

Ag Minister tours R.M. of Shellbrook floods



A 36-foot wash out on the main road in the Mayview area poses a large challenge for the R.M. of Shellbrook. Pictured: R.M. Foreman Todd Lande, Reeve Christine Strube, Agriculture Minister David Marit, and contractor Gary Sjogren tour the washout.

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

From washed out roads to flooded farmland, much of northeastern Saskatchewan continues to find itself inundated with volumes of water that haven't been experienced for many years.

The R.M. of Shellbrook hasn't been spared from the worst of the damage.

As of last week, a map of the municipality put together over the course of many days by Reeve Christine Strube and Councillors Jay Ferster, Kevin Bruce, and Ivan tenBos showed 18 major washouts — though Strube noted that more had been reported after the map was compiled to support the mu-

nicipality's application for Provincial Disaster Assistance Program (PDAP) coverage.

"Council did that while the road crew was on different areas to figure out a plan of where we were going to start," Strube said. "Safety was first, so we made sure the people who were stranded were able to get out."

While only two washouts have been reported to the south of Shellbrook, Strube says the Briarlea area was hit hard, as well as the Sturgeon Valley, Foxdale, Deer Ridge, and Mayview areas.

In the Mayview area specifically, the main road connecting to Prince Albert National Park and Emma Lake has

been left impassable by a 36-foot washout, and plans to fix it have been met with challenges.

To ensure people could get out, the municipality used clay to quickly fix up the backroads in the area. But thanks to the last snow storm earlier this month and the immediate excessive use, they've already washed out again.

As for the main road itself, Water Security Agency standards require municipalities to replace what existed before. But Strube says the municipality can't install a box culvert like the one that was there.

"We ordered a culvert of the same size, but the water's running so fast that we can't get that culvert in. What

we're doing right now is we have people on the south side putting in two smaller culverts to reroute the water," she said.

"We wanted to do that on the north side too, but we don't have aggregate over there."

Another problem area was the community of Round Lake, which briefly didn't have access out.

Initially, the municipality was telling residents to be prepared to be stranded for up to three weeks. But because of the municipality's ample supplies of aggregate and fast action to acquire culverts before suppliers ran out, Strube says road access was restored within a week.

Continued on page 2



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Ag Minister tours R.M. of Shellbrook floods

Continued from 1

There are also some major issues in the area near the Shell River colloquially known as the Nut House.

"It's not impeding anyone's access to get in and out," Strube said. "It's not going to be very helpful to the farmers, but we need to contract that out because we don't have the machinery to be able to fix that."

The situation in the R.M. of Shellbrook, and in many other municipalities across northeastern Saskatchewan, was enough to prompt Saskatchewan's Agriculture Minister, David Marit, to embark on a tour of the area's municipalities and meet with local farmers.

Making his final stop in the R.M. of

Shellbrook last Tuesday, Marit said he saw very similar issues across every municipality he visited.

"We saw a lot of water that came awful quick," he said, noting that the last major snowfall added a lot of moisture.

"You get east of Prince Albert and the land is pretty flat, so it takes a long time for water to drain off. We saw a lot of washed out roads and challenges with how to fix them. Some big infrastructure problems, some bridges, some massive pipes."

With the water still flowing, Marit anticipates there will be plenty of delays before all the issues are fixed, which will mean further delays for seeding operations across the region.

Marit says the primary goal of his

tour was to gain a better understanding of the damage the flooding has caused, listen to concerns from local councils and producers, and answer any questions they have about PDAP and other supports the provincial government can provide.

"We're telling [municipalities] to make sure they log all the work they're doing and everything they've hauled so far," he said.

"The challenge they have is they still have all the other infrastructure to look after, too. Usually, the spring time is pretty busy for them. Some municipalities are bringing in private contractors so they can focus on day-to-day maintenance."

Marit says the next step will be to

assess the situation, and urges municipalities and producers who are having issues to contact the government as soon as possible.

"Nobody signs up for these kinds of disasters," he said. "We just want to be here to serve the people."

In the meantime, Reeve Strube says the R.M. of Shellbrook's priority will be to fix issues as quickly and safely as possible and ensure that farmers can access their land and get the crop in.

"With safety secured, we are now focused on restoring access for school buses, commuters, and farmers needing to get to their fields," she said. "And we will be working over the summer to fix the quick fixes to bring them up to standards."

Shellbrook Legion installs officers

By **NANCY CARSWELL**
Shellbrook Legion Branch

The recent Installation of Officers ceremony gave members of the Royal Canadian Legion Shellbrook Branch 111 a chance to recognize those elected to lead the Branch during the coming year. The ceremony, held during the monthly meeting on May 13, is an important Legion tradition and reminds officers of the duties and responsibilities they accept in serving the Branch and the community.

Through the installation, officers are reminded to support the values of remembrance, service, comradeship, and care for veterans,

serving members, and the community. The ceremony also shows the democratic spirit of the Legion and the shared commitment of members to keep the Branch strong and active.

The Installing Officer, Deputy Zone Commander Gord Brown, led the ceremony and officially welcomed the new officers into their roles and responsibilities. They are:

1. Secretary David Bodvarson
2. Co-Treasurers David Bodvarson and Nancy Carswell
3. Branch Service Officer Fred Tatler
4. Chaplin David Bodvarson (Padre)
5. Poppy and Mem-

bership Chair Maurice Tanchuk
6. President Alan Carswell
The wording used

during the installation clearly explains the duties of each officer. Using the President's role as an example, phrases

such as "maintain the traditions," "preserve the spirit of fair play and comradeship," and "promote the best in-

terests of this Branch" clearly show the importance of leadership, teamwork, and service in the Legion.



The Shellbrook Legion installed its officers on May 13. From left to right: David Bodvarson, Maurice Tanchuk, Nancy Carswell, Alan Carswell, Fred Tatler, and Gord Brown.

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Chronicle & Herald win three newspaper awards

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle
Reporter

Awards season has come and gone for Saskatchewan's weekly newspaper industry.

Though there wasn't any of the glitz and glamour of prestigious awards shows like the Oscars, the *Shellbrook Chronicle & Spiritwood Herald* brought home three plaques from the 2025 Saskatchewan Weekly Newspapers' Association's Better Newspapers Competition (BNC) awards gala.

Each year, the Better Newspapers Competition invites weekly newspapers from across Saskatchewan to submit their best work from the year pri-

or across a wide range of news categories for Premier Awards. These entries are then judged by industry peers based on their impact to the local community and the quality and clarity of the writing.

The BNCs also include General Excellence Awards, based on total circulation, in which publications are judged for best front page, best editorial page, and best overall newspaper.

All three of the *Chronicle & Herald's* honours came in the Premier Awards categories, with editor Jordan Twiss once again winning the distinction of Columnist of the Year (his sixth time receiving the honour since 2016), as well as the award for

Editorial Writing Excellence.

"Mr. Twiss' ability to compose interest-demanding collections of words in both accurate and appropriate English is near hypnotizing — like an inherited art from the days when newspaper scribes representing opposing publications duelled almost daily to claim the locale's readership as their own," judges for the Columnist of the Year category wrote.

"Twiss exercises a winning version of that ability in spades, claiming the title as 'the winner's winner.'"

Twiss' other Premier Award came in the Best Habitat Conservation writing category, for his coverage of local efforts

to preserve forests in the Holbein and Crutwell areas.

In addition to top prizes, Twiss also placed second in First Nations Coverage for his stories about the Holbein and Crutwell forests, second in Best Government Coverage for his coverage of ratepayer concerns about Shellbrook's 1st Avenue East sewer and water project, and third in Best Arts & Culture Series for his stories about the 12-40 and Beyond Tour and the Thickwood Hills Studio Trail.

Meanwhile, in the General Excellence Awards, the *Chronicle & Herald* placed third in both Best Editorial Page and Best Overall Newspaper.



Chronicle & Herald Editor Jordan Twiss won three awards at this year's BNCs.

Water treatment plant tops Shellbrook budget priorities

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

The Town of Shellbrook's 2026-2027 budget was finalized at the end of April, as the town looks to embark on its long-awaited water treatment plant project, regardless of whether or not grant funding manifests to ease the cost burden.

Coming off a 2024-2025 budget that saw significant increases to sewer and water rates so the town can begin building up reserves for future water and sewer infrastructure projects, and a 2025-2026 budget that greatly increased the mill rate to 7.57 from 5.39, this year's municipal fiscal road map returns to more standard inflationary increases to maintain existing services and programs.

The internal budgeting process began in the fall, and the preliminary budget was ready for council to review around January. With revenues and expenses balanced at \$6,975,141, this year's budget bumps the mill rate to 7.79 mills (a 3 per cent increase).

"The 3 per cent increase will help offset rising costs related to operations, maintenance, and service delivery while allowing the Town to continue planning responsibly for ongoing community needs," CAO Sigourney O'Halligan said.

"Residents will also be feeling the effects of rising costs in their own households and businesses, and this approach is intended to reflect that reality while keeping changes to municipal costs as manageable and fair as possible."

Even as the long-delayed water treatment plant project is the topline priority for the Town of Shellbrook this budget year, it also remains the biggest

question mark for the municipality.

While all major infrastructure projects require municipalities to find ways to balance their limited finances to continue essential maintenance and sustainability projects for operations, the uncertainty around grant funding for Shellbrook's water treatment plant project has made things particularly challenging.

Currently, the town is waiting to hear about a Canadian Housing Infrastructure Fund grant, with a response expected in the early summer months. But after years of being denied grant funding, the town is committed to moving ahead with the project, even if it means financing it or finding ways to parcel it out into more affordable stages.

"The municipality continues to work toward bringing the project to a shovel-ready stage while carefully considering financial capacity and ensuring options remain available to move the water plant forward, regardless of future grant outcomes," O'Halligan said.

Beyond this, the 2026-2027 budget earmarks funds for the installation of a new fire alarm system at the Richardson Pioneer Recreation Centre, the purchase of equipment for service delivery, and construction of a ground level storage facility for municipal parks staff and the town's Community Safety Officers.

Other smaller priorities include boiler upgrades at the Shellbrook Swimming Pool, and concrete work at the Shellbrook Cemetery and in some areas around town.

Priorities that didn't make the cut this year, and have been put on the list for review next year, include a groomer for the Sportsgrounds, upgrading the kitchen in the Centennial Building at the Sportsgrounds, a dressing room facelift at the Richardson Pioneer Recreation Centre, upgrades to the Knox United Church (which will one day be the home of the town office and the Shellbrook Public Library), the 2nd Avenue West bridge project, and various upgrades to the Cemetery.

"The approved budget is intended to help the Town continue operating effectively and maintaining the services residents rely on each day," O'Halligan said.

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Pipeline MOU keeps inching forward

As critics and naysayers from all sides of the aisle continue to loudly voice their displeasure, the MOU between Ottawa and Alberta to build a new oil pipeline to Canada's west coast continues to take incremental steps forward.

