

Shellbrook Chronicle & Spiritwood Herald

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Bull riding brings thrills in Spiritwood



A bull rider tries to get out of the way of a hard charging bull.

Photo credit: Kallie Smith

By **BEVRA FEE**
Spiritwood Herald Reporter

The highly popular event that draws locals and visitors in every year after harvest proved to be a hit yet again in the town of Spiritwood over Thanksgiving weekend.

Saturday's outing did not disappoint, as several of the bull riding circuit's top cowboys hauled their gear to the chutes for what is nearing their last chance at collecting points as they head into their championship event in early November.

While standings are a key driver for the top cowboys showing up in Spiritwood, it hardly seems to matter to the eager crowd that turns out in droves to watch each year. A chance to don the wide brim, clean

off the boots, get out and enjoy a night of bucking bulls, socializing and dancing to a live band is also a great attraction.

The hockey rink in Spiritwood begins its transformation well ahead of the actual event, with the aggregate being brought into the venue to dry out for spreading into the base that will welcome the unsuccessful riders.

After sitting idle for much of the summer, the arena jumps back to life for the season with the cooler weather and the arrival of the bulls. The recruiting of sponsors, the advertising, the organization of volunteers and the laying-in of supplies commences with a table auction in June. To skip the lineup and buy their way to the front row, bull-riding enthusiasts attend either in person or online to bid on tables

of eight at floor level. Limited tables mean hot bidding action, raising extra revenue for the event – all of which goes back to help pay down the facility's mortgage. Two of the auctioned tables are VIP, meaning that they also enjoy a catered meal and table service for their refreshments.

A hugely popular addition to the entertainment this year was the installation of a mechanical bull.

"We try to add something each year, building our event with ideas brought to us by our amateur 'engineering department.' Last year, we started opening the doors an hour earlier and hosting a beer garden and opening the kitchen for one of our local businesses to cook food for early guests wanting supper," commented organizer, Sue Kahl. "That turned out to be a

great move, so this year we had a sponsor ask to bring in the mechanical bull – pretty hard to say no to that!"

Cue the bulls. As the crowd is streaming in the front door and milling around getting re-acquainted with each other after the summer holiday travels, the harvest isolation, or just being back in the old hometown for Thanksgiving, the bulls are banging and clanging their way into the corrals via the back door.

Loaded up into the chutes and assigned to compete against their cowboys, the bulls were in a mean mood on Oct. 11. The cowboys held their own, though, with talent in attendance from across Canada (even Quebec), and a Brazilian helping to rock the crowd.

Continued on page 5



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Wapiti Regional Library celebrates 75 years

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

In 1946, an era before regional libraries were even a notion in Saskatchewan, Marion Gilroy was hired as the province's first supervisor of regional libraries and embarked on a roadtrip across Saskatchewan to determine where the first regional library would be established.

She spent hours, days, weeks, talking to municipal councils and library supporters about the benefits of establishing a regional library system, and found eager advocates in Prince Albert Mayor John M. Cuelenaere and city councillor Marion Sherman.

As a result of their efforts, the North Central Saskatchewan Regional Library opened in 1950, changing its name to Wapiti Regional Library in 1975 — its 25th anniversary.

Today, even as the internet has become deeply ingrained in everyone's lives, Wapiti Regional Library branches continue to be integral parts of the communities they serve, with active public libraries in Shellbrook, Spiritwood, Big River, Canwood, Debden, Leask, Marcelin, Blaine Lake, Shell Lake, and Leoville.

"Libraries are not only the last truly democratic space left in our society, but they also continue to be the centre of their communities," said Wapiti CEO Tony Murphy of the continued importance of libraries. "They're hubs where people from every demographic one can think of have access to information, programming, entertainment, and, importantly, each other."

This year, Wapiti is celebrating 75 years of serving its many communities. In Shellbrook, it did so on Saturday, Oct. 4, with an afternoon of fun provided by children's entertainer Danny Kazam, as well as time for visiting and cake.

But while there is much to celebrate, Murphy admits that shortfalls in provincial funding for public libraries have frequently required Wapiti to evolve and change the way it provides services to best meet the needs of its communities.

"Fortunately, Wapiti has also thrived on the support of the people, who largely understand the value of libraries within their communities," he said.

"A great example is 2017, when the provincial



Marion Gilroy, Prince Albert Mayor John Cuelenaere, Carlyle King, and Mrs. Berg W.S. Lloyd celebrate the grand opening of the North Central Saskatchewan Regional Library's grand opening in 1950.

government attempted, albeit briefly, to cut regional library funding by 58 per cent. Thanks to a grassroots uprising of protests and letter/social media campaigns, the funding was restored in fairly short order."

Noting that provincial funding is expected to be Wapiti's main challenge now and into the future — especially as everything becomes more expensive with each passing year — Murphy says the regional library will continue to find ways to evolve and "do more with less" for as long as it can, in order to avoid implementing service cuts.

"Despite the budgetary constraints of continual

funding shortfalls, Wapiti will continue to reinvent what the public library is and what it provides to its users and communities," he said.

"Public libraries have evolved in the era of Google, through the rise and continued growth of ebooks and a great variety of digital resources. Despite the rise and popularity of digital materials, the physical book remains at the heart of our libraries. Wapiti constantly looks for new and/or better ways to serve our library users and their communities, and we strive to maintain that community hub as a place all of our citizens can go to access information, programming, and digital resources."



Danny Kazam introduces kids to Chico the monkey during Wapiti's 75th anniversary celebration in Shellbrook.



The North Central Saskatchewan Regional Library's "Bookmobile" served the area in the regional library's early days.

PICK OF THE WEEK

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Former teacher reflects on one-room schools

By JORDAN TWISS
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

Like many other Saskatchewanians from her generation, long-time Shellbrook resident Edith Henry still holds on to memories of growing up in one-room school houses.

Once a common feature of rural Saskatchewan — similar to grain elevators — the Saskatchewan One Room School Project has documented more than 5,000 one-room school houses that were operational between 1887 and 1970.

As a student, these school houses were all Henry knew. And when she started school, she shared a classroom with kids ranging from Grade 1 to Grade 10.

Though her mother had taught her reading and arithmetic at home, in hopes she'd be placed with older students in

Grade 2, Henry's teacher at the time didn't believe in letting students skip grades. So, she was the only Grade 1 student in her schoolhouse.

"I was bored, and I answered the questions ahead of the Grade 2s sometimes, until I got myself into trouble," Henry recalled. "At that time, when you didn't do what you were told, you stood in the corner. So, I spent a fair amount of time standing in the corner."

Despite this, Henry grew to love school so much that, by the time she was in Grade 4, she knew she wanted to be a teacher. So, once she finished her grade school education, she went to teacher's college from 1952 to 1953, and began teaching the year she graduated.

Henry began her teaching career at Norden School near Kinistino, teaching eight subjects to students in



Shellbrook resident Edith Henry stands outside the old Norden School near Kinistino, where her teaching career began in 1953.

Grade 1 through Grade 8.

In addition to teaching, it was also Henry's responsibility to ensure the students had water, as the school had no running water. This meant hauling ice blocks the school division had cut out of the nearby lake.

"I did the janitor work in order to not have to pay rent at the teacherage," she said. "It was my job to carry those big blocks of ice and put one in the cooler in the school and in the teacherage. As the ice melted, you'd have to get the minnows out of the cooler, otherwise the water didn't taste good."

During the school day, Henry put work on the blackboard for all of her students, preferring it to the use of workbooks.

"I felt that the only way I could really know if the children understood what I was teaching was if I put it on the blackboard and have them answer each question in a sentence," Henry said. "Then, I corrected every book every night after school, so that I knew if my students were having trouble."

In addition to the blackboard, which couldn't fit the lessons for every grade, teachers in Henry's era also used hectographs, gelatin pads that were about the size of a foolscap page. Using special ink, teachers wrote their lessons on the hectograph, then transferred it over to foolscap. Once done, they'd use a damp sponge to clean the hectograph and put their next lesson up.

Rather than finding it a challenge to teach so many students across so many grades, Henry says it was a blessing at times.

"When you taught your older students, if they finished their work quickly and your lower grades were having trouble in a certain subject, you could get them to help," she said. "Children learn from children a lot easier than they do from an adult. And that way, they both learned."

After teaching for a year at Norden School, Henry moved to the Rich Valley School just north of Shellbrook for one year, then to the Moonbeam School just south of Canwood for

two years. She ended her seven-year career teaching Grades 2 and 3 in a more modern school setting in Canwood.

Interestingly enough, Henry says she faced just as many challenges teaching only two grades.

"The trouble was, they had closed some rural schools," she said. "A lot of the students had come in from the rural schools, but some of them couldn't read or didn't know anything about arithmetic. They'd been set off in the corner. They had to pretty well learn to read and do their numbers over again."

Though Henry's teaching career was short-lived, as she got married, had kids, and stayed home to tend the farm, Henry says she always missed the kids and the fun she had teaching and playing with them.

Recently, she returned to the Norden School near Kinistino, and enjoyed the opportunity to relive her time in the classroom. Though she was excited to find the old school house still standing, she admits she was disappointed to see that it had been vandalized.

"That seems to be the big thing nowadays; if there's a building standing, you've got to smash it up and vandalize it," she lamented.

