

Shellbrook Chronicle & Spiritwood Herald

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www.shellbrookchronicle.com | www.spiritwoodherald.com

Senior Shellbrook Elks claim league championship



The Shellbrook Elks are the 2025-2026 Twin Rivers Hockey League champions.

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

The Shellbrook Elks Senior Hockey Club took to the ice at the Richardson Pioneer Recreation on Friday, March 27, with an opportunity to claim their first Twin Rivers Hockey League title in front of a roaring hometown crowd.

Continuing their heated rivalry with the Rosthern Wheatkings, the Elks came out hard and fast in game four, matching their opponent shot for shot and hit for hit. The Elks' aggressive play shot them in the foot near the midway point of the period, giving the Wheatkings a chance to draw first blood.

The back-and-forth action continued throughout the first period, until the Wheatkings jumped ahead 2-0 on a shot that just barely slipped past the outstretched pad of Elks goaltender

Alex Bell.

Undeterred, the Elks made the most of a late power play to close the gap to 2-1, thanks to a doorstep tap in from Rylan Moe, assisted by Kaiden Couture and Cole Tanchuk. And 26 seconds later, Levi Logan knotted things up at 2-2 when he found a loose puck in front of the Wheatkings goal and blasted it home. Couture and Payton Kachur assisted on the play.

As the action moved into the second period, the Wheatkings poured on the shots, and eventually hit the mark to take a 3-2 lead. The lead was short-lived, however, as Cole Duperreault ended an Elks rush by blasting a sniper shot into the back of the Wheatkings' net. Matthew Flodell and Brendon Beaulac assisted on the goal.

The score remained tied for the remainder of the second period, and

strong goaltending at both ends of the ice kept it tied through the third period, forcing a second straight overtime game.

Just when the Elks seemed to be building momentum in overtime, an overaggressive attempt to keep the puck in the Wheatkings' end allowed the Wheatkings to break out on a 2-on-1 rush and score to force game five in Rosthern.

Elks (4) vs Kings (3) 2OT

While a heartbreaking OT loss the night prior could have derailed the team's momentum, the Elks came into game five in Rosthern with the same fast-paced physicality they brought to most games throughout the season, jumping out to an early 1-0 lead on a goal from Matthew Flodell, assisted by Cole Duperreault.

Though a late penalty allowed Rosthern to even the score, the Elks

struck with 5 seconds left on the clock to take a 2-1 lead into the second period. Rylan Moe netted the goal, with assists from Dallas Galloway and Duperreault.

The Elks came out flat in the second period, firing just 4 shots on goal to the Wheatkings' 17. Despite this, solid goaltending from Alex Bell kept the Elks out of trouble until the final minutes of the period, when the Wheatkings tied the game at 2-2.

The Wheatkings kept the momentum going early into the third, jumping ahead 3-2 within the first 90 seconds of the period. But the Elks regained their rhythm and started getting more pucks to the net, culminating in a late power play goal from Jody Blais, assisted by Cole Duperreault and Matthew Flodell, that tied the game at 3-3.

Continued on page 2

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Senior Shellbrook Elks claim league championship

Continued from 1

With a little over five minutes left in regulation, neither team scored, sending the action to overtime, and then into double overtime. There, the Elks outlasted the Wheatkings, claiming their first league title on an unassisted goal from Payton Kachur.

Though he started the season hoping his team could win the league title, Elks coach Drew Ferster admits the team got off to a rough start, amassing a 2-5 record in its first seven games.

“At that point, we were trying to go on a little bit of a run and make sure we got into the playoffs,” he said.

Starting in mid-December, the team hit a hot streak and started racking up victories, winning nine consecu-

tive games to finish the regular season in third place in the league standings. And as the team headed into the postseason, Ferster was once again hopeful that his team had what it took to win it all.

“Players started to buy into the system and became a team. They started playing for each other instead of individually,” he said. “I knew we had a really good shot at it, as long as we didn’t beat ourselves and kept playing the way we had.”

The Elks remained hot, sweeping the Cudworth Tricky Maroons out of the playoffs in the league quarter-final. Then, after a blip against the Allan Flames in game one of the semi-finals, Elks rallied with three straight wins to earn

their place in the finals against the Rosthern Wheatkings.

“I knew if we played our way [against Rosthern] we’d be fine,” Ferster said. “My surprise was with how hard they punished them physically, and they just kept coming at us. They never quit.”

Calling the fans from Shellbrook and surrounding communities

who filled the arenas in Shellbrook and Rosthern the real difference makers, Ferster says he was relieved when his team pulled out the game five win in double overtime.

“Everyone was excited. To me, it was a relief,” he said. “When you put in that much time and effort, you want to see these guys succeed. To see them get it was awesome.”



Elks forward Rylan Moe taps a puck into a wide-open Wheatkings goal in action from game four.

Debden Library marks 50 years as community cornerstone

By **ALINE HANNON**
Branch Librarian

Residents gathered on Tuesday, March 24, to celebrate a major milestone as the Debden Library marked 50 years since first opening its doors, honoring half a century of learning, connection, and community spirit.

The small-town library, which officially opened in 1976, has long served as more than just a place to borrow books. Over the decades, it has become a hub for local events, educational programs, and a welcoming space for residents of all ages.

Library staff say the milestone is both a celebration of the past and a look toward the future. While the library has embraced modern technology—offering internet

access, digital resources, and community programming—it has maintained the same mission it started with: providing free access to knowledge and a space for people to gather.

As part of the celebration, a historical minute book was passed around and read aloud, offering a glimpse into the library’s early years. The entries revealed just how many community members played a role in building and sustaining the library over time, from organizing fundraisers to volunteering their time.

Stories flowed easily as attendees reflected on the past, sharing memories of everything from children’s reading programs to community gatherings held within the library’s walls.

Past budgets were also

discussed and compared during the event, sparking both laughter and appreciation. Early operating costs, modest by today’s standards, highlighted the resourcefulness of volunteers and the strong local support that helped keep the library running through the years.

“Fifty years is a big achievement, especially for a rural library,” said librarian Aline Hannon. “We’ve evolved with the times, but our focus has always been on serving the community.”

The anniversary also

highlighted the role volunteers and local support have played in keeping the library running over the years. Grants provided by the Village of Debden & RM of Canwood, along with fundraisers, donations, and community involvement have helped sustain services despite changing economic conditions.

As Debden Library enters its next chapter, residents say one thing remains certain: it will continue to be a vital gathering place for generations to come.



Debden residents gathered on March 24 to celebrate the Debden Library’s 50th anniversary, enjoying time for visiting and reminiscing.



Following game five, Elks forward Cole Duperreult was recognized as the playoff MVP.

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TOWN OF SHELLBROOK

**NOTICE OF CALL FOR NOMINATIONS
MUNICIPAL BY-ELECTION**

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that nominations of candidates for the office(s) of:

Councillor: Town of Shellbrook
Number to be elected: 1

will be received by the undersigned Monday through Friday, 8:30am to 4:00pm from the 16th day of March 2026 until the 8th day of April 2026 at the Shellbrook Municipal Office.

Nomination forms may be obtained in the following ways:

- From our website – www.townofshellbrook.ca
- In person @ 71 Main Street

A Criminal record check **must** accompany all nomination forms dated no earlier than March 16th, 2026.
Dated this 16th day of March, 2026
Sigourney O’Halligan, Returning Officer

Luck of the Irish shines on St. Patty's stew

By **NANCY CARSWELL**
Shellbrook Legion

The Shellbrook Royal Canadian Legion Branch 111 hall was filled to capacity for its St. Patrick's Irish Stew event on Tuesday, March 17, with extra tables brought in as turnout exceeded expectations. Costs were minimized through generous stew donations from friends of the Legion and members. Freewill contributions from diners underscored the strength of community support.

President Alan Carswell explains, "Our Legion is benefitting from the new energy brought by Kait and Adam Olson who transferred in from Birch Hills. For the Remembrance Day wreath sale, they organized a soup and a bun lunch with soups

donated and payment by donation. It was such a success that when they proposed a St. Patrick's event, everyone was on-board."

Many attendees enjoyed

a mug of green beer with their stew, with the option to double up on beer by pairing it with Guinness Lamb stew. Other stew options included chicken and beef, all served with

buns, vegetables, fruit, and dessert.

An early evening tally recorded 58 guests, excluding Legion members and volunteers, with more than \$1,250 raised after

expenses. Fundraising from events like the Irish Stew night is vital as the branch looks ahead to significant upgrades.

As Secretary and Treasurer David Bodvarson explained in a report, "Our deep desire is to renovate our hall to make it fully accessible. It will be a major project, and we do not have deep pockets. However, as I read through those old minutes [circa 1925], I'm reminded that our founding comrades didn't have deep pockets either—yet they still managed to build our hall. Their efforts re-

quired time, patience, and sacrifice, and their determination inspires us as we begin exploring what might be possible."

The Royal Canadian Legion's mission is to serve veterans, including military and RCMP members and their families, to promote remembrance, and to serve communities and the country.

As part of celebrating its 100th anniversary this year, the Legion is offering free memberships to new members. More information is available at legion.ca or by calling Maurice Tanchuk at 306-747-2412.



A capacity crowd filled the Shellbrook Legion Hall for its St. Patrick's Day Stew fundraiser.

Spiritwood curlers claim silver at Alberta tourney

By **LARISSA SWITYK-CONACHER**
Submitted

The Spiritwood-based U18 female curlers had a great season, finishing second in the Marc Kennedy Junior Classic (MKJC) in St. Albert, Alberta.

