



## Lions give out prizes for Mother's Day contest



**Hartley Clark Kindergarten to Grade 3: Back: Candice Pritchard with Tyra, Tracy Salisbury with Katherline Follack, Kiren Buswell with Lucas, Megan Nemish with Anna, Lion Megan Allard, Paula Goller with Emily, Suzanne Ethier with Genesha, Victoria Gray with Emilie.**

Representatives of the Spiritwood Lions Club were on hand at Spiritwood's two elementary schools – May 9 at Rivier and May 10 at Hartley Clark – to award prizes in the annual Mother's Day contest.

Prizes for first and second in each grade were given. Each winning entry was read, most of them by the young author who created it. The children were each given certificates, plus a potted arrangement of mums to present to their moms.

Winners were:

Hartley Clark Elementary:  
Kindergarten: 1st Addison Miller (Shaylyn); 2nd Genesha Ethier (Suzanne)

Grade 1: 1st Lucas Buswell (Kirsten); 2nd Anna Nemish (Megan)

Grade 2: 1st Emily Goller (Paula); 2nd Tyra Pritchard (Candice)

Grade 3: 1st Katherine Follack (Tracy Salisbury); 2nd Emilie Gray (Victoria)

Grade 4: 1st Tessa Franson (Rosanna);

2nd Chance Goller (Paula)  
Grade 5: 1st Kallie Wright (Crystal); 2nd Sarah McNabb (Nicole)

Grade 6: 1st Ava Beaulac (Shannon); 2nd Kalli Franson (Tanis)

Rivier Elementary:  
Kindergarten: 1st Janeen Mangubat (Corsenia); 2nd Mikayla Tkachuk (Christine)

Grade 1: 1st Sierra Strae (Amy); 2nd Brielle Hart (Holly)

Grade 2: 1st Jase Simonar (Amy); 2nd Abby Summers (Jennifer)

Grade 2: 1st Nixen Simonar (Allison); 2nd Teigan Wingerter (Erin)  
Grade 3: 1st Olivia Haggarty (Shannon); 2nd Mckaylah deRepentigny (Earlene Bachelder)

Grade 4: 1st Harley Patoine (Stacey) 2nd Daelyn Turgeon (Sheila)

Grade 5: 1st Saydee Lehouillier (Shirley); 2nd Emeri Simonar (Allison)

Grade 6: 1st Tyson Salisbury (Leslie Striga) 2nd Kaydence Doell (Robyn)

*More photos on page 8*



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# Farmers Market open for season

It's official. Farmers Market in Spiritwood is open for the season.

Located between Prairie Centre Credit Union and Hujbers Market on Main, on property belonging to both, Farmers Market has been a busy place on summer Fridays.

Farmers Market opens in May and shuts down in October. Just exactly which Friday it both starts and ends depends on those still willing to sell their produce, and on the weather.

The market is open from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. during the season. It's first come, first serve, and at the height of the season it doesn't seem to take long for all the tables to be filled and all the space taken up.

There are few actual rules about use of space during the season, but products must be home made, home grown or home baked.

Over the course of the summer, there will be occasional fundraising barbecues as well.

Improvements over the past few years have included better signage and more tables.

Spiritwood Farmers Market is shown by Parks Culture and Sport at presentations as an example of how to improve Main Street and bring people to town.

And Spiritwood's Farmers Market has been very successful at doing that.



Farmers Market will be the site of a number of fundraising barbecues as well as tables full of home-made, home grown and home baked produce.

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The War Amps new "kids-to-kids" safety video, featuring stories from young amputees who have lost limbs in accidents, delivers the hard-hitting but positive message: "Spot the danger *before* you play!"

Visit [waramps.ca/playsafe](http://waramps.ca/playsafe) for the video and safety resources.

 The War Amps

## Windows installed at Guy's Furniture



A crew puts the finishing touches to the installation of the new windows at the Guy's Furniture building. Now they're waiting for gas.

It has been a long wait, but there are signs that the new Guy's Furniture building is progressing towards completion. The windows at the front and the two sides of the store were installed recently.

