

Witchekan Lake FN opens prevention building



From left to right: Sarah Scott (ACFS), Elder Jane Tipewan, Band Councillor Mark Tipewan, Band Councillor Jordan Morin, WLFN Chief Ramon Harris, former Chief Anne Thomas, Viola Thomas (ACFS), Elder Barney Tipewan, Band Councillor Kevin Scott, and Rick Dumais (ACFS) cut the ribbon on the Witchekan Lake First Nation's prevention centre.

By BEVRA FEE

Spiritwood Herald Reporter

Agency Chiefs Child and Family Services (ACFS) held the grand opening ceremony for their newly constructed Prevention Building on Oct. 17 at Witchekan Lake First Nation. The centre will provide activities, programming, and support for families – for both caregivers and children – in an effort to eliminate apprehension.

According to Witchekan Lake Prevention Supervisor, Sarah Scott, “This space that is solely for the purpose of supporting families and providing programming for men and women will help our community to keep children out of protective care.”

Programming for youth includes a cadet program and cooking instruction, among others. The program and activity space is referred to as “Brian’s

Hope,” a name inspired by Scott’s late brother, who had voiced a wish for a program to help men in the community beat their addictions.

The new facility was constructed largely due to \$1.5 million in funding from the federal government, in accordance with the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal ruling to address First Nations child-welfare system shortfalls.

ACFS staff will now have administration offices within the site, along with the large central activity and program area, and a supervised visitation room where the Family Protection worker can observe visits while offering a feeling of privacy to families. The large food preparation space offers room for instruction, yet gives the feeling of a home-style kitchen.

The grand opening ceremony began in traditional Cree fashion, with

drumming by Iron Swing to provide an honour song. Elders Barney and Jane Tipewan offered an opening prayer in Cree.

The emcee for the ceremony was Ken Thomas, who introduced the many dignitaries, including Chief and Band Council, board members, project planners and ACFS staff. Many quilts were given to key leaders in the Prevention Building project, signifying their worthy involvement in the endeavour.

Commenting on the project was newly elected WLFN Chief Ramon Harris, with a Cree phrase that translated into, “The good life – that’s exactly what this building means. We can do many great things when we work together.”

Board member Gladys Bill has been involved in child welfare for over 35 years – something she describes as “a

difficult process.”

“We’ve come a long way. In the beginning, there was no prevention, it was always apprehension – kids or parents were always taken from the community,” she said.

Similarly, Prevention Supervisor Sarah Scott, while accepting a gift of artwork for the facility, stated, “With good direction and support from our leadership, we can do things for our people in a place of safety, a place of healing – this is a labour of love.”

Following the presentations and speeches, a victory song was drummed by Iron Swing before the ceremony moved outside for the official ribbon cutting. To wrap up the grand opening, the main area of the Prevention Building was transformed from open seating to a dining room for all to share a luncheon and refreshments.

More photos on page 2

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Witchekan Lake FN opens prevention building



Former Chief Anne Thomas (centre) receives a gifted quilt from current Chief Ramon Harris (left) and Viola Thomas (right).



Board member Gladys Bill (L) presents artwork to Sarah Scott, WLFN Prevention Supervisor.



The Iron Swing drum group opens the ceremony at the new Prevention Building.

Sask. passes Parents' Bill of Rights

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

Following 40 hours of emergency debate, the Government of Saskatchewan officially passed the "Parents' Bill of Rights" on Friday, Oct. 20, and invoked the notwithstanding clause of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms to safeguard it against potential legal challenges.

The bill outlines the rights of parents to be the primary decision-maker with respect to their children's education and ensures parents must provide consent if a child wants to change their name or gender identification in school.

Other rights enshrined in the law, also known as Bill 137, include the right to be informed on a regular basis of children's attendance, behaviour, and academic achievement in school, a right to consult with teachers and employees about children's education, access to children's school files, and the right to receive information and make decisions about what children study.

Bill 137 also gives parents the right to be informed of schools' codes of conduct and administrative policies, including disciplinary policies, as well as the right to be consulted on or request a review of children's capacity to learn, and the right to be consulted before any medical or dental examinations or treatments are provided to children.

And, as previously known, the law grants parents the right to have at least two weeks prior notice before sexual

health content is presented, as well as advance knowledge of the subject matter of the sexual health conduct and the dates on which it will be presented. Parents can also opt their children out of participating.

"Parents and guardians have a right to know what is being taught in their children's school," Education Minister Jeremy Cockrill said in a statement. "The Parents' Bill of Rights' is an inclusionary policy that ensures that parents are at the forefront of every important decision in their child's life."

In late August, the government announced its new school policy for parental inclusion and consent, which included the requirement that children under the age of 16 have the permission of parents to change their name or gender pronouns at school, and a plan to pause presentations in sexual education classes from third-party organizations.

The decision was a response to pressure the government was facing in the wake of an incident in Lumsden in June, in which Planned Parenthood inadvertently brought explicit sex cards into a classroom. In recent weeks, however, Cockrill has said another impetus for the policy was an administrative directive, introduced by the Regina Public School Division in 2022, that "excluded parents" from conversations about students' changing gender identity.

Available on the school division's website, the Students and Gender and Sexual Diversity procedure is presented as an administrative procedure that guides operations on a division level, to "define appropriate behaviours and actions in order to prevent harassment and discrimination" of students over sexual orientation or gender identity.

It says that "every student has the right to be addressed by a name or pronoun that corresponds to their gender identity," and directs staff to "respect confidentiality and privacy and not disclose sexual orientation, gender identity, and/or gender expression of students unless the stu-

dent has given permission or there is an impending safety concern."

Shortly after the government's policy on name and pronoun use in schools was introduced, the province's independent child advocate ruled it could "violate a young person's rights under provincial, constitutional, and international human rights laws," and it was challenged in court by the UR Pride Centre for Sexuality and Gender Diversity.

After a hearing, Justice Michael Megaw granted an injunction pausing the policy's implementation pending a full hearing. Megaw said the policy could cause "irreparable harm."

Later that day, Premier Scott Moe announced his government would recall the legislature early for the first emergency session the province has seen in 24 years, pass the bill as a law, and invoke the notwithstanding clause to protect it.

During the final evening of last week's emergency debate, the NDP introduced a pair of amendments to the bill.

Its "do no harm" amendment would make it so parental consent would not be required in special cases where a mental health professional determines there is no safe way to inform a parent. The Saskatchewan Party members in the house voted against it.

The second amendment aimed to create a parental engagement strategy. That was also defeated in a vote.

Hours after the law was passed, Saskatchewan United Party leader and Saskatchewan Rivers MLA Nadine Wilson declared it her party's "first piece of legislation."

"This was a necessary first step in bringing parents back into their children's education," she said in a statement. "Today marks the first piece of legislation that the Saskatchewan United Party brought about, from petitions, public pressure, and holding this government to account in the people's legislature."

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infiNET construction to begin soon in Shellbrook

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle
Reporter

Initial work to expand SaskTel's infiNET services to Shellbrook as part of the Crown corporation's Rural Fibre Initiative is set to begin in the coming weeks, according to a notice sent to residents.

Originally announced in 2020, the Rural Fibre Initiative is a multi-phase program that will see SaskTel invest \$200 million to bring infiNET 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.

Earlier this year, Greg Jacobs, SaskTel's manager of corporate communications, said the Crown was 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 said there was much preparation to be done ahead of the construction, starting with a SaskPower assessment of the community's power poles.

In addition to announcing that installation of the infiNET network would begin in the Shellbrook area in four weeks, SaskTel's notice to residents also outlines what they can expect in the lead up to installation beginning.

For both aerial and buried construction, SaskTel says residents will receive a door hanger two to five days before work begins.

During the aerial construction work, which is scheduled to begin "during the next month," crews will be working in back lanes and alleys adding new fibre cable to existing overhead lines. In some instances, this means they will

require access to residents' yards.

As for buried construction, crews will be installing new pedestals (utility boxes) and working on existing pedestals, and may require residents to remove obstacles in the course of their work. Fibre optic cables will also be buried along the easements of properties, which may require crews to dig in people's yards. SaskTel says crews will fix yards when work is completed.

For existing SaskTel customers, phase 2 of the work will see crews install fibre optic cable conduit from the main network to the outside

of homes. Again, SaskTel says residents will be notified two to five days before work begins and yards will be repaired once work is completed.

SaskTel says work in phase 1 and 2 can take up to six months.

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.

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

Big River hosts 23rd Community Auction

By **MAISIE KRIENKE**

Dating back 23 years, the Big River & District Recreation Improvement Association hosted its first annual Community Auction as a fundraiser to support capital projects in the community. Over the years, this event has had outstanding support from both donors and buyers, raising over \$400,000.

Initially, the proceeds went towards the construction of the awesome Community Centre. Once that was paid off, then support went to Big River Golf Club, Ski Timber Ridge, and Timber Trails Snowmobile Club to fund capital projects at these local recreational facilities.

For two years, hosting the traditional auction format was not possible due to COVID restrictions. However, the group did not let that stop their energies and creativity. An online format took the place of the live auction. It did prove to be financially profitable, but the social aspect of the event was out of the picture, leaving the locals disappointed.

Being a community of social butterflies, there was a call to get back to the original format, which included a happy hour, supper, and all the other special features of the annual event. So, in 2022, it returned in its original format. And then again, on Oct. 14, the 23rd annual was held. All are happy again!

The various areas of the auction are convened by board members who are

grateful for all those volunteers who stepped forward to assist. Calls were put out for donations, which flowed in continuously over the three months preparation time.

Kari Compagna's role as "Toonie Box" convenor encourages donors to shop year-round for special items for her to wrap for one of the most popular features of the auction — a great attraction for adults and kids. Shopping for 2024 has already begun, so folks are encouraged to start gathering now and drop off their great finds at Arlene Gilbert's, Maisie Krienke's or Kari Compagna's.

The evening of the 14th began with happy hour, followed by a delicious pork loin supper. During this time, guests strolled continuously through the silent auction alley, deciding which of the 60-plus items they should slap a bid on to outdo their friend or neighbour. Then, they made a quick pass by the Chinese auction, where again they had many choices to make before moving on to grab tickets for the 50/50 and raffle draws.

While the parents were concentrating on what would be their choices of bids at the live auction, several of the teenage students set up the kids' corner with many fun games and treats to entertain the kids.

Everyone who had purchased their supper ticket in advance of the evening had their name entered to win one of eight 'Auction Buck' certificates, worth

\$25 each. The lucky winners of these bucks were: Vivian Zinovich, Vivian Gould, Ruby Flath, Grayson Zinovich, Violet Flath, Lynne Farthing, Robert Zinovich, and Donna Doucette. These lucky folks could spend their dollars in any area they wished.

