell securities and derivatives and that their businesses are financially stable.

Tips to protect yourself:

- Always verify that the person or company is registered in Saskatchewan to sell or advise about securities or derivatives. To check registration, visit The Canadian Securities Administrators' National Registration Search at aretheyregistered.ca.
- Know exactly what you are investing in. Make sure you understand how the investment, product, or service works.

- Get a second opinion and seek professional advice about the investment.
- Do not allow unknown or unverified individuals to remotely access your devices.
- Never make an investment decision based on a notable figure endorsement. Scammers often create fake social media posts or news articles claiming an investment is endorsed by a notable figure.

ADVERTISING DEADLINE IS
FRIDAY 4 P.M.

Minutes of RM of Leask council meetings

(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 Leask No. 464 which was held in the RM Municipal Office on Monday, July 7, 2025. Council Meeting was called to order by Reeve Gord Stieb at 9:03 a.m.

Present at the meeting were the following Council Members and Administration: Reeve Gord Stieb, Division 1 — Brian Watier, Division 2 — Daniel Twa, Division 3 — Lorraine Fajt, Division 4 — Joan Sanftleben, Division 5 — Ron Haworth, Division 6 — Vacant, Administrator Donna Goertzen, and Superintendent of Public Works Jayson Smith.

Delegation from the Town of Shellbrook arrived at 9:45 a.m.

Watier: That the minutes of the June 16, 2025, Regular Meeting of Council be approved. Carried

Fajt: That the minutes of the June 25, 2025, Regular Meeting of Council be approved. Carried

Sanftleben: That we approve the payments as listed on the attached List of Accounts for Approval: Operating cheques #15676-#15720 and Manual cheques #22857-#22882 for a total of \$215,653.65, and Payroll/Indemnity Direct Deposit for a total of \$62,488.95, and that the documents be attached to these minutes. Carried

Haworth: That Council acknowledge Bank Reconciliation Statement's for June 2025. Carried

Watier: That Council approve Municipal Statement of Financial Activities; RM of Leask No. 464, Leask Volunteer Fire Dept. and OHPC for May 31, 2025; and that statement be attached to these minutes. Carried

Fajt: That Council indemnity be approved for payment as presented. Carried

Sanftleben: That Correspondence be acknowledged as presented. Carried

Sanftleben: That Superintendent of Public Works Report be accepted as presented. Carried

Administer Goertzen exited Council Chambers at 10:30 a.m.

Haworth: That Council accept “Gravel Pit Report” as presented. Carried

Councillor Sanftleben exited Council Chambers at 10:32 a.m.

Watier: That the Administrator's report be acknowledged as presented. Carried

Fajt: That Council acknowledge Regional Fire Department #2 as presented. Carried

Sanftleben: That Bylaw 11-2025, a Bylaw to Establish a Code of Ethics for Council Members be read a second time. Carried

Haworth: That Bylaw 10-2025, a Bylaw to Recover Protective Service Costs be read a second time. Carried

Watier: That Bylaw 09-2025, the Council Procedure Bylaw, be read a third time and passed at this meeting.

Fajt: That Council instructor Administrator to contact Meridian Surveyors to survey and register Road Access SE-24-48-W3 to NE-13-48-08-W3. Carried

Reeve Stieb declared a conflict of interest and left the room at 11:14 a.m.

Deputy Reeve Sanftleben assumed the chair at 11:14 a.m.

Haworth: That Council agree to renter Gravel Box at August meeting. Carried

Councillor Fajt exited the room at 11:17 a.m.

Reeve Stieb returned to the room at 11:19 a.m. and assumed the chair.

SPW Smith exited the room at 11:20 a.m.

Watier: That Bylaw 12-2025; Bylaw for Debenture be introduced and read a first time at this meeting. Carried

Fajt: That Bylaw 13-2025; Bylaw to Restrict the Parking of Vehicles in Designated Parking Zones be introduced and read a first time at this meeting. Defeated

Sanftleben: That Bylaw 14-2025; Bylaw to regulate the Operations of ATVs within the RM Boundaries be introduced and read a first time at this meeting. Carried

Haworth: That Council enter into an agreement with Emerald Lake Regional Park to assist in regulation of Golf Carts; and Furthermore; that Administrator work with the Park to identify access roads.

