

Spiritwood Herald



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Hyndman hits 40 years as Herald reporter

By Jordan Twiss

For the past 2,080 weeks (well, a few more than that, now), Dave Hyndman has picked up his weekly copy of the *Spiritwood Herald* and been able to see his name, his face, and his words in newsprint.

That's because Hyndman, the *Herald's* long-time news editor, has been serving in his role for more than 40 years now. His 40th anniversary as the face of the *Herald*, was recently acknowledged by publisher Clark Pepper, who presented him with a plaque in recognition of his 40 years of commitment to the newspaper.

Unlike most journalists, Hyndman, a teacher by trade, didn't get into the newspaper business because it was his aspiration to be the next Bob Woodward or Carl Bernstein.

Instead, he began dipping his toes into the newspaper business by submitting regular articles for a couple of community groups that he was a part of, including the Spiritwood Lions Club, and Spiritwood's senior hockey team.

Then, while he was still teaching, he was approached by his predecessor at the *Herald*, Mary Schira, who asked him if he had any interest in taking over for her as the paper's report and agent. After this came a meeting with then-publisher, Alf Pepper, and the rest, as they say, is history.

For Hyndman's part, he says it all worked out pretty well.

"It seemed like a natural thing to do," he said. "I was a teacher of high school English and history, and, as it turned out, writing for the paper was a way to contribute to both the school and the community."

While his position as a teacher made it an easy enough task to report on school news and sports, Hyndman says it was the same thing for the other organizations he's been involved with through the years, including Spiritwood town council, the Music Festival Committee, the Rodeo Committee, and a few that he can no longer remember.

Reporting on these and other activities, he adds, was a way to keep the community in the know about what was



Publisher Clark Pepper presents *Spiritwood Herald* reporter Dave Hyndman with a plaque in recognition of his 40 years of service.

happening in town (something he says is important), to ensure that folks got the real story, rather than innuendos and rumours, and to build community spirit.

"Getting the story out was a way of generating enthusiasm and a good feeling about what was going on in the community," he said. "If people felt good seeing what others were doing, maybe it would encourage them to get involved in doing good things, too."

Reflecting on the past 2,080-plus weeks, Hyndman says the biggest thing that has changed about his job has been the technology. Back in August of 1979, he was writing stories with a manual typewriter, and fixing typos with correction tape, before mailing his work off to Shellbrook for composition.

Now, of course, work can be done from just about anywhere, as long as one has access to a computer and a reliable inter-

net connection.

Having seen and reported on so much over the past 40 years, Hyndman says it's hard to pin down one or two stories that stand out to him as favourite memories. That said, he has fond recollections of the major projects undertaken by the community, such as the Civic Centre, Extended Care, and the Spiritwood Arena, in his time as reporter.

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Hyndman hits 40 years as Herald reporter

Continued from 1

"Various groups led the charge over the life of those projects, and I tried to keep some enthusiasm up by reporting on the activities of the groups," he recalled. "Groups like the Civic Centre's Six Senseless Cyclists, who biked from Jasper to Spiritwood to raise funds for the Civic Centre, and the Pavement Pounders, who ran from Birch Hills to Spiritwood to raise money for Extended Care."

Through all these stories, and thousands more, Hyndman says the most rewarding aspect of his job has been seeing the newspaper hit the streets every week, and feeling like he was contributing to the community by reporting on all the good things that people were doing.

Of course, he adds that he also enjoyed his weekly column, and that it seems to have been well received by folks in the community.

"To be honest, that is where I received the most comments. People enjoyed reading about my grandchildren and our trips, and it was fun to write about them," he said.

So, after 40 years as the face of the *Spiritwood Herald*, what comes next?

Hyndman says he hasn't thought about it too much, but adds that he does feel it's time that someone else take the reins and start covering events within the community. That, he notes, might just give him more time for the family he enjoys writing about.

"I do know I'd like to be more free in being able to run off to visit family without first looking at the calendar to see what major events I might be missing," he said, adding that he could also do some travelling for his own reasons.

New school year underway



A lineup of buses between Rivier and Hartley Clark at the end of the first day of school.

Students in both the Living Sky and Light of Christ School Divisions headed back to class Sept. 3 to begin the 2019-2020 school year. Teachers and support staff began their year the previous Wednesday, with several days of inservice and planning sessions. The Rivier staff took a morning to do some community service, weeding the Lions Legacy Park and the wolf monument.

All schools seem to have hit the ground running to begin the new year. Rivier held a "mugs and muffins" morning to welcome students and parents back to school on the first morning, while Spiritwood High ended the week with a Friday noon barbecue.

The schools with Grade 7-12 have already begun volleyball practices in anticipation of the new year, with some tourna-

ments already on the schedule.

Medstead is gearing up to host District championships in Cross Country and Junior Boys Volleyball, as well as the Regional Drama Festival later in the year.

Leoville will host the Elementary Soccer Day on Sept. 27. Most schools will be participating in the annual Terry Fox Run, and Hartley Clark will host a Cross Country Meet Sept. 26.

The Leoville Grade 11-12 are off Sept. 11-14 on the annual canoe trip to Otter Rapids.

There are a number of changes in the Northern Lakes schools, starting with a new principal at Hartley Clark. Lane Buswell, who was vice-principal last year, moves up to principal. Around the Northern Lakes, there are

new assignments, new staff, and some new teachers.

There are 16 in Kindergarten at Rivier and 20 in the Grade 1/2 class.

Leoville has 8 in Kindergarten and 7 in Grade 1. There are 17 in Kindergarten in Medstead and 5 in Grade 1.

