

Shellbrook Scotiabank set to close in 2026



Shellbrook’s Scotiabank is the latest bank to leave small-town Saskatchewan, as the branch is set to close on June 18, 2026.

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

Recent years have seen banks and credit unions exit small towns in the Shellbrook and Spiritwood area. Now, it’s been announced that Shellbrook’s Scotiabank will be the next financial institution to follow this trend.

News of the pending closure, which is slated for June 18, 2026, began emerging last week, with posters going up around town. Moving forward, Scotiabank says all accounts will be automatically moved to the nearest branch in Prince Albert, and urges customers to reach out to the local branch with any questions.

The *Chronicle & Herald* reached out to Scotiabank headquarters to ask

questions about the reasons driving the closure of the Shellbrook branch, but was told a spokesperson was unavailable. In lieu of taking questions, the company provided a brief statement.

“After careful consideration, we have made the difficult decision to relocate our services at our Shellbrook branch to our branch at Prince Albert,” it read,

“With client preferences changing, and more day-to-day banking being done digitally, we are continuing to evolve how we serve our clients and invest in areas that make it easier for our clients to bank with us in multiple ways. We are communicating this change to all affected clients and will be working with them to ensure

a smooth transition. Our teams in Shellbrook and Prince Albert are committed to assisting all clients with any questions they may have.”

The *Chronicle & Herald* attempted to confirm how many employees the Shellbrook Scotiabank branch has, and whether they’ve been offered jobs elsewhere, but the company said it “couldn’t provide this information.”

Though he couldn’t say how the town will respond to the closure until it can be discussed by council, Shellbrook Mayor Amund Otterson expressed disappointment that “these banks are abandoning small towns.”

He also noted that Scotiabank’s benefits to the community far exceed it being a business on Shellbrook’s Main Street.

“Scotiabank’s been a great community support,” he said. “There’s lots of community development funding that has come through the Scotiabank because of local involvement [by employees].”

The closure of the Shellbrook Scotiabank marks the third loss of a local financial institution in this area since 2023. That year, the Village of Canwood lost its Affinity Credit Union branch, leaving it without a bank thanks to the closure of the CIBC branch in 2017.

Clients and community members in Canwood were first informed of the impending Advice Centre closure via mail and a press release sent out by Affinity in early February of 2023.

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A heartfelt *Thank you*
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Northern Lakes Health Committee ramps up fundraising

By **BEVRA FEE**
Spiritwood Herald
Reporter

The Northern Lakes Health Committee (NLHC) is the Spiritwood-based volunteer group that provides

landing assistance for newly recruited practitioners at the Spiritwood Health Complex. Two years ago, the ad hoc committee incorporated to become a charitable entity.

“Our fundraising now

has one main focus — to keep up the repair & maintenance on the house we purchased for practitioners to rent,” commented Chairperson Tammy Wingerter.

With a shortage of rental spaces in Spiritwood and surrounding area, the NLHC partnered with the Spiritwood Health Complex Foundation to purchase a house that had extra rental suite potential.

“The house we purchased has a full basement that is already fully finished, so we would like to renovate the basement to make it a legal suite. That would allow us to offer two rental spaces for our incoming practitioners,” continued Wingerter.

With the renovations in mind, the NLHC hosted a comedy evening in

2025 that featured Quick Dick McDick. The funds raised from that evening — a total of \$33,400 gross through sponsors, donations, raffles, ticket sales and bar — have been banked in anticipation of replacing the basement windows on the rental house.

“For a basement to be legally rentable, we need to change two of the existing windows to egress windows. We also plan to convert the wet bar area into a kitchen and we will need to renovate a space for shared laundry. Netting almost \$18,000 from our winter fundraising event will go a long way toward that.”

The house is currently fully rented to one practitioner’s family, but plans are being made to renovate in the spring of 2026.



Committee volunteer Bryan Wingerter gleans the window measurements for the checklist of renovation items.



Rivier Elementary School surpassed its goal for Terry Fox Run donations, raising \$2,182 for the Terry Fox Foundation. The principal, Mr. Poirier, was a great sport and agreed to “Kiss a Chicken” if the school hit its \$1,500 donation goal. Way to support the Terry Fox Run!

Submitted by **RHONDA TURGEON**, Secretary



The practitioner rental home in Spiritwood.

Shellbrook Scotiabank set to close in 2026

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The announcement prompted a strong backlash from the community. And to address the community’s concerns and answer their questions, then-Affinity CEO Mark Lane attended

a public membership meeting in Canwood in March, where he quickly dispelled any hope that Affinity would backtrack on its decision.

Instead, over the course of a 20-minute presentation and a 70-minute question and answer period, Lane outlined the strategy driving Affinity’s decision, saying it was the result of a change in the financial services industry and an evolution of the role of physical banks in people’s lives.

Lane’s explanation did little to appease community members. And after stating that the Canwood Advice Centre hadn’t been a source of

trouble or financial losses for Affinity, community members were further disappointed when Lane couldn’t clearly explain why the closure was necessary for the company to pursue its strategy, or offer solutions to address their concerns.

In November of 2023, the Town of Spiritwood learned its Scotiabank branch would be closing its doors in July of 2024, ending its 96 years in the community. The community responded with a campaign to oppose the closure, sending 400 letters to Scotiabank’s head office and starting a petition that garnered nearly 1,250 signatures, but its outcry was also ignored.



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Annual Craft and Home-Based Business Sale
Sunday, November 2
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Raffle, Chinese Auction, Silent Auction, Children's White Elephant, Bingo, Quilt Raffle, 50/50



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10:30 AM – 1:30 PM
Large Wreath: \$50
Cross Wreath: \$45
Small Wreath: \$40
SOUP AVAILABLE BY DONATION



RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF SPIRITWOOD NO. 496
NOTICE OF CALL FOR FURTHER NOMINATIONS
Public notice is hereby given that nomination of candidates for the office of:
Councillor – RM of Spiritwood No. 496 – Division No. 1
will be received by the undersigned during regular business hours on October 17th, 2025 to October 28th, 2025 and from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm on October 29th, 2025 at the RM of Spiritwood No. 496 municipal office.
Nominations forms may be obtained from the municipal office located at 218 Main Street in Spiritwood, Saskatchewan.
Dated this 17th day of October, 2025.
Colette Bussiere
Returning Officer

Big River Auction supports Ski Timber Ridge

By MAISIE KRIENKE
Submitted

The annual Community Auction, hosted by the Big River & District Recreation Improvement Association, has been a regular fundraiser for many years.

This entire event is supported by volunteers and donors. It has several components, with the

on-line auction going up a week in advance and having 10 items up for bids this year. The raffle also got underway a week in advance, with the three Hyllestad girls capturing everyone that shopped at the Co-op that day.

Set-up is always a big job for some of us ‘oldies,’ however, once again it was simplified as Marie Hutcheson arrived with her husband and 3 sons

who, in no time, had all the tables and chairs up and ready for seating.

Saturday, Oct. 4, the major event kicked off at 5 p.m. with happy hour and supper. A delicious Ukrainian supper was prepared by the team of McGrath gals, while Shauna Pickett kept everyone from getting thirsty.

Immediately following supper, everyone took the

opportunity to visit May Fabish and Diana Darbyshire to grab their lucky 50/50 and raffle tickets. The lucky tickets were held by Elaine Ritchie, who won the multifunctional air fryer, and Kathleen Zinovich, who held the lucky 50/50 ticket and went home with over \$500.

The Silent Auction tables were loaded, where Amanda Crashley and her

family displayed nearly 200 items for bids. These remained open for the duration of the evening. The travel loop would never be complete if you didn’t circle by the Chinese auction, where Carol Hildebrand had 40 bags waiting for ticket drops. A continuous line is always reaching back to get another one of Paige Anderson and Marie Hutcheson’s “Toonie Boxes.” This is al-

ways an exciting segment as one never knows what might be disguised in that newspaper wrap.

At 7 p.m. the Live auction began. We were very delighted and excited to have our MLA, Eric Schmalz, serve as our auctioneer bringing in those bids on another 76 donations. Hunter Anderson, Cory Kuxhaus and Doug Panter stayed focused, making sure no bid was missed. Several items brought in bids over \$1,000. Then, there is never anything as delicious as homemade buns and pies, which many fought over and were willing to pay big bucks for.

With the evening coming to a close, Debbie Bosch and Sue Harty, representing CIBC, handled the check-out process.

This RIA team is delighted to be able to put the profits, of over \$20,000 towards the \$96,000 donation they are making to Ski Timber Ridge for the purpose of bringing in new snow-making equipment.

The lion’s share of the \$120,000 cost for this equipment came from the EK Golf Classic. But the entire community has made this donation possible by supporting so generously and putting in hours of volunteer labour to make this possible.

Everyone is excited looking forward to going down those hills before Christmas this year, because we will be making our own snow.

This is the second major donation made this year by the RIA. In March, \$60,000 was donated to the Big River Fire Department for the purchase of the Cam-Am Defender.



Kathleen Zinovich smiling with her 50/50 win.

Police arrest most wanted offender

By JORDAN TWISS
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

One of the Saskatchewan RCMP’s most sought after offenders is now in police custody, the RCMP says.

Eldon James Cone, 57, was arrested by Edmonton Police Service in August and has since been transported back to Saskatchewan for court on his outstanding charges, which include sexual interference (three counts), sexual exploitation of young person (three

counts), and failure to attend court or surrender.

Cone was scheduled to appear in Prince Albert Provincial Court on Thursday, Oct. 16, 2025.



Eldon James Cone.



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Hunter Anderson assisting with Live Auction.

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Sask Party still short-changing healthcare

As the old saying goes, if you want something done right, you should do it yourself.

But if, for some reason, you want something done wrong – say in twice the amount of time and at triple the cost – then it’s probably a job best suited for government.

Per the Oxford English Dictionary, to govern is to “direct or control the actions and affairs of a people or place.”

This, of course, is easier said than done. And so, one would hope only the best and the brightest would take on the responsibility of governing and navigating the perilous labyrinth of competing and conflicting wants and needs that makes up any society.

Most, I believe, get into the business of government with the intention of doing just that – mostly in the best interests of those they’re elected to serve. But when good intentions meet the harsh realities of what it takes to govern – the deals and compromises that must be made to get anything done at all – things tend to get messy.

And before too long, something as seemingly simple as paying and scheduling healthcare workers becomes an unconquerable ordeal.

This is the current reality in Saskatchewan’s healthcare system, as the Sask Party government continues its disastrous rollout of the Administrative Information Management System (AIMS).

Launched by the Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) in 2022, AIMS was live for only a couple of weeks before its implementation had to be temporarily paused because healthcare workers identified issues with their paycheques and shift scheduling.

After the initial glitches were supposedly ironed out, a second attempt at rolling out AIMS was made in 2024. Almost immediately, similar issues were encountered by healthcare workers, with some being shorted over \$1,000 on their paycheques.

Just last week, in the midst of the SHA’s third attempt to roll out AIMS



JORDAN
TWISS

~
News Editor

in its entirety, more glitches were being reported.

At a news conference last Tuesday, Lisa Zunti, the president of SEIU-West, said healthcare workers aren’t being paid enough, they’re not being paid properly, or they’re being paid at the wrong rate.

Additionally, Zunti said some workers have been unable to pick up shifts, causing problems with staffing at some facilities.

“The result? Members are unable to pay their bills, unable to make ends meet, stressed out that they might lose their cars, even their homes,” Zunti said.

“Patients in hospitals, residents in care facilities, and home care clients are not getting the care they need and deserve because AIMS is not scheduling enough staff.”

Responding to reports of the issues healthcare workers are facing, the SHA said in a statement that it had been meeting with unions and employees about the system, and it has teams working to answer people’s questions about scheduling and payroll.

“We recognize that some team members may face challenges as they adapt to these new systems, and we are committed to supporting them and addressing issues as they arise,” read the statement.

The SHA went on to say that it had adjusted the schedule for the AIMS rollout, to ensure issues are fixed before expanding further.

Zunti, however, says she and healthcare workers remain unconvinced.

“The problems that we’re seeing are the same problems that we’ve seen before, so I’m not a fan of our members being treated as guinea pigs for their system that clearly isn’t working,” she said.

One can hardly blame healthcare workers for their scepticism around AIMS and its glitch-riddled implementation.

Those who have been working in healthcare long enough undoubtedly remember the Sask Party government’s



Lean fiasco, which was intended to find efficiencies in the healthcare system, but instead left frontline workers feeling micromanaged and disrespected – all while failing to deliver any measurable improvements to quality of care.

In addition to struggling to get paid properly through AIMS, frontline healthcare workers have gone more than three years without receiving a pay increase.

