

Shellbrook TRC Walk connects community



Students from Shellbrook and Canwood, community members, and special guests take part in the third Honour Walk for the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

Now in its third year, Shellbrook's Honour Walk for the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation is building a deeper sense of community and greater awareness about the history of Residential Schools and the Sixties Scoop, say organizers Nicole Erb and Regan Buckingham.

"Each year, we are just getting more participation with the community, which is wonderful," Erb said.

"This year we've seen a lot more orange shirts, a lot more ribbon skirts. Just bringing that awareness has been amazing for this community I think,"

she added, noting that she's seeing this in both the community and in her work as a social worker.

Working alongside their staff at Evergreen Oasis Counselling and Consulting, Erb and Buckingham brought the first Honour Walk to Shellbrook Elementary School and W.P. Sandin High School based off a suggestion by team member Kelsey Gerow, who provides counselling services at John Keenatch High School on the Big River First Nation.

Though the first walk came together at the last minute, it was well received by the schools and the broader community. And so, it only made sense to make it an annual event.

"We aren't able to fix what occurred," Erb said. "We can just now reconcile, and this is how we can do it. If we can just bring more awareness, and continue supporting everybody that will just help."

"It will help build and foster relationships," Buckingham added.

After last year's Honour Walk, Erb and Buckingham said their focus was on finding ways to make the day bigger and better every year. At this year's walk, held on Tuesday, Sept. 30, they did that by inviting Kindergarten to Grade 8 students from Canwood Community School in commemorating the day, as well as special guests from the James Smith Cree Nation.

The morning unofficially began at the Evergreen Oasis headquarters, where community members gathered to walk over to W.P. Sandin High School. Once there, students and staff from all three schools assembled in the gymnasium along with the special guests for a brief ceremony and presentation.

Buckingham kicked things off by welcoming attendees and offering the customary Treaty 6 land acknowledgement. Then, she read the educational book *Today is Orange Shirt Day* by Phyllis Webstad and Natassia Davies, and turned the microphone over to the special guests, who began with a traditional honour song.

Continued on page 2



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Shellbrook TRC Walk connects community

Continued from 1

Next, Elder Edward led all those gathered in a prayer, said in English and in Cree, before sharing his own mother's Residential School experiences. "Many years went by, and she kept her story secret," he said, noting that she set her experiences aside and focused on raising her family of 14 people. "There was

many nights she'd cry. She had trauma. We didn't know about trauma during that time." Elder Edward recalled that every summer, his father would take him and his siblings up to the forest, where they'd spend four or five months living off the land. His father's hope, he said, was that his children would never have to go through what

their mother experienced. Those who went to Residential Schools, often by being taken from their homes at a young age, had everything stolen from them — their culture and traditions, their language, their knowledge of how to live off the land, and even their hair.

"There were children crying in the middle of the night," Elder Edward said. "Many kids ran away and they didn't make it back. They didn't make it back home. They didn't make it anywhere."

For Elder Edward's family, the way forward became clear. "If we're going to survive in this world, we are going to have to learn their ways. We are going to have to educate ourselves to keep up," he said, recalling a conversation his parents and



Elder Edward from the James Smith Cree Nation leads a traditional dance.



Elder Edward from the James Smith Cree Nation shares stories during Shellbrook's Honour Walk for the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

grandparents once had. "It doesn't mean you lose your language. You just speak it at home." Following his presentation, Elder Edward led the special guests in a demonstration of a traditional song and dance. Then, the Honour Walk began, with the Town of

Shellbrook's CSO leading the procession up and down Main Street and back to the school. For Buckingham, listening to stories like those shared by Elder Edward are vital to reducing the stigma around mental health and moving forward

with Truth and Reconciliation. "It helps when it's a lived experience. It hits home with people, and they realize that this truly did happen," she said. "Even though you may not have lived it, you can empathize with somebody who has."

Spiritwood Library flies high



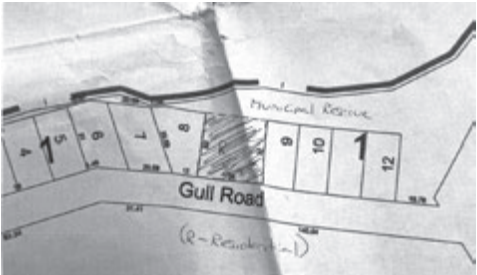
The Spiritwood Public Library was soaring to new heights on Wednesday, Sept. 24, for the Early Dismissal Program. Each child coloured their own cardboard helicopters, assembled and then flew them. Lots of fun was had seeing how high and how long each helicopter would stay in the air.
By HEATHER GATZKE, Branch Librarian

RESORT VILLAGE OF BIG SHELL NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Public Notice is hereby given that the Council of Resort Village of Big Shell intends to adopt bylaws under *The Planning and Development Act, 2007* to amend Bylaw 3-85 known as the Zoning Bylaw.

Intent: The proposed bylaw will rezone the affected area currently zoned as R1 – Reserve to R – Residential for the development of area for residential lots.

Affected Area: The affected area of land is legally described as R1 SW 49-08-W3rd Meridian, lying between Lot 8 Block 1 Plan #89B15672 and Lot 9 Block 1 Plan #101891774 of Big Shell, Saskatchewan, which is shown in the shaded area of the map which appears as part of this notice.



Reason: The reason of the proposed amendment is to allow for the development of possibly selling two (2) titled lots.

Public Inspection: Any person may inspect the bylaw(s) by contacting Tara Bueckert at (306) 427-2272 or by email at villagebigshell@gmail.com Monday to Friday. Copies are available at cost.

Public Hearing: A public meeting will be held on October 17th, 2025 at 7:30 p.m. at the Hall, 229 Loon Drive, Resort Village of Big Shell, Saskatchewan to discuss the proposal. Any person(s) who wish to comment to the proposed bylaw amendments may file a written comment, stating clearly their reason for their opposition/support, with the administrator of the Resort Village of Big Shell at the address below. All written notices must be received by the administrator by 3:30 p.m. on Friday October 17th, 2025.

Resort Village of Big Shell
Box 130
Shell Lake, SK S0J 2G0
Issued at Shell Lake, Sask., this 2nd day of October, 2025
Tara Bueckert, Administrator

[Section 77 of the Act] NOTICE OF ABANDONMENT OF POLL

Whereas a poll is not required pursuant to *The Local Government Election Act, 2015* for the office of:

Councillor: Village of Debden

I hereby give public notice that no voting for the said office will take place and the following persons are elected by acclamation:

Denise Dumais

Dated at Debden, Saskatchewan this 2nd day of October, 2025.

Tamara Couture
Returning Officer



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Holbein author honours mother’s life

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle
Reporter

When Holbein area author Wanita Koczka retired in 2020, after working 40 years in corrections, she had a clear vision for how her retirement would play out.

“My hope was that I would spend more time with my mom. But then COVID-19 hit, and my mom was at a care home in Prince Albert... and we couldn’t spend time together because everybody was social distancing and they closed all the care homes down,” Koczka said.

Wanita’s mother, Mary Koczka, passed in May 2021 at the age of 97, leaving Wanita lost and wondering how she was going to spend all the time she’d planned to spend with her mom.

Having always wanted to write, Wanita felt this would be a good use of her alone time, but was left with the question of what to write about. In the end, a Christmastime visit to her mother’s care home gave her the inspiration she needed.

“It felt like having Christmas there with my mom. It was such a beautiful and yet heart-breaking experience to have my first Christmas without my mom,” she said.

“You’re supposed to write what you know, and I know my mom, so I decided to write a book that was a tribute to her.”

The book she started writing, *Courage and a Castle*, became an unconventional memoir about her mother’s life, with parts written in Mary’s voice and others from Wanita’s own perspective on how her



Holbein area author Wanita Koczka.

mother lived her life.

Born Sept. 5, 1923, Mary grew up on a farm near Carmel, Sask. Though she enjoyed school, her rural upbringing limited her ability to attend, and she stopped going altogether after Grade 8.

Soon after, at her father’s urging, she moved to Viscount, Sask., to work for a family. There, she met her future husband, John Koczka.

Married in 1945, the couple envisioned a quiet life of raising a big family on a farm. But when this vision didn’t materialize, they moved to Saskatoon and got jobs at St. Paul’s Hospital. Here, too, they met roadblocks to their dreams, when John’s arm was seriously injured while fixing a part on a machine in the hospital’s laundry room.

“That set the stage for a different life than what they had planned,” Wanita said. “He was going to be a stationary engineer and look after the family. Mom’s dream was to have a big family and be a good mother.”

After John’s injury, doctors wanted to amputate his arm, but he refused. Over the next five years, he endured 13 surgeries and worked as much as he was able, and his and Mary’s resourcefulness

ensured their children were always taken care of.

After John lost his job in 1962, however, Mary’s life took yet another turn.

“My mom had to take up the role of the breadwinner for the family in the early 60s. That was unusual at that time,” Wanita said. “We, as kids, were wondering how we were going to survive with our mother working.”

