



Hallmark Christmas feeling comes to Shellbrook



After Santa Fun Day, Santa stuck around for Moonlight Madness to hand out more treats to kids.

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

All the hallmarks of a small-town Christmas season were on full display in Shellbrook on Saturday, Nov. 22, when the Shellbrook Kinettes' Santa Fun Day made its return alongside Moonlight Madness, keeping the community buzzing with Christmas spirit from 11 a.m. until late into the evening.

The day's festivities began at the Shellbrook Community Hall, where Santa Claus and the Grinch joined the Kinettes to greet children and their families for a day filled with writing letters to Santa, ornament crafting, gingerbread house decorating, cocoa drinking, and all-around fun.

Kinette Kat Mackin-Smith says this was the biggest Santa Fun Day yet, giving the credit for the planning and

execution to committee members Kim LaMotte and Sam Borix.

"The entire Kinette team loves this event, either as volunteers or attendees with their own kids, because it really just kicks off the holiday season in the very best way," she said.

"A highlight for me is seeing the kids light up when they see Santa, or shy away when they see the Grinch. It is so fun to watch all the different reactions to those two characters, and see kids interacting with them. Hard to say who is more popular."

Based on last year's attendance, the Kinettes prepared to host 150 kids for the day. In the end, they welcomed more than 175 children, along with their families, meaning the Community Hall was busy from the time the doors opened until just before things wrapped up at 3 p.m.

In addition to providing fun for kids, Santa Fun Day supports the Shellbrook and Area Ministerial Food Bank by asking attendees to donate non-perishable food items as opposed to paying an entry fee. Though no formal count of items was taken, Mackin-Smith says the Kinettes have four large boxes of items to donate to the food bank.

"Events like Santa Fun Day are important for Shellbrook because they bring people together — long-time residents, new families, and people of all ages sharing a fun, positive community experience," Mackin-Smith said. "It's a chance to create memories, support local initiatives, and kick off the holiday season in a meaningful, family-friendly way."

Two hours after Santa Fun Day, as the lights along Main Street came on with the setting of the sun and the commu-

nity Christmas tree was lighting up the end of Main Street (topped with an angel made by Beau "Lac" Funeral Home), Moonlight Madness began.

Organized by a committee that includes Shari Crawford (Shellbrook Home Hardware), Ian Clark (Lake Country Wildlife Federation), Pauline Mason (Shellbrook Royal Purple) and Leola Skrupski, Moonlight Madness is a revival of a long-time Shellbrook Christmas tradition that shines a bright spotlight on the local business community.

The evening sees local businesses (not just those on Main Street) open their doors or stay open late to offer deals to early Christmas shoppers and activities for kids to take part in. There's also plenty of hot chocolate and other treats to go around.

Continued on page 5



SPIRITWOOD

PHARMACY GROCERY

*Down on the corner...
First & Main*

Witchekan Lake FN celebrates treaty anniversary

By BEVRA FEE
Spiritwood Herald
Reporter

Witchekan Lake First Nation celebrated 75 years of signing on to Treaty 6 on Friday, Nov. 21.

The establishment of Treaty 6 in 1876, which saw many of the Plains Cree and Woodlands Cree nations across the central region of Saskatchewan and Alberta, was an agreement between the Crown and the First Nations to provide on-reserve education, protection from famine and pestilence and other integral promises.

With an understanding that the treaty would last, “as long as the sun shines, river flows & grass grows”, Witchekan Lake First Nation (WLFN) signed on as an adhesion to Treaty 6 in 1950.

Central to the community of WLFN, the Kisikohk School — kisikohk means “in the heavens” in Plains Cree language — was the venue for the afternoon of presentations and ceremonies. A drum group from the school, consisting of Theron Bear

and Buddy Morin, accompanied the grand entry of dancers and dignitaries with a welcome song.

Leading the grand entry, Chief Raymon Harris carried the Witchekan Lake staff, while Tyler Gamble, a teacher at the school, bore the Treaty 6 flag. Dancer John Ray Witchekan carried the Union Jack flag and led a group of WLFN Elders as they entered the gym in ceremony. Elder Barney Tipewan blessed the event with an opening prayer in Cree.

Emcee Steven Jim, a long-time Chief of WLFN, welcomed the guests and invited current Chief Raymon Harris to give the opening remarks. Chief Harris welcomed special guests who were in attendance to share their knowledge of Treaty 6, the history of WLFN, and the partnership among Bands who have signed the Treaty.

Also welcomed was RCMP Sgt. Clay Parenteau from the Spiritwood Detachment.

“Today is a historical day, because on this very day 75 years ago,



The Drum group from Kisikohk School began the celebration. From left to right: Principal Ralph Morin, Buddy Morin, and Theron Bear.

we signed the adhesion to Treaty 6. We want to thank and acknowledge all our past Chiefs and Councils for the years of service they have put in to make Witchekan a great and vibrant community,” commented Harris.

“We continue on this path forward together, a path where we can be proud of and look back and say, ‘We did this together.’ Our main goals as leaders is to create more jobs than we have people, through the use of our resources and land.”



Elder Barney Tipewan (left) offers a prayer to open the ceremony while Chief Raymon Harris (middle) and Tyler Gamble observe.



Eric Tootoosis was on hand to give an in-depth look at the history of Treaty 6.

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Thank you...

The Shellbrook Legion would like to thank the community for its support on Remembrance Day. We are grateful for all those who attended the service, bought poppies and wreaths, and contributed to our soup fundraiser by bringing soup or giving donations.

Chief Romeo Thomas of Pelican Lake First Nation came to deliver greetings and a message of alliance among Treaty 6 Nations. Likewise, Chief Jonathan Bear from Big River First Nation spoke words of alliance among the three Nations as well.

“When you have three Chiefs and communities come together, to work together to support our Treaties, it is a louder voice than each Chief working solo.” Chief Bear noted, adding that Chief Harris and Chief Thomas had responded to his ear-

lier invitation to attend a Pow Wow and that he was honoured to reciprocate with attending the WLFN ceremony.

The emcee continued with the program, introducing guest speaker Eric Tootoosis, a renowned Plains Cree Knowledge Keeper from Poundmaker First Nation who has worked as a historian and technician of Treaty 6 and is currently one of the chairs of the Treaties 1 - 11 Council. Tootoosis gave a

full background and explanation of the intention of Treaty 6 and the intention of the Crown, the involvement of the Hudson Bay representative, and the evolution of the relationship among all parties since the 1876 signing.

Following the historic Treaty perspective by Tootoosis, Witchekan Lake First Nation member Leonard Tipewan presented a timeline of the creation of his home Reserve. From the original survey to present day boundaries, Tipewan outlined the importance of Treaty 6 to the people of WLFN.