Coach Rod Allan, Skip Jessie Allchurch, Third Hannah Lundell, Second Avarie Conacher, and Lead Alea Beulac journeyed to Edmonton March 19 to 22 to take part in the MKJC Event. There were 80 teams registered in total, with 24 in their U18 category.

Team Allchurch placed first in their pool, with a spot as one of the top 8 teams to advance to the playoff round. After win-

ning both the quarterfinal and semi-final games, they lost by 1 point in the final.

Support from the Deryk Franson Memorial Spiel community sponsorship made it possible for the team to attend events such as this, as well as numerous curling workshops and curling events over the past three years in Alberta and Saskatchewan.

The payoff was evident in their growth and accomplishments, finishing 4th out of 4 teams in U18 Sask provincials both this year and last year. This was all due to their hard work, dedication to the game, and community support.

Back at home, Team Allchurch competed in the

annual Spiritwood Ladies Bonspiel in mid-March, where they won the A Event for the third consecutive year. Subbing in for Hannah Lundell was the Skip's grandma, Debbie Allan.

With the skip's grandfather hitting the circuit as the team's coach this season, it is easy to see where Jessie Allchurch gets her love of curling. Alea Beulac also has curling in her blood, as the team was able to spot her mom's name on the Ladies trophy from "a few years back". Not to be left out, Avarie Conacher typically has her famous curling grandfather in the audience at her events.

Family support over the years has built success

and passion in this very active team!

With files from Bevra Fee, Spiritwood Herald Reporter



From left to Right: Marc Kennedy, Coach Rod Allen, Jessie Allchurch, Hannah Lundell, Avarie Conacher, and Alea Beulac at the Marc Kennedy Junior Classic in Edmonton.

TOWN OF SPIRITWOOD EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The Town of Spiritwood is accepting applications for two full-time **Summer Student Positions**. The position runs end of June through August for youth aged 15-30 years old. Duties include: Mowing, whipper snipping, garbage cleanup, painting, and general maintenance duties. Must have a valid Class 5 driver's license.

The Town of Spiritwood is accepting applications for one full-time **Operations Assistant Position**. Operation and maintenance of Public Works and Utilities. Must have a valid Class 5 driver's license, driver's abstract, and criminal record check.

The Town of Spiritwood is accepting applications for one permanent **Recreation Facility Supervisor (SARCS)**. Criminal record check required.

For more information contact (306) 883-2161 or email tos@sasktel.net.

Submit your Cover Letter, Resume & References by 4:00 pm on Thursday, April 30th, 2026. Only those to be interviewed will be contacted.

Notice of Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the members of Innovation Federal Credit Union will be held both virtually and in-person at the Meadow Lake Co-op Centre at 7 PM CST on Thursday, May 7, 2026.

Information on how to join the meeting will be available by April 14, 2026, by visiting our website: www.innovationcu.ca.

Meeting agenda items include:

- Report on 2025 Operations and Presentation of Financial Statements
- Appointment of Auditors
- Announcement of Appointed Directors
- Other Business



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Sask NDP chooses wrong hill to die on

In politics, the job of the official opposition is, quite naturally, to oppose the sitting government.

While this seems simple enough, there are many ways to oppose something.

Calling out government misconduct and holding politicians accountable is certainly important. But the most valuable form of opposition is actually more akin to collaboration — taking an idea presented by a government, suggesting ways to improve it, and working to see those improvements implemented.

In a perfect political system, this kind of soft opposition would be the norm, the rule rather than the exception. Instead, in Canada's deeply divided political climate, we mostly see opposition for opposition's sake, where governments and their official oppositions draw lines in the sand and refuse to budge, even when doing so would be to the benefit of the people they were elected to represent.

This problem is far worse in a two-party system like Saskatchewan's, which only serves to make politics more adversarial in nature.

For the better part of the past two decades, the Saskatchewan NDP wasn't much of an opposition, to be honest.

Through the general elections of 2011, 2016, and 2020, the party was reduced to nine seats in the legislature, and only managed to improve its standing to 13 seats.

During this time, the party often seemed as if it had written off rural Saskatchewan as a lost cause. In Shellbrook and the surrounding area specifically, it was rare for a Sask NDP candidate to make an appearance during an election campaign.

But in recent years, as the Sask Party government's political fortunes have ebbed with the inevitable tide of the political cycle, the Sask NDP has seen a resurgence under current leader Carla Beck.

This, of course, is a good thing; a



JORDAN TWISS
~
News Editor

strong opposition keeps a sitting government on its toes and encourages it to better serve the people.

But in recent weeks, the Sask NDP has seemed less focused on constructive opposition than on opposition for opposition's sake.

Budget season is like Christmas for an opposition party. It's the one time of year when the sitting government lays out all its cards, opening itself up to critiques of its management of every single portfolio at once.

Unsurprisingly, the Sask NDP had plenty of criticism for the Sask Party government's latest budget. But in the two weeks since the budget was tabled, it's been hyperfixated on the announcement of funding for a new K-12 school in Shellbrook.

Since the announcement, the Sask NDP has issued no fewer than four separate press releases lambasting the decision as evidence of Sask Party favouritism towards its friends and neighbours.

"The Premier gets a shiny new school in Shellbrook while students learning in more than 200 others get leaky or entirely collapsed roofs, a lack of space for student desks and lockers and entire wings that can no longer accommodate student learning," said Matt Love, the Sask NDP's Shadow Minister of Education.

On the one hand, pointing to communities that have a greater need for a new school is a valid criticism. Ideally, the schools in the worst shape should be replaced first.

On the other hand, there's more to determining a school's condition than a percentage score on a report. If one drilled down into the minutiae, one could find myriad reasons to criticize any school being replaced before another.

Should another school have been chosen over Shellbrook? Maybe.

But Shellbrook is a growing regional hub, and the need for a new school isn't even news at this point.

The Saskatchewan Rivers School



Division (SRSD) first pitched the idea of a consolidated K-12 school in Shellbrook in January 2015 — more than 11 years ago.

Since then, the project has been the top priority for the school division, which hasn't had a new school built since the construction of Vincent Massey Public School in Prince Albert in 2004.

W.P. Sandin Public High School was built in 1961. Since then, it has been renovated multiple times, with the last major renovations coming 41 years ago, in 1985, followed by some work that was done on the roof of the gym in 2018. Most recently, in 2020, a larger roof repair project was undertaken at a cost of nearly \$300,000.

Meanwhile, Shellbrook Elementary School was built in 1956 and last received major renovations in 1980, when the gym was added on, and in 2001, when it received a facelift.

At 65 and 70 years of age, respectively, both schools are considered by the school division to have reached the end of their lifespans.

What's more, Shellbrook Elementary School has been over-capacity for the past few school years, and W.P. Sandin's roof issues have only worsened with time.

Indeed, around the time of the budget announcement, SRSD Board

Chair Cher Bloom said she had received many photos of the roof leaks and buckets in hallways and classrooms at the high school.

The need for a new school in Shellbrook is clear, and so too is the need in other communities across the province. But budgets are limited, and pitting communities against each other with accusations of line-jumping and favouritism isn't helpful.

In federal politics, I've often criticized Conservative Leader Pierre Poilievre for favouring snarky zingers over substantive policy ideas as his form of opposition.

In recent months, however, it's been refreshing to hear a shift in Mr. Poilievre's tone and see him extend olive branches rather than thorn bushes to Prime Minister Mark Carney's government.

The Sask NDP should learn from this approach and devote its efforts to bringing forward ideas to help the people of Saskatchewan instead of childish insults and accusations. If it fails to do so, it could very easily sabotage the gains it's made in recent years.

As the official opposition, there are plenty of hills the Sask NDP could die on. Railing against a new school in Shellbrook isn't one that will improve the party's standing.

Shellbrook Chronicle

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Spiritwood Herald

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: In the interest of readers of this newspaper, we will publish opinions of our readers. Letters To The Editor are most welcome; however, they must be signed and include writer's contact information and will only be published with the writer's name on it. Letters should be limited in length and be typed or clearly written. We reserve the right to edit letters depending on available space.

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U15A Elks claim Tri-City League banner

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle
Reporter

Hoping to cap off their inaugural season in winning fashion, the U15A Parkland Elks hosted Prince Albert's Liteway Electric Tornados for game one of the Tri-City Hockey League final on Saturday, March 28.

The Elks looked strong to start the best-of-three series, but a defensive turnover in front of their own goal allowed the Tornados to swoop in and take a 1-0 lead. Though the Elks kept steady pressure on the Tornados throughout the period, they were unable to find the back of the net before the end of the period.

Coming out with renewed fire in the second period, the Elks started racking up the scoring chances, until a bouncing blast from Dylan Dreaver found the back of the Tornados' net. The goal was unassisted.

The Elks didn't relent after this, taking a 2-1 lead when Jelani Dreaver found a loose

puck in front of the Tornados' net and redirected it to the back of the goal. Dylan Dreaver and Easton Mitsuing assisted on the play.

Following a long stretch with more scoring chances, the Elks finally went up 3-1 with 0.3 seconds left in the second period. The goal came on a shot through traffic from Cole Hauber, and was assisted by Jelani Dreaver and Carson Nordin.

As the action moved into the third period, the Elks were given two power plays to extend their lead, but couldn't capitalize. Still, they kept their momentum going throughout the period, going up 4-1 on a late goal from Carson Nordin, assisted by Tanner Mason.

When the Tornados pulled their goalie on a late power play in hopes of getting back in the game, Elks forward Wyatt Pitre made them pay by scoring a shorthanded empty-netter.

And the Elks continued to pour it on, scoring a second shorthanded goal on a doorstep tap in from Jelani Dreaver to secure a 6-1



The U15A Parkland Elks ended their inaugural season by winning the Tri-City Hockey League banner.

win. Carson Nordin assisted on the goal.

