



Award-winning author entertains



The kids of the Summer Rec program were all ears for the presentation of readings and song given by guest Marion Mutala.

Marion Mutala, a Saskatoon-based author, entertained the kids of the Summer Rec Program on Wednesday, July 31. Mutala read excerpts from several of her books, some of which have won awards. She also led the kids in a singsong, drawing on many of the old favorites.

Mutala began writing in earnest following a 30-year career as a teacher in Saskatoon. In the nine years since her retirement, she has written 11 books. The first of them, *Baba's Babushka: A Magical Ukrainian*

Christmas, won the Anna Pidruchney Award, and the second book in the trilogy, entitled *Baba's Babushka: A Magical Ukrainian Easter*, was nominated for a Saskatchewan Book award.

Her third book was *Baba's Babushka: A Magical Ukrainian Wedding*, for which she won the High Plains Book Award for Best Children's Book. She has been on the Top 100 at McNally Robinson for three years in a row.

It's no surprise that the babushka

plays such a prominent role in her books, particularly in the Baba's Babushka trilogy. Her passion for writing comes from a photo of her grandparents, a photo in which her grandmother – her baba – is wearing the traditional babushka that Ukrainian women wore. It sparked in her a desire to learn more of what life was like for her "Baba and Gido" and to learn more about her Ukrainian Heritage.

Later books have incorporated indigenous culture with the Ukrainian,

and dealt with grandmothers and grandfathers in many cultures.

She modelled several babushkas before reading stories and poems to the kids, all the while explaining many facets of her Ukrainian heritage. The kids went home with a few new words in the Ukrainian language following her visit.

Her presentation was held in the Rec Centre mezzanine. Her visit was part of the Summer Reading Program of the Spiritwood Public Library.

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Pickleball comes to Spiritwood

The oddly named sport of “pickleball” has made its way to Spiritwood. It is a sport that combines elements of tennis, badminton and table tennis (ping pong). It is played Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Arena in the afternoons and evenings.

Pickleball isn't really a new sport, though. It was first played in 1965, and there are national and international organizations governing things like tournaments.

Oddly named or what, the sport has been gaining in popularity over the years. It is the kind of game that has fairly simple rules, and can be enjoyed by players of all ages.

The name “Pickleball” is believed to have been given to the sport when a family dog, named Pickles, would chase the ball and run off with it. Since a name for the sport was needed, it became Pickleball, after the dog.



Grandpa and Grandma (out of frame) teach a couple of grandchildren some of the finer points of pickleball. This Grandma and Grandpa are visiting from Missouri, where they are frequent players of the game.

Award-winning author entertains



“Bitamo”. Marion Mutala gives a welcome to the kids of the summer rec program. Here, she models one of a number of babushkas she had brought along. Mutala is an award-winning author, with eleven books to her credit since retiring after a 30-year teaching career.

Beware of door-to-door driveway repair scams

Financial and Consumer Affairs Authority (FCAA) is warning Saskatchewan residents about door-to-door driveway repair scams. Some salespeople may not be licensed or may use leftover materials that result in low quality work.

Check for a license

If a salesperson is coming to your door wanting to pave your driveway, they need to be licensed under the Direct Sellers Act. You can check if a salesperson is licensed on <https://fcaa.gov.sk.ca/fcaa411>.

How the scam works

Scammers often come, unlicensed, door-to-door and offer “on the spot” driveway repair using leftover materials from other projects. The driveway may look good initially, but may crumble and crack as it dries.

Red flags

Be cautious if a salesperson:

- makes the price sound “too good to be true”;
- pressures you into buying im-

mediately or claim that you’ll “lose a deal”; or

- asks you to write a blank cheque.

Keep yourself safe

When dealing with a door-to-door salesperson, make sure that:

- everything is documented in writing, that you agree to the expectations of the work, that a price is set and there is a timeframe of when work is to be completed;

- you ask questions when you do not understand something;

- you are not pressured into buying on the spot;

- you do not write them a blank cheque;

- they have appropriate insurance; and

- you check if they are listed on the Better Business Bureau directory (or call 1-888-352-7601). If they are listed,

read their customer reviews to make sure you are hiring someone who does work you like.

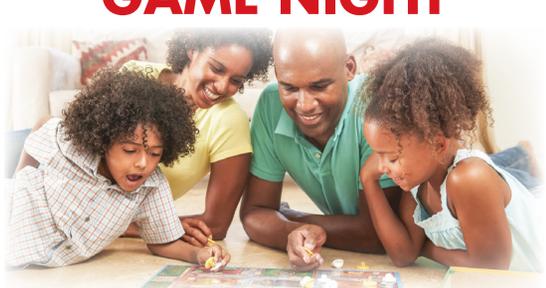
If consumers have questions about hiring a door-to-door contractor, they can find more information at <http://fcaa.gov.sk.ca/consumers-investors-pension-plan-members/consumers/consumers-of-goods-and-services/tips-for-driveway-repairs>, call toll free at 1-877-880-5550, or contact by email at consumerprotection@gov.sk.ca.

Advertising Deadline is Friday 5:00 p.m.



SUMMER LEARNING TIPS

HAVE A WEEKLY GAME NIGHT



Choose games that involve reading, writing, or counting. Have FUN together!

