

Shellbrook Chronicle & Spiritwood Herald

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Thursday, July 16, 2026

www.shellbrookchronicle.com | www.spiritwoodherald.com

Fallen Spiritwood officers honoured after 20 years

By BEVRA FEE
Spiritwood Herald Reporter

The tragic shooting deaths of Constable Robin Cameron and Constable Marc Bourdages 20 years ago were commemorated on July 7, 2026, in Spiritwood. As they have done each year, the Spiritwood RCMP and the Witchekan Lake First Nation (WLFN) came together for a gathering of community and a sharing of culture.

Held at the Memorial Park that was created in their honour, a public celebration of the two officers' lives and their sacrifice in the line of duty showcased the respect for both the Mounties and the First Nation's daughter, Robin Cameron. With a free barbecue and visiting between the local citizens and the honoured guests, the complimentary mid-day lunch preceded the formal program that was emceed by Lyle Whitefish, Band Manager for WLFN.

In his introduction, Mr. Whitefish spoke about the close relationship between the First Nation and the Town of Spiritwood. Whitefish went on to outline the historic relationship between Treaty 6 inhabitants and the Northwest Mounted Police and how that friendship has evolved into the current collaboration between the parties.

After the barbecue, esteemed Elder Barney Tipewan offered a blessing to begin the ceremony.

With the honour guard being drummed in by Iron Cree from Big River First Nation and led by cultural dancers in full regalia, the impressive turnout of red serge included Cameron's troop mates. Three of her fellow officers from the graduating troop of 2001 comprised the lineup, along with Commanding Officer of F Division, Robin McNeil.

McNeil spoke during the program, noting that, "This has been two decades of remembering the legacy of these two officers. Two decades, 20 years since the day that was their final call to service. At the end of the day, sometimes that service has a tremendous cost. The grief remains - it settles, it changes, but it never goes away. Neither does their memory."

Spiritwood's Sgt. Carlin Thiessen offered comments also, "Thank you to everyone who shows us support from Spiritwood and the surround-



Frederick Whitehead of Pelican Lake First Nation adjusts the headdress of his grandson, one of the traditional dancers.

ing area. Day to day, we don't always feel the support from our communities, but when we host events like this it means a lot to see the community."

Chief of WLFN, Raymon Harris, spoke about the realities of the risk involved in the RCMP's line of duty while protecting the communities they serve. "As we reflect, let us honour their legacy and sacrifice, not only in words but in how we live. May we continue to walk forward with humility and respect."

In attendance was Athabasca MLA Leroy Laliberte, who is also Cameron's brother-in-law.

on's brother-in-law.

"I feel deeply honoured to be here with you on behalf of the family. I am not here as an MLA today, but to represent the family of Robin," he said. Thank you to the community of Spiritwood for allowing this park to be here and to honour Robin and Marc — it gives us a place when we are driving by to have a seat and think about the memories we have with them. Thanks to Russ Merasty for being here and for the support he gave our family right from the day of the tragic event."

Adam Gatzke represented the Town of Spiritwood and offered gratitude to the RCMP and WLFN Band, noting how the service and sacrifice of Cameron and Bourdages is still appreciated today, "May we continue to remember Robin and Marc with gratitude and respect."

To cap off the celebration of remembrance, traditional dance demonstrations were offered by the Cree dancers, concluding with a group dance where everyone was invited to participate together.

More photos on page 8



SPIRITWOOD
PHARMACY GROCERY

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

Last Call: Woytiuks reflect on life of service

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle
Reporter

Two months after they decided to sell Blaine Lake Ambulance and retire, Keith and Diana Woytiuk feel like they can look back on the past three decades a little more fondly.

The grandson of Michael Dutchak, who founded Blaine Lake Ambulance in 1957 before branching out to establish ambulance services in Spiritwood, Prince Albert, and Big River, Keith was born and raised in Blaine Lake and became a third-generation paramedic in 1992.

Diana, however, began her professional life as an architectural engineering technologist, but found the career path unfulfilling.

“When my oldest sister died from breast cancer at a very young age, I became very interested in the medical field. I wasn’t nursing material; I knew that,” Diana said.

“My sister, who is a nurse, suggested paramedicine. I thought, ‘Why not? I’ll give it a try and see where this goes.’ Thirty years later, you can see where it went.”

Diana became a paramedic in 1996, and was happy to settle into the small-town life. Two years later, she and Keith took over Blaine Lake Ambulance, continuing its legacy as the oldest family-run ambulance service in western Canada.

But the world of paramedicine that Keith and Diana entered was vastly different compared to



After three decades of service, Keith and Diana Woytiuk have sold Blaine Lake Ambulance and retired. Pictured, left to right: new owners Steven and Michelle Skoworodko and Jackson Skoworodko and Madeleine Hunter, with Diana and Keith Woytiuk.

today.

When the couple started, Blaine Lake Ambulance averaged 30 calls per month. And when they officially sold the business earlier this year, their final month proved to be their busiest at 157 calls.

This was no anomaly, as their last year was also their busiest year for calls, with just short of 1,500.

But as Keith explains, it’s not just a question of increasing call volumes.

As a vital service hub with no nearby hospitals, Blaine Lake Ambulance’s paramedics serve a large area locally but also sometimes have to travel as far as Prince Albert or Saskatoon. In their last year, Keith says the company’s ambulances racked up roughly 225,000 kilometres.

Yet, through three

decades of constantly being on call, Keith and Diana say they never lost sight of what led them to careers in paramedicine in the first place: a drive to help people.

“My grandfather always said, and it was something we tried to instill in our staff, just because it’s not an emergency to you, doesn’t mean it isn’t an emergency to them. Compassion is huge,” Keith recalled. “The emergency side of it is such a small portion. It’s holding the hand of the elderly person because they’re lonely, or getting a chair for the husband sitting in the hallway, waiting with their wife.”

“In this job, you get those moments where you know you genuinely helped somebody, not necessarily because you saved their life, just because you were there

for them and you were a person who listened,” Diana added. “You get those moments every once in a while, and they carry you through the really crappy moments.”

Though their passion for caring for people on their worst days hasn’t waned (Diana continues to serve as the community coroner), Keith and Diana admit that the hardships of the COVID-19 pandemic really took a toll on them and prompted them to think about their future beyond paramedicine.

“The staffing shortfall that came with COVID, and then having to struggle to get staff, years of dealing with the lack of funding EMS has always dealt with, and just burnout from doing it so often... you just get to the point where you’re done,” she said, noting that funding has always been a problem, regardless of what political party’s in power.

As Keith and Diana started seriously discussing what would happen with Blaine Lake Ambulance after their era came to a close, they knew they had to add a supervisor to their team. Fortunately, because the EMS industry is a small community, they connected with Jackson Skoworodko, whose family owns and operates Wakaw & District EMS.

Skoworodko had just finished his advanced care paramedic training, bringing a higher level of expertise to Blaine Lake Ambulance, along with a youthful zeal and new ideas to improve patient care.

“We had in our mind that if we were going to sell, we wanted to sell to someone who has the same values we have, which means community, community, community, and always trying to do what’s best for the patient,” Keith said.

“[Jackson] was a perfect fit. Near the end, he

was pretty much running the company.”

Now that they’ve switched off their radios for good, Keith and Diana say they can enter retirement with confidence, knowing Blaine Lake Ambulance is in good hands and currently has a stable staffing complement of young paramedics.

And though they’ve dedicated their lives to caring for others, neither of them is concerned about the legacy they’re leaving behind. Instead, they’re more focused on what the future holds.

“We want to see Blaine Lake Ambulance continue to grow and evolve. That could mean full-time advanced care paramedics, instituting the community paramedics program, or setting up a community emergency centre,” Diana said.

“We don’t want staff to become numbers and patients to become invoices,” Keith added. “EMS isn’t about that. It’s supposed to be first and foremost about helping people.”

FORM H
[Section 66 of the Act]

Notice of Call for Nominations
Municipal By-Election
TOWN OF BIG RIVER

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

Councillor: Town of Big River
Number to be Elected: One (1)

will be received by the undersigned Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. from the 16th day of July 2026 until the 5th day of August 2026, at the Town of Big River Municipal Office.

Nominations Forms must be accompanied by a completed version of the Town of Big River’s Public Disclosure Statement, as required pursuant to *The Municipalities Act*, and *The Local Government Election Act*, 2015.

Nomination forms, along with the Town of Big River Public Disclosure Form, may be obtained from the Town Office located at 606 1st Street North, Big River, SK.

Dated at Big River, Saskatchewan, this 16th day of July, 2026.

Noreen Olsen
Returning Officer

VILLAGE OF MARCELIN
FOR SALE BY TENDER

The following properties:

Lot 1-2, Block 5, Plan No. P5206

TENDER OPEN:
THURSDAY, JULY 16TH, 2026 @ 8:30AM

TENDER CLOSE:
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19TH, 2026 @ 4:00PM

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

SUBMIT TENDER TO:
Village of Marcelin
Box 39
Marcelin, Sask.
S0J 1R0

Dated this 16th day of July, 2026.

