

## Spiritwood toasts class of 2026



**Spiritwood High School's Class of 2026. Back row (L-R):** Soren Day, Patrick Baesa, Brady Hujber, Mason Gray, Elijah Alagao, Corbin Wingerter, Liam Aumack, Aiden deRepentigny, Daniel Smallboy, Justice Marcia-Starblanket, Cooper Watson, Jesaiah Caplette, Brock Fry, Joel Thomas, Noah Dauvin, and Dysen Helgeton. **Middle row (L-R):** Andrew Baesa, Madison Campbell, Kimberly Cruza, Laura Hall, Stacey Joseph, Jordana Jim-O'Chiese, Shahayla Thomas, Hailyn Thomas, Kassa Watson, Brooklyn Saam, Alexa Dauvin, Lily Mudrak, Leora Bouvier, Kassidy Wolfe, Neve Lafond, Saydee Lehouillier, and Sam Hornilla. **Front row (L-R):** Karlee Klein, Alea Beaulac, Sarah McNabb, Danica Laventure, Tyne Benson, Mya Duhaime, Peyton Smith, Kallie Wright, Tamika Franson, Eden Turgeon, Emeri Simonar, Karley Soucey, Avery Harris, Avarie Conacher, and London Gamble. **Missing:** Josephine Bennett and Sadie Thomas.

*Photo credit: Jayden Dauvin.*

**By JORDAN TWISS**  
*Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter*

The 50 students in Spiritwood High School's Class of 2026 were given a warm send-off into summer vacation (and the world beyond it) on Tuesday, June 30, as they gathered with friends, family, and teachers for their graduation and awards ceremony.

With such a large graduating class — the biggest Spiritwood High School principal Susan Fry says she's seen in her 22 years at the school — the festivities had to be relocated to the Spiritwood & District Rec Centre from the school's gym to accommodate everyone.

But even with such a large graduating class presenting logistical challenges (such as wrangling 50 teenagers), principal Fry says everything ran smoothly and it was a great day for the graduates and their loved ones.

Graduation themes are a common

tradition at schools in the area, and Spiritwood High School is no different. This year, the graduates settled on, "We feel alright. We're going to take on the world," a message of hope in the face of adversity.

The ceremony began with a customary land acknowledgement, followed by the salutatory address from graduate Avery Harris, and greetings on behalf of Spiritwood High School from vice principal Scott Haggarty.

Also bringing greetings were Living Sky School Division deputy director Tonya Lehman, and Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations Chief Bobby Cameron.

Meanwhile, the Class of 2026 called upon Spiritwood High School teacher Kurtis Hamel to serve as the ceremony's guest speaker, and Emeri Simonar earned the honour of delivering the valedictorian's address.

Remaining highlights of the ceremony included a slideshow of the

graduates, thank yous to staff and parents, and of course the presentation of academic awards and diplomas.

Noting that the Class of 2026 is the first to complete its whole high school journey in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, principal Fry says she'll remember them for how they dealt with the challenge of re-establishing what school looked like for themselves.

"They were a really high-achieving, great group of kids," she said. "They were involved in school and tried to make it fun for themselves."

As the graduates prepare for the challenges of the next chapter, Fry encourages them to enjoy the ride.

"Your hard work and dedication have led you to this incredible milestone. As you step into the next chapter, remember to embrace challenges, pursue your passions, and stay connected to your people," she said.

Spiritwood High School's Class of 2026 is: Elijah Alagao, Liam Aumack, Andrew Baesa, Patrick Baesa, Alea Beaulac, Josephine Bennett, Tyne Benson, Leora Bouvier, Madison Campbell, Jesaiah Caplette, Avarie Conacher, Kimberly Cruza, Alexa Dauvin, Noah Dauvin, Soren Day, Aiden deRepentigny, Mya Duhaime, Tamika Franson, Brock Fry, London Gamble, Mason Gray, Laura Hall, Avery Harris, Dysen Helgeton, Sam Hornilla, Brady Hujber, Jordana Jim O'Chiese, Stacey Joseph, Karlee Klein, Neve Lafond, Danica Laventure, Saydee Lehouillier, Justice Marcia-Starblanket, Sarah McNabb, Lily Mudrak, Brooklyn Saam, Emeri Simonar, Daniel Smallboy, Peyton Smith, Karley Soucey, Hailyn Thomas, Joel Thomas, Sadie Thomas, Shahayla Thomas, Eden Turgeon, Cooper Watson, Kassa Watson, Corbin Wingerter, Kassidy Wolfe, and Kallie Wright.

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# Doukhobor site wins Sask. heritage award

By **JORDAN TWISS**  
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

After more than 20 years of managing and maintaining the Doukhobor Dugout House site near Blaine Lake, Brenda Cheveldayoff knows that it's impossible to separate history from the landscape upon which it occurred.

The Doukhobors, who fled religious persecution in Russia and came to Canada at the turn of the 20th century, left an indelible cultural and historical footprint where they settled in Saskatchewan. It's the province's history, but it's also Cheveldayoff's.

Cheveldayoff is the great-great-granddaughter of Doukhobor Iakov Fedor Popoff, who came to Canada in 1899, at the age of 11, after enduring much hardship.

Iakov was part of a group that fled Russia and first ended up in a refugee camp in Cyprus. Instead of refuge, the camps became places of rampant disease and death. When the time came to leave for Canada, Iakov made the 26-day journey by sea alone, having lost all of his family, and was among those who settled in the Blaine Lake area.

