



Galambos wins Sask. Heritage award



Blogger, podcaster, and writer Norma Galambos accepts her 2023 Heritage Saskatchewan Award from Saskatchewan Lt. Gov. Russ Mirasty.

By JORDAN TWISS
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

When she first started her lifestyle blog and podcast five years ago, after reading an article about blogging, Norma Galambos had no actual experience as a writer, and didn't know what to expect.

Galambos, who was born and raised on a farm near Leask, had always had a love for writing and history, and she said her hope was (and still is) to motivate others to ask questions and document their own histories, and encourage them to try new things at every stage of life.

To this end, she makes full use of the freedom of having her own creative space to write about what interests her in the moment, be it history, world events, or collective human experiences, and tries to temper all her tales with a touch of humour.

Over the years, her stories have showcased prairie life and the hardships

homesteaders faced as they built Saskatchewan, shone a spotlight on wartime experiences, charted the evolution of education, industry, medical care, travel, and entertainment evolved over a century, and recalled her own personal experiences of growing up on a farm and raising her own family in a small prairie community.

"I love the exhilaration of seeing a story idea take shape and the sense of accomplishment I feel when it is completed. I treasure the memories these stories elicit from people and the conversations that follow," Galambos said.

"My stories contain my research and information shared by family, friends, and Saskatchewan residents, past and present. Dates and facts are important, but it is the memories shared by the people who lived them that bring stories to life."

Given the uncertainty of her creative endeavour, Galambos began by inviting a

dozen people to read her blog. Now, however, her audience spans Canada and the globe, and some of her short stories have been published in provincial and national publications, including Saskatchewan Folklore, More of Our Canada, and Prairies North Magazine.

Her work has also garnered the attention of Heritage Saskatchewan, which named her blog, podcast, and short story collection, a 2023 Heritage Saskatchewan award recipient.

Per Heritage Saskatchewan, the projects recognized for awards "represent the rich diversity of heritage, both tangible and intangible, found in Saskatchewan," and are a "testament to the value that individuals and communities place upon documenting, promoting, teaching, and safeguarding heritage for future generations."

Galambos was first informed of her award in October, and was celebrated alongside her fellow 2023 Heritage

Award Recipients at a gala and reception hosted at Government House in Regina on Wednesday, Nov. 8. Handing out the awards on the evening was Saskatchewan Lt. Gov. Russ Mirasty.

Honoured by the recognition, Galambos says her hope remains to share her stories with as many people as possible, so that Saskatchewan's collective history can continue to live on for generations to come.

"It is important to learn about and acknowledge the people who built our communities," she said. "These were and are hardworking people with a sense of adventure and an entrepreneurial spirit. They were willing to take a risk to support their families and serve their community. Our history helps us understand ourselves and gives us a sense of who we are."

To read Galambos' short story collection, visit: <https://Linktr.ee/normagalamboslifestyle>

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Arts Council, Kinettes ring in holiday season

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

With the countdown to Christmas officially on, shoppers from Shellbrook and the surrounding area had an opportunity to get their hands on some one-of-a-kind gifts for their loved ones when the Shellbrook & District Arts Council's Christmas Craft Sale returned to the Shellbrook Community Hall alongside the Shellbrook Kinettes' Winter Market at the Shellbrook Senior Citizen's Centre.

This marked the 32nd year for the Christmas Craft Sale, which routinely sees the Community Hall packed, almost wall to wall, with unique works created by vendors from as far afield as Naicam, Chitek Lake, and Debden, and from as close as just up the street.

Proving that last year's overwhelmingly successful return after two years of COVID-19 shutdowns wasn't a fluke, this year's crop of more than 20 crafters and artisans had a large audience of about 500 people come to browse their tables, which were offering everything from handcrafted jewellery to Christmas decorations, homemade baked goods, winter clothing and accessories, and even some stained glass and blacksmithed tools and decorations.

Meanwhile, to help fill shoppers' bellies, the Shellbrook Royal Purple was once again on hand to serve soup, sandwiches, tacos in a bag, and tarts.

Noting that attendance was likely helped by the unseasonably warm weather, Shellbrook Arts Council Member Lorraine Adamson says it was great to see such a large crowd and a good variety of vendors come out for the day. After 32 years, Adamson says the Christmas Craft Sale continues to be an important part of the holiday season in Shellbrook.

"It's something people like," she said. "It's a social event, and people are starting to think about Christ-



Decorative signs were among the many sights to take in at the Shellbrook Arts Council's Christmas Craft Sale.

mas shopping. It gives them an opportunity to pick up stocking stuffers or gives them ideas about what they'd like to have for Christmas gift giving."

In addition to the vendors and shoppers, Adamson says a key to the success of the Christmas Craft Sale has been the help of volunteers who assist with setup and cleanup before and after the event.

Last year, this help came from Parkland U18 AA Elks, who showed up, unannounced, to set up tables. This year, with the Arts Council short-staffed, the team was all too happy to step up to the plate again.

"It's definitely a community event," Adamson said. "Without the community support, there would be no point."

While the Arts Council's Christmas Craft Show provided plenty of opportunity for people to pick up unique gifts that can't be found in big box stores, it wasn't the only showcase for local and area artisans.

Over at the Shellbrook Senior Citizen's Centre, the Shellbrook Kinettes' Winter Market (a spiritual successor to the Home-based Business Trade Show) returned for its third year, offering a host of goods, including framed insects, pet supplies and accessories, jewellery, and more.

The event was introduced as pandemic health restrictions were being eased ahead of the 2021 holiday

season, and was part of the Kinettes' efforts to return a sense of normalcy to the community. A success in its first year, with 16 vendors displaying their wares, this year continued that success with patrons stopping in to look for early Christmas presents from among the wares and services being offered by 19 vendors.

With the warm weather outside, and the buzz of excitement inside, Kinettes Kat Mackin-Smith says the day had a very "Hallmark feel" to it — a perfect fit for the holiday season.

"I think the Winter Market is a great thing to have in town as it encourages shopping and supporting local," Mackin-Smith said. "It is so easy to go online and shop Amazon, but we are surrounded by amazing home-based businesses, creative geniuses, and hardworking small business owners that don't necessarily have a brick-and-mortar store to showcase what they can do. Some are new and want the exposure and connection with the community, and this gives them that opportunity."

In addition to the range of goods offered by the trade show's vendors, members from Happy Hearts Childcare Centre were on hand to offer treats, with proceeds (by donation) going to the daycare.

And if all this wasn't enough, local Main Street businesses also joined in the festivities. Designer's Edge Salon and Gift Shop and Lu's Crafty Boutique both had their doors open so customers could come and browse through the wares of their many artisans, while Prairie Homestyle Bakery was serving up its full menu, as well as a selection of holiday-inspired treats and drinks.



Young entrepreneur Jacey Keyowski shows off her wares at the Shellbrook Kinettes' Winter Market.

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Spiritwood Lions Club honours seniors

By BEVRA FEE
Spiritwood Herald Reporter

The roads were clear and the weather was warm on Saturday, Nov. 18, setting the stage for a large turnout for the Spiritwood Lions Club's 43rd Senior Appreciation Supper. The Civic Centre was the venue for this popular event, and the guests began arriving as the doors opened at 5 p.m.

The sound of music, played by Charles and Claire Schira, along with Armand Cabase and Ruby Larson, welcomed seniors to the celebration, while the Lions put the final touches on the full roast beef supper.

The Lions Club typically prepares and serves the meal in honour of those who have dedicated their lives to building the Spiritwood community, and with many of the Lions members being senior citizens and worthy of honour in their own right, this year's addition of the Spiritwood High School travel club assisting with serving and cleanup meant a much lighter load for the Lions.

Seven youth from the club were on hand to set out food, serve coffee, tea, and dessert, clear the tables,

and wash dishes.

The Emcee for the evening was Lion Dave Hyndman, coming back to a role he held for many years. Absent from the evening for only the second time since 2011 was Premier Scott Moe, who sent along a message that was delivered by Lion Dave.

Following that were messages from the Town of Spiritwood, the RM of Spiritwood, the Lions vice president and the Spiritwood Seniors Association president.

In the latter's address, Armand Smith led the audience through a "remember when" sequence of local memories that at once seem very distant and yet vivid.

In her message, Reeve Shirley Davin pointed out that when the Jetsons television show first aired, robotic maids and other whimsical futuristic inventions seemed far-fetched, yet here we are in the age of robotic vacuum cleaners, moving sidewalks in

airports, and video meetings.

More music followed the program, and the evening was deemed a success once again with 133 attendees, many of whom took home door prizes from the generous businesses in and around Spiritwood.

This annual event is a partnership between the Spiritwood Lions Club, the Town of Spiritwood and RM of Spiritwood. This year, the Sacred Heart Parish made a donation to the event also, signifying the importance of supporting and thanking the Seniors in the community.



