

Shellbrook Chronicle & Spiritwood Herald



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www.shellbrookchronicle.com | www.spiritwoodherald.com

Meta removes Canadian news from its platforms

By JORDAN TWISS
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

Meta, the parent company of Facebook, Instagram, and fledgling Twitter rival Threads, has made good on its promise to completely remove all Canadian news content from its social media platforms in response to the federal government's Bill C-18, The Online News Act.

Though Meta had been trial running blocks on Canadian news content for a small percentage of users for some time, the ban on news posted by Canadian media outlets, as well as links to news content posted by individual users, went into full effect last week.

The *Shellbrook Chronicle & Spiritwood Herald* first noticed the change while attempting to post the front page story from the Aug. 10 edition of the newspaper. In addition to all past news stories being scrubbed from the Shellbrook Chronicle and Spiritwood Herald Facebook pages, the links to the individual websites for the publications were removed as well.

How we got here

The federal government introduced Bill C-18 on April 5, 2022, in an effort to rebalance the power dynamics in the digital news marketplace and ensure fair compensation for Canadian news outlets and journalists.

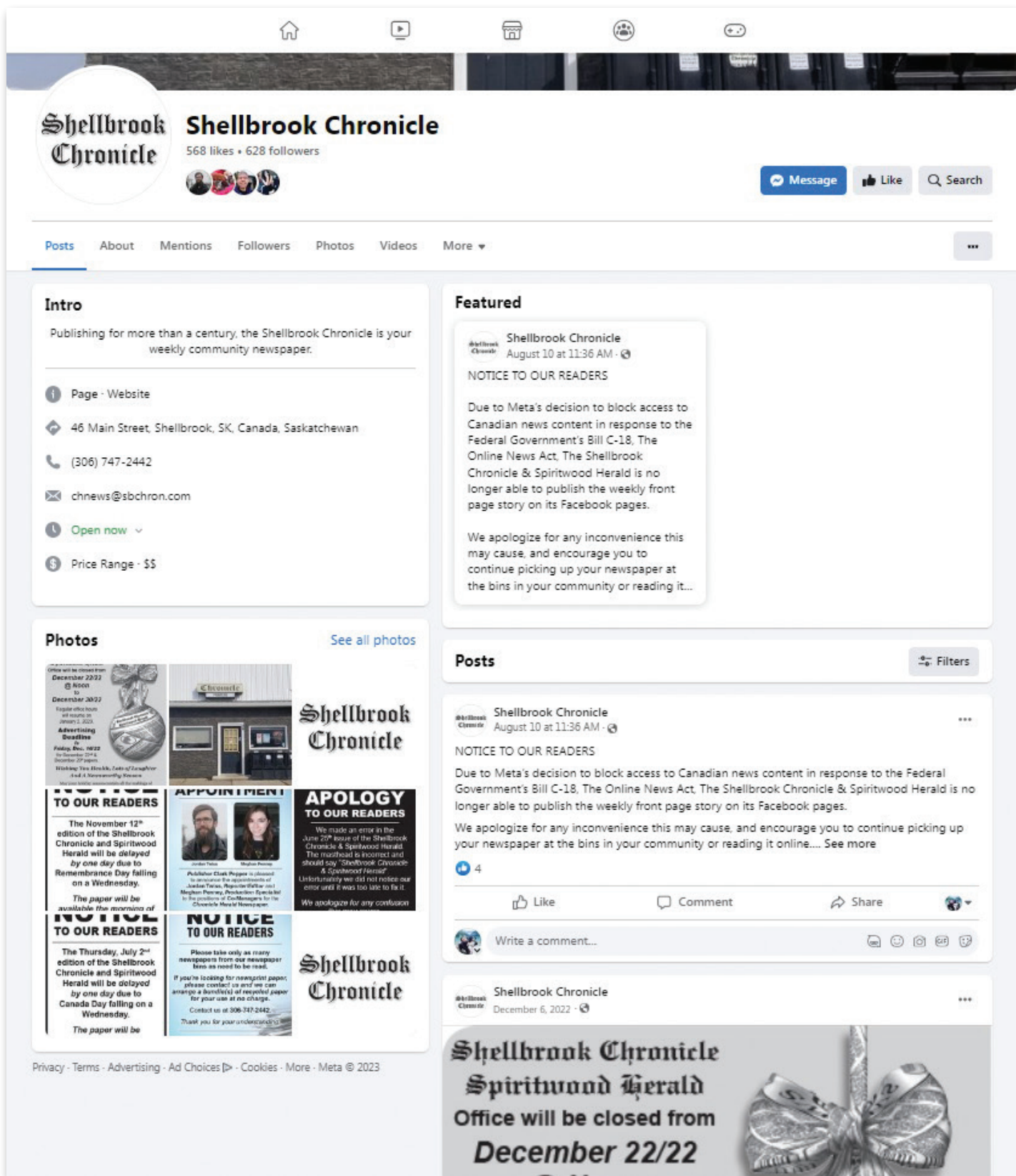
"The Bill introduces a new bargaining framework intended to support news businesses to secure fair compensation when their news content is made available by dominant digital news intermediaries and generates economic gain," an explanatory note from the government said.

"It seeks to support balanced negotiations between the businesses that operate dominant digital news intermediaries and the businesses responsible for the news outlets that produce this news content."

Based partly on Australia's News Media and Digital Platforms Mandatory Bargaining Code, Bill C-18 establishes a framework that will require tech giants like Meta and Google to develop compensation agreements with Canadian news sites for sharing their online news content through links or other means.

This makes Bill C-18 slightly different from Australia's take on the legislation, as its model didn't actually make these compensation agreements mandatory, but instead enabled "news businesses to bargain individually or collectively with digital platforms over payment for the inclusion of news on the platforms and services."

Despite opposition from Conserva-



The Shellbrook Chronicle and Spiritwood Herald Facebook pages have had all news content removed, as Meta has implemented its block on Canadian news in response to Bill C-18, The Online News Act.

tives, who called it an effort to censor and control what news Canadians are seeing, Bill C-18 became law in June. The federal government is now at work crafting the regulatory framework for the legislation, so it can come into force by the end of 2023.

Last year, Meta made more than US\$23 billion in profit while Alphabet, Google's parent company, made close to US\$60 billion. According to the Parliamentary Budget Officer, which provides economic and finan-

cial analysis to the government as an independent body, the bill would shift about \$329 million to the Canadian news industry — assuming Meta, Google and other digital giants play along.

Even before Bill C-18 passed, both Meta and Google rejected it, and said they would be "complying with the legislation" by removing Canadian news content from their platforms. Meta, meanwhile, has outright refused to participate in the regulatory process.

"For many months, we have been

transparent about our concerns with the Online News Act. It is based on the incorrect premise that Meta benefits unfairly from news content shared on our platforms, when the reverse is actually true," said Rachel Curran, head of public policy for Meta Canada, on Aug. 1.

For its part, Google has called the bill a "link tax," saying that it "breaks the way the web and search engines have worked for more than 30 years."

Continued on page 2



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Meta removes Canadian news from its platforms

Continued from 1

According to a June 29 statement from Google, links to Canadian news will be removed from its Search, News, and Discover products at some point. However, users will still receive its SOS Alerts, providing relevant safety information in the event of a crisis.

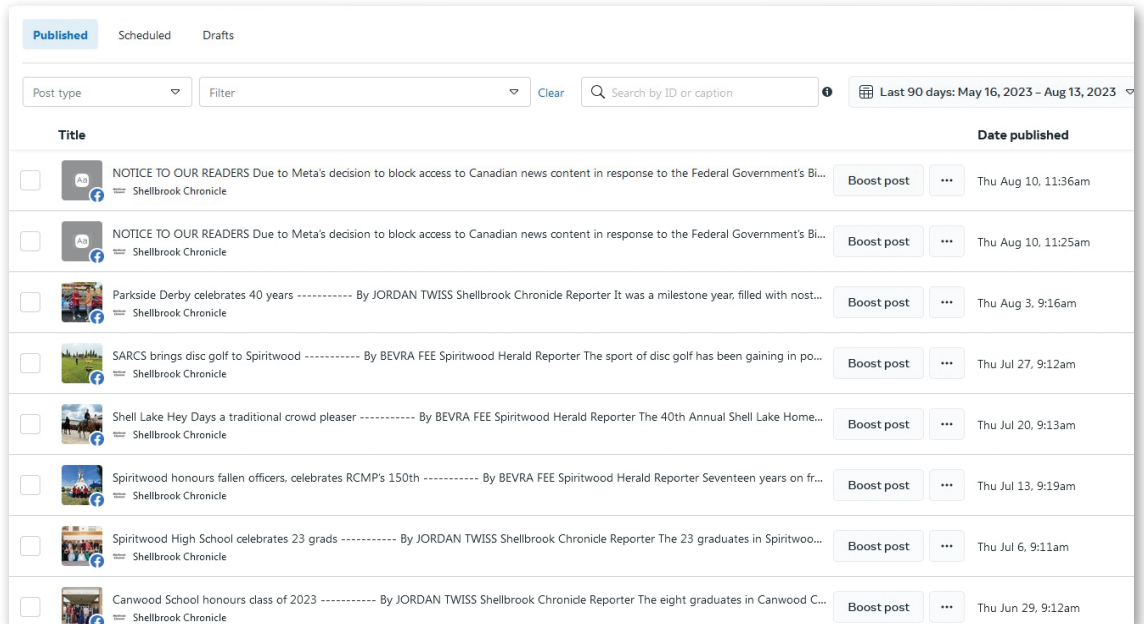
As for Canadians, they'll still be able to access Canadian news by navigating directly to the websites of publications.

