

## Lilies in Bloom brings colour to summer



Potted lilies for sale offered guests an easy way to add colour to their gardens.

By **JORDAN TWISS**  
*Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter*

Through Saskatchewan's seemingly endless winter, Honeywood Heritage Nursery manager Janie Denton suspected that she was in for an interesting season.

Denton's intuition was spot on. From piles of snow lingering into early May, to heat, humidity, and a deluge of rain, Honeywood has just about seen it all this summer.

Despite the challenging conditions, the nursery grounds put on a summery show of colour for the more than 250 people who visited for Lilies in Bloom on Sunday, July 20.

With 2026 marking Honeywood's 25th season as a municipal heritage site (it will celebrate 20 years as a provincial heritage site next year), this year's Lilies in Bloom was expanded to give the whole family reasons to spend the whole day touring the grounds, shopping, and visiting.

In addition to the 15 vendors displaying their wares — six of whom were there for the first time — there was a petting zoo hosted by Love Struck Miniatures, a fairy house scavenger hunt, a temporary tattoo station, and ice cream and popcorn being served up alongside a lunch of beef on a bun and Honeywood's famous apple and rhubarb crisp.

"It seemed like a really good crowd. A lot more children than normal, due to the petting zoo, tattoos, and fairy scavenger hunt," Denton said. "I went on a wagon ride and there was a group of about 15 kids screaming and running to the next fairy garden. It was a good thing to see."

Though the day was fantastic — up until around 3 p.m. when the heavy downpour started and shut things down early, at least — Denton says the best is still yet to come at Honeywood this summer.

Thanks to the difficult weather, she says the plants and lilies are behind schedule but will hopefully be exploding with colour in the next few

weeks.

With work at Honeywood always ongoing, Denton says the plan for the rest of the season is to add about 800 feet of rows to the fields, and to continue making improvements to the nursery grounds every day.

This, she believes, is the best way to honour Honeywood's founder, Dr. A.J. (Bert) Porter.

"The knowledge Dr. Porter had, and the contributions he made through lilies, fruit trees, and prairie hardy fruit... we can't lose that," she said.

"We have to keep everything going in his honour. There was a passion there that needs to be kept alive."

*More photos on page 9*



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# Carrier announces curtailment of Big River sawmill

By **JORDAN TWISS**  
*Shellbrook Chronicle*  
Reporter

In a move expected to impact 117 local employees, Carrier Forest Products has announced it will indefinitely curtail production at the Big River sawmill effective Oct. 16.

According to a press release issued on Thursday, July 16, the company said the difficult decision was made necessary by a “combination of ongoing challenges facing the forestry sector and the Big River operation specifically.”

In particular, Carrier highlighted persistently weak market conditions and the recent decline in value of the Canadian dollar, which has significantly increased the cost of cross-border financing.

Locally, the company said the long-term impacts of 2025’s wildfire season have reduced timber volumes for the Big River sawmill, creating further challenges for the facility.

“As each new and significant challenge emerged, management was cautiously optimistic that the headwinds facing both the industry generally, and those specific to the Big River facility, would improve,” the company said in the release.

“However, that has not occurred, and certain recent events do not indicate that improvement will be seen in the short term.”

Though production will shut down in October, Carrier says some limited activities will continue at the sawmill until the end

of January 2027 to allow for an orderly curtailment of operations. Additionally, Carrier has emphasized that the facility may not remain permanently closed.

“Management remains committed to reviewing all options to resuming operations in the future,” the release said.

Rather than a termination, a curtailment means that workers retain their seniority and position and will get their jobs back if the mill re-opens within a certain timeframe. Workers also retain some benefits for several months after the curtailment.

Though he acknowledged that the closure will be difficult for the Big River and area, R.M. of Big River Reeve Clint Panter said the community survived the mill being shut down before.

The Big River sawmill was last shuttered in 2006, during a significant downturn for the province’s forestry sector. At the time, the mill employed about 200 people.

Carrier Forest Products purchased the site in 2010, made significant upgrades to the facility, and restarted operations in 2013, celebrating its grand re-opening in May of 2014.

The last significant disruption to operations came in 2020, amid changing market conditions at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Saskatchewan NDP was quick to express sympathy for the 117 workers impacted by Carrier’s decision, as well as their families. However, it also

pointed to the closure as an example of the Sask Party government failing to stand up for the province’s forestry sector.

“From refusing to assist the forest sector when it comes to Donald Trump’s tariffs, to allowing disease, insects, and wildfires to devastate forests and destroy investment, it’s clear that Scott Moe and the Sask Party don’t view our forests as assets

worth managing,” said Jordan McPhail, the Saskatchewan NDP’s Forestry Shadow Minister.

“Our team has made a number of calls to support the forest sector, including allowing dues-free salvage of the burned areas to aid reforestation, and focusing on replanting to show a commitment to growth.”

For its part, the Sask Party government says

it is committed to supporting the 117 workers impacted by Carrier’s decision.

To this end, Minister of Energy and Resources Chris Beaudry says the government has deployed the Canada-Saskatchewan Rapid Response Team, which connects laid-off workers with employment services, training, and income supports.

“Our government con-

tinues to work closely with our partners in the forestry sector to ensure that Saskatchewan forestry mills have enough timber to support their operations,” he said in a statement. “We have made significant changes to the timber royalty system to align it with other resource royalty structures in the province to help improve the industry’s competitiveness.”

## Shellbrook Town Council highlights

By **JORDAN TWISS**  
*Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter*

*(The following council highlights are not the approved minutes of council for July 13.)*

Shellbrook’s Town Council held its regular meeting in person and via teleconference on Monday, July 13.

In attendance were Mayor Amund Otterson, Councillors Rod Atkinson, Pam Boettcher, Cheryl Ledding, Brent Miller, Kathleen Nording, and Arlette Segberg, the town’s CAO Sigourney O’Halligan, and consultant Jim Puffalt.

Mayor Otterson called council’s regular meeting to order around 5 p.m., beginning with the customary Treaty 6 land acknowledgement in recognition of Truth and Reconciliation, the approval of the evening’s agenda, and the adoption of the minutes from its June 15 meeting.

The meeting was then briefly paused for a public hearing regarding an OCP and zoning amendment that will see the former Shellbrook Funeral Home property converted to residential from commercial. Having received no opposition to the changes, council later proceeded to give second and third readings to the bylaw covering the proposed amendment (Bylaw 2026-07).

Upon reconvening the regular meeting, council declared the week of July 19 to 25 as National Drowning and Prevention Week, and acknowledged received communications before diving into the reports of administration and committees.

In her CAO report, O’Halligan noted a positive uptick in building permits in town, with 20 on file as of June (six of them for “new or major construction”). She also noted that the town’s two new CSOs, Sgt. Steve Sabados and officer Bradley Pechawis, have started and are settling in by following up on resident complaints.

In other assorted updates, O’Halligan said administration continues to review tender documents for the town’s garbage removal contract, which is up for renewal this year. Additionally, town crews are working on completing street sweeping for the season, and the hot water tank at the Shellbrook Sports Grounds was recently repaired.

In public works discussion, councillor Miller noted that he’d received a number of complaints about the potholes on 7th Avenue East. The problem, according to Town Foreman Mike Tanchuk, is that the issues can’t be

fixed because the road doesn’t have a proper sub base. But Miller said there’s also no point in making a permanent fix until issues with storm sewer drainage on the street are addressed first.

Next, Councillor Boettcher asked for a progress report on plans to level sidewalks, noting that the sidewalk outside of Premier Scott Moe’s office is currently a safety hazard. O’Halligan said some of these projects have been sidelined by other priorities, but suggested that the town could explore the idea of foam jacking the sidewalk, like it did at the post office, once it has a clearer picture of how well the process worked.

In the Prairie Rising Municipal Consulting report, consultant Jim Puffalt reported having a constructive meeting with the Shellbrook & District Chamber of Commerce about how the town and business community can work together, and provided an update on a social media advertising campaign promoting municipal lots (O’Halligan reported receiving 12 inquiries about lots).

Puffalt also brought forward a recommendation for the town to establish a commercial, industrial, and multifamily property tax incentive program.