At 7 p.m., local auctioneer Cory, called attention to the stage area where 85 donations were displayed. He had no problem winding up the crowd, which was not about to let any of the donations go for too little.

Even though the crowd was much smaller than usual, he was able to root up over \$6,000 from the generous bidders. All the while, bidders had to keep

a third eye on their phones to watch the online component. A brief break gave everyone an opportunity to get their last bids on the silent auction and to check for lucky Chinese numbers.

The evening came to a close with Linda Raymond taking home the \$295 from the 50/50, Doug Panter dreaming about a relaxing afternoon in the "World's Most Comfortable Lounge Chair", and Cory Kuxhaus was thrilled to accept both 2nd and 3rd prize, a street peddler and trapper's hat, from the raffle draw.

All in all, with the help of volunteers and generous donors, it was another great event, raising more than \$10,000.

RM OF BIG RIVER NO. 555 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR

Location: Big River, Saskatchewan
Term: Full Time - 35 hrs/wk
Hours: Monday to Friday - 8:30 am to 4:30 pm - closed between noon and 1:00 pm
Wage: Dependant on experience and qualifications.
Start Date: Negotiable

The RM of Big River No. 555 invites applications for an Assistant Administrator. The position reports to the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) and provides support to the CAO, Ass't CAO, Foreman and Council. The RM offers a comprehensive benefits package including health and dental benefits, vision and an employer matched pension plan.

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- Manage bylaw and agreement registries
- Prepare Council meeting packages
- Assist with policy development
- Website & Facebook maintenance
- Other duties as assigned

Experience and qualifications preferred:

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RM of Big River No. 555
Assistant Administrator Position
Box 219, Big River, SK SOJ 0E0
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Email: rm555@rmofbigriver.ca

Applications must be received at the municipal office by 3:00 pm, November 3rd, 2023. If you have questions, please contact our office at 306-469-2323.

The RM of Big River No. 555 wishes to thank all applicants for their interest, but only those selected for an interview will be contacted. For further information contact the RM office at 306-469-2323. The successful candidate must be bondable and pass a criminal check.

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Bill C-69 adds to feds' environment blunders

Last week in this space, we explored what differentiates good policy making from bad (in my humble opinion) through the lens of the Sask. Party government's Parents' Bill of Rights.

The past couple weeks, however, have seen another policy step into the spotlight as a sterling example of how governments shouldn't approach policy making.

Unsurprisingly, this policy, known interchangeably as Bill C-69, the Impact Assessment Act, or the "No More Pipelines" bill, comes from the federal government – a government with a long-established legacy of being big on ideas and ambitions but abysmal at crafting policy.

On Friday, Oct. 13, the Supreme Court of Canada ruled in a 5-2 decision that the federal government's Impact Assessment Act is too broad in its assessment of environmental impacts and parts of it are unconstitutional.

Enacted by Parliament in 2019, the federal Impact Assessment Act provides a process for assessing the social and environmental impacts of designated energy projects. It also allows for more public consultation and participation in the assessment of any future energy projects.

Though he acknowledged climate change as "one of today's most pressing challenges," Supreme Court Chief Justice Richard Wagner wrote in the majority's decision that the act violates the constitutional divisions of power between the federal and provincial governments.

"The scheme's decision-making mechanism therefore loses its focus on regulating the federal impacts," Wagner wrote. "Instead it grants the decision maker a practically untrammelled power to regulate projects... regardless of whether Parliament has jurisdiction to regulate a given physical activity in its entirety."

So, what exactly does this all mean for the Impact Assessment Act and the federal government's climate ambitions?

Well, not a whole lot really.

Because the proceedings were a reference case, the Supreme Court was merely offering its opinion to the federal government and the parties challenging the Impact Assessment Act.

Just as important to note, is the fact



JORDAN TWISS
~
News Editor

that the Supreme Court's decision is not in any way a rebuke of the federal government's carbon tax.

Nor, for that matter, can it be interpreted as meaning the federal government can't impose regulations to protect the environment. The court is merely saying federal regulations can't interfere with provincial jurisdiction.

"What happens now?" you might ask.

Well, since the Supreme Court's ruling is not legally binding, the federal government could just continue on with the act as if the ruling never happened. But this would likely trigger a legal challenge that, based on the events of two weeks ago, would not end in its favour.

So naturally, because his government is committed to its ideals to the detriment of everything else, federal Environment Minister Steven Guilbeault seems to be suggesting his government will do just that.

In comments made following the ruling, Mr. Guilbeault said the government would be "happy to course correct" and more clearly define "public interest" (not at all the issue highlighted by the Supreme Court).

However, a mere few breaths later, he said the ruling wouldn't change the outcome of the Impact Assessment Act process.

"Because we've tried really hard in the application of the Act to ensure that when we would intervene on a project we did so under federal authority," he said, noting the act still stands.

Also unaffected, says Mr. Guilbeault, are the government's planned regulations to cap greenhouse-gas emissions from oil and gas production, because they "limit emissions not production" (the latter being the exclusive jurisdiction of the provinces).

How exactly do oil and gas companies maintain or increase production while capping emissions?

Well, that's up to them to figure out, since the federal government has offered no specifics.

Perhaps the most frustrating aspect of the federal government's policymaking failure on the Impact Assessment Act, though, is just how unnecessary it was.

Before the current federal government – and the Stephen Harper Con-



servative government before it – got their hands on them, Canada had imperfect, but functional and constitutionally acceptable, environmental assessment laws.

Introduced by the Conservative government of former Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (CEAA) required that environmental reviews would occur whenever federal land, federal money, and decisions under named pieces of federal law were involved.

Rather than outright approvals or rejections by the federal government, environmental reviews under the CEAA were used as planning tools to identify and remedy potential problems before any final decisions were made.

But this wasn't good enough for Mr. Harper, who viewed the CEAA as an impediment to oilsands and pipeline development. So, in 2012, his majority government repealed the CEAA and gutted the Fisheries Act and the Navigable Waters Protection Act.

In place of the CEAA, Mr. Harper's government implemented a new environmental assessment regime, in which only projects on a non-standardized list designated by the federal environment minister would trigger a review.

Opposition to the actions taken by Mr. Harper's government sparked what would become the Idle No More protest movement, and made the environment a hot topic in the 2015 federal election that saw Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's swept into power.

All Mr. Trudeau's government had to do was reverse the changes made by Mr. Harper and re-implement the CEAA – and a panel of environmental law experts advised them to do so.

But, as always, Mr. Trudeau and his colleagues believed they knew better.

The end result was the Impact Assessment Act, which, in addition to being considered partially unconstitutional by the Supreme Court of Canada, actually retains some of the elements that made Mr. Harper's revised environmental assessment regime so limp and toothless (including the non-standardized "designated projects" list controlled by the whims of the federal environment minister of the day).

Indeed, when it was introduced in 2019, the Impact Assessment Act was seen as so bad that even Elizabeth May and the Green Party were calling for a return to the status quo under the CEAA.

All of this, of course, is business as usual for the federal government on an environment portfolio it holds as its greatest priority and crowning achievement.

Thus far, we have a carbon tax that isn't bringing meaningful emissions reductions, an EV strategy that requires huge payouts to corporations, subsidies for unproven carbon capture and storage projects, and now, an unconstitutional Impact Assessment Act.

At this point, the federal government simply needs to stop trying to fix what isn't broken.

Shellbrook Chronicle

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: In the interest of readers of this newspaper, we will publish opinions of our readers. Letters To The Editor are most welcome; however, they must be signed and include writer's contact information and will only be published with the writer's name on it. Letters should be limited in length and be typed or clearly written. We reserve the right to edit letters depending on available space.

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Report from the Legislature

Our government, in partnership with the Office of the Treaty Commissioner, recently unveiled a series of new highway signs to be placed in the Estevan, Moosomin, Lanigan and La Ronge areas to highlight Treaty boundaries. Thousands of daily commuters and tourists will see these signs on their driving routes, which can help start and continue important conversations about Treaties in Saskatchewan.

These new signs are similar to the historic, first-of-their-kind ones placed last fall on the Treaty 4 and Treaty 6 boundary line along Highway 11 between Saskatoon and Regina. The signs each include greetings in Indigenous lan-

guages specific to their locations, the phrase representing the spirit and intent of the Treaties as long as the sun shines, grass grows, and rivers flow, and images of the Treaty medals provided to First Nations following the Treaty negotiations. These signs are a sym-



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bol of our government's continuing reconciliation journey and ongoing work to support Treaty education initiatives in Saskatchewan. Our government is proud to continue this work in partnership with the Office of the Treaty Commissioner on our ongoing path to reconciliation.

Saskatchewan recognizes Oct. 15 to 21 as Small Business Week, a week for celebrating the important contributions small businesses make to the economy. Did you know that more than 30 per cent of all workers in the province work for a small business? The products, services and jobs that small businesses provide help to build and protect Saskatchewan's growing economy.

Oct. 15 to 21 is also Co-operatives Week, recognizing the positive contributions that local co-operatives make in ensuring our communities can continue to grow. Co-operatives are vital to Saskatchewan's economy and continue to provide essential jobs, products and services in communities of all sizes. Along with investing profits back into the province, Saskatchewan's 750 co-operatives provide approximately 15,000 jobs across sectors, and 56 per cent of Saskatchewan residents are members of at least one! Our government values co-operatives and the role they play in helping us grow our province's economy.

Our government continues to get good news on the provincial economy; our province's wholesale trade leads the nation in month-over-month growth. From July to August of this year, our province saw a 12.4 per cent increase, and a 57 per cent increase from August 2022 to August 2023.

Saskatchewan's housing starts also led the nation in year-over-year growth, with a 14.8 per cent increase from September 2022 to September 2023. These numbers show that our province's econ-



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omy continues to thrive, allowing us to continue building and protecting the province's economic future.

Your Saskatchewan Party government continues to work to build and protect our provincial economy. Recently, Saskatchewan welcomed the Supreme Court of Canada's 5-2 ruling against the federal government's Impact Assessment Act (IAA), formerly Bill C-69. The IAA had stalled investment in everything from highway and mine projects to LNG facilities and pipelines. In the court ruling, the Supreme Court not only ruled that the federal government had overstepped constitutional authority, but also that the Trudeau government should be more "co-operative" with provinces in the future.

