

Shell Lake Hey Days sizzles



Children rushed to the bouncy castle.

By **BEVRA FEE**
Spiritwood Herald Reporter

The annual Hey Days summer celebration in the village of Shell Lake on July 20 offered more activities than ever, drawing one of the largest crowds in recent history. The community comes together each year to stage a full slate of activities for all age groups, and with the favourable weather conditions there were plenty of families on hand to enjoy the offerings.

From the newly-added Show & Shine to the old standard – and extremely popular – parade, locals mixed with lake goers to fan out and investigate every corner of town. Also in the mix were the annual pancake breakfast, several garage sales, a jam session, a backyard concert, vendor tables at the gazebo, a pickle ball tournament, the children's bicycle parade, fire truck tours, a petting zoo, burger & hot dog sales, a hula hoop contest, bouncy castles, and a scavenger hunt.

The children's bicycle parade, which typically precedes the main parade, saw children of all ages flock down Main Street and around the parade route on their decorated bikes. Some of the younger participants had a parent walking alongside for moral support, and the youthful group was able to lap the route three times before the main parade began.

Starting with the traditional marching band of drum and bagpipes, the parade was led off with flags borne by Shell Lake Legion members. Many floats of all description followed, and the streets were lined on both sides for a full two blocks with onlookers offering their applause for the decorated vehicles, vintage vehicles, horse-drawn carts, horses and riders, and clowns. Ken Anklovitch wove his unicycle in and out of the parade floats, and a very warm reception was offered by the crowd when 92-year-old Gladys Simonar rode her decorated scooter

as a parade entry. The petting zoo was a popular stop for children who were intrigued by the alpaca and the donkey, while they were able to wander through the pens to pet the rabbit, ducks, goat and sheep. Nearby were the Shell Lake Volunteer Firefighters with their fire truck available for children to explore, and the more serious young visitors were even welcome to don the heavy gear worn by fire fighters. Across the street, located in the grassy shade next to the church, were placed two bouncy castles for children to enjoy jumping out their excess energy.

Located at the central area of Shell Lake – the gazebo – was the Thickwood Trails Snowmobile Club's Show & Shine. Classic entries of vintage vehicles were proudly displayed and documented by their owners, with appreciative onlookers inspecting each entry to see the extent of reclamation or preservation that brought vintage vehicles back to pristine condition. A very im-

pressive 31 entries filled up the perimeter of the gazebo grounds, with Mike Looman's 1969 Beaumont being voted the fan favourite.

Throughout the day, no one should have gone hungry as there were plenty of food offerings following the ever-popular pancake breakfast. Burgers and hot dogs were being sold at the Legion Hall, while bannock burgers and bannock pockets were being sold at the training centre (the former Shell Lake School). Baking was available at the gazebo as well, along with several vendor tables featuring hand-crafted items. At the Shell Lake Lions Hall, pie and coffee was available, while guests enjoyed the jam session with music by Bruce, Terri and friends.

Shell Lake Mayor Anita Weiers noted of this year's event, "It was very successful, and it was gratifying to see volunteers enjoying their work and to see so many visitors to our Village."

More photos on page 6

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Honeywood blossoms for Lilies in Bloom

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

As far as seasons go, this may be one of the strangest on record in Honeywood Heritage Nursery's 90-year history.

"On June 28, I had a winter toque on at work and then two weeks later it was 40°C," recalled Janie Denton, Honeywood's manager. "We've had a lot of challenges that way, but overall, it's been going really well and Honeywood's a fantastic place to be."

Since opening for the season in May, Honeywood has seen

cold, blustery rains, scorching heat, a smoky haze from wildfires raging across western Canada, and everything in between.

Thanks to the hard work of this year's team, Honeywood has weathered the trials and tribulations Mother Nature subjected the nursery to over the past two months. Because of this, the grounds were thriving with a kaleidoscope of colours on Sunday, July 21, when Honeywood hosted its annual Lilies in Bloom event.

With the wildfire smoke helping to temper the summer heat (but thankfully not mak-

ing it too hard to breathe), a steady stream of guests came through the gates throughout the day to peruse and purchase plants and artisans' wares, listen to the music of Bruce Isbister and friends, tour the grounds, and enjoy a delicious lunch of roast beef on a bun with apple or rhubarb crisp for dessert.

"I was really pleased with how things went, considering the weather," Denton said. "I wasn't really sure how it was going to go, being so hot and smoky, but overall, it was a fantastic day."

Though 18 artisans had signed on to attend, only 12 were able to make it in the end, many of them being newcomers to Honeywood who were discovered by Denton at other events she's attended this year. Denton says this is part of her strategy to bring in fresh talent and hopefully bring more people out to the nursery for a visit to see what's new.

"Watching how people interacted with customers at other events, you know they're the kind of people you want to have at your event," Denton says of how she chose this year's roster of artisans, adding that she was keeping an eye out for those who fit the general theme of garden and



Saskatoon-based artisan Carol Hannah was one of the newcomers at Lilies in Bloom, bringing with her an array of fiberglass and artificial grass creations.

landscape.

