

Shellbrook Chronicle & Spiritwood Herald

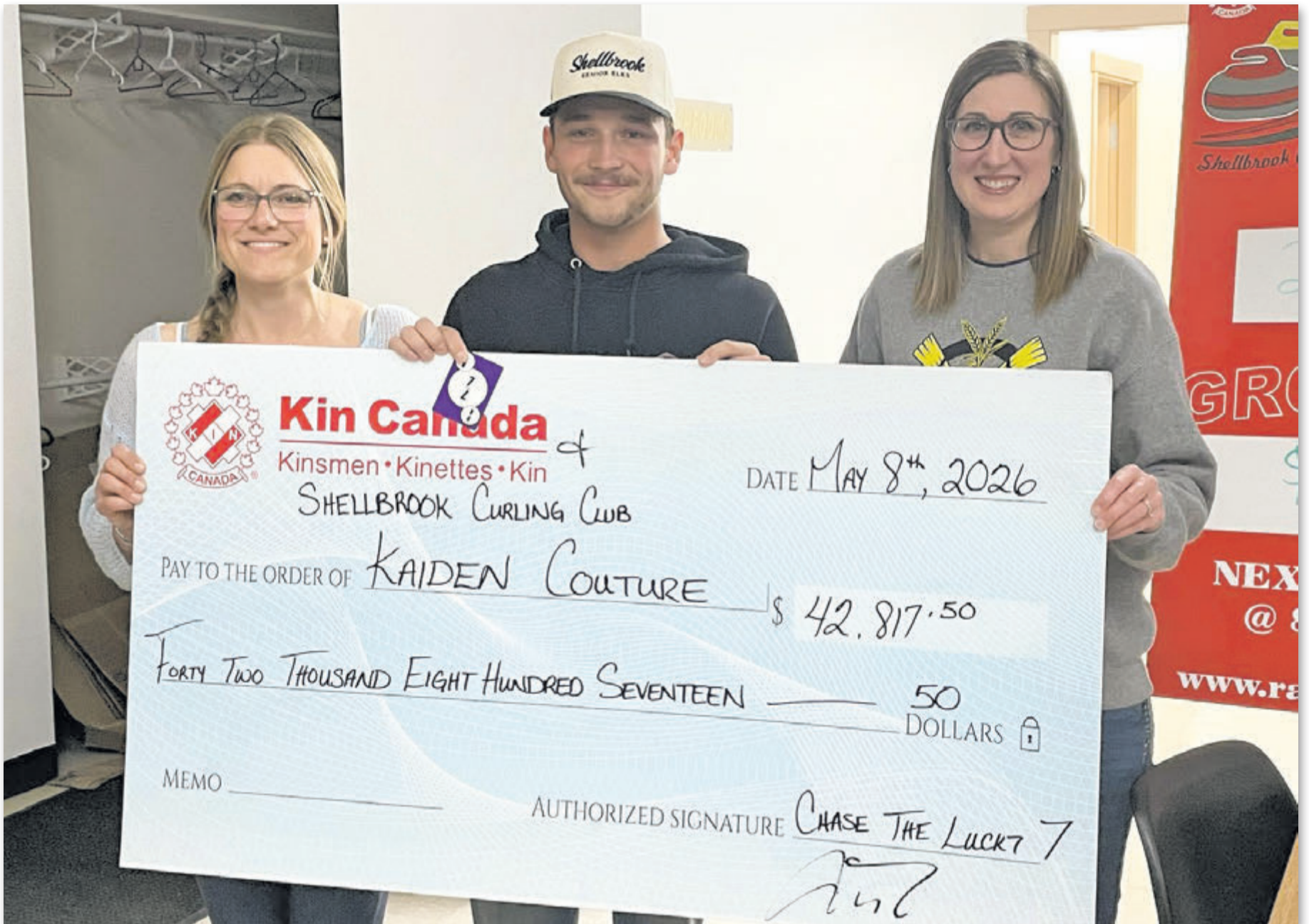


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Couture wins \$42,817 in Lucky 7 draw



Lucky 7 winner Kaiden Couture accepts the big cheque from Tasha Cyr (left) and Gayle Draper (right).

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

In recent years, the Chase the Lucky 7 draw hosted by the Shellbrook Kinettes and Shellbrook Curling Club has made a habit of going all the way down to the final night.

Big final draw winners over the years include Laurie Kennedy, who won \$30,000 in 2017, Colby Moe, who took home \$54,902.50 in 2021, and Matt Dagenais, who earned a \$37,000 pay out in 2023. And few will ever forget Braidon Turner, who won the largest ever Lucky 7 pot of \$103,125 in 2024, or Emilie Wallace, who won \$87,237.50 when the 7 was the final card left in the draw pile last year.

This year's Chase the Lucky 7 draw

continued the trend established by the past two years, ensuring the Shellbrook Community Hall was abuzz with excitement for the final draw on Friday, May 8.

"This year's Lucky 7 went really, really well," Shellbrook Kinettes Tasha Cyr said. "We are fortunate that we have these two wonderful groups full of amazing volunteers who come out every Friday to help make this fundraiser a success."

Though the pot didn't get quite as big by the time ticket sales closed, topping out at \$42,817.50, it was still incentive enough for Kaiden Couture to race to the Shellbrook Community Hall to pull his own card when his was the 10th name drawn.

Couture's decision paid off, netting him the Lucky 7 and the jackpot. And

the win comes at a perfect time for Couture, who just purchased his first home.

But Couture wasn't the night's only big winner. Based on this year's success, Cyr says the Kinettes and the Curling Club should each be bringing home about \$20,000.

"Everything brought in goes directly back into our community, to help make it better for everyone who lives here and who comes to visit," she said.

"The Curling Club uses this money to make the curling rink and Shellbrook curling better for all those who take part. The Kinettes have not yet specified what the money will be going towards."


Chase the Lucky 7 began in 2014 as a joint venture between the Shellbrook Curling Club and the Hidden Hills of Shellbrook Golf Course. Eventually, the

Kinettes joined in the initiative, and for the last several years it's just been the Curling Club and Kinettes running it.

For each week of the Chase the Lucky 7 draw, 50 per cent of ticket sale proceeds are split between the Curling Club and the Kinettes, and the remainder grows the jackpot.

As an added bonus, Sask Lotteries, which provides the licence for the Lucky 7, provides a matching grant to allow the groups to do further good in the community.

"This fundraiser is important to our groups because it helps us give back to our community in ways we wouldn't be able to without it. There are so many amazing projects we have been able to complete because of this ongoing fundraiser," Cyr said.

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Shellbrook students receive crash course in safety

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle
Reporter

Suffering an avoidable life-altering injury is no party.

This important wisdom was shared by a panel of local medical and law enforcement professionals, who led Grade 9 and 10 students from W.P. Sandin in the Prevent Alcohol and Risk-Related Trauma in Youth (PARTY) Program on Wednesday, May 6.

The day long crash course in safety began with introductory remarks at the high school from Shellbrook's own Erica White, an education and prevention coordinator with the Saskatchewan

Health Authority (SHA) specializing in acquired brain injury services.

Once an annual event in the community, the PARTY Program was put on pause during the COVID-19 pandemic. This year, White decided it should be brought back to her home community, where she first learned about the importance of safety.

During her opening comments, White shared that preventable injuries are the leading cause of death among Canadians aged 1 to 44. In Saskatchewan specifically, one person under the age of 19 dies every 4.5 days from a preventable injury and 38 are hospitalized due to an injury.

Young Saskatchewan drivers are also over-represented in fatal collisions in the province, representing only 7 per cent of drivers but 18 per cent of major injury collisions.

And White cautions that it's not just accidental harm that affects youth. Among youth aged 15 to 24, intentional self-harm accounts for 25 per cent of all deaths, giving Saskatchewan the highest suicide rate among the provinces.

"I feel it's important for youth to experience this program because it helps decrease injury, risk, and suicide in youth," White said.

"We understand that youth will take risks in life, which is an important part of growth. However, it's important they understand the difference between good and bad risks. It's all about preventing injury."

Following White's remarks, students traveled to Parkland Integrated Health Centre for presentations from medical and law enforcement professionals. In the facility's ambulance bay, paramedics from Parkland Ambulance walked students through what to expect if they ever need an ambulance, and reminded them



Dr. Christine Ryan and nurse Allison Batty-Simonar demonstrate the tools used to save lives in the ER after traumatic injuries.

that Shellbrook's rural location means that help may not be immediately available if they engage in risky behaviour that results in an injury.

