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Fort by-election set for Oct. 22 to replace Johnson

Ousted councillor to still attend public meetings

By Alan Hustak
Grasslands News

A by-election to fill the seat vacated when Marcy Johnson resigned from Fort Qu'Appelle's town council will be held Wednesday, Oct. 22.

Johnson quit on April 24 before she could be disciplined after complaints filed against her under the town's code of ethics were substantiated by a third-party investigation.

Johnson was present in the public gallery at last Thursday's meeting when council approved the bill for \$12,064.50 that Campbell Consultants charged taxpayers to investigate the complaints against her.

"These types of complaints could have, and should have been handled internally," Johnson insists. "They are frivolous and are diverting

resources away from real community priorities."

Although Johnson is no longer a member of council, she said she still intends to sit in the public gallery at every council meeting to hold councillors to account and report on their decision making, "both good and bad."

She encouraged residents to attend regular council meetings to "see firsthand what your elected officials and administrators are making decisions on."

Minor ball wants better playing fields

Representatives of Fort Qu'Appelle Minor Ball Association appeared before council asking for its help "to make ball alive and make ball great in the valley again."

In his presentation, Nik Whalen said the association was "somewhat



ALAN HUSTAK | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Memorabilia damaged

Acting Sub Lt. Caleb Durk and Virginia Lacroix assess the damage done by juveniles to the office of the Navy cadet corps in the Old Fort.

discouraged" by councils' response to the concerns expressed about diamond maintenance, fence repairs, dragging of the diamonds to ensure player safety, secure storage for equipment and a review of rental fees.

He wants a discussion with council to "inquire, question and seek clarity," about Minor Ball's concerns. Whalen pointed out that "Ball was a very popular sport some years ago and has seen a large increase in participants. Fort Minor Ball has two under five teams, two under seven teams, an under nine baseball and an under nine softball and an under 11 softball team."

He added that Minor Ball wants to work collaboratively with the town to improve conditions of the diamonds and at the same time advocate for 91 young athletes. He also expressed concern because the U-11 softball team is in its inaugural year with the Regina League, and if parents of the Regina League see "unsafe field conditions" the U-11 team might not be allowed to

play in the league next year.

Minor Ball intends to hold a volunteer night to fix the diamonds and paint the dugouts but wants council's direct involvement and approval.

Fort Qu'Appelle "is sitting on a gem of opportunity," said Whalen who said the association wants "a clear path of communication to address its concerns about field maintenance and scheduling."

Craiglieth street repairs

Council is considering a request from residents to give "high priority" to complete the paving for residents who live on the 300 block Craiglieth Avenue north to 1st street.

"We have to do something with that area," agreed Councillor Ron Shordee. It has been neglected for 40 years. It doesn't make sense."

As a short-term solution Chief Administration Officer Don Mcleod proposed dumping some gravel on the road. "It wouldn't take a whole lot to make it better. I would

- SEE TOWN COUNCIL, 11

Youngsters trash Old Fort; four detained

By Alan Hustak
Grasslands News

Police in Fort Qu'Appelle have detained four children, all of them under the age of 14, who broke into the pavilion in the Old Fort and caused considerable damage to the building. The children smashed light fixtures, wrote obscene graffiti on the walls, unleashed the fire extinguishers contaminating the main hall with toxic chemical spray and damaged almost every room in the building including the Midsummer Arts Festival storage room and trophies in the office of Royal Canadian Sea Cadet Corps HMCS Saskatchewan.

"It is devastating," said the cadet corps administration officer Sub Lt. Caleb Durk.

"The drill hall was completely trashed, we're not able to parade there. We pay for the space and now can't use it. And they smashed valuable trophies including the Commanding Officers Trophy that was donated by former commander Ron Haskell."

This year's annual ceremonial review on Wednesday, May 28 has been moved from the Old Fort to the Harold Ross Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion.

Treasurer Virginia Lacroix told the Fort Times that the vandalism is a setback for the cadet corps which has just been rebuilt following the Covid pandemic.

The youngsters responsible are believed to have broken into the building on a Saturday evening and were apprehended when they returned to do more damage the following Sunday.

The Military Police may be called in to investigate, but the names of the children apprehended cannot be made public because they are all under age.



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To attend council

Although no longer on council Marcy Johnson says she will attend meetings to hold council to account for its decisions.

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Motivational event in Regina

Students attend 'Inspire'

By Sarah Pacio
Grasslands News

Students and their teachers filled the auditorium at Conexus Arts Centre in Regina on May 8 for Inspire 2025. The annual event was first held in 2018 and is intended as a replacement of WE Day Saskatchewan rallies. Inspire draws youth from across the province to hear motivational speeches from young leaders and see how others are using their talents in positive ways. This year's program included guests with experience in sports, performing arts, government and various organizations. Speakers described their role in supporting community initiatives, advocating for human rights and promoting multiculturalism.

Ian Pacio, who teaches Grades 7 and 8 at James Hamblin School in Qu'Appelle, attended Inspire 2025 with members of the school's Student Leadership Council (SLC). He noted that, unlike WE Day events, Inspire featured many individuals from

local communities. This aspect, and the fact that several presenters were young, increased the relatability for those attending the event.

"Students are starting to think about what they want to do with their life and it's important for them to get inspiration," Pacio commented. "They get to see these other kids in action and they're not just wasting their youth years away. They hear repeatedly from someone that they see every day – like their teacher – but it helps to hear from somebody else, especially those that are out there doing something."

Qu'Appelle students Rian Arthur and Iris Pihrag were impressed by speakers who shared their efforts to advocate for women's rights. They also enjoyed performances by a young breakdancer, Asher Melanson, and musicians like Itohan Agbator. Rian liked hearing from a mother and daughter who co-founded an organization for women and girls. Her classmate was encouraged by 16-year-

old Catherine Okolita's speech that described the founding of Catherine's Cause.

"Even at a really young age, she just started with a simple cleaning up of the park, but she's raised so much money!" Iris said. "I liked how you can just do a few simple things and you're still making an impact on other people's lives or on the world."

SLC members from Indian Head Elementary School also attended Inspire 2025 and teacher Mallory Klein took a group of students from Indian Head High School (IHHS) to the event.

"Any opportunity to give kids a different view of the world is a valuable experience," Klein told Grasslands News. "For young kids to see other young kids making such a huge impact on their piece of the world, it shows them that they really are capable of whatever they choose to pursue."

Students' comments afterwards indicated that the event revealed precisely that motivation to them.



SUBMITTED | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Inspire

Students from the SLC at James Hamblin School in Qu'Appelle attended the Inspire 2025 event in Regina which featured motivational speakers and musicians like Itohan Agbator (back row, far right).

Carly Schreiner, a Grade 9 student at IHHS, said, "I think it was a cool thing to see people that are young have such a huge impact on the world."

Indian Head student Jillian Heidecker is in Grade 12 and shared a similar perspective.

"Being surrounded by that type of energy makes

you believe that you actually can change things and creates a flow of energy. There are no bounds on what you can achieve," Jillian observed.



Celebrating Saskatchewan Nurses

The Government of Saskatchewan recognizes the remarkable contributions nurses make to the health care system as we celebrate them during National Nursing Week, May 12th to 18th, 2025.

This year's theme—*The Power of Nurses to Transform Health*—highlights the meaningful and lasting impact Saskatchewan's over 20,000 nurses of all designations have in shaping health care and providing high quality services to patients. As a vital part of our communities, nurses use their education and skills to deliver exceptional care every day to patients and families.

Our Government is working diligently to ease the pressures our nurses are facing, and to provide supports in the workplace. We continue to make robust investments through the Health Human Resources (HHR) Action Plan to grow, strengthen and stabilize our nursing workforce.

Once again, thank you to nurses across the province for their care, compassion and expertise, and their contributions to the health and well-being of Saskatchewan people.

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



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Thank you to Saskatchewan nurses for the critical role you play in ensuring the public receives the highest standard of care.

Happy National Nursing Week!

Grasslands News wins 23 newspaper awards

By Jacob Miller
Grasslands News

Grasslands News publications were recognized by their peers last week when they received 23 provincial awards of excellence in the Saskatchewan Weekly Newspapers Association (SWNA) annual Better Newspapers Competition (BNC).

Grasslands News publications – the Fort Qu'Appelle Times, Indian Head-Wolseley News, Kipling Clipper, Melville Advance, Whitewood-Grenfell Herald Sun and Vibank Quad-Town Forum – picked up five first place awards, nine second place awards, and nine third place awards in the BNC's General Excellence and Premier award categories. The awards were judged on publications from 2024.

The General Excellence Awards are the top honours in the newspaper industry and recognize newspapers of similar circulation for excellence in layout, design and content. The Premier Awards has newspapers of various circulations compete against each other in areas such as writing, ad design and photography.

In General Excellence

category, The Indian Head-Wolseley News won first place for Best Editorial Page and Best Paper Overall, and second for Best front page, while the Kipling Clipper won second place for Best Overall Paper and third for Best Editorial Page. The Melville Advance won second place for Best Overall Paper and Best Editorial Page, while the Fort Qu'Appelle Times won second place for Best Editorial Page, and the Whitewood-Grenfell Herald Sun won third for Best Front Page.

In the Premier Awards, Grasslands News received three first place finishes for stories and photos published throughout the year. The Indian Head-Wolseley News' Sarah Pacio won first place for Best Saskatchewan Recreational Story or Series of stories for her story titled "Volunteers work to revive summer camp facility".

Fort Qu'Appelle Times' Alan Hustak won first place for Best Health/Healthcare Coverage for his story about five doctors leaving Fort Qu'Appelle.

The Vibank Quad-Town Forum's Brad Brown won first place

for Best Educational Coverage K-12 for his story about the Sask NDP Pledging a new school for White City area.

Second place awards won by Grasslands News publications were:

- Best Saskatchewan Recreational Story for Connie Schwalm's article in the Kipling Clipper titled "Cowboys find different ways to chase their rodeo dream".

- Best First Nations Coverage for Alan Hustak's article "17-year old boil water advisory lifted by gov't" in the Fort Times.

- Best Government Coverage for Brad Brown's article "Ombudsman critiques town and councillor alike in code of ethics" in the Quad Town Forum.

- Best People Photo for Alan Hustak's photo of the Lipton Mud Bogs.

Third place awards won by Grasslands News publications were:

- Best Saskatchewan Arts or Cultural Series or Stories for Sara Pacio's article "Drive-In opens for 70th season" in the Indian Head-Wolseley News.

- Salute to Veterans for Sara Pacio's article "Banners honour Indian Head Veterans for Remembrance Day" in the Indian Head Wolseley News.

- Best News Story of the Year for Chris Ashfield and Elaine Ashfield's article "High speed chase ends in shooting death" in the Whitewood-Grenfell Herald Sun.

- Best Sports Story for Jacob Miller's story titled "MMBA looks to revitalize baseball in the community" in the Melville Advance.

- Best People photo for Chris Ashfield's Remembrance Day wreath laying photo in the Herald Sun.

- Best Hard News photo for Chris Ashfield's photo of a house fire on Ochopowace.

"Grasslands News has some exceptional staff that work hard to bring our readers the news from our local communities every single week. These awards showcase their hard work and dedication and I can't thank them enough for everything they do," said Publisher Chris Ashfield.



ALAN HUSTAK | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Outdoor artist

Tina Waters specializes in landscapes and animal studies. The artist was enjoying the Qu'Appelle Valley scenery last week as she painted a landscape of the Qu'Appelle River

Artist enjoys open air painting

By Alan Hustak
Grasslands News

Tina Waters took advantage of a hot, windy day last week to bring her sketch pad and set up an easel outdoors to paint a Qu'Appelle River landscape.

"The spot in the park behind the museum was so peaceful and enjoyable I just had to stop and paint it," said the artist who ranches with her husband near Cupar. She darkened the blue with burnt sienna to colour the lake and completed the small canvas on the spot as

passersby stopped to watch.