Signed in November, the agreement is proof that you can't please everyone (or anyone at all, in Canada's increasingly fractious socio-political climate).

On one side, Prime Minister Mark Carney is being accused of betraying the environmental principles he once supported.

On the other side, he's being accused of stringing Alberta along to quell its simmering separatist contingent, and of having no genuine intention to get the pipeline built.

Certainly, setting April Fool's Day as the deadline for a number of pieces of the agreement to be finalized didn't help to assuage skepticism about Ottawa's commitment to the MOU.

For a refresher, the agreement doesn't guarantee construction of a pipeline tomorrow, or even 10 years from now.

Instead, it outlines the emissions and other climate conditions and timelines that need to be met in order for a new oil pipeline to be approved under Mr. Carney's major projects law.

These conditions include Alberta signing on to an industrial carbon pricing agreement to lower methane emissions by 75 per cent over the next 10 years, and the federal government axing the Trudeau era oil and gas emissions cap and making adjustments or exemptions to the federal oil tanker ban off the coast of B.C.

The MOU also includes commitments from both governments to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050, and to engage with the Government of British Columbia and B.C. First Nations to "ensure they share in the financial benefits" of any pipeline project.

Last, but certainly not least, the



JORDAN TWISS
~
News Editor

MOU identifies four potential projects:

- Construction of one or more private sector-constructed and financed pipelines, with Indigenous co-ownership and economic benefits, in addition to the expansion of the Trans Mountain pipeline;
- Constructing and financing Pathways, the world's largest carbon capture, utilization, and storage (CCUS) project;
- Construction of thousands of megawatts of AI computing power, with a large portion dedicated to sovereign cloud for Canada and its allies; and
- Construction of large transmission connections with B.C. and Saskatchewan to strengthen the ability of the western power markets to supply low carbon power to oil, LNG, critical minerals, agricultural, data centres, and CCUS industries in support of their sustainability goals.

Working together, Mr. Carney and Alberta Premier Danielle Smith met the deadline for agreements on methane emissions and granting Alberta greater jurisdiction over project approvals.

They also came close to an agreement on industrial carbon pricing. This agreement was finalized a couple weeks ago, with Alberta committing to increase its effective industrial carbon emissions price to \$130 per tonne by 2040.

In tandem with this, new deadline targets were set. First, Alberta will submit its proposal for the pipeline to Mr. Carney's Major Projects Office by July 1. Then, the federal government says it will "pursue" to designate the pipeline as a project of national interest by Oct. 1.

If all goes to plan, Ms. Smith says construction on the pipeline could begin as early as Sept. 1, 2027 – less than two years after the MOU was signed.

Now, all that remains outstanding, aside from the pipeline itself, is the completions of a trilateral agreement



with the Oil Sands Alliance (formerly known as the Pathways Alliance) on the 400-kilometre Pathways CCUS network.

Here's where things get murky, and it has little to do with Mr. Carney or Ms. Smith, and everything to do with oil companies wanting to have their cake and eat it too.

Already, the federal government has promised a lower industrial carbon tax rate for Alberta than the rest of Canada, as well as a 50 per cent tax credit on the \$20 billion project. Meanwhile, the Government of Alberta has committed to a 12 per cent tax credit.

Both governments have also effectively waived the need for an environmental assessment.

Despite the promise of major savings and exemptions, oil companies say they need more incentives and regulatory certainty before they'll commit to the project.

If this is how it's going to be with the Pathways CCUS project, what are oil companies going to expect from Canadian taxpayers when it comes to the pipeline?

Speaking of the pipeline, it still lacks a clear plan or route and a private sector proponent, making its prospects just as uncertain as the Pathways CCUS project.

When the MOU was signed, the

prospects of a private sector player stepping up to the plate to build a pipeline looked grim.

Oil prices were sitting at \$60 per barrel, with projections that they could drop as low as \$30 per barrel by 2027.

Prices that low would have made a pipeline financially infeasible. But conveniently for oil companies (and inconveniently for consumers), U.S. President Donald Trump's senseless war in Iran, and the resulting blockade of the Strait of Hormuz, have some analysts projecting oil prices could soar to \$200 per barrel (though, for now, they seem to have peaked around \$100 per barrel).

Suddenly, the economic case for a pipeline is a lot stronger.

But will that be enough to bring the private sector to the plate?

Or will oil companies continue to hold out to see what else they can bleed from taxpayers so that they can continue to set production and profit records without footing the bill?

A private sector-constructed and financed pipeline was one of the key conditions of the MOU between Ottawa and Alberta.

As both governments work to make the MOU into reality, they must stand firm on this condition.

Canadians don't need and can't afford to finance another pipeline.

Shellbrook Chronicle

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Publications Mail Registration #07621

Published Every Thursday Morning

P.O. Box 10, Shellbrook, Sask. S0J 2E0
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Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.;

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

Websites: www.shellbrookchronicle.com

www.spiritwoodherald.com

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Member of



Shellbrook Legion marks Canadian Legion Centenary

By **NANCY CARSWELL**
Shellbrook Legion

Shellbrook Branch 111 celebrated the Royal Canadian Legion Centenary in style on Saturday, May 23 with a Victory in Europe (VE Day) themed dance. As guests entered the hall, balloons set a tone of festivity and the displayed World War uniforms set a tone of remembrance.

Member and organizer Nancy Carswell explains, “We definitely achieved our goals of commemorating the Legion’s 100th year and honouring the achievements and

sacrifices of veterans. Before playing a set of war time songs, I explained how music wasn’t just a soundtrack to soldiers, sailors, and pilots. It carried them through the dark times of fear, distance, and loss, and also lifted them up in the good times of relief, hope, and joy.”

The trivia games sparked conversations and laughter. After the question which country was liberated by Canadian troops in 1945 and still honours them today, a guest shared this story with Carswell.

“He was with a friend in

the Netherlands at a street-side restaurant. A table of women nearby heard them and asked if they were Canadian. They said yes. Later, one woman approached them and thanked the Canadian troops who liberated her country,” the guest shared.

“She says she always does this when she meets Canadians. The guest estimated the woman was a young girl in 1945 and speculated that she may have been given a chocolate bar by a soldier. It would have been a real treat especially as 1945 was the year of the Dutch Hunger Winter

when many starved.”

The guest also described his memorable visit to the Canadian Cemetery in Holten where over 1,000 fallen soldiers of the Second World War are buried. He said seven decades later it continues to be impeccably tended and the most peaceful place he has ever been.

Armed with Harmony, DJ Seamus McFaul not only had people up dancing, he surprised the audience by debuting a song he wrote and recorded to honour the Shellbrook Legion. The title is “Legion Lights Still Shine”

and the chorus is “Raise your glass and stomp your boots/ To the Legion Hall and prairie roots/Shellbrook sings through laughter and tears/ One hundred proud and stubborn years.”

The Shellbrook Legion Branch plans to post the song on its Facebook page soon.

As part of its 100th anniversary celebrations this year, the Royal Canadian Legion is also offering free memberships to new members. More information is available at legion.ca or by calling Maurice Tanchuk at 306-714-7043.

One wanted in Big River First Nation robbery

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

The Big River RCMP is asking for the public’s assistance in locating a woman suspected of committing a robbery and assault on the Big River First Nation on May 17.

According to police, the detachment received a report of a robbery on Highway #793 on Big River First Nation.

Officers responded, and investigation determined an SUV was stopped on the side of the highway. A group of individuals approached the SUV and demanded the vehicle’s keys. An altercation occurred, during which bear spray was deployed into the

SUV, and the SUV was stolen.

The occupants of the SUV were assessed by EMS and reported non-life-threatening physical injuries to police.

The stolen SUV is described as a black Hyundai Tucson with Saskatchewan license plate 089 NFP. Big River RCMP made patrols searching for the SUV and the suspects. At this time, the SUV and the suspects have not been located.

As a result of investigation, 18-year-old Mariah Bill from the Big River First Nation is charged with three counts of assault with a weapon and one count each of robbery with a weapon, assault, uttering threats against a person, possession

of a weapon for a dangerous purpose, and possession of a weapon contrary to order.

A warrant has been issued for Bill’s arrest. Big River RCMP continue work to locate Mariah Bill and ask members of the public to report sightings and information on her whereabouts.

Mariah Bill is described as 5’7” and 140 lbs. with brown eyes and dyed red hair. Police are working to obtain a photo of her.

Anyone who sees Bill is urged not to approach her. Instead, report all sightings and information about the whereabouts of Mariah Bill, or information about the stolen SUV, to Big River RCMP by calling 310-RCMP. Information can also be submitted anonymously by contacting Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or www.saskcrimestoppers.com.

Big River RCMP continue to investigate.

YOUR TWO CENTS

Why humanity should embrace AI, not fear it

Dear editor,
Throughout history, humanity has often found itself misled by negative influences that exist not outside divine control but as part of a higher purpose to test and refine us.

From antiquity to the modern era, God has gifted specific individuals with extraordinary intellect and vision to move the world forward. The scriptures were worded by wise figures driven by divine inspiration. Today the same lineage of wisdom continues through pioneers who shape the technological landscape.

Great historical minds like Nikola Tesla anticipated the sophisticated connectivity we enjoy today. In recent decades, visionary figures have developed

neural interfaces capable of translating brain activity into spoken words.

While some critics fear that artificial intelligence (AI) poses a threat to humanity, these breakthroughs are ultimately part of a larger divinely sanctioned trajectory. AI was conceived through human brilliance, and human brilliance remains rooted in a higher power.

True genius often defies conventional expectations. Innovators like Elon Musk may present a casual, unpredictable public persona, yet their contributions reveal a parallel track of profound capability.

Despite this, public discourse is frequently dominated by short-sighted anxiety. This widespread mis-

understanding mirrors the profound ignorance highlighted by Jesus Christ during the crucifixion, when he prayed, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.”

Rather than fearing advancements like AI, society should appreciate the history of human ingenuity that has continuously improved our quality of life.

Progress requires us to embrace these tools with perspective, remembering that the ultimate trajectory of human creation remains guided by a supreme authority.

Daniel Pawlivsky,
Rabbit Lake, Sask.

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Lucy Sommerfeld celebrates 98 years



Lucy Sommerfeld of Shellbrook celebrated her 98th birthday on May 21. Family and friends visited with Lucy and wished her congratulations and best wishes on her special day. *By JANET SCHOLZ, Submitted*

Martial Arts students learn bo staff basics

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

Veteran martial artist Laura Lee Hatch first picked up the bo staff about 25 years ago as part of her multi-disciplinary karate training in both empty-handed and weapons combat.

On Saturday, May 23, she imparted her mastery to 10 dedicated Shellbrook Martial Arts Club students, during a four-hour bo staff seminar hosted at the Shellbrook Legion Hall.

“In today’s society, it’s not empty hand anymore; it’s all about weapons,” Hatch said. “The goal of the whole program is to give students the knowledge of how to utilize a weapon when the need arises.”

