



Locals receive Platinum Jubilee Medals



Shell Lake Mayor Anita Weiers receives the Platinum Jubilee Medal from Lt. Gov. Russ Mirasty and Premier Scott Moe.

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

The Shellbrook Community Hall played host to the Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal presentations for the Rosthern-Shellbrook constituency on Friday, March 17, and a plethora of local volunteers, healthcare workers, public officials, and businesspeople were among the honorees.

With Jason Quilliam, Chief of Protocol for the Government of Saskatchewan, serving as master of ceremonies, and Lt. Gov. Russ Mirasty and Premier Scott Moe on hand to present the medals, the afternoon saw 72 people recognized for outstanding service in their respective fields.

The Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal is the first provincial honour of its kind, and was created as a celebration of the 70th anniversary of the late Queen Elizabeth's ascension to

the throne and as a way to honour her service to Canada. Following a nomination process, a total of 7,000 Saskatchewan citizens were selected to receive a medal based on their significant contributions and achievements.

"It is important to acknowledge those who help to make our communities better, and, by extension, our whole province better," Mirasty said of the recipients during the ceremony's introductory remarks. "Your achievements inspire us all. You are positive role models for your neighbours, colleagues, friends, and families."

To keep the medal presentation short and orderly, recipients were asked to come up in no particular order to have their names read out and receive their medals from Lt. Gov. Mirasty and Premier Moe.

Medal recipients in attendance at Friday's ceremony included the following.

For Service to the Canadian Armed Forces/Policing: Travis Spriggs (Canadian Armed Forces), Virginia Pechawis (posthumous, Canadian Armed Forces, presented to daughter Lorraine), Colleen Reddekopp (Policing), and Tyler Roth (Canadian Armed Forces).

For Service to Business and Commerce: Reg Quiring, Russ Quiring, Curtis Bloom, Murray Hannigan, Cora Malenfant, Gaetan Malenfant, and Tanya Ferster.

For Public Service: Alan Steinhilber, Amund Otterson, Hugh Otterson, George Tomporowski, Robert Ernst, Derek Klein, Dave Moe, Randy Aumack, Gary von Holwede, Bud Strube, Anita Weiers, Dennis Helmuth, Cindy Painchaud, Sally Jacobson, and James Thorsteinson.

For Volunteer Service: Stacy Tanchuk, Donna Strate, Kevin Burant, Monica Kasun, Murray Kasun, Les

Anderson, Glenys Martin, Darrel Martin (posthumous, presented to wife Glenys), Kathy Aumack, Debbie Helm, Dennis Simonar, Harold Fast, Jim Van Eaton, Megan Allard, Grant Hladun, Greg Spencer, Bevra Fee, Dylan Locke, Russell Barton, Guillermo Quinones Mezo, Darin Stene, Vanessa Horner, Lyle Banda, George Pretli, Miriam Thomas, Betty Anthony, and Jim Angus.

For Service to Education: Joan Jeffery, Bill Jeffery, Audrey Jones, Rhonda Berezowski, and Cher Bloom.

For Service to Healthcare: Joan Lemauviel, Angela Aug, Larissa Swityk-Conacher, and Leola Skrupski.

Medal recipients not in attendance included: Riel Bellegarde, Reginald Bellerose, Ryan Danberg, Rob Forbes, Ryland Hunter, Bruce Morin, April Phillips, Betty Taylor, and Martin Taylor.

Continued on page 2 & 3

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Last but not least, Premier Moe himself was presented with the afternoon's final medal, in recognition of his public service as MLA for Rosthern-Shellbrook and Saskatchewan's premier.

With the medal presentation concluded, Premier Moe wrapped up the ceremony by stepping up to the podium to offer his congratulations to the medal recipients.

"In Saskatchewan, our motto is 'Multis e gentibus vires,' which means 'From many peoples, strength.' There's a lot of people's strengths in this room today," he said. "You didn't do it for the credit or recognition... but someone noticed what you did. The Platinum Jubilee is a very small way for us to recognize that as your government."



Shellbrook Mayor Amund Otterson (middle) receives the Platinum Jubilee Medal from Lt. Gov. Russ Mirasty and Premier Scott Moe.



Angela Aug receives the Platinum Jubilee Medal from Lt. Gov. Russ Mirasty and Premier Scott Moe.



Parkside Mayor Dave Moe (middle) receives the Platinum Jubilee Medal from Lt. Gov. Russ Mirasty and Premier Scott Moe.



Dennis Simonar (middle) receives the Platinum Jubilee Medal from Lt. Gov. Russ Mirasty and Premier Scott Moe.



Derek Klein (right) accepts the Platinum Jubilee Medal from Lt. Gov. Russ Mirasty.



Spiritwood Mayor Gary von Holwede (middle) receives the Platinum Jubilee Medal from Lt. Gov. Russ Mirasty and Premier Scott Moe.



Former Shellbrook Mayor George Tomporowski (middle) receives the Platinum Jubilee Medal from Lt. Gov. Russ Mirasty and Premier Scott Moe.



Hugh Otterson (middle) accepts the Platinum Jubilee Medal from Lt. Gov. Russ Mirasty and Premier Scott Moe.

**VILLAGE OF LEASK
NOTICE OF ASSESSMENT ROLL**

Notice is hereby given that the assessment roll for the Village of Leask for the year 2023 has been prepared and is open to inspection in the office of the Assessor from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm Monday to Thursday from March 20, 2023 until April 24, 2023.

A bylaw pursuant to section 214 of *The Municipalities Act* has been passed and the assessment notices have been sent as required.

Any person who wishes to appeal against his/her assessment is required to file his/her notice of appeal with:

The Assessor, Village of Leask, Box 40, Leask, SK S0J 1M0, by 4:00 pm on April 24, 2023.

Dated at Leask, Saskatchewan this 20th day of March, 2023.

Yvette Hamel,
Assessor

CORRECTION – In the March 16 coverage of Lake Country Co-op's acquisition of the Big River Liquor Store, it was stated that the franchise was acquired through an SLGA permit auction. Despite the coincidental timing, the store was in fact privately owned and operated and was not an SLGA-operated store. *The Chronicle & Herald* apologize for the error and any confusion it may have caused.



Jim Van Eaton (right) accepts the Platinum Jubilee Medal from Lt. Gov. Russ Mirasty.



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Megan Allard receives the Platinum Jubilee Medal from Lt. Gov. Russ Mirasty and Premier Scott Moe.



Murray Kasun (middle) receives the Platinum Jubilee Medal from Lt. Gov. Russ Mirasty and Premier Scott Moe.



Premier Scott Moe receives the Platinum Jubilee Medal from Lt. Gov. Russ Mirasty.



Rhonda Berezowski receives the Platinum Jubilee Medal from Lt. Gov. Russ Mirasty and Premier Scott Moe.



Yvonne Groenen receives the Platinum Jubilee Medal from Lt. Gov. Russ Mirasty and Premier Scott Moe.



Lt. Gov. Russ Mirasty presents Virginia Pechawis' posthumous Platinum Jubilee Medal to her daughter, Lorraine.

Big River RCMP arrests wanted male

By JORDAN TWISS
Shellbrook Chronicle
Reporter

The Big River RCMP has arrested a man wanted in connection with an altercation that took place at a residence on the Big River First Nation on March 7.

According to an RCMP press release, the Big River RCMP received a call about the altercation at around 1 a.m. on March 7 and responded to the scene. There, officers determined that a male had approached a residence and threatened the occupants with a knife and a firearm. No physical injuries were reported.

The male then fled in a black Chevrolet Equinox, which had been reported as stolen to Big River RCMP on Feb. 25, 2023, with three or four unknown passengers in the vehicle.

Officers located the SUV on Highway #793 and attempted a traffic stop, but the SUV did not stop. Officers continued efforts to locate the SUV, which fled toward the Ahtahkook Cree Nation/Spirit-

wood area at a high rate of speed.

Officers immediately advised the Ahtahkook-Shellbrook and Spiritwood RCMP detachments to be on the lookout for the vehicle, but it was not located.

As a result of its investigation, the Big River RCMP eventually charged 27-year-old Brandon Whitefish with: two counts of pointing a firearm, two counts of possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose, one count of possession of a firearm knowing possession is

unauthorized, one count of using a firearm in the commission of an offence, one count of being unlawfully in a dwelling, one count of uttering threats, and one count of failing to comply with release order condition.

A warrant for Whitefish's arrest was issued, and a call for the public's assistance was put out. And on March 16, police located and arrested Whitefish on the Big River First Nation.

Whitefish was scheduled to make his first court appearance in

Prince Albert Provincial Court on March 20. The charges against him have yet to be proven beyond a reasonable doubt.

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Sask. Party must abandon private healthcare fantasy

Though recent weeks have seen Saskatchewan benefit from an influx of millions of dollars from the federal government – for vital things like healthcare, childcare, and municipal infrastructure, to name just a few – the Sask. Party government is showing no signs of relenting on its adversarial stance towards Ottawa.

Early last week, the federal government announced it would be clawing back portions of recently announced increases in healthcare funding for provinces that are offering private for-pay healthcare services (something it believes goes against the spirit of the Canada Health Act).