Spiritwood Lion Dave Hyndman was back at the helm as Emcee for the Senior Appreciation Supper.



A supper of roast beef, ham, potatoes, vegetables, and salads galore enticed the guests to the buffet line.



From left to right: entertainers Armand Cabase, Ruby Larson, Charles Schira, and Claire Schira.



Spiritwood High School Travel Club members helped at the supper. From left to right: Joehanna Rosal, Mackenzie Precesky, Ethan Van Slatyer, Ethan Gaboury, Avarie Gaboury, Kalli Francon-Conacher, and Jordan Price.

Little Red Hens receive \$5,000 Affinity Grant



Affinity Credit Union shows continued support and commitment to the Parkland region, awarding local venture Little Red Hens (Untroubled Parenting Inc.) \$5,000 through its Community Development Funding. This grant will go directly to purchasing diaper supplies for monthly bundles delivered free to households in the area. Pictured, left to right: Sarah Johnson and Tracy Isbister from Untroubled Parenting Inc. receive a cheque from Affinity Credit Union representative Gayle Draper.

By SARAH JOHNSON, Little Red Hens

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Canada's hostile political climate needs to change

We tend to take it for granted, but society – be it a town, a province, or a country – is a complex network of systems and foundational principles that work interdependently to ensure everything runs smoothly.

If one or more of those systems or principles breaks down, it can easily destabilize the rest of society.

Nowhere can this be seen more clearly than by examining of the state of the confederation that is Canada.

At the level of federal politics, dysfunction has become the rule rather than the exception, as our democratically elected MPs couldn't find a way to work together for the benefit of their constituents and the country even if they were paid to do so (which they are, and quite handsomely I might add).

Gone are the days when Canadian politics were seen as the polite, often boring, cousin of flashier, American-style politics. Here to stay, it seems, is the age of heated rhetoric, childish mudslinging, divisiveness, and hyperpartisanship.

Regardless of their political leanings, all federal parties are guilty of this in some capacity.

Despite being given a minority mandate by Canadians, and despite prime Minister Justin Trudeau's abysmal approval rating, the Liberal federal government is hell-bent on governing as if it has a majority, and remains committed to its vision for the country against all better judgement.

Meanwhile, Jagmeet Singh's NDP, once the Liberals' partners in crime through a much-maligned supply and confidence agreement, seems to be re-considering its position, as the Liberals have thus far failed to deliver on key pieces of the bargain (namely, a comprehensive national pharmacare plan).

Finally, as the official opposition to Mr. Trudeau's Liberals, Pierre Poilievre's Conservative Party is playing its role as agitator and instigator almost too well.

On nearly every issue, it's becoming increasingly clear that the Conservatives (and the Liberals, too) have no interest in middle ground or compromise. And the Conservatives have proven themselves more than willing to derail the proceedings of government and waste taxpayer dollars (in



JORDAN TWISS

~
News Editor

the name of standing up for Canadians) to make their point.

At recent Natural Resources committee meetings to discuss the government's Bill C-50, The Just Transition Act, and Bill C-49, which modernizes regulations for offshore energy resources in the Atlantic region, Conservative members refused to even participate in the discussion, effectively holding both pieces of legislation up for weeks.

As Catherine Lévesque reported for the *National Post* last week, "The past four meetings of the Natural Resources committee consisted of raising multiple points of order and constant interruption from the Conservatives, which sometimes meant talking all at once into the microphones to drown out other speakers, much to the Liberals' and the NDP's chagrin."

One might expect this kind of behaviour from children in the schoolyard. Coming from those in the highest halls of power in Canadian politics, it's inexcusable and unacceptable.

The great irony of this silly episode is that it comes as Mr. Poilievre has been promising to "speed up" approvals for clean energy projects if his party forms government.

Has he seen the state of the House of Commons lately? Turtles move with more haste than our esteemed parliamentarians.

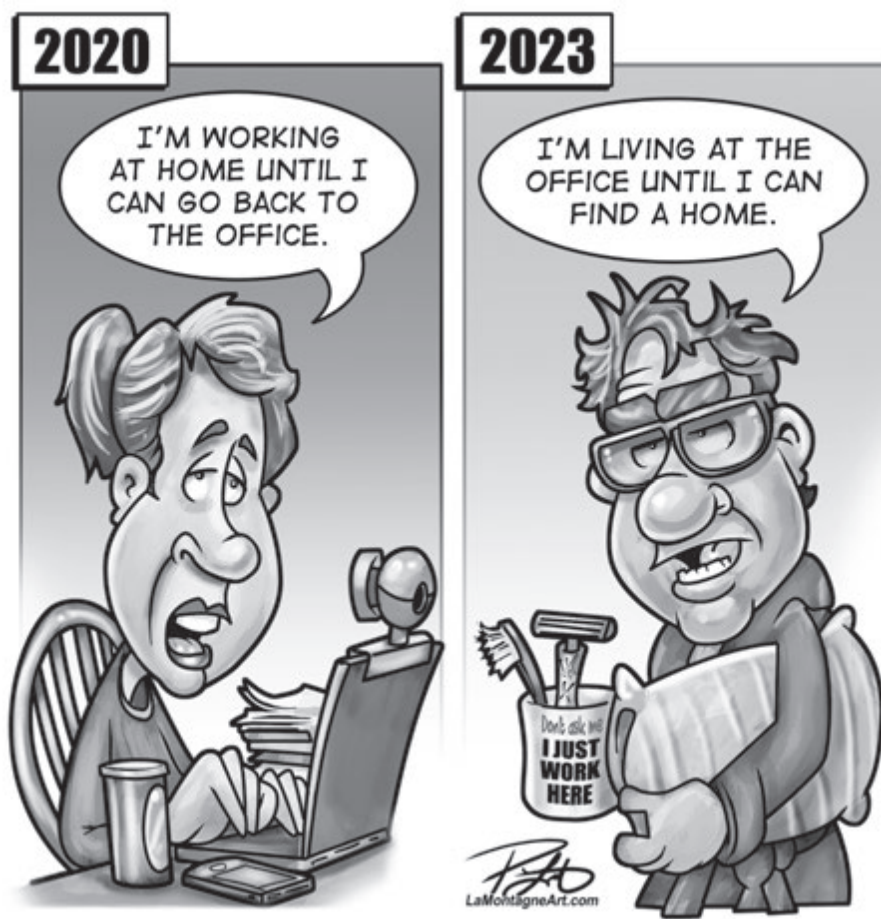
But disorder and dysfunction are not just the name of the game in Ottawa. More than ever, it seems the provinces are becoming less-than-enthusiastic participants in the confederation of Canada.

Up until Mr. Trudeau's decision to temporarily exempt home heating oil from the carbon tax, the Atlantic provinces looked ready to discard their Liberal reds for political stripes of another colour.

However, Mr. Trudeau's act of appeasement, and his subsequent refusal to even the playing field for the rest of the Canadians, came at a steep cost.

First, it laid bare the Liberals' hypocrisy when it comes to climate change.

Try as it might to justify the decision, a government that was genuinely interested in climate change rather than its own self-interest wouldn't have singled out home heating oil for a carbon tax



exemption.

If the decision is about helping homeowners transition to more sustainable home heating options, why not apply it to natural gas and other fuels as well to incentivize those homeowners to make the transition as well?

Second, the Liberals' carbon tax favouritism only further soured its fractious relationship with the provinces (including some of the Atlantic provinces it was trying to appease).

Having spent nearly eight years at odds with Mr. Trudeau's government over climate policy, the premiers of Alberta and Saskatchewan, Danielle Smith and Scott Moe, were among five provincial leaders calling for carbon tax exemptions on all forms of home heating.

With her Alberta Sovereignty Act, which was passed at the end of 2022 and effectively allows the province to ignore federal laws that are deemed to be harmful or overreach into provincial jurisdiction, Ms. Smith has made it clear she won't play ball with Mr. Trudeau's government unless the terms are favourable for Alberta (and its oil and gas sector).

Meanwhile, although the Saskatchewan First Act doesn't go so far as to grant the province the power to ignore federal laws it doesn't like, Mr. Moe has signalled that he isn't afraid to escalate his opposition to Ottawa to that level.

In legislation passed last Thursday, SaskEnergy was authorized to stop collecting the carbon tax as of Jan. 1,

2024 – a move the government says will save the average homeowner about \$400 next year (excluding the taxpayer-funded costs of the legal battle that is almost certain to follow the legislation's implementation, if Mr. Trudeau refuses to cede ground on the carbon tax).

Mr. Moe's stand against the federal government has drawn both praise and criticism.

Praise, because one doesn't need eyes to see the blatant unfairness of the policy or the political motivations driving Mr. Trudeau's actions.