This summer learning tip is brought to you by:

Hartley Clark Elementary School, Spiritwood
www.lskysd.ca/school/hartleyclark

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Spiritwood Civic Center

Friday, August 9th

Doors open to the public @ 3:00 pm
Coffee & Pie sold
Awards presentations 7:00 pm



- Find someone to mow the lawn.
- Find someone to clean the house.
- Find that special recliner

Spiritwood Herald

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Shell Lake Métis Report

**Submitted by
Blanche E. Pott**

January 1st, 2018 to
June 30, 2019

2018 was a good year because we received many donations of saleable items from many sources. And we had a great deal of support from those coming for coffee and or breakfast, which is available all day, and those purchasing home baked goods and other useful items.

Nora, with Hilda's help, pack bags, boxes, etc. to

donate to various charities in the city. We appreciate all donations as do the charities who receive the many useful items they receive.

Our annual Christmas party was a success although we did not have our usual crowd. Free gifts and goodie bags were passed out.

As usual, the room was beautifully decorated by Nora. Help from volunteers is always appreciated. Gratitude to Kara, Sandra and Eve for their

help. Also appreciation to anyone I missed.

A beautiful big poinsettia was donated by Laurent and Hilda Muloin. To get your name in a draw for it was a one dollar donation. The winner was Roy Long.

We have six to eight meetings a year and Nora and Blanche attended the 2018 M.L.A. in April.

Nora volunteers her time every weekend from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays and usually on

holiday Mondays. If need be, Christine will assist. However, we do have a maintenance person whom we pay when his help is required.

We did have a bit of bad luck with a thief, who broke into our building by cutting the lock off the door and broke open the safe and took all the cash. Now, as a precaution, there is no safe and no money is left in the building.

Our commitments are to the Legion, Lung,

Decore, Hey Days and Give a Little Life to the Victoria Hospital. We gave eight hundred dollars in travel donations. However, we quit giving travel donations. We gave approximately \$2,000 in bursaries.

This year we saw the need to make a sizeable donation to Greg and Sandra Potts due to their untimely misfortune. Greg is now on the mend and we wish him well in his recovery.

Although Kara Mor-

phet does not live here and is not a member, she gave us many hours of volunteer work at Christmas time.

The 2019 M.L.A. was in Regina in April. Blanche attended with Colleen Carrier.

So far, 2019 has been good. Appreciation goes to Nora!

Just before submitting this report, I learned that Hilda Muloin is very ill and is in Royal University Hospital. Lets pray for her.

Families that play together, stay together: A guide to family-friendly gaming

(NC) We're now busier than ever, which means finding quality time to spend together can be a challenge. But one of the best ways that parents can spend more time with their kids is by doing the things they love. That's why family gaming nights can be an ideal way to stay connected.

"We know that gaming together can help nurture positive values, teach im-

portant life skills and lead to a greater overall feeling of connectedness," says Heather Potter, strategic communications manager at Nintendo.

Ready to get gaming? Potter shares her top tips for your next family game night.

Introduce them to the classics. For the ultimate in early video game education, Potter encourages parents

to start with the classics. "It's amazing how parents can relive the magic of their childhood with their own kids by playing their old favourites," says Potter. "In addition to the new games featuring iconic characters like Mario and Zelda, it's also easy to play the old favourites. Nintendo Switch Online has a huge library of classic games that parents can teach their kids, making new memories in the process."

A little help goes a long way. Looking for a good gaming experience with your little ones? Choose games with easy or assist modes. "This is a great way to not only introduce your kids to video games, and it also helps them to really engage and feel a sense of accomplishment," says Potter. "For example, Mario

Kart 8 Deluxe has a smart steering option to help young players stay on track."

Get co-operative. When kids are in the eight to 12 age range, their love of video games can really take flight. At this stage and beyond, Potter recommends that parents look for co-operative games – ones that lets them team up with their kids to work toward a common goal, teaching communication and teamwork skills along the way. "Super Mario Odyssey has an incredible two-player co-op mode. The first player controls Mario, while the second controls Cappy, Mario's hat and mainly. Another great co-op game is Overcooked! 2, a game in which players work together to cook up a storm in a series of chaotic, crazy levels."

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

SPIRITWOOD: Wapiti Regional Library - Tuesday 9:00 am - 4:30 pm, Wednesday 9:30 am - 4:30 pm & Friday 9:00 am - 4:30 pm

LEOVILLE: Wapiti Regional Library - Wednesday 10 am - 4 pm; Thurs. 10 am - 3 pm (Storytime from 10:30 am to 11:30 am)

SHELL LAKE: Wapiti Regional Library - Tues. 12:30 pm - 4:30 pm; Wed. 1 pm - 4 pm.

SPIRITWOOD: Spiritwood & District Horticultural Society Annual Horticulture & Craft Show, Spiritwood Civic Center. August 8th - Registration & Entries Set-up from 1:00 - 9:00 pm, August 9th - Show Day. Doors open 3:00 pm for public viewing, coffee & pie served, Awards presentations at 7:00 pm Aug. 9th. For memberships & information, contact: Roberta Wasden 306-883-2865, Alison Sullivan 613-915-9317.