In the meantime, CUPE 5430 noted in September that SHA executives received sizeable salary increases between 2023 and 2025, with Chief Human Resources Officer, Mike Northcott, topping the field at 14.4 per cent.

“These executive raises are a slap in the face to the thousands of dedicated health care workers who are holding our system together every single day,” said Bashir Jalloh, president of CUPE 5430.

“Our members have worked tirelessly through a pandemic, short staffing, and crushing workloads – and now they’re being denied the fair deal they deserve.”

Small wonder, then, that a survey conducted by Praxis Analytics on behalf of the Saskatchewan Union of Nurses (SUN) earlier this year found that more than 50 per cent of the 1,791 respondents said they’re considering leaving healthcare.

Additionally, 82.4 per cent said they

believe patients on their unit were put at risk due to short-staffing, 95.9 per cent say short-staffing has led to longer wait times for services – often resulting in a patient missing out on assessments or treatments – and 79 per cent said they believe short-staffing has led to the avoidable deterioration of a patient’s health.

Hoping to highlight the issue, SUN recently published letters received from healthcare workers about the alarming and unsafe conditions in maternity wards in the province, caused by short staffing, lack of beds, outdated equipment and improper care.

“They’re seeing people with more complex health issues, but no increase in resources and support to provide those services,” said SUN president Bryce Boynton.

“We’re seeing an increase in burnout. We’re seeing people who are fed up and tired ... and it’s tough to provide better [care] when you have no supports.”

Each time these issues are brought to light, the SHA says patient safety remains its top priority. And yet, every time it seems conditions for healthcare workers and patients worsen rather than improving.

If they want to prioritize patient safety, the SHA and the Sask Party government need to start by respecting and listening to frontline healthcare workers.

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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U18 AA Elks lend helping hand to food bank

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle
Reporter

Linda Lundy knows that it takes a community to feed a community. As the coordinator for the Shellbrook & District Ministerial Food Bank, she oversees the distribution of between 12 and 15 food hampers to families in the area each month. And although she’s been at it for many years now, she admits she’s still learning.

“I’ve recently had requests for items we’ve never actually had and I’ve never thought of asking for people to donate, including items for baking, like baking powder, and salt and pepper,” she said. Along with these niche items, the Shellbrook & District Ministerial Food Bank also ensures families receive all the staple items in their monthly food hampers. But with the price of groceries constantly on the rise, it can’t do so alone. Luckily, says Lundy,

the Shellbrook & District Ministerial Food Bank is well supported by the communities it serves. In Shellbrook, the food bank also benefits from space in the community garden, and this year, it had an abundant harvest of potatoes. With all this support, Lundy feels the food bank is in a good position as it readies for its annual Christmas Food Hamper drive. “Members of the communities, not just Shellbrook but particularly Canwood, have been very good at bringing in produce for the hampers. We’ve received lots of tomatoes, and carrots, and squash through donations from the surrounding areas,” Lundy said. “It’s wonderful. We would not be as able to help people as we are without the support from the surrounding communities.” This year’s community garden harvest was also made easier with a little help from the U18 AA Parkland Elks, who,

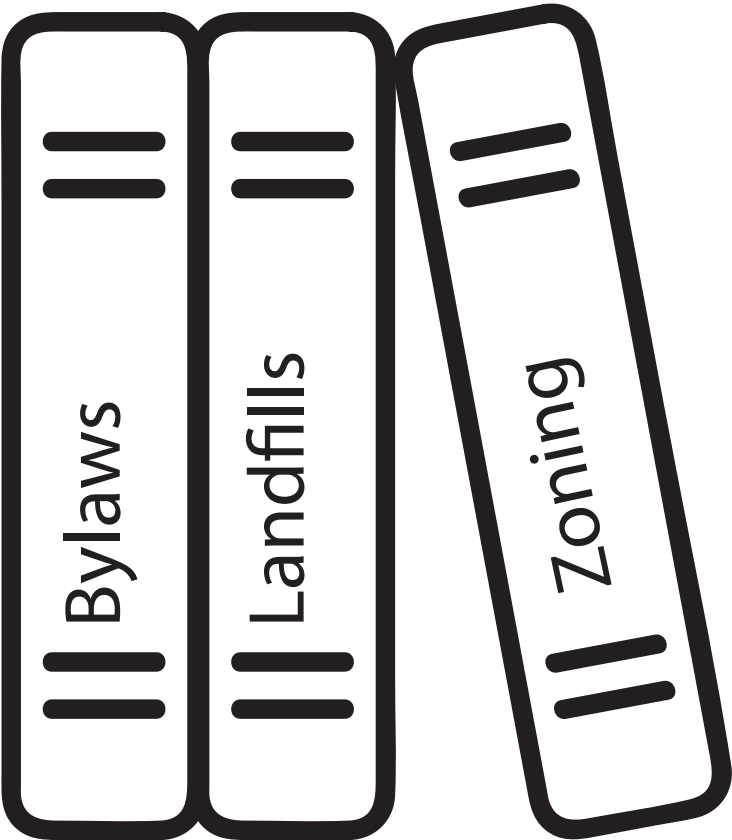
thanks to a suggestion from community member Leola Skrupski, happily got their hands dirty to help out the food bank on Oct. 9. Richelle Anderson, a U18 AA Parkland Elks board member, says the team is always proud to lend a hand in the community — whether it be by shovelling snow or setting up tables for local events — because community involvement is a core pillar of the team’s philosophy. “The Parkland Elks U18AA program recognizes that true team success extends beyond the game itself. Our athletes are not only devel-

oping as hockey players but also as community leaders,” she said. “Through volunteer initiatives and community involvement, our players learn the value of leadership, teamwork, and service.” In addition to wanting to help vital local causes, Anderson says the team also believes in the importance of giving back to the communities and people who support them throughout the season, whether it be on or off the ice. “The Parkland Elks are committed to fostering a sense of pride and connection within our region,” she said.



Members of the U18 AA Parkland Elks got their hands dirty to support the food bank by harvesting potatoes from Shellbrook’s community garden.

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Spiritwood Rec Centre gets into winter mode

By **BEVRA FEE**
Spiritwood Herald Reporter

The ice is fresh in the curling rink and the hockey arena at Spiritwood’s Rec Cen-

tre. Spending endless hours every day from Wednesday to Sunday, ice maker Jason Reddekopp was nearing the final floods on the hockey side on the afternoon of Sun-

day, Oct. 19. Though this is his first foray into the skating ice, Reddekopp has been the chief ice-maker on the curling side for many years.

“The curling side is all ready to go, just some finishing touches,” reported Reddekopp while he slowly flooded the skating ice. “Garret [Jason’s son] usually helps me, but he has been sick so I have been here quite a bit.”

Reddekopp is a Competition Level curling ice maker, and he receives help from several local volunteers.

“Dyllan Franson, Devyn Thompson, and Kevin Latus come down and help paint the ice.”

With league play on the curling side set to begin this week, Sue Kahl reports that

there are close to the same number of rinks entered for the Monday and Wednesday regular curling. Super League will get rolling next

week as well, with teams still signing up to curl an intense schedule before crowning the championship rink at year’s end.



The curling sheets are all but ready, and action was set to get underway this week.



Jason Reddekopp slowly makes his way back and forth to evenly flood the skating ice.

U15 A Parkland Elks set to compete

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

As hockey season gets into full swing in Shellbrook, a new hockey

team is set to take to the ice.

Founded and coached by Kris Moe, who began brainstorming and organizing the team this past March, the U15 A

Parkland Elks will be competing in the Tri-City Hockey League, a relatively new league founded by the cities of Prince Albert, Meadow Lake, and North Battleford.

The ‘A’ designation and the more urban-focused league mean competing at a much higher level. But Moe explains that this was always the plan.

“We want to have a team that can feed into the U18 AA program, and develop hockey players at a little higher level, and hopefully be competitive,” he said.

The U15 A Parkland Elks team draws its players from a 120-kilometre radius surrounding Shellbrook. Joining Moe behind the bench are assistant coaches

James Fraser from Big River and Jason Hauber from Cudworth, and manager Riann Fraser.

The team has also received support from the U18 AA Parkland Elks team, which ran player evaluations alongside volunteer Dave Philp. Additionally, the U18 team’s assistant coach, Brad Rock, has come out to run some practices and help with player development.

“It was a lot of moving parts to get everything off the ground,” Moe said.

Though the U15 A Parkland Elks’ inaugural season is just getting under way, Moe says there’s already a lot for the team to look forward to. In addition to regular season play and Provincials, he

plans to take the team to at least one tournament, in either St. Paul or Bonnyville, Alta. (plans to take part in a tournament in North Dakota were scuttled for this season, due to the logistics involved).

Above all else, Moe is most excited about seeing his team compete at a high level against tougher teams from larger urban centres.

“The main goal is to develop the players. We’re going to put a roadmap out for each player, and try to tailor it to how they want

to see themselves improve over the course of the year,” he said, noting that this will foster both individual and team growth.

The inaugural U15 A Parkland Elks roster is: Rylan Fraser, Gavin Smart, Carson Nordin, Drayson Wapass, Camerin Smart, Carter Sasakamoose, Tyson Hrechka, Dominic Chatlain, Tanner Mason, Avery Bear, Wyatt Pitre, Jelani Dreaver, Dylan Dreaver, Cole Hauber, Easton Mitsuning, Lennox Smith, and Brody Moe.

TAX ENFORCEMENT LIST

VILLAGE OF LEASK

PROVINCE OF SASKATCHEWAN

Notice is hereby given under *The Tax Enforcement Act* that unless the arrears and costs appearing opposite the land and title number described in the following list are fully paid before December 22, 2025, an interest based on a tax lien will be registered against the land.

Note: A sum for costs in an amount required by subsection 4(3) of *The Tax Enforcement Act* is included in the amount shown against each parcel.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY	Title No.	Total Arrears*	Costs	Total Arrears and Costs
LOT 10-BLK/PAR 17-PLAN CQ5157 EXT 0	141020266	\$506.30	\$435.00	\$941.30
LOT 11-BLK/PAR 17-PLAN CQ5157 EXT 0	141020288	\$508.58	\$435.00	\$943.58
LOT 17-BLK/PAR 21-PLAN CS1025 EXT 0	156843209	\$517.75	\$435.00	\$952.75
LOT 18-BLK/PAR 21-PLAN CS1025 EXT 0	156843210	\$2,155.35	\$435.00	\$2,590.35

* Penalty is calculated to the date of the Notice and will continue to accrue as applicable.

Dated this 16th day of October, 2025

Yvette Hamel, Administrator



SASKATCHEWAN HOUSING AUTHORITIES

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has a One Bedroom Senior Housing Unit available for rent

For more information call:

Donna Valuck

Parkside Housing Authority Manager

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PUBLIC NOTICE

To Residents of the Leask District

Green Family Memorial Fund

The Green Family Memorial Fund Committee is accepting applications for funding until **Friday, November 28, 2025 at 4:00 p.m.**

Application forms may be **picked up and returned to the R.M. Office or Village of Leask Office**. They may also be emailed by said deadline to: admin.464@sasktel.net. The funding will be distributed in accordance with the Last Will and Testament of Jessie Green which SPECIFIES the residue (referred to as “the Fund”) being paid to the Village of Leask and the R.M. of Leask (referred to as “the Trustee”) be administered in the following manner:

to invest the Fund for 20 years;

to pay one-twentieth of the Fund annually amongst organizations local to the **Village and District of Leask** (including but not limited to, Leask Sports Centre, Leask Health Clinic, Leask Cemetery, Leask Happy Homesteaders, Leask Golf Course and other sports organizations of Leask); the choice of organizations to benefit in any year and the amount of payment to each to be at the sole discretion of the Trustee;

That the Trustee chooses a committee comprised of councillors, mayor and/or reeve of the Village of Leask and R.M. of Leask to administer the fund.

Donna Goertzen
Administrator

SALE BY PUBLIC TENDER

1. The Village of Leoville offers for sale the following property.
Legal description E ½ 31 53 11 W3 BLK A PLAN 86B03145
58.83 acres
2025 Assessment - \$351,435.00 RM OF SPIRITWOOD NO. 496
on Site Hanger was built in 1982 50'x 60'
12' interior walls
40' electric folding door
Frame - Pole support
Metal exterior walls
Dirt Floor
16' x 34' Attached Office

2. A tender must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked:
"Airport Tender" addressed to:
Village of Leoville Box 280 Leoville, SK S0J 1N0

3. Tenders must be received by October 31, 2025.

4. A certified cheque to the Village of Leoville for 5% of the amount of the tender must accompany the tender. If the bid is unsuccessful the certified cheque shall be returned to the bidder.

5. Highest, or any tender, not necessarily accepted.

6. Successful bidder will have 30 days to provide the balance cash to complete the purchase. If the successful bidder does not complete the purchase on the terms and within the time specified, the deposit will be forfeited.