Mary’s need for steady work to support her family led her to the Bessborough Hotel (the castle from the memoir’s title), where she started out as a chamber maid and worked her way up to the role of housekeeper by the time she retired.

“Like the Bessborough was an anchor for the city, it was an anchor for mom and our family, because it provided her the opportunity to work and pay the bills,” Wanita said.

“But it was more than that for her. She had always dreamed of even

going inside the Bessborough, and she felt honoured that she got to work there.”

Mary’s life was defined by more hardships after this, including the death of John in 1980, and the loss of two sons — Wallace and Wesley. But Wanita says she endured it all with hope, faith, kindness, and unconditional love.

Capturing all this wasn’t easy, Wanita admits, but she says the most challenging part of writing *Courage and a Castle* was finding the right voice to tell her mother’s story.

“I started writing it like I was narrating in third person, which felt very cold, but it was part of my grieving. I had to stay at a distance to start with, otherwise I would have just cried all day,” Wanita said.

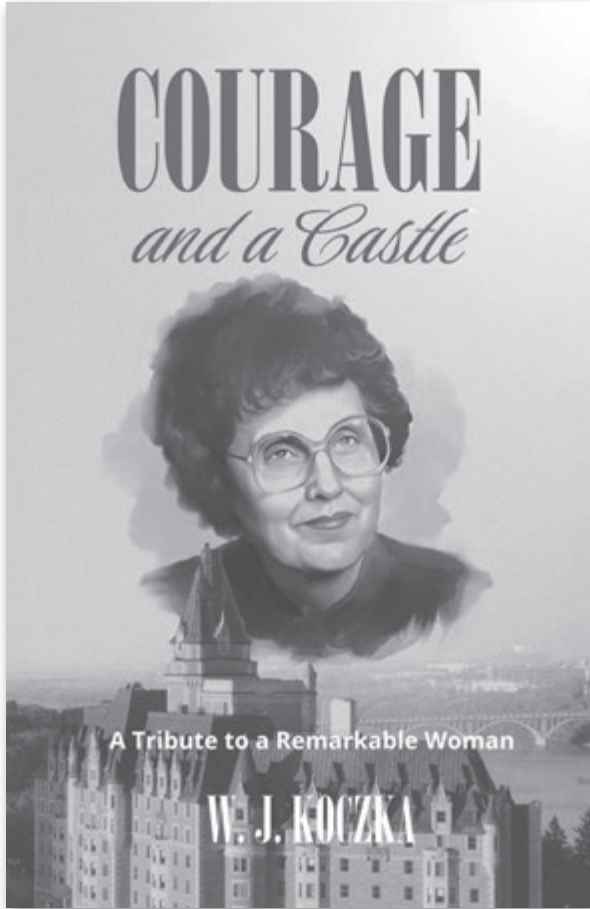
“It took me a long time to own what I was writing. Once I did that and wrote it from my perspective on my mom’s life and the things that were significant to her, it felt true.”

Helping Wanita along the way was her writing circle, and the eventual publisher of *Courage and a Castle*, Wood Dragon Books.

With the book now out in the world, Wanita hopes it will encour-

age readers to reflect on their own mothers, and that they’ll walk away feeling optimistic about overcoming any challenges they may be facing in their own lives.

“In the end, it’s a feel good story,” she said.



FARM LAND FOR SALE BY ONGOING TENDER

The following property will be offered for sale by tender under the direction of Kirkham Law Office:

NW 36-46-12 W3 EXT 1 & 2, Sfc. Pcl. # 130481669/ 130395371/ 130416375 (Approx. 162 acres less a proposed subdivision of approximately 32 acres)

RM of Meeting Lake #466, Sask.

Assessed Value: \$146,615.00

Cultivated acres: 113

SW 36-46-12 W3 EXT 1, 25 & 27, Sfc. Pcl. # 130416364/ 150496106/ 150496128 (Approx. 145 acres)

RM of Meeting Lake #466, Sask.

Assessed Value: \$138,765.00

Cultivated acres: 127

TERMS:

- All bids must be submitted in writing and delivered to Kirkham Law Office at the address below by **noon on Friday, October 17th, 2025**.
- Bidding will be conducted by ongoing tender. Once all qualifying bids are received all bidders will be informed of the highest bid on each quarter they have bid on. Bidders will then be provided the opportunity to declare their bid final or to increase their bid by at least 2% above the last highest bid. Once all bidders have declared their final bid the bidders shall be informed of the vendor's decision.
- All bids must be in writing and accompanied by a certified payment or solicitor's trust cheque in the amount of 10% of the bid made payable to "Kirkham Law Office". If the bid is unsuccessful the certified payment will be returned to the bidder without interest.
- Within 15 days of the opening of bids, the successful bidder shall provide either:
 - the balance of the purchase price; or
 - payment of a sum equal to the difference between the balance of the purchase price and any mortgage financing, together with an unconditional and unequivocal letter of commitment from a recognized financial institution to the mortgagee to finance within 15 days of the confirmation of sale, the successful bidder's purchase of the land for the price stated in the bid
 - Possession date of farmland will coincide with full payment of land. Purchaser will be responsible for all **2026** property taxes from date of possession forward.
- If the successful bidder does not complete the purchase on the terms and within the time specified, the deposit will be forfeited.
- The highest or any bid may not necessarily be accepted.
- Property sold "As Is"

KIRKHAM LAW OFFICE
1652 – 100 Street
NORTH BATTLEFORD, SK S9A 0W6
Att: Randy Kirkham
Phone: (306) 446-2900; Fax: (306) 446-2242
km.law@sasktel.net

FARM LAND FOR SALE BY TENDER

The following property will be offered for sale by tender under the direction of Randy Kirkham, Barrister and Solicitor:

NW 02-51-12 W3 157 acres 2025 Assessment \$307,900.00

RM OF SPIRITWOOD NO. 496

- All bids must be submitted in writing and delivered to Kirkham Law Office at the address below by Noon on Friday, October 24th, 2025.
- This is the home quarter and includes the following:
1980 bungalow approximately 1100 sq ft with deck
Detached 24x48 garage
Storage shed 12x20
1-Good well
Fuel shed 8x12
24x24 barn built in the 90s
Corrals with steel gates
4-Steel Bins on cement floors approximately 1500 bushels each
100 acres seeded to hay all fenced with some cross fencing
Mature wind break around the yard
Property located half mile off the highway and 6 miles out of Spiritwood, SK
- Each bid shall be accompanied by a certified cheque or solicitor's trust cheque in the amount of 10% of the bid made payable to "Kirkham Law Office". If the bid is unacceptable the certified cheque or the solicitor's trust cheque shall be returned to the bidder.
- Within 15 days of the opening of bids, the successful bidder shall provide either:
 - the balance of the purchase price; or
 - payment of a sum equal to the difference between the balance of the purchase price and any mortgage financing, together with an unconditional and unequivocal letter of commitment from a recognized financial institution to the mortgagee to finance within 15 days of the confirmation of sale, the successful bidder's purchase of the land for the price stated in the bid
 - Possession date of farmland November 14, 2025. Purchaser responsible for all 2026 property taxes.
- If the successful bidder does not complete the purchase on the terms and within the time specified, the deposit will be forfeited.
- The sale of the lands shall be subject to the existing SaskPower easements.
- The highest or any bid may not necessarily be accepted.

KIRKHAM LAW OFFICE
1652 – 100 Street
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Global trends show threats to free press

This year, for the 85th year, Canadians who work in the news business have the privilege of celebrating National Newspapers Week from Oct. 5 to Oct. 11.

I call it a privilege, because in many countries around the world, those in power exercise complete control over the information their citizens receive, and a free press is a foreign notion.

Globally speaking, data gathered annually by the journalistic advocacy group Reporters Without Borders suggests the press is getting less free.

In its 2025 World Press Freedom Index, for instance, four of five indicators Reporters Without Borders uses to gauge freedom of the press – economic, legal, political, and social – continued steady declines that started in 2023 or earlier. Only one indicator – security – improved during this timeframe.

Factoring these five indicators together, Reporters Without Borders came up with a global press freedom score of 54.7 out of 100 – a score, it says, that means the global state of press freedom is “difficult.”

Worryingly, press freedom in Canada appears to be following the global trend of decline. From 2024 to 2025, Canada dropped to 21st from 14th in the press freedom rankings, thanks to declining scores across all five indica-



**JORDAN
TWISS**
~
News Editor

tors.

Overall, Canada received a grade of “satisfactory” on press freedom, which is better than the vast majority of the 180 countries for which information was gathered, but hardly something to celebrate.

Looking at the positives, Canadian journalists (and all Canadians) are fortunate to have freedom of the press enshrined in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, and journalists are largely able

to do their work without fearing for their personal security.

However, on the economic front, Canadian news outlets of all sizes continue to face financial pressures caused by the migration of advertising revenues to social media platforms. Since 2008, Canada has lost 252 local media outlets, leaving an estimated 2.5 million Canadians without access to local news sources that provide coverage of their communities and municipal governments.

And the harms of social media haven’t just been economic.