Staff throughout the Northern Lakes are:

SPIRITWOOD HIGH

Mrs. Susan Fry and Ms. Sandy Emke-Kish are principal and vice-principal of Spiritwood High School, respectively. Classroom teaching assignments are: Mrs. Paula Goller (7), Mr. Deon Nordstrom (7), Mr. Jeff Tkachuk (8), Mr. Brad Nemish (9A), Ms. Sekwun Ahenakew (9B), Mr. Mark Corfield (10A), Mrs. Kirstin Buswell (10B), Mr. Ryan Hackl (11A), Mr. Kurtis Hamel (11B), Mrs. Judy Enns (12A), Mrs. Shannon MacFarlane (12B).

Mrs. Wendy Brewer is the secretary, Mrs. Kendra Sanders is lifestyle counselor/liaison worker, Mrs. Ricki Corfield is librarian, and Mrs. Megan Nemish is SST.

The E.A.s are: Mrs. Coralie Wingerter, Mrs. Amanda Balazsi, Mrs. Janice Prefontaine and Mrs. Brandy Swistun.

Ms. Chrissy Buscholl and Mr. Larry McGill are caretakers.

Spiritwood High is opening with an enrollment of 200.



Miss Shelby Tetreault, new to the staff at Leoville Central. Shelby graduated from Leoville Central and took her internship there last year.

HARTLEY CLARK

Hartley Clark staff consists of: Lane Buswell (principal), Sherylyn Beuker (K), Kelly Hogan and Ivania Choma (1/2), Shannon Caffet (3/4), Candace Benson (5/6) and Michele Purdy (Student Services).

Judy Brule, Shannon Beaulac, Laura Andres and Nancy Fast are education assistants, Jeff Pederson is custodian, and Gail Franson is secretary/librarian.

Hartley Clark is opening with 74 students.

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Miss Shanyne Kotyna, new to the staff of Leoville Central.

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"New" staff at Hartley Clark. L. to r, Mrs. Shannon Caffet (Grade 3/4), Mrs. Laura Andres (EA), Mrs. Candace Benson (Grade 5/6), and Mr. Lane Buswell (Principal).

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Environment Field Office Changes

Effective August 30, 2019, the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment will no longer offer in-person service at the Big River location.

Hunting and angling licences can be purchased through private vendors, by phone or online through the Hunting, Angling and Trapping Licence system.

For more information on how to access ministry services, please visit saskatchewan.ca/environment, call the Inquiry Centre at 1-800-567-4224 or email centre.inquiry@gov.sk.ca.

saskatchewan.ca/environment Saskatchewan

New school year underway

Continued from 2 RIVIER

Rivier's staff is: Ginelle Olson (principal); Amanda Holowachuk (K), Alyssa Chalifour (1/2), Celine Smith (2/3), Lauren Booth (4/5), Robyn Doell (5/6).

E.A.s are: Jodie Doucette, Teigan Cross, Jamie Gano, Shantal Hujber and Laurie Martens. Geoffrey Cimafranca is Custodian, while Suzanne Lavoie and Jodie Doucette are Librarians.

The administrative secretary is Rhonda Turgeon.

Rivier's K-6 enrollment on opening day was 111, with another 16 (so far) registered for Pre-K.

MEDSTEAD

Greg Knot and Stacy Hill are the administrative team at Medstead Central School, which has an opening day enrollment of 150.

Medstead's teaching staff includes: Mrs. Lisa Knot (K), Mrs. Shannon Mann & Ms. Kristan Kenney (1/2), Mrs. Brigitte Johnson (3/4), Mrs. Rae Short (5/6), Miss Annette Benson (7 and Phys

Ed), Mrs. Tara Haryung (7), Ms. Nissa Shiell (8/9), Mr. Brody Pylypow (10), Mr. Brett Goller (11), Mrs. Janett Franson (12), Mrs. Karun Mann (Student Intern), Mr. Dean Findlay (Senior Math), Mr. Rob Demencuik (PAA).

The educational assistants include: Mrs. Patti Edwards, Mrs. Lynn Moore, and Mrs. Brenda Robertson.

Ms. Bonnie Deuel is librarian, Ms. Pam Ross is administrative assistant, and the custodians are Mrs. Bonnie Lybeck and Mrs. Marjorie Klassen.

LEOVILLE

Leoville Central School opened with 145 students, which includes Pre-K.

The administrative team at Leoville Central is Adrian Poirier (principal) and Scott Haggarty (vice-principal).

Leoville staff assignments are: Mrs. Jodie Schlaut (K & Pre-K); Irene Bowker (1/2), Miss Shelby Tetreault (3/4); Gisele Poirier (5/6, Learned Literacy Interventionist); Miss Shanyne Kostyna (7/8/9); Mr. Kevin Durand (10); Mr. Kelly Egert (11), Mrs.



Hartley Clark Elementary is off to a great new year.



End of Day 1.



Burger cooks Bronson Parker and Mrs. Fry were kept busy flipping hamburgers.



Coffee and muffins for parents on the inaugural "Mugs & Muffins" day at Rivier.

Aimee Laventure (12).

Educational assistants include: Mrs. Carol Gaumont, Mrs. Carolsue Lehouillier, Mrs. Sharon Riel, Mrs. Leona Paulton,

Mrs. Rochelle Duret is student services teacher, Mrs. Leanne Menke is administrative assistant, and Mrs. Adele Craswell and Mrs. Jennifer Soucy are library technicians.

Caretakers include Mrs. Vickie Covey and Mrs. Betty Bittner.



Spiritwood High students ended their week with a free lunch on Friday.



Rivier's new staff: L-R: Amanda Holowachuk (K), Celine Smith (Grade 2/3), Alyssa Chalifour (Grade 1/2) and Ginelle Olson (principal).

Spiritwood Herald

is looking for the right individual to work part-time with reporting of news happenings in Spiritwood and area.

Some other duties involved.