Just when is the target date for the opening of the new store? Gerry Houle isn't saying.

"I don't know when

it will be," he said. "I don't want to pick a date and jinx it."

The project is on hold for a bit, waiting for Sask Energy to run a gas line to the building.

Once they get gas, they can get heat, and then they'll be able to heat up the gravel floor. Once the floor warms up, the concrete floor can be poured.

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### Congratulations to the Recipients of The 2019 Junior Citizen of the Year Award

The Saskatchewan Weekly Newspapers Association, in partnership with SaskPower and the Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan, is pleased to announce the names of the 2019 recipients of the Junior Citizen of the Year Award.

Samantha Adams, Delisle, Age 15  
Jessica Collins, Saskatoon, Age 18  
Elizabeth Hales, Saskatoon, Age 17  
Emily Ives, Saskatoon, Age 15

Each of these four deserving youth will receive a \$3000 bursary from SaskPower for their future postsecondary education.

Visit [www.swna.com](http://www.swna.com) for more information on the Junior Citizen of the Year program



## CROWN HILL AUCTION

*Antique Sale*

**Sat., May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019 – 10:00 am**

Legion Hall – 1<sup>st</sup> Ave. S., Leask, SK

Large antique auction featuring variety of items including harness, 3 horse evener, doll carriages, tricycle, rocking horses, kitchen table, hoosier, side board, washstands, bedroom suites; Coke, telephone pay station, railway crossing signs; blow torches, working hand forge, beam scale, copper boiler, galvanized bathtub, trunks, standing ash trays; hurricane, coal oil and electric lamps, 6 gal. Red Wing butter churn, tub bench (1923), car hood ornaments, accordion, lanterns, cistern pump, various scales plus much much more.

Complete listing and pictures at [www.saskauctioneers.com](http://www.saskauctioneers.com) or phone 306-466-6727 for more info.

Auctioneer – John Priestley, PL #917023

# Trailriders host old time dance

The old time dance hosted by the Leoville Trailriders at the Timberland School on Saturday was a great night out for all who love a little dancing.

All proceeds are being used for renovations to this historic building, which is used by multiple clubs for various events.

Winners from the ticket sales were:  
1st - Rylan Soucy- \$150 at Timber-spirit Supply

2nd - Ernie Denis - quilt and tote bag

3rd - Adele Craswell - camping package

4th - Annabelle Harris - massage certificate

Door Prize winners were:

Pedicure - Darcy Laventure

Beer Cozie - Angie Laventure

Beer Cozie - Barb Beebe

Travis Henri won the 50-50 of \$110, which he donated back to the Trailriders for the renovation project.

The Pascal Ramblers provided the music. All agreed that the music was fantastic.



Attendance was excellent at the Timberland Old Time Dance hosted by the Leoville Trailriders, and everyone had a good time. Proceeds will be used for renovations.

## Successful strawberry tea

The Spiritwood Seniors Association held a very successful Strawberry Tea and Bake Sale on Friday, May 10. Not only did they cater to a steady crowd from 2 to 4

p.m., but also they sent out over 200 strawberry shortcake desserts to local businesses that had put orders in prior to the event.

As well, the table of

baked items was looking pretty sparse by the end of the day.

The Strawberry Tea and Bake Sale is one of the most successful fundraisers for the seniors.



The Strawberry Tea held by the Spiritwood Seniors Association was very successful.



The music was provided by the Pascal Ramblers.

## Dessert of the month



The Dessert of the Month for May was made and presented to winner Mona Dunn by Kathleen Gatzke.

### REAL ESTATE WEEKLY Shawna Schira-Kroeker - Your Local Realtor®



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## “And so it begins...”

The season is almost upon us. I'm not sure how it started, but since time immemorial in this neck of the woods, the high school graduation season begins right about now.

I call it a season because although graduation activities – such as exercises, grand march, parties – take but a single day, the preparation for “the big day” begins so much earlier. Some of the preparation has already taken place, what with “grad dress shopping” being as important as it is, and booking appointments for hair, makeup, nails and whatever else appointments are needed for.