Leanne McCormick
CAO

NOTIFICATION OF PROPOSED TOWER REPLACEMENT

Access Communications Cooperative

Is proposing a 150ft (45.7m) self-supported structure tower replacement at:

53.220698, -106.375029, in Shellbrook, SK
to be used to deliver fixed wireless high speed internet services.

For details on this proposal, please visit:
<https://myaccess.ca/publicnotifications/>
Comments or concerns can be addressed by July 25, 2026, to:
public.relations@myaccess.coop
or
SBH Public Consultation
Access Communications
826 57th St. E, Saskatoon, SK S7K 5Z1

Opposition, daycares concerned about childcare changes

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle
Reporter

The Saskatchewan NDP and daycares across the province are calling on the Sask Party government to reverse course on changes to childcare policies that came into effect on July 1.

Currently, Saskatchewan is a signatory to the federal government's \$10 per day childcare program. Launched in 2021, the program sees the federal and provincial governments provide direct operating grants to licensed daycares, eliminating the need for parents to pay full-market rates.

In Saskatchewan, this means parents of children under the age of six pay a maximum of \$217.50 per month for full-time daycare.

Prior to the provincial government's changes, daycares would receive full grant funding for drop-in or part-time children — such as children who only attend kindergarten every other day or children with parents who do shift work.

Now, however, daycares won't receive grant funding and will only be able to charge \$10 per day (or \$1 per hour) per drop-in or part-time child. For some daycares, this will mean a significant monetary loss.

The Ministry of Education says the change

reflects a necessary change in strategy.

"To protect and sustain a strong Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) system, we are shifting from rapid expansion to a focus on stabilization and sustainability for the operators and families," it said in a statement.

But as parents and daycares across the province continue to grapple with cost-of-living challenges, NDP Shadow Minister for Early Learning & Childcare Joan Pratchler says many facilities are already running deficits.

Losing funding for drop-in and part-time children, she says, will only exacerbate these challenges.

"What I'm hearing from providers all over the province is they won't take part-time [children] because we can only get \$10 per day," Pratchler said. "When a provider can't afford to take part-time children, where do those children go? That's the scary thing for families right now."

As a non-profit childcare facility, Shellbrook's Happy Hearts Childcare Centre is in the same boat as other daycares across the province.

But director Natalie Smart says Happy Hearts faces additional costs by not being attached to a school, including a mortgage, electricity, and water

bills, as well as maintenance.

With these additional (and constantly growing) expenses factored in, Smart says the daycare needs \$20,000 to \$30,000 per year to operate, and the changes to the province's funding model will make this more difficult.

"With the rising cost of living and the new regulations that will limit our income, we will have no choice but to do additional fundraising to continue to run our program," she said.

For Pratchler, a childcare system that is dependent on fundraising is simply unsustainable.

"Childcare is an economic enabling infrastructure. It's no different than a road, transportation, or all those kinds of infrastructure that keep communities viable," she said.

"In the old days, if a community was going to die, it usually started when you closed the school. In 2026, if you want to see a community slowly die, shutdown their childcare."

In addition to cutting funding for drop-in or part-time childcare spots, the provincial government has also changed the financial supports available to those seeking early childhood education (ECE) certification.

ECEs are broken down into three levels based on their level of

training. As part of the Canada-Saskatchewan Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement, the Sask. Party government established funding agreements with post-secondary institutions for tuition-free ECE training and professional development for all levels of certification.

The Ministry of Education also provided \$3 million in funding for bursaries to Saskatchewan Polytechnic, SIIT and Collège Mathieu.

With the next school year, the government is winding down those bursaries and will only offer tuition-free training to Level 1 (entry level) ECEs.

For those seeking Level 2 or Level 3 certification, the Ministry of Education says it plans to maintain the Tuition Reimbursement Grant, which covers up to \$500 for tuition and textbook costs.

At the same time, licensed childcare facilities are required to have

at least 20 per cent of employees with Level 3 certification and 30 per cent with Level 2 certification.

For Level 1 ECEs, who make \$20 per hour, Pratchler says advancing to Level 2 or Level 3 certification may now be out of reach. This

means daycares could soon face staffing challenges in addition to funding shortfalls.

"Is that really how we want to fund childcare?" Pratchler said. "If the government wants to have a great and growing economy, it better ante up."

PUBLIC NOTICE

RM of Shellbrook No. 493 Public Notice Official Community Plan Amendment

Public Notice is hereby given that the Council of the Rural Municipality of Shellbrook No. 493 (RM) intends to consider a bylaw under *The Planning and Development Act, 2007*, to amend Bylaw No. 2018-09, known as the Official Community Plan (OCP).

INTENT: The proposed OCP amendment would redesignate, on the RM's OCP Future Land Use Map, a portion of SE ¼ 22-49-03-W3M from Industrial Development Area to Agriculture Development Area.

AFFECTED LAND: SE ¼ 22-49-03-W3M Ext. 101, and Parcel A, Plan 101879400 Ext. 98 [both within SE ¼ 22-49-03-W3M] would be subject to redesignation. The subject land is immediately northwest of the Organized Hamlet of Holbein.

REASON: Redesignation is required to align land use policy area designation with the existing zoning of the subject lands, being AR – Agricultural Residential District, to accommodate the subdivision of an existing non-farm residence and the agricultural use of the balance of the quarter section.

PUBLIC INSPECTION: Any person may inspect the bylaw at the RM office during regular office hours, excluding statutory holidays. Draft copy of the proposed bylaw is available from the RM office; hard copy at cost, digital copy free upon request or at the web address below. Copy of the proposed amendment, including maps showing proposed land use designation change, will be posted on the RM's website at the following web address: <https://www.rmofshellbrook.com/notice>. The RM office is located at RM Office at 71 Main Street, Shellbrook, SK, S0J 2E0 (PO Box 250).

PUBLIC HEARING: Council will hold a public hearing on **August 5, 2026, at 10:00 am**, in the RM Office to hear any person or group that wants to comment on the proposed bylaws. Please contact the office prior to the hearing for protocols related to making in-person representation. Council will also consider written comments received by the undersigned by **July 31, 2026**. For additional information, please contact (306) 747-2178 or admin.493@sasktel.net.

Issued at the Town of Shellbrook this 9th day of July, 2026.
Alicia tenBos – Acting Administrator – RM of Shellbrook No. 493

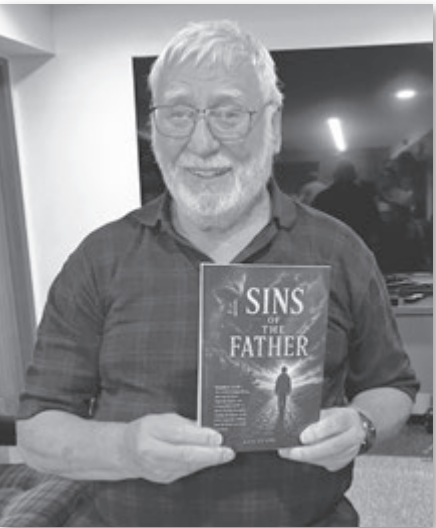
Former Canwood resident launches new book at library

By **BEV WYATT**
Canwood Library Board

The Canwood Public Library welcomed more than 25 guests for the launch of former Canwood resident Don Klepp's new novel, *Sins of the Father*. The book expands on a character introduced in his previous novel, *High and Inside*.

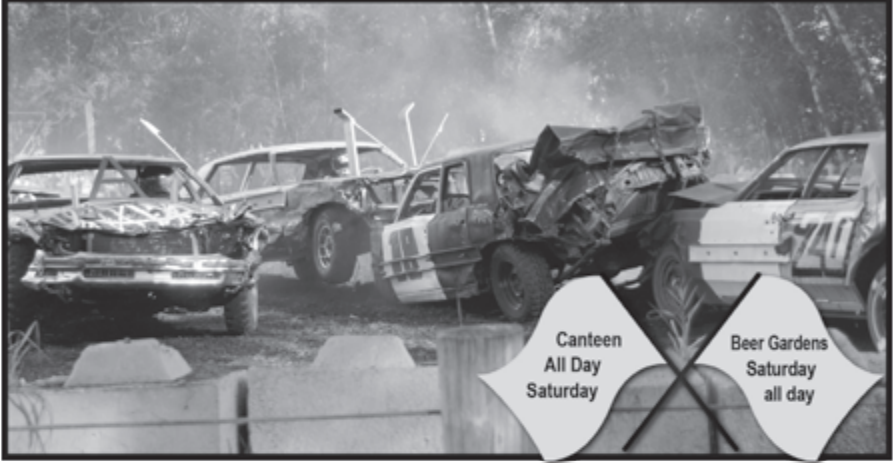
Klepp kept the audience entertained throughout the event with humour, heartfelt stories, readings from the book, and even a few choruses of songs. His presentation had everyone laughing while also touching hearts with its themes of faith, forgiveness, and the consequences of generational decisions.

A wonderful, thought-provoking book to borrow for your next read!



Don Klepp, author and former Canwood resident, shared his latest book, *Sins of the Father*, at the Canwood Library.

