



Shellbrook observes week of remembrance



Pipers Dave Hjertaas (left) and Kim Bradley lead the RCMP and Shellbrook Legion members to their seats of honour.

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

Veterans' Week in Canada (Nov. 5 to 11) was filled with solemn acts of remembrance in Shellbrook, as the community came together in many ways to celebrate those who have served and sacrificed for the country in many ways throughout Canada's History.

The week kicked off early at the Shellbrook Legion Hall, where, on Nov. 3 and 4, the Legion branch was selling Remembrance Day wreaths to raise funds for the Royal Canadian Legion's Poppy Trust Fund, which supports veterans and their families. At lunch time, the Legion also served up soup by donation.

The sale raised \$1,042.

Shellbrook Library

On Wednesday, Nov. 5, the Shell-

brook Public Library participated in Veterans' Week by inviting Sgt. Linwood Williams to deliver a presentation to Grade 4 and 5 students from Shellbrook Elementary School.

Born and raised in Holbein, Sgt. Williams has been posted to Latvia to defend the country, and also served in Ukraine in 2014, when Russia invaded and annexed Crimea. Sgt. Williams is now stationed with the North Saskatchewan Regiment in Prince Albert, and serves as a crew commander in charge of a light armoured vehicle.

In addition to sharing some of his own history, Sgt. Williams highlighted the roles Canada has played in many conflicts and peacekeeping initiatives, and also the roles service men and women play at home, whether it be search and rescue, protecting the arctic, or fighting wildfires.

"Something really important to me is remembering all of the men and women who have come before, and helped defend Canada and our allies," he said. "A lot of brave people served our country, in good times and in bad."

Sgt. Williams also touched on Lt. Col. John McCrae and shared the history and inspiration behind the poem *In Flanders Fields*, and taught students about the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at the National War Memorial in Ottawa — a monument to honour all the unidentified soldiers who never made it home.

Always, though, he circled back to the theme of remembering those who have served.

"When we say the words 'Lest we forget,' we're making a special promise to them so that their memories will live on forever. Let's keep that

promise, not just today, but every day," he said.

"If you know [a veteran], or if any of your family members are still alive, make sure to say thank you."

School Ceremony

Maintaining a new tradition that started in 2022, the staff and students of Shellbrook Elementary School and W.P. Sandin High School united for a joint Remembrance Day ceremony on Friday, Nov. 7, filling the high school's gymnasium with the spirit of remembrance.

The high school's ceremony opened with younger students being piped into the gym by bagpipers Dave Hjertaas and Kim Bradley, who then marched and piped Shellbrook Legion members and attending RCMP officers to their seats of honour at the front of the gym.

Continued on page 8



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Canwood Craft Sale kicks off holiday season

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle
Reporter

For years, Canwood’s Craft and Home-based Business Sale has served as one of the area’s first warm ups for the Christmas season, with the Canwood Elks and Canwood Royal Purple running it initially, before passing it off to other community organizations to use as a fundraising vehicle for local initiatives.

On Sunday, Nov. 2, for the second year in a row, the responsibility for running the sale fell to the 11 students of the Canwood Youth Travel Club, who are currently fundraising travel to Belize in March 2027, as well as their parents and travel club leaders.

Dyan Nordquist, one of the group’s leaders, says the sale has turned into a good fundraiser for the students, and been well-received by the community. And as an added bonus to the fundraising, she says

it’s also been beneficial for the students, allowing them to get to know each other before they travel together.

“Not all of them are in the same grade or class. They’re traveling with kids that aren’t their typical friend group,” she explained.

“With the last group that went, they grew over the time that we were fundraising. By the time they went to Greece, they were a whole different group of friends. They had a great time, nobody was left out, and it was a really good experience that way.”

Just as importantly, running the craft sale gets the students out into the community and gives them an opportunity to perform an act of community service.

“We’ve had so many compliments in the past two years about how good the kids have been,” Nordquist said. “They’re cleaning up tables, they’re welcoming people.”



Canwood Youth Travel Club members, from left to right: Maren Hansen, Reese Hamburg, Mad-dy Buckingham, Elisha Johnson, Aksel Nordquist, Zander Bodnarchuck, Dane Stewart, Ryder Vaughan, Patrick Sten, and Tye Vaughan.

This year’s craft sale is almost certain to be met with the same positivity, as 30 vendors helped fill the Canwood Elks Community Centre with anything and everything an early Christmas shopper could ask for. And the vendors had plenty of shoppers to sell to, as more than 200 people came to the hall to pe-

ruse their wares, with 150 choosing to stay for a lunch of pulled pork and homemade dessert. “We had vendors come up to us and say they did very well at our small craft sale, as opposed to going some of the bigger ones in the city,” Nordquist said. “They felt the people were very kind and welcoming.”



A shopper has a look at artwork by local artist Lucille Scott.



Shoppers of all ages came out to peruse the goods at the Canwood Youth Travel Club’s Craft and Home-based Business Sale.

Block launches bill to protect places of worship

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

Carlton Trail-Eagle Creek MP Kelly Block, whose riding includes Leask, Marcelin, and Blaine Lake, has introduced a Private Members Bill to increase the penalties for criminals convicted of mischief directed at places of worship.

If adopted, Bill C-255 will amend the Criminal Code to include compensation to the victim as a punishment for someone convicted of mischief directed at a place of worship. The Bill also broadens the scope of mischief directed at places of worship to include any mischief committed, not just hate-motivated mischief, as is currently the case.

“The cost of vandalism to a

place of worship is borne by the victim of the crime, but Bill C-255 will shift this burden to the criminal,” MP Block said.

“This Bill will make compensation to the victim part of every sentence for those convicted of mischief directed at places of worship.”

Block notes that the past decade has seen a massive increase in hate-motivated mischief incidents related to property used by identifiable groups in Canada. According to Statistics Canada data, there were 66 incidents in 2015. Last year, there were 277 incidents, an increase of more than 400 per cent.

Currently, the Criminal Code gives judges the discretion to impose restitution orders as part of a sentence; Block’s Private Mem-

bers Bill will make compensation part of every sentence. By setting a nominal minimum of \$1,000, Block says, Bill C-255 also maintains the ability of judges to decide what is a reasonable and just amount of compensation.

Furthermore, while some of the punishments proposed in this legislation are new, there are strong similarities to the measures addressing vandalism of war memorials already in the Criminal Code.

“Mischief directed at places of worship is more than just vandalism,” MP Block said. “Whether or not it is committed with the intent to intimidate, worshippers are left living in fear. Victims of this crime should not have the added burden of having to pay for the damages.”

SHELLBROOK & DISTRICT ARTS COUNCIL

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Sat., November 15

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Recreation groups, town chart path forward

By JORDAN TWISS
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

Representatives from local recreation and community groups and the Town of Shellbrook gathered in the curling rink lounge on Wednesday, Nov. 5, hoping to find common ground and ways to collaborate to better meet the needs and desires of user groups.

The Recreation Roundtable, as the Town of Shellbrook has billed it, was the first of what is hoped to be many such meetings in the years to come.

“People are in different little silos, and sometimes they’re trying to solve the same problem,” Shellbrook Mayor Amund Otterson said by way of introduction.

“Often times, working together, getting to know others — what they offer and what they’re dealing with — makes for a better society.”

Also representing the Town of Shellbrook was CAO Sigourney O’Halligan, who outlined some newly passed town policies, which aim to open channels of communication with recreation groups and to enable the town to respond more quickly to requests from them.

After the town unexpectedly eliminated the recreation director position in 2023, CAO O’Halligan also informed attendees that it is now looking at creating a new position for a “sports coordinator,” who will act as a liaison between the town and recreation groups and handle scheduling for sports and events.