RCMP seeks Sturgeon Lake robbery suspect

By JORDAN TWISS
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

The Prince Albert RCMP Detachment is renewing calls for the public to assist it in locating a suspect believed to be involved in a robbery that occurred on the Sturgeon Lake First Nation on Sept. 23.

On Tuesday, Sept. 23, at approximately 3:40 p.m., the detachment responded to a report about a robbery in the community. Police investigation determined a woman was approached by a group of individuals outside a residence on Sturgeon Lake First Nation. A male pointed a firearm at the female and demanded the keys to her truck. The group of individuals left in the stolen vehicle.

While four suspects involved with the robbery have been arrested and charged, police continue to seek 27-year-old Toby Daniels from Sturgeon Lake First Nation, who has been charged with one count each of using an imitation firearm in an offence, and robbery with a weapon.

Daniels is also wanted on charges, including sexual assault, in relation to a May 18, 2025 incident on Sturgeon Lake First Nation.

A warrant has been issued for Daniels' arrest. Prince Albert RCMP continue to investigate and work to locate Daniels, and ask members of the public to report sightings and information on his whereabouts.

Daniels is described as 5'7" and 130 lbs, with brown hair and brown eyes.

If you see Toby Daniels, do not approach him. Report all sightings and information on his whereabouts to Prince Albert RCMP by calling 310-RCMP (7267). Information can also be submitted anonymously by contacting Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or www.saskcrimestoppers.com.



Toby Daniels.

VILLAGE OF LEASK LOT FOR SALE BY PUBLIC TENDER

Under the provisions of *The Tax Enforcement Act*, The Village of Leask is accepting sealed tenders for the purchase of the following tax title property:

Legal Description: Lot 4 Blk/Par 25 Plan 65A1428
ISC Parcel NO. 132998192
Civic Address: 219 1st Ave, Leask, SK
Zoning: Residential

All tenders must be submitted in a sealed envelope clearly marked "Property Tender – Lot 4 Blk/Par 25 Plan 65A1428"

Each tender must include: The bid amount, a deposit of 10% of the bid amount in the form of a certified cheque or bank draft payable to the Village of Leask and the bidder's full name, mailing address, and contact information.

Tenders must be received no later than **November 17, 2025** at the Village Office, located at 15 Main Street, Leask.

Conditions of Sale: The property is sold as-is, without warranty. The highest or any tender may not necessarily be accepted. The successful bidder will be required to pay the balance within 30 days of notification. If the balance is not paid, the deposit will be forfeited. All legal costs, title transfers fees and applicable taxes are the responsibility of the purchaser and are in addition to the bid price.

Dated this 10th day of October 2025

Yvette Hamel,
Administrator, Village of Leask

SALE BY PUBLIC TENDER

- The Village of Leoville offers for sale the following property.
Legal description E ½ 31 53 11 W3 BLK A PLAN 86B03145
58.83 acres
2025 Assessment – \$351,435.00 RM OF SPIRITWOOD NO. 496
On-site Hangar was built in 1982 50'x 60'
12' interior walls
40' electric folding door
Frame – Pole support
Metal exterior walls
Dirt Floor
16' x 34' Attached Office
- A tender must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked:
"Airport Tender" addressed to:
Village of Leoville Box 280 Leoville, SK S0J 1N0
- Tenders must be received by October 31, 2025.
- A certified cheque to the Village of Leoville for 5% of the amount of the tender must accompany the tender. If the bid is unsuccessful the certified cheque shall be returned to the bidder.
- Highest, or any tender, not necessarily accepted.
- Successful bidder will have 30 days to provide the balance cash to complete the purchase. If the successful bidder does not complete the purchase on the terms and within the time specified, the deposit will be forfeited.
- All legal costs, title transfer fees and applicable taxes are the responsibility of the purchaser and are in addition to the tender bid price.
- The property is sold on an "as is" basis.
- A second hangar (50' x 50') with power is on site but is NOT included in this sale by tender.

Dated the 7th day of October, 2025.

Monique Hare
CAO, Village of Leoville

Trump's 'truths' reshape reality

Last week, as they celebrated the 85th annual National Newspapers Week, those who work in the news business called on the public to aid them in protecting the truth by ensuring they get their news from credible, fact-checked news sources.

While there's always been a degree of interpretation involved in parsing out what's true and what's false — there are, after all, at least two sides to every story — it's never been too hard to cut through the weeds of opinions and spin doctoring and arrive at something that at least resembles the truth.

In recent years, however, the rise and proliferation of social media and AI have changed the game completely. Now, fake news publications reign supreme, and they've become so sophisticated that it's easy to fall for the false narratives they push.

More often than not these days, fake news publications write the script for what's true and false before credible news sources can bring the actual fact-checked truth into the conversation. And by the time reputable news sources do present the truth, it's already too late; the court of public opinion has made up its mind, and anyone who tries to present new facts may as well be screaming into the void.

Few people have been as adept at tailoring reality as U.S. President Donald Trump. Despite being a billionaire, Mr. Trump has used his platform (including Truth Social, his very own social media platform) to convince millions of people that he is the victim of some vast and nefarious conspiracy to oppress and silence him and keep him out of the oval office.

Mr. Trump has been railing against so-called "fake news" since before his first term as president, when he was disappointed to learn that his frequently outrageous and baseless statements would be fact-checked and challenged by journalists.

And yet, despite the existence of mountains of audio and video evi-



JORDAN
TWISS

~
News Editor

dence to refute nearly every word that comes out of his mouth, Mr. Trump has succeeded in making the "fake news" label stick, turning his supporters against the journalists who are duty bound to keep him in check.

To this day, there are those who still believe — Mr. Trump included — that the 2020 presidential election was stolen by former President Joe Biden. Of course, to believe this, you'd also have to believe that the

Democratic Party, which controlled most of the mechanisms of power going into the 2024 presidential election, suddenly decided they were okay with Mr. Trump winning this time around.

But, even faced with how illogical the 2020 election con job conspiracy theory is, Mr. Trump and his followers will die on the hill of the truth they've created for themselves.

Since returning to the oval office at the beginning of this year, Mr. Trump has continued his efforts to reshape reality.

He's positioned himself as a champion of the American people and a prudent fiscal manager, even though his One Big Beautiful Bill stands to increase the United States' deficit by \$3.4 trillion over the next decade — despite its cuts to food stamp programs and Medicaid, which could leave 10 million people uninsured by 2034.

And he's branded Democrats as violent radicals, even as he calls them "the enemy from within" and "gnats" that need to be taken care of, and talks about using Democrat-run cities as military training grounds.

Mr. Trump's ability to bend reality to his beliefs — and make others believe it, too — is unparalleled.

Only credible news publications stand a chance of thwarting his efforts. But to do so, they need your help.

Always support your local, fact-checked news source first. And more importantly, support it through a subscription or advertising so it can keep the truth alive.



YOUR TWO CENTS

A stronger democracy improves public policy

Dear editor,

Do we live in a democracy or a plutocracy? In *End Times*, Peter Turchin defines democracy as government "shaped by the collective will of common citizens" and plutocracy as government shaped by economic elites. The Pharmacare issue offers a revealing case study.

For decades, the majority of Canadians have wanted universal pharmacare as prescription drugs have eaten up a growing slice of health spending. Last year, the federal government passed the Pharmacare Act. At first glance, that looks like democracy in action. But is it?

Our collective will was

for universal pharmacare covering everyone, regardless of income or private insurance. This model, recommended by the government's own 2019 Advisory Council and four previous reports, would give Ottawa real power to negotiate lower prices and save billions. It's a prescription for healthier finances and healthier citizens.

Yet Big Pharma resisted universal coverage because it threatened profits. They pushed for gap pharmacare, which preserves fragmented plans, high prices, and complex bureaucracy that confuses patients. Under gap coverage, the government lacks power to negotiate or unify

drug policies. Turchin notes that in a plutocracy, the elite always get their way. Our case study is evidence we live in a plutocracy.

If we want policies shaped by people, we must strengthen our democracy. Adopting a proportional representation (PR) election system would dilute elite influence, boost accountability, and help deliver public priorities like universal pharmacare rather than watered-down, profit-protecting alternatives. PR is real reform, not a placebo. Learn more at FairVote.ca and/or CharterChallenge.ca.

Nancy Carswell
Shellbrook, Sask.

Shellbrook Chronicle

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P.O. Box 10, Shellbrook, Sask. S0J 2E0
Phone 306-747-2442 or Fax 306-747-3000

Editorial: chnews@sbchron.com
Advertising: chads@sbchron.com

Jordan Twiss & Meghan Penney, Co-Publishers

Jordan Twiss, Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter
jordan@sbchron.com/chnews@sbchron.com

Bevra Fee, Spiritwood Herald Reporter
(306) 883-7058 or bevrafee@yahoo.ca

Meghan Penney, Advertising Sales & Composition/Pagination chads@sbchron.com

Bookkeeping/Reception
306-747-2442 or accounting@sbchron.com

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.;

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Bull riding brings thrills in Spiritwood

Continued from 1

The long round was won by William Barrows out of Foremost, Alta., on a bull named Frozen Ghost with a score of 81. Putting \$800 into the faded jeans, Barrows currently sits well back in the overall standings at the number 32 spot.