This prompted comments from Councillors Miller and Boettcher about the need for the town to make it easier for private developers to undertake projects similar to the Mesa Way and Sanjun Drive cul de sacs.

In her first Sports Coordinator report, Kelly Herndier provided updates on initial meetings with local recreation groups. One recommendation to come out of those meetings was to have the canteen running at the Richardson Pioneer Recreation Centre during lacrosse season, even if it’s just to sell snacks and drinks.

Meanwhile, noting that Shell Lake hosted a highly successful Provincial softball tournament over the prior weekend, Councillor Ledding suggested the town and the Shellbrook Sports Grounds could benefit greatly from pursuing opportunities to host such tournaments in future seasons.

Under new business, Council began by greenlighting the town’s internal communications policy, which establishes expectations for “professional, respectful, and effective working relationships between Council and Staff of the Town of Shellbrook.”

Next, council approved Prairie Rising Municipal Consulting’s plan to continue promoting municipal lots. The plan’s primary goal is to sell 10 lots by Aug. 31 and spur growth and development in the community.

Last but not least, Council gave first and second reading to Bylaw 2026-008 Extension of Time, a standard bylaw that affords the town more time for the completion of certain financial and audit procedures for the 2025 fiscal year.

### VILLAGE OF DEBDEN PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice is hereby given that Council intends to adopt a bylaw under *The Planning and Development Act, 2007* to amend Zoning Bylaw 2/2023.

**INTENT**  
To create a new zoning district – C3 – Mixed-Use Transition District. The bylaw will rezone certain lands from C2 – Highway Commercial to the new C3 District and establish permitted and discretionary uses within the district.

**AFFECTED LAND**  
Lot 4, Lot 5, Lot 6 and Lot 7 Block 02 Plan 84PA14577 and Lot 8 Block 02 Plan AK1413

A map showing the affected area is available online at [debden.ca](http://debden.ca) or at the Village Office.

**REASON**  
It is intended to provide a flexible transition zone between commercial and residential areas.

**INSPECTION**  
Any person may inspect the bylaw at [debden.ca](http://debden.ca) or at the Village Office Tuesday through Thursday from 10:00 am–3:00 pm.

**PUBLIC HEARING**  
Council will hold a public hearing on August 13, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. in the Debden Council Chambers to hear any person or group that wants to comment. Written comments may be submitted to the Village Office before the hearing.

Issued at Village of Debden this 16<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2026.  
Tamara Couture, Administrator

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Thickwood Hills Studio Trail

# Parkland Wildcats claim U13 Provincials gold

By DAVE  
HYNDMAN  
*Submitted*

The Parkland Wildcats Blue team won the U13 Boys Provincial Championships Sunday, July 12, racking up a convincing 10-0 win over the runner-up Dundurn Detonators in the final. The Wildcats went undefeated throughout the three-day event, scoring four shutouts in the six games and giving up a total of seven runs, six of them to the Detonators in an 8-6 win in the round robin portion of the event.

The Detonators finished the round robin with an identical record with the Parkland Wildcat Green team, but took second place due to their head-to-head matchup with Green, which they won 12-8. For good measure, they trounced Green in the semi-final 16-10.

The Langham Vikings placed fourth in the round robin, which matched them against first-place Blue in the semi-final. Bumped to the bronze game by their 14-1 loss to Blue, they met Green and downed them to claim the bronze medals.

Both the Saskatoon Junior Jacks and the P.A. Astros had fun, but went home early due to their fifth and sixth place finishes.

The championship was hampered by heavy rains on Friday that rendered one diamond unusable, but all games were played, if delayed somewhat or pushed to Saturday.

The Opening Ceremony was to have taken place Friday following the 5 p.m. game but was postponed due to the deluge that struck the area during the afternoon. The opening was held mid-afternoon Saturday, but it was worth the wait.

The program started with the entry of the Canadian, Saskatchewan, and Métis Nation flags, followed by the members of the six participating teams, each of them led by a member of the U11 Parkland Predators Girls team.

MC Josh Nordquist welcomed everyone. “We hope all the teams



**Parkland Wildcats Blue Team, gold-medal winners of the U13 Provincial Championships held July 10-12 in Shell Lake.**

feel welcome as we share the joy of softball.”

Sierra Strate of the Parkland U15 girls recited the land acknowledgment recognizing the event was taking place on Treaty 8 territory.

Following ‘O Canada’ by Dyan Nordquist, Shell Lake Village Councillor Louise Wells-Fisher welcomed and acknowledged everyone for participating and “making this a true celebration of sports.”

Allison Batty-Simonar spoke on behalf of Shell Lake Minor Sports, welcoming everyone and thanking Memorial Regional Park for their support “in creating this beautiful ballpark,” and the

sponsors, not just for the event, but for the entire diamond project. She also singled out Amy Strate, crediting her as “being the major driving force behind this event when we decided to bid on it.”

Brett Knoll, representing Softball Saskatchewan, thanked players, coaches, umpires, fans. “Without you, there wouldn’t be softball or an event to play. A big shout out to the committee for putting on such an amazing event.”

Several were called forward to recite oaths of sport: Coaches, by Merrit Johnson of the Langham Vikings; Officials, by Ethan Stankevici; and players, by Bowden Dufour.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony took place to officially open and dedicate the new diamond, featuring the entire Simonar family. The family was called out later to learn that the Diamond would be named after them

in recognition for the roles they played in developing, encouraging, and fostering softball and in building the ball diamonds.

Scott Strate spoke on behalf of the Regional Park and thanked everyone for coming out.

To conclude the program, a ceremonial first pitch made the Provincial Championship official. Maddox Simonar threw the pitch, caught by Axel Nordquist. Both are members of the Parkland Wildcats U15 team, which will be representing Saskatchewan at the National Championships in Surrey, BC in August. Team members assisted the championship by maintaining diamonds between games, score-keeping, and other tasks.

One unplanned feature of Friday’s pre-storm action was a flypast by an Air Force jet. The pilot dipped his wings in a greeting to all, especially to his grandma who was there supporting great-grandchildren participating in the tournament.

Despite the rains, the canteen, run by the RDC Competition Team parents, was kept hopping. They even ran out of burgers Sunday morning.

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## 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](mailto:admin.493@sasktel.net).

Issued at the Town of Shellbrook this 9<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2026.

Alicia tenBos – Acting Administrator – RM of Shellbrook No. 493

## Carney drops elbows for new pipeline

As he stepped into office in the midst of threats posed to Canada's economy and sovereignty by U.S. President Donald Trump, Prime Minister Mark Carney effectively, if not temporarily, united Canadians with his rallying call of "Elbows up!"

Borrowed from hockey great Gordie Howe, the simple slogan was meant to symbolize Canada's fighting spirit in the face of Mr. Trump's unjust and unwarranted actions.

But almost a year and a half later, "Elbows up" has largely become the punchline to jokes made at Mr. Carney's expense, as a series of concessions made to Mr. Trump have sparked doubts about his commitment to fight for Canada's interests.

When Mr. Trump slapped tariffs on the world, Canada included, Mr. Carney's government responded in kind. But by last September, Canada's retaliatory tariffs were dropped – even though U.S. tariffs on steel, aluminum, autos, copper, lumber, and energy remained in place.

And though the policy preceded Mr. Carney's tenure, his government also caved on the proposed Digital Services Taxes, which would have required foreign and domestic large businesses to pay tax on certain revenue earned from engaging with online users in Canada (though, given the policy's unpopularity, this wasn't seen as a major loss).

Most recently, Mr. Carney has been accused of making concessions on the Gordie Howe International Bridge, which will serve as a second border crossing to connect Ontario and Michigan.

The initial deal on the proposed bridge dates back to 2012. At the time, Canada agreed to front the full cost of the bridge, which grew to \$6.4 billion, and collect 100 per cent of revenue until it recouped its investment. After that point, Canada and Michigan would equally split toll revenues.

But then came Mr. Trump, who's never met a deal he didn't believe he



**JORDAN TWISS**  
~  
News Editor

could improve upon.