Tipewan carried on explaining the timeline from 1876 until the signing of Treaty 6 by WLFN, whose Chief at that time was Louis Thomas. Subsequently, WLFN has worked on Treaty Land Entitlement agreements, which were outlined by Tipewan on a timeline continuing to present day.

In addition to the celebration of the Treaty 6

signing, the First Nation also took the opportunity to swear in their newly elected (and re-elected) Chief and Council. For his second term as Chief, Raymon Harris thanked his wife and family for sharing his time with the community.

Re-elected Council members were sworn in by AJ Felix, a long-time representative of Treaties 1 through 11. Mark Tipewan, Viola Thomas, and Kevin Scott were re-elected in 2025 and newcomer Colin Fineday was elected for his first term. The drum group presented a flag song to commemorate the official swearings-in.

Closing out the celebration, Steven Jim listed and acknowledged all the past Chiefs of WLFN and acknowledged all Council members who have served the community since 1950. As at many community gatherings, the celebration was capped off with a feast for guests and dignitaries.

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Senior Elks score two shutout victories

By JORDAN TWISS
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

After their original home opener was rescheduled to avoid a conflict with the World Series, the Shellbrook Elks Senior Hockey Club finally made its home-ice debut on Friday, Nov. 21 and Sunday, Nov. 23.

And boy, what a debut it was, as the team picked up its first two wins of the season over the visiting Clavet Cougars and the Hanley Huskies and also earned back-to-back shutouts.

Elks (7) vs. Cougars (0)

The Elks came out flying against the Cougars, shooting pretty much every puck they could at the net in what would go on to be a 72-shot night for the team.

Finally, near the middle of the period, the Elks' Nathan Flodell broke the 0-0 tie, tucking the puck just underneath the outstretched glove of Cougars goalie Ethan Chadwick. Matthew Flodell and Cole Duperreault earned assists on the play.

Not too long after this, tempers began to flare on the ice and the penalty box became a revolving door for both teams. Though the Elks looked strong on the power play, they also got careless with the puck and had to be bailed out by goalie Alex Bell, who shut down two Cougars breakaways.

Finally, in the dying minutes of the opening period, the Elks extended their lead to 2-0 when Cole Duperreault



Shellbrook Elks forward Rylan Moe takes multiple shots in front of the Clavet Cougars' goal before scoring.

snapped home a one-timer on a setup from behind the Cougars' net. Rylan Moe and Tyler Rock assisted on the goal.

Picking up where they left off, the Elks went up 3-0 early in the second period, when Moe was able to tap a puck in after multiple rebounds. Nick Martin assisted on the goal.

The Elks continued to dominate, shutting down the Cougars' power play, until Dallas Galloway found a loose puck in a sea of chaos in front of the Cougars' goal and directed it to the back of the net. Payton Kachur and Jody Blais assisted on the goal.

Keeping the pressure on, the Elks'

power play struck less than a minute later, with Duperreault earning his second goal of the game on assists from Levi Logan and Moe.

As the action moved to the third period, the Elks' penalty killing team showed grit by holding the Cougars' power play at bay for four minutes. This opened the door for Duperreault to earn himself a hat trick on a beautiful top-shelf wrist shot, with assists from Ethan Skaug and Kachur.

Another late power play for the Elks turned into one last opportunity to build the lead. Kaiden Couture didn't waste the chance, burying a centering attempt to give the Elks a 7-0 lead. Blais

earned the lone assist on the play.

The Elks' 7-0 lead held until the final buzzer, giving the team its first win and shutout of the season.

Elks (9) vs. Huskies (0)

Returning to action for a Sunday afternoon tilt against the winless Hanley Huskies, the Elks racked up another 64 shots on goal en route to a 9-0 thrashing and their second consecutive shutout win.

The Elks put their foot on the gas pedal early and didn't let up, speeding out to a 4-0 lead in the first period on goals from Payton Kachur, Brendon Beaulac, Rylan Moe, and Levi Logan. Logan, Kachur, Shayden Smith, and Cole Duperreault each earned an assist during the period, while Kaiden Couture earned two assists.

The Elks tacked on two more during the second period, with Matthew Flodell scoring a goal on an assist from Duperreault, and Duperreault striking unassisted to put the Elks up 6-0.

Over in the third period, Kamden Logan netted two goals, with Ashton Miller adding another to give the Elks their 9-0 win. Dallas Galloway, Talon Sandry, Jody Blais, and Shayden Smith had an assist each.

With the pair of wins, the Elks now sit at 2-2 on the season. This weekend, the Elks are back in action in Shellbrook, hosting the Dalmeny Sabres on Friday, Nov. 28, and the Bruno T-Birds on Saturday, Nov. 29.

RCMP news highlights

By JORDAN TWISS
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

A man wanted in connection with a string of armed robberies on the Wahpeton Dakota First Nation earlier this month, along with two other individuals, have been arrested following a chase on the Sturgeon Lake First Nation.

According to police, the Prince Albert RCMP Detachment received a report at around 4:15 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 14, that 20-year-old robbery suspect Kalen Felix had been seen driving a truck in the community.

Officers responded immediately, located the suspect on Sturgeon Lake Road, and activated their vehicle's emergency equipment to initiate a traffic stop. The suspect failed to stop and fled at a high rate of speed, driving erratically and making dangerous manoeuvres to evade police.

While fleeing, the truck swerved at an RCMP officer who was on the side of the road setting up a tire deflation device. The officer ran into the ditch to avoid being hit by the truck, which nearly struck

a parked police vehicle.

Shortly after, a male and female exited the truck while the vehicle was still in motion. The truck drove away. The male and female got into a nearby SUV and drove away, but later exited the SUV on Agency Road on the Sturgeon Lake First Nation and were arrested by police.

A short while after, the Prince Albert RCMP Detachment received a report that the SUV was seen on Northshore Road on Sturgeon Lake First Nation. Officers located the SUV parked at a house in the area. A male was arrested inside the residence.

As a result of investigation, officers determined one of the males was in possession of ammunition. The ammunition was seized. Further investigation determined the truck was previously reported stolen in Emma Lake, Sask.

Resulting from continued investigation, Felix has been charged with one count each of: flight from peace officer, dangerous operation of motor vehicle, assault on police officer, resist/obstruct peace officer, fail to comply with release order condition, operation while prohibited,

weapons possession contrary to order, and possession of property obtained by crime over \$5,000.

Felix was also arrested on an outstanding warrant related to the armed robberies earlier this month.

Also arrested, 23-year-old Alyssa Bear from the Sturgeon Lake First Nation is charged with two counts of fail to comply with probation order, and one count each of possession of property obtained by crime over \$5,000 and resist/obstruct peace officer.