"My connection is more about his footprint, his arrival here," Cheveldayoff said.



**Brenda Cheveldayoff (front, middle right) accepts the Lieutenant Governor's Heritage Award from Saskatchewan Lt.-Gov. Bernadette McIntyre (front, middle left).**  
Photo credit: Carina Lamarche

dayoff said. "It's Saskatchewan's history. The history will always be alive."

Cheveldayoff founded the Doukhobor Dugout House site in 2004, after an archaeological dig conducted by the University of Saskatchewan. The site received its provincial heritage designation in 2005, followed by its national heritage designation in 2008.

Cheveldayoff says she's currently

undertaking the work to have the site recognized as a world heritage site.

To aid with preserving her ancestors' heritage, Cheveldayoff has partnered with Tourism Saskatchewan. Through this partnership, new features have been added at the site, including overnight stay units constructed as faithfully as possible to the Doukhobor method, and letting guests bake their own Doukhobor bread.

"People like to feel [history]," Cheveldayoff said, noting that these days people like to come out in the early morning and spend all day at the site.

"They don't just want to stand in front of a building and press a button to listen. Saskatchewan is really about getting out and experiencing the cultures of the province."

Cheveldayoff's work at the Doukhobor Dugout House site hasn't gone unnoticed. On Wednesday, June 24, she and the site were presented with the Lieutenant Governor's Heritage Award in the Conservation of Heritage Places category.

Cheveldayoff says the recognition feels rewarding.

"All the hard work that goes into this and tells the story of the early settlers... it validates that," she said. "The fact that I can steward the land, look after it, and keep things going for people to come and visit is a big responsibility, but it's important for Saskatchewan."

With the Doukhobor Dugout House site open for yet another summer, Cheveldayoff hopes people will continue to seek out connections with the province's history. More than that, though, she hopes visitors to the site will feel the same sense of peace she does.

## Muskeg Lake FN inks arena MOU with Saskatoon

By **JORDAN TWISS**  
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

Band leadership of the Muskeg Lake First Nation is looking beyond the borders of its community to create opportunities for prosperity by partnering with the City of Saskatoon on a proposed downtown arena, convention centre, and entertainment district in the city.

On Monday, June 29, Muskeg Lake Cree Nation Chief Kelly Wolfe joined Saskatoon Mayor Cynthia Block at TCU place to sign a memorandum of understanding (MOU) that sets out the goals, intentions, and framework for the potential future partnership.

Wolfe and Block said the partnership could benefit both communities and future generations.

"We're looking long term and looking at the economic development, prosperity of all our citizens because we have citizens here in the city, and we know that everyone will prosper for this," Wolfe told reporters.

"Both the nation and the City of Saskatoon are trying to create wealth for our cities, prosperity for the future, attract residents, making sure we have tourism here, making sure we have good jobs here," Block added.

Chief Wolfe said there is no timeline for negotiations, and that one option is for the potential arena site to become an urban reserve — land purchased by a First Nation and granted reserve status by the federal government, giving the First Nation authority over taxation and exempting the land from many

city bylaws.

Wolfe also highlighted funding and financing opportunities, including the First Nations Finance Authority, the Canada Infrastructure Bank and federal procurement policies that support First Nations ventures.

"We're going to do our best to ensure that we capitalize on all of those," he said.

At this early stage, neither the federal government nor the provincial government has committed funding to the proposed project. However, Saskatoon-Willowgrove MLA Ken Cheveldayoff said the province is open to the idea "at the appropriate time."

**NOTIFICATION OF PROPOSED TOWER REPLACEMENT**  
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<https://myaccess.ca/publicnotifications/>  
Comments or concerns can be addressed by July 25, 2026, to:  
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# Canada Day brings celebration to Spiritwood

By **BEVRA FEE**  
Spiritwood Herald  
Reporter

Spiritwood's Canada Day celebration took a leap forward this year under the leadership of the Northern Lakes Economic Development Corporation (aka Experience Spiritwood), utilizing the Town Square, which has matured nicely into a luxurious (thanks to much rain) grassy park on Main Street.

With Canada Day landing on a Wednesday this year, the opportunity to host a large event presented itself and Experience Spiritwood maximized the chance to entertain.

Billed as a "Backyard BBQ," the event featured two vendors selling classic summer barbecue fare. The smokers started chug-

ging out smoke in the late afternoon and by supper time there were lineups at each station.

While the Curling Club served a plate full of smoked ribs, smoked macaroni and cheese, and an Italian Twinkie (sausage wrapped in bacon and smoked), the Mennonite crew smoked up brisket and paired it with beans and fries cooked in a cauldron on-site.

Anyone wanting a non-alcoholic Corona was able to purchase those to round out the

party atmosphere, and dessert was cupcakes of red and white, supplied for free by Experience Spiritwood.

Earlier in the day, the activities included games for kids at the Town Square and the day was capped off by a fireworks show that continues to impress and continues to draw a larger audience year over year.

**(Right) Albert, Marlene, Marlene, Ted and Fred (out of frame) enjoy the Backyard BBQ.**



BBQ brisket is handed off to Canada Day revelers, Jean and Ron.



Jason Reddekopp plates up smoked ribs, mac & cheese and Italian Twinkies.

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## Ugly politics of division overshadow Canada Day

Last week, Canadians from coast to coast to coast came together to celebrate Canada's 159th birthday.

Canada is a country of many peoples, many cultures, and many religions. Despite these differences, Canada Day is meant to remind us of the many things that unite us as a nation.

