

# Shellbrook Chronicle & Spiritwood Herald

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## Spiritwood Skating Club presents Kaleidoscope of Colours



The Spiritwood and Medstead skating clubs united for a synchro number during the show.



Beginners showcase their skills in the number "Rainbow", assisted by Kelsey Doucette and Coach Sherrill Britton.



Ava Beuker and Emeri Simonar perform their duet, "Black and White".

By BEVRA FEE  
*Spiritwood Herald Reporter*

Bringing its 2023/24 skating season to an end with an exciting performance of skills and shenanigans, the Spiritwood Skating Club presented its Kaleidoscope of Colours show to a packed arena of friends, family, and generally interested onlookers on the afternoon of March 17.

Forty-three members were led through their season by Coach Sherrill Britton. Britton, an NC-CP-trained national coach, is enlisted by the skating club to provide Skate Canada sanctioned lessons for the members of the club.

She is assisted during the season by several of the club's established members, who help on-ice with the younger skaters who are just beginning. So it was, during the "Rainbow" performance, with the program assistants guiding the young skaters through their practiced routines.

The group of 60 local skaters

(club and guests) staged a total of 18 very colourful and entertaining numbers, plus a grand finale. Included in the mix was a well-done synchro skate routine, a joint effort between the Spiritwood and Medstead clubs to form a synchronized group that practices together throughout the year.

The Spiritwood members of the synchro team travelled to Medstead's performance earlier in the season, and the teams combined again during the Spiritwood event to show off the results of their dedication to the unique group number.

Arguably the showstopper was the last number before the grand finale - the number aptly entitled "Kaleidoscope".

With the house lights turned off, 27 skaters clad in black and wearing or carrying neon-lit accents, went through their routine in a flash of colour in the dark, which truly invoked the effect of a kaleidoscope! Capes swirled with coloured lights, while glow sticks flickered with still more colours

flashing. The effect was stunning.

The afternoon's performances were confidently emceed by Larissa Swityk-Conacher, a board member of the Spiritwood Skating Club, who announced the numbers and introduced the skaters.

Intermission saw the acknowledgement of the season's achievements by club members who performed in competitions, as well as many thank yous to the volunteers, parents, and of course Coach Sherrill Britton.

"I am just in awe of how far the skaters have progressed and for the end result to be this amazing carnival is just the icing on the cake," commented Swityk-Conacher.

Fellow Skating Club Board member Chelsea Pomedli added, "It was a busy and successful season with several competitions and many skaters passing their levels. Carnival is the pinnacle of our year and a celebration of all our skaters' hard work through the season."

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# Willoughby Memorial Tournament keeps legacy alive

**By JORDAN TWISS**  
Shellbrook Chronicle  
Reporter

In Shellbrook, there are few names more synonymous with local sports than Jim Willoughby. From hockey, to baseball, to golf, to soccer, there's almost nothing Jim wasn't involved in, either as a coach mentoring young athletes, a volunteer, or a board member.

Shelly Willoughby, Jim's wife, recalls how dedicated he was to Shellbrook Minor Sports without ever needing to be in the forefront, whether he was coaching hockey, soccer, or baseball, serving as an umpire or a referee, or putting in the ice at the rink every year.

"He was a huge part of the sports community in Shellbrook," she said.

"He was so involved with keeping the rink going," Shane, Jim's son, added. "When the Zamboni broke down, they

needed to buy a different brand and it couldn't make the corners. So, dad would volunteer his time to come in and rebuild the boards. He served lots of time on the rink board with Minor Sports, just donating a lot of time and energy into helping kids, and whoever, play hockey."

When he passed suddenly in December of 2011, his family didn't want him to be forgotten. The community felt the same, and by March 2012 hockey teams from the community and beyond were taking to the ice for the inaugural Jim Willoughby Memorial Hockey Tournament.

As goals, fond memories, and laughs were shared in abundance this past weekend during the 12th annual Jim Willoughby Memorial Hockey Tournament, it was clear that Jim's legacy lives on, strong as ever.

"We never wanted him to be forgotten. Now, it's funny that we thought

he would ever be forgotten, because there are so many people who come back," Shelly said. "Talking to a few of the teams, they were saying the tournament in March is what they come back for to see their friends and think about Jim."

With eight teams registered to compete in the 12th annual Jim Willoughby Memorial Hockey Tournament, Shane says he was pleased with the strong turnout and the number of familiar (and new) faces who came out to compete and have fun.

The format for the two-day tournament is simple. Games of two 25-minute periods are played, with the winner remaining eligible to compete in the A side final and the loser being relegated to the B side (or, later on, the C side).

Looking to repeat as tournament champions, the Tips secured a first round win over the Cromarties, then topped the Dekes of Hazzard to earn their place in the A side final. Meanwhile, the Mighty Drunks made it to the A side final with wins over No Regretzkys



**The Mighty Drunks were the winners of the 12th annual Jim Willoughby Memorial Hockey Tournament.**

and Debden.

In a high-scoring but friendly match-up, the Mighty Drunks were able to stave off a late comeback attempt by the Tips to clinch a 10-7 victory and the grand prize: a case of Pilsner and bragging rights until next year's tournament (the Willoughby family is currently looking for the missing tournament trophy).

For Shelly, it's always great to see the tight-knit sports community come together to honour Jim.

"We're very lucky to live in this community. There aren't many com-

munities that do this just for fun. There's no purse of money you win. It's bragging rights," she said.

True to Jim's legacy of community service, any proceeds from the tournament are donated back to Minor Sports.

## Big River RCMP seeks wanted man

The Big River RCMP Detachment is asking members of the public to report all sightings and information on the whereabouts of 33-year-old Nathan Mountain.

Mountain was charged with six offences, including sexual assault and forcible confinement, in relation to an incident reported to Big River RCMP on March 10. Big River RCMP officers are actively working to locate and arrest him.

Mountain is described as 6'2" and 240 lbs. He has brown hair and eyes. Mountain may be in the Big River First Nation area, and is known to travel to the Onion Lake area, but his current whereabouts are unknown.

Anyone who sees Mountain is urged not to approach him. Instead, information or sightings should be reported to Big River RCMP at 306-469-2590. Information can also be submitted anonymously by contacting Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or [www.saskcrimestoppers.com](http://www.saskcrimestoppers.com).



**Nathan Mountain.**

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## TOWN OF SPIRITWOOD NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF ASSESSMENT ROLL

Notice is hereby given that the assessment roll of the Town of Spiritwood for the year 2024 has been prepared and is open to inspection in the Office of the Assessor from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on the following days: Monday to Friday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024 to April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024.