Over the course of four hours, Hatch walked her students through the history and philosophy behind the bo staff, then taught them basic stances, strikes, and blocks. Once students were comfortable with the bo staffs, they learned to put combinations of moves together — called a Kata — and partnered off to spar.

Through the training they received, Hatch says she hopes her students took away one key thing: confidence.

“That’s what I want them to take away from the seminar — confidence in their ability to utilize what they’ve been taught,” she said.

Noting that there’s continued interest from her students, Hatch says she’s hoping to instruct them in different types of weapons in the future.



Shellbrook Martial Arts Club students took part in a four-hour bo staff seminar on Saturday, May 23.

TOWN OF SHELLBROOK PUBLIC NOTICE

Public notice is hereby given that the Council of the Town of Shellbrook intends to adopt bylaws under *The Planning and Development Act, 2007* to amend Bylaw No. 2012-06 known as the Official Community Plan and Bylaw No. 2018-01 known as the Zoning Bylaw.

INTENT

The proposed bylaws will:

- Redesignate lands described below and shown on Maps A & B from Commercial to Residential;
- Rezone lands described below and shown on Map A from C1 – Downtown Commercial to R1 – Low Density Residential;
- Rezone lands described below and shown on Map B from C1 – Downtown Commercial to R2 – Medium Density Residential; and
- Rezone lands described below and shown on Map C from M – Industrial and C2 – Highway Commercial to M – Industrial.

AFFECTED LAND

The affected land is legally described as follows:

- Lot 1A, Block 13, Plan No. 102478743 as shown within the bold dashed line on Map A;
- Lot 5, Block 13, Plan No. U390 as shown within the bold dashed line on Map B; and
- A portion of Parcel L1, Plan No. 10227945 as shown within the bold dashed line on Map C.



REASON

The reasons for the amendments are:

- To provide for the development of medium density residential;
- To correct a zoning error;
- To provide for the development of a closed lane.

PUBLIC INSPECTION

Any person may inspect the bylaw at the municipal office located at 71 Main Street, Shellbrook, SK, Monday to Friday between the hours of 8:30 am and 4:00 pm, excluding statutory holidays. Copies are available at a cost.

PUBLIC HEARING

Council will hold a public hearing on June 15th, 2026 at 5:00 pm at the town office located at 71 Main Street, Shellbrook, SK to hear any person or group that wants to comment on the proposed bylaw. Council will also consider written comments received at the hearing or delivered to the undersigned at the municipal office before the hearing.

Issued at the Town of Shellbrook this 28th Day of May, 2026

Signed: *Sigourney O’Halligan*



PUBLIC NOTICE

Public notice is hereby given that the Council of the Rural Municipality of Spiritwood No. 496 intends to adopt a bylaw under *The Planning and Development Act, 2007* to amend the Zoning District Map in Bylaw No. 4-2015 known as the Zoning Bylaw.

INTENT

The proposed bylaw will rezone the affected land from LD – Lakeshore Development District to AR – Agricultural Resource District to comply with the RM Zoning Bylaw.

AFFECTED LAND

The affected land is legally described as Parcel No. 163954727 and Parcel No. 1647892278 and located on part of the SW ¼ Section 06-49-08-W3M as shown on the map identified as Schedule “A”.

REASON

The amendment is being proposed to accommodate the removal of parcel ties and use of the land.

PUBLIC INSPECTION

Any person may inspect the bylaw at the municipal office at located at 218 Main Street in Spiritwood, Sk. between 9:00 am & 4:30 pm on Monday – Friday, excluding statutory holidays. Copies are available at cost.

PUBLIC HEARING

Council will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, June 9th, 2026 at 11:00 am in Council Chambers to hear any person or group that wants to comment on the proposed bylaw. Council will also consider written comments submitted to the RM of Spiritwood No. 496 municipal office at Box 340, 218 Main Street, Spiritwood, SK, S0J 2M0 or emailed to admin@rmofspiritwood.ca by 4:00 pm Thursday, June 4th, 2026.

Issued this 20th day of May, 2026

Colette Bussiere,
Development Officer

Schedule “A”



Farm growth shows no signs of slowing

Canadian farms are trending to be ever larger entities.

This is a surprise to absolutely no one, as the trend of rural depopulation and growing farm size started basically coming out of the first great war, and was exacerbated by the 'Dirty Thirties.' It's continued, generally unabated, ever since.

Certainly, there have been times the farm growth has slowed, but it just keeps on rolling.

There have been reasons for it – largely, though, the reason is that farmers are chasing efficiencies. They hope they can squeeze an-

other one or two quarter sections of work out of existing machinery, then when replacing that "iron" they buy bigger, and the wheels turn again in the search for more land.

And of course, if a farmer wants to retire, neighbours are going to look to add the acres. If they don't, those acres will be gone and they'll be forced to acquire land further away.

The support systems have pushed larger too.

Rail line abandonment years ago led to dozens of rural elevator closures.

Farmers were forced to make longer hauls to



CALVIN DANIELS

market grain, that necessitated larger trucks to be viable which in turn made more land make greater sense.

For the most part, bigger farms have not been an issue – although there are those concerned with ownership.

Dollars from outside a province, or especial-

ly outside the country, are frowned upon when buying farmland – although most land is more or less owned by banks headquartered outside the Prairies, so the difference seems a tad illusionary.

Then there are the big farm wrecks, and they send shudders of concern through the farm sector.

Today, the focus is on the problems facing mega operation Monette Farms.

The farm was recently granted an extended stay of proceedings under Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act protection.

In terms of big corporations, such protection is not particularly unusual as it is a stop-gap measure of sorts to allow the company some time to try to restructure before the doors close.

But what is unusual is the sheer scale of Monette Farms, which thanks to the order will have access to another \$50 million for spring seeding and other costs.

That is a massive amount of operating money for a single season, and shows just how big the operation has managed to grow.

Now it will no doubt take lawyers and ac-

countants potentially years to determine why the farm is teetering toward failure today. But it won't be as simple as "they grew too big."

The barriers to success are rarely singular in nature, and less so given the typical issues of weather, bugs, trade wars, and food trends which impact farming.

Of course, in this case a number of farm-related businesses in rural areas might topple too if bills are not paid, and the domino effect is unsettling to consider.

But in the end Monette Farms' fate will not alter the decades old trend of ever larger farms.

Crop Report: May 11 to 18

By **MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE**
Submitted

A weather system moved through the province this week, bringing strong winds and periods of mixed precipitation. Multiple areas reported rainfall, while others experienced snow and flurries that considerably slowed down seeding progress. Currently, seeding is 29 per cent complete in Saskatchewan, an increase of 13 per cent from last week and below the five-year average of 55 per cent and the 10-year average of 52 per cent.

Despite weather delays, seeding progressed in all regions this week. The southwest region is most

advanced at 55 per cent, followed by the southeast at 41 per cent, the west-central region at 30 per cent and the northwest region at 16 per cent. The east-central region reports 11 per cent complete and the northeast region is at three per cent.

Seeding progress is most advanced for pulse crops, including lentils and field peas, while cereals and oilseed crops continue to make steady gains in seeded acreage.

Considerable rainfall was recorded in several parts of the province. The highest reported rainfall was in the Dundurn area at 83 millimetres (mm), followed by the North Battleford area at around 82 mm and the Big Arm area at 68 mm.

Widespread precipitation increased topsoil moisture recharge across the province. This improvement is expected to benefit crop development, as well as hay and pasture conditions.

As the busy seeding season continues, farmers are monitoring early seeded crops as they emerge, particularly after the low temperatures and frost last week. Many producers are gradually applying pre-seed herbicides when the weather permits to manage weeds and are also completing operations such as harrowing, land rolling and rock picking. Livestock producers are checking fences and beginning to move cattle to pasture. Pastures are starting to green up, benefiting significantly from the recent precipitation received across the province.

As seeding progresses across the province, mo-

torists are encouraged to remain alert for farm machinery on roadways during this busy period. Producers are also reminded to use caution when transporting equipment and to follow all safety protocols.

The Ministry of Agriculture, in partnership with Sask Ag Matters, reminds producers of the Farm Stress Line. Producers, their families and farm workers can call toll-free at 1-800-667-4442 at any time for confidential support from mental health professionals familiar with the challenges of agriculture.

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

Allard wins May dessert draw



Megan Allard was the lucky winner of the Spiritwood Library's May Dessert of the month. Board Member Brook Gaboury made a delicious lemon poppyseed bundt cake for Megan.

By **HEATHER GATZKE, Branch Librarian**

When social media blocks your access to the news, turn to your local newspaper.

News Media Canada
Médias d'Info Canada

SHELLBROOK HOUSING AUTHORITY VOLUNTEER BOARD MEMBERS WANTED

The Shellbrook Housing Authority is seeking community-minded volunteers to serve on its Board of Directors to deliver Shellbrook's Social Housing Program, providing safe, secure, and affordable housing for seniors and families.

Housing Authorities are public agencies governed by the Saskatchewan Housing Corporation.

Board members help support good governance, sound decision-making, and quality housing services.

Interested individuals are invited to contact the Board Chair – 306-747-3755, 306-747-7451 Waylor.saam@sasktel.net

RM OF SHELLBROOK NO. 493 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

The RM of Shellbrook No. 493 is accepting applications for a **Part-Time Administrative Assistant**. This position supports the Acting Administrator, Assistant Administrator, and Council. Hours and start date are negotiable. Wage dependent on experience. Benefits include health, dental, vision, and employer matched pension.

Duties: Customer service, correspondence, filing, data entry, AP/AR, bank reconciliations, deposits, payroll, remittances, permits, assessment roll, registries, Council packages, minute taking, website updates, and other duties.

Qualifications: Strong communication and organizational skills; proficiency with Microsoft 365; attention to detail; ability to meet deadlines; municipal experience an asset; must be bondable and able to pass a criminal record check.

Submit cover letter, resume, two references, anticipated start date, and wage expectations to Box 250, Shellbrook, SK S0J 2E0 or admin.493@sasktel.net by **3:00 p.m., June 5, 2026**. Only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

Leask Happy Homesteaders host 45 for tea

By MARGIE MONUS
Submitted

The Leask Happy Homesteaders hosted a Strawberry Shortcake Tea on Tuesday, May 12, at the Leask Senior's Centre, with 45 people in at-

tendance.

In addition to the tasty dessert and fellowship, a number of draws were held during the day. Yvette Lavallee won the 50/50, while Shannon O'Toole won the panda bear draw.

In other draws, Marcie Kreese won

a Martin's Lake weekend camping package, Bernie Hoffman won a basket of goodies donated by Marlene Straf, Lavina Bischler won a large planter full of gardening items, and Wally Schlickmeyer won a basket.

Have a great summer!



From left to right: Joanne McHanson, Shirley Heinebigner, Pam Hamilton, and Marcie Kreese were ready to serve up dessert.



