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Community support builds new ball diamond



With volunteer help, the sod was quickly installed. The new Shell Lake diamond will be ready come next spring.

By JORDAN TWISS

Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

For the past 20 years, kids growing up playing ball in Shell Lake have had to do so on a single diamond, after the second diamond was removed due to drainage issues.

Local teams have made do with these limited accommodations for much of this time. But with the launch of the Parkland Predators girls' and the Parkland Wildcats boys' provincial softball programs in 2019 and 2022, respectively, and with Shell Lake Minor Sports experiencing growth in registrations for house league teams in recent years, a single diamond was no longer enough.

"We were having difficulty accommodating all of the practices and games," said Allison Batty-Simonar, who developed the Predators and Wildcats programs with her husband, Dillan Simonar.

"We were also very limited in our ability to host tournaments with only one diamond."

This season alone, Shell Lake Minor Sports had about 70 kids registered to play ball, with co-ed league teams running the gamut from U5 to U13, Predators teams going from U13 to U17, and Wildcats teams ranging from U11 (two teams) to U15.

Highlighting the fact that Shell Lake is a regional hub, these players came not only from Shell Lake, but also from Spiritwood, Leoville, Debden, Leask, Canwood, Shellbrook, Big River, Rosthern, Prince Albert, Birch Hills, and Rabbit Lake.

Given this, and the ballpark's prime location in Memorial Lake Regional Park, which boasts a beach and an 18-hole golf course, it became clear that there was both the need for a second diamond and an opportunity to create a ballpark that opposing teams would be eager to come play in.

The project to make this a reality began a couple of years ago, with members of Shell Lake Minor Sports approaching the Memorial Lake Regional Park Board to see if it would support the idea. The board was supportive, and the two organizations have been

sharing the costs of the project.

Meanwhile, the project has become a true community endeavour, with park board members John Duncan and Dennis Simonar, and community members like Wayne Reddekopp, volunteering their time and donating equipment to ensure the work gets done.

Certainly, there's been no shortage of work to go around, whether it be removing trees, picking rocks and roots, cementing posts, discing and leveling, resolving the prior drainage issues, hauling sand and crusher dust, installing irrigation for sprinklers, or laying sod. But at every turn, Batty-Simonar says there's been someone there to help.

Continued on page 2



Down on the corner...

First & Main

Community support builds new ball diamond

Continued from 1

not possible without dedicated volunteers that selflessly give their time to benefit others," she said.

Of course, volunteerism is only one side of the coin when it comes to a major undertaking like the new diamond project. On the other is fundraising.

Here, too, the community and the broader region have stepped up to help, boosting fundraising efforts to the tune of \$39,500. Most recent among the support is a \$10,000 Legacy Community Development Grant from Innovation Federal Credit Union.

Shell Lake Minor Sports secretary and treasurer Amy Strate says the funds from sponsorships and grants have allowed for a lot of work

to be completed, from "Projects like this are the installation of the backstop, outfield fencsprinkler system, and sod, to the acquisition and construction of bases, dugouts, benches, bleachers, and ball equipment, to the pouring of

shale on the infield.

With all this done, Strate says the project is well on its way to the finish line.

"We still have a lot of work to do on this project, but we look forward to the task ahead of us,"

"We are still awaiting shale to spread on the infield, but are very happy to report that the diamond will be ready for ball players in the spring of 2026," Batty-Simonar added.



The posts for the backstop have been installed, and the infield is taking



Memorial Lake Regional Park Board members John Duncan (left) and Dennis Simonar have volunteered time and equipment to get the project done.



It was all hands on deck to install the sod in August.



ANNUAL MEETING Monday, September 15, 2025 at 8:00 p.m.

Sand Trap Lounge, Hidden Hills Golf Club 99 2nd St. West, Shellbrook, SK



RCMP issues school safety reminder

By SASK RCMP Submitted

The beginning of September also means the beginning of back-toschool season. As students and teachers head back to the classrooms, Saskatchewan RCMP encourage everyone to do their part to make the transition back to school a safe one.

Saskatchewan RCMP ask parents and caregivers to remind children of the following school safety precautions:

 Crossing the road safely: Remind children to stay alert, check for oncoming vehicles, and only cross at approved

crossing locations. Encourage them to make eye contact with drivers before crossing in front of them, ensuring they are seen.

• Be aware of their surroundings: Avoiding distractions like texting or listening to music with both ear buds in can help keep a child safe in high-traffic areas.

 School bus safety: Instruct children to stay at least five big steps away from the edge of the curb while waiting for the school bus. They should only approach the bus after it has fully stopped, and the doors have opened. If children need to cross

the street, they should Drivers are reminded always walk in front of the bus, staying in the driver's line of sight.

 Biking and scootering to school safely: When biking or scootering to school, children should wear a helmet that is Canadian Standards Association (CSA) approved and follow the posted traffic signs. Install a horn or bell on children's bikes and scooters so they can alert other travellers when needed.

Kids aren't the only ones who need to be on the lookout. Whether you are a new or experienced driver, Saskatchewan RCMP reminds everyone behind the wheel to take additional precautions when driving in and around school zones and parks. to follow the posted speed limit in school zones, to yield to children walking, biking or scootering, and to obey the stop arm of school buses.

"As school zones become significantly busier next week, we're urging all drivers to slow down and stay alert," says S/Sgt. Jill McLaren, the officer who leads Saskatchewan RCMP's Community Safety and Wellbeing Unit. "Extra caution can go a long way - especially when watching for children who may be learning to navigate busy roads or finding their bus for the first time. Your attention and care can help make the start of the school year safe and positive for everyone."



Sept. 18/20 | Autumn Breeze Workshop **\$115/\$145** Sept. 25/27 Blocks of the Month (1 of 10) \$45 Oct. 9/11 7 Panel Kaleidoscope Quilt Class \$140 **Oct. 23/25** Blocks of the Month (2 of 10) **\$45 Oct. 30** | *Mystery Quilt* (1 of 4) **\$65 Nov. 6** | Scrap Buster: Paper Piecing Star Block (1 of 3) \$50 Nov. 13 | Layer Cake Quilt Workshop \$145 **Nov. 20/22** Blocks of the Month (3 of 10) **\$55 Nov. 27** *Mystery Quilt* (2 of 4) **\$65 Dec. 4** Crazy Trees/Christmas Table Runner **\$60 Dec. 11/13** | Blocks of the Month (4 of 10) **\$65**

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Community BBQ supports Mont Nebo Hall

By JORDAN TWISS Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

A crowd of more than 70 people gathered inside and outside the Mont Nebo Community Hall to cap off their summer vacations with a community BBQ on Wednesday, Aug. 27.

Hosted to raise funds to keep the hall in prime condition for regular potlucks, jam sessions, and card game nights, the summer gathering included plenty of food, kid's games, live musical entertainment, and ample time for visiting with friends and neighbours.

With admission by donation and funding support from Lake Country Co-op, the evening raised \$900.

Like many things, explains Debbie Jensen, the idea to host community BBQs during the summer months began life as a smaller idea: a simple Toonie Tuesday, with hotdogs and cold drinks for sale.

When support and interest were strong enough to turn these days into a fundraiser for the hall, burgers and desserts were added to the menu, and kid's games became part of the line-up to draw in younger families, making for a more community-oriented event.

Not too long after, local musicians got on board, donating their time and talent to entertain the BBQ's attendees. And true to the community spirit of the event, regular attendees began bringing desserts or other food to the gathering, or offered a hand in the kitchen to help the six members of

timely fashion.

Even as the community BBQs have grown munity members as

the Mont Nebo Co-op- in scale, however, one erative board ensure thing has remained everyone was fed in the same: admission is always by donation, to ensure as many com-

attend.

For Jensen, events like these and facilities like the Mont Nebo Hall are vital for preserving

possible can afford to the community's history and bringing people together.

> "Nowadays, people's lives are so busy, and everything can leave people feeling isolated. Seniors and those with low incomes can't afford to jaunt off to the big city or distant holiday spots, but they can

gather and meet old friends or make new ones at a local hall," she said.

"Also, when people get together to enjoy socializing, they find that though they may not agree on everything, they can laugh together and enjoy each other's company."