Some, however, didn't get the memo and chose to sow division instead.

In the days leading up to Canada Day, Prime Minister Mark Carney made appearances at pride parades in Toronto and Vancouver, where he was filmed and photographed interacting with many of the attendees and generally enjoying himself.

For Bowmanville-Oshawa North MP Jamil Jivani, this was apparently a bridge too far.

"We should never accept a political culture in which politicians have to answer questions about NOT attending events like [Pride]," Mr. Jivani wrote on X. "Those who attend should be the ones answering questions."

Following an outpouring of critical comments, Mr. Jivani clarified his statement by adding, "It's shameful that we have a prime minister shaking hands with half-naked dudes wearing perverted costumes at a parade."

Mr. Jivani's statement refers to a commonly circulated photograph showing Prime Minister Carney shaking hands with a masked man who is visible only from the shoulders up, making it impossible to accurately comment on his state of dress.

While Mr. Jivani perhaps makes a good point when he raises concerns about the appropriateness of such attire in front of children, it seems like these concerns should be aimed at the parents who bring their children to Pride parades rather than Prime Minister Carney.

That said, the real issue is with Mr. Jivani's use of charged language like "pervert costume" to describe the people in the photograph.

Between 2016 and 2023, Statistics



JORDAN TWISS  
~  
News Editor

Canada reported a 388 per cent increase in hate crimes motivated by sexual orientation.

Though numbers ticked down in 2024, Mr. Jivani's words echo the hateful rhetoric used by those who commit such crimes – those who believe that even mentioning the reality that LGBTQIA+ people exist is part of some grand conspiracy to indoctrinate and groom children.

As an MP who undoubtedly represents a number of LGBTQIA+ people, it's shameful for Mr. Jivani to use language that effectively validates hatred and discrimination against the community.

Demonstrating zero understanding of irony, Mr. Jivani posted his Canada Day message the following day, and began by urging his fellow Canadians to "be proud of who you are."

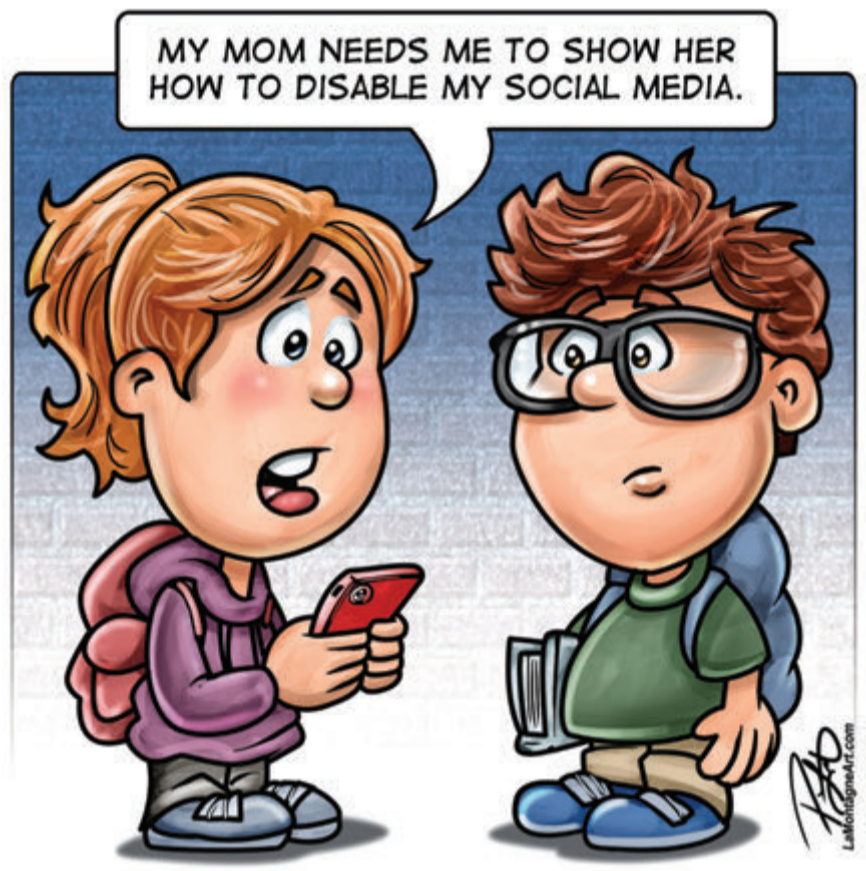
This brief 10-second message was all the unifying Mr. Jivani could tolerate. For the remaining two minutes of the clip, it was back to dividing Canadians.

Mr. Jivani suggested that what we should be proud of is Canada's British and French heritage (he oddly excluded the Indigenous people who were here thousands of years before anyone else), its assimilation of newcomers into Canadian culture, and its religious freedoms (again, one imagines some Indigenous Canadians would have much to say about the assimilation they faced).

He then swiftly pivoted to criticizing the insidious but undefined "they" who have allegedly spent the past decade convincing Canadians to be ashamed of the things that make Canada a special country.

They, Mr. Jivani claims, want you to be afraid: afraid to call out mass immigration (even as federal policy changes reduced immigration by 20 per cent in the first quarter of 2026), and afraid of the changes occurring in Canada "without the will of the people."

Next, less than a minute after saying Canada should be celebrated for its religious freedoms, Mr. Jivani implied there's something wrong with hearing "prayers from another religion blasting



in the public square in Regina."