Though Meta's Canadian news ban has already been enforced, a group of Canadian news publishers and broadcasters, including News Media Canada, the Canadian Association of Broadcasters, and CBC, is calling on the Competition Bureau to investigate

and prohibit the digital giants from blocking Canadian news content.

The group contends that blocking Canadian news is "anticompetitive," as it will prevent Canadian news companies from accessing the digital advertising market and significantly reduce their visibility to Canadians on social media platforms.

"If Meta is allowed to proceed unchecked, it could inflict significant damage to Canadian news organizations' ability to offer quality news services to Canadians, which is critical to the functioning of a free and democratic society," the group said in its application to the Competition Bureau.



Though Facebook's backend still shows recent posts containing news content on the Shellbrook Chronicle and Spiritwood Herald Facebook pages, these posts are no longer visible to users.

Shellbrook residents express concerns about crime

By JORDAN TWISS

Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

Though worries about small-town and rural crime have been commonplace for years in Saskatchewan, a new dialogue about the issue was started last Wednesday in response to a Facebook post made by the Town of Shellbrook.

In the post, the town urged residents to "help make Shellbrook a safe space" by reporting all suspicious activities to the RCMP detachments in Shellbrook or Ahtahkakoop.

"We always hear about things. We are really trying to encourage people to reach out to the police if something appears illegal," said Kelly Hoare, CAO for the Town of Shellbrook, of the reasoning behind the post, noting that town council has raised concerns with the RCMP.

"I know people just want to be heard. However, if these numbers aren't recorded in the police stats, it does not look like we have any crime in Shellbrook."

The Facebook post drew 29 comments and was shared 20 times (a rarity for small-town Facebook posts), with commenters repeating many of the oft-heard refrains about the lack of police presence in the community creating a climate for more criminal activity to occur.

In one conversation in the comments, two residents, who have asked not to be named to respect their privacy, exchanged stories of the driver's side windows of their trucks being smashed some time between midnight and 6 a.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 8.

One of the victims had two light purple tote bins taken from the truck bed, but nothing stolen from the cab, while the other only had some loose change stolen from

the cab of their truck. Both victims said they reported the incidents to police, and officers followed up with them.

"Lots of community members agree that [crime] has increased significantly over the last few years, coincidentally or not with 5th Avenue East being opened up, giving direct and quick access to out of town," said one of the victims, pointing to the "poor lighting" in the area as another possible factor that's encouraging criminal activity.

Among the community members concerned about the seeming increase in crime in recent years is Andrea Weberg, who lives on the east side of town.

"We used to live in a very quiet area of town. Now, the cops could sit outside at our intersection and watch nothing but crime all day," Weberg said, recounting a tale of looking out her window at 7 a.m. one morning and seeing a man assaulting a woman in Centennial Park.

"It's constant: drugs, people getting picked on, speeding, break and enters, our neighbour had their vehicles stolen. It's been weeks since the cops have even attempted to contact her."

Though she understands that many of the local RCMP detachment's calls for service were on the Ahtahkakoop Cree Nation, Weberg attributes much of the spike in crime to the decision to split the RCMP Detachment between Ahtahkakoop and Shellbrook. She says this diminished the police presence in the town, and calls this loss "unacceptable" in any community.

"We don't have a response. We barely have a police presence. And any time criminals know that there's no one around to monitor and keep us safe, that's where they're going to be," she said.

While the Town of Shellbrook decided to employ a Community Safety Officer earlier this year to bolster the presence of law enforcement in town, Weberg says this isn't enough, as the officer's focus seems to primarily be on traffic violations and crime is still happening when he isn't working.

Instead, Weberg feels that some sort of neighbourhood watch organization needs to be established in the community. Beyond this, she says it's up to municipal, federal, and provincial governments to figure out the politics of policing and make communities like Shellbrook safer.

In the meantime, she encourages all Shellbrook residents who are concerned about crime in the community to reach out to their local MP (Randy Hoback) and MLA (Scott Moe).

"Everyone needs to put in effort, including more from the town, to keep everybody safe," she said.

When *The Shellbrook Chronicle & Spiritwood Herald* reached out to the Ahtahkakoop-Shellbrook RCMP Detachment regarding residents' concerns, Cpl. Chad Price first outlined the expansive geographical area the detachment is tasked with patrolling, reaching "as far north as the Prince Albert National Park border, as far east as Crutwell, as far West as Shell Lake, as far south as Leask, and everywhere in between."

Noting that the detachment takes all reports of crime seriously and investigates them thoroughly, he reminded the public that urgent calls need to be responded to first. Nonetheless, he encourages the reporting of all crime.

"Part of our police work relies on intelligence-led policing to identify trends, and focus on those causing the most harm. Every report helps us identify crime trends and manage our resources effectively," he said. "This is why it is important to report all crimes in your area."

Elsewhere, in a quarterly report delivered to Shellbrook's Town Council at its July 24 meeting, Sgt. Shannon Haggarty, the commanding officer of the Ahtahkakoop-Shellbrook RCMP Detachment, noted an increase in break and enters, thefts, and vehicle thefts, both in town and in rural areas.

She added, however, that many of these incidents are crimes of opportunity, made possible by people leaving their garages open or their keys in their vehicles, and said the detachment tries to remind people to take precautions to protect themselves.



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Derryk Franson Funspiel gives funds to young curlers

By **BEVRA FEE**
Spiritwood Herald
Reporter

The Derryk Franson Funspiel was established to generate a fund in memory of an avid Spiritwood curler. With a highly successful first annual Derryk Franson Funspiel held in the winter of 2023, the fund is intended to assist youth curlers in the community to begin the sport or to hone their skills as they curl their way through school and competitive curling.

Sue Kahl, the events and facilities assistant for Spiritwood Area Recreation, Culture & Sport (SARCS) and organizer of the funspiel, reported that around \$10,000 was generated from the inaugural event, which was hosted at the Spiritwood & District Recreation Centre on Jan. 27 and 28, with 30 teams registered.

From that, four awards were given to local youth who are registered for the 2023 Kevin Martin Curling Camp. Entry fees for the camp

amount to \$675 each, and the recipients are Danica Laventure, Alea Beaulac, Avarie Conacher, and JessieLynn Allchurch.

The three-day curling camp is held each year, and the girls will all be attending during August in Edmonton. The camp will be a hands-on instruction clinic to help curlers achieve a higher level of their skills.

Derryk was just 22 when he was killed in a house fire on Sept. 18, 2022. Throughout his high school years, he curled on the Spiritwood High School boy's curling team and won a number of silver medals at Provincials. He also competed in junior curling through CurlSask from U15 to U18, and saw similar success.

Given how involved he and his family have always been in the community (and in curling) Kahl felt it only appropriate to organize an event in his honour, and to turn it into an occasion to promote and support youth curling in the community.



Recipients of funding from Spiritwood's inaugural Derryk Franson Funspiel, clockwise from top left: Danica Laventure, Alea Beaulac, JessieLynn Allchurch, and Avarie Conacher.

Police seek man for attempted murder

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

The Ahtahkakoop-Shellbrook RCMP Detachment is asking for the public's assistance in locating a 31-year-old man who is wanted for attempted murder.

According to an RCMP press release, the man in question was involved in an Aug. 8 incident in which a firearm was discharged outside of a residence located on the Ahtahkakoop Cree Nation. The incident resulted in the serious injury of an adult male, who was transported to hospital by STARS air ambulance and remained there in stable but serious condition as of late last week.

Based on their investigation so far, police say the victim and the accused, Dominic Ahenakew, were known to each other.

Ahenakew is described as a 6" tall male, weighing approximately 200 lbs, with brown eyes and brown hair. Initially, he was believed to be travelling in a white Chevrolet pick-up truck. However, in an update issued on Aug. 10, police said the vehicle had been found abandoned on the Ahtahkakoop Cree Nation.