Kid's games were set up to make for a more family-oriented evening.



A stage filled with local musical talent kept everyone entertained.



A crowd of more than 70 filled the Mont Nebo Hall for the final community BBQ of summer on Wednesday, Aug. 27.



Much food was prepared by the Mont Nebo Co-operative board and volunteers, with admission by donation to keep things affordable.



VILLAGE OF MARCELIN **FOR SALE BY TENDER**

The following properties:

Lot 2, Block 8, Plan No. 76PA02321

TENDER OPEN:

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4TH, 2025 @ 8:30AM

TENDER CLOSE:

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17TH, 2025 @ 3:30PM

Highest or any tender not necessarily accepted. For further information please contact the Village of Marcelin at 306-226-2168.

SUBMIT TENDER TO:

Village of Marcelin Box 39 Marcelin, Sask.

Dated this 4th day of September, 2025.

Leanne McCormick CAO

SOJ 1R0

NOTICE OF CALL FOR NOMINATIONS VILLAGE OF DEBDEN

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

Councillor: VILLAGE OF DEBDEN Number to be Elected: 1

will be received by the undersigned on the 1st day of October, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Debden Village Office, and during regular business hours September 9th, 2025 to September 25th, 2025 at the Debden Village

Nomination forms may be obtained from the Debden Village Office at #204 2nd Avenue East, Debden, Saskatchewan. Dated this 2nd day of September, 2025.

Tamara Couture

Returning Officer



HEY! HOW WAS YOUR

SUMMER?

YOU

AGAIN?!

Poilievre's return must include new game plan

It took a little longer than expected to get there, but when Parliament resumes on Sept. 15, Canadians can expect it to mark the beginning of the four-year heavyweight showdown between Prime Minister Mark Carney and newly re-elected Conservative Party Leader Pierre Poilievre.

Surprising no one – despite a strong campaign from independent local candidate Bonnie Critchley

- Mr. Poilievre found his way back into the House of Commons after losing the seat he had held for the past 20 years in the federal election this past spring.

He did so in the rural Alberta riding of Battle River-Crowfoot, which was originally won by Damien Kurek with just shy of 83 per cent of the vote. In the Aug. 18 by-election, Mr. Poilievre garnered a commanding 80.9 per cent of the ballot, with Ms. Critchley finishing second at 9.8 per

The by-election was a critical test for Mr. Poilievre. A less than dominating performance in one of the safest Conservative ridings in the country could have spelled the doom of his political aspirations.

But having won by only a moderately smaller margin than Mr. Kurek, Mr. Poilievre seems to have passed the test.

And so, regardless of how one feels about candidates (and especially party leaders) parachuting into ridings they have no connection to after being ousted by their constituents, Mr. Poilievre will officially resume his role as the face and voice of the Conservative Party in just under two weeks' time.

Now, the only possible bump in the road for Mr. Poilievre is the mandatory leadership review he will face in January.

But, although the Conservative Party has been relatively quick to turf leaders who underperform in recent years, it doesn't seem like Mr. by Mr. Poilievre would handle a fu-taken to calling the \$20,000 penalty new game plan.



Twiss News Editor

Poilievre's colleagues are clamouring for him to fall on his sword so a replacement can be named.

The Conservative Party's willingness to give Mr. Poilievre another kick at the proverbial can is interesting and somewhat understandable.

On the one hand, Mr. Poilievre successfully led his party to its largest vote share since former Prime Minister Brian Mulroney's Conservatives in 1988.

On the other hand, Mr. Poilievre somehow lost to a Liberal Party that, until a couple months before the federal election, was on the ropes and fighting blind with its hands tied behind its back, and he failed to hold

At the same time, there's no denying that Mr. Poilievre was a victim of circumstances beyond his control namely, the re-election of President Donald Trump and the subsequent game of Tariff Hokey Pokey he's subjected Canada and the rest of the

While it was extremely unlikely that Mr. Poilievre would attempt to establish himself as a tin-pot dictator in the same way Mr. Trump has in his second presidency, there was no denying the similarities between their policies and ideas.

Like Mr. Trump, Mr. Poilievre promised to reduce the size of government, slash immigration (a point he re-iterated last week while blaming temporary foreign workers for stealing jobs from young Canadians), and go to war against "wokeness" and "cancel culture."

The similarities don't end there. Mr. Poilievre's infamous "Axe the Tax" slogan, made irrelevant by Mr. Carnev's decision to eliminate the consumer portion of the tax on his first day in office, was cut from the same cloth as Mr. Trump's "Drill,

There were also legitimate questions about how a government led ered vehicles in 10 years. He's also

ture pandemic, like the COVID-19 pandemic, after Conservatives were so quick to embrace the Freedom Convoy that held Ottawa hostage and treat its members like a group of freedom loving patriots – at least until the more problematic MAGA-inspired elements of the "protest" came to the fore.

Indeed, even longtime Conservative strategist Kory Teneycke, who worked on campaigns for former Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Ontario Premier Doug Ford, accused Mr. Poilievre of sounding "too Trump-y," and said he needed to change his tune to have a chance of winning.

"There needs to be more of an emphasis on a positive message," he told CBC. "And I think you have to be a little more direct and more consistent in terms of the message around the U.S."

In recent weeks, however, we've been hearing much of what we've come to expect from Mr. Poilievre, as he's taken aim at the Liberal Party's EV mandate, which requires all new light-duty vehicles to be EVs by 2035.

Mr. Poilievre has called the policy a ban on gas-powered vehicles, almost making it sound as if Canadians will be forced to give up their gas-pow-

automobile manufacturers may face if they fail to meet the government's targets "a tax" – a new target, perhaps, for his favourite "Axe the Tax" slogan.

There's no denying that Mr. Poilievre is an excellent Leader of the Opposition. When it comes to exchanging whip-smart partisan barbs with political opponents, few Canadian politicians are on his level.

But catchy slogans and insults weren't enough to carry Mr. Poilievre over the finish line before, and he mustn't let himself believe it will be enough four years from now.

While an Abacus Data poll from last week had Mr. Poilievre's Conservatives ahead of Mr. Carney's Liberals for the first time since March (41 per cent to 39 per cent), Canadians still prefer Mr. Carney as their prime minister.

Indeed, in a recent Angus Reid poll, more than 50 per cent of respondents said they'd be ashamed to have Mr. Poilievre as their prime minister (a 10 per cent increase compared to 2023), with 52 per cent saying they believe him to be "insincere."

Though an election is likely four years away, this is far from the trajectory Mr. Poilievre wants to be on.

When he returns to Parliament on Sept. 15, he'd best show up with a

Shellbrook Chronicle

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Spiritwood Herald

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

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Editorial: chnews@sbchron.com Advertising: chads@sbchron.com

Jordan Twiss & Meghan Penney, **Co-Publishers**

Jordan Twiss, Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter jordan@sbchron.com/chnews@sbchron.com

Bevra Fee, Spiritwood Herald Reporter (306) 883-7058 or bevrafee@yahoo.ca

Meghan Penney, Advertising Sales & Composition/Pagination chads@sbchron.com

Bookkeeping/Reception 306-747-2442 or accounting@sbchron.com

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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Member of









Kinettes make summer additions to Centennial Park

By JORDAN TWISS Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

For most people, summer means days and evenings relaxing around the campfire or at a lakeside cabin. But for the Kinette Club of Shellbrook, the work to beautify the community never truly stops.

For years, Kin Park was the community group's chief priority. Its efforts saw new playground equipment, picnic tables, and a walking path around the playground added to the park.

In recent years, with a number of small pieces falling into place, the club's members have been pouring their hearts, souls, and efforts into making improvements at Centennial Park, taking over the mission started by the original Centennial Park board.

The Kinettes started small, partnering with W.P. Sandin High School with other locations in fic." town).

With an idea brought forward by Regan Buckingham, the Kinettes' next task was to bring a disc golf course to the community, and Centennial Park's vast, open green space made for the perfect location.

Designing the course with support from Disc Golf Saskatchewan, the Kinettes started off by installing seven holes and planting nearly 50 trees (36 Scots pines and 11 leaf trees). The final two holes and another 60 trees were added soon after, completing the community's 9-hole course (with each hole sponsored by a local or area business).

