



Looking back on the year that was 2019



The baby Jesus is presented to all at Rivier's annual Christmas concert. "Mankind will never be the same again."

JANUARY

Spiritwood's two elementary schools held their Christmas concerts in the week leading to the Christmas break. Hartley Clark, which alternates between a concert and Family Fun Night every other year, held theirs on Wednesday, Dec. 19, with Rivier holding theirs the next night.

Both concerts featured carols and song, with a skit depicting the Christmas story with senior students in the starring roles.

Hartley Clark held theirs in the gym, while Rivier's was held in Sacred Heart Church. Both venues were standing room only.

The Grade 2/3 Class at Rivier Elementary took to the streets on the last day before the break spreading Christmas cheer and doing acts of kindness in a number of local businesses.

They handed out cookies, candy canes and artwork and sang carols, just wishing everyone a Merry Christmas.

Six teams from Spiritwood High competed in the doubles bonspiel in Prince Albert Jan. 11-12. The 'spiel was designed as a way for high school curlers to be able to learn the game of doubles curling in a

semi-competitive setting.

The Bank of Nova Scotia recognizes the importance of local volunteers in the community. They stand behind their volunteerism ethos and recognize an employee's generous community spirit with a generosity of their own by way of a significant donation to the organization the employee volunteers in.

Scotiabank donated \$1,000 to the Northern Lakes Health Committee (NLHC) in the name of employee Gail Ferster, who is a volunteer member of the NLHC.

The Spiritwood Library Wednesday Jan. 16 partnered with the Links to Learning Spiritwood Literacy Partnership to have an afterschool Cubelets program.

The Spiritwood and District Lions Club inducted one new member into the ranks of the club at the Games Night held Jan. 19 at the Spiritwood Bowling Alley.

Alison Sullivan became the newest Lion, although she has already played an active role in a number of Lions projects. Her sponsor is Lion Marlene Walter.

Continued on page 2



Happy New Year from Your Saskatchewan Party MLAs

More jobs, a growing population, infrastructure investment and a balanced budget were among the many highlights of 2019. As we begin the 2020s, *Saskatchewan's Growth Plan for The Next Decade* will build on this success by expanding our economy and creating jobs. Learn more at saskgrowthplan.ca

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

Hon. Jeremy Harrison
MLA for Meadow Lake
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Looking back on the year that was 2019



Rivier K-1 students with the many animals appearing in "The Way", and Aboriginal storyteller Chad Solomon.



"Little Creatures" Group Art Show was on display at the Main Street Gallery. L. to r.: Kaydence Doell, Noah Dauvin, Maya Doucette, instructor Heather Beauchesne, and Jaiden Dauvin. Their works in charcoal on wood were on display until Feb. 28.

January Cont'd

The Witchekan Wildlife Federation held their 47th annual Awards Banquet and dance on Saturday, Jan. 19 at the Spiritwood Civic Centre, with a large crowd enjoying the meal of various wild game dishes prepared by Bob and Marion and staff of Marion's Burger Bar. Those dishes included such taste treats as: moose taco salad, northern pike gumbo, teriyaki bear, pineapple sweet and sour mooseballs, elk heart, deer sausage, roast moose, breaded northern pike and breaded wall-eye.

Elise von Holwede, member of the Spiritwood Skating Club, has successfully completed her STAR 1-4 judges course. She hopes to be on the judging panel at the Regional Invitational Competition in Prince Albert Feb. 16-17.

It was a bitterly cold day Monday, and windy, too. Workmen wrestled the fi-

nal section of rafters into place on the new Guy's Furniture store. There's no guarantee of warmer weather, but with the walls up and the roof on, at least the work can be done out of the wind.

A unique exhibition of art created by a group of four young artists is on display at Spiritwood's Main Street Gallery, where it will co-exist with the current exhibition, "Farm fresh locally sourced."

The works are by Maya Doucette, Noah Dauvin, Kaydence Doell, and Jaiden Dauvin, who were given an intense three-day workshop with Heather Beauchesne Jan. 18-20, to learn the technique of working with charcoal on wood.

Despite its popularity among the students of Rivier Elementary School, much of the playground equipment at the front of the school has been ordered by the Light of Christ School

Division to be removed. Some pieces will remain, but the equipment is old, and safety codes have changed over the years, and much of the current structure falls short of safety standards.

FEBRUARY

The folks at Prairie Community Endeavours (PCE) anxiously awaited their new van, which was due to arrive in Spiritwood on Tuesday, Jan. 29. Shortly after it arrived in Spiritwood, a few electrical issues required attention, so it was taken to Martodam Motors.

The van is a 2018 Dodge Caravan which has been modified by Move-Mobility of Winnipeg to allow for up to two wheelchairs to be lifted into the van.

The Ace-Pot stood at \$6,994 on Friday, Feb. 1, following the sales leading up to the draw. Marg Pretli's name was drawn, and in her absence, hubby George made the draw hoping for the big win. Unfortunately, he drew the three of clubs, meaning the pot will be available for a while longer.

George did pocket \$1,795, though, with instructions to get it to Marg without delay.

The Ron Craswell team, with Emma Beaulac, Lindsey Dauvin and Courtney Caffet, staved off a late charge by Glen Caffet to capture the Spiritwood Closed Bonspiel Wednesday night. In the driver's seat with a two-point lead coming home, Craswell had to hold his breath on Caf-

fet's final shot, which, had it been successful, would have given Caffet a deuce to force a playoff.

"Neither rain, nor sleet, nor..."

No, wait. That's for mail delivery. In the case of the Spirit of the North High School Curling Classic, it was bad weather and bad roads that forced cancellation of the two-day event, just as teams were preparing to make the trek to Spiritwood for Day 2.

The Spiritwood Timberwolves finished the 2018-2019 season with a much better record than they did last year, but they still finished out of the playoffs again.

A new program designed to give people an opportunity to get some exercise through walking got its start on Monday. It's called "Walk With Friends", and a dozen walkers came out Monday for the inaugural session.

Walk With Friends, sponsored by SARCS and Sask Health, is an indoor walking program that takes place in the mezzanine at the Rec Centre.

Rivier Elementary School held their annual Rivier Day celebration on Wednesday, Feb. 6, with

the day spent in fun and games for all.

Chad Solomon gave a presentation to students of Hartley Clark and Rivier Elementary Schools on Wed, Feb. 6, sponsored by Spiritwood Library as an activity of Indigenous Storytelling Month. He also performed at Kisikohk School at Witchekan Lake First Nation in the afternoon.

Alvin Priestley was the lucky winner of \$9,988 in the final draw of the "Chase the Ace" SARCS fundraiser. The final draws were held Friday, Feb. 15 in the Mezzanine.

The Ace Pot was destined to go, as the tickets allotted under the permit were all sold, and there was going to be a winner no matter how long it took for someone to find the ace in the remaining deck.

About two dozen members of the three First Nations making up the

Agency Chiefs Tribal Council (ACTC) staged a rally Friday, Feb. 15, calling on "transparency and accountability in the ACTC."

All three senior curling teams from Spiritwood High School have taken the first step towards bringing home more Provincial jewelry by capturing berths in the North West Regional playdowns. The Girls and Mixed earned their spots by posting undefeated records at the Battle West District playdowns held in Unity last week.

The first round of the playoffs in the Sask Prairie Hockey League have produced no surprises. The top four teams at the end of the regular schedule feasted on the bottom four and have advanced to the semi-finals.

All four series were 3-0 wins in the best-of-five matchups.

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PICK OF THE WEEK

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Looking back on the year that was 2019

February Cont'd

Spiritwood Library has adopted a new bookmark to be given to patrons.

The bookmark was created by Declan Marion in the "Feed Your Passions" bookmark contest held in conjunction with last summer's Reading Program.

The Spiritwood Lions Club held their first meeting since early January, with incoming president Lion Bryan Ferguson and incoming secretary Lion Brooklyn Orange at the helm. The Lions normally meet on the first and third Thursdays of the month, but the second meeting in January was cancelled due to the Games Night, and they were unable to meet Feb. 7 due to the break-in at the Civic Centre in the wee hours of the morning.

MARCH

What length of domination does it take to be considered a dynasty? Three years? Well, if so, then the Fur Traders could be called such, having just won their third consecutive championship in the Blair Dietz Memorial Rec Hockey Tournament.

This was the 17th annual tournament, which was an event of March 2-3 at the Spiritwood Arena.

Some eleven young people took part in Game Day at the Spiritwood Library Feb. 27.

Game Day is a joint activity of the Library and the Spiritwood Literary Partnership.

The season for the combined Glaslyn-Spiritwood

Midget hockey team came to an end this past weekend. They lost their league playoff game to the Pierceland Panthers in Spiritwood on Saturday, and then dropped an 8-4 in the second game of their Provincial Midget "C" Playoff in Hague the next day.