With her unique fiberglass and artificial turf sculptures, Saskatoon's Carol Hannah (grass 'n glass creations) certainly fit the bill. As did Sky's the Limit Lazer, a Saskatoon-based husband and wife duo that specializes in nature-themed laser engraved wooden crib/game boards and wood carvings.

They were joined at Honeywood by Brandy Berg (jewelry artist), Woodworks by Bob, Sheila and Zena Johnson (jewelry and spinners), Laurie Trithardt (photography and art), Margaret Radics

(crochet), Diane Larsen (baking, assorted crafts), Evelyn McDonald (bison meat and crafts), Hannigan Honey, Lorraine Adamson (pottery), and Karen Cowles (sewing and recycled crafts).

As Honeywood's season continues, Denton says she's blessed with a good team that is working hard towards a common goal of bringing Honeywood back to the roots of what its founder, Bert Porter, envisioned.

As always, she says none of this would be possible without the people who continue to support Honeywood.



Margaret Radics discusses her crochet crafts with a customer.

Rayne Cyr earns Kin Canada Bursary

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

Suffice to say, Rayne Cyr has volunteerism in her blood. The daughter of Tasha and Julien Cyr, mainstays in the Shellbrook Kinettes and Shellbrook Kinsmen, she spent much of her childhood being hauled around from one community event to another.

Before long, Rayne was pitching in at these community events. And over the years, she's been seen helping out with countless Santa Fun Days, Cookie Walks, decorating the Community Hall, flipping pancakes, picking weeds at the park, and working BBQ events, Ballapaloozas, and Lucky 7 nights, to name just a few of her many contributions to her

community.

"This kid has a huge heart," Tasha said. "She's always willing to lend a hand when she's home. I think this is partly where she learned the values of volunteering and helping out where and when you can."



Rayne Cyr accepts a \$1,000 Kin Canada Bursary from Shellbrook Kinettes Kelly Herndier (left) and Tasje Sharron (right).

While most volunteers consider giving back to their community to be its own reward, Rayne was recently rewarded in a more tangible way, as she was selected as one of 104 Canada-wide recipients of a \$1,000 Kin Canada Bursary.

Presented every year since they were introduced in 1994, Kin Canada Bursaries are given to recipients based on their community and school involvement, knowledge of Kin Canada, and financial need. This year, the Shellbrook Kinettes received seven applications for the bursary, and were able to select one applicant to continue to the next round of judging.

While applications are judged blind to ensure fairness, Rayne's application and resume of community involvement spoke for itself.

Rayne attended Carlton High School (for its French Immersion program) and graduated in 2023. She just completed her first year of university in the college of Kinesiology, at the UofS.

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Town of Shellbrook launches biofiltration pilot

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

It's not quite the water treatment plant project residents of the Town of Shellbrook have been patiently waiting for since 2019, but it is an important step forward.

Recently, council for the Town of Shellbrook voted to spend about \$34,800 to hire Saskatoon-based BrewNature to conduct a pilot project to determine whether biofiltration could be a viable treatment for the town's water supply.

The biofiltration pilot project is required by the Water Security Agency before the town can proceed any further. It involves bringing in a small-scale unit, similar to what would work for the town's needs, and testing out different formulations over the course of three to six weeks to find what works best.

"Other communities using biofiltration with the same water source are nearby," said Shellbrook Mayor Amund Otterson, citing the Town's of Big River and Blaine Lake as examples.

Noting that both communities draw their water from the Hatfield aquifer system, just like the Town of Shellbrook, Otterson feels biofiltration presents a good alternative to the town's current water treatment process, which includes greensand filters to draw out iron and manganese and using the maximum allowed amount of sodium hypochlorite (chlorine) to mitigate ammonia levels.

Biofilters are closed vessels that use formulations of bacteria to remove problem chemicals from water. In a standard biofiltration set up, there will be two vessels in a "train," one to remove the iron and manganese, and one to take out the ammonia (though, Otterson says the town may require two trains, for a total of four vessels, depending on the volume of water that can be processed).

Once the water passes through the biofiltration process, it can then flow through a reverse osmosis column, which will reduce the hardness of the water.

Having visited the Town of Big River's water treatment plant to see the biofiltration process in action, Otterson says the town received a lot of helpful information, and left feeling encouraged about the prospect of using it.

Certainly, Town of Big River CAO Noreen Olsen has nothing but positive things to say about the town's switch to biofiltration.

Similar to the Town of Shellbrook, the Town of Big River also faced issues with high levels of ammonia in its water. To treat the water, and reach breakpoint chlorination for disinfection, the town was exceeding the maximum usage limit and needed to revise its water treatment process.

It's new system, which came online in December 2021, now uses biofiltration as a pretreatment step before the water goes

through a reverse osmosis unit.

"When we installed the water treatment system, we also drilled two new wells into the Hatfield Valley Aquifer, so there are many variables that changed to the water at that time," Olsen noted.

"But we have seen a drastic change for the better in our water, nobody in town requires a water softener any longer."

Following some delays due to water and sewer issues, the Town of Shellbrook was anticipating starting its biofiltration pilot project early this week.