Elks (8) vs Tornados (4)

Traveling to Prince Albert to close out the finals the following afternoon, the Elks got off to a good start with an unassisted goal from Carter Sasakamoose.


Though the Tornados rallied with back-to-back goals, the Elks refused to let them take a lead into the second period, tying the game at 2-2 on a goal from Wyatt Pitre, assisted by Carson Nordin and Dylan Dreaver.

Pitre struck again,

with an assist from Nordin, near the midway point of the second period to put the Elks up 3-2, and Cole Hauber made it 4-2 Elks a couple minutes later with an assist from Pitre.

The Tornados struck less than a minute after Hauber's goal to make it a 4-3 game, but a four-goal surge from the Elks all but put the game out of reach at 8-3. Pitre started the scoring with his hat trick goal, assisted by Carson Nordin and Tyson Hrechka, and Nordin followed up with a goal of his own, assisted by Pitre. Tanner Mason was next to score, assisted by Nordin and Pitre, and Easton Mitsuing ended the scoring with an assist from Jelani Dreaver.

In an uneventful third period, the Tornados scored a too-little-too-late goal to give the Elks an 8-4 win and the league championship.



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YOUR TWO CENTS

Carney has the ball & wants to run with it

Dear editor,
Prime Minister Mark Carney is attempting the impossible, decoupling from American arrogance perpetrated by a dysfunctional bully who disrespects Canada. Carney has the ball and wants to run with it, while some individuals only want to trip him.

The French philosopher, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, wrote about a "social contract" that exists between people and their government, principles upon which our system of governance is based: government provides safety and services, and people have a duty to inform themselves of the facts so that they can make logical decisions.

Unfortunately, you cannot use logic to convince people who have

formed their opinions illogically.

For those few wannabe Americas, or wannabe Russians, they are free to move to the U.S. or Russia any time they choose. Conversely, self-respecting Canadians reject Trump's arrogance. Like Ukrainians, we have had enough of arrogance from our neighbours.

Of 195 countries in the world, Canada ranks #10. We are a growing energy superpower, from which everything else stems. Canadians don't get on their knees for anybody.

One has to wonder, what evidence in the Epstein files does Putin have on Trump to warrant such red carpet deference? The perverse, scrambled leader of the so-called free world has orchestrat-

ed quite a mess, and it won't end well. Trump really should have gotten more book learning!

Carney's impossible task to build sovereignty in Canada is reminiscent and analogous of an impossible task in the little village of Rabbit Lake, where there was a vision, an impossible mission in a one-horse town to build a nursing home.

Someone had the ball and wanted to run with it, while others only wanted to trip him. Yet, with perseverance and competence, somehow, the impossible happened and a nursing home was built strong.

It seems Carney's perseverance and competence will build Canada strong.

Earl Irvin Jones
Rabbit Lake, Sask.



PASSPORT CLINICS

& PANCAKE BREAKFASTS

BREAKFASTS: 8:00 AM to 10:00 am
CLINICS: 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM

<p>TUESDAY, APRIL 7TH Nipawin Elks Hall 310 1 St W Nipawin</p>	<p>WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8TH Melfort Legion 101 MacLeod Ave E Melfort</p>
<p>THURSDAY APRIL 9TH Canwood Legion 585 1 St W Canwood</p>	



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Fringe group pitches case for separatism

By **BEVRA FEE**
Spiritwood Herald
Reporter

The incorporated non-profit entity called Saskatchewan Prosperity Project (SPP) rolled into Spiritwood on Sunday, March 29, to present and solicit ideas regarding an independent Saskatchewan. Led by the group's president, Brad Williams, the two-hour town hall meeting provided the background and the current steps that are being discussed in order to achieve the province becoming a sovereign country. Making it clear that the SPP is not a political party but rather a movement to inspire political parties to seriously consider sovereignty, Mr. Williams outlined the process and the path forward as he sees it.

Highlighting other historic "divorces" among nations, the group's examples include Singapore (1965) being expelled from Malaysia, Norway breaking their union with Sweden in 1905, Slovakia and the Czech Republic divvying up the former Czechoslovakia's toys, and Greenland's movement toward self-government as of 2009.

While the road and the obstacles were acknowledged as daunting, the lengthy meeting was filled with encouragement toward action amongst the like-minded. "Building Clear Public Support" is, in fact, the first step outlined by

Williams. Step 2 would be a litmus test of Step 1 — being that it involves "Hold A Referendum" with the province voting on a question such as "Should Saskatchewan become an independent country?" On this, the group quantifies that "the result must show a clear majority (not just 50% plus 1" in order to glean a clear result.

Supposing that Step 2 shows a clear yes among the people of Saskatchewan, further steps would include negotiating with Canada (borders, division of national debt/assets, currency, trade agreements, Indigenous land rights and treaties) and then addressing Indigenous Sovereignty. This is a big one, and for obvious reasons Step 4 is acknowledged as a potential downfall to the project's success in separating.

Many lands in Saskatchewan are covered by treaties with First Nations, Indigenous groups are separate political entities with rights recognized under Canadian law, and they would need to consent or negotiate their own status, as they may choose to remain in Canada). One has to think that moving Step 4 up to Step 2 might save time and effort for naught.

Working on down the path, Step 5 includes amending the Canadian constitution. To legally separate, the group outlines the requirements being that of federal

parliament granting approval and approval being given by at least seven provinces representing over 50% of the population. This is also deemed a major hurdle by the group. Following would be steps includ-

ing seeking international recognition, building a new national system — creation of its own constitution, military, central bank, immigration and border control, laws and courts.

Given the uphill battle

of achieving sovereignty as a province, the group offers a reality check, and acknowledges the difficulty involved.

Even with all steps followed, independence is very difficult because: Canada is a stable democ-

ocracy with strong legal barriers to breakup; economic disruption would be significant; internal division (urban versus rural, Indigenous versus provincial interests); no Canadian province has ever successfully separated.

Swinging back to Step 1 and the reason for the recent trail of Town Hall meetings across the province, the immediate goal of the group is to garner strong, sustained public support. Local organizers for the event expressed satisfaction with the turnout, commenting that there were larger numbers at the Spiritwood event than expected. Onward the group will roll to Christopher Lake for the final week of March, and to various other locations that are already booked for April.



A fair-sized crowd filled Spiritwood's Pioneer Centre for a presentation by the Saskatchewan Prosperity Project, a provincial separatist group.

YOUR TWO CENTS ~ In praise of women

Dear editor,
Not long ago, in the late 1950s, when I carried a .22 and went out on the prairie grass hunting gophers, I went behind the old hotel to drink a 6-cent bottle of pop in the shade.

There were several women standing at the front in the hot sun. Being inquisitive, I asked one of them why they were standing there. She said they were waiting for their husbands to finish their beer and come out.

For seven years, I was fortunate to have a lady teacher who, besides teaching me curriculum,

taught me about people. This experience has prompted me to write my following summation.

In the human structure, the female has the major role in the existence of our race. She plays 99.99 per cent in reproduction, the male only being a microscopic dot of himself.

It's the female who carries the baby, suffers the pain of childbirth, nurses the newborn with her milk, and feeds and raises the child until he or she can fend for themselves. In the animal kingdom, the same procedure applies.

The domestic cat has

her kittens from the tomcat, who wants to kill the newborn males so he can keep his position as king in his domain. In our species, the trend is similar. For example, in the 1970s, the government wanted to take away the mother's family allowance so they could stock their artilleries for their own purposes.

It is my learned opinion, being in the legal profession, that when a woman charges a man with an intimate assault, the police always believe the woman's information — because she is right and truthful. In divorce and family violence it is (almost) always the fault of the man.

Even in the bee kingdom, the male drone is a useless piece of life. He doesn't lay eggs, nor make honey for food.

We now have female police, a great Canadian premier, a top commander of our defence

system, the chief surgeon general in our system, top nurses, caregivers, etc. — applaud them!

A woman is beautiful to look at; God made her with that quality. Have you ever seen a woman as a kingpin in a drug cartel? Why not? Seems to me there is intelligence under that neat hair-do.

Even in wildlife, the same observations are there. The reptiles and water creatures are blessed with the females, and their role in God's intent that we go forth and multiply — each of their own kind.

There will come a time that man will be needed (already robots are having babies), but man will be first to be extinct.

Send your missiles, big guys; kill innocent women, children, and people. You will die in hell yourselves.

Daniel Pawlivsky,
Rabbit Lake, Sask.

VILLAGE OF LEVILLE MAINTENANCE FOREMAN POSITION

JOIN OUR TEAM! The Village of Leville is accepting applications for the full-time position of **Village Foreman**. We offer competitive wages, and an excellent, full benefit package and contribute 9% of your wages towards your pension plan. We are looking for a self-motivated person with great attitude and work ethic and are willing to train the right person!

Key Responsibilities, not limited to the following:

- Maintain the water treatment plant and distribution system,
- Maintain the sewer treatment system, lift stations and lines,
- Maintain the road system — plough snow and grade,
- Maintain our buildings, green spaces, equipment and tools,
- Plan, direct and supervise all activities related to public works including work schedules, time sheets, training and holiday schedules.
- Maintain daily, weekly and monthly records of activities for equipment operation, maintenance, materials, hours worked and operation of water treatment plant.

Qualifications:

- Grade 12 Diploma or equivalent
- Valid class 5 driver's license
- Good attitude, strong leadership, communication and supervisory skills,
- Water Treatment and Distribution Level 1 and Wastewater Certification Level 1 is an asset; however, we are willing to train;
- Ability to operate heavy equipment is an asset ie: grader, backhoe, etc.

