



Kayakers hit Memorial Lake for ‘Big Day Out’



Kayakers were greeted by beautiful weather and still waters.

Photo courtesy of Heather Beauchesne

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

Whether by kayak, canoe, or paddle board, more than 40 people gathered on the glassy waters of Memorial Lake on the morning of Saturday, Sept. 13, for a rare day of togetherness, fun, and scenic beauty.

Billed as the inaugural Memorial Lake Big Day Out, the morning’s journey was conceived and organized by nature enthusiast Heather Beauchesne and her kayaking friend Don Garand.

Originally, the pair created a Shell-LakeLife Facebook page to share photos of their kayaking excursions with others who enjoy the scenery around Shell Lake. Eventually, this led to conversations about how they could bring their fellow kayakers together for a one-day event.

“We don’t get to see each other much during the day because of motor boats,” Beauchesne said. “There aren’t a lot of people out there kayaking because of the waves. You have to catch them in the morning or late evening.”

Beauchesne says she and Garand initially thought of an event centred around geocaching. In the end, rather than going through the trouble of placing objects at points around Memorial Lake, and risking them being displaced by the elements, they settled on the idea of photocaching — asking participants to take selfies at specific landmarks in exchange for points and potential prizes.

Beauchesne had hopes the event would be well received, based on the number of kayakers she and Garand would typically run into on their way back from their own outings. Additionally, she’d also seen how fast Memorial

Lake Regional Park’s newly added kayak holders were snatched up, suggesting there were plenty more kayak enthusiasts in the area.

But, while she was excited for the idea, she admits that she kept her expectations for the turnout low.

“I expected we’d have six people with us, and it would basically be our friends and family,” she said.

Instead, when it came time to set out at 9 a.m., Beauchesne was excited to have a group of 41 excited participants to spend the morning with — even with the threat of rain and thunderstorms looming over the area all weekend.

“It was exceptional. Everyone showed up, if not a few more, everyone was in a great mood, the weather was phenomenal, and the water stayed like glass the entire two hours,” Beauchesne said. “That’s rare. Usually we’re done kayak-

ing by 8:30 or 9 a.m., and already we’ve got some ripples and waves coming in.”

Following two hours of kayaking and selfies, the group gathered at the Lark Restaurant for lunch, the presentation of prizes, and an opportunity to socialize while not kayaking.

With all the points tallied, Linda Caswell had the highest score for her photocaches and wildlife snaps, while Shyanne Phillips’ group won the prize for the most comedic photocaches.

With the enthusiastic turnout, and equally enthusiastic support from a quartet of local sponsors, Beauchesne says she’s already hoping to turn the Big Day Out into an annual event.

“Next year, we thought we’d do something to change it up a little bit. We’re open to different ideas of what people want to do next year.”

More photos on page 5



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Dedication of Roberts Bay at Memorial Lake

By **BEVRA FEE**
Spiritwood Herald
Reporter

A bay on the west edge of Memorial Lake has been named for Master-Corporal Josh Roberts, a Canadian soldier who was killed in Afghanistan 17 years ago in 2008.

On what would have been Josh's 47th birthday — Monday, Sept. 8 — a dedication ceremony was held on the hill overlooking Memorial Lake. With Roberts' then-fiancée, Lise, and his now 17-year-old son, Meyer Roberts, taking part in the ceremony alongside military members, the plaque commemorating Josh Roberts' service and sacrifice was unveiled at the bridge of the bay, now officially named Roberts Bay.

Emceed by Major Shelly Bellisle, the open-air program began with a gathering of approximately 100 people in attendance and opened with a message of welcome and land acknowledgement.

Major Bellisle explained the Saskatchewan Geo-Naming Program, outlining that, "The Saskatchewan Geographic Names

Program is a legislated process managed by the provincial government to approve official names for geographical features and populated places within the province, such as lakes, rivers, and towns. This program ensures that names reflect Saskatchewan's cultural heritage, traditions of its Indigenous peoples, and the contributions of individuals, with the GeoMemorialCommemorative Naming Program specifically honouring fallen soldiers and other prominent individuals. The program also involves a public process for proposing new names and maintains the information in a national Canadian geographical names database."

Doug Chisholm, pilot and photographer, has undertaken the task of photographing from the air the thousands of sites named for fallen men and women since 1997. Chisholm, whose photographs and stories have been compiled into his two books about Canadian war veterans, is a champion of the naming program. Chisholm has dedicated time and effort to many such dedication ceremonies, not only ensuring the placement of the honour plaques but also flying family members to attend dedications at remote sites named for loved ones.

After acknowledgements, Master Warrant Officer Rob Brown conducted a smudge and explained the significance of the ritual.

"With the smudge, we

are asking the Creator to come down and connect us together."

Brown led a prayer in his ancestral language and invited everyone to pray in whatever way they were taught.

Speakers at the ceremony included Chief Warrant Officer Albert Boucher, who said, "Like so many who have worn the uniform of their time and in their moment, Josh Roberts stepped forward to honour the commitments of Canada, of the Canadian people at home and abroad. Josh Roberts, by his actions, deeds and sacrifice serves as a reminder — an inspiration to us all — we are better because of people like him. He was truly a dedicated Canadian, and we are grateful for people like him."

Speakers following were Lieutenant Colonel Mike McKillop, Major Ramsay Bellisle and Master Warrant Officer Nathan Verhoog — both of whom served alongside Josh Roberts during their training



Plaque dedicating Roberts Bay in honour of MCpl Josh Roberts.

and military careers.

"Make no mistake, he was an able soldier — a keen leader and the kind of man that people wanted to follow. For me, I just liked being around him," noted McKillop.

The group was piped from the hill, down the road, and to the bridge over Roberts Bay where the plaque was unveiled and read by Josh Roberts' son, Meyer Rob-

erts. The Last Post, a minute of silence, Lament and Rouse completed the ceremony before participants and guests retreated to the Memorial Lake Park for an informal gathering.

Josh Roberts was killed in action in Afghanistan while he and his group were involved with an operation to try and disrupt Taliban insurgency in a farming area of the country.

During his service, Josh Roberts earned the Canadian Peacekeeping Service Medal for spending at least 30 days in a UN or an international peacekeeping mission, the NATO Medal and Bar for his military service of at least 30 days in the area formerly known as Yugoslavia, and the Sacrifice Medal (posthumous) after his death in combat.



Master Corporal Josh Roberts.



CWO Albert Boucher speaks during the dedication ceremony to name Roberts Bay in honour of MCpl Josh Roberts.

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Leask breakfast program receives \$3,000 donation

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle
Reporter

Leask Community School’s breakfast program recently received a \$3,000 boost from Krista and Roy Verbonac on behalf of Ethan’s Memorial Show & Shine, an annual car show held in Marcelin each year to honour Ethan Verbonac, who passed in 2023.

“We hope our donation in Ethan’s memory will make the cost of providing a healthy breakfast and snack program for all students a little easier this school year,” Krista wrote on Facebook.

Leask Community School’s breakfast program is open to all students, and sees them provided with fruit, toast,

yogurt, baking, or cereal each morning to ensure they get a proper start to their day and can learn to the best of their ability.

Apart from community support and donations, the breakfast program is funded by grants offered by the Community Initiatives Fund and the CNDP.

Since starting Ethan’s Memorial Show & Shine, Krista and Roy have made a habit of donating proceeds from the event to local causes. In 2024, they donated \$2,308 to Blaine Lake Community School, which Ethan attended for eight years and loved dearly, for its outdoor play space. They also made a donation to the Marcelin MX games, which was “Ethan’s favourite day of the year.”



Leask Community School vice principal Tracy Henderson (left) and principal Lindsey Burym (middle right) accepts a \$3,000 donation from Krista and Roy Verbonac on behalf of Ethan’s Memorial Show & Shine.

Highlights of a Shellbrook Town Council meeting

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

(The following council highlights are not the approved minutes of council for Sept. 8.)