The Ahtahkakoop-Shellbrook RCMP Detachment is investigating along with officers from the Prince Albert RCMP Forensic Identification Services. Police say officers are conducting

proactive patrols in the community, and following up on all information provided to them to help locate Ahenakew and determine the circumstances of the incident.

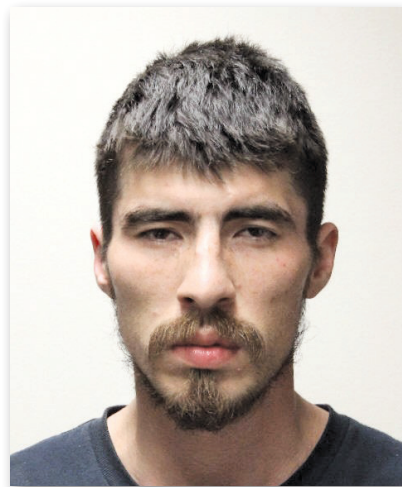
In the meantime, an arrest warrant has been issued for Ahenakew, who is charged with attempted murder with a firearm, pointing a firearm, and careless use of a firearm.

Preliminary investigation by officers indicates this was an isolated incident. However, police say Ahenakew is considered armed and dangerous, and urge members of the public not to approach him if they see him.

Instead, they should report any sightings to police by calling 911 immediately.

Anyone with information on Dominic Ahenakew's whereabouts is asked to contact their nearest po-

lice service or Ahtahkakoop RCMP at 306-468-2969. Information can also be submitted anonymously by contacting Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or www.saskcrimestoppers.com.



Dominic Ahenakew, 31, is wanted for attempted murder.

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Note: A sum for costs in an amount required by subsection 4(3) of *The Tax Enforcement Act* is included in the amount shown against each parcel.

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* Penalty is calculated to the date of the Notice and will continue to accrue as applicable.

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Canada's wildfires require frank, honest dialogue

Over the course of the past two months, we have seen the emergence of a strong pushback against the suggestion that the wildfires that have been blazing across the country since the spring could be linked in any way to climate change.

It's understandable for wildfires to be on people's minds, given how much of our summer has been spent living under a pall of smoke.

But what's unclear, is what has inspired this vocal pushback against the concerns of scientists and climate experts.

It's especially concerning in a year in which Canada is setting a new record for total hectares burned by wildfires.

Indeed, as of Aug. 8, 13.2 million hectares had burned so far this year, compared to the previous national record of 7.6 million, set in 1989.

For reference, when drawn on a map of Saskatchewan, this year's wildfires would have destroyed an area spanning from Lloydminster in the northwest, to Hudson Bay in the northeast, to Esterhazy in the southeast, and to Leader in the southwest.

Speaking of Saskatchewan, despite a dry but not especially scorching summer, 1.2 million hectares had burned in the province as of Aug. 1, still below the record of 1.7 million set in 2015, but well above the 10-year average of 440,000 hectares. Similarly, the 392 wildfires seen to date is slightly above the five-year average of 325.

Of course, the number of wildfires we're experiencing and the amount of land burning doesn't mean climate change is the one and only culprit (and no one is asserting this, despite what some of the skeptics are claiming). However, it's not unreasonable to suggest climate change is indirectly responsible.

Well, it's not unreasonable, unless you're among those, including People's Party of Canada Leader Maxime Bernier, who subscribe to the latest social media-driven theory that the wildfires are being deliberately set by radical environmentalists.

"I bet a good portion of the wildfires raging across the country were started by green terrorists who want to give their climate change campaign a little boost," Mr. Bernier tweeted on June 5. Similar conspiracy theories were



JORDAN TWISS
~
News Editor

spread during Australia's Black Summer in 2020, and when wildfires were ravaging California in 2021. But here in Canada, some are even going so far as to suggest the federal government is the one setting the fires to advance its climate change policies and take a step towards enforcing "climate lockdowns."

Though she's not fallen quite so far down the rabbit hole, Alberta Premier Danielle Smith has downplayed, or refused to acknowledge, any notion of a link between wildfires and climate change.

Ignoring a question about the subject in an interview back in June, Ms. Smith instead went on a tangent about plans to bring in out-of-province arson investigators to determine the causes of wildfires with no known causes at the time.

In a separate press conference in June, she once again attributed the vast majority of the fires to human activity (Alberta Wildfire's policy is to declare a fire to be human-caused, unless lightning is involved).

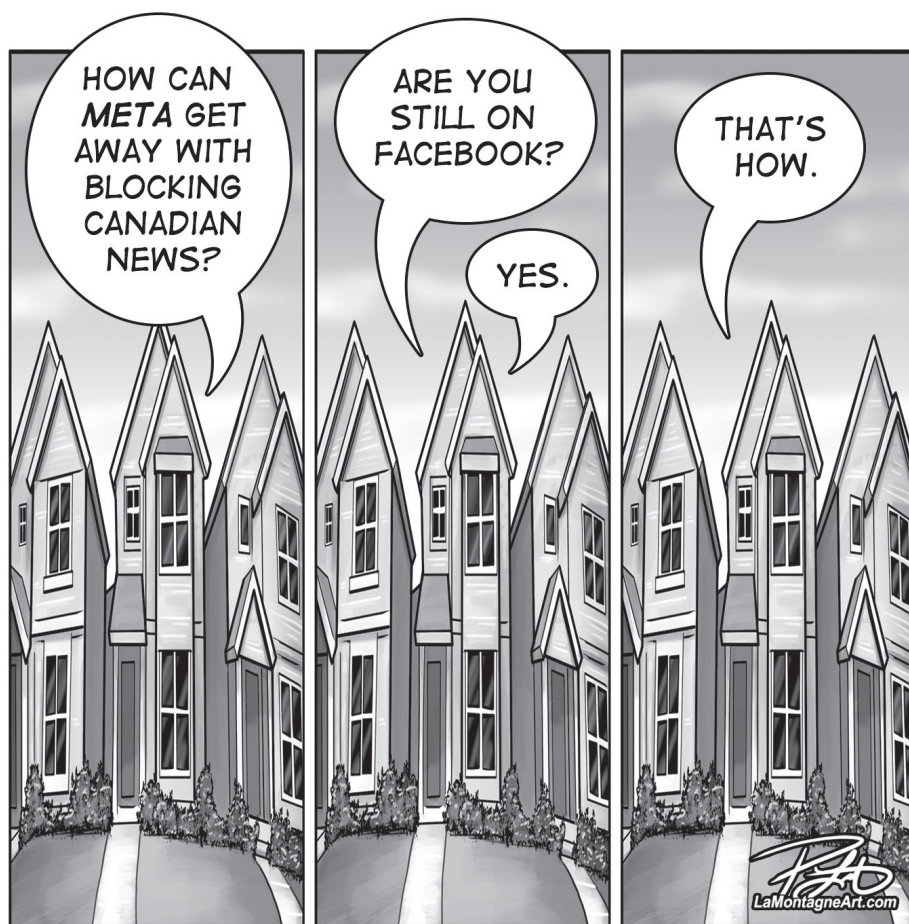
Once again, no one can reasonably argue that humans aren't the cause of any wildfires, and even the Canadian Wildland Fire Information System's data suggests wildfires are evenly split between human-caused and lightning-caused. But once again, human involvement doesn't exclude climate change from being an exacerbating factor.

Regardless, *National Post* contributor Chris Sankey would like us all to stop blaming wildfires on climate change.

In a July 31 opinion piece for the publication, Mr. Sankey declared that attributing every fire to climate change is "scientifically unsound and horribly opportunistic," and accused radical environmentalists of misleading the public with their climate alarmism.

Instead, Mr. Sankey contends that fires occur naturally from lightning and heat, but also largely from human activities, like campfires and ATVs, and poor forest management practices.

"As shown in California and Australia, both of which have suffered from intense forest fires in recent years, issues of forest management, over-de-



velopment of ecologically vulnerable areas and expanded human activity in forested areas play significant roles in the proliferation of fires," Mr. Sankey wrote.

None of what Mr. Sankey claims is entirely untrue. However, he does seem to be deliberately missing one significant point.

Yes, wildfires do occur naturally because of lightning and heat. But as Edward Struzik, a fellow at Queen's University's Institute for Energy and Environmental Policy, notes, dry and hot weather creates ideal conditions for more lightning.

"A one-degree Celsius increase in temperature amounts to about 12 per cent more lightning. So, the warmer it gets as the climate heats up, the more triggers there are for fires to burn," he told CBS News in late June.

Similarly, in his use of California and Australia as case studies to disprove the so-called climate change agenda, Mr. Sankey noted the "over-development of ecologically vulnerable areas" as one of the main causes of wildfires.