Criticism, because Mr. Moe has made this battle a priority while rejecting other options to provide additional affordability relief to Saskatchewanians, including a Sask. NDP motion to suspend the provincial fuel tax for six months (a further \$356 in savings per household).

Mr. Moe has also faced questions about the legitimacy of ignoring laws he doesn't like.

After all, if he can do it, what's to stop someone else, say the province's teachers, from ignoring Mr. Moe's pronoun policy, which has been found by the province's human rights commission and child and youth advocate to pose potential harms to gender diverse students?

It's a slippery slope, indeed, and a damning indictment of the deterioration of Canada's political climate.

At all levels, and across all party lines, our politicians must do better.

Shellbrook Chronicle

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Spiritwood Herald

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Report from the Legislature

Saskatchewan's strong and growing economy continues to lead the nation. Our Gross Domestic Product (GDP) grew by 6.0 per cent and led the nation in 2022. The total dollar value was \$76.7 billion, led by an impressive 45.6 per cent increase in the agriculture sector, along with strong increases in mining, oil and gas extraction, accommodation and food services, construction, and manufacturing. Our government will continue to support the economic development of Saskatchewan as we build and protect our communities.

Our strong and grow-



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ing economy is being recognized around the globe. Recently, our Premier and Minister of Trade and Export Development received the Canada-India Business

Council (C-IBC) Member of the Year Award for our longstanding relationship with the C-IBC and the strengthening of economic and social ties between Saskatchewan and India.

India is a major export market for Saskatchewan producers; in 2022, we exported \$1.4 billion of products to India, an increase of over 130 per cent from the previous year. This increase contributed significantly to the GDP growth Saskatchewan saw last year.

A growing economy allows our government to invest back into Saskatchewan, building and protecting the programs

and services that make Saskatchewan strong. We recently announced the creation of over 2,300 new regulated childcare spaces in the province through a joint provincial and federal investment of \$23.5 million. A total of 51 organizations in 41 communities will use the funding to build new facilities or expand existing ones.

Among these organizations is Métis Nation-Saskatchewan, which will be acquiring land to open two 90-space childcare centres in Saskatoon and Regina. This investment will provide families greater access to affordable, high-quality early learning and childcare opportunities and support positive childhood development, early literacy, and student achievement.

Our government recently introduced The SaskEnergy (Carbon Tax Fairness for Families) Amendment Act to protect Saskatchewan families from the unfair and unaffordable federal carbon tax.

On Oct. 30, Premier



HON. JEREMY HARRISON MLA
~
Meadow Lake
Toll Free:
1-877-234-6669
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Scott Moe announced that SaskEnergy will stop collecting the carbon tax on Jan. 1, 2024, in response to the federal government's decision to stop charging the carbon tax on home heating oil, which primarily benefits families in Atlantic Canada. The Premier was clear that the federal government should extend this exemption to all forms of home heating, but if they refused to do so, Saskatchewan would stop collecting the carbon tax on SaskEnergy bills.

This legislation will give our provincial government and the Min-

ister of Crown Investments Corporation (CIC) the sole authority and responsibility for decisions regarding the collection and remittance of the federal carbon tax on SaskEnergy bills, while also protecting SaskEnergy employees and board members.

This policy will save the average Saskatchewan family \$400 in 2024. Our government still believes, and has always believed, that the carbon tax should be removed on everything, for everyone. But until that happens, with this legislation, our government is taking the necessary steps to protect Saskatchewan families' ability to afford to heat their homes this winter.

As our government continues its work to build and protect Saskatchewan, we look forward to hearing from you! Conversations with constituents help shape government policy and allow us to represent your best interests in the Legislature. If you have questions or comments, please contact my office.

YOUR TWO CENTS

Let my people go

Dear Editor:

We still are in awe as we think about the Trucker Convoy to Ottawa. Streets and overpasses lined with cheering, crying, flag waving concerned citizens. And we remember the discipline and self sacrifice of the truckers as opposed to the bought and paid-for lying politicians and media.

Convoy organizers and participants are still being persecuted for their

roles, including some truckers sitting in prison without trial. Agree or disagree with peaceful protest being better than violent protest, the Convoy organizers and participants clearly decided to go the route of a non violent protest.

Having started on the non violent path, truthers and freedom fighters can now apply Exodus 9:1: "Then the LORD said to Moses, 'Go to Pharaoh and say to him, This is

what the Lord, the God of the Hebrews, says: Let my people go, so that they may worship me.'"

It is time to appeal to the Lord for judgment on all who are thwarting law and order, and disregarding the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. All who are calling good evil and evil good. Choose you this day whom you will serve.

"Let the Truckers Go!"
Laverne Isaac,
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PUBLIC NOTICE

To Residents of the Leask District Green Family Memorial Fund

The Green Family Memorial Fund Committee is accepting applications for funding until **December 29, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.**

Application forms may be picked up at the R.M. Office. The funding will be distributed in accordance with the Last Will and Testament of Jessie Green which SPECIFIES the residue (referred to as "the Fund") being paid to the Village of Leask and the R.M. of Leask (referred to as "the Trustee") be administered in the following manner:

to invest the Fund for 20 years;

to pay one-twentieth of the Fund annually amongst organizations local to the **Village and District of Leask** (including but not limited to, Leask Sports Centre, Leask Health Clinic, Leask Cemetery, Leask Senior Citizens, Leask Golf Course and other sports organizations of Leask) the choice of organizations to benefit in any year and the amount of payment to each to be at the sole discretion of the Trustee;

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Freeman makes a wish come true

By **JORDAN TWISS**

Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

As a small-town entrepreneur, kindness is at the heart of everything Rose Freeman does.

The owner of Shell Lake's Willow Insurance, which celebrated its 10th anniversary of serving the community this year, Freeman is always looking for ways to give back to the community that raised her, and to others far beyond her hometown.

So, when the Make-A-Wish Foundation approached her in the spring to join 20 other Saskatchewan women for its Women for Wishes campaign and raise \$10,000 to grant the wish of a child in Saskatchewan, she leapt at the opportunity.

"Both of my children were born pre-mature with complications at birth. As a result, they both spent time in NICU after being born," Freeman said of her reasons for joining the campaign.

"I remember what it was like to be a parent in the hospital with a sick child. There are currently just over 200 kids in Saskatchewan with Critical Illnesses waiting for their wish to be granted. Wishes help replace fear with confidence, sadness with joy, and anxiety with hope that anything is possible for these children and their families."

Knowing it wouldn't be easy to meet the goal of raising \$10,000, Freeman got to work immediately, transforming Willow Insurance's 10th anniversary celebration into a community event featuring a live band, food, silent auction items, and homemade craft vendors.

Looking to pitch in, Freeman's daughters, Lauren and Amaya, set up a lemonade stand in the office on several occasions, and Willow Insurance also donated and matched all proceeds from hunting and angling licenses, passport and PAL photos; and notary services between April 1 and Sept. 30, 2023.

Otherwise, donations continued to trickle in at the office and online as the community threw its full support behind the campaign, helping Freeman raise more than \$11,000 in the end.

"It was incredible to see the community come together to support such a worthy cause. Rural Saskatchewan is very much built on small groups of volunteers with big hearts." Freeman said, noting that this is what makes her so passionate about supporting charitable causes.

"I grew up in a community full of inspirational volunteers. I live here because I want my children to grow up with the same kind of community minded role models," she added.

Apart from her successful charitable endeavours, the past year has been seen Freeman excel in a professional capacity as well.

In 2022 alone, Freeman was named one of Insurance Business Canada's "Elite Women", an achievement presented to just 48 Canadians (and only two from Saskatchewan) who have "broken glass ceilings and are role models for younger generations of girls."

She was also nominated for Insurance Business Canada's 2023 Cansure Broker of the Year Award, and was published in the Global Best In Insurance Special Report, which celebrates outstanding insurance companies and professionals in Asia, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the UK, and the United States.

This professional momentum carried over into 2023, when Freeman was asked to join the Women for Wishes Campaign and served as the only representative from Saskatchewan on a panel discussion about resilience at SGI Canada's National Convention.

Finally, in September, Freeman was named one of 12 finalists for the 2023 Cansure Award for Broker of the Year Award, becoming the only Saskatchewan broker, and the only rural broker, to be named a finalist.

Though, ultimately, Freeman's name wasn't announced at the awards ceremony in Toronto on Nov. 16, she says it was surreal just to be named a finalist, as one typically has to work in a large brokerage in a larger city to make the list.

Asked what she thought set her apart as an insurance broker, Freeman brought everything full circle back to the community and area she serves.

"A large number of my clients are people I have known my whole life. They are the same people that were my teachers, coaches, childhood friends, parents of friends, and community volunteers that donated to youth activities in our communities," she said.

"Customer Service is easy when you look at it from the perspective of repaying the people who helped you along the way to getting an education and building a foundation for a career."