Watier: That Council accept resignation of Division 6 Councillor Gos-sen. Carried

Watier: That Council set by-election for Division 6 on Oct. 15, 2025; elec-tion will be held in the Homesteaders Senior Hall in Leask; and Furthermore, that Advance Polls will be Oct. 11, 2025, at the Municipal Office in Leask, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Carried

Watier: That Council amend Police 2024-01, the Dust Suppression Policy. Carried

Sanftleben: That Council provide approval to obtain an engineer's opinion on the Iroquois Lake Bridge. Carried

Councillor Fajt exited Council Chambers 12:57 p.m.

Haworth: That Council has made the decision to regulate the trans-portation of goods hauled within the municipality under the Munic-ipalities Act, Section 22 and 22.1; and Furthermore will proceed to the SMB should notifications to haulers be disregarded. Carried

Watier: That Council acknowledge utilization of line of credit at this time. Carried

Fajt: That Council provide authori-zation to Reeve and Administrator to sign authorization for Municipal Fi-nancing Corporation. Carried

Haworth: That Council approve Wheatland Lodge Foundation Com-mittee to host a BBQ in the Fire Hall on Sep. 12. Carried

Sanftleben: That Woodland Subdi- vision Agreement be tabled until Au- gust Council meeting. Carried

Watier: That Council acknowledge development permit for Lot 19 Blk 2 Plan 87B17991, OHPC. Carried

Fajt: That Council acknowledge de- velopment permit for Site 15; Lac La Peche. Carried

Sanftleben: That Council ac- knowledge development permit for RTM house; Lot 14 Plan 101952020; D'Mour Lake. Carried

Haworth: The Council acknowl- edge the sale of MR in OHPC (By- law 02-2022); and Furthermore that Administrator register ownership of Blk MR 2, Plan 94B03105 Ext. 0; and Furthermore that the Hamlet com- pensate the municipality of sale of MR land for the sum of \$600. Carried

Watier: That Council acknowl- edge SaskTel project #828088, SW- 04-48-07-W3 to LSD 5 SW-07-47- 06-W3. Carried

Fajt: That we move in-camera ses- sion citing The Local Freedom of In- formation and Protection of Privacy Act, Section 16 (1) (d), time being 1:47 p.m. Carried

Councillor Twa declared a conflict of interest and left the meeting at 2:05 p.m.

Sanftleben: That we move out of in-camera session at 2:38 p.m. Car- ried

Haworth: That Council instruct Administrator to obtain legal opinion regarding Policy 2022-05, the Dock Policy. Carried

Watier: That Council instruct Ad- ministrator to create a public state- ment regarding municipal road in- frastructure.

Haworth: That Council instruct Administrator to research a bylaw to regulate the license of watercraft. Carried.

Watier: That Administration send correspondence to ratepayer in re- sponse to subdivision inquiry.

Stieb: That we adjourn this meeting at 2:53 p.m.

July 21 Meeting Minutes

The Minutes of the Regular Meet- ing of the Council of the Rural Mu- nicipality of Leask No. 464 which was held in the RM Municipal Office on Monday, July 21, 2025. Council Meeting was called to order by Reeve Gord Stieb at 9:03 a.m.

Present at the meeting were the following Council Members and Ad- ministration: Reeve Gord Stieb, Di- vision 1 — Brian Watier, Division 2 — Daniel Twa, Division 3 — Lorraine Fajt, Division 4 — Joan Sanftleben, Division 6 —Vacant, Administrator Donna Goertzen, and Superinten- dent of Public Works Jayson Smith.

Absent was Division 5 — Ron Ha- worth.

Watier: That Bylaw 12-2025, A By- law for Debenture, be given second reading at this meeting. Carried

Sanftleben: That Bylaw 12-2025, A Bylaw for Debenture, be read a third and final time and adopted. Carried

Stieb: That this meeting adjourn at 9:14 a.m.