Helping drive this point home in the Emergency Room, Dr. Christine Ryan and nurse Allison Batty-Simonar shared the indignities that come with being treated in the ER after a serious accident, and demonstrated the tools and techniques used to save lives (and the uncomfortable places they go).

Next, in the hospital's great room, RCMP officers Chad Price and Eyad Ismael highlighted the legal ramifications that

can stem from risky behaviours and accidents, and Morgan Choptuik, a counsellor from Evergreen Oasis, offered insights from the perspective of mental health and addictions.

After these presentations, students were given a moment to reflect and refuel during a lunch break. However, the break came with a major caveat: they had to eat with a mock disability, helping them learn how avoidable injuries could change the rest of their lives.

"I felt so supported throughout the whole planning process of this event," White said. "I

couldn't have done it without the many teachers, community member volunteers, presenters, and sponsors."

From PIHC, the students traveled to Beau "Lac" Funeral Home to learn where their journey could end if they take the wrong risks.

The final stop of the day was W.P. Sandin's gym, where students listened to a presentation from accident survivor Krystle Shewchuk, who was paralyzed at age 13 after a car accident in which she wasn't wearing a seatbelt.

Noting that this year's PARTY Program went well, White says she hopes that the students now have a better understanding of how their choices affect themselves and others.

"I hope what the students take away is that injury or trauma can happen so fast and the impacts of this can last a lifetime, which is why it's so important to take smart risks," she said.

"I also hope they built empathy through listening to real life stories shared by families and survivors, and that they know that that prevention matters and their choices truly make a difference."



Kayla Klaassen was tasked with eating lunch and drinking while blind to demonstrate the life-changing impacts of accidents.



Accident survivor Krystle Shewchuk shares her story with the students.



Paramedics from Parkland Ambulance walk the students through what to expect if they ever need an ambulance.

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Local communities declare emergencies

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle
Reporter

As above-normal spring flows threaten communities across northeastern Saskatchewan, the Sturgeon Lake First Nation is among a long list of communities to declare a state of emergency over fears of potential flooding.

The SLFN's Band Council passed the resolution to declare the emergency last Tuesday, in an effort to secure support, resources, and assistance from Indigenous Services Canada and Prince Albert Grand Council, as rising water levels, flooded roads, and bridge conditions were affecting the community.

Of particular concern at the time were Highways 355 and 788, as well as the community's main traffic bridge. When the state of emergency was declared, the water level was just 12 inches below the bridge deck. In typical conditions, it usually sits at least 40 inches below it.

Loss of access to the main traffic bridge would leave the community completely cut off.

Despite the concerns about flooding, Chief Christine Longjohn urged community members to be calm but prepared with drinking water, basic supplies, medications, baby supplies, and other essentials, in case conditions worsened.

"We do not want our members to panic, but we do need everyone to be prepared. Water levels are rising, roads

are being affected and our crews are working around the clock. Our priority is the safety of our members, our families and our community," Chief Longjohn said in a statement.

"We are monitoring the bridge, the roads, and the rising water levels closely. Please watch for official updates, check on your loved ones and give our crews the room they need to do their work safely."

SLFN leadership urges community members to:

- Stay away from the pedestrian bridge, which remains closed due to strong currents, rising water levels, and erosion
- Keep children away from flooded areas
- Avoid fast-moving water and unstable banks
- Stay clear of heavy equipment and work crews
- Avoid unnecessary travel on flooded or damaged roads

SLFN leadership says water levels are rising slowly, but that crews are working around the clock to monitor roads, water levels, and community infrastructure. It also noted that an emergency bridge option was being worked on as part of the emergency response.

Despite the threat of flooding, dry conditions in other parts of the community have also prompted the community to implement a fire ban.

The SLFN isn't alone in declaring a local state of emergency; with many



municipal roads being completely washed out, the R.M. of Shellbrook also declared a state of emergency in hopes of accessing supports and resources to head off the flooding threat.

The R.M. issued the following advice to residents:

- Avoid flooded or damaged roads. Do not drive through water-covered areas.
- Road conditions are changing quickly. Washouts may be unmarked—please use alternate routes and do not bypass barricades or signage.
- If you are in an impacted area, stay connected with neighbours – especially anyone who is landlocked or at risk of becoming landlocked.
- If you are close to becoming landlocked, please consider arranging alternate

accommodations now while access is still possible.

- Do not attempt to repair or alter roads. Road repairs cannot start until waters recede, and it may be some time before repairs are completed.
- Do not call crew. Please report any roads washing out that are unmarked to your designated division contact.

Flooding has damaged and washed out roads on the Sturgeon Lake First Nation.

Photo courtesy of SLFN/Facebook

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**Shellbrook Chronicle
& Spiritwood Herald**



Canwood stabbing suspect pleads guilty

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

A man who stabbed two people outside a business in Canwood on Feb. 9 has pleaded guilty to the charges against him.

Roger Herman, 33, from La Loche entered the pleas in Prince Albert Provincial Court last Tuesday, admitting guilt to charges of aggravated assault, assault with a weapon, and mischief to property under \$5,000.

According to police, the stabbing occurred outside the bar in Canwood the night of Monday, Feb. 9, and resulted in two people being taken to

hospital. At the time, police said one victim's injuries were serious in nature, and the other person's injuries were non-life-threatening.

Herman was arrested nearby shortly after the incident, and was initially charged with aggravated assault, and assault causing bodily harm. However, following further investigation, police upgraded the charges to attempted murder, aggravated assault, and mischief under \$5,000.

The attempted murder charge was later dropped.

With guilty pleas entered, Herman will face sentencing on Thursday, June 4.

Sask. wildfire season promises uncertainty

A few short weeks ago, after a late winter blast hit much of Saskatchewan, it seemed like we were in the midst of a winter that would never end.

But nature works in cycles. And while these cycles are prone to the occasional disruption or hiccup, it was only a matter of time before spring arrived (with summer likely just around the corner).

With winter's tardy departure, the annual spring cycle has kicked into full gear, taking Saskatchewan from the deep freeze right into the fire or the flood – depending on where one lives in the province.

Last week, the community of Radisson was threatened by a fast-moving grass fire that tore through the local campground and forced a resident to evacuate their home.

At the same time, 23 rural municipalities in central and western Saskatchewan had already implemented fire bans as of last week, due to persistently dry and windy conditions.

This no doubt seems strange to those of us who live in the Shellbrook area or in northeastern Saskatchewan, where communities and First Nations have been evacuated and states of emergency have been declared due to severe flooding.

Close to home, ditches are filled with more water than they've seen in many years, and last week the R.M. of Shellbrook warned residents that the Sturgeon and Shell Rivers were rising and some culverts were close to capacity.

Meanwhile, the Sturgeon Lake First Nation was among the communities to declare a state of emergency, as rising water levels were affecting access along Highways 355 and 788, as well as the main traffic bridge. Indeed, with water levels a mere 12-inches below the main bridge, there were concerns that access to the community could be severely limited or completely cut off.

As beginnings to spring go, it's not



JORDAN TWISS
~
News Editor

the most encouraging.

But there is a small silver lining: for the first time in a number of years, the province isn't setting new records for wildfires burning.

As of Monday, only 21 wildfires had been reported, compared to the five-year average of 97 by this date. Last year was an especially high benchmark, with 144 wildfires reported by this date.

This, of course, is likely to change quickly once Saskatchewan gets its first lasting taste of spring and summer's usual dry heat.

It's not a question of if the province will burn; it's a question of when the fires will start and how bad they'll be.

And hanging over that, is the question of whether the Sask. Party government will be prepared this year.

Ahead of 2024's wildfire season, which was one of the worst over the past decade, the government made some effort to bolster its preparedness by purchasing four new air tankers to supplement its aging fleet.

The first of those air tankers arrived last May, in the midst of a wildfire season that went on to burn a staggering 2.9 million hectares and force 10,000 people from their homes. But the remaining three won't arrive until sometime next year.

The government's slow, flat-footed response to 2025's wildfire season earned it rebukes from all sides, who noted that those impacted by the fires that ravaged northern Saskatchewan were often left without adequate supports or clear communication.

In addition to leaving wildfire evacuees in the lurch, the Sask. Party government faced questions about why half of its air tanker fleet was grounded at times, and why it hadn't even made use of its new air tanker.