What he fails to realize, or just ignores altogether, is that this is an example of man-made climate change in action.

When you pave over a wetland, or chop down a forest to make way for urban development, you are disturbing a delicately balanced ecosystem and altering the climate of an area.

And these changes to the land have far-reaching consequences, both on

the ground surface and in the atmosphere, creating the warmer and drier conditions needed for wildfires to spread more easily.

Perhaps the most glaring flaw in Mr. Sankey's argument, however, comes from his apparent refusal to accept climate change as being at least indirectly responsible for wildfires. In his mind, it seems, a human-caused fire cannot be attributed to anything other than its human cause.

We all know how easy it is for a stray spark from a campfire to catch light in nearby grass. But the conditions in said grass need to be just right for the spark to become a wildfire.

Poor forest management and human-caused accidents may be one of those conditions, as Mr. Sankey contends, but so are the higher temperatures and dryness we've experienced due, in part, to climate change.

To put it another way: just because an ATV may cause a fire, it doesn't mean climate change isn't creating the conditions for the fire to be more severe.

It's not a case of all or nothing, or black and white; in this assertion, at least, Mr. Sankey is absolutely correct.

He's also right when he says there needs to be a move towards a "clear, honest dialogue" about the record-setting wildfires we've experienced this year, so we can develop the best policies to address the issue.

To get there, we need to leave behind the alarmism and conspiracy theories.

Shellbrook Chronicle

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Report from the Legislature

Our province has received more good news about its economy; Moody's Investors Service has affirmed Saskatchewan's Aa1 (stable) credit rating and outlook. Along with the AA (low) rating from DBRS Morningstar and the AA rating from S&P Global Ratings, Saskatchewan's strong financial outlook has now been affirmed by all three major rating agencies. Our government will continue to be fiscally responsible by paying down debt while investing in programs and services that impact the lives of Saskatchewan people.

One of the major priorities for our government is the health care system. Through the Health Human Resources Action Plan, our government continues to increase health care training opportunities for Saskatchewan students and graduates. As

post-secondary students head back to school this fall, we wanted to remind you of some of the opportunities available for those seeking career opportunities in health care here in Saskatchewan.

Approximately 550 new training seats have been added to 18 high-priority occupations, building upon the addition of 150 nursing seats announced in 2022. The College of



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Medicine at the University of Saskatchewan has added four seats to its undergraduate program for this year as well, with plans to add another four next year.

More educational opportunities are available through interprovincial training agreements. Saskatchewan students can access 15 seats at the University of Alberta in the Speech Language Pathology program and four seats at the British Columbia Institute of Technology in the Environmental Public Health Program.

Our government recently announced a new bursary program for students and recent graduates of paramedic programs who commit to joining Emergency Medical Services (EMS) in Saskatchewan. The Final Clinical Placement Bursary is available to students in eligible health disciplines and

has already seen a high uptake with 100 bursaries approved since April.

Beginning later this month, Saskatchewan will begin implementing an accelerated, streamlined pathway for internationally-educated nurses that shortens licensure timeframes from months to 14 weeks. Nurse recruits from abroad will be supported through the process, from recruitment through to their work placements and settlement in a new community.

Saskatchewan is a great place to pursue a career in health care; for more information on any of these opportunities, please visit www.Saskatchewan.ca/HHR.

This year has brought dry conditions to Saskatchewan and our government is committed to supporting farmers and ranchers. The Water



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Security Agency (WSA) just announced it will make water and vacant land available to support farmers and ranchers. For more information, producers can contact the WSA's Client Service Centre at 1-866-727-5420 or client.service@wsask.ca.

Earlier this summer, the Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation (SCIC) doubled its low yield threshold, allowing farmers to salvage

their cereal or pulse crops as livestock feed. For more information on this initiative, contact the SCIC at 1-888-935-0000 or visit www.scic.ca.

Our government has also reached out to the federal government and asked for an AgriRecovery assessment to determine what assistance could be provided to producers. The province also requested an early designation of the federal Livestock Tax Deferral Program to provide producers facing potential feed shortages with more options as they consider if they need to liquidate part of their herd.

Our government continues to stand up for Saskatchewan's best interests. If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact your MLA constituency office.

Spiritwood Library hosts flower arranging class

By
STACEY GABOURY
Spiritwood Library
Board Member

The Spiritwood Public Library hosted a flower arranging class on Saturday, July 22. The instructor for the day was librarian Heather Gatzke.

Heather is a self-proclaimed "book-a-holic" and has a wealth of knowledge about books and literature, but her expertise about flowers and foliage is also impressive. Not only does she have her library technician's certificate, but she also has a floral design certificate, obtained from Olds Col-

lege in Olds, Alta. in 1989-1990.

Heather had on dis-

play various materials used to create a bouquet and different mechanics

used to keep the flowers in place. She gave step-by-step instructions and demonstrated how to arrange flowers in a vase, and had plenty of do's and don'ts.

The participants in

the class found her very interesting to listen to and were surprised at the things they had been doing wrong all these years. The participants were then given a turn to create their own

bouquet with a supplied vase and flowers, and had a great time doing it.

The participants thoroughly enjoyed the class and the bouquets that beautified their houses.



The Spiritwood Library's Librarian, Heather Gatzke, led a flower arranging class at the library on July 22.



Participants in the class got to create and take home their own bouquets.

RESORT VILLAGE OF BIG SHELL NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Public Notice is hereby given that the Council of Resort Village of Big Shell intends to adopt bylaws under *The Planning and Development Act, 2007* to amend Bylaw 2-85 The Basic Planning Statement Bylaw.

Intent: The proposed bylaw will rezone the affected area from Community Center District to Storage Uses future land use, the land described below:

Affected Area: The affected area of land is legally described as Parcel B, Plan No. 102024638 and Part of PR3, Plan No. 89B15672 and part of SW ¼ Sec. 5-TWP 49-RGE8-W3rdM, Big Shell, Saskatchewan, which is shown in the shaded area of the map which appears as part of this notice.

Reason: The reason of the proposed alteration is to allow for the development of Storage Lots to be titled.

Public Inspection: Any person may inspect the bylaw(s) by contacting Tara Bueckert at (306) 427-2188 or by email at villagebigshell@gmail.com Monday to Friday. Copies are available at cost.

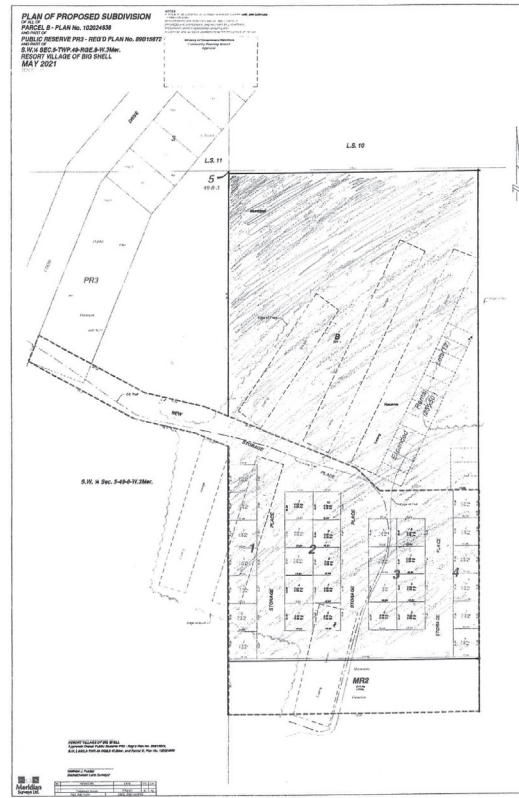
Public Hearing: A public meeting will be held on August 25th, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. at the Hall, 229 Loon Drive, Resort Village of Big Shell, Saskatchewan to discuss the proposal.

Any person(s) who wish to object to the proposed restructuring may file a written objection, stating clearly their reason for their opposition, with the administrator of the Resort Village of Big Shell at the address below. A written notice of objection must be received by the administrator by 3:30 p.m. on Thursday August 24th, 2023.

Resort Village of Big Shell
Box 130
Shell Lake, SK S0J 2G0

Issued at Shell Lake, Saskatchewan, this 17th day of August, 2023

Tara Bueckert, Administrator



SaskTel sets timeline for Shellbrook fibre expansion

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

Come next March or April, residents of Shellbrook will be connected to SaskTel's expanding fibre optic network, as the Crown continues work on its Rural Fibre Initiative.

Originally announced in 2020, the Rural Fibre Initiative is a multi-phase program that will see SaskTel invest \$200 million to bring inFNET service to over 110,000 residents and businesses living and operating in more

than 130 rural communities. In late 2021, Shellbrook was among 24 communities added to the list to receive the upgrade as part of Phase 4 of the initiative, with an estimated completion window of 2023/2024.