SHELLBROOK: Shellbrook Summer Fair. Saturday August 24th, Shellbrook Sports Grounds. 65" TV Draw plus four additional 42" TV Draws during the Rider game, Beef On a Bun @ 4:30 pm, Rider Game @ 5 pm, Kids football under the lights, Family Dance w/DJ @ 9 pm and much more! See posters & advertisement in the August 15 *Spiritwood Herald* for details!

SHELL LAKE AREA: 2019 Thickwood Hills Studio Trail Sat. Aug. 10: 10 am - 7 pm. Sun. Aug. 11: 10 am - 5 pm. Introducing new studios & guest artists! Follow the blue moon signs on the 19th annual self-drive tour of unique studios in the Shell Lake area. Contact: 1-306-281-4020; www.thickwoodhillsstudiotrail.com; fb/thickwoodhillsstudiotrail

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“It’s a strange world...”

My navigator hates it when, at the top of the hour, I crank up the radio to catch the news. I have always wanted to know what was going on in the world. She, not so much. She listens because she has to, but she doesn’t really listen, she counts. She counts the good news stories that are on each newscast.

Most of the time, she never gets past zero. While it may be true that no news is good news, like when you’re waiting for something and as long as you don’t hear anything, there’s nothing to become alarmed at.

However, it may also be true that good news is no news, and that could be why the news reports are initially about the casualties of the latest shooting in the U.S. and not so much about the people who rushed into danger to help out.



**DAVE
HYNDMAN**
~
News Editor

Occasionally, too, the news is just too strange to be believed, or, at the very least, leaves you open-mouthed at just how out of touch with reality some people are.

Or maybe we just don’t understand how much of the rest of the world lives.

The latest in these jaw-dropping stories comes out of India, where a man – OK, a Hindu – refused to accept a delivery of his take-out order from a local eatery because the delivery man was Muslim. And to compound it, he was upset because the eatery wouldn’t give him a refund for the order that he had paid for and had refused to take.

Here’s another one. Princess Haya Bint al-Hussein of the United Arab Emirates fled Dubai and her husband of fifteen years, Sheik Mohammed bin Rashid al-Maktoum, in May.

She is 45. He is 70. She is his sixth wife. But that’s not the issue. She is seeking non-molestation order for herself from a British court as well as a “forced marriage protection order” for the children. The order she seeks is “a type of injunction that stops someone from making contact, taking you out of the country or making marriage arrangements.”

No doubt that in the circles they travel in, giving the Sheik the ability to marry off a daughter regardless of her age to somebody regardless of his age, is something that he would wish to have. But, at the same time, what mother wants to see her children facing that kind of future.

Hence, the dispute, which will wend its way through the British courts. Both have retained high profile lawyers. Her lawyer is the one who represented Guy Ritchie in his divorce from Madonna, while his lawyer is the one who “navigated” the divorce proceedings of Prince Charles with Diana.

So, we’ll just have to see how this plays out. I’m cheering for Haya. I don’t believe a guy should have the ability to use his children like chattel and use them – particularly his daughters – as pawns in the family-advancement game.

I tried that with my own daughter many years ago. I offered to find a husband for her – politely, of course. She was polite in telling me where I could go and how I could get there.

I think I prefer our way of life. It’s too hard to understand how the other side makes it through the day.



Morgan’s carbon tax challenge claim is dubious

Of all the myths that float around in the political ether, perhaps the most common is the notion that those who lean to the left of the political spectrum are profligate spenders, while those on the right are fiscal hawks, the penny pinchers who make the difficult decisions.

To be certain, there’s a grain of truth in both statements.

Many left-leaning or Liberal governments, particularly the current federal government of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, act like every taxpayer dollar they collect must be spent before it vanishes and is never seen again.

Conservative governments, meanwhile, are typically the governments that make cuts to government programs and find ways to rein in spending – though, contrary to their claims, these cuts are often necessitated as much by their tendency to cut taxes on the most wealthy at every available opportunity, as they are by the past overspending of left wing governments.

But, here too, there have also been situations where these roles have been completely reversed. In Saskatchewan, in the early 1990s, it was the NDP government of Roy Romanow that had to make the difficult cuts, and burn all of its bridges in rural areas of the province, to clean up the fiscal catastrophe left behind by the Grant Devine Conservative government.

And, let’s not forget the historical record, which shows a surprising number of sizeable deficits under conservative governments that claimed to be fiscally prudent.

Knowing that wasteful spending can occur on either end of the political spectrum, it was hard to feel any genuine surprise when Saskatchewan Justice Minister Don Morgan cavalierly stated that the province’s ongoing challenge of the federal carbon tax is costing taxpayers “hundreds of thousands of dollars.”

The comment came during a meeting between Morgan and other provincial justice ministers, at which they talked strategy for their upcoming appeal before the Supreme Court of Canada (that appeal is currently scheduled for Dec. 5, though the province is hoping to push the date back to better prepare its challenge).

And, while Morgan couldn’t put an exact dollar total on how much has or will be spent on the government’s carbon tax challenge, he said, with great confidence, that the money spent would be “worth it.”



**JORDAN
TWISS**
~
Columnist

But will it really be worth it?

To be clear, the carbon tax is, without question, a needlessly complex scheme imposed on Canadians by a Liberal federal government that is more interested in being seen to be doing something about the very real threat of climate change, than it is in actually doing something to solve the problem.