Shellbrook’s Town Council held its regular meeting in person and via teleconference on Monday, Sept. 8.

In attendance were Mayor Amund Otterson, Councillors Pam Boettcher, Cheryl Ledding, Brent Miller, Kathleen Nording, Arlette Segberg, and Tim Settee, and the town’s CAO, Sigourney O’Halligan.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Otterson, and council began with its customary Treaty 6 land acknowledgement in recognition of Truth and Reconciliation. Then, it approved the meeting’s agenda, adopted the minutes of its Aug. 11 meeting, and moved on to the reports of administration and committees.

Discussion of the Public Works report included the project on what the town refers to as Elliot Lake (the field immediately to the west of W.P. Sandin High School’s football field). The project started last year, but was delayed due to unforeseen circumstances. It will include boring under Main Street, laying pipe along the south side of the field, moving dirt, and installing a culvert to provide proper drainage for the area.

Elsewhere, CAO O’Halligan informed council a curb stop had been replaced at the Richardson Pioneer Recreation Centre, and Mayor Otterson said the success of the concrete lifting project at the Post Office could lead to more work being done. One of the priority areas to test the solution on is the medical clinic, which has been dealing with drain-

age issues.

In a quick update on the water plant upgrade project, CAO O’Halligan told council that the joint federal and provincial grant the town has been waiting for is opening up for intake. If the town is successful in its application, it may finally be able to move forward on the project.

Under the Emergency Services Report CAO O’Halligan said she’s currently working on a sustainability report for the Community Safety Officers (CSO), which is required by the provincial government. As part of this, she said she will be reaching out to the municipalities the town provides services to and getting feedback on how its going.

In good news, CAO O’Halligan noted that an upcoming change will make it so that the CSOs no longer have to travel to court in Prince Albert to deal with every ticket. Meanwhile, Councillor Miller noted that other communities seem to be issuing a lot more tickets, and said council should ask what directions those communities are giving to the CSOs.

Closing out the reports with the Hospitals, Clinics, Dr. Recruitment, Foundation & Ambulance Services report, Mayor Otterson informed council that a new doctor is expected to start in mid-October.

Shifting to the Mayor and Council Forum, Councillors Boettcher and Ledding brought forward concerns about the “chaos” in local school zones with drivers constantly getting in the way in the school bus drop-off area on the north side of Shellbrook Elementary School.

After some discussion of talking to the school division about ordering signage to mark the bus drop-off

area, Councillor Nording brought forward a motion for the town to go ahead and purchase signs that mark the area as a bus drop-off only zone from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. The motion was carried.

Under new business, council mostly dealt with housekeeping items, including giving first and second readings to Admin Bylaw 2025-013, approving the subdivision of SE 1/3 Section 7-49-3 W3M, and adopting Policy 5014, which sets out guidelines for the reversal of fees.

Council also approved the town applying to the Sask Public Safety Agency for Provincial Disaster Assistance Program funding, to cover the cost of the issues it ran into with the lift station on 2nd Avenue East.

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Political climate hits point of no return

For the second time in the past three months, it seems I've no choice but to fall back on words I've previously written about the overheated political climate in North America (and the United States, in particular) and the inevitability of it breeding political violence.

Last July, after a gunman attempted to assassinate then-presidential candidate Donald Trump and the media slavishly regurgitated the well-established script that follows every act of gun violence in the U.S., I called the senseless act of political violence a wake-up call we couldn't afford to squander.

The shooting, I posited, was not some isolated incident in which an individual simply woke up one day and decided to murder a presidential candidate. Rather, it was a symptom and reflection of the divisive political climate we have created by refusing to see the world from any perspective that doesn't conform perfectly to our own.

And yet, for as much as it was a condemnation of ourselves, it was also an opportunity for us to reflect, to set aside our differences, and to come together so there would never again be such an assault on democracy.

Instead, in the immediate aftermath of the attempt on Mr. Trump's life, there were those who suggested Mr. Trump was simply lying in the bed he'd made with his own rhetoric, and others, still, who lamented – either in jest or in all seriousness – that Mr. Trump's would-be assassin had missed the mark.

On the opposite end of the political spectrum, people were just as quick to hypocritically, but not incorrectly, assign blame to progressive politicians and media outlets for their casual employment of epithets (racist, misogynist, homophobe, anti-vaxxer, etc.) to shame and silence their opponents.

It was a less than encouraging start, seeming evidence that no one on ei-



JORDAN
TWISS

~
News Editor

ther side of the political spectrum was willing to put in even a modicum of effort to ease the simmering political tensions.

Less surprisingly – but no less disappointingly – Mr. Trump seemed to take the attempt on his life as a vindication of all of his darkest thoughts and policy ideas.

Rather than reconsidering his approach, he doubled down, making retribution against his enemies

the central pillar of his second presidency.

Within minutes of his official return to office, he signed a slew of executive orders to roll back the rights of immigrants, people of colour, and LGBTQ+ people, reserving some of his worst rhetoric for transgender service men and woman, as he banned them from enlisting to protect and serve their country.

Tensions escalated in the spring, when riots broke out in Los Angeles in response to Mr. Trump's mass deportation campaign. Once again, Mr. Trump was ready to turn up the temperature by siccing 2,000 National Guard troops and 700 marines on the protesters, whom he referred to as "animals" and a "foreign enemy."

Mr. Trump took a similar approach in Washington, D.C., in August, seizing control of the local police force and deploying the National Guard in a supposed crackdown on crime – even though violent crime reached a three-decade low in 2024. And he has threatened to do the same in other Democrat-run cities, such as Chicago and Detroit.

With the ever-unpredictable and unrepentant Mr. Trump at the helm, one would think the political divides in the U.S. couldn't get much deeper.

But that is almost certain to change after the murder of prominent political commentator Charlie Kirk during a speaking event at Utah Valley University on Wednesday, Sept. 10.

Mr. Kirk and I would have agreed on very little, but his willingness to



engage with those who opposed his viewpoints was something each of us could benefit from (though, whether he was truly debating in "good faith" is a matter of opinion).

Having credited Mr. Kirk with bringing many young followers to his cause, Mr. Trump issued a statement mourning his death and celebrating him as a hero and patriot.

In a rare moment of sober thought and reflection, Mr. Trump even said it was "long past time for all Americans and the media to confront the fact that violence and murder are the tragic consequence of demonizing those with whom you disagree."

But then, in a return to normalcy, he quickly shifted to accusing the "radical left" of comparing people like Mr. Kirk to "Nazis and the world's worst mass murderers and criminals" (even as the identity of the shooter remained unknown).

"This kind of rhetoric is directly responsible for the terrorism that we are seeing in our country today, and it must stop right now," he said.

Though Mr. Trump is arguably the world's worst offender when it comes to spewing hateful rhetoric about his opponents, he's not wrong.

But here, again, I must fall back on words I wrote about last year's attempt on Mr. Trump's life, because we haven't reached this critical juncture

by accident.

Rather, we've reached it because we've forgotten empathy, compassion, and understanding – all vital pillars of a healthy society – and learned to treat opposing opinions like personal affronts and honest questions like indictable offences.

And today's politicians are every bit as culpable. While politics always has been (and will always be) an adversarial arena, hyper-partisanship rules the roost in today's political climate, and scant thought is given to working together in the best interest of everyone. Instead, the only solution is to undo everything the previous government did and start over from scratch, to tear down and go backward rather than build up and move forward.

And so, if our only interest lies in sorting out who's to blame for the attempted assassination of Mr. Trump last year, and the murder of Mr. Kirk last week, we need only take a long, hard look in the mirror to find the culprits.

We've already reached a point of numbness when it comes to school shootings in the U.S. – like the one that occurred in Colorado around the same time Mr. Kirk was murdered.

If we don't turn back now, if we let political violence become "just another shooting," there's no turning back.

Shellbrook Chronicle

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Kayakers hit Memorial Lake for ‘Big Day Out’



A group of more than 40 kayakers came out for the morning event.