New funding announced for maternal mental health

By MINISTRY OF HEALTH
Submitted

The Government of Sas- katchewan is providing \$100,000 in new annual funding to the Saskatchewan Perinatal Health Network to develop and deliver a prov- ince-wide maternal mental health support program. The program will provide free in-person and virtual peer support services for new and expecting parents across Sas- katchewan.

“This investment helps ensure that families across Saskatchewan have more ac- cess to mental health support

during the life-changing ex- perience of pregnancy and the birth of a baby,” Mental Health and Addictions Min- ister Lori Carr said. “We want expecting and new parents to know that free, compassion- ate support is available in a safe environment, where they can connect and share with other parents.”

The Saskatchewan Perina- tal Health Network (Sask- PHN), formerly the Regina Perinatal Health Network (RPHN), supports women and their partners who expe- rience or are at risk of devel- oping a perinatal mood and anxiety disorder.

The new funding from the

provincial government will enable the network to expand its peer support outreach to communities outside Regina, introduce an online booking platform and increase virtual appointments.

“As a community-based organization, our goal has al- ways been to address the feel- ings of social isolation many expecting and new parents face, and to connect families with trauma-informed peri- natal mental health support,” Perinatal Health Network Program Coordinator Lin Carr said. “This funding will help us coordinate care across multiple agencies, ensuring families receive quality men- tal health support from pre- natal stages through the first few years postpartum.”

Those who need help can visit www.saskphn.ca to learn more or book an ap- pointment.

This initiative enhances ca- pacity to provide timely and accessible services as part of a new provincial approach to maternal mental health to better support the well-be- ing of mothers, their children and their families throughout the course of pregnancy and after childbirth.

The provincial government also provides funding for the Wellbeing Course for New and Expecting Parents of-

fered through the University of Regina's Online Therapy Unit. A Non-Birthing Parents Resource is available as well through the program and will continue to be enhanced in 2025-26.

The province has also boosted annual funding to HealthLine 811 by \$6.6 mil- lion in 2025-26. HealthLine 811 supports nurse and coun- sellor positions for mental health, addictions and ma- ternal mental health calls. The Ministry of Health is also working with the Saskatch- ewan Health Authority to establish a maternal mental health coordinator position at 811.

Riders, Stamps dominant in CFL's West

Winnipeg is playing host to this year's Grey Cup game but for the first time in six years, the Blue Bombers likely won't be the West Division's representative.

The Bombers won the Cup in 2019 and 2021 (2020's game was cancelled due to COVID) and then lost three Grey Cup games in a row — 2022, 2023 and 2024. Finally getting to host the game for the first time since 2015 could be bitter-sweet for Bomber fans, whose team will likely be watching from the sidelines.

The power in the West Division has shifted, thanks primarily to great quarterbacking play by Vernon Adams in Calgary and Trevor Harris in Regina. The Stampeders and Roughriders have been the class of the West through the first half, and it's likely they'll carry on to the division final in early November.

Trying to determine who's the better team is tricky. The Stampeders are 2-0 against the Riders this year, including a 32-15 win

in Calgary Aug. 23, but Saskatchewan held an 8-2 pre-Labour Day record through 10 games, one game up on the Stamps, who inexplicably lost twice to Eastern Division weakling Ottawa (3-8 record) and once to Montreal (5-6). Calgary coach Dave Dickenson evidently gets his team ready to play the crucial games and the Stamps let up somewhat when they're facing inferior teams.

The Riders' Harris wasn't deterred after the recent loss to Calgary, telling the Leader-Post, "We've talked about our character all year, and so it's time to put that on the table and show who we are. And we will. We'll bounce back from this."

Adams, meanwhile, has been a godsend for the Cowtowners. Although his touch-down-to-interception ratio (14-8) isn't as good as Harris's (18-7), the two veteran QBs have given their teams a chance to win almost every time out. After six seasons in Montreal and two in B.C., Adams is enjoying



BRUCE
PENTON

his first year with the Stamps. Running back Dedrick Mills will easily surpass 1,000 yards rushing and receivers Dominique Rhymes and Jalen Philpot have shown to be dependable targets.