The season really starts ramping up with the parties. It used to be that every class in every town had a pre-grad party, to which all their friends from

other schools would feel compelled to attend. And the pre-grad party of one class was also deemed to be the pre-pre-grad party of another. I'm not sure how many “pre's” there were. I usually lost count at three. Although some may have been just considered ordinary parties and hadn't yet been elevated to the pre- variety.

I never understood the attraction of it, but teenagers seem to get pretty excited about it all. I suppose it's fun to see teenagers get excited about something. Although, as one of their teachers,

I always hoped it would be things like the sciences, history and English literature they were getting excited about.

I was a teacher. I had my delusions.

Those who went through my classes will know that I was never a big fan of graduation. I often tried to convince a class that they should start a new tradition by cancelling graduation. My suggestions were never popular.

Their biggest and most heartfelt reason for not wanting to cancel is that they couldn't imagine a life without a high school graduation. It was something that had been a part of the culture of the school and the community since time began. People began looking forward to it as soon as they entered the school in the first grade.

Well, maybe not really that soon. But I've encountered many students who, once they reached the final grade, felt that they had made it and that all they needed to do was show up every day – or most of them – until their big day.

However, once the “big day” comes, it is exciting for us adults, parents, teachers and friends to see how these young people can look so grown up in formal attire, and it's also exciting and gratifying to see the awards and scholarships being handed out to young people who seem to have the next part of their journey mapped out. They have been paying attention to what their high school years were supposed to be about.

I bring all this up now because by this time next week, we'll be on our way to Grande Prairie for the graduation of our granddaughter, Bounce. We were up there last year around this time for the graduation of our grandson, Bump.

We'll get to see family that we haven't seen in five months, and when it all comes right down to it, maybe that's the best reason for having a graduation. It brings family together in a fun atmosphere. I can't wait.

... YUP... THAT'S CARBON TAXABLE ALRIGHT...



## Trespassing law treats symptoms, not causes

In life, there are things we choose or are led to believe that aren't, in fact, true – such as the age-old belief it takes our bodies seven years to digest swallowed bubble gum.

Then, of course, there are things that we believe, or even know, to be true, despite the lack of evidence or statistical proof that they are true. For instance, many believe, based on the stories that we hear from our friends and neighbours, that rural crime is a genuine problem in need of a remedy in Saskatchewan, even if such crime isn't as frequently reported by the RCMP or the media as it ought to be.

Fortunately – or, rather, unfortunately – the latest crime data from Statistics Canada, released last week, has given rural Saskatchewan residents the required proof to state, unequivocally, that they've been right all along.

Saskatchewan does have a rural crime problem.

Not only that, but when it comes to rural crime, Saskatchewan has the worst per capita crime rate of all provinces.

And by a large margin, to boot.

Looking nationally, the StatsCan report found that there was an average of 6,210 criminal code violations per 100,000 people in rural areas in 2017. By stark comparison, Saskatchewan's rate was 13,829 violations per 100,000 people, or more than double the national average.

What's more, rural crime in Saskatchewan is actually more common than it is in the province's urban centres, where there were 10,138 violations per 100,000 people – the province's urban crime rate was also double the national average of 5,051 violations per capita.

And, as if that weren't enough, the crime severity index, which measures the relative seriousness of reported crimes, was 17 per cent higher in rural areas than in urban areas, according to the report.

Of course, for every cloud there is a silver lining.

And for this particular storm cloud, that silver lining is the fact that rural crime in Saskatchewan has actually dropped by 13 per cent since 2009. Similarly, the crime severity index has declined by 7 per cent in that same time period.

Moreover, it could also be argued, as Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities president Ray Orb contends, that the seemingly high level of crime in rural Saskatchewan can be attributed to an increase in crime reporting.

“Part of the reason why we did see a spike in rural crime was the fact that rural people weren't necessarily reporting that [previously],” Orb told the CBC. “We've been encouraging,

along with the RCMP of course, encouraging people promoting that reporting system.”