"It is something for all ages, all levels of play and all you need is a frisbee. It is a fun, free way to spend a couple hours enjoying the outdoors," said Tasha Cyr. "The course is pretty

to bring a Little Free Li- fantastic and gets a lot of brary to the park (along local and out of town traf-

> Other small beautifying touches around the park and disc golf course have included large rocks and plaques for eight trees that were planted as memorials for loved ones.

> That all brings us to this summer, which has seen the Kinettes continue adding to the park.

In June, the club started by installing a pair of gazebos at Centennial Park — one by the playground, and the other by the skate park. The gazebos had actually been purchased a few years ago, with a donation from the Town of Shellbrook, but the Kinettes had been waiting for the right time and location to install them.

A second donation from the Shellbrook Farmer's Market helped further offset the costs of the gazebos, while Bud Strube offered a hand moving dirt and the Kinsmen and Kinettes worked together on the construction and installation.

Around the same time, the Shellbrook Mamas, led by Kinette Kat Mackin-Smith hosted a rock painting event in Centennial Park, inviting about 40 kids out to paint rocks as part of a rock snake that has grown around the gazebo by the playground throughout the summer.

"Each rock is unique, and new ones can be added over time — so the snake keeps growing! It's a creative way for families to contribute, get out-



Shellbrook Kinettes and Kinsmen work together to install one of two gazebos at Centennial Park.

doors, and brighten up a shared space together," Mackin-Smith said.

To finish off a busy summer, the Kinettes spent the last bit of August installing dog poop bag stations in Centennial Park and in five other locations around town, including Kin Park, Service Road East (near Shellbrook Sales & Service), 7th Avenue East (by the high school football field), the Shellbrook Sports Grounds, and the corner of Dr. Fung & Dr. Hughes Drives.

While this seems like a lot of work, Cyr says there's more to be done, including the addition of a large information sign for the disc golf course.

"We do have a few more projects for Centennial Park, and hope to receive grants so we can move forward with our ideas."



The Shellbrook Mamas added a touch of colour to Centennial Park with this slowly growing rock snake.



The Kinettes spent the end of August installing dog poop bag stations around town. Pictured: Tasha Cyr (left) and Kelly Herndier with the station at Kin Park.



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

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 gener 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
- Work collaboratively with the manager

Submit applications by <u>August 31st, 2025</u> 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

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We thank all candidates for their interest; only those selected to continue in the recruitment process will be contacted.







RCMP seek stolen vehicle, wanted man

By JORDAN TWISS Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

The Prince Albert RCMP Detachment is asking for the public's assistance in locating a vehicle that was stolen from a residence on the Sturgeon Lake First Nation on the afternoon of Thursday, Aug. 21.

Police received a report of a robbery that afternoon, and officers' initial investigation determined that a male and a female came into the residence and threatened the occupant with a knife while demanding the keys to their vehicle.

The male and the female Devin Naytowhow.

hicle. The victim was not physically injured during the robbery.

Police say the investigation is ongoing, and are asking



then left in the victim's ve- the public to please report of possession of a firearm is a separate incident from any sightings of the vehicle. The vehicle is described as a black 2017 Hyundai Accent, with the Saskatchewan plate 278 NYU. Do not approach the vehicle or its occupants.

> A few days after the initial report of the robbery police asked the public to report sightings and information on the whereabouts of 34-year-Devin Naytowhow, who is wanted on warrant for charges including: two counts each of possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose and unauthorized possession of a firearm and ammunition in a motor vehicle, and one count each

knowing its possession is unauthorized and flight from a peace officer.

These charges were laid in connection with investigations from April 27, Sept. 17, Oct. 19, and Nov. 20, 2023.

Naytowhow is described as 5 feet 9 inches and 250 lbs, with brown hair and brown eyes. He is known to travel to the Sturgeon Lake First Nation, the Little Red River First Nation, and Prince Albert, and police believe he may be driving the black 2017 Hyundai Accent with the Saskatchewan license plate 278 NYU.

It should be noted that this

a similar robbery that occurred in the community on Tuesday, Aug. 19. The vehicle stolen in that robbery is described as a 2016 Chrysler 300 with Saskatchewan license plate 175 NRI.

Anyone who sees Naytowhow or either of these vehicles, or who has any additional information regarding these incidents, is urged to report it to police by calling 306-310-RCMP (7267). Information can also be submitted anonymously by contacting Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or www.saskcrimestoppers.com.

APAS calls for action on US, Chinese tariffs

By APAS Submitted

With most farmers focused on harvest, the Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan (APAS) has its sights set on the uncertainty created by the Chinese tariffs on agriculture products. APAS is calling on the federal government to signal immediate support for farmers, help advance processing domestic capacity, and diversify sure long-term stability for Canada's agriculture sector.

"While there were announcements of up to 4.6 million metric tonnes additional canola processing capacity in Saskatchewan, progress has been limited with only Cargill's 1 million metric tonne project expected to be operational soon," said APAS President Bill Prybylski. "A prime opportunity exists for Bunge, whichViterra—is mandated to invest \$500 million in capital expenditures. A commitment by Bunge to move ahead with this its Regina project would significantly benefit Saskatchewan's economy and reassure producers across the province. It's time for government and industry to reassess these plans and work to move them forward."

APAS warns that Saskatchewan's producers are facing unprecedented uncertainty this harvest season. With uncertain prices for canola and peas and higher carry-over inventories from last year putting financial pressure on farmers and trade disputes adding to the strain.

"Farmers are facing a perfect storm of challenges this harvest," said Prybylski. "Uncertain prices, unsold inventory, and unreliable trading relationships put them in a dangerous position not from any decisions they made, but as col-

export markets to en- following its takeover of lateral of a global trade within Canada." dispute they didn't start and don't want. Farmers need to know the government has their backs if this situation continues or worsens."

Saskatchewan is Canada's largest canola and pea producing province, and APAS notes that expanded domestic processing facilities could dramatically improve stability for farmers while stimulating economic growth for Cana-

"Domestic processing isn't just about insulating farmers from global trade risks—it's about creating certainty for the entire agriculture industry and supporting the broader Canadian economy," Prybylski explained. "Saskatchewan producers need these processing facilities to materialize. If we can crush more of our canola or process more peas here at home, it reduces dependence on volatile export markets, creates jobs, and keeps value

APAS is also urging the federal government to prioritize diversification of export markets for Canadian agriculture products. China currently accounts for a significant portion of Canadian canola exports, making geopolitical tensions and trade barriers increasingly threatening to Saskatchewan's producers. Expanding export opportunities in regions such as South Asia, South America,

and Europe would help stabilize demand and protect farm incomes.

If the federal government takes decisive action to support farmers, accelerate domestic processing capabilities, diversify export markets, it will create stability not just for agriculture, but for the entire Canadian economy. The pieces are largely in place—we just need leadership to push them forward," Prybylski adds.

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.

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.

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

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

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

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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
- 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

Moe, Carney must unite on China tariffs

Saskatchewan Premier Scott Moe was in the Yorkton area two weeks ago to announce that the province will fund 50 per cent of upgrades to Grain Millers Drive.

That's certainly good news for Yorkton and area, as the road is a major connector serving the two canola crush plants and the big oat processor along its seven kilometres, and it is of course good news for farmers delivering to those facilities.

However, few details came with Premier Moe's announcement, including no actual dollar amount tied to the province's 50 per cent, how the partnering municipalities — the City of Yorkton and RM of Orkney — would share their 50 per cent of costs, or when the project might actually get under way.

So we can mark the announcement as a prelude to something positive some day.

Moe also veered off the actual road project and talked about a provincial plan to send a delegation to China to try and facilitate an easing of Chinese tariffs on Canadian goods, including canola and pork.



That plan is of greater immediate interest.

While Moe did point out the United States remains the major market for Saskatchewan, the likelihood of them, or anyone else, coming up with a long term deal as long as Donald Trump is president is remote.

There is little to suggest Trump wants a deal, and every concession made by others is likely to simply be met by more exorbitant demands.

The trust factor when Trump makes a deal is negligible at best, so we are far better off shoring up trade with other countries.

