

Shellbrook Chronicle & Spiritwood Herald

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Shellbrook awarded grant funding for water plant



After years of waiting, the Town of Shellbrook has finally received grant funding to proceed with its water treatment plant project.

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

Following years of grant applications and rejections, the Town of Shellbrook has finally received the news it's long awaited for its planned water treatment plant project.

On Thursday, Oct. 15, the town announced that its application for a Canada Housing Infrastructure Fund (CHIF) grant had been approved.

Through the grant, which sees the federal and provincial governments share costs for major infrastructure projects with municipalities across the country, the Government of Saskatchewan will contribute \$4,815,195 and the Government of Canada will chip in \$6,288,870, for a total of \$11,084,065.

With the cost of the new water treatment plant pegged at \$14,447,032, this leaves the town's share of the project at just \$3,362,967.

"For many years, concerns about our

water quality have impacted residents, businesses, and future development opportunities," former Mayor Amund Ottersen said in a statement.

"Reliable, high-quality water is essential to the quality of life our residents expect and the growth our community deserves. This project demonstrates our commitment to addressing a long-standing issue and investing in Shellbrook's future."

Upgrades to the water treatment plant — or the construction of an entirely new plant — have been recognized as a priority for the Town of Shellbrook since at least 2017.

The town notes that its existing water treatment infrastructure is nearing capacity, currently lacks adequate storage in case of emergency, and has become a barrier to residential, commercial, and industrial growth.

Serious exploration of the project began in 2020, when the current Town Council nearly gave the go-ahead to a

project that would have seen the water treatment plant upgraded over multiple phases at a cost of \$7.6 million.

That plan included increases to the water treatment plant's storage capacity, a switch to the provincial government's preferred method of gas chlorination, the addition of a third greensand filter, and converting the town's water supply to a blended reverse osmosis system.

At the last minute, council paused this plan in favour of pursuing Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program funding.

Progress on the project was then further delayed in 2021, as the town began exploring a partnership with the Prince Albert Rural Water Utility (PARWU) on an intermunicipal water pipeline.

By October 2022, the projected costs for the pipeline had sky-rocketed to \$80 million and there was still no grant funding on the table to make it more feasible.

In February 2024, after receiving

feedback from ratepayers, the town formally stepped away from the PARWU partnership to renew exploration of building a new water treatment plant.

Through extensive studies, biofiltration coupled with reverse osmosis was identified as the optimal water treatment process.

This will be a component of the proposed \$14 million project, and the town says the new facility will be sized to accommodate Shellbrook's projected population and economic growth.

At its Sept. 21 meeting, Shellbrook's Town Council approved Associated Engineering's pre-design report for the water treatment plant project and agreed to proceed with the detailed design, which will make the project ready for tender.

Currently, the plan is for the tender to go out in January, and for construction to begin in the spring or summer of next year. Construction of the project is expected to take 12 to 18 months.



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Turkey Bingo dabs up money for Leoville School

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle
Reporter

Some events are so enduring that they simply become a part of the fabric of a community.

Case in point: Leoville Central School's annual Turkey and Toy Bingo.

The Bingo fundraiser has been part of the school's history for long enough that no one can remember a time that the school didn't host it. But the best guess is that the first one was held at some point in the mid-1960s, and was initiated to raise funds for the school's sports teams.

Needless to say, things were a little different back then.

"There are quite a few members of the community that, to this day, clearly remember winning live turkeys those first years of the bingo," said Leanne Menke, the administrative assistant for

Leoville Central School.

"The prize turkeys were slung into a gunny sack to be sent home with the lucky winners at the end of the night."

While Menke jokes that current Leoville Central School principal Michele Purdy is strongly considering bringing back the live turkeys to inject a little excitement into the festivities, this year's rendition of the Turkey and Toy Bingo, hosted in the school's gym on Thursday, Oct. 8, featured 10 frozen turkeys and 10 toy packages as prizes for the 200 dabbers in attendance.

The Turkey and Toy Bingo is organized and run by staff volunteers and students. During the Bingo games, it falls to the Grade 12 students to walk the floor and monitor the action (as one of the last things they'll do together as a class).

Meanwhile, the school's Student Representative



A crowd of about 200 dabbers came out to vie for the Bingo prizes.

Council (SRC) runs the evening's canteen, serving up hot dogs, homemade baking, chips, chocolate bars, and pop to hungry and thirsty guests.

In addition to the Bingo games, the students put together a raffle prize of a meal in a bag, including a turkey, a roasting pan, stuffing, cranberries, cookies, crackers, napkins, and a deck of Uno cards.

Meanwhile, all the toy

prizes were donated by staff members.

Through raffle ticket sales and sales of bingo dabbers, the Turkey and Toy Bingo dabbled up \$3,600, which will be put toward field trips for all Leoville Central School students and cover things like bussing and/or drivers for extra-curricular activities, year-end trips, curricular field trip transportation, admission fees, and presentations.

Meanwhile, the canteen hauled in about \$700, which will be used by the SRC for student functions and activities throughout the school year.

"The community support for this event, and all other events, is amazing," Menke said.

"It is heartwarming to see such positive support for our small school and the students we are entrusted with. We are

fortunate to have individuals and businesses in the area that help out where they can."

So far this school year, Menke says individuals in the community have donated food items for students, pumpkins for the Pre-Kindergarten/Kindergarten class, and a fridge for student use. Additionally, the Leoville Grocery Store has offered discounts on items purchased for fundraisers.



Vice principal Danny Tanner (back left) served as the evening's caller and was assisted by Grade 12 student Brook Heppner (back right), and floor walkers Olivia Pineault (front left) and Nikeysa Boyer.

Sask RCMP sounds alarm over email scam

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

Another week. Another scam.

On Wednesday, Oct. 14, the Saskatchewan RCMP issued a warning to the public to be vigilant about an email scam currently making the rounds in Saskatchewan.

The email, which claims it's from the RCMP, says the recipient is the subject of a cybercrime investigation. It threatens the recipient will be arrested unless they contact the investigators through the email address carcmpgrca@gmail.com.

Less than two hours after the RCMP's warning was issued, the *Shellbrook Chronicle & Spiritwood Herald* received one of the scam emails. This one, which came from the email address grc.canada.gouv.ca@gmail.com, included an attachment entirely in French threatening imprisonment or a fine of \$75,000 for alleged child pornography charges.

Both emails are scams. These emails and other police-related scams are outlined on the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre's website.

If you receive a suspicious email:

- don't email them back
- don't click any links

- don't send them any personal information
 - don't send them any money or gift cards
- If you are unsure of the legitimacy of an email that appears to be from the RCMP or believe you are the victim of a fraud, please contact your local RCMP detachment at 310-RCMP.
- If you receive an email 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>.

NOTICE OF POLL AND ADVANCE POLL

RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF SHELLBROOK No. 493
MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that voting will be held for the following office:

COUNCILLOR DIVISION 2
Phil Hamel
Levi Moore

ELECTION DAY VOTING
Voting will take place on Monday, November 9, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at:

- Seniors Citizen Centre, 101 Railway East, Shellbrook

ADVANCE POLL
Advance voting will take place on Thursday, October 29, 2026 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at:

- RM of Shellbrook No. 493 Office, 71 Main Street, Shellbrook

MAIL-IN BALLOTS
To vote by mail, voters must apply in person at the RM of Shellbrook No. 493 Office, 71 Main Street, Shellbrook. Applications will be accepted during regular office hours until 4:00 p.m. on Friday, October 23, 2026.

I will declare the voting results at the Municipal Office on Tuesday, November 10, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.

Dated at Shellbrook, Saskatchewan this 9th day of October, 2026.

Alicia tenBos
Returning Officer



SALE BY TENDER

The Town of Shellbrook offers for sale the following properties "as is"

Lot 8-9 Block 2, Plan M2393

Tenders can be submitted in the following ways:

- In person at 71 Main Street
- By mail to Box 40, Shellbrook, SK S0J 2E0
- By email to cao@townofshellbrook.ca

All tenders submitted must be marked "property tender, ATT: Sigourney O'Halligan, CAO"

Tenders must be received at the above address by 9:00 am on Friday, November 20th, 2026.

A certified cheque to the Town of Shellbrook, for 10% of the amount of the tender must accompany the tender.

Highest, or any tender, not necessarily accepted.

The successful bidder will have 30 days to provide the balance of the cash to complete the purchase.

Sigourney O'Halligan
Chief Administrative Officer

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Leoville Community Hall, 5 - 6:30 p.m.

Adults \$20 • 6-12 Yrs. \$10 • Preschool Free

Raffle, Chinese Auction, Silent Auction, Children's White Elephant, BINGO, Quilt Raffle, 50/50



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 Oct. 13.)

Shellbrook’s Town Council held its regular meeting in person and via teleconference on Tuesday, Oct. 13.

In attendance were 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.

Deputy Mayor Cheryl Ledding called council’s regular meeting to order around 5 p.m., beginning with the customary Treaty 6 land acknowledgement in recognition of Truth and Reconciliation, the approval of the evening’s agenda, and the adoption of the minutes from council’s Sept. 21 regular meeting.

Council then carried a motion to declare Thursday, Oct. 15, to be Purple Thursday, in recognition of the Shellbrook Royal Purple’s efforts to raise awareness about the intersection between brain injuries and interpersonal violence, before promptly moving on to the reports of administration and committees.

Under her report, CAO O’Halligan provided a brief update on the storm sewer repair project on 1st Street East, noting that dewatering will continue until materials for the repairs to the line are delivered. She added that the relining contractors are expected to come on Oct. 26.

O’Halligan also shared an update on continued work on the 2nd Avenue East lift station, noting that SaskPower had finally trenched in a power line that the town had been waiting for, meaning landscaping can proceed once arrangements with a local contractor are finalized.

Under recreation and culture, O’Halligan noted that Paradise Pools completed its assessment of the Shellbrook Swimming Pool and has provided a final report. Administration is now working to coordinate a meeting with the Parkland Pool Project Steering Committee to discuss the report in detail.

Finally, O’Halligan said meetings were held with the Theatre Committee & Cemetery Committee to plan for the future.

Under the Prairie Rising Municipal Consulting report, consultant Jim Puffalt noted that the town received an offer to purchase six lots. The caveat was that the developer has no definitive plan to build anything on the lots.

Puffalt suggested that town bylaws should be updated to make it clear that the town expects purchasers of lots to develop those lots, not just speculate and inflate prices. Council largely shared these concerns.

In the Sports Coordinator report, Kelly Herndier delivered news that Skate Shellbrook is on pause for the season, due to high ice time fees and lower registrations.

Council lamented the loss of the club for the season, with some councillors wondering about possibilities to subsidize the

club to keep rates lower.

Herndier also raised an issue with a visiting hockey team bringing crock pots into the Richardson Pioneer Recreation Centre, and suggested that all visiting teams should be advised that there’s no outside food or drink allowed in the facility.

Council agreed with this notion, and suggested that signs should be put up in the facility.

In an update from the most recent Public Works Committee meeting, it was noted that town administration is currently working on a plan for paving streets in town.

Elsewhere, Councillor Boettcher noted that she’d heard nothing but positive feedback about the town’s decision to award the waste removal contract to TJ Disposals. Other councillors noted that there seems to be a lot of excitement about the decision.

Closing out the reports with the Emergency Services report, Councillor Miller noted that he’s seen a lot of people crossing the centre line on Main Street. He suggested that the CSOs should do a traffic blitz and hand out more fines to tamp down on the behaviour.

Moving on to the Mayor and Council forum, Councillor Ledding said she’d had a complaint about the house that’s been on stilts behind the Shellbrook Motel for months. Calling it a safety issue, she suggested that the town get an update on when it will be moved.

Meanwhile, Councillor Boettcher said she’d had some questions about the costs to maintain the Shellbrook Sports

Grounds this year.

Due to short-staffing, the town brought in a contractor to handle much of the maintenance. Noting that the contractor did an excellent job of maintaining the grounds, and that it was no less cost-efficient, council was in favour of continuing to use the contractor for maintenance in the future.

Councillor Boettcher also raised her concerns about the sidewalk in front of ZB Chiro again. Councillor Miller suggested talking with Town Foreman Mike Tanchuk about whether the foam jacking of the stairs at the Post Office worked, noting that it could also be used for the sidewalk issue and in other areas around town.

In its lone item of un-

finished business, Council appointed Councillor Miller to sit on the regional EMO advisory board.

In new business, council began by renewing a town-held GIC for a one-year term, then defeated a motion to grant a municipal levy discount requested by a property owner, noting that it would set a precedent for others to ask for discounts.

Up next, council reviewed Bylaw 2026-010, the Fee Bylaw, and a proposed amendment to introduce a flat weekend rate of \$1,000 for the Shellbrook Curling Club to host bonspiels. The amendment will make hosting bonspiels more affordable for the club, while giving it some predictability for planning and budgeting club activ-

ities.

The bylaw would allow for the rate to be reviewed and adjusted in the future, depending on changes in operating costs for the curling rink (the town estimates the current annual cost to run the rink is \$195,127).

After some discussion, council agreed to give first and second readings to the bylaw.

Closing out the meeting, council approved a request from the Shellbrook Public Library to continue purchasing an additional 7 hours of open time per week. At a rate of \$1,363.44 per hour, the total cost to the town is \$9,544.08.

Council agreed that the library sees more than enough use to warrant the expenditure.

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4 P.M.

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Sincere and grateful thanks to the Parkland Integrated Healthcare Facility, *especially* the compassionate, efficient, and caring nurses & students – overworked, but never too busy to help. Thanks also to my wonderful many relatives & friends who visited me during my long hospital stay. Thanks for the flowers, cards, and well wishes.

