

## Shellbrook's Ferster eyes Memorial Cup glory

By **JORDAN TWISS**  
*Shellbrook Chronicle*  
Reporter

Growing up in Shellbrook, Ashton Fester learned early on in life what success at the hockey rink looks like by watching his dad, Drew, play for the Shellbrook Elks, and he knew almost immediately he wanted the same thing for himself.

It's no surprise, then, that hockey clicked for him when he first started playing in Shellbrook's IP program as a four- or five-year-old.

"Right off the start it was the first sport I really enjoyed playing, and the only sport I really played at a young age," Ashton recalled, noting he spent a lot of time playing hockey in his basement as well as at the rink. "Growing up watching your dad play for the Shellbrook Elks was pretty cool. I wanted to be like that."

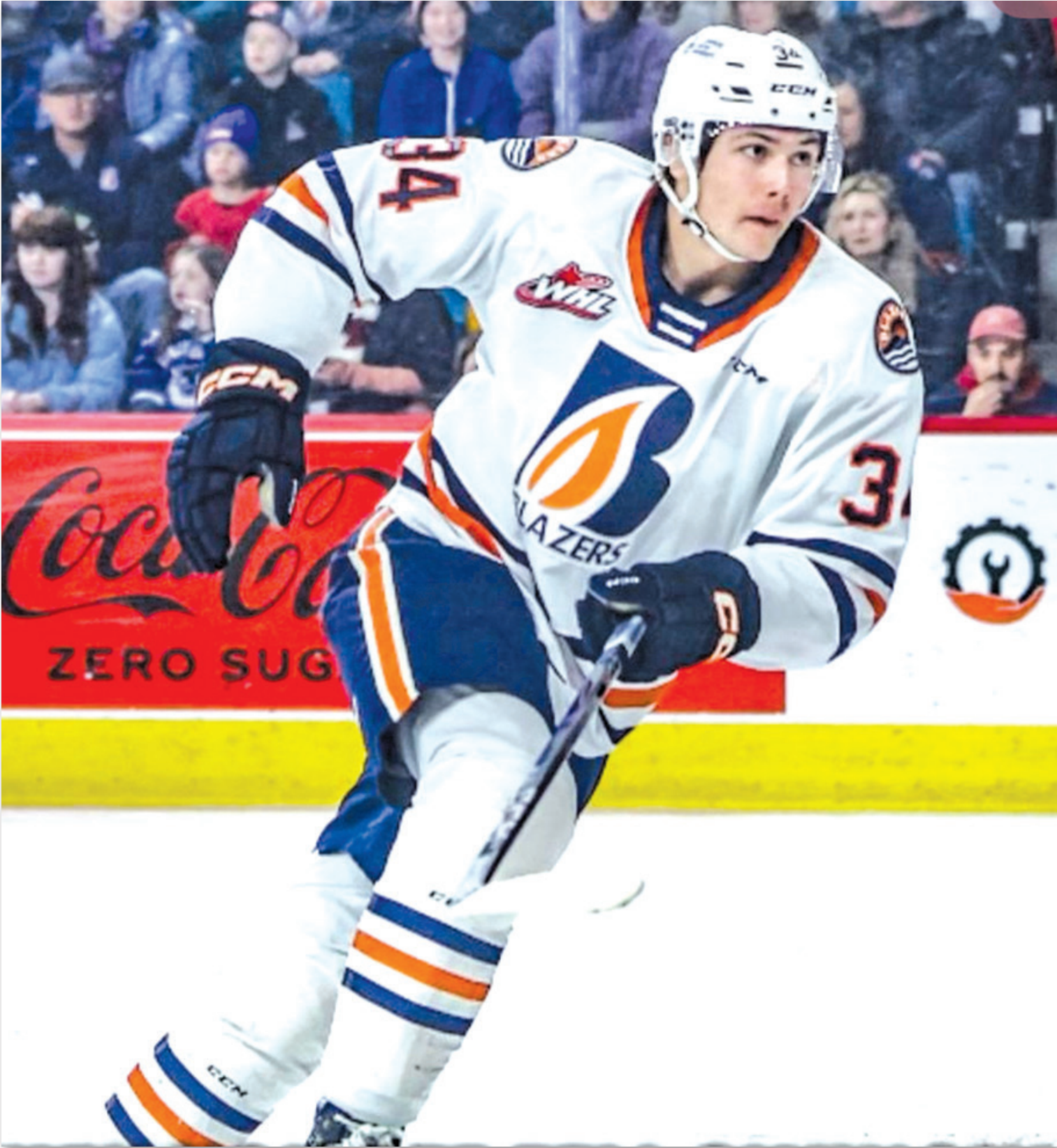
Ashton says the competitive nature of hockey was what first drew him to the sport. He enjoyed that every game — every play — was a battle that he had to be prepared for. Fortunately, he had the support of his parents, who provided everything he needed to succeed, including additional training like power skating.

And in his early days of hockey in Shellbrook, he was also surrounded by friends and teammates who were just as committed to winning, whether it be at tournaments, in league playoffs, or even all the way up to the provincial level.

"It really drives you. It makes you want to play better hockey, more competitive hockey, and move up," Ashton said. "It gives you belief that you can go and do something with it, too."

"Watching the Prince Albert Raiders, too, I always thought that would be my goal to play in the [Western Hockey League] one day. I've always been pushing toward that from a young age," he added.

Ashton certainly put in the work and made the most of the opportunities he was given, moving up to play U15 AA hockey with the Prince Albert Raiders for two seasons, then U18 AAA hockey with the



Shellbrook's Ashton Ferster is set to compete in the Memorial Cup with the WHL's Kamloops Blazers.

Prince Albert Mintos, before being drafted to the Western Hockey League (WHL) to play with the Medicine Hat Tigers.

Now, the 20-year-old forward from little, old Shellbrook is in his third season in the WHL, playing forward for the Kamloops Blazers who are fresh off a tough loss to the Seattle Thunderbirds in the league's Western Conference final.

Despite the premature end

to his first postseason experience in the WHL, Ashton and his teammates will be getting a second crack at the Thunderbirds as the hosts of the Memorial Cup from May 25 to June 4, as well as a chance to play against the best that the Canadian Hockey League (CHL) has to offer.

With the action set to kick off, Ashton says he's still riding the high of the playoffs and feels the team has the momentum it

needs to win. He also believes his team has a lot more to give, and is looking forward to his opportunity to compete at the highest level.

"You always want to play against the best, and in this tournament, every team is the best," he said, noting that every team in the Memorial Cup will be as good as the Seattle Thunderbirds, if not better.

"It's going to take everything we've got, but we'll be

prepared, and we've got a little extra fuel now after being knocked out [of the playoffs]," he said. "You don't usually get second chances in life, but we do, so we're going to try to make the most of it."

Ashton's first opportunity to experience the Memorial Cup will come early Friday night (May 26), as his Kamloops Blazers open the tournament with a match against the Québec Remparts.



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# Johnson eyes zero-waste future

By JORDAN TWISS  
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

Every year, on a per capita basis, Canadians dispose of nearly 700 kilograms of waste, be it plastic, food, or other garbage (in Saskatchewan, that number was 744 kilograms per capita in 2018, the most recent year for which data is available).

While this may not seem like much, it all adds up to more than 30 million tonnes of waste per year, and the lion's share of that waste ends up going to a landfill — or worse, littering our communities.

And with a growing population, both in Canada and globally, annual waste generation is expected to increase by up to 73 per cent by 2050.

“The way it’s done now, it’s a linear economy,” said Randall Johnson, owner of Shellbrook’s TJ Disposals. “All your resources get manufactured, get consumed and used, and 91 per cent goes to waste. Less than 9 per cent gets recycled.”

All this waste is costly, and dealing with it can be a challenge. Indeed, according to the World Bank, effective waste management strategies can eat up between 20 and 50 per cent of municipal budgets. And when landfills inevitably need to be expanded or decommissioned, the costs can be more than municipalities can bear without significant grant funding.

Apart from the dollars and cents of it, there are also the environmental concerns associated with landfills. Due to the increasing regionalization of waste management in the province, Saskatchewan was home to 120 landfills as of 2022 (a sharp decline from the approximately 500 municipal landfills the province had in 2015).

“Lots of landfills are in places they shouldn’t be. You’re going to get lots of leaching through the soil,” Johnson said, noting that another major environmental concern is so-called “forever chemicals” like PFAS and PFOS.

“If these things get incinerated, all that stuff just goes into the atmosphere. It’s starting to show up big time all over the world, down into our water and food systems.”

But what if it didn’t have to be this way?  
What if all municipal waste could be recycled?  
What if unsightly landfills could be eliminated?

Up until a few months ago, Johnson would have thought this was impossible, like something straight out of a science fiction movie. But after learning of the Florida-based company Carbotura, and its Recyclotron technology, he believes it can be done.

“I want to get past all the skepticism,” Johnson said. “I’ve done quite a few presentations, and the biggest comment is, ‘This is too good to be true.’ But it is true.”

Carbotura’s Recyclotron is a modular unit that is scalable to handle anywhere from 25 tonnes to 10,000 tonnes of waste per day. The units use in-



Randall Johnson of TJ Disposals believes Carbotura’s Recyclotron will be key to creating a zero-waste world.

dustrial multiphase microwave reactors, with both thermal and non-thermal microwave plasma reactors, to disintegrate and convert waste into reusable materials, including fuels, electricity, minerals like graphite and graphene, and much more.

Aside from live munitions and radioactive waste, the Recyclotron can process just about everything, from plastics, to tires, to wind turbine blades and solar panels, to hazardous waste, without the need for materials to be sorted or combusted.

Additionally, Recyclotron systems are self-powered by gas turbine generators and equipped with a microwave plasma reactor to process exhaust gases, creating a “zero-emissions, zero-waste” process. “Everything goes back to a manufacturer already partially processed and can be reused. Everything is 100 per cent recyclable,” Johnson said.

“We can take our garbage and make fuel out of it, instead of pumping any more out of the ground. Plus, all the energy we’ve been burying for the last 100 years in our landfills can all be mined and reused.”

Recyclotron units require minimal infrastructure, with a typical “entry level” facility capable of processing 500 tonnes per day requiring about 30,000 square feet of floor space and 35 feet of overhead clearance, as well as storage space for incoming waste and outgoing materials. But because of Saskatchewan’s large area and sparse population, Carbotura is willing to scale down units to 25 tonnes per day.

What’s more, Johnson says Carbotura supplies all the equipment and maintenance for Recyclotrons,

and asks only for a 30-year contract guaranteeing a certain capacity of waste from its clients.

Like traditional garbage and recycling services charge a tipping fee, there’s also a cost of \$65-\$100 per tonne of waste. However, all waste is baled and tracked to its originator via QR code, allowing these costs to be rebated back to clients through carbon credits and material sales.

With Carbotura having finalized its funding at the end of 2022, the focus for this year will be on making believers out of the rest of the world, and beginning deployment. Johnson will play a key role in this by giving presentations to potential clients across western Canada, including municipalities in the area.

In Saskatchewan, to manage the waste produced daily and eliminate the province’s existing landfills over time, Johnson says the investment on Carbotura’s part will be in the neighbourhood of \$2.3 billion.

This investment, Johnson adds, will create economic spin-offs for the province, as much of the equipment can be manufactured in Saskatchewan, and feeders and handlers will be required to work at Recyclotron facilities (which will most likely be setup at existing landfills to boost efficiency). It will also mean the elimination of landfill fees, which Johnson says account for about half of his business costs.

Of course, none of this can happen overnight. Once contracts are finalized, it will take between nine and 18 months for systems to get up and running. And based on his preliminary calculations, it will take at least 70 years to completely clean up the province’s existing landfills.

Despite the long road ahead, Johnson is excited for what’s to come.

“We’re here to untrash the planet,” he said.

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ANNUAL GENERAL  
MEETING

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at the Clubhouse at the lake

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SAT., JUNE 17<sup>th</sup> – Alma & Kevin Latus – Farm Sale – Spiritwood  
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Fri., May 26<sup>th</sup> & Sat., May 27<sup>th</sup>

Multiple Garage Sales around the Village

Pulled Pork on Bun at the Library  
(Friday 4pm – 6pm & Saturday 11am – 2pm)

Used Book Sale at the Library  
(Friday 1pm – 5pm & Saturday 9am – 4pm)

THE VILLAGE OF PARKSIDE  
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For more information contact Mayor David Moe  
at (306) 747-2275.

Hidden Hills of Shellbrook  
Golf Course Incorporated

ANNUAL MEETING

Monday, May 29, 2023  
at 8:00 p.m.

Sand Trap Lounge, Hidden Hills Golf Club  
99 2<sup>nd</sup> St. West, Shellbrook, SK

Members of the Hidden Hills Golf Course  
are invited to attend the annual general  
meeting. Presentation of the operations  
for 2022 will be presented.

Election of the board of directors  
will take place.

Nominations for directors may be forwarded  
to President Clark Pepper at the Shellbrook  
Chronicle office in Shellbrook, SK by  
May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023 or be nominated at this AGM!



# Health Committee garage sale makes comeback

By BEVRA FEE  
Spiritwood Correspondent

The massive indoor garage sale that was begun by the Northern Lakes Health Committee (NLHC) as a fundraiser many years ago has been resurrected for the group.

Originating in the early years of the committee's existence – circa 2010 – the big indoor garage sale at the Spiritwood Civic Centre was a major

fundraiser when the group was undertaking the physician recruitment effort.