So, sending a delegation to China is a good idea. If nothing else, it builds relationships and keeps the lines of communication open.

Better news from Moe was that he will be inviting Prime Minister Mark Carney to accompany the Saskatchewan delegation, along with other federal officials.

Given the upheavals in trade created primarily by Trump, it is time the province put aside the constant finger-pointing at Ottawa it has undertaken in recent years, and worked more cooperatively on things — in this case, facilitating trade.

Certainly, it is the same government in Ottawa as the one Moe has blamed for most everything in recent years, but Carney is new, and the times have changed.

To get deals done — minus Trump of course

 it will take federal government involvement.

So kudos to Moe for the invite.

Of course, now it is imperative that Carney take an equally conciliatory step and say yes to sending federal reps on the trip.

Getting a deal done that kicks open the door on trade with China would be good for Saskatchewan and for Canada at a time when we need trade options more than ever, since our traditional greatest ally seems to be receding ever farther from that role.

Crop Report: Aug. 19 to 25

By MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

Submitted

It was a hot week in Saskatchewan with heavy thunderstorms bringing strong winds and large hail to some regions. Harvest is in full swing in certain areas, while rainfall and humid conditions stalled operations in other areas. Harvest progress continues to lag behind the five and 10-year averages with 12 per cent of the crop off.

The southwest continues to lead harvest progress as 23 per cent of crops are off, followed by the southeast where progress sits at 14 per cent. The east and west-central regions trail behind at 11 per cent and six per cent harvest progress, respectively. Only a few producers in the northern regions have started combining as progress sits at three per cent in the northeast and two per cent in the northwest.

Producers are primarily focused on combining winter cereal and pulse crops. Over half of winter cereals are in the bin with harvest progress for winter wheat at 70 per cent and fall rye at 66 per cent. There was also a notable increase in harvested pulse acres from last week, with 45 per cent of peas and 35 per cent of lentils now complete. Additionally, more producers are starting to harvest their spring cereals with triticale, barley and durum progress sitting at 42 per cent, 17 per cent and 13 per cent, respectively. The first acres of spring wheat, oats and chickpeas are coming off, but progress is minimal at this point.

Provincially, winter wheat grades are 23 per cent 1 Canada Western (CW), 65 per cent 2 CW, 11 per cent 3 CW and one per cent CW Feed. Winter wheat quality this year is lower than the 10-year average of 54 per cent 1 CW, 32 per cent 2 CW, nine per cent 3 CW, and five per cent CW Feed. For fall rye, grades are 30 per cent 1 CW, 56 per cent 2 CW, 13 per cent 3 CW and one per cent sample. Like winter wheat, fall rye quality this year is lower than the 10-year average of 52 per cent 1 CW, 39 per cent 2 CW, eight per cent 3 CW and one per cent sample.

Many parts of the province were dry last week which advanced crop maturity and harvest efforts. Thunderstorms brought rain to some areas, including the Nipawin area that had the most rainfall with 42 mm, followed by the North Battleford and Consul areas with 30 mm and 28 mm, respectively. There were plenty of additional areas that received notable rainfall last week.

Despite some rainfall, provincial topsoil moisture levels fell slightly last week, but conditions remain high relative to earlier this growing season. Cropland topsoil levels are currently three per cent surplus, 77 per cent adequate, 18 per cent short, and two per cent very short. Hayland topsoil moisture is three per cent surplus, 66 per cent adequate, 27 per cent short and four per cent very short. Lastly, pasture topsoil moisture is three per cent surplus, 60 per cent adequate, 31 per cent short and six per cent very short.

Sufficient rainfall and high soil moisture levels in previous weeks have improved pasture conditions in many areas. Currently, five per cent of pastures are in excellent condition, 43 per cent are good, 38 per cent are fair, 12 per cent are poor and two per cent are in very poor condition.

Bertha armyworm activity in canola crops caused the most crop damage once again this week, but damage was fairly minor and not widespread as many infested fields have been sprayed. Grasshoppers and wildlife also caused minor crop damage in a few pockets of the province. Additionally, there was noticeable damage from strong winds and hail in areas that had thunderstorms. Finally, high temperatures paired with dry conditions caused minor damage to later-seeded crops in a few areas that have not reached maturity yet.

Since harvest is getting into full swing, there will be increased farm equipment traffic on public roadways. Drivers are reminded to exercise patience and caution when encountering large equipment on the road. Additionally, farm equipment operating in dry fields can present a fire risk. Producers are encouraged to take safety precautions to mitigate fire risk and ensure harvest efforts are conducted safely.

Harvest can be a stressful time on the farm. The Farm Stress Line provides toll free support at 1-800-667-4442.

Northwestern Sask.

Harvest is slowly getting underway for some producers as many crops are not quite ready for harvest. Only two per cent of crops in the northwest have been harvested, most of which are winter wheat and pulses. Half of the winter wheat crops have been harvested, while harvest progress for field peas and lentils is reported at 20 per cent and 10 per cent, respectively. Some spring wheat and barley fields are being opened up, but progress in these crops is minimal so far. There are no fall cereal crops to report for the northwest.

Like the northeast, there was modest rainfall in the northwest. The North Battleford area received

the most rain with 30 millimetres (mm), followed closely by the Meadow Lake area with 27 mm and Hafford area with 20 mm. Soil moisture levels dropped slightly from last week. Cropland topsoil moisture is now rated as one per cent surplus, 65 per cent adequate, 29 per cent short and five per cent very short. For hayland areas, topsoil moisture is 45 per cent adequate, 41 per cent short and 14 per cent very short. Finally, pasture topsoil moisture is 45 per cent adequate, 41 per cent short and 14 per cent very short

Pasture conditions vary in the region. Two per cent are in excellent condition, 19 per cent are good, 43 per cent are fair, 26 per cent are poor and 10 per cent are very poor.

Most crop damage reported was from dry conditions, hail, and heavy winds. Some fields experienced varying levels of bertha armyworm and grasshopper damage as well. Despite damage being reported, it was not widespread in 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 4^{th} day of September, 2025.

Lorna Benson, Administrator

Shell Lake Library hosts children's author

By BEVRA FEE Spiritwood Herald Reporter

On Wednesday, Aug. local children's 27, book author Heather Beauchesne visited the Shell Lake Library for a book-reading and discussion about the creative writing process involved. Having several books to her credit, Beauchesne explained the motivation behind her urge to put stories into print as being a desire to reach her nieces and nephews on their level.

As an artist, Beauchesne brings a multi-faceted approach to her book-writing in that she also illustrates the fun tales herself. Graphic arts is just one of her many creative talents, and Beauchesne has used the exercise of writing to

also explore the publishing experience. From her first foray, she has learned with each book to utilize modern platforms in the way of computer applications and online printing outlets.

Sitting in the Shell Lake Library with an afternoon audience to hear, librarian Christopher Lindsay read one of Beauchesne's books. Beauchesne was subsequently invited to discuss her creative pathway to publishing her books, outlining that she felt moved to inspire her nieces and nephews to do their own story-telling.

To facilitate the development of a story line, she created a book with an easy outline for young people to utilize, so they can tailor their ideas into a cohesive story.

"When I was reading

Heather Beauchesne, author of four books, explains her publishing process to an afternoon audience at Shell Lake Library.

to the kids, I wanted to leave a lot of the visuals to their imagination — I did not want to give them everything. I wanted to create a visual read that left them to create the characters' images in their minds. Creating a fun essence of the story without defining the look of the characters leaves it to individual interpretation."

Indeed, the illustrations in Beauchesne's books are not shown from a facial vantage point; they are depicted looking upon scenes without characterizing their features.

"Going through this visual consistency, there is a hidden pattern or a little indication that is in every single scene," Beauchesne said, noting that there is also a cohesive colour palette and general layout for consis-

Admitting that the first book took two years to produce, because "she was so analytic", Beauchesne said her subsequent books took much less time. Since her first in 2022, she has published four books, with her most recent being a nod to her latest nephew.

"I told myself to relax and get the book out. There will always be another idea that comes along, and another book."