Two days later Mr. Jivani was back at it, criticizing "Liberal degeneracy," and accusing his opponents of trying to "force their views on our kids."

This type of messaging only further illustrates how today's Conservative Party lacks any discernible principles or policies, and is rooted only in grievance and division.

And the problem starts at the top with leader Pierre Poilievre.

Sharing Mr. Jivani's lack of understanding of irony, Mr. Poilievre said at the beginning of June: "I would encourage Liberals to stop the divisive rhetoric and work on uniting Canadians. I know the Liberal Party survives and thrives on divide and conquer politics."

This, from someone whose entire political brand is divisive rhetoric.

Even before he became the Conservative Party's leader, Mr. Poilievre could scarcely go a day without identifying some group for his supporters to hold a grudge against.

At a speech in May, it was a so-called "club of Liberal elites" that will do anything to hold on to their power and prevent him from changing the very system that has kept him on the taxpayer dole for 22 years.

When it comes to housing, he wants Canadians to be mad at "big city gatekeepers" who are preventing houses

from being built to bring down home costs.

On immigration, he wants Canadians to be mad at temporary foreign workers who are "stealing jobs" from young Canadians.

And on everything from the environment, to medicine, to the economy, he frequently rails against what he deems the "so-called experts," creating a climate where knowledge and expertise on a subject are liabilities rather than assets.

This is essentially Populism 101, a play book used extremely effectively by U.S. President Donald Trump, who excels at giving his supporters someone to hate and blame for their misfortunes.

During a recent speech, in which he criticized Canada for having too many cause-based awareness months, Mr. Poilievre said, "My view is that we should treat everyone equally, regardless of their race, gender, sexual orientation or any other irrelevant characteristic."

He's right. This is exactly what Canada should be.

But building this Canada begins with those in positions of power and responsibility like him.

If Mr. Poilievre truly meant what he said, he and his party should heed his advice to stop the divisive rhetoric and work on uniting Canadians.

### Shellbrook Chronicle

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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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# Shellbrook businesses support Happy Hearts

By **JORDAN TWISS**  
*Shellbrook Chronicle*  
Reporter

They say it takes a community to raise a child.

Recently, in Shellbrook, both Parkland Meats and Affinity Credit Union did their part for the children of the community by throwing their support behind Happy Hearts Childcare Centre.

For Parkland Meats owner Dave Mumm, a community has nothing if it doesn't have the sense of community spirit that gives people a reason to call it home. That's why he's partnered with Happy Hearts since 2015 to help it raise funds and better serve the needs of its children.

Through the enduring partnership, Happy Hearts pre-sells orders

for Parkland Meats' products and keeps a percentage of the sales. Since it began, the fundraiser has contributed well over \$30,000 to the not-for-profit daycare.

This year it proved just as popular, raising \$3,770 — a respectable chunk of the \$20,000 to \$30,000 the daycare needs to cover basic operating costs each year.

Happy Hearts also

successfully applied for Affinity Credit Union's Community Development Funding, which aims to support local projects and programs that strengthen communities, receiving a grant of \$10,000.

"Happy Hearts is instrumental in the community. It's a safe place for parents to take their kids for childcare," said Affinity's Crystal Schmitz. "Shellbrook is

a growing community, and childcare is in high demand. We wanted to support them in some of their initiatives. It was important to us and to the community."

Natalie Smart, Happy Hearts' director, says support like this will help stabilize the centre for a while, as it grapples with a loss of funding due to the provincial government's decision to no longer fund drop-in spots at

daycares.

Currently, she says the daycare is working on updating and enhancing its indoor and outdoor play environments and hoping to save some funds to replace shelves that have been in use since the daycare opened.

Smart also hopes to take the children on more excursions within the community and beyond to broaden their learning horizons.



Affinity Credit Union presented a \$10,000 grant to Happy Hearts Childcare Centre. Pictured, back row, left to right: Natalie Smart, Jamie Canaday, Laura Christiansen, Jenna-Rae Bartelen, Emmalynn Lamotte, and Kat Mackin-Smith. Front: Cassidy Saam (left) and Crystal Schmitz (right).



Parkland Meats owner Dave Mumm presents a \$3,770 cheque to Happy Hearts director Natalie Smart.

## TOWN OF SHELLBROOK PUBLIC NOTICE

Public notice is hereby given that the Council of the Town of Shellbrook intends to adopt bylaws under *The Planning and Development Act, 2007* to amend Bylaw No. 2012-06 known as the Official Community Plan and Bylaw No. 2018-01 known as the Zoning Bylaw.

### INTENT

The proposed bylaws will:

- Redesignate lands described below and shown on Maps A & B from Commercial to Residential;
- Rezone lands described below and shown on Map A from C1 – Downtown Commercial to R1 – Low Density Residential;
- Rezone lands described below and shown on Map B from C1 – Downtown Commercial to R2 – Medium Density Residential; and
- Rezone lands described below and shown on Map C from M – Industrial and C2 – Highway Commercial to M – Industrial.

### AFFECTED LAND

The affected land is legally described as follows:

- Lot 1A, Block 13, Plan No. 102478743 as shown within the bold dashed line on Map A;
- Lot 5, Block 13, Plan No. U390 as shown within the bold dashed line on Map B; and
- A portion of Parcel L1, Plan No. 10227945 as shown within the bold dashed line on Map C.



### REASON

The reasons for the amendments are:

- To provide for the development of medium density residential;
- To correct a zoning error;
- To provide for the development of a closed lane.