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

Any person wishing to discuss the notice of assessment or potential appeal may contact the Assessor at 306-883-2161 (Town of Spiritwood) or 1-306-446-7660 (SAMA).

Any person wishing to appeal an assessment is required to file "Notice of Appeal to the Board of Revision", **by April 22, 2024**, with Marlene Hassard, Secretary to the Board of Revision, Box 149, Meota, Sask. S0M 1X0 or by email [secretary@westernmunicipal.ca](mailto:secretary@westernmunicipal.ca) along with the applicable fee of \$200.00, made payable to the Town of Spiritwood, which will be returned if the appeal is successful.

Dated at Spiritwood, Saskatchewan this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of March, 2024.

Rhonda Saam, Assessor  
Town of Spiritwood  
Box 460, 212 Main Street  
Spiritwood, SK S0J 2M0  
Email: [tos@sasktel.net](mailto:tos@sasktel.net)

## R. M. OF LEASK NO. 464 NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF ASSESSMENT ROLL

Notice is hereby given that the Assessment Roll for the Rural Municipality of Leask No. 464 for the year 2024 has been prepared and is open to inspection by contacting the Office of the Assessor from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on the following days: Monday to Friday, March 22 to April 22, 2024.

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

Any person who wishes to appeal against his or her assessment is required to file his or her notice of appeal, accompanied by \$100.00 appeal fee per roll number with The Assessor, R.M. of Leask, Box 190, Leask, SK, S0J 1M0, by the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of April, 2024.

Dated at Leask, Saskatchewan, this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of March, 2024.  
Donna Goertzen  
Assessor

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# Debden, R.M. of Canwood receive ICIP funding

**By JORDAN TWISS**  
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

As the sun sets on the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP), a trilateral partnership between federal, provincial, and municipal governments, the Village of Debden and the R.M. of Canwood are among some of the final recipients of infrastructure funding.

For the Village of Debden, the funding will help the community upgrade

its water treatment plant from the existing groundwater plant to one with a new treatment process that will bring it in line with provincial water regulations.

The village applied for ICIP funding in late 2022 and was approved in 2023, but the official announcement wasn't made until the end of February this year. The project is expected to cost \$1,165,506, with the federal government pitching in \$466,202, the provincial government providing

\$388,463, and the Village contributing \$310,841 through a combination of infrastructure reserves and loan financing.

Tamara Couture, CAO for the Village of Debden, says the community has always faced significant challenges with its raw water sources, particularly when it comes to high concentrations of contaminants like sulphate, total dissolved solids, sodium, overall hardness, and ammonia.

"The elevated levels of ammonia have been especially problematic, as they interfere with the treatment process. Ammonia reacts readily with sodium hypochlorite (chlorine), which is used for oxidation of iron and manganese, as well as for disinfection," she explained. "This significantly increases the chlorine consumption used to reach breakpoint chlorination, resulting in the Village exceeding the maximum use limit for chlorine."

Recognizing this issue, and in an attempt to bring the village into compliance with directives from the Water Security Agency, the village sought out engineering quotes for a water treatment plant assessment in 2021 to get a better idea of the solutions available and to ready itself to start applying for funding.

A complete assessment was finalized and delivered to the village by contractor BCL Engineering Ltd. in 2022, and highlighted biological filtration conversion as the optimal path forward.

Couture says another option, involving the addition of membrane filtration (Reverse Osmosis Filtration), was presented, but came at a significantly

higher cost. With small municipalities facing major financial constraints in funding infrastructure projects without external sources, Couture says the village's grant application was focused on the biological filtration conversion and necessary water treatment plant upgrades.

"The addition of biological filtration not only addresses the issue of ammonia, but also results in reduced chemical usage, lower iron and manganese concentrations, and improved treated water disinfection," Couture said. "Additionally, the assessment identified the need to upgrade the Water Treatment Plant's ventilation equipment and electrical components due to extensive damage caused by high chlorine levels."

Also benefitting from recent ICIP funding announcements was the R.M. of Canwood, which received dollars through the Rural and Northern Communities Infrastructure Stream of the program.

The ICIP funding will help with the Larsen bridge culvert conversion project, which will see the existing 18.3 metre treated timber bridge replaced with new culvert installations.

With a total projected cost of \$450,000, the federal government will chip in \$75,015, the provincial government pony up \$149,985, and the R.M. of Canwood contribute \$225,000.

The *Shellbrook Chronicle & Spiritwood Herald* reached out to the R.M. of Canwood for more information on the project, but didn't hear back prior to deadline.

## Shellbrook CCA receives settling assistance



Continuing care aide Sarabhjot Sidhu accepts a \$3,000 settling assistance grant cheque from Shellbrook Mayor Amund Otterson on behalf of the Parkland Physician Recruitment & Retention Committee.

*Photo courtesy of Kelly Hoare, CAO, Town of Shellbrook*

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# OPINION

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March 21, 2024

## Budget season means dread for taxpayers



JORDAN  
TWISS

~  
*News Editor*

As March barrels inevitably towards April, Canadians across the country find themselves in the midst of the much-dreaded, but also much-anticipated, provincial and federal budget season.

The governments of B.C. and Alberta delivered their budgets in February, the Sask. Party unveiled its full budget just yesterday (March 20), and the federal government has set April 16 as its budget date.

Though budgets are always valuable benchmarks for how a government is performing, both in terms of managing taxpayer dollars and providing vital services, few budget seasons have felt as important – as monumental – as this one.

Since COVID-19 pandemic restrictions were lifted in 2022, Canadians have been waiting patiently for life to regain some semblance of normalcy, some glimmer of hope.

Two years later, normalcy and hope remain elusive.

The ongoing Russian-Ukrainian and Israeli-Palestinian conflicts continue to create global instability. And though it has cooled considerably, inflation has raised the cost of living to unprecedented levels, leaving more and more Canadians struggling to make ends meet.

The provincial and federal budgets won't, and can't, fix this entirely. But, in general, we should at least be able to hope that our governments adopt a "first, do no harm" philosophy in their budgeting.

What little we saw of the Sask. Party government's 2024-2025 budget in advance of its release didn't exactly paint the rosiest picture of the province's finances. And for reasons unknown, the government has abandoned its long-time practice of releasing the third-quarter fiscal update prior to the budget.

Last spring, the Sask. Party government tabled a budget that bragged of its trademark "Growth that works for everyone" and projected a \$1 billion surplus (a rarity for this Sask. Party government in its 17 years at the helm, even though it would very much like us to think of the Sask. NDP as the party of reckless spendthrifts).

By late November, the surplus had

withered away, leaving the Sask. Party government with a \$250 million deficit. This, Finance Minister Donna Harpauer said, was due to "unforeseen" circumstances beyond the government's control – namely, a precipitous drop in potash prices and reduced crop production brought on by severe drought.