Platforms like Facebook and Twitter have become 24/7 rumour mills and breeding grounds for conspiracy theories, eroding the public’s trust in traditional news outlets. As AI proliferates and becomes more sophisticated, it’s only going to become more difficult to distinguish fact from fiction.



Equally problematic for Canadian news outlets is the current political climate in Canada at present.

As politics has become more heated and divisive in the United States – thanks in large part to the often hateful and threatening rhetoric President Donald Trump has popularized – Canadian politics has followed suit.

At the beginning of the year, we saw Mr. Trump ban the Associated Press journalists from the White House because they continued using the term “Gulf of Mexico.” He’s also attempted to sue the Wall Street Journal and New York Times over their negative coverage of him.

In Canada, Conservative Party Lead-

er Pierre Poilievre has seemed to be drawing inspiration from Mr. Trump, at times refusing to take questions from publications that haven’t been pre-approved. And during the last federal election campaign, he broke with decades of tradition by barring journalists from travelling with him.

Any threat to a free press is a threat to the very foundations of Canadian democracy.

The good news is, there’s still time to act and foster change that will preserve freedom of the press and the Canada we love.

During National Newspapers Week, and every day, we must fight to keep the news and the truth alive.

Community support starts young

Dear editor,

It’s never too early to become a volunteer in the community of Big River.

With the Community Auction just around the corner, three young ladies spent an afternoon at the Co-op promoting ticket sales. They greeted every passerby with smiles, and no one could

resist stopping to make a purchase.

Big River is well known for its volunteer community support in every way, whether it be organizing the Community Auction, volunteering, prepping the supper, selling tickets, donating, or of course showing up on the day of the Community Auction to place bids.

The event is organized by the Big River Recreation Improvement Association. Donations rolled in and Hazel Hyllestad, Goldie Sjorgen, and Naya Hyllestad played an important role by selling over \$400 worth of tickets on the air fryer. Way to go girls!

Maisie Krienke,
Big River, Sask.



From left to right: Hazel Hyllestad, Goldie Sjorgen, and Naya Hyllestad.

Shellbrook Chronicle

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

Spiritwood Herald

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

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YOUR TWO CENTS

Canadians need factual, fact-checked information

By **PAUL DEEGAN**
News Media Canada President

In their 2018 book Truth Decay, Jennifer Kavanagh and Michael D. Rich of the RAND Corporation wrote about the role news publishers and broadcasters play in mediating information — separating fact from fiction. They differentiate between these businesses and Big Tech platforms, arguing that because the former can be sued for defamation and hold themselves to journalistic standards, they remain accountable.

According to Kavanagh and Rich, “the filters and algorithms embedded in social media platforms and search engines, such as Google, contribute to

Truth Decay — and particularly to increasing disagreement and the blurring of the distinction between opinion and fact — by inserting bias into the types of information a person is likely to encounter or engage with.”

In the seven years since their book was published, generative artificial intelligence has compounded the problem. AI companies are flagrantly scraping and summarizing content directly from published news articles. This is theft on an industrial scale — plain and simple.

Publishers are being harmed because these AI overviews are so detailed that the reader often stays within Big Tech’s walled garden, rather than being pointed electronically to news websites via links. No clicks mean no money for publishers to reinvest in fact-based, fact-checked journalism.

Readers are being harmed, too. All too often, these AI overviews serve up slop: inaccurate, irrelevant, out of date, and even harmful information. In today’s attention economy, these companies prioritize engagement. That leaves it up to the user to try to separate fact from fiction.

In a world of misinformation and disinformation, we need fact-based, fact-checked journalism. Crowdsourcing is not journalism. There are no al-

ternative facts: there are just facts. And Canadians need facts to live their lives and to make informed decisions that empower them to participate effectively in democratic processes.

“Buy Canadian” is part of the solution.

According to a recent report from Canadian Media Means Business, 92 per cent of digital ad dollars are now going to non-Canadian platforms, which puts the sustainability of Canadian media in jeopardy. Governments across Canada should not be spending their advertising dollars with foreign search and social media giants. They should walk the talk and “Buy Canadian.” They should follow the Government of Ontario’s lead and set aside a minimum of 25 per cent of their advertising budgets for trusted news brands. And that should be one of the planks in the Government of Canada’s new Buy Canadian Policy, which seeks to ensure our economy is resilient and self-reliant.

Beyond ensuring federal advertising is placed in a brand safe manner and without any additional cost to the taxpayer, a federal set-aside would send an important signal to other orders of government and to the private sector about protecting Canada’s digital sovereignty and sustaining independent, commercially viable public interest journalism.



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Canada Post vital for small businesses

Dear editor,
As co-founder of Mumm’s Sprouting Seeds, I am very concerned about the decisions the government will make regarding the management of Canada Post.

From our warehouse here in Parkside, Sask., we ship 8,750 parcels with Canada Post every year. Canada Post has been an efficient and reliable way to get our organic seed for growing sprouts and micro-greens to our customers

all over Canada and into the US.
I am hoping that the government listens to concerns from small businesses and the public and keeps Canada Post functioning in a way that works for all.
Between the Canada

Post disruptions and the US tariffs causing recent difficulties shipping parcels across the border, our 24 staff members have been going through challenging times lately.
Sincerely,
Maggie Mumm
Parkside, Sask.



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Suspect in Sturgeon Lake robbery arrested

By JORDAN TWISS
Shellbrook Chronicle
Reporter

A man wanted in connection with an Aug. 21 robbery on the Sturgeon Lake First Nation has been arrested.

Devin Naytowhow, 34, was apprehended by the Prince Albert RCMP Warrant Enforcement and Suppression Team (WEST) in the community of Little Red River, SK, on Sept. 24.

He was remanded into custody and was scheduled to appear in Prince Albert Provincial Court, on Oct. 6.

On the afternoon of Aug. 21, police received a report of a robbery on the Sturgeon Lake First

Nation, and officers' initial investigation determined that a male and a female came into the residence and threatened the occupant with a knife while demanding the keys to their vehicle.

The male and the female then left in the victim's vehicle, a black 2017 Hyundai Accent, with the Saskatchewan plate 278 NYU.

The victim was not physically injured during the robbery.

A few days after the initial report of the robbery police identified Naytowhow as the suspect. Naytowhow was wanted on warrant for a slew of charges from 2023, including: two counts each of posses-

sion of a weapon for a dangerous purpose and unauthorized possession of a firearm and ammunition in a motor vehicle, and one count each of possession of a firearm knowing its possession is unauthorized and flight from a peace officer.

Police say they are still searching for the stolen vehicle.

Anyone with information on its whereabouts is urged to report it to police by calling 306-310-RCMP (7267). Information can also be submitted anonymously by contacting Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or www.saskcrimestoppers.com.

Blaine Lake, Muskeg Lake FN ink agreement

By JORDAN TWISS
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

The Town of Blaine Lake and the Muskeg Lake First Nation are hoping to build brighter futures for their communities, and are working together to do so.

In September, the First Nation and the Community, led by Chief Kelly Wolfe and Mayor Tom Mayer, officially signed a Memorandum of Understanding to strengthen the existing ties between the communities and lay a foundation for greater collaboration.

"Our communities have always

been neighbours, but this agreement allows us to walk forward in a good way together with a shared vision," Chief Wolfe said.

Though no specific projects have been identified, the communities have committed to exploring opportunities for housing development, business and economic growth, recreation facilities and community spaces, and stronger, more sustainable futures for all residents.

"We are excited to work closer with Muskeg Lake Cree Nation to find opportunities that support growth, enhance services, and strengthen our communities," Mayor Mayer said.



Seated, left to right: Elder Dolores Sand, Chief Kelly Wolfe, and Mayor Tom Mayer. Standing: Carol Lafond, Muskeg Lake Councillor, Nolan Kenny, Muskeg Lake Communications, Curtis Lafond, Muskeg Lake Councillor, Louanne Roshchuk, Blaine Lake Assistant CAO, Kim Greyeyes, Muskeg Lake Councillor, Jack Androsoff, Blaine Lake Councillor, and Barry Glencross, Blaine Lake Councillor.

Fire prevention week focuses on lithium-ion battery safety

By SPSA
Submitted

The Government of Saskatchewan and the Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency (SPSA) have proclaimed Oct. 5 to 11, 2025, as Fire Prevention Week in the province.

The theme for this year's Fire Prevention Week is "Charge into Fire Safety: Lithium-Ion Batteries in Your Home."

"This week focuses on how important it is to buy, charge and recycle lithium-ion batteries safely," SPSA Fire Marshal Wayne Rodger said. "We are all at risk, and Fire Prevention Week is a great opportunity to provide safety education and community outreach on the proper use of lithium-ion batteries."

Lithium-ion batteries store a large amount of energy in a small space, and improper use such as overcharging, using off-brand chargers without safety certification, or exposing batteries to damage can result in a fire or explosion. The proper disposal and recycling of lithium-ion batteries help prevent environmental hazards and reduce fire risks in the home and community.