Corinne and Kirsten Szwydky enjoy the waters on the Memorial Lake Big Day Out.



Kayakers get ready to set out on the water for the morning. *Photos courtesy of Heather Beauchesne*



Kayakers greet each other with a smile and a wave.

BRANDED CONTENT

SASKATCHEWAN BLUE CROSS: Building a healthier Saskatchewan through Health Literacy

Being healthy is about more than physical well-being — it’s mental, spiritual and social, too. And good health starts with understanding. That’s why Saskatchewan Blue Cross is committed to improving **Health Literacy**, from our largest cities to the most remote rural communities.

Health Literacy means having the knowledge, confidence and skills to find, understand and use health information and services to make the best decisions for yourself and those you care for. While most of us feel confident in our health knowledge, the reality is that **two in three Saskatchewan residents struggle with Health Literacy** — and many don’t even realize it.

WHY HEALTH LITERACY MATTERS HERE AT HOME

When Health Literacy is low, the impact is real. It can lead to delays in seeking treatment, misunderstandings about medications, or missed follow-up care. For people in rural or remote areas, where healthcare resources may be limited or harder to reach, these challenges can be even more pressing.

Improving Health Literacy means people can take better care of themselves, their families and their neighbours — leading to stronger, healthier communities.

- THE NINE DOMAINS OF HEALTH LITERACY**
- Health Literacy isn’t just one skill — it’s made up of nine interconnected areas:
1. Feeling understood and supported by healthcare providers
 2. Having sufficient information to manage my health
 3. Actively managing my health
 4. Social support for health
 5. Appraisal of health information
 6. Ability to actively engage with healthcare providers
 7. Navigating the healthcare system
 8. Ability to find good healthcare information
 9. Understanding health information well enough to know what to do

Together, these domains paint a complete picture of what it takes to make confident, informed health decisions.

WHAT WE’VE LEARNED FROM COMMUNITIES

Through province-wide research and local roundtable discussions, we’ve been listening to people’s experiences. The findings revealed some common themes:

- **Confidence doesn’t always equal capability.** While 88% feel confident managing their health, 75% of people overestimate their abilities, with many struggling in key areas like navigation and information appraisal.
- **Barriers are widespread.** Two-thirds of residents face obstacles such as difficulty interacting with providers, not knowing what services exist or feeling unsure about which information to trust.
- **Some groups face heightened challenges.** Newcomers to Canada, Indigenous communities, young adults, seniors and people with lower incomes often encounter affordability, language and cultural barriers.
- **Trust in information sources varies.** Many search online for health information, but only one in five say they trust what they find.

These insights confirm that Health Literacy is essential for timely care, equitable access and better outcomes.

TURNING INSIGHT INTO ACTION

Health Literacy is a shared commitment. Whether you are a policymaker, educator, employer, community leader or simply someone who cares, you can play a role in building a Saskatchewan where everyone has the knowledge, confidence and support to make informed health decisions.

Saskatchewan Blue Cross is focused on opportunities for collective action:

- **Championing mental health literacy** — Supporting peer-to-peer education in schools, workplaces and community groups, and making trauma-informed training part of everyday learning.
- **Strengthening navigation support** — Creating tools, guides and human supports to help people know where to go, what to ask and how to follow up, including multilingual and digital options.
- **Expanding access to trusted information** — Providing plain-language, culturally-relevant and multilingual resources in familiar spaces like libraries, schools and community centres.
- **Supporting community-led solutions** — Investing in initiatives designed by and for Indigenous and Newcomer communities, including translation services and culturally safe programming.
- **Exploring innovative models** — Encouraging approaches like mobile health units, transportation supports and virtual care literacy programs to reach people where they are.

By investing in Health Literacy, we’re helping ensure that everyone has the tools they need to take control of their health journey.

LOOKING AHEAD

This work doesn’t stop here. Listening to community voices, investing strategically in programs that close gaps and collaborating across sectors will continue to guide the effort.

The goal is simple but powerful:

A Saskatchewan where every person, in every community, has the knowledge, confidence and support they need to live a healthy life.

To learn more about Health Literacy initiatives, visit sk.bluecross.ca/community.

Invested in our communities.
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RCMP news highlights

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle
Reporter

On Wednesday, Sept. 10, the Spiritwood RCMP Detachment arrested a man in relation to a fatal collision between a vehicle and an ATV.

On Saturday, Sept. 6, just before 9 p.m., the Spiritwood RCMP Detachment responded to a collision on a road near the mall on Pelican Lake First Nation.

Investigation determined a vehicle and an ATV collided, and the driver of the vehicle left the scene on foot.

The operator of the ATV was declared deceased by EMS at the scene of the collision. He has been identified as a 26-year-old male from Pelican Lake First Nation.

As a result of continued investigation, 33-year-old Richard Bear from Pelican Lake First Nation was arrested and charged with one count each of dangerous operation of a motor vehicle causing death and

one count of failure to stop after accident resulting in death.

Police seek suspect

For the second time this month, the Prince Albert RCMP detachment is calling on the public's assistance in locating 34-year-old Devin Naytowhow, who is wanted in connection with an armed robbery that occurred on the Sturgeon Lake First Nation on Aug. 21.

Police have also added one count of robbery with a weapon and one count of possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose to his list of charges.

On Aug. 21, police received a report of a robbery



Devin Naytowhow is still wanted by police.

and officers' initial investigation determined that a male and a female came into the residence and threatened the occupant with a knife while demanding the keys to their vehicle.

The male and the female then left in the victim's vehicle. The victim was not physically injured during the robbery.

Police say the investigation is ongoing, and are asking the public to please report any sightings of the vehicle. The vehicle is described as a black 2017 Hyundai Accent, with the Saskatchewan plate 278 NYU.

A few days after the initial report of the robbery police asked the public to report sightings and information on the whereabouts of 34-year-old Devin Naytowhow, who is wanted on warrant for charges including: two counts each of possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose and unauthorized possession of a firearm and ammunition in a motor vehicle, and

one count each of possession of a firearm knowing its possession is unauthorized and flight from a peace officer.

These charges were laid in connection with investigations from April 27, Sept. 17, Oct. 19, and Nov. 20, 2023.

Naytowhow is described as 5 feet 9 inches and 250 lbs, with brown hair and brown eyes. He is known to travel to the Sturgeon Lake First Nation, the Little Red River First Nation, and Prince Albert, and police believe he may be driving a black 2017 Hyundai Accent with the Saskatchewan license plate 278 NYU.

Naytowhow is considered dangerous and should not be approached.

Anyone who sees Naytowhow or the vehicle, is urged to report it to police by calling 306-310-RCMP (7267). Information can also be submitted anonymously by contacting Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or www.sask-crimestoppers.com.

BRFN man arrested

A man who was the subject of a dangerous person alert on the Big River First Nation on Wednesday, Sept. 10, has been arrested.

On that day, at approximately 2:50 p.m., the Big River RCMP Detachment received a report of an armed male on Big River First Nation.

Officers responded immediately and began searching for the male. Investigation determined the male was driving around the community on a dirt bike and had discharged a firearm several times. No physical injuries were reported.

Responding officers located the male suspect, who fled on foot into a forested area. In consideration of the public safety risk associated with the suspect, Saskatchewan RCMP issued a dangerous person alert to the Big River First Nation and the surrounding area.

Saskatchewan RCMP's Police Dog Services, Remotely Piloted Aircraft

System, and Critical Incident Response Team were engaged to assist in the search for the suspect.

At approximately 6:15 p.m., officers located and arrested the male suspect in a heavily treed area near the community of Big River First Nation, and the dangerous person alert was cancelled.

As a result of continued investigation, 19-year-old Drayden McAdam from the Big River First Nation is charged with one count each of possession of a weapon for a dangerous, unauthorized possession of a firearm, and resisting/obstructing peace officer.