Draw winners, from left to right: Marcie Kreese, Bernie Hoffman, and Lavina Bischler. Missing: Wally Schlickmeyer.



Shannon O'Toole was the winner of the panda bear draw.

Shellbrook Library activity highlights

By EDDIE HOEHN
Branch Librarian

On Wednesday, May 6, volunteer and local library board member Samuel Schafer presented Trivia Night at the library. Participants answered trivia questions based on Star Wars and Mexican culture. Star Wars Day was on May 4, and Mexican culture is celebrated on Cinco de Mayo (May 5).

Questions included naming Mexican dishes from a photo, listing all the colours of lightsabers in Star Wars, naming Star Wars characters and

what colour lightsaber they used, identifying which words from a list were not names of actual Mexican States, and name that tune.

Participants worked together in one team to achieve the highest score possible.

On Wednesday, May 13, Walter Willoughby Horticultural Society member Joan Sommerfeld gave a Landscaping Presentation at the library.

Joan explained that the process involved in designing landscape, and the many factors that need to be taken into consideration be-

fore the work is done, including soil types, available space, and the best types of plants for each of these scenarios.

Attendee Laurel Jensen won a gardening book called *The Winter Garden* by Jane Stern-dale-Bennett as a door prize. Joan donated the book to promote the library's book sales.

On Wednesday, May 20, volunteer and local library board member Samuel Schafer presented the second Trivia Night for the month at the library.

Samuel used a Valentine's Day theme which was rescheduled from February. Participants played in 2 teams. They deciphered pictures

that represent candy heart inspired phrases, listed the holidays on which the most cards

are given, named titles and actors from popular romantic comedies, and named titles and

artists of 80's power ballads.

Both teams tied at the end of the program.



Library board member and volunteer Samuel Schafer leads attendees at Trivia Night on May 6.

RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF CANWOOD NO. 494 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public notice is hereby given that the Council of the R.M. of Canwood No. 494 intends to adopt bylaws under *The Planning and Development Act, 2007*, to replace Bylaw No. 2003-6, known as the Basic Planning Statement and Bylaw 2003-7, known as the Zoning Bylaw.

Intent: The intent of the new Official Community Plan Bylaw 2026-05 and Zoning Bylaw 2026-06 is to implement land use regulations and minimum standards, establish zoning districts, prescribe a permitting process, prescribe a process of appeals, and provide a provision for amendments.

Affected Land: The proposed bylaws will affect all land within the incorporated area of the R.M. of Canwood No. 494.

Reason: The proposed bylaws will help facilitate, direct and manage development within the R.M. of Canwood No. 494.

Public Inspection: Any person may inspect the proposed Official Community Plan Bylaw and Zoning Bylaw at the R.M. Office between 8:30 AM and 5:00 PM Monday to Friday, excluding Statutory Holidays. Copies of the bylaws are available at cost. Additionally, the bylaws and associated maps may be viewed online at the following website: www.rmofcanwood.ca

Public Hearing: Council will hold a public hearing on Thursday July 16th, 2026, at 7:00 PM at the Canwood Legion Hall. The Canwood Legion Hall is located at 585 South Avenue in the Village of Canwood. Any person or group that wants to comment on the proposed Official Community Plan Bylaw and Zoning Bylaw is welcome to attend or to submit comments prior to the meeting. Council will consider all comments received.

Issued at the R.M. of Canwood No. 494 this 28th day of May, 2026.

Lorna Benson
Chief Administrative Officer



Joan Sommerfeld (back) with attendees Laurel Jensen, Elinor Amundson, Joanne Burant, and Christine Ryan at the landscaping presentation.

Shellbrook students participate in track & field

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle
Reporter

Students from Shellbrook Elementary School and W.P. Sandin High School in Grades 4 through 8 gathered on Wednesday, May 20, for the schools' joint Junior Track and Field meet.

The meet serves as a qualifier for the larger Prince Albert and Area Athletic Association (P4A) Track and Field Meet, which includes students from Shellbrook, Wild Rose, Canwood, Debden, Big River, Prince Albert, and beyond.

At the Novice level (U11) track events include the 60-metre, 150-metre, 600-metre, and 1,000-metre races, while the field events are ball throw, high jump, long jump, and triple jump. The Atom level (U12) includes the same events, with the addition of shotput on the field side.

For the Pee wee (U13) and Bantam (U14) age groups, the track events are 80-metre, 150-metre, 800-metre, and 1,200-metre, while the field events do away with ball throw in favour of discus.

The top three students in each event advance to rep-

resent the community at the P4A Track and Field event. In addition to individual medals in their respective events, students can also earn their schools aggregate awards for having the highest combined scores at any age group.

Though the results of the local track and field meet are too lengthy to publish, the warm and sunny conditions on Wednesday, May 20, made for a perfect environment for students to showcase their athletic prowess.

The day even saw three new school records set.

In Pee wee Boys discus, Cam Smart threw an impressive 26.16 metres to top the field, beating the record of 24.66 metres shared by Cole Smith and Hunter Smith.

Meanwhile, Marie-Annette Aghedo set two new Pee wee Girls records, starting with a high jump of 1.38 metres to beat the record of 1.35 metres held by Hunter Tremblay. She also topped the field in the triple jump, with her jump of 8.70 metres besting the record of 8.61 metres held by June Robin.

The P4A Track and Field meet will be held in Prince Albert from June 1 to 3.



Regan Wiebe winds up in the Novice Boys ball throw event.



Novice Girls wait their turn for the long jump. From left to right: Aubryn Olson, Daycee Thorhaug, Emma Verbonac (back), Lily Kennedy (crouching), Storie Brown, Shaelyn McAleese, Andie Smith, and Gracie Bruce.



Marie-Annette Aghedo gets some air in the Pee wee Girls long jump event.



Madisyn Verbonac leads Zoey Bruce and Gwyn Phan in the Bantam Girls 80-metre race.



Cam Smart (middle) and Jack Robin (right) are neck and neck in the Pee wee Boys' 80-metre race.

Minutes of an RM of Shellbrook meeting

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

Minutes of a regular meeting of Council of the Rural Municipality of Shellbrook No. 493 held on Wednesday, April 8, 2026 in the Municipal Office Council Chambers at 71 Main Street Shellbrook, Sask.

Present at the meeting were Reeve Christine Strube, Councillors Councillor Tasha Cyr — Division 1, Levi Moore — Division 2, Kevin Bruce — Division 3, Jay Ferster — Division 4, and Kris Moe — Division 5, Administrator Duane Storey, and Administrative Assistant Alicia tenBos.

Absent was Ivan tenBos — Division 6.

Reeve Strube called the meeting to order at 7:33 a.m.

Delegations:

Jared Stephenson Northbound Planning 9:30 a.m.

Paul Slemming 10:15 a.m.

Ferster: That the following additions be added to the Agenda: Road Allowance Policy, Road Ban Orders, Seasonal Employees. Carried

Bruce: That the Agenda be adopted as amended. Carried

Cyr: That the minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held on March 4, 2026 be approved as presented. Carried

Cyr: That the Statement of Financial Activities for the month of March 2026 be accepted as presented. Carried

Cyr: That the bank reconciliation for the month of February 2026 be accepted as presented. Carried

Cyr: That the List of Accounts for Approval dated April 01, 2026, as attached hereto and forming part of these Minutes, being regular cheque numbers 15349 - 15391 in the amount of \$77,602.47 and electronic fund transfers in the amount of \$42,814.46 and payroll cheque numbers 161 - 180 in the amount of \$44,044.68 be approved. Carried

Bruce: That Bylaw No.2026-01, being a bylaw to authorize a Levy for Fire Protection Services as annexed hereto and forming a part of these minutes, be given first reading. Carried (*Editor's note: the bylaw was unanimously given three readings and enacted at the meeting.*)

Ferster: That the following information provided in regards to

NW-04-52-01-W3 be received and filed. Carried

Moore: That the request from the Parkland Physician Recruitment and Retention Committee for member contribution rate of \$10 per/person or a total of \$15,810 for 2026 be approved. Carried

Moore: That the Council of the RM of Shellbrook No. 493 agrees to approve the proposed subdivision application for subdivision NE 1/4 Section 11-50-01-W3, and will forward a response to the Community Planning Branch, Ministry of Government Relations as follows;

1. No: there are no land uses in the vicinity that would be incompatible with the intended use of the proposed site.

2. No: there are no facilities that could be affected by the proposed development.

3. No: There are no requirements of the applicant. Carried

Moore: That the request by Rosalyn Harris for a second residence on her property SW-02-50-01-W3 be approved. Carried

Cyr: That administration do cost analysis in regards to potential roof repair options of the municipal building and present to RM and Town Council for consideration. Carried

Jared Stephenson Northbound Planning joined the meeting by Zoom at 9:30 a.m. to discuss Lake Country Co-op Rezoning.

Jared Stephenson left the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

Ferster: That Bylaw No. 2026-03, being a bylaw to Amend the Zoning Bylaw as

annexed hereto and forming a part of these minutes, be given first reading. Carried

Bruce: That Bylaw No. 2026-02, being a bylaw to Amend the Official Community Plan as annexed hereto and forming a part of these minutes, be given first reading. Carried

Ferster: That a response be sent to Indigenous Services Canada, indicating that the municipality has no concerns with the Sturgeon Lake First Nations transfer of Section 7-51-01-W3 to reserve status. Carried

Bruce: That the Administrator's Report for the month April 2026 be accepted as presented. Carried

Moore: That a letter be sent to the Anderson Family requesting that a signed agreement in regards to the rezoning of Anderson Drive be received by the municipality by April 15, 2026. And that, a status update be sent to the affected cabin owners. Carried

Moore: That the Council Oral Reports for the month of April 2026 be accepted as presented. Carried

Paul Slemming joined the meeting at 11 a.m. to discuss beaver control.

Foreman Todd Lande entered the Council Chambers at 11:10 a.m. to discuss municipal issues.

Paul Slemming left the council chambers at 11:30 a.m.

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

Moe: That the stop sign at the corner of SE-04-51-02-W3 be replaced with a yield sign. Carried

Moore: That the fol-

lowing correspondence be received and filed:

- A h t a h k a k o o p Crown Land Request - dated March 14, 2026
- Crown Land Invasive Weed Program - dated March, 20, 2026
- EMO Meeting Notes 2026 - dated March 20, 2026. Carried

Ferster: That the time being 12:02 p.m., Council close a portion of this meeting to the public to go in camera under the authority of Part III of The Local Authority Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, for strategic planning, the public gallery be vacated and those present for this closed session be Reeve Strube, Councillor Moore, Councillor Bruce, Councillor Ferster, Councillor Cyr, and Councillor Moe. Carried

Administrator Storey and Administrative Assistant tenBos were excused from the meeting at 12:03 p.m.

Administrator Storey and Administrative Assistant tenBos returned to the meeting at 12:39 p.m.