Once Beauchesne led the listeners through her writing and illustrating process, she answered questions about online portals for self-publishing before handing the focus to her two nieces — Ariel and Norie — along with her nephew, Aidan, who read "Siblings are the Worst," the book they created using their aunt's outline and format.

The audience was able to gain insight about their brainstorming process, their separate ideas and contributions to the story and their collaboration in selecting the concepts that would form the story.

"They each had their own iPad and did their own illustrations, so we chose an equal amount of images from each one," Beauchesne said.

Once that was laid out, they had fun building in the characters — all with guidance from Beauchesne. The children faced questions from the audience also, and clearly explained their process and their plans for their book.

"We are planning to sell it at the Sip & Shop and the trade show, and we are donating half the proceeds to a charity called The Jesse Tree," they said.

When asked their favourite part of the process, two kids answered "drawing," while Aidan admitted that his favourite part was "getting the book done."



From left to right: Ariel Smolinski, Norie Beauchesne, and Aidan Smolinski read from a book they wrote in collaboration with Beauchesne.

Minutes of a Village of Canwood council meeting

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

The minutes of the regular council meeting of the Village of Canwood held on July 15, 2025.

Mayor Lorne Benson called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m., with a quorum being present.

Present at the meeting were: Mayor Lorne Benson, Councillors Ken Moar, Rvan Demers, Kavtlvn Mitchell, and Greg Edeen, and Administrator Heather Sten.

Mitchell: That the agenda be acepted as presented. Carried

Eden: That the minutes of June 17, 2025, be approved as presented. Car-

Demers: That the Bank Reconciliations for the month of June 2025 be accepted as presented. Carried

Demers: That the financial statements for the month of June 2025 be accepted as presented.

Moar: That the employee attendance sheets for June 2025 be accepted as presented. Carried

Benson: That the council Indemnity for July 2025 be accepted as pre-

Edeen: That the Employee Payroll for the month of June 2025, totaling \$10,921.46 and the Council Remuneration of \$890 be accepted as presented. Carried

Moar: That the list of accounts payable from Batch 2025-00040 to Batch 2025-00050, which includes all cheques, online payments and EFTs for a total of \$66,130,27 be accepted as presented. Carried

Moar: That the Water Treatment Plant reports for the months of June and July 2025, ALS Lab Water reports from June 17 & 30, 2025 and July 2 & 4, 2025, and Reservoir Cleaning Report from June 25 & 26, 2025 be accepted as presented. Carried

Benson: That the verbal report by Councillors Edeen & Demers regarding Highway 55 Waste Management be accepted as presented. Carried

Edeen: That the following Correspondence be filed: SRSD Board Highlights, SRPSD Budget, Federal Plastics, SFPO Sponsor Request, WSA - Channel Clearing Funding, CCBF Summary, Letter from Legion, and Derelict Building Pilot Project.

Moar: That council advise administrator to contract a professional sewer flushing company to flush the sewer system this year. Carried

Mitchell: That we cancel cheque #6535, that was lost in the mail, and reissue. Carried

Demers: That the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

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.

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 the 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



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

Shellbrook Chronicle & Spiritwood Herald 9

25th EK Classic breaks records

By MAISIE KRIENKE Submitted

One hundred eighty golfers signed up for the 25th anniversary of the EK Classic golf tournament, which is an annual event hosted in memory of Eddie Krienke, who passed away in 2000. This is a family and friend fun golf event with lots of time to reminisce and participate in several competitions.

Aug. 8 had finally arrived! Early morning golfers began reporting to registration at 9 a.m. and enjoyed a coffee and muffin, thanks to Leah Scriven, before they headed off to the course. Golfing began at 10 a.m. on Friday, with a full flight going out every two hours. Karen Fey-Hill took total responsibility for the registration. By the end of the day all teams had made their first 9 and were flighted for the final round which took place on Saturday.

The Community Centre

was the hub of the action. It is where golfers and family gathered to visit, reminisce, and participate in the putting competition, purchase raffle and 50/50 tickets, check out the prize table, grab a bucket list entry every 2 hours, and get their arms ready for bidding on 'the best' teams. It was also time to check out the silent auction table and get those bids going.

The Sawchuk family travelled from Prince Rupert to get in on the visit with cousins and to deliver their donations of multiple jars of Helena's Canned Salmon which is always a hit for silent auction bidding. The bar and concession were efficiently operated by many volunteers. Deb and Ron Hein, April Johnson, Jordanna Johnson and Cora Sutherland, Heather Pond and Connie Donald, and Wendy Greenhough were busy both days prepping pizza, mixing drinks shooting the breeze with all the golfers. All this



This year's EK Classic crowned two pairs of champions: Ray and Kelly Krienke (left), and Wyatt and Kohen Starkell (right).

while May Fabish and Diana Darbyshire attended to the sales of Memorial Bag raffle, 50/50, and Roughrider Cooler & memorabilia while Eve

crowd every two hours selling Bucket List tickets.

Friday evening is a snack time everyone waits for, as once again Sandy and Faye Ingram donated a feast of bison dogs. These couldn't be favoured more, especially when you add a few candied jalapenos along with all the other condiments.

A special time was taken to pay memory to Nick Fouillard. Nick was a family friend who not only participated in the EK Classic for many years, but also donated the bar fridge and contents for the putting competition. Unfortunately, we lost Nick to an accident this year. Tribute was paid to Nick by renaming our competition "Putt for Nick". Each time you entered to putt for a chance to win the fridge, you received a special 'can koozie' logoed with "Putt for Nick!" Many participants managed to drop their putt and get an entry in the drum. The lucky winner of the 'Nick fridge' was Nora Robertson, a 5-year-old who travelled all the way from Yellowknife to putt and win.

evening's highlight... getting those hands ready to rise for a bid on your favorite team. Score recorders Leslie Krienke and Arlene Gilbert prepped the listing for auctioneer Randy Krienke to get the bidding rolling. We all think we're wise when it comes to who will improve their score in the second round, however, some of us were not so good at making this decision. Still, it was all fun just the same. Bidders were out in full force as it was nearly midnight by the time the championship flight got to the auction table. With

and her friends combed the a quick closure many of the active ones headed to the hotel to get in on a little of the entertainment there, while the wise ones headed home to rest up so as to improve

their second round. Saturday morning was a 9 a.m. start for flights 12, 13, and 14. Everybody quickly grabbed a muffin and coffee and headed to the course. Obviously, those who had headed home early the night prior proved it was a wise decision as their scores improved by nine and ten points on their second round. The remaining flights teed off at 11, 2:00 and 4:30. Everyone dropped in to Community Centre during the lunch hour to enjoy a hamburger & bean luncheon donated by George and Arlene Ritchie, which was prepared by Sasha Balaniuk, Tim Balaniuk, Ron Gallego, and Kyle Wolf. Once they cleared the kitchen it was time for Doug Veenstra and his energetic crew of Kat Palisoc, Rio Butron, Wendy Greenhough and Hershey Halog to begin the supper preparation.

This second round was an important one as there was Then, it was time for the an opportunity to sink a hole-in-one on #8 and ride home on a super golf cart quad donated by Rally Motorsports. Unfortunately, Al and Scott Sarrazin had to return the quad unclaimed. Then, another wonderful challenge came on #9 as Travis Gould of TR Petroleum. laid out \$1,500 cash to be claimed by the golfers who landed Closest to the Pin. The men's \$500 was claimed by Cory Randall, ladies \$500 by Juana McKnight, Jr. boys \$250 went to Jude Devonshire, and Jr. girls \$250 to Jillian Krienke.

Continued on page 11



Dave Starkell (right) was the winner of the memorial bag.



Nora Robertson was the winner of the "Putt for Nick" fridge, a prize to honour Nick Fouillard, a long-time EK Classic participant.



Judges awarded prizes to entrants for their costumes. From left to right: Gomez and Morticia Adams (Janel and Joel Sobshyshyn), the Priest and Nun (Dwayne and Kristi Dyok), and The Brown Sugar Honey Bees (James Neufeldt and AJ Gardiner).

Op-ed: Extra break needed at pumps

By GAGE HAUBRICH

CTF Prairie Director

Everything is getting more expensive, and family budgets can't take any more punishment.