### PUBLIC INSPECTION

Any person may inspect the bylaw at the municipal office located at 71 Main Street, Shellbrook, SK, Monday to Friday between the hours of 8:30 am and 4:00 pm, excluding statutory holidays. Copies are available at a cost.

### PUBLIC HEARING

Council will hold a public hearing on July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at 5:00 pm at the town office located at 71 Main Street, Shellbrook, SK to hear any person or group that wants to comment on the proposed bylaw. Council will also consider written comments received at the hearing or delivered to the undersigned at the municipal office before the hearing.

Issued at the Town of Shellbrook this 12<sup>th</sup> Day of June, 2026

Signed: *Sigourney O'Halligan*

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# Sask. RCMP warns about text scam

By **JORDAN TWISS**  
Shellbrook Chronicle  
Reporter

The Saskatchewan RCMP is urging the public to be cautious about unsolicited text messages as it investigates a scam targeting members of the public.

On June 29, the Battlefords RCMP received complaints of fraudulent text messages claiming recipients had an outstanding traffic citation. The messages directed individuals to click a link and submit payment online, falsely identifying the sender as the Provincial Court of

Saskatchewan.

Officers have noted the messages originated from a phone number using a "+21" area code. Please note that these messages are not legitimate. Saskatchewan RCMP advise the public not to click on any links provided in these messages and not to send payment or personal information.

Police encourage the public to take the following steps if they receive text messages from a scammer:

- Don't text the scammer back.
- Block their phone number immediately.

ly.

- Don't send them any money or gift cards.
- Keep records of the texts.

If you are unsure of the legitimacy of a text message or believe you are the victim of a fraud, please contact your local RCMP detachment at 310-RCMP. If you receive a text message that you believe to be a scam or fraudulent, you can report it to the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre. You can report by phone (Toll free: 1-888-495-8501) or online here: <https://www.antifraudcentre-centreantifraude.ca/report-signalez-eng>.

htm.

## RCMP's Most Wanted

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.

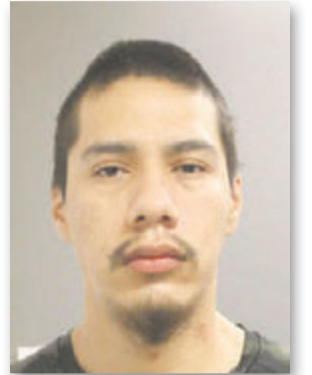
This list is not a complete list of all persons wanted by the Saskatchewan RCMP. Offenders appearing on this list are determined by a data-driven scoring system using the Crime Severity Index, a Statistics Canada measurement that looks at both the number and the relative severity of crimes. Factors

such as age, gender, race, ethnicity, socio-economic status, religion, sexuality or disability are not considered in the scoring process.

The RCMP's updated list for June and July includes just one wanted individual with known connections to the area.

Jonathan Bear (aliases: Jonathon Bear, Jonathan Whitefish, John Bear), is wanted for assault (x2), break and enter, possession of prohibited weapon, pointing firearm, careless use of firearm, disguise with intent (x2), possession of weapon, and forcible confinement.

Bear is 32 years old and described as 6'2" and 174 lbs., with black hair and brown eyes. Police believe he could be in Big River First Nation, Debden, Pelican Lake, Sandy Bay, or Yorkton.



Jonathan Bear.

## The life of a pond: Part 2

By **PATRICIA HANBIDGE**  
Orchid Horticulture

Previously, the focus was all about a catchment or retention pond (Lake Omar) that I overlook while I am working on Vancouver Island. This body of water is teeming with life and is an endless source of entertainment. What is even more amazing is what a catchment pond can do for the local environment.

This pond has a function to hold rainfall run-off on a temporary basis. But actually, the work of these water bodies is so much more than that. A permanent retention pond, acts as a vital artificial ecosystem that provides significant environmental benefits. Water that is sustained throughout the year supports complex aquatic life and this biodiversity creates a thriving habitat oasis.

Last summer, we had an uncommon influx of aphids, which particularly impacted the native water lilies that are growing in Lake Omar. It was odd as I was reading about many other aphid infestations that were happening in many places. Most of these infestations were attributed to climate change with a slight increase in the

overall mean temperature.

Soon after the waterlilies had a dormant phase in early summer, I noticed a greening up on the pond. It was not algae but in fact duckweed that was rapidly turning the surface water green. There was the regular duckweed I have seen countless times, but it was the first time I had ever seen mealy duckweed.

Wolfia spp. is an Indigenous species of duckweed that first showed itself last summer on Lake Omar. This genus (Wolfia) contains a number of rootless aquatic plants that are considered the smallest flowering plants on Earth. They have a very cosmopolitan distribution so can be found in many nutrient-rich and still bodies of water.

Each individual plant is a tiny, bright-green oval about the size of a grain of salt or cornmeal, giving it a unique texture. Students who were helping with the Coho salmon and Rainbow Trout release at the beginning of May had the opportunity to view this tiny plant through a compound microscope.

The plant body of watermeal are entirely free-floating, branchless and lack both roots and true leaves. They consist of a simple, oval vegetative body called a thallus. They are technically a flowering plant, but the flower itself is quite unique. It has only one stamen and one pistil and forms in a tiny depression on the top of the plant's frond. So, the smallest flowering plants in the world are definitely not too showy!

The ideal place for Wolfia to grow is warm water bathed in bright light. They reproduce exponentially via vegetative budding, and can double their population in just one or two days. Thriving in nutrient-rich freshwater environments, they form dense, green mats across the surface of lakes and ponds.

