

Crosswalk honours Shellbrook veterans, Legion

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle
Reporter

With 2026 marking the 100th anniversary of the Royal Canadian Legion, Legion branches across Canada have found many ways to honour the occasion and pay tribute to veterans past and present, whether it be through events or efforts to beautify their communities.

Last week, the Shellbrook Legion joined these efforts, commissioning a “mural” to be painted on the crosswalk connecting the Shellbrook Post Office with the local cenotaph at Veterans’ Memorial Park, which bears the names of Shellbrook’s veterans who never came home.

The Legion made the formal request of the Town of Shellbrook at the beginning of May, and the town approved it. At the time, the hope was to partner with one of the art classes at W.P. Sandin High School, with the hope of completing the project before the end of the current school year.

While that timeline didn’t pan out, local art teacher Pam Boettcher says she had always wanted to partner on a project like this. She was happy to put the task to her Grade 10 fine arts students, calling it a project that helps build character and teach students the importance of giving back to their community.

Volunteerism is something Shellbrook Legion member Nancy Carswell also has a deep appreciation for.

“One of my favourite quotes is, ‘I don’t know what your destiny will be, but one thing I know: the only ones among you who will be really happy are those who will have sought and found how to serve,’” she said.

The design for the commemorative crosswalk was created by student Julia Shindle. She was joined in stenciling and painting it by Myla Henry,

(Above) Grade 10 students Kayla Klaassen and Bella Ledding work on the commemorative crosswalk for the Shellbrook Legion.

Kayla Klaassen, Bella Ledding, Embree Schmitz, Valerie Bondame, and Allie Swenson.

Additional support for the project was provided by the Parkside Community Club, which covered the cost of the paint, and Russ’ Autobody, which donated and applied a clear coat so that the design will last longer.

Having seen the final product, Carswell says it exceeded all of her expectations.

“The red maple leaves drift like poppies in Flanders Fields and the single black silhouette of a soldier reminds us that each one who served was an individual, not a number,” she said.

“It is an eloquent reminder of sacrifices past and present.”



The crosswalk, designed by Julia Shindle for the Shellbrook Legion, was completed last week.

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Canwood School unveils new playground

By JORDAN TWISS
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

Students of Canwood Public School and the broader community celebrated on Wednesday, Sept. 23, as the ribbon was cut on brand-new playground equipment.

Heather Sten, School Community Council (SCC) chair for Canwood Public School, says the idea to acquire new playground equipment was brought forward by a local teacher about five years ago. While the school's existing playground structure is still in good condition, it simply isn't adequate for the school's needs.

"The existing equipment wasn't large enough to accommodate all of our students at the same time during recess, so classes often had to take turns or have rotating schedules to use it," Sten said.

While continuing to support other needs in the school, the SCC took on the teacher's idea and began pursuing a new playground structure, raising money for the project through the annual Mom's Pantry fundraiser.

But with the cost of new equipment pegged at around \$50,000, Sten says the SCC often felt like it was taking two steps forward and one step back with its fundraising efforts.

Then, last fall, when the Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association (SPRA) announced a matching grant for playground projects, the SCC saw an opportunity to make its vision a reality. The only challenge was that it needed to raise a large amount of matching funds in a small window of time.

"With the deadline approaching, we reached out to local businesses, including several agricultural businesses that are an important part of our community and that our families support," Sten said.

"The response was incredible. Businesses stepped up and supported the project in a big way, helping us reach our fundraising goal and secure the matching



Canwood Public School's new playground equipment is already seeing ample use.

grant."

With the new equipment, Sten says all students will be able to use the school playground at the same time. She adds that the new structure was selected with physical activity and movement in mind, channelling the experience one might have on American Ninja-style obstacle courses

"The equipment is designed to flow from one activity to the next, creating a continuous obstacle course experience where students can keep moving and challenging themselves," she said.

"The layout also allows several students to use the equipment at the same time, helping reduce congestion and giving more children the opportunity to participate and stay active.

Canwood Public School's new playground equipment will benefit more than just the school's students.

As the only playground structure in the community, Sten says the equipment is a vital resource

for children and families in Canwood and the surrounding area and sees plenty of use outside of school hours.

Throughout the summer months, the equipment is used by the Canwood Summer Youth Program, as well as by local families, children visiting friends and relatives, and travelers passing through the community.

"With the addition of the new equipment, the playground will provide even more opportunities for children of all ages to be active, play, and spend time together," Sten said.

"This new playground is a wonderful asset for both the school and the entire Canwood community, and we expect it will be well used."

Along with SPRA, the playground project was supported by: Richardson Pioneer, Brandt Tractor, Tait Insurance, Nutrien, Woodland Pharmacy, Redhead Equipment, Glenmor Equipment, and the Village of Canwood.

Thiel Blues walk for ovarian cancer

By BEVRA FEE
Spiritwood Herald Reporter

For well over a decade, the group known as Thiel Blues has been hosting different fundraising events to generate money for the fight against ovarian cancer.

Among those events has been an annual 5 km walk, and as in recent years, the walk wound its way

through the regional park at Memorial Lake in Shell Lake.

Kicking off at Pine Ridge Cottages, the 2026 walk saw a sunny day with pristine skies and favourable temperatures. "A lot different than last year!" according to co-organizer Stephanie Hughes Gosselin.

Named in honour of the late Karen Thiel of Shellbrook, the Thiel Blues' Ovarian Cancer Walk of

Hope serves as a day to fundraise and visit while remembering the impact of the often-deadly disease.

One of many walks taking place across Canada, the Shell Lake version raised over \$4,000 on Sept. 20.

Held annually during Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month in September, this family-friendly event has raised over \$34 million, funding innovative Canadian research, crucial support resources, and advocacy efforts that are changing the ovarian cancer landscape across the country.



The 2026 group of participants in the Ovarian Cancer Walk of Hope.

TOWN OF SHELLBROOK

NOTICE OF POLL

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that:

1. A poll has been granted for the election of Mayor (1):

Jason Good

Elizabeth D. McClellan

Scott Lambie

2. Advanced voting will take place on Thursday, the 8th of October, 2026 from 9:00am until 5:00pm at:

Municipal Office, 71 Main Street, Shellbrook, SK

3. Voting will take place on Wednesday, the 14th of October, 2026 from 9:00am until 8:00pm at:

Knox United Church, 302 2nd Ave E, Shellbrook, SK

4. I will declare the results of the election at the Town of Shellbrook municipal office on Thursday the 15th day of October, 2026 at the hour of 9:00am.

Dated at Shellbrook this 24th day of September, 2026

Sigourney O'Halligan, Returning Officer

PICK OF THE WEEK

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NOTICE OF CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF SPIRITWOOD NO. 496

Public notice is hereby given that nomination of candidates for the office of:

Councillor – RM of Spiritwood No. 496 – Division No. 1

Councillor – RM of Spiritwood No. 496 – Division No. 2

Councillor – RM of Spiritwood No. 496 – Division No. 4

Councillor – RM of Spiritwood No. 496 – Division No. 6

will be received by the undersigned from 9:00 am until 4:30 pm from September 22nd, 2026 to October 6th, 2026 and from 9:00 am until 4:00 pm on October 7th, 2026 at the RM of Spiritwood No. 496 municipal office.

Nomination forms may be obtained from the municipal office located at 218 Main Street in Spiritwood, Saskatchewan.

Dated this 15th day of September, 2026.

Colette Bussiere

Returning Officer

Highlights of a Shellbrook Town Council meeting

By JORDAN TWISS
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

(The following council highlights are not the approved minutes of council for Sept. 21.)

Shellbrook's Town Council held its regular meeting in person and via teleconference on Monday, Sept. 21.

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

Mayor Otterson called council's regular meeting to order around 5 p.m., beginning with the customary Treaty 6 land acknowledgement in rec-

ognition of Truth and Reconciliation, the approval of the morning's agenda, and the adoption of the minutes from its Aug. 10 regular meeting and Aug. 11, 17, and 24 special meetings.

Council then promptly moved on to the reports of administration and committees.

Under her report, CAO O'Halligan provided a brief update on the continuing storm sewer project on 1st Street East. With the water table adequately lowered, she said the town is just waiting on materials to arrive so the storm sewer can be re-lined.

In his report, Jim Puffalt offered updates on the three objectives Prairie Rising Consulting has been working on the town with: building a customer

service culture, advancing the water treatment plant project, and crafting an economic development plan and marketing strategy for the town.

On the first objective, he noted positive collaboration between the town and rink user groups to promptly resolve a scheduling issue at the rink. Puffalt said another meeting with user groups would be scheduled for after harvest season.