“We’re looking for feedback and engagement to help shape what that position might look like,” she said.

With introductory remarks from the town’s perspective out of the way, the floor was opened to recreation group representatives to share their thoughts.

Speaking on behalf of the Shellbrook Seniors Association, Lorraine Thibeault brought forward the idea of forming a development and revitalization committee for the town. Some ideas she felt it could discuss were establishing a town mascot, and developing an outdoor walking trail for seniors at Centennial Park.

Also in attendance on behalf of the Seniors Association, former town councillor Bruce Clements said he was encouraged by the idea of the roundtable, noting that it’s important for the town to build relationships with community groups so that they better understand why decisions are made.

He was also pleased to hear the news about the “sports coordinator” position, advising that the person the town chooses to fill the role needs to be passionate about the community and also be responsible for grant writing.

“A number of recreation directors I’ve talked to around the province pay their wage through the grants they get,” he said.

While Clements’ feedback was mostly positive, he did note that the town has at times been unresponsive to the needs of community groups.

For three years, he said, the Seniors Association has been asking the town to remove a pipe left over from the former CN station from the Senior’s

Centre parking lot, because it presents a potential safety hazard. Though the town owns the property, the work has yet to be done.

The town failing to maintain recreation facilities it owns became a common theme for a portion of the evening.

Representing multiple groups, Gayle Draper said she’s been encouraged by the changes the town has been making over the past year to build trust and respect with recreation groups. However, she feels it’s also gone too far in limiting how volunteers can help with events and facilities — which could lower costs for the town and allow groups to lower recreation fees — leading to frustration among users.

Draper expressed further frustration over the “red tape” and “hurdles” the town makes user groups go through, when they just want to make events as successful as they can possibly be.

“We’re all very passionate about what we do. We take pride and ownership in what we do,” she said. “But we run into a lot of ‘Nos.’ It’s the same stuff over and over. It makes you feel unappreciated as a volunteer and you just want to say, ‘Screw it. They can do it.’”

Asked to provide an example of the red tape user groups have run into, Draper noted that she once had to argue with the town over something as simple as supplying the curling rink with Kleenex.

More significantly, though, Draper pointed to this year’s Ballapalooza and the rental of the Centennial Building at the Shellbrook Sports Grounds. When event organizers found they had no working freezers, they sourced two units for the building using their own money — with the idea that the town would be able to use them for all future rentals — and asked the town if it would waive the rental fee for the day.

The town said no (council has since agreed to pay Shellbrook Minor Ball’s invoice for the freezers). However, it was also noted that the Centennial Building also needs a deep fryer and that the town fell short in its obligations to control weeds at the Sports Grounds.

“It’s all the little things,” Draper said. “It often feels like we’re in a steeple chase against the town. It’s draining and exhausting, when it should be uplifting and exciting.”

Speaking to more of the town’s “red tape,” Shellbrook Curling Club representative Paul Beaulieu questioned why the curling season had to be delayed two weeks while the club tries to work with the town through its concerns about its new user agreements.

TOWN OF SPIRITWOOD PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice is hereby given that the Council of the Town of Spiritwood intends to adopt a bylaw under the *Planning and Development Act, 2007* to amend Bylaw No. 486/13, known as the Zoning Bylaw.

INTENT
The proposed Zoning Bylaw amendment will include veterinary clinics and animal hospitals as a permitted use in the FUD – Future Urban Development District.

REASONS
To facilitate the development of veterinary clinics and animal hospitals in the FUD – Future Urban Development District.

PUBLIC INSPECTION
Any person may inspect the bylaw at the Town Office, located at 212 Main Street, between the hours of 8:00 AM and 4:30 PM on Monday to Thursday, and 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM on Friday, excluding statutory holidays. Copies of the bylaw are available at the Town Office at a cost of \$5.

PUBLIC HEARING
Council will hold a public hearing on November 25th, 2025, at 6:45 p.m. at the Town Office to hear any person or group that wants to comment on the proposed bylaw. Council will also consider written comments received at the hearing or delivered to the undersigned at the Town Office before the hearing.

Issued at the Town of Spiritwood this 6th day of November, 2025.
Rhonda Saam, Chief Administrative Officer

The user agreements were a point of contention and confusion for nearly all user groups represented at the roundtable, particularly when it comes to the their language about user group liability.

Attending in his capacity as an insurance agent, Quinn Tait said he didn’t know why anyone would sign the agreement.

“As far as what we’ve discussed with our underwriting team from SGI that takes care of the town policy, they really feel like some of the things in the user agreement are looking down a rabbit hole wondering what we can find down there,” he said.

“The user groups are feeling like all of the liability is shifted from the town onto them through this agreement. It’s overwhelming.”

Mayor Otterson responded that the idea isn’t for the town to displace liability onto user groups, while O’Halligan clarified that the intent of the user agreement was to improve communication and collaboration and streamline administration.

Shellbrook Minor Ball representative Nicole Philp replied that the user agreements themselves aren’t the issue, but rather the lack of clarity about liability.

Tait added that his underwriter expressed confusion about why user groups can’t be arm’s length agents of the town and be covered under the town’s insurance policy, noting that this is how the question of liability is handled in other communities (and how it was once handled in Shellbrook).

The idea of bringing user groups under the umbrella of the town was echoed by Rob Boulding, a recreation consultant with the Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association, who was in attendance to provide guidance and said it could be done by establishing bylaws unique to each user group/facility.

While no decisions were made, this was greeted by user group representatives as a good point from which to continue discussions with the town in a positive way.

TOWN OF BIG RIVER PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice is hereby given that the Council of the Town of Big River intends to adopt 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.

INTENT
The proposed bylaws will amend:
• Bylaw No. 2015-01, the Official Community Plan and
• Bylaw No. 2015-02, the Zoning Bylaw Zoning District Map,
• to rezone Lot 4 Block 25, Plan BZ2258, located at 121 Chamberland Street, as shown within the bold dashed line on the following map below, from R1 – Low Density Residential District to LS – Lakeshore District.

AFFECTED LAND
The affected land is legally described as Lot 4, Block 25, Plan BZ2258, located at 121 Chamberland Street, as shown within the bold dashed line on the following map.



REASON
The reason for the amendment is to rezone the lot for the purpose of LS – Lakeshore Use.

PUBLIC INSPECTION
Any person may inspect the bylaws at the Town Office in Big River on any judicial day from Monday to Friday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon and 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING
Council will hold a public hearing on November 18, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. in the Board Room at Big River Community Centre, 606 1st Street North, in Big River, Saskatchewan to hear any person or group that wants to comment on the proposed bylaws. Council will also consider written comments received at the hearing (or delivered to the undersigned at the municipal office before the hearing).

Issued at Big River this 6th day of November, 2025.
Noreen Olsen, Administrator

December 6

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Budget or election? Neither option was great

At long last, federal budget day has come and gone.

Prior to last Tuesday's tabling of Budget 2025, Canadians hadn't been granted a peek at the federal government's ledger since December 2024 – before former Prime Minister Justin Trudeau made his long-awaited exit from politics.

At the time of the federal government's last fiscal update, it was projecting a \$48.4 billion deficit (a shift in the right direction, given the \$61.9 billion deficit it ran in the 2023-2024 fiscal year).

So, while Canadians were undoubtedly hoping Prime Minister Mark Carney would show off his banking acumen in his first budget, they knew better than to expect him to work miracles by returning the government's books to balance.

What Canadians were asking for from Mr. Carney was pretty simple: make life more affordable.

What they got was a budget focused almost entirely on so-called "generational investments" in "Canadian infrastructure and productivity."

Early on, Budget 2025 lays out the challenges Canada faces: trade disruptions caused by ongoing tariff wars with United States President Donald Trump, as well as China and India, the high cost of living, high unemployment, low and volatile oil prices, and slow global economic growth.