This decision is nothing short of a constitutional tipping point, and reasserts provinces' rights and primary jurisdiction over natural resources, the environment, and power generation. It should also force the federal government to reassess other areas of overreach, including capping oil and gas production and electrical generation. The policy has thwarted investment, competitiveness and productivity across the country; this major decision will correct course.

Saskatchewan, along with seven other provinces, was part of the constitutional intervention in this bill last March, arguing that the IAA had exceeded federal jurisdiction. Also in March, the provincial government passed the Saskatchewan First Act to counter the federal government's attempts to interfere in matters of provincial jurisdiction. The Act came into effect on Sept. 15, 2023 and will allow Saskatchewan to continue to build and protect our provincial economy.

As the fall sitting of the Legislature is now underway, I look forward to hearing from you. If you have questions or comments, please contact my office.

YOUR TWO CENTS

Sask. Party gets it right on parents' rights policy

Dear editor,
I agree with some of your views but wondered if your column is an editorial of your own views or unbiased reporting of news in our province.

I'm very thankful to still have a local newspaper, and very thankful for the work the Sask. Party does for our province.

I don't, however, agree with your opinion of the

parental inclusion and consent policy. I think we used to enjoy these privileges as parents without a policy or debate taking place. As a mother of four and grandmother of 15, I, as a parent, would want input into my child's education. After all, we trust our educators and would like to keep trusting them.

Parental rights ex-

tend until the child is independent in my view. There is plenty of time for their own decision and options then, for the rest of their lives. Let's give them time to grow up first.

I, for one, want the parental inclusion and consent policy to be law. I give the Sask. Party a 10/10 on that policy.

Sorry, I don't agree at all with the views in the last half of your column. Maybe parents and grandparents should be polled on this issue.

Julie Johnson,
Parkside, Sask.

Spiritwood Prairie Centre Credit Union celebrates anniversary

By **BEVRA FEE**
Spiritwood Herald
Reporter

Hosting free coffee, cake, and doughnuts for all visitors on Thursday,


Oct. 19, the Spiritwood branch celebrated the PCCU's 30-year milestone.

The Prairie Centre Credit Union (PCCU) network was established in 1993 when five central Saskatchewan credit unions joined forces to create a common membership base.

The PCCU has since expanded its branches throughout Saskatchewan. Spiritwood, the northernmost branch, joined the PCCU in 2018 and currently employs eight people out of the over 170 total PCCU workforce.



Vince Martinello, Spiritwood PCCU's relationship manager, welcomed visitors for cake and coffee.



PUBLIC NOTICE

Public notice is hereby given that the Council of the Rural Municipality of Spiritwood No. 496 intends to adopt a bylaw under *The Planning and Development Act, 2007* to amend Bylaw No. 4-2015 known as the Zoning Bylaw.

INTENT
The proposed bylaw will rezone the affected land from A - Agricultural Resource District to LD - Lakeshore Development District.


AFFECTED LAND
The affected land is legally described as part of the SW ¼ Section 04-49-12-W3M as shown on the plan of proposed subdivision dated August 31, 2023 and signed by Regan Rayner S.L.S.

REASON
The amendment is being proposed at the request of the landowner for the development of residential lots.

PUBLIC INSPECTION
Any person may inspect the bylaw at the municipal office located at 218 Main Street in Spiritwood, SK between 9:00 am & 4:30 pm on Monday - Friday, excluding statutory holidays. Copies are available at cost.

PUBLIC HEARING
Council will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, November 14, 2023 at 11:00 am in Council Chambers to hear any person or group that wants to comment on the proposed bylaw. Council will also consider written comments submitted to the RM of Spiritwood No. 496 municipal office at Box 340, 218 Main Street, Spiritwood, SK, S0J 2M0 or emailed to rm496@sasktel.net by **Thursday, November 9, 2023.**

Issued this 12th day of October, 2023
Colette Bussiere
Development Officer



Paint Night makes a comeback in Spiritwood

By BEVRA FEE

Spiritwood Herald Reporter

Thirty-four people attended Paint Night on Oct. 21 at the Mezzanine in Spiritwood's Rec Centre. Talented artist Joanne Marchildon guided the participants through the steps of creating their own masterpiece over the course of a couple of fun hours.

Marchildon, a product of Spiritwood, has been instructing art students for nearly 20 years in her home base of Saskatoon. Locals of all ages made an evening of trying their hand at a silhouette-treed sunset scene, an opportunity made possible by the events planners at the Rec Centre.



William Buswell with his finished piece.



Artist Joanne Marchildon gets the group started on a scenic work.



William Buswell (L) and Lynnah Buswell (R) get down to work.



Marilyn Booker ready to paint.

Highlights of a Shellbrook Town Council meeting

BY JORDAN TWISS

Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

(The following council highlights are not the approved minutes of council for Oct. 16)

Shellbrook's Town Council met for its regular meeting in person and via teleconference on Monday, Oct. 16.

In attendance were Mayor Amund Otterson, Councillors Bruce Anderson, Larry Batten, Peter Halayka, Cheryl Ledding, Brent Miller, and Kathleen Nording, and the town's CAO, Kelly Hoare.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Otterson, and council began with its customary Treaty 6 land acknowledgement in recognition of Truth and Reconciliation. Then, it approved the meeting's agenda, adopted the minutes of its Oct. 2 meeting, acknowledged received correspondence, and moved on to reports.

Under public works, council noted that the fence had been removed from around the Rayside School building, and that work had been undertaken to prepare the building to be moved from the location. The building was sold at auction earlier this year, with the ex-

pectation that its buyer remove it from the site by Sept. 30. Hoare noted she hadn't heard anything from the buyer about their plans.

Next, in discussion of the Parkland Pool Project Steering Committee, Councillor Miller touched on the importance of the pool to the community, and said council should consider options to support the project if it looks like it won't be a success or will take a long time to be completed.

Councillor Miller also noted that other communities in similar situations haven't required fundraising committees to complete their projects. Hoare added that previous councils should have started putting funds into reserves for an eventual pool replacement project many years ago (a common theme for municipal infrastructure over the years).

In hospital and clinics news, Mayor Otterson told council that the U of S appears to be getting serious about offering a Shellbrook residency as part of its program.

Closing out the reports, council acknowledged the resignation of EMO coordinator Elna Fish. And, in the policing and CSO report, council noted

that the CSO appears to be delivering value to the community and making people feel safer.

In the Mayor and Council forum, Hoare updated council on her attendance at a recent Saskatchewan Economic Development Alliance (SEDA) conference and suggested it should re-examine its zoning bylaw to open up options for multi-family homes and tiny homes.

In some unfinished business, council carried a motion to enter into negotiations about the SaskEnergy building, pending a buy-in from the R.M. of Shellbrook. The building could be used to store the CSO's truck, as well as a new ambulance, if and when an ambulance depot is established in Shellbrook.

While a lease agreement would allow the town to sublet the building, some councillors have expressed concerns about the cost of renting a building just to store a vehicle, especially when the ambulance depot isn't a guarantee. Mayor Otterson has admitted the move is a risk, but said it's better to be prepared for the eventuality.

Up next under unfinished business, council carried a motion to support and be part of a plan to develop a regional emergency measures organization with nine other communities and rural municipalities in the area. The partnership will allow the group to seek Targeted Sector Support grant funding to cover 75 per cent of the costs of developing a regional emergency plan.

Under new business, council carried a motion to continue purchasing extra hours at the Shellbrook Public Library, and approved the town's Waterworks Emergency Response Plan and Waterworks Quality Assurance/Quality Control Policy (both requirements imposed by the Water Security Agency).

Closing out the meeting, council carried a motion to waive the rental costs of the Shellbrook Theatre for the Oct. 24 Crime Watch and RCMP meeting, and approved an agreement with the Shellbrook Legion that makes Veteran's Memorial Park and the cenotaph monument the responsibility of the town for the next 99 years.



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

Physician Assistants to join Saskatchewan Health Care Teams

This fall, 12 PA positions will be advertised by the Saskatchewan Health Authority and community clinics across the province. The introduction of this new provider group will add more skilled professionals to the provincial health system to address demand for timely and high-quality health services and provide an enhanced team-based approach to health care. **The positions will be posted at www.healthcareersinsask.ca and a variety of other job platforms.**



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

Conflicts cast shadow over agriculture

While it is far from a new situation for someone now into their seventh decade of living, we do seem again to be flirting with dark times.

The Russian invasion of Ukraine is not new. The former Soviet Union has sent tanks and troops into other countries through the years, as the residents of the former Czechoslovakia can attest.

And the Hamas attack on Israel is just the latest of a long list of Middle East wars.

As has always been the case, there is the fear that

such seemingly isolated conflicts will boil over into more encompassing engagements.

The expansionist heart of Vladimir Putin certainly hints that if he can finally quell the dogged determination of Ukrainians, he might well roll his tanks across other borders.

And the Middle East has been a powder keg that only needs a misguided missile to ignite a broader conflict.

In the case of the Middle East, the United States becomes a much



CALVIN DANIELS

more invested viewer because of threats to oil production and distribution.

We've been here before, and have always skirted broader conflict. But here, mere weeks before

Remembrance Day, the threat looms large again.

So why all this in an agriculture column?

Well, if the world is ever crazy enough to head into a war encompassing large areas of Eastern Europe, or the Middle East, the disruption to ag trade could be huge. And we live in a world today with far more mouths to feed than at any previous time in our history.

Anything which significantly alters food production and distribution could very quickly create food shortages and star-

vation, even for people well-removed from the direct areas of broader conflict.

There are people in our world already going hungry because of distribution problems for food, or the inability to afford sustenance.

Amid the unknowns of a major war, getting food to all will not be a priority and prices will rise. And that is a double whammy which would be dire for many.

For Canadian farm producers of course, it could signal better prices. But

no one wants a bigger pay cheque because a war rages somewhere else in our world.

The situation today is perhaps not more dire than at other times over my past 63 years, but because of it is happening at this moment, it feels more likely that we might topple into broader insanity.

Ahead of Remembrance Day, we as a world need to pause and find a way back to peace — although with the likes of Putin and Hamas, that sadly seems unlikely.

Crop Report: Oct. 10 to 16

Harvest is virtually complete in Saskatchewan with 98 per cent of the crop in the bin. Producers were resilient this growing season. The warm, dry conditions led to an early harvest for many and there were some concerns related to water quality and feed access for livestock.

Once harvest began, producers in some areas were pleased to see yields better than expected. In many cases, harvest progressed smoothly with little interruption. Now that harvest is complete, producers are hoping for rain to replenish soil moisture for next year.