SATURDAY, JULY 25, 2026



Canteen
All Day
Saturday

Beer Gardens
Saturday
all day

PARKSIDE & DISTRICT COMMUNITY CLUB

Demolition Derby ~ Sat. July 25

To enter Derby, phone **Derek Olson 306-747-9114** or **306-747-2000**

OVER \$17,000.00 IN PRIZE MONEY

All Derby Drivers Must Register on Grounds by 10 a.m. - Saturday, July 25

- Drivers' Meeting 12:00 noon • Barrel Races, 1 p.m. start
- Demo Derby Starts 3 p.m.

• \$250⁰⁰ Deposit
Deadline: July 21st

• 10 Team Limit

• Min. of 3 Ladies/Team

Phone
Brett Mason
306-747-7837

Mixed Slo-Pitch Tourney

Fri. Evening & Saturday

July 24 & 25

Gate Admission: \$10⁰⁰ • 6-12 \$5⁰⁰
• Under 6 Free • Dance \$10⁰⁰

Dance Saturday Night

Featuring Live Music by

STONE HALO

9:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m.

Must be 19 years of age
(ID required)

Details, not judgement needed on condo plan

In 2008, the world narrowly avoided a global economic disaster not seen since the Great Depression of the 1930s.

The seeds of the near-catastrophe were planted in the United States in the early 2000s, when the Federal Reserve lowered interest rates in a bid to boost the economy.

As fiscal policy went, the move was pretty textbook. Lowering interest rates allows more people and businesses to borrow money and participate in the economy, spurring growth.

However, intentionally or not, the easing of interest rates created a massive boom in home buying, without the adequate regulatory safeguards to prevent predatory lending.

Hoping to capitalize on the housing bonanza, lenders loosened their standards by offering subprime mortgages to borrowers with poor credit or low incomes, knowing full well they wouldn't be able to afford mortgage payments when interest rates inevitably went back up.

Aware of the dangerous assets they were holding, lenders sold the loans to large investment banks, who were just as thrilled to play risky games with people's homes and livelihoods.

By 2006, the burst of the housing bubble was imminent. Housing prices peaked and went into freefall, mortgage rates rose, borrowers began defaulting on their loans at unprecedented rates, and the lenders who preyed upon them went belly up.

Had the implosion been allowed to continue, the United States would have taken the global economy down with it. Instead, the United States government stepped in to bail out the banks to the tune of hundreds of billions of dollars (the exact direct and indirect totals are still hotly debated, and much of the money was repaid with interest).

Through its stricter banking regulations, Canada was spared the worst of the financial disaster and came out the other side of it quicker.



JORDAN
TWISS

~
News Editor

That's not to say, though, that Canada emerged entirely unscathed.

As the economic disaster spread, the American and Canadian automotive industries found themselves in peril.

To keep them afloat in Canada, Prime Minister Stephen Harper's government issued loans of \$10.6 billion to GM and about \$3 billion to Chrysler.

In the end, analysts say the cost to taxpayers of loans that were never recovered and subsequently written off is nearly \$4 billion.

Since 2008, this type of corporate welfare has been no less commonplace in Canada. Through subsidies, loans, and other programs, governments of all sizes spend billions of taxpayer dollars per year to prop up struggling businesses deemed too important to fail, or to attract new investment.

As they say: "privatize the gains, socialize the losses."

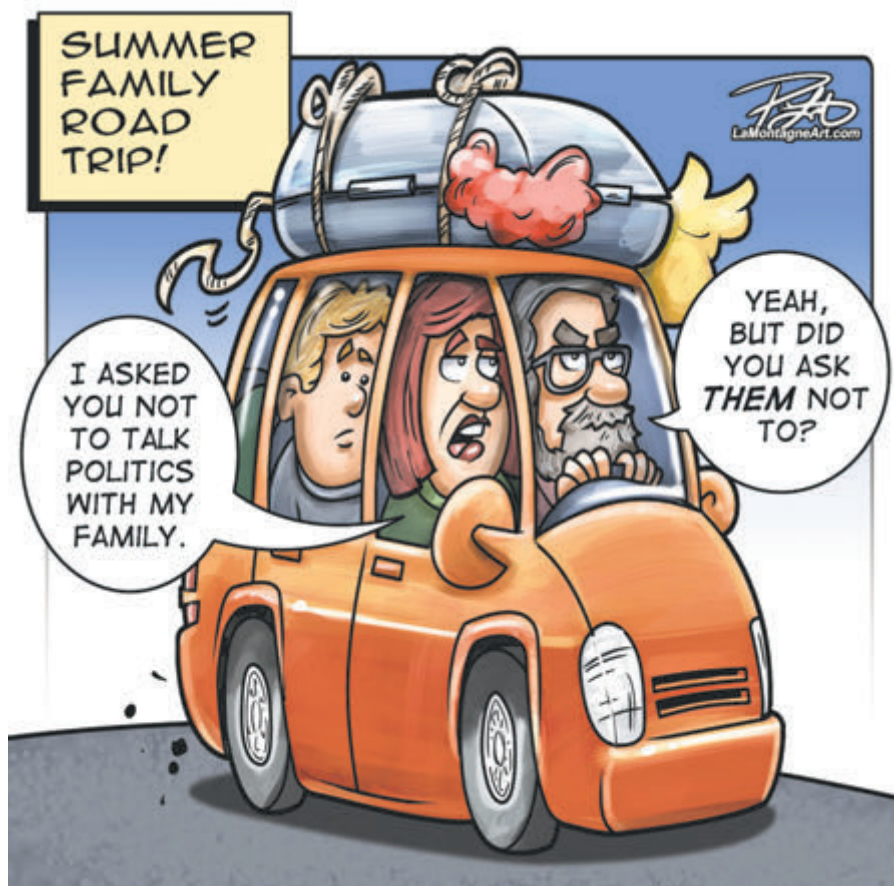
Today, the events of the 2008 global financial crisis seem particularly relevant as questions continue to swirl about a proposed partnership between the federal government and the government of B.C. to purchase unsold condos and convert them to affordable housing.

Though the plan was announced by Prime Minister Mark Carney and Premier David Eby in June, the finer details of the proposal remain scarce.

The proposal is part of a broader \$3.2 billion plan that will also lower municipal development charges for multi-unit housing by up to 50 per cent (saving up to \$40,000 per unit).

As for the condo buyout, the governments are said to be eying up to 2,200 vacant, unsold condos, with plans to contribute \$150 million each and secure financing to cover the remaining costs of up to \$1.45 billion.

Any condos acquired through this plan would be converted to affordable housing through a rent-to-own model.



Mr. Eby has attempted to clarify that the condos will only be purchased at "liquidation" rates, well below the cost of construction.

Meanwhile, Mr. Carney has said the plan will only proceed "if it makes sense."

"If those opportunities present themselves — we've created the flexibility in order to get affordable housing to people at a cheaper price than could be built — we'll do it," he said.

"If the market shifts, if the opportunity doesn't present itself, then it won't happen."

Though so much about the plan remains unknown — the condos and developers in question, the actual cost of the condos, and the fiscal guardrails the governments will follow — this hasn't prevented the official opposition from sounding a five-alarm fire about the plan.

Conservative Party Leader Pierre Poilievre has called it a "billion-dollar bailout of billionaire Vancouver developers."

Meanwhile, B.C. MP and Conservative Ethics critic Aaron Gunn called an "urgent" meeting of the federal Ethics Committee to "investigate the Liberals' billionaire developer bailout."

Offering no evidence to support his allegation, Mr. Gunn says the plan is to buy the condos at "above market

cost to save developers from having to lower prices and sell at a loss."

Are more details about the plan needed? Absolutely.

Should we be asking questions about who stands to benefit from the plan? Also, yes.

But the Conservatives' performative stunts aren't about bringing this information to light. They're about creating so much moral outrage that no one will listen, even if the plan is a good one.

In the meantime, the only solution Conservatives have for the aspiring homeowners that the Liberals are "screwing over," is to sit and wait for the housing market to adjust itself.

But the average price of a home in B.C. is currently about \$900,000. It could take years for the market to adjust downward, and even then, Canadians most in need of affordable housing would likely still be priced out of the market.

If done right (and, admittedly, that is a big if), this plan could boost the availability of affordable housing faster and cheaper than building new units.

And if a consequence of the plan is that some developers stay afloat to continue building the homes Canadians need (at more realistic price points), that seems like a pretty reasonable trade-off.

Shellbrook Chronicle

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

Spiritwood Herald

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

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: In the interest of readers of this newspaper, we will publish opinions of our readers. Letters To The Editor are most welcome; however, they must be signed and include writer's contact information and will only be published with the writer's name on it. Letters should be limited in length and be typed or clearly written. We reserve the right to edit letters depending on available space.