Elsewhere, September saw the pre-design for the water treatment plant and the town's proposed tourism strategy completed and presented to council.

Under the public works committee report, council noted that the town is still waiting on the Ministry of Highways to provide a timeline for construction of the pedestrian crosswalk at the intersection of Highways 3, Highway 55, and Main Street.

In healthcare-related news, Mayor Otterson noted the town currently boasts a primary care team of six physicians, with two more soon to arrive (one short-term and one three-year contract), as well as two nurse practitioners.

In his experience, he said appointments have been easier to get of late. Councillor Ledding added that lab wait times seem to have improved as well.

Moving on to the Mayor and Council forum, Councillor Atkinson asked whether the town or the golf course would be responsible for replacing the course's expired defibrillator (at a cost of \$3,000). O'Halligan said that would be the golf course's responsibility.

Councillor Atkinson also asked about the pos-

sibility of setting a flat rate of \$1,000 per week-end for the curling club to host bonspiels, noting that the town's current rental rate for the curling rink makes it difficult for the club.

Meanwhile, Councillor Boettcher asked for an update on the crack in the sidewalk in front of ZB Chiro, noting that it seems to be getting worse. O'Halligan said she would meet with foreman Mike Tanchuk to look at the issue.

Moving on to new business, council carried a motion to apply for Provincial Disaster Assistance Program funding to cover some of the costs associated with the storm sewer project on 1st Street East and 1st Avenue East.

O'Halligan noted it could cover dewatering costs, as well as costs related to the storm sewer pipe replacement.

Up next, council approved a request for a more decorative marker sign for Sanjun Drive, with the understanding that maintenance will not be the town's responsibility. It also reviewed a suite of policies, including the Employee Reimbursement Policy, the Richardson Pioneer Recreation Center Policy, and the Volunteer Policy.

Carrying on, council carried a motion to have the town become the anchor organization for Shellbrook's Social Prescribing Network.

Social prescribing is a means for health-care providers to connect patients to a range of non-clinical services in the community, in order to improve their overall health and wellbeing. As the anchor organization, the town will simply be responsible for accepting

grant money on the local network's behalf.

Next, council approved a rental agreement for Studio 747 to use the Shellbrook Theatre multiple nights per week.

This discussion prompted questions from Councillor Nording about whether the building had been inspected yet. CAO O'Halligan noted that a structural engineer had come in and identified the roof as the top priority for renovations.

Continuing with new business, council reviewed and approved the town's audited financial statement.

It then discussed the municipal garbage removal tender, reviewing competing five-year bids submitted by Greenland Waste (\$557,280) and TJ Disposals (\$628,281.60).

Beginning the discussion, Councillor Boettcher noted that the difference between the bids provided by TJ Disposals and Greenland Waste was only 3.8 per cent once contributions to the community are factored in (\$50,000 over five years for TJ Disposals compared to \$500 over five years for Greenland Waste).

She noted that the town's policy for tenders allows it to choose a local contractor if it's within 5 per cent of other bidders.

While the tender explicitly stated that the town wouldn't necessarily choose the lowest bidder, Councillor Miller suggested the town needed to ensure it could justify its decision, so as not to deter competition on future tenders. He added, however, that there are clear benefits to going with TJ Disposals, including a lower carbon footprint and fewer issues when

there's bad weather.

In the end, council voted to award the tender to TJ Disposals, citing its long-standing commitment to the community.

Moving on, council discussed Associated Engineering's pre-design report for the water treatment plant project, and whether to proceed with the detailed design, which could be completed by the end of the year and ready to put to tender in January.

The town continues to wait on a verdict on major grant funding for the project, and council was divided on how to proceed.

Some, including Councillor Miller, felt the town would have to revise the project in the absence of grant funding, because it can't afford a \$14 million project. However, Councillor Atkinson suggested the town needs to bite the bullet and move forward, because the project won't get any cheaper if it keeps getting delayed.

Jim Puffalt added that the project should be thought of as a long-term investment for the community, and encouraged council to consider savings that would be found through improved efficiencies and reduced operating costs.

After much discussion, council agreed to proceed with the detailed design for the project.

Closing out the meeting Mayor Otterson revisited the town's recently renewed contract with Prairie Rising Consulting, raising questions about the value the town is getting from the arrangement. Council, however, was largely in agreement that the partnership is necessary and worth the cost.

Big River RCMP seeks robbery suspect

By JORDAN TWISS
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

The Big River RCMP Detachment is asking for the public's assistance with identifying a suspect who was involved in an armed robbery in Debden.

According to police, the detachment received a report of an armed robbery at a business in Debden at approximately 11 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 23. Officers responded to the report and determined an adult male had threatened an employee with a knife and stolen cash before fleeing in a truck.

No physical injuries were reported to police.

The truck the suspect fled in is described as a grey Chevrolet Sierra. Meanwhile, the suspect is described as an adult male wearing a black sweater, jeans, and a red and black hat.

As of Monday, both the truck and the suspect had not been located and police continued to investigate the incident.

In the meantime, the Big River RCMP Detachment asks anyone with information about this incident, or who witnessed suspicious activity in the Debden area in the late evening of Sept. 23 or early morning of Sept. 24, to contact police by calling 310-RCMP (7267).

Information can also be submitted anonymously by contacting Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477) or www.saskerimestoppers.com.

NOTICE OF CALL FOR NOMINATIONS
RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF CANWOOD NO. 494

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that nominations of candidates for the offices of:

- Councillor for Division No. 1 (two-year term)
- Councillor for Division No. 2
- Councillor for Division No. 4
- Councillor for Division No. 6

will be received by the undersigned at the municipal office during regular business hours until Wednesday, October 7, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. local time.

Nomination forms may be obtained from the municipal office located at 641 Main Street in Canwood or from the website at rmofcanwood.ca.

Dated this 17th day of September, 2026.

Lorna Benson
RETURNING OFFICER

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Healthcare strike vote didn't have to happen

The ability to access healthcare services when and where you need them (without going into crippling debt) is the hallmark of any functioning universal healthcare system.

But for far too long now – and for far too many Canadians – this type of healthcare has been nothing but a fantasy.

In recent weeks, Saskatchewan has provided some troubling examples of what our healthcare system's dysfunction looks like.

First is the story of 30-year-old Kirsten Hanke, a woman from Saskatoon who died from complications due to an untreated broken ankle.

According to her partner, Morgan Kirby, Ms. Hanke slipped and broke her ankle while retrieving a package from their front step on Aug. 12.

She was sent home from Royal University Hospital and scheduled for surgery three days later. But that surgery never happened because there was no record of the scheduled surgery when she arrived for it.

On Aug. 19, Ms. Hanke collapsed at home. And the following day, her family was forced to make the impossible decision to take her off life support, after learning that blood clots had travelled from her ankle to her lungs.

"This never should have happened," said Shawna Hanke, Kirsten's mother, "The nurse at the hospital told us she shouldn't be sent home, but there was nowhere for her to go. Now she's gone. My daughter died of a broken ankle."

"No one's shocked, and that's the scary part," Mr. Kirby told CBC. "We should be shocked right now. We should be floored. And we're not."

Though there's no official tracking, it's a safe bet that thousands of people in Saskatchewan break their ankles every year.

At this point – except in the most severe circumstances – a broken ankle should be pretty standard medicine, not a death sentence.



JORDAN
TWISS

~
News Editor

Instead, Ms. Hanke will join the hundreds of people who died while waiting for surgeries this year (in 2025, 333 Saskatchewanians suffered this fate, while another 86 died waiting for cancer treatment).

Along with lengthy waitlists for procedures, Saskatchewan's healthcare system is also becoming synonymous with overburdened hospitals being forced to practice hallway medicine.

But just a few days after Ms. Hanke's story became more publicly known, photos emerged that highlight just how severe the problem has become.

The pictures in question are of 72-year-old Edward Guenther, who was forced to lie on a hospital floor for more than an hour before receiving care at Royal University Hospital.