The federal carbon tax is, like so much of the policy cobbled together by Mr. Trudeau’s government, the equivalent of using a chainsaw to do work that requires the finesse of a scalpel.

For this reason alone, the province was right to, at the very least, question the carbon tax’s legitimacy.

Even with all of that said, however, there are a number of probable scenarios which would make the province’s continued challenge of the carbon tax an utter waste of taxpayer dollars.

First, and perhaps most likely, is the scenario in which the province’s appeal is rejected by the country’s top court, and the carbon tax is deemed constitutional. Given that two provincial courts (the Sask. Court of Appeal and the Ontario Court of Appeal) have already ruled in Ottawa’s favour, the odds seem stacked against the provinces.

Second, but maybe less likely, is the scenario in which the federal Conservative Party, under leader Andrew Scheer, forms a majority government after the upcoming federal election on Oct. 21. Most recent polls have Mr. Scheer’s Conservatives slightly ahead of Mr. Trudeau’s Liberal government, making this outcome a very real possibility.

Should that scenario come to pass, the carbon tax will be swiftly repealed by Mr. Scheer’s government, making the challenge before the Supreme Court a moot point.

Indeed, when one truly thinks about it, the only scenario in which the continued challenge of the federal carbon tax is “worth it”, is if the provinces actually manage to win and force Ottawa to repeal or revise the tax.

Anything short of victory is simply taxpayer dollars down the drain.

But then, to a government whose fiscal legacy includes the ballooning costs of the Regina Bypass, a huge investment in carbon capture and storage that has yet to live up to expectations, and the GTH boondoggle, one supposes that this challenge would be considered a worthwhile expenditure.

Op-ed: Explaining carbon pricing - part 1

**By Estelle Hjertaas
Liberal Candidate,
Prince Albert**

As I talk to people at doorsteps I am often asked about carbon pricing and I find a lot of support for carbon pricing once people understand how it works, and that most families receive more from the Climate Action Incentive Payment than the carbon price will cost them.

Conservative Leader Andrew Scheer released his carbon plan on June 19. It has been widely criticized for its vagueness and probability that the hidden costs it will require would create far more cost to consumers (Toronto Star editorial board, Paul Wells in McLean's, Andrew Coyne in the National Post). Andrew Coyne calls it an inten-

tional bit of misdirection, to look like the party would do something. Former Prime Minister Kim Campbell spoke out against it, saying climate change is too important an issue not to speak out. Canadians deserve better.

To help to explain the issues, I will address six common questions about the federal price on carbon.

1. Why act on climate change?

Climate change is real, it is caused by the release of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases, and it is happening fast. It will not only have significant impacts on our children and grandchildren, climate change is resulting in different weather patterns now. Increases in extreme weather events are al-

ready impacting people around the world, and here in Saskatchewan, creating huge economic and social costs. This is a case where the long-term costs of not acting will be much greater than the cost of acting.

Canada has agreed with most countries in the world to take action to reduce emissions and prevent global temperatures from rising by more than 1.5 to 2 degrees Celsius. Immediate action is required. I recommend looking at the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) website at <https://www.ipcc.ch/> for further information on climate change.

2. Why a price on carbon?

Any approach to reducing our carbon pollution will create costs. The choices come down

to do nothing, use a market-based approach, a regulatory approach, or a combination. There is widespread agreement among economists and business leaders that a market-based solution, putting a price on carbon, is the most cost effective approach because people and industry can follow their own best path forward, which is cheaper and allows industry to be innovative in ways that a regulatory approach hinders.

The price on carbon will mean that an item which takes less energy to manufacture or uses green energy like wind, will be cheaper and so preferred by consumers. This means that you will probably begin to choose the product that produces less greenhouse gases. This

will encourage producers and consumers to modify their behaviour to be more environmentally friendly, whether it is individuals installing solar panels, buying more efficient cars or industry seeking more efficient processes.

Let's say that you are shopping and choosing between two similar products. Likely you will choose the cheaper one, right? So without carbon pricing, the company trying to reduce their environmental impact might have a product that cost more because of the extra steps that they are taking, so you would choose the other product based on price. With carbon pricing, that impact is taken into account in the cost - the responsible producer will be able to offer a product for a lower

price. So as a consumer, you will then choose the cheaper (and more environmentally responsible) product. This will encourage producers and consumers to modify their behaviour to be more environmentally friendly.

Choose is the key word - it is a choice. A price on carbon allows everyone to weigh the costs and benefits of their choices and make the best decision for them. Many right-wing leaders strongly support a price on carbon because it is revenue neutral, efficient and effective. For example, former Reform Party leader Preston Manning argues that simple, revenue-neutral carbon pricing is the most conservative approach available to fighting emissions.

Moe's Sask. Party trumps Ford's Conservatives when it comes to sketchy political donations, says Sask. NDP

Ontario Premier Doug Ford may be catching heat for promoting a winery on his propaganda network after accepting \$2,050 in donations from its president, but Saskatchewan is still the 'wild west' when it comes to campaign finance laws.

Thanks to outdated laws that the Sask. Party has refused to change, Saskatchewan is the only province in Canada that still allows big money to dominate its elect-

ed government and its decisions. Corporations, unions, organizations and individuals, including those from out of province, are allowed to donate unlimited amounts to Saskatchewan political parties and candidates. And the Sask. Party takes full advantage of the legislative vacuum, raking in millions from many of the same people and businesses that in turn enjoy lucrative government contracts and Crown board ap-

pointments.