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Honeywood Happenings

By **JUDY HARLEY**
Honeywood Heritage Nursery

Honeywood’s season got off to a great start. This year Honeywood (Dr. A. J. Porter) Heritage Nursery is celebrating 25 years as a Heritage Site. Honeywood opened to the public in 2001 and thus began the restoration project of the grounds, buildings, and fields of Honeywood Nursery. In order to protect and preserve the heritage of Honeywood Nursery, it

was designated a Municipal Heritage Site in the early spring of 2001 and the name became: Honeywood (Dr. A. J. Porter) Heritage Nursery. It was designated a Provincial Heritage Site in 2007, and became a non-profit entity in Saskatchewan in November of 2009, adding Incorporated to the name. A lot of labour and love by workers, volunteers and donors went into the many years it took to create what is now an amazing heritage site. Honeywood’s staff, Janie (nursery manager)

and Lee (maintenance manager) Denton, along with its Canada Summer Jobs youths have the nursery looking like a park. Come out for a visit and/or picnic and enjoy the peace & tranquility of this amazing Provincial Heritage Site! Tour the lovely display gardens in the yard and visit Gale’s Learning Garden located adjacent to the parking area. Take a walking tour of the orchards and fields to see the many varieties of trees, shrubs and the last of the dau-

ricum lilies growing throughout the nursery grounds. Make sure you browse the peony patch beside Allan’s Garden to catch sight of the last of the peonies in bloom. The Gift shop is a must visit as Janie has a great selection of jellies made from all kinds of fruit and flowers growing at the nursery! And of course, shop for your favorite lily, perennial or fruit/ornamental trees/shrubs. Lilies in Bloom on Sunday, July 19, is one not to be missed, as it is a celebration of Honeywood’s 25th anniversary. It will feature all the usual excitement, such as artisan tables, musical entertainment, and great food, as well as lots for the kids to do: a petting zoo, a fairy house hunt, and ice cream and popcorn. Please note the entrance fee (\$10 for anyone over 12), food, and some artisans only accept cash. Cash, cheque, credit, and debit are all accepted in the gift shop. Remember, Honeywood is open free to the

public daily, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. to shop, tour the grounds, check out the beautiful gardens, enjoy a picnic lunch anywhere you choose or just enjoy the serenity and beauty of this Provincial Heritage Site.

We look forward to seeing and serving you whenever you come during the 2026 season. Without the help of you, our friends and neighbours, Honeywood would not be the great place it is today.



Visitors check out the garden at Honeywood.

YOUR TWO CENTS ~ The Purple Party paradox

Dear editor,
Let’s imagine a new Canadian party. They pick purple as their colour because they are a perfect blend of red progressive human rights and blue conservative economic stability. Their platform has five pillars: cost of living relief, housing, healthcare, responsible immigration, and energy security with environmental stewardship. Each pillar balances compassion with fiscal responsibility. Now let’s imagine that the Purple Party is second-past-the-post in each of Canada’s 343 ridings. How many seats would they win in the House of Com-

mons? Zero. Yes, zero! Even though they won more of the popular vote, as the Conservatives did in 2019 and 2021, they could still be shut out of Parliament entirely. That’s the fundamental flaw of first-past-the-post—millions of votes can result in zero representation. Electoral reform with proportional representation would solve this unfairness. If the Purple Party won 35% of the vote, they would win 35% of the seats. Imagine knowing that your vote would count, help elect someone, never be wasted or split the vote, and make every riding matter in every election.

Unlike Canada, most OECD countries use proportional or mixed electoral systems. When votes are translated into seats, you are more likely to believe your voice matters. That belief builds trust in democracy. Trust creates a stronger sense of belonging, where you feel less ignored or shut out. A democracy you trust is more likely to stay united. Support electoral reform with PR. Visit *FairVote.ca* or *Charter-Challenge.ca* to learn how. 35% votes = 35% seats—simple math, fair representation Nancy Carswell, Shellbrook, Sask.

**COMMISSIONAIRES**
TRUSTED · EVERYDAY · EVERYWHERE

WE ARE HIRING!

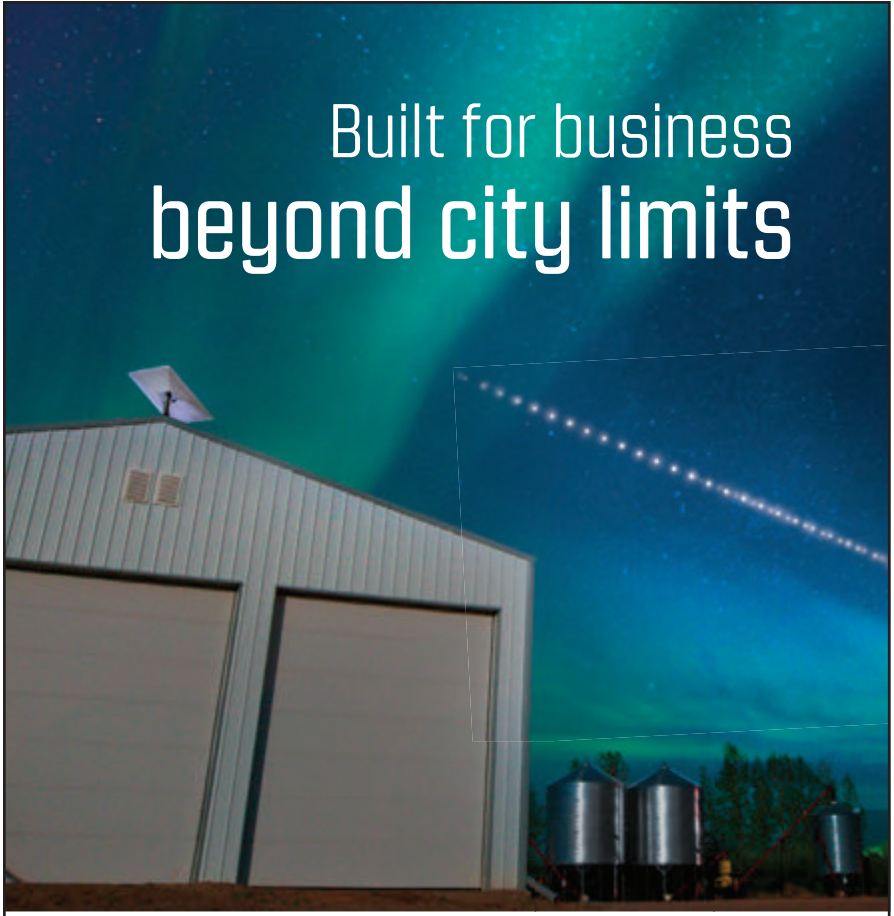
Who are the Commissionaires?
We are the only not-for-profit security company in Canada. We have the social mandate of the re-employment of Veterans (whether they are Military or RCMP), as well as anyone else interested in serving their community.

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Payrate: \$20.68 per hour

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Herndier steps into Sports Coordinator role

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

Some in Shellbrook know her as an educator. Others know her as dedicated sports coach and parent. And others, still, know her as a committed community volunteer.

Soon, everyone will get to know Kelly Herndier as the Town of Shellbrook's Sports Coordinator, a role she says melds her passion for recreation and community.

"I believe sports is a very important part of any community. It brings residents together from many different demographics. At any given sporting event, attendees range from young to old," she said.

"A lot of the older generation have been

involved in the past as players, parents and/or coaches and now they are there to support the younger generation as they forge their own path. Being a part of that community is inspiring and I want to continue to foster those relationships."

In her new capacity as sports coordinator, Herndier will work to improve quality of life for residents by coordinating sports and recreation programming, and serve as the liaison between the town, recreation boards, community groups, volunteers, and residents.

As the go-to for all things sports and recreation-related, she will also help promote town programs and facilities, support opportunities for development, and

provide after hours support for facilities and user groups.

All this, she says, is vi-

tal for building a strong sense of community around sports and recreation in Shellbrook, and

ensuring that sports and recreation continue to thrive.

"My hope is that I am

able to sit and listen to our user groups and then provide solutions and feedback, as well as assist in building off what already works well," Herndier said.

Though she only officially stepped into the position on July 2, Herndier is hitting the ground running. As spring and summer sports wrap up, she'll be reaching out to those groups to see what worked well for them this season and where things can improve ahead of next season.

However, with hockey just around the corner, she says her top priority is to connect with groups about what the season will look like and how she can best support them.

In the meantime, anyone with questions or concerns relating to sports and recreation can reach her by email at: kherndier4@gmail.com, or by phone at: 306-241-8475.



Kelly Herndier (right) has officially stepped into the role of Shellbrook's Sports Coordinator.

VILLAGE OF PARKSIDE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY ADMINISTRATOR

The Village of Parkside is seeking a *Municipal Administrator*. This position would be one to two days per week as required. Applicants must hold the required Urban Class "C" certificate or willing to obtain same. Employment commences immediately and training and support will be provided. Please submit your resume with cover letter and references to:

Village of Parkside
Box 48
Parkside, SK S0J 2A0
Email: villageofparkside@gmail.com

For more information, please contact the Village Office at (306) 747-2235 (Tuesdays Only)

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE MUNICIPAL HERITAGE PROPERTY

The Heritage Property Act S.S. 1979-80, c.H-2.2 s. 11(2)(b)

Notice is hereby given that not less than thirty (30) days from the date of service of this notice, the Council of the Town of Big River intends to pass a bylaw to designate as Municipal Heritage Property the following real property known as:

The Original SaskTel Office
Legally described as:
Surface Parcel No. 131119624
Reference Land Description: Lot 11, Block 3, Plan No. AA4863

Located at:
110 3rd Avenue North
Big River, Saskatchewan

Reasons for the Proposed Designation and Heritage Significance
The heritage value of the Original SaskTel Office lies in its historical, architectural, and cultural significance to the Town of Big River.