Not too long after receiving a \$1 million donation from Matthew Moroun – the owner of the existing Ambassador Bridge who stood to lose significant money once the Gordie Howe International Bridge opened – Mr. Trump had an epiphany that the original deal with Canada was terrible and threatened to keep the new border crossing from opening.

Under the renegotiated deal announced last Friday, the bridge is set open on July 27 (barring any further grievances on Mr. Trump's end).

Beyond the opening date, however, details of exactly what Mr. Carney gave away are unclear.

According to critics, Mr. Carney is giving away half of all revenues from the bridge. Meanwhile, Mr. Carney claims Canada will be repaid in full first, after which point 50 per cent of net profits (not revenues) will be shared with Michigan for the first 15 years.

While there's no denying that the opening of a bridge to ease the transport of billions of dollars worth of goods across the Canada-U.S. border is a positive for Canada, it seems Canadians will have to wait for the finalized agreement to see what Mr. Carney truly conceded to Mr. Trump (if anything).

Separate from Mr. Carney's ceaseless back and forth with Mr. Trump, critics might also argue that Mr. Carney hasn't lived up to his "Elbows up" mantra in his proposed plan to partner with B.C. to purchase unsold condos to convert into affordable housing units.

Though details still need to be finalized here as well, Mr. Carney says the units will be purchased below market value, getting affordable housing online faster and at a lower cost to Canadians.

Critics, however, call it a taxpayer-funded bailout of developers, and suggest it will prevent the housing market from self-correcting.

While questions about the housing



deal are valid, the same critics who are asking them have been oddly silent about the latest announcement tied to Mr. Carney's MOU with Alberta to build a pipeline to the west coast.

When Mr. Carney inked the MOU with Alberta Premier Danielle Smith last November, it was based on the understanding that approval for any pipeline would be contingent upon it being private sector-constructed and financed, and the construction of the Pathways carbon capture and storage project.

But last week, as Mr. Carney and Ms. Smith announced that they had reached an agreement with five oil companies on the Pathways project, it was revealed that this isn't true.

With oil companies demanding more incentives before moving ahead with the \$20 to \$30 billion dollar carbon capture and storage project, both governments have agreed to "pursue regulatory and fiscal policies that would spur oilsands production growth, ensuring the new pipeline can be filled."

But by far the largest concession from what was promised when the MOU was signed is the fact that the pipeline to the west coast is no longer expected to be privately constructed or financed.

Instead, the pipeline, which is projected to cost between \$35.2 and \$43.7 billion (before inevitable delays and

cost overruns), will be mostly owned and financed by the federal government and Alberta via Trans Mountain Corp.

Calgary-based Pembina will hold a 10 per cent ownership stake during construction, with the option to take on another 10 per cent when the pipeline is operational, and the government will also offer equity stake for Indigenous peoples.

While disappointing, this new development isn't surprising.

Critics will no doubt say it's a direct consequence of Canada's regulatory environment (the same regulatory environment that has allowed oil companies to set production and profit records in recent years).

But from expecting governments to clean up their messes (think billions spent on remedying orphaned wells), to expecting subsidies and tax incentives for everything, oil companies have an established history of asking taxpayers to foot the bill for them. And the Trans Mountain pipeline expansion proved the federal government is willing to do so.

Of course, a new pipeline does have the potential to be a boon for Canadians. But those benefits are still a very long way off.

For now, all we have is further proof that "Elbows up" was just another empty slogan.

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# Doukhobor site shares traditions, history

By JORDAN TWISS  
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

As the summer tourism season gets into full swing, Doukhobor Dugout House Site founder Brenda Cheveldayoff is determined to prove that history is more than something to read or listen to.

It's something to be experienced first-hand.

That's why, each weekend during the heritage site's short season, she's immersing visitors in a specific theme related to Doukhobor history, tradition, or culture.

For opening day on July 4, the Doukhobor Dugout House Site played host to a Doukhobor wedding (well, a re-enactment of one anyway).

Despite the deeply religious roots of the Doukhobor people, Doukhobor weddings don't make use of many of the common symbols most would think of. For instance, there's no exchanging of rings, and the ceremony isn't conducted in a church by a priest.

Instead, the bride and groom are married in the community by their own parents.

And yet, there are still symbols that are central to a Doukhobor wedding ceremony.

For the bride, there's a trunk filled with essential items she's gathered over the years to prepare herself for her life with her future husband. And the ceremony itself sees the bride and groom kneel on a matrimonial



Reenactors demonstrate a Doukhobor wedding during the site's opening day. Photo credit: Felipe Gomez

rug that has often been passed down through the generations.

For added authenticity, Cheveldayoff says the rug used in the re-enactment was donated by the Veregin family, descendants of Doukhobor spiritual leader, Peter Veregin. Meanwhile, the trunk used was more than 120 years old.

Also at the heart of Doukhobor wedding ceremonies (as well as funerals and prayer services) are bread, salt, and water, the three pillars of life in Doukhobor beliefs.

"I wanted it all authentic," Cheveldayoff said.

Following opening weekend, the Doukhobor Dugout House Site shone a spotlight on Russian author Leo Tolstoy, who was an advocate and ally for the Doukhobors and aided them in their migration to Canada.

And this past weekend, guests got a glimpse at the Doukhobors' first night in Canada in 1899.

"It's a good way to touch on the different history and stories that happened with the Doukhobors through-

out the time they were coming to Canada and in Canada," Cheveldayoff said.

Regardless of what theme they come out for, Cheveldayoff says she hopes visitors to the site feel like they're coming home.

"When I say come home to history, I literally mean that," she said. "I want everyone to know they're not just going to the Doukhobor Dugout House. It's Saskatchewan's place. They're just coming back home."

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# Sask. Feds agree to keep research farms open

By **JORDAN TWISS**  
*Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter*

Agriculture research farms in Indian Head and Scott, Sask., will stay open for the foreseeable future, thanks to an MOU signed by Saskatchewan’s Ministry of Agriculture and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC).

The MOU, signed last Thursday during negotiations at the annual federal-provincial-territorial agriculture ministers’ meeting in Hal-

ifax, does not include reinstating Swift Current’s organic program, which was the only program of its kind in the country.

“The Indian Head and Scott Research Farms supported important agricultural research for many years and are an important part of a research network that keeps Saskatchewan agriculture competitive,” said Saskatchewan Agriculture Minister David Marit in a statement.

“This MOU will see

the Governments of Saskatchewan and Canada work together to ensure agricultural activities continue at these sites while longer-term processes advance benefiting Saskatchewan producers.”

The closures of the research facilities in Indian Head, Scott, and Swift Current were announced at the end of January.

To save money and trim burgeoning government ranks, Prime Minister Mark Carney’s federal government an-

nounced cuts to staffing at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC).

These included the termination of more than 1,000 employees and closures of other research facilities in Guelph, Ont., Québec City, and Lacombe, Alta., as well as satellite research farms in Portage la Prairie, Man., and Nappan, N.S.

As Cathy Holtslander, the National Farmers’ Union’s (NFU) director of research and policy, explained, the biggest loss from the closure

of the Indian Head research farm was the seed increase unit, which provided seed to growers to grow seed crops, which in turn provide certified seed for producers.

The Indian Head research farm was responsible for stewarding about 300 varieties in controlled conditions to maintain purity and quality, and avoid contamination with seed-borne diseases and weeds. All told, it provided seed for 20 million acres of crops

grown across western Canada.

Meanwhile, the Scott research farm was home to projects aimed at helping producers deal with herbicide residues left on crops. The soil at the farm was especially important to Saskatchewan producers, as it breaks down herbicides more slowly and doesn’t exist anywhere outside of the province.

The provincial government hasn’t offered any glimpse of what the future will look like for the two facilities.

# Sask. Prosperity Project makes case for independence

By **JORDAN TWISS**  
*Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter*

As Alberta prepares to hold a referendum on voting to separate from Canada this fall, the Saskatchewan Prosperity Project (SKPP) is laying the groundwork for Saskatchewanians to one day have the same opportunity.

On Tuesday, July 14, Brad Williams, SKPP’s president, made his case for Saskatchewan’s independence to a crowd of about 30 people at the Leask Senior’s Hall.