"I enjoy that. I like it when people come by as I work," she told Grasslands News. "A number of other artists will be out painting plein air, (directly capturing the natural light and atmosphere of an outdoor scene) so watch out for us."

Waters learned to paint with oils when she was 18 and keeps getting better at it. She is preparing for an exhibition of her own in Regina later this month and is expected to display some of her works at the annual Lebrecht Art Show in July.

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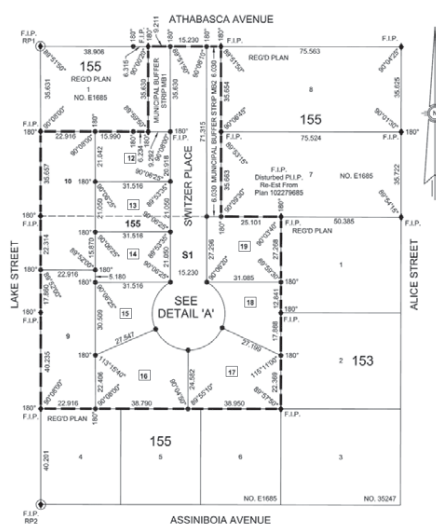


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Town of Grenfell

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140 volunteer firefighters attend training in Melville

By Jacob Miller
Grasslands News

Volunteer firefighters from across the province were in Melville to complete training to make them better firefighters in their own communities.

The Saskatchewan Volunteer Fire Fighters Association (SVFFA) held their 2025 Spring Camp from May 9 to 11 in Melville with over 140 volunteer firefighters taking part in the action.

The three-day school featured a number of different courses including Ground Ladders and Ropes, Vehicle Fire Fighting, Structural Search and Rescue, Heavy Vehicle Rescue and more.

The school made use of Melville Com-

prehensive School, Merv Moore Arena, CN Community Centre, and Suncrest College's Saskatchewan Emergency Response Institute.

The Suncrest training facility operated as the training ground for all of the practical fire training including vehicle extraction and suppressing live fires.

The event also featured a tradeshow so that volunteer firefighters and their departments could see what was new and available for their fire fighting needs.

A banquet was held on May 10 at the CN Community Centre those attending the school. During the banquet Mayor Joe Kirwan thanked retired Deputy Chief Norm Konechny for his 53 years of service to the Melville Fire Department.



JACOB MILLER | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Firefighter training

About 140 volunteer firefighters from volunteer fire departments throughout Saskatchewan took part in a Saskatchewan Volunteer Firefighters Association spring fire school that was hosted in Melville on May 9-11. Courses included heavy vehicle extrication (top) and vehicle firefighting (bottom).

Teacher to be sentenced in June

By Brad Brown
Grasslands News

A former educational assistant at Vibank Regional School is scheduled to learn June 10 how long she will spend in jail after being convicted of sexual crimes against two teenaged boys.

RM of Francis resident Stacey Duke was convicted in March on two counts each of sexual exploitation of a young person, making sexually explicit material available to a child, and luring a child.

Sentencing arguments were held earlier this month at Court of King's Bench in Regina.

The Regina Leader-Post reported that defence lawyer Jessica

Bihun proposed an overall sentence of 26 months while Crown prosecutor Cheyenne Esmond argued for six years.

Duke was arrested and charged in January 2023 in relation to events police said occurred in October 2022, while Duke was employed at the Vibank school.

Court heard at trial that, at the time of the offences, one victim was a current student in Vibank while the other was a former student of the school.

The Leader-Post's reporting added that Duke admitted in court to requesting sex from and sending an explicit video to one of the victims, while denying inappropriate communication

with the other.

As previously reported in the Quad Town Forum, Duke was released on conditions following her arrest including a prohibition on contact with the victims as well as on visiting their places of residence, employment or education.

The Leader-Post reported May 5 that Duke remains free from custody while awaiting sentencing.

Prairie Valley School Division and Vibank Regional School issued their first public statements on the matter Jan. 19, 2023 – three days after Duke's arrest and 10 days after both entities told The Forum they were first made aware of the investigation.



CONTACT US:

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Leisure Services Department: 306-736-8440

Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Closed over lunch.

Council Meetings: The second Monday of each month. Town Council Meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. All Council Meetings are open to the public.

A FRIENDLY REMINDER ON MAKING PAYMENTS TO THE TOWN OF KIPLING

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SATURDAY MAY 24, 2025 FROM 10 A.M. TO 4 P.M. THE WASTE DISPOSAL SITE WILL BE FREE FOR THE RESIDENTS OF THE TOWN OF KIPLING. HEADS UP THAT NO SHINGLES OR MAJOR DEMOLITION MATERIAL ACCEPTED.

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4), 12PM - 9U LONDON VS MONTMAMRTE(DIAMOND 4), 1PM - 13U AA DIAMOND JAXX VS REGINA WOLFPACK (DIAMOND 3), 2PM - 15U MOOSOMIN VS ESTEVAN (DIAMOND 2), 2PM - 11U CRAIG VS MOOSOMIN (DIAMOND 4)

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Former MP Kitchen reflects on 10 years in federal office

By Brad Brown
Grasslands News

Never mind a tree falling in the woods. If a politician announces their retirement in southeast Saskatchewan, are they ever really out of politics?

At least in the days following the April 28 federal election, Robert Kitchen wasn't ruling anything out.

"When I put my ballot in the box, I turned to my wife and the people around me and I said I am officially retired," the three-term Conservative MP said in a phone interview

with Grasslands News.

By Kitchen's own admission, the declaration may have come as a relief to his wife Donna after 10 years in federal office.

Kitchen was first elected to represent Souris-Moose Mountain in 2015 and served three terms in Ottawa before announcing his intention to not seek re-election in this year's vote.

"My wife has had my back and I can't speak highly enough for the great work she has done to keep me going and, at this stage, I am at a point where I owe her for all those years

and the things that I knew when I signed up – I had the big shoulders and I could take what was going to be thrown my way," Kitchen said. "My wife didn't sign up for it. So some of the things that transpired the last 10 years, I can't pay her back for."

That said, Kitchen acknowledged some ongoing concern for federal matters as they impact the local area – including some within the Conservative Party of Canada.

"Ultimately my ability to continue to be what I believe in, which is a grassroots politician who spoke for the majority of constituents, that part was important to me," said Kitchen. "Throughout my time in office I felt I was always going to speak to and vote on issues as my constituents see fit ... and what scares me a bit now is the top-down aspect that appears to be coming back into politics, and that bothers me as we see things go."

Kitchen was succeeded as the riding's MP by former provincial MLA Steven Bonk, who defeated Kitchen's former campaign manager Mike

Strachan in a contested nomination last summer.

"Federal politics is something that remains very important to me and I'll keep an eye on things as they roll along," he said.



Robert Kitchen

Debt and taxes

Internal politics are far from the only thing on Kitchen's mind however as he looks to the future of both the riding and the country.

For one, he looks at the national debt, which has roughly doubled over the past decade to just over \$1.5 billion, coupled with Prime Minister Mark Carney's campaign promise to run deficit budgets for at least the next four years.

"Who's going to pay

that back and how's it going to be paid back?" Kitchen asked.

He also hopes to see potash, agriculture and energy matters continue to be pushed forward in Ottawa – including on the file of carbon capture and storage.

"When I first got to Ottawa, nobody had any clue about carbon capture and storage, so I continually talked about that whenever I could, speaking about how we needed to advance that however we can," said Kitchen, citing an area of rare bipartisan collaboration over the years.

"Over time, the Liberals actually started putting some of that into their policies and so to me that is a great thing to see that people are actually talking about that aspect because it takes time – decades – for that sort of thing to be advanced."

Fear mongering?

The Liberals won a minority government in last month's election with 170 seats, up 18 from their seat count prior to the vote but still two short of forming a majority.

The Conservatives also increased their seat count, from 120 to 143, both parties seemingly beneficiaries of a collapse in support for both the NDP and Bloc Quebecois.

And Saskatchewan remained reliably Conservative as well, voting blue in 13 of 14 provincial ridings.

In Conservative circles

though it was also a result seen as a disappointment, after they had been polling as mortal locks to claim a majority government barely four months ago.

"What surprised me was, I would say, the collapse of the Bloc from the numbers they had to what they are now," said Kitchen. "That collapse surprised me and that collapse went to the Liberals, and that's how the Liberals ended up at the stage they're at."

Kitchen also pointed to what he called a fear-based campaign from the Liberals as a leading reason for their re-election, played against the backdrop of economic and annexation threats from U.S. president Donald Trump.

And he says he'll be watching closely to see whether Carney will honour campaign promises to build pipelines and create a cross-country energy corridor.

"I don't trust the Liberals as far as I can throw them, so what they promised during the election campaign, it'll be interesting to see whether they'll follow through on those issues," said Kitchen.

"Ultimately I want to have a Conservative government no matter how I look at it. That's the most important thing for me, and the only way you do that is if you have Conservative seats ... so at least in Saskatchewan I'm happy to see that."

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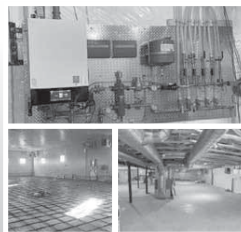
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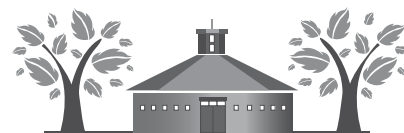
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THE TOWN OF Indian Head Town Page

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Register Your Float for Parade Days!

Indian Head Parade Days is coming up quickly on June 28 and 29! It is time to start thinking about your float for the parade. Our theme for the weekend is "Small Town Strong - Canada Proud", celebrating the traditions, talents, and diversity that make us who we are. You can register by emailing indianheadcdc@sasktel.net with your name and contact information.

The weekend will include all of our favourites including the parade, family activities, tours, slo-pitch tournament, antique market and this year, music at Jimmy Robison Field ball diamonds! The weekend will wrap up with the Flatland Cruisers Show 'n' Shine on Sunday. Businesses, organizations and residents are welcomed to help us celebrate by entering a float, hosting an event, becoming a sponsor or decorating your home/business to go along with our theme!

Register for the Town Wide Garage Sale

Don't forget to register for the Town-Wide Garage Sale in Indian Head! Saturday, May 24th from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Please register by Friday, May 16th. Contact Meagan at 306-695-2742 or email indianheadcdc@sasktel.net if you have any questions or to get your house put on the map!

Maps will be available the week of May 19th at Bigway Foods, Pharmasave and at the Town Office or on our website.

Join the Bloom Brigade this Spring!

Spring is here... and we need your help! The Bloom Brigade is looking for volunteers to keep Indian Head blooming this summer! Whether it's watering hanging baskets, tending flower beds, or pruning trees at the community orchard, every helping hand makes a difference. Our Downtown Planting Day will be Wednesday, May 28.

Love gardening? Want to give back? This is your chance to make a positive impact while enjoying the outdoors!

Do a little or do a lot – every bit helps! Interested in volunteering? Contact MacKenzie at ihfacilities@sasktel.net

Tourist Booth Volunteers Needed

We are looking for volunteers to help with our Tourist Booth this summer. This is a great opportunity for looking to meet new people who are traveling through our Region.

We are hoping to open the Tourist Booth on Friday, May 16th for the Long Weekend. The operating hours will be from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Volunteers are scheduled either from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. or 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. and we can work around your schedule. If you are volunteering on behalf of a local community organization, the town will make a donation to that group! If you are interested, please email indianheadcdc@sasktel.net or call 306-695-2742.

75th Anniversary

Indian Head Rockets Tribute Game

Indian Head Museum is teaming up with the Regina Red Sox to honour the 75th Anniversary of one of Saskatchewan's most legendary baseball teams – the Indian Head Rockets!

The Anniversary Game will be hosted Wednesday, June 11, 2025 at 7 p.m. at Currie Field in Regina. Red Sox players will wear special 75th Anniversary Rockets hats (thanks to Sherwood CO-OP!) There will be free commemorative baseballs for kids, and you will have a chance to meet Nat Bates & Willie Reed, original Rockets from the 1952 team! Book your tickets online at reginaredsox.com.