1. Constructed in 1910, the building served as the original SaskTel office and telephone exchange, representing the early development of telecommunications and public services within the community.
2. The building retains original exterior wood siding and other historic features that reflect early twentieth-century construction and contribute to its heritage character.
3. The Original SaskTel Office is associated with the growth and development of Big River and is an important reminder of the expansion of communication services that supported the expansion of communication services that supported the community's early settlement and development.
4. The building contributes to the historic character of Third Avenue North and serves as a recognizable landmark within the Town of Big River.

Any person wishing to object to the proposed designation must serve Council with a written objection stating the reasons for the objection and all relevant facts not less than three (3) days prior to Council's consideration of the proposed bylaw.

The bylaw will be considered by Town Council at its meeting on August 17, 2026. Written objections or submissions from people wishing to make other representations to Town Council with respect to the proposed bylaw must be delivered to the Town Office no later than August 14, 2026.

Dated the 16th day of July, 2026.
Noreen Olsen
Administrator – Town of Big River

Police investigate pair of robberies

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

The Prince Albert RCMP Detachment is asking the public for assistance in locating suspects and vehicles involved in a robbery.

According to police, the detachment received a report that four people with a firearm threatened three individuals and stole their vehicle at a business on Highway #2, just north of Prince Albert, at around 1:45 a.m. on Wednesday, July 1.

The suspects reportedly fled north on Highway #2 in both their own vehicle, a black SUV, and the stolen vehicle.

No physical injuries were reported to police.

A short time later, police say, officers located a vehicle that matched the stolen vehicle's de-

scription driving at a high rate of speed on Highway #355 near Sturgeon Lake First Nation. Officers activated their vehicle's emergency equipment and initiated a traffic stop. The vehicle did not stop. The vehicle was last seen driving west on Highway #263 near Christopher Lake.

The stolen vehicle is described as a red 2020 Hyundai Tucson SUV with Saskatchewan license plate 754 KSI. At this time, both SUVs and the suspects have not been located.

One suspect is described as a female who may have pink coloured hair and was wearing a baseball hat. The second suspect is described as wearing a blue or black plaid jacket. Police do not have further details about the other suspects at this time.

Meanwhile, the Shellbrook RCMP Detachment is request-

ing the public's assistance with identifying a suspect and locating a vehicle stolen in an armed robbery near Holbein on Friday, July 3.

Officers responded to the reported incident at around 1:05 p.m. that afternoon and determined an adult male with a weapon threatened an adult female and stole her vehicle while she was parked on the side of Highway #693, just north of Holbein. The suspect fled north on Highway #693 in the stolen vehicle.

No physical injuries were reported to police.

The stolen vehicle is described as a grey 2011 Kia Sorento SUV with Saskatchewan license plate 491 PCN. At this time, both the SUV and the suspect have not been located.

The suspect is described as a bald male wearing a black shirt and blue jeans. Police do not have further details about the suspect at this time.

Shellbrook RCMP continues to investigate and are asking anyone with information about this incident, or who witnessed suspicious activity in the Holbein area in the afternoon of July 3, to contact police 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.

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Summer fairs bring back fond memories

The Yorkton Summer Fair has basically been part of my life for as long as I can remember.

I remember — thanks largely to a small trophy that came with it — I won a prize at a local summer fair at age five.

A couple of years later Dad headed out on the summer fair circuit and I tagged along of course, and for the next decade and a half or so, summer fairs were part summer camp, part vacation, part work excursion for me.

I loved almost every part of the experience

as we attended shows in Saskatoon, Yorkton, Melfort, Nipawin, Prince Albert, Swan River, Dauphin, Golburn, Shand, Connaught, Invermay, etc.

I made friendships — Sharon Wallace-Storm, I'm thinking of you — which have lasted longer than most, even from my school years.

I met my first wife at a fair (Yorkton), and while that didn't work out long-term, the family we created are life highlights.

So, when I am still treading the Yorkton fairgrounds each July,



CALVIN DANIELS

it's highly nostalgic.

To be fair to the fair, most of what I see — from chuckwagon races to bumper cars to corndogs to lumberjack shows — is not new. I have seen it before, multiple times, as you might expect with

nearly 40-years as a journalist covering the exhibition and 15-plus showing at it.

So I'll admit, as I sat waiting for the ponies to run last week, it felt sort of "samey."

But from my seat I could look across the track to the barn where the pigs we showed all those years were housed, and all the memories tumbled into focus.

For example, I remember how good the bacon and eggs were at the Tonkin Booth in the barn area.

Or, what characters

Jim Wallace with his standardbred horses or Joe Moffat with his sheep, or John Bergman with his pigs were — and I could name others from most of the fairs mentioned above.

And there was the fun on the midway, or the long-gone cafeteria, or the craziness of showing chickens (that was at Shand), or calves in Nipawin, or helping with draft horses in Prince Albert, or running cement for a new barn at Connaught the day after my Grade 12 grad party (ouch, that one hurt).

As the memories flowed as I looked at the barn in the distance, I know I would have gladly stepped through a shimmering circle to go back in time for another summer of "the circuit."

Of course, you can't go back and the summer livestock shows are all lost to the past now, but that didn't lessen the desire to dream that it was possible.

Wouldn't it be grand if we could recapture the best of our youth?

For me much of that was tied to summer fairs.

FCAA warns of social media scam

By FCAA
Submitted

The Financial and Consumer Affairs Authority of Saskatchewan (FCAA) is warning Saskatchewan residents about the online entities known as Delta-CapitalGroup ("Delta-Capital") and Delta-AssetGroup ("Delta-Asset"). Delta-Capital and Delta-Asset have been promoted through an impersonation scam falsely claiming endorsement by Prime Minister Mark Carney.

"Do not make investment decisions based on a notable figure endorsement," FCAA Securities Division Executive Director Dean Murrison said. "Scammers can use social media posts and images to make it look like a notable figure endorses a company

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

Delta-Capital claims to offer Saskatchewan residents investment trading opportunities including cryptocurrencies. Delta-Asset claims to offer Saskatchewan residents investment trading opportunities including stocks, cryptocurrencies, forex, commodities, indices, equities and contracts for difference (CFDs).

Delta-Capital and Delta-Asset are not registered with the FCAA to trade or sell securities or derivatives in Saskatchewan. The FCAA cautions investors and consumers not to send money to

companies that are not registered in Saskatchewan, as they may not be legitimate businesses.

If you have invested with Delta-Capital, Delta-Asset or anyone claiming to be acting on their behalf, contact the FCAA's Securities Division at 306-787-5645.

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

There may be other businesses with the same or a

similar name to "Delta-CapitalGroup" or "Delta-AssetGroup". This alert does not apply to any such business. This alert applies only to the online entities using the websites "delta-capitalgroup.com" and "delta-assetgroup.com" (these URLs have been manually altered so as not to be interactive).

Tips to protect yourself:

- Always verify that the person or company is registered in Saskatchewan to sell or advise about securities or derivatives. To check registration, visit the Canadian Securities Administrators' National Registration Search at arethey-registered.ca.
- Know exactly what you are investing in. Make sure you understand how

the investment, product, or service works.

- Get a second opinion and seek professional advice about the investment.
- Do not allow unknown or unverified individuals to remotely access your computer or other devices.
- Never make an investment decision based on a notable figure endorsement. Scammers often create fake social media posts or news articles claiming an investment is endorsed by a notable figure.
- Do not forward money to anyone who has contacted you with an offer to recover money you lost on an investment. This is likely a "recovery scam".

Crop Report: June 30 to July 6

By MINISTRY
OF AGRICULTURE
Submitted

Rainfall continued across many areas of the province this week, with some regions also experiencing minor to severe hail. Producers are beginning to see the impacts of the excessive moisture received over the past two weeks, including yellowing and drowned out crops. Crop development is highly variable across the province depending on weather conditions in the area, with many reporting slower development. Regular rainfall events have also delayed spraying and haying operations.

The Calder area recorded the highest rainfall with 112 millimetres (mm),

followed by the Glaslyn area with 103 mm. The Radville and Churchbridge areas received 83 mm and 80 mm, respectively.

While many areas received rainfall this week, the surplus topsoil moisture conditions percentage decreased slightly. The surplus topsoil moisture ratings continue to be relatively high across the province overall.

Due to differing environmental conditions around the province, stages of crop development are varying.

Due to wet conditions, most livestock producers are still waiting to cut hay. Currently, four per cent of first cut hay has been cut and two per cent has been baled or silaged provincially. Hay quality is reported at 13 per cent excellent, 66 per cent good, eight per

cent fair and 13 per cent poor. Like last week, most producers are still hoping for warmer and drier conditions to get out in the field to cut hay. Pasture conditions for the province are reported at 38 per cent excellent, 55 per cent good and seven per cent fair.

Several types of crop damage occurred throughout the province last week. Many producers are still reporting flooding as causing the most crop damage in the province and are beginning to see the effects. Severe thunderstorms last week brought hail to some areas in the province and caused damage to some crops. Additionally, producers have noted that gophers, cabbage seedpod weevil and wind have also caused minor crop damage.

In-crop spraying has been delayed

in some areas of the province due to the wet conditions. Producers are trying to get out in the field to continue in-crop herbicide spraying and are evaluating if spraying fungicides and insecticides are warranted this week.