Finally, 36-year-old Ian Seewalker from the Sturgeon Lake First Nation is charged with one count

each of: dangerous operation of motor vehicle, flight from peace officer, and fail to comply with release order condition.

Seewalker was also arrested on an outstanding warrant in relation to an assault with a weapon that occurred on Nov. 9.

Felix, Bear, and Seewalker appeared in Prince Albert Provincial Court on Nov. 17, 2025.

The Prince Albert RCMP Detachment continues to investigate.

One dead in PLFN collision

On Nov. 18, around 6:30 p.m., Spiritwood RCMP responded to a collision involving a truck and ATV at Pelican Lake First Na-

tion.

The driver of the ATV, a 34-year-old male from Pelican Lake First Nation, was pronounced dead at the scene. An adult female ATV passenger from Flying Dust First Nation was seriously injured and transported to hospital.

The adult male driver of the truck, also from Pelican Lake First Nation, was taken to hospital with unknown injuries. Three

passengers in the truck, all adults (one female, two males) from Pelican Lake First Nation, Witchehan Lake First Nation, and Pelican Lake First Nation, were not injured.

This investigation is ongoing with the assistance of RCMP Collision Reconstruction, the Saskatchewan Coroners Service, the Spiritwood RCMP and Forensic Identification Section.

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CANWOOD	– One 3-year term	PRINCE ALBERT	– Five 3-year terms
CHOICELAND	– One 2-year term	SHELLBROOK	– One 3-year term
CHOICELAND	– One 3-year term	SMEATON	– One 3-year term
DOMREMY	– One 3-year term	SPIRITWOOD	– One 3-year term
DOMREMY	– One 1-year term	SPIRITWOOD	– One 2-year term
KINISTINO	– One 3-year term	WAKAW	– One 3-year term

Delegate Nominations will be held until December 11, 2025. For more information, and for the Nomination Application Form please scan the QR or visit the website at www.lakecountryco-op.crs

LAKE COUNTRY

When reality disagrees, just rewrite the rules

Though I've never watched the British science fiction series *Dr. Who*, I have on many occasions heard the quote, "I reject your reality and substitute my own."

Popularized by an episode dating all the way back to 1974, the phrase was used to humorously highlight a character's dogged determination to ignore reality.

Yet, in the fractious political climate of the 21st century, the quote seems fitting in a way that is less humorous than it is a critique of our tendency to see the world through the rose-tinted glasses of our beliefs – all evidence to the contrary be damned.

While we're all guilty to some extent of holding beliefs that aren't necessarily rooted in fact, there are some who take it a step farther and actively attempt to rewrite reality to better suit the narrative they're trying to push.

People like this are the reason why fake news (meaning verifiably false stories, not true stories that one disagrees with or dislikes) has been allowed to run rampant over the past decade.

And it's only getting worse, as these people seem to keep getting voted in to positions of power.

In Canada, Canadians chose former banking executive Mark Carney as their prime minister with the hope that – just maybe – his financial acumen would bring some semblance of fiscal discipline back to government.

Mr. Carney, whose government tabled a budget boasting a \$78.3 billion deficit just a few weeks ago, says he's doing exactly that by changing the way his government runs deficits.

No more, he says, will deficit spending cover the costs of day-to-day operations. Instead, deficit spending will be focused on capital investments that "grow the economy."

To make it so, his government introduced a new Capital Budgeting Framework, which broadens the



JORDAN
TWISS

~
News Editor

definition of what constitutes a capital investment to include "any government expense or tax expenditure that contributes to public or private sector capital formation, held directly on the government's balance sheet or on that of a private sector entity, Indigenous community, or another level of government."

If you're confused about what exactly that tossed word salad means, you're not alone.

Canada's interim Parliamentary Budget Officer (PBO), Jason Jacques, whose job it is to analyze and critique government spending, is lost, too.

In September, Mr. Jacques said Canada's spending was "unsustainable and shocking." Though he now feels the spending outlined in Mr. Carney's budget is "sustainable over the long-term," he's not buying Mr. Carney's new definition of capital investments.

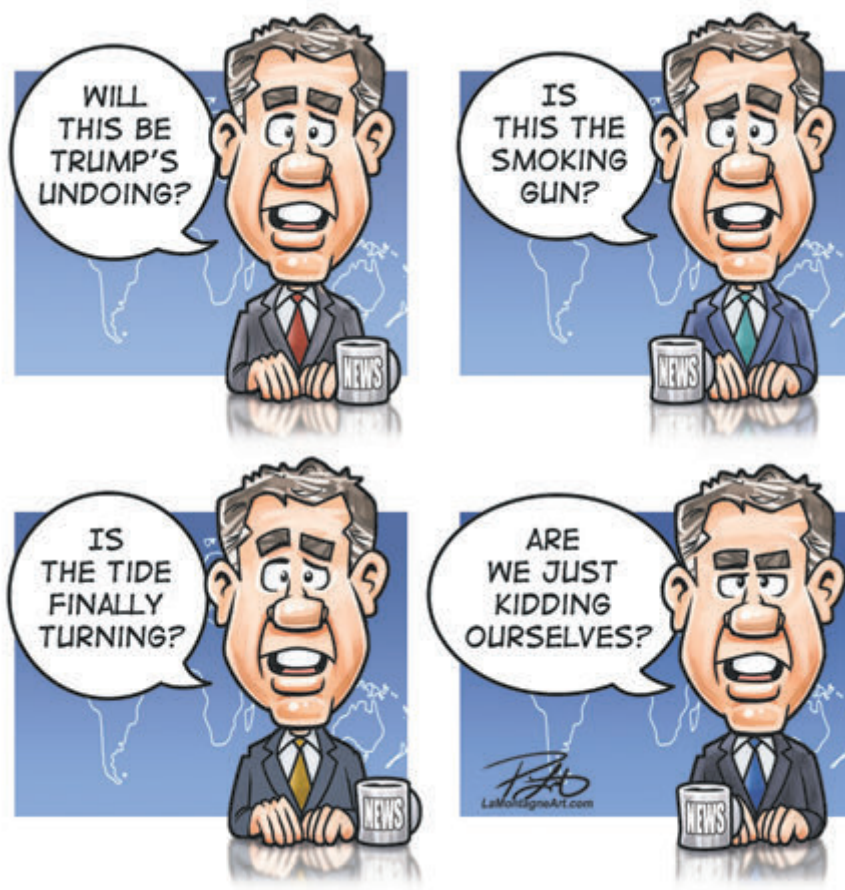
According to Mr. Jacques' analysis, the government lays out \$311 billion in capital spending between 2024-25 and 2029-30, but only \$217.3 billion of that should be classified as capital spending – leaving Mr. Carney with an additional \$93.7 billion in non-capital investments.