Sincerely, Betty Anthony

FARM LAND FOR SALE

10 Quarters of farm land in the **RM of Round Hill**, some of the highest assessed land in the RM. This is an opportunity to increase your farming acres, purchase land that possibly works into your existing acres. Tenant currently farming the 2026 crop. This land is now looking for a new owner. Sellers will look at a complete package purchase or individual packages and quarters.

Section 13 must sell as one package due to access. NW-03 must sell with SE-10 for access.

9-2300 bus hopper bottom bins located on SW-14, power on site, 2 bins have some spoiled grain, 3 bins have air access but no fans. NW-03 has a 5000 bus bin with concrete floor.

MLS#SK049800

\$4,400,000

Presentation of offers in effect, all offers must be submitted to
Shawna Schira-Kroeker REMAX North Country by November 6, 2026 at 12:00pm.

Hidebrand Land

Google Earth

Land location	Assessed value	Cult. acres	Native Grass	not cultivated	Total Acres	2026 taxes
NW 03-48-13 W3	\$309,700.00	133		26.00	\$159.81	\$1,868.58
SW 04-48-13 W3	\$371,700.00	152		8.00	\$160.91	\$2,242.66
NE 10-48-13 W3	\$404,900.00	158		1.00	\$159.29	\$2,442.96
SE 10-48-13 W3	\$391,600.00	156		4.00	\$160.36	\$2,362.72
SW 14-48-13 W3	\$406,800.00	157		0.00	\$157.73	\$2,454.43
SW 16-48-13 W3	\$338,700.00	132		27.00	\$159.11	\$2,043.54
NE 13-48-14 W3	\$240,800.00	116		45.00	\$160.78	\$1,452.87
NW 13-48-14 W3	\$187,400.00	94		67.00	\$160.85	\$1,130.67
SE 13-48-14 W3	\$278,000.00	134		27.00	\$160.75	\$1,677.31
SW 13-48-14 W3	\$143,400.00	23	20	128.00	\$160.82	\$707.90
Total	\$3,073,000.00	1255	20	333.00	\$1,600.41	\$18,383.64

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Island Forests Open Houses

Island Forests 2027-28 & 2028-29 Harvest and Silviculture Plan

The Ministry of Environment invites you to an open house to discuss its draft 2027-28 and 2028-29 Harvest and Silviculture Plan for the Island Forests – the Canwood, Nisbet, Fort à la Corne, and Torch River provincial forests. The plan provides details on potential harvesting areas that will guide annual operating plans, as well as planned forest renewal activities.

Staff from the ministry’s Forest Service and forest companies will be on hand to share information and answer questions. Traditional knowledge and local information on the potential impact of this proposed project are welcomed and valued. Each session will run **from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.**, at these locations:

Monday, October 26 – Melfort
Kerry Vickar Centre, 206 Bemister Avenue East

Tuesday, October 27– Choiceland
Seniors Centre, 116 1st Avenue

Wednesday, October 28 – Prince Albert
University of Saskatchewan Prince Albert Campus, Atrium, 1061 Central Avenue

For more information, please contact forester Noah Cooper, 306-940-8057, noah.cooper@gov.sk.ca.

saskatchewan.ca/forestry

Saskatchewan

Claims of media bias unsupported by reality

Over the past decade, the general public's attitude toward the media has undergone a monumental shift.

Some of this can be attributed to the proliferation of social media, which has the power to twist narratives and shape opinions before reputable journalists can bring the facts to the discussion.

As a famous quote, often misattributed to Mark Twain, tells us: "A lie travels around the globe while the truth is putting on its shoes."

This is truer than ever today, given that misinformation can travel around the world with just a few clicks. And once that misinformation takes root in people's minds – much like a noxious weed – it's almost impossible to eradicate it.

As the writer Jonathan Swift once posited, "Falsehood flies, and the truth comes limping after it; so that when men come to be undeceiv'd, it is too late; the jest is over, and the tale has had its effect."

Few have so successfully seized the reins of information and misinformation as U.S. President Donald Trump, who essentially coined the term "fake news" during his rise to power in 2016.

In 2020, the Committee to Protect Journalists published a report detailing Mr. Trump's campaign against the news media. That report documented nearly 1,900 tweets in which he used terms like "fake news," "enemy of the people," "dishonest," and "corrupt" to attack and dismiss any negative news coverage about him.

In 600 of those tweets, Mr. Trump called out specific news organizations. And in another 400 tweets, he specifically identified 100 different journalists.

Mr. Trump has only doubled down on this strategy in his second presidency. And it's worked so well that his most loyal followers could be presented with tangible evidence of his wrongdoing and still dismiss it as "fake news."

Given the historical closeness between Canada and the U.S., this attitude has bled over the border.

Historically speaking, Canadian news organizations have tended to have their own biases. In the late 1800s and early



JORDAN
TWISS
~
News Editor

1900s, newspapers wore their partisan alignments proudly.

However, as journalistic standards evolved, neutrality was meant to be the name of the game.

But subtle biases still linger, and over the past decade, in particular, the general belief is that Canadian news organizations overwhelmingly skew to the left – a belief fueled by Conservative Leader Pierre Poilievre, who has carried on his party's long-standing campaign against the CBC and

used Trump-style tactics to limit the media's access to him.

Some of the attitude shift can be attributed to the government of former Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, which, in 2019, introduced \$600 million (over five years) in subsidies and tax credits for struggling news organizations.

This, perhaps understandably, opened the door to accusations that these news organizations had been reduced to "propaganda arms" for Mr. Trudeau's government.

But if Canadian newspapers have become nothing more than government mouthpieces, they're certainly not displaying their loyalty.

In 2021, independent Canadian news organization The Maple did a deep dive into Canadian newspapers' endorsements of prime ministerial candidates in federal elections between 1980 and 2021.

Overwhelmingly, Canadian newspapers have endorsed Conservative candidates (56 per cent) over Liberals (20 per cent), and the chart only leans more Conservative with each year.

Indeed, despite the perception that every news organization fawned over Mr. Trudeau, only four major Canadian newspapers endorsed him in 2015 (arguably at the height of former Prime Minister Stephen Harper's unpopularity).

In 2019, just three publications endorsed Mr. Trudeau. And by the snap pandemic election in 2021, the Toronto Star was the lone newspaper to offer him an endorsement.

While one can oppose government funding for newspapers for myriad reasons – say, because it would be more



beneficial for the federal government to support newspapers with advertising dollars rather than subsidies – the accusations of creating Liberal bias simply don't pass muster.

Not only because these government-funded news organizations continue to endorse Conservatives, but also because the funding doesn't discriminate based on political leanings.

With nearly 120 newspapers in print across Canada, Postmedia is by far the country's largest newspaper corporation (despite being mostly American owned), and like Canadian newspapers of old, its flagship titles like the National Post and the Toronto Sun make no attempt to conceal their Conservative political leanings.

Despite this, Postmedia is also one of the largest recipients of government subsidies and tax credits.

At the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, the company received more than \$35 million in government supports, including \$21 million from the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy, and \$14.5 million in other tax credits.

While that period was somewhat of an outlier, Postmedia has continued to receive millions of dollars in government subsidies and tax credits every year since.

If this money is being given to Postmedia with the expectation that its publi-

cations will toe the government line, the media giant certainly isn't holding up its end of the bargain, and Prime Minister Mark Carney's government seems to have no interest in forcing compliance.

The government arguably had reason to at the end of September, when the National Post published an op-ed by Yoni Goldstein titled "Jewish law tells us how to deal with Avi Lewis."

The headline alone is a thinly veiled threat against the federal NDP leader, who had the audacity to speak out against what he and others call an ongoing genocide in Gaza.

But the remainder of the op-ed goes even further, referencing Biblical passages of dissenters being swallowed by the earth or consumed by fire.

"When a Jew endangers the Jewish community, the community is obligated to stop them," Mr. Goldstein wrote.

Mr. Goldstein later invoked the idea of the "rodef" – a Jew who is actively pursuing another with the intent to harm or kill them, and a term used to justify the assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in 1995.

Nearly a month later, the not-so-subtle call to violence has led to zero consequences for Postmedia or the National Post.

If the media is bought and paid for by the federal government, it might want to ask for its money back.

Shellbrook Chronicle

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Spiritwood Herald

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

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Shellbrook elects new mayor, RMs acclaim councillors

By JORDAN TWISS
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

Residents of Shellbrook went to the polls on Wednesday, Oct. 14, to cast their ballots for the town’s new mayor.

With three qualified candidates in the running, voters selected Jason Good for the role. Of the 342 ballots cast, Good received 215 votes. Meanwhile, fellow contenders Scott Lambie and Elizabeth D. McClellan received 67 votes and 59 votes, respectively.

“I am deeply honoured and humbled by the trust that the residents of Shellbrook have placed in me by electing me as their mayor,” Good said.

“My priority in the first few

weeks will be to immerse myself in all aspects of the Town’s operations, gaining a better understanding of the capital projects that are planned and those already underway. I also look forward to building strong working relationships with my fellow council members, town staff, and residents to ensure we have a collaborative and productive partnership.”

Good says he also intends to prioritize improving communication between council and residents, calling open, transparent, and timely communication “essential to building trust and keeping our community informed and engaged.”

The election of a new Shellbrook Mayor comes as rural

municipalities across the region are electing or acclaiming new councillors for their even-numbered divisions.

In the R.M. of Leask, Keith Desjardins was acclaimed as the new Division 2 Councillor, while Joan Sanftleben will return as Division 4 Councillor.

Meanwhile, in the R.M. of Medstead, Dan Pain was acclaimed as the new Division 6 Councillor, and in the R.M. of Shellbrook Jay Ferster and Ivan tenBos were acclaimed for another term as Councillors for Divisions 4 and 6, respectively.

It’s all familiar faces in the R.M. of Canwood, where Gerald Muller (Division 2), Mario Boisvert (Division 4), and Cody Lockhart (Division 6) were all

acclaimed to new terms.

And in the R.M. of Blaine Lake, Michael Horner was acclaimed as Division 2 Councillor, while Lionel Casavant was acclaimed to a new term as Division 6 Councillor.

Last but not least, three councillors were acclaimed in the R.M. of Spiritwood, with two of them being newcomers: Tess Hodgson in Division 2, Steve Buban in Division 4 (returning), and Mary-Jean Roth in Division 6.

While there were many acclamations, there will be elections in some rural municipalities.

In the R.M. of Shellbrook, Phil Hamel and Levi Moore are vying for Division 2 Councillor, and in the R.M. of Blaine

Lake, the Division 4 contest is between James Burak and Alan Lavoie.

Meanwhile, the R.M. of Big River has two positions up for election, with Justin Sullivan (incumbent) and Cooper Davis in the running for Division 2, and Maurice Denis (incumbent) and Carol Poach in the running for Division 3.

Elsewhere, the R.M. of Medstead has an election for Division 4 between Terrel Hill and Tracy Lockhart.

And finally, some rural municipalities are still seeking candidates, including: the R.M. of Canwood (Division 1), the R.M. of Medstead (Division 2), and the R.M. of Spiritwood (Division 1).

Layoffs begin at Big River saw mill

By JORDAN TWISS
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

As the first round of layoffs begins at the Big River saw mill, workers are demanding more action from the provincial and federal governments to protect Saskatchewan’s forestry sector.

The demand came in Prince Albert on Friday, Oct. 16, where Brandon Nicholson of the United Steelworkers and NDP Northern Affairs Shadow Minister Jordan McPhail spoke to reporters.

“I’ve had members

from the community that don’t even work at the mill reaching out to me personally and expressing their concern about what’s going to happen to their community,” Nicholson said.

“Not just whether mortgages will be paid on time, but what kind of signal this would send to the future for their home care, for their schools? Is a grocery store viable? All these things become now a matter of question.”

Carrier Forest Products announced a curtailment of operations at the Big River saw mill, affecting 117 jobs, in July.

The company said the difficult decision was made necessary by a “combination of ongoing challenges facing the forestry sector and the Big

River operation specifically.”

In particular, Carrier highlighted persistently weak market conditions and the recent decline in value of the Canadian dollar, which has significantly increased the cost of cross-border financing.

Locally, the company said the long-term impacts of 2025’s wildfire season have reduced timber volumes for the Big River sawmill, creating further challenges for the facility.

“As each new and significant challenge emerged, management was cautiously optimistic that the headwinds facing both the industry generally, and those specific to the Big River facility, would improve,” Carrier said in the release. “However,

that has not occurred, and certain recent events do not indicate that improvement will be seen in the short term.”

Though layoffs have begun, Carrier says some limited activities will continue at the sawmill until the end of January 2027 to allow for an “orderly curtailment of operations.”

Additionally, the company has emphasized that the facility may not remain permanently closed.

Brandon Nicholson suggested that increased access to trees further north and a boost in domestic demand for forestry products could help

prevent job losses in the sector.

“We’ve got operations to build prefabricated homes right in our own local, and we could be using our goods in those operations to build the future of affordable housing in the province.”

For its part, the Government of Saskatchewan says business and worker support teams have visited Big River five times since the layoffs were announced, and also continues to help tariff-impacted workers with the Canada-Saskatchewan Workforce Tariff Response program, supported with \$15.6

million in funding over three years.

“As of Sept. 30, over \$791,000 has been invested in the forestry sector to support approximately 133 workers with eight different employers in five communities, including Carrier Forest Products Ltd. in Big River prior to their announcement of layoffs,” the government said in a statement.

The government said the funding has supported employee training and retraining, along with wage subsidies intended to help employers retain workers amid tariff-related market pressures.