Send resume to **Clark Pepper, Publisher Spiritwood Herald** at **Box 10, Shellbrook, Sask. S0J 2E0** or by email to clark@sbchron.com

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“Election is coming”

A federal election is coming, whether we like it or not. Check that. I think most of us in Western Canada are looking forward to an opportunity to – let us say – voice our opinion about how we'd like to see the country run.

What I meant was, the election campaign is coming, and we all know how much we enjoy election campaigns.

All sides are stepping up their respective apparatuses to hit the streets for the official beginning of the “writ period”, and even though it isn't official yet, the campaign is well under way, with each political party aiming to sway the masses with whatever promises they think might work.

The concept of a fixed election date is relatively new, and not all Canadian provinces have a fixed date. Maybe someday they will, but for the time being, the jury is still out on whether we ought to have such a thing in our system.

Well, it works elsewhere, and I guess it has been working here in Canada. Those who like the system do so because the government-of-the-day can't do any jig-gery-pokery with the date.

Prior to the fixed date system, the government-of-the-day was able to determine the date by calling on the monarch to dissolve Parliament. With the life of Parliament being a maximum of five years, that gave the prime minister (or premier, in the case of a province) the freedom to pick a date when they were the least disliked by the electorate.



DAVE
HYNDMAN
~
News Editor

It wasn't unusual for a Parliament to go the full five years, most commonly because the prime minister and his government could never find that elusive “date when they were the least disliked by the electorate.” Most commonly those governments wound up defeated.

Governments that went three years before calling an election typically didn't do well, either, because they were seen to be taking advantage of their relative popularity and hoping to cash in on it. Canadians, if nothing else, don't like to feel that they are being taken advantage of.

Therefore, the most common period of time between elections has worked out to be four years.

And, probably because it most commonly is four years, and it's four years like clockwork in the Excited States, many Canadians are under the mistaken belief that it has to be four years here, too.

There are a number of significant differences between us and them, especially at the top. The President of the U.S. and the Prime Minister of Canada are chosen under two very distinct systems. The people vote directly for the President, sort of. There is this thing called the Electoral College that tends to skew the results somewhat, allowing a candidate like Donald Trump to win the prize despite having fewer people voting for him.

That can't happen in Canada, since come election time, the prime minister is but one candidate in one constituency throughout the land. Anyone who wants him to repeat as the prime minister will have to elect the members of the party that he heads.

There are issues with our method of selecting our government leaders, but one thing seems to be clear world-wide. Canada has the reputation of having the most fair and most democratic elections in the entire world. In fact, Canadians are regularly sought after to preside over or at least monitor elections in many countries.

Our system is so fair that when we vote, we put our ballots into a cardboard box, one that is kept closed by a piece of tape. How's that for security?

I made two grievous errors in the Folk Fest writeup last week, both of them with regard to the French pavilion. I incorrectly named Lucinda Smolinski in their group photo. And I incorrectly said that Amanda Lewis was Rachelle Beauchesne's sister, when in fact, she was the sister of Angie Gaboury. I apologize to all for the errors.



Bernier reveals his ugly true nature

Over the years, I've made use of this space to reflect upon the qualities which make one an effective leader, and an ideal candidate to occupy public office.

More often than not, I've done this in the context of some broader criticism of those who have actually been elected to represent our interests – whether it be locally in council chambers, in the provincial legislature in Regina, or in the House of Commons in Ottawa – because they all too frequently fall far short of the standards the electorate ought to hold them to.

This time, regrettably, will be no different.

When one observes politicians for an extended period of time, one quickly becomes accustomed to, if not entirely desensitized to, the slinging of mud and the hurling of puerile insults that seem to be such an integral part of political discourse.

But then, on exceedingly rare occasions, a politician says something so utterly beyond the pale that it demands an immediate renunciation, if not the immediate resignation of that individual.

No stranger to toeing the thin tightrope between the appropriate and the offensive to garner headlines for a party that has little chance of being a legitimate contender in the Oct. 21 federal election, People's Party of Canada leader Maxime Bernier finally crossed a line that no politician should ever cross last week.

In an eight-part Twitter rant that would have made United States President Donald Trump proud, Mr. Bernier took aim, not at a parliamentary colleague or another adult, but at Greta Thunberg, a 16-year-old from Sweden who has garnered international attention for her environmental activism.

“[Greta Thunberg] is clearly mentally unstable. Not only autistic, but obsessive-compulsive, eating disorder, depression and lethargy, and she lives in a constant state of fear. She wants us to feel the same,” he tweeted.

“My concern is not for [Greta Thunberg]’s feelings, but for the millions of Canadians and people in other countries who will be poorer, will suffer and have their lives upended if we let her and the movement she represents impose their radical ideas,” he later added.

Granted, the list of mental health conditions that Bernier rattled off are all ones that Miss Thunberg has been open about. She refers to her aspergers syndrome (not autism) as her “superpower,” and says she developed depression,



JORDAN
TWISS
~
Columnist

lethargy, and selective mutism after she learned about climate change at age 8 and began to question why the Swedish government wasn't doing anything about it.

However, even if one disagrees with Miss Thunberg's activism or views about climate change, one should never call on her to be “denounced and attacked”, as Mr. Bernier did at the end of his unsolicited and unprovoked Twitter rant.

As an adult, and an elected member of parliament, Mr. Bernier should be setting an example for Canadians, and holding himself to a code of conduct that doesn't condone what essentially amounts to the cyberbullying of a teenager.

Or, if Mr. Bernier truly wishes to spend his apparently abundant free time engaging in scientific debates with a 16-year-old, he should, at the very least, know well enough to present something that resembles a fact-based argument.

Sadly, though, ad hominem attacks are the final refuge of those who have nothing of value to say, and Mr. Bernier is quickly and unabashedly revealing to Canadians the true contents of his character.