In Regina, Harris, who is with his fifth CFL team, has been a steadying influence as the Riders beat everybody except Calgary. A.J. Ouellette has carried much of the offensive load, averaging more than 70 rushing yards per game. Harris has had great aerial success, finding Dohnte Meyers for six touchdown passes through 10 games and KeeSean Johnson for another three.

Not surprisingly,

the Riders and Stampeders are among the league leaders in team defence. Saskatchewan is No. 1, giving up 339 yards per game, while Calgary is fourth, allowing opponents to generate 359 yards per game.

CFL fans are circling Nov. 9 on their calendars because that's when Calgary and Saskatchewan are likely to meet in the Western final. The winner will go on to play for the Grey Cup and there's a good chance one of the Stampeders' all-time greats, quarterback Bo Levi Mitchell, will be wearing black and gold for the Hamilton Tiger-Cats in that game.

• Columnist Norman Chad: "Baseball's No. 1 pitching prospect, 22-year-old Bubba Chandler, made his MLB debut for the Pittsburgh Pirates. He pitched four shutout innings of relief, allowing two hits. Chandler is seeking to become first pitcher in history not to allow a run in his MLB career."

• Steve Hofstetter, on bluesky, after the major Kelce-Swift engage-

ment announcement: "Congratulations to Travis Kelce on his latest championship ring."

• Conor Orr of SI.com, blasting the Dallas Cowboys for their trade of edge rusher Micah Parsons to Green Bay: "The Cowboys are less a cogent franchise than a series of laughable gaffes layered atop one another like rickety sheets of plywood."

• Jack Finarelli at sportscurmudgeon.com: "The flurry of lime-green dildos arriving on the courts during WNBA games seems to have petered out ... sorry, could not resist."

• Greg Cote of the Miami Herald, in his annual NFL preview: "QB Aaron Rodgers will be about the same miracle worker for Pittsburgh as he was for the Jets. Meaning a lousy one."

• Norman Chad again: "The New Orleans [Saints] announced Spencer Rattler as their starting quarterback. Thoughts and prayers."

• Jack Finarelli again: "Terry McLaurin got an extension that was to his satisfaction from

the Commanders. Amazingly, his ankle injury that had him on the Physically Unable to Perform (PUP) list was also resolved and he began practicing with the team."

• RJ Currie of sports-deke.com: "The Nebraska State Fair broke a record for the longest parade of old tractors when over 1,100 showed up. In Canada, that's just part of the last-minute Labour Day crowd at Mosaic Stadium."

• Headline at the onion.com: "Record-Breaking Number Of Viewers Now Following WNBA Players Home"

• Another onion.com headline: "Scalpers Jack Up Price Of Colorado Rockies Ticket To \$11"

• fark.com headline: "Patriots cut Peppers. Onions, sausages inconsolable."

• Another one from fark.com: "One reason why your NFL team will disappoint in 2025. Jets fans: Wait a sec...only one?"

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

Op-ed: The West should cut the PST

By GAGE HAUBRICH
CTF Prairie Director

Alberta is the only province in Canada without a provincial sales tax.

It's a city on a hill for taxpayers who are fed up with paying more tax when you head to the cash register to buy something.

Taxpayers across the West should be fed up because nearly half of their paycheques are going up in smoke thanks to taxes.

There are income taxes, fuel taxes, property taxes, business taxes, carbon taxes, capital gains taxes and sales taxes.

Federally, there's the five per cent GST, and in every province but Alberta, there's a form of PST.

Sales taxes inflict more pain on the wallets of taxpayers with less income. It doesn't matter if you make \$1 million per year or \$10,000, the sales tax percentage charged remains the same.

Sales taxes take a bigger bite out of smaller paycheques.

Alberta taxpayers are saving huge amounts of money from not having to pay a PST.

For example, Alberta has more than 825,000 students who are returning to school.

Parents will spend an average of \$788 on back-to-school supplies per student, according to a Deloitte survey. If Alberta parents spend even half that much, they are saving about \$27 in PST per student. Across the province, families are saving about \$22.6 million by not having to pay a PST while shopping for school supplies.

That's because families aren't paying a seven per cent PST on things like clothes, shoes, backpacks, notebooks, calculators, lunch bags, laptops and phones.