One need look no further than the backyard of the provincial Legislative building for evidence, where the Sask. Party recently rewrote the rules governing Wascana Park to push through a shockingly sweet deal on prime public real estate for their largest corporate donor, that also donated \$10,000 to Scott Moe's leadership campaign.

A simple comparison of the

Sask Party's donor list to the Government of Saskatchewan's annual payee list (Public Accounts Vol. 2) reveals a pattern repeated year after year: a steady stream of cash flowing from donors to the Sask Party amounting to over \$2 million over the last decade, and a long list of government contracts going to Sask. Party donors.

In 2017, the Saskatchewan NDP tabled legislation to ban all corporate and union

donations in order to hand power back to the people of our province, but the Sask Party government's MLAs unanimously voted against the measure.

Alberta, Manitoba, Quebec, Nova Scotia, and British Columbia have moved to limit influence on their politics, but Scott Moe's Sask. Party seems just fine with the status quo.

Doug Ford only wishes he had it so good.

Spiritwood Herald

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A Division of Pepperfram Limited Publications
Mail Registration #07621

Published At The Shellbrook Office
Every Thursday Morning

P.O. Box 10, Shellbrook, Sask. S0J 2E0
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Friday, 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. & 1 to 4 p.m.;
Advertising Deadline: Fridays at 5:00 p.m.
website: www.shellbrookchronicle.com

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Member of



Highway route offers look at rarely seen north

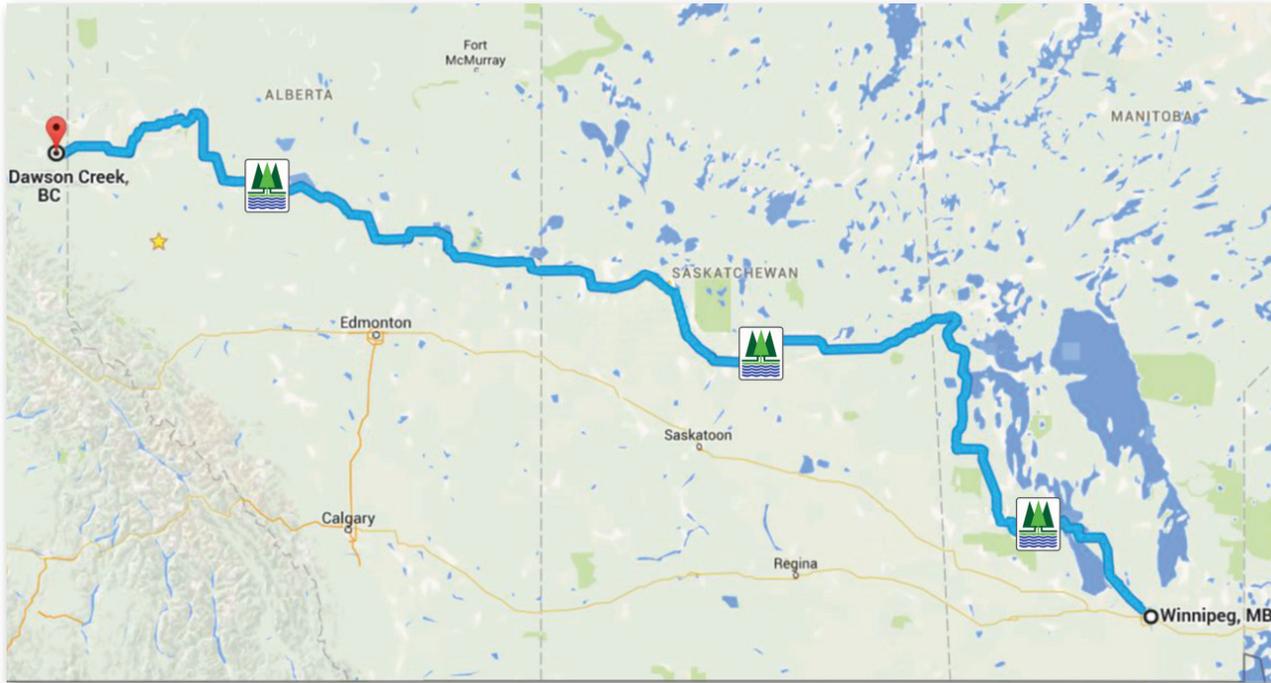
If you've travelled any great distance along Saskatchewan's northern highways (such as Highway 55), over the past 40 or so years, you may have seen a curious sign along the road with three pine trees, and a series of blue squiggly lines.

The road marker, which began appearing along highways in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, and British Columbia in the mid-1970s, denotes that you are travelling along the Northern Woods and Water Highway – a 2,400-kilometre stretch of interconnected highways that spans the four provinces, beginning in Winnipeg, Man. and ending way up north in Dawson Creek, B.C.

Referred to by the Northern Woods and Water Highway Association as "Canada's Holiday Highway," The Northern Woods and Water route was conceived by George Stevenson, a retired CN employee who called McLennan, Alta. home.