Since the movement to provincial recruiting, the focus of the NLHC has shifted toward providing a soft landing for practitioners arriving in Spiritwood to staff the Collaborative Emergency Centre. With fundraising gone dormant in recent years, due to both lack of need and global pandemic restrictions, the committee is once

again actively raising funds in order to maintain its efforts. Having purchased a house in Spiritwood in 2022, the committee is working toward developing a legal rental suite in the basement in order to house more than one practitioner in the home.

To that end, the garage sale has been in the planning stage since January of this year, and with the date arriving on May 19 the turnout was impressive. Donation drop-off day was on Thursday, May 18, and the overwhelming support meant that the Spiritwood Civic Centre was full to the brim with great bargains. The committee members worked all day from 9 a.m. until after 6 p.m. to sort and display the donations ahead of sale day.

fundraisers in the future, in addition to being in a position to offer tax receipts for donations once the charitable designation is finalized.



From left to right: Customer Laura Andres receives assistance from Diane Wingerter and Sharon Olson.



The Spiritwood Civic Centre was full to the brim with great bargains for the return of the Northern Lakes Health Committee's indoor garage sale fundraiser.

From the 9 a.m. opening on sale day until 6 p.m., the steady stream of shoppers kept the committee hopping. In addition to the garage sale, a lunch counter was available for those who needed a break or who wanted to stop in and visit over dinner hour. With generous support from local businesses Fast Genetics, Northern Meats, Hujber's Market on Main, and several private donors, all costs for the lunch were covered.

"The support from our business community, as well as the Town and RM covering the cost of renting the Civic Centre has given us such a boost," said project lead Helen Mack.

The final tally from the day will add nearly \$6,000 to the account earmarked for housing development.

"With the housing market so tight in Spiritwood, we felt a need to be proactive in making our own availability when it comes to assisting practitioners," said NLHC chairperson Laura Beauchesne. "The Spiritwood Health Complex Foundation has partnered with us to achieve our goal of owning a house, and now we intend to make the most of the opportunity."

The NLHC is working toward incorporating as a registered non-profit organization and will be planning more



The Northern Lakes Health Committee's indoor garage sale had something for everyone.



Laura Beauchesne (left) and Doris Schweitzer organize donations prior to sale day.

### TOWN OF BIG RIVER PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice is hereby given that the Council of the Town of Big River intends to adopt a bylaw pursuant to Section 207 of *The Planning and Development Act*, 2007 to amend Bylaw No. 2015-01, known as the Official Community Plan and Bylaw No. 2015-02, known as the Zoning Bylaw.

**INTENT**  
The proposed bylaws will amend:  
Bylaw No. 2015-01, the Official Community Plan and Bylaw No. 2015-02, the Zoning Bylaw Zoning District Map, to rezone Lot 23 Block 9, Plan BS4857, as shown within the bold dashed line on the map below, from R1 – Low Density Residential District to C1 – Core Mixed Commercial District.

**AFFECTED LAND**  
The affected land is legally described as Lot 23, Block 9, Plan BS4857, which is located at 115 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue South as shown within the bold dashed line on the following map.

**REASON**  
The reason for the amendment is to regulate and encourage commercial development in the Town core.

**PUBLIC INSPECTION**  
Any person may inspect the bylaws at the Town Office in Big River on any judicial day from Monday to Friday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon and 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Copies are available to persons at a cost of \$1.00 each.

**PUBLIC HEARING**  
Council will hold a public hearing on June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. in the Board Room at Big River Community Centre, 606 1<sup>st</sup> Street North, in Big River, Saskatchewan to hear any person or group that wants to comment on the proposed bylaws. Council will also consider written comments received at the hearing (or delivered to the undersigned at the municipal office before the hearing).

Issued at Big River this 25<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2023.  
Noreen Olsen, Administrator

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### Happy Hearts Childcare Centre

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**Monday, June 12<sup>th</sup> 7:00 p.m.**  
@ Happy Hearts Childcare Centre  
(a short meeting will follow for board members)  
Please join us to learn more about Happy Hearts Children Centre

We are looking to fill 5 positions on our board:  
1-2 Community Members  
1 Before & After School Representative  
2-3 Centre Parents/Caregivers

For more information on AGM & joining the board, please contact Natalie Smart @ (306)747-3991 or [natalie.happyhearts@hotmail.com](mailto:natalie.happyhearts@hotmail.com)  
**We hope to see you on June 12<sup>th</sup>!**

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**Deadline to apply is May 28, 2023**



## Feds' EV strategy hinges on bankrupting taxpayers

Greek mythology tells us of the story of Pandora's Box, which was said to contain a multitude of evils. When the box was opened by the curious Pandora, the evils within were unleashed upon the world and all that remained inside was a single glimmer of hope.

More colloquially, the phrase to describe an action or event that opens the door to unforeseen trouble is "to open a can of worms."

Example: by offering Volkswagen a \$13 billion subsidy package to build an EV battery plant in Ontario at the same time that another company was building its own facility, the federal government sure opened a whole can of worms.

The other company, Dutch automaker Stellantis, had partnered with Korea's LG Energy Solution to build its \$5 billion factory in Windsor after lengthy negotiations with the feds in 2022.

These discussions occurred as the United States was passing its Inflation Reduction Act, a \$369 billion package of tax credits and other incentives aimed at luring manufacturing investment. And according to Stellantis and LG, the feds made repeated promises to match the bag of goodies being offered by the Americans, in a bid to convince the companies to build the factory in Canada.

Nine months later, the companies say Ottawa has yet to deliver on its promises – even as it made a big show of the \$13 billion deal it inked with Volkswagen. As a result, they've halted all work on the facility, and have even threatened to pull the plug on it altogether and setup shop in the U.S.

"In the event our agreement is not promptly executed, we will be forced to make difficult decisions regarding this project and other respective investments in Canada in order to deliver on our commitments to bring new technology to the North American market," the CEOs wrote in an April 19 letter to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

Though the feds have never revealed how much was promised to Stellantis, they also haven't contradicted reports that the total was \$500 million (the same amount being ponied up by the Government of Ontario).

This certainly pales in comparison to the bait offered to Volkswagen, which includes \$700 million from the Strategic Innovation Fund to support capital



JORDAN  
TWISS

~  
News Editor

costs and begin construction, and the aforementioned \$13 billion in subsidies if the company meets certain production targets over the next five years.

Last week, as he visited South Korea, it fell to Mr. Trudeau to salvage the Stellantis deal (hopefully without reaching any deeper into taxpayers' wallets).

Though I had no idea an "I told you so" moment would come about so quickly, this is precisely what I meant when I

said a few weeks ago that there would be no putting the subsidy genie back in the bottle.

After all, if you were the CEOs of Stellantis and LG, and you caught wind that the feds had served Volkswagen a plump and juicy filet mignon while you were chewing on a gristly rump roast, wouldn't you be asking them to sweeten the deal, too?

This is why it's so dangerous for governments to make offering huge subsidies a regular part of doing business. Once a government offers significant money to one company in exchange for its investment, the next company is going to ask for the same deal – or perhaps an even better one – and threaten to take its business elsewhere if the government refuses to cater to its demands.

It's called a race to the bottom. Whether it's due to low costs, low taxes, or minimal bureaucratic red tape, companies will always go where it's cheapest or easiest to do business.

While this means it's necessary for Canada to compete with other jurisdictions for investment, there comes a point when the costs of competing begin to outweigh the benefits to the economy and taxpayers.

With its Inflation Reduction Act, the United States already pays automakers between \$2,700 to \$4,500 for every EV battery they manufacture.

Sure, inflation saw the cost of the raw materials required for EV battery packs more than double last year to \$8,255 per unit, and labour and other expenses have to be factored in, but that's still a substantial share of the "cost of doing business" being subsidized by the taxpayer.

How much more can Canadian taxpayers afford to give in this government's pursuit of its vision to make all car and passenger truck sales zero-emission by



2035?

In 2021, there were 26.2 million registered vehicles in Canada, with 94.9 per cent of those being gasoline-powered vehicles, according to Statistics Canada. Comparatively, there were less than 250,000 registered battery and plug-in electric vehicles on the road (or less than 1 per cent of all vehicles). Globally, the market share for EVs is 2.2 per cent.

In short, there's a long way to go before EVs become the dominant vehicle on the road, and it's not only because there aren't enough EVs available.

Though rebates are offered, new EVs in Canada still carry an average cost of \$83,510, with the cheapest model available priced at \$39,498. Sure, making all vehicles EVs will likely lower the price tag, but this is still out of reach for a lot of Canadians.

When the shift to EVs and the phasing out of fossil fuels results in gas stations shutting off the pumps, how are those who can't afford to buy EVs meant to get around – especially those who live in rural areas?

Moreover, while the feds have focused much of their attention on producing EVs and EV batteries, they've remained relatively quiet about one important piece of the equation: the infrastructure required to support 26.2 million (or more) EVs.

According to the Canadian Vehicle Manufacturers Association (CVMA), the feds' current plan will leave Canadians with just one public charger for every 70 EVs by 2030.

This puts Canada in the bottom third of the world and far behind countries like the U.S. and China, which will have 30 and 10 EVs per charger, respectively.

"We're a massive country with a huge network of roads, including in rural and remote areas, where you might not have high volumes of vehicle traffic. But that doesn't mean that you can't build out the infrastructure, because people in those communities will require it," CVMA president Brian Kingston said, calling Canada's plan for EV infrastructure one of the "least comprehensive and ambitious" amongst its peers.

The numbers above only factor in the chargers available to drivers as they're out on the road, and at-home charging is projected to be the primary charging source for most Canadians.

The trouble is, it's not as simple as just plugging your vehicle in – at least, not if you plan to travel far in a timely fashion. For many homeowners, switching to an EV could also mean costly renovations to ensure their homes can handle the added load.

And on a broader scale, this translates to a much higher demand on the entire electric grid, which, if not adequately prepared for, could result in severe strain or even blackouts.

Though the transition to EVs may be necessary, it is not a transition that can be rushed or half-baked.

Thus far, there's little evidence to suggest the feds have thought of anything aside from what the taxpayers can be made to subsidize.

### Shellbrook Chronicle

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### Spiritwood Herald

Serving the Communities of Spiritwood, Shell Lake, Leoville, Chitek Lake, Mildred, Rabbit Lake, Medstead, Mayfair, Bapaume, Belbutte, Glaslyn

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## Report from the Legislature

As the wildfire situation continues to develop in northern Saskatchewan, we are thinking of all the communities that are going through an incredibly challenging time.

The provincial command has been activated through Saskatchewan Public Safety’s Provincial Emergency Operations Centre (PEOC) to assist in wildfire response. The PEOC will provide a central point to co-ordinate the operational response of provincial government ministries, agencies and Crown corporations. Representatives will provide daily technical briefings to the media as the wildfire situation evolves.

The Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency (SPSA) is ensuring food and fuel are accessible to northern communities by escorting delivery trucks on roads and highways that are currently closed due to fires.

A fire ban has been issued for all Crown lands, provincial parks and the Northern Saskatchewan Administrative District north of Highway 16. Many municipalities also



**HON. SCOTT MOE,  
PREMIER**

~

*MLA for Rosthern -  
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have fire bans in place.

Thank you to all the first responders, volunteers and those working tirelessly to combat these wildfires and keep people safe. To keep up with the latest fire risks and bans, please visit [www.saskpublicsafety.ca/emergencies-and-response/wildfire-status](http://www.saskpublicsafety.ca/emergencies-and-response/wildfire-status). Residents seeking information about fire bans or evacuations are asked to call the wildfire inquiry line at 1-855-559-5502.

The spring sitting of the Legislature is now complete. Our government passed several bills that will continue our work, creating growth in our

province. This spring, the Government of Saskatchewan passed The Saskatchewan First Act. This legislation amends the Constitution of Saskatchewan to clearly confirm our autonomy and assert the province’s exclusive legislative jurisdiction over the exploration, development, and management of non-renewable natural resources, forestry resources, and the generation and production of electricity.


Our government announced Saskatchewan’s plan for electricity generation to 2035 and beyond. This plan commits to achieving net-zero by 2050 with an energy mix that ensures reliable base-load power and affordable customer rates. This includes using existing natural gas plant assets to the end of life and working toward small modular reactors, while continuing to expand intermittent power sources, such as wind and solar.

This plan will ensure Saskatchewan’s electrical generation is reliable, affordable, sustainable, and achievable. Our government will not drive

up SaskPower rates for Saskatchewan families to reach the federal government’s arbitrary 2035 target.

As we move into the summer, you will see work continue on several projects laid out in this year’s record \$3.7 billion capital budget. These projects will ensure we have the schools, hospitals and highways our growing province needs.

Ground was recently broken on the new joint-use school in Moose Jaw. The new kindergarten – grade 12 school in Blaine Lake is on track to be finished by September of this year, and the Kindergarten to Grade 12 school in Carrot River will open in 2024. Expansions and renovations at Holy Rosary High School in Lloydminster, Lloydminster Comprehensive High School, John Paul II Collegiate in North Battleford, and Yorkton Regional High School will be completed by this fall. The replacement and consolidation of Argyle School and Ecole St. Pius X School in Regina will also be completed by this fall. In



**HON. JEREMY  
HARRISON  
MLA**

~

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addition, work will begin this fiscal year on a new Kindergarten to Grade 12 school in Lanigan, new elementary schools in Regina and Saskatoon, and a new elementary school to replace Francis Cree Immersion School in Saskatoon.