Alberta's Taxpayer Protection Act prevents a PST from taking root. If a government decided impose a PST in Alberta, it would have to win a referendum on the question first. That's not the case in the rest of Western Canada.

Taxpayers in Saskatchewan are forking over more than \$3.3 billion in PST this year to the provincial government. A Saskatchewan family making \$75,000 annually, pays about \$2,100 per year in PST.

That's because the Saskatchewan government keeps tacking it onto to almost everything you buy. The government raised the PST from five to six per cent and removed exemptions for used cars, restaurant meals and children's clothes in 2017.

The government also started charging PST on event tickets in 2022. That means the Saskatchewan government is charging you more to watch the Riders.

Take used cars, every time you purchase a used car in Saskatchewan that's worth more than \$5,000, the government expects you to hand them a cheque for the six per cent PST on it, no matter how many times it's been bought and sold before.

On a vehicle worth \$10,000, buyers will have to fork over \$600 extra to the government.

It doesn't matter how old the vehicle is. It doesn't matter how many times it's been bought and sold, the provincial government is standing there with its hand out, taking more.

Provincial governments are blood-thirsty when it comes to the PST.

It's the same story in British Columbia.

Back in 2004, the B.C. government noticed that wise British Columbians were saving some of their big purchases for their summer trip to Alberta, because they were saving about \$150 on a new washer and dryer set because Alberta doesn't have a PST.

Former B.C. premier Gordon Campbell's government tried to tell retailers in Alberta to take pictures of British Columbia license plates in their parking lots and to send the B.C. government the sales receipts.

Why?

So, the B.C. government could charge those shoppers B.C.'s seven per cent PST on top of the items which the family had purchased in Alberta.

The stores told the B.C. government to go pound sand and the government had to drop the case.

Alberta academics and politicians chattering about a PST need to look at their neighbours and remember that a sales tax makes life more expensive for those who need help most.

Saskatchewan and British Columbia need to look at Alberta and realize how much taxpayers can save if they cut their sales taxes.

OBITUARIES

Violet Rosella Granberg



Violet Rosella Granberg (née Marshall)
November 18, 1929 – September 1, 2025

Violet Rosella Granberg, 95, passed away peacefully in Shellbrook on September 1st, 2025. Born in Polwarth, Saskatchewan, Violet was the first daughter of Sydney and Ethel Marshall, and the eldest of 4. Violet truly cared for her beloved siblings - Bud (Roland) Marshall, Marlene Coates (née Marshall), and Melrose Marshall. Polwarth was always home for Violet, and this is where she met and married the love

of her life, Sten Granberg - to whom she was married to for 76 years. Violet worked tirelessly on the farm: curating multiple gardens and a beautifully manicured yard. Within the tightknit community of Polwarth and Canwood is not only where Violet grew up and raised her family, but where she grew to love dancing, her animals, curling, skidooing, camping, royal purple, and choir. She loved to be around friends

and family (friends who really were her “other family”) and a good party! Violet, above all, loved her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. They were the light of her life, and they never questioned her love. Violet is survived by her loving husband Sten; Sister Marlene; Sister-in-Law Dianne; Children Kenneth Granberg (Ardis), Linda Larose (Gerald), and Gary Granberg (Wanda); 7 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren. She was predeceased

by her parents Syd and Ethel Marshall; Brother Bud Marshall; Sister Melrose; In Laws Olov and Paulina Granberg. Violet was known for her love of family and was happiest surrounded by those she loved. She will be missed dearly as we celebrate the countless and wonderful memories that she was a part of. Violet loved flowers and we would love to see yours if you have any to share, in lieu of flowers donations can be made to Debden Heritage Manor (Box 608 Debden, SK S0J 0S0) or Whisper-

ing Pines Place (Box 418 Canwood, SK S0J 0K0). A celebration of life was held on September 8th, 2025 @ 2pm at the Elks Hall in Canwood, Saskatchewan. All were welcome to attend and share memories. 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, Donna Lovberg, Funeral Director, Shellbrook, SK 306-747-2828.