To meet these challenges, the Carney government's "generational investment" includes \$141.4 billion in new spending over the next five years. This will be offset by \$60 billion in projected savings through its Comprehensive Expenditure Review, found largely by axing 40,000 public service jobs and finding operational efficiencies in government departments.

The budget promises \$115 billion in infrastructure spending over five years, \$30 billion more in defence and security spending (to meet Mr. Carney's pledge to NATO to increase spending to 5 per cent of GDP by 2035), and \$25 billion for federal housing initiatives.

It also includes plans to invest \$110



JORDAN
TWISS

~
News Editor

billion over the next five years in "productivity and competitiveness" initiatives, which the government hopes will help it meet its goal of attracting \$500 billion in private sector investment by 2030.

All this planned adds up to a staggering \$78.3 billion deficit this year (the second largest in Canada's history).

Not in the cards for Mr. Carney's five-year timeline is a return to balanced budget, as the projected deficits will shrink only modestly to \$57

billion by 2029-2030.

But, says the federal government, the silver lining is that deficit spending will no longer pay for its day to day operations, as it shifts its spending focus to "investments that grow the economy."

"The result is more taxpayer dollars will go toward nation-building infrastructure, clean energy, innovation, productivity, and less on day-to-day operating spending," the budget outlines. "This new discipline will allow us to protect social benefits."

Speaking of social benefits, including Trudeau-era measures like the Canadian Dental Care Plan, \$10 per day childcare, and the National School Food Program, those remain intact. However, the government will look to cap program spending growth at 0.5 per cent per year to make them more sustainable.

In Mr. Carney's defence, this is pretty much the exact approach he's been promising to take since he became prime minister. So, in this regard, Budget 2025 isn't much of a surprise.

But what do all these forward-looking "generational investments" mean for the average Canadian?

Truthfully, I don't have any clue, and neither will anyone, really, until enough time passes for us to determine whether Mr. Carney's investments are paying off.

In the meantime, Mr. Carney's government is reminding Canadians of things it's already done to make their lives more affordable, such as axing the consumer carbon price and cutting taxes for 22 million middle-class Canadians.

Oh, and Budget 2025 also includes the elimination of the underused housing



tax and the luxury tax on aircraft priced over \$100,000 and boats priced over \$250,000. So there's that, too, I guess.

All in all, Budget 2025 reads less like a budget and more like an election platform: big on pie in the sky aspirations, but light on short-term specifics.

While this made it difficult to respond to, Pierre Poilievre's Conservative Party didn't hold back on offering an opinion.

"The Prime Minister has broken every single promise he made just seven short months ago," the party said in a statement. "The cost of this Liberal budget will drive up the cost of food, housing, and everything else that Canadians buy."

The Conservatives also stated emphatically that they wouldn't be supporting the budget, and would instead introduce an amendment to the budget to "make Canada affordable again."

Joining the Conservatives in initial opposition to Budget 2025 was the Bloc Québécois, which called the budget "harmful to Québec because it failed to increase the indexation of the Canada Health Transfer to six per cent and increase Old Age Security."

Meanwhile, the NDP, the only other party with enough votes to keep Mr. Carney's government afloat, offered no immediate opinion on Budget 2025, saying only that it would take the time to study the document.

With Acadie-Annapolis MP Chris d'Entremont resigning from the Con-

servative caucus to join the Liberals last week, Mr. Carney needed just two votes to pass his budget through a trio of confidence votes. But it remained unclear where this bipartisan support would come from.

So, less than seven months after Canadians last went to the polls, a winter election was feeling like a distinct possibility.

The question, then, was what would such an election accomplish?

Polling data suggests support for the Liberals and Conservatives hasn't changed much since the election, so the most likely outcome would have been a repeat of the 2021 federal election, which changed almost nothing.

Regardless of the outcome, another election would have meant further delays to a federal budget, and to Canada's response to the affordability challenges Canadians are facing here and now.

Canadians couldn't afford to wait any longer, and neither could Canada's economy.

Whether they realized this and chose to put Canadians first, or just realized that an election wouldn't go their way, the Conservatives, NDP, and Bloc Québécois all took turns voting with the Liberals to defeat two budget amendments last week.

But there's still one confidence vote left before the budget is passed, so Canadians aren't out of the woods yet.

Shellbrook Chronicle

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Spiritwood Herald

Serving the Communities of Spiritwood, Shell Lake, Leoville, Chitek Lake, Mildred, Rabbit Lake, Medstead, Mayfair, Bapaume, Belbutte, Glaslyn

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Parkland Elks alumni return to Shellbrook

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

Though the U18 AA Parkland Elks were busy competing in the Bill Kurucz Memorial Tournament in Edmonton, and the Shellbrook Elks Senior Hockey Club had the weekend off, there was still plenty of action at the Richardson Pioneer Recreation Centre on Friday night, when the Prairie Junior Hockey League’s Prince Albert Timberjaks and Saskatoon Royals rolled into town.

Coming from just down the road, the Timberjaks even brought a few familiar faces with them, as U18 AA Parkland Elks alumni Kamden Shewchuk, Brendan Aug, Kendon Skalicky, Chase Hansen, Brody Anderson, and Jake Boettcher returned to their former home ice.

With a hometown crowd cheering them on, the Timberjaks

found themselves in a deep a hole by the mid-way point of the second period, as the Royals raced out to a 3-0 lead. However, the Timberjaks rallied late in the period, scoring three unanswered goals to even the score out, and Chase Hansen and Brody Anderson both picked up an assist along the way.

With the score knotted, the final period was a back and forth match, with the teams combining for 36 shots on goal over the course of 20 minutes. The Royals were just more successful in making their shots count, going up 5-3 before the midway point of the period, then adding a last-second empty netter to squash the Timberjaks’ hopes of a comeback.



From left to right: U18 AA Parkland Elks alumni Kamden Shewchuk, Brendan Aug, Kendon Skalicky, Chase Hansen, Brody Anderson, and Jake Boettcher returned to Shellbrook with the Prince Albert Timberjaks on Friday, Nov. 7.
Photo Courtesy of Patricia Skalicky Photography

BRANDED CONTENT

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3. **Enjoy uninterrupted coverage**, knowing your health benefits continue seamlessly into retirement.



Canwood student named SRSC rural rep

By **MICHAEL OLEKSYN**
LJI Reporter, PA Daily Herald

The Saskatchewan Rivers School Division Board of Education welcomed a new Saskatchewan Rivers Students for Change (SRSC) rural representative at their regular meeting on Oct. 20.

Tye Vaughan, a Grade 11 student from Canwood Public School, is the new SRSC rural board representative for 2025-2026. Vaughan said he chose to let his name stand because he wants to be a rural voice for students at the board table.

“I was interested in representing the rural students at the board meetings,” he said. “I’m on the SRSC, so we discuss things to bring up and then to make the changes. I’m really interested in making changes within our schools and I know how important the student voice is because they’re making decisions for us, right, so I think that’s really important.”

Vaughan is in his second year on the SRSC after joining in Grade 10. The SRSC has already set up some points they want to bring to the board table after their first meeting and elections. Vaughan said the list includes working on more career support for students. Last year the SRSC created a series of videos with the goal of helping students navigate work and education after high school.

During the meeting, Vaughan gave a report outlining how the SRSC is developing relationships among schools, and learning their roles as executive members of the organization.

“We’re working on the meaning of belonging because we’ve seen in our survey that a lot of students didn’t feel a sense of belonging at school,” he said. “We’re working on student

involvement in the schools.”

Vaughan said that there is a noticeable trend of students not getting involved in sports and extracurricular.

He said that they are also working around some challenges on student achievement.