The championship round was captured

by the Quebec cowboy, Jeremy Maisonneuve. Besting his bull, Turbo Tax, Maisonneuve won just shy of \$3,000 on the night and sits well atop the Bull Riders Canada standings with a current yearly total of \$85,000 in prize money won. This cowboy is nearly doubling his closest competitor in overall points, and

he gave the Spiritwood crowd some thrilling action as he took home the Silver Buckle in addition to his earnings.

Would it be Thanksgiving without a hometown band to give the evening crowd something to dance about at the cabaret after the bulls go home? Jordyn Pollard headlined and

was backed up by The Dirt Rich Band, with local boys Landon Franson and Dallas Schira.

“We had another great success this year... but what we could not do this event without is all the dedicated volunteers,” said Sue Kahl. Indeed, the fact that many

volunteers sacrifice time at Thanksgiving does not go unnoticed.

“It is the best time for our bull riding event because it is so close to the finals that we get all the top cowboys. Also, many people are in town visiting family for Thanksgiving and this has be-

come an event that they count on when they come home,” Kahl added.

As the night progressed, the mechanical bull got busier and the band kept everyone entertained with their covers. Turkey dinner on Sunday was likely quite quiet in comparison.



The VIP table offered a great view and a meal provided by the Spiritwood Area Recreation, Culture, and Sport Committee.



Event founder and volunteer Ed Szasz goes for a ride atop the mechanical bull.



Bryce Olson of Northern Meats worked the kitchen, keeping the hungry crowd fed.



Riders hold on for dear life in bull riding action in Spiritwood. Photo credit: Kallie Smith



Aiden Nielsen-Clark presents the silver buckle to the evening's winner, Jeremy Maisonneuve. Photo credit: Kallie Smith



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Minutes of a Big River Town Council meeting

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

The regular meeting of the Council of the Town of Big River was held in the Community Centre Board Room, 606 1st Street North, on Aug. 21, 2025, at 8 a.m.

Present: Mayor David Krawetz, Councillors Cooper Davis, Chad Dunn, Lana Meyers, and Shirley Schwab, and Administrator Noreen Olsen.

A quorum being present, Mayor David Krawetz called the meeting to order at 8 a.m.

Schwab: THAT the Aug. 21, 2025, Agenda be adopted with the power to add. Carried

Dunn: THAT the Administrator’s Report be accepted as presented. Carried

Maintenance Foreman Terry Olsen attended the meeting from 9 a.m. to 9:53 a.m.

Davis: THAT the Sewer and Water and Maintenance reports to July 31,2025, be accepted. Carried

Dunn: THAT the Town accept the “Main-

tenance Service Agreement Proposal” provided by Drop Water Service. Carried

Delegation: Randy Hoback, MP, Richard Fromm, Chief of Staff and Cindy Sass, Special Assistant attended the meeting from 10 a.m. to 11:24 a.m.

Davis: THAT the minutes of July 22, 2025, Regular Meeting be adopted as presented. Carried

Meyers: THAT the minutes of July 22, 2025, Public Hearing for Zoning Bylaw Amendment regarding Shipping Containers be adopted as presented. Carried

Schwab: THAT the Statement of Financial Activities for the month of July 2025 be acknowledged. Carried

Dunn: THAT the Bank Reconciliation for the month of July 2025 be acknowledged. Carried.

Meyers: THAT the Journal Entries for the month of July 2025 be acknowledged. Carried.

Schwab: THAT accounts for approval to include EFT payments and cheque nos. 22044 through 22081 for a total of

\$353,804.57 be approved for payment. Carried

Davis: THAT Correspondence be filed as presented. Carried

1 p.m. Public Hearing: to receive comments and submissions relating to amendment to Zoning Bylaw.

Public Hearing on adopting a bylaw pursuant to Section 207 of The Planning and Development Act, 2007 to amend Bylaw No. 2015-01 known as the Official Community Plan and Bylaw No. 2015-02, known as the Zoning Bylaw to rezone Lot 10, Block 5, Plan AA4863 - 109 Main Street from C1-Core Mixed Use Commercial District to R1-Low Density Residential District.

There were no representations or submissions surrounding the adoption of the amended bylaws.

Meyers: THAT the Board/Committee Reports be filed as presented. Carried

Schwab: THAT the Council of the Town of Big River acknowledges the minutes Public Meeting held Aug. 13, 2025, regarding the proposed boundary restructuring involving Bridge ID 307-56-07, and confirms support to proceed in accordance with The Municipalities Act. Carried

for an annual planned maintenance agreement, such agreement to be attached hereto and forming a part of these minutes. Carried

Krawetz: THAT Council acknowledges receipt of the 2025 Certificate of Confirmation from the Saskatchewan Assessment Management Agency (SAMA), issued by Order of its Board of Directors, confirming compliance with Section 228 of The Municipalities Act. Carried

Krawetz: THAT the Town of Big River invite the Big River Golf Club to attend a meeting with Council to discuss potential revisions to the Golf Course Lease Agreement. Carried

Dunn: THAT Council authorize administration to refer the non-compliant property at 110 6th Avenue North to legal counsel for enforcement. Carried

Davis: THAT the Town of Big River acknowledge the final completion of the Rink and Community Centre Revitalization Project No. 40210037 under the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP). Carried

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.

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

SHELLBROOK: Shellbrook Boreas Pickleball (Formerly 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: Remembrance Day Wreath Sale – November 3 & 4, Shellbrook Legion Hall, 10:30am to 1:30pm. Large Wreath: \$50; Cross Wreath: \$45; Small Wreath: \$40. Soup available by donation.

SHELLBROOK: Shellbrook Royal Canadian Legion – Remembrance Day Service – Tuesday, November 11 @ Shellbrook Theatre. Doors Open 10am, Service Starts 10:30am.

CANWOOD: Canwood Fall Supper @ Canwood Elks Community Hall – Sunday, October 26, 4:30 to 6:30 pm. Roast Beef, Ham, and all the fixins!!! To book in-town delivery, please call/text 306-468-4504 before 6pm on Sun., Oct. 26. Adults \$20; 6-12 yrs. \$15; 5 & Under Free. Proceeds to operation & maintenance of Canwood Elks Community Hall. Sponsored by the Canwood Hall Committee.

Davis: THAT the Council of the Town of Big River has no objection to the consolidation of the following parcels of land, and the landowner be responsible for submitting an application to Information Services Corporation within 90 days of this approval to consolidate the residential lots located at: 109 Main Street - Lot 10, Block 5, Plan AA4863 - Parcel No. 13110716; and 102 2nd Avenue South - Lot 11, Block 5, Plan AA4863 - Parcel No. 131120671. Carried

Schwab: THAT the tender for the demolition and removal of the building located at Lot 5, Block 1 Plan 83B08394 (227 1st Avenue North), be awarded to Len’s Trucking Ltd. at a cost of \$14,000.00 plus \$700.00 GST and \$840.00 PST for a total of \$15,540.00, and THAT the tender submission to be attached hereto and form a part of these minutes. Carried

Dunn: THAT the Town acknowledge the Climate-Ready Plan and Analysis Kickoff Meeting Minutes held on July 29, 2025, with Catterall and Wright. Carried

Meyers: THAT the Town of Big River supports an application to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities’ Green Municipal Fund - Local Leadership for Climate Adaptation, under the ‘Feasibility Study: Adaptation in Action’ stream, for a feasibility study to strengthen emergency preparedness and reduce vulnerability to rising temperatures, including installation of a standby generator to ensure operation of the water treatment plant during emergencies, and upgrades to failing fire hydrants to conserve water and improve reliability; AND THAT the Town commits to its share of funding, meeting reporting requirements, and authorizes Catterall & Wright Consulting Engineers to assist with the application, with the Mayor and Administrator authorized to execute all necessary documents. Carried

Dunn: THAT the Discretionary Use Application submitted by the Big River Children’s Fund, tenants of the basement of the Centennial Building operating the Thrift Store at 308 1st Street, requesting approval to place a 20-foot shipping container on the property in the location of the existing shed, be approved, subject to compliance with the development standards set out in Section 4.1.21- General Regulations of Zoning Bylaw No. 2015-02. Carried

Schwab: THAT the Town accept the quote from Cummins Sales and Service

Krawetz: THAT Cooper Davis be appointed as a Member-at-Large to the Big River and District Recreation Board, effective upon his resignation from Council, and to serve in this capacity until the Recreation Board Bylaw is formally adopted. Carried

Meyers: THAT Bylaw No. 2025-03, a bylaw to amend the Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 2015-01 be given second reading. Carried (*Editor’s note: The bylaw was also given third reading and adopted.*)

Dunn: THAT Bylaw No. 2025-04, a bylaw to amend Zoning Bylaw No. 2015-02 be given second reading. Carried (*Editor’s note: The bylaw was also given third reading and adopted.*)

Davis: THAT Bylaw 2025-05 now be read a second time. Carried. (*Editor’s note: The bylaw was also given third reading and adopted.*)

Schwab: THAT Bylaw No. 2025-06 now be read a second time. Carried. (*Editor’s note: The bylaw was also given third reading and adopted.*)

Meyers: THAT Bylaw No. 2025-07 now be read a second time. Carried (*Editor’s note: The bylaw was also given third reading and adopted.*)

Meyers: THAT Bylaw 2025-08, A Bylaw of the Town of Big River to Enter into an Agreement with the R.M. of Big River No. 555 Regarding a Municipal Restructuring Agreement be introduced and read a first time. Carried (*Editor’s note: the bylaw was unanimously given three readings and adopted at the meeting.*)

Davis: THAT Bylaw No. 2025-09, a bylaw to amend Bylaw No. 2015-02-Zoning Bylaw Section 4.2.2 -Accessory Uses, Buildings and Structures to permit an accessory building to be approved prior to the construction of the principal building on the same lot, subject to specific conditions including timelines for construction, restrictions on use, and enforcement measures be given first reading. Carried

Mayor David Krawetz adjourned the meeting at 5:25 p.m.