There are almost a dozen species within the genus

and I believe our major species in Lake Omar is *Wolfia columbiana*. This Indigenous species is an entirely spherical transparent-green plant.

This plant is a super-food and a viable alternative to animal protein and soy. It contains up to 40% protein by dry weight and is packed with essential amino acids, dietary fibre, vitamins and minerals. Cultivating this plant is incredibly environmentally friendly as it requires a fraction of the land and water that traditional crops demand.

Our world is experiencing global population growth and in emerging countries the demand for meat has triggered a "protein crisis" as the demand for protein has exceeded the supply. By 2030, the imbalance between demand and supply is projected to become critical by 2030.

Our duckweed (and other *Wolfia* species) right here on Lake Omar could stand ready to solve this global crisis. This fast-growing crop is enjoying rising expectations as an alternative protein source to meat and soybeans.

In Hokkaido, Japan, the Floatmeal Company is a start-up business in Japan's largest food production region who are hoping to promote duckweed as a solution to the global protein crisis. The environmental impact of *Wolfia* is remarkably low using only 1/230 the water and 1/63 the land required for soybean production.

The protein content is also high – 36 to 40% compared with about 34% for soybeans and 28% for broccoli. Also rich in vitamins and minerals, *wolfia* could be the next focus of attention as a potential superfood to replace conventional protein sources.

*Hanbidge is the Lead Horticulturist with Orchid Horticulture. Find us at [www.orchidhort.com](http://www.orchidhort.com); by email at [growyourfuture@gmail.com](mailto:growyourfuture@gmail.com) on facebook @orchidhort and on instagram at #orchidhort.*

### RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF CANWOOD NO. 494 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public notice is hereby given that the Council of the R.M. of Canwood No. 494 intends to adopt bylaws under *The Planning and Development Act, 2007*, to replace Bylaw No. 2003-6, known as the Basic Planning Statement and Bylaw 2003-7, known as the Zoning Bylaw.

**Intent:** The intent of the new Official Community Plan Bylaw 2026-05 and Zoning Bylaw 2026-06 is to implement land use regulations and minimum standards, establish zoning districts, prescribe a permitting process, prescribe a process of appeals, and provide a provision for amendments.

**Affected Land:** The proposed bylaws will affect all land within the incorporated area of the R.M. of Canwood No. 494.

**Reason:** The proposed bylaws will help facilitate, direct and manage development within the R.M. of Canwood No. 494.

**Public Inspection:** Any person may inspect the proposed Official Community Plan Bylaw and Zoning Bylaw at the R.M. Office between 8:30 AM and 5:00 PM Monday to Friday, excluding Statutory Holidays. Copies of the bylaws are available at cost. Additionally, the bylaws and associated maps may be viewed online at the following website: [www.rmofcanwood.ca](http://www.rmofcanwood.ca)

**Public Hearing:** Council will hold a public hearing on Thursday July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2026, at 7:00 PM at the Canwood Legion Hall. The Canwood Legion Hall is located at 585 South Avenue in the Village of Canwood. Any person or group that wants to comment on the proposed Official Community Plan Bylaw and Zoning Bylaw is welcome to attend or to submit comments prior to the meeting. Council will consider all comments received.

Issued at the R.M. of Canwood No. 494 this 28<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2026.

Lorna Benson  
Chief Administrative Officer

### MANAGEMENT POSITION PARKSIDE HOUSING AUTHORITY

A contract Manager is required for the management of the Parkside Housing Authority. The successful candidate will report to the Board of Directors and be responsible for the day to day operations of the housing authority.

#### Required Knowledge, Skills and Abilities:

- Good oral and written communication skills
- Financial analysis
- Budgeting
- Property management
- Supervision of contracted personnel
- Good interpersonal skills
- Well-organized
- Ability to maintain confidentiality

#### Closing Date: Wednesday, July 15, 2026

Submit your resume and cover letter outlining experience and qualifications in confidence to:

Mrs. Gwen Moe, Chairperson  
Parkside Housing Authority  
Box 108, Parkside, SK S0J 2A0  
Phone: 306-747-7860



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SCAN ME

## Public research losses adding up

Something seems afoot in terms of agriculture research — a move away from it in general terms.

That may only be a perception. But perception is often a herald of reality, and if there is a move away from scientific research in agriculture — especially that which is publicly funded and not so tied to a corporation's bottom line — it's a concerning situation.

If you are involved in farming, you are no doubt aware of announced cuts from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC).

It has been announced AAFC is closing seven research facilities across Canada as part of federal public service cost-cutting measures. The closures will eliminate approximately 665 positions, with a staged wind-down of scientific operations projected to take up to 12 months.

Those cuts hit particu-



CALVIN DANIELS

larly close to home with facilities at Indian Head and Scott in Saskatchewan and Lacombe in Alberta affected directly.

No matter what spin the federal government offers up on the AAFC decision, it is a loss of research capacity, and that can never be seen as positive. Frankly, it seems like a definite step backwards, at a time when the ag sector needs research as it faces climate change and what that will mean in terms of crops and their production.

And now we have heard the University of Saskatchewan is selling its

Termuende beef research farm near Lanigan, Sask.

This is another situation where the direct impact of what may be happening at the site today should be seen as less important than what the site may mean moving forward. In other words, recent research — or even the lack thereof at present — does not lessen the potential of research plots moving forward.