Then, in late February, the Sask. Party tried to quietly authorize \$757 million in special warrant spending

outside of its regular budgeted expenses (and it won't say if this has increased the deficit to \$1 billion).

The lion's share of this – \$450 million – went to the Ministry of Health to address operating pressures at the Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA), fund the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency and a newly negotiated contract with the Saskatchewan Medical Association, and pay for "higher-than-budgeted fee-for-service and out-of-province utilization."

Of course, it should come as no surprise that the SHA is blowing through its budgeted money, given the way the Sask. Party government has chosen to solve the province's healthcare challenges.

To cut down on surgical and diagnostic wait times, the Sask. Party's first and only solution has been to ship patients out of province to private clinics in Alberta.

In the past, shipping patients out of province for care has never delivered any significant reductions in wait times, despite the Sask. Party's promises. It's also incredibly expensive, with mammograms, for instance, costing \$2,000 a pop (upwards of 10 times more than public procedures).

To make matters worse, Clearpoint Health, the company that was awarded the contract to perform the mammograms without any tendering, is a Sask. Party donor and boasts a former Sask. Party MLA as a lobbyist. It was previously awarded a \$6 million contract to perform knee and hip surgeries last spring.

And the problems aren't just on the procedural side. When it comes to human resources, the Sask. Party government has overseen a massive increase in the hiring of contract nurses, often at the expense of local frontline

# DEPT. OF NATIONAL DEFICIENCY

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healthcare workers.

In the 2020-2021 fiscal year, when the world was scrambling for nurses to lead the fight against COVID-19, the province spent \$1,441,544 on contract nurses. As of 2022-2023, the cost for these nurses had skyrocketed to \$25,305,214 – an increase of 1,750 per cent in just two years.

With such a substantial spend on contract nurses, you'd think (or hope) that all of the province's human resources challenges would be solved. But for rural Saskatchewan, which lost 474 nurses between 2018 and 2022, the opposite couldn't be more true.

What's more, the Sask. Party government is refusing to be transparent about the true state of the healthcare workforce by withholding a report it typically publishes in December until May.

And we haven't even touched on the education portfolio, and the Sask. Party government's pre-budget efforts to address educators' concerns about class size and complexity by doing everything *but* sit down and negotiate with them in good faith. This includes spending \$250,000 on a taxpayer-funded advertising campaign to spin the narrative.

Nor, for that matter, has the Sask. Party's proclivity for international travel been addressed.

In 2022, the travel bill to taxpayers totalled \$500,000. Though numbers aren't yet available for 2023, we already know the government eclipsed this to-

tal, just with its \$765,000 expenditure to host a pavilion at the COP28 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Dubai – all so it wouldn't have to share with the federal government.

Certainly, as a major exporter, Saskatchewan needs to have a strong international presence to open up avenues for trade. But one doesn't need to be an accountant to know this isn't exactly a sterling example of sound fiscal management.

However, in discussing questionable fiscal practices, one would be foolish to ignore the federal government, which has abandoned any pretense of getting the country's books back to balance.

Last spring's budget delivered a deficit of \$40.1 billion, almost \$10 billion higher than expected. Meanwhile, at last glance, the projected deficit for the upcoming budget on April 16 was pegged at \$38.4 billion.

This is a move in the right direction, at least, but the projection was made before the federal government made good on its promise to establish a universal pharmacare program. If the federal government is able to get the program off the ground before year's end, as Health Minister Mark Holland hopes, it's almost certain its costs will far exceed estimates – as everything does with this government.

Budget season shouldn't be a time of existential dread for taxpayers. But with the Sask. Party and Liberal governments, expecting the worst is always the best policy.

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# VIEWPOINT

March 21, 2024

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## Report from the Legislature

On March 20, Finance Minister Donna Harpauer presented the 2024-25 Provincial Budget, outlining the strategic investments we are making to continue to drive Saskatchewan's growth. Investments in priority areas like health care, education, and communities are only possible due to the strength and growth of our provincial economy.

Our government recently released a new investment attraction strategy, the province's roadmap to increasing investment and further advancing Saskatchewan's Growth Plan goal of \$16 billion in private capital investment annually. Private capital investment in Saskatchewan increased by nearly 25 per cent in 2023 and is expected to lead the nation in 2024.

This plan builds on the significant investment made in our province over the last number of years and introduces new, expanded and improved incentives for industries looking to make Saskatchewan their home. To learn more about the new strategy, visit the new InvestSK website at [www.investSK.ca](http://www.investSK.ca).

The third annual Indige-



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nous Business Gathering at Prairieland Park in Saskatoon was a huge success and builds on our government's commitment to growing, strengthening, and diversifying our provincial economy. This year's gathering featured over 85 trade show booths and more than 700 visitors. Our government is committed to economic reconciliation and recognizes that Indigenous businesses play a vital role in Saskatchewan by building inclusion among communities, providing jobs and growth, and helping enrich our quality of life.

Economic growth creates jobs and opportunities here at home, and Saskatchewan

recently received some incredible numbers demonstrating this growth. The province added 18,700 new full-time jobs, which is an increase of 15,200 jobs last month when compared to February 2023, raising Saskatchewan's employment growth rate to 2.6 per cent.

Saskatchewan's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate also remains well below the national average, sitting at 5.0 per cent compared to the national average of 5.8 per cent, the third-lowest amongst the provinces.

Strengthening our economy means investing in the growth of our key industries, like agriculture. Our government will invest \$15 million over five years into the Global Institute for Food Security (GIFS) at the University of Saskatchewan. Funding will support work at the GIFS, which helps keep Saskatchewan producers competitive and helps them remain among the most productive, innovative and sustainable in the world.

The strength and growth across our provincial economy allows our government to continue to invest in priority areas like health care. Our province's ambitious Health

Human Resources Action Plan continues to make significant progress in recruiting, training, incentivizing and retaining health care workers.

To date, nearly 300 hard-to-recruit positions have been filled through the Rural and Remote Recruitment Incentive, and more than 1,000 Saskatchewan and out-of-province nursing grads have been hired since 2022. We will continue to make significant investments to build a stronger, more resilient health care system for the people of Saskatchewan.

As our government continues work to increase health human resources, we are exploring ways to expand the use of Nurse Practitioners across the health care system. The Ministry of Health is working to pilot a new model for independently-operated, publicly-funded Nurse Practitioner clinics. These new clinics will help to improve access to health care services for Saskatchewan patients and their families.