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Agriculture is critical to small communities

When one looks at the modern machinery of a Canadian Prairie harvest, it seems almost like something out of a Robert A. Heinlein or Isaac Asimov novel I might have read as a youth in the late 1960s or into the 1970s.

The computer technology for recording yields on the fly, the technology that allows the combine operator — if it's not self-driving — to take control of grain carts, the global positioning tech involved, it seems more starship than grain harvest.

Such thoughts ran

through this writer's head when I was out taking photos of the Health Foundation's Farming for Health harvest at Yorkton.

But maybe even more amazing is that agriculture has always been ready to adopt new technology through the years.

Really, in the grand passage of time, farming on the Prairies started a mere 'blink' ago — remember Saskatchewan only came into existence as a province in 1905 — and at that time agriculture was still very much horse-powered, with horses pulling the ploughs



CALVIN DANIELS

binders, and sheaf wagons.

Just how dramatically different that era was, is brought into tight focus each year as the Yorkton Threshermen's Show is held, and demonstrations of binding, stooking, and

threshing machine harvest are held.

Then, one day, an email arrives and there are photos sent of the threshermen's club out binding up sheaves to store away for the 2026 show, and I was left trying to envision how all the acres were covered back in the day of binders.

Of course, farms, were generally only a quarter section or two, with more producers working their few acres, but it still is hard to envision.

That came into focus more sharply as Kevin Hursh spoke at the recent

Yorkton Brick Mill Heritage Dinner, and he noted the larger combines not only chew through the acres in the field, but the cash to buy them, with a price tag north of \$1 million.

The scale of modern farming is rather obvious when you consider a single combine unit costs that much. Farming is huge business.

Yet, whether we're discussing the days of horses or million dollar harvesters, a continuing aspect of farming has been its importance to local rural

communities and provincial economies.

In the past of Yorkton, for example, the brick mill now being refurbished and added to was critical locally as a market for farmer's wheat, creating economy via value-added processing.

Flash forward to today and Yorkton is home to two of the largest canola crush facilities in the world, and their combined impact on the local economy is massive — agriculture being critical to the community and province just as it always has been.

Crop Report: Sept. 30 to Oct. 6

By **MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE**
Submitted

Producers were able to make solid progress on harvest this week, despite rainfall in parts of the province last week. Currently, 93 per cent of crops have been harvested throughout the province, with many producers finishing last week. Harvest remains slightly behind the five-year average of 98 per cent but is ahead of the 10-year average of 87 per cent. Dry conditions over the past few weeks allowed harvest to catch up to seasonal averages.

Harvest is furthest ahead in the west-central region with 96 per cent of crops harvested. Following closely are the southwest and northwest regions with 95 per cent of crops off. Harvest progress sits at 93 per cent complete in the east-central and northeast, while harvest is 92 per cent complete in the southeast.

Nearly all winter cereal and pulse crops have been harvested. The only pulse crop with notable unharvested acres is chickpeas which is 70 per cent harvested. For spring cereals, only a few crops remain in the field. Harvest is 98 per cent complete for spring wheat and barley, while 96 per cent of the durum and oat crops are off. For oilseeds, 91 per cent of the mustard, 89 per cent of the canola, 70 per cent of the soybeans and 60 per cent of the flax crops have been harvested.

Current crop yields are similar to last month, as average provincial yields remain above historical averages for most crop types. However, yields vary throughout the province due to regional rainfall levels and agronomic challenges during the growing season.

Many areas had minimal rainfall last week, but some areas received modest precipitation. The most rain fell in the North Battleford and Wapella areas with 25 millimetres (mm). The Whitebeech area received 20 mm, followed by the Wishart area with 17 mm. The Norquay and Foam Lake areas also had notable rainfall with 16 mm falling in each place.

With limited rainfall last week, topsoil moisture levels continue to fall. In cropland, topsoil moisture is one per cent surplus, 43 per cent adequate, 40 per cent short and 16 per cent very short. In hayland areas topsoil moisture is two per cent surplus, 38 per cent adequate, 40 per cent short and 20 per cent very short. In pastures, topsoil moisture is one per cent surplus, 28 per cent adequate, 45 per cent short and 26 per cent very short.

There is less crop damage being reported as more crops are harvested. For the crops remaining in the field, reporters noted that wind continues to blow swathes around, wildlife is feeding on crops and freezing temperatures are impacting crops. Damage observed last week is minor and not widespread.

As producers finish harvest, they are starting fall field work which includes spraying for weeds, harrowing, applying fertilizer and moving livestock. With conditions remaining dry in much of the province, we would like to remind producers to have fire mitigation resources ready, blow off their combines regularly and take precautions when working

around powerlines. The public is also reminded to exercise caution when encountering machinery and equipment travelling on roadways.

Northwestern Sask.

Dry conditions in the northwest allowed producers to get lots of field work done and some finished combining. Conditions remain dry in much of the region and producers are hoping for plenty of rainfall after harvest wraps up.

Harvest is 95 per cent complete in the northwest, with all winter cereal and pulse crops in the bin. Nearly all spring cereals are off as 99 per cent of spring wheat and 97 per cent of oats and barley have been harvested. For oilseed crops, 91 per cent of canola and 60 per cent of flax have been combined.

Yields for most crop types are below the provincial average, but producers are noting that they are better than expected due to the persistent dry conditions throughout the growing season. Average spring cereal yields are 46 bushels per acre for hard red spring wheat and 68 bushels per acre for barley and oats. The average yield for field peas in the region is 35 bushels per acre. For oilseed crops,

the average yield is 38 bushels per acre for canola and 27 bushels per acre for flax.

Hard red spring wheat quality is on par with the provincial average this year. Sixty-four per cent graded 1 Canada Western (CW), 28 per cent graded 2 CW and eight per cent graded 3 CW.

Aside from a few scattered showers, not much rain fell in the northwest last week. The North Battleford area got the most rain with 25 millimetres (mm), followed by the Meadow Lake area with 14 mm and the Medstead area with 10 mm. The small amount of rainfall was not enough to benefit topsoil moisture levels. Cropland topsoil moisture is 24 per cent adequate, 52 per cent short and 24 per cent very short. In hayland areas, topsoil moisture is 15 per cent adequate, 40 per cent short and 45 per cent very short. In pastures, topsoil moisture is 14 per cent adequate, 40 per cent short and 46 per cent very short.

There was minimal crop damage reported last week since most crops have been harvested. For the remaining crops, there was minor wind and wildlife damage to some crops.

Sask. inks ag food deal with Indonesia

By **MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE**
Submitted

The Government of Saskatchewan has signed a Letter of Intent (LOI) with the Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KADIN Indonesia). The LOI intends to increase cooperation with a focus on agri-food processing, value-added agriculture, and agricultural technologies. It also will prioritize promoting economic partnerships, and fostering agri-food innovation and technology collaboration.

"Diversifying Saskatchewan's export markets is a priority now more than ever," Trade and Export Development Minister Warren Kaeding said. "I am excited to see our relationship with Indonesia continue to grow, and I'm proud to sign this LOI on behalf of the province. I look forward to sharing more goods and services with Indonesia, which will in turn benefit the economic health of Saskatchewan for all those who work and live here."

In 2024, Saskatchewan's exports to Asia reached over

\$10 billion. Exports to Indonesia accounted for \$868.9 million. Top export commodities included potash, non-durum wheat, and wood pulp.

The LOI signing was part of Kaeding's mission to Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand. The mission's goal was to bolster trade relationships in the agriculture, mining, and energy sectors, while diversifying Saskatchewan's export markets.

Saskatchewan is a stable supplier of agri-food products for many global markets. The province's supply chain is an important tool to increase food security throughout the world.

Asia remains an important market for the province. To date, Saskatchewan has opened five trade and investment offices in the region. As market risks such as tariffs and regulatory trade barriers continue to affect the global economy, the province remains committed to finding new pathways that benefit Saskatchewan businesses, workers and families.

For more information on opportunities in Saskatchewan, visit InvestSK.ca.

Shellbrook Library September highlights

By **EDDIE HOEHN**
Branch Librarian

September was an educational month at the library.

Participants were excited to watch the expansion of Ivory soap when microwaved for 2 minutes in the microwave and an expanding marshmallow heated for 30 seconds at the Massive Expanding Soap Demonstration held on Thursday, Sept. 4.

On Thursday, Sept. 18, participants decided how to rescue their frozen toy animals which were trapped in a block of ice at the Animal Ice Rescue Program. They used salt and/or hot water to free the animals.