Upcoming Community Events

May 15 – Orders due for Shriners Rose Day

May 22 – Newcomer Information Session with Regina Open Door Society

May 24 – Town Wide Garage Sale

May 24 – Bell Barn Lobster Supper

May 24 – Indian Head Golf "Night Golf"

June 3 – Shriners Rose Day Pick Up

June 8 – Indian Head Minor Ball Day

June 8 – Stampede with the Broncos

June 11 – Indian Head Rockets Tribute Game

June 14 – Curling Club Cornhole Tournament

Do you have a great community event coming up? Let us know about it! You can have your event featured on our Community Events webpage by emailing your details and poster to indianheadcdc@sasktel.net. Don't forget to schedule your community event on our sign at least one week before your event date.

www.townofindianhead.com



OPINION

“For the cause that needs assistance; for the wrong that needs resistance; the future in the distance and the good that we can do.”

No to Saskatchewan separatists

By Alan Hustak
Opinion column

Someone has to take Scott Moe aside and explain to the premier the dangerous madness of flirting with the talk of Western Separatism that is taking hold.

The Premier has blithely encouraged residents of this province who want to become the 51st state to hold a plebiscite on the issue. “We have not given up on Saskatchewan’s opportunity to be part of this nation, (Canada),” he said. “But I am not about condemning people (who want to separate). If the people of Saskatchewan trigger the legislation for a plebiscite, it is my job to formulate the question. The important thing is that citizens do have an avenue to have their voice heard. If those particular benchmarks are met in this province the citizens of this province will have their voice heard. Why would you condemn people that might have an opinion?”

Here’s why, Mr. Premier. First of all, the nonsense you are spewing is not leadership. It is poisonous followship.

While 15 per cent of Saskatchewan’s eligible voters can indeed bring forward a petition for a plebiscite, (as inconsistent as that idea is within a parliamentary democracy) there is also the matter of the clarity act for Premier Moe and any separatist to consider.

Saskatchewan is not, as the premier has declared before, “a nation.” In fact, it is, about half the size of Mississippi, a state in which about 50 per cent of the population live below the poverty line and the unemployment rate is 20 per cent.

Saskatchewan is not some Mississippi North. We have neither the resources nor the numbers necessary either to separate nor to become a state of the union. Saskatchewan’s population is .35 per cent of the United States. Not even one per cent. As a state that minuscule number would be swallowed alive. And you can be sure President Trump’s Department of Immigration would go through Saskatchewan residents with a fine-tooth comb to see which of them would qualify to be U.S. citizens.

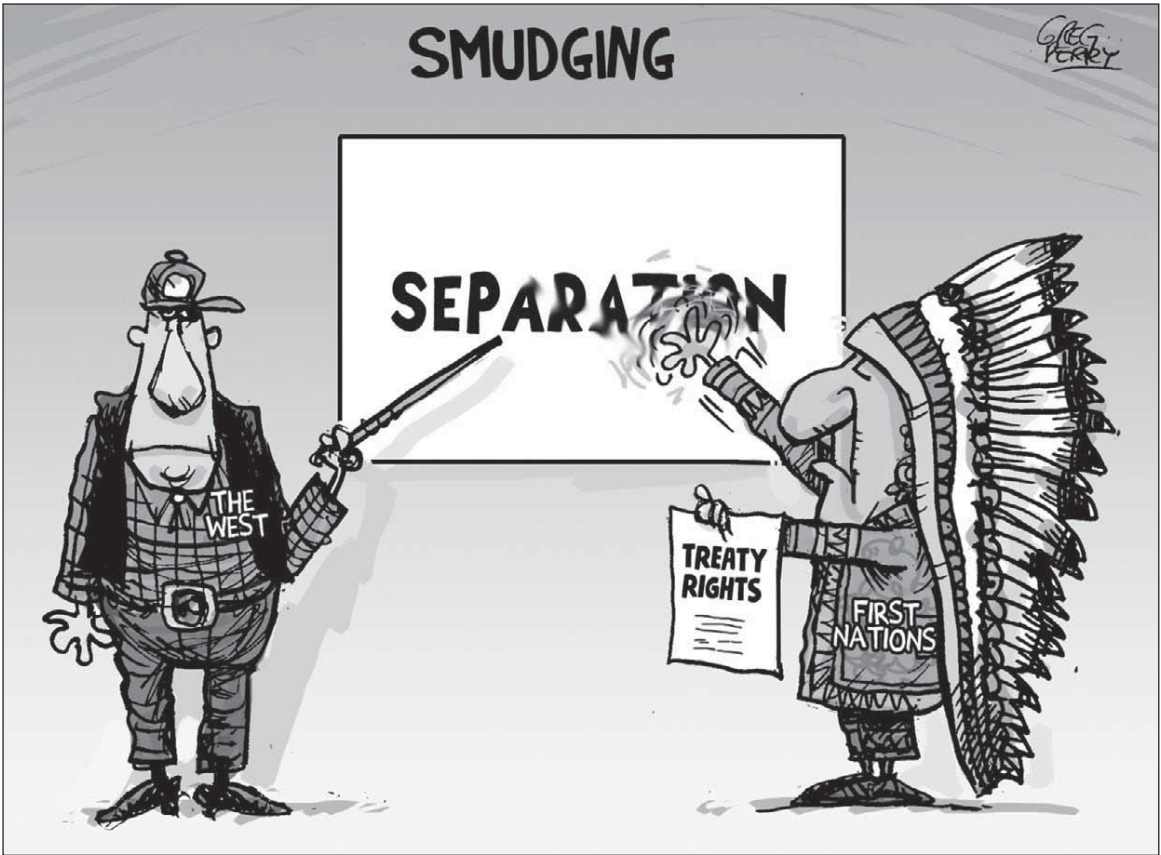
Above all there is the Clarity Act to take into consideration. While provinces are free to hold referendums, no one gets to leave Canada without taking into account the Clarity Act. Any exit would have to be negotiated with the federal government and with the First Nations who have signed Treaties with the Crown.

Simply put, Saskatchewan can’t afford to leave. It would have to return to Ottawa a huge share, if not all, of the federal monies Canada has invested in this province since confederation. The Clarity Act also requires a substantial majority of Saskatchewan residents to vote in favour of separation. Far more than the 15 per cent required to hold a plebiscite. If Saskatchewan separatists want a vote on separation the way to do it is to start a political party, get it elected to the legislature, then hold a referendum. Not the other way around.

The Premier has ignored federal law before, but he would be hard pressed to ignore the Clarity Act. Anyone who has lived through two referendums in Quebec has witnessed firsthand the economic hardship, the social disruption and all of the ugly, divisive consequences that come with serious talk of separation.

Do we really want that here? Moe should stick to his stated willingness to work with Prime Minister Carney on a path forward to that there is a path forward “ensuring that Saskatchewan can have a growing, vibrant economy within a strong and united Canada,” instead of stoking the sparks of separation.

If Moe truly believes as he has said that the new prime minister has not given up on Saskatchewan, then he should slam shut this Pandora’s box of separatism before the evil option that’s growing inside disrupts and destroys the soul of this brave province.



Letter to Editor: Column about prime minister was biased

Dear Editor,

In response to the opinion column in the May 9, 2025 post by Elaine Ashfield — Silly antic’s aren’t for prime ministers.

Wondering if you saw the same video’s as I did in the meeting between Carney & Trump? Thinking maybe you got your info. From Fox News because your prospective in certainly not what most Canadians saw. Your headline alone shocked me. “Silly antic’s aren’t for prime ministers”- well your friend Poilievre has spent over 20 years in parliament, and he has done nothing but “silly antics” and 3 word slogans. He lost his seat in Ontario, now he is parachuting into a safe seat in Alberta.

You referred to Carney’s response regarding Canada becoming the 51st state-in your post you said-the country is not for sale and won’t be for sale ever. However you neglected to say what Carney really said-he said- I checked with the owners of Canada [citizens] and it’s not for sale-now or ever!

You call that egotistical? Well-to you I want to ask—how do you deal with a person like Trump who is like a school yard bully? One day he demands your lunch- and if you give it to him- the next day he wants your lunch and your shoes. Trump is a narcissist, a bully, doesn’t believe in due process, believes he is the “PAROUSIA”, thinks he would make a good pope- yet hates woman, has 34 convictions and aspires of being the leader of the whole world. Yet you seem to admire him.

Sorry but Carney was very diplomatic in his meeting with Trump and handled it very well.

You mention Danielle Smith- and basically praise her. Smith has one agenda- to be the supreme leader of somewhere- not sure if she cares where it is but that is her agenda. Alberta’s citizens are suffering now because she is ignoring health care, social services and democracy. She’s playing this “poor me” attitude to get the rednecks to back her-and sadly it’s working. Have you ever seen her mention that the federal government bought a pipeline for them-which doubled the capacity of oil sales? No, of course not!

I have never voted Liberal and at one time respected the conservatives until Brian Mulroney came along. He introduced free trade that took control away from the government and handed it to big corporations. Thousands of businesses’ have left Canada since free trade—all due to conservative policies. Are you happy with that? Basically, in my old age I just don’t pay attention to party lines- just want what’s best for Canada!

Someone on face book a few days ago was just complaining that CBC got 1.5 billion from the government. I took the time to correct them and pointed out that it wasn’t 1.5 billion- but 1.5 million. I also mentioned that Canadian Press- 108 of them received money also- a total of over 123 million- including Postmedia & The Globe & Mail— heavy conservative backers. You see, that is the problem-people put half-truths in comments and the press and people buy into it.

I just wish in your “opinion” posts you would be a little less bias and actually try posting the truth and let the readers make their own decisions.

- Blaine Coleman,
Whitewood, SK

Your opinions are welcomed!

Grasslands News encourages and accepts opinion pieces from our readers in the form of Letters to the Editor. Topics can be about local, provincial or federal topics that relate to or have an affect our local communities. To submit a letter, email it to: editor@grasslandsnews.ca.

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Local colleges launch computer science/workplace readiness training program

Forty student spots available in eastern Saskatchewan

Submitted
Grasslands News

In an exciting new partnership, Southeast College and Suncrest College are set to launch DATA In A New WaY (Digital and Tech Access for Indigenous, Newcomers, Women, and Youth), an innovative computer science and workplace skills training program beginning this summer. The program is made possible through partnership with the Future Skills Centre and funded by the Government of Canada's Future Skills Program, awarded jointly to Southeast and Suncrest Colleges in collaboration with the Yorkton Tribal Council.

The program will prepare 40 students across Eastern Saskatchewan to meet the growing demand for digital skills in the Canadian workforce through real-world computer projects, accompanied by Skills for Success training – training based on 9 essential workplace skills. The program is specifically designed to provide face-to-face instruction for rural residents, including First Nations individuals, newcomers, women, and youth. Additional training supports integrated into the program to promote learner success include a land-based learning day camp for school age children of learners during July and August.

"This partnership accesses the expertise of the Centre for Applied Research & Innovation at Suncrest to customize programming to meet community demand. It's a response to community requests to provide opportunities for our youth and First Nations residents to gain essential tech skills," says Alison Dubreuil, President and CEO of Suncrest College.

"We are thrilled to collaborate with Suncrest College on this initiative. We are expanding the reach of our Computer Science training through project-based learning and involving more students in real-world problem solving at the Centre of Sustainable Innovation," says Jody Holzmueller, President and CEO of Southeast College.

"Yorkton Tribal Council has a long relationship with the regional colleges to provide training and Skills for Success programming. We support additional education on our Nations to improve technology skills for our people," says Isabel O'Soup, Tribal Chief of Yorkton Tribal Council.

"Equitable access to digital and workplace skills is essential for building resilient communities and inclusive growth. This partnership reflects a shared commitment to supporting workers, especially those in rural communities, Indigenous Peoples and youth, to strengthen pathways into today's economy and help shape the workforce of the future," says Noel Baldwin, Executive Director, Future Skills Centre.