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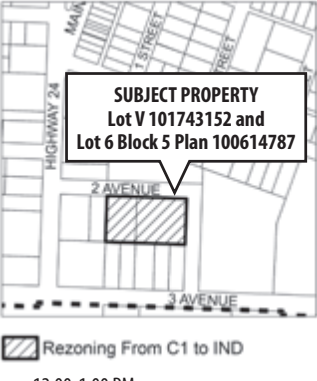
Pursuant to Section 207 of *Planning and Development Act*, a Public Hearing will be held on **Tuesday, November 10th at 6:30 PM at the Village Office located at 22 Main Street, Leoville, SK** concerning the proposed Zoning Amendment application for the property legally described as: Lot V 101743152 and Lot 6 Block 5 Plan 100614787. The street address for this property is 114 and 120 – 2nd Avenue, Leoville, SK S0J 1N0. See location map below:

The applicant proposes to rezone the property from Village Centre Commercial District (C1) to Industrial District (IND). If adopted, this amendment bylaw will allow the applicant to operate a salvage yard.

A copy of the proposed bylaw and relevant documents may be inspected at the Public Hearing or prior to the hearing until November 10th, 2026 at 4:30 PM at the Village of Leoville Office located at 22 Main Street. Please contact the Development Officer during office hours Tuesday to Friday (excluding public holidays) 8:30 AM-4:30 PM, closed during lunch hours 12:00-1:00 PM.

The Public Hearing for this bylaw will be chaired by Mayor Craswell or his alternate. All persons who consider their interest in their property to be affected by the proposed bylaw shall be afforded an opportunity to be heard in person or by written submission at the Public Hearing. Written submissions can also be prepared in advance of the Public Hearing and must be received at the Village of Leoville Office by 4:30 PM Tuesday, November 10th to ensure they are included in the public record.

Development Officer:
22 Main Street, Leoville, SK S0J 1N0
Phone: 306-984-2140
Email: leoville@sasktel.net





EMPLOYMENT
OPPORTUNITY

The R.M. of Spiritwood No. 496 is accepting applications for a permanent, part-time (two days/week) asset management position to track & record asset management & road maintenance costs as well as some administrative duties.

The municipality serves a rural agricultural and recreational region with a strong community base and offers an excellent opportunity for an individual seeking employment in an office setting and exceptional quality of life in rural Saskatchewan.

Duties/Responsibilities

- Asset Management: maintain asset management registry & road maintenance data entry;
- Maintain filing systems, order supplies, and provide customer service to ratepayers;
- Issue receipts for payments and receivables;
- Answer phone and direct calls, inquiries and complaints, update websites and social media;
- Manage cemetery records;
- Other Duties: Assist with grant applications, learn new software and systems as required, and perform other duties as assigned by the CAO.

Qualifications

- Proficient in Microsoft Office software (pdf documents, word documents and excel spreadsheets);
- Strong interpersonal, organizational, time management and communication skills;
- High attention to detail and accuracy;
- Ability to multi-task;
- The ability to work independently with minimal supervision and also be a team player;
- Ability to maintain confidentiality;

Education/Training

- High School Diploma or Office Administration certification;
- Previous municipal or administrative office experience will be considered an asset.

The RM of Spiritwood offers a competitive salary with a comprehensive benefits package including a pension plan, extended health and dental benefits, short-term disability and long-term disability.

Salary will commensurate with experience and qualifications. Security checks will be required upon offer of employment.

Interested individuals should submit their resume, including qualifications, work experience and three work related references to the RM of Spiritwood No. 496 at Box 340, Spiritwood, SK. S0J 2M0 or via email to admin@rmofspiritwood.ca. Ad will remain open until a suitable candidate has been found.

The RM of Spiritwood thanks all applicants for their interest; however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

Sask. launches Farm Security Act review

By **JORDAN TWISS**
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

The Government of Saskatchewan has launched a comprehensive review of The Saskatchewan Farm Security Act and is seeking public input on the legislation.

The act is designed to protect family farms, regulate farm land ownership, and manage farm foreclosures and debt enforcement in Saskatchewan.

“Our government wants to hear from Saskatchewan producers and residents about The Saskatchewan Farm Security Act,” Agriculture Minister David Marit said in a statement. “Farm land is one of Saskatchewan’s most valuable assets, and we want to ensure the legislative framework governing its ownership and protection continues to meet the needs of Saskatchewan people.”

The government’s public consultation comes after the Agricultural Producers’ Association of Saskatchewan conducted an independent review of The Saskatchewan Farm Security Act that started in August 2025.

Done in partnership with Praxis Consulting, the independent review — called Enhancing Public Trust in Saskatchewan Land Ownership Policy & Regulation — aimed to allow APAS to make evidence-based recommendations to address ongoing producer concerns about foreign investment, rising land costs, transparency, and the long-term sustainability of family farms.

“Accessible and affordable farmland is essential to preserving Saskatchewan’s farming future,” said APAS President Bill Prybylski in a statement.

“Producers are worried about foreign cap-

ital, obscure corporate structures, and the lack of clarity surrounding ownership—not just for today, but for future generations.”

According to APAS, a key concern is the growing impact of farmland ownership trends on intergenerational land transfers.

Rising land costs, speculative investments, and increasing foreign interest in Saskatchewan farmland, it says, are making it harder for family farm operations to pass farmland between generations. These trends threaten both the financial stability of family farms and the broader sustainability of Saskatchewan’s rural communities.

“Saskatchewan farmland must remain accessible and affordable for the next generation of producers,” said Prybylski.

“We are committed to finding practical solutions that safeguard producers and the

future of agriculture. This review will equip us with the facts and tools needed to advocate for stronger policies that support farm families and rural communities.”

The government says its online survey takes about 10 to 15 minutes to complete and all answers are confidential. The survey will gather information on the perceptions, use, and effectiveness of the Act, with a focus on: farm land ownership; home quarter protection; and farm foreclosure protections.

The survey is open until Nov. 30.

Survey data will be used as part of the review of The Saskatchewan Farm Security Act to ensure potential changes meet the needs of Saskatchewan people and producers.

To participate, visit: [Saskatchewan.ca/farmland-consultation](https://saskatchewan.ca/farmland-consultation).

Minutes of an RM of Spiritwood meeting

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

The Regular Meeting of the Council of the Rural Municipality of Spiritwood No. 496 was held on Tuesday, Sept. 8, 2026, in Council Chambers located at 218 Main Street in Spiritwood, Sask.

Present: Reeve — Shirley Dauvin, Division 2 — Dale Wasden, Division 3 — Terry Wingerter, Division 4 — Steve Buban, Division 5 — Heather Warkentin, Division 6 — Den-

nis Laventure, CAO — Colette Bussiere, and Foreman — Darcy Laventure.

Absent: Division 1— Vacant.

A quorum being present the meeting was called to order at 8:06 a.m. by Reeve, Shirley Dauvin.

Wasden: That the Foreman’s report having been read now be filed. Carried

Foreman Darcy Laventure left the council meeting at 9:35 a.m.

Warkentin: That the minutes of the Aug. 11 Regular Meeting of Council be ap-

proved as presented. Carried

Wingerter: That the following administrative reports having been read now be filed: Administrator’s Report; Aspen Ridge Lagoon Inspection Report — July 14, 2026; and Spruce Bay Water Treatment Plant Inspection Report — Aug. 13, 2026. Carried

Wasden: That the following protective service reports having been read now be filed: SOTI Report — July 2026; NWCSS Monthly Stats Report — July 2026; CSP Report — July 2026; and Spiritwood

Fire Dept. — Aug. 23, 2026 Meeting Update. Carried

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

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

Buban: That the “List of Accounts” as listed on the attached Schedule “A” forming part of these minutes be passed for payment: Cheque No. 15618-15649 (\$299,991.29); EFT No. 2025-0128 - 2025-0143 (\$628,671.30); and Payroll File No. 0074, 0076 (\$54,098.15). Carried

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

Wingerter: That we authorize the Foreman Darcy Laventure to purchase a used sidearm from Ritchie Bros. Auction and a 2026 Schulte mower from Flaman Sales. Carried

Warkentin: Due to the excessive amounts of rainfall the area has received, the RM of Spiritwood No. 496 declines entering into a Road Maintenance Agreement with Len’s Trucking to haul aggregate on Grid No. 946 at this time. Council may consider entering into a road maintenance agreement once road conditions improve. Carried

Warkentin: That no compensation will be paid for a damaged window in a residence located on Lot 4 Blk 2 in Green Jewel Estates, as it cannot be determined that the damage was specifically caused by the Municipality. Carried

Laventure: That we consent to the placement of appropriate fill material in holes (divots) that were created by the removal of tree stumps, within the Environmental Reserve (ER) fronting Blk 3 in South Shore Ridge located on PT SW 06-49-12-W3. The

applicant is solely responsible for all design, safety, and workmanship aspects associated with this approval and all work must be completed in accordance with the regulations of the Water Security Agency’s Aquatic Habitat Protection Permit. Carried

Reeve Shirley Dauvin adjourned the regular meeting of council for the public hearing at 11:01 a.m.

Reeve Shirley Dauvin called the public hearing, to hear comments on Bylaw No. 2026-3, being a Bylaw to amend the Rural Municipality of Spiritwood No. 496 Zoning Bylaw, to order at 11:01 a.m.

Reeve Shirley Dauvin provided a summary and the intent of the Zoning Bylaw Amendment being proposed by Bylaw No. 2026-3.

The RM of Spiritwood did not receive any representations or submissions on the proposed bylaw amendment.

Reeve, Shirley Dauvin declared the public hearing be adjourned at 11:04 a.m. and called the regular meeting of council back to order.

Buban: That Bylaw No. 2026-3, being a bylaw to Amend the Zoning Bylaw, be read a second time. Carried

Warkentin: That Bylaw No. 2026-3, being a bylaw to Amend the Zoning Bylaw, be read a third time. Carried

Laventure: That the request to construct a low-level crossing on Rge Rd 3120A located between Twp Rd 515 and Twp Rd 520 be declined due to cost and as it does not serve the interest of the public generally. Carried

Wasden: That we consent to the consolidation of Parcel No. 129016650, being Lot 5 Blk 2 Plan 82B02078 with Parcel No. 129016751, being Lot 6 Blk 2 Plan 82B02078 to accommodate residential development under common ownership. Carried

Warkentin: That we apply the 293 land exemption to Roll 1251 000 and abate mu-

nicipal taxes in the amount of \$1,431.03 abd education tax in the amount of \$948.97. Carried

Wingerter: That we abate municipal tax in the amount of \$1,282.95 and education tax in the amount of \$1,048.25 for Roll No. 6098 000 due to the loss of a residential dwelling by fire. Carried

Laventure: That we abate tax enforcement costs as well as interest for Roll 6329 000 due to an error in the mailing address made by the municipality. Carried

Wingerter: Whereas, NE 10-51-09-W3 and SE 10-51-09-W3 are crown leases and will not have access should they be severed from the adjacent deeded quarters.

And whereas, the current tax loss compensation funding is not adequate, creating long term financial losses & hardship for the RM of Spiritwood when land is transferred to TLE.

Therefore, we object to the transfer of Section 08-51-09-W3, E 1/2 10-51-09-W3, SW 15-51-09-W3, SW 16-51-09-W3, N 1/2 16-51-09-W3 and S 1/2 17- 51-09-W3. Carried

Buban: That we purchase a third traffic counter and send one of our traffic counters away to be repaired. Carried

Wingerter: That the council meeting be closed to the public at 12:12 p.m. under the authority of Part III of The Local Authority Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, to go in camera to discuss Human Resources. Carried

CAO Colette Bussiere left council chambers at 12:43 p.m.

Colette Bussiere returned to council chambers at 1:01 p.m.

The regular meeting of council was out of camera and resumed at 1:01 p.m.

Laventure: That the correspondence, having been read, now be filed. Carried

Warkentin: That the meeting be adjourned.

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Shellbrook Chronicle
& Spiritwood Herald



Solutions to food sovereignty are obvious

The idea of food sovereignty is not a new one by any means.

A bit of research suggests food sovereignty — the right of people, communities, and countries to define their own agricultural, labour, fishing, food, and land policies — was coined in 1996 by the international peasant movement La Via Campesina at the World Food Summit.

That is three decades ago, and one might suggest we are further than ever from the core principles.

Of course, some might suggest those principles

don't have a great deal of relevance — at least in countries where the majority of the population is crammed into cities.

Certainly, living in a community where at best your yard is a postage stamp of green, and at worst you are on the 13th floor of a concrete construct reaching toward the clouds, taking direct control of your food source is challenging if not near impossible.

That said, the cost-of-living is a very real issue for most of us right now.

Wars, tariffs, corporate greed, global weather change, shifting world

alliances, and a range of other factors have pushed prices higher, impacting everything we need. We see it when we license our vehicles — rather important for most living in an area as vast as the Canadian Prairies — heating our homes, turning on



CALVIN DANIELS

the lights at night, and of course when buying food. Rare would be the grocery shopper today who does not have a lament over the cost to fill a shopping cart with items of sustenance.

While we have little ability to influence many of our costs, we can look at our food bill and consider ways to lower it.

Coming from a farm in the days of my youth, I recall how food was much more hands on back then for many.

While obviously no one is going to raise a steer in the backyard in a town or city, the idea of a garden

producing potatoes and veggies, salsa and pickles, and even jams and jellies is not beyond many urbanites, at least on the Prairies.

There are yards for homeowners. Concrete might be low maintenance, and grass looks nice, but we can eat neither. Perhaps rather than lamenting grocery store prices, yard space might be better suited to be a vegetable garden.