In part of his Twitter rant, Mr. Bernier alleged that the environmental movement is using Miss Thunberg as a “convenient shield” to stifle debate about climate change, and who, other than Mr. Bernier himself, would know more about hiding behind shields?

Nearly every time he opens his mouth to utter rhetoric that crosses the line into the offensive, he cowers behind the well-worn defence that he is simply speaking the truths that his colleagues in parliament lack the courage to speak, and representing Canadians who are being unjustly silenced.

But this is an excuse that children give to justify their lack of common decency, a sorry, transparent attempt by Mr. Bernier to legitimize himself as a different brand of politician who “tells it like it is”, while in the same breath he delivers the same old politics of fear and division.

It's certainly true that Canadians will have few genuinely good options to choose from when they head to the polls on Oct. 21. But it's also equally true that Mr. Bernier, and his politics that appeal to the very worst of our nature, is far from the best of those options.

Just as there should be no room in public office for those who bully and belittle their colleagues, there should be no room in Canada's political ranks for those who direct their vitriol at teenagers.

Report from the Legislature

The start of a new school year in Saskatchewan means more than 190,000 prekindergarten to Grade 12 students are returning to classrooms in more than 770 schools across the province.

From early learning and prekindergarten, to K-12 and post-secondary, dedicated parents and caregivers, teachers, bus drivers, counselors, educational assistants and administrators, school support and maintenance staff are working together to ensure all students receive a high-quality education.

Your Saskatchewan Party government is dedicated to ensuring all students have the proper supports to reach their full potential. This year, school divisions have been provided \$285.5 million in funding for programming and supports for children with intensive needs – a \$2.8 million increase from last year's budget.

Since 2007, our govern-



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ment has increased K-12 operating funding by 34 per cent compared to enrolment growth of 13 per cent within the same time-frame; we have also added more than 1100 teachers and support staff, along with 46 brand-new or replacement schools.

Our government continues to provide Saskatchewan students with relevant classroom opportunities that will prepare them for emerging careers in science, technology, engi-

neering and mathematics.

Saskatchewan school divisions now have the opportunity to offer robotics and automation classes for their students. Robotics and Automation classes, which include coding, are now available for Grade 7-12 students, ensuring classrooms are meeting the needs of 21st century students.

Boards of education will determine what schools will offer these classes within their division, supporting the local needs of their students.

Nearly 9,000 students, parents and community members had their say in a recent online survey about what students in the province need to be successful in school.

Students who responded to the survey identified that the most important things to help them learn include quality teachers and staff and a comfortable, quiet learning environment. Students also



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said it is important to have a variety of program and elective options so they can work toward goals and study topics of interest.

In addition to the students, non-students also provided survey responses indicating that quality teachers and educational assistants, as well as issues at home and access to supports are the top three things impacting students' well-being and learning.

While quality of teaching was noted as extremely

important by student respondents, some noted that quality of instruction can also be a challenge. Classroom environment and student behaviour were similarly noted by some as being a barrier to learning. The survey results from non-students identified that updated curriculum and classroom supports are important.

Many students who responded to the survey also said they believe hands-on learning and interactive activities help them to learn at school. Non-student respondents also say that inclusion, diversity and acceptance are some of what is working well in our schools.

I want to thank the thousands of people that we heard from, and in particular the students, who took the time to tell us what they need. Student voice is key as we begin to plan for the future success of all of Saskatchewan's learners.

The results of the survey

together with the feedback from engagement sessions that were held by education partners and school boards around the province will be used to build a framework outlining the key areas of focus in education over the next 10 years.

The framework, which will be used to develop a new education plan, will be presented to the Minister of Education later this fall.

Students are excited for the new school year. Please remember to obey the posted speed limit and be extra careful when approaching and driving through school zones – watch for crosswalks and school crossing guards as well as school buses that are loading and unloading children.

To all parents, educators and support staff, thank you for all you do. Best wishes for a successful year of growth and learning!

5 tips to beat the flu before it begins

(NC) School's back in session and that means flu season is right around the corner. Even if you've got the perfect flu-free streak going, it's important to take steps to prevent the flu so that you don't risk spreading it to someone who can't afford to get sick.

Children, seniors, children, people who are pregnant or have chronic medical conditions are especially vulnerable to the flu. Let's beat the odds this season with a few handy tips to boost immunity from Jacklyn Villeneuve, a registered dietitian:

1. Eat nutrient-rich foods. Eating well is one of the best ways to ensure that your body has the nutrients it needs for a strong immune system. Foods like citrus fruits and sweet peppers, beans and legumes, nuts and seeds, and probiotics such as yogurt are rich

in essential vitamins C, E, and zinc, which are helpful allies in fighting off sickness. Consuming nutrient rich foods over supplements provides the added benefit of also containing things like fibre, calcium and/or healthy fats, but before consuming any of these nutrient rich foods, don't forget to wash your hands.

2. Get a good night's sleep. When your body is well rested, it's more equipped to combat foreign germs that attack your immune system. Make sure to get lots of rest before you start feeling ill to keep your immune system ready for whatever comes your way.

3. Stay active. Working out has more benefits than just helping you stay in shape. Staying active can also help boost your immune system, leading to a less likely chance that the flu will knock you down. People who

exercise regularly may get fewer colds and recover faster.

4. Minimize stress. Opposite to exercise, stress depletes the immune system. For this reason, it's important to try to minimize your stress levels, especially at high-risk times. Both stress and the flu take a toll on the body, and experiencing one makes it more likely that you will experience the other. Try practicing yoga or meditation to encourage relaxation.

5. Get your flu shot. While the above steps are important in helping us boost our immune systems, did you know that 70 to 90 per cent of flu cases can be avoided through vaccination? The best thing you can do is to get your shot each fall to beat the odds and help protect those around us who can't risk getting the flu.