In the coming weeks, the ground will be broken on the Weyburn General Hospital project, and site preparation will continue on the Prince Albert Victoria Hospital project. The Urgent Care Centre in Regina is halfway complete and will open early next year, and a location has been chosen for the Saskatoon Urgent Care Cen-

tre in partnership with Ahtahkakoop Cree Developments. Other notable investments will see construction begin later this fiscal year on new long-term care centres in Grenfell and La Ronge and the new parkade at the Regina General Hospital.

Construction on our provincial highways is also in full swing; travellers are reminded to keep an eye out for construction zones and slow down to ensure everyone’s safety. Our government has plans to improve 1,000 kilometres (km) of highways this year, for a total of 4,600 km of highways improved over the last four years.

Investments in this year’s budget will lay the foundation for further growth throughout the province. Now that the spring sitting of the Legislature is complete, I look forward to connecting with you around the constituency at events throughout the summer. Your thoughts, suggestions, and feedback are valuable to me as we continue to build on Saskatchewan’s growth.

## YOUR TWO CENTS

### No summer Pickleball in the Shellbrook Curling Rink

Dear editor,

The Shellbrook Pickleball Club is very disappointed the Town of Shellbrook wouldn’t recognize the value of offering Pickleball as a recreational sport in the curling rink for the summer months.

Last year, the Pickleball Club approached Town Council requesting to use the curling rink surface to play pickleball for the summer months. The pickleball club did extensive research looking for a suitable surface to play on in the summer months, after trying to use the Kinsmen outdoor rink for one year and pricing out the cost of building a new surface. The cost to build a new surface or refurbish the Kinsmen Rink was extremely expensive and the curling rink surface made the most sense, especially considering no one uses the curling rink in the summer. The Pickleball Club researched the cost of sports tiles and benefits and thought this would be a good option, if Town Council agreed on an affordable rate.

The Shellbrook Pickleball Club presented the benefits of pickleball to council. We indicated we are still a small club trying to introduce the sport to Shellbrook and will have limited funds for a few years as we want to purchase sports tiles, which will cost approximately \$25,000. We explained pickleball is very

easy to learn at any age, and very affordable compared to other sports. Not all families can afford hockey, lacrosse, or golf. Pickleball is great exercise and an activity the whole family can play for a very affordable rate. Our club indicated we would be able to pay \$100 per month, or the cost to turn the lights on, and requested an affordable rate for two or three years. Council agreed on \$100 per month. The Pickleball Club was responsible for all janitorial requirements, as well as cleaning supplies for the facility during the rental period. The Pickleball Club kept the curling rink surface and lower bathrooms immaculate during the rental period.

The Pickleball Club enjoyed using the curling rink surface last summer, and was able to leave the nets up between days of playing. It was very convenient and the Pickleball Club offered pickleball to all community members four days a week, as well as free pickleball lessons from a certified instructor. Our Pickleball Club also offered free pickleball instruction and demonstrations to several youth groups from Shellbrook and area.

Our Pickleball Club assumed we would be paying the same affordable rate for the 2023 summer. We were shocked when we received notice from the Recreation

Director indicating Town Council wanted to increase our fees to \$40 per hour. This would increase the rent from \$100 per month to over \$1600 per month if we played four days a week.

This would be impossible for our members, as pickleball is a very inexpensive sport and we would not be able to afford this proposed rate. Our Pickleball Club requested a meeting with the Recreation Committee in hopes they would understand our funding situation.

Our club scheduled a meeting with the Recreation Committee on May 3. We emailed what we felt were very compelling questions and concerns prior to the meeting, so the committee had a better understanding of the impact this rate increase would have on the Pickleball Club.

Five pickleball members attended the meeting and were very disappointed with the responses from the Recreation Committee members. We were told other user groups who were using the skating rink side complained about unfair rent between user groups. We explained the Pickleball Club and sport is very different from organized sports. Also, pickleball was played on the curling rink side in a different building with a different surface. Anyone can drop in and play pickleball and the numbers vary from day to day, it’s very different from a team sport. Council suggested we charge members more to play. We explained we charge similar to other pickleball clubs. We also indicated many communities have outdoor pickleball courts and people play for free on most outdoor courts and curling rinks.

One suggestion from a pickleball member was a rent to purchase agreement with the Town to purchase the sport

tiles. The Town would own the sport tiles, credit our club \$25,000, and our Pickleball Club would pay an hourly rate, the rental would be deducted from the credit.

The Recreation Committee asked our club to come up with a proposal to provide to Council for their next meeting on May 8. The pickleball club provided two options: The first was to play two or three times a week for two hours at a time and pay \$400 per month. The second was the rent to purchase agreement we discussed at the meeting.

We were optimistic council would reconsider the rate and understand the differences between using the curling rink surface as opposed to the skating rink side. We were hopeful Council would recognize the time, effort and funds our club has already contributed to offer pickleball, the fastest growing sport in North America, to community members in Shellbrook and surrounding area.

Once again, our club was disappointed by the response from the Town Administrator indicating Council didn’t budge on the rate. The hourly rate would be \$40 per hour and Council suggested we play on the skating rink side, but would need to remove our equipment between times of play during lacrosse season.

As a result the Shellbrook Pickleball Club declined the town’s proposal, and there will be no pickleball in the curling rink for the summer months. The town will also lose \$1,600 in potential revenue for rent of the curling rink, an empty town facility. We are very disappointed with the decision made by Town Council.

Judy Amundson, Sally Jacobson, and Arlene Rask,

Shellbrook Pickleball Club Executive members



# RM of Spiritwood revamping fire services plan

By **JORDAN TWISS**  
*Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter*

In the face of changing provincial regulations, The Rural Municipality of Spiritwood No. 496 is working on establishing an enhanced fire protection plan for the community, which includes hiring a paid half-time fire chief to head up Spiritwood Volunteer Fire Department #1.

Introduced in May 2022, the Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency’s (SPSA) Fire Service Minimum Standards Guide aims to make firefighting safer in Saskatchewan by developing a written set of minimum standards for three levels of service, based on training and equipment capacities.

Per the new guidelines, fire departments must self-declare which level of service they’ll provide based on the needs of their communities. Levels include defensive operations service, offensive operations service, full operations service, and/or wildfire/grassland service.

Bevra Fee, Division 6 Councillor for the R.M. of Spiritwood, says the municipality has begun the process to make its self-declaration, with the first step being to undertake any necessary training to bring it into compliance with the defensive operations service and wildfire/grassland service levels.

At the defensive operations service

level, the priority for firefighters is to “confine fires to the structure of origin and prevent them from spreading to other exposures” and to “focus activities on extinguishment external to the building.”

Firefighters will only enter structures when it is deemed necessary, and should only do so when a risk assessment has been conducted and an immediately dangerous to life and health environment isn’t present, as they aren’t trained for interior firefighting operations.

To qualify for this level, firefighters must undergo a minimum of 40 hours of instruction and 20 hours of practical skills training.

Wildfire/grassland service, meanwhile, is an additional level of service that can be added on to complement other service levels. Though it doesn’t require any formal endorsement for the fire department, individual firefighters do need to successfully complete SPSA’s wildfire course to be deemed qualified.

Given the amount of work involved in properly training and leading Spiritwood Volunteer Fire Department #1, council for the R.M. of Spiritwood decided it was necessary to employ a paid fire chief. It is currently hiring for the position, and offering an annual salary of \$31,200 (not including fire call-out duties). Additional costs to the R.M. will depend on training and other com-



The R.M. of Spiritwood’s new shop (left) allows all R.M. equipment to be stored inside, freeing up the older shop (right) to be utilized by the Spiritwood Volunteer Fire Department #1.

pliance-related costs.

Prior to these impending changes, the R.M. had collaborated with the Town of Spiritwood on an Emergency Management Organization (EMO) Plan in 2017. Within that plan, fire protection services were to be a shared responsibility, with each municipality having its own equipment and fire trucks, but a common volunteer fire department led by a volunteer fire chief.

Initially, the town’s fire truck was housed at the Town Fire Hall on Main

Street, while the R.M. rented space for its truck. During the past year, however, the R.M. built a new public works shop, which freed up space for all fire trucks and equipment to be housed centrally in the old public works shop.

With a new plan soon to be formed, and the bulk of fire protection occurring in the R.M., both municipalities agreed that the R.M. will take the leading role in developing local fire services and the town will pay a levy for the services.

Sask partners on period products

Four generations

The Government of Saskatchewan and the Shoppers Foundation for Women’s Health™ – the charitable arm of Shoppers Drug Mart Inc. – have announced a new partnership, and a commitment to provide 12 million period products over the next three years.

The Shoppers Foundation for Women’s Health–with support from Procter & Gamble, makers of Always – will donate the products and the government of Saskatchewan will distribute them to locations where they are most needed.

“This partnership will help us provide free menstrual products to those who need them in a sensitive and dignified way and that will make a big difference in the lives of women and girls in Saskatchewan,” Minister Responsible for the Status of Women Laura Ross said in a statement.

A survey by Plan International Canada indicates

that nationally, 1 in 5 people who menstruate struggle to afford menstrual products for themselves or a dependent.

“Menstrual products aren’t a luxury item, and no one should be disadvantaged in any way because they get their period,” Shoppers Drug Mart Inc. President Jeff Leger said in a statement. “Our hope is that this donation will help unlock the potential of so many women and girls in Saskatchewan, by removing a significant barrier preventing them from pursuing their goals.”

The Government of Saskatchewan will now finalize an implementation plan, and expects to begin distributing products to communities this fall.



Four generations of Diehls, from left to right: baby Henry, Matthew, Wayne, and George Diehl.

Nadine Wilson MLA

Saskatchewan Rivers

Uniting Saskatchewan

by putting

People before Politics

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www.nadinewilson.ca

saskrivers@sasktel.net

CHECK IT OUT!

Shellbrook Chronicle Website  
www.shellbrookchronicle.com

Spiritwood Herald Website  
www.spiritwoodherald.com

The Debden Community Centre is requesting tenders for the following projects:

**Removal of old boiler system and replace with new, removal of old furnaces and replace with new. State type and BTU size for both boiler and furnaces also include warranty information. Completion date of September 30, 2023.**

For more information on the project or to view, please call Cecile at 306-468-7797 or Raymond at 306-468-7117 or visit the Community Centre Monday to Thursday 8am to 4pm.

Tenders must be received by 4pm, June 8, 2023. Please mail tenders to Debden Community Centre Box 337, Debden, Sask. S0J 0S0 or deliver to: 204 2nd Ave East, Debden, to the Comite Culturel office – open Monday to Thursday from 8am to 4pm, or email: ccfdeb@sasktel.net

Successful bidder will be notified by phone, no later than June 13, 2023.

Successful bidder will have to provide: proof of Workman Compensation Board coverage, proof of Public Liability Insurance and proof of a Municipal Business License.

Tenders received after the closing date and time will not be considered. Highest or any tender will not necessarily be accepted.

R. M. OF LEASK NO. 464

NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF ASSESSMENT ROLL

Notice is hereby given that the Assessment Roll of the Rural Municipality of Leask No. 464 for the year 2023 has been prepared and is open to inspection by contacting the Office of the Assessor from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on the following days: Monday to Friday, May 19, 2023, to June 23, 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 or her assessment is required to file his or her notice of appeal, accompanied by \$100.00 appeal fee per roll number with The Assessor, R.M. of Leask, Box 190, Leask, SK, S0J 1M0, by the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of June, 2023.

Dated at Leask, Saskatchewan, this 19<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2023.

Donna Goertzen  
Assessor



## Reconnecting is important in rural communities

There are times when journalists can get overly desk-bound.

That it is a condition that seems even more likely to occur these days when the job is increasingly about posting articles to the web, promoting posts via social media, and of course often turning to a web browser to aid in story research.

But the best place to learn things, especially about local things which are the bread and butter of community newspapers, is out mingling with people.

Recently, I attended the launch of an effort to promote preserving the habitat, and to invite people to use and enjoy the public land, by the Yellowhead Flyway Birding Trail Association (YFBTA).

The effort, a Road Allowance Project (AKA ‘Skip the Ditches’), seeks to mark road allowances on little used roads as a way of indicating the trees and shrubs along the road are indeed wildlife habitat which can be enjoyed by people.

Certainly, on the short wagon ride to ‘officially’



install a sign – a photo op for the program launch – we saw a number of different birds; a Canada goose nesting on a round bale, a coot out for a swim in a slough, a green-winged teal taking flight, and a robin’s

nest in a tree.

While I am not a birder, I at least understand the concept of enjoying a hobby of which I have a few too many myself.

And the idea that the road allowances should, for the most part be left as wild and natural as possible for wildlife to use and the public who own the lands to enjoy, is a rather common-sense approach to preserving nature.

While the wagon ride was actually rather relaxing, no computer keys to punch, or email to check on, it was also in-

teresting and not for the few bird species I sort of knew among those seen or heard.

It was about the conversations.

It did not take long after my arrival for me to be asked if I thought the full house gallery at the most recent meeting of Yorkton Council had collectively said enough to convince Council not to sell the building that currently houses the Yorkton Public Library. It was a question which fostered some healthy discussion.

And there was talk of ticks – nasty critters

that they are – and fancy pigeons, and Oberhasli goats, and how through the years farmers have at times planted trees as a farm asset and at times cut them down as a farm nuisance.

There isn’t likely a story to be written from any of the conversations but that doesn’t matter. It was a time where, as a journalist, I simply mingled and chatted out among rural people. It was a reconnection of a sort that all of us in the weekly newspaper business can use with our readers on a regular basis.

## Sask. enhances wildlife damage supports

Saskatchewan Agriculture Minister David Marit announced further support for Saskatchewan producers through enhancement of the Wildlife Damage Prevention Program.