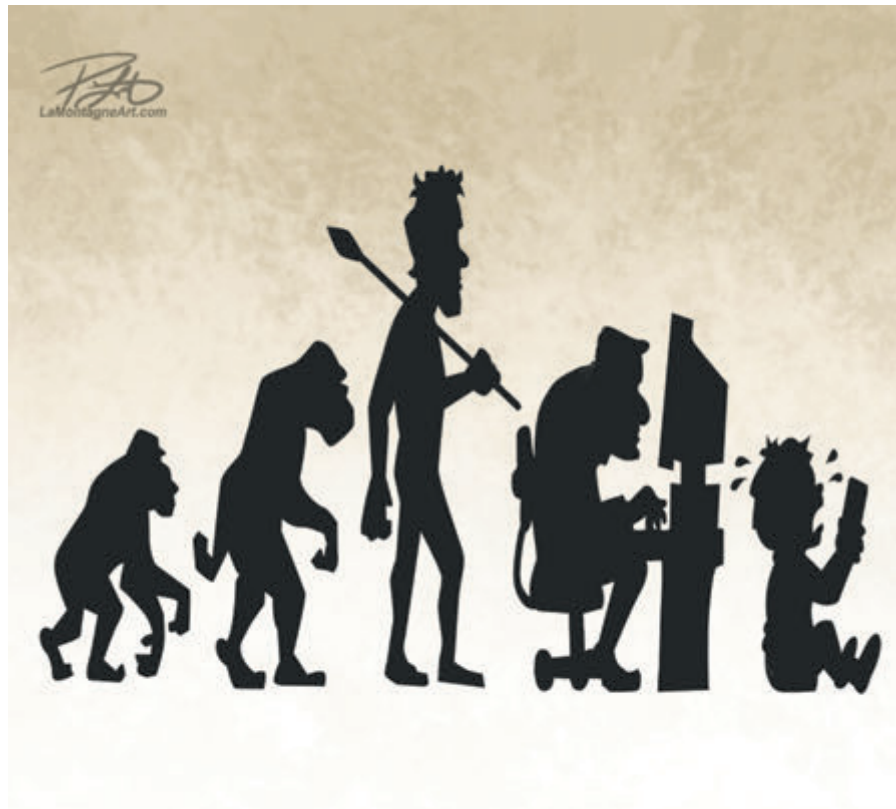
Even after a bed became available for him, Mr. Guenther had to wait for days to be admitted to the neurology department and begin to figure out the cause of his frequent and severe seizures.

These, of course, are extreme examples of the healthcare system failing to provide for patients, and not necessarily indicative of what a person will encounter in a hospital on a more typical day.

Even in a "perfect" healthcare system, there will always be patients who slip through the cracks due to human error or negligence, or unforeseen scenarios that expose gaps in the system.

The trouble in Saskatchewan (and nearly everywhere else in Canada, truthfully), is that these cracks and gaps seem to be getting wider, and more and more patients are falling through them.

And to make matters worse in Saskatchewan, the Sask Party government doesn't seem to be in any hurry to fix the system for patients or healthcare workers, meaning things are likely to get far worse before they



get better.

Two weeks ago, members of CUPE Local 5430, a union representing more than 14,000 healthcare workers in the province voted overwhelmingly in favour of job actions.

According to the union, its members have been without a contract since March 31, 2023, and have gone more than four and a half years without a wage increase.

During this time, the province's healthcare workers have continued to show up for patients.

But still, the government wants more from them.

According to the union, the latest offer from the Saskatchewan Association of Health Organizations (SAHO) would have required healthcare workers to make concessions to increase contract staffing and move employees farther from home with little notice.

They also would have had to accept lower wages than their western Canadian counterparts, leaving them to fall further behind the pace of cost-of-living increases.

After the union voted 99 per cent in favour of job action, one would expect the government to sit up and take notice.

But Health Minister Jeremy Cockrill seems to think everything is going just fine.

"Our government remains optimistic that we will be able to reach an agreement that works for health care workers, patients, employers, and communities," he said in a statement.

"Strike votes are a part of the collective bargaining process; however, we remain optimistic that productive discussions at the bargaining table will continue."

On the one hand, kudos to Mr. Cockrill for not resorting to insults or attempting to malign healthcare workers like he did the province's teachers.

On the other hand, further comments Mr. Cockrill has provided in the days since the union's strike vote suggest that the SAHO won't be backing down from the expectation that healthcare workers will work farther from home (though, he claims this will be voluntary).

Much like working conditions for teachers are learning conditions for students, the working conditions for healthcare employees are the conditions in which patients receive treatment and recover.

For too long now, healthcare workers have been asked to give more and more while receiving less and less.

They shouldn't have to endure it any longer, and neither should their patients.

Shellbrook Chronicle

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Spiritwood Herald

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

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YOUR TWO CENTS

Storm sewer repair raises concerns, questions

Dear editor,

I believe every taxpayer in our community should be informed about the ongoing issues surrounding the storm sewer repair project on 1st Street East. This repair has been underway since before the middle of July and continues to incur significant costs that are ultimately borne by local taxpayers.

Near the end of July, I contacted the Town Office to inquire about the project's timeline. At that time, I was assured that the repair was on track and that all necessary steps were being taken. I was informed that the only outstanding item was obtaining a quote to either reline or replace the damaged pipe.

After being away on holidays for two weeks, I contacted the Town Administrator again upon my return. Once again, I was told that the project was still waiting for a quote. When I asked more specific questions about the delay, I received little additional information. Concerned about the lack of progress, I contacted the mayor, who called me the following day after attending a meeting regarding the repair. At that point, there was still no quote, although I was told the contractor would be contacted again. It is difficult to understand why a contractor requiring four to five weeks to provide a quote was selected for a project of this importance.

A few days later, I was informed that a quote had finally been received. The estimated cost was slightly more than \$300,000 to install a liner in the existing pipe, and the decision had been made to proceed with that option. I was advised that the project timeline would be approximately five weeks: four weeks to manufacture the liner and one week to install it. I was assured that the work would be completed by Sept. 29.

However, on Sept. 23, I checked with a member of Council to confirm that every-

thing was proceeding according to plan and was informed that the liner had not yet been ordered, let alone manufactured.

This delay is particularly concerning when considering the ongoing costs associated with maintaining the bypass system. While I do not have access to the actual operating costs, a reasonable estimate suggests that each pump and operator could cost in the range of \$100 per hour. Based on those assumptions, the two pumps originally operating on-site, combined with the required manpower, could amount to approximately \$7,200

per day in operating expenses. Over a month, that represents more than \$216,000 in additional costs to taxpayers.

What is even more troubling is that, approximately two weeks ago, additional wells were installed and two more pumps were added to the site in preparation for the liner installation. This effectively doubled the pumping capacity from two pumps to four, potentially increasing the daily operating costs significantly while the project remained stalled. Yet, despite these preparations, I was informed that the liner had still not been

ordered.

I have also been told that the contractor cannot order the liner until the pipe has been measured on-site. If that is the case, it raises a legitimate question as to how a quote was provided in late August if the measurements required for manufacturing had not yet been completed.

Based on the estimated operating costs, each additional month of delay could potentially add hundreds of thousands of dollars to the overall cost of the project. If completion is now pushed from late September into late October, taxpayers may ultimately face an additional \$400,000 to \$500,000 in costs that might have been avoided through more proactive project management, oversight, and accountability.

In my opinion, if

this project had been managed efficiently, it could likely have been completed within six to eight weeks. Instead, we are now looking at a timeline extending into late October, with no clear explanation for the delays that have occurred since July.

As our community's infrastructure continues to age, we can expect more projects of this nature in the future. It is critical that major infrastructure repairs are managed proactively, with clear accountability, effective project oversight, and timely communication. Taxpayers deserve confidence that public funds are being used responsibly and that delays are minimized wherever possible.

I am not questioning the need for the repair itself. Rather, I am questioning the ap-

parent lack of urgency, oversight, and project management that has allowed a critical infrastructure repair to drag on for months while significant costs continue to accumulate. Taxpayers deserve transparency regarding the timeline, the actual costs incurred to date, and the measures being taken to ensure this project is completed as quickly and efficiently as possible.

The cost figures referenced in this letter are estimates based on assumed equipment and labour rates and have not been independently verified. However, even if the actual costs differ from these estimates, it is clear that prolonged delays on a project of this scale carry substantial financial consequences for taxpayers.

Greg Skrupski,
Shellbrook, Sask.

Cow on the mooove in Shellbrook



Udder chaos gripped Shellbrook on Friday, Sept. 25, when a cow got loose in town and wandered across Main Street by Shellbrook Elementary School. A group of intrepid wranglers eventually corralled the rogue bovine in the partially enclosed parking area behind an apartment building to wait for its owner to come pick it up.

By JORDAN TWISS, Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter



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Feds stay course on research farm closures

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

The federal government will not reverse course on plans to close down several agriculture research facilities across the country.

The government announced its decision to stay the course last week in its response to a report tabled by the House of Commons Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food in May.

At the end of January, to save money and trim burgeoning government ranks, Prime Minister Mark Carney’s federal government announced cuts to staffing at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC). Almost immediately, 665 department positions were eliminated, and more than 1,000 employees received termination notices.

Additionally, AAFC announced

the closure of research facilities in Guelph, Ont., Québec City, and Lacombe, Alta., as well as satellite research farms in Indian Head, Sask., Scott, Sask., Portage la Prairie, Man., and Nappan, N.S., and the Organic and Regenerative Research Program headquartered at Swift Current.