Spiritwood Herald

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Member of



Allard honoured for work on Lions Legacy Park



This past summer, Colin Allard helped to complete the Lions Legacy Park by donating his time and labour to install the pergola. Spiritwood Lion President Bryan Ferguson recently expressed the appreciation of the Lions Club for his efforts. Also pictured are Lions Megan and Shelley Allard.

Sask. Health Authority volunteer opportunities

The Volunteer Service Department is in need of caring, compassionate and committed volunteers to fill the following service positions:

Pet Therapy – Hafford Special Care Home (306) 549-2108

Volunteers with well-trained, friendly pets may visit the residents at the Nursing Homes. The pets must meet the necessary requirements prior to visiting.

Shifts: Once or twice per week: Flexible hours.

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Youth Volunteers – Victoria Hospital, Most Long Term Care Facilities

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Shifts: 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m., or as determined by the facility Monday to Friday.

If you are interested in this or any other Volunteer service position, or if you have a particular skill or talent you would like to share with the patients, residents or clients, please call your local health care facility to apply. You can also reach the Volunteer Services Department at (306) 765-6010, by email at volunteers@paphr.sk.ca or find us on the web at www.paphr.ca. We look forward to matching your talents and interests with the right position for you.

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Canada

Oat funding good news for some prairie producers

In the overall economics of agriculture on the Canadian Prairies oats are not a major driver of things.

Oats are not on the same level as canola, or wheat, or even barley. Canada produces about three million tonnes of high quality oats each year, and is the largest exporter of oats in the world. Western Canada represents nearly 90 per cent of Canada's oat production.

However, that does not mean that for certain producers and certain communities that oats are not an important crop.

For individual producers, such as those who are active members of the Prairie Oats Growers Association (POGA), oats are a crop they have found works on their farms.

In the case of communities, oats are a crop which is processed here in the Prairies. There are a number of oat milling facilities across the west sourcing local oats to process typically into rolled oats, which are in turn used in a wide range of products starting of course with a hearty breakfast many have enjoyed for years.

So a recent government announcement has to be looked at as a generally positive one, at least among those in the oat sector.

The Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, and the Honourable Ralph Goodale, Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness, recently announced an invest-



CALVIN DANIELS

ment of up to \$1,982,915 for Prairie Oat Growers Association to improve oat varieties for the Canadian oat industry.

"A profitable oat industry benefits producers, processors and consumers, and gives farmers one more crop for their rotation. Scientific innovations in the crop, such as the development of oat varieties with better agronomic traits,

are an important way to grow the industry," stated the Honourable Ralph Goodale, Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness and Member of Parliament for Regina-Wascana in the release.

According to the press release announcing the investment, "this project aims to develop new oat cultivars suited for production in western Canada. The cultivars developed will have end-use quality identified by the industry, and will carry genetic resistance to major diseases, pests and adverse environmental and changing climatic conditions."

This is an important goal for the oat sector. When a crop is not a major one, it becomes more difficult to entice the private sector

to invest in varietal work. There is simply less likelihood in making money on the investment because of the smaller potential market.

But oats have a market, and new varieties are important to stay current with the agronomics as they exist today.

"The breeding work being done in Brandon at the AAFC location would not be possible without the continued support of the Government of Canada and all the industry funders including AustGrains, Emerson Milling, FP Genetics, General Mills, Grain Millers, POGA, Richardson International and SeCan. In order to ensure oats remain a viable and competitive option for our producers in Western Canada (and con-

tinues to support a significant value added industry), continued investment in varietal improvements is essential. The investment is a true demonstration of the collaboration of the oat industry and its dedication to continue to deliver this healthy, safe and nutritious product into the homes of consumers across the globe," stated Jenneth Johanson, President, Prairie Oat Growers Association (POGA) in the release.

The project is funded through the Canadian Agricultural Partnership's AgriScience Program, which aims to advance the growth and profitability of the sector by accelerating innovation through support for pre-commercial science activities and cutting-edge research.

Cereals Canada supports WTO action to protect ag trade

Cereals Canada supports formal World Trade Organization (WTO) dispute resolution case against China for their restrictions on Canadian canola exports. Cereals Canada renews the call for the Canadian Government to bring a similar dispute resolution action against the protectionist mandatory country of origin labelling in Italy.

Cereals Canada calls on the Government of Canada to immediately take similar action in response to the protectionist mandatory country of origin labelling regulations in Italy. The durum value chain has been calling for WTO action to resolve Italian mCOOL for the

past two years.

"Italy was once the largest market for Canadian durum, the wheat used to make pasta. Since mCOOL has been brought in Canadian farmers have lost sixty percent of this market. We urge the Government of Canada to stand up against and use all available tools to challenge the Italian regulations that effectively discriminate against Canadian products."

Dahl further noted that "the loss of the Italian durum market has happened after the agricultural provisions of the Comprehensive Economic Trade Agreement with Europe came into effect."

Cereals Canada is calling for a much more public and assertive response from the Government of Canada to the harm being done to Canadian farmers and exporters by the Italian regulations.

"We need to do more than sign trade agreements, we need to place a priority on making sure trade agreements actu-

ally work, stated Dahl."

"Failure to challenge the Italian regulations will encourage other countries with trade protectionist goals to utilize similar means to block Canadian exports. The time to challenge these non-tariff barriers is now, before further proliferation of this protectionist tool," concluded Dahl.



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Home-run frenzy: 'kind of ridiculous'

And the beat goes on... Back in June, words in this space raved about the number of home runs being hit in Major League Baseball. The season was about half over, but the onslaught has continued unabated. In fact, 2019 will go down as the season where more balls sailed over outfield walls than in any other year.