"To reduce fire risks, look around your home - it is important to know which devices are powered by lithium-ion batteries," Rodger said. "Buy only listed products, charge devices safely and recycle batteries responsibly."

To learn more about Fire Prevention Week and the poster contest visit: www.saskpublicsafety.ca/public-education.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

SPIRITWOOD: Wapiti Regional Library - Tuesday 10am - 5pm; Wednesday 10am - 5pm; Thursday 1pm to 5pm; Friday 10am - 5pm

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

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

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

BIG RIVER: Wapiti Library - Tuesday 11:30am - 4:30pm; Wednesday 11:30am - 4:30pm; Thursday 11:30am - 4:30pm. Phone # 306-469-2152

CANWOOD: Canwood Branch of Wapiti Regional Library Hours: Tuesday 9:30am - 4pm; Wednesday 10:30am - 5pm; Phone: 306-468-2501

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

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

MARCELIN: Wapiti Library - Saturday 10am - 2pm; Thursday 2pm - 8pm. For information on all your library needs, please contact 306-226-2110.

SHELLBROOK: Shellbrook Branch of the Wapiti Library located at 105 Railway Ave., West (Provincial building). Library Hours: Monday 2pm - 6pm; Tuesday 2pm - 8pm; Wednesday 2pm - 8pm; Thursday 12pm - 6pm; Friday 10 am - 5pm (Story Time 10:30am - 11:30am); Saturday 10am - 4pm.

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

SHELLBROOK: Shellbrook Pentecostal Assembly Presents Jim Hughes – Thursday, October 16, Shellbrook Theatre (101 1st Ave W). 6PM: Evolution vs Biblical Creation followed by a Q&A Session. All are welcome! For more information please call: 306-747-2573. Resources will be available for purchase.

SHELLBROOK: Shellbrook Boreas Pickleball (Formerly Prairie Pickleball Club – Come out and try the fun & social sport of Recreational Pickleball in Shellbrook! New Players: Free Play and Beginner Lesson for the month of October! For more information or to register, phone/text: Betty Skarpinsky at (306)747-7377 or Dianne Roberts at (306)619-9295.

SHELLBROOK: 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.

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Commodity prices cratered by tariff wars

It was with little surprise I scanned a recent article online which suggested agricultural commodity prices could be in for a sustained downturn.

The reason of course is one which is perhaps the most frustrating for producers, the meddling in trade of government.

It's one thing to realize the vagaries of Mother Nature can impact prices — bumper crops, or failed ones, caused by weather impact supply and demand and thus prices.

Weather is part and parcel of the risk farmers take as a normal part

of their business, with Mother Nature sort of a partner in things, sometimes helping and at others hindering production.

But supply and demand trade only works when governments keep out of things.

The fewer artificially imposed barriers to trade there are, the better supply and demand works. When someone wants a commodity, at least in an unencumbered system, they can go out and look for the best deal they can find.

If supplies are high they will be able to find lower



CALVIN DANIELS

costs, but when supplies are tight they'll need to pay more as others want the product too.

Now, never has trade ever been totally free, as there have always been artificially created barriers. Some exist to pro-

tect domestic production, some to ensure local supply exists, and of course, as is the case today, to push political policy with agriculture as a pawn.

As in chess, the pawn is largely a sacrificial piece, and so is agriculture when government starts tossing around trade barriers as a weapon in trade wars, which have nothing to do with supply and demand of farm production.

That is where we are today in the world in terms of farm trade — well, trade in general, but this is an agricultural column.

If you are looking for

the problem today, you do not need to look any farther than the president of the United States, Donald Trump. For reasons that often seem a mystery even to him, Trump has tossed tariffs around like candies at a Halloween parade.

The tariffs, which seem in a constant state of flux to the detriment of free-flowing trade for farmers in the United states itself, and with trade partners, have sent markets into turmoil.

And under the threat of Trump imposed tariffs, they have become a tool

other countries are using, too — the Chinese tariff on canola notable for Canadian Prairie farmers.

Trump isn't going away; there are real fears he may even circumvent free elections to stay in power having himself used the word dictator. So, a return to normal trade is far from imminent.

In the face of Trump tariffs, and those inspired by him as reprisals, ag commodity prices are under downward pressure and that is worrying because little suggests it will be a short-term issue.

Crop Report: Sept. 23 to 29

By MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
Submitted

Warm dry conditions across the province helped producers make significant harvest progress this week. Currently, 84 per cent of this year's crop is in the bin, which is a 16 per cent increase from last week. While this is behind our five-year average of 92 per cent, it is slightly ahead of the ten-year average of 81 per cent.

Harvest progress is similar in all regions across the province. The southwest region leads with 87 per cent harvest complete but is closely followed by the west central and northwest areas that are both at 86 per cent harvested. The southeast region is sitting at 84 per cent harvested while the northeast region is at 83 per cent. The east-central region is only slightly behind at 80 per cent harvested.

Harvest is complete for winter wheat, fall rye and triticale, with peas sitting at 99 per cent combined and lentils at 98 per cent. Spring wheat is 92 per cent combined, durum is 91 per cent, oats is 87 per cent, canary seed is 61 per cent and barley is 94 per cent complete. Producers made significant progress on oilseed harvest this past week and canola is now 71 per cent, flax is 45 per cent and mustard is 79 per cent harvested. Chickpeas are at 56 per cent harvested, followed by soybeans at 42 per cent.

Minimal rain was reported across the province this week with the largest amount falling in the Meadow Lake area at 13 millimetres (mm) and 11 mm in the Loon Lake

region.

Topsoil moisture conditions fell again this week with a lack of moisture reported across much of the province. Provincially, the cropland topsoil moisture sits at one per cent surplus, 49 per cent adequate, 38 per cent short and 12 per cent very short. Hayland topsoil moisture conditions are at one per cent surplus, 43 per cent adequate, 40 per cent short and 16 per cent very short. Pasture topsoil moisture conditions are one per cent surplus, 34 per cent adequate, 39 per cent short and 26 per cent very short.

When asked about livestock water supplies, three per cent of respondents said there are severe/widespread shortages occurring. Thirty-one per cent reported moderate shortages, 16 per cent said shortages are anticipated and 50 per cent said there are no shortages occurring/anticipated. Provincially 23 per cent of respondents said producers are worried about livestock water quality while the remaining 77 per cent did not have concerns at this time. The bulk of water concerns are related to dry weather, low water levels in dugouts and decreasing water quality.

This week, most of the crop damage was caused by high winds. Some producers reported winds strong enough to blow swaths away. The other reports of crop damage were caused by wildlife and waterfowl.

With an increase in the number of machinery fires being reported, we would like to remind producers to have fire mitigation resources ready, blow off their combines regularly and take precautions when working around

powerlines. The public is also reminded to exercise caution when encountering machinery and equipment travelling on roadways.

Northwestern Sask.

Harvest progress increased by 17 per cent over the week to a total of 86 per cent for the region. Winter wheat, fall rye, triticale, durum pea and soybean harvest is now complete. Lentils are very close at 99 per cent complete. Spring wheat is 95 per cent harvested, barley is 90 per cent and oats are 92 per cent. Canola harvest has progressed substantially and is now at 73 per cent harvested while flax is 55 per cent complete.

A small amount of rainfall was reported in the Loon Lake and Meadow Lake areas. Topsoil moisture levels are similar to last week with cropland reported as 35 per cent adequate, 47 per cent short and 18 per cent very short. Hayland topsoil moisture for the region is 25 per cent adequate, 38 per cent short and 37 per cent very short. Pasture topsoil moisture is 27 per cent adequate, 36 per cent short and 37 per cent very short.

Livestock water is a large concern and 41 per cent of respondents were concerned about the quality. When asked to describe on-farm surface water supply for livestock, 18 per cent said there are severe widespread shortages, 59 per cent said there are moderate shortages occurring, six per cent said shortages are anticipated and 17 per cent said there are no shortages occurring or anticipated.

Crop damage this week was mostly caused by wind. Other damage was caused by frost, wildlife and waterfowl. Dry conditions in certain areas have producers hauling water for livestock.

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

Minutes of a Shell Lake village council meeting

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

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Council held in Council Chambers on Tuesday, August 12, 2025 commencing at 7 p.m.

Present: Mayor Wendy Penner, Councillors Greg Ardagh, Wayne Reddekopp, and Al Sulymka, Administrator Tara Beuckert, and Foreman Jim Mayo.

Absent: Councillor Louise Fisher.

The meeting was called to order at 6:48 p.m. by Mayor Penner.