Now Greg Jacobs, SaskTel's manager of corporate communications, says the Crown is eyeing the end of the 2023 fiscal year or the beginning of the 2024 fiscal year as the window to start its more significant construction activities, including the work in Shellbrook.

In the meantime, he says there's much preparation to be done ahead of the construction, starting with a SaskPower assessment of the community's power poles.

"They'll be evaluating the poles in the community to see if they're able to withstand the additional weight that the fibre infrastructure will bring on it. Then, if some poles need to be replaced, they'll do that," he said, noting SaskTel has its own preparations to complete ahead of construction to help stream-

line the process.

"We'll be evaluating our existing infrastructure in the community, to see if we need to add some new pedestals or change the distance between pedestals and homes. There's a lot of pre-work that goes into this," he added.

Once the pre-work is complete, Jacobs says the contractors handling the construction will visit the neighbourhoods they'll be working in ahead of time to give residents a head's up and let them know what to

expect. Beyond that, Jacob says, it should be a "simple construction activity."

SaskTel anticipates all communities included in the Rural Fibre Initiative will be fibre-ready by the end of March 2025.

In addition to Shellbrook's inclusion in Phase 4 of the project, the town of Spiritwood will receive upgrades as part of Phase 5 (also scheduled for completion in 2023/2024), and the town of Blaine Lake is on the list for Phase 6.

Spiritwood Library receives recreation resources

By **HEATHER GATZKE**
Librarian, Spiritwood Library

The Spiritwood Public Library is happy to announce that it has received five games and sidewalk chalk from Lakeland District for Sport, Culture, and Recreation (LDSCR). These games are designed to encourage active living.

Recreation provides multiple pathways to wellbeing for individuals and communities, and for our built and natural environments. Participation in active recreations adds vitality and quality to life. It positively affects

functional capacity, mental health, fitness levels, the prevention and management of chronic diseases and disability, and overall wellbeing.

Crystal from LDSCR delivered the resources, and explained the organization's 2023 initiative was to have resources available at regional parks and libraries. These resources came from a budget provided through the Framework for Recreation with the Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association.

The Spiritwood Public Library applied for the "All Ages Can Play" package. This included Giant Checkers,

Giant Canadian "Jenga", Bocce ball, Croquet, Spike 'n Smash, and sidewalk chalk.

These items are available to sign out for a one-week loan period to anyone with a valid library card.



Giant checkers offers players an opportunity to get outside to play a game.

Steinhilber wins August dessert



The winner of the Spiritwood Public Library's August Dessert of the Month draw was Deborah Steinhilber (left). The luscious cherry topped cake was made and presented by board member Dana Doucette.

By **HEATHER GATZKE**, *Spiritwood Public Library*



The Spiritwood Library recently received five new games for patrons of all ages to check out.

Growth That Works For Everyone

Continuing to Invest in Student Health Care Opportunities

The 2023-24 academic year will increase access to educational opportunities for students interested in a health care career by providing approximately 550 new training seats in 18 high demand health occupations, including new training opportunities for Indigenous students. *For more information visit saskatchewan.ca/HHR.*

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

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

Ag events conjure nostalgic connections

Increasingly, finding time to actually get out and spend time in a field or cow pasture with a producer has become more difficult.

You might expect in a world of instant information and news (unless you are on Facebook, where Canadian media has been blocked due to a corporate spat with the federal government) it would be easier.

But having a cellphone to stay connected generally has simply made it more difficult to get away from the work world.

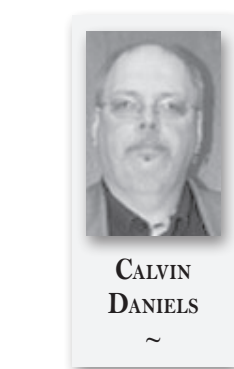
That the work world

in terms of media has changed dramatically, to one where the print edition of a newspaper is only part of the work equation, which also includes getting stories to the web and a much broader audience.

So last week, getting out to the first stop on the East Central Saskatchewan Angus Pasture Tour was a nice change for this old reporter.

It wasn't the story, but rather the people I spoke with mostly about things not directly connected to any story, and the memories which

were brought forth that morning.



CALVIN DANIELS

One conversation somehow swung around to showing stock, and I mentioned I might be the only person there who had shown chickens.

The comment got

smiles, and I had another person note that he'd went to judge at a fair years ago and found himself judging chickens.

What was going through my mind was right before the Shand Fair when I was just a youngster – we are talking a half century ago – and Dad and I figuring why not. Before I knew it, I was preparing to show chickens.

Now showing a chicken is easy. They go in cages at the fair and the judge comes along and makes their decisions.

Catching your mother's

laying hens and roosters to get to the show – well that was another story. Imagine it's dusk, the free-range chickens are roosting in the scrub bush. The hired hand and I – just a kid – head out with a fish net and a flashlight to capture my show chickens.

I have no recollection of whether those fish-net-caught chickens brought home a ribbon, but I remember the great night hunt.

Another conversation had a gentleman – Craig Burkell – note that he had first met me when I was showing pigs

at Yorkton Fair. Again, it was a time some 50 years ago, and it was my first connection to Yorkton – well ahead of accepting a reporting job at the then Enterprise that turned into a career now well past 30 years.

A lot has transpired in all those years, hundreds of stories on agriculture, roughly 1700 columns like this one, and hundreds of thousands of words on farming.

And still, a morning in a pasture taking photos of people and cattle is a highlight, as it connects me to both my youth and journalistic roots.

Crop Report: Aug. 1 to 7

Harvest is now four per cent complete in Saskatchewan as many combines entered the field this past week. This is ahead of the five-year and 10-year averages of two per cent. Producers who have not started yet are preparing for the oncoming harvest season.

Producers have been working on taking their winter cereals and pulse crops off this past week. The fall rye harvest is most advanced, with 43 per cent of the crop off. Winter wheat is currently 15 per cent harvested for the year. Harvest progress is led by the southwest, with 11 per cent complete in that region. The northeast region has just started, with less than one per cent of the crop off. Field peas are the most harvested of all spring seeded crops, with 22 per cent of this year's crop harvested. Lentils are not far behind with 17 per cent of the crop in the bin. In general, harvest is just beginning for oilseeds (canola, flax, mustard, and soybeans).

Many haying and silage operations are finishing their last fields. Provincially, dryland alfalfa yields are estimated to be 1.2 tons per acre, while greenfeed is estimated to be 1.4 tons per acre. Irrigated alfalfa is estimated to yield 2.9 tons per acre, while greenfeed is estimated to yield 1.2 tons per acre. Silage yields are estimated to be 4.4 tons per acre. Many producers are expressing concerns about feed supply this coming winter and are looking at using grain crops as feed. Water quality

is also a concern this year given the dry conditions. Water quality testing for livestock is available to producers through their local regional offices.

Scattered and varying rain showers moved through the province this week. The southwest reported the most precipitation this past week with 36 mm in the Eyebrow region. The Pelly region also reported significant moisture with 31 mm while other areas of the province received as little as trace amounts. The warm temperatures out-competed any moisture received this past week and soil moisture continues to decrease. Provincially, 12 per cent of cropland has adequate moisture, 45 per cent is short and 43 per cent is very short. Ten per cent of hay and pasture land has adequate topsoil moisture, 43 per cent is short, and 48 per cent is very short.

Crop damage this past week was mostly due to drought and heat stress, as well as grasshopper and flea beetle damage. Producers are busy harvesting and preparing bins and machinery for harvest. Producers are also busy selling cattle, hauling water, and preparing for fall operations.

Harvest is a busy time for producers. The public is reminded to give machinery extra space and time when travelling on roadways. The risk of fire this harvest is exacerbated by the dry conditions seen throughout the growing season and producers are encour-

aged to have fire mitigation resources at the ready. Dry conditions can be stressful for producers, and they are reminded to take safety precautions in all the work they do. The Farm Stress Line is available to provide support to producers toll free at 1-800-667-4442.

Additional resources related to dry conditions are available through the ministry website or by contacting their regional office.

A complete, printable version of the Crop Report is available online: <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/crop-report>

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

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

SHELL LAKE: Wapiti Regional Library - Tuesday 11am - 4pm; Wednesday 12pm - 5pm

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

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

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

DEBDEN: Wapiti Library hours: Tuesday 10am - 4pm; Wednesday 1pm - 7pm. Librarian: Aline Hannon

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

MARCELIN: Wapiti Library - Thursday 2pm - 7pm; Saturday 9am - 2pm. 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 2pm - 6pm; Tuesday 12pm - 8pm; Wednesday 2pm - 6pm; Thursday 12pm - 6pm; Friday 10am - 5pm (Story Time 11am - 12pm); Saturday 10am - 4pm.