One can have bees and, in forward-thinking communities, chickens too.

And certainly, there are 'municipally owned' properties which could

be community gardens.

In other words, food sovereignty really needs to start with a return to the individual taking back even a small portion of producing what they consume.

Imagine for a moment the amount of vegetables which might be grown in a city such as Yorkton if every backyard, every boulevard, every flat-topped business building, was dedicated to producing food.

Sometimes the solutions are right there in front of us, we just need to take advantage of them.

Federal bill targets red tape for farmers

By JORDAN TWISS
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

A new omnibus bill set to be tabled by the federal government is promising to slash red tape for producers across the country.

Bill S-7, officially called the Cutting Red Tape for All Canadians Act, would bring said regulatory cuts to 31 pieces of existing federal legislation, resulting in quicker approvals for agricultural inputs that have already been greenlit in other countries, and streamlining and updating rules for farm marketing

boards and cash advances paid to farmers.

All told, about a third of the provisions within the bill target agriculture and agri-food, such as an amendment to the Agricultural Marketing Programs Act, which governs the Advance Payments Program (APP).

Under the current APP rules, changes to maximum loan limits or interest-free thresholds require joint approval from both the Minister of Agriculture and the Minister of Finance. Bill S-7 would grant the Ministry of Agriculture sole authority to approve changes, helping

to speed up the process.

The government says it would also simplify the paperwork required for farmers to access cash advances, including simplified proof-of-sale reporting and procedures for establishing first-ranking security.

Elsewhere, amendments to the Feeds Act, Fertilizers Act, Seeds Act, and Health of Animals Act would allow the federal government to officially recognize work done by "trusted foreign regulatory systems," making good on a prior commitment from the federal government.

This means that rather than duplicating trials already completed in allied countries, Canadian regulators could rely on foreign data to approve new feed, fertilizer, seed, and veterinary products.

However, Bill S-7 doesn't include amendments to the Pest Control Products Act, which governs crop protection products.

Further changes to the Seeds Act would also make it easier for the government to update the list of regulated weed seeds, a move it says will protect producers from emerging invasive species.

An update to Canadian Food Inspection Agency Act would allow the agency to use electronic tools and services, reducing reliance on duplicative pa-

per-based reporting requirements for producers and processors.

The bill would also amend the Agricultural Products Marketing Act to remove more than 160 outdated farm marketing rules and streamline the process for provincial and territorial marketing boards to update fees and sell products interprovincially and internationally.

Finally, amendments to the Food and Drugs Act would reduce regulatory inconsistencies with an eye to aligning more closely with the Safe Food for Canadians Act by removing redundant certification requirements that the government says can act as trade barriers for Canadian food exports.

Bill S-7 was introduced in the senate by Senator Pierre Moreau on Wednesday, Oct. 7. If approved by the Senate, it will be put before the House of Commons.

Crop Report: Oct. 6 to 12

By MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
Submitted

Producers continue to harvest remaining crop and complete fall fieldwork; however, rain and snow over the weekend slowed these activities in many areas of the province. Producers remain hopeful that favourable conditions will allow them to return to the field before winter.

Provincially, harvest is 93 per cent complete. The southwest and west-central regions are the most advanced at 98 and 97 per cent complete, followed by the east-central and northwest regions at 91 per cent. The northeast and southeast regions are 89 per cent complete.

Many areas of the province received rain and snow, with precipitation amounts varying by region. The highest precipitation was reported in

the Coalfields area at 28 millimetres (mm), followed by Mount Pleasant and Enniskillen with 24 mm and the Indian Head area with 22 mm. The precipitation was beneficial for producers who had completed harvest, improving soil moisture conditions ahead of spring seeding.

Harvest operations are nearing completion across the province, with only a small number of acres remaining in the field.

Current crop yields remain consistent with the previous report, with average provincial yields remaining at or above historical averages for most crop types. However, yield variability persists due to differences in rainfall distribution and the range of agronomic challenges experienced throughout the growing season.

Minor levels of environmental damage from

wind, frost and waterfowl were reported in the remaining unharvested crops. Flooding and wildlife also caused some damage to crop left in the field and in open grain bags; however, damage remains limited and is not considered significant.

With harvest nearly complete, producers are turning their attention to post-harvest activities such as weed control, fertilizer application, harrowing fields and servicing equipment. Livestock producers continue to move cattle from pasture, haul bales and market livestock in preparation for winter.

The Crop Report will not be published for the October 20 to 26, 2026, reporting period. The final Crop Report of 2026 will be issued on November 5, 2026.

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

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Aardvarks cap off undefeated season

By JORDAN TWISS
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

The W.P. Sandin High School Aardvarks closed out their regular season under the Friday Night Lights on Oct. 16, putting their undefeated record on the line against the Rosthern Huskies.

As has been the case throughout the brief 2026 football season, the Aardvarks wasted no time kicking their offence into overdrive, thundering down the field on their first possession and jumping ahead 8-0 on a touchdown run by Reagan Collins.

The Aardvarks' special teams also started the game firing on all cylinders, pouncing on a Huskies fumble on the ensuing kickoff to hand the ball right back to the offence. The Aardvarks quickly struck again, this time on a pass from quarterback Dalen Thiel to Taiden Wrench.

Given its first turn on the field, the Aardvarks' defence



Aardvark defenders Devlin Capner and Tyson Hrechka team up for a tackle.

also made a strong showing by shutting down the Huskies. Once again, the Aardvarks didn't squander the opportunity, as Thiel called his own number to give them a 22-0 lead.

On the Aardvarks' next possession, Thiel found the end-

zone through the air yet again, this time on a pass to Collins that gave the home team a 30-0 lead.

Already facing a mountain of a comeback, the Huskies kept fighting and finally broke the shutout on a quarterback keeper by Anthony Dingwall.

But the Aardvarks were unfazed, countering with a touchdown run from Will Kasner to take a 38-6 lead, then following up with their second fumble recovery on the ensuing kickoff to close out the first quarter.

The Aardvarks didn't let up once the teams switched ends, rushing ahead 60-6 on three consecutive touchdown runs by Carson Nordin and Camden Olsen, and Josh Lamai.

The Huskies had the last word in the first half, however, closing the gap to 60-14 on a short touchdown pass.

The brief halftime break did nothing to slow the Aardvarks'

momentum, as the team's defence opened the second half with a big interception by Lamai, followed by another touchdown run from Olsen.

And when the Huskies returned the next kickoff for a touchdown, the Aardvarks responded with a rushing touchdown by Braxton Hart.

Then, on the next Huskies drive, Devlin Capner made the Aardvarks' second interception of the third quarter.

The offence made the most of it, scoring on a third touchdown run by Olsen. But the Huskies kept biting back, ending the quarter with a touchdown pass and the score at 82-30 in the Aardvarks' favour.

As the action moved to the fourth quarter, the question was less whether the Aardvarks would win and more whether they would break the 100-point mark.

Opening the quarter with a touchdown pass from second-string quarterback Zander Archibald to Will Kasner, the Aardvarks surged ahead 90-30. And on the next Huskies drive, Josh Lamai scooped up a fumble and ran it into the endzone to put the Aardvarks up 97-30.

The Huskies countered with another touchdown pass to close the gap to 97-38. But with time ticking down, the Aardvarks rushed down the field one last time before scoring on a short run by Mathieu Denis to take a 103-38 lead.

One last touchdown pass for the Huskies cemented a final score of 103-46, allowing the Aardvarks to end their regular season a perfect 6-0.

The Aardvarks will host the provincial quarterfinal on Saturday, Oct. 31, competing against either Assiniboia or Rosetown. Kickoff for the game is set for 1 p.m.



Huskies quarterback Anthony Dingwall reaches for a fumbled ball while being tackled by Aardvark defender Arland Anderson.

Canwood Library fall highlights

By BEV WYATT
Branch Librarian

The Canwood Public Library has been bustling with activity this fall, offering opportunities for learning, creativity, and relaxation.

Grade 1/2 students enjoyed a Safety Scouts activity and learning about farm safety. Twelve children went home with a safety vest, pledge, certificate and stickers. This program encourages safe habits and awareness around the farm, particularly at this time of the year.

Third Eye Energy (Chad and Janelle) brought relaxation and calm to participants with a restorative sound bath session. This offered participants a chance to unwind and experience the soothing effects of sound and vibration.

Kids Club is in full swing, keeping young minds busy with fun, creative activities, and the joy of listening to a good book. Crafters Choice is also underway, bringing together those who enjoy visiting and sharing their creative activity.



Children took part in a Safety Scouts activity at the library at the end of September.



Aardvarks running back Taiden Wrench rushes off to the endzone.

U18 Elks score first win of season

By JORDAN TWISS
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

The U18 AA Parkland Elks hosted the Saskatoon Sabercats for their second meeting of the season, looking not only for revenge but for their first win of the 2026-2027 regular season.

After suffering a 4-1 loss to the Sabercats just a couple weeks ago, the Elks came out with energy, leading to a fast-paced, back-and-forth opening to the game.

Though the Sabercats out-shot the Elks 22-11 through the first 20 minutes of action, it was the Elks who drew first blood late in the period, when Logan Fisher found Davin Hart with a long lead pass and Hart did some nifty stickhandling to slip the puck into the Sabercats' goal.

With a strong penalty kill to close out the period, the Elks were able to hold onto their 1-0 lead until the buzzer sounded.

In a second period that mirrored the first, both teams came out energized. This time, however, it was the Sabercats



Sabercats forward Beck Dickinson rifles an off-balance shot on the Elks goal, but is denied by goalie Liam Bergen.

who struck first, taking advantage of an Elks penalty to score on a rebound. Sloan Harder netted the goal, with assists from Xavier Wolfe and Beck

Dickinson.

The Sabercats used this goal to build their momentum, eventually taking a 2-1 lead when Brett Wawryk found the

back of the net on an odd-angled shot. Wyatt Strawson and Nicolas Delaire assisted on the goal.

Though the Elks fired just six

shots on goal through the second period, they made those shots count. Shortly after the second Sabercats goal, Camden Olsen took a feed from behind the Sabercats net and tapped it home from right in front of the goal. Logan Fisher earned the only assist on the goal.

Then, with time quickly winding down in the period, Danec Wilson slipped a puck just between Sabercats goalie Jerome Klassen and the post to give the Elks a 3-2 lead. Jaxson Boyer assisted on the goal.

Facing a one-goal deficit as the action got underway in the third period, the Sabercats kept the pressure on the Elks for the final 20 minutes of play, but failed to close the gap thanks to some highlight reel-worthy saves by Elks netminder Liam Bergen.

For their part, the Elks continued to choose their shots well, going up 4-2 on a gritty goal from Wilson, assisted by Burke Florence and Camden Olsen.

And with the advantage of a late power play, the Elks showcased patience and strong control of the offensive zone, wearing down the Sabercats until Olsen netted his second goal of the game. Merek Tait and Davin Hart assisted on the play.

The Elks held on for the remainder of the period, clinching a 5-2 victory.

This Friday, Oct. 23, the Elks host the West Central Wheat Kings at the Richardson Pioneer Recreation Centre. Puck drop for the game is set for 7:30.

The following night, the team hits the road for the first time this season, travelling to Humboldt to face off against the Humboldt Broncos.



Elks goalie Liam Bergen dives to make a desperate save on Sabercats forward Kason Shewchuk.



Elks forward Dalen Thiel backhands a puck on the Sabercats goal, but fails to score.

Town of Blaine Lake council minutes

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

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council for the Town of Blaine Lake held at the Blaine Lake Town Office located at 301 Main St, Blaine Lake, SK S0J 0J0 on Tuesday, Aug. 18, 2026.

Council present: Mayor Tom Mayer, Councillor Jack Androsoff, Councillor Melissa Johnson, Councillor Barry Glencross, Councillor Tonya Koal, Councillor Melvy Sanchez, and Councillor Karleigh Warkentin.

Staff present: Acting CAO Louanne Roschuk.

Mayor Mayer called the meeting to order at 4 p.m.

Delegation: Town Council formally accepts the resignation of Kelley Caron effective Aug. 17, 2026, and wishes him

well in his future endeavors.

Mayer: That the following items be added to the agenda: 8(h) 16-43 Cash Injection, 10 (f) Committees, 10 (g) Main Street Highway Repair, 10 (h) SaskEnergy Gas Line to Cadrain Elevator. Carried

Warkentin: That the agenda be adopted as amended. Carried

Glencross: That the following Minutes be accepted as circulated: July 18 Regular Meeting. Carried

Councillor Warkentin and Councillor Sanchez left council chambers at 4:15 p.m.

Koal: That council approved cheques 3747 and 3748 for \$3,990.06. Carried

Councillor Warkentin and Councillor Sanchez returned to council chambers at 4:17 p.m.

