



Diamonds much better as ball season gets going



Spiritwood's Under-12's were taking on Big River. Umpire Jaiden Dauvin has received many compliments for his officiating behind the plate.

The Minor Ball season is well underway, with teams in all age groups hitting the diamonds. And everyone has been finding that the improvements to the diamonds that have been carried out by a group of spirited volunteers have been very beneficial.

For starters, the shale applied to the infields has been tested and found to be nothing short of phenomenal.

In fact, a group held a practice short-

ly after a rain. By "shortly", we mean within a quarter hour. This is unheard of for Spiritwood's diamonds. In the past, a rain shower such as we received on Sunday, May 12, would have resulted in cancellations for at least a week.

A spokesperson for Minor Ball said that even though the diamonds are much improved, "there's still a long way to go."



Dallan Saam fires in a fastball in a U19 game.



Hon. Scott Moe, Premier
MLA for Rosthern-Shellbrook
scottmoe.mla@sasktel.net

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Hon. Jeremy Harrison
MLA for Meadow Lake
jharrisonmla@sasktel.net

Beavers must have been busy

Beavers cause problems for many people, particularly farmers. Regardless of their nuisance value, they are deserving of some respect, if only for their tenacity.

Art Dagenais came across something he found to be highly unusual. A beaver or group of them, had cut five large blocks from the same tree. The blocks were about a foot thick. It begs the question: what were they thinking?

Of course, nobody would sug-

gest that beavers would have a well-thought-out plan for building a dam or lodge, apart from reacting to the sound of running water. See tree? Gnaw it down. And possibly keep gnawing until what's left is able to be dragged into position.

This isn't the first time that Dagenais has had an interesting development with beavers. Some years ago after a particularly rainy stretch, he discovered that beavers had dammed up the water out in his field.



Art Dagenais with five blocks cut out of the same tree by beavers. The five blocks filled the trunk of his car. "If you need excellent workers, come and get them. Just don't bring them back," he said.

Great bake sale hosted by Idylwild Lodge Auxiliary

The Idylwild Lodge Auxiliary made over \$1,000 at their bake sale held May 18 at Hujbers Market on Main.

The final tally was actually \$1,008, with another \$109 from the raffle of the cookie jar. The winner of that prize was Donna Long.

The Auxiliary members were very pleased with the people who provided

baking for the sale, and very grateful to Hujbers Market for providing the space in their store for the sale.

The money raised is going towards the Auxiliary's ongoing efforts to enhance the grounds around the Gazebo at the lodge, as well as other things needed to improve the well-being of the residents.



The Idylwild Lodge Auxiliary made over \$1,100 from their bake sale and raffle Saturday. Proceeds are dedicated to ongoing efforts to enhance the Lodge grounds.

Stay safe around bears and other predators

Seeing bears or other large predators in the wild can be very exciting. It's important to remember, though, that these are wild animals and they can be dangerous and unpredictable. Every spring, black bears and other predators – especially young ones – move around to establish new territory and look for food. This is normal behaviour for wildlife, but it can cause challenges for humans.

In some cases, urban areas have been built along natural wildlife corridors such as rivers, forests and valleys. Wildlife travelling these corridors can sometimes come

into conflict with people and property in those areas.

Remember to take the necessary safety precautions when outdoors, particularly while spending time in parks or campgrounds where there may be a higher risk of encountering predators. Leaving garbage and pet food outdoors may attract bears or other predators and animals, such as skunks.

To reduce this risk, don't leave garbage and pet food out. If you encounter a bear or other predator, keep your distance and do not try to scare the animal away or handle the situation yourself. Most often, the animals



will move on without any intervention.

Anyone who finds them-

selves in a potentially dangerous situation with a large predator should contact their local Ministry of Environment office or call Saskatchewan's 24-hour Turn in Poachers and Pol-

luters (TIPP) line at 1-800-667-7561. SaskTel subscribers can also reach the TIPP line by dialing #5555 on their cell phones.

Additional information about predator safety is available at www.saskatchewan.ca.

NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF ASSESSMENT ROLL

Pursuant to subsection 214 of *The Municipalities Act*, notice is hereby given that the Assessment Roll for the Village of Shell Lake for the year 2019 has been prepared and is open for inspection at the Office of the Administrator from 9:00 a.m. to noon and 12:30 to 4:00 p.m. on the following days: Monday to Thursday, excluding statutory holidays.

Any person who wishes to appeal against his or her assessment is required to file his or her Notice of Appeal with the two Hundred (\$200) dollar fee to:

The Assessor, Village of Shell Lake
Box 280, Shell Lake, SK S0J 2G0

by the 24th day of June, 2019

Dated this 23rd day of May, 2019
Tara Bueckert
Assessor

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Shell Lake Patchwork Players make hilarious comeback

The Shell Lake Patchwork Players have made a comeback after a hiatus of six years.