On Monday, Sept. 22, participants touched food colouring drops in milk with a cotton swab containing dish soap to watch the reaction at the Milk Art Program. The bonds of food colouring and milk were broken with the dish soap, causing them to separate and the colour quickly exploded outward.

Participants enjoyed the Fireworks

in a Jar Program on Thursday, Sept. 25. Participants added mixed food colouring drops in oil to a jar with water to create a colourful display after the food colouring drops sunk below the oil layer and came in contact with the water.

The kids had lots of fun at the Balloon Animals Program on Thursday, Sept. 11. Volunteer and local library board member Samuel Schafer ran the program by creating items such as balloon dogs and swords which he gave to participants.

Participants showed off their creativity by making some items such as candy dispensers, windmills, ocean or sea creatures, and items of choice for Lego Club. Volunteer and local library board member Samuel Schafer helped run Lego Club.

The kids enjoyed participating in scavenger hunts at both Fall and Pumpkin Storytimes. They decorated a real pumpkin with markers and stickers at Pumpkin Storytime. The pumpkin is currently on display at the library.



Emery, Raelynn, Drohnen, and Elijah take part in the balloon animals program, led by Samuel.

Marj Bradley presented Clown Storytime on Friday Sept. 5. The kids enjoyed taking turns putting pictures on a storyboard when Marj read a story about a clown balancing a bunch of animals. They made a clown stick puppet with a paper plate and craft sticks.

The library hosted a Guess the Book Contest for the month of Sep-

tember. Hannah Aristide won the contest with the correct book being Mortimer by Robert Munsch. Hannah received a \$10 gift card, which was donated by Prairie Homestyle Bakery, and a bracelet on behalf of the library.



Dawson, Bennett, and Natasha with their storytime clown crafts.



Drohnen works on his food colouring experiment.



Hannah with her Sea Creature Lego Club creation.

Spiritwood Seniors activity highlights

By **ROSANNE SMITH**
Spiritwood Seniors

The Spiritwood Pioneer Centre was busy through August and September, with cribbage being played every Friday afternoon. Winners for the two months were as follows:

Aug. 1: 1st Rosanne Smith, 2nd Cheryl Smith, 3rd Eleanor Pallo, 50/50 Eleanor Pallo.

Aug. 8: 1st Dave Cornielson, 2nd Joyce Willick, 3rd Helen Mack, 1st 24 hand Dave Cornielson, 50/50 Olive Christopherson.

Aug. 15: 1st Andy Zarry, 2nd Joyce Willick, 3rd Gerard Lafond, 50/50 Barb Lutz.

Aug. 22: 1st Cheryl Smith, 2nd Pat Lutz, 3rd Armand Smith, 50/50 Pat Lutz.

Aug. 29: 1st Armand Smith, 2nd Eleanor Pallo, 3rd Helen Mack, 1st 24 hand Helen Mack, 50/50 Helen Mack.

Sept. 5: 1st Cheryl Smith, 2nd Shirley Turgeon, 3rd Rosanne Smith,

50/50 Marlene Iverson.

Sept. 12: 1st Rosanne Smith, 2nd Olive Christopherson, 3rd Cheryl Smith, 1st 24 hand Barb Lutz, 50/50 Oliver Christopherson.

Sept. 19: 1st Barb Lutz, 2nd Doreen

Christopherson, 3rd Bernice Tiring-er, 1st 24 hand Barb Lutz, 50/50 Maurice Bourassa.

Sept. 26: 1st Paulette Lafond, 2nd Bernice Tiring-er, 3rd Cheryl Smith, 50/50 John Del Frari.



August and September birthday celebrants. Seated, left to right: Irene Marion, Rosanne Smith, Eleanor Pallo, and Dot Gaboury. Standing: Dave Cornielson and Ray Leier.

Kaiser is played once a month and the August and September winners were as follows:

Aug. 17, six tables: Men 1st Armand Smith, 2nd Pat Lutz, Ladies 1st Marlene Iverson, 2nd Anne Marie Laventure, 50/50 Marlene Soucy.

Sept 14, seven tables: Men 1st Ed Kulpa, 2nd Pat Lutz, Ladies 1st Liz Valette, 2nd Roberta Wasden, 50/50 John Del Frari.

The Centre also saw Bingo in the afternoon, with 10 to 15 players coming out. Some of the winners were: Joyce Willick, Betty Duhaime, Cheryl Smith, Vi Anderson, Shirley Turgeon, Armand Smith, John Del Frari, Dot Gaboury, Helen Mack, Bernice Tiring-er, Isabel Horn, and Roberta Wasden.

On Sept. 24, after Bingo, birthdays for the months of August and September were celebrated with cake and coffee. Celebrants included: Irene Marion, Rosanne Smith, Eleanor Pallo, Dot Gaboury, Dave Cornielson, and Ray Leier.

Northern Spirit 4-H hosts haunted corn maze

By KIARA DUHAIME
Club President

The cool fall air, rustling corn, and a truck full of pumpkins set the perfect scene for the Northern Spirit 4-H Club's Haunted Corn Maze at the Windmill Stock Farm Stand on the Echo Bay Road. It was absolutely great to see so many families, friends, and brave visitors come out for a night of scares and fun — all while supporting the local Northern Spirit 4-H Club.



The Northern Spirit 4-H's Haunted Corn Maze served up scares and funds for the club's programs and members.

All entry donations from the haunted maze are going straight to the 4-H club's programs and members, which makes all the hard work worth it. It really showed what can happen when the community and local youth come together — a little bit of spooky, a lot of teamwork, and tons of laughs.

Club members and volunteers did an amazing job bringing the maze to life. We got lucky with the weather and managed to pull it off before the real cold hit. From setting up creepy scenes, to serving hot chocolate, hotdogs, handing out candy bags and drinks, everyone gave it their all. And yes — Chainsaw Man was definitely a crowd favourite.

The night was full of laughter, jump scares, and that cozy fall feeling you only get at a small-town event like this. The Haunted Corn Maze reminded us that supporting local youth in agriculture doesn't just make a difference — it also makes for a really fun night out.

Shellbrook seniors receive lifetime memberships

By LORRAINE THIBEAULT
Shellbrook Seniors Assoc.

On Friday, Sept. 24, at the Shellbrook Senior Centre, eight seniors were shown appreciation for their long and dedicated service to other seniors in the area through their involvement in the Shellbrook Seniors Club.

Adeline Fossey, Edith Henry, Marjorie Hislop, Raymond Peterson, and Ella Reidt were presented Honourary Lifetime Membership certificates from the Provincial Saskatchewan Seniors Incorporated President, Lorraine Thibeault. Each of the eight recipients is over 90 years of age.

Each recipient also received a beautiful rose donated by Barbie Clark of Shellbrook Flowers 'n More. Marion Miller, Liz Renz, and Marion Rude were absent from the event and will receive their certificates later.



Honourary Lifetime Membership recipients, from left to right: Edith Henry, Marj Hislop, Raymond Peterson, Adeline Fossey, and Ella Reidt. Missing: Marion Miller, Liz Renz, and Marion Rude.

Sask. funds gender-based violence prevention

By MINISTRY OF JUSTICE
Submitted

The Government of Saskatchewan has invested almost \$5.2 million through the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General to several initiatives through the National Action Plan (NAP) to End Gender-based Violence.

The success of the NAP funding allocations across our province shows a commitment to empowering our communities to be safe, vigilant and reduce harm through prevention, accountability and behaviour change.

"The participating agencies are guiding and fostering change as they build tools and programs to proactively address gender-based violence," Justice Minister and Attorney General Tim McLeod, K.C. said. "I am grateful to all these partner organizations for collaborating with us on this important project and for the work they do across Saskatchewan."

"Funding through the National Action Plan has helped us expand existing programs and establish new

supports," Minister Responsible for the Status of Women Alana Ross said. "Our government is addressing gender-based violence through prevention, intervention and accountability, these investments support our continued goals to build safe, resilient communities free of gender-based violence."

The distribution of the NAP funding has been allocated to organizations within the five NAP pillars: foundational knowledge; support for survivors; prevention; responsive justice system and Indigenous-led approaches.

Since Saskatchewan signed on to the agreement in late 2023, NAP funding has been provided to a wide variety of community-based organizations to develop initiatives such as the following:

- The Enhanced Early Intervention Program, led by Family Service Regina and Family Service Saskatoon (\$1,100,000) – This program uses trauma-informed, person-centered, and culturally safe approaches to increase access to counselling and support for children and families exposed to domestic

- violence. The program works with community partners to address root causes such as trauma, substance use, housing and financial stress.
- Support for survivors of human trafficking through Hope Restored Canada (\$1,200,000) – This funding delivers housing and support services for human trafficking victims. Since 2019, Hope Restored has operated a safe house which provides specialized services that have securely supported women and youth escaping sex trafficking and sexual exploitation.
- The Natural Supports Program, led by Saskatchewan Toward Offering Partnership Solutions (STOPS) to Violence (\$635,000) – This program aims to empower natural supports, such as family, friends and neighbours to help prevent interpersonal violence and abuse by fostering safer, more con-

- nected communities. STOPS to Violence achieves this through initiatives like the REAL Talk program, which provides communities with tools and training to have supportive conversations and recognize the signs of harm in relationships.
- "Having funding available that promotes large, nationwide initiatives such as the National Action Plan to End Gender-based Violence is instrumental to ensuring social change occurs at all levels and results in impactful programming," Family Service Saskatoon Executive Director Janine Baumann said.
- Family Service Regina and Saskatoon have significant successes as part of their work with the province under the NAP, including direct support for over 100 individuals, the development of resources and modules to guide casework and group sessions and the creation

- of referral pathways with a variety of community stakeholder groups.
- "We know prevention starts with early action," Family Service Regina CEO Kirk Englot said. "Our early intervention programs provide quick access to supports for families at high risk of violence. By connecting people with service before crisis escalates, we reduce harm, increase safety, and strengthen our community."
- This year, the Government of Saskatchewan is dedicating approximately \$32 million to partners that facilitate interpersonal violence programs and services through the justice system. This includes \$14.2 million per year being provided to community-based partners, annualized funding for second-stage shelters, and additional funding for Victims Services and other important supports.