7. All legal costs, title transfer fees and applicable taxes are the responsibility of the purchaser and are in addition to the tender bid price.

8. The property is sold on an "as is" basis.

9. A second hangar (50' x 50') with power is on site but is NOT included in this sale by tender.

Dated the 7th day of October, 2025.

Monique Hare
CAO, Village of Leoville

Trump's tariffs should open new trade doors

In an announcement that can be a surprise to no one, U.S. President Donald Trump rolled out a new round of tariffs, this time an additional 100 per cent tariff on goods from China, on top of the 30 per cent tariffs already in effect, starting Nov. 1, or sooner.

The move, while not surprising in the sense that Trump tosses around tariff threats willy nilly as a matter of routine, does seem to reinforce a message Canada needs to take to heart.

While the United

States has long been a reliable and stable trading partner, under Trump stable is not a word you can associate with the country any longer.

So, while one can appreciate Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney and his people continuing to meet with U.S. officials to try and smooth trade relations, it seems highly doubtful that there would be a security in anything signed by Trump.

The U.S. president has shown a propensity to flip flop on a day-to-day basis, and in terms



CALVIN DANIELS

of trade he is clearly on a path that would see the U.S. isolated from almost all world trade — and that will include Canada.

So, while Carney and company need to keep the door open, it is best to realize it is a revolv-

ing door that has a low level of security.

The new tariff threat to China, however, does seem to signal another door opening as they say.

Canada and China have been at trade loggerheads of late over Chinese EVs and Canadian canola — the latter being of prime concern to Prairie farmers.

That the two sides have not found a way to hammer out the dispute astounds, especially as the world shuffles the trade deck away from the madness of American tariffs.

Moving forward, it is startlingly clear that every country needs to forge new trade alliances in lieu of rational trade being impossible with a Trump-led U.S. His tariff tirades have shown that, and the increasing instability in-country — sending troops into American cities, masked 'police' zip tying children, a Qatar air force base in Idaho, and the list goes on — only solidifies the uncertainty.

So, if Canada is seeking new trade opportunities, China is a country with a massive

population and that means a huge potential market for frankly anything we might offer from Canada.

Obviously, to access that market will mean making a deal which offers China export opportunities in Canada, but it seems like with Trump bashing China again, the doors open for Canada to make the calls to get a deal done.

It's just a matter of finding a reasonable balance, with a little give-and-take on both sides to get a deal done in spite of Trump tariffs.

Crop Report: Oct. 7 to 13

By MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

Submitted

Producers made solid harvest progress on remaining crop acres and got plenty of other field work done last week, before rain and snowfall on the weekend halted operations in many areas. Producers are hoping to get back in the field prior to winter to harvest the few remaining crop acres and finish field work.

Provincially, harvest is 98 per cent complete. Most crop is off in the west-central and northeast regions as progress sits at 99 per cent, followed by the southeast and northwest at 98 per cent and the southwest and east-central at 97 per cent.

Although most producers have finished harvest, some have a small amount of oilseed, chickpea and canary seed crops remaining in the field. For oilseed crops, canola is 98 per cent harvested, mustard is 95 per cent, flax is 87 per cent and soybeans are 83 per cent harvested. For the other small acreage crops, canary seed is 92 per cent harvested and chickpeas are 88 per cent harvested. All other pulse, spring cereal and winter cereal crop types have been harvested.

Many areas of the province got notable rain and snow last weekend, while some areas received limited precipitation. The most rain fell in the Strathburg area which got 52 mm, followed by the Archerwill area with 50 mm and the Arborfield area with 43 mm. The precipitation was well received by producers that have finished harvest as it benefited soil moisture levels. Cropland topsoil moisture is now rated at seven per cent surplus, 53 per cent adequate, 30 per cent short and 10 per cent very short. For hayland areas, topsoil moisture is five per cent surplus, 49 per cent adequate, 33 per cent short and 13 per cent very short. For pastures, topsoil moisture is three per cent surplus, 36 per

cent adequate, 42 per cent short and 19 per cent very short. Producers are hoping to receive more moisture prior to freezing to improve soil moisture levels and recharge dugouts for next spring.

For the few crops remaining in the field, there were minor levels of environmental damage from wind, frost and snowfall. Additionally, wildlife and migratory birds are feeding on crops in the field and opened grain bags this time of year, but damage observed is minor.

Livestock producers are reporting overall adequate feed supplies for the winter. Current winter feed supplies are estimated as follows:

- Hay is nine per cent surplus, 82 per cent adequate and nine per cent short.
- Greenfeed is six per cent surplus, 89 per cent adequate and five per cent short.
- Silage is six per cent surplus, 92 per cent adequate and two per cent short.
- Straw is 14 per cent surplus, 78 per cent adequate and eight per cent short.
- Feed grain is 11 per cent surplus, 85 per cent adequate and four per cent short.

As producers finish harvest, they are busy spraying for weeds, applying fertilizer, harrowing fields and servicing equipment. Livestock producers are busy moving cattle home for the winter, hauling bales and marketing livestock.

As field work continues, producers are reminded to keep safety top of mind. The public is also reminded to take extra caution on roadways as machinery is still moving from field to field.

There will be no Crop Report for the period of October 14 to 20, 2025. The final Crop Report will be issued on October 30, 2025. This will allow time for appropriate information gathering and preparation until harvest is complete.

Northwestern Sask.

Nearly all crops are off in the northwest region

as harvest is 98 per cent complete. Producers are currently applying fertilizer, harrowing and moving livestock home for the winter.

The only crop types with unharvested acres are barley, canola and flax. For these crops, 99 per cent of barley has been harvested while 98 per cent of canola and 83 per cent of flax is off.

There was scattered precipitation last week, but not as much as other regions in the province. The most rainfall in the region was 21 millimetres (mm) around North Battleford and 14 mm around Shellbrook. Soil moisture levels increased slightly as a result, but much of the region remains dry. Cropland topsoil moisture is 31 per cent adequate, 44 per cent short and 25 per cent very short. Hayland topsoil moisture is 19 per cent adequate, 42 per cent short and 39 per cent very short. Finally, pasture topsoil moisture is 19 per cent adequate, 41 per cent short and 40 per cent very short. More rain prior to freeze-up and abundant snow this winter is needed to improve soil moisture levels for next year.

Livestock feed supplies for the winter are mostly adequate, but some producers note there could be shortages. Winter feed supplies are rated as follows:

- Hay is one per cent surplus, 78 per cent adequate and 21 per cent short
- Greenfeed is two per cent surplus, 86 per cent adequate and 12 per cent short
- Silage is one per cent surplus, 98 per cent adequate and one per cent short
- Straw is 10 per cent surplus, 76 per cent adequate and 14 per cent short
- Feed grain is four per cent surplus and 96 per cent adequate

For the few crops remaining in the field, freezing temperatures, strong winds and wildlife are causing minor damage.

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Minutes of an RM of Shellbrook meeting

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

Minutes of a regular meeting of Council of the Rural Municipality of Shellbrook No. 493 held on Tuesday Aug. 6, 2025, in the Municipal Office Council Chambers at Shellbrook, Sask.

Present: Reeve — Christine Strube, Division 1 — Tasha Cyr, Division 2 — Levi Moore, Division 3 — Kevin Bruce, Division 4 — Jay Ferster, Division 6 — Ivan Ten Bos, Administrator — Duane Storey, and Administrative Assistant — Alecia Ten Bos.

Absent: Division 5 — Kris Moe.

Reeve Strube called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m.

Delegations: Evan McLeod Water Security Agency 10 a.m.

Moore: That the Agenda be adopted as presented. Carried

Moore: That the minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held on July 2, 2025 be approved as presented. Carried

Ten Bos: That the Statement of Financial Activities for the month of July 2025 be accepted as presented. Carried

Cyr: That the bank reconciliation for the month of June 2025 be accepted as presented. Carried

Moore: That the List of Accounts for Approval dated Aug. 1, 2025, as attached hereto and forming part of these Minutes, being regular cheque numbers 14947-15009 in the amount of \$399,226.48 and payroll cheque numbers 15124-15153 in the amount of \$62,909.52 be approved. Carried

Evan McLeod, Water Security Agency entered the council chambers at 10:02 a.m.

Kathleen Delisle and Alysha Shillington, Organized Hamlet of Holbein Board members entered the council chambers at 10:02 a.m.

Evan McLeod, left the council chambers at 10:25 a.m.

Kathleen Delisle and Alysha Shillington, left the council chambers at 10:40 a.m.

Ferster: That the request by the Organized Hamlet of Crutwell to name the access road from Highway 3 into the Hamlet, Muskwa Road be approved. Carried

Ten Bos: That the Beaver Control Policy be accepted as amended. Carried

Ferster: That the Council of the RM of Shellbrook No. 493 agrees to approve the proposed subdivision application for subdivision SW ¼ SEC-36-49-02-W3, and will forward a response to the Community Planning Branch, Ministry of Government Relations as follows;

- No: there are no land uses in the vicinity that would be incompatible with the intended use of the proposed site.
- No: there are no facilities that could be affected by the proposed development.
- No: there are no further requirements of the applicant. Carried

Cyr: That the Administrators Report for the month August 2025 be accepted as presented. Carried

Ferster: That the Council Reports for the month August 2025 be accepted as presented. Carried

Foreman Todd Lande entered the Council Chambers at 11:25 a.m. to discuss municipal issues.

Ferster: That the former Rayside School site NW-21-50-03-W3 be prepared to stockpile gravel. Carried

Bruce: That costs be acquired for the application of MG 30 on section 21-51-02-W3 south of the Sturgeon River Bridge due to safety reasons. Carried

Ferster: That a 2025 Hyundai HL940A Loader be purchased from EMSCO Heavy Equipment at a cost of \$215,228 minus the trade of a 2019 John Deere 544L \$120,000.00 plus applicable taxes. A deposit \$15,000 to be made and the balance to be paid in December 2025. Carried

Foreman Todd Lande left the Council Chambers at 12:15 p.m.

Moore: That a letter be sent in reply to the correspondence received from Lindsey Anderson in regards to the Eagle Ridge Subdivision. Carried

Ten Bos: That the time being 2:02 p.m., Council close a portion of this meeting to the public to go in camera under the authority of Part III of The Local Authority Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, for strategic planning, the public gallery be vacated and those present for this closed session be Reeve Strube, Councillor Moore, Councillor Cyr, Councillor Ferster, Councillor Bruce and Councillor Ten Bos. Carried

Administrator Storey and Administrative Assistant Ten Bos were excused from the meeting at 2:03 p.m.

Administrator Storey and returned to the meeting at 2:12 p.m.

Bruce: That the regular Council meeting reconvene at 2:13 p.m. with all members of Council and Administration present. Carried

Cyr: That the meeting be adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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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

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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.

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

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SHELLBROOK: Remembrance Day Wreath Sale – November 3 & 4, Shellbrook Legion Hall, 10:30am to 1:30pm. Large Wreath: \$50; Cross Wreath: \$45; Small Wreath: \$40. Soup available by donation.

SHELLBROOK: Shellbrook Royal Canadian Legion – Remembrance Day Service – Tuesday, November 11 @ Shellbrook Theatre. Doors Open 10am, Service Starts 10:30am.

CANWOOD: Canwood Fall Supper @ Canwood Elks Community Hall – Sunday, October 26, 4:30 to 6:30 pm. Roast Beef, Ham, and all the fixins!!! To book in-town delivery, please call/text 306-468-4504 before 6pm on Sun., Oct. 26. Adults \$20; 6-12 yrs. \$15; 5 & Under Free. Proceeds to operation & maintenance of Canwood Elks Community Hall. Sponsored by the Canwood Hall Committee.

LEOVILLE: St. Therese Parish – Fall Supper – Sunday, November 2, Leoville Community Hall, 5 to 6:30 pm. Adults \$20; 6-12 yrs. \$10; Preschool Free. Raffle, Chinese Auction, Silent Auction, Children’s White Elephant, Bingo, Quilt Raffle, 50/50

CANWOOD: Canwood Youth Travel Club – Annual Craft and Home-Based Business Sale – Sunday, November 2, Canwood Elks Community Centre, 10am to 3pm. \$25/table - For table bookings call: Dyan Nordquist 306.714.0000. Lunch will be sold. Everyone welcome!