Mayor Otterson says the pilot is an important step forward and will help the town be ready to seek external funding when the provincial and federal governments announce new grant programs. Another key step, if the pilot project proves that biofiltration is a viable option, would be to go forward with the design phase for the upgrade and expansion of the water treatment plant and the addition of biofiltration and reverse osmosis systems.

"But we don't really want to spend any taxpayer money when we have to pay 100 per cent of the bill. That's the problem with this whole thing," Mayor Otterson said, noting that he wouldn't be comfortable putting a timeline on the project.

"We're still in the neighbourhood of \$5 million, maybe more. But we won't know until we put the tender out, have it designed, and get some estimates from experts."

Mayor Otterson notes the town also needs to double its water storage capacity so that the town has a two-day supply of water in case of an emergency. He says that this could be done separately, or as a joint project with the water treatment plant upgrade, depending on what funding is available at the time.

"If we can manage to do it all at once, we will," he said.

Spiritwood Public Library activity highlights



Children's performer Mr. Eric stopped in at the Spiritwood Public Library on July 10, to delight kids and parents alike with an interactive afternoon of music and stories.

By **HEATHER GATZKE**, Librarian



PA Regional KidsFirst – now known as Prince Albert Mobile Early Learning – was at the Spiritwood Public Library on Friday, July 5. Oceans were the theme of the day, keeping everyone swimming in fun. There was a magnetic fishpond, seashells in blue playdough & water beads with sea creatures floating in the blue ocean water. Chantelle Sprenger also had songs and crafts for the kids to do. This will be the last one until next year.

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Trump shooting attempt offers chance for change

Nearly everything in life comes in predictable cycles.

Day becomes night.

Winter becomes spring, then summer, then fall.

By and large, if you give something enough time, it will come back around again eventually.

Even politics is cyclical in nature. Today's Liberal government will become a Conservative government once voters get tired of it. Then, in a few years' time, voters will grow just as weary of the

Conservative government they elected and try their luck with a new Liberal government.

The fact that we have the luxury and the freedom to choose what type of government we want is something easily taken for granted.

Indeed, according to the Economist Intelligence Unit, the research and analysis division for independent British newspaper *The Economist*, less than half of the world's population (45.6 per cent) was living in a democracy of some form as of 2022 – meaning we Canadians are rather lucky to have the functioning, albeit imperfect, democracy we do.

True to the cyclical nature of things, the attempted assassination of U.S. presidential candidate Donald Trump at a campaign rally in Butler, Pennsylvania, on July 13 has given us a much-needed reminder of just how fortunate we are to live in a democracy.

It's a wake-up call we can't afford to squander. And yet, if the same old cycles persist, that's exactly what will happen.

Already, the news cycle in the aftermath of the nearly successful assassination attempt is following a script we know all too well.

Though gun violence is almost a daily occurrence in the U.S., the initial reaction after any shooting in the country is shock and dismay.

But when the target of said shooting is a presidential candidate, the shock and dismay are dialed up to eleven.

It's no longer just an act of senseless violence. As Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Conservative Party Leader Pierre Poilievre, NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh, and Bloq Québécois Leader Yves-François Blanchet all intimated in their denunciations of the attempt-



JORDAN TWISS
~
News Editor

ed assassination, such an act of violence is an assault on democracy itself.

Once the shock and dismay at the shooting, which left one person and the shooter dead and two people injured, wore off, the news cycle kicked into gear with all of its greatest post-gun violence hits.

We saw current U.S. President Joe Biden renewing calls for a ban on assault rifles for the umpteenth time, even though the mass murder of children has never been enough to start any meaningful discussion about gun control in the past.

We saw news outlets across the globe examining the shooting from every possible angle, digging deep to get to the how and the why of it and putting the life of the shooter, 20-year-old Thomas Matthew Crooks, under a microscope. We also saw them speculate about the impact the attempted assassination would have on the ongoing presidential race (often with the dread-laden implication that it will stack the deck in Mr. Trump's favour).

As we've gone through all the usual motions, we've also inevitably heard from those whose primary interest lies in assigning blame.

Some have suggested Mr. Trump is simply lying in the bed he made with his own fiery and divisive rhetoric, citing his role in fostering the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the US Capitol building after he lost the 2020 election. These are, of course, the same people who would liken Mr. Trump to a fascist or a Nazi and suggest he poses a threat to democracy, the same people who have lamented – either in jest or in all seriousness – that Mr. Trump's would-be assassin missed the mark.

Others, such as Alberta Premier Danielle Smith, have rather hypocritically pointed the finger at progressive politicians and the media, claiming the language they've employed to characterize Conservative politicians has "led to the culture we've seen in the U.S."

On the one hand, Ms. Smith is spot on when she suggests that the epithets casually tossed around by progressive politicians (racist, sexist, homophobe, transphobe, climate change denier, conspiracy theorist, right-wing extremist, etc.) have drastically raised



the temperature of today's political discourse.

On the other hand, Ms. Smith has also played a role in stoking the flames of division by likening those who received COVID-19 vaccinations to Hitler's followers in Nazi Germany and suggesting that those who refused the vaccine were the "most discriminated against" group she'd seen in her lifetime (both comments she was forced to apologize for).

The long and short of it is that there's plenty of blame to go around on both ends of the political spectrum.