The DATA In A New WaY program addresses critical gaps in access to digital technology and computer science training in rural Saskatchewan, where geographic isolation, limited infrastructure, and affordability continue to pose challenges. The 12-week course equips participants with technical and workplace skills through community-focused project work. The goal is to increase participation among underrepresented groups and foster a local pipeline of tech talent to strengthen rural economies.

Program Delivery

The program will consist of four cohorts of 10 students each, attending 12 weeks of in-person computer science classes beginning in June 2025. Two classes will be held at Suncrest College and two at Southeast College.

At each college, one class will be delivered on a First Nation and dedicated to Indigenous participants. The other class will be open to general enrollment, with a focus on newcomers, women, youth, and other equity-seeking groups. In total, 40 student spots are available.

Students will engage in project-based learning, working on real-world tech challenges submitted by local businesses or organiza-

tions. Participants will take part in Skills for Success employment readiness alongside the computer science programming for more comprehensive workplace preparation.

Support for Students

All students will have access to the equipment they need for success, including a laptop, second monitor, mouse, and carrying case. For those without adequate home internet, the program will provide installed internet equipment and a six-month service subscription. For parents with young children, land-based day-camps are available to promote Indigenous cultural awareness while helping children retain academic progress from the previous school year over the summer months.

Final Presentation Celebrations

At the conclusion of the program, each college will host a final presentation celebration to mark graduation and showcase student projects. These events will promote knowledge sharing, strengthen program connections, and provide a platform for students to present their accomplishments.

Registration and Application

Enrollment is now open. Prospective students can apply online through Southeast College or Suncrest College. With only 40 student spots available across Eastern Saskatchewan, early registration is encouraged.

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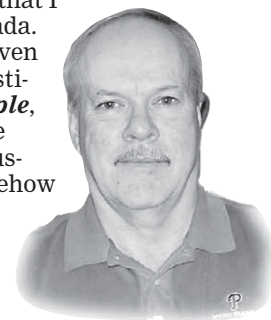
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Gene Hauta

It's a Strange World

It's the kind of tragedy that I hate to hear about in Canada. In Vancouver, an SUV driven into a Filipino heritage festival **killed at least 11 people**, setting off panic before the crowd seized and held a suspect for police. It was somehow determined that it was not an act of terrorism, but the man had mental health issues. As many as 100,000 people had gathered in Vancouver streets for a block party celebrating Datu Lapu-Lapu, an Indigenous chieftain who stood up to Spanish explorers in the Philippines in the 16th century. The man has been charged with several counts of murder.



Near Alvord, Texas, a tractor-trailer **hauling \$800,000 in dimes** rolled over in an accident, spilling millions of coins onto the road and the ditch. The highway was closed as workers on their hands and knees picked coins, as well as using brooms and shovels and large industrial vacuums.

There have been many examples of sheer determination in Ukraine, but **Lidia Lomikovska, 98**, might be a prime example after she **walked six miles alone**, wearing a pair of slippers and supported by a cane and a fence slat. She and her family were separated while trying to flee bombardment to find safety. She walked all day without food or water to reach Ukrainian lines, even stopping to sleep at times. Lomikovska was saved when Ukrainian soldiers spotted her walking along the road in the evening. They handed her over to the 'White Angels,' a police group that evacuates citizens living on the front line, who then took her to a shelter for evacuees and contacted her relatives.

Kevin M. Johnson, 57, of Venice, Fla., got into an argument on Facebook with a friend, whom he grew up with in Massachusetts. Johnson invited the unnamed friend to come over to his home **"to smooth things over."** The other man was well aware that Johnson had guns, but both men agreed to not bring weapons. In a dirty double-cross, Johnson didn't even open the door, just shooting his presumably 'now-former friend' through the door when he arrived. Johnson ran, and was found 12 hours later in the next county, and arrested on a warrant charging aggravated assault. The friend is recovering in a hospital.

In Colorado, Joeylin Kenley McDonald, 13, is dead after **falling 25 feet through a gym ceiling** during an after-school program. Police said the teen and four others "had been exploring the second floor of the building unsupervised" when they found a ladder leading to the attic and ended up walking across the attic's wooden beams. McDonald fell about 25 feet to the gym floor below.

In Rockport, Massachusetts, resident Janelle Favaloro reported a vandal in the neighborhood, describing the rascal as "18 to 24 inches tall, wearing black and white with a red hat." A pileated **woodpecker has been attacking car mirrors and windows** in the town, damaging at least 20 vehicles. It is very likely a single bird—a male with elevated levels of testosterone at the start of breeding season. It is believed that the bird has just one thing on its mind, and sees its own reflection as another bird. Matthew Fuxjager, an animal behavior expert at Brown University, said that pileated woodpeckers, the largest woodpeckers in North America, are notoriously territorial and powerful. He calls their pecking "the biomechanical equivalent of a hammer." Favaloro said, "It's turned into such a nice thing for the neighborhood, because it's getting neighbors to talk to each other, and it's a nice break from politics and the stock market and Karen Read and everyone being awful to each other."

John Waldrop, 76, a retired orthopedic surgeon from Cataula, Ga., became obsessed with collecting things to do with birds and, obviously, the rarer the bird, the better. The problem for authorities is that rare birds tend to be endangered and protected, and collecting their bodies, nests, eggs, and sometimes even feathers is illegal. Waldrop pleaded guilty to **conspiracy to smuggle wildlife in violation** of the Endangered Species Act to collect 1,401 taxidermy bird mounts and 2,594 bird eggs, including from endangered specimens so rare, even U.S. museums didn't have any examples of them. In a deal that was negotiated in exchange for his guilty plea, Waldrop didn't receive any prison time, but agreed to surrender his collection and pay \$900,000 in fines. His collection will be distributed to zoos and museums for study and preservation work.

As they have done many times before, officials are warning children not to go looking for the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles after **three kids and two dogs had to be rescued** from a maze-like storm drainage system in Colorado. After an 'extensive search,' the children and dogs were safely extracted via a manhole in the street, more than a half-mile from the spot they'd entered the system.

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New heavy-duty mechanic opens shop in Whitewood

By Elaine Ashfield
Grasslands News

The certificates are hung, the paperwork is done, the signage has been hung, and the new

heavy-duty mechanical shop is now open for business in Whitewood.

Doug Bolton and his partner Linda have purchased the previous Hopehill Hauling building on

South Railway Street in Whitewood and will operate a heavy-duty mechanical repair shop, Bolt-on Mechanical Inc. Doug is certified and states he has acquired 40-years-experience in the heavy-duty mechanical field.

"After operating a shop in Alberta for over 20 years, we sold the shop, purchased pastureland just outside of Whitewood about seven years ago as Linda is originally from this part of Saskatchewan. After moving, I have been employed elsewhere but when this opportunity came up, we decided we would open our own mechanical repair business again," Bolton told Grasslands News.

Doug is no stranger to mechanical work as he says a challenge of any sort is not too much for him.

"I've been collecting tools for a lot of years, and I have used most of them at some time on something, so I probably have worked on most of everything," he commented.

His passion is the large semi units, but he repairs all forms of industrial equipment such as graders, backhoes, etc., as well as farm equipment and will do some commercial vehicle repairs as well.

Virtual physician program extended to Esterhazy

Submitted
Grasslands News

Esterhazy is joining 26 other communities across the province benefiting from maintained access to emergency department (ED) services through the Saskatchewan Health Authority's (SHA's) virtual physician program.

The virtual physician program is a temporary measure to sustain and support access to emergency health services while the SHA continues work to stabilize health-care staffing, particularly in rural and remote areas.

While physician recruitment efforts are underway in Esterhazy, the virtual physician program will support the local health-care team in continuing to safely address the emergent medical needs of patients presenting to the ED at St. Anthony's Hospital during periods when local physicians are not available to provide on-site coverage.

The program works by using the existing technology of HealthLine 811 to provide the local health-care team with remote access to an ED physician via voice or video. Together, they assess ED patients and determine the appropriate course of action based on patient care needs.

Individuals requiring emergency services should call 9-1-1. Non-urgent health-related questions may be directed to the 24/7 HealthLine service by calling 8-1-1.



ELAINE ASHFIELD | GRASSLANDS NEWS

New mechanic business

Doug Bolton has opened a new heavy-duty mechanical repair shop in Whitewood on South Railway Street and boasts well over 40-years of experience. The new mechanic provides on-road and off-road service.

The business will also supply air conditioning repairs.

Bolt-on Mechanical Ltd. provides on-road and off-road service and is also SGI approved for vehicle safety inspections.

"I have no problem with customers supplying their own parts for

repairs if they so please," Bolton added, but he also has contacts to acquire parts that are needed for the job. "I can look around for the best prices but being a one-man shop, I am interested in the work and not in making money off the sale of parts."

The shop is open Monday to Friday from 8 to 5 p.m. but Doug is available when the job demands, he added.

Call 306-853-8580 for inquiries or bookings or stop at the new business at 1110 South Railway Street, just off Highway #9 south in Whitewood.

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Songwriter Jeffery Straker booked for Sedley debut

By Brad Brown
Grasslands News

On the surface, Jeffery Straker's Sedley debut started with a chance meeting in Val Marie last summer.

As one thing occasionally leads to another, that discussion resulted in Straker's upcoming date June 19 at Sedley's New Horizons Community Centre.

"A fellow from Sedley

made the big drive to see one of my Prairie Sky-scraper Series shows last year ... and said I would love if you'd consider playing a show there sometime," Straker told Grasslands News in a phone interview Sunday.

The singer-songwriter who comes from Punnichy, SK., will be arriving in town fresh off last month's win at the Canadian Folk Music Awards for contemporary singer

of the year, but the journey to that award – and to next month's gig in Sedley – has been decades in the making.

"My first piano teacher was in Punnichy, Sask. – Vicky Young. She was the local piano teacher and she taught I bet, over the years, over 1,000 people. She introduced over 1,000 people to music," Straker said. "My mom taught me at first, a little bit by ear at the house, but she could tell really early I had an affinity for it and sent me to Vicky when I was six (years old).

"She was an amazing teacher and, for some reason, I really wanted to impress her and I credit her to this day for why I stuck with it."

Young was more than just an accomplished pianist though.

"She was a gifted singer and piano player too, but if anyone wanted to learn another instrument, she would go learn the instrument herself in order to be able to teach it at at least a beginner level to anybody who wanted to learn," Straker continued. "Her dedication to the craft of music, it was incredible. She was limitless."

Adrenaline 'flush'

Young's tutelage eventually resulted in Straker's first gig performing his own music, at a venue called the Art Bar, located in Toronto's historic Gladstone House hotel at the corner of Queen Street and Gladstone Avenue.

"There was this really thin wall behind the stage, and it was just studs then one foot of gyprock and no insulation, and behind that was the bathroom," Straker recalled, laughing. "So every time someone flushed the toilet you could hear it on stage and the mics would pick up the toilet. Luckily I've moved on a bit in my career from there."

In addition to his most recent national accolade, Straker has also since been recognized as the roots/folk artist of the year at the Saskatche-

wan Music Awards in both 2019 and 2020. He's a past performer at Montmartre's now-defunct All Folk'd Up festival and has long been a fixture of the national cast on the Kinsmen Foundation's annual TeleMiracle fundraiser as well.

And while he readily expresses a desire to one day perform at Toronto's Massey Hall, Straker says small-town Canada is often where he feels the soul of his music will always stay.

"There's something about the energy bouncing back at you in these

small towns where you just feel this genuine appreciation and you feel it from the get go," said Straker. "Sometimes in the bigger centres or bigger rooms you feel like you have to work harder, or like there's something else you have to do to help coax that along but in the smaller communities it just sort of seems like it's automatically there.

"Some people would say, and I would say they have it wrong, but they say that people go to shows in small centres because they have nothing else to do, and I would say

that's completely false because no one has to go to anything. The way I see it, it's like they have their concert-going heart on their sleeves and they're just ready to have a good time."