Rose Freeman and her daughters, Lauren and Amaya, accept a special recognition from Meaghan Stovel McKnight (right), CEO of Make-A-Wish Canada, for Freeman's contributions to the Women for Wishes Campaign.

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Government subsidies shouldn't drive industry

Have you ever noticed how business tends to want government to get out of the way and let them get things done when profits are good.

But when margins tighten, or dip into the red, a government subsidy often tops the lobbying list.

The issue of course is that both sides of that coin come with their own problems.

While it's great that red tape be kept to a minimum without a lot of rules, regulations, and laws from government, the loss of many employees would be far starker, and the protection of consumers far less.

Business is ultimately focused on profits first and foremost, but government regulations make businesses take a broader approach to doing things rather than simply maximizing those profits.

But business is also rather good at not putting away a lot of money for those rainy days of market downturns, whether we are talking the farm sector, or oil sector, or mining sector, or forestry sector, or any other you might think of.

When things tighten, government help is often sought. The problem is, a government subsidy always skews markets.



CALVIN DANIELS

Ideally, supply and demand should be the driving force in markets, which means as demand wanes prices decline and producers in turn reduce production until demand increases, sending a message to again produce more by offering better prices.

It's a roller coaster ride

by nature, but it is production responding to markets.

A subsidy helps whoever gets the cheque, but it also trumps natural market signals.

Take for example bio-fuels.

The idea of biofuels is a good one environmentally in terms of questionable atmosphere harming emissions, but of course the oil patch isn't enamoured with the competition.

For the most part to date, fossil fuels have been at least competitive, if not priced lower, than bio options. So, government has tended to support biofuels with

subsidies.

For example, there were bio-fuel incentives contained in the U.S. Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), which was signed into law in August 2022.

The IRA will provide American manufacturers with a production tax credit of up to US \$1 per gallon for renewable diesel and \$1.75 for sustainable aviation fuel. That credit comes into force Jan. 1, 2025.

An article at *www.producer.com* noted Canadian producers will not be eligible for the credit, so it eliminates the U.S. as a viable export market for Canadian clean fuel.

Meanwhile, U.S. manufacturers will still be eligible for the credit even if they export the product, which would make Canadian clean fuel less competitive than U.S. fuel in the domestic market.

The subsidy throws a significant wrench into the North American bio-fuel sector, and of course has Canadian producers wanting the federal government here to respond with financial help – which would further muddy the market.

Ultimately, even when a sector wants federal help, its impact is probably ultimately not a good thing.

Fake Chinese honey still imported to Canada

By RILEY DONOVAN

In 2018, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) tested 240 samples of honey across the country. While 100% of Canadian honey samples were pure, nearly 22% of imported honey was cut with corn syrup, sugar cane, rice syrup, or beet sugar.

Under Canadian law, honey is a standardized product, which cannot contain added sugars. Following this sampling campaign, the CFIA seized 12,762 kilograms of adulterated honey. This, however, is a small drop in a continuous flow of fake honey imports.

Cutting honey with cheap sugar and marketing it as authentic is known as "honey laundering". China carries out this practice on a global scale. In the eastern province of Zhejiang, China's beekeeping hub, industrial plants churn out rice and corn syrup destined to be cut into honey.

Because of this extensive system of food fraud, direct honey imports from China to North America were effectively cut off in the mid-2000s. This crack-down has been ingeniously evaded.

China's clever scheme became apparent when Canada began re-

ceiving unusual volumes of honey from some rather surprising sources. In four of the five years from 2009, Vietnam sent us 20 kg of honey. In 2013, this rose to 19,209 kg. In the four years before 2015, Ukraine exported 5 kg of honey to Canada. In 2015, this soared to 445,421 kg. Those Ukrainian bees must have really got to work!

This is a practice called "transshipment", where a product is sent to an intermediary country, and then labelled as a product of that country, before being sent to its final destination.

Testing traces of pollen in honey can reveal the true geographical origin of transshipped honey. To obstruct this process, Chinese companies have perfected something called "ultra-filtration". Standard filtration gently removes debris like wax. During ultra-filtration, however, honey is heated, sometimes watered down, and then forced at high pressure through extremely small filters to remove the pollen.

Imported Chinese honey poses serious health concerns. In taking out pollen, ultra-filtration is removing important nutritional value. Additionally, traces of antibiotics illegal in Western coun-

tries, such as chloramphenicol, have been discovered in honey imported from China. It was reported in Food Safety News that small-scale Chinese beekeeping operations use unlined lead-soldered drums to store their honey – a clear lead contamination risk.

Legitimate Canadian beekeepers are being undercut by the far cheaper, impure, imported honey flooding the market. As Ontario beekeeper Chris Hiemstra put it: "Someone can sell sugar for 20 cents a pound and say it's honey against someone that needs \$2 a pound to make a living".

I would advise consumers to stay clear of the big honey brands, and only buy from smaller, trusted, local businesses. However, Canadians should be able to buy honey at their local grocery store without worrying about endangering their family's health, or hurting Canadian beekeepers. We need to demand that our MPs push for stringent testing of honey, and a total ban on honey imports from countries used in the Chinese transshipment scheme.

Riley Donovan is an independent journalist and researcher. He lives on a small farm with his family on Salt Spring Island, British Columbia

Spiritwood Ducks Unlimited donates to SARCS

By BEVRA FEE
Spiritwood Herald Reporter

The Spiritwood chapter of Ducks Unlimited held a successful banquet and auction in October, and through their efforts were able to present \$1,000 to Spiritwood Area Recreation, Culture, and Sport (SARCS).

The Ducks Unlimited local committee enlisted social media and advertising support from SARCS for their recent

banquet, resulting in a very successful event with new faces and first-time attendees.

"I think it helped as a few people mentioned that DU was making a donation to SARCS and they liked that," commented event chairperson George Pretli.

The Spiritwood Ducks Unlimited Banquet and Auction was held on Oct. 21 and is an annual event raising funds for research and conservation of habitat.



Ducks Unlimited's George Pretli (left) and Tammy Robinson (right) present a \$1,000 donation SARCS representatives Sue Kahl and Glennalda Saam (middle).



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

Saskatchewan shows Highest GDP Growth in Canada

Saskatchewan had a 6.0 per cent increase from 2021 to 2022, ranking first among provinces and territories. The total dollar value of the province's 2022 GDP is \$76.7 billion. The main driver of this growth is a 45.6 per cent increase in the agriculture sector. Mining, oil and gas extraction, accommodation and food services, construction and manufacturing were other key industries for the province.



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

Shellbrook CN Station arrives at new home

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

In a poetic end to the 114 years it spent at the south end of Shellbrook's Main Street, the Shellbrook CN Station made its final journey on Tuesday, Nov. 14, leaving the community on the old railroad track that once bore so many trains to it.

Helped by a small team, and a Saskatchewan crew to move power lines out of the way, the station's owner, Ken Hamilton, hauled the building to his rural property, located just one mile west and two miles south of Shellbrook. Along the route, community members came out to watch the procession and bid the station farewell.

The process was a long and delicate one, requiring patience and care, and ultimately taking about four hours. But time spent on the short journey pales in comparison to the hours put into getting the station ready to move.

"It was a solid five weeks of preparation, and lots and lots of man hours," Hamilton said, noting the exterior and underside had to be stripped away so

the building could be jacked up and mounted on moving beams.

Relieved that the building made it to his property in one piece, Hamilton says his plans for the time being are to block it in temporarily for the winter. Once spring arrives, he'll decide on a final location for the station, and begin the process of renovating and restoring it so that it can once more serve as a museum.

"It would be for anyone who wanted to come out. It wouldn't be a commercial operation or charging admission or anything like that," Hamilton said.

Hamilton acquired the building in March, when the Town of Shellbrook auctioned it off alongside the train station shed, the old Rayside School, and the remaining artifacts that were still housed in the former Shellbrook and District Heritage Museum.

For Hamilton, the interest in the building was personal and deeply rooted in his family's connection to Shellbrook and the history of the railroad.

Around the turn of the 20th century, Hamilton's grandfather came west



The Shellbrook CN Station was hauled to owner Ken Hamilton's rural property, located just southwest of town. Photo courtesy of Meagan Hamilton.

from Ontario to build railroad grade, eventually receiving the contract to build all the Big River line coming from Shellbrook. He ended up buying land just a couple miles outside of Shellbrook to winter the horses he used for railroad construction. And after marrying, he decided to stay in Shellbrook and take up farming.

That farm has since been passed down to Hamilton and his generation, keeping the family connected to the area.

"Over the last 100 years, my family has either come back to Shellbrook through that rail station, or left town through that station. There's 100 years of history there with our family," he said after he purchased it.

Though Hamilton's plan from day one has been to revive the station as a museum, calls from the community led him to approach town council about the possibility of leaving the building in place and turning it into a source of revenue for the town. But CAO Kelly Hoare said the town was looking to subdivide it for future use, which meant the building had to be moved.