Glencross: That Accounts for Ratification 2026-0062 to 2026-0071 be approved in the amount of \$21,323.34, Cheque Numbers 3743 to 3773 in the amount of \$145,298.63, with the exception of Cheques 3747 and 3748 for \$3,990.06, Staff Payroll in the amount of \$18,221.64, Council Payroll in the amount of \$1,540.00, Utility payments in the amount of \$5,902.66, and MasterCard in the amount of \$3,230.82. Carried

Johnson: That the July 2026 Financial Statement, Variance Report, Bank Reconciliation be acknowledged as presented. Carried

Androsoff: That Council request Administration to obtain a few more quotes or the office stairs to review prior to deciding. Carried

Androsoff: That Council tables shop lighting to the 2027 budget. Carried

Johnson: That Council accepts the quote from Feller Electric to install a Vega Level Controller for \$6,654.38 plus taxes. Carried

Mayer: That Council request administration send a letter expressing that we are not willing to pay the full invoices [to Rob Kullman] due to inadequate information being given and inspections not being completed to full evaluation of the building structures. Carried

Johnson: That Council approves payment to SaskTel for the damages to the SaskTel pedestal that was damaged in 2026 snow removal. Carried

Sanchez: That the Com-

mittee reports be accepted as presented. Carried

Warkentin: That Town Council accepts the Strategic Plan Update as presented. Carried

Mayer: That Town Council requests Administration contact Rob Shimoyama, owner of Orion Industrial, to request permission to share his number with Nobles Concrete and Little Pine First Nation. Carried

Glencross: That Council agrees to the request for Lot 4 Blk 1 Plan H3043 for the Tax Holiday Incentive for the 3-year period of discounts. Carried

Koal: That Council accepts the correspondence as presented. Carried

Warkentin: That Bylaw 05/2026 a Bylaw to Establish Code of Ethics for Council Members be read a 1st time at this meeting. Carried

(Editor's note: Council unanimously gave the bylaw three readings and enacted it at the meeting.)

Koal: That Policy HR-013 be adopted at this meeting and attached to form part of the minutes. Carried

Koal: That Policy HR-016 be adopted at this meeting and attached to form part of the minutes. Carried

Mayer Mayor moved the meeting into camera at 6 p.m. for: Discussion on Maintenance Staff, Privacy concerns, and Council.

Mayer Mayor called the meeting back in session at 6:20 p.m.

Glencross: That Council approves Kevin Baliski to attend SWAA course for recertification for water plant. Carried

Koal: That Council Adjourn at 6:30 p.m.

The Sask. Traveller: Lazy day ride to Moose Jaw

By **TRUDY & DALE BUXTON**
*Publishers,
Biggar Independent*

This has been a great day for travelling on the motorcycle — not overly hot, maybe even a little on the cool side, but there has been no wind, and the roads have been really good.

The real treat is to take the time to enjoy the countryside and look for those hidden gems along the way.

We have made the right-hand turn onto Highway 2, and it's into Moose Jaw we go.

Moose Jaw has always

been a favourite destination in the province, mostly for the spa, which in the wintertime is a treat, being able to be in the comforting hot water at the bitter cold temperatures. On this trip, we didn't stay at the spa; we decided to try the old hotel on the strip, the Grant Hotel.

Normally it's out of our price range, but on this day the room fare was the same as most of the hotels in the area.

The Grant Hotel, named after Grant Hall, who was the vice-president of operations on the Canadian Pacific Railway, was built way back

in 1927. It was a community-led association and with some help from the railway the project was complete.

For over six decades, the hotel served as the premier hotel for many events. The hotel housed many famous people from time to time, including royalty from Britain, John Diefenbaker, and even singer Gene Autry.

Like many older buildings, the upkeep is essential to its longevity. In this case, it was closed down in 1989 due to severe wear and neglect, and for over a decade was left in the ruins and almost destroyed, until

the one dollar purchase in 2001 and a multimillion dollar investment to bring it back again to one of the premier hotels in Moose Jaw. I have to say, it was a treat to stay in this historic hotel.

Today, Moose Jaw has a population of around 34,000 people. It was named after the Cree, meaning a warm place by the river, or from the local bend of the river, which kind of looks like a moose's jaw. However, some humorous myths about the name suggest a wagon cart filled with a moose's jaw bone. I like the first one.

Moose Jaw has been linked to the infamous Al Capone. No evidence really exists, but it's fun to think that the notorious

Mob boss was in Moose Jaw, plying his "trade" during Prohibition, and the nickname for the city became "Little Chicago."

With all the hype of Little Chicago it spurred on the underground tunnels. Today there are three tunnels to enjoy: The Chicago Connection, which tells the story of Al Capone and prohibition days; The Passage to Fortune, which tells the story of the Chinese immigration to Canada; and the new tunnel, Bunker 24, which tells the story of the growth of the nation through the Second World War and the Cold War. Tourism in Moose Jaw is a very important part of the economic structure in the city, along with some indus-

trial and agriculture aspects.

We couldn't go on without the mention of the most famous Royal Canadian Air Force Snowbirds.

The Snowbirds were established in 1971 at the 15 Wing in Moose Jaw and have been a staple in air shows across Canada and the world for the past 55 years.

The Snowbirds, however, have come to an end, and the current CT-114 Tutors have been retired at the end of the 2026 season, being replaced with another plane sometime in the future.

This has been a good visit, stay tuned next week as we cover another exciting trip of The Saskatchewan Traveller.

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: 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*
LEOVILLE: St. Therese Parish – Fall Supper – Sunday, October 25, Leoville Community Hall, 5 to 6:30 pm. Adults \$20; 6-12 yrs. \$10; Preschool Free. Raffle, Chinese Auction, Silent Auction, Children's White Elephant, BINGO, Quilt Raffle, 50/50
CANWOOD: Canwood Fall Supper @ Canwood Elks Community Hall – Sunday, October 25, 4:30 to 6:30 pm. Roast Beef, Ham, and all the fixins!!! To book in-town delivery, please call/text 306-468-4504 before 6pm on Sun., Oct. 25. Adults \$20; 6-12 yrs. \$15; 5 & Under Free. Proceeds to operation & maintenance of Canwood Elks Community Hall. Sponsored by the Canwood Hall Committee.
SHELLBROOK: Shellbrook Royal Canadian Legion – Remembrance Day Service – Wednesday, November 11 @ Shellbrook Theatre. Doors Open 10am, Service Starts 10:30am.
SHELLBROOK: Remembrance Day Wreath Sale – November 5 & 6, Shellbrook Legion Hall, 10:30am to 1:30pm. Large Wreath: \$60; Cross Wreath: \$55; Small Wreath: \$45. Soup available by donation.

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Moose Jaw's Grant Hotel has a long, storied history in the city.



No trip to Moose Jaw is complete without a stop to see the Snowbirds.

Canadiens have Stanley Cup talent

All of the pre-season prognosticators on TSN and Sportsnet didn't stray too far when asked for their 2026-27 National Hockey League predictions about the final four and eventual Stanley Cup winner. Most of the talking heads who are insiders and have much more information than the average Joe — or Bruce — gave the championship nod to either Florida, Vegas, Carolina or Colorado.

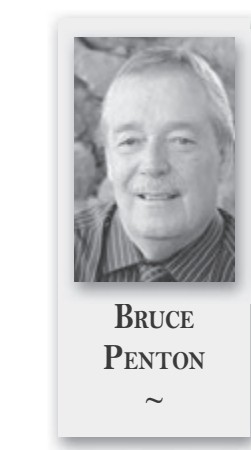
Not in this space. We're teetering on a limb and, although my Montreal Canadien friends beg me not to predict it, because I'm usually wrong, it says here that the Habs are going to become the first Canadian team to win the Stanley Cup since 1993.

Sports results rarely go as expected. Remember all the hype about the Blue Jays in 2026 after their run to the World Series in 2025? Well, the Jays finished dead last in the American League East this year, 19 games behind first-place Tampa Bay.

Montreal's ascension in

the NHL standings over the last three years has been remarkable — and steady. In 2023-24, they racked up 76 points (30-36-16). In 2024-25, they improved to 91 points (40-31-11). Last year, they zoomed up to 106 points (48-24-10). The trend is obvious; the Habs are a contender. At the very least, Montreal is the best of Canada's seven teams.

The Canadiens are young, and potent. Cole Caufield scored 51 goals last year and will probably be good for at least that many this season. Linemate and team captain Nick Suzuki broke the 100-point barrier. No. 1 draft pick from 2022, Juraj Slafkovsky, broke through last season with 30 goals and has 50-goal potential. Defenceman Lane Hutson is an all-star waiting to happen and quarterbacks the Habs' power play, which ranked No. 5 last season. In the off-season, Montreal added power forward Chris Kreider as a free-agent. He'll be a hard-to-move pest in front of opposition



BRUCE
PENTON

goaltenders.

And finally, after a few years of instability, goaltending seems to be a strong position for the Habs, with Jakub Dobes emerging as the team's clear No. 1. He posted a respectable 2.78 goals-against average last year with a .901 save percentage. Should he falter, highly-touted Jacob Fowler is waiting in the wings. Former No. 1 Sam Montembeault seems to be odd man out and could be used as trade bait.

In summary, here's what to like about the Habs: Youth, speed, continued ascension, solid defence, above-average

goaltending and Grade A coaching with Martin St. Louis. Above all, the Canadians are a fun team to watch. Hockey fans could be watching them late into June, 2027.

The rest of the Canadian teams, in projected order: 2. Edmonton; 3. Ottawa 4. Winnipeg; 5. Toronto; 6. Vancouver; 7. Calgary

I have a friend named Ken who is a fervent Habs' fan. He owns Habs blankets, pillows, pucks and all sorts of Montreal memorabilia. Because he knows my predicting history, he begged me not to pick the Habs to win anything. Sorry, Ken. This is their year.

• Cathal Kelly, on trade demands by Dylan Larkin and Connor Hellebuyck, both U.S. players: "It also appears that all the members of Team USA went drinking in Milan and decided to meet up again in Sunrise, Fla. in a few months' time."

• Kelly again, on the Red Wings not making a deal involving Larkin: "By next summer, Larkin will be begging to go anywhere.

He'll take Columbus and agree to help sweep out the visitors' dressing room. If he stays that long in Detroit, he'll be afraid to go to Costco without putting on a wig."

• Jerry Brewer in The Athletic, on LA Chargers' QB Justin Herbert's horrendous start to the NFL season: "(Offensive co-ordinator) Mike McDaniel, who called pretty plays when he was Miami's head coach, is coordinating Herbert as if he were asking Morgan Freeman to narrate a documentary in German."

• Mike Bianchi of the Orlando Sentinel: "The L.A. Chargers hired former Dolphins head coach Mike McDaniel as offensive coordinator to unlock Justin Herbert. Four games into the season, the Chargers are already looking for the locksmith."

• Chris Vannini on Bluesky: "The Yankees have played in two World Series over the last 23 years. It's their fewest appearances in any 23-year stretch in history."

• Super 70s Sports:

"Nolan Ryan's arm was so damaged by the first 5,000 innings of his career he was only able to strike out 16 Blue Jays when he no-hit them at age 44."

• From the late Mike Ditka, snipped from sportscurmudgeon.com: "If God had wanted man to play soccer, he wouldn't have given us arms."

• Headline at theonion.com: "Pat McAfee Nods During Aaron Rodgers' two-Hour Monologue On Virtues Of Eating Tar"

• Headline at fark.com, after MLB announced it will reduce its schedule to 154 games in 2028: "Major League Baseball is thinking that maybe, just maybe, too much November baseball is not a good idea."

• Super 70s Sports, with an actual Earl Weaver-Umpire conversation: "Weaver: 'I'm going to check the rulebook on that.' Umpire: 'Here, use mine.' Weaver: 'That's no good, I can't read braille.'"

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

Op-ed: Saskatchewanians deserve a gas tax cut too

By GAGE HAUBRICH
CTF Prairie Director

The Alberta government cut its gas tax to save drivers money. The Prince Edward Island government cut its gas tax too. Prime Minister Mark Carney extended his own gas tax cut to make life more affordable.

Even the Parti Québécois, currently leading Quebec election polling, is promising to cut gas taxes if elected.

But not Saskatchewan.

The price of gasoline in Saskatchewan is about \$1.82 per litre. The price of diesel is about \$2.47 per litre. For gasoline, that's about a 50-cent-per-litre increase since March.

And those high prices are made worse by Premier Scott Moe charging Saskatchewan drivers a provincial tax of 15 cents per litre on gasoline and diesel every time they head to the pump.

Moe's gas tax adds \$11 to the cost of filling up a minivan or \$15 when filling up a pickup truck.

Albertans are saving \$9 when they bring their minivan to the gas station or \$13 for a truck because the Alberta government cut its 13-cent-per-litre fuel tax.

"It's direct relief that will help Albertans keep more of their hard-earned money," said Alberta Premier Danielle Smith.

Drivers in P.E.I are also saving because of the government's cut.

"Now is the time to let Islanders keep their hard-earned money in their pock-

ets," said P.E.I Premier Rob Lantz. "Gas prices are really affecting families and Island businesses right now."

"This will provide meaningful relief for families and businesses and help make everyday life more affordable," said Finance Minister François-Philippe Champagne about extending the federal cut.

So why don't Saskatchewanians deserve the same relief?

In Saskatchewan, driving isn't a luxury. People commuting for work can't take a flight from Swift Current to Moose Jaw or a train from Regina to Saskatoon. The only option is to get in your car and drive.

And the government should make that option as affordable as possible. The Saskatchewan NDP agrees and is also calling on the government to cut the gas tax as other governments have done.

In response to the NDP and the Canadian Taxpayers Federation, the Sas-

katchewan government usually says it won't cut the gas tax because that means less money can be spent on fixing the province's roads.

But that's not how it works. All the money the government takes from Saskatchewanians in taxes goes into one big account called the "General Revenue Fund." It can be spent on anything.

Giving Saskatchewanians a break at the pump doesn't have to impact one cent of what the provincial government spends on road maintenance.

And since the government has extra cash right now for the same reason that gas prices are so high, it doesn't have to change spending from its budget at all to give Saskatchewanians the tax relief they need.

Plus, the government didn't do anything extra to collect that revenue. World events happened around it and the government collected a cheque.

And those same world events are mak-

ing life more expensive for the average Saskatchewanian trying to get from point A to B.