Division 4 Councillor Ferster declared a conflict of interest and left the council chambers at 12:40 p.m.

Moe: That as per the recommendation of the Human Resources Committee the following be hired for the 2026 season: Nathan Dorko. Carried

Bruce: That the regular Council meeting reconvene at 12:40 p.m. with all members of Council and Administration present.

Moe: That the meeting be adjourned at 1:25 p.m.

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 - 5:30pm; 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)

LEASK: Leask Community Garage Sale Days - Friday, May 29th & Saturday, May 30th. Various locations - look for balloons around town! Playground Committee BBQ on Main Street on Friday. Book Sale at the Library Friday & Saturday, 9am to 5pm.

CANWOOD: Canwood Legion Br. #132 - 100th Anniversary Celebration of the Royal Canadian Legion. Open House at Canwood Legion Hall, Saturday, June 6, 1pm to 5pm. Exhibits, Videos, Legion & War Memorabilia. Short Program at 2pm followed by Coffee and Refreshments, Anniversary Cake & Dainties. Come join us as we celebrate our organization and our commitment to serve veterans and our community!

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What happens when you don't advertise?

Very little.

Leafs' signings not universally popular

It was not a great start for the new management regime for the Toronto Maple Leafs.

Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment (MLSE) president and CEO Keith Pelley fired general manager Brad Treliving in March and fans were eagerly awaiting the announcement of a new boss for the Leafs, who had one of their poorest seasons in years and have gone 59 years without winning the Stanley Cup.

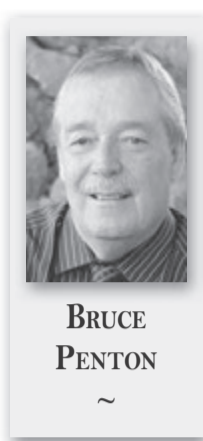
What Leaf fans got when Pelley's announcement was made in early May was a disappointment to many: A twosome featuring former Arizona Coyotes GM John Chayka, who does not have a good reputation around the NHL, as general manager, and former Leaf star Mats Sundin, who hasn't been involved in the NHL since he retired 20 years ago, as senior executive advisor.

Chayka was 26 when he was hired in Arizona in 2016. Strong on analytics, the young GM lasted only four years

before being booted after costing his team two draft choices for violating draft rules (holding conditioning camps for prospective draftees is against the rules) and for seeking employment with another NHL team while he was still under contract to the Coyotes. Toronto Sun columnist Steve Simmons asked at the press conference what due diligence had been done on Chayka's skill set, since 19 of 20 NHL personnel contacted by Simmons prior to the announcement had nothing but negative comments about his credentials for the position, using words like 'con artist', 'liar', 'salesman' to describe his characteristics.

It was an awkward question, considering Chayka was sitting right there, as was the new GM's wife and children. Replied Pelley: "I've already said I did deep due diligence. ... We've done extensive due diligence, and I'm very comfortable and very confident in where we landed."

Said a story on Ya-



BRUCE PENTON

hoosports.com: "Pelley responded that he and Simmons 'must have talked to different people,' to which Simmons responded, 'That's it? Because the hockey world today is astounded by this announcement.'"

To be fair, Chayka's missteps happened five to 10 years ago and now that he's 36, he says he has learned from his mistakes and will turn that experience into a positive. One day after the announcement of his hiring, the Leafs got an unexpected positive when they won the draft lottery, moving up from No. 5 to the top spot. Look for flashy winger Gavin McK-

enna, the Canadian Hockey League player of the year in 2024-25 and an offensive star with Penn State this past season, to be part of the Leafs' lineup this fall.

Pelley, in announcing the hiring of Chayka and Sundin, said the Leafs are in for a "retool" as opposed to a rebuild. Unfortunately, retool offers a connotation of rearranging the deck chairs on the Titanic. A rebuild might be more appropriate, given the good fortune Toronto received by winning the draft lottery. Potential superstars McKenna or Swedish star Ivar Stenberg could be strong building blocks for foundation of that rebuild.

• Humorist Steve Burgess of Vancouver, on the Whitecaps to Las Vegas relocation rumours: "We may soon be adding the Las Vegas Whitecaps. Surf that sagebrush, dude."

• Cathal Kelly of the Globe and Mail, on tanking in sports for a better draft pick: "It'd be like the boss giving

me a tap on the shoulder and saying, 'Corporate says there's too much cash on hand. Time to start libelling the hell out of everyone.'"

• Shane Ryan of Golf-Digest.com, on English golfer Tyrell Hatton: "With age, he looks increasingly like an English soldier from a movie about medieval times who gets killed when the enemy dumps a pot of burning oil on his head."

• Pro golfer Matt Fitzpatrick, describing his younger brother Alex, also a tour pro: "He's always kind of bouncing around, always so pleasant to be around. So nice to everyone. Not to say that I'm not but he really is so polite."

• Comedy guy Torben Rolfson of Vancouver: "Mike Vrabel and Dianna Russini have been photographed together more often than David and Victoria Beckham. They make the Obamas look camera shy."

• Another one from Rolfson: "FIFA reportedly wanted a Level 4

motorcade for its president while in Vancouver, which is the ability to go through traffic lights. That's one level below the Pope, or what regular Vancouver drivers do."

• Headline at theonline.com: "Sports Illustrated removes distracting models from swimsuit edition."

• Headline at fark.com: "Steve Kerr explains why he's returning to coach Golden State: Because those millions of dollars weren't going to make themselves."

• Another fark.com headline: "Planning for Manning' or 'The March for Arch', the Arizona Cardinals are underdogs in every game this season."

• Patrick Dough, on Twitter, after Garrick Higgo was assessed a two-stroke penalty for missing his 7:18 tee time at the PGA by less than a minute: "Scottie (Scheffler) went to jail and still made his tee time at the PGA."

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

Sask. begins hospital security review

By **MINISTRY OF HEALTH**
Submitted

Work has begun on the independent, third-party review of hospital safety and security.

The Ministry of Health has contracted Buckingham Security Services Ltd., to perform the review under the leadership of Clive Weighill, executive director at Buckingham. Weighill is a former Saskatoon police chief and served as Saskatchewan's chief coroner.

"Our government is committed to ensuring the safety of both patients and health care workers," Health Minister Jeremy Cockrill said. "Steps have already been taken in several facilities across the province and are showing positive results. The review being conducted by Clive Weighill will inform further enhancements to safety in hospitals throughout our province."

"Safety is a vital part of Saskatchewan's health system, impacting patients, visitors and staff," said Weighill. "Identifying supports to enhance security will benefit those within the system and the public alike."

The review is expected to take ap-

proximately six months.

It will examine current practices and provide recommendations to help improve safety for patients, visitors and staff across Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) facilities. It will include site visits to SHA facilities, as well as meetings with First Nations and Metis organizations, unions and staff.

"The Saskatchewan Health Authority is committed to ensuring safe environments for patients, families and staff," SHA CEO Andrew Will said. "This independent review provides an important opportunity to strengthen safety across our facilities, and we will work in close collaboration with the review team as they evaluate current practices and identify opportunities for improvement."

The review does not include:

- activities beyond the scope of security provided by protective services officers, for example, triage at emergency units, medical diagnosis and treatment, surgery wait times or general administration within the health system; or
- detailed investigations of individual incidents, current investigations and processes currently

underway or already completed.

Individuals with lived experiences relevant to the security review may also email safety@buckinghamsecurity.com to provide input.

Concerns raised by staff and patients and increasing volume and complexity of Protective Services interventions has highlighted the need for a system-wide comprehensive review.

Several actions to strengthen hospital safety are already underway, including the installation of metal detectors at emergency department entrances in Saskatoon, Regina, Prince Albert and North Battleford, as well as at the Regina Urgent Care Centre.

In addition, the SHA issued a Request for Proposals for third-party security services for facilities in La Loche, Shellbrook, Swift Current, Moose Jaw, Weyburn, Nipawin, Melfort and Kamsack. These measures are being advanced while the independent review will inform longer-term, system-wide improvements.

Buckingham Security Services is a Saskatchewan based business. Founder Rod Buckingham spent 36 years in law enforcement with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) and the Regina Police Service (RPS). He is also a security consultant for the Canadian Football League (CFL).

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OBITUARIES

David Peter Krawetz



David Peter Krawetz
January 13, 1955 –
May 19, 2026

With profound sadness, the family of David Krawetz announces his sudden passing on May 19, 2026.

Dave will be remembered and missed forever by his loving wife and best friend, Marlene; his children Greg, Malinda (Steven), Brandon, and Timothy (Shantel); and his grandchildren Hannah, Kevin, Logan, and Lukas. Dave's memory will also be cherished by his sister Sally, his brother Ken (Gail), and his sister Mariann, as well as numerous nieces, nephews, friends and community members.

He was predeceased by his mother Annie; his father Peter; his sister Betty; his brother Ernie; as well as many brothers-

in-law, aunts, uncles, cousins, and cherished friends.

Dave was born in Invermay, SK, to Peter and Annie Krawetz. He grew up on the family farm where his well-known work ethic was established. He spoke so fondly of his time with his brothers and sisters on the farm and was looking forward to the 2026 Krawetz Family Reunion, which he will now attend in spirit.

He was fiercely dedicated to the love of his life and partner, Marlene, and spent countless hours working on the home and yard they

shared together. He was most proud of his kids and grandchildren and spent much of his life involved in their sports, home lives, and business ventures. He was always there to help them and was relied on for life's most important moments – the good, and the bad.

Dave loved playing and coaching hockey and ball, and was a dedicated Roughrider, Blue Jays, and Jets fan. He was heavily involved with Minor Sports, the rink, and the ball diamonds through his entire adult life, and it was hard to find a local game, tour-

namment, or bonspiel that he didn't make an appearance at.

Dave has made a huge impact on the Community of Big River and was proud of his time spent volunteering for the Kinsmen Club, Minor Sports, the Curling Club, and the Rec Board.

He worked a number of jobs including the mill, carpentry, and fire dispatch. His proudest and most passionate job was that of Mayor where he served on a number of boards and committees and made important and lasting contributions. He always strove to make community a bet-

ter place for all and will leave a lasting legacy.

The memorial service took place at the Big River Community Centre on May 25th at 2:00pm. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Big River Minor Sports Association New Scoreboard Fund.

Family and friends wishing to send online condolences are welcome to visit www.beaulacfuneralhome.com. Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of Beau "Lac" Funeral Home and Crematorium, Lynn Anderson, Funeral Director, Shellbrook, SK 306-747-2828.

Robert Dale Martin



Robert Dale Martin, born February 23, 1950, to Vera and Vimy Martin, passed away surrounded by the love of his family. Dale was raised in the Parkside area and attended school in Parkside, SK,

before completing high school in Shellbrook, SK.