Full-Time Hours Monday to Friday 8am to 4:30pm.
Salary dependent on experience.

Please send resumes to:
leoville@sasktel.net or fax 306-984-2337

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

VILLAGE OF DEBDEN TEMPORARY PART-TIME PUBLIC WORKS ASSISTANT

Village of Debden is seeking **Public Works Assistant** to support municipal operations on a part-time basis. This position has potential to transition to a permanent role based on performance and municipal needs.

Duties will include assisting the Village Foreman in all aspects of Public Works.

More details on the position can be found on the Village Website at debden.ca or by contacting the Village Office at (306)724-2040 or office@debden.ca.

Interested individuals may submit a resume to office@debden.ca or PO Box 400 Debden, Saskatchewan S0J 0S0. Please include hourly wage and scheduled hour expectations.

R.M. OF CANWOOD NO. 494

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

GRADER OPERATOR

The successful applicant must be able to carry out assigned duties without supervision and shall answer to the Public Works Supervisor.

Interested candidates are invited to submit their resumes by **April 16, 2026**, including driver abstract, qualifications, experience, and work-related references to:

R.M. of Canwood No. 494
Box 10, 641 Main Street
Canwood, Sask. S0J 0K0
Email: admin@rmofcanwood.ca
Fax: 306-468-2666

Federal ag cuts still make no sense

A long held belief by many is that government is employee-fat.

In the last number of years the private sector has often opted to improve the bottom line by trimming staff positions, saving those wages and offloading responsibilities to others, or to improve systems and technology. The general assumption is that this should work for government too.

That is likely at least party accurate.

The way government programs come and go, and the general direction

of various departments change on the whim of public opinion and the winds of politics, the likelihood of job redundancy and overlap certainly exists.

So when we hear that government is looking to trim staff within a particular department, the general response is a nod of approval tempered by the hope the cuts are real and not simply the shuffling of paper positions.

Looking through this lens, one might look at an announcement that Agriculture Canada will eliminate about 665 po-



CALVIN DANIELS

sitions in the next three years as a good move.

Trimming some government spending is in principle a good idea.

But in the case of cuts within Agriculture Canada, it warrants a deeper dive into who is likely to

go off the payroll.

It is being suggested the vast majority of the jobs terminated — roughly 500 — will be in the department's science and innovation branch.

Suddenly what at first glance appeared highly favourable in terms of trimming government spending looks very different.

The future of agriculture lies in science and innovation.

Whether you are looking at how the sector continues to produce enough food to feed a growing world population, how it

remains internationally competitive in terms of trade, how it protects the land so it remains productive for future generations, or how it deals with changes to climate and the environment, it will rely heavily on innovation and scientific advancement.

Trimming public investment in such critical areas to save a few dollars today is a poor strategy in terms of saving money, and any savings come at the risk of the Canadian ag sector's future.

Some will suggest the

private sector will step in to fill gaps created by the cuts, but the private sector is first and foremost mandated by profit.

Publicly-funded science should have a broader vision which encompasses advancement for all, not just for the ones who can afford the advancements for profit.

Government cuts remain a generally good idea. But those cuts needs to be carefully considered before the axe falls. Cuts to innovation and science are never wise when factoring in our future.

Highlights of a Shellbrook Town Council meeting

By JORDAN TWISS

Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

(The following council highlights are not the approved minutes of council for March 23.)

Shellbrook's Town Council held its governance and priorities meeting and regular meeting in person and via teleconference on Monday, March 23.

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

During its governance and priorities session, which is typically reserved for high-level, longer-term municipal strategic planning, council welcomed Staff Sgt. Clay Parenteau of the Ahtahkakoop-Shellbrook RCMP Department, who was in attendance to introduce himself to council.

Staff Sgt. Parenteau also shared some information about the detachment's current staffing complement, noting that it currently has eight constables and one new recruit. However, he noted that there is some turnover expected in the coming months.

Looking at statistics, Staff Sgt. Parenteau said there have been 116 calls in Shellbrook since January. While there are far more calls in the R.M. of Shellbrook and on the Ahtahkakoop Cree Nation, Staff Sgt. Parenteau added that about 60 per cent of the calls on Ahtahkakoop are for mental health rather than violent crime and credited this to the community's progressive approach to addictions treatment and programming.

Asked for his thoughts on Shellbrook's CSO program, Staff Sgt. Parenteau says he's a huge supporter of such programs because they "take a lot of our problems away." Before leaving, he also committed to sharing the detachment's annual Action Plan with council and encouraged council to communicate problems/share intelligence with the detachment.

Following Staff Sgt. Parenteau's departure, council briefly discussed the government's commitment to building a new K-12 school in Shellbrook. Councillor Segberg said the town should be looking at what it can do with Shellbrook Elementary School to integrate the building into the community. Meanwhile, Councillor Ledding suggested council talk with the Saskatchewan Rivers School Division about its plans, and noted that it could be considered for the new pool.

Officially wrapping up the governance and priorities meeting, Mayor Otterson called council's regular meeting to order, beginning with the customary Treaty 6 land acknowledgement in recognition of

Truth and Reconciliation, before council approved the meeting's agenda and adopted the minutes of its March 9 regular meeting.

With no urgent business arising from those minutes, council dove into the reports of administration and committees, starting with O'Halligan's CAO report. Here, O'Halligan noted that the freeze and thaw cycle has created additional work for the town's public works crew, as a sewer main froze and catch basins thawed and froze, causing water to accumulate in the streets.

Under the Hospital and Clinics report, council was pleased to receive a letter from the Village of Parkside in support of the town's push to establish an ambulance bay in Shellbrook.

In the Mayor and Council forum, Councillor Boettcher noted she'd received multiple inquiries about the state of the Shellbrook Cemetery and how much the town spends on it. These questions were passed on to public works for further discussion.

Meanwhile, CAO O'Halligan said she'd had a number of inquiries about the town's available lots, all of them including questions about tax incentives. This, coupled with a later item on the agenda, prompted council to discuss the need to establish a new tax incentive policy.

In new business, council began by giving first and

second reading to Bylaw 2026-002, the Admin Bylaw, which establishes the powers, duties, and functions of municipal officials and employees of the municipality, as well as who may sign specific municipal documents on behalf of the Town. The bylaw is simply being amended to clean it up and make it clearer.

Closing out the meeting, council discussed a report provided by Prairie Rising, a consulting firm that is assisting the town with strategic planning and marketing. The report outlines three strategic objectives for 2026 to 2030, including establishing a customer service culture in municipal administration, advancing the water treatment plant project, and creating an economic development strategy and marketing plan.

Jim Puffalt, Prairie Rising's principal consultant, said the firm would soon begin groundwork on the town's marketing plan.

TOWN OF SHELLBROOK

www.townofshellbrook.ca



The Town of Shellbrook currently has an opportunity for a

Deputy Chief Administrative Officer

If you are enthusiastic, enjoy a challenge and love working with the public in a fast-paced office environment; then we want you on our team!

In this full-time permanent position, you will need the ability to multi-task & pay close attention to detail. Excellent communication and problem-solving skills will be required. The applicant must possess a minimum Grade 12/GED, is bondable, hold a standard certificate in Local Government Administration or a minimum 5 years related Municipal accounting experience and willing to work towards a certificate in Local Government Administration. This role requires strong communication, and problem-solving skills to support the administration of Town policies and programs effectively.

How to Apply:

Interested applicants are invited to submit their resume and cover letter outlining their qualifications and experience to the Town of Shellbrook no later than

April 2nd, 2026 at 4:00pm.

Please send applications to:

Town of Shellbrook

71 Main Street, or by

mail: Box 40, Shellbrook, SK S0J 2E0

email: cao@townofshellbrook.ca

We are committed to workplace diversity. We thank all applicants for their interest; however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.



TOWN OF SHELLBROOK NOTICE

ASSESSMENT ROLL

Notice is hereby given that the assessment roll for the Town of Shellbrook for the year of 2026 has been prepared and is open to inspection in the office of the Assessor from 8:30am to 4pm, Monday to Friday from March 23rd, 2026 to April 23rd, 2026.

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

Any person who wishes to appeal against his or her assessment is required to file his or her notice of appeal with: The Assessor, Town of Shellbrook, Box 40, Shellbrook, SK., S0J 2E0 by 4pm on April 23rd, 2026.

Dated this 23rd day of March, 2026.

Sigourney O'Halligan, Assessor

Willoughby tourney celebrates sports legacy

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle
Reporter

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

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

Though more than a decade has passed since Jim's death, the consistently strong turnout proves his memory and legacy haven't faded.

Indeed, if the 14th annual Jim Willoughby Memorial Hockey Tournament is anything to go by, they may just be stronger than ever.

Organized each year by Jim's friend and long-time teammate, Ken Person, who has said he plans to host the tournament for as long as he's able, this year's tournament saw a full slate of 10 teams come out to compete for bragging rights and the trophy.

Meanwhile, helping things run smoothly on the ice were referees Greg Spencer, Jamie Capner, Devlin Capner, and Scott Galloway.

"It's common for us to see a new team or two come out every year, which is great to see, but even more meaningful to see the same familiar faces that come out year after year," said Emily Davis, Jim's daughter, giving special acknowledgement to Ken for making it possible for

Jim to be remembered.

"This is what makes this weekend more than just a hockey tournament. It is a chance for many to come home to see friends and family. The tournament goes themselves have become somewhat of a family."

In standard hockey

tournament format, teams were paired off against each other, with the winner of each match getting to keep their run at the trophy alive and the losers being relegated to compete for the B-Side title.

After two days of non-stop hockey, the A-side final saw the Parkland

Canucks, which featured a roster from Shellbrook, Big River, and the surrounding communities, shoot their way to victory to claim the trophy, the bragging rights, and the customary case of Pilsner.