After coming up with the idea, Stevenson gathered together a small group of campers. Every year after that, they would make the trip from Dawson Creek to Winnipeg, stopping in nearly every one of the more than 100 communities along the route as they travelled.

"They would stop in each community along the way, and have lunch in one community, then coffee in the afternoon in another, and then have supper and stay over-



night in another community," recalled Dale Harrison, president of the Northern Woods and Water Highway Association.

Harrison first became involved with the association as a publisher, printing magazines for the group to give them something tangible that could generate interest in travelling the route. However, this involvement came to an end in the 1990s when the association petered out due, in part, to the age of its founders.

While the general public's interest in the Northern Woods and Water route may have waned, Harrison has remained passionate about the highway, and has made the 2,400-kilometre trip nine times over the years, stopping often to talk to mu-

nicipalities and small-town business people about the benefits increased traffic can bring.

Through these conversations, his hope is to revive interest in, and awareness of, the highway.

"We're trying to introduce people to a different Canada," he explained.

"The north is completely different than driving across the south. Most people, when you talk about Saskatchewan and Alberta, they think about the prairies and watching your dog run away for three days. They've got no idea about the forest industry we've got, or the fishing and wildlife that's up north," he added.

While Harrison feels that the sights alone are worth making the trip, he notes

that a lot of communities struggle to market themselves to tourist traffic because they don't seem to believe that they have anything that would pull in travellers from the road.

He adds that, in talking to people in these communities, it's been a matter of "turning the light on for people, and helping them to understand the beauty of where we live," whether it be something as simple as wild blueberries growing along the side of the road, or wildlife that is no longer present in the south.

Harrison says he's also spent a great deal of time trying to help municipal leaders realize the economic benefits of bringing tourists into their communities.

"In some communities,

having these extra travellers can mean the difference between keeping a gas station and losing it, between losing your grocery store because you don't have enough customers," he said.

"As more and more traffic comes, you start to create jobs. As more and more traffic comes, the stronger your community becomes."

One challenge Harrison says he's met along the road stems from the fact that many campgrounds along the route have switched to seasonal camping.

While Harrison concedes that this works well for the campgrounds, he says that the communities suffer, because seasonal campers tend to only come out when the weather's nice, and they typically bring their own sup-

plies from home, rather than pick up groceries in town.

That's why he says it's important for municipal campgrounds to target what he calls "the travelling public."

"With travelling public, they're driving a heavy tow unit, dragging along a thing, getting 10 to 12 miles to the gallon. They've got to fuel up more frequently to get to their destination.

"On an extended trip like [the Northern Woods and Water Highway], they have to buy groceries, and do repairs and maintenance."

Looking forward, Harrison says the next step, or even just a dream of his, would be to cobble together a golf cavalcade of a small group of campers, and take them on a three-week trip of the route that would allow plenty of time for golf at any of the many courses along the route.

Beyond this, he says he hopes to lobby government to make the Northern Woods and Water Highway more readily identifiable, like other major Canadian routes.

"We would like to get a consistent number across the whole highway, just like the Yellowhead is Highway 16, or the TransCanada is Highway 1. That's some of the future work that still needs to be done."

For more information on the Northern Woods and Water Highway, visit www.nwwr.ca

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Regenerative agriculture returns ag to nature

Agriculture has changed significantly though the decades.

Today growing crops is a business where the majority of producers look to maximize their production.

There is some solid reasoning to that goal. Even if you are only making a few cents a bushel profit, the more bushels grown mean more gross dollars generated. Gross dollars look good in the books.

Of course if you start to lose money on a bushel of grain, then the more bushels can also lead to greater losses.

It's something of a fine line for producers because maximized production does not normally come without a significant investment in the crop.

That investment includes equipment, labour, fuel, seed, and, to get the really large yields, generally lots of fertilizer and a range of crop protection products, herbicides, fungicides and pesticides.

Of course not all producers are tied to increasing input investment as a way to making their farm units more



CALVIN DANIELS

profitable.

There are producers who are trying to work more in concert with Mother Nature to produce a crop, reducing costs in the process.

Their thinking is sim-

ple enough. If you can work with the natural cycles of the soil, mimicking as much as possible the way nature does things, you can reduce the reliance on purchased fertilizer, and fungicides and pesticides.

If you are not having to pay out big dollars for inputs, the risk taken on in a crop year is reduced.

It doesn't mean you don't hurt when a crop fails for some reason, but there is not a huge input bill that still has to be paid.

The thinking is some-

thing practiced by Bangor, SK.-area farmer Garry Richards, who is focusing on what he terms "regenerative agriculture."

Richards isn't 100 per cent opposed to use herbicides, or tillage, in a pinch to control weeds, but he doesn't turn to those options until he has tried a range of other more natural processes, those that are more in tune with the process that occur in the soil and its ecosystem.

Is trying to work with nature the future of farming?

It is likely closer to what farmers did before herbicides and manufactured fertilizers came into vogue.

That does not mean the farm sector will return to that style farming en masse.

It does however suggest it is a system that can work for some producers, and is likely worth a look by producers seeking to reduce their risks and still keep a reasonable net income.

At the very least a more nature-based approach would seem worth taking a closer look at.

Peek inside the workshop: A first look at the hottest holiday tech

(NC) Christmas is still a few months away, but many tech companies are already gearing up for the holidays, teasing and launching a host of incredible new products. Here, Canadian tech expert Marc Saltzman offers up his take on the items he predicts will be at the top of many wish lists this coming holiday season.