CANWOOD: The Canadian Grand Masters Sendoff Fiddle Show & Dry Dance – Monday, August 21, 7pm - 11pm, Canwood Elks Community Centre. Featuring Saskatchewan fiddlers and Saskatchewan participants attending the 2023 Canadian Grand Masters Fiddling Competition in Truro, Nova Scotia. Austin Castle (Swift Current, Sask CGM Rep), Booker Blakley (Saskatoon), Lucas Welsh (Meadow Lake, Guest-Guitar & Fiddle), Becky Wilson (Canwood), Elisha Johnson (Canwood), Trent Bruner (Guest - CGM House Accompanist). Admission: \$15/Adult, \$5/Children 12 & Under, Preschoolers Free. Tickets available at the door. Arranged with help from the Canwood Library Branch of Wapiti. Everyone welcome!

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The good, bad and ugly in sports

Clint Eastwood starred in the movie *The Good, the Bad and the Ugly*, but little did he know in 1966 it would turn into sports column fodder almost 60 years later. But hey, it's the dog days of August, and the world of sports is filled with examples of all three of those title words, so let's get to it.

The Good — Oh, Ohtani. Shohei Ohtani, the California Angels' hitting and pitching stud is having perhaps the best season in MLB history. The American League leader in home runs is also one of the AL's best pitchers, but his performance in a late July doubleheader in Detroit was stunning: A one-hit, complete game shutout in the opener, and two home runs in the nightcap. Wow! Just wow!

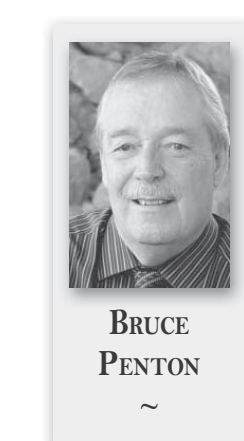
The Bad — The Edmonton Elks are becoming a punch line. The Canadian Football League team set a professional sports record by losing their 21st straight home game — a stretch going

back to 2019. The Elks play in a city calling itself the "City of Champions." Uh, right.

The Ugly — The spectacle of Bo Bichette rounding first base, changing his mind about going to second, and then limping to a halt when something popped in his right knee was an ugly scene for Blue Jays' fans. Bichette, the team's best hitter, was expected to miss about 10 games in early August, something the Jays definitely didn't need if they hope to make the playoffs.

The Good — Summer MacIntosh has to be, hands down, our country's female athlete of the year for 2023. She won two gold medals at the World Aquatic Championships in Japan in July (200-metre butterfly and 400-metre medley), adding to the two golds she won last year. She also anchored Canada's 4x100-metre medley relay team.

The Bad — Canadian soccer fans had high hopes for our country's women's national team



BRUCE PENTON

at the FIFA World Cup. But a 4-0 thrashing by host Australia eliminated the Canadians, who were one of the favourites after winning gold at the 2020 Olympic Games (played in 2021 in Tokyo).

The Ugly — Bo Bichette's haircut.

The Good — How amazing are Max Verstappen's recent performances on the world Formula One racing circuit? He won seven consecutive races, giving his Red Bull team 12 straight victories, and the question these days is not will Verstappen win the race, but by how much?

The Bad — All Bo Levi Mitchell had to do to wrap up a recent victory for Hamilton Tiger-Cats was take a knee to run out the clock. However, he decided to take the snap and plunge into the mass of humanity on the line. Ouch! Someone landed on his leg and he suffered a fracture. Bad play. Bad decision.

The Ugly — While all teams in the American League East are over .500, their ugly cousins — the A.L. Central — limp along in mediocrity. One team, likely Minnesota or Cleveland, will by default qualify for the playoffs, possibly with a sub-.500 record.

• RJ Currie of sports-deke.com: "According to a recent poll, Draymond Green was the Warrior that Cavaliers fans hated most — by a wide margin. Title that one: Not Everybody Loves Draymond."

• Headline at fark.com: "The Savannah Bananas have a rule that a foul ball caught by a fan is an out. Two outs in the ninth? This is why you

bring your glove to the game."

• Steve Simmons of Sunmedia, on the \$360 million six-year contract signed by Jaylen Brown of Boston Celtics: "Jaylen Brown will be paid more than the Canadian Football League next season."

• Headline on the Canadian parody website The Beaver: "Blue Jays fan times bathroom breaks for when team has runners in scoring position to ensure he doesn't miss any action"

• Comedy guy Torben Rolfson of Vancouver, after the Pac 12 football conference lost five teams to rival conferences: "What is the Pac-12 Network going to show now — Three's Company reruns?"

• Mike Vaccaro of the New York Post, on the NFL's Hall of Fame game between the Jets and Browns: "If you watched that game to the bitter end the other night (raises hand, mutters 'guilty'), then you really must reevaluate the way you parcel out your time."

• Another one from Steve Simmons: "Should they change the name of the Edmonton Elks to the Edmonton L's?"

• Columnist Phil Mushnick in the New York Post, on the Big Apple no longer classified as a 'sophisticated' sports town because of the Jets' flirtation with former Vikings RB Dalvin Cook, who has a sketchy past: "We're no better than yahoos in Lincoln, Neb.; Norman, Okla.; Lansing, Mich., or throughout the SEC where police cars carry the latest team yearbooks to identify perps."

• Mushnick again, on that lack of sophistication: "(New Yorkers) even boo visiting-team pitchers for throwing to first to keep the runner close, as if we just can't figure that out."

• Headline at the on-ion.com: "Deshaun Watson: 'I've Learned From My Mistake Of Using My Own Name At Massage Parlors'"

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

Spiritwood's Associates host jam session

By JOHN ROTH
Associates Member

On July 15, the Associates (Spiritwood's old time jamming club), rented the Spir-

itwood Pioneer Centre and hosted a jam session. Despite other events happening in the area, they still had a good turn out.

The jam sessions started

with a couple of snappy tunes from Aline Allard on rhythm guitar and John Roth on fiddle. Peg Haryung joined in with a couple of songs, followed by Bruce McNabb and his grandson Morgan McNabb on guitar.

Morgan is a talented young

teenager starting out in the music world, and is very good at doing what he loves. Morgan closed the jam session with two Merle Haggard songs and one Hank Snow tune. Everyone enjoyed the jam session.

The lunch booth was taken

care of by Sherry and Randy Heyden, and our door greeters were Megan Allard and Irene Roth. After expenses we cleared \$200, which the Associates donated, alongside a \$100 donation from Eleanor Pallo, to the Rose Gill Lodge senior's home in Rabbit Lake.



Terry Olson (right) accepts two cheques from Megan Allard for Rabbit Lake's Rose Gill Lodge senior's home.

SaskPower warns of scam emails

By JORDAN TWISS
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

SaskPower is warning customers of a recent email scam aimed at obtaining their personal data and credit card information.

The fraudulent email appears to come from MySaskPower and states the customer has an unpaid bill. It demands immediate payment, otherwise the customer will face disconnection.

The email contains links that direct customers to external websites.

"Only customers signed up for a MySaskPower account will receive billing notices. We do not threaten disconnection for non-payment through an email," the provincial Crown said in a statement.

SaskPower urges any customers who have clicked a link in one of these fraudulent emails and provided credit card information to report the incident to their credit card issuer and the police immediately.

Other tips from SaskPower on how to spot fraudulent emails and stay safe on the internet include:

- Double check the sender's email address — the display name may appear legitimate, but the address should be from @saskpower.com
 - SaskPower never threatens disconnection through an email for non-payment
 - SaskPower will never ask for payment via e-transfer, gift cards or bitcoin.
 - Never open documents attached to these emails. If you download these files or open them, you could endanger your computer.
- If residents are in doubt — SaskPower Customer Care (1-888-757-6937) can confirm if the communication is legitimate.

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PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

Parkside
10:30 a.m. Worship
Pastor Lorne Valuck
306-747-3572
Shellbrook
Adult Study
9:30 a.m.
Sun., 10:30 a.m. - Worship
Pastor David Bodvarson
306-747-7235
Canwood
Summer: 10 a.m. - Worship
Pastor Bob Wrench
306-468-2138
Leask Gospel Tabernacle
Sunday 11 a.m.
1-780-690-2100

PRESBYTERIAN

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

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN

Parkside
11 a.m. - Worship

ANGLICAN CHURCH

Leask - All Saint's
Sunday Service - 9 a.m.
St. Andrew's - Shellbrook
Sunday, 11 a.m. Service
Canwood - Christ Church
Sunday, 2 p.m. - Service
Rev. Canon David Butorac
306-961-1634
Minister's Warden:
306-922-5159
H.C. Service with Rev.
Butorac - 2nd Sunday of the
month

MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCH

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

EVANGELICAL FREE

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

UNITED CHURCH

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

CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST

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

GOOD NEWS

THE GRACE OF GIVING

By **DAVE BODVARSON**

Shellbrook Pentecostal Assembly

"What you have in your hand is not enough to meet your need. What you have in your hand is your seed!"