Billing SKPP as a “non-profit, non-government, and non-partisan educational organization,” Williams spent the first hour of his nearly three-hour presentation highlighting Saskatchewan’s longstanding grievances with the federal government, including the equalization formula, regulations that restrict natural resource development, the unfair distribution of senate seats and Supreme Court justices that concentrates power in eastern Canada, and the erosion of personal freedoms.

Calling Canada a “sinking ship,” Williams argued there’s no way to fix the many issues Saskatchewan has with the federal government, leaving independence as

the only “path out of this mess.”

“Here’s why we think independence for Saskatchewan is so important. You have so many immigrants down east, and there is such a high population of people who are going to support a very left agenda. I don’t see how we could ever vote our way out of this,” Williams said.

“You can always vote your way into problems, but it’s really hard to vote your way out.”

After making his case for why independence is the only option, Williams used the remainder of his presentation to outline the route to independence. He acknowledged that it will be a difficult road, because re-opening the constitution requires support from seven provinces.

The first step, he said, is to build broad enough support to push for a referendum, as that would be the only legally binding way to force the Saskatchewan government to listen to the will of the people.

To build the support needed to hold a referendum, Williams urged attendees to stand up and become more politically involved at the grassroots level, either municipally or through federal riding or provincial constituency associations.

“If we had a vote today, do you think we’d actually win the vote? I don’t think we would yet,” he said. “No matter what path we take, we need numbers. You need to start talking to people: your friends and your neighbours.”

Next, Williams focused on the common misconceptions, questions, and concerns he hears about Saskatchewan becoming an independent nation, suggesting that, despite the fears some have about separation, “nothing’s going to change overnight.”

Touching on government programs like CPP and old age security, currency, trade, immigration and borders, military and policing, and healthcare, Williams claimed none of these things will be issues, as most costs can be covered by the money Saskatchewan is no longer sending to Ottawa.

But to get there, Williams once again argued that more support is needed.

“We’ve got to stand up, because there’s more of us than we realize,” he said. “A lot of people are just waiting for other people to stand up. We need to all be leaders. If not us, then who?”

**TOWN OF BIG RIVER**  
**TENDER ADVERTISEMENT**  
**HYDRANT REPLACEMENT PROGRAM – 2026**

The Town of Big River invites sealed tenders from qualified contractors for the provision of all labour, equipment, materials (except those supplied by the Town), and supervision required to replace and install four (4) Town-supplied fire hydrants, including associated valve replacement, excavation, backfilling, compaction, and surface restoration at various locations within the Town of Big River, Saskatchewan.

**Project Locations**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue North and Sundby Crescent – South Entrance
- 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue North and Sundby Crescent – North Entrance
- 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue North and Gilbert Street
- 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue North and Johnson Avenue

**Project Completion**

All work associated with this contract shall be completed no later than October 1, 2026.

Tender submission forms and project information may be obtained from the Town Office during regular business hours.

**Site Meeting**

Interested contractors may request a site meeting with the Town’s Maintenance Foreman prior to submitting a tender.

**Tender Closing**

Tender submissions shall be enclosed in a sealed envelope, clearly marked:

**“Hydrant Replacement Program – 2026”**

and signed across the seal.

Submissions must be delivered to:

**Town of Big River**  
Box 220  
Big River, SK S0J 0E0

**Closing Time: 4:00 p.m. (Local Time)**  
**Closing Date: July 29, 2026**

Late submissions will not be accepted.

The lowest or any tender will not necessarily be accepted. The Town of Big River reserves the right to reject any or all tenders and to waive informalities and irregularities in the tender process.

# FCAA warns of new social media scam

By **FCAA**  
*Submitted*

The Financial and Consumer Affairs Authority of Saskatchewan (FCAA) is warning Saskatchewan residents about the online entity known as Profit Rings. Social media advertisements have promoted Profit Rings and directed users to a fake news article.

The article falsely claims that Profit Rings is endorsed by Federated Co-operatives Limited (FCL) and by Scott Banda, whom the article incorrectly identifies as FCL’s CEO.

Mr. Banda is FCL’s former CEO and retired in 2022.

“Always check the registration status of an entity at aretheyregistered.ca before you invest, and do not deal with any unregistered entities,” FCAA Securities Division Executive Director Dean Murrison said. “Scammers often create fake news articles to mimic legitimate media and try to get you to make an investment based on a notable figure endorsement.”

Profit Rings claims to offer Saskatchewan residents investment

trading opportunities including stocks, cryptocurrencies and forex.

Profit Rings is 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 Profit Rings or anyone claiming to be acting on its 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.

This alert applies only to the online entities using the website “profit-rings com” (this URL has 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: [aretheyregistered.ca](#).
- Know exactly what you are investing in. Make sure you understand how the investment, product, or service works.
- Get a second opinion and seek professional advice about the investment.
- Do not allow unknown or unverified individuals to remotely access your computer 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”.

## Canola bio-fuel co-processing boasts potential

Technology and science are working to push the packet in terms of what can be accomplished, and of course that includes farming and its related industries.

It's one of the reason the system needs to work hard at maintaining varietal lines for crops, and breeds for livestock, because we do not know what science might break through on to make something thought a thing of the past hold greater relevance moving forward.

While the idea of maintaining rare lines could be a column itself, in this case the

news is once again around canola and its potential role in regard to bio-fuels.

One of the hurdles to canola as a bio-fuel is getting the big players in the fuel sector on-side to invest big dollars on processing facilities for bio-fuels.

While the benefits of bio-fuels are rather obvious the sector also remains largely tied to government policy and we only need to look across the 49th parallel at the daily upheavals to a range of policies and government programs that happen amid the blustering deluge which swirls around US president Donald Trump.



CALVIN DANIELS

And here in Canada we see government policy gutting a significant chunk out of this country's farm research capacity with announced closures to facilities from Lacombe, Alta., Indian Head, Sask. and various other locales.

But in terms of canola as a bio-fuel, what if existing fuel processing

facilities could be used?

It would obviously be a game changer which could create a massive new market for canola.

According to a recent *producer.com* article, that technology might be right around the corner.

The article notes Patrick Bergermann, associate vice-president, energy road map, with Federated Co-operatives, saying Canadian refiners are keenly interested in co-processing, which is a more efficient way to produce bio-fuel.

The process would allow "refiners to use existing production facilities to make bio-fuel,

rather than building expensive bio-diesel or renewable diesel plants," states the article.

"Co-processing enables refiners to simultaneously run canola oil and crude oil through their existing facilities and generate carbon credits from the resulting fuel."

It's the sort of innovative technology which really has a double positive.

On the one hand it would create a more cost-effective way to create bio-fuel, a sector of the energy industry which needs to grow.

And in producing that bio-fuel, canola producers get a new end user

which grows overall demand.

Now of course, there is one obvious question looming over a development like this and that is whether it is good practice, even in the short to medium terms, to be taking more acres out of food production to create base ingredients for fuel?

As populations grow, and hunger remains a very real crisis for many, it is a question that will need to be wrestled with as we move forward.

But today, canola producers must be watching reports on co-processing with a level of hope and expectation.

## Farmer Wellness Network partnership renewed

By JORDAN TWISS

Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

A renewed partnership between Farm Credit Canada (FCC) and the Canadian Centre for Agricultural Wellbeing (CCAW) will ensure Canadian producers continue to have access to mental health and wellness resources for at least the next three years.

The partnership on the The National Farmer Wellness Network (NFWN) Crisis Line — 1-866-FARMS01 (1-866-327-6701) — provides immediate, no-cost, confidential mental health and crisis support tailored to the agricultural community.

"The response to the National

Farmer Wellness Network Crisis Line since its launch has confirmed what we always knew, there is a deep and urgent need for mental health support that speaks the language of farming," said Dr. Briana Hagen, CEO and lead scientist for the CCAW. "This partnership is about more than a phone line; it's about ensuring Canada's agricultural community knows it is seen, valued, and never alone."