Ottawa's opposition to public funds being used to bankroll private services is nothing new. In years prior, it has issued warnings about the misuse of public healthcare dollars. The only difference now, is that it has actually made good on its threat.

Eight provinces will see reduced funding increases as a result, with Saskatchewan losing out on \$750,000 largely because the province offers private for-pay MRI and CT scans.

Unsurprisingly, Saskatchewan Health Minister Paul Merriman expressed disappointment with the federal government's decision.

Though he admitted he was well aware of the federal government's long-standing position on funding private for-pay services with public healthcare dollars, Mr. Merriman said it has never actually cut funding.

He also said the issue wasn't even brought up during recent healthcare meetings with federal ministers Yves Duclos and Dominic LeBlanc, and that Saskatchewan was effectively "blindsided" by the announcement about the clawback.

Mr. Merriman then went on to extol the virtues of its private for-pay MRI and CT scan model, which he says has resulted in more than 14,000 private scans being performed since 2016.

"When a patient goes in and purchases a private MRI, they are in essence paying for a second person to be able to get a scan at the private clinic from the public wait list," he said. "This is something we've been doing successfully in (the) province."

Mr. Merriman says the two-for-one



JORDAN TWISS

~
News Editor

scan model helps reduce wait times for diagnostic imaging and surgeries, and that 99 per cent of scans are covered by the provincial government rather than taxpayers.

Following the federal clawback, Mr. Merriman said the provincial government won't look to wind down the program, and may even look to expand it going forward.

"We have to leverage every option that we have on the table right now for our healthcare system, and that

is the private system, both publicly funded, but also private surgeries," Mr. Merriman said, arguing that the "overwhelming majority of Saskatchewan people" want the option to be available.

So, after years of lobbying the federal government for billions more in healthcare funding through the Canada Health Transfer, and after complaining that the recent funding increase was inadequate, Mr. Merriman and the Sask. Party government are suddenly okay with turning away federal dollars the public healthcare system desperately needs for the principle of protecting private for-pay healthcare services.

Something just isn't adding up here.

In what universe does this make any sense?

In what universe is this the best way to fix the province's healthcare system and provide taxpayers the services they deserve?

Why does this government continue to advocate so strongly for private healthcare as the only way forward, when other options could be explored?

Why, for instance, couldn't the province acquire more MRI machines (at a cost of \$1 million to \$3 million apiece) to make the service more readily available in the public system?

Circling back to Mr. Merriman's claims about the private for-pay system's successes, one must wonder how he measures and quantifies success.

If reduced wait times are the metric he wants to use, then one need only look at the government's own data to conclude that the experiment with private MRIs and CT scans has been nothing short of an abject failure.

In April 2015, a month before legislation allowing private scans was introduced, the average wait time for an



MRI was 56.6 days.

Since private scans have been available, wait times have only dipped below this average on two occasions, and only for a month at a time. And as of December 2022, the average wait time was 87.8 days (a more than 50 per cent increase over April 2015).

If one felt generous, one could blame the delays on the COVID-19 pandemic, which forced the government to cut the number of scans being performed by 50 per cent. However, wait times were high long before the pandemic and have remained high ever since. Indeed, in February 2020, a month prior to the COVID-19 pandemic arriving in the province, average wait times had surged to 114.4 days.

For Mr. Merriman to claim that offering private for-pay MRIs and CT scans has been a success, is just as absurd as his declaration about the provincial government, not taxpayers, footing the bill for the scans. (One can only hope this was a mental slip. Who does he think funds his government?)

Given the private for-pay model's failure to yield the promised wait time reductions for MRIs and CT scans, one can scarcely be optimistic about this government's pursuit of private surgeries as a tool to bring down surgical wait times.

But time and again, the Sask. Party seizes every opportunity it can to return to the private healthcare well and take a long drink of the same old water.

With the Lean program, the Sask.

Party government promised bringing in private sector style management processes would reduce waste and improve performance in the system. Instead, all it did was spend \$1,511 for every dollar it saved and make front-line healthcare workers feel stressed and micromanaged.

With the P3 construction model for the Saskatchewan Hospital North Battleford, the Sask. Party government promised turning to the private sector would save money and time. Instead, it got construction issues, delays, and, eventually, a completed facility that needed a full roof replacement just two months after opening.

With private long-term care, the Sask. Party government promised our loved ones would live their elder years in peace and comfort and receive only the best care. Instead, seniors and their families became victims of a system too poorly regulated and ill-prepared to protect them from the COVID-19 pandemic. Indeed, the private long-term care model was such a success that the government terminated all private contracts in the province and took over management of the facilities.

The evidence is irrefutable. Private healthcare hasn't ever worked for the benefit of Saskatchewan, and it never will.

It's time for the Sask. Party to quit spinning the same old fiction about private healthcare and focus its efforts and energies on bolstering the public healthcare system.

Shellbrook Chronicle

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Phone 306-747-2442 or Fax 306-747-3000

Editorial: chnews@sbchron.com
Advertising chads@sbchron.com

C. J. Pepper, Publisher

Jordan Twiss, Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter
jordan@sbchron.com/chnews@sbchron.com

Natasha Cabase, Spiritwood Herald Reporter
(306) 914-3890 or tashacabase@gmail.com

Meghan Penney, Composition/Pagination
& Advertising Sales chads@sbchron.com

Karen Stene, Bookkeeping/Reception
accounting@sbchron.com

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Report from the Legislature

The Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM) held its annual convention March 14-16. Premier Scott Moe and the Government of Saskatchewan Cabinet Ministers, along with several of our government's Members of the Legislative Assembly, were present at the convention to answer questions and make announcements about support for rural municipalities. Our government values its partnerships with SARM and rural communities and is investing in several programs and initiatives to support their growth.

At the SARM convention, Premier Scott Moe announced the Municipal Revenue Sharing Program will reach a record \$297 million in the 2023-24 provincial budget. This represents a 13 per cent increase over last year's budget and a 134 per cent increase since 2007-08. Our province's nation-leading Municipal Revenue Sharing program benefits Saskatchewan's municipalities by supporting local priorities.

To improve rural healthcare, Premier Moe also announced the Rural Physician Incentive Program has been increased to \$200,000 for a five-year return of service agreement. Eligibility is also expand-

ing beyond new graduates and will now include physicians practicing in rural and northern communities who have been assessed through the Saskatchewan International Physician Practice Assessment (SIP-PA). This incentive program will help to ensure Saskatchewan patients can access healthcare closer to home and support medical professionals who want to build successful careers in one of our province's rural communities.

To improve access to education, the Saskatchewan Distance Learning Corporation (SDLC) will offer free centralized online learning to any Saskatchewan student who chooses to study online. The SDLC will offer 180 online courses for Kindergarten to Grade 12 students beginning in the 2023-24 school

year. SDLC has chosen ten communities to be regional campuses for online students to connect and receive instruction from local teachers in addition to connecting virtually. This program will give students new opportunities for flexible learning, regardless of where in the province they live, while ensuring consistent, quality education.

To protect the safety of residents, especially in rural areas, we are investing in police services. In addition to expansions of the Crime Reduction Team (CRT) and Warrant Enforcement Suppression Team (WEST), our government has introduced the new Saskatchewan Marshalls Service (SMS). The SMS will consist of approximately 70 officers who will provide additional law enforcement presence across the province, conduct proactive investigations, and support RCMP and municipal police operations. These initiatives represent over \$23 million in increased funding to enhance and expand law enforcement across our province.

For our agricultural producers, this year's Saskatchewan Crop Insurance program is stronger than ever, with this year's average coverage reaching a record \$446 per acre. Enhancements to this

year's program include new individual premiums, increased coverage for unseeded acres and increased AgriStability coverage. The Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation (SCIC) is there for producers when they need it, mitigating risk with its full suite of programs. In addition to Crop Insurance and AgriStability, SCIC offers Livestock Price Insurance and the Wildlife Damage and Prevention Program. March 31 is the deadline to apply, reinstate, cancel or make changes to Crop Insurance contracts. You can learn more at www.SCIC.ca.

To build awareness and support for the agriculture industry, March is Agriculture Literacy Month in Saskatchewan. Throughout the month, industry volunteers from all levels of food production will join classrooms to share presentations and personal experiences to help students learn more about agriculture. Connecting our youth to agriculture is an important part of growing the sector.

Also this month, March 12-18 was Agricultural Safety Week in Saskatchewan. With long days during busy seasons like calving,



HON. JEREMY HARRISON
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seeding and harvest, Agriculture Safety Week is a reminder that the business of farming is dependent upon

healthy people who prioritize safety year-round. Learning to spot hazards on the farm can prevent serious injuries and fatalities. More information about farm safety and the Farm Safety Guide is available at www.Saskatchewan.ca/farmsafety.

Saskatchewan's rural communities are so important to the province's growth and our government is committed to supporting them. Our government values its relationship with SARM and looks forward to continued growth in rural areas across the province.

CANWOOD HOUSING AUTHORITY Maintenance/Caretaker Contract Position

The Canwood Housing Authority requires a part time contract Maintenance/Caretaker. The Housing Authority manages a total of 30 semi-detached senior units and one family home all located in Canwood.