Fourteen new doctors are



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now practicing in rural Saskatchewan after completing the Saskatchewan International Physician Practice Assessment (SIPPA) program in December. The number of SIPPA training seats was recently expanded from 36 to 45 per year, and plans are underway to add more seats to the program. SIPPA plays an important role in our province's ongoing recruitment efforts and we welcome the latest group of graduates and their families to communities throughout the province.

Education is a huge pri-

ority for our government as well. A new agreement with the Saskatchewan School Boards Association ensures a minimum of \$356.6 million per year for four years for classroom supports. Now that our government has made this commitment in writing, it is time for the Saskatchewan Teachers Federation to end their job action and return to the bargaining table so that students and teachers can return to the classroom.

Our government continues to invest in new programs that create solutions to challenges in the classroom. Fifteen new teacher-led projects have received funding through the Teacher Innovation and Support Fund. This brings the total allocated in this fund to over \$800,000 in two months and reinforces our government's commitment to providing additional classroom supports to our students and teachers.

As our government continues to move forward on these plans for Saskatchewan's growth, we look forward to hearing from you.

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2023 Consolidated Financial Statements  
and Annual Report will be available on April 5.

# Skate Shellbrook dazzles with year-end ice show

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

Skate Shellbrook took over the Richardson Pioneer Recreation Centre on Sunday, March 17, to entertain a large and enthusiastic crowd with their annual year-end ice show.

Channelling the luck of the Irish for St. Patrick's Day, the skaters showcased their skills through 16 routines, including solos, pairs performances, small groups, and larger groups for the beginners and younger skaters. All of them were met with cheers and applause from the audience.

The show opened with a pairs performance by Julia Shindle and Gwyn Phan, followed by a demonstration of the Dutch Waltz by Jayden Nelson, and Sarah Fisher's STAR 3 freeskate program, which earned a gold ribbon at Regionals in Melfort and a silver ribbon at Winter Classic in Kindersley.

Accompanied by program assistants Sarah Fisher and Jacey Keyowski, the Blue CanSkate group was up next, treating the audience to a showcase of the skills they learned throughout the skating season. Then, Annika Horricks and Gwyn Phan performed their STAR 2 freeskate programs, both of which earned a gold ribbon at Regionals.

Closing out the first half of the show were Julia Shindle and Jayden Nelson, who combined for a pairs routine.

Following a brief intermission, the StarSkate group, featuring Jacey Keyowski, Gwyn Phan, Jayden Nelson,

Sarah Fisher, Julia Shindle, and Annika Horricks, opened the second act with a thrilling group number, and the Green, Orange, and Red CanSkate groups showed off their skills.

Up next, Jayden Nelson and Gwyn Phan demonstrated the Canasta Tango, the pre-STAR trio of Andie Smith, Becca McNeice, and Alaina Nelson skated their routine, and Jacey Keyowski took the ice for her STAR 2 freeskate solo, which won silver at both Regionals and Winter Classic.

Closing out the show, Annika Horricks and Sarah Fisher combined for a pairs number, and Julia Shindle skated her high-flying pre-novice freeskate program, before all the skaters returned to the ice for the grand finale.

"I feel the show went great," coach Tasje Sharron said following Sunday's performance. "We kept everything as simple as possible this year, from decorations to costumes. The expenses add up quickly, and as usual, there's no extra cost for these items to the parents."

Naturally, there's a lot of work involved in organizing the year-end ice show.

Off the ice, members of the Skate Shellbrook Executive volunteer their time to plan and handle the decoration of the rink, and also put together themed gift baskets to be raffled off.

Meanwhile, on the ice, Sharron leans on her program assistants to create the routines for the CanSkate groups and pitches in wherever she's needed. And this year, with one less week to organize the routines for all the skaters, she tapped former student Emmalynn LaMotte, who



The StarSkate group opened the second act. Pictured, left to right: Gwyn Phan, Jayden Nelson, Julia Shindle, Sarah Fisher, Annika Horricks, and Jacey Keyowski.

volunteered her time to make up or finish off some of the StarSkate programs.

"That was huge," Sharron said. "It's fun to make them up, but I was feeling the pressure to get them done. She helped take some of that pressure off."

With 85 young skaters registered in Skate Shellbrook across all programs, Sharron feels the overall skate season — much like the ice show — went well for the club, with all skaters making significant improvements in their skating.

This includes the StarSkaters, who earned hardware at competitions this year, the Pre-Star and CanSkate groups who brought home year-end report cards with ribbons and badges marking their progress, as well as the group of hockey players Sharron coaches four mornings a week to help them improve their skating and think differently about how they move on the ice.

"There are so many highlights that happen throughout the season. It's so rewarding to witness a skater achieve a new skill, especially when it's a skill or goal they have struggled with for a long time," Sharron said, noting that none of it would be possible without the club's program assistants and volunteers.



Program assistants Sarah Fisher and Jacey Keyowski lead the Blue CanSkate group in a demonstration of their skills.



Gwyn Phan glides during her freeskate solo.



Annika Horricks and Sarah Fisher perform a pairs routine.



Jacey Keyowski and Jayden Nelson closed the first act with a pairs performance.

## Enhancing Role of Nurse Practitioners

The Ministry of Health will work to pilot a new model for independently operated, publicly funded Nurse Practitioner clinics. These clinics will improve access to primary health care by providing a new avenue for patients to seek care. Our Health Human Resources Action Plan is showing success in a number of rural, regional and northern communities; we are grateful to the Nurse Practitioners who have been part of this success.

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

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



# AGRICULTURE

March 21, 2024

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Shellbrook Chronicle & Spiritwood Herald 7

## Simmering global tensions could spell trouble

Certainly, international tensions are nothing new, but at present we do seem to be inching ever closer to crossing a line we may not be able to edge away from that could tumble the world back into a widespread war.

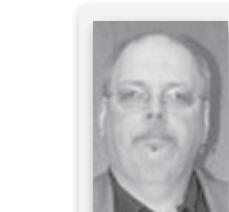
We are of course aware of the desire by Russian leader Vladimir Putin to reclaim control over huge chunks of Eastern Europe.

The invasion of Ukraine was a strategic thrust, with Ukraine not part of NATO. The invasion has been a rather obvious poke, to see how NATO will react, and

of course that reaction has been one where NATO is obviously satisfied to let Ukraine go it alone rather than risking a broader conflict.

Of course, it seems unlikely Putin will stop with Ukraine, and he has rather continually rattled his nuclear sabre, threatening the west.

Meanwhile there is the issue of Israel and the Palestinians, which has galvanized feelings on both sides. The Middle East has long been something of a tinderbox, one more highly



CALVIN  
DANIELS

valued than most because it generally sits over an ocean of oil critical to world business.

Anything that might escalate things there would have almost immediate

economic issues.