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Shellbrook Library activity highlights

By **EDDIE HOEHN**
Branch Librarian

On Wednesday, Oct. 8, Lucille Scott came to the library to teach attendees about the Yukon. Attendees viewed pictures of Lucille’s Yukon trip on a screen with a projector. She has been to the Sign Post Forest at Watson Lake, the S.S. Klondike National Historic Site in Whitehorse, Dredge No. 4 National Historic Site, Carcross, Hyder, Alaska, and Chicken, Alaska with its giant metal chicken statue. She saw Bennet, BC, which has the Chilkoot Trail running from Bennet to Dyea, Alaska. The Chilkoot Trail is 53

km long. Lucille panned for gold twice at a museum in Whitehorse. The gold was put into a locket in her necklace which she showed attendees. There is also a free claim and gold panning a few kilometers outside of Whitehorse. On Thursday, Oct. 9, Scot Earl brought his collection of artwork to the library for several weeks to temporarily display. Scot is from Melfort and has been making doll clothes for about four years. He buys Monster High and Ever After High dolls to use to model his doll clothing. He sometimes makes jewelry, purses, and doll shoes as well.



Lucille Scott with her items for her Yukon Presentation.



Scot Earl with his doll clothing display.

Sask NDP announces addictions plan

By **SASK NDP**
Submitted

The Saskatchewan NDP has unveiled a new five-point plan to address the province’s addictions crisis. Eighteen years of the Sask. Party has left Saskatchewan in an addictions crisis. Drug toxicity deaths have more than doubled since Scott Moe became premier. Nearly one person in Saskatchewan has died every day from drug overdose or drug poisoning in 2025. “These numbers only tell part of the story. Behind them are people’s mothers, sons, daughters, and grandparents who are dying. How

much longer do we need to wait for this government to do something?” said Betty Nippi-Albright, Saskatchewan NDP Shadow Minister for Mental Health and Addictions. “This Sask. Party government has the resources to solve this, but they are choosing not to. It shows just how out of touch this government is.” “Addictions are health issues, not a moral failing. We need a response from the government that reflects compassion, evidence, and urgency.” Nippi-Albright called on the government to take action on addictions in the five following areas:

1. Expand access to voluntary in-patient treatment by increasing funding for harm reduction and in-patient treatment beds, both on and off reserve.
2. Increase in-patient treatment detox services with more stabilization units and ensure seamless transitions from detox to long-term in-patient treatment care.
3. Support sober living by expanding and funding sober living homes that provide wraparound services in a safe, supportive environment.
4. Build a strategic workforce plan to recruit, train, and retain addiction and mental health professionals

with incentives for service providers to work in underserved and remote communities. 5. Ensure involuntary treatment is reserved for the small minority of individuals whose addictions pose a serious threat to themselves or the public, and only as a last resort. “Recovery is a journey that doesn’t end when treatment does,” says Nippi-Albright. “Voluntary treatment remains the most effective and appropriate path for the vast majority of people struggling with substance use,” says Nippi-Albright. “For the small minority of people who are a real threat

to themselves or others, involuntary options should be considered – but only as a last resort and only with appropriate safeguards in place.” “The mental health and addictions crisis in our province is destroying lives, and it’s driving many of the public safety issues people across Saskatchewan are deeply concerned about,” said Nicole Sarauer, Justice, Corrections, Policing and Public Safety Shadow Minister. “We need to see real action to address these addictions challenges so we can make sure every person in Saskatchewan feels safe in their community.”

Sask amends farm land ownership rules

By **MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE**
Submitted

Agriculture Minister Daryl Harrison has announced the passing of regulatory amendments helping to ensure Saskatchewan farm land is Canadian owned and strengthening and clarifying the Farm Land Security Board’s (Board’s) powers to enforce regulatory compliance. Amendments to The Saskatchewan Farm Security Regulations, which support The Saskatchewan Farm Security Act, remove the exemption for the Canada Pension Plan Investment Board (CPPIB) to own Saskatchewan farm land and provide further clarification on the Board’s abilities to issue monetary administrative penalties for specific contraventions of the Act and regulations. “Our government is working to ensure that Saskatchewan farm land remains in the hands of Canadian owners and supports the needs of

Saskatchewan producers,” Harrison said. “These amendments ensure the Canada Pension Plan Investment Board will no longer be able to own farm land and clarify the situations where monetary penalties can be applied to farm land owners in contravention of the Act.” In 2015, the Government of Saskatchewan amended the Act to prevent pension plans from owning Saskatchewan farm land. However, at the time, CPPIB was given an exemption allowing it to continue to hold only the land it owned at that time, approximately 167,000 acres. Since then, CPPIB has divested itself of these holdings and now owns no farm land in the province. The new regulatory amendment removes the exemption and prevents CPPIB from acquiring any farm land in Saskatchewan in the future, consistent with other pension plans. Also in 2015, the government amended the Act to provide the

Board additional tools to enforce compliance with farm land ownership rules, including the ability to levy administrative penalties of up to \$10,000 for each contravention of the Act. Today’s amendments further clarify the specific situations where the Board may levy a penalty. Some examples include:

- A non-Canadian resident or corporation who acquires more than 10 acres of farm land in the province;
- A Canadian-owned corporation that becomes non-Canadian owned and does not divest itself of holdings over the 10-acre threshold;
- A person who acquires farm land on behalf of a non-Canadian resident or a non-Canadian owned corporation where that purchase would be in violation of the Act; and
- A person who has been granted an Exemption to the Act and fails to comply with a term or condi-

tion of the exemption order. Extensive consultations were held before the 2015 Act amendments. On Oct. 6, 2025, the Ministry of Agriculture announced the formation of a Farm Land Ownership Advisory Committee to consult with industry stakeholders and provide recommendations on strengthening the province’s farm land ownership framework. The Committee’s report is expected by year-end.

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Op-ed: Sask. government should focus on accountability

By **GAGE HAUBRICH**
CTF Prairie Director

Taxpayers, journalists and opposition politicians need every tool at their disposal to hold the government accountable and find out how taxpayers’ money is being spent.

The Saskatchewan government is failing on key areas of accountability to taxpayers. It’s not posting the itemized receipts of politicians and top bureaucrat expenses. And when taxpayers look for records themselves, the freedom of information system doesn’t have enough teeth to deliver them.

In Saskatchewan, the premier and cabinet ministers currently post semi-annual expenses online. These statements show the purpose of the trip and totals of broad categories of spending.

For example, Premier Scott Moe took a trip to Mexico last year. That trip cost taxpayers \$25,738. The costs included as \$11,507 in airfare, \$7,764 in ac-

commodation, \$2,262 in meals. But the statement only shows totals, not the itemized receipts.

Now, these could be completely justifiable expenses. There are reasons for politicians to travel. But without the receipts, taxpayers have no way of knowing if Moe and his staff billed them for rooms at a Ritz-Carlton or the local Motel 6.

And that’s the problem. The only way for a taxpayer or a journalist to access the fine details is to send a freedom of information request to the government. That’s the procedure for asking the government for documents it doesn’t usually share publicly.

But this freedom of information system has its own set of problems.

You could be stuck waiting more than a month for the information and you may be hit with fees to get information that taxpayers should be able to see for free.

Freedom of information requests are important because they dig up the numbers that politicians aren’t showing taxpayers. Without freedom of information requests, the Canadian Taxpayers Federation wouldn’t have been able to find out that the City of Saskatoon wasted more than \$300,000 coming up with the name Link for its new bus line.

But right now, the government faces zero consequences for failing to follow the rules.

If the government isn’t following the law and providing information, you are forced to file a complaint with the Saskatchewan Information and Privacy Commissioner. That’s the independent official whose job it is to make sure the government is being transparent.

If the commissioner finds that the government is breaking the rules, and, for example, not providing expense receipts for trips, there are no real consequences. The commissioner

can’t force the government to follow the rules.

Saskatchewan’s former commissioner explicitly asked the government to improve this and follow what other provinces are doing – allow the commissioner to make legally binding orders.

The federal government and the governments of Alberta and Quebec all allow their commissioners to order the government to follow the rules. Saskatchewan needs to do the same.

Right now, the government only fully follows less than half of the commissioner’s recommendations. The government totally ignores about 10 per cent of the recommendations.

The government gets thousands of freedom of information requests a year. What information isn’t the government providing when it fails to follow the commissioner’s recommendation?

The commissioner needs the ability to make legally binding orders. An enforcement system

that the government can choose to ignore isn’t worth the paper it’s written on.

The NDP introduced a bill last year that would have changed this. The bill amended the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act to allow the commissioner to make legally binding orders. The bill never became law.

These changes help taxpayers hold politicians accountable, and it stops politicians from wasting money in the first place because they know they will have to post the receipts or have the information available through a freedom of information request.

Taxpayers pay the bills and deserve to see and scrutinize how their money is being spent. That starts with the Saskatchewan government posting detailed receipts for politician expenses and empowering the information commissioner to force the government to follow the law.

Tariffs harming canola producers

By **SARM**
Submitted

The damage to Canada’s canola industry is becoming increasingly evident, with farmers now facing some of the lowest prices in recent years. Harvest is largely complete, and canola is sitting in bins across the province. For many producers, this is the time of year they be-

gin marketing their crop to pay bills and sustain their operations. But in 2025, those opportunities are severely limited.

Since the imposition of tariffs stemming from Ottawa’s dispute with China over electric vehicles, not a single shipment of Saskatchewan canola seed, oil, or meal has entered the Chinese market. This sudden halt has severed

access to one of Canada’s largest and most dependable buyers, triggering a sharp drop in canola prices. Farmers are now contending with full storage bins, limited marketing options, and incomes that cannot meet financial obligations such as mortgages, crop input costs, and operating loans—with no clear resolution in sight.

“We just finished har-

vest, but the bins are full and the marketplace is closed off. This is not a good situation for farmers right now,” says Bill Huber, SARM President.

“We need access to our markets in order to keep farms financially viable.”

While the federal government has not yet communicated whether removing EV-related tariffs is under consid-

eration, canola industry leaders—including farmer representatives—met with Prime Minister Carney on September 17 to address the urgent trade issue. During that meeting, stakeholders stressed that resolving the China canola ban will require the removal of tariffs and a political solution.

SARM is calling on the federal government to act

swiftly to remove trade barriers and restore access to China’s market, warning that delay will further strain farm incomes and jeopardize the stability of Saskatchewan’s canola sector. This issue will be top of the meeting agenda as SARM’s Board and Policy Team are in Ottawa next week including meeting with the Federal Minister of Agriculture.

GOOD NEWS

A SINFUL WORLD AND A LOVING GOD

By **REV. JORDAN CLARK**
Shellbrook Pentecostal Assembly

I am a huge Calgary Flames fan. I know what imperfection looks like. The Flames have missed the playoffs for the last three seasons, and it has taught me a great amount on how to endure suffering.

Yet, even in their imperfections and failings they have given me a glimmer of hope. They played an excellent season opener against the Edmonton Oilers, and they came back from a three-goal deficit to win the game. Considering their imperfection, they still did an excellent work. Even though you are sinful; Christ is waiting to do an excellent work in you.

The sinful nature of humanity is the greatest hurdle for people when they hear the good news of Jesus Christ. Jesus begins His earthly ministry by proclaiming an essential truth for this sinful world

“This was to fulfill what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet: ‘The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, By the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles— ‘The people who were sitting in darkness saw a great Light, And those who were sitting in the land and

shadow of death, Upon them a Light dawned.’ From that time Jesus began to preach and say, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.’” - Matthew 4:13-17

The key part of this scripture is when Jesus says “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” The word repent in the Greek simply means to change your mind, to turn from yourself and to something else. Christ, who is both God and Man, is telling the world to turn from themselves and turn to Him but why would He say this? Because, the world is sinful, it is imperfect, it is depraved, evil and full of blemish.

The prophet Isaiah proclaimed the coming of Christ approximately 740 years before Jesus set foot on this earth. Isaiah 9:1-2 says, “The people who were sitting in the darkness saw a great Light, and those who were sitting in the land and shadow of death, upon them a Light dawned.”

Some may say “What is this light?” Yet, the better question is “who is this light?”

This light is Jesus Christ. His light shines in the darkness of this world.

We are all sinful. We are all imperfect. We are proud of our sin, we boast about

our wrongdoings, and make a spectacle of our sinful nature. Nobody in this world is perfect or good, we all came into this world in the same way, and we will die and leave this world in the same way.

Presidents, Prime ministers, famous celebrities, hockey players, football players, tradesmen, farmers, store clerks, pastors, janitors, it does not matter what your job, occupation or social status is — we will all die. Once this life is over, we will go to one of two places: eternal glory in Heaven or eternal torment in hell.

God came down into this dark world to give us hope. You see, there is no such thing as a good person. Rather, there was only one truly good person who still lives — Jesus Christ. The bible makes it clear that Jesus is the perfect light in this dark world, He lived a sinless life, and died a horrific death so that we may turn from our sinful lives and turn to His perfect life in worship.