For its part, the government attributed these shortfalls to unexpected maintenance, and shortages of qualified pilots and qualified and experienced aircraft maintenance engineers.



Over the course of two investigations into the government's response to last year's wildfires and evacuations, Saskatchewan Ombudsman Sharon Pratchler says her office received more than 380 complaints.

In a report published in April, Ms. Pratchler ultimately found that the Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency (SPSA) failed to respond in a timely fashion to many wildfire evacuees last summer, leaving many without supports to buy food or pay for shelter.

"In a crisis, timeliness of response equates to safety for those who are displaced from their homes and community," Ms. Pratchler's report says.

"When urgent support is needed, the process to apply has to be streamlined and as close to one step and one day as possible."

While Community Safety Minister Michael Weger has said the government has made changes to make it easier for people to access wildfire supports, there are already reasons to question the government's wildfire preparedness.

For starters, it's fought back against every attempt to investigate or review its wildfire response, and shut down legislation brought forward by the Saskatchewan NDP to establish a provincial wildfire strategy.

And in lieu of an independent public inquiry or an official review by Ms. Pratchler's office, it commissioned a report from MNP, and has yet to make that report's findings public.

These are a far cry from the actions of a government that wants to be held accountable and do better.

To make matters worse, Mr. Weger recently reported that two of the province's CL-215 turbine amphibious air tankers would be undergoing maintenance until July, with an additional Q400 air tanker purchased by the government not expected to arrive until August.

Meanwhile, last October, the SPSA quietly revised its fleet of Convair 580A land-based air tankers from four to three.

Though the ageing Convair 580A air tankers are being phased out by the province's new tankers, Saskatchewan is still down three air tankers until at least July.

Even if 2026's wildfire season is not on pace to be anywhere near as bad as the last few seasons, this still isn't a good look for a government that claims to be taking wildfire preparedness seriously.

By now, wildfire season shouldn't be a surprise to the Sask. Party government.

There's no longer any excuse for it to be unprepared.

Shellbrook Chronicle

Serving the Communities of Shellbrook, Canwood, Debden, Big River, Parkside, Leask, Marcelin, Blaine Lake, Holbein, Mont Nebo, Mayview

Spiritwood Herald

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

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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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Member of



Student artist wins provincial legion competition

By BEVRA FEE
Spiritwood Herald Reporter

Sam Hornilla is no stranger to the Royal Canadian Legion’s annual Remembrance Day poster competition. In fact, three of his Provincial-level winning poster entries in the national competition have been framed and placed on display in the Spiritwood Legion Hall.

Now in Grade 12 and his final year of eligibility in the poster competition, Legion member Betty



Spiritwood’s Sam Hornilla with his Remembrance Day contest certificates.

Hall remarks, “We wish Sam well and we want him to know he has done himself proud with his entries for the last several years.”

Through the annual National Youth Remembrance Day Contests, the Legion National Foundation, with the support of The Royal Canadian Legion and schools across the country, invite Canadian youth and children to honour Canada’s Veterans and foster the tradition of Remembrance through visual art, writing, and video.

The contests include multiple levels of competition. Poster and literary works compete first at the local Legion Branch level, with winning entries moving forward until they reach the Provincial level. Video entries compete first at the Legion Command Provincial level. Provincial finalists of all contests then move forward for final judging by the Legion National Foundation to determine the national winners.

Born in the Philippines, Sam moved to Canada six years ago and joined his father who was already in Canada. Sam cannot pinpoint the age at which he began drawing, but he noted that his parents have pictures of him doing so from an age before he can remember.

His first poster entry was in Grade 7, at the encouragement of his father, Ron Hornilla.

“He told me that there was a poster contest here in Canada and that it was to do with Remembrance Day,” Ron recalled.

To establish his image ideas each year, Sam relies on advice from his father, who is his inspiration and artistic role model.

“My dad is an artist too, so that may be why I am passionate about it,” Sam said.

Favouring the colour art over the black and white entries, Sam prefers to express himself with vibrant portrayals, “I find it more interesting to work in colour — the black and white is a bit more boring.”

With his 2025/26 effort earning him first place in the Senior colour

poster category at the Zone, District and Provincial Level, Sam’s collage of soldiers centred around a poppy caps off his efforts over the years. His black and white entry earned him first place in the Zone level and second place in the District level for the current competition year.

As Hornilla prepares to graduate from Spiritwood High School in June, he has been accepted into the civil engineering program at the University of Saskatchewan.

“We will miss him and we hope that other students follow in his path,” noted Betty Hall.

With his fourth Provincial win, Hall may need to make room for another framed print in the lineup at the Legion’s venue!



Sam Hornilla’s colour poster placed first in the Provincial Remembrance Day contest.

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Happy National Nursing Week!

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YOUR TWO CENTS

Fundraising keeps Happy Hearts thriving

Dear editor,

In a town like Shellbrook, community isn't just a word—it's a way of life. It's neighbours helping neighbours, families supporting one another, and local organizations stepping up to meet the needs of those around them. At the heart of that support system is Happy Hearts Childcare Centre, a place where children are cared for, families are supported, and community values are lived out every single day.

Happy Hearts Childcare Centre proudly serves families in Shellbrook and the surrounding area, offering both full-time childcare and a Before and After School Program (BASP). For many local families, these programs are more than just a convenience—they are essential.

Currently, the centre supports 36 full-time childcare spaces, along with 20 children in the BASP program, in addition to regular drop-in care at both locations. These numbers reflect not only the demand for childcare in our community, but also the

trust families place in Happy Hearts.

As a licensed, non-profit childcare centre, Happy Hearts operates with a clear mission: to provide high-quality care while keeping services accessible to families. While government funding supports a portion of our operations, it does not fully cover the true cost of delivering the level of care and programming our children deserve.

This is where fundraising becomes essential.

Each year, Happy Hearts must raise approximately \$30,000 to continue operating at full capacity and to provide enriching experiences for the children in our care. These funds help cover the costs of equipment, educational materials, activities, supplies, and enhancements that go beyond basic funding.

Our fundraising efforts are truly community-driven and take place throughout the year. These fundraisers are more than just financial support—they are opportunities for our community to come together, get in-

involved, and invest in the well-being of local children.

The success of these efforts directly impacts the quality of care we are able to provide. The reality is simple: without the support of our community, we would not be able to continue offering these essential services.

As Shellbrook continues to grow, so does the need for reliable childcare. With continued community support, Happy Hearts will remain a place where children are not only cared for—but truly supported, encouraged, and inspired every single day.

*Marissa Harris, Vice President,
Happy Hearts Board*

Op-ed: RNs deliver safe, trusted care in Sask.

By CRNS
Submitted

Safe, trusted health care does not happen by chance. It depends on skilled nurses and a strong system that sets clear expectations for safe practice.

National Nursing Week, May 11 to 17, is a time to recognize the important role nurses play in the health of people across Saskatchewan. This year's theme, The Power of Nurses to Transform Health, reflects what many people already see every day: nurses make a real difference in our communities. They improve access to care, support better health outcomes, and help strengthen the health system.

At the College of Registered Nurses of Saskatchewan (CRNS), we regulate the nursing profession in the public interest. Our role is to help ensure Registered Nurses and Nurse Practitioners provide safe, competent, and ethical

care. We do this by setting entry requirements, approving nursing education programs, and establishing standards for practice and a code of conduct.

The CRNS provides guidance and sets expectations for ongoing learning. Nurses keep their knowledge and skills current to meet practice standards through self-directed learning. This is a key part of protecting the public and supporting safe care.

Across Saskatchewan, nurses are a trusted part of the community. They are often the first person people turn to for help and are a steady source of support. In hospitals, clinics, and other care settings, nurses help people get the care they need.

Nursing is more than direct care. Nurses work in many roles across the health system, including leadership, education, research, and policy. They work in hospitals, communities, classrooms, board-

rooms, and other settings that support how care is delivered. Each role plays a part in safe, high-quality care.

Nurses bring knowledge, compassion, critical thinking, and accountability to everything they do. Whether providing care directly or working behind the scenes, they share a common purpose of protecting the public and improving health outcomes.

Health care continues to evolve, and nurses continue to adapt. They bring sound judgment and work closely with other professionals to support patients and communities, with CRNS guiding their practice along the way.

During National Nursing Week, we recognize and thank all nurses, in all roles, for the expertise, dedication, and leadership they bring every day. Their contributions are essential to the health of our communities and to a health system people can trust.