McAdam was also arrested on an outstanding warrant from the Big River First Nation for assault, and charged with two counts of assault with a weapon and four other offences in relation to a Sept. 6 incident on Big River First Nation.

McAdam was scheduled to appear in Prince Albert Provincial Court on Sept. 15.

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Tariff supports sure to prove costly

The tariffs that are being imposed against Canadian exports may finally be having the hugely negative effects many have feared.

Initially, in the face of tariffs imposed by the willy-nilly trade policies of US president Donald Trump, Canada fared rather well.

Many Canadians have taken the 'elbows-up' approach when making purchases, looking for Canadian produced products firstly — as it should be at all times, really — then to products from other countries, and finally, only in desperation, buying American products.

It's been effective economically, and has been a positive, also, in

terms of building solidarity among Canadians — something we sometimes lose track of — in the belief that this nation is better than most and we should have a collective pride in it.

But in the end, Canada's buying power domestically just is not that large.

The ag sector learned that lesson when Canada was forced to eat its way from under a mountain of beef in the years immediately following the discovery of BSE in a Canadian cow in 2003, effectively shutting down most exports for an extended period.

The BSE situation was hugely difficult for the Canadian meat sector, which relies heavily on

exports.

The current situation is much broader, though, with Trump basically seeming to want to build a tariff wall around the U.S. by banning imports of all things. With the U.S. being Canada's major market, that hurts.

Making it worse is that China is in a bad mood regarding Canada at present as well, and so they have imposed



CALVIN DANIELS

tariffs too — of primary concern to Canadian Prairie farmers ones on canola.

Buffeted by tariffs, the Canadian domestic economy will not be able to offset all the hurts.

That has various sectors looking to Ottawa for support, and therein lies the upcoming hurt this country must come to terms with.

Last week, the federal government announced a "Buy Canadian Policy" to help the steel and aluminum sector deal with U.S. tariffs. And it also pledged to introduce new bio-fuel production incentives and provide more than \$370 million to assist domestic canola producers, who have been hit by Chinese tar-

iffs.

Of course, once the feds announce support for one or two sectors, others will be lining up pointing out how they are being hurt by tariffs too and are worthy of support. Where that ends is a question without an answer.

Now, maybe if Premier Scott Moe gets his mission to China off the ground, something can be done to smooth Chinese feathers to get the tariffs at least modified. There are certainly indications China sees the weakening of the international stature of the United States caused by Trump's daily rants as an opportunity to flex its muscles internationally. That has them seeming

to cozy up more with Russia and North Korea, but it might inch trade doors open for Canada, too.

As for U.S. tariffs, nothing will appease Trump. If you give an inch — like removing reciprocal tariffs — he'll only expect more concessions. It's rather clear consultation and negotiations will not work with him.

So, the Trump tariffs are going to be long term, and that means whatever support Ottawa comes up with will need to be long term too — and that means it will be costly.

Where such dollars come from without crippling long-term debt is another question without a clear answer.

Crop Report: Sept. 2 to 6

By MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
Submitted

Producers were able to make significant harvest progress over the past week, although some areas experienced rain delays. Currently, 41 per cent of this year's crop is in the bin, up from 23 per cent reported last week. This is behind the five-year average of 58 per cent and the 10-year average of 49 per cent. Although the mostly dry weather has allowed harvest to progress, combine and equipment fires are a significant risk. Producers are also monitoring stored grain closely as there are concerns for bin heating given the high temperatures that occurred at the time of combining.

The southwest region remains the furthest advanced in harvest progress with 55 per cent complete. The southeast region is at the half-way point, with 50 per cent of harvest complete. The northwest region currently has 41 per cent harvested, the east-central region has 31 per cent harvested and the west-central and northeast regions are both at 27 per cent harvested.

Harvest is nearly complete across the province for winter cereals and field peas while lentils are 84 per cent complete. Triticale is 64 per cent harvested, barley is 54 per cent, durum is 49 per cent, spring wheat is 35 per cent, oats are 35 per cent and canary seed is 11 per cent harvested. Chickpeas are estimated to be 24 per cent harvested. For oilseed crops, mustard is the furthest advanced at 27 per cent, followed by canola at 12 per cent and flax at three per cent harvested.

The range in growing conditions across the province has caused varying yield estimates for all crop types.

Regionally, producers also indicate large variations in yield from field to field due to the scattered rainfall amounts received throughout the growing season. The current estimated averages of crop yields are 50 bushels per acre for hard red spring wheat, 38 bushels for durum, 93 bushels for oats, 71 bushels for barley, 39 bushels for canola, 42 bushels for field peas and 1,784 pounds per acre for lentils. Throughout many regions of the province, crop yields have been negatively impacted by the dry conditions experienced in many regions.

Much of the province received limited or no rainfall this past week. However, the Foam Lake area reported 30 mm of precipitation followed by the Lipton and Langenburg areas that reported 26 mm and 20 mm respectively. The Raymore and Porcupine Plain areas each recorded 18 mm.

Topsoil moisture conditions continue to decline due to the dry weather conditions. Currently, cropland topsoil moisture is rated as two per cent surplus, 58 per cent adequate, 33 per cent short and seven per cent very short. Hayland is rated as two per cent surplus, 48 per cent adequate, 36 per cent short and 14 per cent very short. Pasture topsoil moisture is rated as three per cent surplus, 45 per cent adequate, 34 per cent short and 18 per cent very short. There is a significant need for large amounts of precipitation in many areas to help with replenishing topsoil and subsoil moisture levels along with improving pasture conditions.

Crop damage over the past week was mainly due to frost, wind and dry conditions. Grasshoppers are being reported at higher numbers in some areas with overall minor to moderate

crop damage estimated.

Producers are busy combining, swath and desiccating later seeded crops, along with baling straw, hauling bales and hauling grain. Some producers are beginning their fall field work which includes harrowing and post-harvest spraying for weed control.

As harvest is a very busy time for producers, they are reminded to take safety measures in all the work they do. This includes having fire mitigation resources on hand and taking precautions when working around powerlines. The public is reminded to take extra caution, time and space when encountering machinery on the roads.

Northwestern Sask.

Producers made significant harvest progress within the region over the past week due to the dry weather conditions. Harvest currently sits at 41 per cent complete, which is up from the 12 per cent reported last week. This is ahead of the five-year average of 36 per cent and the 10-year average of 25 per cent. As producers continue with harvest, they are also busy with baling straw, hauling bales and swath and desiccating some of the later seeded crops.

Winter cereal harvest is complete within the region. Lentil and field pea harvest are nearing completion with 96 per cent and 93 per cent harvested, respectively. Sixty per cent of spring wheat is harvested, barley is 54 per cent and oats are 34 per cent harvested. For oilseed crops, canola is reported to be seven per cent harvested and flax is three per cent harvested. Harvest percentages reported include crop harvested as feed.

Estimated crop yields vary throughout the region with areas reporting

poorer yields that did not receive adequate moisture. Overall, producers are indicating that the increased heat and lack of moisture experienced throughout the growing season negatively impacted yield and quality for various crops. Producers estimate 43 bushels per acre for hard red spring wheat, 74 bushels per acre for oats, 63 bushels per acre for barley, 37 bushels per acre for canola, 40 bushels per acre for field peas and 1,858 pounds per acre for lentils. A full summary of estimated crop yields for all regions can be viewed in the estimated crop yields table.

No precipitation was recorded in any part of the region over the past week.

Topsoil moisture declined significantly over the past week due to lack of moisture and increased temperatures within the region. Currently, cropland topsoil moisture is rated 32 per cent adequate, 49 per cent short and 19 per cent very short. Hayland is rated as 20 per cent adequate, 40 per cent short and 40 per cent very short. Pasture topsoil moisture is rated as 20 per cent adequate, 39 per cent short and 41 per cent very short. Significant amounts of precipitation will be needed in much of the region to help replenish critically low soil moisture levels along with improving detrimental pasture conditions.

