

Diplomas presented

Grenfell and Whitewood grads held

By Sarah Pacio and Chris Ashfield
Grasslands News

Last weekend was a time of celebration for graduates and their families as commencement ceremonies were held in Grenfell and Whitewood.

Grenfell

Twenty graduates sat nervously on the stage in front of family and friends at Grenfell High School on Saturday afternoon. Several guests commended the graduates for their achievements. Deputy Mayor Dale Hardy congratulated the class on behalf of the Town of Grenfell; Councillor Ruth Kequahtoway spoke on behalf of Zagime Anishinabek First Nation. PVSD

Board Member Jennifer Kraushaar and MLA Kevin Weedmark also congratulated the students.

Principal Heather Hallam shared a few words of advice with the class, then guest speaker and teacher Holly DeVocht addressed the graduates. She encouraged the young adults to remember some of the lessons they had learned during their years attending elementary and high school.

“Did any of you memorize Hamlet this year? Probably not, but you have some even better critical thinking skills stored away in your brain, thanks to *Hamlet*,” she stated.

Principal Hallam and Vice Principal Sandra Wiley presented diplo-



Whitewood graduating class of 2025

Front row, left to right, are, Warrick Frier, Aiden Niemi, Tehya Taypotat, Karianne Drake, Taydean Johnson, Hunter Beutler, Hudson Brehaut, Connor Bear. Back row, left to right, are, Mitchell Kresowaty, Carter Page, Anthony Blondeau, Liam Roberts, Reese Hamilton, Karter Raiwet, Jace Beierbach, Dayton Flaman.

JEN HANLIN PHOTOGRAPHY | GRASSLANDS NEWS

mas to the graduates, along with several awards and scholarships. This was followed by Brelynn Guidry’s valedictorian address, in which she considered the class’s transformative years, noting that a majority of the graduates had attended school together since Kindergarten. She also thanked teachers, parents, and community members for the role they played in the

students’ lives and then advised her classmates to have a positive outlook on their future.

“This is not the end, but the beginning of something new. The world we are stepping into needs innovative ideas, bold voices and people who care. The world needs us,” the valedictorian said. “Remember, the future is not something we enter, it’s something we create. Life is not about being perfect; it is about showing up, being kind and trying your best.”

Guidry and classmate Darby McCormack then presented a class history, sharing memories of students’ kindness, talents and experiences, as well as graduates’ goals for employment or further education. These included plans to pursue careers in mechanics, civil engineering, bull riding, mining, child and family services, as well as early education, healthcare and other science fields.

Graduates participated in a parade through Grenfell after the program at the school, carrying on a tradition that was started during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Whitewood

Sixteen Whitewood School students received their diplomas at a two-and-a-half-hour graduation ceremony on June 14 in front of a packed audi-

torium.

During the ceremony, valedictorian Carter Page spoke about the journey of getting through school and the support they received from their parents and teachers.

“Our grad theme says, “Smiling because it’s over,” but today, I want to encourage you to smile because of everything that brought us to this moment. The late nights, the group chats, the classroom chaos, and the friendships – we made it through all of it, together,” said Page.”

The valedictorian also left a message for his fellow students about going forward.

“There’s no challenge that can’t be met with hard work, determination, and resilience. Every single graduate on this stage has proven that. You’ve taken what life has thrown your way—not just survived it, but grown through it,” Page said. “So, to my fellow graduates: don’t smile just because it’s over. Smile because the next chapter is just beginning. Be proud of everything you’ve accomplished to get here today—and may success follow you wherever life takes you next.”

Principal Connie Maier also touched on the graduate’s theme this year during her address, saying “Smiling because it’s over!” was not only fitting for the graduates but also

herself.

“For those who may not know, I am retiring this year, and the end of the year is coming quickly. Even though the graduates and I might be excited for whatever new experiences are coming next, Whitewood School has been our everyday and our world for a long time (although for me, maybe just a touch longer!). Graduates, I hope you can look back on your school years with fondness, and that many of your school memories leave you with a smile! I know I will,” said Maier.

“Your diploma represents your accomplishments thus far. This is an exciting time in your life, and I hope you create a future that you are completely passionate about. Take time to enjoy the moment, because take it from me, it goes by way too quickly! As you are entering into the next stage of life, post school, wherever that may take you – whether it be the work force, post-secondary schooling, or travel, I hope no matter what the reason, that you all keep on smiling,” she concluded with.

The ceremony also included handing out awards and bursaries as well as graduates presenting roses to parents or special people in their lives.



SARAH PACIO | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Grenfell valedictorian

Brelynn Guidry, valedictorian for Grenfell High School’s Class of 2025, received multiple awards and scholarships at the graduation ceremony on June 14.

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Herriot appeals for access to common lands

By Alan Hustak
Grasslands News

forests is now privately owned or leased to corporate interests. By comparison, more than 90 per cent of British Columbia is still crown land.

"We live in one of the most privatized parts of the continent," he said. "In the prairie ecozone in Saskatchewan, crown land is all leased out privately. Leaseholders more or less treat it like private property. Leaseholders and property owners in Saskatchewan have the strongest trespass laws which allow them to block the public from entering the land."

Some of the last com-



ALAN HUSTAK | GRASSLANDS NEWS

We want access

Trevor Herriot wants environmental regulations in Saskatchewan that make sense.

mon lands are our road allowances which he says formed "ribbons of nature around cultivated land," but now even those are being used by corporate farms who operate outside the best interests of the wider community. As a result, Herriot warned that our biodiversity is collapsing, water is being

polluted and the lack of a wetlands' policy is contributing to climate change.