Smartphone enthusiasts are sure to have their sights on the all-new Samsung Galaxy Fold. "This is the ultimate in modern smartphone design. The device features a hinge system with multiple interlocking gears that create the fold, but it also lays perfectly flat when opened." It even has a wireless power-share

feature that allows users to charge other smartphones on the back of the fold.

For gamers of all ages, Nintendo Switch will remain a red-hot ticket item. "The most incredible thing about it is its versatility. You can play it at home on your TV, or you just pick it up and take it with you wherever you go," says Saltzman. Of course, a great system is only as good as its games, and this holiday it's going to be all about Pokémon Sword and Pokémon Shield – the first-ever mainline Pokémon game for the system. Parents can look forward to playing this fun, family-friendly game with their kids."

Voice-activated smart home

devices are an ever-growing trend, and the next great innovation in this space is Google Nest Hub Max, which launched this summer. "This is a great addition to the brand's collection of home

devices. It comes equipped with a great new screen and a variety of features, including home security monitoring and a camera you can use for video calls."

Music-lovers looking to

ditch the wires will want to try out the Beats Powerbeats Pro. "These earbuds deliver an incredibly rich sound and long-lasting battery life," says Saltzman. "Plus, they were smartly built with a design that won't fall out of your ears."

And finally, for those on the market for a smartwatch, Saltzman recommends the Fitbit Versa. "This is the ideal entry-level smartwatch. It boasts a sleek, lightweight design and comes packed with a host of smartphone features, including the fitness tracking capabilities that the company is known for. Plus, it's got a wide selection of cases and watch bands, so you can really make it your own."



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It's tough to be a Jays' fan these days

Hats off to sports fans in Toronto. Hogtowners may be accused of jumping on the Raptors bandwagon as they rocketed toward their National Basketball Association title this spring, but those same fans have stamina — they continue to cheer on the lamentable Toronto Blue Jays.

It's tough being a Blue Jays fan these days. Armed with only a few true major league-calibre players but promising fans a ton of potential, the Torontonians — one of the worst hitting teams in baseball — are badly outmatched in the American League East. A recent glance at the standings had the Jays a full 27 games behind the division-leading Yankees. Thankfully, the bound-for-100-plus-losses Baltimore Orioles are keeping the Jays out of the cellar.

As Canada's only Major League team, the Blue Jays have command of the two major sports networks in the country. Every game is televised — and you can decide whether that falls

under the 'good news' or 'bad news' heading. Broadcasters Buck Martinez and Pat Tabler do their best to shine a bright light on the Jays, but it's a glaring example of putting lipstick on a pig.

Thanks to young talents like Vladimir Guerrero, Jr., and Cavan Biggio — both sons of ex-big leaguers — the future for the Jays is considered to be bright. Another top talent, Bo Bichette, also the son of a former big leaguer, is expected to be the next future star to arrive from the minors.

Toronto's starting pitching rotation is a far cry from the glory days of the early 90s, when the Jays won back-to-back World Series titles. Remember the likes of Dave Stieb, Todd Stottlemyre, Pat Hentgen, Jimmy Key and Jack Morris, with Tom Henke and Duane Ward coming out of the bullpen?

Today, it's Marcus Stroman (a respectable 6-11 and 2.96 ERA) and then a bunch of second-rate arms. Aaron Sanchez (3-14, 6.06) has lost whatever he had a



BRUCE
PENTON

couple of years ago, and Trent Thornton (3-7, 5.45) puts a scare into few opposing hitters. To be fair, the Jays' pitching staff suffered a blow in April when Matt Shoemaker, signed as an off-season free agent, fell victim to a torn ACL after starting the season with three straight wins and a 1.57 ERA.

Trade talk surrounding Stroman was rampant in late July, a clear sign the Jays were ready to clean house and try to acquire some more young talent to supplement Guerrero, Jr., Biggio and Bichette as the nucleus for another run to glory.

Dedicated Jays fans, who will never get off

the bandwagon, can only hope.

- Dwight Perry of the Seattle Times: "A message in a bottle — dropped overboard by a teen boy in 1969 — finally washed up on shore in South Australia. In other words, aimlessly adrift at sea only two years less than the Toronto Maple Leafs."

- Comedian Argus Hamilton, via Facebook, on studies indicating that the average human walks 900 miles a year and drinks 22 gallons of beer: "Which means the average human gets 41 miles per gallon. Not bad!"

- Scott Ostler of the San Francisco Chronicle: "In a massive steroid bust across Europe, involving the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) and others, 234 people were arrested and 24 tons of raw steroid powder were seized. And that was just

from the Russian toboggan team."

- Reno Aces catcher Cody Decker, to reporters, on retiring in the middle of his 11th season, virtually all in the minors: "I've given everything to this game: my blood, my sweat, my tears, my hairline."

- Patti Dawn Swanson, the River City Renegade, on slow ticket sales for the Packers-Raiders pre-season NFL game in Winnipeg: "Matter of fact, they're slower than a sports writer reaching for a bar tab. Asking a Winnipegger to pay upwards of \$400 to watch faux football is like asking Chris Walby to pass on second helpings."