Over the past week, reporters indicated moderate to severe crop damage was caused by frost and dry conditions. Minor to moderate crop damage due to wind, migratory birds and other wildlife was also reported. Producers also indicated that grasshoppers, lygus bugs and bertha armyworm caused minor to moderate damage in some isolated areas of the region.

W. P. Sandin class of 75 holds 50th reunion

By NOREEN AGREY
Submitted

W.P. Sandin High School's class of 1975 gathered at the Shellbrook Sports Grounds on May 31 and June 1 for their 50th reunion.

After 50 years, classmates, including those who were in the class in grade 11, reconnected and had great conversations about high school days and what has happened in our lives since then.

Mr. McComas and Mr. Hein were able to join us for portions of the weekend. We had a great time and plan to find another opportunity to get together before another 50 years goes by.



Bottom row left to right: Debbie (Lemecha) Mason, Noreen (Tunem) Agrey, Ruth (Van de Veen) Peake, Arlene Schmalz, Elaine (Weiss) Gill, Sandra (Potts) Stochmanski, and Marlene Johnson. Second row: Bev (Miller) Caporal, Shirley (Kennedy) Nagy, Brenda (Miller) Kennedy, Dale (Christianson) Olson, Brenda (Agnew) Piper, Lori (Johnson) Hughes, Janice (Van de Veen) Barkway, Helene (Martin) Jeffries. Third row: Ben Bilyk, Barry Henry, Perry Loth, Terry Bilyk, DougLaBrash, Art Hughes, Kevin Potts, and Carl Piper. Top row: Rick Agrey, Harry Groenen, Ken Miners, Phil Miller, Robert Evans, Pat Kendel, and Gary Waterhouse. Missing: Les Pechawis and Dawn (Kennedy) Nagy.

Shellbrook Library August highlights

By EDDIE HOEHN
Branch Librarian

August was an exciting month at the library. Participants enjoyed the TD Summer Reading Club programs before heading back to school.

On Thursday, Aug. 14, the kids learned how to make their own candy DNA model to take home at the Candy DNA Program. Volunteer and local library board member Samuel Schafer instructed the kids using Twizzlers and gummy bears.

On Monday, Aug. 18, the kids witnessed a chemical reaction, similar to a lava lamp, with water, cooking oil, food colouring, and part of an Alka-Seltzer tablet in plastic bottles. Volunteers Asta Schmalz and Alice Rossetti helped with the program.

Participants witnessed the chemical reaction of Mentos being added to bottles of Diet Coke and Diet Pepsi at the Erupting Diet Coke with Mentos Program on Thursday, Aug. 21. Volunteer Asta Schmalz helped with this program outside the library.



Gabriel, Drohnen and volunteer Alice watch the eruption of Diet Coke mixed with Mentos.



Ava, Wyatt and Wesley work with robots during the cubelets program.

Raelyn Vezeau from Wapiti Regional Office came to the library on Friday, Aug. 22, to present the Cubelets Program to eager participants. Participants connected magnetic robotic cubes which did different things, such as lighting up and spinning. The robots were able to roll along the table and floor

on wheels.

The kids made a flying rocket using paper and a straw at the Build a Paper Rocket Program on Monday, Aug. 25. Volunteers Marj Bradley and Alice Rossetti helped run the program.

The kids created planets from playdough and balloons to scale on Thursday, August 28th at the Solar System Building Program.

Participants exercised their creativity at Lego Club in August by making an air hockey table, the Eiffel Tower and a robot, a camping lantern which held a real tea light, and a weight-bearing bridge and a scale from Legos. Volunteer and local library board member Samuel Schafer helped run Lego Club.

The kids enjoyed Summer Storytime presented by Raelyn Vezeau from Wapiti Regional Office, Beach Storytime pre-

sented by volunteer and local library board member Samuel Schafer, Painter Frida Kahlo Storytime presented by volunteer Marj Bradley, and Birthday Storytime. The kids played a game at Summer Storytime where they guessed which pail Raelyn hid a felt whale under on a storyboard.

Participants had fun finding cutout pictures of summer items and seashells hidden in the library at Summer and Beach Storytimes. They made fun crafts such as cupcake liner fish, a paper plate beach scene, a self-portrait of Frida Kahlo with pretend paper flowers, leaves, and birds, and cardstock party hats with ribbons, stickers, and items of choice.

Ice Cream Storytime was held on Saturday, Aug. 23. Participants correctly guessed which felt ice cream cone the ice cream was hidden under on a storyboard. They made a

pretend ice cream revel with cardstock, googly eyes, and a popsicle stick.

The library participated in regular weekly draws at the local level for TD Summer Reading Club winners. Milo Naber, Ava Naber, and Wesley Naber won the draws.

Volunteer and local library board member Samuel Schafer presented Trivia Night on Tuesday, Sept. 2, at the library. The theme was "Back to School" to fit in with the first day of the school year. As well as the usual "Name That Tune" category, attendees participated in a "Name That Movie" and a school-style vocabulary round where players found a single word that fit three different definitions. Following that, attendees played a game of the library's Are You Smarter than a Fifth Grader board game.

More photos on page 9

Shellbrook Library August highlights



Lizzy, Layla, Theodore, and Jordan with their load-bearing bridges from Lego Club.



Participants take part in September's Trivia Night.



Bennett, Natasha, and Dawson showcase their self-portraits from Frida Kahlo Storytime.

Fall Gardening Chores: Part I

By **JACKIE BANTLE**
Sask. Perennial Society

Fall is a bittersweet time for gardeners. On one hand, all the hard work of the growing season is finally paying off with a delicious and varied harvest. Yet, there's a definite chill in the air, signaling the end of the season and cooler temperatures to come. With the arrival of fall, there are still many tasks to complete to prepare our yards for the winter.

Not all plants respond equally to frost. Crops that must be harvested prior to a killing frost (0°C) include cucum-

bers, beans, eggplant, lettuce, watermelon, peas, peppers, zucchini, tomato, cantaloupe and corn.

Onions are ready to harvest once their tops have fallen over. Stubborn onion tops can be "encouraged" to fall over by lightly stepping on them. Trim off the stems at the point at which they're broken. Harvest them if frosts of -1°C or lower are predicted, allowing them to cure in a warm location (20°C) with good air movement for about one week.

Leeks can withstand a few degrees of frost and have a slightly sweeter flavour if they

are exposed to cooler temperatures.

Cabbage can withstand up to 3 degrees of frost. Brussels sprouts benefit from several degrees of frost to encourage a sweet flavour and can withstand several hard frosts of -4 or -5°C as long as they thaw during the day.

Root and tuber crops such as beets, carrots, rutabagas and potatoes should be left in the ground for at least one killing frost to improve their sweetness. As long as night temperatures do not dip below -4°C and are above 8°C during the day, the soil provides enough insulation to prevent the

roots and tubers from freezing. To encourage potato tuber skins to set, the tops should either be dead or physically removed for at least one week prior to harvest.

Although winter squash and pumpkin vines freeze at 0°C, the mature fruit can survive -4°C. Once harvested, cure them indoors in a warm (20°C) dry location. Long term storage in a slightly cooler, dry basement is recommended for pumpkins and winter squash. Green pumpkins can be ripened to orange in a warm, sunny, dry location.

In addition to harvesting vegetables, it is time to prepare trees and perennials for the winter season. Avoid fertilizing perennials, trees and shrubs in the late summer and early fall. Reduce irrigation during this time as well. Late applications of fertilizer and abundant water will encourage new, succulent growth which will not be winter hardy. After leaves have fallen and top growth has been killed due to frost, one last deep thorough watering of perennials, trees and shrubs is recommended just prior to freeze-up. Additionally, reduce lawn irrigation in the fall to slow grass down and prepare for cooler temperatures. Avoid applying fertilizer to lawns after Aug. 31.