Ardagh: That the agenda for this meeting be approved as presented. Carried

Reddekopp: That the minutes of the regular council meeting of July 15, 2025 be adopted. Carried

Sulymka: That, after further review of sewer issues located at Lot 4 Block 11 Plan #102386112 with digging up the sewer line, we found that the kink was on the owners' property. Carried

Ardagh: That the Village of Shell Lake Council drop the loan from \$400,000 to \$150,000 for the Shell Lake Curling Rink loan held at the Innovation Credit Union. Carried

Reddekopp: That the bank reconciliation for the month of July be accepted as presented. Carried

Ardagh: That the Financial Report for the month of July be accepted as presented. Carried

Sulymka: That the list of accounts totaling \$72,383.87, cheques numbered 301 to 318, EFT payments and online payments

numbered 2025166 to 2025184, be approved. Carried

Ardagh: That the Gator Utility Vehicles are the property of the Memorial Lake Regional Park. Carried

Sulymka: That all open building permits are being reviewed as deficiencies have been completed in the time frame allowed that the administrator sends letter to follow up. Carried

Ardagh: That the verbal Maintenance, Administrator, Councillors, Mayor, Fire Chief and Water/Sewer reports be filed as presented. Carried

Sulymka: That the correspondence, having been read, now be filed. Carried

Sulymka: That the Village of Shell Lake sells Lots 10 and 11 Block 8 Plan #102425554 for price of \$27,000.00 per

lot. Carried

Ardagh: That the Village of Shell Lake proceed with installing power to Lots 10 and 11 Block 8 Plan #102425554 for a price of \$12,202.60. Carried

Sulymka: That we give 1st reading to Bylaw 4-2025, To Enter Into An Agreement To Sell Village Property Bylaw. Carried

Ardagh: That we give 2nd reading to Bylaw 4-2025, To Enter Into An Agreement To Sell Village Property Bylaw. Carried

Sulymka: That the Village of Shell Lake Council reshape the berm located at the East end of Memorial Drive for a cost of \$3,774.00 and the work be done by Gory's Excavating & Trenching Ltd. Carried

Sulymka: That this meeting be adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

Spiritwood couple celebrate 50 years in business



Sally and Rene Turgeon celebrated 50 years of business in Spiritwood, serving up free cupcakes at Papa Rene’s Pizzeria on Saturday, Oct. 3.

By BEVRA FEE
Spiritwood Herald Reporter

Rene and Sally Turgeon are known as Papa Rene and Mama Sal at their current restaurant venture in Spiritwood, Papa Rene’s Pizzeria. However, prior to their 25 years at the popular pizza hangout, they owned Flowers & Fish Hooks, a catchall that

offered fresh flower arrangements on one side and bait and tackle outdoor equipment on the other.

Starting it all in the 1970s, however, was Your Store Meats.

“We have had so many staff over the years, that now our employees are seeing photos of their parents on the wall from when they worked with us after school!” Sally said.

For the couple’s 50th wedding anniversary last year, current employees created a collage of photos from over the years, and it was on display again as the Turgeons celebrated their 50th business anniversary on Oct. 3.

“We’ve given out plenty of free cupcakes and cake today,” Sally said. “Mind you, Rene is generous and doesn’t mind when the high school kids take two.”

That personal touch and open-hearted approach to business could be noted as the key to the Turgeons’ business success over the years.

Sally wouldn’t hazard a guess at how many have come and gone over the years, but needless to say, the Turgeons have been key employers among Spiritwood’s business community in their 50 years of doing business.

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Shellbrook seniors attend Filipino Fest

By **LORRAINE THIBEAULT**
Shellbrook Seniors Assoc.

On Sunday, Sept. 21, four local senior citizens, Lita Fekete, Linda Greba, Pat Radchuk, and Lorraine Thibeault travelled to Martensville to take in the festivities at the 1st annual Martensville Filipino & Multicultural Festival. The event mainly featured Filipino culture, along with Mexican dancers and singers and was hosted by the Filipino Bayanihan Community of Martensville.

The Filipino Bayanihan is a group of locals who bring their culture to Martensville to celebrate through music, food, and dance. They have hosted a festival in Saskatoon, but this was the first one in Martensville.

The event ran from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the Lions Park. Vendors served a variety of Filipino and Asian foods and sold a variety of Filipino jewel-

lery and clothing. The four Shellbrook seniors shared five different Filipino foods. When we couldn't understand the vendors' explanations about the foods, Lita came to our rescue to let us know what we were eating. Pat and Lorraine taste-tested fried mini-crabs which are cooked, coated and eaten in entirety.

The beautiful voices of many singers lulled us this very hot afternoon. Songs were sung in English and in the Filipino language. The bands woke us up with their loud and lively music.

Various groups performed Filipino and Mexican dances. The first performers were from the Bayanihan Filipino community. They performed a traditional dance called the Igorot dance from the indigenous mountain people of Northern Luzon.

Mexican dancers also took the stage. The dancers ranged from five years of age to adults. All the dancers had colourful costumes. A more

modern group in white and orange danced non-stop for half-an-hour.

When the Shellbrook group left the Festival to the tune of a very loud band, there were still three hours of celebration left in the Festival.



A modern dance group danced non-stop for 30 minutes.

GOOD NEWS

THERE IS NOTHING TO FEAR

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

Fear. Fear is powerful. As human beings we are prone to become fearful in our lives; we are vulnerable to fear.

I remember many times in my life where I was afraid. Being high off the ground still turns my stomach. Speaking in front a large group of people makes me fearful or nervous. Sometimes the future can give me fear; not understanding what tomorrow brings can cause me to worry. Not knowing what the future of my daughter's lives can also give me fear.

Major events happen around us in the world can cause worry and fear such as the recent religious/political assassination of Charlie Kirk. Imagine, we do not know what tomorrow brings, we may think it could be a normal day, but our lives could end, we could lose our job, we could be forced to move and sometimes these worries permeate in our minds. Fear. Worry. Doubt. Every human struggles with these emotions and thoughts.

As Christians, we must be reminded of this fact: there is nothing to fear in this world. Nothing.

Oswald Chambers says, "When you fear man then everything in this

world will scare you; when you fear God, then nothing in this world will scare you."

When someone asks me "why are you a Christian? How can you believe in the Bible?" my response is always "how can you NOT believe in the Bible?"

The Bible deals with these issues and teaches us how to cast our fears on God. It reminds us how this depraved world is scary but there is a perfect, merciful and loving God who exists out of this sinful world offering his hope and salvation to this imperfect world.

In Philippians 1:27-28, the Apostle Paul reminds the church in Philippi of this truth: "Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I will hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel; in no way alarmed by your opponents — which is a sign of destruction for them, but of salvation for you, and that too, from God."

Paul is fighting for the soul of this church while he is under house arrest in Rome. He cares deeply about this church and this church is going through a time of inner conflict between two members of the church.

They are getting off mission of sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ in Philippi; a city which has a Roman Imperial Cult operating a major church for Julius Caesar in the city.

Jesus has offered the greatest hope this world has ever seen. He lived a perfect life, died a horrific death on the cross, and was buried for three days. He walked out of that grave; He is still alive. The reason I no longer fear in this life is because I will have new life one day once I die; I will live with Christ in heaven. With my faith in Christ, I am saved. It is my faith in Christ that saves me; He gives me amazing hope even if I suffer in this life.

Charlie Kirk was a Christian conservative. He shared his faith publicly, fearless of those who hated him for his politics/faith. When he was shot in the neck, he died on earth but continued his life in heaven by that evening — because he believed in Jesus. Jesus saved Him.

We must listen to Paul. Let us conduct our lives considering God's perfect hope instead of the world's ugly fear. We must serve one another, we must humble ourselves in worship to God, we must not lash back and use weapons, rather we should forgive our transgressors and pray for our enemy — Christ instructed us to do

so in Matthew 5:43-44: "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy. 'But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,so that you may [ap]be sons of your Father who is in heaven..."

My prayer for you is to know that your fear does not define you. There is someone more powerful who exists that will take your fears away — His name is Jesus. I no longer fear what I used to fear. I no longer fear the future, major attacks and world events also do not cause me to be fearful. Rather, when something big happens in this world, it gives me even more motivation to share the good news of Christ in this world. Jesus Christ casts out all fear. His perfect life, light and love casts out all fear.

My faith has given me restful nights and a thankful heart. My faith has given me a thankful heart for what God has given and taken from me. I pray that you find Jesus and find his amazing hope, his amazing grace and realize there is nothing you have done your life that God cannot forgive or handle—because He defeated death.

One of Charlie Kirk's last tweets is a good reminder of God's powerful hope in this dark world: "Jesus defeated death so that you can live."



CREDIBLE NEWS GETS FACT-CHECKED.

nationalnewspaperweek.ca

Sask. expands RSV immunization coverage

By MINISTRY OF HEALTH
Submitted

The Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) Infant Immunization program in Saskatchewan is expanding to include all babies born between October 1 and March 31. Previously the program was only available to high-risk newborns in Saskatchewan.

“We are pleased to provide more Saskatchewan families with access to this preventative RSV treatment option this winter when we see higher rates of respiratory infections in newborns,” Health Minister Jeremy Cockrill said. “Broadening immunity for babies who are more susceptible will help prevent severe outcomes and added capacity pressures for our health care teams.”

The antibody treatment is designed to protect newborn babies and infants who are born during or entering their first RSV season, which occurs during the late fall and winter months. Children who are considered high risk of severe RSV disease will continue to be covered under the program for their first two RSV seasons.