Of course, when it comes to crime statistics it's near impossible to ever get a full picture of the state of things, because there are always far too many unknowns and variables for one to draw any concrete conclusions.

But it seems safe to say, with at least some certainty, that the Sask. Party government's recently passed trespassing legislation, which requires anyone looking to access private land to seek permission from the owner, won't do much to make things better.

In fact, it might only succeed in making things worse.

In rural Saskatchewan, where everyone knows everyone, most folks already abide by the unwritten social rule that they shouldn't be somewhere they don't belong or aren't wanted.

Codifying that unwritten rule into a formal law could serve to further embolden already tense and fearful rural landowners to defend their property with force – rather than doing the safe thing by calling 9-11 – and endanger everyone in the process.

Beyond this potentially lethal consequence, the new trespassing law won't reduce criminal activity. Criminals are criminals because they don't have any regard for the law, and all that will change with this law is that these criminals will have another charge added to their rap sheets.

More importantly, though, this trespassing law – like much of the Sask. Party's crime policy – fails to address the circumstances that drive one to a life of crime.

True, the implementation of the province-wide Protection and Response Team (PRT) has improved police visibility in rural areas, which has undeniably been a boon for overstretched and understaffed rural RCMP detachments.

The PRT has even seen a great deal of success in the two years since it was first created. And, for that, it deserves a great deal of credit.

But this success has been in cramming even more people into already crowded prisons, rather than preventing criminal activity outright.

What's needed, more than enforcement, is sustained provincial and federal funding to improve access to mental health, addictions, and social services resources. This wouldn't stop all crime, but maybe then the most vulnerable people of this province wouldn't feel as though they have no recourse but to turn to crime.



DAVE  
HYNDMAN  
~  
News Editor



JORDAN  
TWISS  
~  
Columnist

## Report from the Legislature

The Spring Sitting of the Legislature has been a busy season of representing our constituents and constituencies, proposing ideas, engaging in debate and passing legislation to improve the lives of Saskatchewan people.

The Government of Saskatchewan is passing legislation that better balances the rights of rural land owners and members of the public. Most notably, it moves the onus of responsibility from rural land owners to individuals seeking to access their property.

Under the new legislation, those wishing to access a rural land owner's property for recreational purposes will need to first gain access from the land owner. Land owners will be able to provide consent for activities on their land through posted signs.

We believe this will promote communica-



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tion with rural land owners, while still giving Saskatchewan people the opportunity to take advantage of our rural landscapes for outdoor activities such as hunting, fishing, snowmobiling and hiking.

The legislation will come into force after the necessary regulations are developed.

Innovation Saskatchewan is working with the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities to develop a

technological solution to promote contact between land owners and those seeking access to private property. The Innovation Challenge will select a successful applicant to develop their solution over a 16-week residency period.

One of the highlights of the 2019 Provincial Budget is our government's record investment in mental health and addictions services.

Recently, we announced that Saskatchewan paramedics and other first responders will benefit from \$250,000 in funding for mental health and addictions programming.

EMS providers and volunteer medical first responders are on the frontlines of medical care and are exposed to a high number of stressful situations. This funding will help to set up supports that best address their mental health needs.



**HON. JEREMY HARRISON  
MLA**  
~  
Meadow  
Lake  
Toll Free:  
1-877-234-6669  
jharrisonmla@sasktel.net

From market access and equalization to pipelines and the carbon tax, your Saskatchewan Party government is standing up for Saskatchewan.

We are standing up to protect and open market access for Saskatchewan exports; to fix Canada's flawed Equalization program; and against harmful federal government policies, like Bills C-48 and C-69, which threaten industries and families in our province.

While we are disappointed with the recent ruling at the Saskatchewan Court of Appeal, we will continue to stand up on behalf of the people across our province who are opposed to the federal government's ineffective, job-killing carbon tax.