The government should use its windfall to alleviate that pain by cutting the gas tax.

The government is projected to take in about \$512 million this year in the fuel tax. It's also taking in about \$331 million more in revenue than it projected, mostly from natural resource revenues.

That means the Saskatchewan government can cut the gas tax for about eight months without even thinking of finding a dollar of savings in the budget. A driver filling up their pickup truck once a week would save about \$480 during that time.

That's a serious amount of savings when family budgets are being pushed to the brink.

Other governments are recognizing the pain that high gas prices cause and doing something about it. Why not Saskatchewan?

What happens when you don't advertise?

Very little.

OBITUARIES

Roger Allan Fonda



FONDA – Roger Allan February 10, 1963 – September 30, 2026 With heavy hearts, Roger’s family would like to announce his passing

in Calgary at the age of 63 after a brief battle with cancer. He grew up in Medstead, Sask. He was an equipment operator, a talented welder and a meticulous mechanic in a variety of mines. His deep passion was the training and riding of horses. He is lovingly remembered by his sisters Julie and Lauren and his brother Paul (Cheryle), nieces & nephews. He was predeceased by his parents Allan & Bea. A family memorial was held October 3. No funeral will be held.

Ruth Hrynewich



HRYNEWICH, Ruth was born on July 12, 1935, on the family farm southwest of Robinhood, SK, to parents Llewellyn & Mary Billard. She had two brothers, Benjamin and Stanley, who predeceased her. She took her education in various small one room schools in the area. She quit school at 14 and went to work in North Battleford doing housekeeping. She went back to school at Fraternity School where her mother was teaching. It was at one of the school dances where she met her future husband, Peter Hrynewich. Ruth and Peter married on June 15, 1951. They lived in a very small two-bedroom log house with 3 small children, no electricity or running water, with Peter’s parents for seven years. They then built their own house across the road on their own quarter of land. Into this marriage they welcomed four children, Stanley, David, Diane, Mary, Linda Ann, Catherine Rose. From these four children she gained 13 grandchildren, 35 great grandchildren, & 13 great-great grandchildren. Give or take a few! Ruth loved to crochet and do embroidery in her later years she took up sewing,

liquid embroidery, scrap booking and cake decorating. She helped with farming, doing the manual stacking of bales, hauling pails of chop, milking cows, and making miles of fence. She was involved for many years as a 4-H leader, belonged to the Hall board, Museum board and seniors’ group in Rabbit Lake as well as the Whitkow Ukrainian Orthodox Church group. She enjoyed being involved with her children’s activities and continued that with her grandchildren, great grandchildren and great-great grandchildren. She was always ready to help out pinching perogies, picking berries, babysitting and anything else that was asked of her. Ruth moved to Tower One in North Battleford after the passing of her husband Peter in 2006. She continued to live there for 19 years. As her health started to fail, she moved to Rose Gill Lodge in Rabbit Lake in July of 2025. Ruth passed away in Rose Gill Lodge on October 2, 2026. A Celebration of Life was held on October 8, 2026, at 11am at the Rabbit Lake Community Hall, her final resting place will be beside her husband Peter at the Glass Lake Cemetery near Whitkow. Donations in Ruth’s memory may be made to the Rose Gill Lodge, Rabbit Lake, SK S0M 2L0 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, R. Mark Muir, Funeral Director, Spiritwood, SK (306) 883-3500.

Sask. ministers push trade in India, Japan, Philippines

By JORDAN TWISS
Shellbrook Chronicle Reporter

Minister of Trade and Export Development Warren Kaeding led a mission to India to advance trade and investment opportunities with the country from Oct. 10 to 16, meeting with business leaders, stakeholders and government officials focused on food security, critical minerals, energy and sustainability. “Saskatchewan has found a strong and reliable partner in India,” Kaeding said in a statement. “We are looking forward to further strengthening this relationship in the days ahead. As we continue to grow our province’s economy for the benefit of the people of Saskatchewan, India remains an important partner to advance our shared food and energy security priorities.” Kaeding was joined in India by Minister of Advanced Education Ken Cheveldayoff, who met with several post-secondary institutions. Cheveldayoff’s meetings aimed to advance discussions with higher education government counterparts, as well as leading post-secondary and research institutions, deepening existing relationships and strengthening cooperation in areas

of mutual interest. The mission was to promote Saskatchewan’s agricultural expertise, expand research and academic collaboration, and position the province as a partner of choice in addressing complex global challenges. “International partnerships are essential to advancing Saskatchewan’s opportunities for researchers and post-secondary institutions,” Cheveldayoff said in a statement. “This mission allows Saskatchewan to highlight our innovative strengths, helping build connections that support knowledge exchange, research excellence and long-term economic growth.” Both Ministers also represented Saskatchewan as part of the federal government’s Team Canada Trade Mission programming on Oct. 14 in Mumbai. India is a major trading partner with Saskatchewan. In 2025, exports to the country totaled \$827 million, with top export products being potash, lentils and peas. This year, trade to the country has increased 155 per cent year-to-date. The government says Saskatchewan’s India office has proven invaluable to increasing trade, boosting exports and strengthening the province’s international relationships.

The province’s most recent mission in March resulted in a historic signing between Cameco and India’s Department of Atomic Energy worth \$2.6 billion. As Ministers Kaeding and Cheveldayoff wrapped up their missions in India, Minister of Crown Investments Corporation Jeremy Harrison and Minister of Agriculture David Marit embarked on their own trade missions to the Philippines and Japan, respectively. During his mission, which runs from Oct. 17 to 23, Harrison was to participate in the World Nuclear Supply Chain Conference. “Saskatchewan companies are already playing a key role in the global nuclear supply chain, and missions like these ensure that role will continue to grow,” Harrison said in a statement. “From world class uranium mining to the skilled workforce and expertise that support it, Saskatchewan businesses have a great deal to offer. By connecting with global industry leaders, we can showcase what our province has to offer and open new opportunities for Saskatchewan as the nuclear industry expands.” Saskatchewan is home to the world’s largest high-grade uranium deposits. The province produces 100 per cent of Canada’s

uranium and is the second largest uranium producer in the world. Meanwhile Marit was in Japan from Oct. 17 to 22 to promote Saskatchewan agriculture and strengthen relationships in the province’s third largest agricultural export market. While in Japan, Minister Marit met with many long-term buyers of Saskatchewan agrifood products, as well as companies interested in exploring new opportunities in agriculture, minerals and fuel. He also will deliver keynotes at two major business events. “Japan has traditionally been one of our top five export markets,” Marit said in a statement. “It is important to demonstrate how much we value this relationship and reinforce our province’s reputation as a dependable supplier of high-quality agriculture and food products. It is also important to engage with our trading partners to promote our province’s growing agri-business sector.” In 2025, Saskatchewan exported \$1.2 billion in agrifood products to Japan, an increase of almost one third compared to 2024. The province’s top agrifood export to Japan last year was canola seed, followed by wheat, barley, durum, and malt.

GOOD NEWS

BE THANKFUL, NOT ENTITLED

By JORDAN CLARK
Shellbrook Pentecostal Assembly

I have recently studied the lack of trust in leadership positions from a widespread Gallup poll taken in America. The American public does not trust their religious leaders. Only 27% of U.S. adults rate the honesty and ethical standards of clergy as high or very high, according to data shared by Lifeway Research based on Gallup polling. Why is this happening? The scriptures talk about being a poor witness for Christ — one of the qualifications of a church leader, an elder, is to have a good reputation with those outside of the church. “And [the Overseer] must have a good reputation with those outside the church, so that he will not fall into reproach and the snare of the devil (1 Timothy 3:7). John reminds the church to be honest about their sin, to not live as hypocrites thinking you are elite, you are above sin. This makes the church a poor witness. This cre-

ates distrust in the leadership of the church. “If we say that we have not sinned, we make [God] a liar and His word is not in us,” (1 John 1:10). Romans 12:7 teaches that God has given the leadership of the church the gift of service and teaching. God is calling His church to be humble, to serve others, but much of the state of the modern church teaches that people must serve them, serve their vision, their brand. This is an entitled attitude which has crept in from our culture — many people, including myself, have acted entitled to certain rights in our culture. This is why sin is running rampant in some modern churches and their leadership — just like David, a priestly king of Israel, lusting after Bathsheba and murdering her husband Uriah so that he may marry her. It is unchecked, sinful, hypocritical activity like this which is one of the causes for distrust in the modern church. None of us are entitled to anything. None of us deserve anything.

In God’s culture, He establishes the rule. We are reminded that we are all born into sin, we are all born imperfect, we are all born in need of a saviour, in need of God’s rules. This is why God teaches us to be humble, to think about Him and others before ourselves. I encourage us to look at our lives with thankful eyes, thankful hearts, looking at the many blessings God has given us instead of looking at what we do not have with envious eyes — this attitude will lead to sinful behaviour. Trust in God, love our families, serve others, and know that God is blessing His people who have faith in Him. “Do not let kindness and truth leave you; Bind them around your neck, Write them on the tablet of your heart. So you will find favor and good repute In the sight of God and man. Trust in the Lord with all your heart. And do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight,” (Proverbs 3:3-6).

FallHOME

The benefits of a professional gutter cleaning

Gutters serve an important role on a building, catching rainwater from the roof and channelling it away from the structure. Without properly functioning gutters and downspouts, basements can flood, foundations may become cracked and soil can erode. Gutters also help maintain roof and siding longevity, ensuring that rainwater will not pool under shingles or siding. Wet leaves also create habitats for pests to live, notably for mosquitoes, termites, rodents, and birds.

Homeowners can clean their own gutters, but the job is often best left to professionals. Here are some of the reasons to leave gutter cleaning to an expert.

- Pros have the equipment. As with any project, having the right equipment means it will be done correctly. Handyman services and professional gutter cleaners already have the gear to reach gutters and tackle the mess, unlike some homeowners who will have to purchase tools.
- Pros are trained in safety. Gutter cleaning professionals are trained in proper safety procedures and have the right equipment to safely scale homes. Gutter cleaning involves climbing ladders, walking on roofs, and handling slippery debris. It also may require working close to electrical and cable wires entering the home. Homeowners who don't know how to navigate these conditions safely risk falls or other injuries.
- Pros can spot other damage. Professionals may spot damage to a home that homeowners do not see. This may include cracked seams, loose fasteners, sagging sections, and even roof damage. This allows homeowners to get a jump on the problem early on before it progresses to something more serious.
- Pros save homeowners time. One of the obvious perks to letting a professional clean the gutters is that it saves homeowners time. The expert can get the job done in less time and more efficiently than a novice weekend warrior.

Mr. Handyman, a home improvement service, says the general recommendation is to get the gutters cleaned at least twice a year: once in the spring after trees have dropped their seeds, and again in the fall after all leaves have fallen. People with heavier amounts of natural debris may need more frequent cleanings. A professional gutter service will typically include inspection of the entire gutter system; removal of all debris from gutters and downspouts; flushing of gutters and downspouts to ensure water flows correctly; assessment of water being directed away; and identification of areas in need of repair.

Gutter cleaning is an important step that safeguards a home by keeping gutters and downspouts in working order.



Beware HVAC and energy scams

By **BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU**
Submitted

As cooler autumn temperatures set in, homeowners preparing their heating systems for winter are advised to exercise caution when approached by unsolicited representatives offering home heating and energy services.

Fall often brings a surge in high-pressure door-to-door sales, aggressive telemarketing, and misleading online ads offering furnace inspections, heat pump upgrades, and green energy rebates. Fraudulent operators frequently impersonate legitimate utility companies or government agencies, claiming they are required to perform equipment inspections or safety checks.

Common HVAC and Energy Scam Tactics

- **Unsolicited Doorstep Inspections:** Salespeople arrive unannounced, claiming to represent government energy programs, ENERGY STAR®, or local utility companies, alleging urgent safety or code compliance issues.
- **Misleading Rebate Offers:** Sales reps pitch exclusive, limited-time government rebates to make expensive heating upgrades sound practically free, while locking homeowners into long-term rental agreements costing tens of thousands of dollars.
- **Deceptive Fine Print:** Doorstep contracts conceal steep annual rate escalators, high interest terms, or clauses resulting in property liens that create

- financial hurdles during future home sales or refinancing.
- **False Authority Claims:** Government agencies and utility providers do not conduct uninvited door-to-door sales or unsolicited home inspection audits.
- “Scammers and high-pressure salespeople often create a false sense of urgency, especially when homeowners are thinking about the approaching winter season,” said Len Andrusiak, President and CEO of BBB Central Canada.
- “A legitimate contractor or energy provider will give you time to verify who they are, review the details, compare your options, and make an informed decision. If someone is pressuring you to act immediately, sign at the door, or provide access to your home, that should be a warning sign.
- How Homeowners Can Protect Themselves
- **Refuse Uninvited Entry:** Turn away unexpected visitors claiming to be inspectors or utility workers, and never let them inside without prior confirmation.
 - **Verify Credentials Independently:** Ask for official business ID and look up the company or utility’s public phone number to verify their identity directly.
 - **Check Official Rebate Sources:** Confirm energy rebate claims on official provincial or federal websites. Legitimate government programs never require on-the-spot signatures.
 - **Avoid On-the-Spot Signings:** Never

- sign a contract at the door. Review all fine print — including maintenance fees, rate escalators, and cancellation terms — at your own pace.
- **Hire Licensed Local Contractors:** Work exclusively with verified, licensed local HVAC professionals who provide detailed written estimates and give you time to make a decision.
 - **Report Fraud Immediately:** Report suspected scams to local police, the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre’s online reporting system, and the BBB Scam Tracker at [BBB.org/ScamTracker](https://www.bbb.org/scamtracker).