This person (or persons) will be responsible for regular seasonal ground maintenance and for performing or sub-contracting minor repair work. A basic working knowledge of carpentry, plumbing, heating, electrical and general maintenance is required. Must be able to perform manual labor, including some lifting tasks.

NOTE: Any parties interested in performing ONLY seasonal grounds maintenance, either snow removal and/or summer grounds maintenance should also submit their application, indicating which work they are interested in.

For further details please contact Carol Gjerde at 306-960-1821. Please submit a resume on or before April 5, 2023 to:

Canwood Housing Authority
Box 313, Canwood, SK S0J 0K0
Email: cgjerde.canwood@housingauthoritiesk.com

Op-ed: Organic Farmers' right to farm threatened

By GARY JOHNSON
SaskOrganics President

The organic sector in Saskatchewan is thriving. There are 1,025 organic producers, processors and organic sector businesses in the province with over 1.175 million acres, thirty percent (29%) of all organic acreage in Canada. The global market for organic products is over \$250 billion annually.

All certified organic farmers must comply with the Canada Organic Standard which prohibits the use of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) – and that includes products of gene editing. But the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is proposing to exempt some gene-edited seeds that have no foreign DNA from Part V of the Seeds Regulations. This would mean some GM seeds could enter the market without any government approval or notification process. The CFIA is suggesting seed companies could voluntarily let the government and farmers know about these exempted gene-edited seeds coming to market.

The Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, The Honourable Marie-Claude

Bibeau, is responsible for making the final decision on this issue and she is likely to make the decision soon. Organic farmers need to know which seeds are GM so they can buy non-GM seed and take measures to avoid contamination from nearby GM crops. Organic farmers need a mandatory public registry of all GM seeds. Without a mandatory public registry, organic farmers cannot meet the requirements in the Canada Organic Standard so we would not be able to sell our grain into the organic market and it would put our farms out of business. Consumers will also lose their ability to choose non-GM food.

We have no desire to stop non-organic farmers accessing gene edited seeds, but our ability to farm organically is being threatened. Minister Bibeau can protect organic farmers by making sure there is full disclosure of all GM seeds by requiring a mandatory public registry.

SaskOrganics is calling on organic farmers, and all consumers who want an organic choice, to call the Minister's office in Ottawa at 613-995-2024 to tell Minister Bibeau, "No hidden genetically modified seeds."

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Studio 747's Mini Showcase delights crowd

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

The Shellbrook Theatre came alive on Saturday March 11, when the dancers of Studio 747 took the stage for their first performance in front of a live audience in the 2022-2023 dance year.

Though billed as a mini showcase, the evening's program packed 27 solo, duet, and small group numbers, in varying styles of dance, into a thrilling two-hour package. As always, the dancers left everything they had on the stage and the audience rewarded them with raucous applause and cheers.

"I am so thrilled with Saturday's performance. As a performer there's no better feeling than hearing the cheers and applause from an audience, and our audience did not disappoint," said Studio 747 owner Kelly Woodley. "Having a large audience fills the room with a palpable energy of excitement and love for the dancers."

Studio 747's 2023 mini showcase came during the first fully normal dance season its dancers have known since the COVID-19 pandemic restricted activities for the better part of two years, forcing Woodley and his team to get creative to keep their students involved in dance.

With restrictions and online instruction becoming a thing of the past, Woodley says this year has been a breath of fresh air for both him and the dancers.

"This season at Studio 747 has been fantastic. We have seen so much growth in our dancers from September, and we have been having so much fun preparing for competitions and performances," he said.

"It has been so wonderful having a



Anhelina Kobziyeva, Luka Sanchez, and Aria Warkentin delighted the crowd with their hip hop number "Same Squad".

completely restriction free, normal season. We have been able to see the joy on dancers' faces as they learn new things, succeed in their goals, and make new friends in the process."

With their first live performance of the season done and dusted, Studio 747's dancers are now focused on fine tuning their choreography in preparation for a busy competition gauntlet over the next month and a half.

From today (March 23) to March 26, the dancers will be competing at MEET-inYXE in Saskatoon, a competition hosted by Dance City Promotions. With only four days to rest and rehearse, the dancers will then head to Prince Albert to take part in the Festival of Dance at the E.A. Rawlinson Centre from March 30 to April 2.

Finally, from April 21 to 23, the dancers will compete at the Stage Stars event in

Warman, before returning to Shellbrook to wrap-up their dance season with their year-end recital in early May.

"I am most excited for our dancers to make new friends, reunite with old competition friends, and make fun memories with their team, all while doing the thing they love the most," Woodley said of the month ahead.



Hannah Nordin strikes a pose during her ballet solo.



Emersyn and Brielle Nahorniak put some sass into their hip hop duet.



Myla Henry flies high in her lyrical duet with Kyra Parsons.



Jordyn Verbonac and Addison Kerber put all their emotion into a contemporary duet.



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Water deserves more thought

There are times, when you have written a column weekly for more than 30 years, coming up with a topic to fill this space is a chore — a chore seemingly harder than cleaning stalls like I did when I was a youth on the farm.

Thankfully, the topic for this week was rather obvious.

As it turns out, March 22, the day before this column will first see print, happens to be World Water Day.

World Water Day became a UN observance day in 1993. It seeks to focus at-

tention on the global water crisis.

At first glance, a day dedicated to water might not seem like a particularly agriculture-relevant topic, but ultimately, water is pretty much essential to everything in farming once you think about it for a moment.

Crops simply don't grow without moisture — something farmers are all too familiar with. If timely rains do not happen, neither does a good harvest, and that impacts our food supply.

Now a drought, even over



CALVIN DANIELS

an area as large as the Canadian Prairies, doesn't mean starvation (at least if the drought is only a year, or two long), but it will push up grain prices, and higher prices are a hard-

ship to poor countries and their people.

For many higher value crops, vegetables, and fruits, irrigation helps prevent drought. But you need a source of water for irrigation, and that can lead to some issues.

The same sources of water may also be used for communities, the water coming from the taps of residents, and that same water is used by industry too.

Imagine a longer-term drought and dwindling sources of water. At that

point who gets the water?

We don't often think about water security, although there have been incidents which showed how fragile the resource is.

For example, in 2001, there was an outbreak of cryptosporidiosis which occurred in North Battleford. Thousands of people got sick and about 50 people were hospitalized. In the end, the source of the outbreak was the city's surface water treatment plant.

And, in 2000, there was the Walkerton E. coli outbreak, which was the re-

sult of a contamination of the drinking water supply of Walkerton, Ont. with E. coli and Campylobacter jejuni bacteria.

So, our water resource can be far more fragile thing than we think. But water, whether out of the tap to drink, or to fuel manufacturing and crop growth, is essential.

Celebrated annually, World Water Day raises awareness and inspires action to tackle the water and sanitation crisis, but only if we take the time to think about our water resource.

Governments invest in ag partnerships

The provincial and federal governments have announced \$485 million for strategic agricultural initiatives in Saskatchewan under the new five-year Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (Sustainable CAP).

"Through the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership, we are investing in the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the agriculture sector, while ensuring the resilience of supply chains," said Gudie Hutchings, Federal Minister of Rural Economic Development. "These programs and initiatives will create new ways for producers in Saskatchewan and processors to continue to improve their competitiveness while protecting our environment."

"The Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership will help build on the great work already happening in the agriculture industry in Saskatchewan," Sask Minister of Agriculture David Marit added. "This investment will see enhancements to existing programs and the introduction of new programs to position us to continue on our sustainability journey, while ensuring the sector continues to grow, prosper, and remain

competitive."

The Sustainable CAP is a five-year \$3.5-billion investment by federal, provincial, and territorial governments to strengthen the competitiveness, innovation, and resiliency of the agriculture, agri-food and agri-based products sector. This includes \$1 billion in federal programs and activities, and \$2.5 billion in cost-shared programs and activities by federal, provincial, and territorial governments.

Through the five-year Sustainable CAP, \$89.4 million will be invested annually in strategic programming for Saskatchewan farmers, ranchers and agri-businesses, a 25-per-cent increase from the \$71.2 million in the previous federal-provincial partnership. Under the new agreement, there is a continued focus on agricultural research and increased support for water development, with an increased funding cap in the Farm and Ranch Water Infrastructure Program and a larger per acre payment under the Irrigation Development Program.

The federal government contributes 60 per cent and the province funds 40 per cent

of each dollar spent.

The suite of programs will drive outcomes in five priority areas over the next five years:

1. Building Sector Capacity, Growth and Competitiveness: \$176.6 million investment to build the agriculture sector capacity, ensuring growth and competitive advantages.
2. Climate Change and Environment: \$53.4 million to support the long-term resiliency and sustainability of the sector.
3. Resiliency and Public Trust: \$40.2 million to support the sustainability of the sector by anticipating, mitigating and responding to risks while building public trust.
4. Market Development and Trade: \$2 million to assist industry in expanding domestic and international trade opportunities.
5. Science, Research and Innovation: \$175 million invested in research and development activities, enhancing the diversification and profitability of agriculture.

An additional \$37.8 million will be allocated over the course of the agreement to support national activities delivered by the federal government including the AgriMarketing and AgriAssurance programs.