The Court of Appeal ruling was a 3-2 split decision. Two judges provided a detailed, dissenting opinion that the carbon tax is unconstitutional. There are strong grounds for an appeal and we look to appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada.

We are grateful for all of the organizations and the provinces that intervened in this case on Saskatchewan's side, and we are grateful for Saskatchewan Justice and our two outstanding constitutional lawyers who presented Saskatchewan's case.

Meanwhile, other provinces are also pro-

ceeding with their own court challenges. Saskatchewan plans to intervene in each of these cases.

The Trudeau carbon tax is bad economic policy; it is bad environmental policy; and our government's fight against it will continue.

Our province already has a plan – a Prairie Resilience plan – to fight climate change; to reduce emissions; and to do it without a carbon tax.

The NDP has called our fight against the carbon tax “a pointless crusade”. Their leader even said they “applaud” the Trudeau carbon tax. These comments prove that the NDP is out of touch with Saskatchewan.

I want to thank small business owners, farmers, energy sector workers, and all hard-working families for their support as we continue this fight.

## YOUR TWO CENTS

### Canada desperately needs affordable pharmacare

Dear Editor,

Every prescription comes with a placebo effect. A placebo effect is the patient's expectation of efficacy. If you doubt the placebo effect is real, consider Health Canada's requirement that new drugs be proven better than a placebo.

Meet Patrick. He developed high blood pressure after his farm failed even though he earned income off-farm as a bus driver. His doctor prescribed a pill for high blood pressure. He was shocked at the prescrip-

tion's cost and realized he could not afford it. Patrick has zero chance of benefiting from either the placebo effect or the drug and he has a high chance of higher blood pressure knowing he cannot afford the prescription.

Truly, “an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.” Canadian taxpayers can pay for an ounce of prevention, Patrick's blood pressure pills, or a pound of cure, Patrick's stay in an intensive care unit after his heart attack.

Canada is the only country invested in pounds of healthcare without ounces of drug coverage. In the fall election, ask your candidates if they support pharmacare. If they do, check which type of pharmacare they support. If they support safety net or fill-in-the-gap coverage, ask them why not comprehensive universal coverage? It would effectively provide equitable coverage while reducing drug costs for all of us.

Nancy Carswell  
Shellbrook, Sask.

### Spiritwood Herald

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# Join the Sask. Crime Watch Advisory Network today

Saskatchewan residents now have a way to get involved with the fight against crime in the province, and all they need is a landline, a smart phone or an email address to do their part.

Funded by the provincial government, the Saskatchewan Crime Watch Advisory Network initially launched in southern Saskatchewan on March 7 as partnership between the province, the RCMP, SUMA, and SARM. But it has quickly expanded to

cover all communities in the province.

With the Crime Watch Advisory Network, RCMP detachment can issue an advisory when they become aware of an incident or a crime. That advisory will then be sent to anyone who has joined the Network on the platform of their choosing.

In the first month after the Crime Watch Advisory Network's launch, an estimated 5,500 people signed up to receive alerts and be in the know

about crimes or incidents in their communities and areas.

What's more, signing up is free and only takes a few minutes. All you have to do is go to [www.saskcrimewatch.ca](http://www.saskcrimewatch.ca) to register. Then, just select which RCMP detachment area(s) you want to receive notifications from, and how you want to receive them - whether it be via text message, email, a text to voice phone call or the app (note that while the app is available, it is not required).

The provincial government

and the RCMP are encouraging anyone and everyone to join the Crime Watch Advisory Network, whether they be residents, businesses, or other organizations. They also note that there are no prerequisite, such as being part of an existing crime prevention group, to sign up.

"The concept of the program is simple: sign up to receive advisories from your local RCMP and assist us by serving as the 'eyes and ears' of your community."

"This network, along with existing crime prevention groups, programs, and strategies, helps to create an environment where all of us contribute to community safety. Crime prevention is the most effective when we all work together."

Again, the RCMP and provincial government encourage anyone and everyone to sign up to be a part of the Saskatchewan Crime Watch Advisory Network at [www.saskcrimewatch.ca](http://www.saskcrimewatch.ca).