The History

Construction of the Shellbrook CN Station was completed in December 1909, making the building one of the town's earliest buildings.

Starting in January 1910, the build-

ing served as a depot for passenger service, mail, freight, ticketing, and telegram services. Over the next several decades, the town sprouted up around the station, and, in 1988, the property was a designated Municipal Heritage Property and transformed into the Shellbrook & District Heritage Museum.

Citing the potential costs to taxpayers to maintain and upgrade the building, Shellbrook's town council removed the station's heritage status in October of 2021, paving the way for the items in its collection to be deaccessioned (returned to the families that donated them) throughout 2022 ahead of the final auction in March of this year.

At that auction, the CN Station itself sold for a final bid of \$300, while the train station shed hauled in \$2,000. Meanwhile, the Rayside School required a second auction after failing to attract a buyer the first time around, and eventually sold for \$5.



Community members came out to watch and snap pictures, as Shellbrook's CN Station was hauled to its new location on Tuesday, Nov. 14.

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
11 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/Unite/
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 Rick Martin

LAKELAND COMMUNITY CHURCH

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

FIELDS OF HOPE (HOFFNUNGSFELDER) MENNONITE CHURCH

Glenbush
Worship - 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

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Shellbrook Seniors' activity highlights

By **LORRAINE THIBEAULT**
Shellbrook Senior's Association

Marj Hislop and Edith Henry, both of Shellbrook and both members of the Shellbrook Seniors' Association, were nominated by Lorraine Thibeault for Saskatchewan Seniors Mechanism Awards 2023. The Provincial Gala honouring the nominees from all over Saskatchewan took place in Regina on Oct. 1.

Marj was nominated in the Blooming Perennial category. This category reflects the ongoing service work of seniors aged 90 years and over. Marj was named the top nominee in this category.

Edith was nominated in the Community Leadership (Rural) category for ongoing service work in the community as well as for work with seniors. Rick Ronning, a teacher and coach from St. Louis, Sask., who works with youth in Track & Field was the top nominee in this category.

Edith attended the Gala along with her daughter, Wendy, and son, Kevin.

The nominees were presented with corsages, gifts and certificates. Edith was accompanied at her table by her son and daughter, the Saskatchewan Seniors Association (SSAI) President, Nici Warnock, and the SSAI past president.

The program MC for the evening was Rod McKendrick. He gave a short welcoming address and led the participants in O Canada. Greetings were given by three other dignitaries who had been piped into the hall.

Each nominee for the Saskatchewan Seniors Mechanism Awards was introduced on screen. There were 150 nominees, family and friends in attendance.

A buffet supper followed the introductions. The main guest speaker was the president and CEO of CAA Saskatchewan. Presentation of awards followed. Evan Bray, retired Regina Chief of Police, kept the attendees laughing with his stories of his experiences.

Jeffrey Staker, a musician and songwriter from Punnichy, Sask., who has

entertained across Canada and the northern states, sang and played keyboard and harmonica. He was accompanied by a guitarist and singer. The evening was very entertaining.

Marj, who was unable to attend the Gala, received her certificate, plaque, and many gifts via Canada Post. She indicated that it was "better than Christmas" when she opened the package as she had not been informed prior to receiving the package that she was the top nominee for the Blooming Perennial award.

On Nov. 9, Marj and Edith were recognized by the local Seniors' Association for their accomplishments and awards.

Cozy up to Winter tea

On Friday, Nov. 10, the Shellbrook Seniors' Association hosted a Cozy Up to Winter tea and quilt display at the Shellbrook Senior Citizens' Centre. Muffins and hot chocolate were served along with coffee and tea. Winter-themed quilts were displayed around the hall, and snowmen decorated the theme tables and golden

cones were used for table settings.

The Tea and quilt display, which was organized by Seniors' Association member Jessie Done, was enjoyed by participants from throughout the community. Funds from the club's monthly teas are used to help cover the expenses of running the Seniors' Centre.



A Walking in a Winter Wonderland-themed quilt was a perfect fit for the Shellbrook Senior's Cozy Up to Winter tea and quilt display.



Marj Hislop and Edith Henry accept awards from the Saskatchewan Seniors Mechanism from Shellbrook Seniors' Association president Brian Hagel.

NOTICE TO OUR READERS

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If you're looking for newsprint paper, please contact us and we can arrange a bundle(s) of recycled paper for your use at no charge.

Contact us at **306-747-2442.**

Thank you for your understanding.

**Shellbrook Chronicle
& Spiritwood Herald**

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 - Tuesday 11:30am - 4:30pm; 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 2pm - 6pm; Friday 1:30pm - 5pm. 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.

SHELLBROOK: Shellbrook & District Arts Council Annual Carol Festival - Sunday, December 3, 7pm, Shellbrook Theatre. Admission \$10

SPIRITWOOD: Witchekean Wildlife Federation - Horn Scoring - Friday, December 8, 6:00 p.m., Ag Barn in Spiritwood

SHELLBROOK & AREA: Christmas Hampers (Shellbrook, Parkside Holbein, Mont Nebo & Canwood) Those requesting Christmas Food Hampers, pick up an application form from any church or Bigway. Complete the form and make sure the application is sent to: Food Bank c/o Shellbrook Pentecostal Assembly, PO Box 1118, Shellbrook, Sask., S0J 2E0, before Dec. 11, 2023. Hamper pick-up: Wed., December 20, 5:30-7:30. Call/Text Dave Bodvarson 306-747-7235, John Slemming 306-561-7807 or Linda Lundy 306-960-6879.

SHELLBROOK: Kinette Club of Shellbrook presents the 4th Annual Twinkle Tour! Register your home for the Twinkle Tour by November 29 via QR, link or email to shellbrooktwinkletour@gmail.com. Tour December 2 @ 5:30 pm - Line up on Elevator Road after 5pm! Non-perishable food items & gently used winter clothing can be taken to Shellbrook Pentecostal Assembly (61 2nd St W, Shellbrook). For full details, see ad on page 16!

SHELLBROOK: Kinette Club of Shellbrook & Town of Shellbrook Santa Fun Day! Saturday, December 2 - Pictures with Santa, Christmas Crafts, Cookie Decorating, Santa Letter Writing, Hot Chocolate and \$5 Soup & Bun Sale - 1pm to 4pm @ Shellbrook Community Hall. Please bring a non-perishable food item for our local foodbank!

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Ph: 306-747-2442 • Fax: 306-747-3000 • Email: chads@sbchron.com

Shell Lake hosts 5th annual Sip & Shop

By BEVRA FEE
Spiritwood Herald Reporter

The evening of Friday, Nov. 17, saw the streets of Shell Lake packed with vehicles as a large crowd travelled from near and far to officially begin the Christmas craft sale season.

Billed as the Sip & Shop Christmas Market, this year's event was a huge hit, with around 260 people streaming through the doors of the Shell Lake Lions Hall between 5 p.m. and 8 p.m.

Global Pinoy Spirit provided Filipino fare for those who made it a supper event, while approximately two dozen local vendors brought their wares to the eager shoppers in a trade-show setting. Booths were packed with home-made artwork, jellied and jammed preserves, clothing, jewellery and leatherwork to name a small sample.

Guests paid a nominal admission fee, which was earmarked for the Little Wonders preschool in Shell Lake. With a bar crew providing beverages for shoppers, the atmosphere was set for visiting and enjoying an evening out with friends.



Sandy Emke-Kish hears about ironwork wares from Ramsey Rude of Ramsey's Custom Blacksmithing.



Event organizer and author Amy Strate had her books on hand to sell, along with her macramé items.

Spiritwood Library news highlights

By HEATHER GATZKE
Spiritwood Librarian

The Spiritwood Public Library was thrilled to receive a funding grant from SARCS. Sask Lotteries was a source of funds for the project. The library wanted to promote family literacy by purchasing a magnetic whiteboard and accessories for an interactive learning centre to engage children and caregivers for story times, songs, and fun activities in the Children's area of the library.

The library purchased various magnets, including animals, transportation (cars, trucks & planes), letters, and supplies to create story characters for various books. For example, Little Red Riding Hood, The Loon's Necklace, and the Very Hungry Caterpillar. The character magnets help act out the story.



The Spiritwood Public Library's Dessert of the Month winner for November was Bonnie Wasden. The wonderful dessert was made by board member Rachelle Beauchesne.



RCMP honoured at Canwood Remembrance Day



A scroll, honouring 150 years of service of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, was unveiled in Canwood during this year's Remembrance Day Service. The scroll will remain hanging in the Canwood Legion Hall. Pictured from left to right: members of the Ahtahkakoop-Shellbrook RCMP, Cst. McVicker, S/Sgt. Haggarty, Canwood Legion Sergeant at Arms Jerrie Ziege-man, and Cst. Merner.