Canadian producers also have access to an enhanced suite of business risk management (BRM) programs to help them manage significant risks that threaten the viability of their farms and are beyond their capacity to manage. Demand-driven, business risk management programs are estimated to provide \$3 billion in support to Saskatchewan farmers over the lifespan of Sustainable CAP.

On March 6, 2023, Minister Bibeau applications opened for federal programs under the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (Sustainable CAP) that will go into effect on April 1, 2023. The new agreement is effective April 1, 2023, and will be in place until March 31, 2028.

Details on Saskatchewan's Sustainable CAP strategic programs and application forms will be posted on www.saskatchewan.ca in the coming weeks.

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GOOD TIMES FINANCING

Blaine Lake hosts 25th Farmer's Spiel

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle
Reporter

The Blaine Lake Curling Rink played host to four days of curling action from March 9 to 12, when the community hosted its 25th annual Farmer's Bonspiel.

This year's bonspiel, which should have actually been the event's 26th iteration, saw 18 teams of four come out to compete for prizes while helping to raise vital funds to keep the local skating and curling rinks operating.

As in previous years, the teams were guaranteed to play three games and separated into pools to play against each other. Depending on their performance within their respective pools, teams were relegated to the A, B, or C Events for playoffs, where a loss meant an end to their tournament.

After four days of fun and competition, only one team could bring home the A Event trophy, the bragging rights, and a prize from a large pool of goodies that was donated by local and area farmers, businesses,

and community members. This year, the honour was claimed by skip Brent Brewer and his team of Dennis Simonar (third), Trevor Simonar (second), and Dave Garner (lead).

Topping the B Event, meanwhile, was the foursome of skip Alan Lavoie, third Rob Manley, second Austin Shers-tobetoff, and lead Lauren Fiala.

And finally, in the C Event, it was skip Larry Combres who emerged victorious, alongside his team of third Dennis Wawryk, second Tyson Wawryk, and lead Gordon Melnyk.

Though the Brewer, Lavoie, and Combres rinks all earned top prizes in their events, every competitor received a prize of greater value than the bonspiel's entry fee, and was treated to a supper catered by Ron Sawatsky Catering.

"Without this bonspiel, our community would not be able to afford to keep the plant going to have the ice in the curling rink all winter for our regular curling draws," bonspiel organizer Karen Fiala said of the event's importance to the com-

munity.

The origins of the Blaine Lake Farmer's Bonspiel date back to 26 years ago, when local crop input managers Ernie Neubauer (with Wendland Ag Services), Rodger Pederson (with Sask Wheat Pool), and Andy Teslia (with Cargill) organized the event.

In the early years, each team had to have at least two farmers, and the action would begin on a Tuesday at 5 p.m. and wrap up on Sunday afternoon. Back then, the bonspiel typically ran with a full complement of 32 teams, as well as a

waiting list, and curlers would be treated to a catered supper and entertainment at Blaine Lake Composite School on the Saturday night.

Though times have changed, and the Farmer's Bonspiel is seeing fewer teams come out, Fiala says there's still strong support for the event within the community.

"The bonspiel still has the generous support of our sponsors as well as the teams that continue to come back year after year. Without these two major parts of this fundraiser, the bonspiel

would not be as successful as it is," she said.

"I think because we continue to have a Farmers Spiel, we can generate sponsorship from our farm input and equip-

ment suppliers," she added, pointing specifically to a local seed farm that donated 320bu of seed wheat for the bonspiel's silent auction. "This is a huge benefit to this event."



Blaine Lake Farmer's Bonspiel C Event winners: Larry Combres (skip), Dennis Wawryk (third), Tyson Wawryk (second), and Gordon Melnyk (lead).



Blaine Lake Farmer's Bonspiel A Event winners: Brent Brewer (skip), Dennis Simonar (third), Trevor Simonar (second), and Dave Garner (lead).



Blaine Lake Farmer's Bonspiel B Event winners: Alan Lavoie (skip), Rob Manley (third), Austin Shers-tobetoff (second), and Lauren Fiala (lead).

The Blaine Lake Community Association would like to thank all our sponsors, volunteers and curlers for a very successful 25th Annual Farmers' Bonspiel

Thank you to our Platinum Sponsors

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Bronze Sponsors: Affinity Credit Union, Bean's Greens Greenhouse, Blair's Fertilizer, Choice Payment Solutions, Green Earth Environmental, Hupelo Farms, Lakeview Insurance, Martin's Lake Regional Park, Memorial Lake Golf Course MIX Games, Pioneer Meats, Salon SqHairEd

Sponsors: Affordable Parts, Cargill, Naber Ford, Saskatoon Media Group, SaskPower, WSSL



Record Investment for the Municipal Revenue Sharing Program

The overall Municipal Revenue Sharing Program in 2023-24 will set a new record with a provincial investment of more than \$297 million, benefiting municipalities and supporting their local priorities across Saskatchewan. This represents a 13 per cent increase from the current fiscal year, and a 134 per cent increase from the 2007-08 fiscal year. *That's growth that works for everyone.*

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



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

Spiritwood Skating Club channels the 80s

By **NATASHA CABASE**
Spiritwood Herald Reporter

The Spiritwood Skating Club hosted its annual skating event with this year's theme, "Back to the 80s", on Sunday, March 19 at the Spiritwood Arena.

Each and every performer was dressed in a colourful and creative costume with an 80s vibe, and they were supported and encouraged by a large and enthusiastic crowd.

Following the singing of O Canada, Spiritwood Skating Club members performed the first number, a routine called "Jump". Ava Beuker and Emeri Simonar were up next, skating a dance-inspired number called "Keats Foxtrot".

Skating next were the CanSkate 2 kids, Adaline Caffet, Lineah Chamakese, Eli Goller, Nathaniel Quilop, Theo Pomedli, Blaire Robertson, Piper Robertson, and Islah Simonar, who skated to a Michael Jackson medley.

Anna Nemish's Star 2 solo to the E.T. theme song was next, followed by the CanSkate 1 performance by Jonas Ballantyne, Layla Chamakese, Sage Clarkson, Emery Dorian, Johanna Hillman, Jovi Hillman, Lincoln Nicoll, Morgon Renaud, and Madeline Smailes to "Another one Bites the Dust".

Afterwards, there was another duo number by Star 5 skaters Ava Beuker and Emeri Simonar called "Flashdance", which was followed by an adorable solo number by Star 2 skater Ariel Smolinski, who performed "The Little Mermaid".

The eighth performance was by the CanSkate 3 boys, Ezra Ballantyne, Levi Barth, Norie Beauchesne, Jackson Nicoll, Kylee Feszczyn, Nyan Hart, and Jude Turgeon. A performance by



Anna Nemish glides through her solo skate to the E.T. theme song.

the NCCP-National Coach Sherryl Britton, called "I Wanna Dance with Somebody" followed.

Grace Gentes, a special guest skater from Skate Battlefords, was up next with her "Westminster Waltz" number, then the CanSkate 4/5/6 girls, Hallie Pomedli, Kylie Sarrazin, and Kayden Tiringier, skated their "Material Girl" number.

After this, a 15-minute break allowed spectators to buy colorful candy in the lobby. Meanwhile, Rossana Franson, Brent Franson, Sue Kahl, Glennalda Saam, and Mich Boiser were busy serving burgers, fries, drinks, and more in the canteen area.

For the second half of the show, Anna Nemish and Ariel Smolinski started things off with "Canasta Tango" and CanSkaters Ezra Ballantyne, Jonas Ballantyne, Levi Barth, Beau Doucette, Eli Goller, Jackson Nicoll, Lincoln Nicoll, Theo Pomedli, Nathaniel Quilop, Jase Tiringier, and Jude Turgeon followed up with "Bad to the Bone".

Star 5 Skater Ava Beuker was up next, performing a number to the Beetlejuice theme, then the CanSkate 4/5/6 group of Anna Nemish, Hallie Pomedli, Kylie Sarrazin, and Ariel Smolinski performed "Girls Just Wanna Have Fun".

A high-flying performance by Emeri Simonar followed, as she skated to the Top Gun theme. And an adorable duo number, skated to the Miami Vice Theme, was performed by Beau Doucette and Jase Tiringier.

Continuing the show, Canskaters Norie Beauchesne, Adaline Caffet, Layla Chamakese, Sage Clarkson, Emery Dorian, Kylee Feszczyn, Nyan Hart, Jovi Hillman, Johanna Hillman, Morgon Renaud, Blaire Robertson, Piper Robertson, Madeline Smailes, Islah Simonar, and Kayden Tiringier were up next. Then, guest skater Grace Gentes returned to perform her Gold Artistic number.

In the second last performance, program assistants Ava Beuker, Avarie Conacher, Ciara Conacher, Kelsey Doucette, Maya Doucette, Brock Fry, Chance Goller, Lexi Kajner, Anna Nemish, Emeri Simonar, Maddox Simonar, Nixen Simonar and Ariel Smolinski took a turn in the spotlight with "I Wear my Sunglasses at Night".

Finally, a finale presentation by the Spiritwood Skating Club, including coach Sherryl Britton, wrapped up the whole show.