Meanwhile, the Whiskey Dekes were the

winners in the Consolation final.

In a special moment for Jim's daughter Emily, her own children, Kip and Beau Davis, got to hand out the trophy to the winners.

"It is special for our kids to be involved in something for their grandpa," she said.



The Parkland Canucks were the winners of the 14th Jim Willoughby Memorial Hockey Tournament.



The Whiskey Dekes were this year's Consolation winners.

SPRITWOOD DENTAL CLINIC NOW OPEN!

ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS AND EMERGENCIES

306-883-3366

107 Main Street,
Spiritwood, SK S0J 2M0
MON - FRI: 9AM TO 5PM
spiritwooddentalclinic.ca

SCAN ME

PUBLIC NOTICE – Village of Canwood

Public notice is hereby given that the Village of Canwood intends to adopt a bylaw under *The Planning and Development Act, 2007*, to amend Bylaw No. 2023/02, known as the Zoning Bylaw.

INTENT: The proposed zoning bylaw amendment is to amend the Zoning District Map referred to in Section 6.2 of Bylaw 2023/02 to rezone from R – Residential District to CS – Community Services District that a portion of R on the PT N 68PA05443 as shown within the bold blue line on the map which appears as part of this notice.

AFFECTED LAND: The affected lands are those zoned in the Residential District.

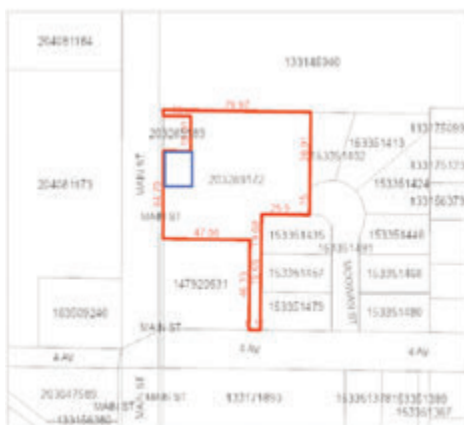
REASON: The reason for the amendment is to provide community service development in an area currently zoned as residential.

PUBLIC INSPECTION: Any person may inspect the bylaw by contacting the Village of Canwood office during regular office hours. Copies of the bylaw will be made available by regular mail or electronically.

PUBLIC HEARING: Council will hold a public hearing on April 21, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. at the Village of Canwood Office in Canwood. Alternatively, any person or group that wants to comment on the proposed bylaw is encouraged to submit written comments prior to the meeting. Written submissions may be sent by email to canwood.town@sasktel.net, by Canada Post a minimum of 4 business days in advance of the hearing, or dropped off at the Village office during regular office hours.

Issued at the Village of Canwood on March 26, 2026.

Heather Sten
Administrator



Kip and Beau Davis, Jim's grandchildren, present the trophy to Parkland Canucks player Dylan Kvinlaug (Jim's nephew).

Cordwood Bonspiel wraps curling season

By **BEVRA FEE**
Spiritwood Herald
Reporter

The annual Cordwood Bonspiel, hosted by the Spiritwood & District Lions Club, led to a very busy Saturday at the Rec Centre on Saturday, March 28.

Nearly 90 local youth from Spiritwood, Leoville, Shell Lake, Medstead, Witchekan Lake First Nation, and even an import from Saskatoon caroused on the pebbled ice. With help from high school volunteers from Spiritwood, Leoville, and Medstead, the youth participants from the ages of Kindergarten to Grade 6 eagerly curled four-end games on a shortened rink.

With the light-weight “rocks” made of wood, the children were able to learn the basics of the game. Teams were built by Lion Wayne Pauls from the registrations collected from the schools, with the youngest playing position of lead and oldest playing skip. Everyone else was in between at second and third, according to their grades as well.

Kicking off at 8:30 a.m. with a pancake breakfast, the participants then took to the ice at 9:30 and curled in scheduled games until 4 p.m. Once the points were tallied after the final two match-ups, the coveted trophy was awarded to the winning team. Each participant was also given a prize and a treat bag full of

(Right) Lions prepare a pancake breakfast for the curlers to get the day started. From left to right: Lion George Pretli, Lion Dave Corneliuson, and Lion Penny Holden.

donated items such as chips, pop, pizza gift certificate, and a Deryk Franson Memorial Funspiel water bottle.

This year’s winning team was comprised of Levi Barth (skip), Elizabeth Caffet (third), Hendrix Uzelman (second), and Ajay Wirth (lead).

The Cordwood Bonspiel is the last event on the ice each season, and is made possible for the local youth by the generous sponsorship of many businesses in Spiritwood.

One of the high school volunteers was Daxon Christopherson, a grade 7 student in his first year of helping rather than curling in the Cordwood. “I started curling in the Cordwood in Grade 2 — it’s a fun time, and now I am enjoying curling with the youth and teaching them the game of curling,” Daxon said.

Another Cordwood veteran who is ending his career as he finishes Grade 6, JR La Clare noted that, “Cordwood has definitely started my love of curling, and now I curl in Medstead’s regular league every Monday. Hopefully when I am in high school next year, I can

be on the school’s curling team.”

To help keep the young curlers busy between games, the Literacy Partnership once again set up their activity tables in the Mezzanine. Lego stations, craft stations, books, jump-rope, hopscotch and other interactive exercises proved to be a popular pastime when teams were awaiting their next curling match.

The cordwood “rocks” created by Lion Andy Marsollier so many years ago are still delivering a positive early curling experience for youth from a wide area, and Mr. Marsollier likely never could have guessed at the number of curlers his invention would ultimately inspire to take up the sport.



Lion Bevra Fee presents the trophy, on behalf of Hujbers Market, to the winning team. From left to right: Levi Barth, Hendrix Uzelman, and Ajay Wirth (missing: Elizabeth Caffet).



Volunteer Dona Bedi supervises the Literacy Olympics craft table.



Skip JR La Clare sweeps a rock into position.



On-ice volunteer Liam Simonar guides a young curler.

TAX ENFORCEMENT LIST RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF CANWOOD NO. 494

PROVINCE OF SASKATCHEWAN

Notice is hereby given under *The Tax Enforcement Act* that unless the arrears and costs appearing opposite the land and title number(s) described in the following list are fully paid before the 2nd day of June, 2026, an interest based on a tax lien will be registered against the land.

Note: A sum for costs in an amount required by subsection 4(3) of *The Tax Enforcement Act* is included in the amount shown against each parcel.

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION	PARCEL NUMBER	TITLE NUMBER	TOTAL ARREARS AND COSTS
SE 17 50 07 W3	153408809	158161035	\$1,396.50
NE 36 52 04 W3	133186046	149201647	\$361.34
SE 32 53 07 W3	129151087	118127886	\$1,376.16
NW 28 53 07 W3	150642895	121031895	\$410.50
Lot 10 Blk 04 Plan 102030635 Ext 0	164982684	153308235	\$715.50
Lot 16 Blk 04 Plan 102030635 Ext 0	164983270	155332346	\$707.94
NE 18 52 07 W3	131199565	109515832	\$754.48
NE 21 52 07 W3	135594692	111347625	\$1,205.78
NW 21 52 07 W3	131173320	111347377	\$1,300.98
SE 21 52 07 W3	131881259	111347489	\$531.28
SE 28 52 07 W3	131172364	109516147	\$1,148.02
NW 10 49 04 W3	147551609	134404882	\$4,199.80
Blk A Plan 101464837 Ext 37	147551609	134404882	\$234.38
NE 01 53 06 W3	146796452	152803605	\$1,135.32
SW 13 53 06 W3 Ext 18	146797172	140214451	\$363.56
Blk A Plan 91PA19932 Ext 2	133165920	154206008	\$1,647.96
Blk A Plan 91PA19932 Ext 3	133165920	154206031	\$361.44
SW 06 50 07 W3	204013235	158482301	\$271.45
Blk A Plan 101464815 Ext 34	146439535	130247243	\$1,365.12
Blk B Plan 102148433 Ext 2	147708018	155970704	\$932.61
Lot 06 Blk 01 Plan 81B08884 Ext 0	130436827	15577709	\$878.33
Lot 24 Blk 1 Plan 93PA07240 Ext 0	161556880	151189487	\$2,570.22
Blk A Plan 101647256 Ext 84	149755360	156737942	\$2,619.31
NE 35 51 06 W3 Ext 1	133167113	135577053	\$685.07
Blk 04 Plan BD532 Ext 3	147707994	155520389	\$684.78
Blk A Plan 102148422 Ext 1	147708029	153819456	\$681.27
Lot 03 Blk 04 Plan 102030635 Ext 0	164982976	153694569	\$721.36
SW 18 52 05 W3	133153860	148059018	\$1,318.42
NW 12 52 06 W3	133169924	158478463	\$1,604.35
SE 13 52 06 W3	133169946	158478474	\$1,592.73
SW 13 52 06 W3	147675594	148058848	\$1,221.17
SE 14 52 06 W3	133169980	158478452	\$1,707.84
Blk A Plan 101598655 Ext 27	147675617	148058871	\$1,015.78
NE 16 52 04 W3 Ext 88	147742027	155006827	\$379.01
Blk C Plan 101294221 Ext 20	136051107	139601875	\$1,044.87
Lot 13 Blk 01 Plan 102158311 Ext 0	202971955	148983508	\$820.61
SE 04 53 04 W3	134555700	158343509	\$1,759.67
SW 01 50 04 W3	145688170	112958567	\$322.99
NE 02 50 04 W3	145688215	112958602	\$323.64
SE 02 50 04 W3	145688259	112958646	\$323.18
NE 28 49 04 W3	134839547	128575873	\$387.95
Blk 31 Plan 102061392 Ext 0	165300814	155941814	\$721.58
SE 03 52 07 W3	149492290	140228669	\$268.42
Lot 12 Blk 04 Plan 102030635 Ext 0	164983416	155987702	\$715.50
Pcl N Plan 102078233 Ext 0	166077366	151112696	\$323.67
NE 08 50 07 W3	150416692	158780919	\$365.79
SE 32 54 06 W3	147611213	151438507	\$1,423.43
Lot 02 Blk 04 Plan 102030635 Ext 0	164982954	157056183	\$734.37
Blk 22 Plan 102061392 Ext 0	165300634	153222397	\$1,074.73
SE 08 54 07 W3	129147543	129780658	\$2,080.04
SW 08 54 07 W3	129147554	129780412	\$374.43
SE 30 50 04 Ext 47 & 48	149323136	154908579	\$4,187.59
Blk A Plan 101576550 Ext 26	149038432	117740347	\$1,196.93

Dated this 2nd day of April, 2026.
Lorna Benson, Chief Administrative Officer

Sask. adds high school healthcare course

By **MINISTRY OF HEALTH**
Submitted

High school students in Saskatchewan have a new pathway to explore careers in health care with the launch of Health Careers 20L, an innovative course giving high school students early exposure to potential career opportunities in the province's health care sector.