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 - 5:30pm; 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)

CANWOOD & LEASK: Walter Willoughby Horticultural Society Bedding Plant Sales - Canwood Seniors Hall (640-2nd Ave E), Wednesday, May 20, Noon to 4pm. Leask Seniors Hall (231A-1st Street), Friday, May 22nd, Noon to 4pm. Pie & coffee/tea will be served at both sales for \$5.

SHELLBROOK: Musical Salute - Marking 100 years of the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 111 (101 2nd Ave E, Shellbrook). Saturday, May 23, 7pm. Music from WWI & WWII, 40s/50s. Honouring our veterans trivia games. \$15 per person, Cash Bar, Late Night Lunch. Funding for this project has been applied for through Veterans Affairs Canada.

PARKSIDE: Honeywood (Dr. A.J. Porter) Heritage Nursery Inc. *Provincial Heritage Site*, Parkside, SK - Season Opening: Friday, May 8! Open Daily 9 am to 5 pm. Annuals, new & old lily varieties, fruit & ornamental trees, assortment of perennial plants. Gift/garden Shop - Honeywood Jellies, Seed Potatoes & much more! Ph: 306-747-3307 or email honeywoodn8@gmail.com

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Sask. seeks input on youth social media use

By MINISTRY OF HEALTH
Submitted

The Government of Saskatchewan is looking to hear directly from families in the province regarding placing limits on social media access for youth under the age of 16.

"We are interested in a dialogue and understand the federal government is open to a conversation about placing limits on social media," Premier Scott Moe said. "We want to go into that conversation with the knowledge that we are representing the wishes of our residents."

Government wants to hear directly from parents and residents what role government should play and how far it should go between an outright ban, some flexibility for parental consent or leave entirely to parents.

A postcard will be mailed to households across the province in the coming days that

includes several questions on possible social media limits and a option for comments. The postcard includes prepaid postage for return mail by June 30th, 2026. The results will be tabulated over the summer.

"We encourage everyone who receives a postcard to participate and have their voice heard," Mental Health and Addictions Minister Lori Carr said. "We know there is growing concern over the harmful effects of social media on mental health, particularly for young people and we want to be sure we are being respectful of parents wishes in how we can support our youth to have happy, healthy childhoods."

The federal government is considering potential restrictions on social media use by individuals under the age of 16. This survey seeks input from Saskatchewan families on potential restrictions for the following major social media platforms: TikTok, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube and Snapchat.

Politics muddy healthy food debate

Being a food consumer today is difficult on a number of levels.

We all of course have to eat, so it is something we are faced with daily, but it does seem the number of hurdles to putting a healthy meal on the table is at its most difficult.

It starts with the price of food.

You can be anywhere — from a between ining discussion with the better half to the table at the local Chamber of Commerce AGM — and the cost of food is likely to be discussed.

Sure, the bag of goods

we emerge from a supermarket with these days is not all food; it runs from toilet paper to hair-spray to pop and chips, none of which are on the healthy list for the table. But the edible share has certainly seen a spike in prices thanks to the United States' Trump-led tariffs, Trump's war in the Middle East, and other influences well beyond consumer control.

As noted in an earlier column, we have also mostly lost control of our food in the sense backyard gardens are almost non-existent, lost to easily manageable



CALVIN DANIELS

grass, rock, and cement — none of which will feed a family.

Then, even when we manage food sourcing and costs, we are faced with the challenge of what constitutes healthy choices there days.

For example, the

American Heart Association (AHA) is promoting the use of liquid non-tropical plant oils (such as soybean, canola and olive oil) in its 2026 dietary guidelines. Now you would imagine the AHA is a rather reliable source of information regarding heart health so you would gravitate toward its suggested choices.

But of course, the AHA suggestion is the opposite of the guidelines recently updated by Dietary Guidelines for Americans published by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

As noted in a *www.producer.ca* article, "those guidelines specifically encourage the use of butter and beef tallow when cooking with or adding fats to meals."

The article notes U.S. Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. boasts of, "ending the war on saturated fat" and has called seed oils, "one of the most unhealthy ingredients that we have in foods."

Now given Kennedy's personal background, and the general dis-

mantling of anything remotely related to the common good of U.S. citizens by President Trump and his administration, the changes in the dietary guidelines were frankly suspect from the get go.

Now, having the AHA offer a near directly opposite view, solidifies concerns regarding Kennedy's motives.

But, the two opposite views also cause issues for the consumer, who must wade through the politics of food to determine what to put on the table while balancing the budget.

Sask. offers producers strychnine training

By **MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE**
Submitted

Online training is now available for producers planning to participate in Saskatchewan's Strychnine Stewardship Program. The training is a required step for producers in eligible rural municipalities (RMs) seeking access to two per cent liquid strychnine for targeted control of Richardson's ground squirrel (RGS) infestations.

"Those planning to use strychnine are encouraged to complete training

as early as possible to access supplies once they are available," Agriculture Minister David Marit said.

Training is one component of the Strychnine Stewardship Program, which is available in 208 RMs through an Emergency Use Registration (EUR) outlined by Health Canada's Pesticides Regulatory Directorate. The EUR is in effect until November 2027.

The 90-minute online training course, available through the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities, addresses responsible strychnine use, environmental pro-

tection, integrated pest management and pesticide safety. A mandatory Treatment Plan and Declaration Form is also required to become a certified strychnine user.

Training can be accessed at sarm.ca/strychnine-stewardship-training.

Participating RM offices will distribute strychnine to certified users later this spring. An initial, limited supply of strychnine is expected in early June, followed by additional monthly shipments. Strychnine will be distributed evenly among participating RMs with a per-producer cap

to manage supply.

As the spring application window closes on June 15, producers are encouraged to use alternative registered rodenticides, as well as biological and cultural controls, for RGS control in the next month.

Strychnine inventories are expected to increase during the July 15 to September 1 application window.

For full details on the Strychnine Stewardship Program, including a complete list of participating RM offices and information on integrated pest management for RGS control, visit Saskatchewan.ca/RGS-Control.

Sask. NDP blasts government over farmland ownership

By **SASK NDP**
Submitted

The Saskatchewan NDP is calling out the Sask. Party after Scott Moe's Agriculture Minister admitted the government is allowing big, out-of-province real estate investment trusts and funds to buy up, consolidate and speculate Saskatchewan farmland.

For example, the Sask. Party government admitted when facing questioning in committee that they gave a greenlight to Avenue Living — a large Alberta real estate trust that owns more than

80,000 acres of Saskatchewan farmland.

"For 20 years, this government has been soft on illegal foreign land ownership, and they've been allowing large out-of-province investment trusts and funds to buy up and consolidate Saskatchewan farmland," said Trent Wotherspoon, Saskatchewan NDP Shadow Minister for Finance & Deputy Agriculture Shadow Minister.

"Farming is the backbone of Saskatchewan's economy, and this government should be committed to ensuring fairness and opportunity for

producers."

The government also revealed in estimates that multiple other trusts and investment funds have been allowed to buy up Saskatchewan farmland but refused to provide names, the number of investment entities or the total number of acres owned.

Last month, the government also refused to support legislation from Wotherspoon to crack down on illegal foreign farmland ownership including by upping fines from \$1,000 and \$50,000 to \$1 million for individuals and \$500,000 for corporations to

\$10 million.

The Saskatchewan NDP is highlighting that it's particularly important for the government to crack down and act as very large amounts of farmland will likely be hitting the market with the creditor protection process of Monette Farms.

"As a very large amount of land is about to hit the market, this Sask. Party government must step up, crack down and act to protect the interests of and ensure fairness for producers and multi-generational farms and not allow this land to be

bought up and consolidated by investment trusts and funds, or illegal foreign ownership," said Wotherspoon.

"This government has downplayed the very real concerns of producers for far too long. Clearly, it's long past time to stand up for Saskatchewan producers and ensure fairness and opportunity. It's time for change."

Carla Beck's team is calling on the Moe government to immediately disclose which investment trusts and funds own Saskatchewan farmland and how many acres they own.



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Honeywood welcomes new season

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

With the last hints of Saskatchewan's long, snowy winter gradually vanishing, the first signs of spring's arrival are finally starting to appear.

And few things are more synonymous with spring than Honeywood Heritage Nursery's season opening, which took place this year on Friday, May 8.