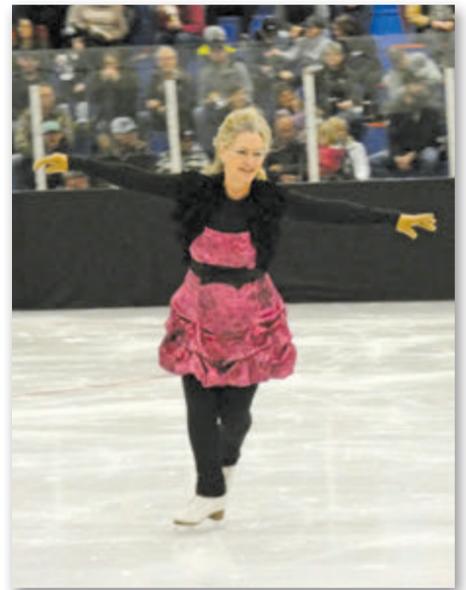
More photos on page 10



Spiritwood Skating Club members perform the ice show's opening number called "Jump".



Emeri Simonar and Ava Beuker pose after their duo performance of the Keats Foxtrot.



Coach Sherryl Britton performs I Wanna Dance with Somebody.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

SPIRITWOOD: Wapiti Regional Library - Tuesday 9 am - 5 pm; Wednesday 9 am - 5 pm; Friday 9 am - 5 pm

LEOVILLE: Wapiti Regional Library - Wednesday 10 am - 4 pm; Thursday 10 am - 3 pm

SHELL LAKE: Wapiti Regional Library - Tuesday 12:30 pm - 4 pm; Wednesday 12:30 pm - 4 pm

BLAINE LAKE: Wapiti Library - Wednesday 11 am - 6 pm; Friday 11 am - 5 pm; Saturday 10 am - 4 pm. Contact us for more info 306-497-3130, www.wapitilibrary.ca.

BIG RIVER: Wapiti Library - Wednesday 11:30 am - 4:30 pm; Thursday 11:30 am - 4:30 pm. Phone # 306-469-2152

CANWOOD: Canwood Branch of Wapiti Regional Library. Tuesday 10 am - 3:30 pm; Thursday 3:30 pm - 8 pm; Friday 1:30 pm - 4:30 pm. Kids Club is Fridays 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm, Crafter's Choice is the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month.

DEBDEN: Wapiti Library hours: Tuesday 10 am - 3 pm; Wednesday 3 pm - 7 pm. Librarian: Aline Hannon

LEASK: Wapiti Library & Legacy Gallery Hours - Tuesday 9 am - 2 pm; Wednesday 3 pm - 6 pm; Friday 1 pm - 5 pm

MARCELIN: Wapiti Library - Tuesday 2 pm - 7 pm; Thursday 2 pm - 8 pm; Saturday 9 am - 2 pm. For information on all your library needs, please contact 306-226-2110.

SHELLBROOK: Shellbrook Branch of the Wapiti Library located at 105 Railway Ave., West (Provincial building). Library Hours: Monday 2 pm - 6 pm; Tuesday 12 pm - 8 pm; Wednesday 2 pm - 6 pm; Thursday 12 pm - 6 pm; Friday 10 am - 5 pm (Story Time 11 am - 12 pm); Saturday 10 am - 4 pm.

PARKSIDE: Sunday, April 23, 2023 - Celebrate the Coming of Spring!! Honeywood Heritage Nursery Inc. Spring Fundraising Event - Supper & Live Auction - Parkside Heritage Centre, 5 pm. Advance tickets: \$25 available now! Contact: David 306-747-2275; Dale 306-960-2702; Shelley 306-747-7287. Email: honeywoodn8@gmail.com
CANWOOD: Canwood & District Health Services Co-operative Annual Meeting - Wednesday, April 12, 2023, 7pm, Seniors Room - Elks Hall. Coffee & dainties will be served. For more information, contact Sandi @ 306-961-5217.

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JUNIOR CITIZEN OF THE YEAR



2023 JUNIOR CITIZEN OF THE YEAR SCHOLARSHIP

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS



For over the past four decades The Saskatchewan Weekly Newspapers Association, in partnership with SaskPower and the Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan, have recognized the youth of Saskatchewan through the Junior Citizen of the Year Award.

These prestigious awards are given to youth who:

- Have a positive lifestyle
- Have had the ability to overcome life's challenges
- Have a strong sense of caring and responsibility
- Are dedicated to community and school
- Inspire others
- Are between the ages of 8 to 18

This year four deserving youth will receive a \$3000 bursary, provided by SaskPower, to use towards their post-secondary education. Someone you nominate could be one of them.

Visit www.swna.com for further information and nomination forms
Nominations close March 31, 2023

Spiritwood Skating Club channels the 80s



The CanSkate 2 kids channeled the King of Pop with their Michael Jackson Medley.



CanSkaters Hallie Pomedli, Kylie Sarrazin, and Kayden Tiringer perform Material Girl.



The CanSkate 1 kids perform Another One Bites the Dust.

Sask teases budget at SARM Convention

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

Speaking to rural municipal leaders at the 2023 SARM Convention last week, Premier Scott Moe and members of his Sask. Party government seized the opportunity to offer a peek behind the curtain of the 2023-2024 provincial budget.

In particular, the government teased two items that will help rural municipalities address healthcare access concerns stemming from a shortage of physicians and inject more provincial tax dollars into municipal coffers.

Starting with the money for municipalities, Premier Moe revealed the 2023-2024 Revenue Sharing Program will see his government distribute more than \$297 million to municipalities across the province, setting a new investment record.

“Saskatchewan’s municipal revenue sharing program is nation-leading, and as a predictable funding source it helps municipal governments support and plan for local priorities in their communities,” Premier Moe said. “This new record provincial invest-

ment will benefit both rural and urban communities and keep our great province strong.”

Provincial funding for the Municipal Revenue Sharing Program is based on three quarters of one point of the provincial sales tax revenue collected from two years prior, meaning the dollars for the 2023-2024 fiscal year come from taxes collected in 2021-2022.

This year’s total of \$297 million marks a 13 per cent funding increase over the 2022-2023 fiscal year, and is the highest total distributed through the program since the province doled out \$278 million in 2021-2022.

As part of the announcement, the Targeted Sector Support Initiative will once again receive a \$1.5 million investment from the total Municipal Revenue Sharing Program. This initiative is co-managed by the provincial government and municipal partners, investing in projects that advance shared priority areas such as good governance, regional planning, and inter-community collaboration.

With this year’s funding, nearly \$4 billion in provincial funding will have

been allocated to support municipalities across Saskatchewan through the Municipal Revenue Sharing Program since it was introduced in 2007-2008.

Turning to healthcare, which was a frequent topic of concern and discussion among rural municipal leaders at the SARM Convention, the provincial government unveiled plans to boost the Rural Physician Incentive Program to offer up to \$200,000 over five years.

The change, which is meant to attract more family physicians to rural and northern communities across Saskatchewan, will take effect on April 1, and marks a more than 400 per cent increase over the program’s current maximum total of \$47,000.

To incentivize retention, the length of the program is increasing from four years to five years. Eligibility for the incentive is also expanding beyond new graduates, and will now include physicians practicing in rural and northern communities who have been assessed through the Saskatchewan International Physician Practice Assessment Program (SIPPA).

“Our government recognizes the challenge of attracting doctors to rural and remote areas of the province, and this increased incentive will enhance our ability to attract more rural phy-

sicians and meet that challenge,” Premier Moe said.

“Family physicians play an important role in rural and northern communities because they also support emergency departments, acute care beds, and other important services provided by local health care facilities,” Rural and Remote Health Minister Everett Hindley added.

The Rural Physician Incentive Program first launched in 2013-14 to incentivize recent graduates to take up practice in rural and northern communities across the province.

More information on the enhanced RPIP program, including program eligibility, can be found at saskatchewan.ca/rural-physician-incentive.

The *Chronicle & Herald* will have a more detailed breakdown of everything contained in the provincial budget in next week’s edition.

PRAISE & WORSHIP

Regular services, Sunday school and special services will be listed.