Whether or not to cut back perennial plants after fall frost is up to a gardener's preference. I like to keep any seed heads from my perennial plants intact over the winter in order to provide food for birds

as well as some winter interest in the garden (ex. Karl Foerster grass waving above the winter snow). Some gardeners prefer to clean up the perennial bed prior to snow fall so that they are ready for new growth in spring. Plant debris can help collect snow, provide some protection for underground roots as well as a shelter for overwintering insects like lady bugs. On the other hand, if you had an insect problem in your garden this year, removing plant debris and working up the soil prior to freeze-up may help to kill some of the pests that are trying to overwinter in the garden soil.

Of course, as the leaves fall, it is a good idea to rake up leaves off the lawn prior to snowfall. Excess leaf material on the lawn overwinter can create a perfect environment

for the growth of lawn snow mold. Use those extra leaves to protect your tender perennials or add to your compost.

If you have future plans to seed a new lawn or lay sod, fall is an excellent time to complete this task. Without the stress of hot, dry conditions, the sod will have an excellent chance of forming strong roots. Similarly, a newly seeded lawn will be easier to keep moist for quick seed germination in fall. As long as you are able to cut the new lawn at least once prior to freeze-up, the lawn seedlings should survive the winter without much damage.

Bantle is a horticulturist living in Saskatoon.

This column is provided courtesy of the Saskatchewan Perennial Society (SPS; saskperennial@hotmail.com).



Maple tree leaves in fall.

Photo Credit: Jackie Bantle



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CCCP shares online safety tips for kids

By CCCP
Submitted

The Canadian Centre for Child Protection is urging parents to be aware of the apps their children are using and the information they may inadvertently be sharing with strangers. Imagine a world in which your whereabouts at any given time are broadcast to everyone you know using a GPS-tracking device. While this may seem

unsettling for many, you should know that for millions of teenagers this is a voluntary part of their everyday lives. Your teen may find it normal — even expected — to share their location with their friends, their partners, and their followers; however, this constant accessibility comes with risks. Cybertip.ca, Canada’s tipline for reporting the online sexual exploitation of children, is warning parents and

caregivers that your teen may be sharing their real-time location through social media, making them potentially vulnerable to coercive control, emotional distress, and sextortion threats. These location sharing map features are available and widely used on two of the most popular social media platforms used by Canadian youth: Instagram and Snapchat. It’s important to initiate conversations

with your teen and ask if they have activated real-time location sharing, who they are sharing it with, and discuss the potential risks involved. **A tool for coercive control** Research shows that some young people view the constant monitoring of their whereabouts — like through location tracking and incessant texting — as a sign their partner cares and is concerned about their well-being, and not as a possible coercive control tactic. Some partners may pressure teens to share their locations and even accuse them of being unfaithful, secretive, or dishonest if they don’t. It’s important to talk to teens about healthy boundaries and red flags that can surface in relationships. **Risks of emotional distress** Sharing one’s real-time location with

some or all of their online networks also has the potential to create new and unexpected sources of distress. For example, when a teen’s friend group shares its location with one another, the teen will be immediately aware if they are being excluded from social gatherings. This can lead teens to feel inadequate, or it can create pressure to appear busy and socially active even if they aren’t (or really, just want personal time). These location sharing functions can also create an expectation of continuous access and generate high levels of peer pressure to share private information which can cause conflict among friends. **Amplifying sextortion threats** Through reports to Cybertip.ca, we’ve also encountered instances where sextorters leverage a victim’s location as a way to threaten

and intimidate them. In such cases, a sextorter may use it as a way to scare the victim into believing they can reach the victim’s community, such as their teachers, family, friends, or police department. **Next steps** Talk to your teen about their location sharing habits. Some good discussion points include:

- If they feel pressure or expectations to share their location with others;
- If they think this practice is healthy or beneficial;
- Whether they know and trust those who can access their location, and if they should think about restricting access to a narrower group;
- How often they use the location sharing functions and if more limited or case-specific uses are more appropriate.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

SPIRITWOOD: Wapiti Regional Library - Tuesday 10am - 5pm; Wednesday 10am - 5pm; Thursday 1pm to 5pm; Friday 10am - 5pm
LEOVILLE: Wapiti Regional Library - Wednesday 10am - 4pm; Thursday 10am - 4pm
SHELL LAKE: Wapiti Regional Library - Tuesday 11am - 4pm; Wednesday 12 pm -5 pm

~

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 Hours: Tuesday 9:30am - 4pm; Wednesday 10:30am - 5pm; Phone: 306-468-2501
DEBDEN: Wapiti Library hours: Tuesday 10am - 4pm; Wednesday 12pm - 6pm. Librarian: Aline Hannon
LEASK: Wapiti Library & Legacy Gallery Hours - Tuesday 9am - 2pm; Wednesday 2pm - 8pm; Friday 9am - 12pm
MARCELIN: Wapiti Library - Saturday 10am - 2pm; Thursday 2pm - 8pm. 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.

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BIG RIVER: Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting – Every Wednesday, 7:30 pm @ Train Station in Big River (Railway Avenue)

~

SHELLBROOK: Prairie Pickleball Club – Come out and try the fun & social sport of Recreational Pickleball in Shellbrook! New Players: Free Play and Beginner Lesson for the month of October! For more information or to register, phone/text: Betty Skarpinsky at (306)747-7377 or Dianne Roberts at (306)619-9295.
SHELLBROOK: Light & Lumber Rustic Market – Saturday, September 20th, 2025, Shellbrook Elks Sports Grounds, 9am to 3pm. Crafted with heart • Rooted in memory.
PARKSIDE: ‘A TOUCH OF AUTUMN’ Honeywood (Dr. A. J. Porter) Heritage Nursery Inc. *Provincial Heritage Site* Parkside, Sask. – Sept. 21st – 11 am - 4 pm. Enjoy Musical Entertainment, Great Artisan Displays, Tours, Food, Refreshments, Potted Lilies, Perennials & Trees! \$10.00/person, Children 10 and under free. Ph: 306-747-3307 - email: honeywoodn8@gmail.com, Facebook @ Honeywood Heritage Nursery Inc
SHELL LAKE: Annual Fall Supper – Sunday, October 5 @ Shell Lake Community Hall. Doors open 4:30pm; Supper 5 - 7pm. Adults \$20; 12 & Under \$8; Pre-school Free. Sponsored by: Our Lady of Smiles Catholic Church & Partners in Worship Church.
SHELL LAKE: Shell Lake Lions Club – Septemberfest. Dining, Dancing, Elimination Draw. September 27, 2025 @ Shell Lake Lions Hall. Doors Open @ 5pm, Dinner @ 6pm. Elimination Draw Grand Prize: \$1,000. Music By: Dixie Highway. \$60/Ticket - Tickets available at Shell Lake Market 306-427-2044 or Belinda 306-260-4531. Only 200 tickets to be sold.

Sask NDP pushes for mandatory ER closure notices

By SASK NDP
Submitted

The Saskatchewan NDP intends to introduce legislation during the coming fall sitting that would require a formal public notification of all emergency room closures in the province after months of analysis and testimonials from people who were unable to access emergency healthcare in rural communities. Earlier this month, the emergency room closure crisis became even more dire as it was revealed a closed emergency room in the community of Outlook was diverting patients needing lifesaving care to another emergency room in Davidson that was also closed. “Clearly, after 18 years of Sask. Party mismanagement and failure that has left healthcare in Saskatchewan in last place, there is no end in sight to emergency room closures,” said Jared Clarke, Saskatchewan NDP Rural & Remote Health Shadow Minis-

ter. “The least this incompetent government can do is provide potentially lifesaving information about which emergency rooms are open and which are closed. Minutes in these situations can literally be the difference between life and death.” The Saskatchewan NDP has identified at least 134 emergency room closures totaling 1325 days from December 2024 to the end of April. However, there are likely many, many more as notification currently is not provided by the Saskatchewan Health Authority and is often only publicly available through the social media channels of an impacted municipality. Other emergency alerts exist for health crises, such as the presence of new, deadly drugs — one such notice was issued in Saskatoon on Sept. 6 and people can sign up online to have the information emailed or texted to them in real-time. Clarke said the lack of formal notification of emergency room closures is entirely a political decision.