The NFWN Crisis Line program addresses key barriers to mental health care in agriculture, including geographic isolation, stigma, and lack of farm-specific resources. CCAW collaborates with provincial organizations to connect farmers with ongoing mental health support beyond the crisis line.

Since it launched in February 2025, FCC says the NFWN Crisis Line has connected agricultural workers across Canada with licensed mental health professionals trained through the Canadian Agricultural Literacy Program (CALP) — specialists who understand the unique pressures of farming life.

The three-year renewal, with an annual investment of \$600,000, ensures that this vital service continues uninterrupted.

"Farming and ranching ask a lot of people. Behind every operation are individuals and families managing uncertainty, long hours and immense responsibility," said Justin Hendricks, CEO and president of FCC. "That's why FCC is proud to

continue its support to the National Farmer Wellness Network so farmers and farm families have access to trusted mental health support from professionals who understand the unique realities of agriculture, whenever they need it."

FCC notes that Farming remains one of Canada's most demanding occupations. Financial volatility, geographic isolation, unpredictable weather, and the emotional weight of caring for land and livestock create compounding mental health pressures that general support services are often ill-equipped to address.

The NFWN Crisis Line was built specifically to meet farmers where they are, and this renewed commitment ensures it will keep doing so.

## Crop Report: July 7 to 13

By MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

Submitted

Last week, warmer temperatures, increased sunshine and limited precipitation helped fields to dry, allowing crops to catch up. Producers made progress with spraying and began haying, though high humidity continues to slow drying. Producers remain optimistic while monitoring pests, disease and localized weather impacts.

Isolated storms moved through the province, bringing varying amounts of moisture, with some areas also reporting hail. The highest rainfall recorded was 88 millimetres (mm) in

the Prince Albert area, followed by 72 mm in the Foam Lake area. The Blaine Lake and Redberry areas received 65 mm and 62 mm of precipitation, respectively.

Despite the relatively warm weather, with some areas experiencing dry conditions due to higher temperatures and wind, topsoil moisture levels in many regions remained relatively stable.

While crop development varies considerably across the province due to differing environmental conditions, most crops are at the normal development stage.

Although crop conditions vary across the province, most crops are rated in good to fair condition. Cereal crops have the highest pro-

portion rated as excellent, followed by oilseeds and pulses close behind. In regions experiencing surplus moisture, some crops are rated as poor due to moisture-related stress.

Currently, 10 per cent of the province's first cut of hay has been baled or put up as silage, while 20 per cent has been cut, and 70 per cent remains standing. Overall, hay quality is rated as 27 per cent excellent, 66 per cent good, six per cent fair and one per cent poor. Some producers have started their second cut of hay due to the significant rainfall.

Producers in the east-central region, along with some areas of the northeast and northwest, are reporting

moderate to minor crop damage due to excess moisture and hail. Additional crop damage reported this past week was primarily due to gophers. Overall pest pressure remains relatively low, while producers continue to monitor fields for any changes. Fungicides and insecticides continue to be applied in crops where excess moisture and prolonged canopy humidity have created favourable conditions for disease development.

Over the coming weeks, producers will be busy completing fungicide applications, finishing haying operations and preparing equipment for harvest. Producers are reminded to prioritize safety and exercise

caution when working in the field and around farm equipment.

For any crop or livestock questions, producers are encouraged to call the Agriculture Knowledge Centre toll-free at 1-866-457-2377.

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

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 chads@sbchron.com

# Shell Lake Hey Days celebrates community

By BEVRA FEE  
Spiritwood Herald  
Reporter

The tiny resort village of Shell Lake punched above its weight once again with the 43rd Annual Homesteader Hey Days on the blistering hot weekend of July 17 to 19. Hosted each year as a way to celebrate the past and unite the residents and summer residents of the lake community, this year's version once again offered all the favourite activities that have become the base for good old family fun.

Friday's action kicked off the festivities with a karaoke and open-stage talent showcase at Shell Lake's watering hole. Other local businesses joined in the action with special sales discounts on the Friday



Members of the Shell Lake Legion bore the flags to begin the Main Street parade.

and the village readied itself for the influx of visitors during the Saturday and Sunday events. Shell Lake's museum provided the opportunity

to rekindle memories of the past with a tour of the museum, caboose and log cabin, featuring a special attraction of a photo

gallery showing past Hey Days festivities. Both days also saw kids golf free at the Memorial Lake Golf Course, sponsored by the Regional Park Authority.



Brightly coloured bicycles and enthusiastic children preceded the parade with their many laps around the route.

The big day, though, was Saturday. The outdoor pancake breakfast that is traditionally hosted at the Partners in Worship church grounds got everyone fed and ready for an action-packed day.

While the tables were being put away and the coffee pot was being washed, the hum of children's bicycles began the terrific display of colour that is the annual parade.

"Where did all these kids come from?" was the comment overheard, as children of all ages and on all manner of wheeled transportation whizzed around the corner and stormed Main Street with flashes of colourful balloons, streamers, costumes, and glee.

Following the multiple laps of kids on bikes, the iconic sound of bagpipes signalled the start of the main parade. With (it was hard to count as they just kept coming) around 36 entries in the line-up of classic cars, lifted trucks, horse-drawn

wagons, riders on horseback, miniature ponies hauling carts, traditional floats decorated to themes, quads - you name it, it was in this year's parade!

Straight from the parade to the Legion Hall for burgers and hot dogs, the crowd was once again ready to eat. Fortified for the next leg of events, children were drawn to the Money Pit Dig to find their share of \$50 buried in the sand, while folks of all ages wandered to the village's gazebo area to browse the Show & Shine.

More food was available, including Filipino fare as well as bannock and jam at the nearby Métis Hall. For those wishing there would be food to go, the Farmers Market covered that with vendors offering baking and all manner of other tradition market wares.

Bubble-making, sidewalk drawing, half-price mini golf, petting zoo with a donkey calling out to the entire village, bouncy castles sponsored by the Mud Bog committee, dime toss and children's games - what have we missed!

For those needing shade from the day's hot sunshine, pie and coffee was indoors at the Lions Hall, while even more food was offered during the 3rd Annual Ed Simonar Backyard Concert (also indoors at the hall).

Winding up the fun-filled day was the limbo contest and music at The Chill Spot, and the church service at Our Lady of Smiles Church.



Not quite clowns, but they borrowed the car!



Kids enjoyed the friendly donkey, duck, goat and other pals at the petting zoo.



Cailyn Malmberg and Lyle Franson guide their team along the parade route.



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Payrate: \$20.68 per hour

To apply, please go to the Shellbrook or Ahtahkakoop RCMP detachment for further instruction and information. Only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

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# Lilies in Bloom brings colour to summer



Love Struck Miniatures’ petting zoo was a new addition, bringing a diverse range of animals, including Sassy the miniature horse.



First-time vendor Amanda Diehl made the trip from Warman to sell her baking and very quickly sold out of chocolate chip cookies.



Return vendor Prairie Sky Design had a selection of wind spinners and hats to peruse at Lilies in Bloom.



In addition to displaying his works, Larry Dale (Prairie Larry Carves) worked on a new piece throughout the day.

## Nipawin man charged with sexual interference

By JORDAN TWISS  
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

The Ahtahkakoop RCMP has charged a Nipawin man with forcible confinement and sexual interference.

According to police, investigation determined the man had been communicating with a teenage girl on social media and met the girl on the Ahtahkakoop Cree Nation on Sunday, July 12.

He later left with the girl in his vehicle, and the incident was immediately reported to police.

Officers subsequently determined the suspect’s location. The girl was located and the male was arrested at a residence in Nipawin approximately two hours after police received the initial call.

As a result of continued investigation, 22-year-old Drann McKay from Nipawin is charged with one count of unlawful confinement and one count of sexual interference.

McKay made his first appearance in Nipawin Provincial Court on

Thursday, July 16. Nipawin RCMP, the Saskatchewan RCMP’s Forensic Identification Services, and Serious Crimes Unit assisted with this investigation.

### Rollover kills two

A man and woman were killed in a single vehicle rollover on Highway #24 near Pelican Lake First Nation on Sunday, July 12.