Straker's Sedley performance is scheduled to begin at 7:30 p.m. with tickets available for \$30 apiece.

"I think I once pulled off the highway just to see what was Sedley, so this is going to be my first impression. No pressure to the Sedley audience," Straker said, laughing again.



Sedley bound

Jeffery Straker, performing during the 2019 All Folk'd Up festival in Montmartre, will be holding a concert in Sedley.

BRAD BROWN | GRASSLANDS NEWS FILES

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QVCA elects new executive

By Alan Hustak
Grasslands News

Sarah Maddia is the new chair and Pat Schill is co-chair for the board that runs the Qu'Appelle Valley Centre for the Arts (QVCA). The co-chairs were elected to replace Lorna Evans after the method of selecting the executive was changed at the centre's annual general meeting. Alison Sundeen remains treasurer and Jacqueline Carter will continue as secretary.

"The QVCA is a vibrant, busy place. It has been busy and it's getting busier," said Evans in her report. She noted that the screening of a film "Singing Back the Buffalo" was well attended and that the Home Routes concerts remain popular

with audiences. The future of the centre's relationship with the music festival, however, is unclear. This year the festival held events outside of the centre because it needed more space and a bigger piano.

The membership voted to eliminate the family membership category and raised the price of regular memberships from \$10 to \$20.

The year-end financial report indicated the centre has \$17,604.06 in its operating budget and \$1,383.44 in its capital account. There are no capital projects planned for this year, but the QVCA will replace countertops with a Living Sky Grant allocated by the Town of Fort Qu'Appelle



PHOTO COURTESY KIM STEPHENS | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Katepwa Ladies Golf Club

The Katepwa Ladies Golf Club, which meets every Thursday during the summer, began another season on May 8 with 42 ladies turning out for the first round. An annual general meeting was also held. Chaired by President Elaine Banbury, the AGM included a report from captains Shelley Jackson Joubert and Carol Chapman about the schedule for the year while finance chair Marla Hurford presented the budget. Several other reports were also presented.



ALAN HUSTAK | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Legion supports Sea Cadets

Acting Sub Lt. Lisa Borgerson of the Royal Canadian Sea Cadet Corps HMCS Saskatchewan accepts a cheque for \$2,000 from Sheila Pelletier, president of the Royal Canadian Legion. The contribution will be spend on the everyday needs of the cadet corps.



SOUTHEAST COLLEGE BOARD MEMBER RECRUITMENT

Mandated by provincial legislation, Southeast College proudly provides academic, and skills training opportunities tailored to meet the regional and industry needs of southeast Saskatchewan. Situated on Treaty 2 and Treaty 4 Territory and the homeland of the Métis, the College is deeply rooted in its commitment to reconciliation and community engagement.

As a cornerstone of the region, Southeast College transforms lives through the power of education. By fostering strong communities and driving economic growth in an ever-evolving world, the College plays a vital role in shaping a prosperous future.

The College is governed by a dedicated seven-person Board of Governors. With three vacancies arising due to upcoming retirements, the Board is seeking expressions of interest from individuals eager to contribute as Board members. Candidates will be assessed with preference given to those who meet the following criteria:

Geographic representation

Based on Southeast College's operational footprint:

- 1 representative for 'rural west communities'
- 1 representative for 'rural north communities'
- 1 representative from Weyburn or immediately adjacent communities

Skills/experience

Ideal candidates will have expertise in at least one of the following (not in order of importance): Government, Education systems, Indigenous relations, Legal, Leadership experience, Southeast College's operating environment, Energy, Health, Trades, Small Business & Labor Relations, Management, Finance, Risk Management, Communications, and Marketing

Diversity

Southeast College embraces diversity and inclusivity, actively encouraging

- Inclusion of individuals with disabilities Equal
- gender representation
- Representation of visible minorities
- Participation of women in non-traditional roles

Submission

Southeast College Board of Governors invites interested parties to apply, in writing or email, before 1st June 2025:

CJ Johns, Board Liaison
Southeast College
Box 1565, Weyburn, SK S4H 0T1
Email: CJohns@southeastcollege.org

Please include professional background, previous board experience, if any, and describe your interest/aims in serving on the Board of Southeast College. All submissions will be treated with the utmost confidentiality. The board will review applications before making a recommendation to the Ministry of Advanced Education for Ministerial approval.

Please include a resume with professional background, previous board experience, if any, and describe your interest/aims in serving on the Board of Southeast College. All submissions will be treated with the utmost confidentiality. The board will review applications before making a recommendation to the Ministry of Advanced Education for Ministerial approval.

For further information contact CJ at cjohns@southeastcollege.org or (306) 861-5751

ATTENTION!

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- Newspaper Delivery -

Due to the likely possibility of Canada Post going on strike beginning as early as May 22, Grasslands News is working to ensure all of our subscribers will still be able receive their newspapers every week.

To ensure there is no interruption in delivery of your local newspaper, we ask subscribers to send us their name and email to subscribe@gngnews.ca so that we can send out an electronic edition to you during any postal delivery issues.

Subscribers who do not have an email but are located in a community where we have Subscriber Pick-up boxes located, call our office and we can switch your subscription to pick-up. Pick-up boxes are currently available in Melville, Fort Qu'Appelle, Balcarres, Grenfell, Whitewood and Broadview. Pick-up boxes may be added to additional communities in the event of a strike.

If a Canada Post strike occurs, updates for delivery options will be posted on our website at www.grasslandsnews.ca

Letter to the Editor: Why I resigned from Fort Qu'Appelle's town council

Dear Editor,

My name is Marcy Johnson, and I recently resigned as a councillor for the Town of Fort Qu'Appelle, effective April 24. I want to sincerely thank those who supported and voted for me. Serving on council was an honour, and resigning was a very difficult decision.

I ran for office because I care deeply about our town, where I've lived for more than 30 years. I wanted to help strengthen the sense of pride and connection in our community.

Unfortunately, during

Town council

- continued from front page

suggest two or three loads of gravel on that block and work it in.

Pitch in and clean up

A delegation from Communities in Bloom appeared before council to ask the town for help organizing the this year's annual spring clean up day. In previous years the town offered a \$100 incentive to not for profit community groups who provided volunteers to clean up a designated area. "We have a lot on our plate this year, and we need people to co-ordinate the clean up. Mapping it is quite the challenge," Norma Jean Robb explained.

Kidsman park to be illuminated

A conceptual drawing of lighting for Kidsman Park was presented to council. A \$25,000 grant from Living Skies will help defray the cost of installing the solar lights in the 20 acre park which was created in 1980 out of a creek bed west of Central Ave.

Operating budget

Council meets in special session this week to approve this year's operating budget. If approved details will appear in next week's edition of The Times.

my time on council, I became the subject of three Code of Ethics (COE) complaints. This experience has been both disheartening and frustrating.

The first complaint stemmed from a busy day at the rink on Feb. 8, during a Fort Knox game and a Senior A provincial playoff. While volunteering, I briefly introduced myself to a man who criticized the rink and the town. I simply stated I was a councillor, to show I stood behind our community - nothing more. Later that day, due to a two-hour wait at the canteen, one volunteer went to Tim Hortons for coffee and a small meal. There was no confrontation, and no rule or policy was referenced at the time.

A COE complaint was submitted to the Town Office on Feb. 26, and I was formally notified by a hand-delivered letter on Feb. 27. The investigation was contracted to a private firm - at a cost of over \$12,000 - despite the bylaw stating that such a decision should be made by council. The firm had no prior municipal COE experience. I was interviewed by the investigators on March 14 (a meeting I recorded), and

I asked them directly who had filed the complaint and what the complaint specifically involved. They refused to tell me.

Through the interview, I learned that the complaint focused on the treatment of a staff member and bringing outside food into the rink. The firm also referenced a breach of contract. I asked what policy, bylaw, or lease agreement/contract I had violated. They claimed to have a portion of the lease agreement but would not provide it. I then submitted my own request to have a list of municipal bylaws and policies added to the council agenda. That motion confirmed what I suspected: there is no bylaw, policy, or signed lease agreement/contract prohibiting outside food or drink in the rink - or in any municipal building. The lease referenced by the investigators was unsigned and never approved by council resolution. It also did not contain any clause banning outside food or drink. As such, I did not violate any municipal rule, and this complaint should have been dismissed outright.

Despite this, the firm presented their findings

during a two-hour in-camera session at the March 25, 2025 council meeting. At that meeting, council voted to suspend me for 10 days - an action council has no legal authority to take under legislation. I initially received only two pages (page 9 and 10) of the report. My lawyer had to make a formal request to obtain the full document. In that report, the allegation about staff treatment was deemed unsubstantiated. The Tim Hortons coffee was considered a substantiated breach, which I believe is both absurd and unsupported by any municipal rule.

Even more concerning, the firm went beyond the scope of the original complaint by adding findings under different sections of the COE bylaw. This was never authorized. Compounding concerns around fairness and impartiality.

On March 21, I received two additional COE complaints. These were signed off by Mayor Brian Strong, who was acting as the designated officer - something legislation clearly states must be delegated by the CAO to another employee, not to a member

of council. The fact that this procedural error was overlooked only further highlights the broken nature of the system.

These two new complaints were filed by the CAO and office manager, and they targeted two councillors - myself included - for doing our job: scrutinizing documents, raising questions, and advocating for responsible decision-making. I opposed new water and garbage bylaws that would raise annual household costs by \$500 a year. I believed it was unfair for a newly elected council to push through such a financial burden so early in its term, and I made that known.

In nearly every meeting, there were issues - mistakes in minutes, bylaws, financials, or reports. Asking questions and identifying errors is a councillor's responsibility. Yet I often faced resis-

tance even trying to place items on the agenda. Requests were dismissed due to time - yet meetings often ended by 8:30 p.m.

I ran on a platform of transparency and accountability. Council business being conducted over email, outside of public meetings, is unacceptable. Debate and decision-making must happen in open sessions, where residents can observe and participate in the process.

In the end, I resigned because I could no longer be part of a structure that operates without proper transparency, accountability, or respect for due process. I remain committed to Fort Qu'Appelle and to the values of fairness, openness, and community-first governance.

Sincerely,
Marcy Johnson,
Former Councillor,
Town of
Fort Qu'Appelle

Brad Crassweller

MLA for White City - Qu'Appelle

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RM of South Qu'Appelle No. 157 Notice of Preparation of Assessment Roll

Notice is hereby given that the assessment roll for the RM of South Qu'Appelle No. 157 for the year 2025 has been prepared and is open to inspection in the office of the assessor from 9 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., on the following days:

Monday to Friday, May 6 to July 5, 2025

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

Any person wishing to discuss the notice of assessment or potential appeal may contact the assessor at the RM of SOG 4A0. A notice of appeal, accompanied by a \$100 appeal fee which will be returned if the appeal is successful, must be filed with the:

**Secretary of the Board of Revision,
Nicolle Hoskins,
P.O. Box 149, Meota, SK S0M 1X0,
by the 7th day of July, 2025.**

Dated this 13th day of May, 2025.

Lisa Pahl, Assessor

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\$90
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SPORTS



Spring football

Spring football was in full swing on May 10 as Melville Minor Football hosted their Spring Jamboree on May 10 at Cobra Field. Pictured is a scrimmage between the U17 1552 Rams and Indian Head Broncs. Other teams present included the Melville Vipers and Lemberg.

JACOB MILLER | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Men's fastball teams to take to the field May 20

By Chris Ashfield
Grasslands News

Let's play ball!

Men's fastball is set to fire up for another season with the Southeast Men's Fastball League (SEMFL) taking to the field for their first games next week.

The opening pitches of the year will be thrown on May 26 and the league will be playing a 12-game regular season, with games evenly split between home and away. The regular season is scheduled to wind up the first weekend of July.

There will be six teams in the SEMFL

this year including the defending league champions the Grenfell Gems, along with the Whitewood Falcons, Round Lake Braves, Cowessess Royals, Neudorf Posse, and Ochapowace Young Bucks.