After 85 per cent of the season had been completed, major league teams had crushed 5,580 homers — a pace that would take the final number to 6,564. The current record, set in 2017, is 6,105. That mark will be smashed, just like fastballs thrown by woe-begone pitchers around Major League parks.

Want some specifics? — Let's start with Minnesota Twins, who will wind up with more than 300 homers for the season, an average of nearly two per game. The old record was 267 set last year by New York Yankees.

— National League rookie-of-the-year-to-be Pete Alonso of the Mets hit his 42nd homer in late August. That mark is 16 more than the former

team rookie record, and it's also the most homers any Met has ever hit in a season. It's also more homers than any National League rookie — ever — has hit in one season. (Aaron Judge, 52, and Mark McGwire, 49, were American League rookies with more than Alonso, but the season's not over yet.)

— You may or may not have heard of Aristides Aquino, but he's a stud rookie with Cincinnati, who became the first major leaguer ever to hit 13 homers in 100 plate appearances. He reached that figure in 92 official at-bats. In at-bat No. 93, he belted No. 14.

— In 2018, 27 hitters smashed 30 or more homers. In 2019, there were 29 players with 30 or more — with a full month to go. And six more at 29 waiting to join the group.

— Is Yordan Alvarez the next Babe Ruth? The Astros rookie belted 21 homers in his first 64 major league games, a pace that would give him 54 homers over a full 162-game season. He will be the American League rookie-of-the-year, join-



BRUCE PENTON

ing the NLs Alonso as best — and most powerful hitting — freshmen.

So is the baseball juiced? Has Major League Baseball doctored the balls to enhance fan-friendly home-run totals? Braves' relief pitcher Mark Melancon is one who believes in the conspiracy theory, saying he is "100 per cent" certain that 2019 balls have been intentionally "juiced." MLB has owned Rawlings, the company that makes the baseballs, since last summer. "The ball just doesn't switch like that in an offseason," Melancon said. "Records are being broken left and right, and it's kind of ridiculous."

• Comedy writer Jim Barach: "Thirty-four Ma-

yor League players have already had career best seasons for home runs. The rest just haven't had enough bats against the Orioles pitching staff yet."

• Headline in theonion.com: "Derek Jeter Just Going To Go Ahead And Count Stray Cats In Marlins Attendance Figure"

• Vancouver comedian Torben Rolfsen, on the Packers-Raiders debacle in Winnipeg, on how to get even with Americans: "I think we should force an Argos-Lions game on them."

• Bob Molinaro of pilotonline.com (Hampton, Va.): "Dwight Howard, returning to the desperate Lakers after an acrimonious departure from L.A. six years ago, is 33. But his back is 57."

• Jeremy Schaap of ESPN, on Twitter: "Andrew Luck has retired because he couldn't take any more Antonio Brown helmet stories. Somebody had to do something to change the narrative."

• Dwight Perry of the Seattle Times: "Not that we've been getting overinducted with college-football hype or any-

thing, but just woke up in a cold sweat from a dream that Trump University was playing Electoral College."

• Jim Barach again: "Former German basketball star Demond Greene says the USA National 'C' Team is still dangerous. Although if the U.S. just wanted to field a 'C' team why not just send the Knicks?"

• Headline at Fark.com: "Detroit Tigers manager Ron Gardenhire says he understands if he's Gardenfired."

• Janice Hough of leftcoastsportsbabe.com, on the newly christened Tony the Tiger Sun Bowl: "Can't wait for them to say, 'This one's for all the Frosted Flakes.'"

• Another one from Jim Barach, on Nick Kyrgios calling the ATP 'corrupt'

for fining him \$100,000: "He may have a point after they asked for payment in small, unmarked bills."

• From @SportsPickle, on why Tennessee fans are better than Colts fans: "If Marcus Mariota retired during this game, Titans fans would give a standing ovation."

• Norman Chad of the Washington Post, on the Philadelphia Eagles keeping Carson Wentz at QB instead of Nick Foles, now a Jaguar: "The Eagles chose to keep likable lughead Carson Wentz, who has a 23-17 record, has never won a playoff game and is likely to re-injure himself walking into a shopping cart at Target."

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

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Shattering myths in the garden

By Jackie Bantle

'Fake news' has become a familiar term in the political realm over the last several years but this phenomenon has been happening in the gardening world as long as there have been gardeners. Gardening myths are alive and well, especially with the help of the internet.

Myth #1: Plants do not grow under a spruce tree because the soil is too acidic.

Fact: Saskatchewan soils south of Prince Albert (with the exception of a few areas on the north-western edge of the province), have a soil pH of 6.8 or higher (University of Saskatchewan Soil Survey, 1987).

While there are some plants that prefer extreme acidic or alkaline soil conditions for growth (ex. blueberries and sweet potatoes prefer soil pH of 5.0-5.5), most plants prefer a neutral soil.

Even though the needles on the tree are acidic (pH 3.2-3.8), it would take copious amounts of needles to actually change the pH of the soil.

The real reason why plants don't grow under evergreen trees is that not only is it shady but it is very dry. Large trees use copious amounts of water to survive: plants trying to grow under an evergreen have a hard time competing for moisture, nutrients and light.

Myth #2: It is relatively easy to change the soil pH.

Fact: Adding lime to a soil to increase pH or adding sulfur to a soil to decrease pH is not practical. The amount of lime or sulfur you would have to add to a soil to change the pH would be enormous.

For example, a University of Wisconsin Horticulture website recommends that if your soil has a pH of about 7.4 and you want to plant blueberries, which require a soil pH of 5.5, you



Poor plant growth under spruce tree due to lack of water, nutrients and light. Image Credit: Jackie Bantle

should apply approximately 3.5 – 5.5 kg (16 – 24 cups) of aluminum sulfate or 2 ¾ - 4 cups of elemental sulfur per plant.