Commissioned to study the government’s planned closures, the Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food reviewed two dozen in-person witness testimonies and 15 written briefs, all of them opposed to the closures, and recommended that the government reverse the planned cuts.

The committee’s report also called on the federal government to: recognize the agriculture and agri-food industry as a strategic sector on par with energy in terms of national security and food security as a national security issue; table a site-specific

cost-benefit analysis to justify the proposed closures and assess the irreversibility profile of the closures; and develop and implement a strategy to strengthen collaboration across the agriculture and agri-food innovation ecosystem.

Absent a change of course, the report recommended that the federal government table an action plan setting out how research conducted by the research centres and experimental farms affected by proposed closures or cuts would continue and how much funding would go toward its research projects.

In its formal response to the standing committee, the government acknowledged or agreed with each of its 20 recommendations, but refused to change course, citing its “deliberate shift to prioritize investment in research expertise and activities over operations and maintenance costs.”

The government also said the decision won’t mean the end of all scientific activities undertaken by it, adding that 17 research centres remain open across the country, and suggested that private sector research will fill any gaps created by its decision.

While the closures will still proceed, the agriculture research farms in Indian Head and Scott, Sask., will stay open for the foreseeable future, thanks to an MOU signed by Saskatchewan’s Ministry of Agriculture and AAFC in July.

However, the MOU does not in-

clude reinstating Swift Current’s Organic and Regenerative Research Program, which was the only program of its kind in the country.

The Agriculture Union and the National Farmers Union both said they are deeply dismayed by the federal government’s refusal to change its mind.

“The government’s response to this report today allows them to close the book and move on as if nothing has happened,” said Milton Dyck, national president of the Agriculture Union, in a statement.

“But they’re moving on and moving away from hundreds of years of public agricultural research. They’re moving on from hundreds of good jobs in farming communities. And they’re turning their backs on 3 million Canadians who suffer from food allergies and who depend on the work of the CFIA lab in Longueuil.”

“Long-term organically managed field trials and regionally adapted systems research at these facilities are national scientific assets that cannot be recreated once lost,” added Phil Mount, vice president of Policy of the National Farmers Union, in a statement.

“Minor savings from these closures tell you everything you need to know about how little this government and Minister understand and value return on investment in research, or resilience in regional farming communities.”

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If you’re looking for information on programs and services for your farming operation, contact the Agriculture Knowledge Centre (AKC).
Toll-free: 1-866-457-2377
Email: ag.info@gov.sk.ca.

saskatchewan.ca

Saskatchewan



For confidential mental health support, Saskatchewan producers and farm families can call the Farm Stress Line at 1-866-667-4442.

Port of Churchill investment opens doors

The Port of Churchill has long been seen by at least some as a vastly under-utilized Canadian asset in terms of trade.

The Port of Churchill is Canada's only deep-water Arctic seaport connected to a railway. For producers in Saskatchewan and Manitoba – of both agricultural crops and minerals like potash – it is the shortest rail haul to open water.

For years the Hudson Bay Route Association (HBRA) lobbied for broader use of the port, with Willis Richford of Norquay, Sask., a vocal champion of that effort.

For decades, Richford and the HBRA lobbied governments and the agricultural sector to utilize and upgrade the Port of Churchill.

But for more than half a decade the port sat basically unused.

The facility, now under the ownership of the Arctic Gateway Group – an Indigenous- and community-owned Manitoba company that owns and operates the Port of Churchill – has become a focal point for massive expansion proposals, including a multi-billion-dollar provincial push to develop an Arctic trade corridor for critical minerals and clean energy.

Recently, the first grain ship to leave Churchill since 2020 loaded up in August.

The ship was bound for Europe, with 30,000 tonnes of Saskatchewan durum wheat. It's part of a new multi-year partnership between port owners Arctic Gateway Group and Saskatchewan's AGT Foods. Two additional grain vessels are expected at Churchill this season.



CALVIN DANIELS

That shipment bound for Europe has taken on far greater significance in recent days, as Canada looks to find trade partners it can trust in the wake of American president Donald Trump's heavy handed bullying in trying to force Canada into a new deal to the Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement. Trump's tantrum-like response has been a wave of relationship killing tariffs.

But the U.S. is not the only country Canada can trade with.

Recently, European

Commission President Ursula von der Leyen opened the door for Canada to become an "associate member" of the European Union. She spoke of stronger co-operation between Europe and Canada in Strasbourg, France.

In her state of the union address, she said the two must re-imagine their partnership, and move beyond just a free-trade agreement.

What such an arrangement could mean is far from clear at this point, with the "devil being in the details" as they say.

However, the EU is a huge market, and increased trade through any new association would be a huge step in offsetting the uncertainty of the Trump-effect.

And that brings us back to the Port of Churchill as a very viable option to load ships bound

for that expanded market – something that would have made Willis Richford smile.

As it turns out, the governments of Canada and Manitoba, alongside the Arctic Gateway Group, are talking new research confirming the feasibility of year-round shipping from the Port of Churchill using existing ice-class vessels, according to a recent press release from Manitoba Premier Wab Kinew and federal Northern and Arctic Affairs Minister Rebecca Chartrand.

Ice freezing over the bay has long been a major barrier to shipping reducing it to a few weeks each summer, but changing sea-ice conditions are expected to make marine access increasingly favourable over the coming decades.

"These studies are clear: year-round ship-

ping out of the Port of Churchill is achievable today," Kinew said in the release. "This breakthrough means we can stop asking if year-round shipping from Churchill is possible and start building the infrastructure and attracting the investment we need to get it done. Now is the time for industry, investors and governments in Canada and around the world to invest in Churchill so we can build new trading partnerships that are fair and mutually beneficial, while we decrease our reliance on the United States."

The effort to build on the Port of Churchill as a year-round facility seems to dovetail nicely with an expanded trade future less reliant on the U.S., whose belligerent leader who seems to hold little respect for that country's trade partners.

Crop Report: Sept. 15 to 21

By MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
Submitted

Harvest progress is picking up across Saskatchewan. However, rainfall, high humidity and wet field conditions slowed progress in the eastern part of the province and delayed harvest operations in the west. Wet conditions and high humidity are also affecting crop quality in some areas, with cereal and pulse crops still in the field experiencing poor quality and sprouting. High temperatures over the weekend and into this coming week will help farmers progress or finish up.

The provincial harvest progress is 41 per cent complete, behind the five-year average of 82 per cent and 10-year average of 73 per cent. The southwest continues to lead in harvest progress at 67 per cent followed by the west-central region at 45 per cent complete. The southeast and east-central areas are 38 per cent and 29 per cent complete, respectively. The northwest sits at 26 per cent complete while the northeast sits at 24 per cent complete.

Winter cereals, pulses and spring-seeded cereal crops continue to account for most harvest progress, with winter cereal harvest nearly complete.

Significant rain was recorded in parts of the province early in the week with the heaviest

amounts reported in the southeast. The Moosomin area recorded 75 millimetres (mm) and Bethune area 54 mm. The Alida and Carnduff areas received 34 and 32 mm, respectively.

Topsoil moisture remains mostly adequate in cropland, hayland and pastures this past week.

In many parts of the province, weather conditions during the growing season had a significant impact on crop yields. A full summary of estimated crop yields for all regions can be viewed in the estimated crop yields table.

Since August, pasture conditions have improved significantly. Provincially, 13 per cent of pastures are in excellent condition, 58 per cent in good condition, 21 per cent in fair condition, 7 per cent in poor condition and 1 per cent in very poor condition.

This week most crop damage was caused by flooding and wind with some reports of low-lying areas lost to water accumulation. Waterfowl damage was more prevalent this week as geese, cranes and other waterfowl move across the province.

Harvest is a very busy and stressful time. We would like to remind producers that the Farm Stress Line is available to provide support toll free at 1-800-667-4442.

With an increased number of machinery fires, we would like to remind producers to have fire mit-

igation resources ready, blow off their combines regularly and take precautions when working around power lines. The public is also reminded to exercise caution when encountering machinery and equipment travelling on roadways.

A complete, printable version of the Crop Report is available online.

ELECT
☒ **SCOTT LAMBIE**
on **October 14th, 2026**
for your **MAYOR**
Town of Shellbrook

NOTICE OF CALL FOR NOMINATIONS BY-ELECTION

RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF SHELLBROOK NO. 493

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

COUNCILLOR - DIVISION 1
COUNCILLOR - DIVISION 5

will be received by the undersigned at the RM office Monday through Friday, 8:30am to 4:00pm until Wednesday, October 21, 2026.