Developed for high school students by Saskatchewan Distance Learning Centre (Sask DLC) in direct collaboration with the Ministry of Health, the Virtual Health Hub and Saskatchewan Polytechnic, Health Careers 20L will give high school students insight into what today's health care professionals do in the field and allows them to make informed decisions about future post-secondary education options and career plans.

"The launch of Health Careers 20L responds to growing interest among young people in health care professions and provides opportunities for them to make career discoveries early on," Minister Responsible for Sask DLC Everett Hindley said. "This course is about helping students get

their best start to post-secondary education, and supports long-term workforce awareness by introducing the diverse roles available in the sector here in Saskatchewan."

Students taking Health Careers 20L will be introduced to a wide range of health care careers including nursing and patient care, medical diagnostics and technologies, pharmacy, dentistry, mental wellness and addictions and emergency care. Students will also be introduced to the responsibilities of emerging health care professions, including Physician Assistant and Virtual Health Care Assistant.

In addition to introducing students to a wide range of health care careers, Health Careers 20L will help students build employability skills, professional awareness and an understanding of patient-centered care in both patient-facing and non-patient-facing roles. Students will gain a fundamental understanding of health care systems, professional roles, ethics, safety and communication.

The launch of Health Careers 20L supports the Ministry of Health's

Health Human Resources Action Plan mandate to recruit, train, incentivize and retain health care professionals in Saskatchewan by providing high school students with introductory exposure to career opportunities in health care. It also aligns with the province's new Patient First Health Care Plan that commits to expand and focus training opportunities for Saskatchewan students.

"Our government is putting patients first by offering more opportunities for Saskatchewan students interested in pursuing a career in health care," Health Minister Jeremy Cockrill said. "Engaging high school students and adult learners will help them gain exposure to a wide range

of experience and open further opportunities including job shadowing, employment within a health care setting and financial incentives."

Health Careers 20L is available through Sask DLC to all students in grades 10-12, no matter where they live in the province, beginning in the 2026-27 school year. As a locally developed course supported by the Ministry of Education, school divisions also have the option to offer Health Careers 20L to students in their schools, further supporting access to this course.

To learn more about Health Careers 20L and other Sask DLC courses available for the 2026-27 school year, or to register, go to saskDLC.ca.

RCMP releases March offenders list

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle
Reporter

The Saskatchewan RCMP has updated its list of the province's most wanted offenders, in hopes the public can assist it in tracking them down.

The updated list includes two wanted individuals with known connections to the area.

Police note that this list is not a complete list of all persons wanted by the Saskatchewan RCMP. Offenders appearing on this list are determined by a data-driven scoring system using the Crime Severity Index, a Statistics Canada measurement that looks at both the number and the relative severity of crimes. Factors such as age, gender, race, ethnicity,

socio-economic status, religion, sexuality or disability are not considered in the scoring process.

Still on the list is 24-year-old Darnell Lafond, who's wanted for sexual assault, assault with weapon, pointing a firearm, forcible confinement, uttering threats, possession of a weapon for dangerous purposes, unauthorized possession of a firearm, failure to comply, and

careless use of a firearm (two counts).

Lafond is described as 6'0" and 154 pounds, with brown hair and brown eyes. It is unknown if he has any notable scars or tattoos.

Lafond has known connections to Muskeg Lake Cree Nation, Mistawasis First Nation, Ahtahkakoop Cree Nation, and Blaine Lake.

New to the list in March is 36-year-old Bruce Meneen, who's wanted for sexual assault, sexual interference, invitation to sexual touching, and sexual exploitation of young person. Police are currently unable to provide a physical description or photo of Meneen, but note that he has known connections to the Mistawasis First Nation and South Tallcree, Alta.



Darnell Lafond.

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)

LEASK: Leask Kindness Project - Saturday, April 18, 5pm at Leask Legion Hall. *One Night...One Community...Infinite Kindness in...Small and Simple Acts.* Potluck Supper, Fun, Fellowship & Dancing! Live Music by Turtle River Outlaws. FREE Admission but please bring a Potluck Dish to share! Non-perishable food items or cash donations for the Food Bank will be accepted at the event. For info please call Joanne (306-466-7735). Leask & Community Kindness Project funded by Anglican Foundation of Canada and SUMAssure.

CANWOOD: Canwood & District Health Services Co-operative - Annual Meeting - Wednesday, April 8, 2026, 7pm, Seniors Rooms - Elks Hall. Coffee & Dainties Served; Door Prizes. For more information, contact Karina @ 306-468-4325.

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Jays' goal in '26: Just one more step

There's only one way the Toronto Blue Jays can improve on their 2025 Major League Baseball season and fans don't have to go to Google or Dan Shulman to find out the simple answer: Win the World Series.

Coming off a spectacular — and unexpected — season where they lost the Series to the L.A. Dodgers in the 11th inning of Game 7. Prior to the start of last year, the Jays were picked by most so-called experts to finish last in the American League East. After a slow start, they picked up steam and by mid-July, it was evident they were among two or three teams regarded as the class of the entire league.

This year, with pre-season expectations much loftier, can they maintain their winning ways and make it back to the Fall Classic?

Yes they can. Not only do the Blue Jays have most of their 2025 roster back for

this season (except for infielder Bo Bichette, who signed as a free agent with the Mets), but management was aggressive in the trade and free-agent markets to fill a few holes. This spring, those so-called experts who had only bad things to say about the Jays this time last year, are crowing about the imminent repeat as American League champs. Canadian fans can only hope those experts aren't as off-base as they were last year.

Hitting was not a problem for the Jays last year and it won't be this year, either. Led by Vladimir Guerrero, Jr., George Springer and a strong supporting cast, including Japanese star third baseman Kazuma Okamoto, the Jays put up a team batting average in 2025 of .265, by far the best in MLB. (The Phillies and Brewers were next at .258.) It was on the mound where improvements were needed, so management went out and signed the top free-



BRUCE PENTON

agent starting pitcher, Dylan Cease, and agreed to terms with Cody Ponce, who played the last few seasons in Japan and Korea. He posted a 1.89 earned-run average in the Korean Major League last year, and was chosen the league's most valuable player. They also shored up the bullpen by signing submariner Tyler Rogers, slated to be the setup man for much-maligned closer Jeff Hoffman.

Toronto's pitching stats ranked 21st in MLB last year, but with the addition of Cease, Ponce and Rogers, the numbers should be much better this season. Toronto's starting rotation of Cease,

Ponce, Kevin Gausman, breakout rookie star Trey Yesavage, and veterans Shane Bieber and Jose Berrios gives manager John Schneider pitching depth to go with talent.

With the MLB season barely under way, no one is crowning the Jays as A.L. champs just yet. The New York Yankees will have something to say about that. The Seattle Mariners, who lost to the Jays in the A.L. championship series, should contend again. The Red Sox are always tough. Detroit is strong.

Will the additions made by the Jays in the off-season will be enough to get back to the World Series? A Dodgers-Jays' rematch would be sweet.

• RJ Currie of sports-deke.com: "Braves ace Chris Sale said he comes from 'a long line of tall, skinny people.' Skinny doesn't cover it: if he stuck out his tongue, you'd think he was a zipper."

• Flames Nation podcaster Dean Molberg, on Twitter: "If Hockey Canada, Hockey Alberta, Ringette Alberta,

Baseball Canada, Gary Bettman, Daryl Katz, Stan Bowman, that 'idiot Knoblauch' or the Canadian government are looking for answers, they are in abundance in the breakfast area of our Leduc hotel."

• Jon McCarthy of Monday Morning Golf, on the breakout performance by Canadian golfer Sudarshan Yellamaraju at the Players: "In a sport more often dominated by gym rats and swing analysts these days, Yellamaraju is all knees and elbows as the lean 24-year-old strides down fairways with the physique of a 3-iron."

• Comedy guy Torben Rolfsen of Vancouver: "Canucks GM Patrik Allvin said he received no offers for Evander Kane or Teddy Blueger. Did he try Facebook Marketplace? People will buy anything on there."

• Rolfsen again: "I put 'Gudas' into Google Translate and it came out 'dirty'."

• One more from Rolfsen: "I know Florida is backwards, but what's with Bam Adebayo's

first name? What's his girlfriend's name? Pebbles?"