Political violence isn't some random phenomenon. In a healthy society, no one wakes up one day and spontaneously decides to shoot a presidential candidate.

We live in the social and political climate we have created. And in it, we have found innumerable ways in which to divide ourselves and begun to regard those who don't share our viewpoints as bitter rivals.

On the rare occasion we do poke our heads out of our respective echo chambers, we do so not to seek common ground with those who hold different beliefs but to spew insults and slanders at them.

We've abandoned empathy, compassion, and understanding, all vital pillars of a healthy society, and nowadays treat opposing opinions like personal affronts and honest questions like indictable offences.

Today's politicians are every bit as

guilty of this. While politics has always been (and will always be) an adversarial arena, democracy works best when parties of all political stripes collaborate with the best interest of the people in mind.

Of course, this never truly happens with any lasting consistency. But, both federally and provincially, our current elected officials no longer seem to have any interest in pretending to be adults.

Hyper-partisanship rules the roost, and scant thought is given to working together to craft optimal policy. Instead, the only solution is to undo everything the previous government did and start over from scratch, to tear down rather than build up.

In sum, if our only interest lies in sorting out who's to blame for the attempted assassination of Mr. Trump, we need only take a long, hard look in the mirror to find the culprits.

At the end of the day, though, if we're truly concerned about safeguarding our democratic institutions, playing the blame game shouldn't be our top priority.

For while it's true that nearly everything in life comes in cycles, it's also true that cycles can be broken.

We've arrived at a pivotal moment, a moment in which our deep-seated divisions have culminated in an act of political violence. What happens next is up to us.

Will we remain divided and let the cycle continue? Or will we come together and break it?

Shellbrook Chronicle

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Flexibility needs to be part of bureaucracy

Not so long ago, the word 'pivot' was a buzzword, an approach that allowed businesses and organizations to survive in challenging times. The key to success was the speed at which one could pivot from the usual to re-imagine new, more efficient ways to provide services.

During my summer tour of Saskatchewan Rivers, I have been made aware of how, often, government bureaucracy prevents common-sense solutions.

Case in point. In beautiful Christopher Lake sits a modern facility equipped to provide Level 4 care for 10 beds. Walking in, it feels like 'home', not an institution. Owner Karrie Elliott tells me everything she needs to open is in place including staff and a wait list of clients. Unfortunately for those families, Elliott's business model does not 'fit' the government's existing programs.

Elliott, who is a registered psychiatric nurse, has seen many youth and young adults with complex needs languishing in long term care homes designed to care for seniors. Her passion is to provide a home-like environment, focused on quality of life, youthful activities, and a youthful environment for those patients, while also delivering specialized nursing care.

But Level 4 care does not come at the same cost as a regular group home. Registered nurses for round-the-clock care must be employed and with that comes extra costs like medical liability insurance at \$40,000 per year. Elliott has, with the support of notable advocates, been asking the government to fund the facility, including the extra costs, since 2021. She has made several presentations to government committees at the Saskatchewan Legislature.



NADINE WILSON
MLA
~
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The government's response has been to tell Elliott to create a model that fits their checklist. Government is willing to fund nurses wages, but everything else must be paid for by the patients or their families.

Given that most adult patients would be on some type of Social Services benefit (Long Term Care Home Supplement or Sask Assured Income for Disabilities), patients have no means to pay their own way for that level of care. So, the gov-

ernments' own funding models don't provide enough income for these people to pay for their care within the government system.

And so, families continue to struggle to provide complex-needs care for their young-adult loved ones in their own homes or put them in senior's facilities. They are forced to compete with other families for scarce resources. Many parents spend their senior years caring for adult children even while they themselves may develop health challenges.

Where is the fresh, innovative thinking that we enjoyed when the Sask Party first won the right to govern? Why has it devolved into bloated bureaucracy with layers of over-regulation? Why does it insist on one-size-fits-all policies which paralyze entrepreneurs, municipal councils, and even local boards charged with administering government

programs?

An example of this regulation paralysis is easily seen with the state of Housing Authorities in the province.

It is becoming common knowledge that many low-income units sit vacant across the province, while potential renters who don't quite meet regulation are not allowed to rent them. Other units sit in disrepair, with no budget to fix them.

In some cases, good renters have even been evicted because their income has risen slightly above the income cap. If there is no-where else in the community to rent, that family leaves the community, creating a ripple-effect loss for everyone including the government. This is not wise use of our tax dol-

lars.

Why can't local boards, particularly in rural areas, be empowered with flexibility to make common-sense adjustments based on evolving community needs?

There are dozens of other examples that could be cited, but the bottom line is 'big-picture' policy often defeats local level commonsense. We need to provide the gatekeepers with enough flexibility to carry out the 'spirit' of the regulation rather than be bound to the 'letter' of it, based on actual community needs and/or entrepreneurial initiatives.

If we do this, we can bring back the concept that government owes citizens easily accessed service and value for the taxes they entrust government to manage.

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Shell Lake Hey Days sizzles



Children ride in the bicycle parade.



The Shell Lake volunteer firefighters gave tours of their equipment.



Children lined the parade route in anticipation of the action.