A \$300 grocery run in 2020 costs about \$380 today. That means if you get groceries once a week for your family, you're paying about \$4,140 more for food this year.

The price of everything in Saskatchewan increased by about 17 per cent over the last five years. Food specifically is costing Saskatchewanians about 27 per cent more. Wages only increased by about nine per cent over the same time. That means people are working just as hard, but they're falling further behind.

need relief, and Pre-

make life more affordable immediately cutting his fuel tax.

The Saskatchewan Trucking Association called on the provincial government to stop driving up food costs by charging fuel taxes on the fuel used for truck refrigeration units. The STA highlights that just one refrigeration unit costs \$24,000 a year in fuel taxes.

"These units transport food and critical medications across the province and the additional costs to fuel them are being passed on to consumers every time they visit the grocery store," the STA said.

This is a clear example of how taxes make life less affordable. The government should listen to the STA and get the tax off the fuel used Saskatchewanians for these units. In fact, the Moe government

mier Scott Moe can should go further with extra costs are passed a cut to the entire fuel tax.

> This would help businesses save money and a fuel tax cut would also put more money directly back into everyday Saskatchewanians' pockets.

About 24 per cent of the price you pay at the pump in Saskatchewan is taxes. That means every time you fill up a minivan, about \$23 of the bill is tax. Those taxes include the federal gas tax that costs 10 cents per litre and GST that costs about 6.3 cents per litre. The Saskatchewan government also charges a provincial gas tax of 15 cents per litre.

When a trucker fills up their semi, they're paying about \$150 in provincial gas taxes when they fuel up. And just like with the refrigeration units, those onto people buying stuff at stores.

Saskatchewan is losing on gas taxes to both of its neighbours. Alberta charges a 13 cents per litre fuel tax, while Manitoba charges a fuel tax of 12.5 cents per litre.

Cutting the fuel tax by 3.5 cents to 11.5 cents per litre would leave Saskatchewan with the lowest gas tax in Western Canada. That cut would save a semi driver about \$34 per fill up. In total, slashing the gas tax by 3.5 cents per litre would save Saskatchewan taxpayers about \$121 million a year.

Gas tax cuts are popular with taxpayers. Last year polling showed that 74 per cent Saskatchewanians were in favour of a gas tax cut.

Saskatchewan government also knows fuel taxes make life more expensive. For years, Premier Scott Moe rightly criticized the federal government for charging a carbon tax on fuel. Moe also went the extra mile in eliminating Saskatchewan's industrial carbon tax because it made life more expensive.

Now it's time to take another step forward for affordability, because the provincial fuel tax costs consumers just like the consumer carbon tax did. Both taxes drive up the cost of fuel, no matter which government is forcing them on Saskatchewanians.

Cutting the fuel tax Saskatchewanians save money today, but it also helps lessen the blow of any future carbon taxes imposed on Saskatchewan by Ottawa. That's because Prime Minister Mark Carney may have gotten rid of the consumer carbon tax, but he promised to "improve and tighten" the industrial carbon tax.

That likely means that Carney is going to make the industrial carbon tax even more expensive. The Saskatchewan government prepare for that reality by cutting the gas tax to the lowest rate in Western Canada to make life more affordable.

Premier Moe embarks on Asia trade mission

By MINISTRY OF TRADE & **EXPORT DEVELOPMENT**

Submitted

Premier Scott Moe will lead a mission in early September to China and Japan to strengthen ties with two of the province's largest trading partners. Premier Moe also extended an invitation to Prime Minister Mark Carney, and any other federal ministers, to join the trade mission.

This is the first time a Canadian Premier has conducted a trade mission to China in six years. The mission aims to bolster partnerships and foster enhanced collaboration in trade and innovation.

"Saskatchewan has expressed urgency to the federal government and been clear that we need to see action now to support the over 200,000 people across Canada's canola industry," Premier Moe said. "That's why we are leading through this mission, reinforcing future trade opportunities and engaging with China on these temporary duties before it's too late."

Simultaneously Trade and Export Development Minister Warren Kaeding will lead a mission to South Korea and then join the Premier for the Japan portion of his mission. This mission aims to deepen Saskatchewan's ties with international food, agriculture and energy industry stakeholders while showcasing the advantages of doing business in the province.

"As we continue to diversify our export markets, we see a lot of opportunity in both Japan and South Korea," Kaeding said. "Our government is working hard to navigate ongoing trade challenges, and our international trade and investment offices are the vital resource that will guide us through. We are committed to missions such as these because they bring back real results to the citizens of our province."

In 2024, Saskatchewan's exports to Asia exceeded \$10 billion. Exports to China totaled \$4.4 billion, while South Korea and Japan combined are \$162 million and \$929 million respectively.

Saskatchewan continues to lead by example in supporting the province's canola industry. Earlier this week, Moe announced funding for up to 50 per cent of the cost for road improvements to Grain Millers Drive near Yorkton to support the area's canola producers and processors. The Premier also met with canola sector leaders in Saskatoon to discuss Canada's response to Chinese tariffs.

The China mission will run from Sept. 6 to 12, 2025. The South Korea mission will run from Sept. 6 to 9,

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

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

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-

SHELLBROOK: Light & Lumber Rustic Market - Crafted with heart • Rooted in memory. Saturday, September 20th, 2025, Shellbrook Elks Sports Grounds,

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Get set for a season of NFL excitement

The 2025 National Football League season starts this week, so it's the perfect time for a few recollections and some look-aheads.

The Detroit Lions tied Kansas City for the best record during the 2024 regular season (15-2), but injuries caught up to them and the Lions flamed out against Washington in the divisional round of playoffs.

KC's 15 wins, most of them by narrow margins, helped get them to the Super Bowl for the third straight year, before getting blasted 40-22 by the Philadelphia Eagles.

The Eagles, with much the same lineup as last year's champs, will be gunning for two in a row this year.

The Most Valuable Player race, a contest in 2024 between the three most recent winners (Patrick Mahomes, Lamar Jackson and Josh Allen) will probably include those three quarterbacks as well as a fourth, Cincinnati's Joe Burrow, who was the league's passing leader last year but couldn't overcome his team's shaky defence en route to a non-playoff 9-8 record.

How will the league's quarterbacks young fare in 2025? Will Caleb Williams of the Bears, the No. 1 pick last year, continue his ascent under new head coach Ben Johnson, acclaimed as the NFL's No. 1 offensive innovator?

Will Washington's Jayden Daniels, last year's offensive rookie of the year, improve on his spectacular quarterbacking play or will he suffer from a sophomore jinx that has afflicted so many over the years?

Will Bo Nix of the Denver Broncos find his second year as the team's No. 1 quarterback as easy as it appeared to be for him during the second half of his rookie campaign?

What about the old guys? Forty-year-old Aaron Rodgers is nearing the end of a Hallof-Fame career as the starting quarterback for the Pittsburgh Steelers, who were solid at every position except QB last



Wilson fare in the Big Apple? After bouncing around the league following a solid 10 years in Seattle, Wilson has wound up as the Giants No. 1 quarterback while the team gives high profile draft pick Jaxson Dart a chance to use 2025 as a year of schooling. Across town, the Jets are hoping Justin Fields, who had soso stints at QB with the Bears and Steelers, can find some magic.

The spotlight will be shining brightly on quarterback J.J. Mc-Carthy in Minnesota. The team's top pick two years ago, McCarthy was injured in his first training camp and year. How will Russell played zero minutes in

2024. That opened the door for journeyman Sam Darnold to have a surprisingly sensational season with the Vikings (14-3) and convert that success into a lucrative free-agent contract with Seattle Seahawks.

And, of course, a preview of the National Football League season would not be complete without a few words on America's team, the Dallas Cowboys. Owner Jerry Jones has made QB Dak Prescott the highest-paid player in the league but had acrimonious contract talks with his No. 1 defensive player, Micah Parsons, who eventually demanded a trade.

Time for kickoff. Sit back and enjoy.

- · Former NFL offensive lineman Art Donovan, who weighed 260 lbs: "I'm a light eater. As soon as it's light, I start eating."
- Mike Bianchi of the Orlando Sentinel: "Did you see where they erected a massive 12foot statue of Tom Brady in front of Gillette Stadium in New England? They actually wanted to

build a 14-foot statue, but Brady insisted that it be slightly underinflated."