By PENNY BRAD, Canwood Legion Treasurer

What happens when you don't advertise?

Very little.

Japanese stars cream of free-agent crop

The baseball world knows that the No. 1 free agent during this off-season is the Japanese phenom, Shohei Ohtani, who might be the game's best hitter and its best pitcher. But according to a recent *MLB.com* story featuring the best free agents available, the No. 2 guy is also a Japanese star — 25-year-old Yoshinobu Yamamoto.

While Ohtani's status carries a major asterisk — he recently underwent elbow surgery and will be available only to hit during the 2024 season — there are no such concerns about Yamamoto, who is coming off a spectacular two-year run in Japan's Pacific League. The right-hander, projected to be a No. 1 or No. 2 starter with whatever team is lucky enough to land him, has won the Pacific League's MVP award the past two seasons, and also its equivalent of the Cy Young award as best pitcher.

Ohtani slugged an American League-leading 44 home runs in 2023 and posted a 10-5 record

as a pitcher with a 3.14 earned-run average and 167 strikeouts in 132 innings. The intriguing aspect to his free agency is the great unknown of his pitching future. If he can be expected to return to form on the mound, and can reliably be counted on for 40-plus home runs, his value is astronomical. If he's 'only' a 40-HR guy, his value is still great, but dramatically diminished. The leading contenders are reportedly Ohtani's former team, the Angels, along with two other West Coast clubs, the Dodgers and Giants, and the big-money Mets, who have never shied away from paying exorbitant fees to free agents (Brandon Nimmo, \$162 million for eight years; Justin Verlander, \$86 million for two years; Edwin Diaz, \$102 million for five years).

Two other free agents of note: Cy Young-calibre pitchers Aaron Nola and Blake Snell.

In other off-season baseball news, the Chicago Cubs signed manag-



BRUCE
PENTON

er Craig Counsell to the highest managerial contract in history after his contract with the Brewers expired. He is one of the most respected managers in baseball and the Cubs had to dump the popular David Ross to create a managerial void.

The last time Chicago lured a big-name manager to the Windy City was in 2015 when Joe Maddon became available. Maddon went on to lead the Cubs to the World Series championship in 2016. Cubs' fans are hoping Counsell, who was offered \$5 million a year by Milwaukee but will earn \$40 million for five years with

the Cubs, can perform some similar magic.

Meanwhile, Canada's best player, long-time Cincinnati Reds star Joey Votto, has been released by the Reds and is a free agent. Votto, 40, is almost a surefire Hall of Famer, with 366 career home runs, a .294 batting average and a career OPS (on-base average plus slugging percentage) of .920. That last figure is 52nd all-time. Wouldn't the National League's Most Valuable Player in 2020, a native of Toronto, look great in a Blue Jays' uniform for one last sendoff season?

RJ Currie of sports-deke.com: "ESPN's Jackie McMullan said the NFL needs to address its concussion issues 'head-on.' Some jokes just write themselves."

Super 70s Sports, on X, recalling the famous on-field fight between two MLB stars: "In 1987, Robin Ventura set an NCAA record by hitting in 57 straight games. Six years later, Nolan Ryan set an MLB record by hitting Robin Ventura 57 straight

times in one game."

Mike Bianchi of the Orlando Sentinel: "How is Tyreek Hill sort of like Jim Harbaugh? One is the Cheetah and the other is the Cheater."

Charles Robinson of yahoosports.com, on Josh McDaniels' coaching arc: "McDaniels' career coaching peaks have been Everest-ian with Tom (Brady), and a low-lying Taco Bell parking lot without him."

Bob Molinaro of pilotonline.com (Hampton, Va.): "Aaron Rodgers returning to play this season behind a pathetic Jets' offensive line would be like Janet Leigh getting back in the shower."

New York Post columnist Phil Mushnick, after Mets' owner Steve Cohen announced he would be building a family recreation centre that includes a casino: "Rejoice, New York, soon you can lose your money to Cohen's House of Lousy Odds!"

Mushnick again, taking issue with NFL commissioner Roger Goodell's league slogans, such as

'End Racism' and 'It takes all of us,' saying the commissioner should consider slogans such as 'Stop Beating Women!', 'Drive Sober and Legally,' 'Try To Be Home By 4:30 a.m.,' 'Avoid Felony Arrests' and 'The N-Word Is Racist Unless It's Rapped During the Super Bowl Halftime Show By Commissioner Goodell's Invite.'"

Weather forecast from the Canadian parody website The Beaverton: "Edmonton expected to get hit with 10 cm of Oilers jerseys tonight."

Comedy writer Alex Kaseberg, who has an issue with NFL officiating: "Apparently NFL refs want pass rushers to pick up and cradle quarterbacks and put them down gently like a sleeping baby."

Headline at fark.com: "MLB general managers meeting cancelled after widespread nausea, possibly after seeing the World Series viewership numbers."

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

Elks teams take tough losses on the road

By JORDAN TWISS

Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

The bumpy season continues for the U18 AA Elks, who were on the road for two games over the weekend and came home with an overtime loss to the Warman Wildcats and a regulation time loss to the West Central Wheat Kings.

U18 Elks (4) vs Wildcats (5) OT

From the opening whistle to the closing buzzer of the first period, the stars seemed to be aligning for the Elks to pull out a big win against the Warman Wildcats on Friday, Nov. 17.

Just over 90 seconds into the game, Kaiden Couture put the Elks up 1-0 with an assist from Jesse Nyberg. Then, with some strong play on the power play later in the frame, Couture made it 2-0 on helpers from Brendan Aug and Corvan Stewart.

And just a few minutes later, another power play goal by Lane Keyowski gave the Elks a commanding 3-0 lead, which they would take into the second period. Kendon Skalicky and Couture assisted on the goal.

After the whistle sounded for the second period, the Elks held on to their 3-0 lead for nearly seven more minutes until Lukas Viden closed the gap on an assist from Kaden Burgess. And less than a minute later, the Elks' lead slimmed down to 3-2 when Greyer Johannesson scored an unassisted goal.

The Elks recovered later in the frame, and with the help of another power play goal, restored their lead to two goals. Brody Anderson netted the goal, with assists from Couture and Aug.

The Elks' uneven play continued into the third period, cracking open the door for the Wildcats to make a comeback. Carson

Rinas struck first for the Wildcats, scoring around the midway point of the period with an assist from Logan Normand, and Viden tied the game at 4-4 in the final few minutes of play with a helper from Markus Thompson, eventually forcing the game into overtime.

In the five-minute extra period, the Wildcats wasted little time completing their comeback, scoring less than a minute in to claim a 5-4 win. Burgess scored the game winner on assists from Raiden Clayton and Normand.

U18 Elks (3) vs Kings (7)

After Friday night's difficult loss, the U18 Elks headed to Unity to face off against the West Central Wheat Kings on Sunday afternoon.

There, they once again jumped out to an early lead with the help of their power play, as Corvan Stewart drew first blood with an assist from Kendon Skalicky. The lead lasted for only five minutes, however, before Kaegan Lowe tied the game at 1-1 with an assist from Aiden Chachula.

And by the end of the period, the Wheat Kings' power play had helped swing the momentum of the game in the other direction with a goal from Austin Schafer, assisted by Tyce Perkins and Chachula.

In a second period that saw the Wheat Kings fire 23 shots at Elks netminder Hunter Nakonechny, the team was well-rewarded for its efforts, as it scored five goals to Shellbrook's one to take a commanding 7-2 lead into the third frame.

Kaden Sperle kicked the scoring off for the Wheat Kings, scoring on assists from Chase Weinkauf and Schafer, and Schafer netted his second power play goal of the night just a couple minutes later, with help-

ers from Deegan German and Perkins.

After a brief lull in the scoring, Jake Boettcher was sprung loose on the penalty kill and closed the score to 4-2 with assists from Brody Anderson and Brendon Aug. But a hat trick goal from Schafer, assisted by Ty Partington and Weinkauf, and an unassisted goal by Lowe just six seconds later put the Wheat Kings back in the driver's seat.

Capping off the period's scorecard, the Wheat Kings' power play struck one last time to all but put the game out of reach. German netted the goal, with assists from Jared Abrams and Lowe.

In a less action-packed third period, the Elks managed the only goal, as Skalicky scored unassisted to secure the team's 7-3 defeat.

With the losses, the Elks sit at 3-6-1-0 on the season and remain in the middle of the pack in the Centre Four Conference standings.

The team's next home game is Nov. 23 against the Saskatoon Riverkings. Puck drop for the game is at 7:30 p.m.

Elks (2) vs Chiefs (8)

In senior hockey action, the Shellbrook Elks travelled to the Beardy's Memorial Arena on Saturday, Nov. 18, to face off against the undefeated Willow Cree Chiefs.