Nomination forms may be obtained at the Municipal Office, 71 Main Street, Shellbrook, or by emailing admin.493@sasktel.net.

Dated this 25th day of September, 2026.

Alicia tenBos
Returning Officer

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Spiritwood daycare jails locals for money

By **BEVRA FEE**
Spiritwood Herald
Reporter

The Love and Laughter Daycare in Spiritwood completed its second year of a Jail & Bail

fundraiser and banked over \$7,000 to be put toward decreasing the waiting list for clients. With a goal of 50 spaces in total, the Board is currently renovating a second space

that was purchased nearly two years ago in order to add 2 spaces. The waiting list sits at 64, and the target date is for springtime of 2027 to have renovations completed.

Delays due to engineering and architectural reports have extended the timeline for the committee, and that means more time to gather money for the expansion project.

To that end, the “Jail & Bail” event, combined with a barbecue and bake sale, was held on Sept. 22 at the site of the new daycare.

With 33 “criminals” being charged with various crimes such as “First Degree Truth Telling” and “Aggravated Smiling Causing Public Joy,” the good-natured array of criminals dutifully raised the bail as assessed by the Board.

Anyone not meeting their goal was brought in to face the Board and sit in the confines of a “cell” at the barbecue until they had finished raising their bond.



Notorious criminal Rosanna Franson was busted for being “Slicy McSlicy.”



Board members Michelle Brule and Kiera Andres serve burgers and baking.

Autumn and spring flowering bulbs

By **PATRICIA HANBIDGE**
Orchid Horticulture

Autumn is truly a wondrous season. As it cools off overnight, by the next afternoon it is often quite warm. It is when this happens that our focus should turn to thinking about planting spring flowering bulbs. They are simple and inexpensive to plant and require very little upkeep. They are seasonal drought evaders as they grow and bloom in the spring when there is moisture available and come the hot, dry summer months, they are happily dormant in the ground. It is important to plant spring flowering bulbs in the fall as they require a cold period (stratification) in order for them to initiate bloom. They include tulips,

daffodils, crocus, muscari, ornamental alliums and more. It used to be that there was very little selection of what you could plant and those spring flowering bulbs just got bigger and showier with each year that passed. Now, the sky’s the limit when choosing what to plant. As far as tulips go, there is the large classic Darwin tulips, but now species, double, parrot, fringed and lily flowering tulips are all possible. However, what we gain in variety, we lose in longevity. Although they are not considered a true annual, the wilder the tulip is to look at will require planting new bulbs each fall. The old way of planting tulips once is unfortunately no longer the norm. It is possible if your tastes are modest to have your tulips

grace your garden each and every spring. We need to remember where we live and use our hardiness zone guidelines on what we can plant. Remember that it is the water in the soil pores that freezes and not the mineral part of the soil. So ensure that where you plant you also water the bulbs in if we do not get rainfall prior to winter. Moist soil is less cold and will keep your bulbs in good health. When purchasing bulbs – remember that in this case, size really does matter a lot! The bigger the bulb is means the plant will be more robust and have the ability to create amazing blooms. Species tulips and other small bulbs like scilla, muscari and squill are all great choices and can be naturalized easily in lawn areas. Planting bulbs in turf is fine as

long as it is understood that the lawn cannot be mowed in spring until the bulbs die down as this feeds the bulb and allows the lifecycle to continue. Spring flowering bulbs need to be planted in well-drained soil and in an area that will not hold water when the snow melts. The best time to plant them is September, but do not fear, I have planted them as late as November and still had great success. They need to grow some roots and settle in prior to the cold winter starting. Over the winter they are dormant, but as the soil warms in spring they continue their growth and grace our gardens with lots of colour. I have been struggling with trying to choose what I will add to the garden for next spring. I do not really understand why this is such a challenge as regardless of what I choose, the spring garden is always beautiful! The last couple of years I have been including some ornamental allium, but it is essential to remember to cut off the blooms prior to the seeds sowing themselves. It is very easy to fill in a lot of spaces with these well-seeded plants. However, if you are looking for a self-seeding bed, then by all means let the seeds do what seeds do! Good luck with planning your spring blooms!



Remember that as we get closer to Thanksgiving Day, I invite you to share an image or a few words on what you are thankful for in your life. Let’s keep it related to the garden, but your perspective of the sky, or the earth in your garden count as being worthy of a snapshot or a comment. I am already hearing from some of you and as we get closer to Thanksgiving, I will share with you some of what has been shared with me. 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.

Jason Good for Shellbrook Mayor

My name is Jason Good, and I've had the pleasure of calling Shellbrook home for the past five years. My wife Pam and our family have embraced this wonderful community, which has been a perfect fit. I'm originally from Shell Lake and grew up in Battleford before spending much of my life in Saskatoon, so I know firsthand the value of small-town living and strong community connections.

I have had the pleasure of serving on the Shellbrook Theatre Committee, where we're focused on enhancing the theatre and its programs to provide greater opportunities for local entertainment and engagement.

I have also proudly served

two terms on the Alzheimer Society of Saskatchewan Board of Directors. Serving on this board allowed me to contribute to an organization making a meaningful impact while gaining valuable experience in governance, strategic decision-making, financial stewardship, and organizational leadership. The role strengthened my ability to collaborate with diverse stakeholders and provide oversight that supports long-term sustainability and success.

Professionally, I work as the Accounting Manager for the Expert Accounting department at Mega Group, a Saskatoon-based company. In my role, I oversee a team of twelve, managing the day-

to-day accounting functions for 36 independent companies across Canada. This experience has given me a deep understanding of financial management and the opportunity to coach clients, one of my passions, helping small businesses grow and prosper.

Alongside my responsibilities at Mega Group, I continue my passion for helping entrepreneurs and small business owners through my personal venture, J. Good & Co. Accounting & Advisory, where I provide guidance, coaching, and strategic financial insight to help businesses grow, improve profitability, and achieve their long-term goals.

As a candidate for Mayor, my focus will be on fiscal re-



Jason Good.

sponsibility, transparency, and collaborative leadership. I believe Shellbrook deserves a leader committed to sustainable, responsible financial practices while fostering

a culture of trust, accountability, and open communication.

Throughout my career, I have learned that strong organizations are built on clear goals, honest conversations, and a shared commitment to results. I intend to bring the same leadership approach to council that I use with my teams and clients: listening to diverse perspectives, encouraging constructive dialogue, building consensus, and keeping the long-term interests of the community at the forefront of every decision.

I look forward to serving Shellbrook and working alongside the other council members to make our town even better.

Scott Lambie for Shellbrook Mayor

I am proud to call Shellbrook home and have lived in this community for the past two years. Since moving here, I have enjoyed becoming an active part of the community, including participating in senior golf, getting to know fellow residents, and appreciating the people and character that make Shellbrook such a great place to live.

Before retiring, I spent 25 years as a manager with Orkin Pest Control. During that time, I learned the importance of listening to people, building strong relationships, making responsible decisions, and understanding what it takes for an organization to be successful. When

I started, the branch had annual revenue of approximately \$1.1 million, and by the time I retired, the branch had grown to approximately \$4.4 million. I am proud of that growth because it was achieved through hard work, practical decision-making, and working together toward a common goal.

One of my biggest passions is Christmas lights. My enthusiasm for bringing extra Christmas spirit to the community led me to take part in Shellbrook's Christmas Light Twinkle Tour, where my display won last year. I was also honoured to receive the Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal in Saskatoon



Scott Lambie.

for my Christmas lights and work within the community.

I am also a recent widower and proud grandfather. My

grandson attends the local high school, giving me a personal connection to the families and young people who call Shellbrook home.

I am proud to be running for mayor because I care deeply about this community and want to do my part to help Shellbrook continue to grow and thrive. I also understand that the cost of nearly everything has gone up, and I believe it is important to make practical, responsible decisions that respect residents and the pressures families, seniors, and local businesses are facing.

If elected your mayor, I would focus on practical community priorities, includ-

ing improving Shellbrook's roads, addressing serious concerns with water quality, and working toward a new fire hall. Shellbrook has a busy fire department, and I do not believe it is acceptable for firefighters to continue operating out of a small garage that does not properly support the important work they do for our community.

Residents deserve dependable, quality water, and water infrastructure needs to be treated as a real priority.

After two years of calling Shellbrook home, I am ready to put my time, energy, and commitment toward serving the community I am proud to be part of.

Dawn McClellan for Shellbrook Mayor

My name is Dawn McClellan, and I am proud to put my name forward for Mayor of the Town of Shellbrook.