I like the story of the Bible School student who desperately needed a job. He saw a flyer on the school bulletin board that a car lot needed help to wash their cars the next day. The pay was 50 cents an hour. Despite how chilly the weather was, he was first in line. As he washed the cars, the wind was blowing out the north cutting his hands his face and hands.

It took four hours to wash the cars, and he walked back to the Bible School with \$2 in his pocket.

That night, the Bible College student ended up in the chapel to hear a missionary called Charles Greenway. Greenway was a missionary to Africa. After the missionary spoke, the offering came.

The student confessed, "Offering had not been a problem for me in the past six weeks, because I was dead broke. Now I had two dollars in my pocket. My mind was made up; I needed this money more than that missionary did.

Suddenly, as clearly as the tolling of a bell on a cold Christmas morning, the voice of the Lord said, 'Give that two dollars!'

I said 'No!'

My second response was more reasoned and more articulate: 'Absolutely not.'

'Give it!' The Lord said.

'I need it more than Charles Greenway needs it,' I argued.

'Give it,' The Lord said.

The offering plate was coming toward me. I clutched the two dollars in my pocket like a drowning man would clutch a life raft.

'Give it,' God said.

I placed the money in the offering and watched the basket pass by. I would like to tell you I was covered with waves of joy (that didn't happen).

Little did I know, God was teaching me a lesson about giving I would remember for the rest of my life. When what you have in your hands is not enough to meet your need, what you have in your hands is your seed. However grudgingly, I had planted my seed in the sacred soil of the kingdom of God."

The next day, the Bible College student had this urge deep down in his belly to go to Southwestern Wood Products and ask for a job. He had already been there twice to ask for a job.

As he walked into the warehouse, he met General Manger Bill Craig. The student asked for a job. To his surprise he heard the words "You're hired. One of our employees quit last night. You can have his job."

Suddenly, he had a great job that would help him to pay his way through Bible College, sanding church pews by hand for a dollar per hour.

The student said, "As I sanded the endless rows of pews, Bill Craig's words suddenly echoed in my ear, 'One of our employees quit last night.'"

Last night, when I was in the chapel listening to a missionary from Africa? Last night when I gave my best to God, God gave His best to me.

That Bible College student graduated, and his name is pastor John Hagee.

Many years ago, I was visiting in the north. I had this rare conversation about giving with my mom. Theresa Bodvarson worked in the hospital in Hay River. Along with dad, they had 6 kids to raise.

Mom mentioned to me how her pastor challenged her to give.

"Theresa," he told my mom, "Give 5 per cent."

Mom did, and I suspect as life went on, she caught on to the grace of giving.

I am sure God instituted giving, so we could learn to trust Him.

As R.G LeTourneau used to say, "I shovel out the money, and God shovels it back - but God has a bigger shovel."

PRAISE & WORSHIP

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

PARTNERS IN FAITH

Lutheran/United/
Christchurch Anglican,
137-2nd St. W.
Spiritwood
Worship 9:00 a.m.
Rev. Sarah Urano

UNITED /ANGLICAN

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

CATHOLIC SUNDAY

Spiritwood - 9:00 a.m.
Leoville - 11:00 a.m.
Chitek Lake - 1:00 p.m.
SATURDAY
Medstead - 6 p.m.
Shell Lake - 8:00 p.m.
Everyone Welcome
Fr. Ramel Macapala

COWBOY CHURCH

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

LAKELAND COMMUNITY CHURCH

(Corner of 1st Ave. and 4th
St., Spiritwood)
Sun., 11 am - Worship
Service & Sunday School
Pastor Michael Kluthe
306-883-2380

FIELDS OF HOPE (HOFFNUNGSFELDER)

MENNONITE CHURCH
Glenbush
Worship - 10:00 am
1st Sun. (June, July, Aug.)
Worship - 10:00 am
at Rabbit Lake
Mennonite Church

BETHEL

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

MENNONITE BRETHREN

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

Gideons International

of Canada
Battlefords Camp
Phone Art Martynes
(306) 389-4633

SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST

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

BELBUTTE FULL GOSPEL

11 am Worship Service

PARTNERS IN WORSHIP

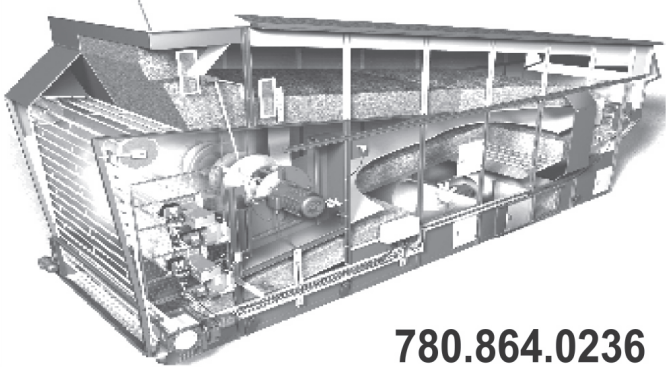
Shell Lake
Worship Services
Sunday 11:00 a.m.
Pastor Sarah Urano
306-841-7333

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Minutes of an RM of Shellbrook meeting

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

Minutes of a regular meeting of Council of the Rural Municipality of Shellbrook No. 493 held on Wednesday, June 14, 2023, in the Municipal Office Council Chambers at Shellbrook, Sask.

Present: Reeve - Doug Oleksyn, Division 1 - Cliff Skauge, Division 3 - Christine Strube, Division 4 - Jay Ferster, Division 5 - Derwin Joelson, Division 6 - Ivan Ten Bos, and Administrator - Duane Storey.

Absent: Division 2 - Phil Hamel.

Delegations:

9 a.m. Ryan Herbert Western infrastructure Renewal Inc.

11:20 a.m. Foreman Bill Aug update on municipal activities

Reeve Oleksyn called the meeting to order at 8:27 a.m.

Skauge: That the following item be added to the Agenda: Road Allowances. Carried

Strube: That the Agenda be adopted as amended. Carried

Ferster: That the minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council on May 3, 2023, be approved as presented. Carried

Skauge: That the Statement of Financial Activities for the month of May 2023 be approved as presented. Carried

Skauge: That the Bank reconciliation for the month of April 2023 be approved as presented. Carried

Joelson: That the accounts payable dated June 1, 2023, as attached hereto and forming part of these Minutes, being regular cheque numbers 13467 to 13513 in the amount of \$131,181.35 and payroll cheque numbers 14500 to 14519 in the amount of \$48,126.73 be approved. Carried

Ferster: That any accumulated points on the Affinity Credit Cards be redeemed annually by Dec. 31.

Carried

Ferster: That the Administrator's Report for the month of June 2023 be accepted as presented. Carried

Western infrastructure Renewal Inc. delegation Ryan Herbert entered the Council Chambers at 10:05 a.m.

Western infrastructure Renewal Inc. delegation Ryan Herbert left the meeting at 10:18 a.m.

Joelson: That Motion 074.03.23 moving all Monthly Regular Meetings of Council to the second Wednesday of the month be rescinded. Carried

Delegation Foreman Bill Aug and Todd Lande entered the Council Chambers at 11:40 a.m. to update Council on municipal operations.

Strube: That the application of any dust suppressant products on any roads in the rural municipality other than Calcium Chloride and Recycled Vegetable Oil must be approved by Council effective June 14, 2023. Carried

Skauge: That (name omitted) be sent a letter to remove the unauthorized approach on NE-23-52-03-W3. Carried

Division 1 Councillor Skauge left the meeting at 1:47 p.m. to attend The Saskatchewan Health Authority Meeting.

Delegation Foreman Bill Aug and Todd Lande left the meeting at 1:57 p.m.