“We continue to respond to the needs of our producers,” Marit said in a statement. “Prevention measures play an important role to limit further damage. We are implementing changes to our existing prevention program to mitigate impact of wildlife on stacked forage winter feed supplies.”

The Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation (SCIC) administers the Wildlife Damage Prevention Fund. Producers can

receive funding for steps taken to prevent wildlife damage to feed supplies. Funding for fencing is available.

Producers who have received compensation greater than \$2,000 per feed storage site may be eligible to receive a fence package to protect their future feed supplies. SCIC will inform eligible producers of prevention options and work with them to determine the appropriate package. Once a fence is constructed, a site is no longer eligible for wildlife damage compensation.

While it welcomes the program as a “great start,” the Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan (APAS) says it

is looking for support to be extended to the entire province.

“Wildlife damage is not just a localized issue,” APAS president Ian Boxall noted. “Depending on what part of the province you live in, deer, moose, or elk have inflicted havoc on farms, leaving behind ripped grain bags and spoiled grain. And for livestock producers, coyotes and other predatory animals are also a concern.”

APAS representatives have endorsed for Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation (SCIC) to include wildlife damage as an eligible loss for reserved pastureland and a submitted a request to the Ministry

of Environment to provide special hunting licences for Saskatchewan-based landowners/producers with increased tag allocation in areas with high numbers of wildlife damage compensation claims..

Saskatchewan producers are eligible for compensation on damaged crops and livestock caused by wildlife through the Wildlife Damage Compensation Program. Producers should reach out to their local SCIC office by calling 1-888-935-0000 as soon as damage is detected.

For more information about the Wildlife Damage Compensation Program visit <https://www.scic.ca/wildlife-damage>.





# Ahtahkakoop brothers deliver gold medals on Mother’s Day

By NIGEL MAXWELL  
paNOW

After promising their mother they would give her gold medals for Mother’s Day, two brothers from Ahtahkakoop Cree Nation did not disappoint. Ian Abbott and Ayden Masuskapoe were both in Regina this past weekend for the AJP Tour Regina International Jiu-Jitsu Championship. Abbott, 29, won gold in the 62 kg category for men’s gi, white belt. After defeating his first Colombian opponent Dany Vargas by points (8-0), he then went to beat Regina’s Cailum Scott by points (9-0). “It just represents all the hard work,” Abbot told

paNOW, when asked what the win means to him, adding he tries to balance work life at the mill, with his family life, and his fighting life. Ayden Masuskapoe, 16, won gold in his respective white belt weight class for 66 kg. “My little brother motivated me to do all this honestly, like when he got me back into training, I just got more and more competitive,” Abbott noted. After defeating Chase Squirrel by points (10-0), Masuskapoe then went on to the final and defeated Zander Smith by submission at 2:26. Prior to the event starting, it was actually Ayden who told his mom they would win gold. “And after my little brother won, I knew I had to

win,” Abbott joked. Kathy Masuskapoe was in Regina to watch her sons compete and acknowledged she was emotional. “Yes, especially when Ayden was losing on points on the second fight but on the last minute he flipped the guy over and submitted him,” she said. Kathy noted both her sons have grown up training continuously since they were small but added but this was Ayden’s first competition and he was competing against people who were bigger than him. “I have six boys and no girls, so boxing, wrestling, MMA, and jiu-jitsu is the norm,” she said, and confirmed this was possibly her favourite Mother’s Day gifts. Both brothers train at the BJJ Lab in Prince Albert.



Ayden Masuskapoe (left) and Ian Abbott celebrate their gold medals at the AJP Tour jiu-jitsu event in Regina.



Ayden Masuskapoe poses for a picture with his mother, Kathy Masuskapoe.

### NOTICE

Public notice is hereby given that the Councils of the Village of Canwood and the Village of Debden intend to consider the adoption of bylaws under *The Planning and Development Act, 2007*. Each municipality intends to adopt a new Zoning Bylaw.

**INTENT / ZONING DISTRICT OBJECTIVES – VILLAGE OF CANWOOD**

**R – Residential District:** To provide for residential development in the form of single detached dwellings and other compatible uses.

**B – Business District:** To facilitate a range of commercial and other compatible uses.

**CS – Community Service District:** To establish and preserve areas for public recreation and open space.

**I – Industrial District:** To provide for development in the form of a range of industrial and other compatible uses.

**FUD – Future Urban Development District:** To provide for interim land uses where the future use of the land or the timing of development is uncertain due to issues of servicing, transitional use or market demand.

**INTENT / ZONING DISTRICT OBJECTIVES – VILLAGE OF DEBDEN**

**R1 – Residential District:** To provide for residential development in the form of single detached dwellings and other compatible uses.

**CS – Community Service District:** To establish and preserve areas for public recreation and open space.

**C1 – Village Commercial District:** To facilitate a range of commercial and other compatible uses.

**C2 – Highway Commercial District:** To facilitate a range of commercial and other compatible uses.

**FUD – Future Urban Development District:** To provide for interim land uses where the future use of the land or the timing of development is uncertain due to issues of servicing, transitional use or market demand.

The proposed Zoning Bylaw also contains updated and new general provisions that apply to development throughout each Village. Updated and new provisions include:

- development permit requirements, application fees and application process;
- regulations for fences; accessory buildings and structures; off-street parking and loading; signs; home-based businesses; adult day care facilities; residential care facilities; custodial care facilities; bed & breakfast homes; day care centres and preschools; family child care homes; dwelling groups; garden and garage suites; above ground fuel storage tanks; manufactured homes; gas bars; service stations; parking lots; fabric covered structures; and salvage and auto wrecking yards.
- regulations for development on or near hazard lands;
- regulations for landscaping; and

**YOUR PROPERTY MAY BE DIRECTLY AFFECTED BY PROVISIONS IN THE NEW ZONING BYLAW. PLEASE CHECK THE FULL VERSION OF THE BYLAW, AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW OR PURCHASE AT THE VILLAGE OFFICES OR FOR REVIEW AND DOWNLOAD FROM THE FOLLOWING WEBSITE: [WWW.CROSBYHANNA.CA/DOWNLOADS](http://WWW.CROSBYHANNA.CA/DOWNLOADS)**

**AFFECTED LAND**

All land within the corporate limits of Village of Canwood and the Village of Debden as shown on the Zoning District Map contained in this notice, is affected by the new Zoning Bylaw.

**REASON**

The new Zoning Bylaw will help direct and manage growth and development in the Villages.

**PUBLIC INSPECTION**

Any person may inspect the proposed bylaw at the following locations:

**Village of Canwood**  
**651 Main Street, Canwood, SK** between 9:00 AM and 3:00 PM Tuesday to Thursdays, excluding statutory holidays. Copies are available to persons at cost.

**Village of Debden**  
**204 2nd Avenue East, Debden, SK** between 10:00 AM and 3:00 PM Tuesday to Thursdays, excluding statutory holidays. Copies are available to persons at cost.

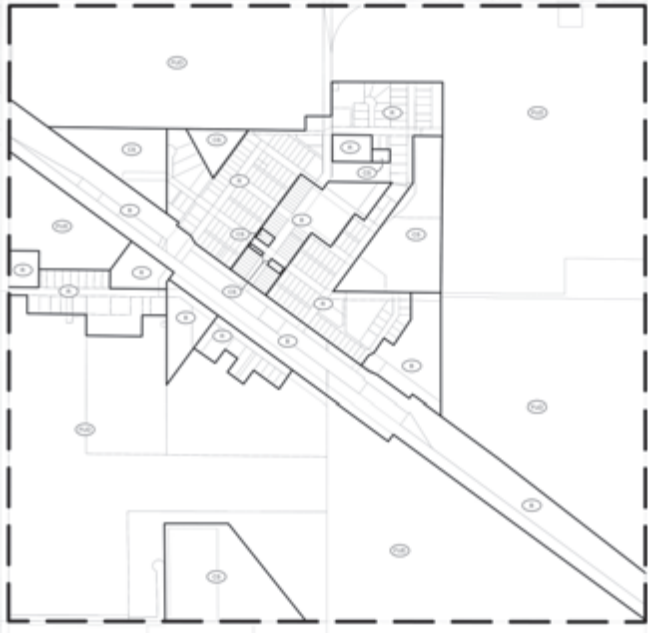
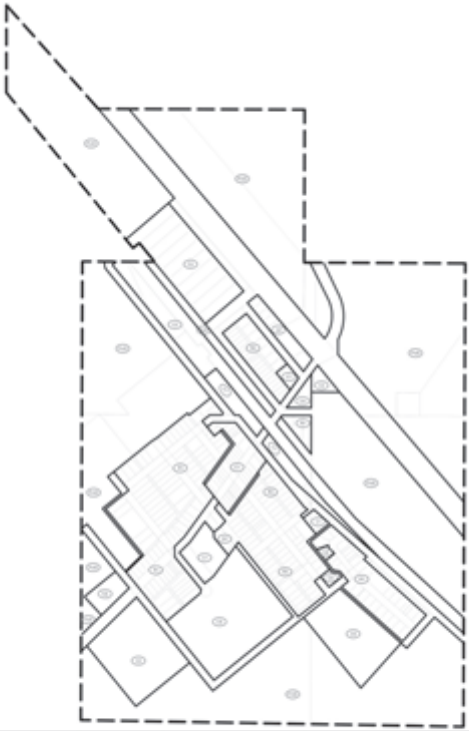
**PUBLIC HEARING**


Each Council will hold a public hearing at the time and location listed below to hear any person or group that wishes to comment on the proposed bylaw. Council will also consider written comments received at the hearing or delivered to the undersigned at the Town Office before the hearings.

Council of the **Village of Canwood** will hold a public hearing on **June 27, 2023 at 8:00 PM** at the Canwood Elks Community Centre Seniors Room **645 2nd Avenue**. Council of the **Village of Debden** will hold a public hearing on **June 27, 2023 at 6:00 PM** at the Village Chambers **#204 2nd Avenue E**.

Issued at the Village of Canwood this 25th day of May, 2023.  
**Lindsey Olson**, Administrator

Issued at the Village of Debden this 25th day of May, 2023.  
**Tamara Couture**, Administrator





### Growth That Works For Everyone


## Investing in Post-Secondary Student Success

Our government is providing **\$112 million in direct support to students through tax credits, grants and scholarships, an increase of \$9.0 million from the previous year**. The additional funding will address the growing needs of students and graduates in our province through increased student supports and enhanced repayment assistance.

**Learn more at [Saskatchewan.ca](http://Saskatchewan.ca).**

**Hon. Jeremy Harrison**  
MLA for Meadow Lake  
[jharrisonmla@sasktel.net](mailto:jharrisonmla@sasktel.net)

**Hon. Scott Moe, Premier**  
MLA for Rosthern-Shellbrook  
[scottmoe.mla@sasktel.net](mailto:scottmoe.mla@sasktel.net)





# Two men headed to trial for 2020 death

By **JORDAN TWISS**  
*Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter*

Two men involved in a suspicious death in Shellbrook in 2020 will soon be headed to trial.

Though no court dates have been set yet, Curtis Ledoux and Tyson Chance are set to be tried at the Court of King’s Bench in Prince Albert for their suspected roles in the death of 20-year-old Wesley Custer. Lachance faces a charge of second degree murder, while Lachance is charged with accessory after the fact to murder.

Custer, who was from Denare Beach, was dropped off at Parkland Integrated Health Centre (PIHC) in Shellbrook on the night of Aug. 21, 2020, with what police described at the time as “serious injuries.” Custer later died in hospital, and police began investigating his death as suspi-



**Wesley Custer with his two children.** Photo Credit: Lee Badger

cious. Following a lengthy investigation, Police had their first breakthrough in the case in May 2022 and arrested three individuals who were already in custody in Saskatchewan correctional facilities.

After discussions with Crown prosecutors, Saskatchewan RCMP first arrested a 34-year-old, identified by police as Evan Ledoux, at the Prince Albert Correctional Centre in relation to Custer’s death. Ledoux was charged with manslaughter in Custer’s death, and also faced a long list of charges, including aggravated assault and several weapons-related charges, in relation to the assault of a woman on the Ahtahkakoop Cree Nation. The woman reportedly required hospitalization for her injuries.

Earlier this year, Evan Ledoux had his charge upgraded to first degree murder. He was expected to ap-

pear in Prince Albert Provincial Court on these charges on May 23.

Elsewhere, 42-year-old Curtis Ledoux was charged with accessory after the fact to murder and was arrested at the Prince Albert Correctional Centre, and 23-year-old Brian Tyson Lachance was charged with second-degree murder and arrested at the Saskatoon Correctional Centre.

After further details were uncovered through continued investigation, police also added 30-year-old Brian Dreaver from Ahtahkakoop First Nation, 25-year-old Kyle Standing from Saskatoon, and 29-year-old Matthew Whitstone from Pelican Lake First Nation to the list of individuals charged in Custer’s death.

Dreaver, Standing, and Whitstone were each charged with one count of first degree murder, and all had pending court dates at Prince Albert Provincial Court this month.

Custer left behind two siblings, as well as a son and a daughter. Police have not revealed what they believe to be the motive behind his death.

### Spiritwood pedestrian death

Police are investigating, following the death of a pedestrian at the intersection of Highways 24 and 945.

At approximately 11:45 p.m. on May 13, Spiritwood RCMP received and responded to a report of a vehicle-pedestrian collision at the junction of Highways 24 and 945.

The pedestrian, a 37-year-old male from Pelican Lake First Nation, was declared deceased by EMS at the scene, and his family has been notified, but his identity has not been released to the public.