Carmen Ricky Harris



Carmen Ricky Harris
June 14, 1958 – May 27, 2025
Carmen Ricky Harris, 66 of the Briarlea district, Saskatchewan, passed surrounded by family on May 27th, 2025, at Royal University Hospital. He was born on June 14, 1958, to Clarence and Opal (Roode) Harris. The first of six children, he was raised and lived

in the Briarlea district most of his life. In 1980 he married Rosalyn Aug, and their children Tyler, Twyla and Taylor came along. He worked at various jobs but farming, guiding, and working with youth were his favourites. He loved sports, hunting, fishing, camping and being around family and friends. He played hockey, baseball, and fastball. He reffed hockey for many years, then started coaching hockey and ball as the kids got old enough to play. He was a Beef 4-H leader for more than 15 years. Anything the kids wanted to do he was involved with them. Above all his family was first and he loved his grandboys and grandpets with his whole heart. He loved to visit and laugh with and tease any-

one he could. Organ and tissue donation was always an important cause for Carmen. He started his support for this in 1992 when he donated his bone marrow to his youngest brother Wendell. Following that as the Harris family's need for organ transplants grew, his passion did as well. He was an active organizer and supporter of his family's organization Shoot for the Vitals. He will be deeply missed by his wife Ro-

salyn; his children Tyler (Tiffany) Harris, Twyla (Simo) Naciri and Taylor Harris (Joel Kinequon); his grandchildren Beckett and Nate Harris and Ayan and Atlas Naciri; his grand-pets Ajax, Bell and Radar; his mother Opal Harris, his siblings Ralph (Brenda) Harris and Boyd Harris (Carla Vandamme); his in-laws Linda Kielo, Larry (Peggy) Aug, Donna (Cliff) Skauge, Bill (Diane) Aug, and Clarence Pilon; as well as many nephews, nieces, aunts, uncles, and

cousins. He was predeceased by his father Clarence Harris; his sister Karen Pilon; his brothers Wendell and Calvin Harris; and in-laws Dale Kielo and Janet Harris. A family burial was held on August 9, 2025, followed by a celebration of life held at the Shoot for the Vitals site. In lieu of tributes, donations may be made in memory of Carmen to the Canadian Blood Services, Saskatchewan Branch (www.blood.ca or call 1-888-2donate) or Shoot

for the Vitals (shootforthevitals@gmail.com please note that we are not a registered charity, so we are unable to provide a tax-deductible receipt). 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, Lynn Anderson Funeral Director, Shellbrook, SK 306-747-2828.

Muriel Bernice Young



Muriel Bernice Young
Born: April 8, 1932
Died: August 26, 2025
It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of our mom, grandmother, sister, aunt, and friend. She was called home on August 26, 2025. Muriel was born in Shellbrook, but the family lived in Penn Station until she was 15 years old.

life. With the death of her father, the family moved to Mont Nebo. She went to school in Fur Lake and Mont Nebo. She met and married Bobby (Robert) Young and lived at the farm in Mont Nebo til July 2025. With the three boys raised and gone, Muriel had some free time on her hands. She got her driver's license. She got the call to work for the Lord, studying and becoming a lay reader with the Anglican Church. She helped with keeping St Luke's church open, organizing Sunday services, keeping the yard mowed and the church clean. She attended many church functions throughout the Prince Albert area. Many of these trips were made with her neighbour and good friend Grace Hatch. In fact, they travelled so much together, when someone asked where Muriel was, Bobby would reply “Willy & Waylon are on

the road again”. Later years, when Grace was unable to attend these functions, she hit the road with her sister Inez, who then became her travel buddy. As the years passed and Muriel needed help, Bradley moved out to the farm, without hesitation and took on the roll as her caregiver, so that she could live out her life by staying in her home. Muriel Young (née MacDonald) is lovingly remembered by her sons Bradley, Lanson (Sharon), Mark (Connie); brother Victor MacDonald (Karen); grandchildren Scott, Tennille, Bethany, Connor, and Alexia; and her great-grandchildren. Muriel was predeceased by her husband Robert (Bobby) Young; parents Roderick & Margaret MacDonald; Norman, Hector, and Leonard; sisters Inez MacDonald and Joan Neefs; grandchildren Kimberley and Justin. We would like to take this time to thank all