Mike Looman's 1969 Beaumont was the crowd's fan favourite in the Show & Shine.



The petting zoo was popular with all ages.



Memorial Lake Regional Park's float contained a full campsite, minus the bears.



Several clowns repping local businesses attended in cars and on foot.



The Northern Spirit 4-H Club turned out with a float and horseback riders.



Shell Lake pioneer Gladys Simonar, 92, thrilled the crowd by riding her decorated scooter.

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SCAN ME

Women farmers receiving deserved recognition

Many may not be aware, but the International Year of the Woman Farmer was officially launched June 27 at an event in Washington, D.C., with 2026 set as the year it will be observed.

“The International Year of the Woman Farmer shines a global spotlight on women in agriculture, highlighting the challenges they encounter while cultivat-

ing change,” detailed the www.usda.gov website. “Together we can help bridge the gender gap, paving the way towards achieving food security, gender equality, and sustainability goals for a brighter, more equitable future. Discover how this initiative empowers nations worldwide to enact changes to provide women the same access to land tenure, training, financing, and technol-



CALVIN DANIELS

ogy.” An initiative of the United Nations, the designation is only symbol-

ic, so it will not likely impart much in the way of actual change. But it does recognize that female farmers face different challenges than their male counterparts.

Often over the years, the contributions of women to the farming operation, while appreciated at the farm level, have perhaps not been as widely recognized away from the farm gate.

In the days of my youth, my mother was the one that tended to the yard and fed dad in the field. She did not have what most would think of as “farm work,” but certainly stayed busy with a huge garden, canning, baking, cooking, looking after the chickens, and a hundred other things she took on

as dad rode the tractor and I cleaned barns.

Over time, the role of women of course expanded, with women making runs for machinery parts or fertilizer, driving grain trucks or combines, and simply being more directly involved in production.

Today, they are just as likely to own the farm and make the decisions.

And certainly, there are far more women working in the broader farm sector than when I was a youth, or even since I began my journalism career some 35 years ago.

The evolving role of women in agriculture of course parallels a general trend of greater participation in most workplaces by women.

But agriculture is a rather unique sector and will have its own challenges for women to find their place to fully participate as equals.

Having a year designated to mark the growing participation of women in agriculture is certainly a good thing, both as a way to focus some attention, and to hopefully smooth some of the bumps in the path of women.

At the very least, it reaffirms women have become equally successful in the agriculture field and are an important part of the sector which feeds us.

Whispering Pine Place residents enjoy music

By DIANE JOHNSON
Canwood Library Board

On the morning of July 17, organized with the help of Canwood Library Board and Whispering Pine Place’s recreation department, the residents of Whispering Pine Place Nursing Home and many community members were fortunate to be able to attend an “impromptu” performance by talented musicians, including Canwood’s Trent Bruner and his daughters Hannah Moira and Ingrid Sofie Midtboe-Bruner.

Many of the tunes they played were vibrant and lively as well as some that were hauntingly beautiful and melodic. They graciously agreed to share their talents with Trent’s hometown community amidst a very busy schedule and before heading out the same day to a fiddle competition in Edmonton.

The Canwood Library is extremely lucky to have Gerda Bruner, Trent’s mother, as a member of the Library Board for many years, and we are so happy that she was able to share her family’s talents with us all.

Hannah Moira, 20, and Ingrid Sofie,

16, are the daughters of Trent and his wife, Hilde Midtboe. Both girls began learning Norwegian fiddle while in preschool and have diligently practiced their way to winning Norwegian national junior fiddle titles: Hannah Moira in June 2022 (hardanger fiddle) and Ingrid Sofie in June 2024 (standard fiddle). Both play Norwegian Hardanger Fiddle and standard fiddle as well.

Hannah Moira has graduated from Norwegian high school this year and will start formal music studies in Norwegian folk music at the Norwegian Conservatory of Music in Oslo. Ingrid Sofie has two years of high school left in the City of Bergen before completing her high school education.

Originally from Canwood, Trent has been living in Valestrand, Norway since 2004 on the Norwegian west coast. Not only does Trent play piano, guitar, church organ and sing, but he also conducts choirs, composes his own music, works as an album producer, teaches music, is a music researcher, organizes music events and creates musical arrangements for various occasions.



From left to right: Trent Bruner and his daughters, Ingrid Sofie and Hannah Moira Midtboe-Bruner, perform for residents of Canwood’s Whispering Pine Place.

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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.

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. Summer Hours: Tuesday 9:30am - 4pm; Wednesday 9:30am - 4pm; Phone: 306-468-2501

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 - Monday 10am - 3pm; Thursday 3pm - 7pm. 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.

SHELLBROOK: Fill The Pool Campaign – July 1 to August 23. All donations up to: \$30,000 will be matched by an anonymous donor. To donate: parklandpool-project.ca, 306-747-7331, Box 402 Shellbrook, SK SoJ 2E0. Join us at the Party in the Park on August 23, 2024!

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McIntosh-Ledecky clash would be Olympic highlight

What has the potential to be the most dramatic head-to-head competition at the Paris Olympics might not happen.