• Headline at the-onion.com: "Travis Kelce Bummed Fiancée Signed Him Up For NFL Again"

• An entry from fark.com: "Former New York Rangers hockey star Ron Duguay (Sarah Palin's boyfriend) claims he predicted the Rangers would lose because of Pride Night. Bleacher Report writer Adam Herman rebutted, saying 'Maybe this year's team lost because they lose most games.'"

• Steve Simmons of the Toronto Sun: "If Edmonton plays Vegas in the first round of the playoffs, will it be last shot wins? The goaltending on both teams is rather dreadful."

• Super 70s Sports, showing a Sports Illustrated cover of former Reds' owner, an aging Marge Schott, smoking a cigarette: "Still generally regarded as Sports Illustrated's worst swimsuit issue."

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

Spiritwood Library brings storytime fun



The Spiritwood Public Library was busy every Friday in March with Storytime fun. Kids sang an action song, then had a story and finished with colouring pages or a craft. On the last Friday, kids took part in an Easter egg hunt. This is for little tykes not quite in school. Everyone had lots of fun.

By HEATHER GATZKE, Branch Librarian

Senior curlers wrap up season



Another fun year for Shellbrook's senior curlers wrapped up on Wednesday, March 18. Throughout the 2025-2026 curling season, the club had between 28 and 32 curlers every Monday and Wednesday. New teams were drawn up monthly, allowing everyone to play together.

By WESLEY LEDDING, Submitted

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OBITUARIES

John Robert Batty



John Robert Batty of Leask, SK passed away peacefully on March 18, 2026, in Prince Albert at the age of 76.

He was born March 12, 1950, the first of two sons, to John "Jack" and Evelyn Batty. He and his brother

Gerald were only fifteen months apart, so he had a close playmate, as well as a determined competitor in whatever he did. Growing up on the farm in the Avebury District, his mom and dad always took time to flood a rink, play hockey and ball with their boys, and teach them to love the great outdoors.

Upon graduating from high school in 1968, John attended the University of Saskatchewan for one year to play football with the Huskies. After taking one year of Renewable Resources at SIAST, he decided that city living wasn't for him and came home permanently to farm alongside his dad.

On August 16, 1980, John married the love of his life, Darlene Prystupa. Together they developed their beautiful lakefront property on Iroquois Lake, where they raised three children. Sports were always a big part of John's life. Once his own playing days were behind him, he enjoyed many years coaching his kids' ball and hockey teams. He also remained active with hunting, trapping, archery, ski-dooing, and skiing. John was well-known for his knowledge and skill in repairing and restoring snowmobiles. He also enjoyed hosting countless gatherings for family and friends. His quick-wit and sense of humour served him well throughout his life.

John and Darlene were blessed with twelve beautiful grandchildren, who quickly stole their grandpa's heart. He made the most of time spent with them, spoiled them rotten and supported them in all they did.

Left with endless cherished memories are his wife of 45 years, Darlene; his loving mother, Evelyn Batty; his children and their spouses: Joyanne (Joe) Dufour, Allison (Dillan) Simonar, and Jay (Raelene) Batty. His grandchildren: Ayden Dufour (Leah McSymytz), Ellianna, Lochlan, M'Kinley, and Bowdyn Dufour; Emeri, Nixen, Maddox, Asher, and Islah Simonar; Meryck and Berk Batty;

his brother, Gerald Batty; his sisters-in-law, Diane Harris and Sharon Prystupa; numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, and close friends.

He is predeceased by his dad, John Oliver Batty; his parents-in-law, Fred and Olive Prystupa; his sister-in-law, Donna Batty; his brothers-in-law, Mervin Prystupa, Bernie Prystupa, and Gordon Harris; his nephews, Bret and Wayne Prystupa; his niece, Danni Jean Harris; his grandparents and numerous aunts and uncles.

John's family would like to thank the staff at Herb Bassett Home in Prince Albert for the exceptional care he received during the last year of his life.

There will be a private family graveside for John.

A celebration of John's life took place at the Leask Community Hall in Leask, SK on Thursday, March 26, 2026 at 3:00 PM.

Donations in memory of John can be made to STARS (Hanger 21 2475 Airport Rd. Saskatoon, SK. S7L 1M4) or KidSport (kidsport@sasksport.com)

Friends and family wishing to send messages of condolence are welcome to visit www.beaulacfuneralhome.com. Arrangements have been entrusted to Beau "Lac" Funeral Home and Crematorium, Lynn Anderson, Funeral Director, Shellbrook, SK - 306-747-2828.

Rolande Henriette Demers



It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Rolande Henriette Demers (née Lajeunesse), late of Debden. She passed away peacefully on March 13, 2026, at the age of 89, at Whispering Pine Place in Canwood.

Rolande was born on November 11, 1936, in

Debden, Saskatchewan. She was the fourth of eleven children born to Roland and Beatrice (Bilodeau) Lajeunesse. She grew up on the family farm near Debden, where she learned the values of hard work, faith, and the importance of family. On August 8, 1955, she married the love of her life, Robert Demers. Together they built a life centered on family and raised their four children with love, dedication, and strong values.

Rolande devoted many years to volunteering in her community and parish, generously giving her time to those in need. Her faith was very important to her. She was especially dedicated to supporting her family and friends,

always ready to lend a helping hand. She truly touched the lives of many.

Rolande was a master at knitting, sewing, and a great cook. She also enjoyed crafting and working with silk flowers and made some beautiful bouquet arrangements.

Rolande was known for her kindness, quiet strength, and deep devotion to her family. She took great pride in her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, and treasured every visit, celebration, and moment spent together. Her warm smile and presence and caring nature will be remembered by all who knew her and loved her.

On November 13, 2013, three days after her 77th birthday, Rolande suf-

fered a major stroke that left her with permanent paralysis, unable to speak or walk. She still managed to smile through all the trials and showed us the meaning of courage. Her resilience was remarkable with all the challenges she faced in over twelve years of living with a stroke.

She leaves to mourn her loving husband of 70 years, Robert; her children and their families: Louise Anne (Robert) Fair of Lumsden and their children Ben (Sara) and Jessica (Grant); Vivian (Larry) Zimmer of North Battleford and their children Shannon (Stuart) Binder, Paige, Rylee, and Becca; Tammy (Jason) Cameron and their children Jace, Charlie, Cody, and Brett; Della Demers of Whitehorse and her children Tyler

(Alison) and Mandy; and Martin (Frances) of Saskatoon and their children Dustin (Tasha), Léo and Elise; Frank; Alicia (Nathan), Lauklyn, Lincoln, and Levi.

She is also survived by her siblings Eveline Bisson, Denis Lajeunesse, Sally Gaudet, Hélène Gaudet, Fern Ferguson, Louis Lajeunesse, Irene Whitley, Flint Lajeunesse, and Johnny Lajeunesse; her in-laws Med Demers, Pauline and Wayne Welte, and Phil and Cecile Demers; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Rolande was predeceased by her parents, Roland and Beatrice (Bilodeau) Lajeunesse; her in-laws Victor and Annette (Couture) Demers; her brother Philip; sisters-in-law Louisa Lajeunesse, Rosemonde Lajeu-

nesse, Donna Lajeunesse, Lucille Demers, and Edna Demers; and brothers-in-law Gerry Bisson, Wilfrid Gaudet, Fern Gaudet, Huey Ferguson, and Bruno Demers.

A funeral service for Rolande took place on Saturday, March 21, at 2:00 PM at St. Jean Baspiste RC Church in Debden, SK.

Memorial donations in Rolande's memory may be directed to Whispering Pine Place Recreation Dept. (Box 418 Canwood, SK SoJ oKo). 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, Lynn Anderson Funeral Director, Shellbrook, SK 306-724-4474.

Myrna Hoffman



It is with heavy hearts that the family of Myrna Hoffman announces her passing at the age of 78.

Myrna Helen Grimm was the first child of Sil-

furn and Helen Grimm. She was born on August 30th, 1947. She had one younger brother, Elwood. Myrna attended Parkside Elementary School and then went on to W.P. Sandin in Shellbrook. While in high school, she met and began dating Harry Hoffman of the Meadow Grove District. Myrna lost her dad in 1965 but continued with her schooling and received her grade 12 diploma in 1966. After graduating, Myrna spent a small amount of time in British Columbia working at a cannery. Later that year,

she returned to Saskatchewan and on November 12th, 1966, she married Harry. They began their married life together on the Meadow Grove Farm.

Over the years, Myrna and Harry worked tirelessly to grow their mixed farming operation. Life on the farm was definitely a struggle over the years with low prices, high interest rates, drought, frost, and a whole host of other challenges. They persevered and built something to be very proud of. They had two children, Richard and Corrine, whom they encouraged and expected to, work hard and get a good education.

Myrna was a hard-working, humble, farmer's wife. She milked cows, drove grain trucks, operated machinery, chased cattle – the list of farming duties went on and on. She had a mind for dates and details like no other. Three days after their 48th wedding anniversary, Harry passed away in 2014. Myrna continued to live on the farm with her cats, dogs, wood furnace and garden. It was hard for her to imagine living anywhere else. She remained there until her passing and left this world in the place that she loved.

Myrna is lovingly remembered by her chil-

dren and their families:

Richard, Trudi and Luke Hoffman of Calgary, AB;

Corrine, Richard, and Anders Schwehr of Canwood, SK.

Myrna is predeceased by:

Her husband, Harry;

Her parents, Silfurn and Helen Grimm;

Her brother, Elwood Grimm;

Her parents-in-law, Rudolf and Alma Hoffman;

Her brother-in-law, Erich (Alice) Hoffman;

An infant sister-in-law, Ruth Hoffman.