Throughout his life, Dale worked a variety of jobs, including in the seismic industry, road construction, and farming. Farming remained close to his heart, and he farmed in the Parkside, Canwood, and Shellbrook areas with his son Scott.

In 1973, Dale married Carol. Together they built a life centered around family, hard work, and community. They welcomed their son Robert Scott in 1974 and their daughter Kimberley Dawn in 1980.

Dale loved spending

time with family and friends, especially his grandchildren. He never missed a family birthday, BBQ, or gathering, and those moments meant the world to him. He will be remembered for his dedication to family, his strong work ethic, love of animals and the many memories shared around kitchen tables, farmyards, and family celebrations. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

Dale was predeceased by his parents, Vimy and Vera Martin; his parents-in-law, Helen and Norman Shillington; sister-in-law Caren Shillington;

and brother-in-law Gary Shillington.

Left to cherish his memory is his loving wife, Carol; son Scott and children Jayde, Marissa, and Sam; daughter Kim (Jason) and children Emmalynn (Cody), Allison, and Dylan; brother Terry Martin; sister Sharon (Dan) Marek; sister-in-law Gail Boyko; as well as numerous nieces, nephews, extended

family, and many friends.

Graveside Service was held at 2:00 PM on Friday, May 22, 2026, at Parkside Cemetery, Parkside, SK.

In lieu of tributes, memorial donations may be made in memory of Dale to the Whispering Pine Place Recreation Dept. (Box 418 Canwood, SK SoJ oKO) or the Shellbrook and District Health Ser-

vices Foundation (Box 33 Shellbrook, SK SoJ 2Eo).

Family and friends wishing to send online condolences are welcome to visit www.beaulacfuneralhome.com. Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of Beau "Lac" Funeral Home and Crematorium, Lynn Anderson, Funeral Director, Shellbrook, SK 306-747-2828.

GOOD NEWS

GOOD THOUGHTS FROM THE PSALMS

By DEB ANDERSON
Submitted

In the center of the Bible rests the Book of Psalms—a collection of poems, songs, and prayers written by various men of God hundreds of years before Christ. Within this body of work (150 in number) one finds themes of: calls to God for mercy, help, or victory over enemies that threaten. Others are like templates of praise and worship, exalting God as creator and king.

We see within the Psalms honesty— hearts that speak truthfully of circumstances in life and the feelings experienced, whether good or bad. Often there is a note of hope and confidence in the love, loyalty, and power of God attached to the psalm. One can feel the author's heart wrenching as he calls out, "How long, Lord?" Some psalms celebrate victories, others historic events.

I see much goodness in Psalm 103. It begs a pause for reflection. It is a psalm of thanksgiving. The writer lists many things that he has received from the Lord. One is struck with the author's awareness of the Lord's involvement in his life.

He starts with praise, and then the list begins: "Forget not all His benefits:

Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases, Who redeems your life from destruction, Who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies, Who satisfies your mouth with good things, so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's." (103: 3-5).

I'd like to pause on "loving-kindness," as a picture of this was given to me years ago, and how "loving-kindness" is different than "kindness." Kindness is giving a piece of bread to one who is hungry. Loving-kindness gives more — adding jam to the bread, or in today's lingo giving a Sub Full Meal Deal. Giving more than what is necessary is loving-kindness.

I remember spending many days pondering the statements in this psalm.

"For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is His mercy toward those who fear Him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us." (103: 11,12).

I needed to hear that and consider how far the east is from the west. The Lord's forgiveness is far greater than any I had ever given or experienced before.

Can we see the "more" that we have been given in our lives? If not, consider the process: "Seek and you shall find."

Congratulations to the Recipients of The 2026 Junior Citizen of the Year Award



The Saskatchewan Weekly Newspapers Association is pleased to announce this year's Junior Citizen of the Year Award recipients:

ELI BARTLETT, PRINCE ALBERT
NOAH CAPPELLE, MEADOW LAKE
KYNLEE HICKS, REGINA
KATRIANNE SKOPYK, CHRISTOPHER LAKE

We are also proud to announce the recipient of the new
Junior Citizen of the Year STEM Award

MARINN ACORN, PRINCE ALBERT

Each Junior Citizen of the Year recipient receives a \$3,000 bursary sponsored by SaskPower. The STEM Award recipient receives a \$3,000 bursary sponsored by the Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan, all in support of their future post-secondary education.



Minutes of a Village of Canwood meeting

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

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council for the Village of Canwood, held at the at the Village Office at 571 Main Street on March 17.

Mayor Lorne Benson called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m., with a quorum being present.

Present at the meeting were Mayor Lorne Benson, Councillors Kaytlyn Mitchell, Ryan Demers, and Greg Edeen, and Administrator Heather Sten.

Edeen: That the agenda be accepted as presented. Carried

Mitchell: That the minutes of the February 24, 2026

Regular Meeting be approved as presented. Carried

Demers: That the Bank Reconciliations for the month of February, 2026 be accepted as presented. Carried

Benson: That the financial statements for the month of February, 2026 be accepted as presented. Carried

Demers: That the employee attendance sheets for February, 2026, be accepted as presented. Carried

Mitchell: That the council Indemnity for March, 2026 be accepted as presented. Carried

Edeen: That the Employee Payroll for the month of February, 2026, including Pay Periods 3 and 4, totaling \$8,641.96, and the Council Renumeration of \$970 be ac-

cepted as presented. Carried
Benson: That the list of accounts payable from Batch 2026-00019 to Batch 2026-00023, which includes all cheques, online payments and EFTs, for a total of \$27,832.85, be accepted as presented. Carried

Demers: That the Water Treatment Plant reports for the month of February 2026 and ALS Lab Water reports from Feb. 18, 2026 and March 4. Carried

Demers: That council acknowledge the title of Lot 6, Block 02, Plan Y3516 was transferred to the Village of Canwood under the provisions of The Tax Enforcement Act on March 10, 2026. Carried

Demers: That council agree

to enter into an agreement for installation of Fibre Optic Cable with RFNOW Communications LP., and that RFNOW Communications LP. be responsible for all fees associated with re-zoning. Carried

Edeen: That council accept the Canwood Public Library Budget as presented. Carried

Mitchell: That we approve the Building Permit Application of RFNOW to construct a Commercial storage shop, with approval pursuant to Section 4.9 of the Municipal Zoning Bylaw 2023-02. Carried

Demers: That Bylaw No. 2026-03 attached hereto and forming part of these Minutes, being a Bylaw of the Village of Canwood respecting amendment to Zoning Bylaw

2023-02, now be read for the first time. Carried

Benson: That the following Correspondence be filed: ISC Statement, RCMP - Annual Performance and Action Plan, Highway 55 Waste Management AGM notice letter. Carried

Benson: That we move to in-camera at 7:50 p.m. citing The Local Authority Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, section 15(1)(b)(ii) and section 23(1)(b) "personal information." Carried

Benson: That we move out of in-camera at 7:59 p.m. and note that all members of Council and Administration are in attendance. Carried

Mitchell: That the meeting was adjourned at 8 p.m.

Saskatchewan gov't supports sale of ISC

By CROWN INVESTMENTS CORP.
Submitted

Following the conclusion of its strategic review that was announced in Fall 2025, Information Services Corporation (ISC) has announced that it has entered into an agreement with a subsidiary of Plenary Americas LP (Plenary) whereby Plenary will acquire 100 per cent of the Class A Limited Voting Shares of ISC (Shares), including those held by Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan (CIC). CIC will retain its Golden Share. Plenary Americas LP is owned by La Caisse, Canada's second largest public pension fund manager. As the largest shareholder of ISC, the Government of Saskatchewan supports the proposed transaction and CIC has committed to vote its Shares in favour of it.

"We have been clear that we will only support a transaction that is in the best interests of Saskatchewan people," Crown Investment Corporation Min-

ister Jeremy Harrison said. "In reviewing what ISC has announced, it is clear that this transaction will provide significant benefits to various stakeholders, including shareholders, while positioning the company for growth right from its Regina headquarters."

In May 2026, the government passed Bill 57, The Information Services Corporation Amendment Act 2026 which strengthens the Golden Share by:

- Ensuring that ISC's intellectual property—such as registry technology, software and data management—remains in Saskatchewan;
 - Maintaining ISC's service obligations to the province; and,
 - Ensuring that the head office and associated jobs remain in Saskatchewan.
- The proposed transaction means that:
- All Shares would be acquired by Plenary at a price of \$51.00 per Share;
 - The Province of Saskatchewan, as a significant

shareholder, is expected to receive approximately \$277 million prior to any fees and closing costs;

- The Golden Share will be owned by CIC on behalf of the Government of Saskatchewan with strengthened provisions under the amended Act;
- The Government of Saskatchewan is entitled to appoint two directors; and,
- The head office functions and data all remain in Saskatchewan.

Proceeds from the sale of the government's shares will be used for health care infrastructure, with further details to be announced in the weeks ahead.

The Master Service Agreement, which regulates and controls land titles registry, personal property registry and corporate registry fees, has been in place since 2013 and in 2023 was extended until 2053. It continues to apply in its current form, ensuring consistency in terms of services and fees.

Building containers with summer exotics

By PATRICIA HANBIDGE
Orchid Horticulture

There is nothing better than planting a container full of exotic beauty to enjoy in your landscape all summer long. Summer flowering bulbs and tender annuals will help you to do this as they bring a little bit of beauty that is a bit exotic. Most of these selections originate in sub-tropical or tropical regions so are used to warmth and humidity and of course will need to be lifted prior to the fall temperatures dropping substantially.

It is these bulbs that are often the "wow" points of our gardens. Who can ignore the tantalizing tropical scent of acidanthera, the wondrous colour of the begonias in the shady parts, or the majestic stature of the cannas or gladiolus? If you are not yet growing some of these less hardy bulbs, then maybe this is the year to begin.

Acidanthera are exotic members of the iris family. They have a delicious scent that will waft over your outdoor areas if planted close. They are white (perfect for night gardens), grow about 24 inches high with a white star-shaped bloom with a centre of

deep purple. They are naturally found in semi-alpine conditions in Ethiopia so do not need a really rich soil. Plant them about 3 inches deep with about 5 inches between bulbs.

Begonias are gorgeous in the shady areas of the garden. They come in a range of colours from reds to pinks, yellows and whites and even a number of purples and apricots. The pendulous types are great in hanging baskets while the uprights are good in beds or containers. Plant in partial to full shade and be sure you do not plant them too deeply as they are a shallow-rooted plant.

Caladiums are a showy plant that will give any landscape a tropical flair. They are actually grown for their large colour leaves. They come in multi-colours with swirls and splashes of red, green, white and pink. Plant them in the shade and even bring them in as a house plant as summer wanes.

Canna lilies are beautiful everywhere. Their bloom colours range from white to orange, yellow, pink red and even bi-colour. They are native to the West Indies and South America so are considered not hardy. They are superb summer bloomers with not only

a great bloom but often have coloured and textured leaves. Do not plant these plants in windy areas as the foliage will be damaged. Some species can grow up to 10 feet in height but can also be as small as 2 feet. Plant in full sun and remove spent flowers to encourage more bloom.