## Newspaper readership changing, but still strong

Nine out of ten.

According to the seventh annual Newspapers 24/7 Report from News Media Canada, that is roughly how many Canadians read a newspaper, in either its print or digital format, at least once per week – this, despite continued discussion and debate

about the current state, and the future, of the Canadian newspaper industry.

The yearly benchmark of Canadian newspaper readership, gathered through a survey conducted by Totum Research in February of this year, found that 88 per cent of Cana-

dian adults read a newspaper on any platform, a three per cent increase over the first-ever survey in 2012.

"Given heightened levels of global mistrust, we're seeing a clear and continued affinity for the reliable reporting that newspapers provide," said Bob Cox, chair, News Media Canada in a release. "Newspapers continue to be the go-to source for credible, trusted and independent news, in both print and digital formats."

Unsurprisingly, digital newspaper readership continues to increase year-over-year, and the 2019 report found that 83 per cent of newspaper readers are accessing at least some of their newspaper content online.

However, contrary to the common narrative that print media is going the way of the dinosaurs, the majority of these digital readers are using digital news content to supplement, rather than replace, their print newspapers. Indeed, according to the survey's findings, nearly six out of 10 adults continue to read print editions of newspapers on a weekly basis.

Additionally, 52 per cent of newspaper readers access newspaper content from both print and online sources, and 34 per cent of newspaper readers read across four platforms (print, laptop/desktop, phone, and tablet).

"This year's research clearly demonstrates that both print and digital newspaper sources play a unique and distinct role in the lives of Canadians," said Claude Heimann, president, Totum Research in a release. "For example, it's clear that people like to start their day with the comprehensive and in-depth reporting of a print newspaper, and then stay up-to-date on breaking news on digital as the day progresses.

The report confirms that most print reading happens early in the day and later in the evening, and that Boomers are the most avid print newspaper readers (67 per cent read on newspapers).

Meanwhile digital reading, especially on mobile devices, is more consistent from morning to night and across all demographics.

Finally, the research specifically looked at the newspaper reading habits of younger Canadians. And, while Millennials are blamed for many things, the death of newspapers shouldn't be one of them.

According to Totum's research, 88 per cent of Millennials read newspapers weekly, accessing newspaper content primarily through their mobile phones.

More information on the Newspapers 24/7 study is available at [www.newsmediacanada.ca](http://www.newsmediacanada.ca).

BE A

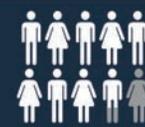
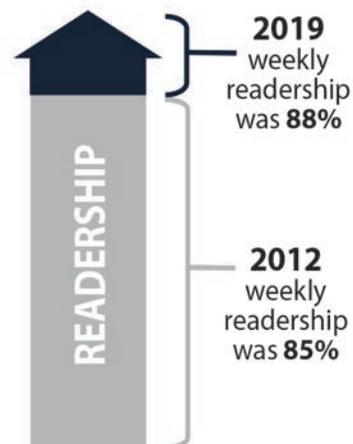
**GOOD WING MAN**

**DON'T LET IMPAIRED FRIENDS DRIVE.**

**SG**

### GROWTH IN WEEKLY READERSHIP

Access to digital news platforms has only increased Canadians' access to news content, and consequently more Canadians than ever are reading newspapers, in print or digital formats.



**NINE OUT OF TEN** Canadians (88%) read newspapers each week in 2019.

### PRINT READERS

The strongest print readers are Baby Boomers.

**90%** of all print readers also use digital platforms



## Free trade waters getting muddied

It appears agriculture could once again be headed to a time when government policy determines the market for commodities with little consideration of supply and demand given.

It was not that long ago Canadian producers were nearly crushed as this country fought for market share with the coffers of the United States and the European Union literally buying market share via subsidies to buyers, and dollars to their producers.

The world had seemed to evolve past such craziness with numerous

free trade deals inked between countries, most notably in Canada the initial North American Free Trade Agreement.