In truth, the work at Honeywood never ends. Even with the provincial heritage site shutdown for the season, manager Janie Denton toiled through the winter months to prepare jarred jelly and other goods for the gift shop, and made sure the

nursery had a presence at Garden-scape in Saskatoon.

Once winter ends, Denton and her staff typically have two weeks to get the nursery grounds prepared for opening day. Then, there's also moving the annuals and bedding plants, picking up some plants from Alexander's Greenhouse in Holbein, potting lilies and perennials, and setting up the gift shop to contend with.

Even in two weeks, it's a lot to get done. But thanks to an above normal snowfall and a late winter blast near the end of April, Denton and her crew only had one week to get the nursery grounds ready for visitors.

When she arrived at Honeywood to start the work last Monday, Denton

was greeted by lingering mounds of snow, pools of water, downed trees, and muddy roads.

"Our first couple days back we had to walk in as we could not get through the snow," Denton said. "This is something I am not used to."

Fortunately, Denton says, Honeywood has a very motivated staff that has a singular goal in mind: beautifying Honeywood. This includes new maintenance supervisor Lee Denton, who replaces retired maintenance supervisor Mark Diehl.

In addition to getting the greenhouse stocked up for opening week-end, Denton says she and her team are committed to getting the nursery grounds cleaned up and getting out in the field to plant many more lilies.

She also hopes to bring a few surprises and new additions to Honeywood this year.

"I'm so excited about having such a motivated staff this year," she said. "I'm excited for all the changes. And I'm excited to see all friends old and new to Honeywood."



Honeywood's gift shop is all stocked up with jarred jelly, as well as some unique, hand-crafted items.



Though Honeywood's grounds aren't displaying their full colours, the greenhouse has plenty of colour to see.

Vehicle crashes through front of Shellbrook Bigway



A vehicle crashed through the front of Shellbrook Bigway on Friday, May 8, destroying a picnic table and doing extensive damage to the exterior of the grocery store's vestibule. The accident closed the store temporarily, but the hole left in the building was patched up by the end of the day. Bigway owner Jody Lanovaz doesn't anticipate any further closures to the store.

By **JORDAN TWISS**, Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter



Honouring Saskatchewan Nurses

The Government of Saskatchewan is pleased to recognize **National Nursing Week, May 11 to 17, 2026**. Nurses play a vital role in providing high quality health care and saving lives in communities throughout our province.

This year's theme - The Power of Nurses to Transform Health - highlights the meaningful difference nurses make every day by putting patients first and helping deliver the right care, at the right time across Saskatchewan.

The Saskatchewan Patients First Health Care Plan recognizes the role of nurses as part of patient-focused solutions. They strengthen health teams, improve access to care, and help deliver better outcomes.

Much progress has been made to grow and strengthen our nursing workforce through the Health Human Resources Action Plan, with over 2,800 nursing graduates hired since 2023. We continue supporting and growing the nursing workforce through investments in hiring, training and career development, including new career laddering opportunities to help build a strong, sustainable workforce.

Thank you to nurses across Saskatchewan for your care, compassion and dedication to the health and well-being of people in our province.

Learn more about Saskatchewan's Health Human Resources Action Plan and health care opportunities at saskatchewan.ca/hhr



Naber Ford drives funds for MS

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

For Michelle Thall, Naber Ford's warranty, reception, and accounting clerk, multiple sclerosis isn't just a cause; it's deeply personal.

Thall was diagnosed with the disease, which can cause numbness, weakness, trouble walking, vision changes and other symptoms, 20 years ago, and has spent many of those years campaigning to raise funds and awareness.

So, when an email about Ford Canada's Drive For Your Community test drive campaign came across her desk, Thall saw it as an opportunity to contribute to the cause that means so much to her. With May being MS Awareness Month, Thall brought the idea to the Naber Ford ownership team and received enthusiastic support to plan and host a fundraiser for MS Canada on Saturday, May 9.

"I take a disease-modifying drug to slow the progression of the disease down," Thall said. "With these kinds of events... it's a placebo effect for myself. It gives me so much hope and inspiration. It makes me feel better."

Ford Canada's Drive For Your Community initiative invites Ford dealerships across Canada to host test drive events in their communities. The company then donates \$30 for each test drive completed throughout the day to the dealership's charity of choice, up to a total of \$6,000.

The community got on-board with Thall's vision, as an estimated 200 people came out to take vehicles for a test spin throughout the day. Depending on whether or not all those test drives are counted by Ford Canada, that alone was enough to reach the \$6,000 fundraising cap.

But the day was about much more than just test drives.

With bright and sunny conditions, the Klasik Kruizers Kar Klub put together a well-attended show and shine for car enthusiasts, bouncy castles and colouring and temporary tattoo stations gave kids something fun to do, and a hot dog and burger sale hosted by the Shellbrook Kinettes ensured visitors' tanks were full.

Helping contribute to MS Canada in her own way, Thall set up a booth to sell carnations in a revival of a fund-

raiser that MS Canada holds around Mother's Day each year.

All proceeds from the test drives, burger and hot dog sale, and carnation sale will go to MS Canada. As of Monday, Thall was still waiting for Ford Canada to review the test drives to determine the final fundraising total.

Regardless, Thall believes the day went really well.

"To do an event, you need a lot of hands to make it successful," Thall said. "Naber Ford had my back and definitely made it successful."



Organizer Michelle Thall did her own fundraising for MS Canada by selling carnations.



The Shellbrook Kinettes hosted a BBQ to keep guests fed.



The Klasik Kruizers Kar Klub lined up along the service road for the day, putting on a show for auto enthusiasts.



A bouncy castle gave kids a way to keep busy.

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SCAN ME

Minutes of an RM of Leask Council meeting

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

The Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Council of the Rural Municipality of Leask No. 464 held in the Leask Municipal Office on Wednesday, March 11, 2026. Council Meeting was called to order by Reeve Gord Stieb 9:10 a.m.

Present were Reeve Gord Stieb, Administrator Donna Goertzen, and the following Council members: Daniel Twa: Division 2, Lorraine Fajt: Division 3, Joan Sanftleben: Division 4, and Ron Haworth: Division 5. Absent were: Brian Watier: Division 1, and Dwayne Brad: Division 6.

Fajt: That minutes of February 11 Regular Meeting of Council be approved. Carried

Sanftleben: That Council approve the payments as listed on the attached List of Accounts for Approval; Operating checks 15986 to 16051 and Manual cheques #23077-23101 for a total of \$65,207.01, and Payroll/Indemnity Direct Deposit for a total of \$27,552.01; and that documents be attached to these minutes. Carried

Fajt: That Council acknowl-

edge Bank Reconciliation Statement for Feb. 28, 2026. Carried

Sanftleben: That Council approve Budgetary Control; Financial Statements for RM, Fire Dept. and OHPC for February 2026. Carried

Fajt: That Council indemnity be approved for payment as presented. Carried

Sanftleben: That Correspondence be acknowledged as presented. Carried

Fajt: That Superintendent of Public Works Report presented by Reeve Stieb be accepted as presented. Carried

Sanftleben: That Council approve OHPC minutes; Dec. 10, 2025, and acknowledge draft minutes Feb. 22, 2026. Carried

Fajt: That Council acknowledge Jan. 29 Parkland Physician Recruitment and Retention meeting. Carried

Sanftleben: That Council acknowledge fire department report as presented. Carried

Fajt: That Administrator Report be accepted as presented. Carried

Sanftleben: That Council instruct Administrator to send correspondence to Roll # 2196. Carried

Fajt: That Council approve transfer of GIC 059 in the

amount of \$118,000.00 to RM operating account. Carried

Sanftleben: That Bylaw 18-2025, the Nuisance Abatement Bylaw, be read a third time and be passed at this meeting. Carried

Fajt: That Bylaw 03-2026, the Duties and Powers of Administration and Designated Officers Bylaw, be read a second time. Carried

Fajt: That Council approve amended Policy 2026-03, the Procurement Practice Policy, as presented. Carried

Sanftleben: 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 Rural Municipality of Leask No. 464 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 Reeve be and is hereby authorized to sign the Taxervice Inc. engagement letter on behalf of the municipality.