ADVERTISING DEADLINE IS
FRIDAY 4:00 P.M.

Minutes of an RM of Canwood meeting

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

A regular meeting of the Council of the Rural Municipality of Canwood No. 494 was held in the Municipal Council Chambers, at 641 Main Street, Canwood, Sask., on Aug. 19, 2025, commencing at 9:07 a.m.

Present were Reeve Levi Schutte, Chief Administrative Officer Lorna Benson, and the following Councillors for their respective divisions: #1 Kenneth Stene, #2 Gerald Muller, #3, Rick Jensen, #4 Mario Boisvert, #5 Kevin Olson, and #6 Cody Lockhart.

Delegations:
9:15 a.m. Dwight Diehl, Public Works Supervisor, Municipal Operations Update

Lockhart: That in the matter of the Larsen Bridge to Culvert Conversion, we accept the recommendation of Prairie Road Solutions to install two (2) 3,400mm x 29m polymer coated corrugated steel culverts. Carried

Stene: That the minutes of the July 17, 2025, Regular Council Meeting be approved as presented. Carried

Lockhart: That the Statement of Financial Activities for the month of July 2025 for the R.M. General Account be approved as presented. Carried

Public Works Supervisor Dwight Diehl attended the meeting at 9:20 a.m.

Muller: That we approve the payments as listed on the attached account listing for a total of \$917,379.20, Council Direct Deposits for August and Payroll Direct Deposits for 2025 Pay Period 15 & 16. Carried

Muller: That in the matter of the request of the property owners of the SE 08-53-07 W3, to purchase right-of-way, we hereby agree to close and sell the said roadway, upon authorization and approval of the Ministry of Highways, in the amount of \$4,000 plus advertising, surveying, and administration costs of the R.M. and the service fees of the Ministry of Highways for the said transac-

tions. Carried
Schutte: That we cancel the Beaver Control Program (BCP) effective Aug. 31, 2025. Carried

That we advise Lanny Ahenakew, TLE Coordinator, Ahtahkakoop Cree Nation, in the matter of his inquiry of the following lands (list omitted due to length) that we cannot comment on any contamination, P.C.B.s, possible fuel tanks, garbage or sewage disposal sites or noxious weeds on or near the said lands as no environmental assessment has been done by the Rural Municipality on these lands. Carried

Stene: That as the Municipality is satisfied that the specifications set out in Policy No. 7.08 have been met under Section 5 [Schedule B] of the Servicing Agreement dated June 28, 2024, entered into with Allan Giesbrecht and Margaret Phillips, and in reference to the letter dated November 22, 2024, for road development to access the SW 26-54-07 W3, we agree to release the Letter of Credit issued by the developer’s financial institution. Carried

Jensen: That in the matter of the request of the property owner of the SE 30-51-05 W3, Plan 74PA20636 Ext 23, 24, 25, 26 to purchase the 66 foot right-of-way, we hereby agree to close and sell the said roadways, upon authorization and approval of the Ministry of Highways, in the amount of \$3,420 plus advertising, surveying, and administration costs of the R.M. and the service fees of the Ministry of Highways for the said transactions. Carried

Jensen: That Bylaw 2025-05 attached hereto and forming a part of these Minutes, being a Bylaw of the Rural Municipality of Canwood No. 494 to provide for the closing of a municipal road, now be read the first time. Carried (*Editor’s note: the bylaw was unanimously given three readings and enacted at the meeting.*)

Councillor Muller declared an interest and left the meeting at 10:35 a.m.

Stene: That in the matter of the

request of the property owners of the SE/SW 36-49-07 W3, Plan 85B04443 to purchase the right-of-way, we hereby agree to close and sell the said roadways, upon authorization and approval of the Ministry of Highways, in the amount of \$1,450 plus advertising, surveying, and administration costs of the R.M. and the service fees of the Ministry of Highways for the said transactions. Carried

Councillor Muller returned to the meeting at 10:40 a.m.

Muller: That we agree to send a letter in response to the request to install gates at Lake Nebo to reduce access for crime prevention with the following conditions:

- width of gates must be a minimum of 24 feet;
- notification to all relevant agencies and emergency services is the responsibility of the property owners at Lake Nebo;
- the R.M. must be granted access for roadway maintenance;
- the property owners assume all liability and responsibility of the gates;
- the R.M. does not accept any liability which may arise from the installation and existence of the gates;
- the property owners assume all responsibility for moving the gates for any reason that arises, such as buildings being moved in and out. Carried

Public Works Supervisor Dwight Diehl left the meeting at 11:40 a.m. Carried

Muller: That in the matter of tax arrears outstanding on the SW 15-54-08 W3, we accept the payment proposal of \$500 per month until the arrears are paid in full. Further to this, we instruct the Chief Administrative Officer that upon default in payment to authorize Veritas Law to proceed with tax enforcement. Carried

Schutte: That in the matter of tax enforcement proceedings against Lot 1A Block 2 Plan No. 102357222 Ext 0, we request the Provincial

Mediation Board to expedite the proceedings based on the low value of the property, and further that we authorize Veritas Law to proceed on our behalf to request title to the land. Carried

Muller: That we instruct the Chief Administrative Officer to request quotes for a new lease on a photocopier. Carried

Jensen: That we adopt the amendments to Policy 6.09 Workplace Violence Prevention. Carried

Lockhart: That we advise the Community Planning Branch of the Ministry of Government Relations that we recommend approval of the Application to Subdivide Land of Robert Thompson, for the purpose of removing parcel ties from the SE 14-54-08 W3, as the site has physical and legal access and exceeds the minimum site area requirements of Section 5 of the Municipal Zoning Bylaw 2003-7, on the condition that the municipality be paid cash in lieu of recreational space in the amount of \$780.40. Carried

Muller: That we approve the Development and Building Permit Applications of Ocean Whitelaw and Dione Lynchuk to construct a new home, with approval pursuant to Section 5.2.1(2)(a) of the Municipal Bylaw 2003-7. Carried

Stene: That we advise the Community Planning Branch of the Ministry of Government Relations that we recommend approval of the Application to Subdivide Land of Brian Holmes, for the purpose of subdividing Parcel A from the SW 18-51-04 W3, as the site has physical and legal access and exceeds the minimum site area requirements of Section 5 of the Municipal Zoning Bylaw 2003-7. Carried

Lockhart: That we instruct the Development Officer to send a letter to all Morin Lake residents which states that Municipal Zoning Bylaw No. 2003-07 does not authorize the use of campers on lakeshore lots. De-feated

Muller: That we now adjourn at 2:10 p.m.

Sask. commits to funding municipal infrastructure program

By MINISTRY OF GOVERNMENT RELATIONS
Submitted

Government Relations Minister Eric Schmalz, Advanced Education Minister Ken Cheveldayoff, and representatives of seven Saskatchewan cities as well as leaders of the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities and Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association were in Ottawa this past week to meet with federal leaders on restoring cost-shared infrastructure investment programs. “We went to Ottawa

to ensure that federal ministers understand the importance of municipal infrastructure in keeping Canada strong, safe and ready for economic growth,” Schmalz said. “Each member of the delegation was ready to speak to the importance of the cost-shared partnerships that is so vital in bringing major infrastructure projects to fruition. These projects are not possible without participation from the three levels of government, and our willingness to collaborate and invest was recognized. “The provincial government and Saskatch-

ewan municipalities share the vision for stronger, safer communities not only for Saskatchewan but across the nation.” Over the course of two days, the delegation met with members of parliament, federal ministers, senators, a secretary of state and senior officials on the importance of cost-shared programs as part of a national infrastructure investment strategy. In these meetings, the delegation made a commitment to the federal government that the province will contribute one-third toward of

the costs toward a municipal infrastructure programs, contingent on the federal government establishing a partnership to secure the remaining funding, which would include contributions from municipalities. “It was truly meaningful to stand alongside other municipal leaders as a united voice, advocating for the critical infrastructure funding our Saskatchewan communities need,” Moose Jaw Mayor James Murdoch said. “On behalf of Moose Jaw City Council, I want to thank the province for facilitating this important dia-

logue and bringing our shared priorities to the forefront.” “When the federal government invests in municipalities, it is investing in the future of the country,” Yorkton Mayor Aaron Kienle said. “We want to ensure towns and cities like Yorkton, along with communities across Saskatchewan and Canada, have the resources to meet today’s challenges and prepare for tomorrow’s opportunities.” The delegation to Ottawa was seeking support for cost-shared infrastructure programs like Investing in

Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP). The governments of Canada and Saskatchewan signed the ICIP bilateral agreement in 2019 with the federal government contributing \$907 million, the provincial government more than \$700 million and recipients contributing more than \$475 million. To date, Canada and Saskatchewan have approved 460 projects estimated at over \$2 billion. Although the ICIP agreement is in place until 2034, it is fully subscribed. No new projects can be considered under this program.