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FallHOME

Why an insulated attic is a good attic

As homeowners address energy efficiency around their homes, they may want to put attics at the top of their list. Because heat naturally rises during the winter and also infiltrates the roof during the summer, a roof with insufficient insulation can be energy inefficient. Many experts attest that upgrading attic insulation is a practical and cost-effective home improvement.

A desire to reduce energy bills is a primary motivator when installing attic insulation. Indeed, homeowners can save an average of 15 percent on heating and cooling costs, or roughly 11 percent on their total energy bills, by air sealing and insulating attics and crawl spaces. Standalone attic insulation projects frequently

achieve high rates of return. Beyond financial matters, attic insulation also creates a more comfortable and stable indoor climate. Attic insulation will buffer the interior from extreme temperature swings. This can help preserve the integrity of the home. In cold climates, attic insulation will limit the occurrence of ice dams, which form at the eaves when heat inside living spaces escapes to the

roof. Ice dams can cause water to back up under shingles and even tear away gutters. By utilizing attic insulation and creating a proper thermal barrier, homes can also draw less power from regional grids and burn less fuel locally. Attic insulation may not be as glamorous as a room remodel, but it is an important component of a safe, comfortable and energy-efficient home.

The benefits of a fall roof replacement



A roof is a vital component of a home that protects the structure from the elements and ensures that sun, rain, wind, and snow do not compromise the integrity of interior spaces. Peak Performance Roofing says the average asphalt shingle roof found on many homes lasts between 15 and 30 years. Alternative roofing materials, such as metal or clay tiles, can last much longer.

Homeowners who stay in a home for many years will likely need to replace a roof at some point. Choosing when to replace the roof may come down to selecting the right season. Experts typically consider fall the prime time to upgrade a roof for a variety of reasons.

- Moderate temperatures: Fall weather tends to be comfortable in many regions of the country. Magnolia Home Remodeling Group says fall temperatures are better suited for roofing and allow materials to work



- the best. When temperatures are too hot, shingles can become soft and prone to scuffing, while cold temperatures can make materials brittle and difficult to seal.

- Comfort for workers: The same moderate conditions can make it easier for roofing contractors to get the work done. It can be extremely hot on a roof during summer, necessitating frequent breaks for

workers. Winter weather conditions are not ideal for working on a roof, with snow and ice making things slippery. Fall weather can help workers feel more comfortable.

- Avoid the rush: Earl W. Johnston Roofing, LLC says spring and early summer are peak seasons for roofing contractors due to post-winter repairs. Homeowners may experience shorter wait

times, better pricing and flexible scheduling if they opt for a fall roof replacement.

- Prepare for winter: Getting a roof in the fall means having a new and functional barrier against winter storms that can be hard on old roofs. It also means the roof will be ready for rainy, spring weather.

Fall is an ideal time to replace a roof for many reasons. Homeowners can use the summer to vet various roofing contractors and come up with a package that fits their schedules and budgets.



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FallHOME

A rundown on kitchen cabinet projects

Updated kitchens are in demand, and homeowners are not hesitating to open their wallets when renovating these popular spaces in their homes. According to Renoquotes.com, the average cost of a kitchen renovation in Canada is anywhere between \$35,000 and \$45,000.

Homeowners concerned about the high price tag of kitchen renovations should know they have some less expensive means to giving their kitchens a new look. Cabinet projects can dramatically alter how a kitchen looks and feels. This rundown of cabinet projects can help homeowners answer any questions they have about this unique and budget-friendly way to revitalize their kitchens.

- Refacing and replacing each merit consideration. Homeowners unfamiliar with cabinet projects may not realize they have two very different options to consider. Refacing allows homeowners to transform the look and feel of a kitchen while keeping the existing cabinet structure in place. When refacing cabinets, new doors, drawer



fronts and typically hardware are installed to replace the existing ones. When replacing cabinets, the existing cabinet structure is torn out and completely new units are installed. Replacing might be done when the structural integrity of the existing cabinets is questionable or when homeowners are not fond of the existing cabinet layout and decide to change it completely.

- Cabinet refacing or replacing projects will not cost nearly as much as a complete kitchen overhaul. The cost of any home

specializes in cabinet refacing and replacement to get an accurate estimate of how much these projects will cost in their homes.

- Cabinets also can be repainted. If refacing or replacing cabinets also threatens to bust the budget, homeowners can consider repainting or re-staining existing cabinets. This is a particularly cost-effective project because it gives the kitchen a new look but does not require homeowners to purchase new doors, drawers or hardware. This is a potentially good option for homeowners whose existing cabinets are structurally sound and painted but started to fade in regard to their color. It's also a potentially sound temporary option for homeowners who are hoping to do a full kitchen renovation at some point in the near future but looking for a less costly and temporary means to give their kitchens a fresh look.

Cabinet projects can create a different feel in the kitchen without requiring homeowners to make as sizable a financial investment as a full kitchen overhaul demands.

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Fall lawn care tips

By PATRICIA HANBIDGE
Orchid Horticulture

As the days continue to cool and we get less hours of daylight, it is still important to care for your turf areas. Turf or lawn areas are one of the highest maintenance areas in your outdoor living space. These areas are needy throughout the year; so do not forget your lawn this fall. Autumn is actually one of the most important times of the year to ensure you continue to have a healthy and happy lawn.

One of the guiding principles of having a healthy lawn with a more “organic” approach is to

nourish the soil. In the autumn it is a good time to apply finished compost to the surface of the lawn to help add nutrients but also to help in the overall health of the soil. The addition of organic matter like compost that is top dressed on the lawn will add microorganisms that will help break down the thatch which in turn will ensure a healthier lawn. A light layer which is then raked or watered in is the easiest way to do this job.

If you would like to apply a fall fertilizer, which is very much recommended, then apply a slow-release fertilizer that is higher in potassium. This helps to toughen up the grass to help be ready for

the impending winter. There are many slow-release fertilizers that work well to apply at this time of year that make nutrients available to the turf in the early spring. It is not a good idea to apply a conventional fertilizer at this time that is released immediately.

If your lawn was getting a bit thin in any area, the fall is the perfect time to overseed. A lawn area that is most healthy is one that is so dense that weeds are unable to grow due to the competition. Ensure that you choose cultivars that will suit what is already growing there but also consider some varieties that are able to withstand specific

cultural conditions. For example, some of the perennial rye grasses and some of the fine fescues might better suit areas that have light soil that is not well watered.

If your lawn area has had high traffic, it is likely compacted. If so, then consider fall aeration. The process of aeration involved removing small plugs of earth from the top layer of the soil. This helps in allowing water, air and any applied nutrients penetrate the soil more easily which in turn helps to make your lawn healthier.

Please continue to mow your lawn until the temperatures drop low enough that the lawn stops growing. Do not let your lawn go into fall too long or too short. A turf that is too long will encourage the development of snow mold in the very early spring. A lawn that is too short will often show more injury during fall conditions that are less than ideal. If you have been cutting your lawn at a higher level (i.e. about three inches) then continue to mow at that height until growth ceases.

Don't forget to put your

lawn mower away well maintained. Sharpen the blades so it is ready to go first thing in the spring. If you run a gas mower, then clean or switch out the air filters, change the spark plug or even get a tune-up. If your lawnmower needs to be retired, then consider getting a new one this fall – while the sales are on. In fact, why not choose a sustainable alternative and purchase a reel mower that relies on your power rather than electricity or fuel?

Last but not least, do not forget to rake up those leaves. Make it a fun chore involving the family or friends by making a time-consuming chore into a game. When was

the last time you played in a pile of fallen leaves? If it has been too long, find a child to help you and then everyone will understand your childish joy in this great fall activity. Make the task easier using blowers or mowers to help with the biggest part of the job. Finish it off by mulching those leaves in order to help protect your plants against the cold winds of winter and compost any that is extra!

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.



Don't forget to put your

Hazards that compromise senior safety at home

Homes are supposed to be sanctuaries where people can be comfortable and live independently. However, houses that are completely suitable for younger populations often harbor hidden threats that can compromise senior safety.

Falls pose a significant threat to seniors. Data from Health Canada covering 2017 to 2022 found that deaths due to falls increased 51 per cent in adults aged 65 years and older, climbing from 4,752 to 7,182. At the same time, hospitalizations due to falls also increased by 47 per cent, up from 49,152 to 72,392.

Knowledge of the potential hazards lurking at home may help seniors identify the areas where they need to be especially cautious.

Bathroom surfaces

Bathrooms are notorious for posing an injury risk because of slippery surfaces. Wet tile and pooled water can be a recipe for hazardous conditions. These conditions are made even worse in spaces that are not equipped with non-skid mats or anchored grab bars.

Lighting

Inadequate lighting can be a hazard to seniors, many of whom experience diminished vision. Dimly lit staircases, bedrooms and dark hallways can impair spatial awareness. Without enough light, navigating the changes in flooring or obstacles can become a challenge.

Tripping hazards

Many things can cause seniors to trip and fall. Loose area rugs, exposed electrical cords, cluttered hallways, and too much furniture can make it difficult to safely navigate a space.

Cooking hazards

The National Council on Aging says adults over 65 are 3.5 times more likely to die in residential fires than the general population. Cooking accidents and loose clothing or items catching fire near stovetops are a fire hazard. Seniors also may feel the cold more, and rely on space heaters or other less safe heating units to stay warm, which in turn increases the risk of a fire at home.

Many experts recommend a safety overhaul to secure a home for aging residents. Clearing all floor obstructions, securing loose carpets, installing bright lights, and anchoring heavy furniture are some steps that can be taken to keep a home a haven for older adults rather than a hazard.



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Fall HOME

Signs you need to seal doors and windows

When pondering projects around a house, it's easy to overlook small tasks and direct your focus toward more significant undertakings. Small projects might not generate the reactions that larger projects do, but even the simplest tasks can go a long way toward making a home more comfortable.

Sealing leaks around windows and doors is unlikely to make any homeowner's list of dream projects. However, as the moderate temperatures of fall give way to harsh winter weather, homeowners who seal leaks around their doors and windows may be surprised by how effective this simple project can be at reducing energy costs and making a home more comfortable. Additionally, sealing inefficient windows and doors can reduce annual utility bills by 7 to 15 percent. That's a potentially significant cost savings, particularly in an era marked by rising utility costs.

Before homeowners seal their windows and doors, they can first look for signs that these areas are

allowing outdoor air in. There are some obvious signs that a home has leaks around the windows and doors. Those signs include:

- Drafts: If you place your hand around closed windows or doors but can still feel drafts, then there are leaks that will need to be sealed.
- Gaps: Gaps around windows and doors that are letting outdoor air in typically are noticeable to the naked eye. You might see light coming in through small cracks on a sunny day. These gaps may only be in one or two places, but that's enough to adversely affect energy bills.
- Unwelcome guests: Pests or insects may be another indicator that there are gaps around windows or doors. If you consistently see insects near a particular entryway or window, or signs of pests near doorways, that's likely because there's a gap or hole in these areas that's enabling them to access the interior of your home.
- Odors: It's not only your sense of vision that might detect leaks, but also your sense of smell. If you no-

tice exterior odors inside your home even though doors and windows are closed, then leaks around these areas may be the culprit.

- Peeling paint or wallpaper: Peeling paint or wallpaper is another potential indicator of a leak around a door or window. This can occur when water is entering the home through the leak. Over time, wet paint or wallpaper dries and can begin to peel. This is a potentially significant issue because it can lead to mold infestation and even structural damage to a home.

The EPA characterizes sealing behind windows and doors as a moderate to difficult project. If leaks are detected, homeowners can benefit from hiring a professional to do the job quickly and correctly.

Leaks around windows and doors can prove costly if they're not addressed promptly. As winter approaches, investigating for leaks and addressing any that are found can save money and ensure a home stays comfortable when the temperatures drop.



Four questions to ask experts before a reno

Undergoing a home renovation can be an exciting time. But it can also be stressful with all the costs and unknowns that go into a reno.

A recent report by insurance provider Aviva Canada found backyard renovations to be the most popular in the past year, perhaps reflecting current staycation trends as many Canadians opt to maximize their home space over travel amid rising costs.

If you're planning a reno, here are some key questions to ask the professionals to ensure a successful project that you'll be able to enjoy for years to come.

Do you need a permit?

Many people fear building permits as unnecessary red tape. But having permits and inspections as the work progresses are the only ways to ensure your renovations are done to the latest building code standards, and they will help prevent costly damage or retrofit work down the road.

Contact your local building department about the scope of your work to know for sure what you need, especially if a contractor suggests you don't require permits.

What are the best materials to use?

The climate is changing. And extreme weather events can take a toll on your house. If you're building a new home or it's undergoing extensive exterior renovations, talk to your builder about using more resilient materials. Options include durable metal roofing and fire-resistant siding materials. You should also ask about flood prevention options,

such as installing a backflow preventer valve on the sewage line and a backup battery if you have a sump pump.

How can technology help?

We live in the era of the Internet of Things where everything from toasters to furnaces comes with smart technology features. And many can save you time and money around

the house. For instance, talk to your HVAC installer about how a smart thermostat can help you cut back on your heating and cooling costs. Or how smart lights and other electronics can help you reduce your monthly electricity bill.

Are you sufficiently insured?

Home insurance covers your home and its con-

tents, but your new renovations could increase the overall value of your home, and you'll want to make sure they are protected. Additionally, some changes to your home can also result in savings. So, it's important to talk to your

insurance representative, review your coverage and make any necessary adjustments, especially when undergoing a renovation. Find more information on planning for a renovation at aviva.ca. www.newscanada.com

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Make your home more secure

A home should be a place of comfort and security. But homes can be targeted by thieves who are eager to make off with people’s hard-earned possessions.