Canada's Summer McIntosh, only 17, recently snapped American Katie Ledecky's winning streak in the 800-metre freestyle and if the two were to face off in the Olympic pool on Saturday, Aug. 3, when the 800-metre final is scheduled, it would be must-see TV.

But it's unlikely to happen, since Toronto's McIntosh is apparently not going to compete in the 800 metres, leaving the gold medal virtually unchallenged around the neck of Ledecky.

Back in February, McIntosh stunned the 27-year-old Ledecky by not only winning the 800-metre final at a meet in Orlando, but touching the wall almost six seconds ahead of the U.S. star, who joins Mark Spitz and Michael Phelps on the Mount Rushmore of U.S. swim stars. In a sport where winners and losers are usually decided

by hundredths of a second, a six-second victory is a runaway. Until that race, Ledecky had owned the world's best 30 times in the 800 metres, and hadn't been beaten in her specialty in an astounding 13 years.

The hype machine wouldn't have to be turned up very high to attract a record TV audience for a McIntosh vs. Ledecky 800-metre showdown, but the Canadian swimmer will likely bypass the 800 and concentrate on her specialty events — the 400-metre individual medley, the 400-metre freestyle and the 200-metre butterfly. McIntosh has five of the world's fastest times ever in the 400 IM.

Skipping the 800-race would in all likelihood give the gold to Ledecky, which would be her fourth Olympic gold in that event. She would join Phelps as the only swimmers to win a single event in four different Olympic Games.

McIntosh grew up in a swimming family. Her mother swam in the 1984



BRUCE PENTON

Olympics in Los Angeles. She started swimming competitively at age 8, and idolized Ledecky, 10 years older. A story in *The Athletic* said McIntosh had posters of Ledecky hanging on her bedroom wall.

It's almost a given that this will be the last Olympics for Ledecky, who would be 31 in 2028, which means it will be the last chance for an 800-metre showdown between the two swimming superstars. The McIntosh team hasn't finalized the Canadian swimmer's schedule, and says competing in the 800-metres remains a possibility.

The Athletic reported that Ledecky, McIntosh, and world champion Ariarne Titmus are scheduled to swim in the 400-metre freestyle on the first day of the swim competition. The second-last day of the swimming events is Aug. 3 and what a spectacular near-finale it would be for McIntosh and Ledecky to go head to head in the 800.

Meanwhile, Canada should make a big splash in the pool thanks to the talents of Maggie Mac Neil and our county's most decorated Olympian, Penny Oleksiak. Mac Neil won three medals at the Tokyo Olympics, including gold in the 100-metre butterfly.

Super 70s Sports, on Twitter, referencing the drug lifestyle of retired New York Giants' Lawrence Taylor: "Whenever the Giants needed a big play, Bill Parcells used to point at the quarterback and say 'LT, he's got your coke.'"

Headline at fark.com: "Ferrari ready to announce HP as their new

title sponsor beginning in 2025, hopes to get deal signed once someone finds the spare cyan cartridge"

Comedy writer Gary Bachman: "In 1985, Herschel Walker of the New Jersey Generals was named the Most Valuable Player of the United States Football League. When he unsuccessfully ran for the U.S. Senate in 2022, he honestly claimed to be a decorated general."

Bob Molinaro of pilotonline.com. (Hampton, Va.): "Arch Manning, the backup quarterback for the Texas Longhorns, reportedly received between \$50,000 and \$60,000 to promote a college football video game. Imagine how much he could have made if he were first-string. Or how little if he wasn't a Manning."

Vancouver comedy guy Torben Rolfsen on the European soccer championsip: "England versus Spain in Germany in July. This is like an event horizon for beer drinking."

The Canadian parody site, thebeaverton.com, offered suggestions for less than knowledgeable Canadian soccer fans while watching our national team play Argentina: "Never claim to know whether a play is offside or not"; "and say 'Messi may not have the legs anymore, but he still has the vision.'"

RJ Currie of sports-deke.com: "According to ESPN, no tennis player over 6 feet 5 inches in height has won more than one Grand Slam. Who says winning a major is a tall order?"

Headline at theonion.com: "Wimbledon Trying To Excite Us, But The Ball Still Just Goes Back And Forth All Day"

Headline at fark.com: "HBO gambling on an expansive Pete Rose documentary"

Another fark.com headline: "Max Scherzer addresses trade deadline rumours and says there is only one team he wants to be on the injured list for."

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

RCMP news highlights

By JORDAN TWISS
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

Two men have been charged with a slew of firearms-related charges, following a shooting on the Sturgeon Lake First Nation.

According to police, the Prince Albert RCMP Detachment received a report of a shooting in the community on July 8, 2024. Initial investigation determined two individuals approached a group of individuals who were walking in the community and an altercation occurred

between them. A firearm was discharged, striking an adult male, who was treated at hospital for injuries described as non-life-threatening in nature.

Officers immediately began patrolling in search of the suspects, and, as a result of continued investigation, obtained a warrant to enter a residence in the community. On July 14, with the assistance of Saskatchewan RCMP's Critical Incident Response Team, two adult males were arrested at the residence without incident.

Officers also located and seized a semi-automatic firearm, ammunition and bear spray at the residence.