Carried

Fajt: That Council agrees to enter into 2026 Community Safety Officer Agreement; with the Town of Shellbrook; and provide for Reeve to sign agreement on behalf of Council. Carried

Sanftleben: That Council provides permission for Public Works Asst. to order signage for named Township/Range Rd signs through the Minister of Highways; inclusive of subdivision signage. Carried

Fajt: That Council agrees to the current terms of payment under the TLE Trust Fund Agreement. Carried

Sanftleben: That TS employees be recalled for April 6/2026 or at the discretion of SPW as weather may be a factor. Carried

Fajt: That Council confirm that RM signage and Speed limits in proximity to OHPC Iroquois Bridge will remain as currently posted. Carried

Sanftleben: That Council acknowledge 2026 RMA with Janzen Steel and provide permission for the Reeve to sign on behalf of Council. Carried

Fajt: That Council decline to participate in programming from the North Sask. River Basin. Carried

Sanftleben: That council decline membership in the North Central Transportation Planning Committee. Carried

Fajt: That Council approve SPW office expenses for \$500 plus applicable taxes; and furthermore that staff investigate the cost of SaskTel line install. Carried

Sanftleben: That council identify roads within the municipality to be correct on Google Maps. Carried.

Fajt: That Council approve OHPC request for purchase of sand for the beach area, for a total of \$2,600 plus applicable taxes.

Sanftleben: That Council acknowledge application for pole shed construction on NW-14-48-07-W3. Carried

Sanftleben: That we move in camera, citing the Local Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, Section 16 (b), the time being 12:51 p.m.

Fajt: That we move out of in-camera at 1:54 p.m.

Fajt: That Council proceed with Public Notice to landowners under the P&D Act, 2007, Section 24 (4) pertaining to road closure on NE 07-46-08-W3. Carried

Stieb: That we adjourn this meeting at 1:56 p.m.

Spiritwood Library activity highlights



The Spiritwood Public Library was crawling with Lego creatures on Wednesday April 29. The challenge was to create a creepy or cute crawly insect or bug. Kids built a centipede, a tarantula, and a dragonfly. Great imagination!

By HEATHER GATZKE, Branch Librarian

Sask. passes involuntary treatment legislation

By MINISTRY OF HEALTH
Submitted

The Government of Saskatchewan has passed The Compassionate Intervention Act, which allows for involuntary addictions treatment.

The Act supports people with severe addictions who are not capable of seeking help despite serious health and safety risks.

"Not everyone has the capacity to make the decision to enter treatment on their own because of the extreme state of their addiction," Mental Health and Addictions Minister Lori Carr said. "Compassionate intervention promotes meaningful long-term outcomes to help stabilize those individuals and support them in recovery."

"The Compassionate Intervention Act provides a path to recovery for the most extreme cases of addiction," Justice Minister and Attorney General Tim McLeod, K.C. said. "We are proud to get this legislation across the finish line and provide families with a new way to get help for their loved ones that are unable to make the decision to pursue recovery."

Compassionate intervention includes strict criteria for entering someone into involuntary treatment.

Family members can request an assessment for treatment of a loved one through the court with a judge's warrant. Law enforcement can also inter-

vene if a person's substance use is putting their own life or the lives of others at serious risk.

Individuals may only be brought to a Compassionate Intervention Assessment Centre for an assessment to determine if they require treatment by police or peace officer, referred by a prescribed medical professional, or through a judge's warrant. Individuals subject to assessment or treatment will have access to free legal representation.

Once someone regains capacity, involuntary treatment will end, and may then continue to get support voluntarily, including through ongoing care and services, to help with recovery.

Approximately 150 stakeholders across multiple sectors participated in information sessions and provided feedback on the legislation. The Ministry of Health will continue meeting with stakeholders as implementation progresses.

The first Compassionate Intervention Assessment Centre will be located in North Battleford. Once fully implemented, assessment centres will be located across the province, with the involuntary inpatient unit located at Saskatchewan Hospital North Battleford.

The Act is expected to come into force this fall after regulations have been finalized.

Information is available at saskatchewan.ca/compassionate-intervention.

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NHL draft often a crapshoot

To say the National Hockey League draft of 18-year-old players is an inexact science is stating the obvious. It's more like a crapshoot. Roll the dice and hope, baby. But NHL jobs (scouting directors and general managers specifically) can oftentimes ride on the success or failure of picking junior players.

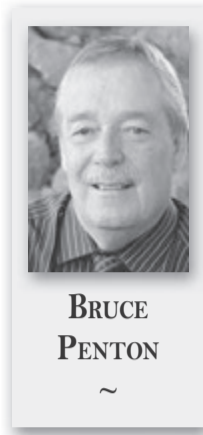
Now that the order of this year's draft, to be held June 26-27 in Buffalo, has been determined by last week's draft lottery, GMs and scouts can start to fret. Will this skinny 18-year-old with great puck handling skills turn into a superstar four years down the road? Or will he be relegated to a career in the minors? The toughest job for a professional hockey scout is to project a player's skill level three, four, five years into the future.

Over the years, there have been some exceptional picks; and there have been some duds.

In the 2015 draft, for example, Los Angeles Kings ignored the

availability of Kirill Kaprizov when it was their turn to pick in the fourth round. At No. 134, the Kings selected Matt Schmalz. Minnesota, picking at No. 135, went with Kaprizov. NHL point totals to date: Schmalz zero; Kaprizov, likely en route to the Hall of Fame: 475 in 397 games.

How would the Philadelphia Flyers' fortunes been changed for the better had they picked Cale Makar second overall in the 2017 draft? The superstar defenceman for Colorado Avalanche went No. 4 overall, while the Flyers opted for Nolan Patrick with the second pick. Patrick, besieged by injuries in his short career, scored 30 goals in three seasons with the Flyers before they sent him to Las Vegas (via Nashville) where he played part of one year (two goals) with the Golden Knights. Makar, meanwhile, is generally regarded as the NHL's best defenceman and is one of the key members of the perennial Stanley Cup favourites.



BRUCE
PENTON

The Edmonton Oilers' goaltending woes are well known to NHL fans. So when the Oilers' fans look back on the 2017 draft, they saw that Jake Oettinger of the Dallas Stars was available when it was Edmonton's turn to pick in the first round. Instead of picking Oettinger and solidifying that position for perhaps a decade or more, they went instead with diminutive forward Kailer Yamamoto at No. 22. He played a couple of non-productive years with the Oilers and now plays a secondary role with Utah Mammoth.

While we're at it, let's pick on the Vancouver Canucks. Last-

place finishers this season, the hapless Canucks took Ollie Juolevi fifth overall in 2016. He racked up a total of three points in his less than illustrious career in the NHL. Meanwhile, the team picking one spot later that year was Calgary Flames and they picked up Matthew Tkachuk, for nearly a decade a premier forward in the NHL and a two-time Stanley Cup champ with Florida.

Hindsight is 20/20. Scouts' jobs depend on 20/20 foresight.

- Phillies' manager Rob Thomson, asked by The Athletic about his job security after a 9-19 start to the season: "I've never worried about that in my entire career. I worked for a guy for 28 years that, as the 'Seinfeld' episode will tell you, fires people like it's a bodily function. And it never bothered me." (Thomson was fired three days later, April 28.)

- Sean McIndoe of The Athletic on the Seattle Kraken: "They held down a playoff

spot in the Pacific pil-low fight for most of the year, then said 'just kidding' and finished 26th."

- Kyle Porter of Normal Sport, reviewing a multitude of newsworthy happenings recently in the world of golf, one of which was a tour player switching to irons made by the McLaren car company: "And, of course, Justin Rose linking up with (checks notes) a car company whose equipment he will hit golf balls with."

- Comedy guy Torben Rolfson of Vancouver: "The Blue Jays' plane had a mechanical failure and they had to bus it from Phoenix to Anaheim. The Associated Press story literally said 'on a dark desert highway.' I don't know if they're using AI to write stories or Eagles' lyrics."

- Another one from Rolfson: "Several teams have inquired about (Blue Jays' pitcher) Jeff Hoffman's availability for July's home run derby."

- Janice Hough of

leftmostsportsbabe.com: "The Orlando Magic were up 62-38 at half time with a 97.9 per cent chance of winning in a close-out Game 6. And they lost to the Detroit Pistons 93-79. Magic scored 19 points in the second half."

- Another one from Janice Hough: "Went to check on the Knicks-Hawks game and it's 83 to 36 at HALFTIME! Do Atlanta players have nonrefundable reservations in the Caribbean somewhere starting this weekend?"

- From Yahoo.com, on the mid-season Oilers-Penguins trade: "Trading Stuart Skinner to the Pittsburgh Penguins for Tristan Jarry was, more or less, the hockey equivalent of trading a chef who constantly burned food for an arsonist."