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

**ADVERTISING
DEADLINE IS
FRIDAY
4:00 P.M.**

Fallen Spiritwood officers honoured after 20 years



Troop mates of Cst. Robin Cameron from the 2001 graduating class. From left to right: Cpl. Kim Gobeil, Cst. Charlene Gariepy, and Cpl. Heather Noon.



The Red Serge procession included several of Spiritwood Detachment's RCMP officers and the late Cst. Cameron's troop mates, along with Sgt. Thiessen of Spiritwood.

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Longtime friend of Cst. Robin Cameron, Diane Roy, reflects upon the memorial to Cameron.

Tornadoes, lightning highlight wild weekend of weather

By JORDAN TWISS
Shellbrook Chronicle
Reporter

Weather watchers and stormchasers were treated to a show over the weekend, as tornadoes and lightning storms swept across much of Saskatchewan.

The tornadoes came first, with at least 10 touching down on Friday evening and bringing hail with them. The Towns of Kinistino and Waldheim and the Village of Speers were hit especially hard.

And in the Petrofka area, the Ahtahkakoop Cree Nation's River Bend Store suffered an estimated \$100,000 in damage after a tornado touched down behind the store.

Following a warm and humid start to the day on Saturday, storm clouds rolled in to blanket a large area of north

central Saskatchewan in the evening. Hours of near-constant lightning strikes eventually triggered an hours-

long power outage, spanning from south of Rosthern to north of La Ronge and from west of Lloydminster to east of Nipawin.



An ominous bank of clouds took over the sky above the junction of Hwy 3 & 55. Submitted



Lightning put on a brilliant display over Shellbrook on Saturday, July 11.

Ethan Verbonac’s memory shines at car show

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle
Reporter

While some people spend their whole lives trying to find their passion, a fortunate few are found by their passions. That was the case for Marcelin’s Ethan Verbonac, who was born with a love of everything to do with vehicles.

So, in 2023, when Ethan died unexpectedly at age 25 due to complications from Apert Syndrome, his family chose to turn his passion into something good. “We were a grieving family. We found we needed to put that energy towards something positive,” said his mom, Krista Verbonac. “Ethan was such a lover



Vintage vehicles put on a show at Ethan’s Memorial Show & Shine.

of all kinds of vehicles; we thought a car show was a natural way to pay tribute to him and do something positive for our community.” Soon after, through the hard work and dedication of Ethan’s family and friends, the first ever

Ethan’s Memorial Show & Shine was held. And despite the rainy and cold conditions, the fun environment and opportunity to come together to remember Ethan brought out 25 entries and a solid crowd.

Ethan’s Memorial Show & Shine has only grown in the two years since. At this year’s car show, held in Marcelin on Saturday, July 11, there were 58 entries, some of them from as far away as North Battleford, Saskatoon, and Prince Albert.

“We’re a traditional car show in a sense, but in true Ethan spirit, we welcome any kind of entry. It could be an old project that someone has loved for years, or their daily drive,” Krista said.

“This year, we had a group of semis come out, which Ethan would have been thrilled with. We love to see it all. Our

whole motto when we started was, ‘If you love it, bring it out and show it off.’”

While attendance at Ethan’s Memorial Show & Shine isn’t tracked because it’s a free event, Krista says there was a great crowd and a fun atmosphere once again this year, as visitors took in the vehicles, grabbed some grilled grub, or enjoyed the new face painting station and bouncy castle.

“It makes me truly happy to see his memory kept alive with people who knew him. But we also have so many people who come that didn’t know him, and are learning more about him,” Krista said.

“It’s also been a part of the healing process for our family to keep his memory alive.”

Over the course of three years, Ethan’s Memorial Show & Shine has become a vehicle for his family to do good in the community.

Following the first year, proceeds from the car show were donated to Blaine Lake Composite School’s outdoor play space and the Marcelin Events Committee, and last year’s beneficiary was Leask Community School Nutrition Pro-

gram. While the final profits from this year’s show and shine hadn’t been tallied as of Monday, Krista said half the pro-

ceeds will go to Kinsmen Telemiracle, and the other half will be donated to a local cause that has yet to be determined.



A group of semi drivers shared the Ethan’s Choice Award, presented by Madison Verbonac (front).



A group of semi drivers made the trip out for this year’s show.



Lynden Gross was the winner of the Young Gun and Modern Iron Awards, presented by Madison Verbonac.



Madison Verbonac presents the Best in Show award to Marty Thompson.

Sask. boosts disability program

By **MINISTRY OF SOCIAL SERVICES**
Submitted

Starting Sept. 1, improvements to the Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability (SAID) program will expand and restructure the Living Income Benefit and modernize and simplify the overly complex program. SAID clients will see an increase or no change to their overall benefits because of these changes.

“I am pleased to announce that 40 per cent of SAID clients will see an increase in their benefits, making life

more affordable for 7,200 families and individuals across Saskatchewan,” Social Services Minister Terry Jenson said. “These improvements to the SAID program will make it easier, faster and more convenient for clients to access their benefits, and no current clients will see a reduction in their benefits as a result of these improvements.”

Effective Sept. 1, improvements to the SAID program will:

- move several standalone benefits that currently require client documentation into the core Living Income benefit, increasing flex-

ibility for clients who live independently to spend their income on daily needs as they choose;

- restructure the Living Income benefit by consolidating the number of family and community benefit tiers, resulting in higher monthly benefits for many families and people living in rural areas; and,
- remove benefits that are underutilized or provided in other ministries or programs.

No current SAID clients will see a reduction in their benefits. In cases where a change could result in a low-

er benefit amount, the client’s current benefit level will be maintained. Beginning this month, the ministry is contacting all clients and engaging with partners and community-based organizations across Saskatchewan to explain the changes prior to implementation on Sept. 1.

The ministry began reviewing SAID in 2025, with the goal of making the program easier for over 18,000 clients to navigate and simpler to understand. Improvements being implemented were developed from SAID clients using feedback and through discussions with community-based organizations.

Minutes of an RM of Leask Council meeting

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

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Council of the Rural Municipality of Leask No. 464 held in the Leask Municipal Office on Monday May 11, 2026.

The Council meeting was called to order by Reeve Gord Stieb 9:03 a.m.

Present at the meeting were Reeve Gord Stieb, Administrator Goertzen, SPW Smith and the following Council members: Brian Watier (Division 1), Daniel Twa (Division 2), Lorraine Fajt (Division 3), Joan Sanftleben (Division 4), Ron Haworth (Division 5), and Dwayne Brad (Division 6).

Brad: That minutes of April 14, 2026 Regular Meeting of Council be approved as amended. Carried

Watier: That the minutes of the April 27 HR Committee meeting be acknowledged. Carried

Fajt: That the minutes of the May 4 Budget Meeting of Council be approved. Carried

Sanftleben: That Council approve the payments as listed on the attached List of Accounts for Approval: Operating checks #16089-16132 and Manual cheques #23128-23152 for a total of \$124,712.64 and Payroll/Indemnity Direct Deposit for a total of \$32,028.19; and that documents be attached to these minutes. Carried

Haworth: That Council acknowledge Bank Reconciliation Statement for April 30. Carried

Brad: That Council approve Budgetary Control; Financial Statements for RM and Fire Dept. for April 30. Carried

Watier: That Council indemnity be approved for payment as presented. Carried

Fajt: That Correspondence be acknowledged as presented. Carried

Sanftleben: That Superintendent of Public Works Report be accepted as presented. Carried

Haworth: That Council approve the quote from Shellbrook Chevrolet for engine repair in U41 2017 3500 for \$9,489.60 plus applicable taxes. Carried

Fajt: That council approve estimate to fix Mini-hoe A/C pump for \$3,450.50 plus applicable taxes. Carried

Sanftleben: That Council approves local contractor to move Excavator to work site locations within the municipality. Carried

Brad: That Council approve purchase of Bush Hog 4115 Mower with trade-in of 4815 Bush Hog Mower for the difference of \$11,500 plus applicable taxes. Carried

Watier: That Council rescind resolution 10/26 to purchase 5155 Bush Hog from Triod. Carried

Fajt: That Council approve payment for gravel from Big Stone Crushed Rock and Gravel in the amount of \$847.02 plus applicable taxes. Carried

Sanftleben: That Council approve up to \$1,000 plus applicable taxes for OHPC to purchase electric mower and whipper snipper. Carried

Haworth: That Council approve the OHPC to purchase 30 folding chairs in the amount of \$14.99 each plus applicable taxes. Carried

Brad: That Council acknowledge OHC Committee report date April 20. Carried

Watier: That Council acknowledge Leask Volunteer Fire Department minutes dated April 8. Carried

Council: The Council acknowledge Wapiti Library 2025 AGM Meeting minutes as presented.

Sanftleben: That we recess the Regular Meeting of Council for the public hearing; and Furthermore, Bylaw 06-2026; A Bylaw to provide for the closing of a Municipal Road, Plan 02177 Ext. 2 in NW-07-46-08-W3, Parcel #130399353.