Crop yields varied throughout the province, depending heavily on the amount of moisture received. Yields in the southwest and west-central regions were below average due to sustained dry conditions. Some reported yields were better than expected, but overall, the majority of crop yielded below the 10-year average. Winter wheat and hard-red spring wheat were the only crops above the 10-year averages. The largest impact on yields this year was drought, heat stress, gophers and grasshoppers.

Average yields in the province are being estimated for all crops. Hard-red spring wheat is estimated to yield 43 bushels per acre, durum 24 bushels per acre, oats 82 bushels per acre, barley 56 bushels per acre and fall rye 36 bushels per acre. Flax is estimated to yield 18 bushels per acre, canola 33 bushels per acre and soybeans 17 bushels per acre. Field peas are estimated to yield 31 bushels per acre. Mustard is estimated to yield 636 lbs. per acre, lentils 1,101 lbs. per acre, canary seed 982 lbs. per acre and chickpeas 858 lbs. per acre. All crops are estimated

to be above the 10-year average for quality and to be in the top two categories for all crops.

Provincially, seeded acreage for fall cereals is expected to be relatively unchanged, with a slight reduction of one per cent for both fall rye and winter wheat. The southwest is expected to increase fall rye by 15 per cent and winter wheat by seven per cent. The west-central region is also expected to increase their fall cereal acres, with winter wheat expected to increase 14 per cent and fall rye by three per cent.

Fall rains and heavy, wet snow are needed around the province as soil moisture continued to decline throughout the fall. Provincially, cropland topsoil moisture is 31 per cent adequate, 44 per cent short and 25 per cent very short. Hay and pastures are 27 per cent adequate for moisture, 43 per cent are short and 29 per cent are very short.

While producers were concerned about their winter feed supplies early in the growing season, many have secured feed from other parts of the province or neighbouring provinces and now have adequate supplies. Provincially, alfalfa yields are 1.22 tons per acre, brome/alfalfa is 1.19 tons per acre and greenfeed is 1.69 tons per acre. On irrigated land yields are higher, with alfalfa yielding 2.8 tons per acre and brome/alfalfa yielding 2.12 tons per acre. Silage yields are provincially at 7.0 tons per acre. Producers are reporting the hay and feed they have been able to source is mainly of good quality.

While harvest is over for many, fall work is still underway for producers. Where there is enough moisture, producers are applying fall fertilizer for

next year and harrowing harvested crops. Livestock producers are hauling water for animals to ensure they have a safe water source, hauling feed and bringing cattle home for the winter. Fall calving is occurring on some operations. Producers are planning for next year and hoping soil moisture improves to start next year's growing

season off well.

For any producers or their families experiencing stress, the Farm Stress Line is available support to toll free at 1-800-667-4442.

A complete, printable version of the Crop Report is available online at <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 2pm - 8pm; Wednesday 2pm - 8pm; Thursday 12pm - 6pm; Friday 10am - 5pm (Story Time 10:30am - 11:30am); Saturday 10am - 4pm.

CANWOOD: Canwood Fall Supper @ Canwood Elks Community Hall - Sunday, October 29, 4:30 to 6:30 pm. Roast Beef & Ham with all the fixins!!! For in town delivery on pre-orders, please call 306-468-7616. Adults \$20; 12 & Under \$15; Pre-school Free. Proceeds to maintenance & expenses of Canwood Elks Community Hall. Sponsored by the Canwood Hall Committee.

CANWOOD: Canwood Royal Canadian Legion Branch #132 - Annual Craft & Home-Based Business Sale - Saturday, November 4 @ Canwood Elks Community Centre, 10am to 3pm. \$25/table - For table bookings call: Margie 306-468-7021 or Penny 306-468-7127. Lunch will be sold. Everyone welcome!

TRIPLE YOUR ADVERTISING

We'll advertise your important community event in our Community Calendar FREE for two weeks prior to the event with purchase of a 2 column x 2" Display ad for only:

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Minutes of an RM of Spiritwood meeting

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

The Regular Meeting of the Council of the Rural Municipality of Spiritwood No. 496 was held on Tuesday, Aug. 8, 2023.

In attendance were, Reeve Shirley Dauvin, Division 2 Dale Wasden, Division 4 Dennis Laventure, Division 5 Heather Warkentin, Division 6 Bevera Fee, Administrator Colette Bussiere, and Foreman Darcy Laventure.

Absent was, Division 1 Larry Vaagen and Division 3 Terry Wingerter.

A quorum being present the meeting was called to order at 8:01 a.m. by Reeve Shirley Dauvin.

Wasden: That the Foreman's report having been read now be filed. Carried

Fee: That we purchase a refurbished rig mat. Carried

Warkentin: That the minutes of the July 11, 2023, Regular Meeting of Council be

approved as presented. Carried

Laventure: That the Administrator's report having been read now be filed. Carried

Warkentin: That CAO Colette Bussiere attend the RMAA Division No. 6 annual meeting to be held in Paynton on Sept. 21, 2023. Carried

Fee: That the CSO reports having been read now be filed. Carried

Warkentin: That the bank reconciliation for the month ending July 31, 2023, be accepted as presented. Carried

Warkentin: That the "List of Accounts" as listed on the attached Schedule "A" forming part of these minutes be passed for payment: Cheque No. 14310-14348 (\$441,453.09), Payroll File No. 421, 423, 424 & 425 (\$50,350.11), EFT No.2023-0043-0050 (\$55,472.16). Carried

Warkentin: That the Statement of Financial Activities for the month ending July 31, 2023, be approved as presented. Carried

Wasden: That we transfer \$190,000

from the Capital Trust Fund to the General Operating Account for the replacement of the bridge located at NNW 15-53-13-W3. Carried

Warkentin: That Bylaw No. 2023-2, being a Bylaw of the RM of Spiritwood No. 496 to Enter into a Road Maintenance Agreement, be read a second time. Carried

Fee: That Bylaw No. 2023-2, being a Bylaw of the RM of Spiritwood No. 496 to Enter into a Road Maintenance Agreement, be read a third time. Carried

Wasden: That Resolution No. 2023-0191, being the second reading of Bylaw No. 2023-1 and Resolution No. 2023-0192, being the third reading of Bylaw No. 2023-1, be rescinded to accommodate the following changes:

- Item #11 - Add oil and gas exploration or extraction wells and related facilities to the list of permitted uses in Subsection 7.1 to align with the Statements of Provincial Interest Regulations, and
- Item #15 - Change the words "Basic Planning Statement" to "District Plan".

And, that being the changes are minor in nature, that we request to dispense of the re-advertising requirements pursuant to Section 211 of The Planning and Development Act, 2007. Carried

Laventure: That Bylaw No. 2023-1, being a bylaw of the Rural Municipality of Spiritwood No. 496 to Amend Bylaw No. 2015-4 Known as the Zoning Bylaw be read a second time. Carried

Warkentin: That Bylaw No. 2023-1, being a bylaw of the Rural Municipality of Spiritwood No. 496 to Amend Bylaw No. 2015-4 Known as the Zoning Bylaw be read a third time. Carried

Wasden: That we authorize the Administrator to proceed with the process to amend the Zoning Bylaw map for regarding the subdivision of land on SW 04-49-12-W3. Carried

Warkentin: That we request the following lands be reserved from transfer to TLE until the lands can be investigated as a possible aggregate resource:

- SW 14-54-12-W3
- SE 14-54-12-W3
- NW 14-54-12-W3
- NE 14-54-12-W3
- NE 22-54-12-W3

• SW 23-54-12-W3

• SE 23-54-12-W3

• NE 23-54-12-W3

• SW 24-54-12-W3

• NW 24-54-12-W3

• NE 24-54-12-W3. Carried

Laventure: That we enter into a road maintenance agreement with Tolko Industries Ltd. to haul timber from NW 27-54-11-W3 & SE 28-54-11-W3. The hauler will be responsible for all aspects of the haul to include but not limited to road maintenance, road repair & dust control. Carried

Wasden: That we consent to the placement of geotextile cloth and sand fill within the top of the berm located adjacent to lakefront properties in Spruce Bay. The OH of Spruce Bay is solely responsible for all design, safety, and workmanship aspects associated with this approval and all work must be completed in accordance with the regulations of the Water Security Agency's (WSA) Aquatic Habitat Protection Permit. Carried

Warkentin: That the request for the removal of rip rap rock from the face of the berm adjacent to Lot 11 Blk 2 in Spruce Bay to accommodate access to the beach be declined. Council will approve the placement of an engineered stair/step system that will provide access. Carried

Fee: That the application to purchase lease lands described as SE 17-49-09-W3 be declined as the land will have no physical access. Carried

Fee: That tax title property described as SW 31-53-10-W3 be awarded to Nine Mile Ranch and that tax tile property described as Lot 14 Blk 2 Plan AN4170 & Lot 15 Blk 2 Plan AN4170 (Hamlet of Mildred) be awarded to Emma Nordquist. Carried

Laventure: That the council meeting be closed to the public at 12:25 p.m. under the authority of Part III of The Local Authority Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, to go in camera to discuss Human Resources.

CAO Colette Bussiere left the council chambers at 12:25 p.m.

CAO Colette Bussiere returned to council chambers at 12:39 p.m.

The regular meeting of council was out of camera and resumed at 12:39 p.m.

Laventure: That the correspondence, having been read, now be filed. Carried

Fee: That the meeting be adjourned

When social media blocks your access to the news, turn to your local newspaper.

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PRAISE & WORSHIP

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

LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

Parkside
10:30 a.m. Worship
Pastor Lorne Valuck
306-747-3572
Shellbrook
Adult Study
9:30 a.m.
Sun., 10:30 a.m. - Worship
Pastor David Bodvarson
306-747-7235
Canwood

Summer: 10 a.m. - Worship
Pastor Bob Wrench
306-468-2138

Leask Gospel Tabernacle
Sunday 11 a.m.
Pastor Josh
1-780-690-2100

PRESBYTERIAN

Mistawasis
Sunday worship
11:00 a.m.
Rev. Stewart Foster

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

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN

Parkside
11 a.m. - Worship

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 9 a.m.
St. Henry's - Leask
Mass - Sunday 11 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
Pastor Myshan Irving
306-747-3398

PRAISE & WORSHIP

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

PARTNERS IN FAITH

Lutheran/United/
Christchurch Anglican,
137-2nd St. W.
Spiritwood
Worship 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
Leoville - 9:30 a.m.
Spiritwood - 11:15 a.m.
Shell Lake - 2:00 p.m.
SATURDAY
Medstead - 6:00 p.m.
Everyone Welcome
Fr. Ramel Macapala

COWBOY CHURCH

Spiritwood
Every Wednesday Night
7 pm
Spiritwood Legion Hall
Pastor Riek 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 - 11:00 am

BETHEL

Medstead
2nd Sunday, 10 am -
Worship
Pastor David Jensen
4th 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

Rourke would love to walk in Purdy's cleats

Nathan Rourke just has to look at the improbable rise of San Francisco 49ers quarterback Brock Purdy to suggest that there could be better days ahead, not to mention multi-million-dollar contracts and professional sports glory.