- Steve Simmons of the Toronto Sun: "My favourite Cavaliers player on name alone: Keon Ellis. Shouldn't he be playing for Maple Leaf Sports?"

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

GOOD NEWS

GOD ENCOURAGES OUR FAITH

By **PADRE DAVE BODVARSON**
Submitted

I had an opportunity to preach some time ago. I felt led to speak on faith.

In pastoring for 40 years, I did a lot of reading. I read this story a while back and used it in a message.

I read of a Bible College student who applied for a job at place where they made pews and pulpits out of oak, only to be turned down. The company was called Southwestern Wood Products. He had 75 dollars in his bank account and a heap of faith. He looked diligently every day for three weeks.

He really wanted to work at Southwestern Products. It paid well and was close to the college. But there was rarely a vacancy there. He kept looking for six long weeks. Six days a week. The same chorus of nos. He even returned to Southwestern Products, just in case. The answer was still no.

Now on the sixth week he read a flyer on the school bulletin board that a car lot needed help to wash all their cars the next day, and would

pay 50 cents per hour. This Bible student was first in line. The temperatures were in the low thirties and the wind was blowing out the north, cutting through his hands and face like a knife.

It was a long four hours but they got the cars washed. He walked back to the College with \$2 in his pocket. He was wet and cold but a little richer.

That night he went to chapel on campus, where Charles Greenway, a missionary to Africa, spoke. Then came the offering!

The student confessed offering in the past six weeks weren't a problem for him because he was dead broke. Now he had \$2 in his pocket. He said he felt he needed the money more than the missionary did.

But God has a way of encouraging our faith. God said to the young Bible College student, "Give that \$2!"

The instant reply from the student was, "No!"

"Give that \$2!"

The student said, "Absolutely not."

"Give it!"

"I need it more than Charles Greenway needs it," the student said.

"Give it!" God said.

I like the way the student described the offering. He said, "The offering plate was coming toward me. I clutched the two dollars in my pocket like a drowning man would clutch a raft."

"Give it!" God said.

The student placed \$2 on the offering plate. He finally yielded to the Holy Spirit's prompting.

This is what he said, "Little did I know, God was teaching me a lesson about giving I would remember the rest of my life. When what you have in your hands is not enough to meet your need, what you have in your hands is your seed."

The next day, being dead broke, he got up and felt what he described as, way down deep in his belly, an unspeakable urge to go to Southwestern Wood Products. When he got there, he met the general manager.

The manager was shocked to see him. The student said to him, "I thought I would give you just one more chance to hire me."

The manager laughed, then said to the student, "You're hired. One of our employees quit last night. You can

have his job!"

Last night. Those words echoed in the student's mind, along with a lesson: when I gave my best to God, God gave His best to me.

The student who said those words is Pastor John Hagee, who is now 85 years old and proved God to be faithful.

I never worked in a shop that built pews, but did have opportunities to paint houses and shingle them. I felt it was a way of "tent making," like Paul the apostle. God doesn't always provide through the offerings. At times He offers you opportunities to work. What a blessing!

God has a way of encouraging our faith.

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OBITUARIES

Katherine (Kay) Schraeder



Katherine (Kay) Schraeder passed away peacefully on Friday May 1, 2026, at 95 years of age. She was born on the farm in Salvador, Saskatchewan, the third youngest of 15 children. Kay was the last of her siblings to be called

home to our lord.

Kay was predeceased by her loving husband, Lawrence in 2011. They were married for 59 years.

Kay and Lorne lived in many places in Saskatchewan and eventually settled in Debden for ten years. They then moved to Pine Point, NWT where they resided until 1985, returning to Debden for many happy years of retirement.

She had a varied work life which included: dairy worker, owning a fabric shop, postal worker, and lab tech for Cominco Mines, aside from raising six children.

Kay was an avid gardener, growing the most wonderful flowers and produce, as well as being a seamstress/quilter. She loved to curl, play cards as well as fishing and camping. She was a dedicated Blue Jays fan and loved watching all sports, especially curling, hockey, and Rough Rider football.

She was happiest in her garden or at a lake fishing where she spent many memorable times with Lorne, family, and friends. Her grandchildren were the highlight of her life.

Kay had blessed us with her gentle, caring spirit accentuated by her most wonderful

sense of humor. She was loved and cherished by all who knew her.

She spent the last years of her life residing at St. Volodymyr Terrace in Saskatoon. There, she enjoyed many years of friendship and wonderful care.

Kay is survived by her six children Lloyd (Lupe) Schraeder, Linda Guillet (Gerry), Tim (Sue) Schraeder, Dale (Karla) Schraeder, Debbie White, Darrell (Sara) Schraeder; 10 grandchildren Miguel, Annette, Amanda, Adam, Chad, Natasha, Ryan, Tyler, Mary, Kathy; 19 great grandchildren; 2 great-

grandchildren; as well as a large circle of extended family and friends.

She was predeceased by her two grandsons Fernando and Daniel.

The family wishes to extend a sincere thank you to the employees and residents of St. Volodymyr for the exceptional care, love, and companionship she received there.

We would also like to thank the staff at St. Paul's Palliative Care Ward for the compassionate and wonderful care she received during her final days.

Funeral Service was held at 11:00 AM on Saturday, May 9, 2026,

at St. Jean Baptiste Roman Catholic Church, Debden, SK. Interment will follow at the Debden Cemetery.

In lieu of tributes, memorial donations may be made in memory of Katherine to St. Volodymyr Care Home (3102 Louise Place, Saskatoon, SK S7J 4X4).

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.

Rita Stene



The family of Rita Stene is saddened to announce her passing on April 28th, 2026 at the age of 74.

Rita was born on February 21, 1952, to Otto and Irma Sommerfeld, and was raised on a farm near Marcelin, Saskatchewan. She later moved with her family

to a farm east of Shellbrook, where she completed her schooling. After a year at the University of Saskatchewan, Rita began her career with SaskTel, where she worked as an operator and steadily advanced to a service representative. She dedicated 30 years to her career before retiring in 2001 at the age of 49.

In 1970, Rita met Ron, and it was love at first sight. They were married in 1971 and built a life grounded in love, laughter, and partnership that spanned 54 years. Together they raised two children, Jennifer and Jonathon, and created a home filled with humour and connection.

Rita was an outgoing

and gregarious person who truly loved people. Whether meeting someone new or reconnecting with old friends, she found joy in every interaction. She also loved to travel and made the most of every opportunity to explore and connect.

One of Rita's greatest passions was genealogy. She devoted countless hours to tracing her family history, successfully following the Stene lineage back to the 16th century in Norway. Her efforts helped reconnect extended family across distances.

Rita embraced retirement with enthusiasm, enjoying a vibrant social life, traveling, and spending meaningful

time with her children and grandchildren. Her early retirement gave her the gift of time—time she used well and shared generously with those she loved.

She will be lovingly remembered by her husband, Ron; her children, Jennifer (Kevin) and Jon (Lindsay); her grandchildren, Lily and William; her sister, Doreen (Stan) Schmidt; and her sisters-in-law Gail Anderson, Yvonne Helgason, Marilyn Herzog; brother-in-law Dale (Verna) Stene; As well as many nieces, nephews and cousins.

Rita was pre-deceased by her parents, Otto and Irma Sommerfeld; her father and mother-in-law, George and Lillian

Stene; brother and sister-in-law's Lyle Herzog, Bill Anderson, Betty and Bruce Horan, Vivian and Percy Wong, Gordon Helgason.

At Rita's request, there will be no service. A private celebration of Rita's life will be held at a future time. In lieu of other tributes, donations in memory of Rita may be made to The Cancer Foundation of Saskatchewan.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of Martens Warman Funeral Home. Please visit <https://www.martenswarman.ca/obituaries/rita-stene> to share your condolences and memories with her family.

Rita will be deep-

ly missed and fondly remembered for her warmth, her laughter, and the strong connections she built with family and friends throughout her life. We miss and love you Mom.

Doris "Doreen" Sorensen



Doris "Doreen" Sorensen, late of Canwood, SK, was born on June 23, 1948 and passed away on Friday, May 1, 2026, in Canwood, SK. Funeral Service will be held at a later date. 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 306-747-2828.