The basic premise of free trade is simple at its heart, countries that excel at the production of an agricultural product should have access to markets without mounts of tariffs impeding such trade.

For a country such as Canada that is an important concept because producers here are good at production, and exporting product is essential.

But governments are



CALVIN DANIELS

again starting to muddy the waters of such trade with policies that are purely political in nature.

In part, no doubt, the change is being fostered by a more protectionist attitude, which we see

south of the 49th parallel under American president Donald Trump.

And of course there is the startling decision by the United Kingdom to leave the European Union, a decision that will have effects rippling well into the future regarding trade including in agricultural products.

Canola prices declined for days in a row recently following a Tweet from Trump. Trump tweeted he would hike tariffs on imports from China, accusing China of dragging out trade negotiations. The tariffs were threatened as a way to speed

up the trade talks, in other words impeding the usual movement in trade as a hammer to get what the American president wants.

Perhaps because of its importance agricultural trade has always been an area that is dealt with differently than the trade in other commodities.

Take for example the European Union's decision to exclude agriculture from current free trade talks with the United States. European Union members have given European Commission the go-ahead to start free trade negotia-

tions recently, but only on eliminating tariffs on industrial products.

There is significance in that tactic by the EU that reflects back to a European desire to control farm production after the starvation that occurred through two world wars, and of course with farm products outside the framework of a larger agreement, there is still the ability to use it as a political chip.

Most things are cyclical and we can only hope a return to an atmosphere of freer trade soon returns for the good of the farm sector.

## Protecting trade in a protectionist age

**By Cam Dahl, President of Cereals Canada**

The world has become protectionist. There is, justifiably, much focus on issues with China. But it is not just China. Canadian agriculture commodities are blocked in India, Italy, Saudi Arabia, and Vietnam and face issues in key markets like Peru. Countries are turning inward, finding new ways to block trade. How do we protect our trading relationships when the rules of trade have been thrown out the window?

A critical component of protecting our trade is using the dispute resolution tools that are part of the agreements we have signed. Canada has a very competent diplomatic service that works with our scientific regulators to help resolve issues that threaten to block trade. The value of these efforts, which almost always occur behind the scenes, cannot be overstated. However, this dedicated work cannot combat the political agendas that are driving protectionism. There are times when we need to move out of the back rooms of diplomacy and publicly defend ourselves.

Canada is the only G7 country that has a free trade agreement with every other G7 country. But when our partners put up trade barriers the question quickly becomes "so what?" What good are trade agreements when countries re-

fuse to follow them? We have tools at our disposal through the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) and the World Trade Organization (WTO) to challenge Italy's protectionist country of origin labelling requirements. But these tools have not been utilized. We are also able to initiate WTO dispute resolution processes with China, but have not chosen to do so.

Dispute resolution processes are long and can be expensive. But the willingness to defend trade agreements sends an important signal to other would-be protectionists, namely Canada is willing and able to defend itself if it is bullied by countries pursuing a protectionist agenda.

Canada also needs to be engaging in proactive measures to prevent trade barriers from cropping up in the first place. This will take resources – time and money – from both industry and government.

One of the ways to proactively prevent border closures is to work together with importing countries to build their regulatory capacity. Canada exports wheat to almost 100 countries around the world. Some customers, like the United States and Japan, have well developed science and risk-based regulatory systems that facilitate open trade. But this does not apply to the majority of the markets to which we export.

If regulatory systems are not

well-developed, or lack the human resources necessary to implement a science and risk-based approach, they can become vulnerable to political or activist interference. When these systems are responsible for approving the importation of Canadian grains, oilseeds and special crops our agriculture sector becomes vulnerable.

Canada needs to develop outreach and development programs that are focused on increasing the science and risk-based regulatory capacity in key markets. Examples include, growing markets in West Africa, Bangladesh, new partners in the Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement and neighbors in Latin America.

The mandate of regulatory agencies like the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) should be adjusted to explicitly include regulatory capacity building in key export markets. And the agencies need to be given dedicated funds and people to carry out this work.