From start to finish, the Chiefs demonstrated why they were undefeated, dominating the Elks en route to an 8-2 victory.

Despite the discrepancy in the two teams' records, the Elks mostly held their own through the first period, matching the Chiefs shot for shot. The important difference came in the goal column, as the Chiefs scored early on the power play with a goal from Riley Albert, assisted by Aaron Grey-

eyes and Evan Williams.

After a lengthy, goalless stalemate, the Chiefs struck again in the final minute of the period to go up 2-0 over the Elks. Kirk Bear netted the goal, with assists from Tylis Cameron and Greyeyes.

In a second period that saw the Elks continue to stay even with the Chiefs on the shot counter, goals continued to be the major differentiating factor between the two teams, as the Chiefs scored five to the Elks' one.

The Chiefs started early in the second frame, with Trent Campbell scoring on assists from Lucas Seesequasis and Darwin Morin, and Jordan Greyeyes scoring less than a minute later on helpers from Aaron Greyeyes and Albert.

Near the midway point, Jordan Greyeyes tallied his second of the night on an assist from Albert to put the Chiefs up 5-0. But the next goal belonged to the Elks' Nathaniel Martin, who scored with an assist from Tyler Rock.

Helping the Chiefs close out the second period with a 7-1 lead, Campbell scored on an assist from Cameron, and Albert netted his second goal of the game with an assist from Dusty Iron.

In a quiet third period, the Elks' power play showed some signs of life, when Tavis Galloway scored on assists from Matthew Kutnikoff and Cole Duperreault. But the Chiefs would put an exclamation point on their victory in the dying seconds of the game, when Aaron Greyeyes tallied unassisted to set the final score at 8-2.

With the loss, the Elks sit at 1-3 on the season. This Friday, Nov. 24, they host the Chiefs for a rematch. Puck drop for the game is at 8 p.m.

OBITUARY

Maria Suzanne DeGirolamo



DEGIROLAMO – Maria Suzanne
5 October, 1930 – 15 November, 2023
On Wednesday, November 15, 2023 Maria Suzanne, age 93, passed away peacefully at Sunnyside Adventist Nursing Home in Saskatoon. She was predeceased by her parents Augustin and Marie-Louise

Gauthier, infant daughter Louise, husband Ernest, sister and brother-in-law Suzanne and Martin Puchala and daughter-in-law Jamie DeGirolamo.

Maria is survived by her sister Marie-Rose of Prince Albert, her children; Marc (Jan), Neil (Cindy), Marcia (Wayne), Lynn (Randy), Dan (Marie) and Dale.

Grandchildren; Julia, Stephanie (Mike), Vanessa (Matt), Colton, Landon, Mathew (Josh), Blake, Jessica (Mitch), Makaila (Quinn), Samuel, and Helena.

Great-Grandchildren; Wesley, Vivienne, Ambellina, Gabrielle, Emmitt, Gemma and (due in January 2024).

Maria was born October 5th, 1930 on the

farm east of Marcelin. She attended school at Sion in Prince Albert, Skipton and then Marcelin, graduating Grade 12 with a French and English diploma, a commercial business course and Grade 8 in music. In 1950 she started a nursing course at St. Paul's hospital graduating in 1953 as a Registered Nurse. Mom went to work in Weyburn, Prince Albert Holy Family and Trail, BC.

In Trail, 1955, Maria met Ernest DeGirolamo and they were married in Marcelin, July 1956. They made their first home in Nelson, BC where Marc was born and then moved onto the farm east of Marcelin in 1957, where they started farming and raising a

family.

Mom's life was always centered around her family, community, and church. She was a caregiver, who was always helping people in their time of need. She would never say no to someone in need of assistance and was always the 'nurse' of the community.

After Ernie passed away in 1979, she went back to school to re-certify as an RN. This led to her becoming manager of Country Valley Homecare until her retirement in 1990.

Music was a huge part of her life, not a day went by without hearing her at the piano or organ. She was the organist for St Joseph's parish in Marcelin for many years, and a CWL member for

75 years.

She was proud to be part of the St. Paul's Nurses Alumni and attended many reunions with her classmates over the years.

In retirement, gardening and the farmyard occupied much of her time. She had many beautiful vegetables, flowers, and trees in and around the garden for all to enjoy. Travelling and cruising to many countries of the world was another of Mom's passions, making new friends wherever she went.

Her children and grandchildren were a big part and pride of her life. She would never miss a concert, ballgame or birthday party and did not miss an opportunity to cook a big meal for us

all.

In 2013 Mom moved to Primrose Chateau, a seniors retirement community in Saskatoon where she enjoyed the company of others as well as living with her sister Marie-Rose again. In 2020 she moved to Arbor Villa care home and then to Sunnyside Adventist nursing home in 2022.

We wish to thank the staff at those wonderful facilities for making her final years comfortable.

We love you Mom and will miss you.

Interment to take place at a later date in Marcelin, Saskatchewan. In lieu of flowers please consider a donation to a charity of your choice in Maria's memory.

GOOD NEWS

GOD HAS A PLAN, TRUST IN HIM

By **RANDALL MCLEOD**
Immanuel Lutheran, Parkside

If you are anything like me, you hate to see injustice. We see it in the world at large, we see it in our court systems, and it is quite frankly distressing.

Some people like to lay the blame for evil at God's feet; "If He really were all good or all powerful, He would never let these things happen". What if He has bigger fish to fry? What if He knows more than you? What if, as the Bible tells us, "All things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose?"

What if justice will be done, in His

time, in His way? What if He, like a good parent, allows us to fail and fall down so that we can actually learn something?

This is actually what the Bible tells us that God has in mind. God has a plan that is bigger than our comfort. Even when it comes to death, the day, time, and manner of our death is not usually known to us. But what is known is that it's gonna happen! Death and taxes, you know. God not only knows about your plan, He also knows the big plan.

God knows how, and is able, to make even the most horrible things work for our benefit.

We can also be confident in this; God is inherently just, and He will

execute justice. Nobody gets off scot-free; there is a day of reckoning, a day of judgement, coming.

Many people cry out; "We want justice NOW!" But do they, do they really? Everyone violates God's laws. True justice says you should die for that. Do you want God to start that justice with you now? Or do you think justice should only be imposed on others? That's hypocritical is it not? "No, no, God, start with those guys over there, not with me!" Do you want universal justice or not?

So, if we all fail, who then is to be saved? How can anyone be saved? Good question! And that is also part of the big plan. God knew we would sin, violate his laws, but still He loves

us. He does not take pleasure in the death of the wicked. He does not wish that any should perish. So, from the very beginning He had a plan.

How would you like to have someone else take the penalty for your failures, your sins? Sounds good, yes? That was and is the plan!

God himself, in the person of Jesus, took the hit for you. He offers you an exemption from the penalty, absolutely free. He paid the penalty, and we walk, pretty good deal I would say.

Like the early disciples, He says to you, "Come, follow me. Leave your old sinful life behind and receive a new life, a new birth, free and gratis, my treat!"

Now that's a plan!

Government introduces Carbon Tax Fairness Act

Minister Responsible for SaskEnergy Dustin Duncan has introduced The SaskEnergy (Carbon Tax Fairness for Families) Amendment Act to protect Saskatchewan families from the unfair and unaffordable federal carbon tax.

On Oct. 30, Premier Scott Moe announced that SaskEnergy will stop collecting the carbon tax on Jan. 1, 2024, in response to the federal government's decision to stop charging the carbon tax on home heating oil, which primarily benefits families in Atlantic Canada. Moe said the federal government should extend the exemption to all forms of home heating, but if they refused to do that, the province would stop collecting the carbon tax on SaskEnergy bills.

The removal of the federal carbon tax from SaskEnergy

bills, effective Jan. 1, 2024, will save the average Saskatchewan family approximately \$400 in 2024.

"Our government is taking the necessary steps to protect Saskatchewan families' ability to afford to heat their homes this winter by removing the federal carbon tax from the natural gas bills of residential customers," Duncan said in a statement. "This legislation will give our government, and me as Minister, the sole authority and responsibility for decisions regarding the collection and remittance of the federal carbon tax on SaskEnergy bills while also providing protection for SaskEnergy employees and board members."

The bill amends The SaskEnergy Act to designate the Crown as the sole registered distributor of natural gas in Saskatchewan, and

invests all powers, rights, authorities, responsibilities and obligations for the purposes of Part 1 of the Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act (Canada), to the Government of Saskatchewan. These authorities include providing the Minister with the sole decision-making authority to pay, or withhold payment, of any charge, tax, levy, remittance or other payment required by Part 1 of the Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act (Canada).

Under this legislation, the Crown will indemnify SaskEnergy and all current and former directors, officers, employees, agents, members, affiliates, and other representatives from all damages, costs, charges and expenses, including legal fees, that the corporation or individual incurs with respect to any civil, criminal,

administrative, investigative or other matter in which the corporation or individual is implicated in relation to the Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act (Canada).