For those who may not know me, I have lived and worked in the Shellbrook community since 2022 and have had the opportunity to work directly with residents, businesses, community organizations, and many of the people who help keep our community moving.

My experience working in the Town Office also gave me valuable insight into municipal operations and, more importantly, reinforced how important communication, accountability, and service to residents truly are.

I am also a mom, and I understand the pressures families are facing with rising costs and an uncertain economy. Municipal government cannot control all of those challenges, but we can



Dawn McClellan.

be thoughtful about how we spend taxpayers' dollars and make decisions that consider the people who ultimately pay for them.

One of my biggest priorities is the water treatment plant. This is a major investment in Shellbrook's future, and we need to carefully consider the cost, our long-term needs,

and what is sustainable for taxpayers. Residents also deserve clear and open communication throughout that process.

I want to bring a new voice to Council, with a strong focus on accountability and transparency. To me, accountability means listening, asking questions, having honest conversations, and being willing to explain the decisions being made on behalf of our community.

I want Shellbrook to be a place where families can afford to live, have opportunities to get involved, and feel connected to their community. Recreation plays a big part in that. Our rink, sports grounds, pool, programs, volunteers, and community organizations bring people together and help make Shellbrook a place people are proud to call home.

I also believe there is op-

portunity for responsible growth. We already have a strong foundation of local businesses, families, volunteers, organizations, and people who genuinely care about this community.

Growth doesn't mean changing who we are; it means building on those strengths, welcoming new opportunities, and planning

responsibly for the future.

I don't have all the answers, and I don't believe any one person does. I will listen, ask questions, work collaboratively, and approach decisions with the best interests of our community in mind.

Shellbrook already has so much to be proud of. I am excited about what we can build together.



CHECK IT OUT!

Shellbrook Chronicle Website
www.shellbrookchronicle.com

Spiritwood Herald Website
www.spiritwoodherald.com

OBITUARIES

Rodney Olaf Gjerde



It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of Rodney Olaf Gjerde, age 64, on September 16, 2026, in Shellbrook, SK. Rod was born on February 4, 1962, in Vancou-

ver, BC to Per and Ruth (née Anderson) Gjerde, and was the baby brother to Anita. He grew up in Vancouver and was an active child, participating in Scouts, Soccer, and Football, but most of all loved music. He attended Vancouver Technical School, where he graduated grade 12 as a full journeyman mechanic and developed a love of woodwork. Rod spent most childhood summers in Saskatchewan, and his love for the area brought him here in 1985, where he met his first wife, Sher-

ry, and raised his children Dinelle & Kristian. In 1999 Rod broke land at Fish Lake and made it the family home. Rod met the love of his life, Carol and her daughter Kali in 2007 and in 2010 they built their dream home at the lake. Rod's three children, eight grandchildren (and one on the way), were his entire world. He went out of his way to attend every event, including sports, birthdays, and house renos. Rod was a mechanic/carpenter/bar-owner... a true jack-of-all trades. But above all, he was

a musician. His love of music took him all over Western Canada. He was a member of countless bands, a talented songwriter, and an SCMA award-winner. Rod was known for his velvety, classic-country voice. His friends in the music industry became his second family. Rod will be deeply missed by the ones he left behind, his mother Ruth; his sister Anita; his father-in-law Alfred; his wife Carol; his daughter Dinelle, her five kids and her partner Dwayne; his son Kristian, his wife Katelin, and their three

children; his daughter Kali, her husband Kayne, and their baby due this spring; his siblings-in-law Wilfred, Lorraine (Larry), and Ken (Lori); along with many nieces, nephews, and numerous family and friends all over the world. He is predeceased by his father Per; his niece Maria; his mother-in-law Helen; and his sister-in-law Barb. The celebration of life was held at 2:00pm on Saturday, September 26, 2026, at the Canwood Elks Hall (640, 2nd Ave E, Canwood, SK). A time of refreshments and fel-

lowship followed the service, followed by an open mic Jam Session. In lieu of tributes, memorial donations may be made in memory of Rod to S.T.A.R.S Air Ambulance (Hanger 21 2475 Airport Rd, Saskatoon, SK S7L 1M4). 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.

Earl Howard Jewitt



Earl Howard Jewitt, late of the RM of Shellbrook, SK, passed away peacefully at Victoria Hospital in Prince Albert on Monday, September 21, 2026, surrounded by family. Earl was born on March 11, 1932, in Wem-

bley, Alberta, the only son of Howard and Olefa Jewitt. In 1934, the family returned to Shellbrook, SK, where he grew up and attended school. Raised on the family farm, he developed a lifelong love of the land and farming. He met Ruth Sonnenberg in 1955. They fell in love and married in 1958. After working away for several years - first in Humboldt, SK, and later in Cadillac, SK - an opportunity arose to rent land and farm with his dad. Earl returned to Shellbrook, SK, in 1964 with Ruth, Janine and Lorene, their two eldest daughters. He had tremendous

drive and a strong work ethic, and he had a goal to farm his own land. He worked as an electrician, rented land, and later gained ownership of the home place. During this time Kirsten and Erin their two youngest daughters were born. Earl continued farming until his retirement in 2001 and remained on the farm until his passing. The farm was more than a place to him—it was his home, his livelihood, and a source of great pride. It was also the place where he and Ruth built their life and raised their family. He leaves a wonderful legacy behind.

Earl was much more than a hard-working farmer. He was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather; a skilled handyman, a problem solver, and a true "jack of all trades" with a vast and diverse wealth of knowledge. He loved to learn and he loved to laugh. He was always active and very fit, even into his 90's. He never needed to be the center of attention to make an impact. He was humble and unpretentious. He gave people the benefit of the doubt. He was grateful for simple things and quietly lived his life — working, fixing things, reading, learning, laughing, staying active, and loving his family. Earl will be lovingly remembered by his

wife of 68 years, Ruth; daughter, Janine and her sons, Nolan and Aidan Merryweather; daughter Lorene; daughter Kirsten; daughter Erin, her husband Todd Black, and their sons, Ryersen and Marshall Black; as well as his extended family and many friends. He was predeceased by his parents Howard and Olefa Jewitt; his sisters Alice Gelinis and Elaine Gatzke; and his son-in-law Garth Merryweather. Earl's Celebration of Life was held at 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, September 26, 2026, at St. John's Lutheran Church in Shellbrook, SK. For anyone unable to attend the service, this link <https://facebook.com/sbcsparish> will take you to St. John's Facebook page,

where you will be able to watch the live stream on Saturday, September 26, 2026. In lieu of tributes, memorial donations may be made in Earl's memory to St. John's Lutheran Church or the Bright-holme Cemetery Fund (Box 41, Leask, SK S0J 1M0) or the Shellbrook and District Health Services Foundation (Box 33, Shellbrook, SK S0J 2E0). 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.

Clarence Pister



It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Clarence Pister. Clarence passed away at Big River on September 15, 2026, at the age of 89. Clarence was born to Peter and Martha Pister on June 16, 1937, in Prince Albert, SK. He was the 5th child of 8 siblings plus a sister, Shirley, that died in infancy.

The family lived in Garthland, SK until moving to Big River, SK in approximately 1942. Here he went to school until Grade 9 after which he started his work career. Clarence spent most of his life working in the forest industry, from skidding logs in the bush with a horse team in the winter to booming logs down Cowan in the summer with his father. He eventually starting work at the Big River Saw Mill where he worked until retirement. It was during these years that he partnered with his brother, Wilf, becoming the "Pister Bros" with a backhoe and a small cattle farm. Clarence married Priscilla (Bo) Nicholson on May 8, 1958. They had 4 children, Brent, Brenda,

Rhonda and Ryan. They lived out on the farm by Delaronde Lake until retiring to town in 2005. Clarence loved to play hockey. He started at the age of 8 playing school hockey. Goal tending was his position of choice. When asked why he always wanted to be the goalie he said, "because the goalie gets to play the whole game". He said he was self taught, learning from his mistakes. He played on the Big River teams, Legion, Braves and any surrounding towns that needed him. Another of his most favorite things to do was to go fishing. Whether it was ice fishing in his hut on Cowan and Delaronde or in his boat on the lake. A day spent fishing was never a waste.