- PGA Tour pro Max Homa, on Twitter: "With all this talk of playing a major at the course these guys grew up at, I'm really hoping we can get a U.S. Open at the 4,300-yard par-

61 where I learned the game."

- Greg Cote of the Miami Herald, on Harold Baines being inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame: "He was headed to the Hall of Pretty Good and somebody must have smuggled him into Cooperstown."

- Norman Chad of the Washington Post, on Twitter, in the late stages of a six-hour, 16-inning game between the Orioles and Angels: "Homeplate ump is now calling any pitch that crosses home plate a strike in an effort to get to IHOP by sunrise."

- Someone named DL-NewRoc, on Twitter: "If the Yankees don't encourage individualism, how do you explain them letting CC Sabathia wear so many more pinstripes than the other players?"

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

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What happens when you don't advertise?

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Creeping Bellflower — *Campanula rapunculoides*

By Patricia Hanbidge

Weeds are one of the most complained about problems in the landscape. They seem to thrive in the garden, the lawn and almost everywhere else that even slightly might support life. But what is a weed? A weed is simply a plant growing in an undesired place.

There are weeds and then there are weeds that defy all the tricks. Consider creeping bellflower (*Campanula rapunculoides*) perhaps one of the most tenacious weeds known to man! It really is a pretty, long-loved, hardy, trouble-free perennial that is ideal as a cut flowers or anywhere in the perennial border. However, plant this lovely perennial and your neighbour just next door may be less than happy about your gardening prowess. It is a very persistent, wide-spreading, invasive, self-seeding weed that is nearly impossible to eradicate.

This specific weed is often found in some of the older neighbourhoods. Years ago it was likely planted by an unsuspecting gardener of the amazing ability for this plant to survive. Once introduced to a neighbourhood this plant seldom leaves. It is so successful as this plant has the ability to thrive in sun or shade, hot or cold, dry or wet.

It really is not such an unattractive plant as for much of the summer it produces tall spikes

of nodding bluebell – like flowers. Gardeners everywhere enjoy most anything with colour and will often wait to remove plants until after they bloom. However, in this case, immediate eradication is strongly recommended as these plants flower, they will be producing seeds that seem to find their way across remarkable distances.

Those hardy gardeners who seem to find a solution to most every problem would simply say – “Please deadhead to prevent the spread of this plant.” This process will effectively prevent seedlings, but this plant got its name from its ability to creep underground. The below ground stems can travel many meters before emerging and letting an unsuspecting gardener realize the potential spread. Any tiny plant is able to survive almost any growing condition which means that the untrained gardener may not suspect that these less than innocent weeds are very persistent. The root systems have a unique survival mechanism which allows them to fill small underground tubers (like small white potatoes) with reserve starch as an emergency food supply should their topgrowth be removed. The underground food storage provides plenty of energy for the plant to generate new leaves in the event of an attack.



So, by this time, you might be asking – how does one folly such a persistent foe? Sometimes a slowing of the spread is all that is possible. Try digging a solid barrier of wood, fiberglass, or metal into the ground to the depth of at least 24 cm (9 inches). This will not eliminate the problem but will help keep the spread a bit under control.

In order to truly eradicate this weed is next to impossible. Persistent effort to dig up the offending plant is recommended but be aware that

it may take years of digging for true success! This is largely due to the ability of any bit of root tissue having the magical ability to regenerate. Another alternative is chemical warfare. Believe it or not but creeping bellflower does respond to glyphosate (Round-up) with some degree of success. However, it does require frequent application in order to have any success. Please be sure to fol-

low the directions on the label to ensure success and safety for the applicator.

Hanbidge is a horticulturist with the School of Horticulture and can be reached at 306-931-GROW(4769); by email at growyourfuture@gmail.com; facebook: @schoolofhort; twitter: @horticulturepat; instagram: patyplant or check out our website at saskhort.com.

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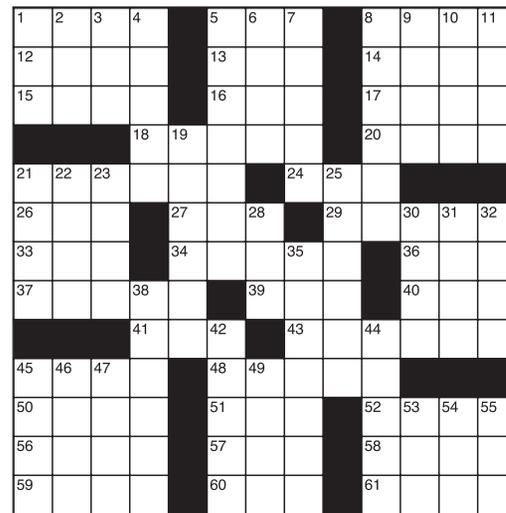
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 - 19. Renter
 - 21. Tibetan holy

- man
- 22. Had obligations to
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THIS IS NOT GOING TO END WELL

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Saskatchewan Weekly Newspapers Association and their Community Newspaper Members

RECYCLING tip

“When recycling make sure your newspapers are not bagged. It will save recycling facilities time.”

Plastic Bags & Newspapers Don't Mix

This program may not be available in all communities.

SWNA SASKATCHEWAN WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS ASSOCIATION
Support Recycling It is up to all of us!

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