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Zion - Canwood
Sunday School,
Worship Sunday, 11 a.m.
St. John's - Shellbrook
Sunday School,
Live-stream worship
service on Facebook,
Worship Sunday, 9 a.m.
Rev. Emmanuel Aristide

PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

Parkside
10:30 a.m. Worship
Pastor Lorne Valuck
306-747-3572
Shellbrook
Adult Study
9:30 a.m.
Sun., 10:30 a.m. - Worship
Pastor David Bodvarson
306-747-7235
Canwood
Summer: 10 a.m. - Worship
Pastor Bob Wrench
306-468-2138
Leask Gospel Tabernacle
Sunday 11 a.m.
306-466-2296

PRESBYTERIAN

Mistawasis
Sunday worship
11:00 a.m.
Rev. Katherine Bretzloff

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN

Parkside
11 a.m. - Worship

ANGLICAN CHURCH

Leask - All Saint's
Sunday Service - 9 a.m.
St. Andrew's - Shellbrook
Sunday, 11 a.m. Service
Canwood - Christ Church
Sunday, 2 p.m. - Service
Rev. Wendell Brock
306-460-7696
H.C. Service with Rev.
Brock - 1st Sunday of the
month

MENNONITE

BRETHREN CHURCH
Blaine Lake Gospel Chapel
109 Railway Ave. W.
Blaine Lake
306-497-3316
Sunday, 10:30 a.m.
Worship

EVANGELICAL FREE

Big River
11:00 a.m. - Worship
Bible Classes 9:45 a.m.
Summer: 10:30 a.m. - 12
306-469-2258
Youth Nite: Fridays
Mont Nebo
Sun. Worship - 11:00 a.m.
(10:30 a.m. June - August)
306-468-2525

UNITED CHURCH

Big River
Sundays
10 a.m. - Worship
at Anglican Church
Rev. Dave Whalley
306-747-2804

CATHOLIC CHURCH

Debden
Sun. Mass - 9:30 a.m.
Fr. Mariusz Zajac
Big River - Sacred Heart
Sun., 11:30 a.m. - Mass
Whitefish
Sun., 2:30 p.m. - Mass.
Victoire
Sat., 7:30 p.m. - Mass.
Fr. Mariusz Zajac
St. Agatha's - Shellbrook
Mass - Sunday 11 a.m.
St. Henry's - Leask
Mass - Sunday 9 a.m.
Mistawasis
1st & 3rd Sundays 1:30 p.m.
Fr. Tuan Doan

SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST

407-2nd Ave E, Shellbrook
Sat., 9:45 a.m. - Sabbath
School
Sat., 11:00 am -Worship
Broadcast on
VOAR 92.1 FM
Pastor Liviu Tilihoi
306-747-3398

PRAISE & WORSHIP

Regular services, Sunday school and special services will be listed.

PARTNERS IN FAITH

Lutheran/United/
Christchurch Anglican,
137-2nd St. W.
Spiritwood
Worship 1:30 p.m.
Rev. Sarah Urano

UNITED /ANGLICAN

Worship Services
Glaslyn
Time is on the sign
Rev. Kun Kim
Rev. Don Skinner

CATHOLIC SUNDAY

Spiritwood - 11:15 a.m.
Leoville - 9:30 a.m.
Shell Lake - 2:00 p.m.
SATURDAY
Medstead - 6 p.m.
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COWBOY CHURCH

Spiritwood
Every Wednesday Night
7 pm
Spiritwood Legion Hall
Pastor Rick Martin

LAKELAND COMMUNITY CHURCH

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St., Spiritwood)
Sun., 11 am - Worship
Service & Sunday School
Pastor Michael Kluthe
306-883-2380

FIELDS OF HOPE (HOFFNUNGSFELDER) MENNONITE CHURCH

Glenbush
Worship - 11:00 am

BETHEL Medstead

1st Sunday, 10 am -
Worship
Pastor David Jensen
3rd Sunday - 10 am
Worship
Pastor David Jensen

MENNONITE BRETHREN

Glenbush
10:00 am - Sunday School
Worship 10:50 am

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(306) 389-4633

SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST

407 - 2nd Ave. E,
Shellbrook
Sat., 9:45 am -
Sabbath School
Sat., 11:00 am - Worship
Broadcast on
VOAR 92.1 FM
Pastor Liviu Tilihoi
306-747-3398

BELBUTTE FULL GOSPEL

11 am Worship Service

PARTNERS IN WORSHIP

Shell Lake
Worship Services
Sunday 9:00 a.m.
Pastor Sarah Urano
306-841-7333

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NHL trades: For better or worse

The National Hockey League's trade deadline has come and gone, and most teams got what they wanted — the good teams improved; the poorer teams with their eyes focused on Connor Bedard got worse.

As if they needed a boost, the Boston Bruins, in the midst of an historic season that will almost certainly see them finish with a record-setting team point total, picked up three players in exchange for draft picks. Grinding forward Garnet Hathaway and offensive-minded defenceman Dmitry Orlov came over from Washington, while Tyler Bertuzzi, a goal-scoring forward with more grit than Z's in his name, was acquired from Detroit.

The Bruins not winning the Stanley Cup this year would almost be a shock. Coach Jim Montgomery's team has lost only nine regulation-time games this season, and they needed only 15 wins in their final 19 games to surpass the current single-sea-

son record of 132, set in 1976-77 by the Montreal Canadiens.

The Carolina Hurricanes, one of the few teams within shouting distance of the Bruins, picked up a spare part, Jesse Puljujarvi, from the Oilers, and top-four defenceman Shayne Gostisbehere from Arizona.

The Arizona Coyotes, thick in the hunt for the big draft prize that is Bedard, a 17-year-old Regina Pats superstar, also dumped their best defenceman, Jacob Chychnun, who went to the Ottawa Senators. Other bottom-dwellers in the standings, the Chicago Blackhawks and San Jose Sharks, were also showing their eagerness to improve their chances of getting the No. 1 draft pick. The Hawks traded four players away, including their top two scorers, Max Domi and veteran superstar Patrick Kane. The Sharks sent their top scorer, Timo Meier, to the New Jersey Devils.

The trading frenzy certainly improved the



BRUCE PENTON

playoff hopes of the Bruins, the Devils and the Dallas Stars. Canadian teams were fairly quiet, making a couple of deals, none of which could be called earth-shattering. Struggling Winnipeg picked up Nino Niederreiter from Nashville and Vladislav Namestnikov from San Jose, Toronto acquired Ryan O'Reilly from the Blues, and the Oilers acquired Nick Bjugstad.

From the 'odd' file comes the deal between Arizona and the Calgary Flames, who swapped four players — two of whom were the Ritchie brothers. Brett Ritchie was dispatched to Arizona while his brother

Nick went north to Calgary.

In the next two-plus months, hockey fans will find out the winners of the two big prizes up for grabs: Stanley and Connor.

- Steve Simmons of Sunmedia, on the Winnipeg Jets activity at the NHL's trade deadline: "The Jets went conservative and picked up Nino Niederreiter and Vladislav Namestnikov at the deadline. The team is no better on the ice but they are harder to spell."

- Joel Beall of Golf Digest: "Every (Jordan) Spieth post-shot reaction seems like he's just been told his identity's been hacked and he's gonna have to cancel all his credit cards."

- Comedy guy Torben Rolfsen of Vancouver on defenceman Jacob Chychnun being traded from Arizona to Ottawa: "He's truly experiencing climate change."

- Bob Molinaro of pilotonline.com (Hampton, Va.): "The actual March Madness is the Giants giving a four-year \$160

million deal to Daniel Jones, who threw only 15 touchdown passes last season. Who were the Giants bidding against?"

- Mike Bianchi of the Orlando Sentinel: "Gov. Ron DeSantis is calling for President Biden to allow tennis superstar Novak Djokovic into the U.S. to play in the upcoming Miami Open even though he's unvaccinated. Republican response: Wouldn't it be easier if Djokovic just went to Mexico and walked across the border?"

- Comedy writer Alex Kaseberg: "Is anyone else sick of hair-bun boy, Aaron Rodgers's annual 'Golly, I don't know who I am going to play for' drama? Rodgers is like the high school flirt who has told about 10 guys she is thinking about going to the prom with them. Just pick somebody and shut up."

- Jack Finarelli of sportscurmudgeon.com, thought a CBS headline about a top swimmer was not exactly accurate: "Katie Ledecky's nine-year winning streak

on U.S. soil snapped by Summer McIntosh."

- RJ Currie of sports-deke.com: "In honour of the Brier (the Canadian men's curling championship), the top eight Beatles curling hits: 8. Hello, good lie; 7. Tick It to Right; 6. Please Freeze Me; 5. Paperback Slider; 4. A Guard Day's Night; 3. Hack in the USSR; 2. You're Going to Lose That Curl; 1. I Should Have Thrown Better."

- Headline at fark.com: "Workers watching NCAA tournament cost businesses \$14 billion, says study put out by Centre for Pulling Numbers Out of (the air)."

- Former Tiger Woods' mistress Rachel Uchitel, who hosts a podcast, asking more recent Woods' girlfriend Erica Herman to appear as a guest. Both were required by Woods to sign Non-Disclosure Agreements: "We can both sit in silence for 30 minutes courtesy of Tiger Woods."

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

Minutes of a Spiritwood Town Council meeting

(Where necessary, the following minutes may have been edited for clarity or brevity)

The regular meeting of the Council of the Town of Spiritwood was held in the Council Chambers at the Spiritwood Town Office, 212 Main Street, on Jan. 24, 2023, at 7 p.m.

In attendance were, Mayor Gary von Holwede, Councillor Brad Nemish, Councillor Bryan Wingerter, Councillor Ragnar Latus, Councillor George Pretli, and CAO Rhonda Saam.

Absent was Councillor Jim Bedi.

A quorum being present, Mayor Von Holwede called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Pretli: That the agenda be adopted as presented. Carried

Pretli: That the minutes of the regular meeting on Jan. 10, 2023, be approved as presented. Carried

Latus: That the correspondence be filed as presented. Carried

Wingerter: That the Accounts for Ratification, Cheque No. 32419 to 32426 and payment #1157 to 1166 in the amount of \$43,217.52 be approved as presented. Carried

Wingerter: That the Accounts for Approval, Cheque No. 32427 to 32436 and payment #1167 in the amount of \$18,142.34 be approved as presented. Carried

Wingerter: That the Draft Financial Statement for the month of December 2022 be approved as presented. Carried

Nemish: That we ratify the transfer of funds for the 2022 Cemetery Plot Fees in the amount of \$1,750 and the Cemetery Internment Fees in the amount of \$2,750 from the General Chequing Account to the Cemetery Maintenance Fund/Infrastructure Savings Account as of Dec. 31, 2022. Carried

Wingerter: That we ratify the transfer of the 2022 Infrastructure Fees in the amount of \$27,502.86 from the General Chequing Account to the Cemetery Maintenance/Infrastructure Savings Account as of Dec. 31, 2022. Carried.