Funeral Service was held at 2:00 PM on Saturday, March 28, 2026,

at St. John's Lutheran Church, Shellbrook, SK. Interment followed after lunch in the BRIGHTHOLME Cemetery.

In lieu of tributes, donations may be made in memory of Myrna to the Zion Lutheran Church, BRIGHTHOLME Cemetery Fund, or St. John's Lutheran Church.

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, Shellbrook, SK 306-747-2828.

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11:00 a.m.
Rev. Stewart Folster

CATHOLIC CHURCH

Debden
Sun. Mass - 9:30 a.m.
Fr. Mariusz Zajac
Big River - Sacred Heart
Sun., 11:30 a.m. - Mass
Whitefish
Sun., 2:30 p.m. - Mass.
Victoire
Sat., 7:30 p.m. - Mass.
Fr. Mariusz Zajac
St. Agatha's - Shellbrook
Mass - Sunday 11 a.m.
St. Henry's - Leask
Mass - Sunday 9 a.m.
Mistawasis
1st & 3rd Sundays 1:30 p.m.
Fr. Tuan Doan

SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST

407-2nd Ave E, Shellbrook
Sat., 9:45 a.m. - Sabbath
School
Sat., 11:00 am -Worship
Pastor Myshan Irving
306-747-3398

PRAISE & WORSHIP

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

PARTNERS IN FAITH

Lutheran/United/
Christchurch Anglican,
137-2nd St. W.
Spiritwood
Worship 11:00 a.m.
Rev. Sarah Urano

UNITED /ANGLICAN

Worship Services
Glaslyn
Time is on the sign
Rev. Kun Kim
Rev. Don Skinner

CATHOLIC SATURDAY

Medstead - 6:00 p.m.
SUNDAY
Leoville - 9:30 a.m.
Spiritwood - 11:15 a.m.
Shell Lake - 2:00 p.m.
Everyone Welcome
Fr. Phinh Do

COWBOY CHURCH

Spiritwood
Every 1st & 3rd Wed. 7 pm
Spiritwood Legion Hall
Pastor Rick Martin

FIELDS OF HOPE (HOFFNUNGSFELDER)

MENNONITE CHURCH
Glenbush
11:00 am Worship

BETHEL

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

MENNONITE BRETHERN

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

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PARTNERS IN WORSHIP

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

LAKELAND

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

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ONLINE

Sask. RCMP warns of lottery mail scam

By SASK. RCMP
Submitted

Saskatchewan RCMP are warning the public of an increase in reports of fraudulent letters being delivered by mail to residents in communities across the province.

In these incidents, individuals report receiving a letter in the mail claiming they have won a "Set for Life" lottery prize. The letter arrives in a handwritten envelope addressed to the recipient.

The scammer identifies themselves as the President of Operations of "Set for Life" lottery organization, states that the recipient has won a lump sum of money and includes contact information for collection. The letters typically include:

- the recipient's mailing address
- "Set for Life Lottery" letterhead
- a return address
- a subject line and file number

- a set of "winning" lottery numbers
- the lump sum of money allegedly won
- instructions to call a phone number to collect the prize
- a guarantee of "safety and security"

The return address and phone number are not associated with a legitimate lottery company. Do not respond to the letter, call the number, or provide personal information over the phone.

The Saskatchewan RCMP

encourages the public to remain aware and protect themselves from fraudulent mail by:

- being cautious of unexpected mail claiming you've won a prize or owe urgent fees
- never sharing personal or financial information with unverified senders
- avoiding calling numbers or visiting websites listed in suspicious letters

Saskatchewan RCMP continue to investigate. If you

receive a similar letter, report it to your local police and the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre. Saskatchewan RCMP can be contacted by calling 310-RCMP. Information can also be submitted anonymously by contacting Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or www.sask-crimestoppers.com.

To make a report to the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre, find tips and for more information visit: <https://report-cyberandfraud.canada.ca/>

Minutes of an RM of Spiritwood meeting

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

The Regular Meeting of the Council of the Rural Municipality of Spiritwood No. 496 was held on Tuesday, Feb. 10, 2026, in Council Chambers located at 218 Main Street in Spiritwood, Sask.

Present: Reeve — Shirley Dauvin, Division 2 — Dale Wasden, Division 3 — Terry Wingerter, Division 4 — Steve Buban, and Division 5 — Heather Warkentin, Division 6 — Dennis Laventure, CAO — Colette Bussiere, and Foreman — Darcy Laventure.

Absent: Division 1— Vacant.

A quorum being present the meeting was called to order at 9:01 a.m. Reeve Shirley Dauvin.

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

Foreman Darcy Laventure left the council meeting at 10:16 a.m.

Wingerter: That the minutes of the Jan. 13 Meeting of Council be approved as presented. Carried

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

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

Wasden: That the bank reconciliation for the month ending Jan. 31, 2026, be accepted as presented. Carried

Laventure: That the "List of Accounts" as listed on the attached Schedule "A" forming part of these minutes be passed for payment.

- Cheque No. 15432-15447 (\$60,392.36)
- EFT No. 2026-0005-2026-0024 (\$101,590.20)
- Payroll File No. 0051, 0052, 0054 & 0055 (\$40,462.38). Carried

Warkentin: That the Statement of Financial Activities for the month ending Jan. 31, 2026 be approved as presented. Carried

Buban: That we award the Strategic Planning Consulting Proposal to Valmore Consulting and that the strategic planning consulting services be capped at ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00). Carried

Wingerter: Subject to Town of Spiritwood approval, that we proceed with purchasing 2.5 acres of land from the property owner of SE 27-50-11-W3 for cemetery expansion; and that all costs associated with the purchase of said land, to include surveying, subdivision & raising title, shall be drawn from the perpetual care cemetery fund. Carried

Warkentin: That we agree to the sub-

division application by removal of the parcel tie connecting Parcel 164792212 to Parcels 163954727, 16479278, and 203837788 and that we authorize the Administrator to proceed with the process of amending the Zoning Bylaw District Map. Carried

Wasden: That Bylaw No. 2026-1, being a bylaw of the Rural Municipality of Spiritwood No. 496 to amend the Zoning District Map in Bylaw No. 4-2015, known as the zoning bylaw be read a first time. Carried

Wingerter: That a public hearing to hear comments on Bylaw No. 2026-1 be scheduled for April 14 @ 11 a.m. in Council Chambers. Carried

Warkentin: Whereas, the current tax loss compensation funding for lands transferred to Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) is not adequate nor sustainable, creating long term financial losses for municipalities when land is transferred to TLE, therefore be it resolved that we object to the transfer of lands to TLE. Carried

Buban: Whereas The Tax Enforcement Act requires the municipality to conduct tax recovery proceedings every year;

And whereas council for the municipality deems it to be in the municipality's best interest to hire TAXervice Inc. to manage tax arrears recovery on its behalf;

Now therefore it is hereby resolved that R.M. of Spiritwood No. 496 hire TAXervice Inc. to manage tax arrears recovery on the municipality's behalf for a term of 3 (three) years.

And be it further resolved that the administrator be and is hereby authorized to sign the TAXervice Inc. engagement letter on behalf of the municipality. Carried

Wasden: That TAXervice be authorized under s22(1) of The Tax Enforcement Act to commence proceedings to request title with respect to the described lands. Carried

Wingerter: That we enter into a road maintenance agreement with AcuFast for the 2026 calendar year. Carried

Buban: That the request to clear trees, brush & debris from the right of way described as Twp Rd 544, between NW 21-54-11-W3 & SW 28-54-11-W3 and Rge Rd 3114 between NE 20-54-11-W3 & NW 21-54-11-W3 be approved as per the road allowance brushing policy. No compensation will be provided to the applicant, as the brush clearing is only beneficial to the applicant & does not provide a benefit to the

municipality. Carried

Buban: Whereas, Par A Plan 102362108, located on PT NW 01-51-10-W3 is accessed by Rge Rd 3101 and Twp Rd 510A (Wild Bear Road), which constitutes a primary grid;

And Whereas, it is recognized that winter snow conditions may render Rge Rd 3101 impassable necessitating a cessation of snow removal services;

Now therefore, be it resolved that the RM will continue to provide snow removal services for Rge Rd 3101 until such time as snow conditions render the road impracticable to maintain or the grader cannot effectively clear the road, at which point the RM shall discontinue snow removal services on Rge Rd 3101 accessing Par A.

Upon the discontinuation of RM snow removal services on Rge Rd 3101 due to heavy snow accumulation or other snow-related impediments, the property owner(s) residing on Par A shall be responsible for clearing their private driveway which provides access to Wild Bear Road (Twp Rd 510A).

Nothing herein shall relieve any owner of their existing legal obligations to maintain their property in accessible condition, nor shall it impose liability on the RM for damages arising from snow or ice conditions beyond the RM's duty to reasonably maintain public roads as required by applicable legislation or RM policy. Carried

Wasden: That the Council for the RM of Spiritwood No. 496 has no objections to SaskPower's new line install to service SW 02-51-11-W3 as per Service Order No. 203944486. Carried

Wingerter: That the RM of Spiritwood No. 496 does not purchase optional personal coverage through the Workers' Compensation Board for elected officials. Carried

Wasden: That Daniel Coutrie be appointed to the Spiritwood Fire Department. Carried

Laventure: That the council meeting be closed to the public at 3:26 p.m. under the authority of Part III of The Local Authority Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, to go in camera to discuss Human Resources. Carried

CAO Colette Bussiere left council chambers at 3:26 p.m.

CAO Colette Bussiere returned to council chambers at 3:37 p.m. The regular meeting of council was out of camera and resumed at 3:37 p.m.

Council: That the meeting be adjourned.

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