"We still believe the federal government should remove the carbon tax on everything for everyone," Duncan said. "But until that happens, our government will ensure fairness for Saskatchewan families by taking the carbon tax off their SaskEnergy bills."

The same day it passed the new legislation, the Sask. Party government also shot down a motion by the Sask. NDP to suspend the 15-cent provincial gas tax for the next six months.

According to the NDP, suspending the provincial gas tax for six months would decrease revenues by \$225 million and save households approximately \$356.

"I'm disappointed that the provincial government seems more interested in finger-pointing than actually rolling up its sleeves and helping people out. Christmas is approaching and families who have never struggled before are worried about covering the basics, let alone putting gifts under the tree," Official Opposition Leader Carla Beck said in a statement. "All levels of government have a responsibility to focus on the issues keeping people up at night."

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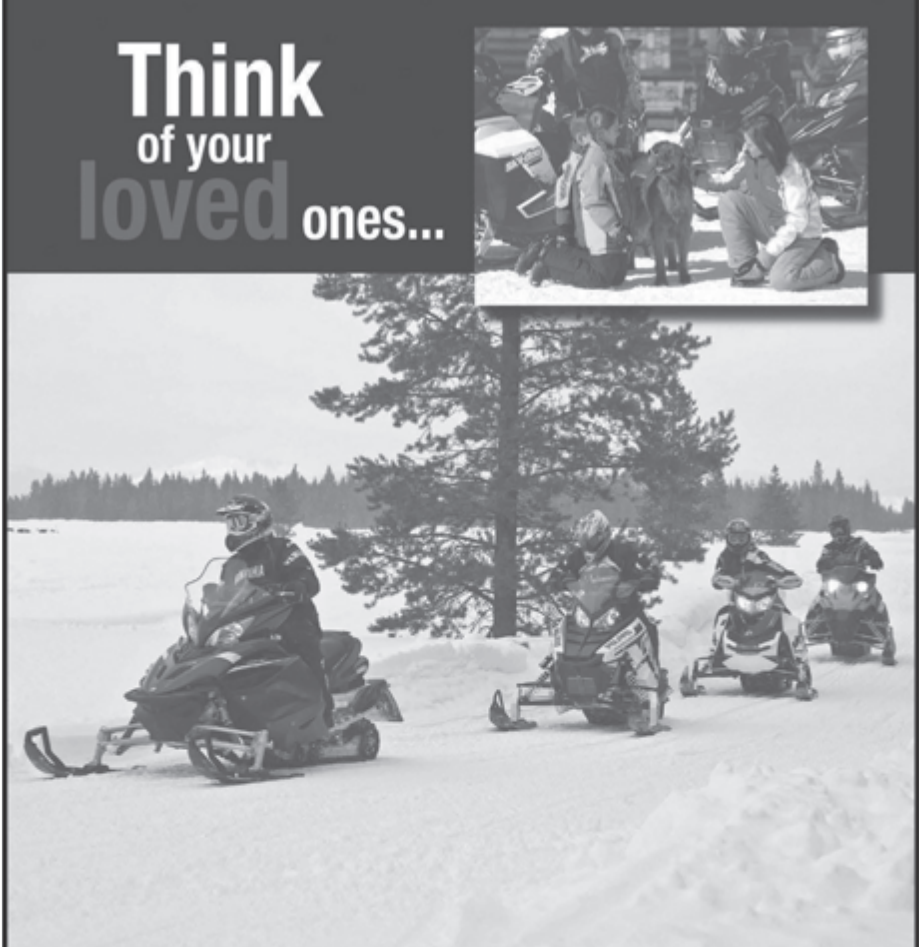
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SHS boys headed to volleyball Provincials

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

After topping the field in their own gym at Conferences, Spiritwood High School's senior boy's volleyball team travelled to Valley Christian Academy in Osler to compete in the 3A Regionals on Saturday, Nov. 18.

Joining Spiritwood at the tournament were five other teams, including host Osler VCA, Senator Myles Venne, Dalmeny, PACI, and Maidstone, all vying for one of three spots in Provincials in Unity on Nov. 24 and 25.

Drawing the first game of the preliminary round of the tournament, Spiritwood faced off against Senator Myles Venne and emerged victorious in two sets with scores of 25-14 and 25-18, respectively.

Taking the court again in the afternoon, Spiritwood was fighting for first place in its pool against Osler VCA. The team was outmatched this time, as Osler cruised to victory in two sets with scores of 25-8 and 25-13 and relegated Spiritwood to the second of two semi-final games.

Drawing Dalmeny in that match-up, Spiritwood once again struggled to find its footing on the court and lost 25-11 and 25-10 over the course of two sets to be sent to the bronze medal game against PACI.

In a hard-fought three-set battle, Spiritwood narrowly claimed the first set by a score of 25-22, before losing the second set 26-24. The point-for-point match continued through the third set, with Spiritwood eventually claiming a 15-11 victory to win the bronze medal and the final berth at Provincials.

Shellbrook girls fall at Provincials

While Spiritwood's senior boys were competing at regionals, WP Sandin High School's senior girl's volleyball team was busy at the 3A Provincials in Indian Head and Wolseley on Nov. 17 and 18, after placing second at Regionals in Shellbrook.

Facing the nine best teams the province has to offer, including defending champion Lanigan, Kipling, Waldheim, Osler VCA, Oxbow, Carnduff, host Indian Head, and Unity, the Shellbrook squad struggled on the court, dropping

four consecutive games in the preliminary round to end its tournament run prematurely.



Spiritwood High School's senior boy's volleyball team is bound for Provincials, after finishing third at Regionals on Nov. 18.

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Santa Fun Day

Saturday, December 2

- Pictures with Santa
- Christmas Crafts
- Cookie Decorating
- Santa Letter Writing
- Hot Chocolate
- \$5 Soup & Bun Sale

1pm-4pm · Shellbrook Community Hall

Please bring a Non-Perishable Food Item
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Oaks and acorns

By **PATRICIA HANBIDGE**

Oak trees have one of the widest geographical ranges of all trees. Oaks are distributed throughout the temperate regions of both hemispheres. There are nearly 500 different species of oak world-wide.

On the prairies, the most reliable oak to grow is the Bur Oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*). The natural range of the bur oak runs from New Brunswick right down to south-eastern Saskatchewan. You will see some magnificent specimens of bur oak growing naturally in our very own Qu'Appelle Valley. Bur oak does not like to have wet feet and prefers moist but well drained sandy or clay loam soils. They are the most drought resistant of all the oaks and can weather periodic dry conditions quite well.

The bur oak is a true survivor and a good choice for any landscape on the prairies. In the early days when prairie fires would sweep across the land, the bur oak was able to survive because its bark is actually fire resistant. The bark of the bur oak is thick and corky which acts as a protective layer when subjected to intense but short-term heat that prairie fires are known for.

I often hear from people – oak trees are hardwood trees – don't they grow slowly. Bur oak actually will grow quite quickly if given adequate moisture. So, if you are wanting a mighty oak in less time – then simply ensure that water is not a limiting factor during the growing season. The bur oak is long lived for many reasons. The root system of a bur oak is very deep and wide spreading but it also does have a very prominent tap root. Try to plant your bur oak in the spot where it will stay. Growth of the root is rapid, with the tap root growing as much as a metre within the first year.

The wood is considered similar to the other white oaks and has always been favoured for construction of floors, veneers, boats, furniture and for whiskey barrels. The wood is heavy, durable and beautifully grained and has the added value of giving wines and whiskeys that hint of superior oak flavour during the aging process.

One of my favourite parts of the oak tree is the acorn. A nice little oval nut with a hairy cap! Bur oak acorns are considered a sweet acorn and have fairly low tannic acid content. These nuts are a favourite of squirrels, deer, blue jays and even magpies. In fact, blue jays can carry up to five acorns at a time, one in their mouth, one at the tip of the bill and two or three in a specialized pouch in their throat.

The germination rate of bur oak acorns is extremely high (usually over 90%) so for those wishing to "grow their own mighty oak" it is relatively easy. Collect your "seed" in the early autumn – mid September is usually fine. The easiest way to grow your oak is to plant them in your garden at this time. If you choose to store your seeds for a later planting store in your refrigerator in a poly bag to retain their high moisture content and thus high viability. Last but not least, search underneath an oak and you will likely find a number of tiny seedlings happily growing that do not mind being transplanted.

As you can glean from this article, I am a lover of the mighty bur oak. Any tree that lives for hundreds of years is worthy of any place in the landscape. That longevity coupled with an enviable root system, beautiful fall colour and acorns to boot make the bur oak a sure-fire winner! It is my hope to see the bur oak as a standard addition to every prairie landscape. Good luck with your mighty oak!

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