According to police, Spiritwood RCMP received a report about the accident at around 10:55 a.m. and responded alongside local fire and EMS.

Two of the occupants of the vehicle were declared deceased by EMS at the scene. They have been identified as a 31-year-old male and a 39-year-old female, both from Pelican Lake First Nation. Their families have been notified.

A third passenger was transported to hospital by EMS with injuries described as serious in nature.

Spiritwood RCMP continues to investigate with the assistance of a Saskatchewan RCMP collision reconstructionist.

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JULY 28<sup>TH</sup>

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**Cargill** For dates and locations, visit [VictoryCanola.ca/trials](http://VictoryCanola.ca/trials)



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ADVERTISING DEADLINE IS  
FRIDAY 4:00 PM

# Sask expands PDAP support, eligibility

By SPSA  
Submitted

The Government of Saskatchewan and the Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency (SPSA) have announced updates to the Provincial Disaster Assistance Program (PDAP) regulations to increase assistance to those affected by disaster and provide communities support for mitigation and resiliency. These changes will expand eligibility for individuals, small businesses and other eligible claimants.

The regulatory changes improve municipal and community recovery supports and mitigation incentives, aligning the program more closely with updated federal Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements, resulting in a stronger and more equitable program. The regulations apply retroactively to April 1, 2026, allowing recent claimants, including those affected by the May 2026 and more recent flooding, to be assessed under the framework.

“Our government is here to help and support our communities in the face of disasters,” Community Safety Minister and Minister Responsible for the Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency Michael Weger said. “The recovery process after an incident can be challenging and long. The changes announced today will lessen some of that burden and improve resiliency for communities recovering from disasters.”

The regulatory changes include:

- Increasing the maximum assistance for individuals from \$240,000 to \$500,000.
- Increasing the maximum assistance for small businesses

- from \$500,000 to \$3 million.
- Compensation is now based on standard replacement value, not depreciated value.
- A new municipal incentive, allowing local authorities to lower their deductible by meeting emergency management and preparedness criteria.
- A new maximum deductible introduced for larger municipalities, tied to federal thresholds, making costs more predictable and manageable.
- Additional assistance up to 25% of a claim’s value available for projects that reduce future disaster risk, subject to program rules and funding.

“These improvements are an important step toward making sure RMs and their residents can count on more responsive, predictable assistance when they need it most,” SARM President Bill Huber said. “SARM has been hearing from councils across the province about the challenges they are facing after this year’s flooding, and we appreciate the Province’s efforts to improve the program in ways that will better support rural Saskatchewan.”

PDAP is an emergency management recovery program that helps residents, small businesses, agricultural operations, First Nations, non-profit organizations and communities recover from natural disasters. The program reimburses the cost of uninsurable essential losses, cleanup, repairs and temporary relocation.

The intent of the program is to provide claimants with essential needs in extraordinary circumstances. It is not designed to replace insurance, compensate a claimant for minor losses or to “fully” restore a claimant to a pre-disaster state.

Individuals who were impacted by the recent flooding need to work with their community leadership to access the forms necessary to make a claim.

For more information on PDAP visit: <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/residents/emergency/flooding-support>

## 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](http://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 20<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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](http://www.thickwoodhillsstudiotrail.ca) or [facebook.com/thickwoodhillsstudiotrail](https://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](https://facebook.com/ParksideDemolitionDerby)

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## Watercraft inspections protect waterways

By MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT  
Submitted

As boating season continues across Saskatchewan, the Ministry of Environment is reminding residents and visitors that stopping for a watercraft inspection is one of the simplest and most effective ways to help prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species.

The presence of invasive zebra mussel has been confirmed in Lake of the Prairies. While this finding reinforces that aquatic invasive species remain an ongoing threat to Saskatchewan waters, it also highlights the importance of early detection and prevention efforts to help limit their spread.

In response to the confirmation of these mussels, containment orders have been issued by both Saskatchewan and Manitoba, requiring all watercraft and equipment used at Lake of the Prairies to be decontaminated before being moved to any other waterbody. Decontamination ensures watercraft or equipment from Lake of the Prairies are not unintentionally spreading invasive zebra mussels elsewhere. The containment order applies to the entirety of Lake of the Prairies, as well as the Assiniboine River from the highway 357 crossing west of Togo, Saskatchewan, to the confluence of Lake of the Prairies.

Aquatic invasive species can be unintentionally transported between waterbodies on boats, trailers and water-related equipment. Once established, many invasive species can be extremely difficult or impossible to eliminate and may cause significant environmental, recreational and economic impacts.

Throughout the summer and early fall, watercraft inspectors and conservation officers operate inspection stations and roadside check stops.

If you are transporting a watercraft, including boats, jet skis, kayaks, canoes or paddleboards, and see an open inspection station, you must stop - it is the law.

“Protecting Saskatchewan’s lakes and rivers starts with prevention,” Environment Minister Darlene Rowden said. “The recent detection of zebra mussels demonstrates exactly why all boaters need to be aware of the risks related to their activities and the movement of Aquatic Invasive Species. When enjoying time on the water, be sure to follow Clean, Drain and Dry practices and stop at inspection stations when required to help prevent the further spread of aquatic invasive species.”

What can you expect during your inspection?

Officers will ask where the watercraft was last used and conduct a visual inspection of the boat, trailer and equipment. Think of it as a check-up before your next launch. Officers look for standing water, aquatic plants, mud and invasive species that could be transported to another waterbody. For watercraft that have been properly cleaned, drained and dried, the inspection process typically takes only a few minutes.

Boaters can further reduce the risk of spreading aquatic invasive species by following the Clean, Drain and Dry guidelines after every use. A few minutes spent preparing your watercraft and stopping for an inspection can help protect Saskatchewan’s lakes and rivers from the spread of aquatic invasive species.

If you plan to move watercraft or equipment that has recently been used within the Lake of the Prairies containment order area and require decontamination, contact our inspection and decontamination program at [aiswatercraftinspection@gov.sk.ca](mailto:aiswatercraftinspection@gov.sk.ca) to schedule a decontamination.

# Jays stumble during Guerrero, Jr.'s power outage

One of the most perplexing sports stories in Canada this year is about Vladimir Guerrero, Jr., and his woeful power statistics.

There's more to baseball than hitting home runs, but in Guerrero, Jr.'s case, hitting home runs and driving in batters reaching base ahead of him are why the Toronto Blue Jays signed him to a contract extension last year that pays him an astronomical sum — in the vicinity of \$500 million for 14 seasons.

At last glance, Guerrero, Jr., stood tied for 205th in the list of Major League Baseball home run leaders, with six in more than 90 games, all on the road. That's a pace that brings his season total to around 10, about one-third of what the Jays' hierarchy expects of him annually.

Another sick stat is his double play grounders — only four MLB players have more than Vladdy.

Guerrero, Jr., who has never hit fewer than 20 homers in any of his

past five seasons, is reportedly playing with tightness in his back, which could be the reason for his meagre offensive production. But the health situation is apparently not bad enough to keep him out of the lineup.

It's a slump, pure and simple.

There's a definite correlation between Guerrero, Jr.'s feeble hitting stats and the Blue Jays' overall team performance. Last year's American League champions, who came within one out of winning the World Series, are struggling this year.

A playoff position is possible, but unlikely since the Jays found themselves struggling to get to .500 in mid-July.

So what are the Blue Jays' options with Guerrero, Jr.?

They can continue to play him, get decent batting average numbers from him (in the .260 range) and hope the natural power he has shown to possess returns.

They could try to



BRUCE  
PENTON

~

trade him, but which general manager in his right mind would take on a massive contract for a player whose hitting skills have seemingly diminished?

The Jays could bench him, but management would have a hard time justifying having a player earning \$500 million sitting on the bench.

They could demote him to eighth or ninth in the batting order from his normal No. 2 position until the power returns.

A radio listener in Saskatchewan even suggested recently the Jays send Guerrero, Jr., to the minors so he could work on his hit-

ting approach out of the major league spotlight. That's not going to happen.

Toronto manager John Schneider continues to pencil Guerrero, Jr.'s name into the lineup, giving him a day off only occasionally.