One year ago at this time, Purdy was still "Mr. Irrelevant." That's the ignominious moniker given to the player chosen dead last in the National Football League draft, because it's almost impossible for someone that lightly regarded to advance as far as earning a roster spot, let alone a starting position.

Purdy, however, has catapulted into NFL brilliance, quarterbacking the best team in the league (5-0 at last glance) to strong Super Bowl contention and attracting whispers that he's the leader in the Most Valuable Player race.

The former Iowa State quarterback was chosen No. 262, and last, in the 2022 draft and was given a courtesy look by the 49ers. But

when starter Jimmy Garoppolo got injured and No. 3 overall pick in 2021, Trey Lance, didn't pan out, the 49ers in desperation turned to Purdy.

And in 13 games in which he has started and finished, Purdy is 13-0. He still has his skeptics (The Ringer's Steven Ruiz ranked him 24th out of 35 quarterbacks and is getting roasted across NFL circles for that ranking), but the 49er players are believers.

"I think he's going to continue to grow," 49ers tackle Trent Williams told The Athletic. "What we're seeing now is not where he's going to be. He's going to be better than that. He's going to continue to get better every week. Our job is just to keep him upright so he can continue to develop."

Rourke, meanwhile, sits and waits on the practice roster of the Jacksonville Jaguars. After burning up the Canadian Football League with B.C. Lions last year, the Victoria-born Rourke sought



BRUCE
PENTON

fame and fortune south of the border. He signed with the Jags, but sits at No. 3 on the team's depth chart, behind Trevor Lawrence and backup C.J. Beathard. Rourke had a couple of special moments in pre-season play, but Jags' coach Doug Pederson said he chose to keep Breathard as the No. 2 man ahead of Rourke because of his experience, although limited, in the league.

Lawrence calls Rourke "the great Canadian" and lauded his pre-season performance. "He's had some great plays, and that's what

you got to do," Lawrence said on Jags Wire, the team's website. "The guy is looking to stick in the league and get a spot."

The NFL has a history of underdogs succeeding. Purdy is this year's example. The player picked No. 199 in the 2000 NFL draft, Tom Brady — you may have heard of him — had a pretty good career, too.

Rourke's time may yet come.

• Found on Facebook: Former heavyweight boxing champion Mike Tyson on his future: "I might fade into Bolivian."

• Super 70s Sports, on a retired Arizona Cardinal receiver: "How good was Larry Fitzgerald? Let's put it this way: He retired after 17 NFL seasons with 10 more career tackles (39) than dropped passes (29). Think about that for a minute."

• Two comments on the passing of Bears' legend Dick Butkus. From Mike Bianchi of the Orlando Sentinel: "I always thought Dick But-

kus was too tough to die." And from NFL Films producer Steve Sabol: "He was like Moby Dick in a goldfish bowl."

• RJ Currie of sportsdeke.com: "I'm not saying watching the NY Giants has become hard to stomach. I'm suggesting if you must see them play, try taking Pep-to-Abysmal."

• Mark Lazerus of the Athletic, on Connor Bedard playing in the NHL at age 18: "What is he going to do on an off-night in Las Vegas this month? Go to the M and M's store?"

• Headline at the Canadian parody website, The Beaverton: "NHL fan singing national anthem, honouring soldier with standing ovation thinks Pride Nights are too political."

• Janice Hough of leftcoastsportsbabe.com., after the 104-win Atlanta Braves, 101-win Baltimore Orioles and 100-win LA Dodgers all were knocked out in divisional playoffs: "Who knew that the kiss of death

in the MLB 2023 postseason would turn out to be winning 100 games in the season?"

• Mike Bianchi of the Orlando Sentinel, after Colorado blew a 29-0 half-time lead and lost 46-43 to Stanford: "Wow, I can't believe Stanford came back to beat Colorado last night. Looks like Coach Prime might need to change his name to Eion — No 'D'."

• RJ Currie of sportsdeke.com: "It's the first day of another NHL hockey season. You know: the one where TSN claims the Toronto Maple Leafs are the favourite to win the next Stanley Cup."

• Headline at fark.com: "Turns out Bill Belichick and Sean Payton aren't very good coaches without Hall of Fame QBs"

• One more from fark.com: "Jonathan Taylor says his new contract is a win for running backs, and by running backs, he means himself."

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

Elks go 1-2 over busy week of hockey

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

Elks (2) vs Eagles (9)

It was a busy week of hockey for the Parkland U18 AA Elks, who played two road games and one home match over the course of five days as their regular season gets into full swing.

Up first, the Elks travelled to Saskatoon on Tuesday, Oct. 17, to face off against the Centre Four Conference-leading Saskatoon Screaming Eagles, who sat at an undefeated 4-0 as of game time. Over 60 minutes of action, the Eagles showed the Elks exactly why they were undefeated, dominating the visitors en route to a 9-2 victory.

The Eagles got the scoring started early on Tuesday night, as Solomon Ness struck just after the 30 second mark on assists from Aidan Joyce and Luca Salmaso. Minutes later, the Eagles had themselves a 3-0 lead, as Reece Woods scored on assists from Liam Barzeele and Tyson Carter, and Barzeele netted a goal with helpers from Drew Walters and Woods.

Tyson Gagnon supplied the only offensive highlight for the Elks through the first 20 minutes, scoring with an assist from Kaiden Ross to close the gap to 3-1, but the Eagles only responded by piling on two more goals to end the period with a commanding 5-1 lead.

Jacob Durdle scored the first, earning more assists for Woods and Barzeele, and Salmaso netted the second on helpers from Ness and Joyce.

The Eagles kept the pressure on through the second period, adding another three goals to their tally. Diego Manzo started the scoring on an assist from Jacob Ball, and Ness netted his second of the night with assists from Joyce and Salmaso later in the frame.

Ronan Mooney tacked on a late power play

goal for the Eagles, putting them up 8-1 on assists from Salmaso and Durdle.

In a comparatively quiet third period, the Eagles added one last short-handed goal to their tally when Walters scored on assists from Ball and Woods. Then, to salvage some pride for the Elks, Tyson Gagnon scored his second of the game on an assist from Jake Boettcher to cement the Elks' 9-2 loss.

Elks (2) vs Broncos (6)

After suffering a defeat at the hands of the Centre Four Conference's top team earlier in the week, the Elks returned to home ice on Friday, Oct. 20 to host the winless Humboldt Broncos.

Any thoughts of scoring an easy win against the last-place team were dispelled early in the game, as the Broncos drew first blood when Elks netminder Matt Muller had a player pushed onto him by his own teammate. This defensive misplay allowed Walker Chitwood to find a wide open net, with assists from Jacob Trann and Jaxson Hendry.

Despite some early stumbles, the Elks responded by tying the game up at 1-1 on an end-to-end rush, which was capped off by

Tyson Gagnon tipping a rebound out of mid-air. Brady Hujber and Aiden Tait assisted on the play.

As the period wore on, the Elks' struggles to find their defensive footing caught up with them, and a series of turnovers in front of their own goal opened the door for Landin Frank to restore the Broncos' lead. Luke Puetz and Gavin Lefebvre assisted on the goal.

Late in the frame, a pair of simultaneous penalties for Kaiden Couture (a slashing minor and a kneeling major) gave the Broncos a six-minute man advantage. The team didn't waste its opportunity, scoring two goals just 18 seconds apart.

To start, Frank netted his second of the game with an assist from Duke Brochu. Then, Lefebvre tallied with helpers from Frank and Puetz.

In a quiet second period, the Broncos' power play produced the lone scoring highlight, as Frank tallied his hat trick goal with a solo assist from Puetz. Meanwhile, even with power play opportunities of their own, the Elks failed to apply any lasting pressure

or generate good scoring opportunities and continued to struggle defensively.

Playing arguably their best hockey of the game, the Elks looked competitive in the third frame, until another power play allowed Frank to score his fourth goal of the game and put the Broncos up 6-1. Lukas Tuplin and Lefebvre assisted on the goal.

As the time in the period ticked down, Brody Anderson scored on a beautiful one-timer blast, with assists from Colton Sommerfeld and Aiden Tait, to leave the final score at 6-2.

Elks (4) vs Wildcats (3) OT

Following Friday's tough loss to the Broncos, the Elks travelled to Warman to face off against the Warman Wildcats on Saturday night. And, in a hard-fought game that went to the final second of overtime, they found a way to regroup and rebound.

It was the Elks who kicked off the scoring, as Kaiden Couture found the back of the net on assists from Brendan Aug. The Wildcats responded in the dying minutes of the frame, with Logan Normand scoring on helpers from Landyn Bueckert and Owen Wildeboer to tie the game at 1-1, but the Elks fired back just 18 seconds later, when Colton Sommerfeld scored on an assist from Kaiden Ross.

In a dominant second period, in which they outshot the Elks 16-6, the Wildcats scored the only goal to tie the game at 2-2. Markus Thompson tallied, with assists from Drew Anderson and Lukas Viden.

In the third, the Elks struck first once again, this time on a goal from Kamden Shewchuk, assisted by Jake Boettcher. But again, the Wildcats had a late answer, as Viden scored on assists from Anderson and Wildeboer to force overtime.

There, Sommerfeld pulled out the win for the Elks, scoring an unassisted goal with just one second left on the clock.

The Elks now sit a 2-4 on the season, good enough to put them in a tie for sixth place in the Centre Four Conference standings.



Elks forward Aiden Tait tries to corral a loose puck, only to be shut down by Broncos goalie Hunter Edwards.

OBITUARIES

Patrick "Pat" Panter



With great sorrow we announce the passing of Patrick "Pat" Panter at the age of 75 in Shellbrook, Saskatchewan on

October 12, 2023.

Pat is the oldest son of Jim and Helen Panter, born January 24, 1948, in Prince Albert, SK. Pat attended school in Rapid Bend and Big River.

Pat met his wife, Donna, through the years growing up in Big River. They were married on May 15, 1971.

After working at various jobs he chose a career with the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce. This brought about many moves throughout Saskatchewan including Sas-

katoon, Lloydminster, Bengough, Regina, and Loon Lake. Throughout these moves, their two children were born and friendships were built across the province, especially through their involvement with service organizations including Jaycees and the Kinsmen and Kinettes.