Just a couple days prior to the release of Mr. Jacques' analysis, the Canadian Press reported that the government is seeking a new, permanent PBO with "tact and discretion."

In other words, it wants an independent watchdog who is neither independent, nor a watchdog, but rather a cheerleader for its plans.

Of course, when it comes to rewriting reality, Mr. Carney and his government are amateurs compared to United States President Donald Trump, who has mastered the art of selecting a new reality for the American people on an almost daily basis.

Long dogged by his relationship with convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein, Mr. Trump has repeatedly changed his position on the release of the so-called Epstein Files – a



treasure trove of documents that will hopefully expose all those who were involved in Epstein's sex trafficking ring in any capacity.

Prior to being elected to his second term as president, Mr. Trump half-way committed to releasing the Epstein files, but harboured concerns that they may contain false information that could ruin people's lives.

Soon after he was elected, however, the Epstein files became a "hoax" perpetrated by the Democratic party to tarnish his reputation and distract from his administration's successes.

When even some Republicans weren't swayed by Mr. Trump's assertion, he tried to downplay the significance of the files, calling them "sordid but boring" and urging everyone to just move on already.

Though, around the same time, he also said he would allow his attorney general, Pam Bondi, to release "whatever's credible" in the files, and was working overtime to downplay his well-documented friendship with Epstein.

This all brings us to last week, when the U.S. House of Representatives voted almost unanimously to release the files, and Mr. Trump to credit for the vote and signed off on their release with an emphatic claim that, "We have nothing to hide."

Now, as the files are set to be re-

leased (with the convenient exception of anything that's part of a criminal investigation or deemed to invade personal privacy), they're no longer a hoax, says Mr. Trump. Rather, they will expose the Democrats who were "all friends with Epstein."

Despite this, Mr. Trump still doesn't want us to talk about the files too much – an odd stance for a president who has made persecuting his opponents a hallmark of his presidency.

Of course occupying two contradictory realities at once is nothing new for Mr. Trump.

His is a reality in which tariffs are bringing in trillions of dollars to America to make life more affordable, but also a reality in which he has to lower tariffs on beef, coffee, bananas, and other items to bring prices down.

His is a reality in which "illegal aliens" are simultaneously drug peddling, violent criminals, who are destitute and taking advantage of America's social assistance programs, but also scooping up all the homes in the country and driving up house prices for "real Americans."

These are just a few glaring examples. But given how quickly Mr. Trump changes his mind, who knows what reality we'll find ourselves living in tomorrow.

Shellbrook Chronicle

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Hallmark Christmas feeling comes to Shellbrook

Continued from 1

Adding to the plethora of things to do and see, the Shellbrook Senior Citizen's Centre became a Mistletoe Market, providing a bounty of vendors' wares to peruse, the Shellbrook Community Hall had inflatables from Diskotek set up to give kids a warm place to play, Murray Hannigan rounded up a crew of Christmas carollers to serenade attendees, and Santa decided to hang around for more visiting.

"We had a great turnout for the Moonlight Madness event this year and couldn't have asked for better weather," said Shari Crawford. "It seemed like this was our biggest turnout so far with more people moving around the entire time from 5 to 9 p.m."

Looking at this year's Moonlight Madness by the numbers, the Shellbrook Royal Purple put together 150 bingo sheets and treat bags for kids, as well as 150 bags of cotton candy — all of which were gone well before the evening was through.

Meanwhile, at the

Lake Country Wildlife Federation fire pit on Main Street, 300 hot dogs and smokies were sold to hungry customers, and over at TJ Disposals, 500 tickets were sold for the gopher shoot/potato cannon.

Finally, Taya M's Hometown Photo Studio sold 85 dirty sodas and did 26 photo shoots throughout the evening, and Evergreen Oasis, which is a little ways from Main Street, handed out 125 Italian sodas.

"It's wonderful that we have so many businesses that participate in this event... and the volunteers who come out and help get everything set up and running," Crawford said.



The Grinch was back at Santa Fun Day and delighted kids by playing rock, paper, scissors with them.



The fire pit was going all night for Moonlight Madness, with attendees roasting 300 hot dogs or smokies.



The Kinettes' Santa Fun Day included a station where kids could decorate their own mini Christmas trees.



The potato cannon at TJ Disposals was fired 500 times throughout Moonlight Madness.

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SCAN ME

U18 Elks score first win over Wildcats

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

The U18 AA Parkland Elks had a busy weekend of hockey, travelling to Warman on Friday night for a showdown against the Warman Wildcats, then returning home to the Richardson Pioneer Recreation Centre on Saturday to host the Saskatoon Crunch.

In what has been a tough season for the Elks, the weekend brought some excitement for the team, as it picked up its first win in commanding fashion against the Wildcats.

Elks (5) vs Wildcats (1)

Though it took nearly half of the first period for the Elks to find the back of the net, the first goal, scored by Brady Hujber on assists from Aiden Tait and Can-den Olsen, was the first of five

unanswered points for the Elks.

The second goal, scored by Davin Hart, with an assist from Boston Gagnon, came just over a minute later, giving the Elks a solid 2-0 lead by the end of the frame.

In the second period, penalties were a source of offence for the Elks, as Hujber got the scoring started with a shorthanded goal, assisted by Tait, and Davin Hart scored a power play goal just a few minutes later on assists from Cohen Ball and Kyle Naytowhow.

Ball would tack on a power play goal of his own late in the period, putting the Elks up 5-0 on assists from Hart and Danec Wilson.

Unfortunately, the Elks were unable to preserve their shutout, as the Wildcats struck early in the third period to make it 5-1.

But the team didn't let the Wild-cats get back in the game, earn-ing its first win of the season.

Elks (2) vs Crunch (8)

Following Friday night's win, the Elks couldn't pull out another one when they hosted the Sas-katoon Crunch in Shellbrook, falling behind 6-0 after two pe-riods and failing to catch up.

The Elks' offence came exclu-sively in the third period, with Danec Wilson kicking things off on assists from Aiden Tait and Garrett Gamble Jr., and Tait scoring on a solo assist from Wilson.

With the loss to the Crunch, the Elks now sit at 1-10 on the season.

This Sunday, the team trav-els to Nipawin to close out No-vember with an afternoon game against the North East Wolf-pack.

Leask Legion installs new doors



The Leask Legion Branch #79 was able to install new doors in the hall, making the hall more energy efficient. Grants from The Green Fund, a local grant available to various organizations, as well as funds from the Sask. Veterans Service Club Support Program, made the project possible.

By **VALERIE PRIESTLEY**, *Leask Legion*

What happens when you don't advertise?