Oriental lilies are one of my favourite plants to incorporate into my outdoor space. The blooms will not last long, but placing them as part of the

show is well worth the effort and the scents are too amazing for words.

Dahlias are easily one of the top selling summer flowering bulbs. There are literally hundreds of selections to choose from with all the colours of the rainbow. Many gardeners will pot up their dahlias a good six weeks prior to going outside to ensure the longest, loveliest period of bloom. They are long blooming so can be planted in borders, beds or containers and even make a great cut-flower. Just a word of caution – once you begin to grow dahlias you might get addicted to trying them all!

Incorporating some other "exotics" like palms, crotons and other tropical plants not often seen outside is also a way to build unique elements into your outdoor space. Be creative and daring and mix some tropical plants in with some summer exotics and other regular basket stuffers to truly create a space you can call your own.

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.



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Spring HOME & GARDEN

How to stain your deck

Your deck is the perfect place to enjoy your time as the weather gets warmer. If it's starting to look a little worn out, staining your wooden deck can help you breathe new life into your outdoor space. Here's a step-by-step guide to help you get started.

Choose the right time

Sprinkle a small amount of water onto the deck. If it absorbs in less than 10 minutes, your deck needs urgent care. Choose a time of the year when the temperature is in the 10- to 30-degree Celsius range, and when no rain is in the forecast. It's also best to avoid applying stain in direct sunlight if possible, working in sections as the sun moves across your deck.

Prepare the deck

Inspect your deck for damage. Sand any splintered areas with 80-grit

sandpaper or a belt sander and replace any missing fasteners. You can also tighten any screws or hammer down nails that are sticking up. Sweep away dirt, dust and debris with a broom, and rinse your deck with water. You can also use a pressure washer on a light setting.

Next, use a deck clean-

er product and a brush to deep clean the wood, and allow your deck to dry for two to three days before applying stain.

Pick the best stain

Choosing the best deck stain for your project depends on a variety of factors unique to your deck. Look for a stain at your local hardware store, like

The Home Depot, that's made for your deck's wood and matches your decking material. To keep your deck in great shape for longer, pick one that is designed to repel water and protect against UV rays.

You'll get the best results by using an oil-based stain over a deck

previously finished with oil-based stains and water-based stain over a deck previously finished with a water-based ones.

Start with the railings

Sweep your deck again to remove any debris that may have accumulated after deep-cleaning. Make sure to sweep the railings with a broom as well to remove any dust. Protect your siding, door trim and any other parts of the home with painter's tape. Stir the stain thoroughly and transfer it to a paint tray to make things easier.

Begin staining your deck, working your way down from the highest points like posts and balusters. Use long, even strokes with your brush to ensure a consistent coating on your railings and try not to drip on the deck.

Stain the deck boards

Apply the stain to your deck using a brush about the width of your deck boards. Choose your starting and stopping points, like by your deck stairs or a back door to your home so you don't block yourself into a corner, and work in one direction. Apply your stain in long, even strokes along the length of the deck boards.

Use a smaller paintbrush to apply stain in cracks and hard to reach corners. You can also touch up areas between boards this way. One coat is generally enough when staining your deck boards.

Allow the stain to dry

Let your stain dry for 24 to 48 hours before walking on your deck. Wait an extra day or two before putting heavy furniture back in to place.

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Five home renovations that will save you money

Home renovations can transform your space, making it more beautiful, functional and valuable. But did you know some upgrades can also save you money in the long run? Here are five smart renovations to consider:

1. Seal air leaks. Air leaks around windows, doors, cracks and even ceiling light fixtures can let out warm or cool air, making your HVAC system work harder. Air sealing is an affordable and effective way to reduce energy costs, increase comfort and create a healthier indoor environment - making it a perfect first step in any renovation.

2. Upgrade your windows. Did you know that up to 30 percent of your home's heating energy can escape through the windows? Start small by re-caulking or weather-stripping to seal drafts and consider replacing your windows with more efficient models in the long run. These fixes can cut energy costs while keeping your home comfortable.

3. Conserve water with modern fixtures. If your bathroom or kitchen fixtures are old or leaky, now's the time to make the switch. Modern low-flow showerheads, faucets and toilets are designed to conserve water without sacrificing performance. These upgrades can lower your utility bills and help the environ-

ment at the same time.

4. Invest in energy-efficient appliances and systems. Energy-efficient appliances are a great way to reduce your utility bills while helping the environment. Think beyond the basics - like a new fridge or washer - and consider upgrading your heating system. Replacing a furnace or boiler with an electric heat pump, for example, can provide reliable heating and cooling year-round while saving you hundreds of dollars every month.

5. Embrace eco-friendly landscaping. Eco-friendly landscaping offers more than just curb appeal; it can save you time and money, too. Native plants and shrubs require less maintenance and water, while strategically placed trees will eventually provide shade in summer to lower cooling costs. This approach is a win for both your wallet and the planet.

To make these eco-friendly renovations more affordable, explore available rebates and grants. The Canada Greener Homes Loan provides interest-free financing for energy-efficient upgrades. Some municipalities, provinces or territories may also have local incentive programs to consider.

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Spring HOME & GARDEN

A rundown on roofing projects

No two home renovation projects are the same. Some projects are highly detailed undertakings that take months if not years from start to finish, while others can be tackled by skilled do-it-yourselfers over the course of a single week-end.

Though each project is different, categorizing renovations as needs or wants can help homeowners determine when the time is right to go forward.

Roof replacement projects typically fall into the "need" category. A decaying roof can jeopardize the safety and security of a home and lead to additional issues, like water damage. It's unwise to delay roof replacement projects when signs of a decaying roof start to appear. Homeowners who



are starting to see such indicators can look to this rundown of roof replacement projects as they begin the process of replacing their roof.

Cost

Roof replacement costs vary considerably depending on a host of variables. Materials, location and the cost of

labor, dimensions of the roof, and even choice of contractor all affect the cost of the project. The home renovation experts at Angi indicate the average roof replacement project costs \$9,500. Asphalt is among the more affordable roofing materials, costing an average of \$1 to \$1.20 per square foot, according to Nerdwallet. Slate roofs will be more expensive, costing anywhere from \$10 to \$30 per square

foot.

Life expectancy

Homeowners may blanch at the cost of a roof replacement project, particularly if they choose a more expensive material. However, it's important to keep life expectancy in mind when receiving roof estimates. Many homeowners never replace a roof twice, making this a potentially costly but ultimately one-time expense. Though slate roofs are expen-

sive, homeowners may find it reassuring that estimates from various roofing resources indicate slate roofs come with a life expectancy ranging from 50 to 200 years. By contrast, Nerdwallet estimates an asphalt roof lasts around 10 to 20 years, while others suggest such roofs can last as long as 30 years.

Materials

Choice of materials is arguably the most significant decision homeowners will make when replacing a roof. The experts at This Old House report that materials typically account for 55 to 65 percent of the overall cost of a roof replacement project. Decisions regarding roof materials will be affected by budget, local climate (certain materials are better suited to particular climates than others), aesthetic appeal, and required maintenance. It's also important that homeowners consider the material warranty of each roofing product. Some materials offer longer warranties than others, which can provide a measure of security to homeowners investing so much in the project.

A roof replacement project is not a renovation that can be delayed when signs the roof is fading start to appear. Homeowners are urged to consider a wide range of variables before committing to a project.



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Spring HOME & GARDEN

Tips to take care of wood flooring

Natural wood flooring is a stunning feature of millions of homes. Wood floors are appreciated for their durability and aesthetic appeal, each of which is bolstered when floors are properly maintained.

A host of variables can affect how long wood flooring lasts and how its appearance holds up over time. Wood flooring in homes with pets that roam around the house, such as cats and dogs, may require more frequent maintenance than those without pets. The same goes for homes with children, who may routinely track dirt in from outside or spill food and drinks with greater frequency than adults. But even wood flooring in homes without pets and children requires consis-

tent maintenance. Homeowners who want to protect their wood floors and ensure they maintain their aesthetic appeal for the long haul can consider the following maintenance tips, courtesy of the National Wood Flooring Association.

- **Sweep, dust or mop each day.** The NWFA recommends daily maintenance to remove dust and dirt that accumulates each day. Such cleaning can prevent damage that can compromise the aesthetic appeal of the floors and potentially affect their longevity.

- **Clean spills immediately.** Spills are inevitable, especially in homes where young children live. Though spills might not be preventable, the damage they can cause can be avoided with

a prompt response. Cleaning spills immediately with a dry or slightly damp cloth can ensure the floors do not soak up the spilled liquids. The NWFA notes that mopping wood floors with a wet mop or steam mop will damage the finish and the wood over long periods of time. If allowed to soak into the floor, spilled liquid can contribute to warping, swelling and staining. Each of those issues can be costly to address, but a quick and immediate cleanup can prevent all three from happening.

- **Vacuum once per week on the bare floor setting.** Utilizing a vacuum is less taxing on wood floors than sweeping so long as the vacuum is on the bare floor setting. Sweeping is best avoided to prevent small particles from being dragged across the floor, which gradually wears down the finish and ultimately contributes to a dull look. Vacuuming vertically lifts the debris off the floor, ensuring nothing is dragged along the surface of the floor. If you're using a manual vacuum instead of a robotic vacuum, vacuum with the grain to reduce the risk of damage.

- **Apply wood flooring cleaner once per month.** If your wood floors are newly installed, ask your installer to recommend a cleaner specifically designed for the finish on your floor. If your floors are not new, contact a flooring professional for a recommendation. Wood flooring cleaners specific to a given floor's finish are important because these products are specialized and formulated with both cleaning and protection of the floor itself in mind. The right wood floor cleaner won't lead to dull-looking floors nor damage the finish.

- **Recoat floors if they start to look dull.** The NWFA notes that recoating with wood floor finish every three to five years can renew the appearance of natural wood flooring that might be starting to look a little dull.

Well-maintained wood floors add much to a home's interiors. Some simple maintenance can ensure wood floors remain durable and aesthetically appealing for decades.





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Spring HOME & GARDEN

Low maintenance landscape features

Outdoor entertaining spaces have come a long way over the last several decades. While a simple deck or patio might once have been the norm, outdoor entertaining spaces have now evolved into multi-purpose spaces featuring full kitchens, living rooms equipped with televisions, and areas to gather around a fireplace or built-in firepit.

While hardscaping garners considerable attention when planning an outdoor entertaining space, landscaping should not be overlooked. Many homeowners want to enjoy their outdoor entertaining spaces without having to spend too much time tending to the surrounding grounds, which can make these low-maintenance landscape features the perfect fit.

Native plants: Native plants are low maintenance because they are naturally adapted to the local climate. That means homeowners won't have to expend extra effort and energy watering plants or amending the soil.