Trade barriers can also arise because of a lack of understanding of the sophisticated nature of Canada's production and logistics systems and the regulatory oversight that helps ensure we continue to deliver safe, high quality food. For example, there are markets for Canadian crops where the

capacity and technology employed in Canadian on-farm storage exceeds that of the importing mills. Many concerns raised in these markets are already addressed within the Canadian value chain. Bringing regulators from these markets to Canada, to gain a better understanding of the capacity of the Canadian system, would go a long way to preventing barriers to trade from arising.

There are other areas where additional proactive focus can help prevent future trade disruptions. This includes work through international bodies like CODEX. We need to continue efforts to reform of the WTO. And we need to be a leader in the development strong science-based rules that will facilitate the trade of new varieties developed through new plant breeding techniques. All of these options require revisions to the mandates of regulatory agencies to explicitly include facilitation of trade and new

resources, money and people, dedicated to proactively preventing non-tariff trade barriers.

We have entered a new age of protectionism. A new barrier to agriculture trade is brewing someplace in the world. I don't know where, I don't know what commodity will be hit next time, but in our current environment I am sure it is coming. When new barriers arise, Canada needs to be ready to quickly and actively respond using the dispute resolution tools we currently have available. We also need to see governments and industry cooperatively engage in capacity building, regulatory exchanges and other proactive trade facilitative measures aimed at preventing barriers from rising up in the first place.

World attention has shifted away from multi-lateral cooperation. This is not good for Canada. We need to adjust our focus and resource allocation to address the new reality.



### CHECK IT OUT!

Spiritwood Herald Website  
[www.spiritwoodherald.com](http://www.spiritwoodherald.com)

# Lions give out prizes for Mother's Day contest



Corsenia Mangubat was missing from the presentations. The Lions caught up to her at home with Janeen, 1st place in Kindergarten.



Rivier Elementary Kindergarten to Grade 3: Back: Amy Simonar with Jase, Allison Batty-Simonar with Nixen, Holly Hart with Brielle, Erin Wingerter with Teigan, Shannon Haggary with Olivia, Christine Tkachuk with Mikayla, Amy Strate with Sierra, Earlene Bachelder with Mckaylah deRepentigny, Jenn Summers with Abby.



Rivier Elementary Grades 4-6: Back: Darcy Patoine (filling in for Stacey) with Harley, Sheila Turgeon with Daelyn, Allison Batty-Simonar with Emeri, Shirley Lehouillier with Saydee, Robyn Doell with Kaydence, Grandma Violet Salisbury (filling in for Mom Leslie Striga) and Tyson Salisbury.



Hartley Clark Grades 4-6: Back: Tanis Franson with Kalli, Nicole McNabb with Sarah, Shannon Beaulac with Ava, Lion Megan Allard, Crystal Wight with Kallie, Rosanna Franson with Tessa, Paula Goller with Chance.

## *New risk for boaters this season*

(NC) Many Canadians love boating with family and friends and often get caught up in the fun of it. Transport Canada is warning about a new safety risk this year – operating a boat while under the influence of drugs.

Although operating a boat while impaired has long been an illegal offence under the Criminal Code of Canada, this is the first summer that cannabis is lawful and more easily available for purchase. That's why it's important that everyone understand the hazards of boating while impaired.

Consuming drugs on a boat is a lot more dangerous than most people realize. Fatigue, sun, wind and movements of the boat can numb the senses, and drugs can intensify these effects, reducing your reaction time

and judgment. Drinking alcohol also increases these effects, so both should be avoided if you're going to navigate the waters.

Each province has its own regulations governing the consumption and transportation of alcohol and drugs on board a boat. It's important to note that it's illegal to operate a boat while impaired by alcohol or drugs as you could have your driver's license revoked.

This summer, keep in mind that you are responsible for your safety, as well as that of everyone else on board. Don't put people's lives at risk. Stay safe by making sure you are always ready and alert.

Find more information at [www.canada.ca/rental-boat-safety](http://www.canada.ca/rental-boat-safety).



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