Clarence was a hard-working man who took pride in his work and in providing for his family. He was a man who appreciated working with his hands and could always find satisfaction in building, fixing, and creating something useful. Over the years, he has created many wood projects that he has donated and gifted to various organizations and people. He was always happy to lend a hand, offer advice or show someone how to do something. Clarence treasured his time spent together with family and friends and the many memories made over the years. He was especially proud of his grand kids and great grand kids and loved spending time with them. His kindness, strength, humor and willingness to lend a helping hand will be deeply missed

by all who knew and loved him. His memory will live on in the hearts of his family and friends, and all the lives he touched. He will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered. He is survived by his wife Priscilla; his son Brent (Linda) and their sons Jayson, Matthew (Sarah) and children Emma and Liam; his daughter Brenda and her children David (Lori and their children Tori and Parker), Gwen (her daughter Lexie), and Becky (Adam and their daughters, Sadie, Nora, Greta and Dottie); his daughter Rhonda and her children Jordan (Alerose and their daughter Octavia) and Rachel (Tegan and their children Holden and Hazel); his son Ryan (Gaytan) and their children Cody, James, Megan, Jordan and Ashley; two sisters

Gladys and Barbara (Darcy); his sister-in-law Nadine (Shaun); his sister-in-law Marie. He is predeceased by his parents Peter and Martha; his siblings Katherine, Edna, Wilfred, Vernon, Stanley and infant Shirley; a son-in-law Brad. A private family funeral will be held at a later date. In lieu of tributes, memorial donations may be made in memory of Clarence to the Lakewood Lodge Auxiliary (Box 846 Big River, SK S0J 0E0). 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.

Q and A on eve of NHL's new season

As the National Hockey League 2026-27 season embarks on its earliest ever start, now would be an appropriate time to dial up the annual NHL Questionnaire. All those with perfect scores can reward themselves by watching old Rock 'Em, Sock 'Em videos.

1. Connor Helleybuyck stunned the Winnipeg fan base over the summer by going public with his request for a trade out of the Manitoba capital. He did this because:

a) The Jets' blue sweaters clash with his dark hair.

b) Upset with the Jets' accounting office continually misspelling his name on his paycheques.

c) As a proud American, not thrilled with Manitoba Premier Wab Kinew's cheap shots at Trump.

2. NHL teams will each play 84 games this year, up from 82, because:

a) Owners felt the regular season just wasn't long enough.

b) If playing in June is okay, finishing the season in July will probably be better.

c) More money, baby!

3. All eyes will be on the Maple Leafs' No. 1 draft pick Gavin McKenna as he starts his NHL career because:

a) The Leafs' first Stanley Cup since 1967 is imminent.

b) Leafs' faithful looking forward to his 60- or 70-goal season.

c) He doesn't need the Air Canada Centre playing surface to be frozen for him to perform his puck miracles.

4. Cale Makar's \$20-million per season contract with Colorado is:

a) Trend-setting for the NHL

b) Table-setting for future NHL contracts

c) Upsetting for Connor McDavid, who's pulling down only \$12.5 million per annum.

5. Oilers' fans expect their team to contend this year because:

a) The hockey players get motivated when the Elks threaten to become the No. 1 sports draw in Edmonton

b) They have a coach with a Stanley Cup on his resumé.

c) Defensive misplays will be reduced now that Darnell Nurse has departed.



BRUCE
PENTON

~

6. The Brady Tkachuk trade to Florida Panthers means that:

a) Mr. and Mrs. Tkachuk will no longer have to split their allegiances between Ottawa and Miami

b) Just for fun, the first Ottawa-Florida game this year will be a brawlfest.

c) The Panthers' 'goofball' meter will spin out of control.

7. The first Canadian team to win the Stanley Cup since 1993 will be:

a) Montreal Canadiens, because of their youthful, talented roster

b) Toronto Maple Leafs, because of the Matthews-Nylander-McKenna chemistry.

c) Vancouver Canucks, because the apocalypse is nigh.

8. The historic 'Hockey Night in Canada' has been mothballed, because the CBC won't be involved in NHL broadcasts any more, meaning that:

a) The HNIC theme music will only be heard on TSN's nightly SportsCentre wrap-ups.

b) Production can stop on those iconic white Hockey Night in Canada towels.

c) Upon hearing the news, Foster Hewitt and Danny Gallivan both rolled over in their graves.

9. In all likelihood, the biggest gains in the NHL this season will be:

a) By the San Jose Sharks, in the Western Conference standings

b) Attendance numbers in Buffalo, where the Sabres are on the rise.

c) Waistlines on fans at Rogers Centre in Edmonton, which offers at their concessions, among other treats, the three Ps — pasta, perogies, and poutine.

• Andy Nesbitt of SI.com, in a story about the new playoff format for the PGA Tour in 2028: "The Tour

Championship has been played at East Lake Golf Club outside of Atlanta since 2005. That is going to change starting in 2028, which is tremendous news because, to put it bluntly, East Lake stinks."

• Cathal Kelly of the Globe and Mail, on the LIV golf demise: "New golf was always bound to do as well as New Coke."

• Kevin Van Valkenberg of Fried Egg Golf, quoting Carlota Ciganda, a European pro golfer in the recent Solheim Cup: "I was really happy to see that I was playing against (Jennifer) Kupcho (in singles). She's a fighter, I'm a fighter. But today I knew she had no chance. I was like, 'I want to kill you.'"

• Headline at theonion.com: "Red Sox Fan Throws Back Son Who Caught Yankees Home Run"

• Greg Cote of the Miami Herald: "In the NFL, where parity is legislated and there is no transfer portal through which to buy other teams' best players, bad teams playing bad games looks... like the Miami Dolphins,

losing their season opener 27-13 at the Las Vegas Raiders."

• Mike Bianchi of the Orlando Sentinel: "There were actually some Ole Miss and LSU players and coaches trying to act like the Kiffin Kerfuffle (Sept. 19) in Oxford was just another game. That's like saying the custody hearing is just another family gathering."

• Another Bianchi offering: "The Dolphins are struggling so badly that Sea World has offered to rehabilitate them."

• Another one from theonion.com: "Angels Set Off Fireworks To Celebrate Base Hit"

• Headline at fark.com: "Travis Kelce named as victim in multi-million-dollar fraud scheme. Hopefully, he'll be able to recover financially, as a newlywed with a young wife to support."

• Steve Simmons of the Toronto Sun: "If Colby Armstrong is the answer for the new Saturday Night Hockey show, we wonder: What is the question?"

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

OBITUARY

~

Marlene Rosemary Svenningsen



In Loving Memory of Marlene Rosemary Svenningsen

November 21, 1938 – September 20, 2026

Marlene Rosemary Svenningsen (née Johnson), 87, of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, passed away peacefully, surrounded by love, on September 20, 2026, at Saskatoon City Hospital.

Marlene was born in

Saskatoon on November 21, 1938. In 1939, she was lovingly fostered and then adopted by Elmer and Brita Johnson and grew up in Canwood, Saskatchewan.

On September 26, 1970, Marlene married Helmer Svenningsen. Together, they built their life in Harris and Spiritwood, combining their two families and raising four children. They shared 41 years of marriage and many wonderful memories together.

Marlene had a creative and generous spirit. She had a passion for crafting and sewing, and she could turn her imagination into something beautiful. She created countless crafts and sewed figure skating costumes, but perhaps some of her most memorable creations were the fan-

tastic Halloween costumes she made for her children when they were young.

She loved movies, music and reading, especially crime novels, and had a wonderful sense of humour. Marlene was never afraid to laugh at herself. She was a strong and determined woman who encouraged her children to become independent, pursue education and go out into the world to explore new opportunities.

After leaving school, Marlene began her working life as a nurse's aide at the sanitarium in Prince Albert. She was truly a Jill of all trades when it came to her working life, taking on a variety of jobs including working as a telephone operator in Harris, a baker, a postal clerk, a dry-clean-

ing/laundromat attendant, and a cook at Spiritwood Union Hospital. She was also a dedicated volunteer throughout her life. From her early years as a Brown Owl leader with the Girl Guides to her involvement with the Spiritwood Figure Skating Club, Lioness Club and many more, Marlene gave generously of her time and talents. She especially enjoyed leading craft programs for the residents of Spiritwood Lodge, sharing her creativity and companionship with others.

Of all the roles she held in life, being a grandmother was one of Marlene's greatest joys. Each of her grandchildren holds special memories of time spent with her, and her love will continue to live on through them and through the generations that follow.

Marlene will be lovingly remembered by her children, Donna (Doug) of Lethbridge, Rick of Saskatoon, Diane (Chris) of Saskatoon, and

Sandra of Calgary; her grandchildren, Jessica, Tracy, Stephen, Matthew, Jared, Alexandra, Steven, Kelsey and Alicia; and her great-grandchildren, Emma, Sebastian, Lawson, Penelope and Arthur. She is also survived by her brother, Kurt Johnson of Shellbrook and many beloved nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by her parents, Elmer and Brita Johnson; her first husband, Richard Lofstrom; her second husband, Helmer Svenningsen; her daughter-in-law, Wanda Loftstrom; her brothers, Roland Johnson and Roy Johnson; her sisters-in-law, Monica, Mary, Frances, Linda Johnson, Margaret Svenningsen, June Zawertailo and her brother-in-law Peter; her nieces, Debbie and Tracy Johnson; her father and mother in-law, Bernhard and Agnes Svenningsen.