Then, there is the increasing friction between China and the United States.

On one hand, some see a Chinese invasion of Taiwan as imminent, which would be troublesome of course.

In the US the potential that Americans might actually re-elect the ridiculous, yet ultimately scary, Donald Trump as president would only further strain relations with China.

And we can't discount that any upheaval in that region might be the opening for North Korea to get

involved, and that too is scary, as their leader, Kim Jong Un, is perhaps the only wilder card on the planet than Trump and Putin.

In terms of agriculture, the potential volatility of even the regional tensions is obvious.

There are suggestions Russia will become more active in grain exports – no doubt to help fund their armed incursion.

China may be more active in imports, if readying for the aforementioned possible invasion of Taiwan.

And would tensions between the US and China open sales for Canada, or as an American ally would we either be frozen out, or choose not to make such sales?

Should things escalate, and the leaders at present are such wild cards, it is impossible to tell what might happen. But then, of course, markets and trades go out the door in terms of access to markets and supply and demand.

We've avoided the large-scale escalations for decades, but...

## Gov't rejects binding arbitration with teachers

By JORDAN TWISS

*Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter*

Saskatchewan's educators and the Sask. Party government are no closer to reaching a deal that would end ongoing job action activities and get a new collective bargaining agreement finalized, after the government rejected a proposal from the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation (STF) to enter binding arbitration.

Under binding arbitration, both sides would make a submission regarding the ongoing contract dispute to a neutral party, which would then provide recommendations on how to proceed. At the end, through a "fair judicial process," the arbitrator would make a final decision on what would be included in the collective bargaining agreement.

Before the Sask. Party government made amendments to the Education Act in 2017, only one party had to request binding arbitration for the process to begin. Today, both parties must agree.

The province's educators and the Sask. Party government remain deadlocked over the issues of class size and complexity and violence in the classroom.

In a deal made outside the bargaining process with the Saskatchewan School Boards'

Association, the government made a commitment to address class size and complexity by providing a minimum of \$356.6 million per year for four years for classroom supports, as well as increased investment into youth mental health, and a top-up of \$180 million to operational funding for school divisions.

While it welcomed the funding, the STF expressed concerns that the language of the agreement would allow the government to walk away from the commitment. It's continuing its push to hold the government accountable by committing to the funding increases in its collective bargaining agreement with educators.

Rejecting this, as well as the STF's request for binding arbitration, Education Minister Jeremy Cockrill stood firm in the government's position that class size and complexity don't belong in the collective bargaining agreement, contending that it would prevent school divisions from making decisions based on their community's needs.

"I think school boards understand their school communities best," Cockrill said after question period last Thursday. "I think school divisions want to find ways to support students and teachers, but they need to have the autonomy to do that in their local school communities."

## Shellbrook Library hosts Celiac cooking presentation

By EDDIE HOEHN  
*Assistant Librarian*

On Tuesday, March 12, MaryAnne Kennedy taught attendees about celiac cooking for anyone who can't tolerate gluten. Attendees sampled MaryAnne's premade gluten-free quiche, red lentil and chocolate cupcakes, shortbread cookies, as well as Brazilian cheese buns, which she prepared and baked at the library that evening.

Information about celiac disease was shared as MaryAnne referenced a blog called Casey the Col-

lege Celiac ([caseythecollegeceliac.blogspot.com](http://caseythecollegeceliac.blogspot.com)). Celiac disease is not a wheat allergy; it is an autoimmune disease. Premade gluten free products cost anywhere from 30 per cent to 300 per cent more than products which are not gluten free.

MaryAnne also provided tips on how to avoid cross contamination when preparing gluten free baking. MaryAnne shared a comment from a friend when asked if being celiac was difficult. The friend said, "No, it's not hard, it's an adventure!"



MaryAnne Kennedy gets ready to serve up her gluten-free Brazilian cheese buns.

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

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

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

**BLAINE LAKE:** Wapiti Library - Wednesday 1pm - 6pm; Thursday 1pm - 6pm; Friday 1pm - 6pm; Saturday 10am - 3pm. Contact us for more info 306-497-3130, [www.wapitilibrary.ca](http://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 11am - 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 10 am - 5pm (Story Time 10:30am - 11:30am); Saturday 10am - 4pm.

**CANWOOD:** Canwood & District Health Services Co-operative Annual Meeting - Wednesday, April 10, 2024, 6:30pm, Seniors Room - Elks Hall. Coffee & dainties will be served \*Door Prizes\*. For more information, contact Sandi @ 306-961-5217.

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# SPORTS

## Will Sid the Kid play in his third Olympics?

Sidney Crosby of Pittsburgh Penguins is the only current NHLer with an opportunity to play in his third Olympic Games when the NHL returns to the global competition in 2026 for the first time since 2014.

Crosby, of course, scored the 'Golden Goal' for Canada in 2010 at the Vancouver Olympics, and then was part of the Canadian entry in 2014 at Sochi, where Canada defeated Sweden in the final for another gold medal. Politics and NHL team ownership greed prevented the NHL players from competing in 2018 and 2022, but NHL commissioner Gary Bettman announced in early February that details had been ironed out, and the NHL would send its best players to the 2026 Olympics in Milan, Italy.

So how will the Canadian roster look? Will Crosby, who is having an outstanding season with the Penguins this year — but who will be 39 years old in 2026 — be given a chance for a three-peat? Canadian fans almost unanimously say yes, for

Forwards — McDavid,

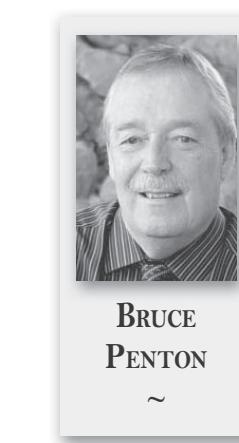
reasons based on both skill and sentimentality.

Rosters will include 25 skaters — 14 forwards and 11 defencemen — and three goalies. Canada's weak spot is expected to be in goal, where there is no Carey Price, no Roberto Luongo or no Mike Smith. Instead, the leading candidates are Adin Hill of Vegas Golden Knights, Tristan Jarry of Pittsburgh, Connor Ingram of Arizona and Stu Skinner of the Oilers, none of whom conjure up memories of Jacques Plante or Patrick Roy.

Of course, things could drastically change in two years. Will projected No. 1 draft pick Macklin Celebriini be one of Canada's top 14 forwards? There are a few slam-dunk choices: Connor Bedard, Connor McDavid and Nathan MacKinnon up front; Cale Makar and Josh Morrissey on defence.