The manager, whose employment fortunes could be tied to his first baseman's power numbers, is confident of a rebound.

"I don't want to push it with him," Schneider told Mike Petriello of MLB.com "He's been working a lot and I think that plays into how he's feeling ... I think he's where we want him to be. He's really close, so I didn't want to set him back."

Cathal Kelly of the Globe and Mail, in a satirical column about the U.S. trying to fix the World Cup: "The only way this was getting fixed right was convincing Gianni Infantino to announce that he'd just found Lionel Messi's and Erling Haaland's real birth certificates — twins, born in Boise, Idaho, separated

at birth."

Philadelphia Inquirer, on President Trump exerting his influence to suspend the red card penalty against U.S. star Folarin Balogun, but the U.S. ultimately losing 4-1 to Belgium: "The USMNT lived down to Donald Trump's expectations: They played like the losers he thought they were."

Comedy guy Torben Rolfson of Vancouver: "James Harden was arrested and charged in Houston for carrying a concealed weapon. Police found the gun when they frisked his beard."

Headline at theonion.com: "MLB Demands Return Of All Foul Balls"

Another headline at theonion.com: "PGA announces all caddies must be leashed."

Super 70s Sports: "Even after decades of laboratory testing, scientists still have no idea what was in Topps' (baseball card package) gum."

Another one from Torben Rolfson, on

the Sharks' drafting of 7-foot-1 Alexander Karamano, the tallest player in NHL history: "The Sharks are now just mocking the rest of the league."

Steve Simmons of the Toronto Sun: "If you do the math and try to do that data, the Leafs have at least nine bottom-six forwards."

Cathal Kelly again, astounded by the \$18-million-per-season offer sheet given to Anaheim's Leo Carlsson by Philadelphia: "That's half-again as much as Connor McDavid makes, for a guy who would be backing him up on his best day."

Another Cathal Kelly offering, on the poor offensive showing in the World Cup by a Canadian star: "If Jonathan David was a duck hunter, he'd be a hero to all ducks."

Headline at theonion.com: "FIFA Admits It Has No Idea Why Soccer Players Walk Out On Field With Little Kids"

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

## Op-ed: Taxpayers can't afford more broken spending promises

By GAGE HAUBRICH  
CTF Prairie Director

Going over budget once could be a fluke. Twice starts to look like a pattern. Five years in a row shows the fiscal discipline of a kid in the toy aisle with their parent's credit card.

That kid is the Saskatchewan government. And taxpayers are stuck with the credit card bill.

The newly released public accounts show the Saskatchewan government spent more than it budgeted by one billion dollars in 2025-26. Premier Scott Moe told taxpayers he would spend \$21 billion last year. Instead, his government spent \$22.1 billion.

The government says it chose to spend over budget because of increased demand for health care and wildfire costs throughout the year.

That's not an excuse. Health-care demand goes up every year. Wildfires are be-

coming a staple of Saskatchewan summers. These are expenses the government should be planning for.

When a Saskatchewan family gets hit with an unexpected car repair bill, they cut back on restaurants or vacations to cover the cost. They don't take out another credit card. Moe needs to do the same.

Plus, it wasn't just health care and wildfires. The government's spending was over budget in eight out of 11 of its main departments last year.

Usually, the government blames high crop insurance costs for going over budget, but agriculture expenses came in \$356 million under budget last year.

The weather gifted the government a \$356-million windfall and it still managed to overspend by more than \$1 billion.

And government revenues came in over budget by about \$77.4 million.

Overspending has become a habit for Moe's govern-

ment. The Saskatchewan government spent \$970 million more than budgeted in 2024. In 2023, it went over budget by \$2.2 billion. In 2022, it was \$1.4 billion. In total, the government has spent about \$8 billion over budget since 2020.

And all this extra spending, without offsetting savings elsewhere, means more debt. The government's debt hit \$25 billion at the end of 2025-26. That's \$1.6 billion more borrowing than the government projected. Moe has more than doubled Saskatchewan's debt since becoming premier.

More debt means more money wasted on debt interest payments. Debt interest charges cost taxpayers about \$817 million last year. That's about \$640 per Saskatchewanian. That's money that can't hire a nurse or pave a highway. It's completely wasted paying for years of the government's overspending.

Saskatchewanians see the

problem. Polling from In-sightrix shows 87 per cent are concerned about the growth of provincial government debt.

Every dollar the government borrows must be paid back plus interest. And as the government continues to overspend and borrow more money, that debt interest bill grows larger.

Eventually the bill grows so large that the government doesn't have enough money to spend on its other priorities. That means the government will raise taxes on Saskatchewan families to cover the difference.

Saskatchewan has been down this road before. Former premier Roy Romanow hiked three different taxes in a single year because debt interest charges ate up a growing share of the provincial budget.

That can't happen again. Luckily, the fix is simple for the government: Stop spending over budget. And when unexpected costs occur, find

savings in other parts of the budget instead of reaching for the credit card to cover the difference.

The Saskatchewan Party says one of its guiding principles is the "steady, gradual reduction in government spending and taxation while maintaining a firm commitment to balanced budgets."

The government is spending at record levels and doubled the debt in less than 10 years. And that could mean tax hikes on the horizon.

Every parent knows the fix for the kid in the toy aisle. Say no and put the credit card away. It's that simple for the Saskatchewan government.

Moe needs to make this year's budget the first one in six years where he keeps his spending promises.

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OBITUARIES

~

Linda Marleen Rask



Linda Marleen Rask (McComas)  
May 21, 1947 – July 2, 2026

Linda was born May 21, 1947 in Shellbrook and passed away July 2, 2026, at home with husband Harvey and all 4 children at her side. Linda was predeceased by her parents Earl and Phyllis McComas (Shellbrook,

SK) and Sister Nora (Gerein). She leaves to mourn Harvey, her loving husband of 60 years; sons Budd (Leanne) and Dean (Sherry); daughters Maureen (Cam) and Sheri; 11 grandchildren; 5 great grandchildren; brothers Jim McComas (Sue), Ken McComas (Bati), Roger McComas (Shelly); brother-in-law Gary Gerein; sister-in-law Ethel Pashovitz; numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. Linda and Harvey raised their family on the farm at Nestledown where they grew grain crops and livestock. They were also involved in many activities in Canwood. Linda was an amazing daughter, sister,

wife, mother, (great) grandmother, aunt, cousin, friend, and the heart of her family. We are so blessed to have her as our mom. She never missed a beat... Gave us strict curfews and always met us at the door; sometimes it was with a smile, other times with a lesson. She was an amazing supporter and the biggest cheerleader to all her family. She made every effort to attend all events her family were involved in whether it was hockey, soccer, football, track, figure skating, skateboarding, music, singing and the list goes on. If she couldn't be there in person, she made every effort to find it on tv, streaming or wherever. Over the years Linda

worked at Cornwell's Drug Store, on the farm, and later at the Whispering Pines Care Home in Canwood. She loved the people she met, the residents and of course her coworkers. So many great friendships were made that she truly cherished. Linda and Harvey spent their winters in Mexico for over 20 years where they were hosts, tour guides, and golf partners to countless family and friends who visited them in Mazatlán and Puerto Vallarta. So many special friendships were forged over those years, and many came to be considered family. Linda was diagnosed with breast cancer in the fall of 2022. She had surgery in January

of 2023 and battled for the next 3 plus years going through many appointments, treatments and medication changes. She relied on her faith through it all, was able to put a smile on her face and forge ahead enjoying many good times. One of the many family highlights was driving to Denver to pick up Sheri and her family before heading to Nashville to see her grandson Brayden, drafted 14th overall by the Pittsburgh Penguins in the 2023 NHL Draft. Linda had the ability to work through the pain. With a smile on her face, she had the time to say hi or squeeze in a visit, always caring about what was going on in your life.

She was so thankful for the care she received from all the doctors, nurses and homecare providers, which is echoed by Harvey and the kids. Linda was a beautiful, wonderful person inside and out and will always be remembered for her kindness and the love she had for her family. We love you Linda and miss you beyond words. Memorial donations may be made in memory of Linda to the Canadian Cancer Society or the Shellbrook & Districts Health Services Foundation. Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of Beau "Lac" Funeral Home and Crematorium.