The wheels were set in motion in January 2019, under the very capable direction of Judy Mayo.

She selected a Jones Hope Wooten comedy called *The Hallelujah Girls* and presented to the public on May 2, 3, and 4, 2019.

Judy knows her players and what she can stretch them into believing so she called on some

former actors and added a recruit from the neighbouring town of Leask and voila she had a cast.

They were as follows: Carlene played by Donna Strate; Nita, by Gloria Skene; Mavis by Carol Francouer; Crystal by Lenore Jessop; Sugar Lee by Jane Prosser; Bunny by Christine Wollms; Bobby Dwayne by Denis Bonin; Porter by Wayne Ehman.

You may have chosen a favourite character from the cast but believe you me they all put their heart and soul into their characters and by performance night they were all the best that they could be.

I think the cast was very appreciative of the audiences response. At least I hope they were because that is all the recompense they receive

for the hours dedicated to learning lines and rehearsing.

There were many behind the scene actors as well. Beginning with set construction, lighting and sound we pulled Jim Mayo out of the closet and dusted him off. Then there is our "old Faithful" prompter, Donna Prafke and her side kick Val Simonar who served as stagehand and costume organizer. The stage manager, Anita Weiers dug deep in the community to rustle up props, which we changed nearly weekly until we were satisfied.

The front of the house was managed by Jen Jones, Janice Prefontaine and Amy Strate. The dinners were provided by Partner's in Worship on Friday evening and Lorna Wertypora on Saturday evening and both to a sell out crowd. The meals were amazing.

Lisa Rose organized a silent auction for both evenings and she reports a very successful auction due to the generous donation of items and bid-

ders.

The cast and crew are very satisfied with their own efforts and the community's response, so

you can look forward to something great in 2020.



Aunt Heidi's sausage on a stick.



Incredible, I may show up in a Speedo tomorrow.



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May 23, 2019

“Yard Work”

So, spring is finally here, or so they are trying to tell us. Don't plant anything before the first of June, or after the second crow, or a favourable pig spleen.

Inevitably, no matter when you're planning on planting flowers and bedding plants, there are things that must be done in order to get the season underway. For all that it entails, we just refer to it as “yard work”.

My project for the day was to roto-till the garden. I was going to get right on it, but I very quickly discovered that anytime you want to do something, you have to do something else first.

I don't believe I am alone in this phenomenon, nor did I invent it. But it seems that this has always been the way things worked out.

OK, my project started out the usual way – with coffee, a quick check of Facebook, a couple of games of Wordscapes, followed by breakfast. Regular readers of this space know that when I have a project in mind, I don't like distractions. Breakfast is such an important part of the day that it can hardly be described as “a distraction”

All that done, and a number of in-the-house kind of activities that it was my turn to do, like empty the dishwasher, make the bed and the like.

But I'm going to get right at the roto-tilling, I promised myself.

But first, I was called upon to lift a couple of pails of dirt into the raised herb garden, dump them and smooth out the dirt so all was nice and level for planting.

And I'm not sure how we got from dumping dirt into a planter to cleaning the bird bath, but that's exactly what happened. This task required the pressure washer, which is stored neatly under my deck. And when I say “neatly”, you'll just have to take my word for it.

At that point I had two choices: unroll the cord or get an extension cord. I chose the latter, which turned out to be the incorrect choice, for the end was gibbled and I wasn't able to plug in the pressure washer. I went back to my tool storage area and came back with a small screwdriver, but for some reason, the screws didn't line up and I couldn't get them to. First, I would have to install a new end on the extension cord to solve that issue. And second, rather than do this right now, I chose to add extension cord repair to the mental list that I carry with me always.

As it turned out, I didn't need the extension cord, or the screwdriver, because the cord from the pressure washer did reach the receptacle. And if it wouldn't have, an option would have been to move the pressure washer closer to the receptacle and unroll more hose from the pressure washer.

That solved, it was an easy finish to the clean-the-bird-bath project, and once that was done, it didn't seem like good sense to put it back into storage, so I moved the base from its storage position out to its spot on the lawn, put the top on, and carefully measured it with the eyeball to make sure it was sitting right.

And now that the pressure washer was still out, it seemed like an appropriate activity to wash out the two pails that had, until earlier, contained dirt for the raised herb garden.

And, I was then prevailed upon to clean a couple of flower garden ornaments, one of which was too heavy to carry, requiring me to head back to the garage for the dolly.