The RSV program is a single-dose injection that provides protection through pre-made RSV antibodies. The antibody injection is safe with minimal side effects and it shows to be highly effective in reducing infant hospitalization rates. The injection is currently only offered in hospital at the time of birth. For more information, patients and families are encouraged to discuss RSV immunization with their primary health

care provider, prenatal care team and in-hospital health care staff.

RSV is a common virus that spreads quickly and easily, especially during colder months. The goal of the provincial immunization program is to provide protection when infants and children are most at risk of exposure and ensure they are protected for the duration of the RSV season.

RSV infects the lungs causing pneumonia or bronchiolitis and can lead to emergency room visits and hospitalization. RSV bronchiolitis is one of the most common reasons for hospitalization of infants worldwide and has a significant impact on caregivers and families. Premature babies and infants with chronic heart or lung disease are at the highest risk of developing severe infections and death.

“With respiratory illness season posing heightened risks to our smallest and often most vulnerable patients, the availability of the RSV immunization for infants presents a safe and timely opportunity,” Saskatchewan Health Authority Provincial Department Head of Pediatrics Dr. Terry Klassen said. “Unlike traditional vaccines, the RSV immunization provides protection by introducing antibodies to combat the virus if a child were to come into contact with it, offering significant potential to reduce hospitalizations and severe complications in newborns during their first RSV season.”

The Government of Saskatchewan is investing a further \$1.8 million for a total of \$3 million in the Infant Immunization program.

New scam using Prime Minister Carney’s image

By FCAA
Submitted

The Financial and Consumer Affairs Authority of Saskatchewan (FCAA) is warning Saskatchewan residents of an impersonation scam on social media claiming Prime Minister Mark Carney is endorsing the online investment platforms Invictus-FX and Union Trade.

“Do not make investment decisions based on a public figure endorsement,” FCAA Securities Division Executive Director Dean Murrison said. “Scammers can create fraudulent news articles that imitate the real media

source. Before you consider investing with an entity, always check the registration status at aretheyregistered.ca and do not deal with any unregistered entities.”

Invictus-FX claims to offer Saskatchewan residents trading opportunities including stocks, cryptocurrencies, forex, commodities, indices and bonds.

Union Trade claims to offer Saskatchewan residents trading opportunities including stocks, cryptocurrencies, forex, commodities, indices and futures.

This alert applies to the online entities using the websites “my Invictus-fx com” and “uniontrade io” (these

URLs have been manually altered so as not to be interactive).

Invictus-FX and Union Trade are not registered with the FCAA to trade or sell securities or derivatives in Saskatchewan. The FCAA cautions investors and consumers not to send money to companies that are not registered in Saskatchewan, as they may not be legitimate businesses.

If you have invested with Invictus-FX, Union Trade, or anyone claiming to be acting on their behalf, contact the FCAA’s Securities Division at 306-787-5936.

In Saskatchewan, individuals or companies need to

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

Tips to protect yourself:

- Always verify that the person or company is registered in Saskatchewan to sell or advise about securities or derivatives. To check registration, visit The Canadian Securities Administrators’ National Registra-

tion Search at aretheyregistered.ca.

- Know exactly what you are investing in. Make sure you understand how the investment, product, or service works.
- Get a second opinion and seek professional advice about the investment.
- Do not allow unknown or unverified individuals to remotely access your computer.
- Never make an investment decision based on a public figure endorsement. Scammers often create fake news articles to mimic legitimate media.

Beck sees strong support at convention

By Sask. NDP
Submitted

Three years into her job as Leader and following an election that doubled her party’s seats in the Legislature, Saskatchewan NDP Leader Carla Beck has received overwhelming support from delegates at the Saskatchewan NDP’s annual convention this weekend in Saskatoon.

With the Saskatchewan NDP now holding nearly half of the seats in the Legislature, Beck pledged to keep healthcare and the rising cost of living at the top of her caucus’s agenda going into the fall session later this month.

Beck received an A grade, with 87 per cent approval – the highest post-election leadership review result in the history of the Sas-

katchewan NDP.

“We are focused on the issues that people in this province care about – paying their bills, feeding their families and having healthcare when and where they need,” said Beck. “People need help right now, but after 18 years the Sask. Party has stopped listening. They’re tired, out of touch and out for themselves.”

Beck told the crowd of hundreds that her team has been traveling across the province listening to residents’ concerns and sharing ideas. Her team launched a province-wide consultation on the future of healthcare in Saskatchewan and will be introducing legislation this fall to bring in rent control.

“Saskatchewan is a great province. We

shouldn’t be ranked last place in Canada on healthcare and education. Hardworking families shouldn’t be living paycheque to paycheque while the Sask. Party mismanages our finances and looks after its friends,” said Beck.

“Scott Moe talks about growth, but people feel like our province is going backwards. They see their

grocery bills going up, their ERs closing and their kids struggling in underfunded classrooms.

“We owe it to everyone being left behind, all those looking for hope, to keep doing the work. Saskatchewan people deserve a government that’s focused on building a bright future for everyone that calls this province home.”



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NHL's hot topics waiting for answers

Fringe players in the National Hockey League will have special reason to enjoy the 2025-26 season, which gets under way this week, thanks to a nearly three-week break — book those Caribbean vacations, boys — smack dab in the middle of the 82-game regular season.

That's because the league's best players — McDavid, Matthews, Rantanen, Crosby et al — will be playing for their countries at the Olympic Games in Italy. The NHL schedule, which increases from 82 to 84 games per team next year, will be dark from Feb. 6 until play resumes on Feb. 25.

Picking the various countries' Olympic teams will be one of the most discussed aspects of the 2025-26 NHL season, but there are other hot topics, too. Such as ...

— Can the Florida Panthers pull a three-peat? After beating Edmonton in the Stanley Cup final in back-to-back years, the team re-signed almost all of its key players and even though star

forward Sasha Barkov could miss most or all of the season, there's no reason to believe coach Paul Maurice will not have another juggernaut on his hands;

— Is this the year Connor Bedard breaks out? The Blackhawks' phenom, still only 20 years old, is entering his third season, and will enjoy a stronger supporting cast thanks to a number of recent high draft picks. Bedard scored 22 goals in only 68 games in his rookie year, and slowed slightly in his sophomore year, potting 23 in 82 games. This might be the year he explodes.

— Which Canadian teams will dominate this year? Winnipeg Jets were regular-season champs last year and will likely join Edmonton, Toronto, and Montreal in the playoffs. Watch for the Canadiens to make the largest gains because their youthful contingent is among the league's best.

— Will this be Ovi's last year? Alex Ovechkin broke Wayne Gretzky's career goal record last season, finishing



BRUCE
PENTON

~

with 897. The Russian star just turned 40 but coming off a 44-goal season in just 65 games suggests he still has plenty in the tank.

— How will the Toews' experiment work in Winnipeg? Jonathan Toews, almost a sure-fire Hall of Famer after an outstanding 15-year career with Chicago Blackhawks, missed two full seasons due to COVID-related issues.

He signed over the summer with his hometown team, the Jets, and at age 37, is expected to centre the team's second line. It was a big gain for the Jets, who picked up a productive player without having to give up anything in return.

— Will the Hughes' brothers join forces? Quinn Hughes of the Vancouver Canucks is among the NHL's elite defencemen. Jack Hughes of the New Jersey Devils is among the league's elite forwards. Luke Hughes is not elite, but he's a solid blue-liner with the Devils. Hot gossip around the league has the brothers wanting to join forces, which would mean the Canucks and New Jersey would have to swing a trade.

— Who will have the best sophomore season — Lane Hutson of Montreal? Macklin Celebrini of San Jose? Goalie Dustin Wolf of Calgary? Matvei Michkov of Philadelphia? Or someone else?

Stay tuned. We'll know the answers six months from now.

• RJ Currie of sports-deke.com: "Recently, a college baseball game in Jacksonville was halted when an osprey dropped a fish in right field. Yes, well inside the fowl pole."

• Michael Rosenberg of SI.com after the U.S.

fell far behind Europe on Saturday in the Ryder Cup: "I can think of some ways for the U.S. to win this, but they all involve food poisoning."

• Columnist Norman Chad, with a comment overheard from a competitor at the Westminster Dog Show: "Several of the big-name pooches here are blogging for Dog World magazine."

• Comedy guy Torben Rolfson of Vancouver: "Greg Norman resigned as CEO of LIV golf. He said he wanted to spend more time with his wine cellar."

• Retired quarterback great Peyton Manning: "You hear about how many fourth-quarter comebacks that a guy has and I think it means a guy screwed up in the first three quarters."

• Headline at fark.com: "Head-butting soccer players at risk of brain damage, compared to players of real football who are already brain damaged."

• Cathal Kelly of the Globe and Mail, writing that the Blue Jays' success this year is due to the "little people ...

overperforming. Addison Barger, Ernie Clement, Tyler Heineman, Eric Lauer, Brendon Little, et al. You've heard of Murderers' Row? The 2025 Blue Jays are Misdeemeanours' Row."