The driver of the vehicle remained at the scene of the collision. No charges have been laid.

The Spiritwood RCMP continues to investigate, with the assistance of a Saskatchewan RCMP collision reconstructionist.

## Summer flowering bulbs

By **PATRICIA HANBIDGE**

Now that we are finally seeing warmer temperatures, we are also seeing the signs of spring. When we see the spring flowering bulbs emerge and give the first colour to our gardens, it is time to think about ensuring we can enjoy the colours of nature right through until fall. It’s time to think about planting those more tender bulbs – the summer flowering selections that are not hardy enough to survive our winter.

Generally, summer flowering bulbs prefer to be grown in full sun and well-drained soil. They originate in sub-tropical or tropical regions so are used to warmth and humidity. They are not winter hardy and need to be lifted prior to the fall temperatures dropping substantially.

It is these bulbs that are often the “wow” points of our gardens. Who can ignore the tantalizing tropical scent of acidanthera, the wondrous colour of the begonias in the shady parts, or the majestic stature of the gladiolus? If you are not yet growing some of these less hardy bulbs, then maybe this is the year to begin.

Acidanthera are exotic members of the iris family. They have a delicious scent that will waft over your outdoor areas if planted close. They are white (perfect for night gardens), grow about 24 inches high with a white star-shaped bloom with a centre of deep purple. They are naturally found in semi-alpine conditions in Ethiopia so do not need a really rich soil. Plant them about 3 inches deep with about 5 inches between bulbs.

Begonias are gorgeous in the shady areas of the garden. They come in a range of colours from reds to

pinks, yellows and whites and even a number of purples and apricots. The pendulous types are great in hanging baskets while the uprights are good in beds or containers. Plant in partial to full shade and be sure you do not plant them too deeply as they are a shallow-rooted plant.

Caladiums are a showy plant that will give any landscape a tropical flair. They are actually grown for their large colourful leaves. They come in multi-colours with swirls and splashes of red, green, white and pink. Plant them in the shade and even bring them in as a house plant as summer wanes.

Canna lilies are beautiful everywhere. Their bloom colours range from white to orange, yellow, pink red and even bi-colour. They are native to the West Indies and South America so are considered not hardy. They are superb summer bloomers with not only a great bloom but often have coloured and textured leaves. Do not plant these plants in windy areas as the foliage will be damaged. Some species can grow up to 10 feet in height but can also be as small as 2 feet. Plant in full sun and remove spent flowers to encourage more bloom.

Dahlias are from Mexico and are easily one of the top selling summer flowering bulbs. There are literally hundreds of selections to choose from with all the colours of the rainbow. Many gardeners will pot up their dahlias a good six weeks prior to going outside to ensure the longest, loveliest period of bloom. They are long blooming so can be planted in borders, beds or containers and even make a great cut-flower. Just a word of caution – once you begin to grow dahlias you might get addicted to trying them all!

Gladiolus are another very popular summer bulb as they come in almost all colours. They are a superb cut flower and can be grown easily in beds or borders. They often need some support due to their height.

Make this summer the year you make your garden a bit more exotic by growing at least a couple summer flowering bulbs.

*Hanbidge is the Lead Horticulturist with Orchid Horticulture.*

### NOTICE

Public notice is hereby given that the Councils of the Village of Canwood and the Village of Debden intend to consider the adoption of bylaws under *The Planning and Development Act, 2007*. Each municipality intends to adopt a new Official Community Plan.

#### INTENT

The proposed bylaws establish municipal land use policies including, but not limited to, the following subjects:

**Residential:** Existing and future residential development areas, housing diversity, infill development, home based businesses, and neighbourhood design.

**Commercial:** Downtown strength, visually appealing commercial districts, supply of commercial land, and provision for attractive highway commercial corridors.

**Transportation & Infrastructure:** The integration of planning, finance and engineering to manage infrastructure effectively, ensuring connectivity and traffic safety for all users, encouraging non-motorized transportation, addressing rail safety and mitigation of land use conflicts related to rail, ensuring that future development contributes appropriately to the cost of infrastructure services.

**Economic & Tourism Development:** The promotion and development of economic and tourism related opportunities for the Village of Debden, Village of Canwood and the region.

**Community Services & Recreation:** The development and enhancement of recreation and community services within the community, coordination and cooperation in the development of facilities and services, and support for public service delivery agencies.

**Amenities & Dedicated Lands:** The enhancement of green space, provision of municipal reserves, and facilitation of connectivity and walkability throughout each Village.

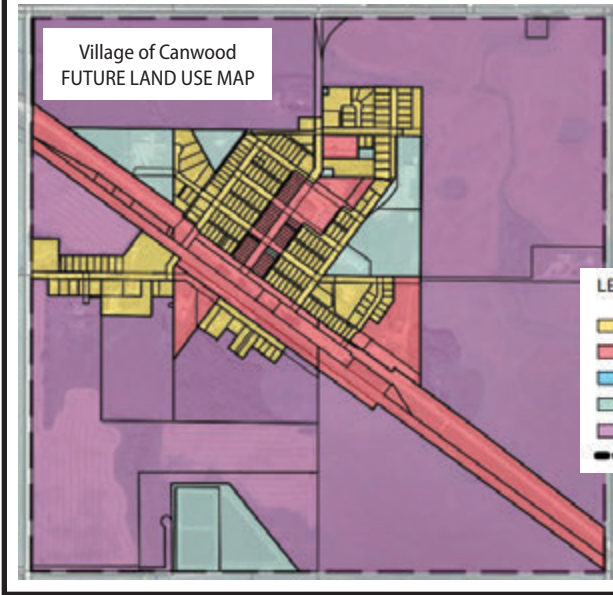
**Biophysical Constraints & Hazards:** Regulation for development on and near hazard lands, including environmentally sensitive lands, contaminated lands, flood hazard areas. Ensuring source water protection and public safety.

**Intermunicipal & Interjurisdictional Cooperation:** Pursuing opportunities with government to enhance services and provide innovative opportunities for the region, agreements under the Treaty Land Entitlement Framework Agreement, and facilitation of interjurisdictional cooperation with neighbouring municipalities, First Nations, and other stakeholders on joint planning issues.

**Agricultural Land & Fringe Areas:** Ensuring that future urban land requirements are not restricted and working with the RM of Canwood No. 494 to address concerns of mutual interest.

**Natural & Heritage Resources:** Protection and sustainment of valuable cultural and heritage resources within each Village and the region.

**Implementation:** Policies regarding implementation of the Official Community Plan and the implementation tools that will or may be used for same, including the Zoning Bylaw, subdivision application review, dedication of lands, the use of a



Building Bylaw, and the use of Development Levies and Servicing Fees.

The Official Community Plan also contains a Land Use map (pictured here) which graphically displays, in a conceptual manner, the present and intended future location and extent of general land uses in and surrounding the Town. This map will assist in the application of general goals, objectives and policies of the Official Community Plan. The policies in the Official Community Plan will be implemented primarily through administration of each Village’s new Zoning Bylaw.

**YOUR PROPERTY MAY BE DIRECTLY AFFECTED BY PROVISIONS IN THE NEW OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN. PLEASE CHECK THE FULL VERSION OF THE BYLAW, AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW OR PURCHASE AT THE VILLAGE OFFICES OR FOR REVIEW AND DOWNLOAD FROM THE FOLLOWING WEBSITE: [WWW.CROSBYHANNA.CA/DOWNLOADS](http://WWW.CROSBYHANNA.CA/DOWNLOADS)**

#### AFFECTED LAND

All land within the Village of Canwood and the Village of Debden as shown on the Land Use maps contained in this notice are affected by the new Official Community Plans.

#### REASON

The new Official Community Plans will help direct and manage growth and development in the Village of Debden and the Village of Canwood for the next fifteen to twenty years.

#### PUBLIC INSPECTION

Any person may inspect the proposed bylaw at the following locations:

##### Village of Canwood

**651 Main Street, Canwood, SK** between 9:00 AM and 3:00 PM Tuesday to Thursdays, excluding statutory holidays. Copies are available to persons at cost.

##### Village of Debden

**204 2nd Avenue East, Debden, SK** between 10:00 AM and 3:00 PM Tuesday to Thursdays, excluding statutory holidays. Copies are available to persons at cost.

#### PUBLIC HEARING

Each Council will hold a public hearing at the time and location listed below to hear any person or group that wishes to comment on the proposed bylaw. Council will also consider written comments received at the hearing or delivered to the undersigned at the Town Office before the hearings.

Council of the **Village of Canwood** will hold a public hearing on **June 27, 2023 at 8:00 PM** at the Canwood Elks Community Centre Seniors Room **645 2nd Avenue**. Council of the **Village of Debden** will hold a public hearing on **June 27, 2023 at 6:00 PM** at the Village Chambers **#204 2nd Avenue E**.

Issued at the Village of Canwood this 25th day of May, 2023.

**Lindsey Olson**, Administrator

Issued at the Village of Debden this 25th day of May, 2023.

**Tamara Couture**, Administrator





# Minutes of an R.M. of Leask meeting

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

The Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Council of the Rural Municipality of Leask No. 464 held in the Leask Community Hall on Wednesday, March 8, 2023.

Council Meeting was called to order by Reeve Craig Hamilton at 8:58 a.m.

Present were Reeve Craig Hamilton, Administrator Donna Goertzen and the following Council members: Keith Junk - Division No. 1, Real Diehl - Division No. 2, Gordon Stieb - Division No. 3, Joan Sanftleben - Division 4, Matthew McNeice - Division 5, and Clarke Gossen - Division No. 6.

Delegations:

10:00 a.m.: Sgt. Phil Ingleby, Blaine Lake RCMP Detachment

10:30 a.m.: Alanna Gunsch, Weed Management

11:00 a.m.: Jayson Smith, Superintendent of Public Works

4:10p.m.: Duane Shapka, Woodlands

Stieb: That the minutes of the Feb. 8, 2023, Regular Meeting be amended. Carried

Sanftleben: That permission be given to add items to the agenda.

McNeice: That payments be approved as listed on the attached List of Accounts for Approval for the total of \$95,714.35 and Payroll/Indemnity for the total of \$22,981.66. Carried

9:44 a.m.: Administrator Goertzen exited chambers.

10:23 a.m.: Administrator Goertzen returned to chambers.

Diehl: That we acknowledge receipt of the Bank Reconciliation for February 2023. Carried

Diehl: That Council approve the Statement of Financial Activities for February 2023. Carried

Stieb: That Council Indemnity be approved for payment as presented.

Stieb: That Council invest \$400,000.00 into a GIC; 1-year term with partial redeemable after 1 month with no penalty. Carried

Gossen: That we recess the Regular Meeting of Council for the public hearing regarding Bylaw 01-2023 Bylaw to amend Zoning Bylaw 02-2020 at 9:40 a.m. Carried

Attendees from the public: none

Public comments: No written or verbal comments from the public were received.

Reeve Hamilton closed the Public Hearing at 9:45 a.m.

Junk: That Bylaw 01-2023, to amend Bylaw 02-2020 Zoning Bylaw be given first reading meeting. Carried

Sanftleben: That Council has completed a Performance Evaluation and

that Superintendent of Public Works be taken off of probation. Carried

McNeice: That Superintendent of Public Works Report be accepted as presented. Carried

Sanftleben: That a recording device be purchased to be used at Municipal Council and Public Meetings. Carried

McNeice: That Administrator Report be accepted as presented. Carried

Gossen: That RM purchase annual PARCS Membership in the amount of \$295. Carried

McNeice: That Councillor Gossen be appointed as PARCS representative for 2023. Carried

Junk: That Correspondence be accepted as presented. Carried

Diehl: That Council decline support of Loran Subdivision as it does not meet Zoning Bylaw 02-2020, 8.1.1 Permitted Uses. Carried

Sanftleben: That we recess the Regular Meeting of Council for the public hearing regarding Discretionary Use located on SW-05-45-05-W3; Zoning Bylaw Section 5.2.10 Communal Dwellings at 2:00p.m. Carried

Attendees from the public: none

Public comments: No written or verbal comments from the public were received.

Reeve Hamilton closed the Public Hearing at 2:05 p.m.

McNeice: That Council approve discretionary application to Construct a Communal Dwelling under Discretionary Use of Zoning Bylaw 02-2020 locatedSW-05-45-05-W3. Carried

Junk: That Bylaw 03-2023, Council Procedure Bylaw be given first reading at this meeting. Carried

Diehl: That Bylaw 04-2023, Code of Ethics Bylaw be given first reading at this meeting. Carried

Stieb: That Bylaw 05-2023, Mailing of Assessment Notice be given first reading at this meeting. Carried

Sanftleben: That Bylaw 05-2023 be given second reading at this meeting. Carried

McNeice: That permission be given to have third reading of Bylaw 05-2023 at this meeting. Carried unanimously

Gossen: That Bylaw 05-2023 attached hereto and forming a part of these minutes, being a Bylaw of the Rural Municipality of Leask No. 464, now be read a third and final time and be adopted. Carried

Junk: That Bylaw 06-2023 to Establish a Rate to Charge for Tax Certificates be given first reading at this meeting. Carried

Diehl: That Bylaw 06-2023 be given second reading at this meeting. Carried

Stieb: That permission be given to have third reading of Bylaw 06-2023 at this meeting. Carried unanimously

Sanftleben: That Bylaw 06-2023 attached hereto and forming a part of these minutes, being a Bylaw of the Rural Municipality of Leask No. 464, now be read a third and final time and be adopted. Carried

McNeice: That Bylaw 07-2023 To Establish a Fee to Appeal Assessment be given first reading at this meeting. Carried

Gossen: That Bylaw 07-2023 be given second reading at this meeting. Carried

Junk: That permission be given to have third reading of Bylaw 07-2023 at this meeting. Carried unanimously

Diehl: That Bylaw 07-2023 attached hereto and forming a part of these minutes, being a Bylaw of the Rural Municipality of Leask No. 464, now be read a third and final time and adopted. Carried

Stieb: That we move into an in-camera session citing The Local Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, Section 14(1 )(b)(iii) and 16(1) (b). Time being: 2:58 p.m. Carried

McNeice: That we move out of in-camera session. Time being 3:29 p.m. Carried

Sanftleben: That Council instruct Superintendent of Public Works to proceed with termination of Employee 0067 under step 4(5) of the Collective Agreement. Carried

McNeice: That we move into an in-camera session citing The Local Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, Section 14(1)(b)(c) Time being: 3:35 p.m. Carried

Diehl: That we move out of camera session. Time being 4:07 p.m. Carried

McNeice: That remaining Council agenda be moved to Friday March 10, 2023, Special Meeting at 9 a.m.