“He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. 5 The Light shines in the darkness, and the

darkness did not comprehend it.” - John 1:2-5

There is a wonderful proverb that reminds us how pride leads to destruction. Proverbs 16:18 says, “pride goes before destruction and a haughty spirit before stumbling.”

We all need a saviour, we all need to be humbled, we all need to repent and turn to Christ. Christ is perfect, sinless and truly good, He is calling us out of our depravity, out of the darkness and into His glorious and loving light.

This is how much God loves the world. We are not saved by good works, and doing all the right things, or even performing the sacraments at church. Rather, we are saved through our faith in Christ alone. By His grace alone we are saved for His eternal glory — this is how we go to heaven after we die, this is how we are saved.

God then works in our imperfect lives so that many will see our good works which glorify God.

God works in us and through us because He loves us — so, repent of your sins, turn to Him, and worship your saviour. He is your hope in this dark world.

McDavid contract a great deal for Oilers

Connor McDavid could have asked for the moon, and Edmonton Oilers' owner Daryl Katz would have somehow arranged to have it pulled from the sky. But the 28-year-old superstar hockey player stunned the National Hockey League just before the start of the 2025-26 season by signing a two-year contract for, basically, second-line centre money.

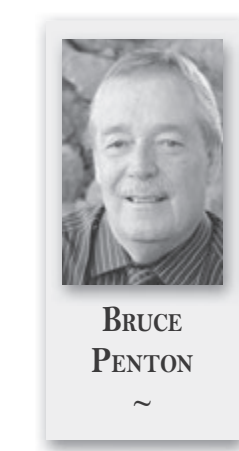
While he and his wife Lauren won't have to visit neighbourhood food banks after agreeing to accept \$12.5 million U.S. per year for two seasons, McDavid sent a stark message to the Oilers, confirming that his No. 1 incentive is not to be the highest-paid player in the NHL, but to win the Stanley Cup. And to win it wearing the Oilers' blue and orange.

While team-mate Leon Draisaitl is making \$14 million a year for the next six seasons, and Minnesota star Kirill Kiprizov recently became the highest-paid NHLer with a \$17 million per

year contract, McDavid's decision to take less money gives general manager Stan Bowman some extra cash to play with in order to sign some complementary pieces to surround McDavid, Draisaitl, Evan Bouchard and Ryan Nugent-Hopkins, the centrepieces of the Oilers' still-relevant Stanley Cup contender.

Bowman, whose team lost in the Stanley Cup final to Florida in back-to-back seasons, might want to start by finding a Hellebuyckian-style goaltender who is able to win games by himself. Stuart Skinner and Calvin Pickard, the Oilers' two goalies, are decent, but not game-stealers or game-breakers. Sometimes they break games in the wrong fashion, as happened on opening night this year when Skinner's pee-wee-league-style mishap with a loose puck eventually resulted in a shootout loss to the visiting Calgary Flames.

The hockey world expressed astonishment at McDavid's decision to sign such a team-friend-



BRUCE
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ly, lowball contract. But after the 2028-29 season, when he will be eligible for free agency, his market value will still be astronomical and he can then seek a Fort Knox-like contract from any one of dozens of suitors. If, in the meantime, the Oilers win a championship thanks in part to McDavid's largesse, his strategy will have been successful — a Stanley Cup victory and the promise of a massive contract to play out his sensational career.

Now, with the contract controversy out of the way, the Oilers can get down to business — making the Stanley Cup final again and taking the final step, spraying

champagne all over the place.

"(This) team is in a position to succeed because we've got a good team, a good group of players, but also because we've got a situation where Connor is allowing the team a little more flexibility to address needs," Oilers' coach Kris Knoblauch told Mark Spector of Sportsnet.

Said McDavid: "If (this contract) lends urgency, that's a good byproduct, I guess."

And if nothing special happens around the Oilers in the next three seasons? General manager Kelly McCrimmon in Las Vegas is already starting to put together a vault of cash to woo the man they may start to call Connor McVegas.

Comedy writer Torben Rolfsen of Vancouver: "Bad Bunny announced as the Super Bowl halftime show. Perfect choice, as the Super Bowl edges closer to Easter this year."

Rolfsen again: "Kawhi Leonard finally spoke on the NBA investigation into allega-

tions: 'None of us did no wrongdoing.' So, all guilty?"

Illinois governor J.B. Pritzker, on Jimmy Kimmel's show: "Reporting from 'war-torn Chicago... It's quite disturbing, the Milwaukee Brewers have come in to attack our Chicago Cubs. People are being forced to eat hot dogs with ketchup on them."

Janice Hough of leftcoastsportsbabe.com: "Phillies lose to the Dodgers and are eliminated on a walk-off error. Eagles lose to a NY Giants team so bad they lost to the New Orleans Saints. Do have some sympathy for police in Philadelphia tonight."

RJ Currie of sports-deke.com: "Even for fans of the Yankees, there's some good news in the Blue Jays taking the ALDS in four games. It'll be a while before reporters or broadcasters have to pronounce Cam Schlittler."

Headline at fark.com: "Loyola's Sister Jean passes at age 106, which is sad, considering she was to go skydiving Saturday and start

from the pole in a motorcycle race Sunday."

Another fark.com headline: "If Joe Flacco is the answer, what the hell was the question?"

Columnist Norman Chad on Twitter: "I hate to pick on Joe Flacco, but he's 57 years old, has Metamucil for breakfast and has the mobility of a fire hydrant."

Mike Bianchi of the Orlando Sentinel: "Bad Bunny is playing the Super Bowl halftime show? I'd rather have Bugs Bunny as Leopold conducting the Halftime Show."

Steve Simmons of the Toronto Star: "Baseball has to look into the size of sliding gloves. Players are sliding into second base safe, but the gloves are touching the base, not the players' hands. Some of the sliding gloves look like oven mitts."

Headline at theonion.com: "Victor Wembanyama Reports To Training Camp Having Added 25 Pounds Of Hair"

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

Elks drop two in home-ice stand

By JORDAN TWISS

Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

The U18 AA Parkland Elks had a busy weekend of hockey in Shellbrook, as they continued to seek their first win of the season against the Prince Albert Timberwolves on Friday, Oct. 17, and the Saskatoon Crunch on Saturday, Oct. 18.

When the Timberwolves rolled into the Richardson Pioneer Centre, the opening period was dominated by defensive play, with neither team generating sustained pressure or quality scoring chances.

The Elks' power play put in a good effort midway through the period, but failed to break the stalemate. Meanwhile, the penalty kill kept the Timberwolves off the board, leading to a 0-0 draw after the first 20 minutes.

The Timberwolves came out more aggressively in the second period, but the Elks were able to weather the initial storm until, in the dying seconds of a power play, the Timberwolves' Ethan Campbell found the back of the net on an assist from Jordan Probert.

The Elks had an almost immediate response, as Aiden Tait rifled home a top-shelf shot after Brady Hujber scooped up a neutral zone turnover

and fed him the puck.

The pace of the action only picked from there, as the Timberwolves were able to pin the Elks deep in their end and reclaim the lead on a one-timer from Lennon Fetterly, assisted by Probert, and the Elks' Danec Wilson responded by scooping up another turnover and firing it home.

The Timberwolves had the last laugh, once again pinning the Elks in their own end until Carter Bruce was

able to score on a shot from the point. Kaleb Cournoyer and Campbell assisted on the play.

In the third period, penalties and turnovers proved to be the Elks undoing. While penalties kept them from gaining any offensive momentum, the turnovers were especially costly, allowing Carter Martin and Zarryn Thomas to score back-to-back unassisted goals and put the Timberwolves up 5-2.

Down by three, the Elks prevented themselves from getting back in the game with a pair of late penalties, allowing the Timberwolves to skate away with the win.

Elks (1) vs Crunch (6)

Following Friday night's loss, the Elks were right back at it against the Saskatoon Crunch, who were playing their first game of the 2025-2026 hockey season.

Though the Elks kept up in the early going, the Crunch were able to jump ahead near the midway point of the first period.

The Elks briefly tied the game up late in the second period, thanks to a power play goal from Gabe Wadham, assisted by Logan Fisher, but a surge of unrelenting pressure from the Crunch allowed them to score four goals in under five minutes and take a 5-1 lead into the third period.

There, the Elks couldn't get anything of their own going, but held the Crunch to a single goal to take a 6-1 loss and fall to 0-5 on the season.

The Elks were scheduled to play a mid-week home game against the Saskatoon Riverkings on Wednesday. On Sunday, they head to Saskatoon to face off against the Saskatoon Sabercats.



A high-flying puck leads to confusion in front of the Elks' goal.

OBITUARIES



Monica Lynn Johnson



The world lost a bit of its sparkle on October 9, 2025, when Monica Lynn Johnson passed away at the age of 74, leaving behind a legacy of love, kindness, and quiet determination. Those who mourn her loss take comfort knowing she rests in power and peace after a cou-

rageous 30-year battle with various health issues. Monica was born on July 26, 1951, to Bernice and Elmer Thall in Prince Albert, SK. The family lived on a farm outside Canwood, SK, where Monica was the second of four daughters each with a name beginning with the letter “M.” Myrna, Margo, and Mavis - her beloved sisters - meant the world to her. She graduated from Canwood High School and furthered her education at Saskatoon Business College. She held a variety of professional roles, including manager of the Canwood Credit Union, bookkeeper, and health

care administration. She made lifelong friendships through her work. From her first marriage to Kurt came her daughter, Chantelle, who became the heart of Monica’s world. To Chantelle, she was “Mama” - a devoted and nurturing presence whose love knew no bounds. She guided Chantelle with gentle strength and taught her resilience and compassion through unconditional love. Monica found lasting love when she met Merv Bobryk who stood faithfully by her side through life’s joys and challenges. Together, they built a partnership rooted in mutual respect, enduring love, fun, and unwavering companionship. They would have

celebrated 40 years of partnership in 2026. Monica, affectionately known as Rosie, had a lifelong passion for travel and treasured the adventures she shared with friends and family. Her favorite place was a white sandy beach, gazing over the turquoise waters while watching her son-in-law Frank kitesurf or visiting with travel companions. Monica appreciated small joys - popcorn and shrimp, glittery shoes, a cup of tea, cousin jammy parties, and long baths. She embraced life’s simple pleasures and believed in living within one’s means. Rosie was a beloved aunt and a “second mom” to countless friends of Chantelle. Her gentle kindness made others feel safe

and seen. Many have remembered her as non-judgmental, welcoming, and wise - a quiet, loving presence who inspired the next generation of parents. Monica was predeceased by her parents, Bernice and Elmer Thall; her parents-in-law, Bill and Phyllis Bobryk; and several beloved relatives. Her memory lives on in the hearts of her partner, daughter, son-in-law, extended family, the community of Canwood, and everyone who had the joy of knowing her. To honour Monica’s memory, direct donations to:

- Her former workplace, Whispering Pine Place Recreation Department (Box 418 Canwood, SK S0J 0K0).

- The legal clinic Chantelle runs, CLASSIC (online at <https://www.classiclaw.ca/> or by cheque to 123 20th Street West, Saskatoon, S7M 0W6

A come and go visitation was held on October 19th, 2025, from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. at Beau “Lac” Funeral Home (Shellbrook). A private friends and family graveside service will be in summer 2026. 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, Tammy Smart, Funeral Director, Shellbrook, SK 306-747-2828.

Sonja Ann Nielsen



Sonja Ann Nielsen (née Andersson), aged 77, passed away on October 2, 2025, in the palliative care unit of the Spiritwood Lodge in Spiritwood, SK.

Born on August 11, 1948, in Prince Albert, SK (though very nearly in a blueberry patch near Canwood), Sonja was the cherished “surprise” child of Karl and Stina Andersson (both deceased), completing the family with her teen siblings, Elsie, Lily and Rudy (all deceased). She completed most of her schooling in Canwood, then attended the Lutheran Collegiate Bible Institute in Outlook, SK, graduating in 1967 with lifelong friendships. Unable to resist the charms of the “crazy Dane” she met through

long-time family friend Sigfred Jacobsen, she married Torben Nielsen on February 10, 1968, and together they had three girls and many adventures, from camping in Saskatchewan to traveling halfway across the world to Australia and New Zealand. Settling in the Leoville area in 1974, Sonja worked alongside Torben to build and operate a dairy farm, serving as a board member and director (the first woman in the role) of Dairy Producers for many years. In 1996, Sonja and Torben moved to Spiritwood, becoming owners and operators of Spiritwood Stockyards. After “retir-

ing” in 2011, they started a small tourism business, Parkland Wagon Treks, and operated a bed and breakfast. In both communities, Sonja was generous with her time, driving and chaperoning for school activities for her own and neighbouring children, and volunteering for the skating club, rink committee, the Ranger 4-H Club, Lions Club, Partners in Faith church board, and so much more. Throughout her life, Sonja shared her joie de vivre through her many talents. She sang beautifully, performing at Folkfest, weddings and community variety shows (her renditions of Oh My

Darling Clementine and Walking in my Winter Underwear were always crowd favourites). Her baking, cake decorating and cooking abilities were unparalleled, much to the delight of just about anyone who ever crossed her path. Sonja is survived by her three daughters, AnnMarie (Stuart), Inga (André) and Tanya (Don), seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren, numerous nieces and nephews, as well as many very dear friends. Her absence is an enormous void, but she equipped us for this day with a lifetime of lessons in how to fill it with humour, songs, and mountains of

love. Torben and family are grateful for the many visits in recent months from friends and extended family, as they brightened her days. Special thanks to her doctor and the home care workers, as well. Not only did she receive excellent care, but they were also a ray of sunshine in her day. Family and friends wishing to send online condolences are welcome to visit <http://www.beaulacfuneralhome.com>. Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of Beau “Lac” Funeral Home and Crematorium, R. Mark Muir, Funeral Director, Spiritwood, SK (306) 883-3500.