• Mike Bianchi of the Orlando Sentinel: "Auburn basketball coach Bruce Pearl retired earlier this week and his son, Steven, is taking over the program. Hey, I'm not saying nepotism is involved here, but it seems the best way to climb the coaching ladder at Auburn is to start on daddy's shoulders."

• Retired Bills coach Marv Levy, when asked if an upcoming Super Bowl was a 'must win' for his team: "This is not a must win. World War 2 was a must win."

• Headline at fark.com: "(Cleveland QB Shedeur Sanders, whose starting quarterback is Joe Flacco: 'I know I'm capable of doing better than some current NFL QBs.' He'll definitely get some Flacc for that remark."

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

U18 Elks stumble in home opener against Warman

By JORDAN TWISS

Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

The U18 AA Parkland Elks kicked off their 2025-2026 Regular season on Friday, Oct. 3, hosting the Warman Wildcats for their home opener.

Both teams had a case of the opening game jitters in the early minutes of the first period on Friday night, as they struggled to move the puck effectively and generate good scoring chances. However, it was the Elks who found their footing first, when captain Aiden Tait took a pass from Cohen Ball on a seemingly harmless rush and found the top shelf with a sniper shot.

The Elks kept the pressure on the Wildcats for the remainder of the period, and looked sharp on their first power play opportunity, but ultimately failed to build on their lead before the final buzzer sounded.

As the action moved to the second period, it was the Elks who looked flat-footed and the Wildcats who pounced on the opportunities they were given. With the Elks trapped in their own end, Grayer Johannesson took a feed from Hudson Sawatsky and tied the game at 1-1 with an odd-angled shot from the side of the goal.

Only a minute later, after the Elks

had a good scoring opportunity of their own, Drew Budd scooped up a loose puck and took it all the way down the ice to give the Wildcats a 2-1 lead.

Rallying after the pair of Wildcats goals, the Elks broke out on a 2-on-1 rush that ended in a top-shelf wrist shot from Owen Hansen, assisted by Ball.

The Elks got back in their groove after this, applying pressure and forcing the Wildcats to make mistakes, until Logan Fisher was able to corral a loose puck in front of the Warman goal and blast it home to put the Elks up 3-2. Brady Hu-

jber earned the lone assist on the goal.

But the Wildcats had an immediate answer, taking advantage of some weak defensive play by the Elks to knot things back up at 3-3 on a goal from Brady Silvernagle, assisted by Kaine Thiessen.

As the second period wore on, the Elks penalty kill put in some solid work, keeping the Wildcats power play on its toes and forcing a penalty. Then, with the momentum swinging back in their favour, the Elks struck late to reclaim the lead after a neutral zone turnover by the Wildcats. Davin Hart netted the goal, with Tait earning the lone assist

on the play.

With two periods of solid hockey under their belts, the Elks undermined themselves in the third period with an ill-timed penalty. The mistake allowed the Wildcats to pull even at 4-4 on a goal from Tanner Huber, assisted by Lucas Ireland and Charlie Evans.

Minutes later, the Wildcats took the lead on another goal from Huber, thanks to another setup from Ireland and Evans.

The Elks tried to tie things back up on the power play, but came up short despite a number of good scoring opportunities. This, combined with a defensive lapse behind their own net, allowed Huber to score his third goal of the period and put the Wildcats up 6-4. Thiessen earned the lone assist on the goal.

With time winding down in the period, the Elks once again looked to their power play to get them back in the game. Pulling their goalie for a 6-on-4 advantage, the Elks came close on numerous occasions but couldn't find the back of the net, allowing the Wildcats to skate away with the win.

The Elks are on the road this weekend, travelling to Humboldt on Saturday, Oct. 11, for an afternoon showdown against the Humboldt Broncos.



Parkland Elks forward Logan Fisher blasts a shot just past Warman Wildcats goalie Matt Warren during the second period.

OBITUARIES

Shirley Davidson



It is with heavy hearts and sadness that we announce the passing of our dear mother Shirley Davidson after a short battle with cancer on September 30, 2025, with her family by her

side. Shirley Marie Ethier was the fourth child of eight, born to Victor and Edna Ethier, in Bowsman, Manitoba on November 26, 1939. At an early age, Shirley moved to Saskatchewan where she went to work for the Soulier family, providing childcare and other duties for them. The Soulier farm was located south of Kinistino, and it was at that time that she met her nearby neighbor, William (Willie) Davidson. After a short courtship, Willie and Shirley were married on December 15, 1955, where they then resided

and farmed on the original Davidson homestead. From the union was born Marilyn in 1956, Brian in 1958, and Allan in 1967. Shirley was very much part of the farming operation, and she could be found driving the grain truck every harvest. In 1981, the family relocated to a farm south of Shellbrook, Saskatchewan, where they farmed until 1997, at which time they moved into their home in Shellbrook. In addition to working on the farm, Shirley also provided full time childcare for neighbours at both Kinistino and Shellbrook. Willie and Shirley made a good team and

you would seldom see one without the other. In December of this year, they would've reached their 70th wedding anniversary. Willie and Shirley always enjoyed dancing, and after they moved to Shellbrook, they regularly attended jam sessions in Canwood, where they enjoyed nice meals with friends, as well as singing and dancing. Shirley was always a hard worker. She kept an immaculate house and always grew a large garden which provided nutritious food for her family all winter long. She loved to bake and cook and at a moment's notice, Shirley could always put on the most de-

licious meal for anyone that entered the door. Shirley lived for her family, and her greatest joy was having all gather during the special occasions and holidays. Shirley's family and friends were very important to her and throughout the years, she made a point to maintain regular contact with them. Shirley will be dearly missed as she leaves to mourn her passing: her husband, Willie, daughter, Marilyn (Louis), son, Brian (Gale), son, Allan (Joan), grandchildren, David (Tannis), Jennifer, Amanda, Elizabeth, and Kelsey (Dominik) as well as her great grandchildren,

David, Phoebe, William, and Sophia. In addition, she will be missed by her two brothers, Leonard and Raymond, and sisters-in-laws, Carol and Janet (Len) as well as numerous nieces and nephews and her many friends from the communities of Kinistino and Shellbrook. The family would like to thank the HomeCare staff and staff of Melfort and Shellbrook hospitals for providing such wonderful care for Mom. It was greatly appreciated. At Shirley's request, there will be no funeral and her remains will be interred at the Kinistino cemetery.

Lucille Denise Denis



In loving memory of Lucille Denise Denis Lucille was born on November 18, 1947, in Leoville, Saskatchewan and passed away September 20, 2025, at the age of 77. Lucille is loving remembered by her siblings: Annette (Emil) Lavallee of North Battleford, SK, Yvette (Marcel) Lavallee of Leask, SK, Yolande (Maurice) Lavallee of

Fort Saskatchewan, AB, Rita (Don) Gummo of Sylvan Lake, AB, Leo (Irene Denis) of Medow Lake, SK, Lea Pattison of Red Deer, AB, Marilyn (Phil) Gregoire of Medow Lake, SK, Allain Denis of Grande Prairie, AB, Rosaire (Shelly) Denis of Kitscoty, AB, her sister-in-law: Paulette Denis of Chitek Lake, SK and numerous nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends. Lucille was predeceased by her

parents: Roger and Marie Anne Denis, her brothers: Rene, Adrien, Albert, and Roland, her sisters: Marie-Ange Denis and Alice Denis in infancy, her sisters-in-law: Elsie Denis and Shirley Denis, her nephews: Shawn Gregorie and Todd Denis, her niece: Stephanie Kowalski. A funeral mass was held on September 27, 2025, at St. Therese Roman Catholic Church in Leoville, Saskatchewan, with Father Phinh Do as

celebrant, cross bearer Aiden Munroe, candle bearers Madison Munroe and Madison Vinish, readings were given by Doris Denis, and Adelle Craswell, offertory was presented by Annette Lavallee and Yvette Lavallee. Photo Bearer Leo Denis and Urn bearer Phil Gregorie, a beautiful eulogy was read by Lea Pattison, music was provided by Shanda Laventure and Sheila Laventure. Lucille's final resting place will be the Leoville Cem-

etery. Donations can be made in Lucille's memory to the Residents and Family Council C/O Evergreen Health Centre. 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.