Here's how my roster of 14 forwards, 11 defencemen and three goaltenders would shape up:

Forwards — McDavid,



BRUCE  
PENTON

MacKinnon, Bedard, Sam Reinhart, Brayden Point, Celebriini, Brad Marchand, Zach Hyman, Robert Thomas, Travis Konecny, Mitch Marner, Jonathan Marchessault, Mark Stone and Quinton Byfield.

Defence — Makar, Morrissey, Evan Bouchard, Morgan Rielly, Thomas Chabot, Dougie Hamilton, Drew Doughty, Shea Theodore, Alex Pietrangelo, Jacob Chychrun, MacKenzie Weegar.

Goaltenders — Hill, Jarry, Skinner.

This will be a floating roster for the next 18 months. Players will come and go. Perhaps Crosby will continue to

not show his age, and we'll have to add him to the team. Perhaps some young phenom will come out of nowhere.

Just missing the cut were the likes of Vince Dunn and Noah Dobson on defence, Steven Stamkos, Dylan Cozens, Matt Barzal, Brandon Hagel, Carter Verhaeghe, and Jeff Skinner up front, and Jordan Bennington, Logan Thompson, and Ingram in goal.

So much can change in two years, but let the arguments start today.

• Headline from fark.com: "After having the worst season in the NFL, Carolina Panthers plan to a) rebuild through the draft; b) bring back some favourite former players; or c) raise ticket prices? (The answer, of course, is C.)"

• Joseph LaMagna of TheFriedEgg.com., discussing golfers in the running for 'Most Money Won Without Winning A Tournament': "Off the top of my head, it at the very least beats the hell out of Least Money Earned Without Actually Winning A Tournamen-

ment."

• Sportswriter Herb Gould, on the controversy over the Players being golf's fifth major: "No fifth major until baseball adds a fifth base. As in Grand Slam."

• Super 70s Sports: "How to have a great high school basketball team in one step: Step 1: Larry Bird enrolls at your school. The End."

• Another one from Super 70s Sports: "Former Cowboys' coach Tom Landry used to blow out the candles on his birthday cake each year simply by looking at them."

• Comedy guy Torben Rolfsen of Vancouver: "The Montreal Canadiens will play in Paris in October 2025. It's not 100 per cent set yet; so far, Youppi! refuses to take off his Expos cap for a passport photo."

• F.P. Santangelo, Sr., on Twitter, after a United Airlines plane dropped a wheel shortly after take-off: "Always remember if you catch a foul tire give it to a kid."

• RJ Currie of sportsdeke.com: "Reuters reports a Chinese firm is

selling bottles of forest fresh air to customers tired of foul smells. Don't laugh; you get a free one if you buy a Washington Wizards ticket."

• RJ Currie again: "Five reasons why TV ratings for the Brier rose 13 per cent and why TSN says it's one of their most popular sporting events: 5. Curling is a good draw; 4. The Brier does well in the sweeps; 3. It's great with take-out; 2. The game has a peel; 1. The action is end to end."

• Fark.com headline after a questionable call on a buzzer-beater in a New Jersey high school basketball game cost one team a trip to the state championship: "Bad buzzer-beater semi-final to be settled in court, not on the court."

• Fark.com again, after the Mike Tyson-Jake Paul boxing match was announced: "Jake Paul announces his suicide will be televised on Netflix and carried out by Mike Tyson."

• Care to comment? Email brucepenton200@yahoo.ca

## Spiritwood U9s meet in league finals

By BEVRA FEE  
*Spiritwood Herald Reporter*

Spiritwood's U9 hockey cohort began the season with a large pool of players — so large, in fact, that the players formed two full teams. Spiritwood 1 and Spiritwood 2 were comprised of an even split of the eligible players, and headed into their seasons to build their skills and play their games.

By the time the playoff tournament for the team dubbed Spiritwood 1 rolled around in Big River on March 9, the teams from Lashburn, Meadow Lake, Big River, and Spiritwood boiled down the competition to see the Spiritwood 1 team emerge as the competitor moving on the following weekend.

Determining their opponent was a separate tournament being held in Hillmond, which consisted of teams from Lashburn, Maidstone, Hillmond, Turtleford, and the Spiritwood 2 team, the eventual winner to emerge from that tournament.

The scene at Spiritwood Rec Centre on Saturday, March 15, was one of all familiar faces as

the two hometown teams faced off for game one of the playoff finals. Spiritwood 1 squeezed by Spiritwood 2 in a high scoring affair, setting the stage for a Saturday barn burner to decide the U9 Champs.

Filled with a lot of back-and-forth action, close scoring, and plenty of exciting plays to keep the crowd on edge of their seats, the game — and the championship trophy — ended up going to Spiritwood 1.

With only a single-point advantage in each of the two games, the teams were closely matched.



The Spiritwood 1 U9 hockey team won the league championship over Spiritwood 2 on March 16. Back row, left to right: Coaches Ashley Beuker, James Caffet, and Brad Doucette. Front row, left to right: Maddox Beuker, Sawyer Doucette, River Andrews, Bennett Schmidt, Jackson Nicol, Beau Doucette, and Ryker Caffet.

## Canwood Regional Park hosts silent auction

By LORRAINE BENSON

On Saturday, March 9, Canwood Regional Park and Golf Course held its annual silent auction at the Canwood Elks Hall. The evening was skillfully run by capable MC Grant Person.

There were more than 200 people in attendance, bidding on items donated by area businesses and local people. A lovely supper was catered by Debden's Lamplight Cuisine.

The door prize of four rounds of golf with a cart was won by Grant Folden, who was tasked with showing off his



Grant Folden was asked to show off his putting skills to claim his door prize.

meticulous putting skills. The toonie draw for the solar pole lamp was won by Gail Buckingham, and the children's bench was won by Eileen Hamborg.

There were also two 50/50 draws and a raffle table. Doug Byrne from Maple Creek was the auctioneer for the live auction portion of the event.

Although amounts are not yet finalized, the Canwood Regional Park and Golf Course expects to make a profit similar to last year. The money will go toward upgrading some of the equipment, and park improvements.



A large crowd filled the Canwood Elks Hall for Canwood Regional Park and Golf Course's silent auction fundraiser.

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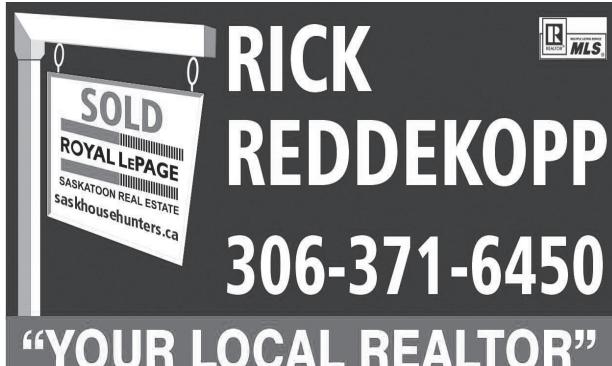


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*Sask. gov't announces record municipal revenue sharing*

Premier Scott Moe has announced that Saskatchewan's 2024-25 Municipal Revenue Sharing (MRS) Program will set a new record at \$340.2 million, an increase of approximately \$42.3 million more than the previous year.