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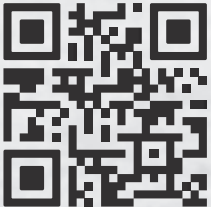
THERE'S STRENGTH IN ASKING FOR HELP.

"Life can accumulate so much pressure – pressure from the outside and pressure you put on yourself. It can hit a boiling point. Especially when we're not talking about it."

MICAH JOHNSON

Defensive Lineman,
Saskatchewan Roughriders

SCAN TO LEARN MORE





Farmland ownership debate rages on

The rather old debate about who should own farmland in Saskatchewan has flared up again.

The renewed concern is about non-Canadian citizens and corporations owning land. But the debate really starts with the question of whether it matters.

Certainly, we tend to look at land as a resource that is different from most, and it is in the sense that, no matter who owns it, they are not going to pile it into a ship and take it away.

By contrast, mineral and forest resources can be processed by a facility not owned by Canadians and hauled away — and that certainly happens.

But farmland is seen differently — and frankly, farming operations, in many cases,

are multi-million dollar businesses but are not exactly seen as being ‘big business’.

There is often talk of the disconnect we have from farming and the land, as farmer numbers decline and urbanites no longer have family ties back to the family farm. Yet, we do hang on to the idea of farmland ownership mattering.

However, it should maybe be looked at again as to whether it matters.

For example, many farmers rent acres. Does it matter particularly if that land is owned by a retired neighbour — maybe one now living in Vancouver — or, if the land is owned by someone in London, England?

Of course, the key element of the debate is



CALVIN DANIELS

ownership, and allowing foreign ownership is likely to push up land prices, which is a double-edged sword.

On the one hand, higher land prices are good news for a farmer retiring, as they then have more to retire on. It's good news for the content farmer whose land base is set. Their asset values rise — at least on paper.

On the other hand, the farmer looking to grow their operation faces tougher decisions

because land prices are higher.

Interestingly, as many producers make the decision to add acres, they turn to various lending institutions to raise the funds. They then make payments for years before fully owning the land.

Those lending institutions are not likely headquartered in the province, and many will have interests well beyond Canadian borders

— so why is farmland approached differently?

One suspects, at its heart, the desire to maintain local farmland ownership goes back to the idea of the family farm.

Certainly those farms still exist, but most won't exactly fit the long-held vision we probably still have.

Farms are massive, with millions of dollars invested, and as a result they operate on a far

more global scale than ever before.

Canada, of all countries, should well-understand the need to look globally in agriculture as we are very much an export-oriented nation. With that, is farmland really different in terms of a global approach to ownership — or is that just a long-held perception?

That, one supposes, is what the often renewed debate is all about.

Sask. schools receive food program funding

By MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
Submitted

The federal government and the Government of Saskatchewan have announced the next phase of the National School Food Program in Saskatchewan, which will provide funding to school divisions across the province to expand existing or develop new food programs.

Earlier this year, the governments signed a \$15.8 million three-year agreement under the National School Food Program. Through the agreement, the Government of Saskatchewan is providing \$6.4 million of federal funding to school divisions in the 2025-26 school year to support programs that are responsive to the needs of students attending urban, rural or northern schools.

“The National School Food Program investment will help us further achieve our goal of providing a better quality of life for Saskatchewan students, families and communities,” Education Minister Everett Hindley said. “Enhanced school food programs can provide immediate relief to families’ household budgets and significantly increase access and reach for students.”

The new federal program builds on the work being done through the Saskatchewan Child Nutrition Program, which has provided healthy meals and skill building programs to Saskatchewan students for the past

35 years.

Throughout the agreement, the ministry will continue ongoing consultation meetings with stakeholders including school divisions, First Nations partners and francophone community representatives to seek feedback, assess progress throughout the year and identify potential improvements in programming in future years.

“By securing this National School Food agreement with the province and taking action to make this program permanent, our federal government is helping make sure kids across Saskatchewan get a good meal at school while putting more money back in parents’ pockets. It’s a simple, practical way to support families and set our kids up to do their best in the classroom and in life,” said Canada’s Secretary of State (Rural Development), the Honourable Buckley Belanger.

Funding is provided to Saskatchewan school divisions based on the Prekindergarten to Grade 12 funding distribution model, which considers factors that influence the cost of programming such as school location, enrolment and student needs.

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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: Kinette Club of Shellbrook presents Small Business Christmas Party – Friday, December 12, Shellbrook Community Hall. 5pm Cocktails; 6:30pm Christmas Supper; 8pm Comedian Darryl “Junior” Koszman & friends with dance to follow. Tickets: \$50 ea. or \$350/table of 8. \$10 entry fee for dance entrance after 10pm. Limited tickets available. For tickets contact shellbrook_kinettes@hotmail.com or Shellbrook Kinettes facebook page. All proceeds to Shellbrook Community Hall improvements.

SHELLBROOK: Kinette Club of Shellbrook – Twinkle Tour! Sunday, December 7. Meet & line up on Elevator Road at 5:30pm. Register your home prior to December 2 via email: shellbrooktwinkletour@gmail.com

PARKSIDE: A Journey Under the Stars – The Christmas Story: A Live Narration Event. Sat., Dec. 6, 6pm, Main Street, Parkside, SK. We invite you to take a walk with us through the historic event that changed the world forever. From Mary receiving the promise to the birth of Jesus in a manger, you will experience the Christmas story like never before. Free Admission & Parking; Live Entertainment; Marketplace, Hot Beverages, Sleigh Rides. Parkside “Light Up” to follow. For more info: 306-714-0255

SHELLBROOK: Shellbrook & District Arts Council – Annual Carol Festival – Sunday, December 7, 7pm, Shellbrook Theatre. Admission \$5.

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Spiritwood Lions craft sale a big hit

By BEVRA FEE
Spiritwood Herald Reporter

More than 400 shoppers and browsers streamed through the doors of the Spiritwood Civic Centre to inspect the craft offerings at the annual November kickoff to the Christmas shopping season in the town. With 14 new vendors mixed into the usuals, this year's craft sale offered a vast array of goods from home-made mustard to self-published children's books.

Committee chair, Lion Marlene Walter, noted, "We had 42 tables this year, from as far away as Stony Plain and Lloydminster, along with surrounding communities of Shell Lake, Chitek Lake, Rabbit Lake, Medstead and Saskatoon. We already have 37 pre-booked for next year."

First time vendor Tanner Gaboury, of Farmer Tan's booth, gave insight to his foray into the popular craft sale, "This was my first time selling my product. I have been making mustard from my own crop for about a year, tweaking the recipe and giving it away to family and friends."

With his home-grown mustard and now his sellable value-added product, Gaboury was very happy with his efforts and said he sold out before noon.

Of the many craft tables, Mozzman Creations' 3D-printed toy selection was a busy place.