Planting into this amended soil must be delayed for about 1 month after application to avoid root burn. After planting, the soil must be amended on a regular basis to maintain this pH.

Furthermore, when large amounts of sulfur or gypsum are added to the soil, the availability of other nutrients may be compromised, for example, gypsum (lime) can increase leaching of iron and manganese, leading to deficiencies of these nutrients.

It is best to grow plants that are suited to your soil rather than trying to adjust your soil pH to certain plant types.

Myth #3: Adding Epsom salts, milk or mild powder to water for your tomatoes will help prevent blossom end rot.

Fact: While the theory a lack of cal-

cium that will promote blossom end rot in tomatoes is correct, it is usually not a lack of calcium or magnesium in the soil but rather a lack of nutrients to the plant due to infrequent watering. A healthy soil will have ample nutrients for tomato production.

The best way to avoid blossom end rot in tomatoes is to provide adequate water to the tomato plant throughout the growing season.

Myth #4: The best way to control the

height of a tree is to cut off the top.

Fact: Trees are programmed to grow to a certain height. If the top is lopped off, this only delays the inevitable. The tree will tend to send out suckers or very bushy side branches; it may even form another 'lead' branch on top.

Plant the correct tree for the correct location: consider how large the tree will be when it's full grown before you plant that young seedling. Imagine trying to fit a size 10 foot into a size 6 shoe; nothing but problems and pain.

The internet is full of garden 'experts'. Be sure that when you are reading gardening information that it is being provided by a trained professional.

Look for websites linked to universities or gardening societies. Be aware of where that information is coming from since climate and soils vary immensely throughout the world.

For local information provided by horticulture and agricultural experts, follow the University of Saskatchewan's Facebook (Gardening at Usask) and webpage (gardening@usask.ca) for the most up to date information in Saskatchewan.

This column is provided courtesy of the Saskatchewan Perennial Society (SPS; saskperennial@hotmail.com). Check our website (www.saskperennial.ca) or Facebook page (www.facebook.com/saskperennial) for a list of upcoming gardening events.

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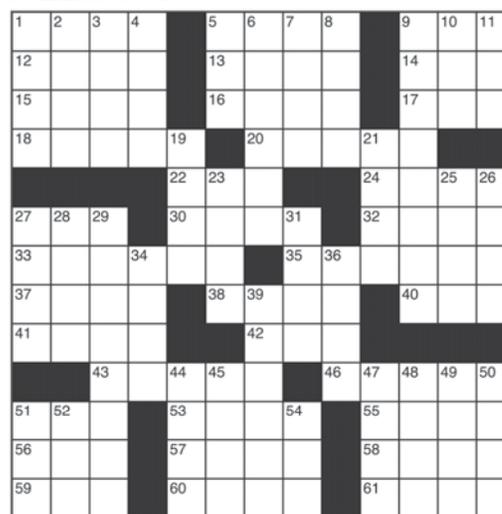
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- 13. Land unit
- 14. Roofing goo
- 15. To the sheltered side
- 16. Knicks or Raiders
- 17. Tango number
- 18. Security officer
- 20. ___ acid
- 22. Country hotel
- 24. Woody's son
- 27. Sponsors' words

- 30. Workbench clamp
- 32. Small cut
- 33. Canadian province
- 35. Bond
- 37. Take apart
- 38. Something different
- 40. Craving
- 41. Like
- 42. Storm center
- 43. Legendary stories
- 46. Tango or waltz
- 51. So long
- 53. Thin puff, as of smoke
- 55. Entire
- 56. Baseball's Darling

- 57. Theory
- 58. Eden dweller
- 59. Picnic pest
- 60. Lady's man
- 61. Salesmen, for short

DOWN

- 1. Banner
- 2. Humdinger
- 3. Sphere
- 4. Look closely
- 5. Mouse's kin
- 6. Indian and Atlantic
- 7. London streetcar
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- 10. Cut wood
- 11. Paid athlete

- 19. Plunge
- 21. Poet Ogden
- 23. Kind
- 25. Italian money, once
- 26. Unzip
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- 28. Basketball shot
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- 31. ___ street
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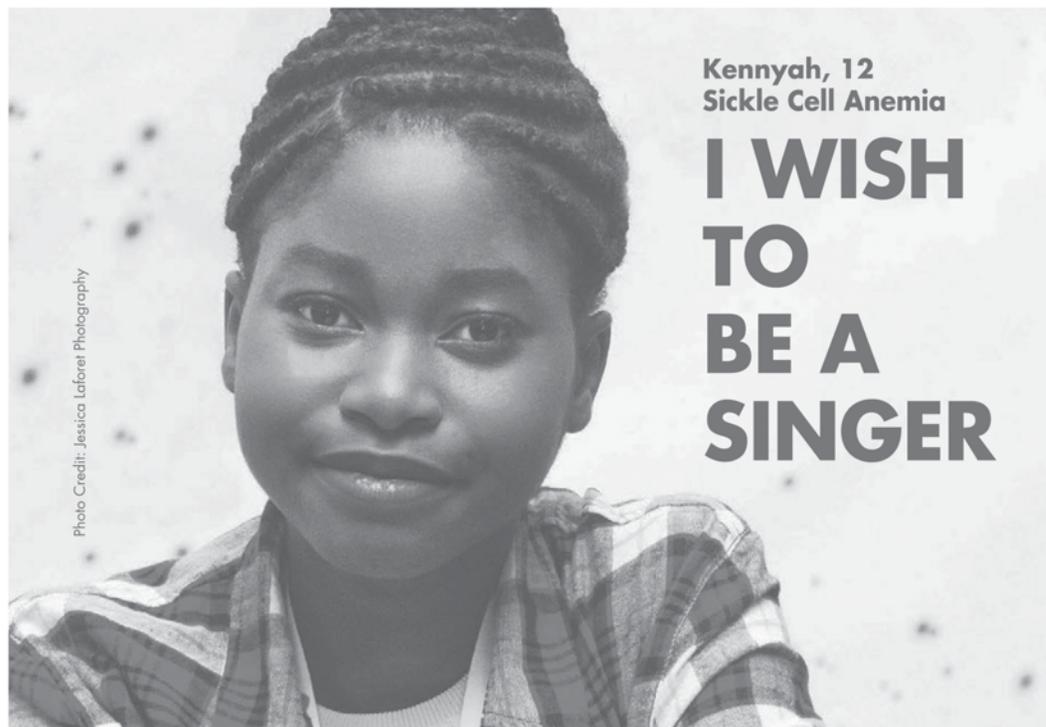