Valerie Jean Vandale



With heavy hearts we announce the passing of Valerie Jean Vandale (née Benson) on September 18th, 2025, surrounded by her family. Valerie was born July 19, 1948 to Ed and Doris Bensen in Prince Albert. She grew up on the farm

just outside of Canwood, SK, and attended school in Canwood. In 1966 she moved to Prince Albert and started business college. It was during this time, she met the love of her life Raymond Vandale and they were married On June 7th, 1969. Ray and Val made Prince Albert their home and raised two children, Darcy and Tarra. Mom was a devoted stay at home mom for 14 years, and when the kids started school at Princess Margaret, she became involved with the Home and School association. She was very busy volunteering for the many different events the school put on. Val was also an

active volunteer for the East End Community Club for many years. Mom had many jobs throughout the years. CIBC Bank, bookkeeper for Dad’s business, school secretary, Reading Recovery Tutor, and Home Care Aide. But what Mom did best, was take care of others. She was a caretaker through and through, always helping others in anyway she could. When us kids were young, mom always made sure she was at our sporting events, and school activities. And when the grandchildren were born, she did the same for them. Mama Val was always cooking the grandchildren’s favourite meals or treats. She loved taking them

for walks, and to the playground. She never missed a school or sports event for them either. When mom wasn’t busy looking after her Husband, children or grandchildren, she loved to go for walks, read, she enjoyed camping when we were younger. She loved her volunteer work, spending time with friends, and card nights. One of her favourite outings was going to “do’s” at the east end rink. Mom loved dancing and music. There weren’t many dances that she missed! When we would go visit her in Mont St Josephs, she was always tapping her toes listening to music. Mom had a great group of friends, some of them have been friends since

childhood. Mom, and our family are eternally grateful for the amazing people she had in her life. I am especially grateful to the Sexy Six who took such good care of mom after dad died, up until her passing. A very special thank you to all the wonderful staff at Mont St Josephs. Mom was very happy living there, and it is all thanks to the care and dedication you showed her. And a huge show of gratitude for how amazing you were to us in her final days. We cannot thank you enough! Valerie is survived by her children: Darcy (Kim) Vandale, and their Children Landyn, Tanner and Aiden. Tarra (Dustin Watson) Vandale and their children, Kyla

and Layne. Sister Marlene Anderson. Aunts Esther Benson, Cecile Wyatt and Eddie Dunas. Sister-in-law Darlene McKay. Brother-in-law Norm McKay. Numerous nieces, nephews, great nieces and nephews and friends. Valerie was predeceased by her Husband Raymond. Her parents Ed and Doris Benson. Parents-in-law Alexander and Irene Vandale. Brother-in-laws, Howard Anderson, Leonard (Humphrey) Vandale and Kenny Vandale. Sister-in-law Anita Torbert. Numerous Aunts, Uncles and loved ones. In lieu of flowers please consider a donation to Mont St Josephs or the Alzheimer’s Society of Canada.

FallHOME

Warning signs a bathroom needs work

Homeowners know that the work involved to maintain a home is never done. The end of one project has a tendency to roll into the planning of another, and so it goes for years on end.

Fortunate are the homeowners who get to choose when to begin a renovation project, but it's far more common that homeowners spot an issue and then realize it's time to renovate. When it comes to bathrooms, which can be among the more expensive spaces to renovate in a home, homeowners can keep an eye out for various signs suggesting the room needs a remodel.

• Mould and mildew: Mould and mildew is perhaps the most glaring sign a bathroom needs to be renovated or remodeled. Mould and mildew pose a notable threat to human health, as the United States Environmental Protection Agency reports that molds can cause allergic reactions. Individuals sensitive to mold may develop symptoms that mimic reactions to outdoor allergens like pollen, including sneezing, runny nose, red eyes, and dermatitis (skin



rash). Mould also can trigger asthma attacks in people allergic to mould who have the condition. Mould can grow in poorly ventilated bathrooms, such as those without a fan or ones in which fans are not working properly. Mould and mildew will return if it's merely scrubbed away, so the underlying cause of mold must be addressed to prevent its return.

• Small signs of fading:

Stains, peeling paint, cracked paint, and gaps in grout are small signs of fading that indicate a bathroom is in need of renovation if not a complete remodel. These issues also can serve as warning signs of larger issues, such as water issues and structural problems, so they should not be merely written off as minor problems or eyesores.

• Rising water bills: Some signs a bathroom could use a

little TLC are not necessarily confined to the room itself. If water bills are rising significantly and do not align with price increases or an uptick in water consumption, homeowners may have leaking pipes. Such pipes might be beneath a bathroom sink or behind tiled walls. Discoloration on the walls, peeling paint or wallpaper and/or a musty odor may indicate leaks inside a bathroom

wall. If coupled with rising water bills, these signs could be indicative of a significant issue that requires immediate attention.

• Issues with tiles: Cracked or damaged tiles in the shower and bathtub or even on the floor are unsightly and also pose a safety hazard. Cracked floor tiles can lead to slips and falls, which can be especially harmful to older residents. And cracked tiles within the shower and tub area can indicate water problems behind the walls or general disrepair. Such issues should be addressed before they escalate into something larger.

• A dated vibe: Of course, some issues affecting a bathroom are not necessarily health or safety hazards but more an affront to homeowners' grasp of current styles and trends. If walking into a bathroom unintentionally feels like stepping backward into a bygone era, then it's probably time to consider a renovation or remodeling job.

Various signs can indicate to homeowners it's time to consider a bathroom renovation.



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Explaining the siding replacement process

The longer a person resides in a particular home, the greater the likelihood that various components of that residence will need to be replaced. Driveways, roofs, HVAC systems, and even appliances all have expiration dates.

Although siding on a home can be quite durable, there may be specific reasons why homeowners choose to or need to replace it at some point. Understanding what's to come of the job can help homeowners prepare. No two siding jobs are exactly the same, and each project will be dictated by a host of variables, including which type of siding homeowners choose. However, these general steps are commonplace during siding replacement projects.

- **Choose siding:** Homeowners are urged to consult with various siding installation companies about which products are available and ask each for an estimate. Budget, climate and other factors will narrow down siding materials. The Home Depot says popular siding types include vinyl, wood, fiber cement, metal, and stone. Siding can have almost any color or texture as well.
- **Remove and relocate:** Outdoor items close to the perimeter of the home will have to be moved out of the way so workers can access the siding. The job will require a dumpster to be dropped in front of the home or in the driveway to collect debris, so homeowners should be prepared to leave space for it.
- **Siding delivery:** The new siding should be delivered prior to the installation start day. These materials will take up a lot of room and space should be made available so the installation team can access them without difficulty.
- **Interior decor:** Siding installation will include hammering, which can disrupt items on interior walls. It is best to have all wall hangings taken down to prevent damage.
- **Old siding removal:** On the first day of installation, removal of the old siding will happen first, according to Smart Exteriors. Siding, insulation and trim will be removed. In the event that older, asbestos-based siding is on a home, contractors may safely remove and discard it, or go over that type of siding. Homeowners should inquire about this step during the company vetting process.
- **Home inspection:** Once all old material is gone, the exterior or sheathing will be inspected to ensure it is in good shape. Signs of rot or loose boards will be considered and repaired, if necessary.
- **New siding install:** First workers will put on house wrap or some sort of insulation/water barrier product. Afterwards, siding boards are layered on in the design chosen. Nails or screws are used to attach the siding and seams will be caulked to prevent moisture penetration. If the homeowner has chosen to have gutters and downspouts installed during the siding job, those will be fitted and installed as well.
- **Clean up:** The installation team will begin the process of thoroughly cleaning up the property. All tools will be removed and the property will be swept or blown to clean away debris. Crews typically use powerful magnets to grab stray nails and screws that have fallen into the lawn and elsewhere. The dumpster will be taken away shortly after the work is completed.

Siding replacement is a big job but one that can offer immediate curb appeal once completed. It typically is not a do-it-yourself project since it requires specific skills to ensure durability.





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FallHOME

Maintenance to tackle before winter

Canadian winter weather can be unpredictable. That's why it's good practice to ensure that you and your home are ready for whatever rolls in with the cold temperatures.

1. Make sure your furnace is in good working order. Book a furnace inspection before winter hits. Wait times can be longer as we get deeper into the season, and that's the worst time to make do without. Regular maintenance and inspections can also save you money in the long run.

2. Check your chimneys and wood burning equipment. They should be cleaned and inspected by a qualified professional, preferably Wood Energy Technology Transfer (WETT) certified, at least annually or after burning two cords of wood.

3. Check for drafts and extra space. Look around your windows and doors where you can feel cold air and apply weather-stripping or sealant. Heat rises, so start with the basement. Let in natural heat and sunlight by opening curtains and blinds in the morning and closing them in the evening to trap warmth.

4. Protect your pipes. Water expands when it freezes, so severe cold snaps can put your pipes at risk of bursting. As part of your winter prep, turn off the water supply to all outdoor taps and faucets, then open the taps to drain them completely. Leave the taps in the open position until spring. Disconnect garden hoses and drain them completely. Store them in a warm location so any residual water won't freeze.

5. Put away seasonal items. If you haven't already, put away your patio tables and chairs, as well as your barbecue, if you're not planning to use it through the winter. Wash them with soapy water and dry them before storing. To avoid rust on barbecue grills, brush them with vegetable oil and place a grill protector over them.

6. Prep your lawn system. Before the frost hits, you'll want to drain your lawn sprinkler or irrigation system and have a professional complete any required repairs. Make sure sprinkler heads are appropriately marked to avoid any costly mistakes during snow removal.

With these tips, you're well on your way to weatherproofing your home this winter. But if anything happens, insurance providers can help support you along the way.

www.newscanada.com



Smart energy-saving tips for your home

Did you know that, according to Natural Resources Canada, 64 per cent of the average home's energy goes into space heating? That statistic is hardly surprising with the winters we get here, but cooling is also a rising concern, with energy use from air conditioning (AC) during hot summers.

Here are a few tips for a smarter, more efficient home:

Take a fresh look at your insulation. Your AC and furnace work hard to adjust the temperature of the air throughout your home. Don't let all that work—and energy—go to waste. Without proper insulation, the air in your home will equalize to the outside temperature just through contact with the walls and ceiling. Make sure you have a barrier to prevent this, so that your HVAC system only needs to make small adjustments to keep the temperature where you want it.

Eliminate wasteful airflow. Any draughts or breezes you feel inside are the air in your home leaking out, and the outside air leaking in to replace it. Use caulking and other sealants around every window and check your exterior walls for any potential gaps. Put weather-stripping around all your external-facing doors to keep air from flowing through the doorframe, and consider using it on internal doors, too. This can especially help in multi-story homes where cold air can sink to basement level, and warm air can overheat upstairs rooms.

Make some smart upgrades. Smart home technology has improved to the point where your home itself can help you manage your energy use. Smart home platforms can help you monitor and manage your devices' energy usage, create customized energy-saving routines and give you tips to reduce your overall consumption. For instance, rather than trying to maintain one home temperature though the day, a connected thermostat can sense when you wake up or arrive back home and adjust the air when it's needed.

All it takes are some simple upgrades focused on efficiency to regain control of your energy use. Smart investment in insulation, weather-stripping, and a responsive home environment will pay dividends in savings as well as convenience.

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FallHOME

Why it pays to create a mudroom in a home

Considerations for room additions or space modifications generally involve rooms that will add value or function to a home. Mudrooms certainly fit that description, as they can add aesthetic appeal in more ways than one.

As the name implies, mudrooms are entire rooms or areas near entryways of homes where muddy shoes and other items can be stored. By having a set space for messy shoes and coats, homeowners do not need to worry about dirt and other debris being tracked throughout the home. Mudrooms also can provide a welcoming space for guests.