With experience selling at

local and more urban venues, creator Anya Wagner noted that, "We were extremely busy, and everyone was so supportive of the local businesses. This was our second year at the Spiritwood show, and it was one of our best markets of the year."

Helping to draw customers in the door was the lunch counter, offering home-made soups, sandwiches, and pies. As a fundraiser for the Resolute Community's school renovation project, the kitchen sold out of soup, sandwiches, and hot dogs. They also sold 130 containers of cookies, allowing shoppers to fill a container for a flat rate of \$10.

Shoppers paid an entry fee of \$5 each, which automatically entered them in draws for door prizes. The main door prize, provided by the Lions Club, was a massive winter decor greenery pot, which was won by Shelby Unruh.

The Lions Club, which stages a \$1,000 Cash Lotto every year in time for the holidays, was able to sell the remainder of their tickets at the craft sale.

Meanwhile, since the Lions' craft sale has grown to capacity over the years, several other sales have sprung up in conjunction with the famous event.

At the Legion Hall and the Pioneer Centre, shoppers found several more tables of vendors with much more variety of baking and crafts to browse when they were done at the Civic Centre.



Evelyn Dezic offered a variety of knitted products while young customers enjoyed a snack from the on-site canteen.



Resolute Community group sold home-made soups, sandwiches and pie from the kitchen to raise funds for their school (community hall) renovation project.



Filipino food offered at one of the booths was a popular choice among the shoppers.



Author Norie Beauchesne attends her book-selling table while Kaeli Cross checks out a selection of mugs by the Pottery Sisters.



Anya Wagner hosted the Mozzman Creations 3D printing table for a busy crowd.

Premier returns from trade talks in Washington

By MINISTRY OF TRADE & EXPORT DEVELOPMENT
Submitted

On Nov. 19, Premier Scott Moe returned from a mission to Washington D.C. where he met with United States (U.S.) elected and government officials. During his meetings, the Premier discussed tariffs, trade, and how Saskatchewan and the U.S. can move beyond current trade challenges.

"As an export-based economy, it is vital that we get Saskatchewan products to

market, which includes our largest partner - the U.S.," Moe said. "I am pleased that we were able to meet with many American policy and decision makers, and I am committed to keeping these lines of communication open so we can protect our integrated economies."

While in Washington, Premier Moe met with U.S. Trade Representative Ambassador Jamieson Greer, Secretary of Treasury Scott Bessent, Secretary of Commerce Howard Lutnick and U.S. Representatives.

The province continues to use its voice

at the federal table to advocate for businesses and protect jobs. Saskatchewan businesses are caught in the middle of a much larger global trade dispute, which makes it all the more important for the Government of Canada to get down to serious discussions on how to resolve this situation.

"I impressed upon the members of the U.S. administration how tariff-free trade with Canada lowers the cost of living for Americans and how tariffs are driving up inflation," Moe said.

The U.S. is Saskatchewan's largest and

most important trading partner. About \$40 billion worth of imports and exports cross the border every year. Canada and U.S. are much stronger when operating in a tariff-free environment. In 2024, Saskatchewan's top exports to the U.S. were crude oil (\$12.5 billion), potash (\$4.2 billion), and canola oil (\$2.9 billion). Agri-food products represented 21.9 per cent of total exports.

Tariff free Saskatchewan exports lower the cost of living for millions of Americans and result in thousands of jobs on both sides of the border.



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Statistics for the area 2025

(as of November 17)

Spiritwood Detachment:

In the Spiritwood area, between January and Nov. 17, there were **72 incidents** reported to the RCMP in relation to drivers under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs, resulting in **16 charges**.



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Statistics for the area 2025

Ahtahkakoop/Shellbrook Detachment:

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- Impaired Operation (alcohol) of Motor Vehicle causing bodily harm: 0
 - Impaired Operation (drug) of Motor Vehicle: 4
- Impaired Operation (alcohol) of a Boat/Vessel/Railway/Aircraft: 0
- Impaired Operation (drug) of a Boat/Vessel/Railway/Aircraft: 0
- Operation while impaired(alcohol)/over 80mg% of Motor Vehicle: 15
- Operation while impaired (alcohol and drug)/over 80mg% of Motor Vehicle: 1
 - Failure/Refusal to Provide Samples: 1

Blaine Lake Detachment:

- Impaired Operation (alcohol) / Over 80mg% of Motor Vehicle: 8
 - Failure/Refusal: 0
- Report incidents: 20

Key Strategies for the Holiday Season

- Be a designated driver.
- Make plans with a designated driver.
- Check your keys with your host.
- Make overnight plans.
- Attend an alcohol/drug-free celebration.
- Don't let a friend drive impaired.

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Harris, Ouellette key to Riders' Cup victory

Now, just like the rabid fan base that lives and dies with the Saskatchewan Roughriders, Canadian Football League fans across the land are green — with envy.

The Riders, who last won a Grey Cup 12 years ago when they blasted the Hamilton Tiger-Cats 45-23 in front of their boisterous fans in Regina, finally broke their championship drought Nov. 16 by beating the Montreal Alouettes 25-17.

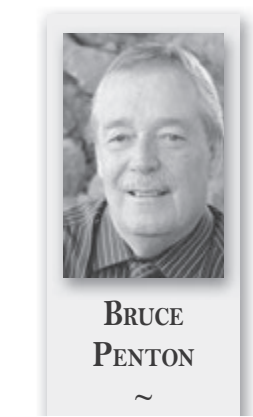
To make it even sweeter for Gang Green, the Riders displayed their championship chops on the turf at Princess Auto Stadium in Winnipeg, scene of so many battles against their arch rivals, the Winnipeg Blue Bombers.

While the Bomber faithful were still drowning their sorrows after a semi-final loss to Montreal, the Riders — boosted by an enormous showing of support from Saskatchewan fans who made the relatively short trek down the Trans-Canada Highway — upended Montreal with an offensive combination that worked throughout the 2025

season: The running of A.J. Ouellette (83 yards, one TD) and the accurate (85 per cent) arm of the game's MVP, quarterback Trevor Harris.

The Roughriders, who, going into the game, had a record of 4-13 in their Grey Cup appearances, know all about Grey Cup droughts. They won their first title in 1966 and then waited 23 years for the next one, the famous 43-40 win over Hamilton on Dave Ridgway's late field goal. Another 18 years would pass before the Riders again drank champagne, in 2007, when they beat the Blue Bombers 23-19. The Riders were champs again only six years later, when they beat Hamilton in Regina, but the past 12 years have been dry, despite seven winning seasons. In three of those years, the Riders lost in the West final to Winnipeg, making this year's victory in the Manitoba capital so much more meaningful.