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Kennyah, 12
Sickle Cell Anemia

I WISH TO BE A SINGER

Photo Credit: Jessica Laforet Photography

Kennyah's love for singing developed at a young age. With big dreams of living the life of a superstar, the talented 12-year-old's wish soon came true. From having her very own recording session and music video to experiencing a professional photo shoot and performing before hundreds of adoring fans, Kennyah was able to smile at a time when she needed to most. Wishes like Kennyah's come true through the compassion and generosity of people like you.

Donate now at makeawish.ca



Memorial Lake Regional Park hosts 36th Men's Invitational

On Aug. 24 and 25 the 36th Annual Men's Invitational Golf Tournament was held at Memorial Lake Regional Park golf

course. There were 112 golfers playing.

This year's winner of the Championship Flight was

Shawn Strelau. He beat Devin Dicus out on the 18th hole of the final round.

The low qualifying score for

the tournament was 68, shot by Travis Fehr, sponsored by Gobbles Putt for Par.

Ray Field won the longest putt contest with a putt of 26' 3", sponsored by Shell Lake Pine Resorts.

Closest to the pin was Lane Buswell with a 31" shot, sponsored by Morris Sanitation.

Longest drive went to Ryan Willick, sponsored by Gobbles Putt for Par.

Flight Winners and sponsors were as follows:

Championship Flight: Shawn Strelau – Edwin and Agnes Fuschick sponsor

1st Flight: Jordan Unger– Wayne Ringdahl sponsor

2nd Flight: Deon Botha– Willow Insurance sponsor

3rd Flight: Blaine Unger – John and Marilyn Morrow sponsor

4th Flight: Evan Strelau– Laurie's Threads sponsor

5th Flight: Kaelen Both– The Lark Restaurant sponsor

6th Flight: Don Turgeon– Lake Country Coop sponsor

7th Flight: Mark Mzarek– Simonar's Refrigeration sponsor

8th Flight: Cory Bubnick– Guy's Furniture sponsor

9th Flight: Roger Fehr – Pine Ridge Cottages sponsor

10th Flight: Ken Kruetzweiser– Martodam Motors sponsor

11th Flight: Owen Day- Shell Lake General Store sponsor

12th Flight: Ken Lozinsky - Innovation Credit Union sponsor

13th Flight: Al Harder - Spiritwood Home and Building Center sponsor

The Manny Trophy was presented to Greg Potts. He golfed in this tournament for 25 years.

Also, a big round of gratitude to the staff and volunteers who work many hours to organize and make sure the weekend is a success.

The 2020 tournament is on Aug. 22 and 23.



This year's winners, back row left to right: Roger Fehr, Al Harder, Owen Day, Deon Botha, Don Turgeon, Cory Bubnick, Evan Strelau, Jordan Unger, and Blaine Unger Front row, left to right: Kaelen Both, Travis Fehr, Shawn Strelau, Mark Mzarek, and Ken Kruetzweiser.

4 ways to help your kids keep up in school this year

(NC) We all want our children to succeed, but sometimes it's important to take a step back and encourage kids to set their own course, learning new skills and information on their own.

Recently, active learning has become quite popular, even finding its way into mainstream education as classrooms become increasingly digital. Children can now go beyond traditional classroom resources, learning more about anything they want with a simple click of the mouse.

With this in mind, here are a few easy ways to help your child be an independent, curious learner in the digital age:

Create chances to safely explore at home. Pose questions to your kids about what excites them and encourage them to learn more about that topic on kid-friendly, trusted websites. That way, they will already feel comfortable with new digital learning platforms at school, such as Nelson Education's Edwin, which allows kids to browse an extensive

catalogue of content to find out more about what interests them.

Highlight the fun in learning. Being a successful learner starts

with having a positive attitude. Show kids that learning can be fun and exciting by thinking of ways to turn research into a game. Reward

them with inexpensive prizes or more play time. Chances are, the more fun children have learning, the more they'll want to seek out new information and grow.

Allow your child to teach you. Challenging your kids to take the information they learn and apply it to everyday life is a great way to enhance understanding, while also helping identify areas for improvement. Encourage your kids to tell you what they've learned. Support your child as they navigate new infor-

mation and help them learn by asking questions they may not have considered. This will foster even more learning and help familiarize your child with collaborative student-teacher relationships.

Digital learning tools are rapidly evolving classrooms. By embracing this new way of learning, both at school and at home, you can help your kids excel.

Find more information on modern classroom technology at edwin.nelson.com.



MORE THAN 190,000 STUDENTS ARE RETURNING TO CLASSROOMS

September 3rd marked the beginning of the school year and thousands of energetic students around the province can't wait to get back to the books. As school returns, drivers are asked to be extra attentive on the roads as there is increased traffic due to school buses and students.



Hon. Scott Moe, Premier

MLA for Rosthern-Shellbrook
scottmoe.mla@sasktel.net



Hon. Jeremy Harrison

MLA for Meadow Lake
jharrisonmla@sasktel.net