This increase is a 14 percent increase from the 2023-24 fiscal year, and a 167 percent increase from 2007-08.

"Our government made the commitment to Saskatchewan communities to create and support a predictable revenue-sharing tool that grows with our province's economy," Moe said in a statement. "With this announcement, more than \$4.3 billion in provincial funding has been allocated since 2007 to support the priorities of municipalities."

Provincial funding for MRS is based on three quarters of one point of the provincial sales tax revenue collected from two years prior. MRS provides predictable,

no-strings-attached funding to municipalities who may allocate those dollars to their budget priorities.

The previous record for the overall MRS funding for a fiscal year budget was set last year at \$297 million. The average annual provincial funding for this municipal program for the previous six years from 2018-19 to 2023-24 is more than \$267 million.

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

Additional details on the allocations of MRS funding will be available when the provincial budget is released.

## PRAISE & WORSHIP

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

### LUTHERAN CHURCH

Zion - Canwood  
Sunday School,  
Worship Sunday, 9 a.m.  
(in-person only)  
St. John's - Shellbrook  
Sunday School,  
Worship Sunday, 11 a.m.  
(in-person and online  
via Facebook live)

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

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### UNITED CHURCH

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

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### 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 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the

month

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### EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

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

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### IMMANUEL LUTHERAN

Parkside  
11 a.m. - Worship

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### PRESBYTERIAN

Mistawasis  
Sunday worship  
11:00 a.m.

Rev. Stewart Foster

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### CATHOLIC CHURCH

Debdon  
Sun. Mass - 9:30 a.m.

Fr. Mariusz Zajac

Big River - Sacred Heart

Sun., 11:30 a.m. - Mass

Whitefish

Sun., 2:30 p.m. - Mass.

Victoire

Sat., 7:30 p.m. - Mass.

Fr. Mariusz Zajac

St. Agatha's - Shellbrook

Mass - Sunday 11 a.m.

St. Henry's - Leask

Mass - Sunday 9 a.m.

Mistawasis

1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays 1:30 p.m.

Fr. Tuan Doan

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### SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST

407-2<sup>nd</sup> Ave E, Shellbrook

Sat., 9:45 a.m. - Sabbath

School

Sat., 11:00 am - Worship

Pastor Myshan Irving

306-747-3398

### LAKELAND COMMUNITY CHURCH

Corner of 1<sup>st</sup> Ave. and 4<sup>th</sup>

St. Spiritwood)

Sun., 11 am - Worship

Service & Sunday School

Pastor Michael Kluthe

306-883-2380

-----

### FIELDS OF HOPE (HOFFNUNGSFELDER)

### MENNOMITE CHURCH

Glenbush

Worship - 11:00 am

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### BETHEL

Medstead

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday, 10 am -

Worship

Pastor David Jensen

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday, 10 am -

Worship

Pastor David Jensen

-----

### COWBOY CHURCH

Spiritwood

Every Wednesday Night

7 pm

Spiritwood Legion Hall

Pastor Rick Martin

-----

### MENNOMITE BRETHREN

Glenbush

10:00 am - Sunday School

Worship 10:50 am

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#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

I'LL LEAVE MY SPORT TO read and pray, And so prepare for heaven; Oh, may I love this blessed day. The best of all the seven! - Isaac Watts - [www.cld.ca.ca](http://www.cld.ca.ca).

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## COMING EVENTS

62nd DRAGGINS CAR SHOW - March 29 & 30 at Prairieland Park, Saskatoon. Check out the "Battle of the Automotive Technicians"! Draggin's Rod & Custom Car Club. Visit our website: Draggin's.com.

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Saskatchewan Weekly Newspapers Association and their Community Newspaper Members

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## Arthur Arnold Altstadt



ALTSTADT – Arthur Arnold

Art was born on October 13, 1935, in Sturgeon River District, SK. He passed away peacefully on March 7, 2024, at the age of 88 years at Whispering Pine Place in Canwood, SK.

Art spent his life in the Canwood, Stump Lake area working on road construction and farming.

He is lovingly survived by his 3 children: Janet

Smith, Jeff (Celine) Sipes, and William (Michelle) Altstadt; as well as his 7 grandchildren: James Smith, Wesla Smith, Joel Sipes, Jordan Arnason, Preston Altstadt, Chanze Altstadt, Camden Altstadt; and 12 Great Grandchildren.

A private family interment will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in memory of Arthur to the Whispering Pine Place (Box 418 Canwood, SK SOJ 0KO).

Family and friends wishing to send online condolences are welcome to visit [www.beaulacfuneralhome.com](http://www.beaulacfuneralhome.com)

Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of Beau "Lac" Funeral Home & Crematorium, Lynn Anderson, Funeral Director, Canwood, SK 306-468-2244.



Denis Gaetan Jean was born in Debden, Saskatchewan on September 15, 1937 to Louis and Noella Jean. Denis was the 7th of 13 children. Denis grew up on the farm, milking cows, and working with horses. He attended the Wanakena school until grade 9 when he went to work on the farm full time. He always spoke most fondly about working with the horses. Denis married Angeline Savard on May 15th, 1961. They lived in Debden where Denis became an automotive mechanic and worked

in the hardware store for a few years before moving back to the farm. Together they built up their farm and raised 6 children in the Catholic faith. They had purebred Simmental cattle and farmed grain and hay. They also had a giant garden, raised chickens and self-provided as much as possible. In 1999 they decided to sell the farm, retire and moved into town shortly after. In town, Denis was very active in the Golden Age center, organizing pool tournaments and card tournaments. He was the village garden tiller with his trusty Kubota tractor, taking care of neighbours and taking care of the Catholic Church across the street from their house. Denis and Angeline moved to Luther Heights in Saskatoon in 2019 to be closer to their children. Denis was able to organize a few more pool tournaments and events at Luther Heights with

his new friends. Denis was involved in the Simmental Association, the local Catholic Church, the Knights of Columbus, curling, supporting his community and his family. There was no trip to any town in Canada where Denis didn't run into someone he knew. Denis was known for his ability to strike up a conversation with anyone-anywhere, his sense of humor, storytelling, and of course, his booming laugh.