With all the cleaning done, and the dolly put away. And the pressure washer packed up and put away, and all the tools and everything else put away, I was left wondering – what was I supposed to get done today?

... I THOUGHT THAT SINCE WE WILL BE EATING THE NEW "BEYOND BURGERS" ... YOU MIGHT WANT TO TRY THE NEW "BEYOND HAY"?...



Social media crackdown needs measured approach

“We have lost the feeling of individual empowerment and to a certain extent also I think the optimism has cracked.”

Those words, spoken by Tim Berners-Lee, the father of the worldwide web, could very easily apply to many spheres in our rapidly polarizing society. But coming from Mr. Berners-Lee, they were an expression of disappointment in what his creation has become.

For Mr. Berners-Lee, the monopolization of power on the internet by tech giants like Microsoft, Apple, Google, Facebook, Netflix, and Amazon, is a real danger – as evidenced by recent scandals involving the abuse of personal data, and the seeming lack of accountability and meaningful consequences for these abuses.

Just as disconcerting to Mr. Berners-Lee, is the use of his creation as a vehicle to spread hate and misinformation.

“If you put a drop of love into Twitter it seems to decay but if you put in a drop of hatred you feel it actually propagates much more strongly,” he lamented in an interview with Reuters last November. “And you wonder, ‘Well is that because of the way that Twitter as a medium has been built?’”

No one but Mr. Berners-Lee can say what he had originally envisioned or hoped for when he invented the internet in 1989. Those were, after all, different and far simpler times, and the past 30 years has seen the creation of so many new digital technologies that few would have been able to conceive of when the internet was born.

That said, it seems reasonable to conclude that Mr. Berners-Lee's aspirations for his brainchild were considerably loftier than it becoming a repository for cat videos, memes, and other forms of low-effort, mind-numbing entertainment.

He also, perhaps, didn't fully realize that the internet would be leveraged by those with the worst and darkest human tendencies, or that these people would use the internet as a pulpit from which to spew their vitriol, or to exploit others in the worst imaginable ways.

But this, of course, is the risk inherent to pioneering any new, innovative and world-changing technology.

The technology comes first, and the moral, ethical, and even legal, frameworks to govern it come second, allowing people ample time to discover ways to manipulate and corrupt it for their own ends.

If the current state of social media platforms like Facebook and Twitter tells us anything, it's that people are prodigiously talented at misusing them, and that the platforms seem to be



JORDAN
TWISS

~
Columnist

powerless to, or uninterested in, preventing these misuses.

For proof of this, we need only look at the Christchurch, New Zealand mosque shootings, which left 51 people dead and were streamed live on Facebook by their racist, Islamophobic perpetrator.

Granted, Facebook would require an unfathomable amount of resources to monitor every livestream, video and image posted to its platform by its 2.3 billion users.

But a hatred as vile as the Christchurch shooter's doesn't begin with mass murder, and it's hard to believe that there were no other red flags in the shooter's social media postings that Facebook moderators either missed or ignored.

Even if that's not the case in this isolated instance, Facebook and its social media brethren have a troubling history of failing to suppress hate speech and the wanton dissemination of misinformation, and it's imperative that they be held accountable for these failures.

To his credit, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau appears to be leading the global charge on this front, with the recent unveiling of an upcoming “digital charter” – a legal framework that will hold social media and other digital platforms accountable for combating hate speech, misinformation and online electoral interference in Canada.

While details about what the digital charter will contain remain sparse, Trudeau minced few words in stating that his government would crackdown on those who fail to live up to its standards.

“The platforms are failing their users and they're failing our citizens,” he said. “They have to step up in a major way to counter disinformation and if they don't, we will hold them to account and there will be meaningful financial consequences.”

This, of course, isn't the first time that Mr. Trudeau has talked of clamping down on social media platforms. And with a federal election, in which his party no longer seems to be the frontrunner, just around the corner, it's easy to understand why he would see this as being so urgent.

But for as zealously as we should combat all forms of hate on all platforms, digital or otherwise, we must also be diligent in ensuring that the censoring of hate speech doesn't rapidly devolve into censoring others solely on the grounds that we disagree with them.

Fake news, as well, should not be allowed to flourish anywhere. But, again, we mustn't forget our own responsibility to arm ourselves with the truth.

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Next up for the Trudeau Liberals: a plastic tax?

**By Aaron Wudrick,
CTF Federal Director**

They say misery loves company and for the Trudeau Liberals that apparently includes miserable tax policy.

It hasn't even been a month since Ottawa imposed its hated carbon tax on much of the country and lo and behold, it already has another new tax on the table.

Last year, Environment Canada commissioned accounting firm Deloitte to undertake a study of Canada's \$35 billion plastics industry. The resulting report, released earlier this month, noted that only 9 per cent of plastics are recycled.