Homeowners who have adequate space to add an entirely new room may have no difficulty putting in a mudroom. A mud-

room addition is a job best left to a professional. Ideally, this new mudroom can be adjacent to an entry by the garage, or a side or back door. The footprint of the mudroom needn't be too large, either. All it requires is a small amount of space to place

a bench, coat hooks and shoe storage.

According to This Old House, homeowners also can convert a porch, create a mudroom by expanding into an adjacent room or closet, or even repurpose space in an attached garage.

U.S. News and World Report indicates that a well planned and executed mudroom has the potential to increase a home's value.

Budget-conscious homeowners can create a mudroom in an existing foyer or another entryway. Adequate storage is essential for any mudroom, and should include coat racks, hooks, a bench to facilitate removing shoes safely, shoe storage, and additional considerations, like shopping bag storage or umbrella holders. Creating a door from the outside into an existing laundry room can enable homeowners to use the space as both a mudroom and laundry area with minimal changes necessary.

There are some extra considerations for mudrooms that homeowners should think about. The

flooring, walls and furniture/storage used in the mudroom should be durable and easily cleaned. As wet and dirty shoes and clothing will be in the space, it's essential to make clean-up a breeze. Look for nonslip flooring so entering the mudroom safely is not an issue.

Although a mudroom is a utilitarian space, creature comforts can be added to integrate the space with the rest of the home. Cover a storage bench with indoor-outdoor fabric that coordinates to the colors used in a home. Add some decorative drawer pulls and cabinet hardware to elevate the space. Washable throw rugs also can add some design appeal to the room.

Mudrooms can be useful spaces that add function and value to homes.



Tips to avoid renovation regret

Deciding to renovate can be a truly exciting time in which the possibilities seem endless. But it's also easy to get overwhelmed with decisions. When that happens, it can be tempting to take shortcuts or make snap decisions. To avoid spending money on choices you'll regret, here are some questions to ask yourself as you consider your next home update.

How and when will you use the space?

Think carefully about why you want to renovate in the first place and be realistic about how much use the room will get. How often will you use the home gym, or how much use will the kids' playroom get?

How are you going to pay for this?

According to a recent report from insurance provider

Aviva Canada, 14 per cent of those who renovated during the pandemic did it on impulse, with eight percent per cent saying they spent too much, and five per cent stating they have regrets. No one should have to regret their reno, but spending can easily get out of hand. Be sure to set out a budget beforehand, consider expenses and comparison shop. Having a plan and a solid idea of what you can afford is always best, even if you deviate from it during the project.

"When considering making renovations to your home, it's always a good idea to ensure you have a plan in place," says Phil Gibson, EVP and Managing Director of Personal Insurance at Aviva Canada. "Canadians looking to make major changes to their home should know that renovations like finishing a basement, removing structural supports, or building an addition may impact their in-

surance coverage as they can change the home's rebuild value. Your insurance representative can help ensure that your home is covered for its true value, giving you peace of mind should the unexpected happen."

Does return on investment really matter to you?

Some updates are better than others for resale value and securing more equity in your home. While it depends on where you live, updating the kitchen is usually a safer bet than remodeling the bathroom since buyers want a kitchen they can use right away. On the flip side, a pool might be a fun addition but don't count on making back your investment if you go for it. While you shouldn't base your reno plans based on ROI alone, it's worth considering so you go into the project with a realistic mindset.

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Remedies for creaky floors

Hardwood floors are coveted features in many homes. The National Wood Flooring Association says wood floors are the most environmentally friendly flooring options available. In the United States, the hardwood forests that provide flooring products are growing twice as fast as they are being harvested. Furthermore, wood floors can last for many generations and require fewer raw materials to produce than other flooring options. That means less waste may end up in landfills.

Hardwood floors can endure for decades in a home, but over time those same floors may need some tender loving care to keep them looking good and working as they should. Squeaky floors are a common nuisance that homeowners may experience. Squeaking is often caused by movement and friction between floorboards. Treating the problem involves identifying the underlying issue.

Loose hardware

Squeaky floors may be due to the loosening of the hardware holding the floor in place, says The Home Depot. When nails or screws no longer

are secured tightly, the boards can rub together. The noise heard is the sound produced by rubbing. Tightening or replacing the hardware can help reduce the squeaking.

Counter-snap kit method

This Old House says this kit method is a great way to fix squeaks without damaging the floor. Once the

source of the squeak is located, drill a 3/32-inch pilot hole through the hardwood flooring. Then insert a screw through the kit's depth-control fixture and into the pilot hole, and drive it until it automatically snaps off below the wood surface. Follow this up by filling the hole with wood putty that matches the floor color.

Once the putty is dry, lightly sand the area to blend.

Use a shim or shims

Sometimes the floor may squeak because of a gap between the joists and the subfloor. Filling the gap with a small piece of wood called a shim can help alleviate the gap or gaps.

Drive up screws

If a squeak is just in one spot, The Home Depot says that you may be able to drive short screws from below into the subfloor.

Small gaps

For small gaps between boards, sprinkle talcum powder or powdered graphite between squeaky boards to reduce friction. Wood filler applied with a putty knife also may work. For larger gaps, use a liquid filler designed for wood floors.

Homeowners also can visit their local home improvement center for other hardware solutions designed for underfloor repairs to remedy squeaks. Many work from underneath the floor and involve mounting plates or brackets to sure up the floor.

Squeaky floors can be problematic, but noises can be banished with some repair work.



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Transforming a living room into a go-to viewing space

Watch parties are wildly popular. Whether it's a gathering for the big game or a group of friends anxious to see the latest episode of a favorite television show, watch parties have become a fun way to enjoy special events with family and friends.

Many bars and restaurants have recognized the popularity of watch parties and looked to capitalize on the trend, particularly for sporting events. Watch parties can make for a fun night out, but homeowners can do much to make their own living room a go-to spot for the next big game or series finale.

• Expand seating space, if necessary. Of course, guests for the big game or movie night will need a place to sit. Homeowners who love to host can determine their ideal gathering size and then work to ensure their entertaining space has enough seats to accommodate everyone. Multifunctional furniture can help if space is limited. For example, some stools that are typically used as footrests can be repurposed as seats when guests arrive and an upholstered coffee table can provide an ad-

ditional space for guests to sit. Another option is to work with a contractor to add a built-in window seat or bench beneath a picture window.

- Convert an existing space into an open floor plan. A 2023 survey from Rocket HomesSM found that more than half of individuals surveyed preferred open layouts to traditional layouts. Open layouts can make living



spaces feel more airy and less claustrophobic, and such designs also make it easy to accommodate more guests. Homeowners can speak with a local contractor to determine ways to convert living spaces into open floor plans.

- Invest in your internet. Whereas cable television used to be the go-to option when watching sports, movies and television at home, streaming plat-

forms have now taken over, as many, including Peacock, Amazon Prime and Netflix, are now even broadcasting National Football League games. Homeowners who want to host watch parties must invest in high-speed internet and perhaps even a new router to ensure games and shows are not interrupted by the dreaded spinning wheel or issues that can arise if internet speeds are slow. If necessary, relocate the router to the living room to reduce the risk of streaming interruptions.

- Reconsider your lighting scheme. If movie nights or television shows dominate your watch party schedule, some recessed lighting in the living room can reduce glare and reflections on the screen once a movie or show begins. Recessed lighting above a mounted television can illuminate the screen so everyone can see it but won't appear in the screen and adversely affect what viewers can see.

Homeowners can embrace various strategies to make watch parties an extraordinary experience for themselves and their guests.

How to spot a mould infestation

Homeowners know the work related to their homes is never done. Tasks ranging from routine maintenance to minor tweaks to large projects are part of homeownership.

Some of the work related to a home focuses on functionality, while other tasks might be all about aesthetic appeal. Potential health concerns re-

lated to a home also merit homeowners' attention. Mould is one such issue. Though it's impossible to pinpoint how much mould poses a health problem to a home's inhabitants, it's fair to suggest homeowners feel that no mould is ideal. According to the New York State Department of Health, exposure to indoor mould can cause nasal and sinus

congestion; eye irritation marked by itchy, red and watery eyes; wheezing and difficulty breathing; cough and other types of throat irritation; skin irritation, including rash; and headache.

The potentially harmful consequences of a mould infestation inside a home underscore how important it can be for homeowners to learn to

identify when they have a mould issue at home.

- Learn what mould looks like. Mould patches increase in size the longer an infestation goes unchecked, so it might be easier to stop an issue after it's been around awhile. The NYSDOH notes that mould typically appears as fuzzy patches that may be discoloured or even slimy.

the first symptom people recognize when they have an infestation at home. If a musty smell is present in a room, try to follow it to its source. That may involve some trial and error, as mould can grow behind and even underneath surfaces, including carpets, wallpaper and cabinets. Mould also can grow behind walls, a situation that may necessitate working with a remediation professional.

• Know where to look.
Though mould can grow

anywhere in a home, certain areas in a home are more vulnerable to an infestation than others. Rooms affected by moisture are susceptible to mould growth. In bathrooms, mould may grow around sinks, shower stalls and curtains, and tiles. In kitchens, mould can grow on tiles and even on the seal around a refrigerator door. Mould also can grow on and around window air conditioner units.

The NYSDOH notes that certain people may be more vulnerable to mould-related health problems than others. Such individuals include people with existing respiratory conditions and those with compromised immune systems. Homeowners can prioritize safeguarding their homes from mould infestations and, when necessary, work with remediation professionals to eliminate existing issues and reduce infestation risks going forward.

Protecting a home against a mould infestation is a simple yet important task homeowners can look to in an effort to keep their homes safe and healthy.

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Signs it’s time to replace gutters

Home improvement projects run the gamut from complex undertakings like room additions to simpler renovations like a new front door. Some home renovations excite homeowners more than others, but all improvements are a way to make a home safer, more comfortable and/or more functional.

A gutter replacement might not inspire the same level of excitement as a room addition or an overhaul of an outdoor living space, but new gutters can help to prevent roof damage and make properties safer by ensuring rain water is directed away from walkways. Homeowners who suspect it might be time for a gutter replacement can look for these signs of fading gutters.

• Cracks or splits: Cracks or splits at the seams of the gutters where two pieces connect is a telltale sign they need to be replaced. Cracks or splits can slowly lead to separation of gutter pieces, which will lead to leaks. But not all cracks or splits are found at the seams. In fact, some homes feature seamless gutters, which also can crack or split. Regardless of where they’re found, cracks or splits



are a warning signs of fading gutters. • Rust: Rust is rarely a good sign whether you’re looking at a vehicle or even garden tools. Rust also is a bad sign in relation to gutters. Gutters are painted, and not only for aesthetic purposes. Paint on gutters also serves to protect them from water. When paint begins to flake, gutters will begin to rust and may even produce noticeable rust flakes on the

ground below. Rust on gutters and rust flakes beneath them are indicative of gutters that need to be replaced. • Gutters pulling away from the home: Gutters that appear to be pulling away from the home is a sign that they need to be replaced. Gutters are fastened to a home during installation, which ensures they can withstand rain and water. Over time,

those fasteners can wear down, ultimately leading to gutters that appear to be pulling away from the home. Though gutters can be refastened, eventually they will need to be replaced.

• Pooling water: Pooling water in a gutter may just be a sign that gutters need to be cleaned. However, pooling water on the ground directly beneath gutters indicates they’re not effectively directing water away from the home.

• Water damage inside: A home’s interior might not be the first place homeowners look when inspecting for damaged gutters, but a flooded basement or crawl space could indicate a gutter problem. Gutters and downspouts are designed to direct water away from a home when functioning properly. When that isn’t happening, water can pool beneath the foundation, leading to pooling water and other water damage in basements and crawl spaces.

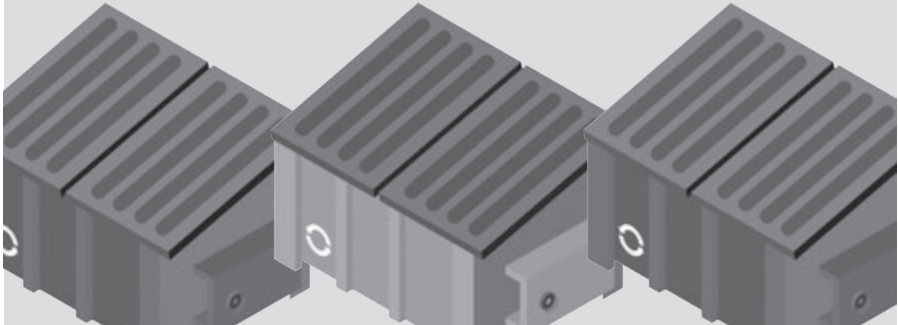
Gutter replacement projects may not be exciting, but new gutters can make a home safer and prolong the life of a roof and other features on a property.