Following further investigation, police have charged 24-year-old Jayden Sutherland and 19-year-old Thoren Daniels, both from the Sturgeon Lake First Nation, with: once count of assault with a weapon, one count of discharging a firearm while being reckless, one count of using a firearm in the commission of an offence, one count of careless use of a firearm, one count of unsafe storage of a firearm, and possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose.

Daniels also faces additional charges, including four counts of possessing a weapon contrary to order and one count of failing to comply with the terms of his probation.

Both suspects made their first appearance in court on Monday, July 15.

Muskeg Lake Investigation
Officers with the Saskatchewan RCMP's Historical Case Unit (HCU) advised the public of an increased police presence on the Muskeg Lake Cree Nation last week, as officers were conducting a search in relation to the 2019 homicide of 56-year-old Joanne Wolfe-Lafond.

On Jan. 13, 2019, Wolfe-Lafond was found deceased outside her home on Muskeg Lake Cree Nation. Initial investigation determined her death to be suspicious and Saskatchewan RCMP Major Crimes took carriage of the investigation.

Since then, the Saskatchewan RCMP HCU has taken lead of the investigation. The HCU investigates or assists in all historical unsolved homicides, suspicious deaths, missing persons, and found/ unidentified human remains.

HCU investigators would like to express their appreciation to those who have already come forward with information.

"Significant advancements in these types of investigations would not be possible without the help of witnesses and community members coming forward," said Cpl. Tanya Gordon of the HCU in a statement.

Investigators continue to investigate the death of Wolfe-Lafond and ask anyone with information to report it to police. Information can be submitted to the RCMP by calling 310-RCMP or your local police service. Information can also be submitted anonymously by contacting

Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or www.saskcrimestoppers.com.

Ahtahkakoop Death

The Saskatchewan RCMP's Major Crimes unit is continuing to investigate a suspicious death on the Ahtahkakoop Cree Nation.

According to police, the Ahtahkakoop-Shellbrook RCMP Detachment received a report of an injured female at a residence in the community at approximately 3:30 a.m. on Thursday, July 11.

Officers immediately responded and located the female, who was pronounced deceased at the scene by EMS.

As the death was deemed to be suspicious, carriage of the investigation was taken by Major Crimes.

As of July 17, the investigation was ongoing and there had been no further updates in the case. Police have said updates will be provided when available, and the public will be notified if any threat to safety is identified.

In the meantime, anyone with information should contact 310-RCMP. Information can also be submitted anonymously by contacting Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or www.saskcrimestoppers.com.

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GOOD NEWS

HOW DID WE GET LIFE ON EARTH?

By **RANDALL MCLEOD**
Immanuel Lutheran, Parkside

Moving on then; something outside of space and time had to cause all this to come into being, the age of the earth is, in reality, not settled science. What next then? Now that we have the universe and this particularly blessed "goldilocks planet", how in the heck did we get life on earth?

The biblical model tells us that, the same personal force that caused the universe also created all life on earth, and that He did so in six literal days. SIX days.... How inconceivable is that? Not that hard for someone/something that caused the whole universe to come into existence, really. Small stuff by comparison.

The conventional model proposed by Lyell and Darwin - in a deliberate effort to get us away from Moses by the way - tells us that in a warm pond somewhere inorganic minerals magically came together and formed amino acids, lipids and carbohydrates and then over millions of years they hooked up and created life. Time and random chance being the heroes of the day.

So, just what are the problems with the conventional model. To begin, Darwin had no idea just how complex a cell really is. He thought it was just a bag of goo. We now know that a cell is a highly complex factory with micro machines controlled by billions of letters of intelligent code. Bill Gates tells us that it is the most complex code known to man.

Where do we get intelligent code? Our consistent experience tells us code only come from an intelligent mind. Random monkeys on typewriters just won't do. And further, time is the enemy and not the friend of the process. If compounds formed by

accident, you only have hours to join them together and if a protein formed you only have about 13 days to work with that. The odds of random chance are so small as to be essentially "0".

As for random changes to DNA causing evolutionary changes, we see two massive problems there.

One, random changes to intelligent code invariably degrade it. Try making random changes to any computer program or operating system and see the result. I was recently updating drivers on a computer and the whole operating system crashed, absolutely would not boot up!

Two, any changes we do see, that are not fatal, are the result of lost or broken code. Where do we get the addition of code to go from one cell to a fully functional human or animal? Darwinian theory has no mechanism to allow for the addition of new information, it only proposes serial mutations.

I will close this time by identifying a subtle definition change used to convince you that evolution is an observable fact. Adaptive changes within any given creature (biblical "kind") are held forth as demonstrating evolution. Finches with different beaks, moths of different colours, and so on are not "evolving". The data needed to effect those changes is already present and is merely being expressed.

Often, the change is also fully reversible if not specifically selectable by environmental pressure. Nothing has changed into something else; a finch is still a finch, a moth still a moth and so on.

Next time we will dig a little deeper into modern genetic findings.