After a second stint in Regina, it was decided to settle down in one place for longer than a year or two so a career change was in the works. They bought an insurance business in Big River

and moved home in 1985 to begin Panter Agencies, which they continue to operate.

Pat loved to be outdoors with much time spent camping and snowmobiling. He served in key roles with the Forest Fringe and Big River's Timber Trails Sno Riders for many years and often put more miles on the trail groomer than he did his own snowmobile. This love was shared with his family and continues to be shared with his grandchildren.

Pat is dearly missed by his loving wife of 52 years, Donna; their children Jason (Helen), their children Jordan and Jace; and Jana (Mike) Budan; his brothers Doug (Kathy) and Larry; sister and brothers-in-law Mary, Judy, Sandy, Peggy, Nova, Fred, John, Norman (Joyce), Robbie (Kathy), and Alan (Noella).

Pat was predeceased by his parents, Jim and Helen, Donna's parents Tom & Barbara Warriner, his brother

Rob, sisters and brothers-in-law Johnny, Linda, Susan, David, and Murray; and his nephews Cory and Tom.

A memorial service was held on Saturday, October 21, 2023 at 2 PM in the Big River Community Hall followed by interment at the Big River Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, if you wish to make a donation in Pat's honour, please consider the Big River Cemetery Fund c/o Town of Big River or Kinsmen Telemiracle as a token of remembrance.

Katherine "Ann" Zak



Katherine "Ann" Zak was born March 18, 1944, Morden, MB and passed away September 30, 2023, Spiritwood, SK at 79 years of age.

Ann Zak passed on peacefully into the presence of her Lord September 30, 2023, at Spiritwood and District Health Complex.

She is survived by her loving husband Gerry,

her sisters Helen (Gordon) Peters of Lac du Bonnet, Man., and their children Lynn (Howard), and Paul; Linda (Michael) McGregor, and their sons Colin (Jacinth), and Nolan; Lois (Bill) Hunter of Powell River, B.C., and their daughter Amanda (Graham), also numerous other relatives and friends.

She was predeceased by her parents Mike and Nettie Shaventoski.

Ann (née Shaventoski), was born on March 18, 1944, at Morden, Man. She grew up at nearby Darlingford. In 1966 she graduated from the three-year theology course at Central Pentecostal College in Saskatoon. In 1967 she graduated with a CNA certificate from St. Bon-

iface School of Nursing in Winnipeg.

She worked as a CNA nurse in North Battleford, Hay River, Winnipeg, and Red Lake, Ont. In 1979 she married Gerry Zak and lived at Shell Lake till they moved to nearby Spiritwood, where they have lived till the time of her passing. At Spiritwood she worked as a Care Aide, then a while with Home Care, then later as an LPN nurse till 2014.

Many have told how they appreciated her thoughtfulness, and her caring attitude towards her patients.

For a number of years, she made time to teach piano lessons.

Especially after retirement Ann found ways to serve others - like sewing blankets for the

needy, that were distributed through several agencies, making "Quiet Books" to occupy young children during church services, supporting children through World Vision, and especially assembling dozens of Samaritans Purse shoe boxes each Christmas for children in third world countries.

Along with all that she did and accomplished, Ann still made time to socialize with family and friends and had a variety of recreational activities - like growing flowers, biking trips, relaxing with puzzles, and usually a winter holiday.

Having accepted Christ as her Lord and Saviour in her youth, her Christian life and service was the most important part of her life. Always

faithful in church attendance, she was active in playing the piano, teaching in Sunday School, participating in ladies' groups, and went on two mission trips - to Brazil and Thailand.

Ann was eager to personally share her faith, wanting others to come to know her Saviour and to the very end looked forward to spending eternity with Him.

In this world she left behind, she was greatly loved and will be dearly missed.

A funeral service was held Wednesday, October 11, 2023, 1:00 pm at the Lakeland Community Church, Spiritwood, SK with Pastor Michael Kluthe officiating. The eulogy was given by Ann's sister Linda McGregor, honorary pall-

bearers were "All those who shared in Ann's life". Pallbearers were Dale Bowman, Jonathan Baynes, Jonathan Mundell, Tim Bristow, Dustin Huffman and Terry Semenoff.

Ann's final resting place is in the Spiritwood Cemetery.

Memorial donations may be directed to World Vision Canada in memory of Ann Zak as tokens of remembrance.

Family and friends wishing to send online condolences are welcome to visit www.beaulacfuneralhome.com. Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of Beau "Lac" Funeral Home and Crematorium, R. Mark Muir Funeral Director, Spiritwood, SK (306) 883-3500.

GOOD NEWS

IT MATTERS WHAT YOU THINK

By DAVID BODVARSON
Shellbrook Pentecostal Assembly

Our thoughts in life can affect our behaviour, so it matters what we think. Someone recently pointed out some lies we need to guard against.

1. "I am what I do."

I get it; in our culture, so much of our identity is wrapped up in what we do. We need to rethink that. If we retire or can't do what we do, it doesn't mean we are no less valuable to God.

For the Christian we are valuable because Jesus says we are. If someone spoke words about you that were unkind or negative, that is not who you are. Grace has kept you.

Like David said in Psalm 23, goodness and love follow you." Or The Message Bible says, "Your beauty and love chase after me every day of my life."

2. "I am what people say about me."

It is a wonderful thing when people say nice things about you but that is not who you are. It really hits home when people do not say nice things.

The Bible is an honest book.

Most are familiar with David, who defeated Goliath. His older brother, Eliab, wasn't terribly impressed with David. He threw a false accusation at David. Before David defeated Goliath and walked into his destiny, he had to overcome words that were spoken of him.

What is true for David is also true for us.

3. "I am what I have."

If that is true, people will want to chase more and more. It is true that there is nothing wrong with possessing things, so long as those things don't possess us.

At the same time, wealth doesn't define us; It is not who we are.

I once read of a preacher's grandfather. What a tribute the preacher gave him. He said of his grandpa that when he passed, he was almost 90.

This is what he wrote, "(My Grandfather) didn't leave a penny. It wasn't there to leave. He lived in a small house in a small town. He never preached

a sermon, but his life continues to speak. So does his seed. Known for his integrity, my grandfather's handshake and his word were enough for anyone who knew him. He was truly humble. When he was saved, he crawled to the altar. He was in church every Sunday, most Wednesdays, and served in various capacities. He tithed and gave to many needy people, though he had to work two and sometimes three jobs to survive. He only had an elementary education. He was a great man! Heaven celebrated his arrival. I wept and rejoiced at the legacy he left me, worth far more than money."

That Grandfather left something of great value in his grandchildren.



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Fall HOME



Garage storage solutions

Who doesn't have a space at home that serves as a catch-all for items that seemingly have no other home? For many, this storage wasteland where items go to be forgotten tends to be the garage. Before long, clutter can overwhelm the space and create an eyesore. Garage clutter also makes the space less functional by making it harder to park a vehicle or store equipment.

Organizing a garage takes work, but the end result can improve the appearance, free up space, make work more efficient, and make it easier to find and use tools more readily. Here are some ways to get started on organizing your garage.

Start with cleaning and culling

One of the first steps when organizing a garage is to thoroughly analyze what is needed and what can be removed from the garage. If items belong elsewhere, such as in a shed or the basement, move these items first. Discard damaged or broken items. Next, move on to tools or gear that hasn't been used in some time. Will you use it again? If the item has been collecting dust for years, you likely already know the answer to that question.

Pile all items in the driveway so you have a clean slate with which to start. Measure the room to figure out the dimensions so you'll know how much wall space is available for storage.

Free up floor space

The ultimate goal of a garage storage renovation is to make floor space available, according to Stacey Schweiger of Sunshine Organizing. Lifting items off the floor makes access easier, and protects items should there be a flood or leaks.

A combination of wall shelves, overhead shelves, cabinets, and wall hooks can help homeowners create more floor area. Orga-

nization becomes easier when everything has a designated space where it can be easily returned to.

Consider weight

When investing in shelving and racks, remember that many of the items stored in garages tend to be heavy. It's important to ensure that shelves and hooks are heavy-duty and able to withstand the weight of pressure put on them. Verify the maximum weight so that racks will not buckle or tip over and cause issues.

Utilize overhead space

Overhead storage can be reserved for items that aren't used frequently, such as seasonal decorations or luggage.

Out of sight

Some items should be stored out of sight and beyond the reach of children and pets. Cabinets and containers can be used and locked to secure materials, such as fertilizers, paints, solvents, and other chemicals.



Additional ideas

Magnets, pegboards, organization bins and systems, and similar products can be used to corral small or errant items like hand tools, fasteners and more.

Garage organization will take some planning and time, but the end result can be well worth the effort.

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Fall HOME



How to future proof your home reno

Many of us fantasize about our ideal renovations, whether it's a spa bathroom or a kitchen island. But over time our wants and needs can change. You probably don't want the built-in 8-track player you longed for in the 1980s, but you may now dream of the central air system that you didn't need back then.

Many of us had to make unpredictable changes in our lives and homes due to the pandemic as we scrambled to make offices out of closets or school rooms out of kitchens.

Whatever life throws at you, here are things to consider if you want your reno to stand the test of time.

How you'll use it in the future

A playroom may seem like a great idea now, but what will you do when the kids inevitably outgrow it? Or if you're planning to downsize soon, then maybe opt for mid-range fixtures rather than go all out on high-end or custom features which a buyer might change anyway.

How it will withstand the weather

No one wants to think about it, but climate change is already affecting our lives with more frequent extreme weather events like devastating floods, wildfires and heatwaves. As you consider

options for your renovation, think about what you might benefit from as the climate continues to shift. Fireproof materials, a more efficient and eco-friendly heating system, and improved insulation and ventilation are just a few ideas.

Review your insurance coverage

In planning your updates, account for hidden costs in the future like product lifespan, upkeep needs and even insurance changes. As Phil Gibson, EVP and Managing Director of Personal Insurance at Aviva Canada explains, "Renovations like finishing a basement, removing structural

supports or building an addition may impact insurance coverage as they can change the home's rebuild value. Your insurance representative can

help ensure that your home is covered for its true value, giving you peace of mind should the unexpected happen."

www.newscanada.com



Eight ways to protect your home's exterior – and save money

The outside of your home faces significant wear and tear throughout any given year. From typical wind, rain and sun damage to the challenges of extreme storms and fires. Fortunately, there are some simple ways to help you ward off some potential problems before they become more costly.