Two of Spiritwood High School's three senior curling teams are off to the SHSAA Provincial Championships March 8-9 in Nipawin as a result of successful outings at the Regional Competition in Meadow Lake last weekend.

Spiritwood's Bull Riding Committee is hoping to have a bigger and better show for fans this October. This will be the fourth annual Bull Riding Competition, and so far some 2,650 have been entertained over the first three such events.

The Spiritwood Curling Club has a new club champion following the play-downs held Mon-Wed last week. Dalton Wasden and his team of Emma Beaulac at third, Spencer Fox second and Alexis Stochmanski lead scored a last rock victory over Brad Nemish in one of the most tense and exciting matches in recent memory.

A new private patient room and specialized equipment in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at the Jim Pattison will bear the name of Spiritwood senior Theresa Martin thanks to a generous legacy gift of

\$297,000.

Lakeland Community Church was this year's host of World Day of Prayer. The program was supplied by the women of Slovenia.

The Shrove Tuesday pancake supper held by Partners in Faith on March 5 was again a highly successful event.

The pancake supper is a time-honored tradition both here in Spiritwood and elsewhere, kicking off the important Lenten season on the Christian calendar.

Spiritwood High School's senior curling teams have met with a lot of success in recent years, but they had never won SHSAA provincial gold medals prior to the past weekend. After many years of coming close, a team has reached the top of the podium for the first time.

The Mixed team – consisting of Dalton Wasden (skip), Emma Beaulac (third), Jordan Tuttroen (second) and Olivia Parker (lead) – did just that, scoring a convincing 11-4 win in the gold medal final against the team from Kipling.

The ownership group at Spiritwood Golf Course has set the wheels in motion to build an RV Park at the golf course.

March is Food and Fun month, at least in Spiritwood. The food comes from the excellent meal



The Spiritwood High School Sabres Senior Mixed team, Gold Medal champions at the SHSAA Curling championships in Nipawin March 8-9. L to r: Jason Reddekopp (coach), Olivia Parker (lead), Jordan Tuttroen (second), Emma Beaulac (third), Dalton Wasden (skip), and Brad Nemish (coach).

served up by Ronnie's Catering, and the funny is provided by the Spiritwood Spirited Players.

And March is when it all comes together as the Players presented their spring (OK, late winter) production, choosing "Daddy's Girl" as this year's offering.

The question "Why don't they do something with that lot" just may have an answer. The Northern Lakes Economic Development Committee (NLEDC) has come up with a concept plan that is in the preliminary stages, but if it gets the go-ahead,

it could become a Town Square.

Lakeland Community Church was this year's host of the March 1, 2019 World Day of Prayer. The women of Slovenia provided the program for this annual event, held in some 170 countries in the world.

The Spiritwood Novice Timberwolves have concluded an excellent year of hockey. The success may not have been on the scoreboard, but they achieved their main goals over the course of the season, which were to learn and to have fun.

Fresh off their SHSAA gold medals the previous weekend, two local curlers made their marks at the CurlSask Ramada Optimist U-18 championships in Regina March 14-17.

Dalton Wasden, who skipped the Spiritwood High Mixed team to the provincial gold, skipped his team to the third-place finish at the U-18 championships. Emma Beaulac, Wasden's third on the Mixed, was Second for Brooklyn Fahl of Shellbrook in their quest for CurlSask glory.

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"In Summer". The Spiritwood Skating Club's STARSkaters - Avarie Conacher, Ava Beuker, Quinn Williams, Ciara Conacher, Jada Kajner, Emeri Simonar, Maya Doucette.

REAL ESTATE WEEKLY

Shawna Schira-Kroeker - Your Local Realtor®

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 \$155,000 302 - 4th St. E., Spiritwood 5BD, 2BA, many upgrades completed, fenced yard, det. double garage, move in ready, quick possession available. c/w all appliances. MLS#SK777353	 \$129,000 391 - 2nd St. W., Glaslyn Perfect retirement home, or revenue property with 2BD, 2BA home built in 2006, single detached garage. Immediate possession available. MLS#SK779243	 \$239,900 633 - 3rd St. E., Spiritwood One level bungalow built in 2013, 2BD, 2BA. Open floor plan, attached heated garage with floor drain, low maintenance yard. Call for more information. MLS#SK782066

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Dave's digest in review 2019

JANUARY

I am currently not in Spiritwood, so I don't know what is going on, apart from the wailing and gnashing of teeth regarding the lousy weather many are complaining about. Bus cancellations, snow-covered highways, drift-packed grids, and so forth. Not the kind of weather that makes going back to school following a holiday much of a holiday.

I see it as Karma taking a swipe at the people who think that melting/thawing temperatures in December and January are a good thing. There is no perfect world, of course, but if there ever gets to be one, I would recommend the Minister of the Weather make it impossible for the mercury to rise above -10 in the winter and stay at that level until such time as the sun is high enough in the sky to sustain temperatures above the freezing mark for 24 hours straight.

I was sitting in the local A&W waiting for my order. OK, so it was my turn to cook. What can I say. To kill time during the wait, I opened a recent issue of the Calgary Sun and began reading an article about how Alberta law enforcement officials were expressing some satisfaction over a crime prevention effort that had been underway in the province.

The cause for satisfaction was a reported 9% drop in various crimes reported.

"That's 638 fewer vehicles stolen," the official was quoted as saying, "and 366 fewer break and enters, and 3,358 fewer thefts."

In the event you haven't noticed, I've been away. We were out in Fernie looking after our teenaged grandchildren, and getting trained to be devoted loving grandparents.

Well, they're not really teenagers yet. They're six and three (very close to four), but anyone who has ever had a three-year-old knows what it's like to have kids that can be pleasant and agreeable one minute and impossible the next.

If recent news items are any indication, a Missouri judge has it figured out. He has sentenced a poacher to a year in jail, and while he is there, he will be required to watch "Bambi" at least once a month for the duration of his sentence.

Bambi, you'll recall, is an animated Walt Disney film that has one highly celebrated scene. In fact, if you don't remember watching the movie when you were ten years old, you at least know the one famous scene from the movie in which hunters kill Bambi's mother.

FEBRUARY

I bet Francois Legault, the premier of Quebec is one of the loneliest poli-

ticians on the planet. Probably many others are pretty lonely, too, but none are in the same position as he is in.

For starters, he probably used up his last I-Love-You with the West with his pronouncement that "there was no social acceptability in Quebec for a pipeline". His stance pretty much put the boots to the idea of the Energy East pipeline, which would have taken western oil and gas to eastern markets.

I have difficulty understanding anyone's opposition to a pipeline. It's not like they are new inventions designed to run roughshod over the terrain displacing everything and everyone in its path.

For most pipelines, if you didn't know it was there, you wouldn't know it was there. Once buried and covered with vegetation that grows naturally, the pipeline is hidden, apart from a few monitoring stations along the way.

Years ago, a friend was typing out his master's thesis on what was, for its time, a state-of-the-art Commodore computer. He was so engrossed in his project that he was completely oblivious to the fact that the computer's memory was filling up, and available space was counting down, character by character. Eventually, it locked up on him completely, and he was unable to press a single key. He had filled the computer's memory completely, and he couldn't even backspace a character or two so he could perform a "save" operation. Worse, he hadn't saved any of it along the way. His entire paper sat there on the screen, and he could do nothing about it. Finally, he bit the bullet, so to speak, and shut the computer off, losing his entire paper.

The lesson, of course, was that he should have been saving his work as he went along. I use to tell my students that every time they stopped to think – and I used to have students who occasionally would do that (think, I mean) – they should do a quick Control-S and save their work.

Just when you think it's safe to play bingo, we hear a story that makes you wonder whether the game has changed, and rather than just covering numbers with dabbers when those numbers are called, it is now a full-blown, head-to-head, full contact sport.

I'm referring, of course, to the incident in a Kingston, ON, long-term-care home, in which a dispute between a 79-year-old woman and an 86-year-old over seating arrangements led to a brawl that involved a number of other residents.

Details are sketchy, but one wonders what the 8/9ths of this particular iceberg were contributing factors. For starters, if the two were friends, it's hard to think that where one sat would be the subject of acrimony so serious that it would lead to blows.

"This call is to inform you that the Canada Revenue Agency is filing a lawsuit against you as you have failed to

respond to legal notices that have been sent to you by the Canada Revenue Agency. To get more information on your case file, call back immediately on our department number ..."

They gave me the number to call, and using my "Reverse Lookup" app on my phone, I discovered that the number came from Ottawa-Hull, which, on first blush, seems legit as Ottawa-Hull is a realistic place where one might find the CRA.

Naturally, I didn't call the number. Had I done so, they would have been asking me for such savory details as my Social Insurance Number and who knows what else, all designed to fleece me.