Securing a home isn’t about making it an impenetrable fortress; it involves layers of deterrence that compel burglars to move on to an easier opportunity. ADT says the average thief takes less than 12 minutes to burglarize a home, and most thieves can use screwdrivers, pliers, and hammers to enter a property. By addressing the vulnerabilities of a home and making some changes, homeowners can beef up security in no time.

- Upgrade locks. The majority of burglars enter a home through front or back doors. Strengthening these access points is one of the most effective upgrades homeowners can make. Most security experts suggest installing an ANSI Grade 1 or Grade 2 deadbolt with a minimum one-inch throw bolt, as standard spring-latch locks are easy to bypass. Also, a heavy-duty lock is ineffective if the surrounding door frame is weak. Replacing short screws on door plate

strikes with 3-inch hardened steel screws that drive into the wall’s underlying studs is much more secure.

- Mind sliding doors. Glass sliding patio doors let lots of light in and offer easy access to decks and yards. Yet, they are notoriously easy to force open, according to Boss Security Screens.

This can be remedied by placing an adjustable security bar or a heavy wooden dowel in the interior track. Adding shatter-resistant security film to glass panes also beefs up security.

- Stop blind spots. Thieves prefer to work in the dark or out of sight of the street and neighbors. Strategic lighting and

landscape management will remove blind spots. Homeowners can trim shrubs and bushes below window height and cut tree branches so that the home is not concealed. Motion-activated floodlights positioned eight to 10 feet off the ground can light up driveways and pathways. LED or solar-powered landscape light-

ing will brighten up dark perimeter corners.

- Use home security technology. Modern smart home devices can serve as deterrents to burglars. Exterior cameras and video doorbells will capture clear facial features and let thieves know they are being watched. Smart plugs or bulbs can be programmed to turn on and off at various times to simulate an active household. Also, wireless contact sensors installed on ground-floor windows and secondary entry doors will send instant smartphone alerts if an entry point opens.
- Lock up. One of the best ways to make a home more secure is to be mindful of locking up each time when leaving the house. It seems simple, but homeowners should always lock doors and windows, as well as the garage, even when stepping out for a short errand. Never leave an automatic garage door remote exposed in a car parked outside, either.

Making a home more secure takes a little effort, but it will be paid back with an added sense of security and comfort.



How to winterize your home

It’s not uncommon to spend a lot of time out of the house when the weather outside is warm. The popularity of outdoor living spaces has made it easier than ever to enjoy nature without leaving home, which can generally be done from late spring to mid-fall each year in many regions. But as fall creeps toward winter and temperatures drop, it’s time to head back indoors.

As millions prepare to go back inside with winter approaching, it can be beneficial to winterize a home so interior spaces are more comfortable and exterior spaces are better able to withstand potentially harsh winter weather.

- Check your carbon monoxide detectors. Fall is a great season to open the windows in many regions that feature

prototypical autumn air. But the crisp air of fall will eventually give way to much colder air, at which time the windows will be closed and likely remain shut for months to come. When windows remain closed for long periods of time, such as in winter, the buildup of carbon monoxide, which can come from sources like water heaters, gas stoves, fireplaces, and clothes dryers, can poison residents over time. CO detectors are a safety net against such a fate, but they must be operating at peak capacity in order to be effective. As fall winds down, check all CO detectors to make sure they’re working properly and replace any that are not.

- Check for drafts. Check around windows and doors throughout the home to see if

there are any gaps that are allowing air from outside to enter the home. If daytime temperatures are mild well into the fall, then it can be difficult to see if there are any drafts before the sun goes down. Conduct this check in the evenings when temperatures are a little more chilly and leaks are easier to detect. If drafts are detected, apply weather stripping around doors and windows that do not require replacement. If there’s drafts around aging windows and doors, consider replacing them.

- Call a chimney sweeping service. Cozying up beside a fire can make anyone forget the cold weather outside. But fireplaces should be subjected to a thorough cleaning by a skilled professional before each winter.

Animals might have nested in the chimney since the fireplace was last used, and you will want any nests cleared prior to lighting your first fire of the season. In addition, the tar-like substance creosote, which forms when wood is burned in a fireplace, can build up and harden over time. That’s a dangerous prospect, as creosote is highly flammable, which can lead to chimney fires. Creosote also can block the flow of air through a chimney, and that can trap gases, including CO, in a home.

- Reverse your fans. It’s a simple step but one people may not even realize they can make. In homes with ceiling fans, residents can reverse the fans so the blades spin clockwise. This simple step pushes trapped warm air hovering around the

ceiling into the living space below. This can make home interiors warmer without requiring residents to turn up the thermostat and increase their energy bill.

- Replace your HVAC air filter. Replacing the air filter on your HVAC prior to winter can make the unit operate more efficiently, which can help reduce your wintertime energy bill. Replacing the filter prior to winter also improves indoor air quality, which is a notable benefit during a time of year when the windows typically remain closed for months.

Winterizing a home is not a significant undertaking, but it can be very effective at making homes healthier and more comfortable once windows are closed for the season.



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Fall HOME

How to brighten interior spaces

If spring and summer are seasons when homeowners focus their renovation energy on outdoor living spaces, that attention shifts back inside upon the arrival of fall. People tend to spend much more time indoors than outside come late fall and throughout the winter. The ambiance inside in fall and winter is notably different, as fewer hours of daylight can darken inte-

rior spaces. Finding ways to brighten home interiors can make spaces more inviting in late fall and throughout the winter.

- Layer with sheer and blackout curtains. The simplest way to brighten interior spaces is to allow natural light to illuminate them, but that can be difficult in homes with blackout curtains. Blackout curtains are highly effective at keeping light out,

but they won't do much to brighten interior spaces in the winter. Layer blackout curtains with sheer curtains so you can still get some privacy but brighten interior spaces with natural light at the same time.

- Add lighting wherever possible. The days when interior lighting was limited to floor lamps and overhead fixtures are long gone. Various types of lighting can now be used to brighten interior spaces throughout winter. Recessed lighting is a relatively inexpensive upgrade that can brighten any room in a home at any point in a day. Unlike a traditional overhead fixture where the light emanates from a single source,

recessed lighting can be installed in various points in the ceiling so each corner of a room can be lit up. In addition to recessed lighting, under cabinet lighting in kitchens and on bookshelves can brighten spots that traditional fixtures typically fail to illuminate. Layering the lighting so light comes from various sources can create a brighter feel.

- Use color to your advantage. Color is another tool that can be used to brighten interior spaces in the winter. If homeowners are reluctant to paint walls with new and brighter colors, then accents can lend rooms a lighter feel. Vibrantly colored throw pillows, blankets and fixtures can create a lighter feel when residents and guests enter a room. Artwork with light colors also can help to brighten interior spaces.
- Wash the windows. They are easily overlooked, but dirty windows can block natural light and greatly reduce the amount of light entering a home through the windows. Clean the interior and exterior of your windows prior to winter so any grime that has built up in recent months and years is not preventing light from entering your home.

It can be a challenge to keep interior spaces bright over the winter. But there are many ways homeowners can illuminate interior spaces.



Six ways to safeguard your yard for winter

As the days shorten and temperatures dip, nature begins preparing for winter. Trees shed their leaves to conserve energy while wildlife prepares their dens for the frost. Your home deserves the same care. This fall, take a cue from the season: this guide can help you get your home and outdoor spaces winter-ready before the first snow falls.

“Cold weather can cause more damage than you expect. While many homeowners focus on what’s happening inside their homes, outdoor features are often among the most vulnerable to winter weather,” said Mel Wright, vice president and head of Intact Insurance’s prevention program. “A quick seasonal inspection of outdoor taps, doors, gutters and attached structures can help identify potential issues and reduce the risk of costly damage during the winter months”

Here are some preventative steps that can help protect your home and get it winter-ready:

1. Shut off the outdoor taps. Disconnect and drain all garden hoses

before closing the indoor shut-off valve for your outdoor faucets. Open the exterior taps to drain any remaining water; this prevents trapped moisture from freezing and bursting your pipes.

2. Secure outdoor items. High winds can turn patio furniture and trash cans into projectiles, damaging both the items and your home’s siding. Store what you can in a garage or shed to protect it from the elements. For larger items that have to stay outside, use heavy-duty ropes to anchor them securely.

3. Trim your trees. Inspect trees for dead or weakened limbs that hang over your roof, fences or power lines. Prune these branches as close to the trunk as you can to prevent heavy snow or wind from snapping them. For large limbs or high-altitude work, hire a professional to ensure the job is done safely.

4. Clear your eaves-troughs. Leaves, needles and debris can quickly clog your drainage system. Clear out your eaves-troughs and downspouts,

and be sure to sweep debris off the roof as well. This helps prevent the next rainfall from washing material right back into your freshly cleaned drains.

5. Check your weatherstripping. Take the opportunity to inspect the seals around your home’s exterior doors and windows. Look for missing, cracked or damaged weatherstripping, and replace it to keep a warm and dry home all season long.

6. Inspect your outdoor structures. Take a look at any fencing, canopies, porches, decks and for loose boards or structural damage. Winter will make any existing damage worse—fixing it now will be easier than when the snow comes.

Preparing your backyard for the season is a satisfying final step before the colder months set in. With everything secured, drained and tidied away, you can head into the season with more peace of mind, knowing you’ve helped reduce the risk of damage and made spring cleanup easier.

Find more prevention tips at keepitintact.ca.

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FallHOME

3 home checks that can help prevent costly damage

As a homeowner, you know how important home maintenance is. And the truth is that sometimes the small maintenance actions are the ones that deserve the most attention.

“Being prepared is your best defense against changing weather. That includes addressing key areas around your home such as poor

water drainage, ventilation problems and damaged roofing before they turn into major repairs,” said Mel Wright, vice president and head of Intact Insurance’s prevention program. “A quick seasonal walkthrough can help keep your home safer as the weather becomes more extreme.”

Here are three important

checks to perform around your home to make sure you’re prepared:

1. Water should drain away from your foundation. If water pools around the foundation and doesn’t drain properly, it could lead to cracks over time. This could lead to basement flooding and may even contribute to structural shifting of your home. It’s

essential that water drains away from your home. You can install window wells and covers, make sure the grading around your home slopes away and that your downspouts empty two metres or more from your foundation.

2. Prepare your attic for cold temperatures. It’s important to verify that your attic is well-insulated and vented this season. When warm air leaks into an under-insulated attic, it creates a cycle of melting and

refreezing snow on the roof. These “ice dams” block drainage, damaging roofing materials and eventually cause leakage into the house. Throughout the winter, stay vigilant by clearing heavy snow and watching for signs of frost in the attic.

3. Inspect your roof flashing and seals. Any fixture that goes through your roof, such as a chimneys, skylights or vents, relies on a metal or synthetic seal called “flashing” to stay watertight. Even tiny gaps in

flashing can lead to major leaks. Perform an annual inspection to patch damaged flashing and replace loose shingles before the fall rains and winter snow arrive.

The best fix for damage to your home is to help prevent it before it can happen. By staying vigilant and on top of drainage, vents and roof sealing, you can rest much easier, no matter what the weather throws at your home. Find more prevention tips at keepitintact.ca.

www.newscanada.com



Owner’s suite renovation ideas for luxury spaces

An owner’s suite is a sanctuary for homeowners. It’s a place where adults can retreat, relax and unwind after a busy day. It’s expected that a bed and some other furniture will take up residence in a standard bedroom, but certain elements can help homeowners create stunning spaces.

While the largest bedroom in the home typically is dubbed the “owner’s suite,” it cannot be classified as a suite unless there is an adjoining bathroom. An owner’s suite also may have many more unique features that individuals may want to incorporate into a remodel. Here are some ideas to consider.

Upgraded closet
Those who will be overhauling the walls and layout of the bedroom can configure the space to make room for a serious closet overhaul. A spacious, walk-in closet that has built-in shelves, drawers and rods can improve the functionality of the bedroom. Draw dividers and other components also can optimize space.

Sitting area
In large suites, homeowners may have the potential to set up a sitting area in one portion of the room away from the bed. This area can have a sofa, chairs, chaise, or other furniture and make for an ideal spot to read and lounge. Some people also enjoy having a television adjacent to the sitting area so they can watch a show in the privacy of the bedroom.

Fireplace

Fireplaces add a unique ambiance to bedrooms and make for cozy spaces in which to cuddle up. While a traditional, roaring wood fire is one option, there is much less mess and fuss with a gas fireplace. Some gas fireplaces may not even have to be vented, and they can be turned on with the flip of a switch.

Private patio or balcony
Owners who want to go the extra mile in owner’s suite renovations can incorporate outdoor spaces into the plans. Many homes are now being built with owner’s suites on the first floor, facilitating the possibility of aging in place at home. With this layout, the bedroom can be opened up to the outdoors by way of a sliding door or French doors. Decking or a patio can be outside of the room, or even a covered space similar to a Florida room. Those with second-floor suites may want to consider a small deck or balcony where bistro seating can be placed.

Luxury bath
Owners can turn the en suite bathroom into something out of a spa. A steam shower; heated floors; separate area for the toilet, closed off from the rest of the bathroom; and dual vanities and sinks can make this a place that screams luxury and comfort. Do not forget dimmer switches for lighting, and even the inclusion of some new aromatherapy technology for increasing the potential for relaxation.

Many different features can improve the functionality and luxury of an owner’s suite.





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