1. Inspect roof shingles. The roof is one of your home's first lines of defense. From the ground or a ladder, look for signs of damage like missing, raised or warped shingles and other irregularities. If there are problems, have a qualified roofer do an inspection and any necessary repairs.

2. Clean your eavestroughs and down-

spouts. Harsh weather or little critters can damage your eavestroughs. If water runs back toward your foundation or pools on the roof, it may lead to water damage inside your home. And collected debris can be a fire risk. Give eavestroughs and downspouts a look, clear any debris and make any repairs.

3. Check out the chimney. Look for signs of damage at the top of the chimney. Typically, there's a cap with a grate and/or a rain cover. If you're comfortable getting on the roof, inspect the flashing that waterproofs the edges where the chimney meets the roof for any gaps, bends or cracks that water could penetrate.

4. Clean and service your air conditioner. Shut off power to the outdoor unit and clean debris from the grill/cage and the fan. Rake around the unit and cut back branches to allow for proper airflow. Inside your home, don't forget to change your furnace air filter regularly.

5. Refresh the siding. Pressure washers are handy for cleaning the outside of your home. If you

don't own one, you may be able to borrow one from a friend or rent one from a hardware store. Check for any blisters, cracks or problem areas and repair them to help prevent rot and mould.

6. Inspect the deck. Wooden decks, including railings and stairs, require staining every few years to protect against the elements. Be sure to carefully examine support posts and beams for signs of rotting.

7. Examine exterior caulking. Take a closer look at the caulking around your doors, windows and vents. Deteriorated caulking should be scraped out and replaced so you don't lose cooled air through a poorly sealed gap.

8. Survey the landscaping. Low lying areas of your lawn should have additional soil laid down to prevent water from pooling in one area. You should also trim your trees and bushes as required to help avoid future storm damage.

Find more tips on how to protect your property at cooperators.ca.

www.newscanada.com

SOLD

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SE & SW-03-51-12-W3, RM of Spiritwood – Good access off the #3 highway and ranger grid road. SE Quarter; 105 cultivated acres balance is bush and creek, land assessment \$109,600. The SE quarter also has a mature, private yard site, home built in 1977 3BD, 1BA, nat gas heat. SW quarter 102 cultivated acres, balance is bush and creek. All offers will be presented to the seller on Sept. 29, 2023 at 5:00pm

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SOLD

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SOLD

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NE-23-49-11-W3, RM of Spiritwood – 83 cultivated acres all seeded into hay and was fertilized in spring 2022. Balance of the quarter is bush. Fence is in poor condition. Water source is a creek/dugout.

NE-24-50-13-W3 & SE-25-50-13-W3, RM of Medstead – NE quarter 92 cultivated acres, balance is bush and creek. SE Quarter 89 cultivated acres, with the balance being bush and creek. The sellers will be subdividing approx 60 acres from the SE-25 (bush)

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Fall HOME



The most likely spots where mould will grow in a home

Mould is a type of fungi that is found both indoors and outdoors. When mould grows inside, the health of people who spend time in the home or business where it grows can be in jeopardy.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, mouldy environments may cause stuffy nose, wheezing, red or itchy eyes, and even skin conditions. The Institute of Medicine reports there is sufficient evidence to link indoor exposure to mould with asthma symptoms, as well as hypersensitivity pneumonitis in certain individuals. Certain moulds are toxigenic, meaning they can produce

toxins, says the CDC. Though there are very few reports of toxigenic moulds found inside homes, when present, they can cause rare health conditions.

No one wants mould in their homes, as it's not only unhealthy, but also unsightly. The Environmental Protection Agency says there is no practical way to eliminate all mould and mould spores in an indoor environment. Certain rooms and spaces warrant careful inspection since they are more vulnerable to mould growth. Mould spores take root in areas where there is ample moisture. Controlling moisture indoors is key to controlling mould. Here

are some mould-vulnerable spots that merit some extra attention on the part of homeowners.

Bathrooms

Bathrooms generate a lot of moisture through showering and bathing. Bathrooms need to be vented to the outdoors with an exhaust fan. If there is no fan, one should be installed. If that's not possible, open a bathroom window to air out the room after bathing. Wipe down surfaces in the bathroom to dry them and keep mould at a minimum.

Laundry area

Clothes dryers are moisture-generating appliances that should be properly exhausted to the outdoors. Homeowners also should make sure that washing machines and utility sinks are working properly and there are no leaks that can cause mould growth behind or underneath the structures.

Kitchen

Mould also may grow in kitchens. Look under the sink and by the dishwasher for any leaks and areas susceptible to mould. Ventilating cooking areas can help reduce moisture in the area as well, says the CDC.

Basement

Homeowners who have basements or crawl spaces could be breeding mould down there unknowingly, particularly if the areas are unfinished. Moisture, warmth and darkness are prime conditions for mould growth. A dehumidifier can be utilized in the basement to help reduce the moisture saturation in this space. Also, check for leaky pipes or windows that may contribute to mould growth. Humidity levels in a home should be kept between 30 and 50 percent to help limit mould formation.

Attic

Although an attic may not be a spot homeowners frequent regularly, it's a good idea to get up there and look for potential mould problems. According to the North Carolina Department of Health, in the winter when buildings are heated, mould often grows in cold, uninsulated exterior walls where building surfaces are relatively cold compared to the indoors. Attics without proper insulation could be vulnerable to mould growth. Roofs also may be compromised by weather, causing leaks into the attic.

Mould can be found anywhere in a home, but is more likely to grow in certain spaces.

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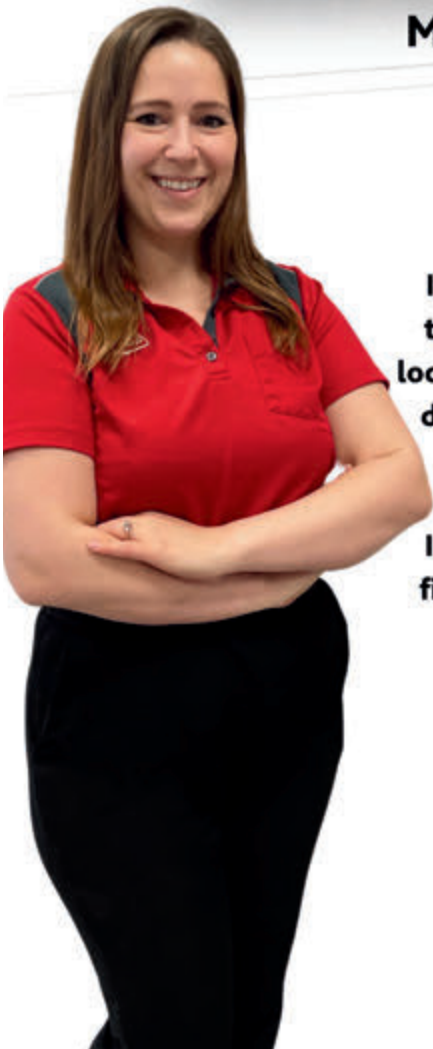
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Fall HOME



How to prepare a fireplace for the winter

As hours of daylight shorten and fall gives way to winter, thoughts shift from fall foliage to spending time cuddling under warm blankets and being cozy indoors. A fireplace can improve the ambiance of any room and help to create a warm and welcoming gathering spot.

Home fireplaces typically are wood-burning or gas. Though maintenance for these fireplaces differs, certain preparatory steps must be taken to prepare a fireplace for winter.

Clear the clutter

Items can accumulate in areas that are not in use, and a fireplace is no exception. Take a few hours to remove any belongings from in front of the fireplace and clean the mantle thoroughly.

Have the chimney cleaned

Hire a professional chimney cleaning company to inspect the chimney and clean it thoroughly before winter. According to BobVila.com, a chimney should be cleaned once a year, or after about every 80 fires. The National Fire Protection Association says failure to properly clean chimneys is one

of the leading contributors to home fires. That's due to creosote, a highly flammable residue that builds up in the flue that lines the chimney.

Inspect the interior

The interior of a wood-burning fireplace is likely lined with fire bricks. Check for cracks and loose joints. Hire a professional

mason to make any repairs, as special materials are needed to withstand the heat of fires.

Install a chimney cap and screen

According to Family Handyman, a chimney cap is a protective covering that goes over the top of the chimney. It is made of steel or copper mesh with a cap

on top. This protects the chimney from rain and downdrafts and keeps animals and debris from getting into the chimney.

Prune overhanging branches

If there are trees close to the home and the chimney, cut them back, as they can be a fire hazard. Branches and leaves

also can restrict the proper draft of the chimney.

Assess the outdoor vent

Gas fireplaces typically emit exhaust through a vent in the home. Remove any blockages from the vent, including leaves, cobwebs and debris.

Check glass or other coverings

The glass or face of the fireplace helps regulate carbon monoxide exposure and protects people from the flames. Be sure the glass covering is intact.

Clean ceramic logs

Gas fireplaces use ceramic logs, rocks or beads that can become dusty. Clean them prior to use. Dirty ceramic logs can be a fire hazard and produce an unpleasant burning smell.

Check the blower and pilot

If the fireplace has an electric blower, clean and dust it so it doesn't become clogged. Inspect the pilot light for any wear and tear that includes wiring or structural issues.

It takes several steps to prepare fireplaces for cold weather seasons when they're most likely to be used with frequency.



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Fall HOME



Three sustainable home renos you should consider

Although budgets are tight and renovations may feel expensive, there are many everyday changes you can make that will save you more money over time – and make your home more resilient in the face of disaster.

After much of the country faced the grim realities of climate change in the past

year, many people are exploring how to make their home climate-ready for the long-term. In fact, it's about one-in-five of us according to data from insurance provider Aviva Canada's recent How We Live report.

Roofing redux

Your roof goes through a lot of wear and tear in the

best of times, but there are sustainable solutions that are also incredibly durable. For instance, metal roofs are not only made with recycled materials, they can also improve the energy efficiency of your home, are not susceptible to damage from pests or mould and typically they can withstand extremes of rain,

wind and fire. You won't need to shell out for replacement nearly as often as you would with materials like wooden shakes or asphalt.

Efficient seal

For a sustainable home, you need to ensure the space is well sealed. Replacing or recalking your windows and doors will prevent wasted energy from loss of hot or cold air. Alongside an up-to-date ventilation system, this will also help you keep the indoor air clean and healthy in the face of contaminants like wildfire smoke.

When it comes to energy-efficient heating and cooling, electric heat pumps

are becoming a gold standard. They are free from fossil fuels, and because they transfer thermal energy, rather than generate it, they use less power than other types of heating and cooling systems to save you cash over time.