MARCH

Interesting story in a recent Star-Phoenix. A retired Mountie, while snorkeling in some warm climate, came across a ring laying in the coral. There was an inscription in the ring – Darrin and Leah, 30-11-91.

He took it upon himself to try to find out who they ring belonged to, and to return it to him. He spent the better part of the next 27 years using police research techniques and wasn't able to come up with a solution to his quest.

Then he posted it on Facebook on Jan 28 of this year, and asked friends for help. It was shared 2,500 times, and when someone put it on Reddit it got another 25,000 shares.

Within a short period of time, he was able to locate the "Darrin", complete with a phone number.

If a tree falls in the forest and there's no one to hear, does it make a sound? If a person spent an entire weekend watching Brier curling, was it a wasted weekend?

My money is on "no", even if my reason for saying so is that I spent most of my weekend doing just that. And I don't think I was the only one glued to the television set from Friday until Sunday night, and pretty much a couple of hours each day in the week leading up to the Championship round and the playoffs.

One thing about being a geezer is that you have a better memory of things that went on when you were younger than you do of yesterday, or why you went into the kitchen a few minutes ago.

Another thing is that all of us, many of us, some of us, have embraced new technologies, especially the telephone. Today's telephone is becoming more commonly the one you can stick in your purse or pocket, and it's less likely to be the one hanging on the wall. It is evidence of a shift of thinking with regard to telephone usage, as more and more people are giving up their "landline" and switching to the "smartphone". Even the name of the gadget has changed. When it first came out, it was referred to as a cellphone, but hardly anyone calls it that anymore.

Admit it. Just three weeks ago you were one of those checking the outside

thermometer and wondering just when the -30-plus temperatures were going to be a thing of the past. Or, whether they were ever going to be a thing of the past.

In fact, if you were to tell people that spring was coming and the snow would melt you might possibly be in line for a throat punch for expressing such a Pollyanna view. It was difficult, if not impossible, to see past the cold for an inevitable thaw and warming.

APRIL

Last week as "research" for an article which appears in the Agriculture Week Supplement in both the Herald and the Chronicle, I took a ride with Bryan Wingerter, who was delivering pigs from Fast Genetics to a hauler who would take them to Neepawa, MB.

Living in an agricultural community, such as Spiritwood, where there is an auction market with weekly sales, it's quite common to see livestock haulers coming in on Tuesdays and heading out on Thursdays. I wondered what a day in the life of one of these guys would be like.

Dee doo, duh-da-da dee doo DUH-da-da DEE DOO...

If the above didn't immediately have you humming this highly recognizable tune, then it's safe to say that you are no fan of the most anxiously awaited television show of the times.

It's the opening theme music to Game of Thrones, of course. Fans and aficionados have been waiting since the final episode of Season 7 – which aired Aug. 27, 2018 – for the premiere of the 8th and final season. Some 17 million viewers are estimated to have watched the first episode of the new season on Sunday, April 14.

MAY

I submitted an article to the Herald for this week's issue, and I'm left with the feeling that I may have editorialized somewhat. It should be the goal of every reporter to cover news items without bias, emotion, or opinion.

Even though I write for a small town weekly newspaper, I do take my work seriously and I try to avoid getting emotionally involved in a story.

I'm not sure I succeeded with this one, as I found the situation disturbing and I may not have done a good job hiding it.

"Spring has sprung, the grass is riz. I wonder where the birdies is." I'm not sure who could have predicted the May snowfalls, cold wind, and blustery conditions, but regardless how the precipitation comes, we'll take it.

I don't know about your place, but at the height of it all, or should I say, the third time my deck got covered with snow, there was a good four inches of the white stuff blanketing the barbecue, deck chair and railings, not to mention the floor.

Fortunately, we got no snow on Saturday and it looked from there as though spring might officially be here.

Dave's digest in review 2019

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.

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

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

We have just returned from a weekend in Grande Prairie, AB, attending the graduation of our eldest granddaughter, a young lady you've met in this space before as “Bounce”.

We chronicled our experiences at this time last year following the graduation of our grandson, Bump, and we have just undergone a similar experience. However, for as similar as Grande Prairie graduations are, there are a number of differences. Let's just say that the traditions carry on despite attempts to put a singular stamp on the event.

JUNE

We're being led to believe that the reason why Canadians have trouble with certain aspects of motoring behaviour is that they are too polite and they enjoy line-ups.

I'm not certain who the people are who did the polling or who were polled, but they didn't

ask me for my view of lining up for things.

We line up because we want what is at the end of the line, whether it is a double-double at the neighborhood Tim Horton's or a chance to relieve ourselves at an arena washroom.

I would have used a little stronger language, but since this is a family newspaper, a little restraint is in order.

This is the beginning of growing season. It's where we claim that heading out to greenhouses to stock up on flowers and plants, perennials and annuals, vegetables and trees, and then babysitting them in the garage by watering

every day and stressing over whether this one is getting too wilted-looking or that one is too rootbound and needs to be planted, and finally the sighting of the third crow following the last full moon signals that it is probably – check that, possibly – alright to plant them in the ground and in pots and then sweat and worry about the temperature because it looks like it's going down but we do it all because it is relaxing. We commune with nature.

This used to be the time of year when I was crazy busy, what with trying to finish courses, make final exams, setting up reviews and such. However, for the last dozen years or so, none of those things occupy my time.

Do I miss it? The June crush? Truth be told, no.

But it seems that June is a busy month regardless. In the previous two issues, for example, I have had no fewer than seventeen articles submitted to the Herald for publication, and that didn't count the annual 4-H Regional Show, which we held to this week. There are a couple of other articles this week, one of which was written and submitted by Rachelle Beauchesne. I for one am looking forward to seeing her byline on an article.

If anyone else has a penchant for writing, maybe we can work something out. The Herald welcomes submissions, and remember, you have an old English teacher on standby to make sure all your i's are dotted and t's are crossed.

“Rain, Rain, go away!” Just kidding, of course. While the weekends and ball tournaments of many people were ruined due to the recent rainy days, no one was complaining. The rain was actually a very welcome addition to the growing season, given that the area hasn't had much of it to this point of the summer.

Usually, there's a great deal of wailing and gnashing of teeth when weekend plans get cancelled due to weather, but not this weekend. Ball tournaments scheduled for this past weekend were either cancelled altogether or modified to fit the rain-free time remaining. One such tournament we knew about was in Canwood.

JULY

The weather-related events in areas of the Meadow Lake Provincial Park last weekend seem to have given people a wake-up call regarding the possibility of experiencing wild weather event. A confirmed tornado touched down Saturday causing serious damage and some injuries. An early report on Facebook by FM station 92.9 The Bull said there were reports of fatalities, but that those reports were unconfirmed.

Thankfully, there were no fatalities, and injuries were not very numerous and not very severe, but the whole situation would have been scary enough for the families who were riding out the storm in their campers.

There have been some disturbing happenings around the province over the past few days. The first of them concerns a report of some serious vandalism to the store and restaurant at

Greenwater Provincial Park. Two young teenagers, aged 15 and 17, have been charged with a total of eight counts related to the incident, and they had by press time made their first appearance in court.

As near as can be determined this early in the game, the damage done to the two businesses, which were owned by the same couple, is extensive, and completely senseless. In short, the place was trashed. Equipment smashed, cooking oil poured all over everything, shelves emptied and much more. A real mess, and it will take some time to clean up and get the place open again.

A soon as we made the left turn at the lights and headed west down the Crowsnest Highway, precious cargo safely buckled in to their respective spots in the back seat, I knew we had passed the point of no return.

Who am I trying to kid. I think the point of no return came when we said yes.

“How would you like to take the girls on a holiday for a week or so?” The girls were Junebug and Marchbug, our two Fernie grandchildren, and their mother, Crash, had asked the question.

When she asked it, we showed signs of hesitation.

“It will be a great bonding experience.”

Still hesitation.

“Make some memories.”

AUGUST

Can there be anything as peaceful as the sight of three sleeping granddaughters, aged 7, 4, and 13? We took a moment drinking in the scene before turning out the light and dragging our exhausted selves into our own bed.

Fear not. The three of them were in a king-sized bed, so individual space wasn't an issue. Even so, Junebug and Marchbug were close together, foreheads touching, a gentle reminder of just how close these two

are in the waking hours. The Boss was clinging to the edge of the bed – by choice – having minutes before finished browsing her cellphone for the day.

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.

Readers of this space may wonder why they were required to endure a reprint from fifteen years ago in last week's issue. It would have been new to some, though, particularly the folks at Whispering Pines Place during Chronicle Reading Time.

I think I said we were off on “a little holiday.” That part was true. Only it wasn't just a little holiday, it was to take in as much as possible of the “Blueberry Jam Music Gathering”.