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Jays can thank big bats for success

The top five reasons the Toronto Blue Jays are going to give Canadian sports fans an October playoff thrill: George Springer, Bo Bichette, Daulton Varsho, Addison Barger, and Alejandro Kirk.

Notice that the five names mentioned above do not include a pitcher, because the Jays have led the American League East for a good chunk of the season in spite of poor to average pitching.

It has been decent at the front end (starters) and dismal at the back (relief corps). Only four American League teams have given up more runs than the Jays, but only one, the Yankees, has scored more.

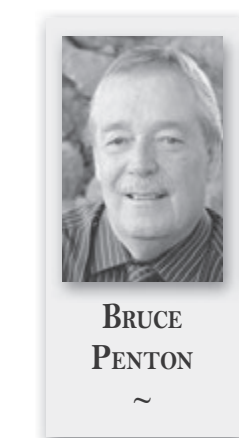
The Blue Jays are a team that can never be counted out. A great example was Sept. 3 in Cincinnati, where the Reds jumped on starter Shane Bieber for five runs in the second inning and a 5-0 lead. No problem. The Jays put their awesome offence into overdrive, pounded out five home

runs and 18 hits en route to a 13-9 victory.

Springer and Bichette have been the catalysts for the Jays. Bichette, in his seven years with the Blue Jays, had a rough season in 2024, batting .225 and playing in only 81 games due to injuries. This year, he leads the major leagues in hits, is batting comfortably over .300 and is en route to eclipsing his career-high RBI total (102 in 2021).

Springer's resurgence has been as good, or better. The 12-year vet, who has been the Jays' designated hitter for most of 2025, is having a banner year and while he won't win the A.L. MVP award (Aaron Judge and Cal Raleigh are the front-runners), he deserves to get a few votes. Springer will push past the 30-home run mark, carried a .307 batting average into the second week of September and has been Mr. Clutch all year.

While Bichette and Springer have been the two offensive keys for Toronto, the contribu-



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tions of Kirk, Barger and Varsho cannot be overlooked.

Kirk had been regarded as little more than a journeyman catcher, but his bat has come alive this year. He's been batting close to .300 all season and has already surpassed his career high RBI total, which was 63 back in 2022, and will post the best OPS figure (on-base percentage plus slugging) of his five full years in Toronto.

Varsho missed about 80 games, but since his return, he's on a 50-home run pace and has been spectacular defensively in centrefield.

Barger, meanwhile, has been the team's rookie surprise. He was a big hit in spring training, but doubts were expressed about whether he'd be able to carry the hot bat into the regular season. Well, he's third on the team in homers, fourth in RBIs and seems to always come through with a clutch hit when needed. He may not be the American League rookie of the year, but he's definitely the No. 1 freshman with the Jays.

Now, if only the relief pitching would shape up, the Jays could actually win the World Series.

• Steve Simmons of the Toronto Sun: "Give Tyson Barrie credit for a sense of humour on his retirement announcement. He said his decision was made 'in tandem with the 32 NHL teams.'"

• RJ Currie of sportsdeke.com: "In a surprising move, Maria Sharapova asked Serena Williams to speak for her at her Tennis Hall of Fame induction because Serena was her biggest rival. Really?

That's like a fly calling a windshield a rival."

• Columnist Norman Chad, commenting on gamblers seeking 'refunds' from professional athletes for poor play which resulted in losing wagers: "Am I supposed to shake down E-Harmony because my first wife left me?"

• Dan Gartland of SI-AM, after TCU's 48-14 win over North Carolina in U.S. college football: "Congratulations to Bill Belichick on shifting the focus away from the age gap between him and his girlfriend, Jordon Hudson, and toward the talent gap between his North Carolina team and TCU."

• Ontario columnist Keith Schell, on the Shane Bieber trade to the Blue Jays: "He's looking good so far, but the Jays' bats are growing cold at the worst time. He needs more run support. They can't just 'Leave it to Bieber'!"

• Comedy guy Torben Rolfsen of Vancouver: "On Hard Knocks, Buf-

falo Bills says they intend to bring the Lombardi Trophy back to western New York. When was it there before? I wonder if the Buffalo Sabres are going to bring the Stanley Cup back to Buffalo?"

• Rolfsen again: Canucks' Elias Pettersson got married over the summer. They tried to keep it as private as possible — exchanged vows between innings of a Sacramento A's game."

• Another one from Rolfsen: "The Blue Jays sold a record 92,221 hot dogs at their recent Loo-nie Dog night. Thankfully, nobody choked, other than Jeff Hoffman."

• A groaner from RJ Currie: "Just wondering: If you're an L.A. Ram, do you say please and thank ewe?"

• Headline at theonion.com: "Andy Reid Gently Tells Travis Kelce What's Expected Of Him On Wedding Night ... 'she'll probably want you to take your helmet off.'"

Care to comment? Email brucepen-ton2003@yahoo.ca

Minutes of an RM of Spiritwood meeting

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

The Regular Meeting of the Council of the Rural Municipality of Spiritwood No. 496 was held on Tuesday, Aug. 12, 2025, in Council Chambers located at 218 Main Street in Spiritwood, Sask.

Present: Reeve — Shirley Dauvin, Division 2 — Dale Wasden, Division 3 — Terry Wingerter, Division 5 — Heather Warkentin, Division 6 — Dennis Laventure, CAO — Colette Bussiere, and Foreman — Darcy Laventure.

Absent: Division 1 — Vacant, and Division 4 — Steve Buban.

A quorum being present the meeting was called to order at 8:10 a.m. by Reeve Shirley Dauvin.

Wasden: That the minutes of the July 8, 2025, Regular Meeting of Council be approved as presented. Carried

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

Foreman Darcy Laventure left the council meeting at 9:46 a.m.

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

Delegation: Delegate, Adam Berenik joined the council meeting at 11:14 a.m. to provide information on Intensive Livestock Operations and The Stray Animal Guide.

Adam Berenik left the council meeting at 11:46 a.m.

Laventure: That the verbal reports of council be accepted as presented. Carried

Terry Wingerter: That the bank reconciliation for the month ending July 31, 2025, be accepted as presented. Carried

Laventure: That the "List of Accounts" as listed on the attached Schedule "A" forming part of these minutes be passed for payment: Cheque No. 15256-15286 (\$640,632.47), EFT No. 2025-0119-2025-0132 (\$95,586.36), Payroll File No. 0030, 0032 & 0033 (\$57,392.98). Carried

Warkentin: That the Statements of Financial Activities for the month ending July 31, 2025, be approved as presented.

Warkentin: That Bylaw No. 2025-2, being a bylaw to Provide Fire Restrictions, Management and Control be read a first time. Carried

Wasden: That we enter into a Servicing Agreement with Timberland Cattle Co. for the proposed ILO on SW 27-54-10-W3. Carried

Laventure: That we accept the audit quote from Sensus, CPA for audit services as follows:

- 2025: \$8,800
- 2026: \$9,240
- 2027: \$9,700. Carried

Warkentin: That Council for the RM

of Spiritwood No. 496 recommends approval of the proposed subdivision application for a utility right of way. There are no incompatible land uses in the vicinity that would make this unsuitable for the intended use. Carried

Warkentin: That the request for an abatement of fees for the Spiritwood Fire Dept. to attend a fire call on SW 05-50-10-W3 be declined as the fire was a controlled burn that was not called in. Carried

Laventure: That the recreation funding provided by the RM of Spiritwood No. 496 be allocated as follows:

- SARCS: \$75,000
- Village of Leoville: \$12,500
- Shell Lake Parks and Recreation: \$12,500. Carried

Council: That we enter into a cattle guard agreement with Ahtahkakoop Cree Nation for the repair and maintenance of a cattle guard located in the municipal right of way between SW 12-49-10-W3 & SE 07-49-09-W3. Carried

Warkentin: That the following taxes be abated: Roll 1251 000 - \$2,380.00, Roll 238 000 - \$1,045.49. Carried

Wingerter: Council for the RM of Spiritwood No. 496 has approved an access path crossing Environmental Reserve (ER1) adjacent to Lot 7 Blk 3 in Aspen Ridge Estates.