Ouellette, an Ohio native who was never drafted, joined the Riders in 2024 as a free agent after four seasons with the To-



ronto Argonauts. His final year in Toronto was his best, with 1,009 rushing yards and an all-star selection. But that paled in comparison to his 2025 season in Saskatchewan. He rushed for 1,222 yards to finish second in the CFL behind only Dedrick Mills of Calgary. He also caught 45 passes and finished the season with nine touchdowns.

"I've always kind of played with a chip on my shoulder," says Ouellette. "Always been the small guy in the huddle."

Ouellette said he lacked confidence early in his pro career. He was cut from two NFL teams, Cleveland and New Orleans, but started building belief in himself when he joined

the Argonauts. He's certainly no stranger to the Grey Cup game, having scored two touchdowns in the Argos' 24-23 victory over the Bombers in 2022. It proved that he belonged in the league, said Ouellette.

And where was that 2022 game when Ouellette's two TDs powered the Argos to victory? At Mosaic Stadium in Regina, of all places. Rider Nation may not have been cheering loudly for Ouellette that day, but they were sure full-throated in Winnipeg this year when he helped bring the Grey Cup back to Regina.

• Comedy guy Brad Dickson of Omaha: "Today I began my new online Spanish course. I have a few weeks to learn the language so I can understand the lyrics during the Super Bowl halftime show."

• Vancouver comedy guy Torben Rolfsen: "The Dodgers held their World Series parade in Toronto because half their team was afraid of getting ICE'd."

• Rolfsen again: "Ernie Clement admitted he

bought his glove on e-Bay, as opposed to Bo Bichette, who got his on Craigslist."

• Janice Hough of leftcoastsportsbabe.com: "After winning the Cy Young, Pittsburgh Pirates winner Paul Skenes is denying media reports he wants to be traded to the NY Yankees. So he wants to stay with Pirates long enough to sign a billion dollar different deal with the Dodgers?"

• Greg Cote of the Miami Herald: "Tom Brady cloned his dog: Is the Super Bowl legend-turned-Raiders part owner and mediocre broadcaster quirky, eccentric or just plain weird?"

• Another Rolfsen offering: "Tom Brady cloned his dog? What's next? Gisele?"

• Cote again: "Let us acknowledge and then ignore the NBA Cup, the league's 'in-season tournament' that somehow has survived to its third year despite being thoroughly unnecessary."

• Columnist Norman Chad, on the Washington-Miami NFL game in Spain: "Madrid asked for NFL excitement, and in-

stead they're getting two 3-7 teams trying to remember what competent football looks like. Truly a gift from America."

• Jack Finarelli on his sportscurmudgeon.com site, on the weather in Winnipeg on Grey Cup Sunday: "The weather forecast for kickoff time in Winnipeg calls for the temperature to be 28 F and dropping. Anyone who can watch that game with a cold watermelon rind on his head for three hours deserves my support."

• Steve Simmons of the Toronto Sun: "Super-agent Scott Boras is singing the Blue Jays praises rather publicly. Boras has about a billion dollars in free agents available this winter. He wants some of that Blue Jays money."

• Another one from Simmons: "(Alexander Mogilny) did his Hall of Fame speech on video from Russia. He looked like he was taken hostage and asking for his release."

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

OBITUARY

Lawrence Kenneth Christianson



Lawrence Kenneth Christianson, known affectionately as Olie, slept peacefully into the presence of His Savior during the early morning hours of Thursday, November 20.

Lawrence was the last of six children, born in the old farmhouse a mile from Parkside. He attended the Parkside school (when he wasn't involved in farmwork) until the end of grade

eight. He then quit school to help his blind father with the farm. Besides work on the farm, he also got a job at Burns meatpacking plant in Prince Albert, where this farmboy was asked not to work so hard - it was making the others look bad.

In 1958 he met a nursing student named Joanna Pugh, and since she wasn't allowed to marry during training, they dated for two years and married in 1960. They moved to the old farmhouse with no plumbing - quite a shock for a city girl. They juggled two full time jobs, had 3 kids in 5 years, and ran a farm. Nine years later, a surprise arrived - Deanna - who filled the empty places as their nest was emptying out. She died with a brain tumour 11 years

later, leaving their home painfully empty. This prompted a move to the Northwest Territories where Joanna worked as a nurse and Lawrence worked on maintenance while he obtained his GED and boiler papers. During their time there, their nest was full of many young people who regarded them as second parents. They maintained many of those relationships over the years. They were surrounded by opportunities to do what they loved: camping and fishing!

After eleven years up North, they retired back to their home in Parkside, which they used as a home base while they pursued their other love and traveled the world: China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Alaska, Caribbean, Hawaii,

Puerto Rico, Mexico, and California.

Last year, Lawrence became a widower and braved a lonely 12 months on his own. He longed to join his wife and daughter in the presence of Jesus, yet learned to navigate on his own. He enjoyed the company of his coffee-row buddies at the Shellbrook, Parkside, and Leask churches. His highlight was Friday evenings when his friends joined him to watch the Gaithers on TV together.

At 88, Lawrence was diagnosed with stage four cancer. He had committed to following his Savior, Jesus, as a young child, and he spent his life loving and serving him and inspiring others to do the same. He had a peace and an excitement about

taking the next step and graduating to heaven and into the presence of his beloved Jesus. This graduation happened three months later while peacefully asleep at the home of his daughter, Jackie.

He is the last of his generation, predeceased by his parents Peter and Selma Christianson; his siblings Evelyn (Martin) Rask, Clarence (Esther) Christianson, Olive (Peter) Nolan, Doris (Henry) Schapansky, and Mae Christianson; as well as his wife Joanna, and daughter, Deanna.

He is survived by his three children: Linda (Brian) Harrison, Jackie (Dale) Bragg, and Peter (Shelly) Christianson; as well as 9 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.

A celebration of life—or in Lawrence's words, "Graduation"—will be held on Saturday, November 29th, at Shellbrook Pentecostal Assembly at 1:00 pm followed by a lunch at the church. Interment will be at the Parkside cemetery following the lunch.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Parkside Pentecostal Church or ERDO (Emergency Relief and Development Overseas <https://erdo.ca/>).

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.