This is a milestone issue of the Spiritwood Herald for me. It is not what brought me here, and it certainly hasn't been what's keeping me here, but this marks the completion of 40 years as the reporter for the Spiritwood Herald, covering events in and around the community. How much longer I will be doing it is anybody's guess, but I know for sure that I won't be doing it for another 40.

SEPTEMBER

Wasn't that a weekend? Folk Fest 2019 is in the books, and what a weekend it was. It's a good thing it was held on the long weekend so that everyone involved still had a couple of days to

recover.

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.

OCTOBER

They say, in summing up a person's working life, that he does it long enough so that he doesn't have to do it anymore. I think that's where we are at after 40 years of writing for the Herald. It's time to pass the torch to someone younger, whose knees are better, whose grandchildren aren't two provinces over, and whose computer isn't starting to act up.

Just when you think you've heard it all, along comes something that no one could expect. Or, maybe you can.

It was Winston Churchill who said that “democracy is the worst form of government, except for all the others.” Canadians get to exercise their most basic right in a democratic society in four more days when they cast a ballot in the federal general election.

I spent my 32-year teaching career trying to convince my students of the importance of casting their vote whenever they had the opportunity to do so. There's no such thing as a vote not counting.

When someone starts something, he never really thinks about how or when it will end. That's where we are today. When I started as the reporter and agent for the Spiritwood Herald back in August, 1979, I had not one thought about this moment.

So, if you haven't figured it out yet, the end has come. This is my last column.

Looking back on the year that was 2019



Cordwood Bonspiel champions: Esther Hujber presented the Hujbers Market on Main trophy and keeper trophies to the team of Maya Doucette, Avery Duret, Tyce Turgeon and Pujan Pandya.

March Cont'd

A reception was held Sunday, March 17, to introduce local artist Mary Schira and her portraits as the newest display at Main Street Gallery.

Dave Hyndman and Jacky Gaboury have been appointed to the Spiritwood Housing Authority Board of Directors.

Grader operator Brad Nordquist is a happy camper. He was busy March 18 grading along 1st St. W. with the Town's new grader, which arrived the previous Friday.

Well, it's not new. It's a 2008 model, but it's a significant upgrade from the grader that has been laid up for awhile. Much of the winter, as a matter

of fact.

"Parents, you are our front-line investigators," Cpl. Cory Patterson told an audience of concerned parents and others Wednesday night, "because you know your kids."

Cpl. Patterson, a member of the Saskatchewan RCMP Internet Child Exploitation (ICE) Unit, was in Spiritwood speaking to groups of students and parents about the dangers to children that accompany technology. He spoke to the Grades 4-6 students from Hartley Clark and Rivier Elementary Schools in the morning and the students of Spiritwood High in the afternoon.

The Spiritwood Skating Club presented their

annual carnival March 17. This year the theme was "Through the Year", with the various groups and soloists presenting a total of 19 performances to specially chosen music.

The Spiritwood Open Bonspiel concluded Sunday afternoon, March 17 with finals in the three events keeping curling fans on the edges of their seats. Sort of.

Two of the three games finished early, as big ends on both sheets put an end to the drama.

The ownership group of Spiritwood Golf Course have set the wheels in motion to build an RV park at the golf course. The proposed park would have 21 seasonal lots and three overnight lots.

The curtain came down on the 2018-2019 hockey season Saturday evening with an exciting final in the day-long Draft Tournament.

This year's tourney featured five co-ed teams, and it was Cal's Custom Board Cleaning that emerged as the winners, downing Hart Electric 9-3.

Two members of the Spiritwood and District Lions Club have been awarded Life Memberships in the Saskatchewan Lions Eye Bank.

Lions Torben and Sonja Nielsen were presented with their certificates and commemorative pins by Lion Past Presi-

dent Wayne Pauls at the March 21 meeting of the Lions.

The more things change, the more they stay the same. The Spiritwood Ladies Bonspiel underwent a revised format this year, but the result was similar to the past several years. The team of Laurie Mayo and granddaughters Abby Fiala, Emily Fiala, and Taylor Kroeker (is Taylor... no, but she's as close to family one can get) won the bonspiel championship.

The Cross Country Quilters, plus other local quilters, gave 38 quilts to Bags of Love, an organization that collects toiletries, books, toys and other items and distributes them to children being placed in foster care.

The Spiritwood Spirited Arrows have only a few weeks remaining in their winter season. They have been meeting since January in the Ag Building north of town, with three groups of young archers and one of adults taking advantage of the facility.

APRIL

Cal and Tammy Robinson were presented with a cheque for \$380,500, the 50-50 add-on prize in the Saskatoon Hospital Home Lottery.

The final event on the Spiritwood Curling Calendar attracted some 90 kids with brushes and brooms as the annual Lions Cordwood Bonspiel was held.

The 22 teams each played three games, with the winners determined by points – six for a win plus one for each end scored – and at the end of the day there was a clear winner.

The Spiritwood Literary Partnership had another successful day March 30 as they held their annual Family Literacy Olympics. The Olympics were held in the mezzanine of the Rec Centre while downstairs, the attraction was the Lions Cordwood Bonspiel. This year's rent on the



Bad to the Bow Archery Club, winners of the JOP Provincial Archery Shoot. Back: Colten Haryung, Matthew Poliout, Kali McKellep-Scott and Jayla McKellep-Scott. Front: Bob Hudson (coach).

Mezzanine was provided by Spiritwood Pharmacy.

A group of about nine young people – with another group coming in a couple of days later – got a chance to get an introduction to programming Wednesday at the Spiritwood Library when they spent a couple of hours with Ozobots provided by Wapiti Library.

The Spiritwood Seniors Bonspiel was played March 25 and 26 with ten teams participating. In addition to two days of curling, everyone enjoyed a couple of excellent lunches at noon both days and a great turkey supper on the Monday night.

The 17th annual Spiritwood Grand Ole Opry was another crowd pleaser April 5-6, with near-capacity audiences enjoying two nights of top quality country music provided by local and area performers.

It was billed as a country music show, although many of the performers pulled from rock and country-rock, singing hits from such artists as Shania Twain, Anne Murray, Dusty Springfield and others.

The 28th Annual Spiritwood & District Music Festival was held April 1 & 2 at the Spiritwood Civic Center, with Peggy L'Hoir of Biggar adjudicating. Ms. L'Hoir is an experienced and inno-

native teacher, mentor clinician, collaborative artist and composer. She provided great feedback to the kids, helping them to improve their skills.

Lakeland Community Church presented cheques of \$10,000 each to the Spiritwood Health Care Foundation and Spiritwood Home Care, fulfilling a mandate of the congregation's faith.

The community of Spiritwood came through Saturday night, came through in a very big way, raising in the neighborhood of \$70,000 at the Community Auction, held in the mezzanine of the very building the fundraiser was raising the money for.

The Spiritwood High School Drama Club took their play, "Tracks", by Peter Tarsi, to the Region 8 Drama Festival in St. Walburg last week, and then staged it for a Spiritwood audience on April 11.

It was an emotional evening for the Club, especially for Shannon MacFarlane, as they were saying goodbye and thank you to Craig Nesland, who has been a director with SHS Drama as far back as 1990 when he first began teaching in Spiritwood. His involvement with SHS Drama continued even after he left the High School to teach at Hartley Clark.

Continued on page 7

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PERSPECTIVE
BIASED?



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Looking back on the year that was 2019



They're off! Once again, the Spiritwood Lions' Walk for Dog Guides was led by clowns Sheldon and Sharon Goller.

April Cont'd

Last summer's major project at the Ball Diamonds at SAD SAAC Park appears to be bearing fruit. The snow has recently disappeared and the grounds are nearly dry. Drainage was the issue addressed last year.

Lion Sheri Muir was presented with a Life Membership Award in the Lions Foundation of Canada (Dog Guides) at the April 17 meeting of the Spiritwood Lions Club.

Archers from clubs within the Spiritwood area came home with medals from Provincial meets held recently.

At the JOP Provincials Archery Shoot on Sat. April 13, LeeRoy Forbes placed First in Olympian 240, while Colten Haryung placed third in Master Archer. LeeRoy is a member of the Spiritwood Spirited Arrows club, while Colton is with the Leoville-based Bad to the Bow club.

Figures on the finances of the Spiritwood Recreation Centre were released Saturday, with handouts left on each table at the Community Auction providing details.

For starters, the remaining mortgage on the facility stands at \$2,232,967.15, with payments of \$89,756.25 due May 1 and Nov. 1.

The sewer line on 3rd Ave West was replaced last fall, but bad weather hit before the area could be properly filled and

packed. That part of the project should be underway soon.

The Mega 50-50 lottery is underway, and residents and visitors can expect to see Barb Szasz "in her office" any day soon. Her office is located in front of Hujbers Market on Main, and she'll have an extra chair handy for those who need a place to sit while they visit.