Haworth: That Council reconvene Regular Meetings at 10:55 a.m. Carried

Brad: That Council post Road Closed signs at NW-07-46-08-W3 to protect the municipality from liability; the registered undeveloped road shall remain be in the name of the King. Carried

Brad: That Bylaw 06-2026, a Bylaw to Provide for the Closing of a Municipal Road, be introduced and given first reading at this meeting. Carried

Watier: That Administrator's Report be accepted as presented. Carried

Fajt: That Council provide permission for payment of 2016 Hitachi Excavator upon delivery from Brandt. Carried

Sanftleben: That Bylaw 02-2026; To Establish a Joint Emergency Measures Organization with the Village of Leask be read a third time, passed at this meeting, and attached to these minutes. Carried

Haworth: That Council acknowledge 2026 Education Property tax mill rates as presented. Carried

Brad: That Council approve Transfer of GIC Reserve investment of \$114,000 to Municipal Operating Account. Carried

Fajt: That Council acknowledge amended Policy 2024-06 Fire Fee Management Policy as presented. Carried

Haworth: That Council acknowledge the addition of Dalen Wollman and Logan Wollman to the department and the departure of Jesse Kreese, Dustin Lamontagne, Dwayne Wollman, Keegan Wollman and Marlo Wollman from the Leask Volunteer Fire Department. Carried

Brad: That Council rescind the following resolutions: 333/25 and 334/25 regarding road surveys. Carried

Fajt: That council approve removal of outstanding interest on A/R account BAL-16 in the amount of \$172.51. Carried

Haworth: That Council provide permission for Reeve Stieb to sign North-bound Contract on behalf of Council. Carried

Sanftleben: That Council request that Administrator send correspondence to Crown Hill regarding end date of 2023 Gravel Agreement. Carried

Brad: That Council acknowledge and provide permission for Administrator to apply for 2026 Equipment Debenture (3 Year) in the amount of \$136,435.23, equipment includes: Triod Bush Hog 4115 mower, 2026 Ford F350XL, and 2026 Double A 7'X 16" Gooseneck Dump Trailer. Carried

Watier: That Council accept Ombudsman Report as presented. Carried

Fajt: That Council provide a Letter of Support for Mistawasis Nehiyawak First Nation in their application for a paved road that enables Fire and Emergency vehicles an unobstructed route to Mistawasis. Carried

Sanftleben: That Council is seeking to redirect Google mapping regarding mapping directions on undeveloped roads within the municipality updated to prevent future road damages.

Brad: That the Rural Municipality of Leask No. 464 apply to the Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency to be designated as an eligible assistance area under the Provincial Disaster Assistance Program (PDAP), which provides financial assistance for restoring essential services and property as a result of substantial damages caused by heavy snow/wind event on April 23, 24, and 25. Carried

Haworth: That we move in-camera session citing the Local Freedom of Information And Protection of Privacy Act, Section 16 1(a) time being 2:28 p.m. Carried

Watier: That we move out of in-camera session at 2:37 p.m.

Watier: That we adjourn this meeting 3:50 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)

~

BIG RIVER: Mark your calendar for the 20th Annual Northern Lights Bluegrass and Old Tyme Music Camp (Aug 10-14) and Festival (Aug 14-16) at beautiful Ness Creek. The Mainstage includes Virginia’s New Floyd County Ramblers and local favourite Jake Vaadeland, with daytime workshops, nightly dances and campfire jams. Get ready for a magical, musical ring-dang-do, we’ve got 20 years of bluegrass and old time to be celebrating this Summer... Learn more at *northernlights-bluegrass.com*.

SHELL LAKE AREA: Follow the Blue Moons to the Thickwood Hills Studio Trail Artisan Tour – Saturday, Aug. 8 & Sunday, Aug. 9, 10am to 5pm. Find your map at www.thickwoodhillsstudiotrail.ca or facebook.com/thickwoodhillsstudiotrail. Follow us on Facebook for chances to WIN Shopping Vouchers.

PARKSIDE: Parkside & District Community Club – Demolition Derby – Saturday July 25, 2026. To enter derby, phone Derek Olson 306-747-9114 or 306-747-2000. Over \$17,000 in prize money! Barrel Races start @ 1pm, Derby starts @ 3pm. Mixed Slo-Pitch Tourney, Friday Evening & Saturday, July 24 & 25. Dance Saturday Night feat. live music by Stone Halo from 9pm to 2am (must be 19 yrs, ID required). Gate Admission: \$10; 6-12 yrs \$5; Under 6 Free; Dance \$10. See Facebook page for full details: facebook.com/ParksideDemolitionDerby

PARKSIDE: ‘LILIES IN BLOOM’ Honeywood (Dr. A. J. Porter) Heritage Nursery Inc. *Provincial Heritage Site* Parkside, Sask. July 19th, 11am - 4pm. Entertainment; Artisan Displays; Wagon Tours; Food & Refreshments; Gift Shop; Potted lilies, perennials & trees. For the kids: Petting Zoo 12-4; Fairy Hunt; Ice Cream & Popcorn. \$10.00/person, Children 12 and under free. Ph: 306-714-8200 or honeywoodn8@gmail.com Facebook @ Honeywood Heritage Nursery Inc

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Millions love watching soccer, but not everyone

There are hundreds of millions of rabid soccer fans in the world — as evidenced by the nearly non-stop television coverage of the FIFA World Cup centred in Canada, the U.S. and Mexico — but I'm not one of them.

Goodness knows I've tried. I've tuned in to games, hoping for some explosive offensive action and seeing instead what a non-fan like me would describe as a boring 90-minute exercise in watching strategic moves aimed at securing that one clean shot on goal that may or may not result in a score.

I know, I know. My ignorance is glaring. Soccer — or football, or futbol — is the most popular sport in the world. The world craves it. Adores it. Lives for it. The game is played in almost every country on the globe, most of which I've heard of. Some, such as Cape Verde, was not even remotely on my radar until the World Cup began and suddenly, Cape Verde was the biggest

story of the World Cup. For a few days, anyway.

One night in late June, I tuned in to the latter portion of the Morocco-Netherlands game, the winner to advance to the round of 16 against Canada.

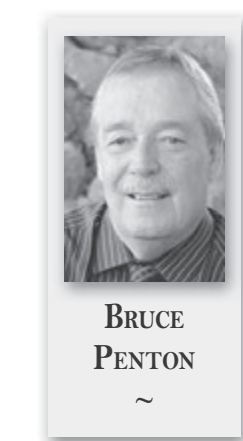
The vast majority of the portion of the game I saw was played around the centre of the field, with a ratio of five or six back passes to every one that went forward. Suddenly, the play opened up.

My palms started to sweat as the Moroccans brought the ball close to the Netherlands' goal.

My heart began to race as it appeared a shot on goal — an actual shot on goal! — was imminent.

The combination of racing heart and sweaty palms reached a climax as the Netherlands' goaltender was — eureka! — beaten by a header in stoppage time.

A goal! I saw a goal! A 1-1 tie! Thirty minutes of overtime settled nothing — hundreds more back passes al-



BRUCE
PENTON

most put me to sleep — so penalty kicks were needed. Now that was exciting. Maybe soccer can just adopt a series of penalty kicks to determine winners rather than putting fans through the monotony of 90 minutes of back-passes around the centre zone.

Soccer aficionados will properly lambaste me for my ignorance about what the world calls "the beautiful game." I'm ready for it. In this observer's view, soccer is mostly boring, punctuated by occasional, but too few, moments of excitement, such as when a player

get nicked on the leg by an opponent and writhes on the field as if felled by a high-powered rifle from the third row. — and then suddenly rises and resumes the back passes.

Hundreds of millions of people can't be wrong, however. Millions fill stadiums around the world every week. Many are buying tickets at the World Cup they can't really afford to get a once-in-a-lifetime live look at their beloved home country's football heroes.

And me? Well, I'm obviously out of touch with the world. Back passes are strategic, I guess. Defence is wonderful. It IS a beautiful game, I suppose.

• From Baseball's Greatest Moments, on X: "Gaylord Perry talks about how in 1964, SF Giants manager Alvin Dark said that there'd be a man on the moon before he hits a home run. On July 20, 1969, just a half an hour after Apollo 11 landed on the Moon, Perry hit his first

home run."

• Comedy guy Torben Rolfson of Vancouver: "John Tortorella was fired by Vegas after only a few months on the job. Reason? Underperformance. Yeah, he only made it to Game 6 of the Stanley Cup final."

• Daniel Winnik, a former Maple Leaf under coach Mike Babcock, who was recently hired by Edmonton Oilers: "He's the only guy that has ever made me hate hockey. I just hated coming to the rink. He's just a bully."

• Greg Cote of the Miami Herald: "Can U.S. win men's World Cup? 'No chance' is wrong. 'Unlikely' is too obvious. Short answer? Yes."

• Another one from Cote, on U.S. Open champion Wyndham Clark: "The man with the name of a 19th Century English butler."

• Another one from Rolfson: "Ghana offers Ronaldo citizenship ahead of England match."

• Headline at the-

onion.com: "Guy Who Goes To Bar Every Day At 10 a.m.. Must Be Huge Soccer Fan"

• Another theonion.com headline: "Salivating Brewers Fans Chase Down Mascots In Sausage Race"

• One more from the onion.com: "Washington Wizards Announce Founding Wizard Dead At 682"

• Steve Simmons of the Toronto Sun: "Keith Pelley assured us that everything about the new Leafs will now be data-driven. So explain this one: What's the data on spending \$4.2 million a year on the 11-points Colton Sissons scored last season in Vegas?"