The access path shall be no greater than 2 metres in width and the remov-

al of live mature trees and aquatic vegetation is prohibited. The applicant is solely responsible for all design, safety, and workmanship aspects associated with this approval and all work must be completed in accordance with the regulations of the Water Security Agency's Aquatic Habitat Protection Permit. Carried

Wasden: That we accept the quote in the amount \$3,209.67 for the replacement of the back door in the Spiritwood Library. Carried

Council: That the council meeting be closed to the public at 1:45 pm under the authority of Part III of The Local Authority Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, to go in camera to discuss Human Resources. Carried

CAO Colette Bussiere left council chambers at 1:45 p.m.

CAO Colette Bussiere returned to the council meeting at 1:52 p.m.

The regular meeting of council was out of camera and resumed at 1:52 p.m.

Laventure: That the following correspondence having been read now be filed: SARM Rural Sheaf, SARM Rural Dart, Northern Lakes Health Committee - June 9, 2025 Meeting Minutes, Minister's Order - Noxious Weeds, Spruce Bay Compliance Inspection Report - July 29, 2025. Carried

Wasden: That the meeting be adjourned.

RCMP shares vehicle submersion survival tips

By SASK. RCMP
Submitted

With over 100,000 bodies of water across the province, Saskatchewan RCMP want everyone to be prepared if you find yourself in a sinking or submerged vehicle. “Drivers and passengers are at significant risk when a vehicle enters the water. Water can pour in through

windows and doors causing entrapment, and the situation can quickly become life threatening. Knowing and practicing an escape plan with your family can prepare you for this kind of emergency,” says Cpl. Jamie Diemert, Saskatchewan RCMP Underwater Recovery Team (URT) Coordinator.

Saskatchewan RCMP’s URT urges drivers not to

panic, and to practice these life saving tips for exiting a sinking vehicle:

S – Seatbelts off
W – Windows open
O – Out immediately
C – Children first

The life saving acronym ‘SWOC’ was named by Dr. Gordon Giesbrecht, a leading cold water and drowning physiologist, and professor emeritus from the University

of Manitoba. Saskatchewan RCMP URT team members took part in vehicle immersion training informed by Dr. Giesbrecht earlier this summer. “No one ever plans for an accident, but we know they happen. Our police divers have responded to calls with vehicles in dugouts, sloughs, rivers and even lakes,” says Cpl. Diemert.

Since May 2025, Saskatch-

ewan RCMP’s URT has responded to three calls involving submerged vehicles. Thankfully, no drownings resulted.

Make sure you know what to do if you’re in a vehicle that suddenly becomes submerged in water by remembering ‘SWOC’.

In the event of an emergency, call 911 once you’ve safely exited the vehicle.

Sask. offers grants to support suicide prevention

By MINISTRY OF HEALTH
Submitted

As part of Pillars for Life: The Saskatchewan Suicide Prevention Plan, the provincial government is providing \$250,000 in grants to support suicide prevention initiatives across the province.

The Suicide Prevention Grant Program encourages community partners to develop creative ways to support suicide prevention, with a focus on developing leadership, reducing risks of suicide, increasing awareness

of resources, reducing stigma and promoting healthy lifestyles. Funding will support at least 25 grants, each receiving up to \$10,000.

“The tragic loss of a person by suicide is felt by family members, friends, and the entire community,” Mental Health and Addictions Minister Lori Carr said. “Addressing self-harm and suicide is a priority for our government. Providing these grants is an important way to work with partners to support the mental health of our residents across the province.”

Applications will be

accepted from groups such as community-based organizations, Indigenous organizations, school divisions and municipalities.

The Suicide Prevention Grant Program announcement takes effect as the province recognizes September 10 as Suicide Prevention Day, a day set aside to promote understanding about suicide, remove the stigma often connected to mental illness and distress, encourage people to reach out for help and provide support for those affected by a suicide attempt or loss.

Released in 2020, Pillars for Life: The Saskatchewan Suicide Prevention Plan, serves as a guide for government and partners to improve and expand suicide prevention efforts in the province.

In addition to the Suicide Prevention Grant Program, several key provincial suicide prevention initiatives include:

- Funding the community-led Roots of Hope Suicide Prevention initiative in five northern Saskatchewan communities;
- Funding a provincial rapid access suicide

loss support program through Family Service Saskatchewan, which supports the immediate psychological needs of families and friends of people who have died by suicide or survived with significant injury or trauma;

- Support of a family engagement group to gather feedback from families who have experienced suicide loss;
- Support for suicide prevention public awareness campaigns to inform individuals that help is available for people thinking of, or affected by, suicide; and

• Promotion of the national Suicide Crisis Helpline, 9-8-8.

This year, Saskatchewan is investing a record \$624 million in mental health and addictions, which includes \$2.25 million specifically for suicide prevention initiatives.

For information on how to apply for a Suicide Prevention Grant, visit: Saskatchewan.ca/suicide-prevention-grant.

To learn about resources available on suicide prevention and mental health, visit: Saskatchewan.ca/suicide-prevention.

Sask. acquires upgraded air ambulance

By MINISTRY OF HEALTH
Submitted

The Government of Saskatchewan has upgraded one of its Saskatchewan Air Ambulance (SAA) aircraft to better serve patients with complex and urgent medical needs.

The King Air B200 aircraft now has a larger entry door, a bigger stretcher with a new support system and an electronic lift. The interior of the plane has also been upgraded to accommodate these changes. These improvements make it safer and easier for emergency responders to move patients on and off the aircraft, supporting faster and more efficient emergency transport across the province. The upgraded stretcher also allows for safe and timely care for patients who may not be adequately supported with conventional stretch-

ers.

“Upgrading this aircraft reflects our continued commitment to investing in infrastructure that supports the health and wellbeing of all residents, no matter where patients live - whether in the far north or in the south,” SaskBuilds and Procurement Minister David Marit said. “This investment highlights our promise to support communities across Saskatchewan.”

The Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA), the Ministry of SaskBuilds and Procurement and the Ministry of Health partnered to improve emergency medical transport for all residents of Saskatchewan, including those in remote and northern communities.

“The upgrade to the air ambulance is an important factor in improving access to emergency health services,

particularly for patients in northern and rural areas of the province,” Rural and Remote Health Minister Lori Carr said. “Not only will it improve access, but providers will be able to safely provide advanced care to more critical care patients, saving lives.”

SAA aircraft is the oldest non-military air medical transport program in North America, serving Saskatchewan since 1946. It is one of two Saskatchewan-based critical care air medical agencies providing rapid transport and care for critically ill and injured patients.

These upgrades ensure the aircraft meets the equipment and configurational requirements to safely address the need for specialized critical care air transport, particularly in northern and remote locations, reflecting the SHA’s mission to improve health and wellbeing every day, for every-

one.

“The SHA is proud to partner with the Ministry of SaskBuilds and Procurement and the Ministry of Health to ensure all critical care patients, regardless of where they live, will now have equitable access to safe and timely emergency air transportation services when they need them,” SHA Chief Operating Officer Derek Miller said. “These changes reflect the SHA’s commitment to the delivery of inclusive, responsive care that meets the needs of all Saskatchewan residents.”

SAA operates four medically equipped airplanes, with services available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, completing about 1,500 patient transfers annually. The upgrade reflects the government’s ongoing work with the SHA to meet the growing demand for specialized critical care transport.



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Fr. Mariusz Zajac
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Whitefish
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SUNDAY
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4th Sunday, 10 am - Worship
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