“We have very low math averages in Saskatchewan particularly, so we’re working on looking back at like why is that happening and stuff like that,”



Canwood Grade 11 student Tye Vaughan is this year’s rural rep on Saskatchewan Rivers Students for Change.

Vaughan said.

Vaughan added that the student survey that the SRSC constructed has helped give them a better idea of what they are seeing at the school level.

“It’s very helpful because it’s school division wide so we see all of the numbers about a whole bunch of different things,” he explained. “It’s really good to gather information and kind of pick what we’re going to work towards each year.”

Vaughan said it was great that the group has their focus set early in the year, but they have to be willing to flex if student needs change.

“Usually at our first meeting we set like the general things we’re going to work on throughout the year, so it’s good,” he said.

Director of Education Neil Finch was also happy to have Vaughan as the rural board representative.

“It’s always exciting to have our student voice around the table,” Finch said. “Our students see things with a different perspective than the adults sitting around the table, and the reason they’re there (is because) we respect and acknowledge their voice. Having Tye there is an exciting start to the year.”

Abby Ellis from Victor Thunderchild Public High School has been elected the urban representative but sent her regrets for the meeting on Oct. 20.

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Farm events create community connections

As this hits print pages and appears online, Yorkton will have just wrapped up the 2025 edition of the long-running Grain Millers Harvest Showdown.

In its 36th year, the event is personally a benchmark. One of my first assignments when I joined the then-Enterprise was to interview Shaun Morin. He was manager of the Yorkton Exhibition Association (YEA) at the time, and I caught up with him back then pounding metal pegs into the parking lot asphalt to secure tents for the first Harvest Showdown.

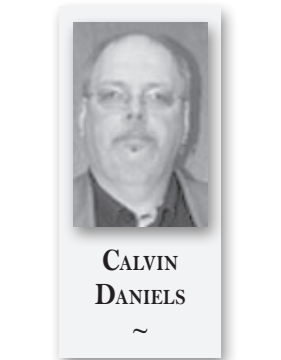
Through the many

years since, Harvest Showdown — if you are not local think of it as mini Regina Agribition — has evolved often.

A llama show came and went, as have commercial sheep shows, Canola Days featuring speakers on that key local crop, and other events which held interest for limited lengths of time.

But, through all the changes, the heart of the event has remained constant — a focus on agriculture.

While the YEA hosts a number of events — some like the summer fair, once featuring live-stock shows and farm



machinery displays but today all about fun and entertainment — Harvest Showdown remains staunchly about agriculture.

That farm focus is important for two rather different reasons.

The first is that it affords people in the city an opportunity to con-

nect with farming just a little.

That occurs most obviously with hundreds of city and area school students touring a set of educational stations to create that connection from farm to table that is so critical to understand.

On the other side of things, Harvest Showdown brings farmers to the city — and in significant numbers.

When producers gather for the grain show awards, or to take in cattle shows and sales, or horse pulls and stock dog events, their presence generates economy for the

city.

They eat, buy fuel, stay in hotels, do some early Christmas shopping — all things which collectively reaffirm the importance of farming to the city.

Of course, Yorkton likes local manufacturing and processing facilities because they create jobs.

But an event such as Harvest Showdown reminds us that the often multi-million dollar farm units that dot the regional landscape are economic drivers, really dual drivers in a sense.

Individually, farms require fertilizers,

seed, machinery — services that are all based in an urban community.

And collectively, farms are why Yorkton has an oat processor, a flax processor, two canola processors, soon a pea processor, livestock yards, grain companies, and other cornerstone businesses.

Harvest Showdown and other events across the Prairies — the aforementioned Agribition, Ag-Ex in Brandon, Farmfair in Edmonton — just reaffirm the importance of farming, while offering a sort of hands-on glimpse of the ag sector.

NDP supports calls for drought relief

By SASK NDP
Submitted

As rural municipalities continue to gather in the province’s capital, the Saskatchewan NDP is backing their collective call for long-term drought support for producers as some areas have experienced severe conditions for nine years and counting. The Saskatchewan NDP have been calling for emergency drought measures and long-term fixes together with drought devastated RMs and producers throughout this summer and fall.

The Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM) wrote to Sask. Party Agriculture Minister Daryl Harrison on Sept. 29 urging him to act following meetings in July. In the letter, SARM President Bill Huber said, “To date the provincial government has not established meaningful long-term drought support or implemented substantive changes that producers so desperately need. During a recent phone call, you (Minister Harrison) indicated to me that there would be no additional support

provided at the provincial level and expressed that despite efforts there was no additional headway being made with the federal government either.”

“The bottom line is this — Saskatchewan producers that have faced years of drought devastation need support from the province and the feds, and they need it now,” said Trent Wotherspoon, Saskatchewan NDP Deputy Agriculture Shadow Minister. “Our producers are world-class but they have faced horrific drought conditions — in some cases for near a decade — as well as ongoing tariffs from China and India.

“This is a critical moment for leadership. Our producers feed the world and we must act to protect their farms, their livelihoods and our province’s future.”

Wotherspoon endorsed the calls for action from SARM laid out in the letter, including:

- Additional policy or crop insurance program for producers wanting to mitigate drought risks;
- Increasing the number of crop adjusters to provide timely estimates for coverage;
- Allow double low yield appraisals to be harvest-

ed with a combine to be used for seed by a producer the following year in the event of a crop failure;

- A rebate on trucking fees for delivering feed;
- And, reducing the administrative burden of Business Risk Management programs to allow for timely payments.

“These are critical actions the Sask. Party can take right now to help during drought conditions not seen in a lifetime,” Wotherspoon said.

“People are tired of this Sask. Party government, after 18 years, stalling and refusing to listen the very producers that drive our economy forward.”

Supreme Court to hear pronoun policy appeal

By JORDAN TWISS
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

The Saskatchewan government’s pronoun policy, also known as Bill 137 — The Parents’ Bill of Rights, is headed to the Supreme Court of Canada.

On Thursday, Nov. 6, Canada’s top court announced that it will hear appeals challenging the law, which the Sask. Party government enacted in 2023.

The Supreme Court of Canada’s decisions follows a ruling by the Saskatchewan Court of Appeal, which determined earlier this year that challenges of the law’s constitutionality can continue, even though the government’s use of the notwithstanding clause means it can’t be struck down by the courts.

First announced in August 2023, the pronoun policy was introduced by the Sask. Party government during an emergency session of the Legislature that fall. It passed 10 days after its introduction, with the government pre-emptively invoking the notwithstanding clause to shield it from constitutional challenges.

The bill outlines the rights of parents to be the primary decision-maker with respect to their children’s education and says parents must provide consent if a child wants to change their gender identification in school.

Other parental rights enshrined in the law include the right to be informed on a regular basis of children’s attendance, behaviour, and academic achievement in school, a right to consult with

teachers and school employees about their children’s education, access to their children’s school files, and the right to receive information and make decisions about what their children study.

The bill also indefinitely banned third-party sexual health educators from classrooms, until the Ministry of Education reviews the curriculum, and gives parents the right to opt their child out of sexual health education altogether.

Shortly after the pronoun policy was introduced, the province’s independent child advocate, Lisa Broda, ruled it could “violate a young person’s rights under provincial, constitutional, and international human rights laws.” The policy was also challenged in court by the UR Pride Centre for Sexuality and Gender Diversity.