Whitewood Falcons' manager Colton MacPherson said that for a game (fastball) that is slowly dying out and being replaced by baseball, there is still a lot of interest from players both young and old wanting to play.

"It's a roster that has some experience so hopefully we can pass the torch down to some of the younger guys," said MacPherson. "Something I find special

(with this year's Falcons team) is we have two sets of fathers and sons signed up to play together."

Those duos are pitcher Tony Sparvier and his son Emerson and fielder Jason Krupski and his son Austin.

Grenfell Gems' manager Tyler Thomlinson said the Gems are also ready to hit the field in what will be the team's 81st season.

"We should be a similar team to last year. All players are returning," said Thomlinson.

The regular season will consist of six home games and six away games with the

season starting on May 20 and concluding on July 4. The opening week will see Grenfell at Ochapowace on May 20, Round Lake at Cowessess on May 21, Round Lake at Grenfell and Cowessess at Ochapowace on May 23. Whitewood's first game will be on May 26 when Grenfell visits. Neudorf won't take the field until May 30 when they host Grenfell.

All games will begin at 8 p.m. with the exception of home games in Whitewood which will begin at 6:30 p.m. and Neudorf which will begin at 7 p.m. Both Ochapowace and Round Lake will play out of Ochapowace.



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Sports column – Darcy Gross

Gross Misconduct

The NHL playoffs have been a bit on the crazy side so far this season.

One thing that's stood out for hockey fans is the very real possibility that one, or more, Canadian teams could make an appearance in the Stanley Cup final.

For a number of games this year, the Edmonton Oilers and the Toronto Maple Leafs have looked like world beaters, and the Winnipeg Jets have looked pretty good as well.

Can you imagine all the repercussions if those two clubs were to meet in the league final?

For one thing, the announcers would be busy tripping over each other to show how much they backed each team.

If anyone has noticed, the bias against teams playing the Leafs and the Oil has been off the charts, with especially the Leafs, able to do no wrong in the eyes of the play by play and colour men covering the series in Canada.

It's not the worst I've ever seen, but it rivals the favoritism that was shown for the Montreal Canadiens in the 1970s, when the Leafs were Harold Ballard's laughingstocks and were never a factor in the postseason.

We're all seeing the same thing today, with the Leafs always getting the short end of the stick from the officials – if you were to believe what the TV guys say – and nothing bad that happens to them, has anything to do with the Leafs play.

They're like toddlers that their parents won't take responsibility for – nothing is ever their fault.

While Canadian media isn't the only biased bunch there is, the Boston Bruins missed the playoffs this year, leaving the NESN crew nothing to whine about.

Everyone understands that the media has to have their darlings, but this year the CBC is stepping all over themselves, especially when it comes to the Toronto team.

Every once in a while you'll hear a member of the media say something negative about the Leafs and it's been completely refreshing, because hockey fans, even Toronto Maple Leaf fans, know when they're being coddled.

It's sort of understandable that the media mouthpieces are sticking up for the Canadian teams more than their American counterparts, given everything regarding tariffs and Donald Trump and the American government wanting to absorb Canada as a 51st state, but the commentators need to call things a little more down the middle, because this is hockey, not politics.

When the announcers are extolling the virtues of Auston Matthews' defensive play, the only thing any real hockey fan can derive from that, is that Matthews isn't setting the world on fire offensively.

While he plays great every season, he's beginning to look a lot like Mitch Marner did in the playoffs prior to the postseason.

He's not been overly effective in the Florida Panthers end in the Leafs most recent series, and he didn't do a lot in the first round, either.

It's almost as if he can't get himself to that next level where the real playoffs heroes thrive.

Face it, if you're talking about Matthews' defensive abilities, he's not earning all those digits in his contract.

The Leafs have plenty of players who can play good D, they need Auston to be a scorer and he really hasn't been quite as prolific as he should, so far.

While the Leafs and the Oilers have gotten plenty of love from the TV guys, it certainly hasn't been the same for the Winnipeg Jets, who seem to have a more laid back and realistic crew doing their games.

If Jets' netminder Connor Hellebuyck can get hot and stay hot, the Jets could even be considered a threat to win all the marbles, after all, they were the team that amassed the most points during the regular season.

The Leafs just lost a couple to the Panthers, but they've got an opportunity to come back and make a long series of it, and there's no reason why they couldn't take out the Panthers, but they'll need to be better.

The Oilers should be able to get by the Vegas Golden Knights, but that's not going to be a cakewalk either.

Any of these teams could get to the next round, and they don't need any of the announcers shaking pom-poms to make it happen!

Round Lake Bears move to Edmonton

By Chris Ashfield
Grasslands News

The Round Lake Bears senior hockey team from Ochapowace First Nation are packing up and moving west.

The team announced earlier this week that they have been accepted into the North Central Hockey League (NCHL), a premier AA Senior Men's League in Alberta. The team will be based out of the Enoch Cree Nation, located on the western edge of Edmonton. The move comes after several years of being denied membership to senior leagues in the area, including the Qu'Appelle Valley Highway Hockey League.

"This has been a long journey for us, as we have been striving for a spot in a southern Saskatchewan league

for three years as Round Lake Bears and five under the Ochapowace Thunder banner," the team said in a post.

"This move is more than just a shift in geography, it's a step into a fiercely competitive area that truly recognizes our talent and hard work. We have secured a major ice sponsor and are developing key team sponsors who are as invested in our future as our loyal fans and volunteers are.

The North Central Hockey League last season consisted of teams from Bonneyville, Camrose, Devon, Innisfail, Lacombe, Morinville, Stony Plain, Westlock and Wetaskiwin.

Last year's regular season ended with Innisfail winning the league's Vanberg Cup in five games against Lacombe.

The 2025/2026 NCHL season begins in late September with the top eight teams making playoffs.

Sports records made to be broken? Not so fast ...

By Bruce Penton
Sports Columnist

Maybe a Major League Baseball player will slug five home runs in one game. Maybe a batter will drive in more than 10 runs in a single game. Maybe a pitcher will throw a perfect game and strike out 21 batters along the way.

Or maybe not.

Career or single-season records may or may not ultimately be broken, such as Barry Bonds' 762 home runs, Joe DiMaggio's 56-game hitting streak, Cy Young's 519 pitching victories or Cal Ripken's 2,632 consecutive games played, but a single-game record could happen at any time, considering there are 2,430 opportunities every season.

So what is the most unlikely single-game record to be snapped? It's probably the four-homer game, which has happened 19 times, the most recent by Arizona's Eugenio Suarez during an 8-7 loss to Atlanta Braves. The way team parity is taking a beating in the majors, it could conceivably happen that a slugger on a high-payroll team such as the Dodgers or Mets could tee off on a team of Triple A-calibre pitchers and belt five home runs in one game.

A perfect game can hardly be topped, but how about a combination of the 25th perfect game in MLB history AND more than 20 strikeouts? The 20-K standard has been accomplished only five times in history, but never coinciding with a perfect game.

Sixteen times has a batter driven in 10 runs in one game. Shohei Ohtani of the Dodgers was the latest to accomplish that feat, in 2024, but 11 RBI in one game is certainly within reach, especially when viewed through the lens of some 2025 blowouts — a 24-2 win by Cincinnati over Baltimore; 15-3 Yankees over Orioles; 15-2 Rangers over Athletics.

Two homers by one batter, a three-run shot and a grand-slam, and a pair of two-run doubles, could theoretically drive in 11 runs, which has never been done before. How about two grand slams in a game? Not actually a regular occurrence, but it's happened 13 times in MLB history. Weird facts: Fernando Tatis of San Diego hit his two grand slams in the same inning; Tony Cloninger of the Braves in 1966 is the only pitcher to accomplish the two-GS feat. Three grand-slams in the same game? Never say never.

Hitting for the cycle is rare, but not that rare; it has happened 350 times in history. Three hits in a single inning by the same player, however, has been done only five times. Johnny Damon of Boston did it most recently, in 2003, and it was the first time since 1953.

What record will fall next? Maybe one of these days, a Major Leaguer will bang out three hits in the first inning, go on to slug five home runs, three of them grand-slams, drive in 16 and become an instant Hall of Famer. It would even be more unlikely if a pitcher did all of the above, while pitching a perfect game and striking out 21.

That's the day the world will end, with a meteorite slamming into Earth and destroying our planet.

• RJ Currie of sportsdeke.com: "The Baltimore Orioles held their annual Bring Your Dog game recently. To no one's surprise there were numerous pup flies, a few hound-rule doubles and even an inside-the-bark home run."

• Headline at fark.com: "The Royal and Ancient Golf Society warns players not to cheat on their handicaps. Trump immediately designates them as a terrorist or-

ganization."

• Steve Simmons of the Toronto Sun: "What do The Pope and Kyle Lowry have in common? Both graduated from Villanova."

• Comedy writer Brad Dickson of Omaha: "After he fell in the draft, one of the ESPN guys compared Shedeur Sanders to Tom Brady. Shedeur Sanders is to Tom Brady what astronaut Katie Perry is to Neil Armstrong."

• Super 70s Sports: "Back in my day, we watched the NFL with no first down line. Or scoreboard. Or clock. We barely even knew what was going on and we LIKED it."

• Janice Hough of leftcoastsportsbabe.com., quoting a friend about Pope Leo's sports allegiances: "This stuff about 'Cubs fan or White Sox fan' is silly. He's the Pope. He's obviously a Cardinals and Saints fan."

• Janice Hough again: "The Oklahoma City Thunder on Wednesday night looked like a team that might never lose again in this postseason. But otherwise all the insanity in predicting the NBA Champion looks about as easy as it was predicting a new Pope."

• From the Canadian parody website TheBeaver-ton.com: "In embarrassing snafu, starting lineup of St. Louis Cardinals included in Conclave to elect new pope."

• Headline at fark.com: "Shedeur Sanders to start NFL career wearing No. 12 in honour of round in which he was drafted."

• Comedy writer Torben Rolfsen of Vancouver: "Toronto Argonauts placed Shedeur Sanders on their negotiation list. It's fitting, because they both consider themselves the centre of the universe."

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

Southeast Men's Fastball League

Date	Away	Home	Times
20-May	Grenfell	Ochapowace	8 p.m.
21-May	Round Lake	Cowessess	8 p.m.
23-May	Round Lake	Grenfell	8 p.m.
	Cowessess	Ochapowace	8 p.m.
26-May	Round Lake	Cowessess	8 p.m.
	Round Lake	Whitewood	6:30 p.m.
28-May	Whitewood	Round Lake	8 p.m.
30-May	Whitewood	Cowessess	8 p.m.
	Grenfell	Neudorf	7 p.m.
02-Jun	Whitewood	Ochapowace	8 p.m.
	Round Lake	Neudorf	7 p.m.
04-Jun	Cowessess	Grenfell	8 p.m.
	Whitewood	Neudorf	7 p.m.
	Ochapowace	Round Lake	8 p.m.
06-Jun	Ochapowace	Cowessess	8 p.m.
09-Jun	Round Lake	Whitewood	6:30 p.m.
	Ochapowace	Grenfell	8 p.m.
11-Jun	Cowessess	Round Lake	8 p.m.
	Ochapowace	Neudorf	7 p.m.
13-Jun	Neudorf	Cowessess	8 p.m.
16-Jun	Whitewood	Neudorf	7 p.m.
	Cowessess	Grenfell	8 p.m.
18-Jun	Grenfell	Whitewood	6:30 p.m.
19-Jun	Ochapowace	Round Lake	8 p.m.
	Cowessess	Neudorf	7 p.m.
20-Jun	Whitewood	Grenfell	8 p.m.
23-Jun	Neudorf	Grenfell	8 p.m.
	Cowessess	Whitewood	6:30 p.m.
24-Jun	Neudorf	Round Lake	8 p.m.
25-Jun	Ochapowace	Whitewood	6:30 p.m.
	Grenfell	Round Lake	8 p.m.
27-Jun	Neudorf	Ochapowace	8 p.m.
02-Jul	Neudorf	Whitewood	6:30 p.m.
	Round Lake	Ochapowace	8 p.m.
03-Jul	Grenfell	Cowessess	8 p.m.
04-Jul	Neudorf	Ochapowace	8 p.m.