MAY

While Spiritwood High School curling teams have been celebrating successes in recent years—including the first ever gold medal in SHSAA Provincials for SHS's mixed team – a group of four held a brief reunion recently to celebrate the 40th anniversary of their bronze medal.

That bronze, earned in 1979, was Spiritwood High's second medal overall, its first in Mixed, and the first since the Gordon Thompson rink won silver in 1948, some 31 years earlier.

The team of Glen Caffet (skip), Denise Wasden (third), Claude Wasden (second) and Patty Caffet (lead) were undefeated through several levels of competition before reaching the Provincial tournament, held in Allan.

Improvements at the ball diamonds at SAD SAAC Park may be a case of "two steps forward, one step back," if recent events are taken into account.

Despite the best intentions and unpaid volunteer work to get the ball diamonds into playing

condition, it's hard – and disheartening – when vandalism of one kind or another occurs.

Spiritwood Library once again partnered with the Spiritwood Literacy Partnership to do an after school program with children. They had three stations set up, one was dying Easter eggs with rice and food colouring, a second was using cool whip and different colours to make swirls on the eggs and at the last station they decorated foil eggs.

Teams are already organizing for Wine Survivor III, which seems to have become a semi-annual fun event with the goal of raising money for Spiritwood Recreation. The first Wine Survivor featured 420 entries on 70 teams, held in June 2018.

Wine Survivor II was bigger, with 456 entries on 76 teams taking part.

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.

After sales for the week were added in, the Ace pot in the current Chase the Ace climbed over the \$3,000 mark -- \$3,160 to be exact – with eleven cards now removed from the deck.

And in the eleven weeks, some \$3,600 has gone to the winners of the week's 50-50, who de-



Spiritwood's Conversational English Class held a windup at the home of Fred and Marlene Walter on May 22. Back row : Oleksandr (Alex) Kobets, Volodymr Kulishenko, Oliber Baloloy, and Mark Gian Lapuz. Front row: Nicole Lancin, Imelda Dacillo, Ronald Hornilla, Tammie Burak (facilitator), Michelle Baton, Nerissa Ramos, and Romel Villarroel. Missing: Ronnie Batton. The group presented Tammie Burak with a beautiful portrait of herself done by Ronald Hornilla.

spite not drawing the Ace of Spades, at least went home with something.

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 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 2:00-4:00, but also they sent out over 200 strawberry shortcake desserts to local businesses that had put orders in prior to the event.

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

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

Art Dagenais came across something he found to be highly unusual. A beaver or group

of them, had cut five large blocks from the same tree. The blocks were about a foot thick. It begs the question: what were they thinking?

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

Residents and passers-by will be able to get information on community events with the installation of an electronic sign at the Tourist Information Booth.

The weather will be one thing, but local events can be publicized as well.

Continued on page 8

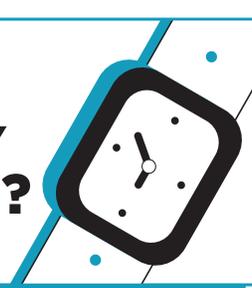
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Looking back on the year that was 2019

May Cont'd

A group of Lions held a work bee at the Campground Wednesday evening, replenishing the supply of wood.

The annual wood re-stocking is made necessary in no small part due to the pilfering of wood over the winter months. However, it is now ready for campers to use over the summer months.

A group from Regional KidsFirst Prince Albert presented the Book Explosion Tour at the Spiritwood Library on Wednesday, May 22. The goal of the program was to help families realize the importance of reading with their children at any age and ability and how to extend a book beyond its pages.

The entire community of Spiritwood was without water Wednesday afternoon as the two main water valves were changed. The two valves are the ones that distribute water from the Water Treatment plant to both sides of town.

JUNE

The community of Spiritwood came forward Sunday, May 26, with participation

in the Lions Walk for Dog Guides taking in some \$3,117 in donations and pledges. That amount will be forwarded to the Lions Foundation Program, where it will be added to the contributions of Lions Clubs across the country that participated in the Walk.

The English Conversational Circle held a windup party on May 22 at the home of Fred and Marlene Walter to celebrate the end of their current course, which took place from September until the end of May.

On Sunday, May 26, 32 students from Hartley Clark and Rivier Elementary participated in MaraFun, a program that runs from March-May giving kids in Grades 1-8 the opportunity to run 42.2 kilometers to complete a marathon. Participants finish the 40 km by walking, running, or wheeling over the course of 10 weeks.

Eighteen athletes from Medstead, Leoville and Spiritwood will be part of the Battle West team at the SHSAA

Provincial Track and Field meet coming up on June 7 and 8 in Moose Jaw.

True, the number of teams in Wine Survivor III were down somewhat, but tension still filled the air in the Mezzanine Friday evening as the last few names were called out and stroked off.

In the end, Trevin Hujber's name was the last one out of the bowl, resulting in a win of 102 bottles of wine for himself and his teammates, who, incidentally, were all family. The six members included Esther, Dave, Melissa, Jeff and Shantal. Only Jeff and Trevin were remaining following the drawing of the first 150 names on Thursday night.

The Spirit of the North Match Play Classic was held June 1 and 2 under perfect conditions for golf, which is somewhat unusual for the annual tournament. Thirty-eight golfers took part in the two-day event.

The Spiritwood High School senior art classes have taken their project to



The Grand Champion Steer was shown by Macyn Breker of the Big River Club. With her in the photo is Beef Judge Alicia Sopatyk and banner sponsor Dianne Wingerter of Wingerter Farms. Spiritwood Home Building Centre also sponsored the award. Macyn also won the award for the Best Calf Born and Raised on the Home Farm, sponsored by Cavalier Agro.

the street. Main Street, to be exact. And the junior classes, too, to be further exact.

About 70 people were on hand Saturday, June 8 in the Mezzanine, hoping to hear their name last in the elimination draw for the major prize in SARCS' first ever Beer Survivor.

In the end, though, of the 348 names in the drum, the one the crowd was waiting for was read: Kyle Soderberg. He and his team were the winners of the grand prize, some 156 cases of beer.

The Battle Chiefs from Prince Albert, mostly, won the Dirty Pitches Slo-Pitch Tournament, held June 7-9 at SAD SAAC Park.

They upset the Hot Shots 19-6 in the "A" Side final to lay claim to the \$800 first prize. The Hot Shots settled for \$400 for their runner-up placing.

Medstead Central School hosted the annual Elementary Track and Field meet on June 5, with approximately 400 students in K-6 from Medstead, Spiritwood, Leoville and Glaslyn taking part.

The Filipino Association in Spiritwood held an Oath-Taking Ceremony Saturday, June 1 to install a new slate of officers to the executive.

The program, meal and entertainment were held at the Legion Hall in Spiritwood, with a full house of members and guests enjoying the evening.

Here's something we can hope becomes a tradition in

Spiritwood – a street dance to kick off the month of June, and, by implication, summer.

The street dance hosted by the Spiritwood Fire Department was a hit, due in no small part to the members putting the whole thing together, but also due to the Johner Boys providing the excellent music for an evening of fun.

The Spiritwood and District Lions Club held their year-end windup at the home of Lions Sonja and Torben Nielsen on June 6, with 21 of 23 members in attendance. As well, there were nine guests.

Members of the Spiritwood Lions Club presented Canadian flags and pins along with certificates to students in Grade 1 at both Spiritwood elementary schools on June 4 as part of "Pride in Canada" Day.

The Northern Spirit, Leoville, Big River and Medstead 4-H Clubs held their 74th annual Regional 4-H Show and Sale in Spiritwood June 2-4. The Show took place at the Ag Barns on Monday and Tuesday, and the sale was held at the Spiritwood Auction Mart on Tuesday. Prior to the sale, a beef on a bun supper was held, also at the Auction Mart.

Awards were presented Tuesday afternoon at the Ag Barns before the supper.

The Co-op Community Spaces Program has just donated \$68,075 to Spiritwood High School and Living Sky School Division for the creation of an outdoor wellness

space at SHS.

Tim Keller, CEO of Lake Country Co-op presented the cheque to Mrs. Susan Fry, principal of SHS at a ceremony held Tuesday, June 18.

The Spiritwood RCMP Detachment hosted the 13th annual Bourdages & Cameron Golf Tournament Monday, June 17, with 88 golfers taking part in the Texas Scramble event.

Spiritwood Literary Partnership: Links to Learning Inc. has replaced the sign at Kidzland. The original sign disappeared a few years ago after it had been knocked down. The Partnership felt it was high time the iconic sign was replaced.

Love and Laughter Early Learning Centre Inc. was recently presented with the \$800 Special Community Grant from the Spiritwood Lions Club. The funding is made available via Sask Lotteries.

The 4th Annual Bull Riding Competition may be a few months away, but the excitement has already started building. Proof of that came Friday, June 21, when twenty tables giving bulls-not-level seating to the purchasers were sold in a matter of about twenty minutes.