Ferster: That the RM of Shellbrook No. 493 authorizes implementation of Spring Road Ban Order 4-2023 effective June 1, 2023. Carried

Strube: That that motion 161.05.23 be rescinded and the wage and stipend increase for the Shellbrook Volunteer Fire Department effective May 3, 2023, be approved as follows:

- Fire Chief \$126.48/month
- Deputy Chiefs stipend \$120/

month

- Training \$25/hour
- Service calls \$30/hour
- Call out minimum \$100. Carried

Joelson: That the following changes be made to the Anderson Gravel Agreement and be presented to Dale Anderson for approval:

- Remove clause 10; Crush requirements.
- Remove Dale Anderson from clause 11; field road access permission.
- Remove clause 12; snowplow private road.
- Add in first year to clause 2 for repayment of Heritage Review.
- Remove Surface Parcel # 146482825 from agreement. Carried

Strube: That the Tender and Design Specification presented by Associated Engineering for the road construction project located west of SW-27-49-03-W3 be approved. Carried

Ferster: That selected (seasonal employment) candidates be brought in for interviews and that the starting wage be set at \$26/hr. Carried

Joelson: That Bylaw 2023-03, being a Bylaw to require all persons moving buildings or overdimensional loads on municipal roads to acquire a permit to do so, as annexed hereto and forming a part of these minutes be read a third time, further this Bylaw be now adopted, sealed, and signed by Reeve and Administrator Carried

Ten Bos: That all information provided in regards to Seacans be forwarded to the Hamlet Boards for direction. Carried

Ferster: That the cancellation of taxes for The Hazelridge Livestock Association for 2021 & 2022 be approved as follows: Municipal

Tax \$24,748.43, Sask Rivers 119 \$4,639.27. Carried

Ten Bos: That the cancellation of taxes on SW-29-49-02-W3 for 2022 be approved as follows: Municipal Tax \$709.53, Sask Rivers 119 \$341.99, Library \$9.78. Carried

Joelson: That the Council of the RM of Shellbrook No. 493 agrees to approve the proposed subdivision application for subdivision NE ¼ SEC-26-50-01-W3 Parcel A Ext 6, and will forward a response to the Community Planning Branch, Ministry of Government Relations. Carried

Ferster: That the Council of the RM of Shellbrook No. 493 acknowledge the 2023 Municipal Hail withdrawal of 493-0334 and instruct Reeve Oleksyn and Administrator Duane Storey to sign necessary documents on behalf of the Municipality. Carried

Ten Bos: That Bylaw 2023-04, being a Bylaw to Extend Submission of Financial Statements deadline to The Ministry of Government Relations as annexed hereto and forming a part of these minutes, be given first reading. Carried (*Editor's note: the bylaw was unanimously given three readings and enacted at the meeting.*)

Ferster: That the Council of the RM of Shellbrook No. 493 has no issues with the proposed subdivision application for subdivision NE ¼ SEC-36-50-04-W3 Parcel A, and will forward a response to the Community Planning Branch, Ministry of Government Relations. Carried

Strube: That the Council of the RM of Shellbrook No. 493 agrees to approve the proposed subdivision application for subdivision SE ¼ SEC-30-51-02-W3 Parcel A, and will forward a response to the Community Planning Branch, Ministry of Government Relations. Carried

Strube: That Lake Country Co-op be approached to cost share a test plot for S. B-90 Road Dust Suppressant on the service road in front of the Lake Country Co-op C-Store and Gas Bar. Carried

Reeve Oleksyn declared a conflict of interest and was excused from the meeting at 3:45 p.m.

Administrator Storey declared a conflict of interest and was excused the meeting at 3:45 p.m.

Deputy Reeve Joelson assumed the Chair.

Strube: That the time being 3:47p.m., Council close a portion of this meeting to the public to go in camera under the authority of Part III of The Local Authority Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, to discuss Code of Ethics complaint, the public gallery be vacated and those present for this closed session be Deputy Reeve Joelson and Councillors Skauge, Ferster, Strube and Ten Bos. Carried

Joelson: That the regular Council meeting reconvenes at 3:59 p.m. Carried

Reeve Oleksyn returned to council chambers at 4 p.m.

Administrator Storey returned to council chambers at 4 p.m.

Joelson: That the Code of Ethics complaint received May 15, 2023, under section 3 of Bylaw -02-2018 Code of Ethics Bylaw be dismissed. Carried

Reeve Oleksyn assumed the Chair.

Ferster: That all information provided in regards to a Munisoft Error be received and filed. Carried

Skauge: That a delegation from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police be invited to a regular meeting of Council to discuss any problems and concerns of the municipality. Carried

Strube: That the meeting be adjourned at 4:13 p.m.

Minutes of a Village of Canwood meeting

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

A regular meeting of the Council of the Village of Canwood was held in the Council Chambers, at 641 Main Street, Canwood, Sask, on June 20, 2023, commencing at 6:30 p.m., and was called to order by Mayor Hugh Otterson with a quorum being present.

Present: Mayor - Hugh Otterson, Deputy Mayor - Ken Moar, Councillors - Lorne Benson, Kaytlyn Mitchell, Ron Willner, Acting Administrator - Carmen Jean, and Assistant Administrator Lindsey Olson.

Willner: That the Council of the Village of Canwood hereby agree to adopt the agenda as presented. Carried

Benson: That the minutes of the May 16, 2023, Regular Council Meeting be approved as presented. Carried

Mitchell: That the Council of the Village of Canwood hereby agree to adopt the Bank Reconciliation for the month of May 2023, as presented. Carried

Moar: That the Council of the Village of Canwood hereby adopt the Statement of Financial Activities for the month of May 2023, as presented. Carried

Willner: That the Council of the Village of Canwood hereby acknowledge the attendance statements for the Administration and Maintenance for the month of May 2023. Carried

Moar: That the Council of the Village of Canwood hereby acknowledge Council in-

demnities for the months of May and June 2023. Carried

Councillor Kaytlyn Mitchell declared a conflict of interest in the next item on the agenda; re: payroll, and left the Council Chambers at 6:53 p.m.

Moar: That the Council of the Village of Canwood hereby approve the payroll for the month of May 2023 totalling \$7,337.38. Carried

Councillor Kaytlyn Mitchell returned to the Council Chambers at 6:57 p.m.

Moar: That the Council of the Village of Canwood hereby approve list of accounts for approval for the month of May 2023. Online - \$15,652.35. Cheques - #5966 - #5983 - \$21,718.57. Carried

Mitchell: That the Council of the Village of Canwood hereby agrees to approve the water reports for the month of May 2023 as presented. Carried

Mitchell: That the Council of the Village of Canwood hereby acknowledges receipt of Maintenance Reports for the Month of May 2023. Carried

Moar: That the Council of the Village of Canwood hereby agree to adopt verbal reports from the following committees: Highway 55 Committee verbal report Lorne Benson, Public Works Committee verbal report Kaytlyn Mitchell. Carried

Willner: That the Council of the Village of Canwood instruct Administration to call Applebee Glass to repair cracked window the

Village grader at the cost of \$300. Carried

Otterson: That the Council of the Village of Canwood agree to compensate \$30 per month for cell phone for Administration, Lindsey Olson. Carried

Moar: That the Council of the Village of Canwood hereby agree to hire Jerry Nordquist as a Casual equipment operator the Village of Canwood. Carried

Moar: That the Council of the Village of Canwood hereby agree to patch the holes on Main Street in the Village of Canwood that were dug up for water repair, utilizing the contractor Prairie Road Paving Company, who is currently working on highway 55 near the Village of Canwood. Carried

Otterson: That we move in-camera at 9:10 p.m. citing The Local Authority Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, section 15 (1)(b)(ii) and section 23 (1)(b) "personal information" and Human Resources. Carried

Otterson: That we move out of in-camera at 9:41 p.m. and note that all members of Council and Administration are in attendance. Carried

Otterson: That the Council of the Village of Canwood hereby approve the Annual Consolidated Financial Statements from BDO as being complete for the Year ended Dec. 31, 2022, and that Carmen Jean and Hugh Otterson sign the papers. Carried

Willner: That the Council of the Village of Canwood hereby accept the tender for

Grass mowing in the Village of Canwood for Chanze Altstadt and Camden Altstadt at \$50/hour per person per machine. Carried

Otterson: That the Council of the Village of Canwood hereby agrees to submit an application for a permit to the Ministry of Highways for an approach into Whispering Pines Place Care home in the Village of Canwood. Carried

Willner: That the Council of the Village of Canwood hereby acknowledge the receipt of ratepayer complaints. Carried

Benson: That the Council of the Village of Canwood hereby agree to bid on the 2008 Chev 1 Ton Dually with deck - R.M of Canwood tender - sold as is - bid price being \$5,800. Carried

Moar: That Policy no: WW/SW-1 being Waterworks QA/AC policy - Quality Assurance/ Quality Control Policy be revised. As per Section 2 - organizational structure and roles - for management, administration and water works operation. Carried

Mitchell: That the Council for the Village of Canwood provide funding in the amount of \$2,400 to the Canwood Public Library. Carried

Moar: That the Council of the Village of Canwood make an in-memorial donation to Gail Westgaard for \$100. Carried

Mitchell: That the Council of the Village of Canwood adjourn at 10:10 p.m., with the next regular meeting set for July 18, 2023, commencing at 6:30 p.m.