Non-native species may provide some bold colors, but that comes at the cost of additional maintenance. There's also an environmental cost when planting non-native species, as the United States Environmental Protection Agency warns that non-native species typically displace natives, which can adversely affect the local ecosystem.

Perennials: Homeowners looking to accent their outdoor entertaining areas with flowers can choose perennials over annuals. Perennials live for three or more years, and some species can even live for a decade or more. While they might require some seasonal pruning, perennials will not need to be replanted each year like annuals.

Tolerant plants: Plants that can tolerate the local climate generally fall under the native category. But it's especially important that homeowners who don't want to expend much effort on landscape maintenance look for plants that can tolerate drought.

A recent study from researchers at UCLA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric As-

sociation, and CIRES predict drought conditions will last longer, cover wider areas, and

become more severe as the climate continues to warm. Drought-resistant plants may still

require some watering if such predictions hold true. However, such plants will not require as much maintenance as those that are less equipped to handle drought. Homeowners who choose plants with drought-tolerance in mind won't have to spend as much time watering and also can protect their financial investment.

Outdoor entertaining spaces are meant to be enjoyed. And homeowners may enjoy such spaces a lot more if they opt for low-maintenance landscape solutions.



Things to know when replacing windows

Windows are durable, but they do not last forever. The experts at This Old House say the life span of home windows is between 15 and 50 years, with most reaching the upper limits of their life expectancy at around 20 years. Once they reach this age, the seals begin to weaken or fail, and windows become susceptible to drafts and water seepage.

Replacing windows can be a good investment. Such a project is one of the more effective ways to elevate a home's curb appeal and value. New windows are energy efficient and make homes more secure. They also tend to look better than old, fading windows. When pondering a window replacement project, it's important to consider these factors.

Know the window types. Double hung windows are classic and have operable upper and low-

er sashes. Lowering the upper sash allows warm air near the ceiling to escape and cooler air can to flow in through the bottom. Single hung windows only have an operable lower sash. Sliding windows have one or more panels that move horizontally, and picture windows are fixed models designed to offer wide, unobstructed views and lots of light.

Repair or replace windows. Existing windows might just need to be repaired, saving homeowners thousands of dollars. It's best to consult with a professional to see if certain components can be repaired rather than replaced. Typically, rotten framing, wet or weeping windows or significant drafts require replacement.

Identify the differences between replacement windows and construction windows. Traditional replacement windows are sometimes called pocket windows, says Consumer Reports. They fit inside an existing window frame. Construction windows require the removal of the entire old window, including the frame, sill and trim. The latter cost more to install.

Familiarize yourself with window frame materials. Various window frame materials are available for purchase, and variables such as heat transfer, maintenance and durability differ with each product. Vinyl is a common material that's low-maintenance and affordable. Aluminum and aluminum clad windows can be economical options, and they are corrosion-resistant and require little maintenance. Wood also is popular for the interior parts of a window, and offer a traditional look. Wood is available on new construction windows. Fiberglass windows also are available in new construction windows. They won't crack, warp, rust, corrode, or peel, and the frames will not expand and contract as much as other materials.

Keep costs in mind. According to Fixr, an online marketplace for local remodeling services, the average national price for a professional to replace a window is around \$800. For a one-story house, a window replacement project of multiple windows may cost around \$8,000.

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Spring HOME & GARDEN

Is a sunroom right for you?

There is no denying the appeal of a sunroom. Sunrooms bring more of the outdoors inside by bridging the gap between home and yard. Demand is shifting, with more than 61 percent of homeowners now preferring four-season insulated rooms for year-round use, according to Market Reports World. A sunroom has the potential to offer a roughly 50 percent return on investment and can cost anywhere from \$22,000 to

\$72,000 on average. A sunroom addition is a significant investment and a decision not to take lightly, as it changes both the interior floor plan and backyard space. To decide if a sunroom really is a worthwhile endeavor, it's important for homeowners to consider the footprint of their homes/yards, how they plan to use the space, and the amount of sun the home receives.

Home footprint



Professionals with the National Association of Realtors say that a sunroom should not consume more than 30 per cent of the remaining backyard and urge homeowners to avoid over-developing a lot. If installing a sunroom will leave a homeowner with only a small patch of yard afterwards, the result can feel heavy and unbalanced. It also won't match the neighborhood.

Another consideration is the local zoning ordinances where a person lives.

Utility

It is vital that homeowners determine how they will use the space and when. This will dictate the type of sunroom that should be built. A three-season room is typically uninsulated with only single-pane glass. This is ideal if someone is looking for a screened-in retreat without all of the bugs and a little weather protection. Four-season rooms are fully insulated and tie into a home's HVAC system. This space will be functional all year long, but it is a more expensive undertaking as well.

Light evaluation

The purpose of a sunroom is to benefit from the sun. The value of the

space will depend entirely on which way the room faces. North-facing sunrooms have soft light with minimal heat or glare that likely can be used all day. Morning people can appreciate an east-facing sunroom while drinking coffee or reading, and the space will cool down in the afternoon. South-facing rooms will be bright most of the day and may need high-end HVAC hookups or shades to stay comfortable, even in cooler months. West-facing sunrooms are great for watching sunsets, but the hot afternoon sun must be considered. UV-rated glass to prevent floor fading and even sunburn likely will be needed.

It is important to work with a company that specializes in sunrooms. Such firms are experienced in helping homeowners design and ultimately build these spaces to avoid common pitfalls, advises Champion, a window, sunroom and home exterior company.

In general, a sunroom is not a DIY project since it typically involves a major structural change. It can be a viable addition to a home when built correctly to remain durable through every season.



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Spring HOME & GARDEN

Protect your home from these 3 extreme weather risks

Canadians have never been strangers to harsh weather. But recent years have seen a rise in intense storms, flooding and wildfires across the country.

“The truth is that extreme weather events are becoming more common, and it’s putting Canadian households at risk,” said Mel Wright, vice president and head of Intact Insurance’s prevention program, which educates homeowners on making their properties climate-ready. “Being prepared is your best defence, and there are things you can start doing around the house today to help protect it.”

Here are steps you can take to be better prepared for three of the most frequent extreme weather events:

Flooding. It’s the most common and expensive natural disaster in the

country, according to Public Safety Canada. Flooding can cause lasting damage to your home, especially the foundation. The key to flood preparedness is managing how water drains.

- Make sure to clean your gutters and eavestroughs regularly—even small amounts of debris can quickly become a blockage.

- Verify that your downspouts empty out at least six feet from your foundation.

- Set up a schedule to clean out your backwater valve and test your sump pump twice a year. If you don’t have a sump pump and backwater valve installed in your basement or crawl space, consider installing them.

Wildfire. In the event of a fire, your home’s roof is at greatest risk:

embers and sparks can float through the air and land there, where they can be harder to see and can ignite some roofing materials.

- Installing shingles made from Class A roofing materials like cement fibre, asphalt or metal can help slow or prevent your roof from igniting.

- It’s also important to create a fire break around your home—a gap where there’s no combustible material. Clear anything flammable, such as mulch, plants or firewood, from an area at least 1.5 metres from the exterior walls. If you can, clear any evergreen trees, such as pines, for at least 10 metres around your home. These types of trees are much more flammable than others.

Storms and strong winds. The biggest danger from strong winds is

what might be blowing around.

- Make sure to secure any outdoor furniture and other objects, such as bird feeders or barbecues, to keep them from flying off, falling over or damaging your home.

- Switch your gardening and landscaping materials to something soft like soil, as opposed to stones, because strong winds can pick up heavier objects than you’d expect.

- Consider fortifying your doors and sealing exterior gaps and cracks in walls, as well as around pipes and fixtures.

Simple upgrades and home maintenance can go a long way in keeping your home protected. Learn more about preparing for extreme weather at keepitintact.ca.

www.newscanada.com



How to spot foundation issues at home

Home ownership can be a rewarding endeavor and a good investment over time. But homes require consistent upkeep to ensure a property remains safe, a condition of ownership that renters typically do not need to concern themselves with.

Foundation issues are

a component of home ownership that can be easy to forget, as such concerns are not necessarily evident in frequently visited areas of a home. A foundation provides structural integrity for the entire home, so addressing damage is essential. The experts at This Old

House indicate that some foundation issues can be relatively easy and inexpensive to address. Other issues may not be so simple, especially if they challenge the structural integrity of a home.

Learning to recognize foundation issues can help homeowners sort

through small problems and big ones. But what are signs of foundation problems? Consider these potential issues, as noted by This Old House, Robbie Breau & Team Real Broker, LLC and Bay Crawl Space Foundation Repair.

- **Cracks in walls:** Cracks appearing in foundation walls, dry-wall or plaster, especially diagonal or stair-step cracks forming near doorways, windows or corners, might be indicative of foundation movement. If a crack has formed in a living space, something is likely moving below since floors are supported from the foundation upward. Cracks thicker than one-quarter of an inch in foundation walls or home walls can be a problem.

- **Sagging porches**

and stoops: Notable sagging of porches or stoops can indicate that a house is sinking or changing faster than other areas.

- **Separation between door and window frames and walls:** Gaps can form around windows and doors if the foundation is shifting. The gaps that form can lead to water and pest infiltration if left untreated, causing even more issues.

- **Cabinets and countertops separating from walls:** Homeowners who notice considerable space forming between cabinets or countertops and the wall indicate that the frame of the home is out of square. That likely means a foundation is settling or sinking.

- **Squeaky, bouncy or sagging floors:**

While these issues in floors may not always result from foundation issues, they often indicate that moisture has invaded the basement or crawl space. That moisture may have gained access through a cracked or compromised foundation.

- **Leaning or cracked chimney:** If a chimney resembles the Leaning Tower of Pisa, it could be a sign of possible foundation issues causing settling or sinking.

Bringing in a professional to assess potential foundation issues is a good idea. While certain foundation problems can be remedied by homeowners themselves, it’s best to rule out more serious issues that may require professional expertise before going the DIY route.



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MENNONITE CHURCH
Glenbush
11:00 am Worship
 - BETHEL**
Medstead
2nd Sunday, 10 am -
Worship
Pastor David Jensen
4th Sunday, 10 am - Worship
Pastor David Jensen
 - MENNONITE BRETHERN**
Glenbush
10:00 am - Sunday School
Worship 10:50 am
 - Gideons International of Canada**
Battlefords Camp
Phone Art Martynes
(306) 389-4633
 - PARTNERS IN WORSHIP**
Shell Lake
Worship Services
Sunday 10:00 a.m.
306-883-8885
 - LAKELAND COMMUNITY CHURCH**
(Corner of 1st Ave. and
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Service & Sunday School
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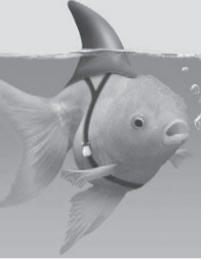
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