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SATURDAY
Medstead - 6:00 p.m.
Shell Lake - 8:00 p.m.
Everyone Welcome
Fr. Ramel Macapala

COWBOY CHURCH

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

FIELDS OF HOPE (HOFFNUNGSFELDER) MENNONITE CHURCH

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

BETHEL

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

BELBUTTE FULL GOSPEL

11 am Worship Service

MENNONITE BRETHREN

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

Gideons International of Canada

Battlefords Camp
Phone Art Martynes
(306) 389-4633

PARTNERS IN WORSHIP

Shell Lake
Worship Services
Sunday 9:00 a.m.
Pastor Sarah Urano
306-841-7333

LAKELAND COMMUNITY CHURCH

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



www.shellbrookchronicle.com
www.spiritwoodherald.com

Morin Lake Regional Park celebrates 40th anniversary

By **LISA BURNS**
Morin Lake Regional Park Board

Morin Lake Regional Park celebrated its 40th anniversary in grand style on July 7, marking four decades of providing a beautiful retreat for the community. Part of what is now the park, was land generously donated by Albert Lalonde, and has long been a cherished space for outdoor activities and relaxation.

The festivities began with an opening ceremony hosted by Donna Lajeunesse. Premier Scott Moe was the special guest speaker, delivering an inspiring speech that commemorated the park's rich history and promising future. Premier Moe praised the park for its contributions to the community, highlighting its role in fostering outdoor recreation and community spirit.



Attendees took part in fun and competitive games.

Following Premier Moe, Bernard Lalonde, the first chairperson of the Morin Lake Regional Park, took the stage. He shared heartfelt memories and reflected on the park's early days, honoring his family's legacy and the community's support.

The day was filled with classic games and activities that brought smiles to both young and old. Participants eagerly joined in on three-legged races, gunny sack races, bingo, a fishpond, and a horseshoe tournament, fostering a lively and competitive spirit.

As the sun set, the beer gardens remained bustling, and music filled the air, creating a festive atmosphere that lasted well into the evening. Attendees enjoyed a delicious supper that sat-



The 40th anniversary celebration was capped off with a dazzling fireworks show.

isfied everyone's taste buds, adding to the overall enjoyment of the event.

The celebration culminated in a spectacular fireworks display, painting the night sky with vibrant colors and leaving attendees in awe. The event was a resounding success, with an estimated 250 people joining in the celebration.

Special appreciation was given to the dedicated board members, volunteers, donors, and supporters whose efforts and contributions have been instrumental in maintaining and enhancing the park over the years. Their unwavering support has ensured that Morin Lake Regional Park remains a

cherished community space for generations to come.

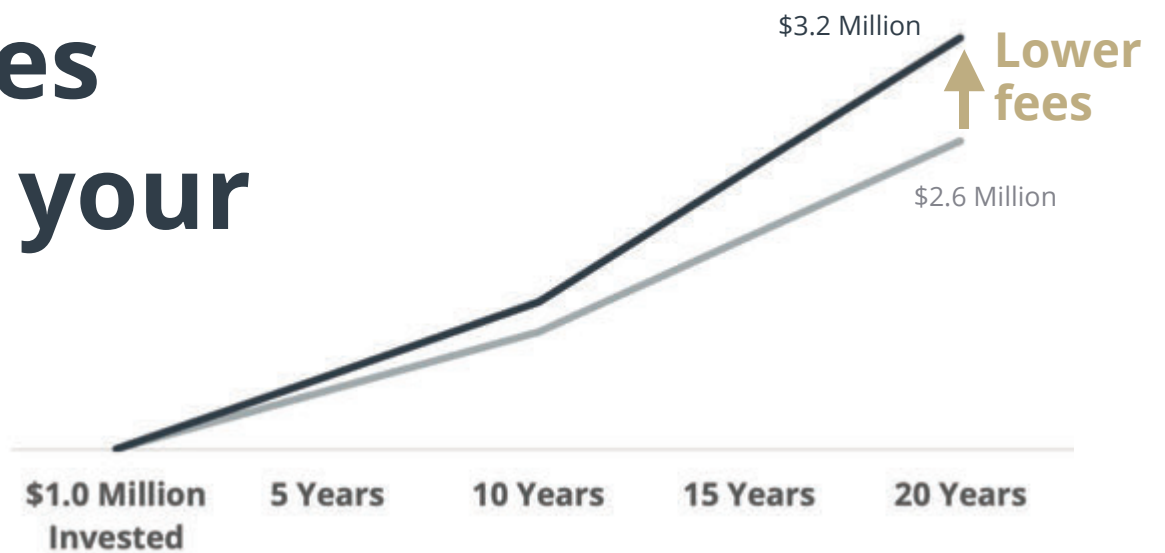
Attendees expressed their gratitude for the park and the joyous occasion, looking forward to many more years of community gatherings and outdoor enjoyment at Morin Lake Regional Park.

Overall, the 40th anniversary celebration was a testament to the enduring legacy of Albert Lalonde's donation, the dedication and hard work the volunteer board and the employees and the park's significance to the community. It was a day of reflection, celebration, and anticipation for the future of this beloved regional park.



Board Members with Premier Moe. Standing, left to right: Premier Scott Moe, Louis Blais, Lisa Burns, Colette Demontreal, Luc Pouliot, Aline Hannon, and Luc Boudreault. Kneeling: Nicole Turner and Donna Lajeunesse.

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