the nurses, Drs, and staff at Shellbrook Hospital for all the wonderful care they gave our mom while she was in the hospital. We would also like to thank the staff at Wheatland Lodge in Leask, for the help and care they gave her in her brief stay. We also wish to thank all of those who have helped us at this difficult time. Funeral Service was held at 2:00PM on Friday, September 5, 2025, at Mont Nebo Community Hall. Interment followed at the St. Luke's Cemetery, Mont Nebo, SK. In lieu of tributes, donations may be made in memory of Muriel to St. Luke's Anglican Church Mont Nebo (stlukes-montnebo@outlook.com). 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, Lynn Anderson, Funeral Director, Shellbrook, SK 306-747-2828.

Inez Larson



Inez Larson
1943 – 2025
The family of Inez (née Stene) Larson, sadly announce her passing on August 28, 2025 at the age of 81. Inez will be remembered by her husband Ross Larson; her sons Shawn (Tracy)

Larson and their family Shalyn (Moses) Pasloski and Leif (Taya) Larson; Farren (Adeana) Larson and their family Cole Larson, Rowena (Drew) Cochrane, and Austin Davis; and her three great grandchildren, Jack and Wells Pasloski, and Mack Cochrane. As per Inez's wishes, there will be no funeral service. Arrangements are entrusted to the care of Gray's Funeral Chapel, Prince Albert (306) 922-4729, Mary MacWilliams, Funeral Director.



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Shellbrook
Adult Study
9:30 a.m.
Sun., 10:30 a.m. - Worship
Rev. Jordan Clark
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Summer: 10 a.m. - Worship
Pastor Bob Wrench
306-468-2138
Leask Gospel Tabernacle
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Pastor Josh
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Rev. Dave Whalley
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Leask - All Saint's
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St. Andrew's - Shellbrook
Sunday Service - 11 a.m.
Joint H.C. Service
June 29 - 11am - St. Andrew's
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Sask. continues vaccine research partnership

By **MINISTRY OF TRADE & EXPORT DEVELOPMENT**
Submitted

Saskatchewan’s Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization (VIDO) has signed a partnership extension with the International Vaccine Institute (IVI), based in South Korea. The partnership focuses on post-pandemic global health.

Minister of Trade and Export Development and Minister Responsible for Innovation Saskatchewan Warren Kaeding witnessed the signing as part of his trade mission to South Korea.

“This renewed partnership reflects Saskatchewan’s commitment to being a global leader in science and innovation and highlights the success of our investments into VIDO,” Kaeding said. “By working with international

partners like the IVI, we help ensure that our expertise continues to have worldwide impact, and underscores Saskatchewan’s Research Strategy released earlier this year.”

The Government of Saskatchewan provides key operational funding to VIDO through Innovation Saskatchewan, ensuring the organization has the resources to advance world-class research and respond to emerging global health challenges. In addition to providing annual operating support, the Government of Saskatchewan has committed more than \$19 million to support the development of Canada’s Centre for Pandemic Research, positioning VIDO as a global leader in infectious disease research and vaccine development for humans and animals.

“Infectious diseases know no bor-

ders,” VIDO Director and CEO Dr. Volker Gerdts said. “By continuing this partnership, we strengthen our ability to respond quickly and collaboratively to emerging threats that impact us all.”

Based at the University of Saskatchewan, VIDO has collaborated with IVI for more than 20 years. The previous memorandum of understanding signing between VIDO and IVI was also witnessed by the Premier.

“VIDO’s standing as Canada’s Centre for Pandemic Research underscores the University of Saskatchewan’s dedication to advancing science that matters - not only for our province and country, but for people and animals around the globe,” University of Saskatchewan President Peter Stoicheff said.

IVI is an international nonprofit

that develops and delivers vaccines globally. They have offices around the world, with headquarters in Seoul, South Korea.

“Today’s global health challenges demand collaborative, sustained partnerships,” Director General of IVI Dr Jerome H. Kim said. “Our collaboration with VIDO exemplifies how scientific innovation and shared expertise can accelerate progress toward safe, effective, and affordable vaccines worldwide.”