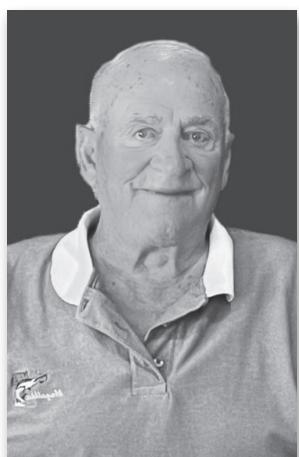
Denis is survived by his wife of 62 years Angeline, and many brothers and sisters. He will be remembered by his children Pierrette (Darryl) Turley, Therese (Neil) Tomasiewicz, Mariette Jean, Lisa (David) Sader, Fabien (Maureen) Jean and Serge (Daria) Jean, his many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Denis is pre-deceased by four of his sisters, Pierrette, Laurette (Ray) Bonner,

Cecile (Glorien) Couture and Anita (Arthur) Dumais.

Denis passed away on March 16th, 2024 surrounded by his wife, children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He's left us with many fond memories, good jokes, and an example of deep faith. He will be missed by all who love him, and the world will be a quieter place without him.

Denis's Funeral will be held 10:00 am, Saturday, March 23rd 2024, at Sts. Martyrs Canadiens Church at 1007 Windsor Street in Saskatoon. Come and celebrate his life with us. Memorial Donations may be directed to the Church Mass in Denis's name and memory. Family and friends wishing to send online condolences are welcome to visit [www.beaulacfuneralhome.com](http://www.beaulacfuneralhome.com). Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of Beau "Lac" Funeral Home and Crematorium, Lori Saam Funeral Director, Shellbrook, SK 306-747-2828.

## Roy David Johnson



Roy David Johnson  
February 14, 1936 –  
March 9, 2024

Saskatoon, Saskatchewan - Roy David Johnson, a man of grit and determination, passed away on March 9, 2024, at the age of 88, surrounded by the love of his family, in the comfort of his home.

Roy's life was a combination of hard work and diverse experiences. In the early years he balanced his time between the farm, the mine, bush-work, trucking, and owned a successful backhoe business with his brother Kurt. Camping at Nesslin Lake became a family tradition, filled with laughter and fishing adventures that created treasured memories.

Roy's strength was tested once again when Tracey lost her battle with cancer on June 8, 1999, a heart-wrenching period for the whole Johnson family.

In 1975, Roy purchased the Shell service station (formerly K. F. Andersson the John Deere dealership), establishing Roy Johnson Sales & Service, a testament to his entrepreneurial spirit. In 1980 Roy, Frances and Miriam moved to "the Pines." The business thrived under his leadership until 1984 when he sold it to his son David. The passing of Frances in 1996 marked

a significant loss for Roy.

In the spring of 1996, Roy's path intersected with Cathy Schaan at Pineland (farm parts shop). What began as occasional visits evolved into a delightful routine, curiously not dictated by an increasing need for parts. Their connection deepened, reaching a point where Cathy volunteered to venture to Kinistino for a belt. That evening, September 8, 1996, Cathy delivered it to the field, joined the family for supper and asked Roy for a combine ride. From that pivotal day, their love flourished, marking the beginning of their life together. They enjoyed many winters in Mazatlan and summers at Nesslin Lake, creating cherished memories.

Roy's strength was tested once again when Tracey lost her battle with cancer on June 8, 1999, a heart-wrenching period for the whole Johnson family.

Though Roy may have portrayed a gruff exterior, those who knew and loved him understood the depth of his commitment and support. "The Corner" was a hub of camaraderie, where he enjoyed sharing drinks and engaging in countless conversations with friends. He worked hard, played hard and lived his life his way and to the fullest.

Roy's impact extended beyond his personal life, as he served as the President (Nixon) of the Canwood Skating Rink. His dedication to the community was evident as he spearheaded, under the leadership of the executive and building committee, fundraising for the new arena, with construction starting in 1977. In honor of Roy's memory, he requested that donations be made to the Canwood and District Memorial Arena, P.O. Box 309, Canwood Saskatchewan SOJ 0KO.

The immediate family will attend a private graveside memorial in the summer, ensuring the date doesn't interfere with farming activities. As they bid farewell to a man of strong character and enduring spirit, may Roy rest in eternal peace, surrounded by the echoes of laughter, hard work, and the love he shared with his family and community.

*"Born to be a Farmer, Some say it's a gamble, but to me, it's a way of life"*

Roy is survived by his Spouse/Partner: Cathy Schaan; his Children: Roy (Diane), David (Chris), and Miriam; his Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren:

Courtney (Dana) Hansen; Aubrey, Torben and Maren

Brett, (Brooke); Huntur and Reed

Landon (Heidi); Finley, Paizley and Avery

Brady (Maret); Ryker, Kruz, Maddix

Andrew (Teeni) Wieden; Bentley and Daxon

Nathan (Alicia); Lauklyn, Lincoln and Levi

Natalie (Cole Pister) Wieden; Maverick and Claire

Brennan (Bailey); Hudson, Harlow and Hazel

Sarah (Travis) Goodrich) Krauss

Emily Krauss

His Siblings: Kurt, Marlene; his half-siblings: Melba, Iris, and Wendy; as well as other family members:

Cathy's children, Donovan (Laura) Candace (Mike) and their children; and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

Roy was predeceased by his wife Frances; daughter Tracey; parents Elmer and Brita; and brother Roland.

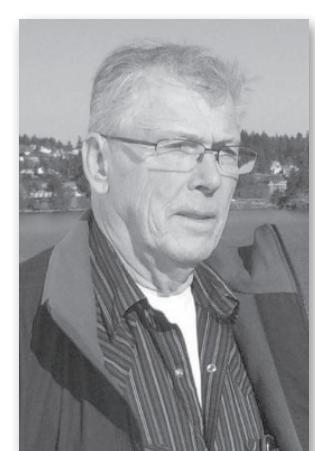
Family and friends wishing to send online condolences are welcome to visit [www.beaulacfuneralhome.com](http://www.beaulacfuneralhome.com). Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of Beau "Lac" Funeral Home & Crematorium, Tammy Smart, Funeral Director, Canwood, SK. 306-468-2244.

## NOTICE OF

### PASSING

~

*Albert Joseph Horvath*



Albert Joseph Horvath of Williams Lake, BC passed away February 22, 2024 at the age of 77.

He was born to Joseph and Elsie (Stubbs) Horvath of Spiritwood, SK and later, McBride, BC. He is survived by his wife Betty, his son Richard and four granddaughters. Albert is predeceased by his parents, Josef and Elsie; daughter Yvonne; sister Evgeline and sister-in-law Gaylene.

## OBITUARIES

### Denis Gaetan Jean