Wingerter: That the bank interest earned as of Dec. 31, 2022, on the Cemetery/Infrastructure Plan 24 Savings Account 833680124660 be allocated to GL 310-100-400 Reserve- Water/Sewer Infrastructure from GL 590-900-900. Carried

Nemish: That we approve switching the Town of Spiritwood Plan 24 Savings Accounts with Prairie Centre Credit Union to Fast Track Savings Accounts which currently have an interest rate of 1.5%. Carried

Wingerter: That the verbal reports be filed as presented. Carried

Wingerter: That we do not attend the SAMA Annual Meeting on April 5, 2023. Carried

Wingerter: That the following remuneration be made for 2023, effective Jan. 1, 2023:

Council and Mayor: Mayor – \$250/month, Regular Meetings – \$90/meeting, Special Meetings – \$90/meeting, Committee Meetings – \$50/meeting, Away for Town Business – \$110/day;

Meals: Breakfast – \$15/day, Lunch – \$20/day, & Supper – \$25/day;

Mileage: \$0.50/km;

Fire Department: Fire Chief – \$250/month, Deputy Fire Chief – \$250/month, Fire Members – fire call-outs – \$20/hr with min 3 hour call out, Fire Members – training – \$20/hr plus mileage if applicable, Fire Members – \$10/meeting; and

Pest Control: Dog Catcher –

\$350/month. Carried

Wingerter: That we approve Form 1 Listing of Lands with Arrears of taxes as presented to council at this meeting; and

That we advertise Form 2 in the Spiritwood Herald for one week with the exception that we do not include in the list, land in respect of which the amount of taxes in arrears does not exceed one half of the immediately preceding year's tax levy with respect to that land, as per Section 3(3) of the Tax Enforcement Act. Carried

Nemish: That we approve the Disposal of Records as per Bylaw No. 534/20 Record Retention Bylaw, and as presented and attached to form part of the minutes. Carried

Wingerter: That the required Form H Notice of Call for Nominations be posted and published in the Spiritwood Herald, as per the Local Government Election Act, for the Municipal By-Election in April 2023. Carried

Nemish: That we accept the offer to purchase Lot 19 Block 32 (404 Sixth Avenue East) in the amount of \$18,000 plus GST and have our lawyer draft a purchase agreement. Carried

Pretli: That we do not pro-

vide support for the fundraising request for the Witchekan Lake First Nation billiards team. Carried

Wingerter: That we do not provide support for the fundraising request for barrel racing sponsorship. Carried

Wingerter: That we approve forwarding the attached outstanding utility accounts past due 90 days as of Jan. 23, 2023, to the Tax Roll. Carried

Wingerter: That we approve the quote to replace the oversized window in the Spiritwood Library building in the amount of \$3,375.36 from Kyle Johnson/Lakeland Ent. Carried

Wingerter: That this meeting be adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

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Saskatchewan First Act passes in legislature

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle
Reporter

The Sask. Party government says it has taken another step toward protecting the province from “federal government overreach”, by passing The Saskatchewan First Act in the legislature on Thursday, March 16.

The final reading of the bill was mostly a formality, as all Sask. Party MLAs in attendance voted in favour, and so did Saskatchewan United Party Leader Nadine Wilson. Opposition NDP members stood and voted against the bill, and were joined by Indigenous guests in the gallery.

Also called Bill 88, The Saskatchewan First Act amends the Constitution of Saskatch-

ewan to clearly confirm Saskatchewan’s autonomy and assert Saskatchewan’s exclusive legislative jurisdiction under Section 92 (A) of the Constitution of Canada over a number of areas, including:

- the exploration for non-renewable natural resources;
- the development, conservation, and management of non-renewable natural and forestry resources; and
- the operation of sites and facilities for the generation and production of electrical energy.

The Act will also create an independent Economic Impact Assessment Tribunal that will define, quantify, and report on the economic effects of federal initiatives on provincial invest-

ments and Saskatchewan projects, businesses and people.

“This Act protects our province from constitutional overreach by the federal government,” Justice Minister and Attorney General Bronwyn Eyre said following the passing of Bill 88. “We will always stand up for Saskatchewan people against policies that hurt our economic potential and growth.”

The Saskatchewan First Act was first introduced in the Sask. Party government’s fall throne speech and was a response to a Ministry of Finance report, titled “Drawing the Line: Defending Saskatchewan’s Economic Autonomy,” which suggested that the federal government’s environmental policies could cost Saskatchewan up to \$111 billion by

2035.

Both the report, and The Saskatchewan First Act, have been criticized by the opposition and Indigenous groups, who say the legislation tramples on Treaty rights and contend that the government failed to properly consult with Indigenous people.

“The Minister [of Justice] herself admitted that this bill doesn’t change our relationship with Ottawa or strengthen Saskatchewan’s position in the Confederation,” said Justice Critic Nicole Sarauer. “All they did was copy and paste the Constitution into a bill, left out the bits about our Treaties, and slapped a flashy title on it. If my kid pulled a stunt like this at school, they’d be docked marks for plagiarism and turning in an incomplete

assignment.”

The Sask. Party government, however, argues that The Saskatchewan First Act was drafted following discussions with First Nations and Métis people and organizations, and says amendments were introduced by Athabasca MLA Jim LeMaigre to specifically state that nothing in the Act “abrogates or derogates from Aboriginal and Treaty rights.”

“Treaty rights are already enshrined and protected in all provincial legislation, as well as Section 35 of the federal Constitution Act, 1982,” Eyre said. “However, I welcome the amendments from the Member from Athabasca, which provide even further clarity and certainty about our government’s respect for Treaty rights.”

GOOD NEWS



LOVE OF GOD

By **DAVE BODVARSON**
Shellbrook Pentecostal Assembly

Fred Lehman wrote a wonderful song. Here is the thing, Lehman ran into problems with his business. He lost everything. He got a job working in a packing house packing oranges and lemons into wooden crates.

Fred was a Christian. He listened to a wonderful message on a Sunday Evening service on the love of God that so moved him he could hardly sleep.

He did go to work the next day, but the theme of God’s love was still on his mind. In order to remember some words that flooded his mind, he would write them down on various pieces of broken crates as he went along.

When Fred Lehman got home, he

went to his old upright piano and began arranging the words and writing a melody to fit them. Fred got two verses for his song, but couldn’t come up with a third.

It seems the Holy Spirit led Fred Lehman to a poem that someone had given him some time before. He noticed there was a note at the end of the poem. It said, “These words were found written on a cell in a prison some 200 years ago.”

It wasn’t clear why the prisoner wrote the words on the wall. Did he hear them from somewhere and decide to put them in a place where he could be reminded of the greatest of God’s love? The prisoner passed away. Some men had the job of repainting the cell. Before they repainted the cell, one of

the men who was taken back by the words decided to write them down and keep them.

Fred Lehman went to his old upright piano and began to sing the words with the melody, and they were a perfect fit. It was an absolute miracle. The song was published and remains today with the words as the last verse.

The story is even more interesting because it appears that poem was actually written in Hebrew around the year 1000 by Meir Ben Isaac Nehoria, a Jewish Rabbi.

What is absolutely amazing is that God knew that Fred Lehman was going to write a song about the love of God. He also knew that Lehman was going to struggle writing the third verse, so He picked Rabbi Meir Ben

Isaac Nehoria to write words about the love of God.

On top of that, God kept those words, and hundreds of years later He would have them translated by a prisoner so that they might one day fit into Lehman’s melody.

The words were, “Could we with ink the ocean fill/And were the skies of parchment made/Were every stalk on earth a quill/And every man a scribe by trade.

To write the love of God above/Would drain the ocean dry/Nor could the scroll contain the whole/Though stretched from sky to sky.

O love of God, how rich and pure!/ How measureless and strong!/ It shall forevermore endure/The saints and angels’ song.”

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Growing orchids – Part II

By PATRICIA HANBIDGE

Growing orchids is a very satisfying thing to do. They will grace your home with colour that lasts for months! So superior to cut flowers and it is not really that difficult to grow them. Last week we talked about Paphiopedilum or the slipper orchids and this week we will focus on Phalaenopsis which includes several hundred different genera and many thousands of species. The Phalaenopsis is also one of the easiest orchids to grow and is commonly seen in stores everywhere.

They come in a multitude of colours and their elegant and branching blooms are featured in many home style magazines. If treated properly, the blooms will last for many months. They are a great orchid for beginners to grow and can be obtained for a very reasonable price in many of our big box stores. Ideally, it is best to purchase them as soon as they are shipped in as the plant care in these large retail stores is not always of the best quality. They are also available from growers, greenhouses and other plant stores and it is more likely that in these locations, the plants will get better care and thus are more likely to keep their blooms for longer.