Unsurprisingly, the report goes on to propose various ideas to improve the rate of recycling, such as (on page 22) a "tax or fee on virgin resins." Those resins are used to make new plastics. Why a new tax? Because according to the report, it would "make second-

ary plastic more economically appealing to manufacturers."

Translation: the government is thinking about promoting recycling by punishing people for buying products made from new plastic. Ottawa thinks it's a problem that new plastics are less expensive than old plastics and the solution is to make everything expensive. What could be the downside of making everything expensive?

If this reasoning sounds familiar, it's because we've heard it before from the same crowd that cheers for higher gas prices on the basis that it makes electric vehicles more attractive. Higher prices – and by extension, increasingly squeezed taxpayers – are the explicit goal.

Indeed, the Deloitte report observed that a plastic tax "could lead to increased consumer prices." The report doesn't seem worried about what that will do to family

budgets and small businesses. In fact, it doesn't even venture an estimate of how much a plastic tax would cost taxpayers.

But, following the same logic as carbon taxes, the higher the tax, the greater the behavioural response – meaning that if the government is truly keen on significantly upping recycling rates, it would have to mean a fairly hefty tax.

That could end up costing Canadians billions.

You would think that a government that's looking out for "the middle class and those working hard to join it" would be laser-focused on finding ways to make life more affordable.

Instead, the Trudeau government seems to be working overtime to find ways to do the opposite.

Whether it's carbon taxes, hiking Canada Pension Plan premiums, bungled small business tax proposals or es-

calator taxes on alcohol, it often feels like this is a government just itching to leave your wallet a bit lighter tomorrow than it is today.

It's sadly predictable from a government committed to the perverse approach of constantly aiming to drive Canadians' cost of living up, rather than down.

It's what you get when you try to use sticks rather than carrots to change people's behaviour.

Perhaps after seeing province after province turn

against the carbon tax, the prime minister and his team might - finally - realize that Canadians aren't fooled by their half-baked tax grabs.

Perhaps knowing there's a federal election on the horizon will make them come to their senses - and distance themselves from this new stinker of a policy as quickly as possible.

Or perhaps they will have to learn the hard way at the ballot box that yet another tax is the last thing Canadians need.

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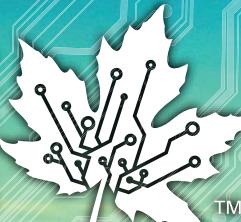
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EPRA



Recycling Electronics In Saskatchewan Just Got Even Easier

In Saskatchewan, we're used to charting our own path and doing what's right without waiting to be told. We also have an ingrained understanding about what it means to be stewards of the land. Saskatchewan was the first province, and the first jurisdiction in North America, to launch a regulated, industry-led electronics recycling program beginning in 2007.

One year ago, the Electronics Products Recycling Association Saskatchewan (EPRA SK) and its network of Recycle My Electronics drop-off locations began accepting more types of electronics. This resulted in more end-of-life electronics being diverted from landfill, recycled, and put back into the manufacturing supply chain. In the past 12 years, Saskatchewan residents have recycled more than 31,000 metric tonnes of electronics.

This year, EPRA SK is opening more Recycle My Electronics drop-off locations throughout the province, providing greater access for residents in rural communities.

"Our mandate, at EPRA, has always been to make recycling end-of-life electronics easy and accessible for residents of Saskatchewan," said Gayleen Creelman, Program Director, EPRA SK. "We're doing just that by opening more drop-off locations throughout the province for consumers to safely and securely recycle their devices."

"Highway 55 Waste Management is very excited to be an Authorized 'Recycle My Electronics' Drop-off Location. It removes one more obstacle for residents that we serve to safely and securely recycle their end-of-life electronics," said Ken Larsen, Operations Manager.

EPRA SK has set up a vast network of over 90 collection locations consisting of municipalities, regional waste authorities, businesses, and SARCAN Recycling Depots throughout the province and is committed to recycling end-of-life electronics in a responsible manner. That means always considering both worker and environmental safety at every stage and in every process.

EPRA, in Saskatchewan and throughout Canada, only work with recyclers who are verified under the national Electronics Recycling Standard (ERS), which was designed by the electronics industry to ensure that end-of-life electronics are managed in a safe and environmentally sound manner. In addition, ERS-approved processors must meet over 150 protocols to ensure the safety of their employees and the environment.

Residents of Saskatchewan are now able to recycle more types of electronics at more drop-off locations throughout the province than ever before, including the newest location at Highway 55 Waste Management. Finding your nearest drop-off location is as easy as visiting recycleMMyElectronics.ca/SK and entering your postal code.