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Note: A sum for costs in an amount required by subsection 4(3) of <i>The Tax Enforcement Act</i> is included in the amount shown against each parcel.					
DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY					
LOT SEC	BLOCK TWP	PLAN RANGE	HAMLET/MERIDIAN	TITLE NO.	TOTAL ARREARS AND COSTS
		SE 25 49 02 W3		152777672	\$ 3,161.38
		NE 29 49 03 W3		150195764	\$ 2,966.41
		SE 25 49 02 W3		141361433	\$ 2,589.23
1	103	Plan 81PA04200 Ext 0		117112092	\$ 2,448.56
		NE 20 51 01 W3		149726144	\$ 2,271.73
		NW 03 51 02 W3		116597571	\$ 2,014.78
		SW 33 50 02 W3		116485454	\$ 1,812.23
		NW 22 50 01 W3		116930268	\$ 1,608.85
		NE 03 51 02 W3		116597559	\$ 1,563.32
		SE 25 51 03 W3		132127499	\$ 1,407.04
		NW 34 50 02 W3		116485511	\$ 1,231.23
		NW 29 52 03 W3		149201625	\$ 1,185.35
9	12	Plan AV541 Ext 0 NW 14 49 02 W3	Holbein	132063229	\$ 1,019.35
		SW 31 52 03 W3		149201591	\$ 1,014.46
		NE 34 50 02 W3		116485500	\$ 940.69
		NW 23 51 03 W3		150442095	\$ 820.56
		NE 30 52 03 W3		149201412	\$ 803.01
		SW 01 53 03 W3		144587346	\$ 719.73
		SE 15 50 01 W3		147883427	\$ 539.63
		NW 31 52 03 W3		149201636	\$ 474.25
Dated this 30 th day of October, 2025 Duane Storey, Administrator					

Shellbrook observes week of remembrance

Continued from 1

Following the singing of O Canada by the schools' choirs and a prayer by Padre Dave Bodvarson, the choirs sang a rendition of The Beatles' "Let it Be" for the special guests. Then, all in attendance listened to "Soldier's Cry" by Roland Majeau, a handful of students read their Remembrance Day poetry, and Shellbrook Legion member Nancy Carswell took the stage to share her family's experience with war through her great uncle, Alexander Ryan.

"This is my family's story, one about the casualties felt not only on the battlefield, but within the quiet walls of the home, where grief seeped through the generations," she began.

Carswell recounted the day in 1944 when her mother came home to find her father, Archie, standing in front of the wash stand mirror, crying. She soon learned her uncle Alexander had been killed while fighting in Belgium.

"For [my mom], it was as

if the ground beneath her small, secure world had given way," Carswell said. "The war had reached her, too — not in bombs or hunger, but in the shattering sight of her father crying. She had never seen him cry before."

Closing out her remarks, Carswell asked all in attendance to reflect on three questions:

Why are countries at war with themselves and other countries?

Why do you think it's important to remember?

How can thinking and learning about the sacrifices made in the past, help us make better choices today and make the world more peaceful?

Continuing the ceremony, students Kyleigh Schmalz and Hayley Van Hereweghe recited *In Flanders Fields*, which served as the lead-in to the playing of the last post and the observation of a moment of silence.

Next, the roll call was read and all in attendance were invited to pin poppies and lay

wreaths in honour of family members who served, and W.P. Sandin Principal Tyler Kuzma closed out the ceremony with some final remarks.

"Personally, I've never had to make any sacrifices for the freedoms I enjoy. But like many of us here, I've had family members who have made

the sacrifice," he said. "I'm truly thankful for their service, which has given us the freedoms we're privileged to have here today."



Sgt. Linwood Williams gives a presentation at the Shellbrook Public Library.



Shellbrook Legion member Nancy Carswell shares her family's story with war during the school Remembrance Day ceremony.



Gwyn Phan (middle) reads her Remembrance Day poem.



Emersyn Nahorniak pins a poppy in memory of family members who have served.

Sask. expands definition of interpersonal violence

By MINISTRY OF JUSTICE
Submitted

The Government has introduced The Cyberstalking and Coercive Control Act, which expands the definition of interpersonal violence in The Victims of Interpersonal Violence Act to include cyberstalking and online harassment, as well as coercive and controlling behaviour.

The Victims of Interpersonal Violence Act provides protections for victims of interpersonal violence including emergency orders to restrict perpetrators from contacting victims and a process for ending long-term ten-

ancies where a victim is at risk of future violence.

"As a society our understanding of control, harassment, and abuse has evolved over time, and we are modernizing legislation to ensure Saskatchewan residents remain safe and secure online and in their communities," Justice Minister and Attorney General Tim McLeod, K.C., said. "Expanding the definition of interpersonal violence will provide more options to protect those experiencing abuse, and raise awareness about how these crimes are evolving through technologies like geo-location devices and cellphone

monitoring software."

The addition of cyberstalking and coercive and controlling behaviour to the legislation clearly identifies this conduct as a form of interpersonal violence and provides legislative support to victims when they are seeking help. Expanding the definition of interpersonal violence to include cyberstalking bolsters provisions found in the Criminal Code, and specifically addresses instances where individuals attempt to use tracking devices to monitor an individual without their consent.

"Interpersonal violence takes many forms,

it is not always physical or even visible," Minister Responsible for the Status of Women Alana Ross said. "Abusers use coercive control to isolate people from support - cutting off family, friends, and finances - and it is often an early warning sign of more dangerous behaviours like physical abuse. Adding this to the legislation gives people another important tool to help prevent violence and escape abusive relationships."

Coercive control is a pattern of behaviour that seeks to take away a person's freedom and strip away their sense of self. It can include behaviours like strictly

controlling someone's finances, depriving someone of their basic needs, closely monitoring of someone's activities, and isolating someone from their family and friends.

"PATHS and our member agencies are very pleased that Saskatchewan will amend the definition of interpersonal violence," Provincial Association of Transition Houses and Services of Saskatchewan (PATHS) Director of Research Dr. Crystal Giesbrecht said. "Amending the definition will make provisions within provincial legislation to protect survivors of violence and abuse available to

those experiencing coercive or controlling behaviour or online stalking and harassment. This change will increase options and enhance safety for victims and survivors in Saskatchewan."

This year, the Government of Saskatchewan is dedicating approximately \$32 million to 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.

Medstead School hosts volleyball Regionals

By **BEVRA FEE**
Spiritwood Herald
Reporter

Medstead Central School's most active venue — the school gymnasium — was a scene of high school athletic excellence on Saturday, Nov. 8, as the school hosted the Saskatchewan High Schools Athletics Association's (SHSAA) regional playoffs for the 1A Girls division.

Six teams, all having advanced to Regionals from their Conference play downs, were in competition to determine the top two teams to advance to the Provincials competition.

Athletes and coaches from schools in Loon Lake, St. Walburg, Maymont, Edam and Saskatoon joined the host Medstead for a total of nine intense matchups.

After winning their own Conference tournament in Leoville

the weekend prior, Medstead got off to a strong start at Regionals, beating Saskatoon's Valour Academy in two sets with scores of 26-24 and 25-11.

In the early afternoon, Medstead returned to the court to close out the round robin against St. Walburg, but fell in two hard-fought sets with scores of 26-24 and 25-18.

This left Medstead facing Maymont in the championship qualifier match. Once again, the Medstead squad put up a strong fight, losing the first set by a score of 26-24. This defeat seemed to suck some of the wind out of their sails, as they dropped set two by a score of 25-15 to end their tournament.

Over in the other championship qualifier, Edam (who placed second at Conferences in Leoville) faced a hard challenge from St. Walburg but won out in

three sets to advance to the gold medal game.

With the two top teams guaranteed to advance to Provincials, which will be held in Leroy, Sask., on the weekend of Nov. 15, the typical high emotions were transformed into a fun spirit of great volleys and big hits.

Both teams were fairly evenly matched and the scores in the two sets went back and forth until the winner of the gold medal standing was crowned. The ladies from Maymont, along with coaches Kim Voegeli and Tyler Voegeli, were a dominant force, which was evidenced by their undefeated scores on the day.