- Bianchi again: "Ah, football season. Sweet football season. For a few precious months, you give us something to believe in and a diversion from inflation, immigration and political polarization. We don't just watch football; we need football. You see, football in our pigskin peninsula isn't just a sport; it's our sanctuary from the heat, the hurricanes and the headlines."
- RJ Currie of sportsdeke.com: "Former World Chess champion Magnus Carlsen is reportedly a major celebrity at home in Norway. And good news ladies, he isn't married - although he has been mated."
- · Another one from RJ Currie: "Elks OB Tre Ford was benched for Cody Fajardo after a week-six loss when he completed only four of 12 attempts for 34 yards with no touchdowns. I have a higher rate of passing kidney stones."

- Headline at the-"Rockies onion.com: Pitcher Pledges To Give Up Home Run For Sick Child"
- Headline at fark. com, after Indianapolis named Daniel Jones its starting quarterback: "The Colts officially throw in the towel on the 2025 season."
- Super 70s Sports: "Archie Manning is the Abraham of quarterbacks. In 100 years, all 32 teams will be starting one of his descendants."
- · Steve Simmons of the Toronto Sun: "If you didn't get excited watching Shane Bieber make his return from Tommy John surgery on Aug 22, check your pulse."
- · Another one from Simmons: "Why did the CFL need to announce in mid-season that the Argos will move three home games to Winnipeg, Regina, Hamilton next season (because of World Cup stadium conflicts)? Why not wait until the season ends to anger all of the 17 Argos fans I know?"
- Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

flavour to the event. A team

of judges awarded prizes to

The Brown Sugar Honey Bees

(James Neufeldt and AJ Gar-

diner), the Priest and Nun

(Dwayne and Kristi Dyok), and

Gomez and Morticia Adams

(Joel and Janel Sobshyshyn).

Then, it was time to random-

ly draw which flight would get

to choose their prize from that

magnificent prize table. Over

25th EK Classic breaks records

Continued from 9

The Bucket List cruisers continuously circled the tables collecting toonies and depositing names in for a chance to win the swing set and wine rack, which were made and donated by Ron & Arlene Gilbert. Every two hours, they would draw two names. These lucky ones received a '25 EK Classic hat and golf balls, plus their name advanced to the final draw. Chances to win were high, as only 20 names were in the final draw. The two lucky ones were Kevin Ingram, going home with the swing, and Susi Ingram with the wine rack and glasses.

All teams were in by 6 to enjoy the delicious supper donated by Neil and Rhoda Marshall and prepared by Doug Veenstra and crew. Leslie Krienke and Arlene Gilbert were busy collecting all score cards to record for championship and Calcutta outcomes. Thrilled to get their names on the trophy as champions were Wyatt Pitre and Kohen Starkell, along with Ray and Kelly Krienke, coming

in with tied scores. Congratulations to these champs!

There were several delighted faces as the Calcutta results were posted. However, also some rather sad ones as their bids did not perform as wished.

Randy presented the Championship Trophy to Wyatt, Kohen, Ray, and Kelly. The 50/50 of \$630 was won by Rov Gilbert. Rylan Starkell went to Taylor Olson, Leanne Holhome with the memorial bag, and Karen Fey-Hill, a hardcore Riders' fan, packed up the Roughrider cooler and memorabilia. Closest to the Line drive on #2 was claimed by Brent Misener, Lauren Demmans, Ryder Osinchuk and Phoebe Krienke, while the longest drive on #5 was awarded

brook, Kohen Starkell, and Zoey Krienke.

Many friends and relatives travelled for miles to take in this event. Cousins Julie Makin and Dale Richie drove from Bracebridge, Ont., and nephew Jayson Ingram travelled in from China. Many of them came in costume to add



continuously asked, what is the date for next year? Ski Timber Ridge will receive \$11,590 which will go towards the new snow-making equipment, plus \$2,000 will be donated to CARRES for the development of their activities centre. Besides all the fun had at

this event over the 25 years, the EK Classic has contributed \$237,000 to the community. It has been a wonderful way to pay memory to Eddie.



Longest drive winners, from left to right: Taylor Olson, Kohen Starkell, Leanne Holbrook, and Zoey Krienke.

OBITUARY

Raymonde Bouchard



Our beloved Mother, Grandma, Auntie, sister and friend Raymonde slipped peacefully away to her Heavenly Home on July 22, 2025. She was born in the family home in the St. Denis/ Vonda area of Saskatchewan on June 14th, 1931, the 2nd child of Laurette and Louis Denis. The first 5 children were girls, so Raymonde, being the tomboy, helped her dad with outdoor farm chores, which she thoroughly enjoyed. She left home at the age of 15, and was hired to do household jobs in Marcelin, Debden and at the Leoville hotel. On October 11, 1950,

Raymonde married Albert Bouchard, and for 5 years they made their home on a farm in Pascal, Sask. While living there, they became parents to son Bob and daughter Linda. In 1955, they moved to Port Alberni, B.C., where Albert found work in the pulp mill. It was while living there that Denis was born in 1961. The love of home and the desire to be closer to family prompted them to return to Saskatchewan; and after 14 years in B.C., Albert transferred to the pulp mill in

Prince Albert. One year later they purchased the Crossland busline and moved to Chitek Lake for a short period; then permanently relocated to Leoville, where they operated a bus transportation route to Prince Albert for 23 years.

On Feb 22,1970, Raymonde and Albert experienced the most tragic and heartbreaking day of their lives, when their daughter Linda passed away from cancer at the young age of 15.

In 1971, Raymonde went to work at the local hardware store, the famous Marshall Wells, owned by Clarence Charbonneau, where she worked for 17 years. She thoroughly enjoyed her time working there. Raymonde was truly a kind, positive and happy person; a great friend who was always ready to help anyone in need. She found joy in gardening; her flowerbeds and pots were always full of pansies and petunias. She enjoyed knitting, crocheting, jigsaw puzzles, watching soap operas, playing bingo and having coffee with friends and family. Raymonde and Albert found great pleasure and relaxation in camping, and they ventured out as often as they could. They also loved to dance and were exceptional at old time dancing.

Raymonde is lovingly remembered by her sons, grandchildren and great grandchildren: Bob (Wendy) family: Daniel (Melanie) - Capri & Carson, Blaine (Karen) - Trent & Jordy,

Carmel (Bow). Denis (Donna) and family: Leanne (Kevin) Russel - Paige & Payton Her siblings: Simone Chase, Anne Marie Compagna, Paul (Lorraine) Denis, Ernest (Doris) Denis, Claude (Sue) Denis, Celine Doucette, Cecile (Sid) Klics, Charles (Deanna) Denis. Her sistersin-law: Alison Denis, Clemence Poirier, Bella (Joe) Marziliano, her brother-in-law Armand (Bonnie) Bouchard and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Raymonde predeceased by her husband Albert, daughter Linda, parents Louis and Laurette Denis. Her siblings: Eva (Albert) Crossland, Rolande (Leo) Poulin, Lillian (Roland) Girard, Armand (Yvette) Denis, Gilbert Denis. siblings in law: Murray Chase, Real Compagna, Wilfred Doucette, Glenda Denis. Her foster brothers: Gerald Watson and Mervin Watson. Her parents-in-law and Claire Bouchard, and her brother-in-law O'Neil Poirier.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on July 31, 2025, 11:00 am at Ste Therese Roman Catholic Church, Leoville, Sask. with Father Ramel Macapala as celebrant.

Raymonde's final resting place is the Leoville cemetery with her husband Albert and daughter Linda.

Memorial donations may be made to Evergreen Health Centre -Activities or to Leoville Seniors Golden Ring Centre as tokens of remembrance.

Family and friends wishing to send online condolences are welcome to visit www. beaulacfuneralhome. Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of Beau "Lac" Funeral Home and Crematorium, R. Muir Funeral Director, Spiritwood, SK (306) 883-3500.

Shell Lake Legion alarmed by vandalism

What happens when you don't advertise?

Very little.