Gossen: That Meeting be adjourned at 5:28 p.m.

## 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 - Thursday 2 pm - 7 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.

**DEBDEN:** Good News Festival 2023 at Debden. Youth Festival & Pizza Night: Friday, June 2, 5 pm - St. Jean Baptiste Parish (Basement), 412 Main St., Debden; Family Worship Night: Saturday, June 3, 7 pm - St. Jean Baptiste Parish (Basement), 412 Main St., Debden; Outdoor Gospel & Music Festival – *Free BBQ*: Sunday, June 4, 11:30 am to 4:30 pm - The Ranch Hwy 55 3 kms NW of Debden. www.aogc.ca • facebook.com/ArkofGodCanada

**PARKSIDE:** Honeywood (Dr. A.J. Porter) Heritage Nursery Inc. *Provincial Heritage Site* Parkside, SK SEASON OPENING: FRIDAY, MAY 12. Open daily 9 am - 5 pm. Canadian Tire Annuals, Fruit & ornamental trees, New & old lily varieties, Assortment of perennial plants. Gift/Garden Shop - Honeywood Jellies, Seed Potatoes & Much More! Ph: 306-747-3307, email: honeywoodn8@gmail.com.

**LEASK:** Leask Community Garage Sale Days – Fri., May 26th & Sat., May 27th. Multiple Garage Sales around the Village. Pulled Pork on Bun at the Library (Friday 4pm – 6pm & Saturday 11am – 2pm), Used Book Sale at the Library (Friday 1pm – 5pm & Saturday 9am – 4pm).

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# Leafs break their fans' hearts again

Leaves fall in autumn. The Leafs, meanwhile, traditionally do it in the spring. And it's happened again.

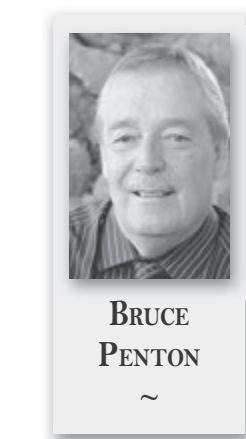
Toronto Maple Leafs' fans, without a Stanley Cup to celebrate since 1967, thought this might be the year. Hated rival Boston Bruins were surprisingly dumped in the first round by Florida Panthers, seemingly paving the way to the Eastern Conference final for the Leafs, who got by Tampa Bay in the first round.

But the script went askew in that second round. The Panthers, who barely squeaked into the playoffs in the first place, needing a wildcard entry to get there, apparently saved their best hockey for April and May and well, here they are: In the Eastern Conference final against Carolina while the Leafs book tee times at the Adios Golf Club in Coconut Creek, Fla.

In each of the series' five games, the Leafs could muster only two goals. As they went down 3-0 in the series, the six Toronto goals were scored by players with

surnames Knies, Kerfoot, O'Reilly, Bunting, Gustafson and Lafferty. Conspicuous by their absence on the scoresheet were the names of Auston Matthews, Mitch Marner, John Tavares and William Nylander, the Leafs' so-called Core Four whose offensive production during the regular season (146 goals, 351 points) propelled them to a 111-point season, tied for the fourth highest total of the NHL's 32 teams. This could be the year, Leaf Nation hoped.

But not to be. As both Matthews and Tavares were held without a goal during the entire series, Florida dispatched the Leafs in unceremonious fashion, winning Game 5 in overtime, 3-2, after the Leafs stayed on life support with a 2-1 Game 4 victory. The unexpected elimination of the Leafs caused much anguish not only among the team's executives, but from the two Canadian sports networks, who don't openly root for the Leafs to succeed, but know that their audiences are boosted with every Ma-



BRUCE  
PENTON

ple Leaf victory.

But if you're a Leaf fan in misery this spring, save a tear for Boston Bruins' fans, who watched their team get stunned in the first round after a historically sensational regular season, where the B's accumulated more points than any other team in history. You may have heard the phrase 'anything can happen in a short series' and that was painfully true for the Bruins and the Leafs. Defending champion Colorado Avalanche could also commiserate with the woeful fortunes of the Bruins and Leafs, surprisingly getting sidelined by the sec-

ond-year Seattle Kraken in the opening round.

The Stanley Cup playoffs don't always identify the best team in the NHL. That was undoubtedly Boston this season. But the run to the Stanley Cup identifies the team that got hot at the right time, that avoided serious injuries, and possessed the undefinable qualities that separate winners from losers at crunch time.

Maybe next year for the Leafs. Again, the old refrain. Maybe next year.

• Mike Bianchi of the Orlando Sentinel: "I just saw where Sam Hammond of the Royal Marines set a Guinness World Record by running the London Marathon in 4 hours, 56 minutes – with a refrigerator on his back. That's almost as impressive as the Ravens winning the Super Bowl – with Trent Dilfer starting at quarterback."

• Scalped from Bob Molinaro of pilotonline.com (Hampton, Va.) Kathy Guillermo, PETA senior vice-president, after seven horses died at Churchill

Downs in Louisville in the leadup to the Kentucky Derby: "They should play 'Taps' at the Derby instead of 'My Old Kentucky Home.'"

• Comedy writer Alex Kaseberg: "Mark Zuckerberg won gold and silver medals at a local jiu-jitsu tourney in Northern California. How much would it suck to get your (butt) kicked by a nerd worth \$76 billion?"

• From the Canadian parody website The Beaverton: "Leafs pleased they could find a more creative way to devastate fans than just losing in first round again."

• Comedy writer Torben Rolfsen of Vancouver: "The last time the Leafs won a first-round series, a few people on MySpace went crazy."

• Headline at fark.com: "Brian Reynolds signs the most lucrative contract in Pittsburgh Pirates history: eight years, \$106 million. Meanwhile, the Dodgers, Mets and Yankees are plotting to sign Shohei Ohtani for, like, a billion."

• Rolfsen again: "Rumour is Lionel Messi might be

going to play in Saudi Arabia for an insane amount of money. The club is Sportswashing FC."

• RJ Currie of sportsdeke.com: "Have you seen the life-size bronze statue of Shaquille O'Neal outside of Staples Center? It's just like Shaq, only it's lighter and more mobile."

• Headline at the onion.com: "Little Leaguers concerned introducing pitch clock would cut into grass-picking time."

• Phil Mushnick of the New York Post, on the death of CFL and NFL quarterback Joe Kapp: "Kapp's three seasons in Minnesota were fun to watch. He threw 37 TD passes for the Vikings, some of them spirals."

• From Mushnick column in the Post: "Quality Control Graphic of the Week was submitted in a screen shot sent by reader John Longfield. TBS, an NHL TV partner, posted the Islanders-Hurricanes score at 'halftime.'"

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca



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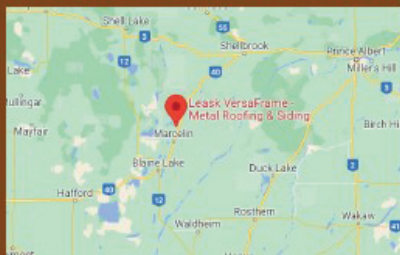


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OBITUARIES

~

Anne-Marie Cyr



Anne-Marie Cyr  
May 24, 1942 – May 13, 2023  
Anne-Marie Cyr, a beloved wife, mother, grandmother, and dedicated member of the Debden community, passed away peacefully on May 13, 2023, after

a brief illness. She was just shy of her 81st birthday. Her funeral service was held on Friday, May 19th, at 2:00 p.m. at St. John the Baptist Church in Debden, Saskatchewan.  
Born on May 24, 1942, in Bellevue, Anne-Marie later moved to Debden in 1963 to embark on her career as a teacher. She spent an incredible 60 years residing in Debden, making it her cherished home. Anne-Marie’s impact as an educator extended beyond the classroom, leaving a lasting impression on countless students throughout her years of service.  
Anne-Marie leaves behind her loving husband

of almost 59 years, Louis Cyr, who will dearly miss her presence. Together, they built a life filled with love, shared memories, and unwavering devotion. Anne-Marie’s legacy lives on through her children: Marie-Anne (Joe Schweitzer), Bernard (Nadja DeKlerk), Marcel (Murielle Verrier), Susanne (Lee Gustafson), Lucille (Clif Amundson), and Robert. Her passing leaves a void in their lives that can never be filled.  
Her twelve grandchildren, Jenna Schweitzer, Jodi Schweitzer (Steve Borman), Luc Cyr, Ben Cyr, Stephane Cyr, Raymond Cyr, Janelle Cyr, Eric Gustafson, Chloe Gustafson, Tavis Amundson, Robyn Amundson, and Ty Amundson, were a source of immense joy and pride for Anne-Marie. She shared countless precious moments with each of them, leaving a lasting imprint on their lives.  
The family would like to express their gratitude to all the caregivers who provided unwavering support during Anne-Marie’s brief illness. Their kindness, compassion, and dedication brought comfort to both Anne-Marie and her family during a challenging time.  
In honor of Anne-Marie’s memory, the family

kindly requests that donations be made to the Debden Heritage Manor. These contributions will help support the functioning of the Manor, reflecting Anne-Marie’s deep appreciation for the town she called home.  
Anne-Marie Cyr’s unwavering love, kindness, and dedication to her family, friends, and community will be remembered and cherished by all who were fortunate to have known her. She will forever be missed and never forgotten. May her soul rest in eternal peace.  
There was a Memorial Mass for Anne-Marie held on Friday, May 19, 2023, at 2:00 p.m. at the

St. Jean Baptiste Roman Catholic Church in Debden with Father Nick Ferreras. Anne-Marie was laid to rest in the Debden Cemetery following the service. In lieu of tributes, memorial donations may be made in memory of Anne-Marie to the Debden Heritage Manor (Box 608 Debden, SK. S0J 0S0). Family and friends wishing to send online condolences are welcome to visit [www.beaulacfuneralhome.com](http://www.beaulacfuneralhome.com) Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of Beau “Lac” Funeral Home & Crematorium, Tammy Smart, Debden, SK 306-724-4474.

Louise Bertha Marie Viden-LaPlante



VIDEN-LAPLANTE Louise  
Louise Bertha Marie Viden-LaPlante was born on February 3, 1942, in Shellbrook SK. The oldest child of 10. She quit school after completing

her Grade 8 and went to work for the Sask. Timber Board as a cook’s helper with her great aunt Jessie Olson. One spring she worked for Sundby’s with her aunty Stina. She worked summers in the Rex Café in Big River where she met Ted Viden. They were married in January 1961.  
They lived in Dore Lake where they ran a mink ranch and did some commercial fishing on lakes in the area and raised their 4 daughters until 1973. They then moved to La Ronge where Ted was offered a job flying for the DNS. Louise worked various jobs un-

til 1983 when she and her daughter Holly operated the STC bus station for approximately 13 years.  
When Ted retired in 1993, they moved to Shellbrook and enjoyed their retirement until Teddy’s passing in early 2004.  
Louise married Larry LaPlante in late 2005 and moved to Big River for a few years. They moved back to Shellbrook where they enjoyed visiting and playing a lot of cards. Larry LaPlante passed away in December 2019. Louise remained living in Shellbrook enjoying her time with friends and family until her passing

on May 12, 2023.  
Louise will be lovingly remembered by her children, Cindy Jonasson of Martensville, SK, and her children, Tianna, Tara, and Justin; Holly (Dave) McPhee of Leduc, AB, and their children, Christopher (Josi), Chelsea (Katelyn); Penny of Victoria, B.C and her children, Matthew (Dominik), Chad (Anna); Bonnie (Michel) Mailloux of Victoria, B.C, and their children, Erica (Cody), Jena; her great-great-grandchildren, Dexter, Korbyn, Kacen, Avianna, Maddyx, Malcolm, Mabel, Franklin, Caleb,

Aubrey, Rylee; as well as numerous nieces, nephews & other relatives.  
Louise was predeceased by, her first husband, Ted Viden in 2004; her second husband, Larry LaPlante in 2019; her brothers, Raymond, Allan and Arthur Olson; her parents, Audrey and Gilbert Olson; and her son-in-law, Rodney Jonasson.  
There was a Memorial Service held for Louise on Friday, May 19, 2023, at 11:00 a.m. from the Shellbrook Community Hall with Delores Beaulac officiating. A time of

refreshments and fellowship followed the service and Louise was laid to rest in the Debden Cemetery following the lunch. Family and friends wishing to send online condolences may visit [www.beaulacfuneralhome.com](http://www.beaulacfuneralhome.com). In lieu of tributes memorial donations may be directed to Shellbrook and Districts Health Services Foundation. (Box 33, Shellbrook, SK. S0J 2E0). Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of Beau “Lac” Funeral Home and Crematorium, Marianne Turcotte, Funeral Director, Shellbrook SK. 306-747-2828.