Earlier this year, Saskatchewan released Accelerating Innovation, Advancing Industry: Saskatchewan’s Research Strategy. This strategy aims to support the province’s vision of global impact and help build a strong and prosperous Saskatchewan.

For more information, visit: innovationsask.ca

Does gardening help you live longer?

By **PATRICIA HANBIDGE**
Orchid Horticulture

Many of the world’s centenarians are gardeners. Is gardening the elixir that helps to keep you to live longer – but even more importantly live better?

It is very well known that an outdoor lifestyle that also involves physical activity is linked to a longer life. If you are a gardener, then this is an easy way to accomplish getting outside and doing some

low-intensity activity. Gardeners do live longer and are less stressed as there are both physical and mental benefits from gardening.

A fairly recent Dutch study took two groups of participants and gave them a fairly stressful activity. After completing this activity one half of the group read indoors while the other half gardened outdoors for a period of thirty minutes. The group that read indoors reported their mood “further deteriorated” while the gardening group showed

lower levels of the stress hormone cortisol and felt “fully restored”.

In Australia, researchers following men and women in their sixties and found that those participants that gardened had a 36% lower risk of dementia than the non-gardening group. Also, elderly people suffering from cognitive issues reported benefits from garden settings and by involvement in horticultural therapy. Sunlight, fresh air and the colours and textures of plants help improve visual and tactile ability.

Okinawa, Japan has the world’s highest ratio of centenarians with a whopping 50 per 100,000 people. Many of these residents maintain small personal gardens well into old age. There is a saying in Okinawa that anyone that grows old healthfully needs an *ikagai* or reason for living. Gardening gives you a reason to get up and move each and every day. One other factor that is key to this healthy lifestyle is the concept of *yuimaru* or a high level of social connectedness obtained by bringing their produce to

market and sharing your latest creations from the garden as a social activity. This connectivity to other people and to nature itself by living surrounded by lush greenery helps us to live longer and have less chance of developing cancer or respiratory illness.

One other important factor is gardeners often eat better and often develop a more Mediterranean diet that is rich in vegetables, fruit, whole grains, legumes, nuts, fish and olive oil. Vegetables that you grow yourself taste better and are actually healthier than vegetables that are produced commercially. They are richer in vitamins, minerals and phytoactive compounds. Gardeners tend to grow what they like to eat and thus eat more of this healthy food and enjoy it more.

If we take a moment to explore the benefits of horticultural therapy these factors are even enforced more strongly. HT is the use of plants and horticulture or gardening to improve the quality of life socially, physically, mentally

and spiritually. I think that is another way to demonstrate what gardening gives back to you, the gardener. Whether your HT is used to improve rehabilitation, to build a vocational option into your life or if you just use it as a social program – it is all beneficial to you personally. In my opinion everyone should garden forever, but it is totally reasonable and acceptable to alter or evolve your garden to meet your current needs, abilities and skill level. Be creative, be brave and get outside to garden!

There are no guarantees in life and gardening is not any guarantee of living a longer life, but the lifestyle factors associated with gardening – going outside, physical activity and eating a healthy plant-based diet just might be the ticket to living a longer, healthier and happier life!

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



Spiritwood RCMP investigating fatal ATV collision

By **SASK. RCMP**
Submitted

On Saturday, Sept. 6, just before 9 p.m., the Spiritwood RCMP Detachment responded to a collision on a road near the mall on the Pelican Lake First Nation.

Investigation determined a vehicle and an ATV collided. The driver of the vehicle left the scene on foot.

The operator of the ATV was declared deceased by EMS at the scene of the collision. He has been identified as a 26-year-old male

from Pelican Lake First Nation. His family has been notified.

Police are actively investigating the collision with the assistance of a Saskatchewan RCMP collision reconstructionist. Investigators continue working to locate the driver.

Anyone who witnessed the collision is asked to contact Spiritwood RCMP by dialling 310-RCMP. Information can also be submitted anonymously by contacting Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or www.saskcrimestoppers.com.