Spiritwood Branch of the Legion provided funding to Evergreen Health Centre's wheelchair scale and to Rabbit Lake's Rocks & Rings and sidewalk repair. They also donated to the Idylwild Lodge handi-van fund.



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CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
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JOIN US AT OUR JANUARY 2020 CONSTITUENCY PASSPORT CLINICS

Dear Constituents;

If you are in need of a new passport or a passport renewal, myself and my colleague MP Randy Hoback, will host three passport clinics in January 2020.

<p>Tuesday, January 14th Shellbrook Elks Hall 103A Railway Ave W Shellbrook, SK 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM</p> <p>Wednesday, January 15th Choiceland Seniors Club 200 - 1st Street E Choiceland, SK 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM</p> <p>Thursday, January 16th Christopher Lake Legion 120 Main Street Christopher Lake, SK 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM</p>	<p>Please register at; Gary.vidal.c1@parl.gc.ca or CALL 306-304-234-1264 or 1-844-365-9664</p> <p>Please indicate the number of people and which type of passport is required.</p> <table border="0" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">Adults</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Children</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">16 +</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Under 16</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">5 year</td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$120</td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$57</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">10 year</td> <td style="text-align: center;">\$160</td> <td style="text-align: center;">N/A</td> </tr> </table>		Adults	Children		16 +	Under 16	5 year	\$120	\$57	10 year	\$160	N/A	<p>CONSTITUENCY OFFICE: 13-201 2nd Street West Meadow Lake, SK S9X 1C7 Tel. 306-234-1234 TF: 1-844-365-9664 Fax: 306-234-1235 gary.vidal.c1@parl.gc.ca</p> <p>OTTAWA OFFICE ; Confederation Building Ottawa ON K1A 0A6 Tel. 613-995-8321 Fax. 613-995-7697 Gary.vidal@parl.gc.ca</p>
	Adults	Children												
	16 +	Under 16												
5 year	\$120	\$57												
10 year	\$160	N/A												

A photographer will be available. (\$20 per person). To speed up photo processing time, **cash only** please!

Looking back on the year that was 2019

JULY

There were 56 participants in the Louis Willick Memorial Golf Tournament, held Saturday, June 30 at Spiritwood Golf course. The golfers went through typical Saskatchewan weather throughout the 18-hole Texas Scramble event, from torrential rain to welcome heat and sunshine.

The winning team was presented with their prize at the end of it all – umbrellas.

"We could have used these earlier," one said.

The 2019 Graduation exercises were held at Spiritwood High School on Friday afternoon, June 28, with a class of 29 graduands taking part.

The theme of this year's graduation was from a quote by Jeff Moore: "Success Doesn't Rush... The Greatest Reward is the Journey."

Awards and recognition were presented to deserving SHS grads at their Graduation Exercises June 28, including the Governor General's Bronze Medallion, won by 2018 graduate Abigail Mundell and accepted by her brother, Ethan, on her behalf. Miss Mundell had the highest standing in Spiritwood High in the 2017-2018 school year. The Governor General of Canada continues this tradition of encouraging scholarship across the nation and recognizing out-

standing students.

The Spiritwood Minor Ball season wrapped up on June 15 and 16 with the annual Parkland Minor Ball tournament. This year, the tournament was held in Shellbrook and the weather ended up cooperating both days.

The annual tournament hosts 46 teams and holds almost 70 games in a two-day span.

Prairie Community Endeavours treated Greg Sommerfeld to a train excursion recently.

Despite the best intentions of the weatherman to derail the Canada Day celebration in Spiritwood on July 1, the festivities went ahead as planned. Well, almost as planned.

For starters, since it was cold and windy by mid-afternoon, the celebration was moved to the Legion Hall, and some who had planned on attending assumed that the event was cancelled since there was no one at the Town Square – the original site of the festivities – and they went home.

First Student Canada bade farewell to Sandra Walter, who stepped down as a school bus driver after 23 years of service.

The 31st annual SUMA Golf Tournament was held July 5 at Spiritwood Golf Course, hosted by

the Town of Spiritwood.

Some 56 golfers enjoyed a day of golf, with thirteen of the fourteen teams scoring par or better in the 18-hole Texas Scramble event.

It has been a long, slow process, but Gerry Houle is still hopeful that the new home of Guy's Furniture will be open in time for the anniversary sale this fall. He had been hoping to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the business in the new location, but that opportunity came and went.

Goller's Tire Service has returned to its rural location, due in large part to the addition of new services offered by the business. They have added welding and fabrication to their repertoire, with a fleet of mobile service trucks ready to hit the countryside when called upon.

"We'll be able to repair anything, anywhere," said Dean Goller.

Spiritwood's Summer Recreation Program is into its fourth week, and there's no end to the fun the kids have been having.

The program seems to be quite popular this year, with daily participation averaging around 20. One day saw 33 youngsters taking part in the activities.

All eyes were on the skies on Thursday, July 18, as Spiritwood was included with many other



Spiritwood High School's class of 2019, back row l. to r.: Travis Epp, Taylor Conacher, Zevan Cross, Shawn Martens, Keegan Franson, Oren Torgerson, Reilly Regier, Jordan Tuttroen, and Teegan Wright. Middle: Justine Laguyo, Laurel Clark, Sarah Anderson, Carson McNabb, Brendan Senum, Austin Saam, Rian Caffet, Brianna Salisbury-Risden, Madison Price, and Sarah Penner. Front: Bailey Hiebert, Chloe Prescesky, Brooke Prescesky, Chantal Andres, Shanemel Asuncion, Michelle Cote, Madison Francoeur, Tanisha Tjepwan, and Heather Greyeyes. Missing: Logan Donohue.

communities in North Central Saskatchewan in a tornado watch.

AUGUST

Some 80 participants took part in the Color Fun Run on July 27, most of whom completed the 5 km route around the streets of Spiritwood under very warm conditions. OK, it was hot, but there was lots of water and few were complaining about the heat.

The event was hosted by the Filipino Association in Spiritwood and sponsored by Northern Lakes Economic Development. Spiritwood Scotiabank donated some prizes. Proceeds were earmarked 50-50 for the Association and the new Town Square.

Some two dozen motorcycles arrived in Spiritwood shortly after noon Saturday, July 27, parking in front of the Wolf Monument and Tourist Information Bureau. The motorcyclists were on a "Ride For Kids", beginning in Saskatoon and scheduled to end at Dalmeny, where they would have supper and then disperse.

Marion Mutala, 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, draw-

ing on many of the old favourites.

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.

The Spiritwood Horticulture Show was held in the Civic Centre Aug. 9. Heather Gatzke received the Lions Grand Aggregate Trophy.

The 9th Annual presentation of the Witchekan Wildlife Federation (WWF) Gun and Hobby Show was held Aug. 10 and 11, with some 44 vendors occupying 100 tables, offering a little bit of everything to the curious public.

The Spiritwood SARCS Chase the Ace has been won after the desired Ace of Spades was pulled Friday night, Aug. 16. The lucky ticket was held by Kaeli Cross and Chris Robinson.

Continued on page 10



About 120 people attended the Fast Fly-in breakfast. Here, Thalia is about to taste the delicious sausage.

NOTICE OF NOMINATION

Nominations will be accepted January 3 - 9/2020 for Delegates of Lake Country Co-operative Association Limited Delegate Positions are available at the following locations:

- Domremy (one 3 year term)
- La Ronge (one 3 year term)
- Paddockwood (one 3 year term)
- Shellbrook (one 3 year term)
- Smeaton (one 3 year term & one 2 year term)
- Wakaw (one 3 year term)
- Big River (one 3 year term)
- Kinistino (one 3 year term)
- Marcelin (one 3 year term)
- Canwood (one 3 year term)
- Birch Hills (one 3 year term)
- Spiritwood (one 3 year term)
- Prince Albert (five 3 year terms)

Nomination forms are available at the Food Store at each location, except Shellbrook where they can be picked up at the Agro Center and in Spiritwood at the Service Center.

- Nominees must do the majority of their Co-op purchases at the location for which they are nominated, or be a resident of the district.
- Nominees must hold a Co-op membership in their name.
- Nominee purchases must be equivalent to those of the average Co-op member.



LAKE COUNTRY

Looking back on the year that was 2019



Battle West Girls Team, winners of the silver medals at SHSAA Golf Provincials. L to r: Brooklin Fry, Sara Francoeur, Jaida Jones, and Jodi Myszczyzyn.

August Cont'd

The Fast Fly-In Breakfast, a tradition of many years, was a success Sunday, Aug. 18 with the guest list numbering close to 120 people who came out to enjoy a great breakfast of pancakes, sausages and cheesy hash browns, and to view the planes that came in carrying guests.

"If this wasn't so much fun, none of us would be out here."