Doris

"Doreen"

Sorensen



Doris "Doreen" Sorensen (née Corr), late of Canwood, SK, was born on June 23, 1948, and passed away on Friday, May 1, 2026, in Canwood, SK. Memorial Service will be held at 2:00 PM on Monday, July 27, 2026, at the Zion Lutheran Church, Canwood, SK. Lunch following interment at the Canwood Legion Hall. Family and friends wishing to send online condolences are welcome to visit [www.beaulacfuneral-home.com](http://www.beaulacfuneral-home.com). Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of Beau "Lac" Funeral Home and Crematorium, Lynn Anderson Funeral Director, Shellbrook, SK 306-747-2828.

By **DEB ANDERSON**  
*Submitted*

It is no wonder thanksgiving follows harvest. Just four months ago, I planted some seeds. For each pea seed planted probably 50 individual peas were produced. I started some tomato plants from seed in the house, then moved them out when the weather warmed up – and now I have the equivalent of a green garbage bag full of tomatoes! Thank God! My neighbor tilled the ground. I planted a few seeds and did a bit of weeding. The Lord gave the rain and the increase. Our God loves to see growth, life, increase. When we see this in the natural, can we also see increase or fruitfulness in the spiritual? Jesus talked to the woman at the well and we see from that conversation that many people came to believe Jesus to be the "Savior of the world." (John 4: 1-42). Jesus taught His disciples about doing the will of God. He compared the harvest to people coming to know Him. Some people 'plant' seeds, or 'sow' a scripture or reflect some goodness of the Kingdom. Some people 'reap' or lead people to receive Christ personally. God gives the increase. "I tell you open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. Even now the reaper draws his wages; even now he harvests the crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together." (John 4: 35-36). Here is a testimony of how the whistling boy worked together with God and the local Mission's pastor to bring a rich man to Jesus: "There was a certain rich man in London whose business flourished. He used to get hold of his bank book and cheques, then scratched his head—he didn't know what to do. Walking about his great build-

GOOD NEWS

~

THE JOY OF SOWING AND REAPING

ing he came to a boy standing by the door. He found the boy whistling. He went back to his office again and scratched his head. Back to business he went but he could get no peace. His bank could not help him; his cheques, his success could not help him. He had an aching void. He was helpless within. When he could get no rest he exclaimed, 'I will go and see what the boy is doing.' Again he found him, whistling. 'I want you to come into my office,' he said. On entering the office he said, 'Tell me what makes you so happy and cheerful?' 'Oh,' replied the boy, 'I used to be so miserable until I

went to a little Mission and heard about Jesus. Then I was saved and filled with the Holy Ghost.'" This rich man got the address of the Mission from the boy, went to the services, and sat beside the door. But the power of God so moved him that when the altar call was given he responded and God saved him, and a few days afterwards filled him with the Holy Ghost. He found himself at his desk shouting, "Oh, hallelujah!... I know the Lord has laid His hand on me!" — from "He is Risen" *Smith Wigglesworth: The Complete Collection of His Life Teachings*

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

SEVENTH DAY  
ADVENTIST  
407-2<sup>nd</sup> Ave E, Shellbrook  
Sat., 9:45 a.m. - Sabbath  
School  
Sat., 11:00 am - Worship  
Pastor Myshan Irving  
306-747-3398

EVENING LIGHT  
TABERNACLE  
Ahtakakoop FN  
Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.  
Communion 1<sup>st</sup> Wed.  
of month  
Pastor Burton Ahenakew  
306-468-7537

## PRAISE & WORSHIP

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

PARTNERS IN FAITH  
Lutheran/United/  
Christchurch Anglican,  
137-2nd St. W.  
Spiritwood  
Worship 10:00 a.m.  
Rev. Sarah Urano

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

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

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

FIELDS OF HOPE  
(HOFFNUNGSFELDER)  
MENNONITE CHURCH  
Glenbush (May thru Sept)  
10:00 am Worship  
Rabbit Lake Mennonite  
Church (June thru Sept)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday - 10 am Worship

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

MENNONITE BRETHREN  
Glenbush  
10:00 am - Sunday School  
Worship 10:50 am

Gideons International  
of Canada  
Battlefords Camp  
Phone Art Martyns  
(306) 389-4633

PARTNERS IN WORSHIP  
Shell Lake  
Worship Services  
Sunday 10:00 a.m.  
306-883-8885

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

www.shellbrookchronicle.com  
www.spiritwoodherald.com

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# Spiritwood Library activity highlights



The Spiritwood Public Library’s June Dessert of the Month Winner was Shirley Kajner. Shirley won a decadent caramel chocolate brownie that Board Member Tess Mills baked.  
*By HEATHER GATZKE, Branch Librarian*



Summer MakeDo Cardboard fun was had at Spiritwood Public Library on Wednesday, July 15. Kids from the SARCS Summer Camp joined in and were given special tools and screws to create a masterpiece out of cardboard. Kids made a house with a chair, Superdog, a large man, a flower and a Robot Head. Everyone got to take a photo of their creations home, since the kit was borrowed from Wapiti Headquarters.



## A gardener’s guide to apples: Part 2

By **PATRICIA HANBIDGE**  
*Orchid Horticulture*

Last week, we introduced growing apples on the prairies and shared the fact that we can grow apples as good as those grown anywhere in the world. The culture of apples was covered so we know the basics about growing our own apple trees.

Another interesting fact is that the apple industry worldwide has been undergoing change. As stated earlier each apple tree is produced asexually so a graft from the desired type of apple is grafted onto a compatible rootstock. This rootstock began as a complete tree with a root system and a single stem.

In the apple industry most often this rootstock is a dwarf rootstock which will have an effect on the apple tree itself to keep it smaller in stature and will also have an effect on when fruit is produced. The apple industry has been utilizing dwarf rootstock for many years as the trees themselves are smaller, require less maintenance, pruning is easier as they are shorter trees and the production has proven to result in larger fruit and in fact more fruit can be produced on the same size of land base.

As mentioned above, the rootstock will affect the age when the tree begins to bear fruit. Generally speaking, dwarf apples will produce two

to three years after planting while semi-dwarf apples will usually begin to bear fruit at four to five years after planting. Standard apples may take seven to ten years to reach maturity and begin to bear fruit. Please note that dwarf trees will need staking or a trellis to support themselves and stay upright when fruiting.

The top part of the tree is referred to as scion wood. This scion wood is collected during the winter while the tree is dormant and should be one quarter to three eighth of an inch in diameter. Store the scion wood in a cool, moist location with tempera-

tures close to 34°F. Do not freeze but keep the humidity high and very close to freezing.

Grafting during late summer should occur when there is sufficient movement within the tree that the bark slips or in other words when the bark of the stock easily separates from the wood and buds are fully developed. Budding and specifically T-budding is the chosen grafting method where a single bud is taken from the scion wood onto the root stock.

This method is faster than other grafting techniques and the success

rate is generally quite high as a stronger union is formed between the scion wood and the root stock. Even for a novice grafter, this method has proven to be one of the best options. The bud will remain dormant until spring and once the graft site has healed the wood above the graft will be removed.

Please note that in order to do this grafting a sharp, good quality knife is essential. The graft should be wrapped with grafting tape which is a specialized tape used for grafting. Over the years many other tapes and methods have been used.

When I first learned to graft, we wrapped the graft site with rubber bands and paraffin. It took a fine hand to ensure the wrapping was tight but not too tight to keep the graft site from desiccating but not so tight that the graft site would be strangled and not allow the sap to flow.

It is not difficult to find a grafted apple tree with multiple varieties of apples grafted together. This is amazing for those of us who have small areas to grow our favourite plants and also for those who wish to have less trees to care for.

*Hanbidge is the Lead Horticulturist with Orchid Horticulture. Find us at [www.orchidhort.com](http://www.orchidhort.com); by email at [growyourfuture@gmail.com](mailto:growyourfuture@gmail.com) on facebook @orchidhort and on instagram at #orchidhort.*





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