Your Phalaenopsis should be placed in a window that faces east or south or alternatively in any room with bright but

indirect sunlight. If possible, the humidity level should be as high as 70% to ensure the plant will thrive. Placing the pot on a tray with a layer of wet gravel will assist in keeping the humidity at a better level. It is also important to keep a gentle air circulation in the room which can be done by placing a fan on low. Ensure it is not blowing directly on the orchid.

Daytime temperatures are best between 65 to 80 degrees Fahrenheit (18 to 26 degrees Celsius) are best. During the night, the temperature should be slightly cooler from 60 to 70 degrees Fahrenheit (15 to 21 degrees Celsius).

Plants that are purchased may not have the best media mix for longevity. Often, plants are only packed in sphagnum moss which leaves your plant at risk of being kept too wet. Personally, I prefer a mixture of fir bark, sphagnum moss and leca or expanded clay pellets. I also prefer to use a bit of oyster shell in the mix as well. The bark is available in many sizes so with smaller orchids, generally you would use a finer bark. Depending on the growth environment and frequency of watering the amount of sphagnum moss can be adjusted. More moss if you are in a low humidity environment and water less frequently. The clay pellets help to keep the

media well aerated and thus better to produce healthy roots.

It is important to replicate the natural environment for any plant. Orchids grow in many environments and many orchids are epiphytes or plants that do not grow in the ground. An epiphytic plant will generally grow anchored to other plants but are not parasitic in nature. They will get their water and nutrients from the rain, air and other sources. Most will grow in tropical areas attached below the upper canopy of the trees. They have thick, spongy roots that will absorb and store water and nutrients and some orchids will also have pseudobulbs to aid them in surviving drier conditions.

Fertilization for orchids is given in very low concentrations. I prefer to fertilize approximately once per month and generally water once or twice a week. The watering regime is generally more often for orchids in smaller pots and for those orchids which do not have pseudobulbs, but again each situation is different so adjust accordingly.

Hanbidge is the Lead Horticulturist with Orchid Horticulture. Find us at www.orchidhort.com; by email at info@orchidhort.com; on facebook @orchidhort and on instagram at #orchidhort.

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Minutes of an RM of Canwood meeting

(Where necessary, the following minutes may have been edited for clarity or brevity)

A regular meeting of the Council of the Rural Municipality of Canwood No. 494 was held in the Municipal Council Chambers, at 641 Main Street, Canwood, SK, on Jan. 17, 2023, commencing at 9:05 a.m.

Present – Reeve Lyndon Pease, Administrator Lorna Benson and the following Councillors for their respective divisions: #1 Ralph Korody, #2 Gerald Muller, #3 Gordon Andrews, #4 Mario Boisvert, #5 Kevin Olson, and #6 Cody Lockhart.

Delegations:

9:30 a.m. Dwight Diehl, Public Works Supervisor, Municipal Operations Update

11:45 a.m. Councillor Indemnity

Lockhart: That the Statement of Financial Activities for the month of December 2022 for the R.M. General Account be approved as presented. Carried

Korody: That we approve the payments as listed on the attached account listing for a total of \$809,650.51, Council Direct Deposits for January and Payroll Direct Deposits for 2022 Pay Periods 26 & 2023 Pay Period 1. Carried

Public Works Supervisor Dwight Diehl attended the meeting at 9:35 a.m.

Lockhart: That the minutes of the Dec. 20, 2022, Regular Council Meeting be approved. Carried

Boisvert: That the Council of the R.M. of Canwood No. 494 has no objections to the sale of the following Crown Lands and wishes to offer the following comments:

1. The municipality assumes no responsibility for access to the parcel of lands;

2. Future development will be conditional to land abutting a developed road (Basic Planning Statement Bylaw No. 2003-6);

3. The Ministry of Agriculture shall insist on the registration of parcel ties where appropriate with Information Services Corporation (ISC) to ensure access is not jeopardized by future land transactions;

4. The Ministry of Agriculture shall register an interest on titles that currently do not abut a developed roadway to ensure landowners are made aware of access issues; and

5. To the best of Council's knowledge, the following comments can be made with respect to the specific parcels of land in this specific lease: NE 32-53-06 W3 does not abut a developed municipal roadway; SE 32-53-06 W3 does not abut a developed municipal roadway; NW 32-53-06 W3 abuts a developed municipal roadway. Carried

Pease: That we offer the following comments on the Mistawasis Nehiyawak TLE Land Selections:

FILE 839.014 For the lands selected west of Mistawasis Nehiyawak, which include Section 1 and 2 49-06 W3, the road allowances are undeveloped. The Rural Municipality does not wish to retain the road allowances.

The original road allowance to the south of the SW 17-49-06 W3 is not developed and the Rural Municipality does not wish to retain the road allowance.

FILE 839.156 (old 719.31) The original road allowance along the east side of the NE

28-49-06 W3 is undeveloped and the Rural Municipality wishes to retain this road allowance.

The original road allowance along the west side of the NE 28-49-06 W3 is developed and the Rural Municipality wishes to retain this road allowance. Further to this, it must be noted that the Rural Municipality has an interest registered against the title for road widening. Carried

Andrews: That we offer the following comments on the Ahtakakoop TLE Land Selections (list omitted due to space restrictions). Carried

Lockhart: That we agree to purchase one 3350 low-profile bulk water tank plus attachments from Hold-on Industries, Aberdeen, Sask., at a cost of \$5,477.25 plus applicable taxes. Carried

Public Works Supervisor Dwight Diehl left the meeting at 11:20 a.m.

Korody: That we approve the Council's Indemnity as presented. Carried

Pease: That we amend Resolution No. 36 of December 20, 2022, by changing the wording as follows:

"That we appoint Timothy Furlong, Glen Neuert, Kirby Fesser, Sabrina Saccucci as panel members and Michael Ligtermoet as secretary for the Board of Revision for the year 2023." Carried

Boisvert: That we agree to purchase an additional \$5.0 Million Liability Insurance through S.A.R.M. at the premium rate of \$1,851.00 plus applicable tax (PST). Carried

Lockhart: That we agree to purchase \$2.0 Million Errors and Omissions Insurance through S.A.R.M. at the premium of \$367.00 plus applicable tax (PST). Carried

Andrews: That we instruct the Chief Administrative Of-

ficer to complete the required form(s) requesting cancellation of the respective leases and payment of taxes on provincial Crown land which is in arrears of taxes in accordance with the Provincial Lands Policy of the Ministry of Agriculture. Carried

Korody: That for the year 2023, the Reeve and each Councillor be insured under The Saskatchewan Workers' Compensation Act at the rate of \$39,170 per Council member. Carried

Pease: That the following rates of remuneration be set for 2023 Municipal Elections: Returning Officer - \$300 plus \$0.60/km, Deputy Returning Officer - \$250 plus \$0.60/km, Poll Clerk(s) - \$200 plus \$0.60/km. Carried

Olson: That we designate the following polling place for 2023 Municipal Elections: R.M. Office, 641 Main Street, Canwood, SK. Carried

Korody: That we approve the time-off request of Lorna Benson to take Feb. 21 to 24, 2023, as part of her vacation entitlement. Carried

Pease: That we void Cheque No. 012518 dated Dec. 29, 2022, issued to Canwood Bowling Alley in the amount of \$400, as it was issued in duplicate and in error. Carried

Pease: That we agree to make a donation to the Canwood Sno-Blazers Snowmobile Annual Fundraiser to be held March 4, 2023, of two loads of crushed gravel to be delivered within the boundaries of the municipality at no charge to the successful bidder. Carried

Olson: That we agree to make a donation to the Caméo Snowmobile Annual Fundraiser to be held Feb. 25, 2023, of two loads of crushed gravel to be delivered within the boundaries of the municipali-

ty at no charge to the successful bidder. Carried

Olson: That we agree to send Assistant Administrator Michele Person, Development Assistant Jamie Skarpinsky, and Chief Administrative Officer Lorna Benson to the 2023 RMAA Spring Workshop on March 23, 2023, in Prince Albert, Sask., at a cost of \$100 per participant. Carried

Boisvert: That we approve the Permit Extension Application of Terry Bahrey and Laurie Fayant to complete the construction of a new house by Dec. 31, 2023. Carried

Korody: That we advise the Community Planning Branch of the Ministry of Government Relations that we recommend approval of the Application to Subdivide Land of William Wolfe, for the purpose of subdividing Parcel A from the SW 35-49-05 W3, as the site has physical and legal access and exceeds the minimum site area requirements of Section 5 of the Municipal Zoning Bylaw 2003-7. Carried

Pease: That we advise the Community Planning Branch of the Ministry of Government Relations that we recommend approval of the Application to Subdivide Land of Lee and Tara Jaboeuf, for the purpose of removing parcel ties from the NW 10-49-07 W3 Ext 1 and the NW 10-49-07 W3 Ext 2, as each parcel exceeds the minimum site area requirements of Section 5 of the Municipal Zoning Bylaw 2003-7. Carried

Andrews: That we now file the correspondence. Carried

Olson: That we now adjourn at 12:30 p.m. with the next regular meeting of Council to be held Feb. 15, 2023, at the Municipal Council Chambers in the Municipal Building located at 641 Main Street, Canwood, Sask.

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