Alice Margaret Heppner



In loving memory of Alice Margaret Heppner March 31, 1935 – September 24, 2025 Alice Margaret was born in Waldheim, Saskatchewan on March 31, 1935, to Peter and Tina Janzen. She was the 3rd youngest of 10 children: 7 girls and 3 boys. She met Don and was married July 16, 1954. They moved to a farm in Belbutte but after four years of farming Don applied to SaskPower, this led to employment with BC Hydro and various communities to work in. Together they raised four children. Two girls and

two boys, Terry, Rod, Val and Nancy. Alice kept busy as a housewife, baking, cleaning, gardening and sewing. In her later years, Alice lived at Caleb Village in North Battleford. She kept busy reading, doing puzzle books, playing games like tile rummy, Wii Bowling, shuffleboard and crocheting afghans for the great children. Alice is lovingly remembered by her daughter: Nancy Heppner (Owen Soverign), her sister: Adeline Martens, sister-in-law: Hilda Janzen, son-in-law: Murray Wickstrand (Kathy), grandchildren: Dawn Hornsby, Lisa Kissick & Tyler Sack, Kathy & Ryan Power, Karla & Jean-Luc Vandist, Kayla & Stetson MacDonald, Kerri Heppner & Dan Prevost, Kristy & Jonathon Renkema, Kim Heppner and numerous great

grandchildren, nieces and nephews. Alice was predeceased by her husband: Don Heppner, her children: Terry Heppner, Rod Heppner, Val Wickstrand, her son-in-law: Daryl Beauregard, her parents: Peter & Tina Janzen and many brothers, sisters, and in-laws. A funeral service was held on Monday, September 29, 2025, at the Spiritwood Civic Centre, Spiritwood, Saskatchewan, with Pastor Sarah Urano officiating. Donations can be made in Alice's memory to: Battlefords Union Hospital Foundation. 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.

Arthur Alfred Proulx



Arthur Alfred Proulx July 30, 1952 – September 21, 2025 Art passed away suddenly at home at the age of 73. He was raised in the Shell River Area and in 1974 married Holly Ann Berg who was from the Hawkeye Area. Within the first year and due to Holly's father's health, they moved to the Berg family farm which they later purchased. Art spent 24 years working for the Department of Highways which took him all over Saskatchewan. Later on, he spent

10 years working as a grader operator for the RM of Spiritwood, all the while continuing his passion for farming, fishing and hunting. After retirement he enjoyed camping, travelling, gardening, yard work, and of course hunting and fishing. Arthur is lovingly remembered by his wife: Holly, his siblings: Marcel (Eunice) Proulx, Denise Aberdeen, Lucille (Frank) Stefaniuk, Gerry (Sharon) Proulx, Louis Proulx, Earl Proulx, his sisters-in-law: Darlene Wilm, Jacquie Taylor, his brother-in-law: Dennis Busch, as well as numerous nieces and nephews and many friends and family. Arthur was predeceased by his parents: Pierre and Catherine Proulx, his maternal grandparents: Pierre and Leofile Pelchat, his paternal grandparents: Alfred and Josephine Proulx,

his brother: Denis Proulx, his brother-in-law: Jim Aberdeen, his nephews: Bryan and Nicholas Proulx, his parents-in-law: Henry and Kay Berg, his sister-in-law: Moria Busch and his brothers-in-law: Ted Sokolowski, Walter Taylor, and Ed Wilm. A private family service was held on September 26, 2025, at Hawkeye Cemetery with Delores Beaulac officiating. A beautiful eulogy was given by Anthony Proulx. Donations in Art's memory may be made to the Heart and Stroke Foundation. 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.

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Trees and green spaces

By **PATRICIA HANBIDGE**
Orchid Horticulture

Trees have many other benefits which we often do not think about. They contribute to the health of our planet and help to fight against climate change. Trees have the ability to capture and store carbon in their biomass – their roots, branches and even their stumps. Even more exciting is that the older a tree is, the better it can absorb carbon from the atmosphere. Research has shown that almost 70% of the carbon stored in trees is accumulated in the last half of their lives.

It is only a theory, but it is thought that older trees will store more carbon because they are at the top of the tree canopy and thus have consistent access to the sun. However, it is not just the height of a tree that is important, as trees will store more carbon in proportion to their size. This happens through the process of photosynthesis, where the trees will take the energy from the sun, and along with carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, will convert it into carbon based sugars that are then stored in the tree and allow the tree to do its daily work.

Older trees are more efficient in the storing of carbon as they are less sensitive to changing weather condi-

tions. When you look at the rings of life of a tree by taking a cross-section of the trunk, those rings tell a story. By studying the rings themselves, you are told a story by the tree. It tells you of years of plenty, those of famine and it shows that almost half of the carbon stored occurred in the last quarter to half of the life of the tree. We should consider the worth of old age trees in our battle against climate change.

The areas on earth which are not occupied by humans are very important. Not including the oceans, which are also an important carbon storage area, forests store around 90% of the biomass on the surface of the earth. In particular, tropical forests remove enormous amounts of carbon globally every single year. Plants have the ability to convert carbon dioxide from our atmosphere into a form which makes it difficult to release back into the air. Trees, being the most visible part of our landscape, have an extremely high value.

Green spaces in our urban areas are not only aesthetically pleasing, they actually have the ability to cool off urban heat islands. This cooling effect is fact. It is cooler to stand in the shade of a tree than in the shade of a building due to some of the processes that are occurring

in the tree itself. The leaves will reflect light and heat back upwards while they are providing shade, but the process of transpiration will release water into the air which actually lowers the ambient temperature.

There have been countless studies done which also reflect this great phenomenon. Urban forests do combat the urban heat wave. Even a reduction of ten percent in the canopy in an urban forest can increase the mean temperatures in the urban area by up to ten degrees. The opposite is also true by increasing the

urban green cover by ten percent can reduce that temperature increase in the concrete jungle to only one degree.

We all know that plants have the ability to improve the quality of the air around us. They have the ability to extract a wide range of air pollutants that are emitted by traffic, industry, building materials and furniture. They also release oxygen into the air which improves the quality of the air we breathe.

Our forested areas contribute to flood and water management. They facilitate the infiltration of rain water into the ground so developing green spaces is essential to improving our green infrastructure. Runoff is a concern as it has a huge impact on our water management practices. We should think about ensuring that our green space development is an integral part of the overall plan for water management.

So as you can see, there are both obvious and less obvious reasons to value our green spaces and especially the trees!

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



BRANDED CONTENT

SASKATCHEWAN BLUE CROSS: October is Health Literacy Month in Saskatchewan

October is more than changing leaves and cooler evenings – it’s **Health Literacy Month** in Saskatchewan and reaffirms what many of us already know: understanding our health information, services and supports is essential to both individual wellness and community strength.

Health Literacy is all about making sure people have the skills, knowledge and confidence they need to find, understand and use health information and services. When people can do this with ease, they’re able to make the best possible decisions for themselves and their families.

Strong Health Literacy benefits everyone. Communities with higher levels of Health Literacy see better overall health outcomes, less strain on healthcare systems and more effective support for vulnerable groups. Families feel safer and more supported when they can access the right information and resources, leading to healthier, more resilient communities across Saskatchewan.

THE NEED FOR HEALTH LITERACY IS CLEAR
According to the Canadian Public Health Association, 60 per cent of Canadian adults and 88 per cent of seniors are not health literate. Meanwhile, 60 per cent of adults in Canada are unable to obtain, understand and act upon health information and services to make appropriate health decisions on their own.

At Saskatchewan Blue Cross, supporting Health Literacy is a key priority. We invest in and stand alongside organizations that work directly with Newcomers and new Canadians, Indigenous communities, the actively aging, youth and educators.

These partnerships help ensure that everyone – no matter their background or where they live – has access to the tools and resources they need to make informed health decisions.

LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Each October, Health Literacy Month shines a spotlight on the important work being done by organizations across the province – groups that dedicate their time, expertise and passion to improving Health Literacy for the people they serve.

We’re proud to support these organizations and initiatives working to improve Health Literacy in communities across Saskatchewan, such as:

- Aboriginal Friendship Centre
- Global Gathering Place (GGP)
- Regina Community Clinic and Saskatoon Community Clinic
- Regina Open Door Society and Saskatoon Open Door Society
- Age-Friendly Regina
- Foundations Learning & Skills Saskatchewan
- Regina YMCA
- Saskatoon Council on Aging (SCOA)
- Saskatchewan Seniors Association
- Saskatchewan Seniors Mechanism – Gray Matters
- Indspire Scholarship Program – Saskatchewan Blue Cross Indigenous Bursary
- TeensTalk YXE
- Youth Matter Canada
- YWCA Prince Albert

By investing in this work and raising awareness, we’re moving closer to a vision of lifelong health and well-being for every person in the province. Improving Health Literacy is about building communities where people feel confident, supported and equipped to make decisions that lead to healthier futures.

HOW YOU CAN JOIN IN THIS OCTOBER

Health Literacy Month is a chance for everyone to contribute. **Here are ways to get involved:**

- Ask questions at your next health appointment. Asking “Can you explain that again?” or “Is there some written info I can take home?” helps you and others.
- Share trusted resources in your community – with family, friends and community groups.
- Support local events or programs focused on health education, Newcomer supports or Indigenous wellness.
- Volunteer and partner with or donate to organizations working in Health Literacy and community health.

LOOKING FORWARD

As we celebrate Health Literacy Month this October, it’s about recognizing where we are – understanding both our strengths and where more work is needed – and recommitting to closing the gaps.

The goal is simple but powerful: a Saskatchewan where every person, in every community, has the knowledge, confidence and support they need to live a healthy life.

To learn more about Health Literacy tools and resources or to find ways to get involved, visit Saskatchewan Blue Cross online at sk.bluecross.ca/community.

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