Sask. strengthens CO₂ detection standards

By MINISTRY OF
GOVERNMENT RELATIONS
Submitted

The Government of Saskatchewan is announcing changes to the carbon monoxide (CO) alarm requirements in residential buildings. The changes will further strengthen the current regulations, requiring CO alarms in all residential suites regardless of location in the building.

"The tragic death of Henry Losco highlighted the need to strengthen the existing regulations to ensure the safety of all Saskatchewan residents," Government Relations Minister Eric Schmalz said. "We wanted to act quickly, using existing regulatory authorities to strengthen regulations to protect against carbon monoxide exposure in residential buildings.

"To honour Henry and at the wishes of the

family, the regulatory changes will be referred to as Henry's Law."

Saskatchewan previously updated the regulations in 2022 to be among the most stringent in Canada following a carbon monoxide incident in a Saskatoon apartment complex in 2020. These amendments required every residential building with sleeping quarters to have both a CO and a smoke alarm or a combined device, ensuring consistent protection for families and residents.

Henry's parents, Marina Hills and Sergio Losco and Rental Housing Saskatchewan (RHSK) have voiced their support for these changes.

"Henry was the light of our lives, bright, joyful and deeply empathetic," Marina and Sergio said. "While nothing can ease the pain of losing him, we are grateful to see meaningful action being taken to help protect other families and to honour Henry's

memory."

"On behalf of the Rental Housing Saskatchewan, I want to extend our deepest condolences to the Losco family," Rental Housing Saskatchewan CEO Landon Field said. "The loss of a child is something no family should ever face, and we hold them in our thoughts. The safety of residents is something every housing provider takes seriously. RHSK will be there to help our members understand what these changes mean, how to comply effectively and ensure residents feel safe at home. At the end of the day, our members are in the business of providing good homes and that is a responsibility we do not take lightly."

The Regina Fire and Protection Services (RFPS) released initial findings into the carbon monoxide death at a residential housing building in late April with the final report still to come.

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IN THE ESTATE OF LESLIE NEIL YURACH, late of Big River, in the Province of Saskatchewan, deceased. All claims against the above Estate, duly verified by statutory declaration and with particulars and valuation of security held, if any, must be sent to the undersigned before the 30th day of June, 2026.
NOVUS LAW GROUP Barristers & Solicitors
1200 Central Avenue Prince Albert, SK S6V 4V8
Attention: Bill Cannon Solicitors for the Estate
2-20

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IN THE ESTATE OF BRENT GAULD, DECEASED, late of Spiritwood, Sask. All claims against the above Estate, duly verified by Statutory Declaration and with particulars and valuation of security held, if any, must be sent to the undersigned before June 1st, 2026.
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CARD OF THANKS

The family of the late Audrey Jessop would like to express sincere gratitude to our friends, neighbours and the community for your kindness, prayers and thoughtful condolences.

Thank you for the calls, messages, cards, donations, visits, flowers and for those that assisted clearing the streets and the cemetery during the storm. Your thoughtfulness is deeply appreciated and will always be remembered. Thank you to the Catholic women for preparing and serving the delicious lunch.

Thank you to those that attended the "Celebration of Life" for our Mother and for being there with us during this difficult time.

Thank you to Beau Lac Funeral Home for your compassion and exceptional service, The Jessop Family



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Shellbrook Library activity highlights

By **EDDIE HOEHN**
Branch Librarian

April was an exciting month for the library. Dronnen had fun making a few suncatchers at the Spring Crafts Program on Thursday, April 16. He used artificial flowers and self-adhesive laminating paper to make the suncatchers.

Participants got a chance to exercise their creativity at Lego Club in April. They enjoyed making a library, a restaurant, an Earth Day scene, and fast cars from Legos. They raced the cars

down a ramp to see which cars were the fastest.

In April, participants were excited to attend Easter, Frog, Earth Day, and Dolphin Storytimes. Participants made a paper cup bunny with cardstock, construction paper, a pompom, and googly eyes at Easter Storytime. They did a scavenger hunt to find pictures of frogs hidden in the library at Frog Storytime. Participants used paper plates and tissue paper to make a pretend earth and dolphin at Earth Day and Dolphin Storytimes.

On Wednesday, April 22, volunteer and local library board member Samuel Schafer presented Trivia Night at the library. Participants answered Easter themed trivia questions including animated bunny characters, what animal produced the egg in each photo, the most popular egg-shaped candies, “Easter”most NHL teams, and songs with flowers in the title. There were two teams competing for fun, a young adult team and a seniors’ team. The young adult team won and set a new record for highest score at the library.

On Tuesday, April 28, Kathy Alexander presented Gardening: Pests in the Greenhouse Presentation at the library. She talked about how to control greenhouse pests and gave handouts to attendees with information about aphids, thrips, mealybugs, slugs, chickweed, lamb’s quarters, redroot pigweed, purslane, and Canada Thistle.

Kathy runs her own greenhouse in Holbein and explained the importance of taking precautions when handling insecticides. Kathy held a free draw for attendees with a bottle of insecti-

cidal soap, disposable gloves, and sticky papers for the prize. Jessie Dion won the draw.

On Wednesday, April 29, Laurie Muirhead presented an author reading from her poetry books *Coyote Snow* and *Bone Sense* at the library. *Coyote Snow* is Laurie’s newest collection of poems and was published by independent publisher, Wild Skies Press.

Laurie donated a copy of her book *Coyote Snow* to the library so it could be added to the library collection.



Cheyenne and Camilla share their Dolphin Storytime crafts.



Arthur, Theodore, and Jordan work together on a Lego creation.



Kathy Alexander (left) with Jessie Dion and Rita Loiselle at her greenhouse pests presentation.

Growing heirlooms in your garden: Part 1

By **PATRICIA HANBIDGE**
Orchid Horticulture

Sometimes it may be confusing when you are purchasing seeds or bedding plants. There are always new names and guides coming out on what to grow and what not to grow. Let’s break it down to the basics, so hopefully you are able to make good choices.

Much of what we commonly grow in the garden are hybrid plants. The seeds from hybrids should not be saved as what is grown from that saved seed will not necessarily become the expected plant. Hybrid seeds result from what is considered a terminal cross as the two parent plants that were crossed resulted in the production of a seed that is superior to the parent plants in some way. These plants that are grown from the hybrid seed are often faster growing, with more colour or bigger fruit or simply better disease resistance. However, if you save the seed from these hybrid plants, the seed will not produce a plant or a product that is the same as what you grew.

However, if you grow heirloom or heritage plants – that heirloom seed can be saved and planted year after year. Although they are naturally pollinated, they will produce seeds that are “true” and thus when collecting this seed, you will have the opportunity to grow a plant that is very similar to the parent plant. When a seed is described

as “coming true”, it will grow, flower, and produce fruit that looks like the parent plants. Seed that does not ‘come true’ will often be seed that has two different parents from the same plant family. For example, green beans will cross-pollinate with yellow beans resulting in beans that can be either green or yellow or some combination of both colours. When planting a garden to use for seed production, remember that it is important to plant single varieties of those plants you plan to save seed from. Planting only non-hybrid green beans will mean that you will



have green bean seeds that will produce true green beans the following year. Keep in mind that if your neighbour is growing vegetables, there can also be cross-pollination between their varieties of vegetables and yours. Maybe you can partner with each other and each grow different types of vegetables but then share the produce. You’ll have double the garden space, more vegetables and new friends for life.

There are many good reasons to grow heirlooms. There is something quite romantic to growing plants whose seeds have been passed down

through the generations. It pleases me to be able to grow a plant that is almost identical to those plants my grandparents grew. Although these plants are naturally pollinated by wind, insects or other means, the characteristics of heirloom plants have developed naturally over a long period of time and thus, their characteristics are stable so your harvest will be what you expect. Over time, these plants have developed growth habits specific to certain climates and resistance to common disease issues so are definitely another reason to grow heirlooms. Another extremely important reason to grow heirlooms is by doing this you are helping to maintain plant diversity and ensuring that we do not lose valuable traits. Heirlooms have unique flavours, enhanced nutritional benefits with the added bonus of preserving and sharing seeds.

Therefore, if your goal this growing season is to grow at least some heirlooms and save your own seed, then it is important for you to plant seed that is considered heirloom or heritage in nature. Do some research, or ensure you do not miss this series of articles on growing heirlooms.

Hanbidge is the Lead Horticulturist with Orchid Horticulture. Find us at www.orchidhort.com; by email at growyourfuture@gmail.com on facebook @orchidhort and on instagram at #orchidhort.