Not surprisingly, producers at the recent Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association annual meeting passed a resolution opposing the sale. And certainly, there have been numerous calls for a change in direction in regards to the announced AAFC cuts too.

There is little doubt research has been at the vanguard of agriculture since someone first began "selecting" which wild seeds could be gathered for cropping to feed their village.

And that remains true today.

Now the closures and sales noted above will not end research of course, but they do remove localized opportunities on the Canadian Prairies.

The above sites are also those where public cof-fers invest in agriculture

research for the broader public good — the results of such research not being directly tied to the bottom line in a corporate ledger.

Rather, research results in publicly funded programs are most often about improving an on-farm situation — even

minor ones — rather than simply looking to boost the profit margin of the funder.

So, whenever research capacity is lost, it is something the farm community needs to watch carefully.

Once gone, it will not likely return.

### 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)

**BIG RIVER:** Mark your calendar for the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Northern Lights Bluegrass and Old Tyme Music Camp (Aug 10-14) and Festival (Aug 14-16) at beautiful Ness Creek. The Mainstage includes Virginia's New Floyd County Ramblers and local favourite Jake Vaadeland, with daytime workshops, nightly dances and campfire jams. Get ready for a magical, musical ring-dang-do, we've got 20 years of bluegrass and old time to be celebrating this Summer... Learn more at [northernlights-bluegrass.com](http://northernlights-bluegrass.com).

**SHELL LAKE AREA:** Follow the Blue Moons to the Thickwood Hills Studio Trail Artisan Tour – Saturday, Aug. 8 & Sunday, Aug. 9, 10am to 5pm. Find your map at [www.thickwoodhillsstudiotrail.ca](http://www.thickwoodhillsstudiotrail.ca) or [facebook.com/thickwoodhillsstudiotrail](https://facebook.com/thickwoodhillsstudiotrail). Follow us on Facebook for chances to WIN Shopping Vouchers.

**PARKSIDE:** Parkside & District Community Club – Demolition Derby – Saturday July 25, 2026. To enter derby, phone Derek Olson 306-747-9114 or 306-747-2000. Over \$17,000 in prize money! Barrel Races start @ 1pm, Derby starts @ 3pm. Mixed Slo-Pitch Tourney, Friday Evening & Saturday, July 24 & 25. Dance Saturday Night feat. live music by Stone Halo from 9pm to 2am (must be 19 yrs, ID required). Gate Admission: \$10; 6-12 yrs \$5; Under 6 Free; Dance \$10. See Facebook page for full details: [facebook.com/ParksideDemolitionDerby](https://facebook.com/ParksideDemolitionDerby)

**PARKSIDE:** 'LILIES IN BLOOM' Honeywood (Dr. A. J. Porter) Heritage Nursery Inc. Provincial Heritage Site Parkside, Sask. July 19th, 11am - 4pm. Entertainment; Artisan Displays; Wagon Tours; Food & Refreshments; Gift Shop; Potted lilies, perennials & trees. For the kids: Petting Zoo 12-4; Fairy Hunt; Ice Cream & Popcorn. \$10.00/person, Children 12 and under free. Ph: 306-714-8200 or [honeywoodn8@gmail.com](mailto:honeywoodn8@gmail.com) Facebook @ Honeywood Heritage Nursery Inc

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## Farmers, consumers falling further behind

By APAS  
Submitted

Farmers are receiving less of the food dollar while consumers continue to pay more at the grocery store. This is the key finding of the Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan's (APAS) 2026 Farmers and Food Prices Report.

Now in its fourth year, the report examines the relationship between farm-level commodity prices and retail food costs across a range of everyday food products — and continues to show that changes in commodity prices are not directly driving increases at the grocery store.

"Our data continues to show a consistent story—food prices are rising, but the farmer's share is actually shrinking," said APAS President Bill Prybylski.

Across more than half of the products tracked, the portion of the retail food dollar returning to producers declined in 2025, while grocery prices remained elevated — raising the question: if not farmers, what is driving food price increases?

"Food inflation is a complex issue, but what's clear is that producers and consumers are not on opposite sides," Prybylski said. "Both are being impacted by a supply chain that

lacks transparency."

The report highlights a growing disconnect in the food system:

- Producers are facing rising input costs, including fuel, fertilizer, and other essential inputs
- Commodity prices remain volatile and are set by global markets
- Consumers continue to face persistently high grocery prices

Because producers operate in global commodity markets, they cannot set prices or pass on rising costs like other parts of the supply chain. APAS is calling for greater transparency to better understand where costs are accumulating—and who is benefiting.

APAS says the federal government's recently released National Food Security Strategy is an important step forward, particularly its focus on supply chains and market power within the food system.

"For years, we've been calling for greater insight into what's happening between the farm gate and the consumer," Prybylski added. "The federal government's commitment to examine supply chains and pricing is a positive step toward bringing more transparency."

The full report is available at: [apas.ca/policy/farmers-and-food-price](http://apas.ca/policy/farmers-and-food-price)

## Canadian NHL teams face major hurdles

Canadian hockey fans don't have to be reminded that it has been 33 years since a team from one of our provinces has claimed the Stanley Cup, but the way things are going, it could be another 33 — or more — before the cup returns north of the 49th parallel.