Also taking part in Regionals at the 3A level, W.P. Sandin High School's senior girls volleyball team travelled to Valley Christian Academy in Osler on Saturday, Nov. 8. There, they were joined by the



Medstead School Principal Greg Knot and Coach Kelly Schneider hand out gold medals to the Maymont Cougars team after the senior girls volleyball Regionals tournament hosted at the school.

host team, as well as teams from Creighton, Lanigan, Watrous, and St. Brieux.

Like the Medstead squad, the Shellbrook girl's team topped the field at Conferences. However, on Saturday, the team was unable to find its game, losing its first match to St. Brieux

in two sets with scores of 25-21 and 25-17.

With only an hour to rest, Shellbrook returned to the court to face Watrous. Once again, the team lost in two sets, with scores of 25-11 and 25-18, ending their tournament run and their season.

After a day of volleyball action, Lanigan and Watrous met in the gold medal game, with Lanigan emerging victorious in two sets.

Meanwhile, host Valley Christian Academy won out in the bronze medal game.

25-14 and 25-22. This match turned out to be the deciding factor, as Medstead remained undefeated to place first, and Glaslyn won its remaining games to finish second.

Both teams will advance to Regionals this weekend.

In 3A volleyball action, Spiritwood High School's team journeyed to Ministikwan Lake Cree Nation, joining the host school in facing off against teams from Unity, Maidstone, and Canoe Lake.

Shellbrook Library October highlights

By **EDDIE HOEHN**
Branch Librarian

October was an exciting month for the library.

Throughout the month, the kids were excited to participate in scavenger hunts and dance to songs at Flamingo and Babysit-

ting Storytimes. The kids put plastic toy fruit and vegetables into a pail to make pretend soup for Thanksgiving Storytime on Friday Oct. 10.

Volunteer and local library board member Samuel Schafer presented Mole Storytime on Friday Oct. 24. Participants

made a popsicle stick construction paper mole puppet in a paper cup. They enjoyed doing a scavenger hunt to find construction paper moles hidden in the library. The kids took turns throwing balls into a box with a donut cutout for Donut Storytime on Friday Oct. 31.

Participants had lots of fun making spooky faces and planets at the Tea Light Halloween Craft Program on Monday Oct. 27. The kids attached a pre-cut ping pong ball to a tea light and decorated with markers to make a delightfully creepy Halloween decoration.

Participants enjoyed Halloween-themed Trivia Night on Wednesday Oct. 29. Volunteer and local library board member Samuel Schafer ran the program. The three participants each competed individually for fun. Categories included a "name the candy bar" round, most popular costumes round, scary book round, and a common Halloween songs round. Laurel Jensen won at Trivia Night.

The Lego Club participants worked together to complete a single creation as a group in October. The kids created a Thanksgiving scene, a fall forest, houses and train cars, and a Halloween scene with haunted houses, trick-or-treaters, and zombies. Volunteer and local library board member Samuel Schafer helped run Lego Club and volunteer Marj Bradley helped supervise Halloween Lego Club.



From left to right: Theodore, Jordan, Drohnen, and Hannah with the Fall Forest Lego Club group build.



From left to right: Tyler Klumpenhower, Nancy Carswell, and Laurel Jensen participate in Trivia Night, led by board member Samuel Shafer.



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SCAN ME

Carney gov’t tables investment-heavy budget

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle
Reporter

Prime Minister Mark Carney’s Liberal federal government tabled its first budget on Tuesday, Nov. 4, billing the 406-page document as a “generational investment” in Canadian infrastructure and productivity to meet the challenges posed by a

time of great upheaval for global trade. “The speed, scope and scale of change that we’re seeing in Canada and around the world is quite unprecedented,” said Finance Minister François-Philippe Champagne in an Ottawa news conference on budget day. “This is not a transformation. This is a generational shift, and we

need to meet this moment with generational investment. To weather the storm of uncertainty, we will not lower our sails ... We will do what previous generations have done before us. We will raise them to catch the winds of economic change.” From the outset, Budget 2025 lays out the challenges Canada faces, including trade

disruptions caused by tariffs, the high cost of living, high unemployment, low and volatile oil prices, and slow global economic growth. To meet these challenges and “Build Canada Strong,” the Carney government’s “generational investment” includes \$141.4 billion in new spending over the next five years. This will be offset by \$60 billion in projected savings through its Comprehensive Expenditure Review, found largely by axing public service jobs (40,000 positions over the next three years) and finding operational efficiencies.

The budget promises \$115 billion in infrastructure spending over five years, \$30 billion more in defence and security spending (to meet Carney’s pledge to NATO to increase spending to 5 per cent of GDP by 2035), and \$25 billion for federal housing initiatives. It also includes plans to invest \$110 billion over the next five years in “productivity and competitiveness” initiatives, which the government hopes will help it achieve its goal of attracting \$500 billion in private sector investment by 2030.

All this planned spending adds up to a \$78.3 billion deficit this year (up significantly from the \$48.4 deficit forecast in the government’s last fiscal update in December 2024), and a gradual reduction of the deficit to \$57 billion by 2029-2030. But the government notes that it’s changing the way it operates, so that deficit spending will be for capital investments rather than to pay for day-to-day operations. “The result is more taxpayer dollars will go toward nation-building infrastructure, clean

energy, innovation, productivity, and less on day-to-day operating spending,” the budget outlines.”This new discipline will allow us to protect social benefits.” Though Budget 2025 maintains social programs implemented by former Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, including the Canadian Dental Care Plan, \$10 per day childcare, and the National School Food Program, the government says its hunt for efficiencies will slow program spending growth to a more sustainable rate of 0.5 per cent per year over the next five years (compared to 8.1 per cent per year over the past decade).

Other budget highlights include:

- A “productivity super-deduction” tax measure that will allow companies to write off larger shares of capital investments more quickly;
- \$51 billion over 10 years for local infrastructure such as housing, roads, water/wastewater and health facilities;
- \$214 million over five years to the Major Projects Office to approve critical mineral projects;
- Reducing the target for new temporary resident admissions from 673,650 in 2025 to 385,000 in 2026 (and 380,000 per year after this);
- A foreign credential recognition action fund to work with the provinces and territories to improve transparency, timeliness and consistency of foreign credential recognition;
- Elimination of underused housing tax and luxury tax on aircraft priced over \$100,000 and boats priced over \$250,000;
- A review of ATM and bank fees; and
- \$115.7 million over

four years to streamline access to the Canada Disability Benefit, which began rolling out in June and provides working age Canadians up to \$2,400 per year. One question heading into budget day, after Carney eliminated the consumer carbon tax on his first day in office, was whether his government would maintain the Trudeau era oil and gas emissions cap. Budget 2025 stops short of axing it, with the government arguing that effective carbon markets, enhanced oil and gas methane regulations, and the deployment at scale of technologies such as carbon capture and storage “will create the circumstances whereby the oil and gas emissions cap would no longer be required.” With only a minority mandate, Carney’s government will need the support of another party to pass its budget and avoid a winter election. Having demanded that the government keep the deficit below \$42 billion, Conservative Party Leader Pierre Poilievre said his party will oppose it and introduced an amendment to “make Canada affordable again.” The Bloc Québécois also signalled its plans to introduce a budget amendment, leaving only the NDP as a question mark. On Thursday evening (Nov. 6), both the NDP and the Bloc voted down the Conservatives’ budget amendment alongside the Liberals by a tally of 198-139. Then, on Friday, the Conservatives and the NDP united with the Liberals to vote down the Bloc’s budget amendment. Now, the only vote remaining is on the budget itself. That vote is expected to take place on Monday, Nov. 17.