The "us" Joyce Willick was referring to were the fourteen participants taking part in the 5th Annual Pink Caddie Cup. The numbers were down for this year's two-day, three-round event, from a high of 32 last year.

But the enthusiasm was there. It had to be, otherwise why would a group of women put up with rain, wind and cold if not for a chance to take part in the premier women's golf event of the summer.

Finally, the Spiritwood Timberwolves got the kind of day they needed in order to hold a successful golf tournament.

"This is the first time we've had weather like this since we started holding the tournament," team captain

Tyson Poulin said. The tournament was the annual Dale Willick Memorial, and after several date changes, it finally went ahead in the sunshine on Sunday, Aug. 18.

Spiritwood Museum hosted a tea Saturday, Aug. 24, with close to two dozen signing the guest book.

The Town of Spiritwood hosted the 2019 SUMA Provincial Golf Tournament on July 4 & 5, 2019. The Committee chose to donate the profit from the event to the SADSAC Ball Diamond Restoration Committee.

Jackie Woytiuk accepted the \$1,884.04 cheque from Mayor Gary von Holwede.

SEPTEMBER

Emily Burak, 17-year-old harpsichordist, gave a short concert Friday, Aug. 30 at the Spiritwood Library, presenting some of the favourite pieces of Marie Antoinette.

The Spiritwood Senior Golf Tournament was held Aug. 28, with 28 golfers taking part in the 18-hole Texas Scramble event.

After a day of golf, the team of Lloyd Fisher, Charles Schira, Laurie

Mayo and Ron Craswell took top spot with a score of -7.

Shellbrook resident Brian Hagel, who works out of Spiritwood, was crowned Sask Weight Loss King by TOPS. The Queen is Pearl Kora of Warman, who grew up in Spiritwood.

With the final edition of August, Spiritwood Herald reporter Dave Hyndman hit 40 years as reporter for the paper. He was presented with a plaque of appreciation by publisher Clark Pepper.

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.

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.

"We're not finished yet."

The members of the Idylwild Lodge Auxiliary were providing an update on progress with their Gazebo project, and they were happy to report that after seven years and many bake sales, barbecues and raffle ticket sales, the gazebo is complete and usable.

It wasn't really war, but it was Spiritwood golf's closest cousin. It was the annual Ryder Cup, featuring two teams of 10 each in three days of match play competition.

This was the ninth year of the local Ryder Cup. Players arrived from as far afield as Lethbridge, Alta. and Chicago to take part. Of the twenty, few have missed a year.

The winner this year was Team Jubes, scoring a 14-11 victory over Team Sherm.

The 2018 / 2019 fraternal year saw the Knights of Columbus involved in many programs in our community, with plenty of positive results.

Spiritwood Golf Course had their annual Night Golf Friday night, Sept. 20. They had 48 golfers come out for the beautiful evening.

OCTOBER

A supper was held in honour of Gerry and Ann Zak on the retirement of Gerry as pastor of Lakeland Community Church. The supper was held at the Pioneer Centre on Sat. Sept. 28 with a full house of well-wishers in attendance.

The Spiritwood branch of Prairie Centre Credit Union is undergoing a renovation that is expected to be completed by the beginning of 2020.

The purpose of the renovation is to develop more office space so that the entire operation of the branch will be conducted under one roof. Currently, the Credit Union is split into two buildings – the deposit building on Main Street and the lending building on 1st St. E.

Spiritwood High athletes came home with a couple more medals following golf action Sept. 27-28.

Brooklin Fry captured the bronze medal in the Provincial Championships, held in Estevan, with a 36 hole score of 78-86-164, just a single stroke behind the silver medal winner who shot one less stroke on her second round for a final of 78-85-163.

The Battle West team, anchored by Fry and consisting of Jaida Jones and Sara Francoeur, with Jodie Myszczyzyn of McLurg (Wilkie) won the silver medals

in Team play.

About 30 people were instructed in how Canadian government works. Gary Vidal spent about an hour covering a variety of topics.

Volunteers have been busy readying the Spiritwood Arena for the 4th Annual SARCS Bull Riding Event, due to take place Saturday night Oct. 12. There are tickets available, with many people keeping an eye on the sky before making a commitment to buy.

Lake Country Co-op presented a cheque for \$1,209.09 to SARCS on Oct. 3, representing the proceeds from the Fuel Good Day Sept. 17 and the accompanying burger sale.

The 4th Bull Riding event brought to Spiritwood by SARCS did not disappoint. A large crowd enjoyed the action provided by 25 of the top bull riders in the Bull Riders Canada lineup.

Due to a very successful FolkFest, organizers of the Hungarian Pavilion have made several donations to local organizations.

Those receiving \$500 donations from the Hungarian Pavilion were: Spiritwood Minor hockey, Spiritwood Minor Ball, Idylwild Activities Department and the Cooper Walter Fund.

Continued on page 11



Customers can order a French press coffee or an espresso to sip on while browsing at Spiritwood's newly opened Artisan Boutique.

Looking back on the year that was 2019

October Cont'd

Spiritwood's newest Main Street business opened its doors to the public on Thursday, Oct. 17, with many people dropping in during the day to check out this unique addition to the business community.

Artisan Boutique is the name of the shop, and it features the work of local artisans who have gone a bit past "hobby" and into "business", of-

fering their wares to the public.

The 30th Annual Ducks Unlimited Fund-raising Dinner was held at the Spiritwood Civic Center Sat Oct. 19, with over 100 people enjoying a meal provided by Ron Sawatsky Catering and an evening of bidding and entertainment.

Hugh and Peggy Jenner sang many old fa-

vorites at an afternoon session at Spiritwood Library on Friday, Oct. 18. The audience wasn't large, but it was very appreciative of the gentle stylings provided by the pair.

SARCS's 2nd Annual Family Halloween Dance was another rousing great time for the many children who attended, almost all of whom were in costume.

NOVEMBER

On Friday, Nov. 1 a celebration was held for Joyce Carriere, the Spiritwood librarian, who has been the librarian for 40 years.

Nov. 2 marked the first of a hopefully annual semi-competitive female hockey tournament in Spiritwood.

After two years of planning, demolition, and construction Guy's Furniture has finally opened the doors at the new location on Highway 3. A brand new, single level, 1,100 square foot building now stands where the old Gateway North Café used to be.

The pews were full at the 2019 Remembrance



Members of the Spiritwood Legion at the Cenotaph for Remembrance Day. From left: George Pretli (Ordinary), Marg Pretli (Associate), Betty Hall (Associate), Carrol Brisbane (Associate), and Jack Boechler (Ordinary).

Day Service held at the Catholic Church. Organized by members of the Royal Canadian Legion, the Partners in Faith Church, the Lakeland Community Church, and the Catholic Church, the service began at 10:30 a.m. on Nov. 11.

An evening of great food, good music, and old friends is the best way to describe the annual Seniors Appreciation Supper put on by the Spiritwood and District Lions Club.

The music was lively

and the feet were gliding along the floor at the Resolute School Hall on Nov. 16.

Spiritwood Curling Club hosted a youth curling clinic Nov. 15 through 16. Brian Champion, Curlsask High Performance Consultant, came to Spiritwood and spent two days with 27 youth curlers.

The BINGO dabbers were dabbing away on Nov. 21 at the Spiritwood High School gym. The graduating class at

Spiritwood High School organizes the annual Toy BINGO as a fundraiser for graduation expenses.

The annual Lions craft sale was a success again in its 41st year with 49 vendors and a kitchen run by Spiritwood Minor Ball.

The Legion Hall craft sale was full of goodies on Nov. 23 and 24. The event organized by Roxie Cline and Sabrina Parenteau is a fundraiser for the Legion Hall in Spiritwood.



Joyce Carriere celebrated 40 years as the Spiritwood librarian.

Herald area review 2019



Part of the Medstead Ice Carnival's opening number, which featured the entire cast.

JANUARY

December activities in Rabbit Lake reported in January:

Rabbit Lake Hall Board hosted the community Christmas supper with about 100 people attending.

The Sunrise Circle held the annual Turkey Shoot. This was accompanied by a bingo and

chili supper convened by the Quilting Group.

The Sunrise Circle held its seniors supper on Dec. 9, which was followed two days later by the Housing Authority's tenant supper. Elmer Lammedee entertained the group at the seniors supper with an evening of Country Christmas music.

The Rabbit Lake Hoffnungsfelder Mennonite Ladies Aid held its supper at the seniors center.

Terry Soluhub opened the "Backroads Cafe".

FEBRUARY

The Medstead Skating Club held their annual carnival on Feb. 24, with members performing before a packed house of

family and friends.

MARCH

Medstead Leisure Life held their monthly meeting March 4, with 10 members present.

The Shell Lake 50-Plus Club held a very successful bonspiel March 5-7.