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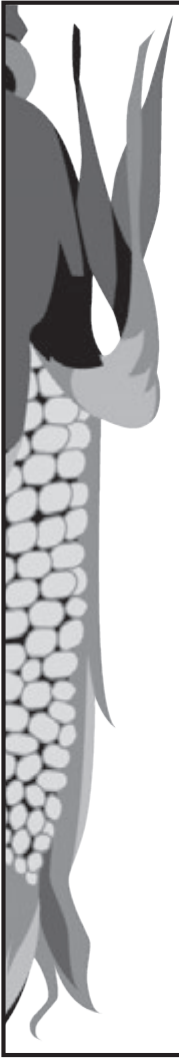
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Pastor Lyndon Petten
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Rev. Dave Whalley
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Gardening food in northern Saskatchewan

By VANESSA BONIFACE
Sask. Perennial Society

Food weaves northern communities together. Sharing homemade berry jam, trading wild harvests, collecting mint, and sharing community meals creates bonds beyond sustenance. These traditions draw from knowledge passed down over generations, predating colonial agriculture by millennia. For settler gardeners in the north like me, this broader context transforms how I think about horticulture.

Unlike southern gardening, where focus is mostly on planted crops in defined spaces, people in our La Ronge region commonly gather and steward wild foods and medicines as part of daily life. Families protect and pass down secret berry picking sites, stewardship practices, and recipes across generations. Pre-colonial Indigenous food systems were more sophisticated than the “hunter-gatherer” label I was taught in school. Indigenous peoples intentionally cultivated landscapes to encourage food plant diversity, deliberately creating an environment much richer in edible plants than untouched wilderness. These carefully managed spaces may be easily mistaken for simply “wild” nature by modern eyes.

Gardening in La Ronge blends this time-honored wild management with formal gardening. At our place, we steward our wild spaces and carve out garden beds where sunlight and workable soil allow. Walking the land, we observe thriving native edibles, prune overgrowth to favor them, and propagate the best throughout our property. We sometimes plant

near-native horticultural varieties of locally native plants like Theissen Saskatoon or Boreal Beast haskap. This approach makes the land more abundant without making it less wild.

When it comes to classic crops like tomatoes and carrots, nature sets the limits. Prime spots with ample sun and soil get our compost and the topsoil we haul in from town, always finished with mulch. Seeds and seedlings are limited and expensive, so my yard has become a horticultural test site. I trial dozens of new species every year to discover what thrives without extensive care. Learning what survives naturally allows me to plant strategically later, building

diversity and resilience into my garden while supplementing local seed supplies.

I am cautious about introducing non-native plants. Biodiversity remains strong in the north thanks to lower human impact and colder winters. However, climate change means I can’t assume hardy winters will always stop invasive species. Snow presents its own challenges. In the south I would cover perennials for protection but up here, snow loads sometimes force me to remove snow. I learned this the hard way last winter, when heavy snow damaged our greenhouse, picnic table and camper.

Our frost-free season is at least two weeks shorter

than Saskatoon’s, with unpredictable frosts on each shoulder. Choosing fast maturing cultivars as well as locally native food crops is not just practical, it honors which plants naturally belong in this landscape. Many imported garden favorites won’t thrive here, and that’s okay. Plus, I’m eating a much wider diversity of plants!

For many crops, season-extending solutions like cold frames, row covers, greenhouses, and indoor starts aren’t luxuries, they’re necessities. While heat-lovers struggle unprotected, peas, potatoes, hardy greens, and brassicas thrive. Pest pressure is lighter here too, largely thanks to cold winters and few local monocultures. Pollination is more hit-or-miss, probably because of fewer bees so I plant abundant flowers to help. We never seem to run out of biting black flies though! Fun fact: they’re drawn to height, so if you don’t have a head net, gardening with a tall friend or extending a stick above your head might distract them.

Wildfires are another challenge. Recent fires forced large game, especially bears, into our communities and gardens, and reduced sunlight for weeks, stunting crop growth. Only after the smoke cleared did plants recover, but many lost their season entirely. It’s easy enough to wear bells when picking berries but try bear-proofing a compost bin!

Anyone who remembers my Gardening at USask days recalls my obsession with mulch. Wherever you live, mulch is essential for suppressing weeds, conserving moisture and soil building. In Saskatoon, aged straw

or bagged leaves are easy to find online, wood chips are freely available at city depots, and you can purchase commercial mulches. Here, options are limited to what local landscapers provide or are purchased in small bags; costs add up fast. Wild rice harvesting means rice husks can be redirected from landfills for use as a mulch or soil amendment. I still avoid peat moss for all outdoor soil use and living near many beautiful wetlands only reinforces why they need our protection.

DIY resourcefulness is a way of life. Old skylight panels from a local building repair became my cold frames. From our local “free shack,” I reclaimed drainage ditch covers for row protection. This isn’t just thrift, it’s necessary when supplies are expensive and hard to source.

Gardening in the north is more than neat vegetable rows. It’s a holistic, biodiverse practice, an ongoing partnership with nature. Northern gardening isn’t “making do,” but reimagining what growing food can look like. It’s larger in some ways, tied to forest health, community resilience, and traditions that stretch back before settlers first broke prairie. Although our yards may look very different from those further south, northern gardening isn’t any less sophisticated than gardening in the south. It’s an invitation to grow differently, to recognize our unique landscape, and to reshape how we relate to both land and one another.

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



Mint, harebells and yarrow in the wild.
Photo credit: Vanessa Boniface

Government expands approach to homelessness

By MINISTRY OF
SOCIAL SERVICES
Submitted

The Government of Saskatchewan is building on the Provincial Approach to Homelessness (PATH), investing up to an additional \$20 million over three years to expand programs to prevent homelessness and enhance support services for individuals experiencing homelessness.

“Through the ministries of Social

Services, Health, and Corrections, Policing and Public Safety, we have invested more than \$98 million in homelessness services since the foundational PATH investment was announced in 2023,” Social Services Minister Terry Jenson said. “This additional provincial investment is building on programs and services already in place to provide multi-year funding for community-led responses to homelessness, expand emergency shelter capacity, and support transitions to supportive housing.”

Up to an additional \$20 million in provincial funding over the next three years will provide:

- \$12 million to expand homelessness services by providing predictable multi-year funding to municipalities to support community-led priorities and strategies;
- \$4 million to create up to 40 new emergency shelter spaces at existing shelters based on demonstrated need; and
- \$4 million to create up to 60 new supportive housing spaces and add more trusteeship services to support individuals to transition to supportive housing.

PATH has provided a foundation to collaborate and seek new solutions to the complex issue of homelessness with all levels of government and Indigenous and community part-

ners. The initial PATH investment of \$40.2 million in 2023 created new supportive housing spaces, emergency shelter spaces, and community safety and outreach services across the province. Since then, partners have also responded to arising needs together to establish and expand drop-in and outreach services.

“Our discussions with partners led to the areas chosen for this additional investment, with a focus on supporting services and initiatives that are demonstrating progress and having a positive impact,” Jenson said. “We look forward to continuing to partner with service providers, with our municipal and federal counterparts, and with Indigenous and community organizations to help people in need transition to stable housing, remain successfully housed, and achieve a better quality of life.”

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