GOOD NEWS

~

COUNT ON THE SHEPHERD

By LORNE VALUCK  
Parkside Pentecostal Church

We have a small parcel of land where we keep some animals, including a few sheep. It’s lambing time. We enjoy watching new life running and jumping around the pen. And the sheep, along with other animals have provided some good sermon illustrations over the years. Sometime I’ll share about Rambo the ram, and Rusty the rooster.  
There’s a portion of scripture in the Bible, Psalm 23, that is referred to as the Shepherd’s Psalm. I’d like to share it with you and make a few comments.  
The LORD is my shepherd;  
I shall not want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures.  
He leads me beside still waters.  
He restores my soul.  
He leads me in paths of righteousness for His name’s sake.  
Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death  
I will fear no evil,  
for You are with me;  
Your rod and your staff,  
they comfort me.  
You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies;  
You anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.  
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life,  
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.  
(English Standard Version)  
What a picture! What a promise!  
What a waste!  
What!?  
You may say, “What you talkin’ about? Waste?”  
When you read these verses about The Shepherd’s provision for His sheep, are you in the 3rd person, *observing*, or in the 1st person, *experiencing*?  
In John 10, Verse 11, Jesus tells his listeners, some

being followers and some skeptics, “I am the good Shepherd who gives his life for his sheep.”  
Then later, in verse 14, Jesus adds, “I am the good Shepherd and I know my sheep, and I am known by my sheep.”  
Jesus is the Shepherd that we read about earlier, giving provision and protection in good, and challenging times.  
He gave His life for the sheep – that’s us. And His intention is to have a personal relationship with us, where He knows us and we know Him  
In the midst of crazy, confusing, crisis filled times, we can have peace and hope like the sheep in Psalm 23. Don’t waste this opportunity.  
Heavenly Father, Thank you for this beautiful illustration of your love and care for me. I’m a lost sheep. Forgive me for running on my own. I accept that Jesus, the Good Shepherd, gave His life to pay the price for my sins, my wrongs against You, a sovereign, loving God. I accept the offer to become one of Jesus’ followers, and a reconciled, adopted member of Your family.  
Take some time to read Psalm 23, and make it personal. It will fill you with hope and security that comes with knowing whose you are.  
To “rest in peace”, don’t “count sheep”, count on the Shepherd.

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# Spring HOME & GARDEN

## Tips for budget-friendly home decor

Home interiors can be spruced up in a number of ways. Ideas run the gamut from relatively inexpensive changes in paint color to more extensive (and expensive) remodels that may include demolition and reconstruction. Investing in new home decor is another way to breathe new life into spaces, and this approach that falls somewhere in the middle in regard to cost.

Material and product costs remain high across the board, so individuals interested in changing the furniture and other design elements in their homes might be seeking ways to do so in the most affordable way possible. In such instances, homeowners can try these budget-friendly ways to overhaul their home decor.

- **Create the illusion of more space.** Light, bright and white are key attributes to remember when selecting design elements for rooms where you want to create the illusion of



more square footage. Painting the walls in very light colors, increasing natural and artificial light, including using well-placed mirrors to reflect light, and decorating with light-colored fabrics can help a space seem more roomy.

- **Replace the accessories.** Replacing curtains, area rugs, throw pillows, and chair cushions is an easy way to change a room without a big investment. Consider updating some wall art and tying color schemes together with all of the newly in-

troduced elements.

- **Splurge on statement pieces that will be used frequently.** These may include chandeliers, unique rugs or an eye-catching piece of furniture.
- **Shop ‘discount’ stores for furniture and accents.**

Traditional design centers can be great places to find plenty of high-quality merchandise. However, don’t overlook local discount or close-out centers that may have items at very reasonable costs. Stores routinely get new merchandise that changes with the season, helping homeowners to refresh their spaces without having to dig deep into their pockets. Shop the high-end stores for inspiration, then try to find “dupes” in the discount stores that will mimic the looks for less.

- **Cut out the clutter.** Modern homes are lean and clean. A home’s interior instantly looks more high-end and appealing when the clutter is removed. Consider keeping main living areas free from too many knickknacks and other accents. If you want to display a special collection, set aside a room specifically for such items.

There are many budget-friendly ways to make interior spaces more inviting.

## Four things to check for before starting a reno

Anyone who’s ever renovated all or part of their house knows that a lot of planning goes into a successful project. If you’re intending to renovate an older home, one pre-reno step you should take is to inspect for the presence of these potentially dangerous substances.

**Lead**

Older homes and neighbourhoods might have lead pipes, either in the municipal supply line coming into the house or in plumbing within the home. The lead in these pipes can leech into your water supply, and lead is known to cause many harmful health effects, including on the brain and nervous system. This is particularly dangerous for pregnant people and young children.

If you have reason to be concerned, many municipalities provide free water testing kits to check for lead contamination. It’s also helpful to run the tap until the water is cold. This can help reduce your exposure to lead.

Lead paint may also be on walls of homes built before 1991, sometimes even hidden under layers of newer paint. Have the paint in your home tested if you think it may contain lead.

**Mould**

If there’s a musty smell in your home, particularly in the basement, that could indicate the presence of mould. You may also see it, in the form of stains and discolouration on walls, carpets, windowpanes or other household surfaces.

For small areas, you can kill and re-

move the mould with soap and water. For larger areas, you should seek professional remediation.

You should also determine the source of the moisture that caused the mould to form and eliminate that. It could be from water damage or too much moisture in the air. Be sure to clean up immediately after any flood.

**Radon**

Radon is a naturally occurring, odourless radioactive gas found in soil across the country. Outside, it safely dissipates into the air. But indoors, it can build up to dangerous levels. In fact, long-term radon exposure is the main cause of lung cancer in non-smokers.

Luckily, it’s easy to test for. And, if excess radon is detected, professional

remediation measures can help reduce radon levels by more than 80 per cent.

**Asbestos**

Many building materials found in older homes could contain asbestos, including plaster walls, floor tiles and insulation. It may be behind the walls or wrapped around water lines and ductwork.

If you have materials in your home that might contain asbestos, contact a professional to test before you begin any demolition. If it’s found, hire a qualified asbestos removal specialist to get rid of it before starting work.

Learn more about planning renovations and DIY projects at [canada.ca/healthy-home](http://canada.ca/healthy-home).

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# Spring HOME & GARDEN

## What to know about landscape lighting

Home improvement trends come and go, and one trend that has become wildly popular in recent years is recognizable in yards every night. Landscape lighting has transformed how people see and enjoy their properties at night, making it one of the more sought-after upgrades among modern homeowners.

Curb appeal is often seen through the lens of how homes appear during daylight hours, but landscape lighting can make homes look better and more modern, and potentially safer, after the sun goes down. With such potential, landscape lighting is worth exploring for homeowners looking to upgrade their properties.

**Are there different types of landscape lighting?**

When considering landscape lighting, homeowners should know that there are various options to consider. According to the lighting experts at Lumens, spotlights project a concentrated and narrow beam of light that's usually around 45 degrees. Spotlights are often chosen to highlight specific features on a property, like a component of the landscaping. Individuals who want to cast light over wider, more general areas may consider floodlights, which Lumens notes spread light up to 120 degrees.

Inground lighting is among the more sophisticated landscape lighting options. Lumens notes that inground lighting illuminates the whole of a tree or structure, often creating a dramatic look. These circle-shaped lights also are great at illuminating walkways and driveways.

Post lights are another outdoor lighting option, and these are often used to light up long walkways and pathways so it's easier and safer to navigate dark areas at night.

**Is landscape lighting a job a DIYer can handle?**

Many homeowners consider a do-it-yourself approach when pondering a potential home renovation, and a landscape lighting project is likely to inspire such curiosity as well. The home experts at HGTV note that the feasibility of DIY in regard to a landscape lighting project depends on the type of lighting homeowners want to install and where they want to install it. Replacing an existing electrical fixture may be well within the skill of a seasoned DIYer, but installing a new fixture is a job best left to the professionals. Homeowners whose homes currently have no or very little landscape lighting are almost certainly better off working with a professional. Solar lighting that does not require any

electrical work can be installed quickly and easily by anyone, but such options may not provide the look homeowners are aiming for.

**How much lighting is necessary?**

The amount of lighting homeowners want to install is up to them. If the home currently has little or no landscape lighting, a consultation with a professional can help to determine how much lighting to install and where to install it. When discussing landscape lighting, homeowners may want to inquire about dimmers. Dimmers can increase or decrease lighting depending on the situation. For example, homeowners may want a little extra light during a party, but less when relaxing alone outside at night. Dimmers allow homeowners to adjust as necessary.

Landscape lighting is a popular home renovation trend. Homeowners considering adding landscape lighting to their property are urged to work with a skilled professional to devise and install a set-up that makes their homes more appealing at night.



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# Spring HOME & GARDEN

## How to compare contractors’ bids

Home renovation projects are significant undertakings. It is common for homeowners who may not have the time nor the expertise to do the work themselves to call in professionals to tackle these jobs.

According to the home improvement resource HomeGuide.com, for a bathroom remodel, which is one of the more popular improvement projects, installation and labor accounts for 10 to 25 percent of the total project cost. In general, many contractors pay themselves \$300 to \$500 for an hourly rate, while helpers may make \$150 per hour.

Materials used account for the other components of an overall project cost. Homeowners negotiate the best rates possible by obtaining a number of bids from contractors, spelling out both labor and material costs and determining their best option. Here’s how to compare bids.

**Check as many reviews as possible**

Go online, ask friends for recommendations, or rely on the Better Business Bureau to find reliable contractors. A contractor who seems too good to be true will not necessarily be so, but it’s still best to vet each professional thoroughly prior to signing a contract.

**Cost basis vs bid basis**



Certain contractors will produce an estimate based on the best guess of the cost of supplies then add on a flat fee or percentage for their services. This is called a cost basis bid. Others will create a bid that includes all their anticipated supply and labor costs, known as a bid basis bid. Know what you’re getting to make the most accurate comparison.

**Create a master itemized checklist**

It’s easy to explain the project differently from one contractor to another when doing so verbally. That may result in a different plan and price. Rather, make a checklist of what you want done and have several copies to give to the contractors with whom you meet. This makes it easier to compare costs line by line.

**Have specific materials in mind**

Make sure bids are based on the same materials and tasks. For exam-

ple, if you’re comparing window replacement quotes, be sure that each quote is based on the same window material and coating. Vinyl replacement windows may not cost the same as fiberglass or wood.

It is much easier to compare pricing when contractors provide estimates reflecting the same materials.

**Small versus big contracting companies**

Some bids may differ based on the manpower of the company. One contractor may view a project as an easy one that can be slipped right into the schedule. Another may have to devote more time and effort if it is being undertaken by one or two people. This can affect cost in the quote. Furthermore, a contractor who does a lot of advertising in print, television or online, or has an office or warehouse space, may have extra overhead costs that are passed on to the customer.

**Doing your own demo**

Figure out if the contractor will allow you to perform a portion of the tear-out, clean-up or other tasks to save on labor costs. Make sure this is included in the bid.

Comparing contractor work bids can be tricky, but it helps homeowners know they’re getting the best value for their money.

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# Spring HOME & GARDEN

## Siding materials to consider for your home

Exterior renovations consistently top the list of projects that offer maximum return on investment, according to Remodeling magazine’s annual “Cost vs. Value Report.” Siding replacement is a popular exterior renovation and one that can completely transform the look of a home.

Siding comes in a variety of materials, and homeowners can explore the pros, cons and affordability of each to make the most informed decision when replacing their existing siding. Factors to consider apart from price include durability, maintenance and aesthetics.

**Vinyl**  
Vinyl siding is one the most popular siding mate-

rials in North America. That popularity is perhaps due to the relatively low cost of vinyl siding replacement, which Forbes Home estimates is between \$6,150 and \$15,900 to install for a 2,000-square-foot home. A wide array of color options as well as weatherproof protection makes vinyl siding worthy of consideration.

PVC, which is what vinyl siding is comprised of, also is quite fire-resistant. Potential pitfalls of vinyl are that it can fade more quickly than other siding materials and is sensitive to excess UV exposure.

**Engineered**  
Engineered materials cost more than vinyl but are considered very durable. They can be advantageous in damp climates or ones where insects are problematic. LP SmartSide is a type of engineered hardwood that is very durable, so much so that a 50-year warranty often is offered for the product, according to First American Roofing & Siding. This material can be painted if homeowners desire a change of color down the line. This siding costs around \$2.50 to \$4.50 per square foot for siding and all trim accessories with an additional installation cost of \$5.50 to \$12.00 per square foot. The product is made of wooden strands that have been coated with wax for moisture resistance. A special zinc-based solution is added to protect against rot and insect infestation.

A similar product, HardiePlank, is engineered

from a blend of cement, wood fibers, fine sand, and water. It is similar in price point to the SmartSide and offers resistance to rot and insects. HardiePlank also can be repainted.

Engineered products can be more expensive to install and generally are not DIY renovations, which may deter homeowners working on tight budgets.

**Wood siding**  
Wood is one of the oldest siding materials. It can be stained or painted and comes in a variety of styles, from boards to shingles. It’s a popular choice in historical homes or ones with classic, architectural details.