Some 223 riders participated in the annual snowmobile rally hosted by the Rabbit Lake and District agricultural association. The Museum and the Library combined to put on a breakfast prior to the start of the rally. Alex Beauchesne of Spiritwood won the \$5,000 first prize.

32 took part in the Rose Gill Lodge St. Patrick's Day Kaiser tournament on March 17.

Leoville Health Care Auxiliary held their annual St. Patrick's Day Bake Sale on March 15. Support from the community and surrounding area made it a huge success.

APRIL

Medstead Leisure Life held its meeting April 1 with 14 members present.

Alice Grigor and Heather Welsh have been appointed to the Mayfair Housing Authority Board of Directors.

Shell Lake 50-Plus Club celebrated the birthdays and anniversaries of ten members.

The entire Board of the Leoville Housing Au-

thority has been re-appointed. The members include: Donald Doryk, Valerie Laventure, Karen Chalifour and Ron Blocka. Block is chairperson.

Leoville Library hosted Easter Bunny for story time. All the kids had fun.

Leoville Minor Hockey held their first Lobster Feast on April 6. The event earned \$22,700 that will go toward lighting improvements and plumbing and heating upgrades. Innovation Credit Union donated funds for the new furnace and installation.

Colleen Reed has been reappointed to the Shell Lake Housing authority Board of Directors.

Herald area review 2019

MAY

The Shell Lake Lions Club hosted its 16th annual Spring Fling on April 27.

The old Shell Lake Hall, used in recent years as golf cart storage, was demolished. It was the hub of the community from 1930 until the new hall was built in 1977.

Rabbit Lake Community Hall held an event April 13, with Jason Loehndorf winning the 50-50.

The Quilting Group held its annual Show and Tell at the community hall.

Several Rabbit Lake groups held their annual general meetings in April. This included the Agricultural Association, Library and Senior Sunrise Circle.

Three honorary Life Memberships in the Shell Lake Fifty-Plus Club were awarded. Recipients were: Phyllis Johnson, Aida West and Marj Simonar.

The old time dance sponsored by the Leoville Trailriders at Timberland School was a great night out.

The Shell Lake Patchwork Players ended a six-year hiatus when they presented "The Hallelujah Girls" May 2-4. Judy Mayo was the Director.

Medstead Leisure Life Club held a pot luck supper May 6, followed by their annual meeting. Twenty members attended.

JUNE

The Shell Lake Legion Branch #15 held their decoration Day on June 1.

Medstead Central School hosted the annual Elementary Track and Field meet June 5, with approximately 400 kids taking part.

The Shell Lake 50-Plus Club held a Birthday Bash May 30. Hugh and Peggy Jenner provided the entertainment.

Hadley Benson of Leoville Central School earned a bronze medal in Junior Boys Triple Jump at the SHSAA Track and Field Provincial Championships.

Spiritwood Branch of the Legion provided funding to Evergreen Health Centre's wheelchair scale and to Rabbit Lake's Rocks & Rings and sidewalk repair. They also donated to the Idylwild Lodge handi-van fund.

JULY

Leoville Library held a very special celebration June 26 to say farewell to an avid young reader, Jack, who is moving to PEI with his family.

A 33-year-old woman is dead following a collision at the intersection of Highways 3 and 12 near

Shell Lake.

AUGUST

Shell Lake Metis reported that a thief broke into the hall and made away with the cash in the safe. As a result, as a precaution, there is no safe or cash in the building. The Métis group gave out \$2,000 in bursaries, plus made a sizeable donation to the Greg Pott family due to their untimely misfortune.

Shell Lake Hey Days was another overwhelming success. This was the 37th annual.

Louise and Gerry Beaulac opened a new motel in Leoville, calling it Home Town Suites. They held an open house in July to help get the word out.

SEPTEMBER

There were 91 golfers on 23 teams in the annual Bud Dicus Memorial Golf Tournament.

Some 112 golfers took part in the 36th Annual Men's Invitational Golf Tournament at Memorial Lake Regional Park golf course.

Medstead Leisure Life held their meeting Sept. 9 after a summer recess. Twelve members were present.

OCTOBER

Some 525 guests enjoyed the 43rd annual Shell Lake Fall Supper on Oct. 6. The supper was the combined efforts of Our Lady of Smiles Catholic Church and Partners in Worship.



Glaslyn class of 2019, back l to r: Grayson Morozowski, Caylee Dorval, Walker Maess, Skye Landrie, Michael Barbondy, Shelbie Ryder, and Damian Nichol. Front Row: Jackson Pylypow, Tori Abbott, and Joseph Krywchuk.



Medstead class of 2019, back row: Catelynn Holliday, Aron Bargen, Reagen-Shiell, Quintin Short, Megan Wouters, Mason Short, Marshal Egeland, Clark Janzen, Natashia Gopher, and Colton Klassen. Front Row: Cree Siegel, Melissa Rosendahl, Mikala Orange, and Maria Jennett.



Pelican Lake class of 2019: Drayton Nicotine, Chantal Whitefish, Georgie Harris, Daydrie Berland-Bill, Syllas Rabbitskin, Daisy Witchekan, Gilbert Thomas, Briana Thomas, Davis Thomas, Alanna Singer, and Tristen McAdam.



Leoville class of 2019, from left to right: Mark Dumais, Levi Poirier, Melissa Laventure, Jorry Cooling, Montana Gardiner, Keera Tiringer, Mallie Poulin-Vandale, Jaycie Pouliot, Jayden Lewis, and Ethan Dumais Photo credit: Bree Chalifour, Breeze Photography



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Spiritwood Herald Website

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Herald area review 2019

NOVEMBER

The annual Medstead Bazaar took place on Nov. 11 at the Community Hall. Organizers said the event was very successful this year. There were 38 vendors and approximately 200 attendees.

Seven area high schools participated in the 1A Girls North Conference 2 Volleyball Finals in Leoville on Nov. 1-2. Medstead came out on top in the last game and will be going to the Regional Finals on Nov. 9.

311 people attended the Fall Supper in Leoville on Nov. 3 and were not disappointed. There was a wide spread of food and a lot of good pie.

The Shell Lake Lions Club hosted their 41st annual Novemberfest Dine and Dance on Saturday, Nov. 2 at the Shell Lake Community Hall. This has been one of the major fundraisers for the club for many years now with donations being given to a variety of causes including hall maintenance, local charities, and people experiencing medical issues.

The Medstead High School Girls Volleyball team are rolling right on to the Provincial Championships after an undefeated weekend in Langham.

The Medstead Mustangs Sr. Girls brought back a bronze medal from the

SHSAA 1A Provincial Championships held in Muenster Nov. 15 through 16.

Shell Lake's Remembrance Day service was held at the Partners in Worship church with a very good attendance. Our President, Christine Wollms, conducted the service with our Legion Padre, David Jensen, delivering the message.

The Medstead Community Hall was all decked out in sparkles on Nov. 23 for MADRA's Dine and Dance. About 180 people headed out to Medstead for the pork and chicken supper served by Marion's Burger Bar followed by a 14-item dessert auction auctioned off by Boyd Stuart.



The Medstead Girls took home bronze at the Provincial 1A Volleyball Championships.



Mary Krushelniski, Cecilia Doryk and Olive Christopherson attend a Remembrance Day ceremony at Leoville's Evergreen Centre.



Dave Mischuk and Paul Cherwinski selling plates at the door to the Mayfair Fall Supper.

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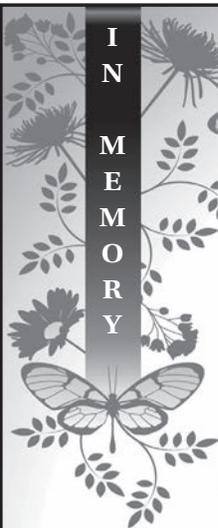
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LEOVILLE: Wapiti Regional Library - Wednesday 10 am - 4 pm; Thurs. 10 am - 3 pm (Storytime from 10:30 am to 11:30 am)

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Snapshots from 2019



Nicholas Klinck of Bagshaw, AB was the first rider of the evening at this year's Bullriding event in Spiritwood. Bull 1 Riders 0.



The Fur Traders, three-time winners of the Blair Dietz Memorial Tournament.



Mother's Day contest winners, 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.



Mother's Day contest winners, 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.



Five members of the Idylwild Lodge Auxiliary in front of the gazebo which was seven years in the making. L. to r.: Ruth Siegel, Roberta Wasden, Connie Gatzke, Barb Olson, Linda Pauls.



The cheque for \$68,075 from the Co-op to Spiritwood High and Living Sky School Division. L. to r.: Mike Sarrazin (Mgr, Spiritwood Co-op), Tim Keller (CEO, Lake Country Co-op) and Susan Fry (Principal, SHS).



Owned and operated by lifelong Leoville resident Louise Beaulac, Leoville's Home Town Suites are officially open for business.