• Another one from Simmons, on the dilemma facing Anaheim Ducks over the offer sheet submitted by the Philadelphia Flyers for Ducks' star Leo Carlsson: "They can't afford to sign him and they can't afford not to."

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

Minutes of Village of Canwood meetings

(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 May 19.

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

Present: Mayor Lorne Benson, Councillors Kaytlyn Mitchell, Ryan Demers, and Greg Edeen, and Administrator Heather Sten.

Edeen: That the agenda be accepted as presented.

Demers: That the minutes of the April 21, 2026 Regular Meeting be approved as presented. Carried

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

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

Edeen: That the employee attendance sheets for April 2026 be accepted as presented. Carried

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

Demers: That the Employee Payroll for the month of April 2026, including Pay Periods 7, 8 and 9 totaling \$10,106.54 and the Council Renumeration of \$560.00 be

accepted as presented. Carried

Benson: That the list of accounts payable from Batch 2026-00032 to Batch 2026-00035, which includes all cheques, online payments and EFTs for a total of \$33,563.68 be accepted as presented. Carried

Edeen: That the Water Treatment Plant reports for the month of April 2026 and ALS Lab Water reports from April 29 and May 13. Carried

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

Edeen: That Council authorize Meridian Surveys to adjust the lot boundaries for the two residential parcels within the McOwan Subdivision, expanding their widths from 15 metres to 19.8 metres, ensuring consistency with the established lot sizes in the subdivision. Carried

Edeen: That Council approve an amendment to the Max 99 account with Affinity Credit Union, setting the interest rate at Prime (4.45%) less 2.35%, to remain in effect until June 2028. Carried

Mitchell: That Council approve and accept the 2025 audited financial statements as presented by Jensen Stromberg Chartered Professional Accountants. Carried

Demers: That we approve the Building Permit Application of Jeremy Fast to construct a deck, with approval pursu-

ant to Sections 4.6- 4.9 of the Municipal Zoning Bylaw 2023-02. Carried

Edeen: That we approve the Building Permit Application of Grant Person to construct a Detached garage, with approval pursuant to Section 4.9 of the Municipal Zoning Bylaw 2023-02. Carried

Benson: That the Correspondence be filed. Carried

Mitchell: That Council authorize the rental of the cafe space to Stacey Tetreault to be utilized as an art studio, including the hosting of art classes. Carried

Benson: That we move Water/Sewer Reserve account to a Flex Term account with an interest rate of 2.20%. Carried

Demers: That Council instruct the Administrator to proceed with obtaining a credit card for the Village Foreman to support day-to-day municipal operations. Carried

Edeen: That Council authorize the voiding of cheque #6769 and the issuance of a replacement cheque in the correct amount. Carried

Benson: That we move to in-camera at 8:21p.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 8:38 p.m. and note that all members of Council and Administration are in attendance. Carried

Benson: That Council approve providing the Foreman with a monthly cell phone allowance of \$40. Carried

Mitchell: That the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Special Meeting – June 9

Minutes of the Special Meeting of Council for the Village of Canwood, held at the at the Village Office at 571 Main Street on June 9.

Mayor Lorne Benson called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m., with a quorum being present.

Present: Mayor Lorne Benson, Deputy Mayor Ken Moar, Councillors Kaytlyn Mitchell, Ryan Demers, and Greg Edeen, and Administrator Heather Sten.

Moar: That the Council for the Village of Canwood approve the 2026 Budget as attached. Carried

Demers: That the Council for the Village of Canwood set the Mill Rate for 2026 at 8.0 mills. Carried

Edeen: That the Council for the Village of Canwood accept the Education Property Tax Mill Rates as presented by the Ministry of Government Relations.

• Agriculture Property: 1.07 mills
• Residential Property: 4.27 mills
• Commercial/Industrial Property: 6.37 mills
• Resource Property: 7.49 mills. Carried

Mitchell: That the meeting was adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

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Shellbrook Library June activities

By **EDDIE HOEHN**
Submitted

June was an exciting month for the library. Attendees witnessed a magic show put on by the library at the Magic Tricks Program on Saturday, June 6. Local library board members Samuel Schafer and Naomi Klumpenhower, as well as their kids, performed amazing magic tricks at the program. Some tricks included disappearing water, dancing dandelion, various card tricks, colour changing marker mark, making water stay out of a glass over a covered candle, a math problem to guess a participant's age and picked number, and an undamaged bookmark

after the magician made a cut in two places. Local library board member Naomi Klumpenhower helped the kids do popcorn story writing at the Story Writing Program on Tuesday, June 16. The kids took turns making sentences, which Naomi wrote down on a giant pad of paper. They used the sentences to create a humorous story about a dog named Joe who had encounters with a worm, a duck, bees, a whale, a fish, and a bird, as well as travelling to Mexico and back home. Both programs were for the TD Summer Reading Club. On Wednesday, June 17, volunteer and local library

board member Samuel Schafer presented the second Trivia Night for the month at the library. Samuel used a St. Patrick's Day theme which was rescheduled from March. Participants played in 2 teams, identifying unlucky items, listing all of the marshmallows in Lucky Charms, and identifying titles and starring actors from movies about treasure hunts. They also played name that tune with songs about luck. The team with only young adults on it, called the Parents' Club, won Trivia Night. The library held a free draw in June where kids received an entry form for every five books read.

Drohnen Schafer won June's TD Summer Reading Club draw and picked a colouring book for a prize. The kids had lots of fun at Lego Club in June. They created a green animal, a bird feeder or birdbath, a Father's Day scene, a soccer or FIFA World Cup scene, and a Canada Day scene from Legos. Participants enjoyed doing weekly scavenger hunts where they found pictures of items at Flower, Shirt, and Father's Day Storytimes in June. They were excited to throw three balls into a box and find 17 bottle caps hidden in the library at Soccer Storytime. They made a paper plate soccer ball with construction paper, stickers, and markers.



Elijah with his Canada Day scene for Lego Club.



Samuel and Drohnen Schafer perform during the Magic Tricks Program.



Trivia night participants, from left to right: Tristin McBain, Jasmine Allen, Ana McBain, and Elijah Allen.

A gardener's guide to apples: Part 1

By **PATRICIA HANBIDGE**
Orchid Horticulture

Did you know that right here on the prairies we can grow apples that are as good as those that are grown anywhere in the world? Believe it or not, but we can compare our quality of apples to those grown in the Okanagan, the Annapolis Valley and other places around the world. In order to appreciate what it takes to grow delicious apples it is important to realize that all of the cultivars of apples that we see in the grocery store are not grown from seed but instead are propagated asexually or also commonly called produced by clones. The reason this is necessary is that in order for an apple tree to produce apples it needs to be cross-pollinated with another apple tree. What this means from a genetics perspective is that there is huge diversity contained within that apple seed and each seed will grow into something that is unique from every other seed within that apple. It may produce fruit that is completely unique or it may not produce any fruit at all. To grow quality apple trees on the prairies, it is required to first and foremost, choose apples that can survive our extreme winters. Cultivars that are rated

to survive in zones 2 and even zone 3 are the best choices as the last thing we would wish to experience is having to plant a new tree a few years into the growth. Think about what you want to do with the apples – eat them fresh, or use them for baking. There are many types of apples and knowing what you wish to have as a product is important. Spring is always the best time to plant. Apples should be planted in full sun



and as early as possible once we get our true spring. They prefer a well-drained, loamy soil and for the best apples, they should receive water throughout the growing season. Avoid low-lying "frost pockets" to ensure your blossoms are not susceptible to a late spring frost. Apples are grafted trees. The top part of the tree is the important part for the apply type, and the rootstock or bottom part is important for cold hardiness, so your apple tree can survive our cold winters. Identify the "graft union" which will appear as a bump at the bottom of the trunk where the apple variety is joined to the rootstock. The graft union should be planted two to four inches above the soil line. Ensure you do not overfill the planting hole as there should be a slight depression over the root zone to help with watering. Young trees will need significant amounts of water. Provide at least an inch of water each week, by deep-soaking the base. Cover the base of the tree in a one-meter diameter with organic mulch but ensure you do not put the mulch right up against the trunk. Pest damage or rot could become a problem if the mulch sits up against the trunk of the tree. Apples require a different variety of

apple that is blooming at the same time to get good cross-pollination. Plant two compatible varieties within fifty feet of each other. It is also possible to buy trees that have more than one variety of apple grafted together which negates the need for other trees nearby for cross pollination as long as the blossoms are blooming at the same time. Prairie wildlife love to munch on young apple bark. Wrapping the lower trunks with plastic tree guards or wire in late fall will help ensure your tree survives the winter in good shape. Rabbits, voles and other little critters love to gnaw on the apples in winter and if we have significant snowfall, they can reach up the trunk to areas that may not be protected by the tree guard, so keep vigilant. Apple trees require annual pruning. The absolute best time to prune is late spring before the buds break. At this time, the tree is growing rapidly, so pruning wounds will heal quickly. Watch for an upcoming article on pruning best practice. 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.