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 & District Arts Council – Christmas Craft Sale. Saturday, November 15, 10am to 4pm @ Shellbrook Community Hall. Homemade lunch available for purchase.
LEASK: Leask Recreation Board – Christmas Craft Sale – Sunday, November 16, 12pm to 5pm @ Leask Community Hall. No entrance fee for shoppers. Pasta Lunch available: \$12 (gluten-free version available).
SHELLBROOK: Kinette Club of Shellbrook presents Small Business Christmas Party – Friday, December 12, Shellbrook Community Hall. 5pm Cocktails; 6:30pm Christmas Supper; 8pm Comedian Darryl “Junior” Koszman & friends with dance to follow. Tickets: \$50 ea. or \$350/table of 8. \$10 entry fee for dance entrance after 10pm. Limited tickets available. For tickets contact shellbrook_kinettes@hotmail.com or Shellbrook Kinettes facebook page. All proceeds to Shellbrook Community Hall improvements.
SHELLBROOK: Kinette Club of Shellbrook – Twinkle Tour! Sunday, December 7. Meet & line up on Elevator Road at 5:30pm. Register your home prior to December 2 via email: shellbrooktwinkletour@gmail.com
SHELLBROOK: Kinette Club of Shellbrook – Santa Fun Day! Saturday, November 22 – 11am to 3pm, Shellbrook Community Hall. Pictures with Santa, Santa Letter Writing, Gingerbread Houses, Reindeer Food, Hot Chocolate Bar, Chili & Hot Dog Sale, Mini Christmas Village. Entry: Please bring non-perishable food item.
PARKSIDE: A Journey Under the Stars – The Christmas Story: A Live Narration Event. Sat., Dec. 6, 6pm, Main Street, Parkside, SK. We invite you to take a walk with us through the historic event that changed the world forever. From Mary receiving the promise to the birth of Jesus in a manger, you will experience the Christmas story like never before. Free Admission & Parking; Live Entertainment; Marketplace, Hot Beverages, Sleigh Rides. Parkside “Light Up” to follow. For more info: 306-714-0255

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Very little.

So close, but no Series title, for Blue Jays

If this year's World Series could be narrowed down to a simple 'Who killed the Toronto Blue Jays?', let's get right to the point and play a sports version of Clue. Open the little envelope and here's what's inside:

It was Hoffman.

In the ninth.

With a slider.

Poor Jeff Hoffman. The Blue Jays' much maligned ninth-inning closer was two outs away from sending Canada into a state of sports delirium when he delivered a fateful slider to the weakest hitter in the Los Angeles Dodgers' lineup, Miguel Rojas, who hadn't had a base hit since Oct. 2, thanks mainly to sitting on the bench.

Rojas swung and the ball sailed over the left-field wall, tying the game 4-4, sending it into extra innings and the pessimists among Canada's 41 million people had a bad feeling that the Jays' spectacular season was not going to end well.

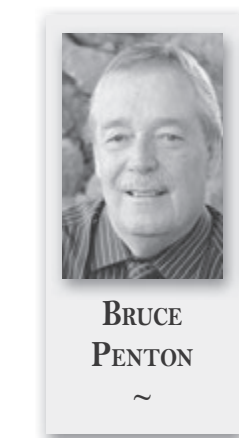
Said Hoffman after the game: "That (pitch) cost everybody in here a World Series ring, so it's pretty (expletive). Got to execute better in that spot."

In the 11th inning,

Will Smith duplicated Rojas's heroics, slamming a solo homer off Shane Bieber but with the Jays showing life with a rally in the bottom of the 11th, Toronto catcher Alejandro Kirk, who performed hitting and defensive heroics all year, grounded into a season-ending, dream-ending double play.

That's baseball. No sense in beating up Hoffman, or Bieber, or anyone on the Blue Jays, for that matter. The team overachieved all summer, starting off 16-19 through 35 games and then dominating the American League from June through the end of September. For a team that most experts pegged for a fifth-place finish in the five-team American League East to come within two outs of a World Series title is almost unimaginable.

Most of Game 7 went the Jays' way. There was an early 3-0 lead and it was 4-2 Toronto in the eighth before Max Muncy of the Dodgers hit a solo shot that made it 4-3. Jays' manager John Schneider then called on Hoffman to get four outs and automatic hero worship status across the country be-



BRUCE
PENTON

fore Rojas spoiled that narrative in the ninth.

It was 32 years ago when Joe Carter's home run beat Philadelphia Phillies and gave Toronto its second straight World Series title. Fans all across Canada were giddy for most of the game with the thought that the three-decade drought was going to end.

It didn't, but there's always next year, although one of the team's best hitters, Bo Bichette, is a free agent and may depart. Management will try in the off-season to fill a few holes in the team's lineup, one of which is a dependable closer. Hoffman had 33 saves this year in 40 opportunities, but his 4.37 earned-run average told a more accurate story of his effectiveness.

Still, it was a great

year. And the Jays' near-perfect run to the World Series helped bring Canada together, so all was not lost.

• Montreal Canadiens' Brendan Gallagher, with an on-ice chirp to Florida's Brad Marchand: "Oh, my God, your nose is even bigger in person than it is on TV."

• Super 70s Sports, on X: "John Hadl enjoyed a banner day in 1975 when he passed for 275 yards and two touchdowns against the Giants and performed a poignant a cappella version of Scarborough Fair in the huddle that brought two offensive linemen to tears."

• Headline in the New York Times: "Texas Cheat 'Em? U.S. Details How Mob Lured High Rollers Into Poker Trap."

• Columnist Norman Chad, on X, on cries that gambling should

be banned. "That's like legislating that the sun could not rise. Trust me, the sun will still rise."

• Cathal Kelly in the Globe and Mail, on the Dodgers' reliance on superstar Shohei Ohtani: "When Ohtani's not performing magic, the rest of his team has trouble remembering where they put their rabbits."

• Vancouver comedy guy Torben Rolfson, as the Dodgers-Jays Game 3 dragged on toward the 18th inning: "Rams vs. Argonauts to settle it?"

• Comedy writer Brad Dickson of Omaha: "I just had a trick or treater who was wearing his undershorts on top of his head, acting stupid, bumping into stuff, a real doofus who kept mumbling 'I hate Nebraska, I hate Nebraska.' I said, 'Kid, who're you supposed to

be?' He goes, 'A Big Ten referee.'"

• Columnist Norman Chad on X: "True story: I was watching Trey Yesavage as an 18-year-old freshman at East Carolina in 2022. He had a 4.50 ERA and a 1.731 WHIP, with 13 wild pitches and 15 walks in 26 innings. I told my bar buddy, 'He's working at Best Buy by year's end.' So once in a while I'm wrong."

• RJ Currie of sports-deke.com: "Halloween guidelines in many elementary schools call for outfits that don't scare anybody. So my niece dressed her kids as New York Jets."

• Headline at fark.com: "Giannis Antetokounmpo walks from mid-court to the rim on one dribble, refs are like 'hey, that's cool.'"

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**Shellbrook Chronicle
& Spiritwood Herald**



Raiders top Jets in season opener

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

The Blaine Lake Raiders got their 2025-2026 regular season started on Friday, Nov. 7, traveling for a match up against the Maidstone Jets.

After narrowly missing the Saskatchewan Prairie Hockey League's playoff last season, the Raiders were determined to kick off the season on the right skate. They did so in a big way, drawing first blood less than three minutes into the game on a goal from Braiden Onishenko, assisted by Thomas Jean.

When the Jets fired a return salvo later in the period to tie the score at 1-1, the Raiders responded with four unanswered goals over the course of seven minutes, starting with a goal from Brandon Lesko, assisted by Clay Casavant.

Onishenko struck next, scoring his second of the night on assists from Andrew Galambos and Jean, and

Patrick Gauthier struck only eight seconds later, with an assist from Cole Brochu. Rounding out the full scoresheet, Lesko scored his second of the game on assists from Gauthier and Kelly Friesen.