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Millionaire's U18 baseball team starts season



Lights on at Pirie Field

The U18 Melville Millionaires hosted the Yorkton Cardinals U18 #1 for their home opener on May 10, 2025 under the lights at Pirie Field. The Mills fell 3-13 to the Cardinals, but the community of Melville was out to support the new team. Jordan Keller, President of Melville Minor Ball, said that it was great to see the support from Melville and that there are more upgrades coming to Pirie Field. The team is made up of players from Melville and area and are part of the Saskatchewan Parkland Minor Baseball League. The team's schedule can be found on the Saskatchewan Parkland Minor Baseball League website.



JACOB MILLER | GRASSLANDS NEWS



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Province prepares for possible Canada Post strike

By Provincial
Grasslands News

The Government of Saskatchewan is preparing for a possible postal strike that could begin as early as May 22, 2025. Ministries, Crowns and agencies have put contingency plans in place to limit service disruptions.

The government encourages all clients, suppliers and businesses to switch to direct deposit, as those payments will not be impacted by any changes to postal services.

Social Services Payments

Building on the experience with the 2024 Canada Post service disruption, the Ministry of Social Services is preparing contingency plans for clients who receive benefit cheques by mail. Most ministry clients already receive benefit payments by direct deposit and these payments will continue as usual. Clients are encouraged to switch to direct deposit.

Drug Plan and Extended Benefits

Residents requiring letters to submit to their private insurance providers for Special Support, Seniors' Drug Plan, or Exception Drug Status may submit the request through the online Saskatchewan Formulary. Letters will be mailed once the Canada Post service disruption is resolved.

Health Cards and Vital Statistics Certificates

Incoming and outgoing mail delays may affect applications for health cards and certificates for births, deaths or marriages. Visit eHealthSask.ca for options to minimize delays, including ordering online.

Crop Insurance/AgriStability Information and Payments

The Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation (SCIC) will work with customers to determine alternate options for accessing information typically delivered through Canada Post, such as faxing, emailing or delivering to a local SCIC office for pick-up. Producers are encouraged to sign-up for direct deposit for receiving program payments. The direct payment form is available on SCIC's website.

Payments to Government of Saskatchewan Suppliers

The Ministry of Finance will make supplier cheques available for

pickup in Regina for suppliers unable to register for direct deposit. Suppliers should call 306-787-7450 to make arrangements.

Taxes, Refunds and Grant Payments

In the event of a postal dispute, businesses are expected to ensure they file and pay taxes to the Ministry of Finance on time. Mail delays do not change tax deadlines or the assessment of penalties and interest. For more information, please review the Information Notice - IN 2025-03, Filing and Paying Provincial Taxes in the Event of a Postal Disruption.

Tax clients are encouraged to sign up for the secure and convenient Saskatchewan eTax Services (SETS) online portal to file and pay taxes electronically and avoid any delays in meeting tax obligations.

Tax refunds and grant payments sent by direct deposit will not be delayed. Those who do not use direct deposit can call 1-800-667-6102 to set it up, delay the refund or grant

payment, or request a courier delivery at their own cost.

Crown Utility Accounts, Bills and More

SGI, SaskTel, SaskPower and SaskEnergy invite customers to sign up for online billing and notifications to ensure they receive information about their utility bills, driver's licence and vehicle registration renewals and other important communications. This helps avoid delays in receiving bills and account updates. Longer than usual wait times for customer ser-

vice representatives are anticipated in the event of postal service disruptions, so customers are encouraged to visit the respective Crown websites or to call for more information regarding customer service options. Information is also available online regarding options for paying outstanding bills in the event mail-in payments are not possible.

Public Guardian and Trustee

The Public Guardian and Trustee's office is preparing backup options for clients and client service

providers who get payment cheques by mail. Many clients and service providers already use direct deposit and will not be affected. Clients and service providers are encouraged to switch to direct deposit as soon as possible. They can do so by contacting their trust officer or the Public Guardian and Trustee's office at 1-877-787-5424 or by email at pgt@gov.sk.ca.

In the event of a postal strike, clients and suppliers and businesses can visit www.saskatchewan.ca/postal-strike for more detailed information.

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Spring seeding underway

By Provincial
Grasslands News

In the wake of recent warmer weather and dryer conditions, the public is reminded that agriculture producers and equipment are back in the field as seeding operations are underway in earnest across Saskatchewan.

The first weekly Crop Report of the 2025 growing season, published on May 8, indicates that seeding progress is presently at 18 per cent across the province, well ahead of both the five-year average (10 per cent) and the 10-year average (12 per cent).

"Producers have wasted no time getting into the field and making a lot of progress in the past few weeks, and we should keep in mind that this work will only ramp up in the days ahead," Agriculture Minister Daryl Harrison said.

Saskatchewan drivers are encouraged to watch for farm machinery they may encounter moving along our highways and roads and to be mindful of this equipment and be patient for the safety of everyone.

More than 200 people across the province complete a short survey each week to share what they see and hear in their rural municipalities.

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Building Bureaucracy: Part Two

Construction codes impact on farm building projects

By Connie Schwalm
Grasslands News

The heart of any farming operation is the farmhouse.

From modest single-room dwellings – to DIY house ‘kits’ ordered through the Eaton’s catalogue and shipped by rail – to the various types of homes found today – the history of farm homes in Saskatchewan reflects the diversity, ingenuity and determination of those who called these houses ‘home’.

Previously, farmhouses were considered to be farm buildings, and did not have to comply with the same construction standards and regulations as an urban home.

Bill Hawkins (Saskatchewan Government Relations – Building & Technical Standards) says that the decision to exempt farmhouse from having to comply with construction standards was originally made in order to avoid having to place extra burdens on struggling farm families.

“We recognize that the farm community is a special thing in Saskatchewan. The history of this exemption dates back to when the codes were adopted province wide. When the UBAS (Uniform Building and Accessibility Standards Act) became law in 1988, the government at the time did not want to impose additional burdens on the farm community. Back in the 1980’s farm communities were struggling, and they didn’t want to add to that.”

Hawkins says that the current government has “honored that and continued that” by allowing farm buildings to remain exempt from construction standards, and notes that, “We have a very distinct definition for farm buildings. We worked exclusively with SARM and the Ministry of Agriculture to define that better than it had been before. It takes into account the definition of farming or farm operations that’s found in the Ag Operations Act.”

However, this new definition means that the term “farm building” no longer applies to the farmhouse. According to the Construction Codes Advisory entitled *Farm Buildings and Farm Residences in the Construction Codes Act*:

“Farm residences and other buildings where sleeping accommodation is provided on a regular or temporary/seasonal basis are not farm buildings and are not exempt from construction standards. They must comply with applicable provisions of the National Building Code of Canada adopted for use in Saskatchewan.”

This means that a farmer who wants to build a new farmhouse today (whether it will be built on-site or is an RTM or Modular Home) must go through the same process of applying for a Development Permit and Building Permit, provide the same required information and documents for a Plan Approval to take place, and have the same inspections done by the municipality’s Building Official at the required time during construction, as an owner wanting to build a home in an urban center.

Existing farmhouses constructed prior to the new legislation continue to be exempt from having to comply with construction standards. However, as Bob Baker (Owner of Professional Building Inspections) explains, most renovations or modifications done to farmhouses (such as adding or replacing a deck) must now be code compliant.

“Renovations to an existing farm home, such as adding a deck, also require a Building Permit now. These are considered residential homes, so all the same regulations apply to a home on the farm as to a home in an urban center. Even if the owner is tearing an existing deck off and building a new one, that now requires a Building Permit. And the process of obtaining that Building Permit, and having the required inspections done during construction, is the same as for any other residential

building project.”

Other structures are also now subject to construction standards because of this change. For example, as Hawkins notes, a detached garage “would be an accessory structure to the primary dwelling unit. So, those would generally be viewed as part of the residential house by both legislation and construction codes.”

But defining a structure as a “farm building” no matter how rigorous and detailed that definition might be, can be challenging. Hawkins points out that the current definition “farm building” also means that a building can be disqualified because of the purpose it serves.

“A building that offers commercial services unrelated to the farming operation must comply with construction codes. So, for example, if I’m a farmer but I build cabinets in the wintertime, then the building where I build cabinets is considered a different business from the farming operations and it would need to comply with construction standards.”

However, when asked how that same building would be classified if the farmer did work related to the farm operation in the building during the rest of the year, Hawkins says this:

“Our advice would be default to the strictest provisions of the Building Code and the *Construction Code Act and Regulations*. Then it’s all covered. So, that building would be considered commercial.”

It should also be noted that the exemption for farm buildings under provincial legislation may not apply if a Rural Municipality chooses to have construction standards apply to farm buildings. As Bob Baker (PBI) notes, a municipality can enact a Building Bylaw which supersedes the requirements of *The Construction Codes Act*.

“A municipality can’t write a bylaw saying that it won’t require Building Permits. They must do at minimum – what is in the *Construction Code Act*. But a municipality can decide to have a building bylaw that exceeds the requirements in the legislation.

“So, it is the Construction Code Act, Regulations and the Municipal Bylaw that determine what is applicable code. For example, Part Two of the Building Code involves farm buildings over 600 square meters. That would include most of the big farm shops you typically see in Saskatchewan. All the regulations pertaining to those buildings is in that part of the code.

“The way that the Construction Code Act is currently written, those buildings are exempt because they’re farm buildings. So, Part Two of the Building Code isn’t applicable. But an RM can decide that they do want a Building Permit for farm buildings over 600 square meters. Now that building will require a building permit, and that part of the building code is applicable.

Bill Hawkins says that allowing municipalities to exceed the requirements of legislation provides the local government with greater independence.

“Municipalities are given some latitude in determining whether the standard should apply to farm building, because the Province intends municipalities to have some autonomy in making some decision locally.”

However, despite these challenges, Hawkins maintains the new legislation brings greater assurances of safety.

“The reason why farmhouses must now comply is that previously, we had a double standard in Saskatchewan. You could build a farmhouse without all of the objectives of the Building Code – health, safety, accessibility where needed, fire and structural protection – being applied. Without that being applied to a farmhouse, you suggested a double standard where farm families didn’t require the same provisions for health, safety and welfare that their

urban cousins did.

“Some believe they should be able to build whatever they like on their farm. I get that sentiment. The farm community is a proud group of people, and there’s reason for that. There’s a lot of farm legacy and heritage in the history of Saskatchewan.

“But we’re in a modern society. We have expectations. And while the intentions are good, you never know when something could go wrong because something wasn’t done effectively. Is the bedroom window the right size so that a person can get out in the event of a fire? Is the handrail on the stairs adequate and in place so a person can grasp and use it? Is there the right landing at the top and bottom of the stairs to limit the trips and falls that might happen if they weren’t there? These things impact the whole family and anybody who

might visit that location.

“If things aren’t done effectively, it might also put first responders at risk, whether it’s fire, EMT or others, and that can put a burden on our health care system and other components in our society.”

“So, in a modern society, we want one standard, whether it’s on the farm or in an urban center, because everyone needs to be treated the same. There are enough variants already because of geography in rural Saskatchewan. If we can make the buildings safe, that’s just one thing out of the way.”

Certainly, Saskatchewan’s *Construction Codes Act & Regulations* have an impact wherever you live in Saskatchewan. Next week, we’ll look at how this legislation and construction standards may impact where you work.

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with Communion

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*9 a.m. Communion Worship at

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Sunday, May 18:

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Sunday Service - 10:30 a.m.