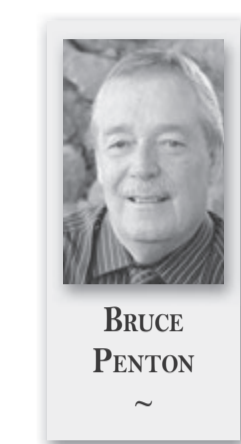
A series of situations — nice weather and better tax rates are two of the most significant — seem to be conspiring against a team from Canada ever winning the Stanley Cup again. It might happen, because upsets are a normal part of sport, but roster building for Canadian teams is getting more difficult all the time.

Case in point: Vancouver Canucks had a rebuild in mind and they had the perfect player around which to build that potential contender: Defenceman Quinn Hughes. But after six seasons with the Canucks, Hughes told management he wouldn't sign a contract extension, so they were

forced to trade him. The best deal available was with Minnesota, who sent a couple of promising players (Zeev Buium and Marco Rossi) to the Canucks in exchange for the all-star Quinn.

The Ottawa Senators have been showing recent signs of contending, making the playoffs with a team that oozed potential. But in mid-June, the team's captain, not to mention its heart and soul, Brady Tkachuk, told team brass he, too, would not be signing an extension and gave management a list of four teams to which he would agree to be traded. Shocker of all shocks, one of those teams was the Florida Panthers where his brother Matthew plays. (Matthew, of course, orchestrated his own departure from a Canadian team, Calgary Flames, in 2022, and the floundering Flames still haven't recovered.)

It's no surprise that six of the last seven Stanley Cup champs have been a) located in



BRUCE PENTON

warm-weather areas; or b) in tax-friendly states. If a free agent is mulling over opportunities, and the money offer is similar between warm-weather Tampa Bay, where there is no state income tax, and Winnipeg, where the weather is cold and the taxman has sharp claws, where is the player likely to sign?

Rumblings around the NHL already are suggesting all-star goalie Connor Hellebuyck of the Jets, a U.S. citizen, would love to play for a winner. He claims to have loved his time in Winnipeg but if the Panthers don't sign free agent Sergei Bo-

brovsky and are looking for a goalie, a trade for Hellebuyck would make perfect sense. And the rich would get richer.

When Connor McDavid of the Oilers spurned a long-term offer and instead signed a two-year extension last year, that was a significant sign that he was urging the Oilers to build a winner around him and fellow star Leon Draisaitl, or he'd be looking for greener, winning pastures. The haul for the Oilers if a McDavid trade is imminent would be immense, but draft picks and youngsters with potential will only serve to keep the Oilers, like all of their Canadian counterparts, away from the champagne for maybe 33 more years.

Greg Cote of the Miami Herald, after tennis player Adolpho Daniel Vallejo of Paraguay was fined \$65,000 for complaining about chair umpire Ana Carvalho refereeing a French Open match instead of a man: "Suddenly it was not 2026. It was 1952

and a man was telling his wife to bring him the paper and another beer and stay in her place."

• Headline at theonion.com: "New York City Mayor Presents Knicks With Key To His Car"

• Steve Simmons of the Toronto Sun: "Twenty-seven is a fabulous number if your name happens to be Vladimir Guerrero, Darryl Sittler, Frank Mahovlich or Marv Luster. It's not a great number if it's your ERA and that's why Brendon Little, at 27.00 in seven appearances, is no longer a Blue Jay."

• Sean McIndoe in The Athletic: "Dallas Stars ... are officially this year's ultimate losers. They'll go down in history as being the team that lost to the team that lost to the team that lost to the team that won the Stanley Cup."

• Super 70s Sports: "The NFL finally banned Stickum in 1981 after Lester Hayes

intercepted Dan Fouts with his butt and didn't even know it."

• Another headline at theonion.com: "World Cup Chant Not Racist Enough To Catch On"

• Headline at fark.com: "Since Angels owner Arte Moreno won't fire himself, he instead fires the GM"

• Comedy guy Torben Rolfsen of Vancouver: "The World Cup is an educational experience. For example, I always thought Scotland's national anthem was "I'm Gonna Be 500 miles."

• Another one from Rolfsen: "Hey, did you see the U.S. and Germany played a 'friendly' on the anniversary of D-Day? Who sang the national anthem? Alanis Morissette?"

• Steve Simmons of the Toronto Sun: "The Blue Jays' struggles of this season are not unexpected. Of the past 25 teams to lose the World Series, only three made it back the following season."

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

## Hidden Hills hosts Willoughby Memorial

By SHELLY WILLOUGHBY  
Submitted

There is never a bad day for a round of golf, and on June 6, the Jim Willoughby Memorial Golf Tournament did not disappoint.

Due to the hard work of Les Archer and the Hidden Hills staff, the golf course was beautiful, the weather agreed with us this year, and the roster of teams was once again full.

After a day of golf, this year's win-

ning team consisted of Jason McComas, Lanny McComas, Kirkland Lande and Josh Elliot. Meanwhile, Casen Keyowski won the closest to the pin contest and Jaime Little won the longest drive.

The first Jim Willoughby Memorial Golf Tournament was held in

2012, the summer following Jim's sudden passing. As Jim was so heavily involved in sports and recreation in Shellbrook, his family wanted him to be remembered through the golf tournament in the summer, and a recreational hockey tournament in the winter.

Since 2012, the support of prize donors, golfers, and hockey players has ensured that Jim's legacy lives on.

We hope to see golfers at Hidden Hills again in 2027.



Shane Willoughby (left) presents the closest to the pin prize to Casen Keyowski.



Shane Willoughby (second from left) presents the team plaque to (from left to right) Jason McComas, Lanny McComas, Kirkland Lande, and Josh Elliot.

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