By CAROLYN LALONDE Shell Lake Legion

Memorial Hill, located in Shell Lake, is a tribute to the brave local men and women who served our country. Its history is rooted in a community-wide effort to remember the veterans from the area.

The monument itself, a cross set on a stone base, was constructed in 1929 by local veterans, with the help of the local boy scouts. The stones used for the base were painstakingly collected from the homesteads of local WWI veterans. The project was a profoundly personal and symbolic act that forever linked the monument to the families it was meant to honor.

The cross faces East to West,

and a Canadian flag flies proudly on top the hill. The top of the hill, a whole 1,965 feet above sea level, or 120 feet above Memorial Lake, offers a serene view of the lake and surrounding landscape.

For decades, the preservation of Memorial Hill has been the primary mission of Shell Lake Legion Branch #15, who have taken on the responsibility of ensuring that the monument remains a respected and accessible site. The Legion has undertaken several key projects to maintain and improve the hill.

In 2004, members initiated a major upgrade, which included the installation of new concrete steps and handrails to enhance safety and accessibility for visitors. This project, along with regular maintenance, is a testament to the Legion's commitment to honoring the memory of the veterans and providing the community with a well-preserved place for remembrance and reflection.

Memorial Hill stands as a solemn place for Canadians to remember, respect, and reflect on our nation's war history. The Shell Lake Legion maintains this important site, yet members' efforts are often challenged by acts of disrespect.

The flag, proudly flying atop the hill, has been repeatedly stolen. The flag's rope has been repeatedly cut. And the cement steps have been removed, creating safety hazards for visitors. These acts of Vandalism place a burden on the Legion

and community members who volunteer their time and labour to replace flags and repair damaged steps.

The Legion does not take these acts of crime and vandalism lightly. It is shameful that someone would disrespect an honorary monument, and disregard the time and effort put in to making Memorial Hill a special place. The freedoms we have, as Canadian citizens, are a direct legacy of the brave men and women who sacrificed for our country during wartime.

Considering the recent vandalism, we urge our community and all visitors to truly appreciate the hard work and significance of Memorial Hill.

We hope that the site will be treated with the respect it deserves.

NOTICE OF Passing Inez Larson

Inez Larson 1943 - 2025

The family of Inez Larson, beloved wife of Ross Larson, sadly announces her passing on August 28, 2025 at the Wheatland Lodge. A full obituary will be published as soon as it is available.

Arrangements are entrusted to the care Gray's Funeral Chap-Prince Albert (306) 922-4729, Mary MacWilliams, Funeral Director.





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In the estate of Rose Story, late of Spiritwood, Saskatchewan, deceased. All claims against the estate, verified by statutory declaration and with particulars and valuation of security held, if any, must be sent to the undersigned before the 29th day of September,

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306-468-2138 Leask Gospel Tabernacle Sunday 11 a.m. Pastor Josh 1-780-690-2100

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

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Spiritwood Library news highlights

By HEATHER **GATZKE**

Branch Librarian

On Friday, Aug. 22, the Spiritwood Public Library was happy to have Summer Student Raelyn Vezeau from Wapiti Headquarters to present the Google Virtual Reality Program.

All 10 headsets were in use to explore all facets of the world, including space. There were dinosaur fossils, inside an early space capsule, the stars and the milky way, under the ocean, architecture from Europe and various zoo animals including a large komodo dragon lizard.

Everyone enjoyed looking and exclaiming over what they saw.

The Spiritwood Public Library wrapped up its Summer Reading Program on Friday, Aug. 29. We had 30 kids join and gave out 42 prizes.

read at their reading level a total of 5 books in order to win a prize. That made a whopping total of 210 books read! The names went in

Each child had to the draw bucket for the grand prize, and Ayder Sharafutdinova was the lucky winner of some books, a kite, some crafts, a water game and a wooden puzzle.



Wapiti's Raelyn Vezeau leads kids in a VR program.



Ayder Sharafutdinova was the winner of the Summer Reading Program's grand prize draw.

White flowering plants for your garden: Part 2

By BERNADETTE VANGOOL

Sask. Perennial Society

Here are some additional white accent plants for your garden in summer.

For the shorter groundcover plants for your white and silvery garden, also think foliage. 'Silvermound' artemisia (Artemesia schmidtiana) forms a silver cushion. It usually is good for one or two years, then dies out in the middle. I have not been successful in dividing and getting a nice rosette in spring. For me this is a short-lived perennial.

'Silver Brocade' artemisia (Artemesia stelleriana) has been a good ground cover for me. It propagates easily, can be somewhat invasive, but is easy to control and always looks pretty. It gives the border a regal finish at the edges.

Another silver accent for a white border can be the native sage, but it is a pretty aggressive spreader. I have taken it out of my sunny beds because it is just too prolific. I find it grows well in the shade and is not as aggressive there.

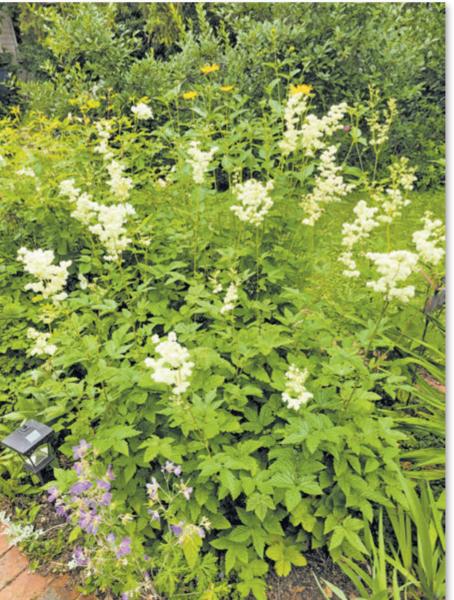
Pearl varrow (Achillea ptarmica) 'The Pearl' is easy to grow, drought tolerant and a beautiful addition to the white garden. It is a great replacement for the banned baby's breath. About 45cm high, the green ferny stems and double white flowers look great in flower arrangements, both fresh and dried. It blooms in July and August. Some say it is invasive but I have not found it so. In fact, when it got shaded by some taller perennials nearby, it disappeared.

Mock orange (Philadelphus coronarius), a flowering shrub, comes in different varieties and sizes, so pay attention to the plant tags as to mature size. Philadelphus x virginalis 'Miniature Snowflake' grows

to a height of about 90cm whereas many others can be well over 150cm tall and wide. Mock orange is a delight when in bloom, because of its distinctive lovely scent. It is great to bring indoors as there are always abundant flower.

A couple of years ago I picked up Valerian (Valeriana) at a fall plant exchange. Being short on sun-

ny spaces, I put it in a semi-shady spot. This year it shot up to a height of 2m and produced large beautiful pure white, roundish flower heads. At its base, new plants are already developing, which to me indicates it might be somewhat invasive. After one of our rain storms the hollow stalks bent and I prematurely deadheaded all the flowers. I will keep



Filipendula, well established in this location for many years. Photo credit: Bernadette Vangool

a careful eye on it and might take it out if it proves too invasive. A better option for the gardener may be White Fleece Flower (Persicaria polymorpha) which is also tall and stately, takes a bit longer to establish, but seems to stay put in one place, slowly producing additional flower stalks each year. The flowers on Persicaria are more elongated and tend to be creamier in colour.

Meadowsweet (Filipendula ulmaria) has white fluffy flowers. It has been naturalized in North America but hails from Europe and Western Asia. It grows about 100cm tall in my yard and flowers in mid-summer. The name dates from the 16th century when the flowers were used to sweeten mead.

Hydrangeas in my yard bloom near the end of July. In other gardens many varieties are already in full bloom earlier in the season. Hydrangeas are being bred to be more cold tolerant and there are many white varieties to choose from. The blues and pinks still are only marginally hardy in our zone. When purchasing hydrangeas read the plant labels for hardiness zones,

These white flowers should give you a start on a white Sissinghurst like garden. All plants mentioned do best in full sun. The Filipendula will tolerate partial shade. The one drawback, especially if you stick with only white blooms, are that on the petalled flowers, such as mock orange, peonies and roses, thrips can be a problem.

As flowers bloom at different times, when designing with white plants it is important to also pay attention to foliage and the different shades of green that will accent your garden throughout the year.

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