Landscaping luck

Naturalizing your yard with native plants not only adds crowd-pleasing colour and texture to your outdoor space, but it also helps support a diverse ecosystem, which is a small but mighty part of fighting climate change. As a bonus, native plants typically need less care and maintenance than

a lawn or annual blooms, so you'll save on water usage. Permeable pavers are also a great way to prevent water from pooling and causing damage to your home or garage. It's also essential to ensure your outdoor space slopes away from the foundations of your home to prevent flooding.

Whatever you decide to do, be sure to review your insurance policy to make sure you have appropriate coverage and ensure you're taking advantage of options that reward climate-friendly choices. You can learn more at aviva.ca.

www.newsCanada.com

Sights and sounds that indicate floors should be replaced soon

Nice flooring draws immediate attention when entering a home. Natural wood floors tend to instantly impress, while the right kitchen flooring materials can create the welcoming feeling many homeowners strive to establish in the most popular room in the home.

Stunning floors are hard to miss, and floors that are well past their prime are equally noticeable. Aging floors may fall somewhere between fading and failing to live up to homeowners' standards. Fading floors may not need to be replaced immediately, but the following are some signs that indicate existing floors are nearing their expiration date.

· Soft spots: A floor should not give when stepped on. Soft spots could be indicative of water damage caused by any number of factors. Some water damage is caused by mopping the floor with a soaking wet mop, while burst pipes also contribute to water damage that can cause soft spots. A single soft spot on the floor may necessitate a relatively simple repair, but various soft spots indicate extensive damage that might be affecting the floor, subflooring or both. In the latter instance, homeowners should consider a full floor replacement.

· Creaking floors: Creaking floors are among the more annoying issues that can arise in a home. In such homes, residents feel as though every step they or their housemates take is being announced. In addition, creaking floors can awake light sleepers, including young children. The floor experts at Discount Flooring Depot note that uneven subfloor could be the culprit behind creaking floors. Though that does not necessarily require a floor replacement, it can be hard to lift existing floors and then refit them after the



subflooring has been addressed. That's especially so if low-quality laminate flooring was installed. So while creaking floors may not require a full floor replacement, it's an outcome homeowners who can no longer live with the noise can prepare themselves for.

· Dated look: Of course, some floors simply look like the product of a bygone era. Various factors, including location, affect the resale value of a home, but Realtor.com reports that hardwood floors are preferred by both home buyers and renters. In addition, Realtor.com estimates that wood floors could provide a return as high as 80 percent of the initial investment when homeowners sell their homes. If existing flooring looks dated, it might be time to bring it up to speed with something more modern.

A home's flooring is bound to draw the attention of residents and visitors alike. Homeowners who replace their flooring can ensure that attention is drawn for all the right reasons.

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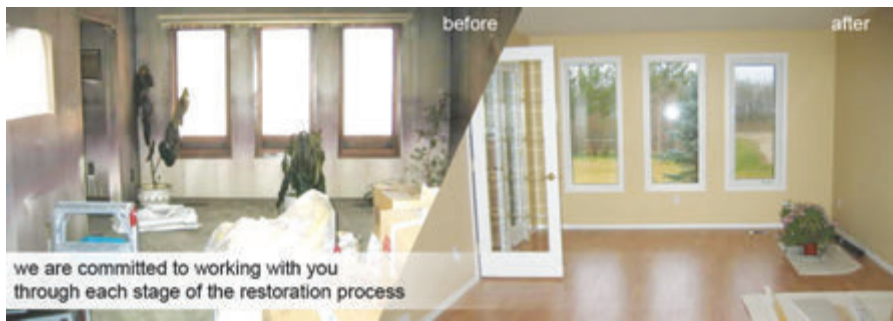


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What to do with a home office after going back to work

The number of professionals working remotely skyrocketed in 2020, when businesses were forced to close their offices in an effort to slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus. As the world transitions from the pandemic phase to an endemic phase, many office workers also are transitioning back to their offices.

And as individuals find themselves going back to the office with increased frequency, they might be wondering what to do with their home offices. If space inside a home is at a premium, then repurposing a home office into a space that can be used more frequently is a great way to make better use of the existing square footage. The following are some ways homeowners can

transform home offices created during the pandemic into more useful spaces.

• **Go back in time.** Perhaps the easiest thing to do with a home office that is no longer needed is to return the room to its pre-pandemic state.

Because the shift to remote work was so sudden, many homeowners were forced to turn washrooms, breakfast nooks or areas of their basements into home offices. Returning those spaces to their initial functions can make a

home feel less cluttered and add more room for residents to relax and get around.

• **Create a new entertainment area.** Many homeowners converted a spare bedroom into a home office during the pandemic. In such in-

stances, guest beds and other furniture might have been moved into storage or even sold or discarded. Either way, that means the office was cleared of bedroom furniture. Now that the room no longer needs to be an office and now that homeowners have made do without the extra bedroom, the room can be converted into an entertainment area. Swap out the desk for a fold-out couch that can still accommodate overnight guests when necessary. Then mount a flatscreen television on the wall and utilize the room as a gaming room for kids or a film room/man cave for mom or dad.

• **Create an in-law suite.** The pandemic separated families, as people living in different households were advised to

avoid gatherings to stop the spread of the virus. Individuals with aging parents may have felt particularly heartbroken by this forced separation, especially if their elderly parents were living in nursing homes that were stretched thin by staff shortages and other challenges. In the aftermath of the pandemic phase, families may want to invite aging relatives to live with them. Home offices can be repurposed into in-law suites so aging parents don't have to confront the isolation and loneliness many felt during the height of the pandemic.

As professionals return to their offices with greater frequency, they can transform their offices into spaces they're likely to use more often.



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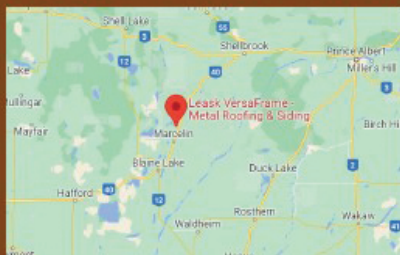


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Eight steps to a more functional kitchen

A kitchen is often the most utilized room in a house. Meals may be prepared, cooked and often eaten in kitchens, and the room is often utilized as a homework spot or a makeshift place to pay bills and stay on top of household needs. By enhancing the organization and functionality of the kitchen, homeowners can enjoy these popular spaces even more.

Homeowners have increased their spending on home improvements in recent years. According to the Joint Center for Housing Centers for Harvard University, project spending rose to \$472 billion in 2022 from \$328 billion in 2019. It's estimated consumers will have spent \$485 billion by the end of 2023. Kitchen renovations were the most popular upgrade and accounted for the highest budgets in 2021, according to Houzz. When the time comes to renovate a kitchen, homeowners can take steps to make these spaces more organized and therefore functional. Here are eight tips to creating a more functional kitchen.

1. Increase storage, and then invest in more. Make the most of corner cabinets and other potential dead spots in a kitchen. Various products can be used to organize awkwardly angled or shaped areas. Kitchen designers also can work with you to reconfigure cabinets and kitchen layouts.

2. Organize utensils and dishes around the sink/dishwasher. Rather than traversing the kitchen to put clean dishes away, make loading and unloading the dishwasher that much easier by locating commonly used items next to and above it. Similarly, place frequently used saucepans, baking dishes and other items near the oven or food preparation area.

3. Utilize drawer and cabinet organizers. Make a place for everything in the kitchen. Take out all items and see what you need and use all the time. Then coordinate storage around those items so everything fits perfectly. Pull-out shelves and Lazy Susans also can facilitate access.

4. Add shelves to cabinets. If you can afford

to have a custom-built kitchen, by all means design cabinets according to preference. If you're using standard cabinets, you may have to reconfigure shelves and spacing to fit the items you

have. This also will help you maximize cabinet space.

5. Organize the garbage. Have a pull-out drawer or cabinet to store trash bins. Separate compost, trash and

recycling needs.

6. Create continuity in the room. Many open concept homes will have kitchens open up to another room in the home. Mirror the design scheme from elsewhere

in the house, and make sure that the flow between spaces is not obstructed.

7. Create a beverage station. A beverage station can minimize the time needed to make a cup of tea or coffee or for the kids to grab juice or chocolate milk.

8. Have a workspace in the kitchen. Whether paying bills, making a grocery list or leaving notes for the family, a dedicated workspace can add more function to the room. Be sure there is task lighting nearby and ample overhead lighting to ensure that all kitchen needs are illuminated properly.

A more functional kitchen can make this already popular space even more so.



What to know about replacing gutters

Certain home renovation projects are more glamorous than others. A remodeled kitchen is sure to garner its share of "oohs and aahs," while a newly paved driveway is much less likely to dazzle guests.

A gutter replacement is another job that might not have the wow factor. But fully functioning gutters are a must and can help to prevent potentially expensive roof damage. Gutters rarely draw attention, but homeowners can keep an eye out for signs that indicate gutters need to be replaced.

Signs gutters should be replaced

Various signs indicate it's time to replace existing gutters. Homeowners should act promptly if any of the following signs arise, as poorly functioning gutters can make it hard for water to get into the downspouts, ultimately pushing it backward and likely underneath roof shingles, where the result can be costly water damage.

- Peeling paint
- Cracks
- Pooling water in the gutter

• Mildew in the gutter, which can sometimes be seen even from the ground

• Water damage: Water damage on the gutter can be limited to certain spots and will be noticeable on the underside of the gutter

• Soffit damage

• Sagging gutters

• Detached gutters, which can be detached from other pieces or the house

• Rust

Who should replace gutters?

Many home improvements can be completed successfully by skilled do-it-yourselfers, but a gutter replacement is best left to the professionals. Homeowners who live in single-story homes may be able to replace gutters on their own, but the issues that can arise when gutters are not functioning at optimal capacity make this a job best suited to professionals, even in residences without high roofs.

Some gutters may be under a manufacturer's warranty, so homeowners can check to see if

their gutters qualify for a free upgrade. Experience is one of the best reasons to work with a professional gutter installation team. Experienced professionals can identify which gutters are the best fit based on a host of factors, including the pitch of the roof, local conditions and the size of the house. In addition, gutter installation requires the use of various tools that many DIYers may not have on hand, which can cut into the cost savings of doing the project yourself.

Homeowners also should not underestimate the challenges of working on ladders that are high up off the ground. Professionals are accustomed to such challenges, while DIYers may not be comfortable or used to climbing ladders with materials and tools in hand.

A gutter replacement is a worthwhile investment that can ensure rain water efficiently and effectively runs through gutters and away from the roof. Leaving this task to the professionals can ensure the job is done right.



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