Are CFL changes ‘Americanizing’ our game?

It didn't take new Canadian Football League commissioner Stewart Johnston long to become a household name among football fans north of the border.

Named as commissioner only five months ago, Johnston announced a series of significant logistical and rule changes to the league, some of which will take effect in 2026 and others in 2027.

Among the changes are a reduction in the length of the CFL field from 110 yards to 100 (same as the National Football League), moving the goalposts to the rear of the end zone instead of at the goal line (same as the NFL) and a reduced end zone, from 20 yards to 15 yards (the NFL's end zones are 10 yards deep).

Another change involves the rouge, a single point unique to the Canadian game. No longer will a single point be awarded for punting the ball through the end zone or by missing a field goal and having the ball sail into the stands.

Teams will still get credit for a single point, however, if the punted ball or missed field goal winds up within the boundaries of the end zone, and the returning player is unable to get it back into the field of play.

Some things will remain the same, Johnston said. While he didn't say the Canadian game's three-down system is in jeopardy, he didn't come out and say it was sacrosanct. The width of the field will remain 65 yards. And the CFL's 'waggle' rule, allowing a number of players to be in pre-snap motion, won't be changed. The Canadian game will continue to be 12-on-12, one more than in the U.S.

The moves, said Johnston, will encourage teams to go for touchdowns and not settle for field goals, since the goalposts will be 15 yards deeper. However, teams will be starting closer to their opponent's end zone simply because the field will be 10 yards shorter. Moving



BRUCE
PENTON

the goalposts, he said, will stop passes from clanking off the uprights instead of falling into the arms of a receiver.

While the moves received general acceptance from many quarters in Canada, not everyone agreed. Quarterback Nathan Rourke of the B.C. Lions was angry, saying they appeared to be 'Americanizing' the Canadian game. Rourke, who grew up in Canada and had a taste of U.S.-style football in college and the NFL, called the changes 'garbage' and was annoyed that players weren't consulted before the changes

were finalized and announced.

But Johnston says the changes will have positive results. "This is all about making our great game even more entertaining," Johnston said in a release. "We are trading field goals for touchdowns, while improving fan experience in stadiums and at home."

Rourke didn't back down: "You can't make adjustments like this and tell me you like football. What we're moving towards is not Canadian football, the game I grew up loving."

Rourke's opinion doesn't really matter. What counts is how CFL fans accept the changes.

• From fark.com: "The NBA takes a brief pause from its DraftKings and FanDuel sponsorship to lament the fact that it had to fire three more players for batting on their own games."

• RJ Currie of sports-deke.com: "A Yankees fan tried to catch a foul tip with his cap, dropped both, but a fan beside him caught the

ball and cap together. And I thought a hockey game was the only place you might see a hat-trick."

• Another one from fark.com: "Aaron Judge becomes first Yankee since Babe Ruth to put up back-to-back 50-homer seasons. Ruth still has the lead on beers and hot dogs consumed in consecutive seasons, however."

• Ron Green, Jr., of Global Golf Post, on the disgusting display by fans at the Ryder Cup on Long Island: "Civility has lost out to coarseness. Belligerence is 4 up on benevolence."

• Cathal Kelly of the Globe and Mail, on Mark Shapiro's difficult early days as Toronto Blue Jays' president: "He asks every free agent on the market to the dance, but they're all busy washing their hair."

• Comedy guy Torben Rolfson of Vancouver: "Have you seen catches by the Detroit Lions rookie Isaac TeSlaa? They're electric."

• Rolfson again: "Peo-

ple are asking if (Blue Jays' reliever) Jeff Hoffman has earned John Schneider's trust in October? Are you kidding? I wouldn't trust him taking my kids out trick or treating."

• Columnist Norman Chad, on his 'Gambling Mad' site on X: "I am contractually obligated to make a prediction on the Jets-Dolphins Monday Night game. Okay. I predict that no one in my neighbourhood will watch this dog of a game."

• Greg Cote of the Miami Herald on the recent Monday night game between two winless teams, the Jets and Dolphins: "America will be watching ... perhaps in much the same way traffic can't help but slow to watch two cars that have just wrecked."

• Another one from Chad: "The Falcons lost 30-0 to the Panthers last week. Not scoring against the Panthers is like Ryan Gosling not scoring in a college bar."

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

U18 Elks fall to Eagles, Broncos

By JORDAN TWISS

Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

The U18 AA Parkland Elks hit the road for the first time in their 2025-2026 regular season campaign, making stops in Saskatoon on Monday, Oct. 6, and Humboldt on Saturday, Oct. 11, to face the Saskatoon Screaming Eagles and the Humboldt Broncos, respectively.

Seeking out their first win of the young season on Monday, the Elks quickly found themselves behind the 8 ball when the Screaming Eagles took a 1-0 lead just 35 seconds into the game. In the remainder of a quiet

first period, the Elks failed to get on the board but also kept the Eagles from scoring until the dying seconds of the frame, when they took advantage of a mistake by the Elks power play to go ahead 2-0 on a shorthanded goal.

When the action moved to the second, the Eagles maintained their momentum, eventually going up 3-0 near the middle of the period. The Elks held on, finally getting on the board with just over a minute left, thanks to a goal from Owen Hansen, assisted by Danec Wilson and Camden Olsen.

In a third period that mirrored the second, the Eagles went up 4-1 on a

goal scored near the midway point. Then, with just 21 seconds left on the clock, the Elks power play redeemed itself on a goal from Burke Florence, assisted by Boston Gagnon and Wilson, giving the team a 4-2 loss.

Elks (1) vs Broncos (4)

After four days to rest and recalibrate, the Elks hit the road on Saturday for an afternoon showdown against the Humboldt Broncos. However, a much-desired win remained elusive for the team, which found itself facing a 1-0 deficit after the Broncos got on the board just past the halfway point of the first period.

While failing to get on the board

through the second period, the Elks surrendered another two goals to the Broncos, falling behind 3-0.

When the action moved to the third period, another unanswered goal by the Broncos effectively put the nail in the Elks' coffin. But the team finally got on the board late in the period, thanks to a power play goal by Davin Hart, assisted by Cohen Ball.

With the 4-1 loss to the Broncos, the Elks now sit at 0-3 on the season.

This weekend, the team makes a stand on home ice, hosting the Prince Albert Timberwolves on Friday, Oct. 17, and the Saskatoon Crunch on Saturday, Oct. 18.

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OBITUARY

Arnold George Hoffman



Arnold George Hoffman
September 23, 1945 – October 1, 2025
Arnold (Arnie) George Hoffman, of Leask, Saskatchewan, passed away

peacefully at Shellbrook Hospital on October 1, 2025, at 7:30 p.m., just days after celebrating his 80th birthday.

Born in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan on September 23, 1945, Arnie was the eldest child of George and Hulda Hoffman. He grew up in a faithful German farming family near Leask, starting at Skipton School, but quickly switched to Leask School where he graduated.

From an early age, he developed a lifelong love of sports, especially fastball, and was always an avid hunter and fisherman. Arnie also had a passion for collecting curious and valuable old artifacts, which he cherished as part of Prairie heritage.

Arnie farmed his entire life, carrying on the tradition of his family. He loved the outdoors, whether working the land, hunting, fishing, or simply enjoying God’s creation. He grew up in the Lutheran community and often served on the Church Pastoral Council. His strong faith in the Lord Jesus Christ was evident throughout his life.

Known for his kind, warm, and funny nature, Arnie loved people—and people loved him. He delighted in making others laugh and always appreciated a good joke.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Bernadette; his children, Angèle (Andre), Hal (Paula), and Ryan; his grandchildren, Mylène, Joel, Caleb, Natalie, Zachariah, Janna, and Isaiah; and ten great-grandchildren. He is also survived by his brother, Lloyd, and his sister, Lori (Jeff).

Arnie is predeceased by his parents, George and Hulda Hoffman.

Arnie’s life was marked by love for his family, his deep faith, his joy in farming and the outdoors, and the many friendships he nurtured. He will be dearly missed.

A Memorial Service will take place for Arnold on Monday, November 10, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. from the St. Henry’s RC Church in Leask. Internment will follow in the Leask Cemetery, and a time of refreshments and fellowship will take place following the interment at the Leask Community Hall.

In lieu of tributes, donations my be made in memory of Arnold to the Catholic Christian Outreach <https://cco.ca/projects/cco-national/>.

Family and friends wishing to send online condolences are welcome to visit www.beaulacfuneralhome.com. Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of Beau “Lac” Funeral Home and Crematorium, Tammy Smart, Funeral Director, Leask, SK 306-466-4822.

Fall immunization bookings open

By MINISTRY OF HEALTH
Submitted

Immunization against respiratory illness is a safe and effective way to help stay healthy, prevent illness and save lives. Saskatchewan residents can now start booking appointments to receive this year’s respiratory illness vaccinations. Both Influenza and COVID-19 vaccines will be available at public health clinics, participating local pharmacies and some physician and nurse practitioner offices.