In less action-packed second period, the Jets scored the only goal to close the gap to 5-2. They also struck first in the third period, cutting the Raiders' lead to three goals.

The Raiders tightened up their defences after this goal, keeping the Jets off the board for the remainder of the game. Meanwhile, Jean scored late on an assist from Onishenko to push the score to 6-3, and Lesko tapped in a hat trick goal less than a minute later, with an assist from Brochu, to secure a 7-3 Raiders win.

Continuing a gradual start to the hockey season, the Raiders' next action isn't until Sunday, Nov. 23, when they travel to St. Walburg for an afternoon game against the St. Walburg Eagles.

Op-ed: Taxpayers have right to see cost of Ottawa’s gun policy

By **GAGE HAUBRICH**
CTF Prairie Director

If you walk into a car dealership to ask about the price of the car out front and answer is “probably tens-of-thousands of dollars,” it’s unlikely you are going to buy that car. Consumers need the full information on the price of something before they can decide if it’s a good decision. The same goes for taxpayers and proposed government programs. Since 2020, the federal government has banned more than 2,500 makes and models of firearms owned by licensed Canadians. Now, the federal government is pushing ahead with its gun confiscation scheme for individual firearms owners. Starting with a six-week pilot project in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia. But the federal government has been anything but clear

on the full price of its gun ban and confiscation scheme. The Canadian Taxpayers Federation filed an access-to-information request with the RCMP for all projected costs to confiscate firearms in July 2023. The government answered this request in January 2024. The request showed a letter from the Pacific Region RCMP showing that it would cost \$12.6 million to confiscate and destroy banned firearms in that region. But the government refused to provide documents with cost estimates from other RCMP divisions. The CTF then made a complaint to the information commissioner, the independent official whose job it is to make sure the government is being transparent, in April 2024. Now more than a year later, the complaint has essentially gone nowhere, mul-

multiple investigators have been assigned, but we still have no idea on when we will actually get an answer from the commissioner. To go back to the car dealership, imagine asking about the price of a car and getting the answer: “I’ll think about telling you in two to three years.” That still isn’t helpful to decide whether to buy the car. That’s why it’s so important that taxpayers have timely and easy access to information on how much the government thinks programs like the gun confiscation will cost. Access-to-information has been found to be quasi-constitutional, as access to government information is a necessary component for the meaningful exercise of freedom of expression. Without timely access to these types of documents, taxpayers are having their ability to exer-

cise their fundamental freedom of expression limited by the government. This problem is compounded because estimates the government have produced on the program so far have been wide ranging, lacking detail and not at all helpful for taxpayers trying to decide if the cost is worth it. Originally the government said the confiscation would cost \$200 million in 2019. Then the Parliamentary Budget Officer said it will cost up to \$756 million compensate owners for their firearms without even considering administration costs. Other experts have put the final price tag at about \$6 billion. The stats and the experts say the confiscation isn’t worth it. The union representing RCMP members says Ottawa’s program “diverts extremely important person-

nel, resources, and funding away from addressing the more immediate and growing threat of criminal use of illegal firearms.” “It won’t impact crime rates,” said Mount Royal University professor Doug King. “Individuals who have registered firearms are much less likely to commit criminal offences than people who don’t have firearms.” That makes it even more important for taxpayers to know the full price of the scheme. That’s why the CTF is going to court to compel the information commissioner to do its job and issue a decision on the CTF’s complaint and release the information. Ottawa should not be hiding the full picture of costs from taxpayers for any program and this court fight will enforce the transparency taxpayers deserve.

GOOD NEWS

A LIFE OF ENDURANCE AND GOD’S GLORY

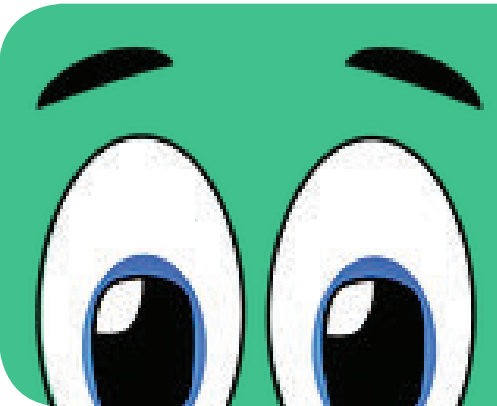
By **PASTOR JORDAN CLARK**
Shellbrook Pentecostal Assembly

This week of October 26 was filled with reminders of people’s endurance and strong will both in the church and sports world. The word endurance means: “the ability to continue doing something painful or difficult for a long period of time without giving up.” Monday, Oct. 27, was game three of the World Series, showcasing the Toronto Blue Jays and Los Angeles Dodgers. We all thought it was going to be a normal nine inning baseball game that typically took two to three hours to play. What we witnessed was something much different. We watched a showcase of true endurance. The full game was roughly six hours long and tied the World Series record for longest baseball game (which is 18 innings). The game went from nail-biting, to exhilarating, to a complete slog, and back to exhilarating (or disappointing depending on what team you wanted to win). Each team went through their full bullpen of pitchers and ever single player played this game — even the reserves. Both teams had to endure till the end, with only one team coming out

as the winner. Yes, even the fans had to endure till the wee hours of the morning, watching strikeout after strikeout and inning after inning. Why would these teams do this? Because they have one purpose: To win the World Series championship and cement their team’s legacies in the glorified history of baseball. The next day, I received word that Ruth Clary passed away, and again I was reminded of this word: Endurance. Most of you reading will not know Ruth’s name, but I have an attachment to her, well not her personally, but her family. Before I arrived in Shellbrook to pastor Shellbrook Pentecostal Assembly, I was a part of planting a new church in Regina called Enrich Life Church. This church meets on the University of Regina Campus and ministers to university students, their families, and adults in Regina looking to hear the gospel of Jesus Christ. The person that leads the church, and who helped plant Enrich Life Church is Reverend Brad Thomas at Avonhurst Pentecostal Assembly. Ruth Clary is Rev. Brad’s grandmother. Ruth and her husband, Laverne, also planted Shellbrook Pentecostal Assembly in the

year of 1958, with the help of another Pastor couple. This is a true Christian heritage. As I read Laverne and Ruth’s story of placing the old church building on its foundations and moving to a new town I was reminded of this word: endurance. Why would a young couple with one child at the time move to a new town and risk their jobs without a guaranteed career or place to live? Because they had one purpose and that purpose was to live for Jesus Christ, to glorify Him, and to share the good news that He brings to different parts of Canada. This is why they went through hardship. They kept pressing on all for the purpose of glorifying God and cementing the legacy of Jesus Christ in Canada. It is amazing to be a part of this history, to take the mantle from Rev. Dave Bodvarson, and ultimately from Laverne and Ruth Clary — it is an incredible honour. But the work we do as pastors isn’t to create a legacy for ourselves, rather it is to further the legacy of Christ wherever we go in this world. This isn’t reserved just for pastor but also for Christians all over the world. “But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss

for the sake of Christ. More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, and may be found in Him... that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.” - Philippians 3:7-9, 10 Endurance in the faith of Jesus Christ is exactly what Paul means when he writes this to encourage the church. Whatever your circumstance is, please keep going. Endure. Press on. Find purpose in Jesus Christ. The man and God who died so that you may have purpose in His glory. We must make this decision each and every day: to quit or to keep going. The amazing thing is that Ruth and Laverne Clary touched many lives, they pastored in many towns in four provinces, and their legacy in Christ helped me plant a church on a University Campus, all because they trusted Jesus and endured in their faithful work for him. Keep going, because you never know where God’s plan will take you.



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