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Cooking up a kitchen remodel

A successful kitchen renovation project requires careful planning and a detailed vision of what the space will look like upon completion. Whether a homeowner is thinking about giving the kitchen a major overhaul or just a minor refresh, bringing that vision to life doesn't happen overnight. There is a process that must go into a kitchen renovation. Embarking on a kitchen remodel can be an exciting venture and homeowners may be eager to dive right in, but familiarizing oneself with what to expect prior to the start can help property owners navigate the process more smoothly.

- Inspiration and design: The first phase involves dreaming up kitchen plans and making practical decisions regarding efficiency and functionality. Considerable time may be spent working with a designer and architect, which will involve choosing materials and a color scheme.
- Creating a budget: According to Angi, the average kitchen remodel costs \$26,934, but price ultimately varies depending on the scope of the work and the



materials chosen.

- Demolition: Before a homeowner can have a new kitchen, the old one must be removed. The real physical transformation begins with the demolition, which tends to be quick but messy. It is essential to set up an alternative "mini kitchen" elsewhere, or expect to be dining out throughout the remodel. The demo process may reveal any issues that will need to be remedied before the real work can begin, such as structural damage, leaks, mold, or other hiccups.
- Contractor work begins: It can take one to three weeks for contractors to install plumbing, mechanical components, electrical wiring, ductwork, and more, followed by structural needs and drywall, according to sink and faucet manufacturer Blanco. Flooring and cabinets will follow, and can take another week or more. Fabricating custom countertops is a lengthy process and can represent the bulk of a kitchen renovation timeline. Expect a few weeks for countertops to be measured, made and then installed.
- Appliances and finishing touches: Appliances will be delivered and hooked up at the tail end of the renovation. Finally, the backsplash, fixtures and lighting are put into place. The last leg of the remodel will include painting, trim work and installation of hardware on cabinets and drawers.

Once all the work is done, it is essential for homeowners to make sure everything is to their liking. According to HGTV and Kitchy Crouse of CK Interior Design, a regular kitchen renovation can take anywhere from six to 12 weeks. With so much time devoted to the space, homeowners should ensure it lives up to their expectations.

As the renovation begins, homeowners should remember that unexpected issues can arise, including delays due to material availability or unforeseen challenges. Maintaining an open communication with the contractor, asking questions and remaining flexible helps. Although a kitchen remodel is initially disruptive, it is an investment that ultimately enhances a home's value.

Tips for winterizing exterior living areas

When the summer entertaining season draws to a close, homeowners need to ensure their outdoor living areas can handle weather that's right around the corner. Although outdoor furniture and other items tend to be durable, the impact snow, wind and ice can have on them may lead to damage over time. That is why many homeowners take steps to winterize their outdoor spaces and protect their belongings. Here's a look at how to prepare for the winter to come.

- Furniture: Cover or store furniture to protect it from the elements. Covering it with weather-proof covers can be adequate if storing items indoors is not possible.
- Deep clean: Items that will be covered or stored should be thoroughly cleaned prior to being removed from spaces for the season. Lingering dirt and moisture can cause damage.
- Insulate and drain: Don't risk damage to pipes, which can freeze and crack in the cold. Shut off the water supply to exterior faucets and drain water lines to prevent pipes from freezing and bursting. Use foam pipe insulation to prevent freezing and cover any exposed pipes.
- Apply mulch: After cleaning up garden debris, think about applying mulch to garden beds and cover tender plants to protect them from the weather.
- Check gutters: Be sure that gutters and downspouts are clear of leaves and any additional debris. If gutters and downspouts are not cleaned, ice dams may form on the roof and cause water damage.
- Inspect and repair: Inspect walkways and driveways for any damage and make repairs now so water will not seep in and cause further issues with freeze-thaw cycles. Consider applying a sealant to protect surfaces from snow and ice.

- Pools and spas: It's essential to follow the industry or manufacturer recommendations for closing down swimming pools and spas for the season. While covers may not be essential in all climates, covering can help prevent leaves and other debris from getting in the water. Water should be expelled from pipes and tubing to prevent freezing and bursting. If space allows, consider moving the pool pump indoors to prolong its longevity. Turn off the electricity to the outlet where the filter is plugged in.

There may be additional, region-specific steps to winterize a property, but these pointers are a good starting point to protect outdoor spaces.





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PRAISE & WORSHIP

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

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Zion - Canwood
Sunday School,
Worship Sunday, 11 a.m.
(in-person only)
St. John's - Shellbrook
Sunday School,
Worship Sunday, 9 a.m.
(in-person and online via Facebook live)
Rev. Emmanuel Aristide

UNITED CHURCH

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

PRESBYTERIAN

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

CATHOLIC CHURCH

Debden
Sun. Mass - 9:30 a.m.
Fr. Mariusz Zajac
Big River - Sacred Heart
Sun., 11:30 a.m. - Mass
Whitefish
Sun., 2:30 p.m. - Mass.
Victoire
Sat., 7:30 p.m. - Mass.
Fr. Mariusz Zajac
St. Agatha's - Shellbrook
Mass - Sunday 9 a.m.
St. Henry's - Leask
Mass - Sunday 11 a.m.
Mistawasis
1st & 3rd Sundays 1:30 p.m.
Fr. Tuan Doan

PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

Parkside
10:30 a.m. Worship
Pastor Lorne Valuck
306-747-3572
Shellbrook
Adult Study
9:30 a.m.
Sun., 10:30 a.m. - Worship
Rev. Jordan Clark
306-850-0429
Canwood
Summer: 10 a.m. - Worship
Pastor Bob Wrench
306-468-2138
Leask Gospel Tabernacle
Sunday 11 a.m.
Pastor Josh
1-780-690-2100

EVANGELICAL FREE

Big River
10:00 a.m. - Worship
Bible Classes resume in the fall
306-469-2258
Youth Nite:
Fridays at 7 p.m.
Mont Nebo
Sun. Worship - 11:00 a.m.
(10:30 a.m. June – August)
306-468-2525

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN

Parkside
11 a.m. - Worship
(in-person and online via Facebook Live)
10 a.m. - Sunday School

PRAISE & WORSHIP

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

PARTNERS IN FAITH

Lutheran/United/
Christchurch Anglican,
137-2nd St. W.
Spiritwood
Worship 9:00 a.m.
Rev. Sarah Urano

COWBOY CHURCH

Spiritwood
Every 1st & 3rd Wed. 7 pm
Spiritwood Legion Hall
Pastor Rick Martin

Gideons International of Canada

Battlefords Camp
Phone Art Martynes
(306) 389-4633

UNITED /ANGLICAN

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

FIELDS OF HOPE (HOFFNUNGSFELDER)

MENNONITE CHURCH
Glenbush
11:00 am Worship

PARTNERS IN WORSHIP

Shell Lake
Worship Services
Sunday 11:00 a.m.
Pastor Sarah Urano
306-841-7333

CATHOLIC SATURDAY

Medstead – 6:00 p.m.
Shell Lake – 8:00 p.m.
SUNDAY
Spiritwood – 9:00 a.m.
Leoville – 11:00 a.m.
Chitek Lake – 1:00 p.m.
Everyone Welcome
Fr. Phinh Do

BETHEL

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

LAKELAND COMMUNITY CHURCH

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

MENNONITE BRETHREN

Glenbush
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Worship 10:50 am

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Controlling fungus gnats

By **ERL SVENDSEN & BERNADETTE VANGOOL**
Sask. Perennial Society

Aristotle proposed that some life spontaneously generated, or that living things came into being from non-living elements. He felt that this was certainly true for some flies. Louis Pasteur, on the other hand, demonstrated that spontaneous generations did not occur and hence we have pasteurization. But then, how do you explain the sudden appearance of swarms of fungus gnats that can occur around your houseplants? Perhaps they aren't spontaneously generated, but it sure doesn't take long for a few small no-see-ums to develop into a cloud of fungus gnats that lift off when you disturb your houseplants the least little bit. And they'll soon be found throughout your home, landing in your coffee or any open beverage. They can literally become so numerous that you become afraid of taking a deep breath for fear of sucking a few down. This "spontaneous generation" of fungus gnats can happen to even the most experienced of houseplant care-givers.

Back to the beginning – how can a few fungus gnats develop into such a huge problem? For a start, each female fungus gnat can lay up to 300 eggs over a period of 8 to 10 days. The eggs hatch in 4 to 6 days. The ¼ inch (6 mm) long, shiny, black-headed, white larvae feed for about 2 weeks before developing into pupa

and emerging as adults 4 to 6 days later. The larvae eat decaying organic matter (peatmoss, dead roots, etc.) as well as fungi in the media – hence their name. When the number of larvae increases, they begin to eat living plant parts and your plants soon become affected. Moisture and temperature determine the development rate and survival of the larvae.

Fortunately, there are several methods that can be used to control fungus gnats. If your plants can tolerate it, keep the media on the dry side. This will limit the number of larvae that survive. (Bottom watering may help as the larvae typically stay in the top layer of soil). This strategy will reduce the number of fungus gnats but not eliminate them entirely.

Trying to kill the adults is difficult as they are airborne, and it is easy to miss some to many with a con-

tact insecticide. An insecticidal soap containing pyrethrum is effective against adult gnats and is considered a low-risk pesticide (to humans that is). Regardless of the insecticide, avoid spraying pesticides within your home. Rather, do it in a well-ventilated area: outdoors or in a garage. You can use yellow sticky traps in combination with contact insecticides to eliminate surviving adults, but there will always be some that are smarter (or colour blind?) and survive.

Better to try to kill the larvae where they are trapped in the pot and can't get away. A larval control method used in recent years is a product called Bti or (Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis) which is sold as 'mosquito dunks', available at garden centres. Bti will attack larvae of mosquitos, and 'true flies', but is harmless to humans, pets, dragonflies and wild-

life. Mosquito dunks are small donut shaped pucks. If treating pots with gnat infestations, dissolve one puck in a gallon of water, and water your plants with it. A friend was trying out this product and had good results with only dissolving a quarter puck. She replenished the container with water when it was half empty and used this diluted mixture for watering additional trays of seedlings. Her gnat problem in her tray upon tray of garden starter plants was over.

An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Always quarantine new plants coming into your home to ensure they don't bring along unwanted visitors. This is especially true for houseplants you've put outside for the summer, tender bulbs and roots (e.g., canna lily) you've dug up to store indoors overwinter; or fresh herbs from your garden you've decided to grow indoors. Yellow sticky traps work great for monitoring. Always store opened potting media in airtight containers, this will starve any larvae that may be present in the medium. Remove any fallen leaves, flowers or fruit from the top of the media. Finally, avoid keeping your plants too moist, as this creates an ideal habitat for a new infestation.

This column is provided courtesy of the Saskatchewan Perennial Society (SPS; saskperennial@hotmail.com). Check our website (www.saskperennial.ca) or Facebook page (www.facebook.com/saskperennial) for a list of upcoming gardening events.



Fungus gnat.

Photo credit: Wikimedia Commons

Sask. expands glaucoma care

By **MINISTRY OF HEALTH**
Submitted

On Oct. 1, 2025, the Ministry of Health, in collaboration with the Saskatchewan Association of Optometrists, launched a two-year Glaucoma Care Pilot Program. This initiative expands publicly funded glaucoma services to include care provided by licensed optometrists, ensuring patients across Saskatchewan have improved access to timely glaucoma care services.

"We are very pleased to introduce the Glaucoma Care pilot program which will provide this focused care in a more efficient and sustainable way," Rural and Remote Health Minister Lori Carr

said. "Allowing optometrists to work to the top of their scope of practice enables ophthalmologists to focus on more complex cases and surgical interventions. This will improve patient flow within the health system and expand access for patients across Saskatchewan."

Saskatchewan residents will have greater access to glaucoma assessment, monitoring, diagnostic testing and follow-up services, delivered by licensed optometrists within their legislated scope of practice.

The pilot will reduce barriers for patients in rural and remote areas by making glaucoma care available closer to home, limiting the need to travel long distances to see an ophthalmologist.

"Saskatchewan Association of Optometrists applauds the decision by the Ministry of Health to provide new funding for glaucoma care provided by optometrists," SAO President Dr. Heather Hunter said. "Expanding publicly funded glaucoma services to include services delivered by optometrists increases patient access to 200 licensed optometrists operating in 42 communities. This will improve access to care, particularly in rural areas of the province."

Saskatchewan joins other western provinces that have expanded insured glaucoma care to optometrists, ensuring consistency with national approaches to accessibility for medically required eye care.

What happens when you don't advertise?

Very little.