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Father Tomy Mandapathil

Sunday, May 18:

11:00 a.m. Mass Service

ST. MARY'S

ANGLICAN CHURCH

Sunday, May 18:

10:30 a.m. No Service

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN

CHURCH, WAPPELLA

Sunday, May 18:

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with Coffee Fellowship to Follow

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11 a.m. Worship Service

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Coffee with Pastor

Wednesday: 10 a.m. Mom's Group

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ONE AD, SIX NEWSPAPERS: All classified ads appear in the Fort Qu'Appelle Times, Indian Head-Wolseley News, Kipling Clipper, Melville Advance, Whitewood-Grenfell Herald Sun and Quad Town Forum

Obituary Catherine Anne Haverstock

Sept. 19, 1954 - May 3, 2025

It is with great sadness we announce the passing of Catherine Anne Haverstock at the age of 70. She passed on Saturday, May 3, 2025, at Whitewood Community Health Centre, long-term care, where many people became a part of her family and she became part of theirs.

Catherine was born Sept. 19, 1954, to the late Laura (Boudreau) and Norman Newell of Little River Harbour, Yarmouth County, NS.

Upon getting married April 19, 1974, to Leslie Kendall Haverstock, she soon became a Canadian military wife. After having two children, Matthew 1976 and Sarah 1978, and living in many different locations across Canada, Catherine and Les made Whitewood, SK, their last stop.

Catherine loved to travel, whether it was camping, summer vacations or seeing the world. When not travelling, she enjoyed doing many crafty projects like crocheting, cross stitch, painting and don't forget about diamond dot pictures. Everyone will miss seeing her wonderful finished projects.

Catherine Anne was predeceased by her beloved husband, Les; mother Laura and father Norman; siblings Joe (Mary) Newell, Anita (Darrel) Wentzell, Deanna (Henry) Nowlan and Al (Carol Ann) Newell.

She will greatly be missed by her son, Matthew (Darla) Haverstock; daughter Sarah (Wayne) Payot; grandchildren Michael and Samantha "Gabe" Haverstock, Jade and Chase Payot; siblings Danny (Deloris) Newell, Wayne (Judy) Newell, Gaila Magee, Paulette Newell, Larry Newell and Norman (Catherine) Newell; plus many aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins, friends and others who have had the joy to have fun and a good laugh with her.

Catherine will be cremated and buried with her loving husband and a couple of special puppy companions in the First Baptist Church Cemetery, Hammonds Plains, NS. Graveside memorial and gathering will be determined at a later date.

Arrangements are entrusted to Matthews Funeral Home, Whitewood and Melville.



Obituary Donald Arthur Warner

Sept. 4, 1938 - Jan. 15, 2025

It is with sadness that the family announces the passing of Don Warner at the age of 86 in Balcarres, SK.

Mass of Christian Burial will be held Friday, May 30, 2025 at 2 p.m., Catholic Church of St. John, 302 Earl Street, Balcarres, SK.

Interment - Balcarres Town Cemetery. Following the Interment, all are welcome for a time of fellowship and visitation luncheon in the Balcarres Memorial Hall, Main Street.

Arrangements entrusted to Conley Funeral Home, Fort Qu'Appelle, SK. 1-306-332-0555



Advertising Deadline for Obituaries and Classifieds is 12 noon on Tuesdays.

Obituary Marguerite Jean Loewen

May 26, 1933 - May 9, 2025

Marguerite Jean Loewen passed away at the Southeast Integrated Care Centre Long Term Care in Moosomin, SK, in the early hours of Friday, May 9, 2025, with family by her side.

Jean was the oldest child of Robert and Margaret Roney, and she had six siblings whom she loved dearly.

Jean was predeceased by daughter Caren Hanna; first husband Clifford Hanna and second husband Cornelius Loewen; grandson Ryan Vilness; great-grandson Cailen Vilness; sisters Beth Crawford, Marjorie Larson and Eileen Van Damme; brothers Allan Roney, Clifford Roney and Barry Roney; sisters-in-law Lois Roney, Eileen Mooney, Kay Stratton and Olga Hanna; and brothers-in-law Vernon Stratton, Ed Mooney and Gordon Hanna.

Left to mourn her passing are daughters Trudy (Kim) Vilness, Donna (Mark) Hammerquist, Sandra (Bruce) Restau and Shiela Hanna (Shane Vennard); sons Dean (Faye) Hanna and Wayne (Shari) Hanna; 18 grandchildren, 34 great-grandchildren and 4 great-great-grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

Jean was so proud of her family and just loved when as many of them could gather to celebrate her. She always had a helping hand for anyone in need, and she radiated happiness through her smile. Jean loved to dance and enjoyed the Saturday Night Dance Party on television and especially loved to dance with her daughter Donna at the end of every visit.

Jean will be greatly missed by all her family and friends and her new family at the Moosomin Long Term Care.

Memorial donations may be made to the SEICC Long Term Care Recreation Department.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Arrangements are entrusted to Matthews Funeral Home, Whitewood and Melville.



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Obituary Elroy Senft

May 27, 1936 - May 2, 2025

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Elroy Senft of Lemberg, SK. Elroy left us peacefully and walked into the loving arms of Jesus on Friday, May 2, 2025, and was 88 years old.

Elroy was born along side his twin brother, Elmer, on May 27, 1936, to William and Ida Senft on the family farm in Lemberg, SK. He spent his entire life on the farm in Lemberg except for a short time working the shipyards in Vancouver, B.C.

Elroy was born to a large family of fifteen children. He was a shy boy who spent his youth playing anti-over, horse shoes and protecting his sisters from being chased by the roosters. As a young man, Elroy worked on the family farm. He met the love of his life, MaryAnn, and they wed on Nov. 11, 1965. Together they farmed for over 60 years growing various crops, raising beef, pork, chickens, and milking cows. Raising seven children on the farm, their home was always full of the laughter of children and grandchildren.

Once retired, Elroy and MaryAnn took numerous trips, became avid gardeners and spent countless hours cutting acres of grass and working on puzzles.

Elroy's dedication to the farm and his work ethic are seen through his children. We will all miss hearing his favourite sayings, "oi yoi yoi" and "work hard".

Elroy is survived by his loving wife of 60 years, MaryAnn; his children, Larry Derksen (Brenda, Carmen, Misty and Harley), Kathy Kroeker (Ben), Debbie Cunday (Barry, Chasity, Nathan), Bobbi Derksen (Ashley, Justin), Gene (Tammy, Amber and Cody), Joanne Mercer (Brooke, Amanda, Lacey, Deanna, Brittany and Kayla), Roxanne (Remo DiAntonio and Gabrielle), as well as numerous great- and great-great-grandchildren; his sisters, Linda, Wilma, Ida and Rose; and many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

In August 2024, Elroy was diagnosed with prostate cancer that metastasized to the bone. He insisted on staying in his house with MaryAnn and his children being his caregivers. On April 20, 2025, he was hospitalized at Fort Qu'Appelle, SK. Elroy was transferred to Palliative Care at the Pasqua Hospital. His wife, children and grandchildren were with him for his last days, sharing memories and laughs of the family farm, all of which made Elroy come alive and share some jokes and laughter.

The family would like to express their gratitude to the doctors and nurses at Palliative Care for their compassionate end-of-his-life care for our dear Elroy.

Elroy's funeral service will be held Saturday, May 17, 2024, at 2 p.m., at Matthews Funeral Home, Melville, with Pastor Lorne Bonk officiating. Interment will be in Lemberg and District Cemetery.

Funeral arrangements were entrusted to Matthews Funeral Home, Melville.

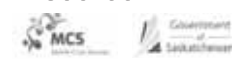


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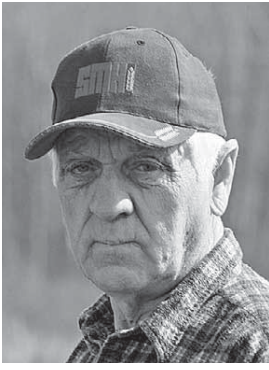
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1-844-GNG-NEWS

Obituary

Lane Cross Aug. 8, 1934 - May 10, 2025



Our Dad, (George) Lane Cross of Kipling, SK passed away peacefully on May 10, 2025 surrounded by his family.

Lane was born August 8, 1934 to Charles and May Cross. He was the fourth of five siblings: Hattie Cook, Mildred Sproat, Murray Cross and Elsie Schaefer.

Lane married Jeanette (Wilhelm) Cross in 1959. They moved onto their farm 10 miles northeast of Kipling in 1961. This became the home and sanctuary for a large and vibrant family that Dad was incredibly proud of. They had six daughters, 13 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Dad was a farmer at heart. He took great joy in the beauty of the prairies and was proud to work the land his entire life. In the early years, he farmed alongside his father and then later with the help of his daughters. While Donna is the one carrying on the farming tradition, the ingenuity and work ethic Dad believed in is evident throughout the family. Dad will be honoured and remembered by all of his family who loved him dearly.

Lane is survived by his wife Jeanette; his daughters: Barbara Cross, Judy Cross (Doug Hogan), Nancy (Pat) Holman, Mary (Ronald) Henrion, Elaine Cross (Rob Smales), and Donna Cross (Clayton MacLennan); his grandchildren: Kayla (Jordan) and Lucas (Judy's kids), Emily and Matthew (Nancy's kids), Calvin (Chelsey), Amy (Charlie) and Jessica (Jesse) (Mary's kids), Franny (Elaine's kid), Lane (Samantha), Hazel, Emerson, Ewan, Shane and Matthew (Donna's kids); his great-grandchildren: Maverick, Axel (Kayla) and Conrad (Calvin); his sister Elsie and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his parents, older siblings, siblings-in-law and his grandson Benjamin (Donna).

There will be a private service in Lansdowne Memorial Church on May 16, 2025, followed by a public tea and reception, including the eulogy, in the Kipling Community Centre starting at 3 pm.

If desired, charitable donations can be made in Dad's honour to Benjamin's Gift of Music program at the Jim Pattison Children's Hospital Foundation, #1 - 345 3rd Avenue South, Saskatoon, SK S7K 1M6.

Online condolences may be made at www.tubmanfh.com.

Arrangements in care of Tubman Cremation & Funeral Services.



Memoriam



KOLYBABA – In loving memory of Carol who passed away May 13, 2021.

My mind still talks to you,
My heart still looks for you,
But my soul knows you're at peace.
I miss you every single day.
My family misses your guidance and friendly smile.
Always in our hearts♥
–Wilmer, Tanya, James, Taylor and Jayda. M24-1p

YOUNG – Lena. In loving memory of a dear Mom and Gramma who passed away May 21, 1999.

Even though the years have flown,
And seasons have since come and gone,
The echo of your gentle tone
Still whispers softly until dawn.
The memories, like stars so bright,
Still pierce the darkness of the night.
Though time may try to dim their gleam,
They live within a waking dream.
I see your smile in photographs,
Hear your advice in silent laughs.
The lessons learned, the love you gave,
Still guide me through life's restless wave.
The world has changed in countless ways,
But in my heart, your presence stays.
A constant comfort, deep and true,
My everlasting thought of you.
And though a long, long time has passed,
The love we shared was built to last
Missing you still, with tender heart,
A cherished, irreplaceable part.
–Love forever, Laura, Denis, Julie, Leanne and Janlyn. M51-3p

For Sale

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Memoriam



In Loving Memory
Elfrieda Elsa Potoroka

I try and cope the best I can
But I'm missing you so much,
If I could only see you
And once more feel your touch.
Yes, you've just walked on ahead of me
Don't worry I'll be fine,
But now and then I swear I feel
Your hand slip into mine.

We love and miss you every day,

Till we meet again,
Mike, Mickey and Bonnie.

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Annual Meeting

The Melville Heritage Museum's Annual Meeting will be held on Monday, May 26, 2025 at 8 p.m. at the Museum. Everyone is welcome. New board members are also welcome. M1-2c

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A person who desires to complain against an assessment or non-assessment may, within twenty days (20) after the date of this notice, notify the secretary-treasurer in writing of the complaint in accordance with section 62 of *The Conservation and Development Act*.

Dated this 22nd Day of May, 2025

Lynette Herauf
Secretary-Treasurer
P.O. Box 36
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