Marlene leaves behind

much more than memories. She leaves the love she gave, the creativity she shared, the laughter she brought, and the many lives she touched through her family, friendships, and community.

A small memorial will be held during the interment at 11 am, October 19, 2026, at Woodlawn Cemetery in North Battleford.

In lieu of flowers, the family invites you to perform an act of kindness in Marlene's name—a simple gesture that reflects the generosity and love she shared throughout her life.

She will be deeply missed and forever loved.

Family and friends wishing to send online condolences are welcome to visit <http://www.beaulacfuneralhome.com>. Arrangements have been entrusted to the care of Beau "Lac" Funeral Home and Crematorium, Sandra Biskup, Funeral Director, Spiritwood, SK (306) 883-3500.

Shellbrook Library activity highlights

By **EDDIE HOEHN**
Branch Librarian

On Wednesday, Sept. 16, volunteer and local library board member Samuel Schafer presented Trivia Night at the library. There were two teams playing, with four adults on each team. Participants identified some of the zodiac signs by their symbols, listed the provinces in order of when they obtained their current borders, named the title and actors from movies with 13 in the title, recognized whether or not song lyrics were from Taylor Swift’s songs,

and named the title and artist of popular songs from the 1960s to 2010s. The two teams agreed to end Trivia Night with a tie after both teams received 34 points. On Friday, Sept. 18, Manny Kaur from Mo-



Manny Kaur from Mobile Early Learning reads to kids at the Storytime Workshop.

bile Early Learning in Prince Albert came to the library to present a Storytime Workshop. Manny read a book called *The Very Cranky Bear* to the kids. She set up different stations for the kids. The stations included Fall Art & Map Tracing, where participants found fall objects and traced paths on maps, Animal Sensory Play where they used magnifying glasses to search for hidden animals, Feed the Squirrel, Pretend Camping Play, and Build-a-Furry-Friend, where they built a teddy bear to take home from a kit.



Elijah Allen, Jasmine Allen, Ana McBain, and Tristin McBain (holding Grayson) take part in Trivia Night.

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 11 am - 4 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 10am - 1pm
MARCELIN: Wapiti Library - Saturday 10am - 2pm; Thursday 2pm - 8pm. For information on all your library needs, please contact 306-226-2110.
SHELLBROOK: Shellbrook Branch of the Wapiti Library located at 105 Railway Ave., West (Provincial building). Library Hours: Monday 2pm - 6pm; Tuesday 2pm - 8pm; Wednesday 2pm - 8pm; Thursday 12pm - 6pm; Friday 10 am - 5pm (Story Time 10:30am - 11:30am); Saturday 10am - 4pm.

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

SHELLBROOK: Skate Shellbrook Registration Open For: Parent & Tot - Starts Oct 18; CanSkate - Starts Oct 14; PowerSkate - Starts Oct 18; and StarSkate! Program info & registration: shellbrooksc.uplifterinc.com or email skateshellbrook@gmail.com
SHELLBROOK: In support of victims of domestic violence, Shellbrook Royal Purple is once again filling care bags with essential items for the Women’s Shelter in PA. Watch for donation baskets at various locations around town! For a full list of preferred items and donation box locations, visit out Facebook page: Shellbrook Royal Purple #388. Baskets will be picked up October 7th! Monetary donations are welcome – Contact Elaine 306-961-7144.
SHELLBROOK: The November Project – An Act of Remembrance. Journey through the Second World War via a Canadian soldier’s love letters home paired with wartime songs. Lyrics provided – sing along if you wish. Free Admission – Donations welcome. Fri., October 23, 7pm @ Canwood Legion; Sat., October 24, 7pm @ Shellbrook Legion (Cash bar); Sun., October 25, 2pm @ Parkland Integrated Health Centre. Doors open 30 minutes before each performance. For more info: 306-747-3769 or FB Shellbrook Legion Branch 111. *Sponsored by Beau “Lac” Funeral Home & Crematorium*

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GOOD NEWS

RASPBERRIES AND THE EXTRA MILE

By **DEB ANDERSON**
Submitted

Many years ago, before moving to this area, my neighbour called and said, “If you want any raspberries, better come and pick them.” By the time I got there, others had picked most of the berries. For me picking was very slow — one here, one there. It took hours, but my fondness of pure raspberry jam kept me working. After a while at home, I gazed on the day’s work: three pints of pure raspberry jam, all sealed and cooling! From out of nowhere, the idea to give away two of these to people who had hurt me came to mind. I resisted. No! Anything but these! I sat quietly, knowing it was a God-thing. The enemy wouldn’t want me to bless them who curse me, but the Lord would. I knew what was the right thing to do, yet my feet weren’t moving. Maybe there was another way. I realized that if I focused on putting one foot ahead of the other, I could obey. Two jams left home for relocation. Spiritually, this physical obedience paid off big time. The recipients were completely shocked, blessed, and sorry. Personally, I was freed from negative thoughts and emotions regarding them and all that had happened. The impossible happened. Friendships were birthed. There is no explanation for how that could happen. Good overcame evil.

There was power in obeying Jesus’ directions: “You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?” (Matthew 5: 41- 46) As time went by, I needed to pray for the jam recipients, in order to maintain our relationships, and my heart. At first, I said, “Lord, I’m sorry I don’t mean this blessing, but I’m praying it in obedience.” Later, my heart changed and the prayer was sincere. To the natural man, this is impossible and unappealing. To us with confidence in Jesus, we know that He cried out from the cross, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.” (Luke 23:34) We know who to go to for power to forgive. We may not understand spiritual dynamics, but Jesus has clearly stated what will cause God to get involved in our lives. Sometimes it’s not easy to obey. Fortunately, we have the same Spirit as Jesus living in us (John 14:15-17). Know His leading, make the flesh follow suit. The blessing of God in the situation is then released. He keeps His Word. He cannot lie.

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

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Zion - Canwood

Sunday School,

Worship Sunday, 9 a.m.

(in-person only)

St. John's - Shellbrook

Sunday School,

Worship Sunday, 11 a.m.

(in-person and online

via Facebook live)

Rev. Emmanuel Aristide

PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

Parkside

10:30 a.m. Worship

Pastor Lorne Valuck

306-747-3572

Shellbrook

Adult Study 9:30 a.m.

Sun., 10:30 a.m. - Worship

Rev. Jordan Clark

306-850-0429

Canwood

10:30 a.m. - Worship

Pastor Lyndon Petten

587-973-2223

Leask Gospel Tabernacle

Sunday 10:30 a.m.

Pastor Josh

1-780-690-2100

PRESBYTERIAN

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Rev. Stewart Folster

UNITED CHURCH

Big River

Sundays

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Rev. Dave Whalley

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ANGLICAN CHURCH

Leask - All Saint's

Sunday Service - 9 am MP

St. Andrew's - Shellbrook

Sunday Service - 11 am MP

June 21, 10:30 a.m. at

St. Luke's Mont Nebo,

H.C. & Deconsecration

w/ Bishop Rick Reed

Potluck lunch to follow

Minister's Warden:

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EVANGELICAL FREE

Big River

10:00 a.m. - Worship

Bible Classes resume

in the fall

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Mont Nebo

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10 a.m. - Sunday School

CATHOLIC CHURCH

Debden

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Fr. Mariusz Zajac

Big River - Sacred Heart

Sun., 11:30 a.m. - Mass

Whitefish

Sun., 2:30 p.m. - Mass.

Victoire

Sat., 7:30 p.m. - Mass.

Fr. Mariusz Zajac

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Mass - Sunday 9 a.m.

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Mass - Sunday 11 a.m.

Mistawasis

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Worship 10:00 a.m.

Rev. Sarah Urano

UNITED /ANGLICAN

Worship Services

Glaslyn

Time is on the sign

Rev. Kun Kim

Rev. Don Skinner

CATHOLIC

SATURDAY

Medstead – 6:00 p.m.

Shell Lake – 8:00 p.m.

SUNDAY

Spiritwood – 9:00 a.m.

Leoville – 11:00 a.m.

Chitek Lake – 1:00 p.m.

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Glenbush

11:00 am Worship

BETHEL

Medstead

2nd Sunday, 10 am -

Worship

Pastor David Jensen

4th Sunday, 10 am - Worship

Pastor David Jensen

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Sun., 11 am - Worship

Service & Sunday School

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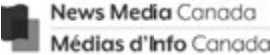


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