“As we head into the fall season, getting immunized is one of the best ways we can keep each other safe,” Health Minister Jeremy Cockrill said. “By protecting yourself, you are also protecting

your family, friends, and community from respiratory illness.”

Seniors, people with chronic health conditions or compromised immune systems, children under the age of five and pregnant women are among those considered most at risk of contracting a respiratory illness. High-risk groups are encouraged to get vaccinated as soon as possible.

“Enhanced influenza vaccines remain available at no cost to all Saskatchewan residents 65 years and older,” Cockrill said. “I encourage everyone, particularly older adults and those with existing health conditions, to consider immunization as soon as they are eligible.”

Influenza and COVID-19 vaccina-

tions are available, free of charge, to any eligible resident of the province aged six months and older. Children aged six months to five years can only be immunized at a Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) public health clinic, public health office or by a physician or nurse practitioner.

“Getting immunized early this fall is vital to protecting not only yourself, but your loved ones as well,” SHA Senior Medical Health Officer Dr. Julie Kryzanowski said. “We encourage everyone to receive their vaccines as soon as possible to aid in the fight against respiratory illness.”

Residents will have the convenience to book and receive both their influenza and COVID-19 vaccines either in a

single appointment or separately. They may choose to receive one, the other, or both vaccines.

Residents can locate a walk-in clinic or book immunizations for themselves or the entire family in one appointment through the SHA’s online booking tool available at www.4flu.ca at any time or by calling 1-833-727-5829 Monday to Friday. If you have a preferred pharmacy, please contact them to ensure they are offering COVID-19 vaccinations.

All vaccinations are voluntary. For further information on influenza and COVID-19 symptoms and when to seek care, call HealthLine 811 or visit www.4flu.ca.

Let’s keep each other safe and healthy this season.

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Shellbrook Chronicle
& Spiritwood Herald

Sask engages with U.S., Mexico on ag trade

By MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
Submitted

Agriculture Minister Daryl Harrison will lead a trade mission to Mexico to strengthen our trade, research and investment ties with some of Saskatchewan’s long-standing Mexican partners and to help companies and industry organizations in the province maintain and strengthen their relationships with Mexican stakeholders.

The mission will reinforce the province’s international reputation as a reliable supplier of high-quality food, feed and value-added commodities. The mission will also promote research, investment and other collaborative opportunities in Saskatchewan’s value-added sector.

“Mexico continues to be a vital partner for Saskatchewan, particularly in the agriculture sector,” Harrison said. “This mission will open new avenues to promote provincial

agriculture export interests, bolster relationships with stakeholders and advance discussions with Mexico on priority agriculture issues.”

As part of the mission, Minister Harrison will be participating in the 2025 Tri-National Agricultural Accord, being hosted in Morelia, Michoacán, Mexico. This annual meeting is a premier opportunity to engage with the United States (U.S.) and Mexico and elevate Saskatchewan’s profile with these two important trading partners. Topics this year include preparing for the Canada-U.S.-Mexico Agreement review in 2026, celebrating the International Year of the Woman Farmer coming up in 2026, and discussing animal disease preparedness, among other topics.

Mexico is a priority market for Saskatchewan, ranking as the province’s sixth-largest export destination in 2024 with \$592 million in agri-food exports, which accounted for 93 per cent of Saskatchewan’s total exports to Mexico.

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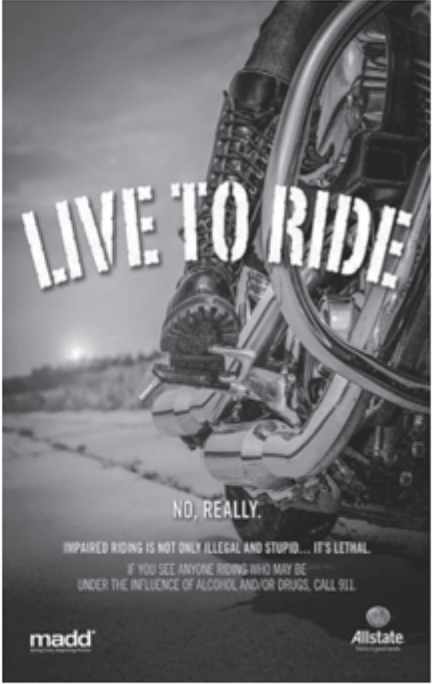
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What happens when you don't advertise?

Very little.

Maple bug: The most annoying, harmless fall insect

By JACKIE BANTLE
Sask. Perennial Society

While it seems that many insects are dying off or going into hibernation during the fall time of the year, there is one bug that has been coming out in droves over the last few weeks. If you have a female maple tree close by, you'll definitely know what I'm talking about. And even if you don't have a maple tree close by, these critters can still be a nuisance.

The insect that I am referring to is the Maple bug, sometimes called the box elder beetle and scientifically known as *Boisea rubrolineata*. The western maple bug is native to western North America and is related to stink bugs and cicadas, having piercing and sucking mouth parts. When crushed, maple bugs emit a bad odor. Apparently, they taste so bad that even spiders won't eat them (unless they are desperate).

Adult western box elder beetles are flat and oblong in shape, 10-14mm in length. The main body is gray-brown to black in color with clearly visible reddish-orange lines on the thorax and wings. The body underneath the wings, which is visible during flight, is orange in color. The head and antennae are black.

The maple bug has 3 life stages: egg, nymph and adult. As winter approach-



Horde of maple bugs in late September on the sidewalk next to the house.
Photo credit: Alan Weninger

es, adults look for crevices in trees and cracks in buildings to hibernate. In spring, as the temperature warms up, the hibernating adults emerge from their cracks and crevices. These adults feed on seeds and plants. They begin mating a few weeks after they start feeding.

In mid-July, box elder beetles move to female seed-bearing maple trees where they lay their eggs on trunks, branches and leaves. The eggs are small, rusty red and usually laid in groups of two or three. They may also feed and lay eggs on ash trees. Eggs hatch in 10-14 days and the nymphs feed on the seeds and leaves of the trees. There is no noticeable

feeding injury to the trees. The nymphs start out bright red in color and change to black red as they grow larger. You can see bugs of all stages of development during the summer but there is only one generation per year.

As fall approaches and leaves begin to fall, the adult beetles look for warm, safe locations to hibernate for winter which is why you will often see hoards of maple bugs on the south side of buildings in fall. Box elder beetles are most abundant during hot, dry summers when followed by warm springs.

Maple bugs are not harmful but they are definitely annoying – especially in the fall when they gather around

doors and windows to potentially enter your home. The best way to manage maple bugs in fall is to prevent them from entering your home. Repair or replace damaged window and door screens. Repair or replace damaged screens in the roof and soffit vents and in bathroom and kitchen fans. Any areas where cables, phone lines, dryer vents or other pipes enter your home should be sealed. Install rubber sweeps at the bottoms of all exterior entry doors.

If you have large numbers of bugs gathering around doors and windows, consider spraying soapy water directly on the bugs. Mix one tablespoon of Dawn dish

soap with 1 litre of water and spray directly on the bugs. The dish soap will break down the oils and wax that cover the exoskeleton of the bug; the bugs dehydrate and die within minutes. To deter the bugs from coming back to these surfaces, wash the surfaces with dish soap and water or a scented cleaning solution.

Spraying with insecticides during the summer or fall is not recommended for maple bug control. Not only will you kill any beneficials that are present in the area, but maple bugs can fly for several kilometers from their source of food. Therefore, spraying in your yard will only delay the issue. Because the bugs are very mobile, getting rid of the maple or ash tree in your yard and your neighbor's yard will also not solve the problem.

Maple bugs are something we need to exist alongside. Yes, they are disgusting, but they are not harmful and they will not kill your plants. Make Dawn dish soap and water your best friend during the fall and seal up the cracks around your home. Hope for a wetter summer and a cool spring and maybe they won't be as bad next year. Happy fall!

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

Buy Canadian should fund Canadian jobs and news, not U.S. Big Tech

A Message from Canada's news publishers

To the Government of Canada,

We applaud the Government of Canada's ambition to build Canada strong, and commitment in the forthcoming Budget to Buy Canadian.

Last year, the federal government including agencies and Crown corporations spent over \$100 million on advertising. Most of it went to U.S. Big Tech.¹

Why are we funding American tech monopolies that extract tens of billions a year out of Canada -- largely untaxed -- at the expense of local journalism and culture, and whose platforms have become vectors for division and disinformation?

Let's reinvest our ad dollars in Canada. In Budget 2025, the Government of Canada should follow Ontario's lead and set aside a minimum of 25% of its advertising budgets for Canadian news media.

At no additional cost to taxpayers, the government can support local jobs while getting its message out in a brand safe environment. Far fewer Canadians trust ads on Facebook and Instagram than those published by Canadian news media.²

Buying Canadian advertising in Canadian news media is both the right and smart thing to do.

Respectfully,
Canada's news publishers

SOURCES
¹ Annual Report on Government of Canada Advertising Activities 2023-2024, combined with proprietary industry data.
² Totum Research Canada, January 2025. Canadians 18+, n=2418.; Pollara for the Dais. 2025 Survey of Online Harms, Canadians 16+, n=2502.