It’s important to note that wood is a combustible material that can be susceptible to water and insect damage. It also needs to be maintained continuously to look its best. This makes wood siding a true commitment on the part of homeowners. The cost is midrange between vinyl and engineered sidings.

**Metal**  
Those interested in one of the most energy efficient options in siding can look no further than metal siding. Metal isn’t just for roofing. According to Colonial Contracting, Inc., metal siding creates a uniquely modern appearance and comes in a variety of styles that complement homes.

Unlike fiber, wood or vinyl products, metal siding reflects the sun’s rays and keeps interior tempera-

tures cooler in the summer, a boon in hot climates but maybe not the most insulating option for cold climates. One potential pitfall is the possibility of rust, which would make metal siding a less ideal choice for those who live near the ocean. The cost of metal siding is comparable to other siding products, at around \$10 per square foot.

These are a few of the siding options homeowners can investigate if they’re revamping the exteriors of their homes.





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# Spring HOME & GARDEN

## Small renovations that can make a big impact

Home renovations provide a host of benefits. Such projects can increase resale value and improve on the safety, aesthetics and functionality of a home.

Some homeowners may employ the mantra “go big or go home” when they embark on home improvements, thinking that only the largest renovations produce noticeable change. But that’s not the case. Various smaller renovations can provide a lot of bang for homeowners’ bucks as well.

- **Countertops (and hardware):** A complete kitchen overhaul may stretch some homeowners’ budgets. However, changing an older countertop for a new material can provide the facelift a kitchen needs. And while changing the cabinets may be homeowners’ ultimate goal, swapping hardware in dated finishes for newer handles and pulls can provide low-cost appeal.
- **Paint:** Painting a space is an inexpensive improvement that adds maximum impact. Paint can transform dark and drab rooms into bright and airy oases. Paint also can be used to create an accent wall or cozy nooks.
- **Lighting:** Homeowners should not underestimate what a change in lighting can do. When rooms or exterior spaces are illuminated, they take on entirely new looks. It’s worth it to invest in new lighting, whether it’s a dramatic hanging light over the dining room table or task lighting in dim spaces.
- **Weatherproofing:** Improving windows, doors, weatherstripping, and insulation in a home can offer visual appeal and help homeowners save money. The initial investment may be significant, but those costs will pay off in energy savings. According to One Main Financial, space heating is the largest energy expense the average American homeowner has, accounting for around 45 percent of all energy costs.
- **Mudroom:** Turn an entryway into a more functional space with the addition of cabinets, benches or custom-designed storage options that perfectly fit the area. Cubbies and cabinets can corral shoes, umbrellas, hats, bags, and much more.
- **Accent updates:** Any space, whether it’s inside or outside a home, can get a fresh look with new decorative accents. Invest in new throw pillows and even slipcovers for living room sofas. Use new tile or paint the brick on a fireplace in a den, then update the mantel with decorative displays. Purchase wall art that can bring different colors into a room. Change the cushions on deck furniture and buy color-coordinated planters.

## Easy steps to create a spa-like bathroom

Who wouldn’t want a spa-inspired bathroom in their home? While you might think you can not afford it, with a few strategic updates you can transform a utilitarian space into one you want to spend all day pampering yourself in. Here are a few suggestions to help you get the best value for your money:

### Top-of-the-line textiles

Never underestimate the power of fresh, fluffy towels to create those resort hotel or Scandinavian spa vibes. So, invest in quality hand and bath towels in soothing tones and soft textures. While you’re at it, pick up a fabric shower curtain in a pretty pattern and use a curtain liner to protect it from splashes.

**Attractive artwork**

Many of us forget to accessorize our bathrooms, but artwork can help define the style of the whole space. Think black-and-white photos of a sandy beach or cute and colourful prints by a local artist. Just make sure the pieces

are framed with a sealed back to avoid mildew and warping. Modern ceramic or glass sculptures are also interesting and durable options.

**Splurge-worthy sinks**

A sleek sink can elevate the look and feel of your entire bathroom, without an investment in an expensive and disruptive renovation. The colours and styles you choose can also have a major impact. For example, a matte black is great for a farmhouse aesthetic, while a trendy bronze feels more chic.

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# Spring HOME & GARDEN

## Five patio projects to enhance outdoor living

Warm weather paves the way to more opportunities to enjoy fresh air. For homeowners who have the luxury of outdoor spaces, including private patios, now is the time to start thinking about projects to enhance these gathering spots.

A patio can be considered a transitional area that links the outdoors to the inside of a home. According to the home and lifestyle resource The Spruce, a patio is often an oasis for lounging and entertaining. And depending on homeowners' budgets and preferences, a patio can be just as comfortable and stylish as interior spaces. The following are five patio projects that can transform these valuable spaces.

**1. Pretty pergola**

A pergola is an open-air (traditionally wood) structure that adds a measure of shade and pri-

vacy without completely blocking views of Mother Nature. Installing a pergola over the patio helps define the seating area. Hanging plants can add to the ambiance and string lights can make this a great spot to gather when the sun sets.

**2. Patio fire pit**

Build a fire pit right into the design with the same materials used to create the patio. For example, if the patio is brick or flagstone, build up to create an eye-catching fire pit. Fire pits not only look good, they also expand the time frame that the patio can be enjoyed, offering cozy spots to sit even when the weather chills.

**3. Frame it in**

Make the patio a true extension of the inside by putting up walls around three sides of the patio if it connects to the home. Leave the last open to the yard, or consider

installing screens to mimic the look of popular lanais. The walls will offer more weather protection, meaning you can invest in high-quality patio furniture to make this a fully functioning outdoor living room. Hang a television that is rated for outdoor use for movie-watching under the

sun or stars.

**4. Ooh la la**

Vintage bistro tables and chairs can turn a drab patio into one that calls to mind a Parisian courtyard. Whimsical lighting and accents that you would normally think to see indoors, like a gilded mirror, can add extra

appeal. Soften wrought iron and other metals on the furniture by including plenty of flowers and greenery. Don't forget the candles and a place to stash a bottle of chilling wine.

**5. Farmhouse chic**

Transform a patio into an entertaining space that caters to guests. A large farmhouse style table flanked by benches and some upholstered chairs sets the scene for a dinner amid the fresh air. Watering cans filled with wildflowers and mismatched flatware establish a casual feel for gatherings in the space. For those who plan to cook and serve outside with frequency, invest in outdoor appliances so you'll never have to miss a beat with guests.

The options for transforming patios into stylish gathering spots is only limited by the imagination.



## Safety upgrades for seniors' homes

Many seniors want to spend as long as possible residing in the comforts of their own homes. But getting older often comes with certain deficits that may not make current living situations the safest for seniors.

Retirement Living reports that an older person is treated in an emergency room for a fall-related injury nearly once every 10 seconds. Falls cause millions of injuries and 32,000 deaths a year, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Seniors may be affected by low vision, mobility limitations, cognitive decline, balance issues, and loss of muscle strength. Certain adaptations may be necessary if seniors want to stay in their homes, particularly in older homes that have not recently been renovated.

**Change knobs to levers**

This is an easy modification. Levers are much easier for

individuals with arthritis or persons who lack dexterity in their hands. Everything from doorknobs to faucet knobs can be replaced with levers.

**Create zero-threshold entryways**

Zero-threshold entryways, also known as flush entries, do not require crossing a lip or any raised barrier. They can appear on doorways and showers and make it easy for people who have mobility issues, as well as those using scooters, walkers and wheelchairs, to move about unencumbered.

**Clear clutter/move obstructions**

One inexpensive modification is to remove extraneous furniture and accessories. Such a change widens walking spaces in a room and accommodates walkers and wheelchairs. In addition, furniture can be pushed to the room's perimeter to make moving around easier. It's also important to remove area rugs, as they're often tripping hazards.

**Install grab rails and supports**

Minimizing falls could come down to providing support in key rooms of a home. Adding grab rails in the bathroom near the toilet and in the shower can help a person use those facilities without assistance. Install a grab rail close to seating in the kitchen to add support.

**Consider smart lighting**

Motion-activated or darkness-activated lighting switches and fixtures can automatically turn on lights, thereby improving visibility. Also, rocker light switches are easier to maneuver than standard toggles.

**Invest in a stairlift**

Single-story homes are preferable for growing older gracefully, but many seniors live in multi-story homes. A stairlift makes a multi-floor home more accessible, according to Elder, an elder care service provider. Stairlifts make it easier to traverse staircases and reduce the risk for falls.

These suggestions are just a few of the many home modifications that can help seniors safely age in place.



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# Spring HOME & GARDEN

## Signs a roof needs repair or replacement

Many homeowners believe a roof is a once-in-a-lifetime investment. But roof damage can force homeowners to replace a roof regardless of how much time has lapsed since the roof was installed.

The average life span of a roof depends on when the roof was installed and the materials it is made from. According to Central Homes Roofing, three-tab shingles may last between 10 and 15 years, architectural shingles can endure for 15 to 20 years, and tile may last between 35 and 50 years. RPS Metal Roofing indicates a metal roof may last as long as 70 years. However, climate and color of the roof also will affect its longevity.

Homeowners would be wise to consider these factors when determining if a roof is in need of repairs or replacement.

- **Roof age:** The age of the roof is a major factor in determining if it will need to be replaced or if repairs can be made to isolated damage. Individuals who live in neighborhoods where neighbors are now replacing roofs will



likely find it is time to consult a roofing company. Homeowners also can check to see if they have any receipts that indicate the roof's installation date so they have an idea about its age.

- **Grain in gutters:** Roofing shingles are designed to

overlap, and sealant keeps them steady. Friction, weather and atmospheric changes can impact sealant and cause degradation. Gutters with grainy material in them could indicate worn out sealant and shingles.

- **Ridge damage:** Ridges

are spots where two separate areas meet and often are important to the structural integrity of the roof. If the roof ridge is showing signs of wear, it could be time to repair or replace it.

- **Curled shingle edges:** If shingle tabs are curled

or cupped, the shingles may need to be replaced. But if curling is extensive, a whole new roof may need to be installed.

- **Bald spots or lost portions of the roof:** Missing granules and missing shingles are reasons to consult a pro for a roof evaluation.
- **Leaks indoors:** Homeowners who find dark streaks or moisture in the attic may discover that water is penetrating the roof underlay. Water often comes in around chimney flashing. Other water signs are blistering and bubbling in walls.
- **Incoming light:** Look up through the attic and see if any light is coming through the roof, which may indicate there are cracks or holes in the roof.
- **Aesthetics:** If a homeowner doesn't like the look of the roof from a design standpoint, a replacement also may be warranted.

Roofs can last many years, but the presence of certain signs indicates replacement or repairs will be necessary.



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# Spring HOME & GARDEN

## How to stay safe on DIY projects

Home improvement projects can be costly. Depending on the scope of the project, the choice of materials and the skill level involved to see the project through to successful completion, homeowners could be on the hook for thousands of dollars or even more when renovating their homes.

One popular way homeowners look to cut such costs is to do some, if not all, of the work themselves. Indeed, do-it-yourselfers can save a considerable amount of money. Estimates are that homeowners can save anywhere from 50 to 80 percent on DIY projects compared to what they might pay for comparable work to be performed by a contractor. However, the key there is “comparable.”

Cost overruns could derail DIY savings rather quickly if homeowners have little renovating skill or experience. But homeowners’ wallets aren’t the only thing in jeopardy if a DIY project goes awry.

Renovation projects require attention to detail, and that includes an emphasis on safety. Projects that are completed without incident could later pose safety hazards that require work to be redone, which is both expensive and a threat to personal safety in the interim. DIYers need not be discouraged from taking projects on themselves, but they should heed these tips to stay safe when working on their homes.

- **Make sure you choose the right ladder.** DIYers may spend

ample time shopping for drills and other electronic tools and gadgets that are fun to use. But ample time also must be afforded to the type of ladder you intend to use on a project. Estimates from the West Bend Insurance Company indicate that roughly 90,000 people visit the emergency room due to ladder accidents each year. Never use a broken ladder

or an aging ladder that’s uneven. In addition, do not use a ladder that forces you to reach far away. If you’re leaning while using a ladder, the ladder is either too short for your project or positioned too far away from the wall. The National Home Security Alliance advises DIYers to place their ladder one foot from the wall for every four feet it rises above the ground. Test your ladders for their sturdiness prior to beginning work so you aren’t tempted to use a subpar ladder.

- **Be especially careful with power tools.** Power tools can do a lot and they’re fun to use. But it’s important that DIYers do not let fun distract them from safety. The Power Tool Institute urges power tool users to wear personal protective equipment, including eye and hearing protection and a dust mask, whenever using power tools. The PTI also advises users to make sure tools are powered down before plugging them in and to inspect the tool before using it. Inspections can confirm that all guards are in place and that tools are up to the task at hand. Much like it’s unsafe to overreach on a ladder, overreaching when using power tools increase the risk for mistakes, accidents and injuries.

- **Avoid electrical work.** Complicated electrical work is best left to the professionals. Estimates from the Electrical Safety Foundation International indicate that electrical malfunctions cause more than 50,000 house fires each year. Such malfunctions can occur for myriad reasons, and a lack of experience working with electrical circuits and breakers could make homes vulnerable to malfunctions and fires. It’s also worth noting that homeowners’ insurance policies may not cover damage caused by DIY electrical work. So at the very least homeowners should contact their insurance providers to determine if any accidents or injuries caused by DIY electrical work would be covered by their policies.

DIY renovation projects can save homeowners a lot of money, but those savings aren’t worth compromising your safety and the safety of your loved ones.



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