"If there is magic on this planet it is contained in the water," he quoted

the acclaimed philosopher Lauren Easley who died in 1977.

Saskatchewan's environment minister Travis Keisig has previously dismissed such concerns saying that every farmer is an environmentalist at heart, "You cannot maintain your agricultural hold without understanding the implications of environmental policies," Keisig says.

"That is true," agreed Herriot, "A farmer knows the creeks and sloughs on his own land, but (no one) farmer knows the whole picture. Herriot said he is not against private ownership, but he worries about the potential problems of removing the wetlands.

"There is no conservation of wetlands at all. It is just not happening. Trees and water are part of a shared responsibility. The commons also includes the air, the soil, minerals and the wild plants and

animals that depend on all of it staying healthy. That is the crux of the problem. It is crazy. All wetlands being drained release huge amounts of greenhouse gas emissions every time you do that. Huge, huge amounts." Herriot said because of the economic incentives offered to drain the wetlands, "We need to call in science. We have to work together. We have to have regulations that make sense."

The Qu'Appelle Valley Environmental Association launched a major climate action campaign last year. "We spent a lot of money on a top-of-the-line brochure, but we're still not broke," director Jim Harding told the meeting. The financial report shows the donations increased by 100 per cent last year and the QVEA has \$3,200 in the bank. "We've been getting significant cheques," said Harding.



Travis Keisig

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Local credit unions donate \$150,000 to wildfire relief

By Ryan Kiedrowski
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

For the last few months, three major credit unions across the province have been busy preparing for a possible merger. Last week saw member voting wrap up on the question of Conexus, Cornerstone, and Synergy branches becoming the largest Credit Union in the province. But during this busy time, the three entities joined forces for another cause—wildfire disaster relief and recovery.

“Conexus—in support with our two other credit unions, Cornerstone and Synergy—really were moved to take action to support people of the north, understanding the tremendous impact that these wildfires are having on individuals, their homes and the level of stress that they must be going through,” explained Celina Philpot, CEO of Conexus Credit Union. “We felt the need to do something to demonstrate our commitment to our communities, and that’s what credit unions do in times of prosperity and times of difficulties. We’re there to support our communities, and that’s what this donation represents.”

A joint donation of \$150,000 was made to the Canadian Red Cross 2025 Saskatchewan Wildfires Appeal, which will be used where it’s needed most.

“It’s going to initial relief efforts,” Philpot said. “Whatever that immediate need, urgent aid for those who have been displaced or affected by the fire. That’s the general premise of what the Red Cross is doing at this point in time, given the impact on people today, so it’s that immediate relief. That’s what they’re focusing on right now.”

As of June 6, the Canadian Red Cross had registered over 10,200 people from over 3,600 households, evacuated due to the wildfires raging in the northern part of the province.

“Wildfires in Saskatchewan have forced thousands of people from their homes,” said Luc Mullinder, Canadian Red Cross Vice President of Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and Nunavut.

“The Canadian Red Cross is working closely with Indigenous leadership and all levels of government to determine how to best support people impacted by the wildfires. The Red Cross is grateful for the generosity of Conexus, Cornerstone, and Synergy Credit Unions and their support of the 2025 Saskatchewan Wildfires Appeal, which will help address much needed assistance for people in the province.”

The fires have even forced the temporary closure of one Conexus branch.

“Our location for Conexus in La Ronge is right in the heart of where these wildfires are happening, so it has impacted our branch there,” Philpot said. “We have closed that location in order to support the community with their evacuation, so the employees have left the location. Our members have also evacuated La Ronge and the surrounding area, so our branch is closed down for right now.”

Matching donations

On June 4, the government of Canada announced they would be matching donations made to the Canadian Red Cross earmarked for Saskatchewan and Manitoba for 30 days, retroactive to when the blazes began. The governments of Saskatchewan

and Manitoba also each posted \$15 million to their local appeals.

“Credit union members care deeply about their communities and the entire province of Saskatchewan,” said Doug Jones, Cornerstone Credit Union CEO. “The wildfires have brought immense hardship to many, and we know the road to recovery will take time, resources, and collective effort.”

“On behalf of our members, we are making this donation not only to support immediate relief, but to help rebuild hope and resilience across Saskatchewan.”

While corporate donations such as what the credit unions are providing are not eligible for the matching dollars, individual contributions will be doubled by the federal government.

“If our members want to do more on their own individually, we encourage them just to contact the Red Cross because they are organizing all the relief funds,” Philpot says. “If we can centralize that through the Red Cross, the Saskatchewan wildfire campaign, then they’ll make sure the funds get to where they need to.”

She also pointed out that members affected by the wildfires needing financial assistance can reach out to their local branch.

“We have policies and procedures to support people in times of difficulty,” Philpot said. “We encourage our members to call us directly, and we will work with them to find a resolution to any of the financial issues they might be going through right now. We’re ready to support them, they just have to reach out and give us a call.”

Trevor Beaton, CEO of Synergy Credit Union,



ALAN HUSTAK | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Regina pride casts wide net

Rainbows, rhinestones and bouncing balloons frame the dome of the Saskatchewan Legislature in Regina during the Pride Parade which attracted crowds from a number of communities from across the Grasslands region on Saturday. Two spirit supporters from Cowessess and Ochapowace First Nations led the Gay Pride parade as it made its way from downtown across the Albert Street Bridge. The two-hour parade was a family friendly affair with representatives from the NDP and Liberal parties, the RCMP, the Regina Police Pipe Band, Catholic school teachers, the United Church, corporate sponsors and flag waving ethnic communities all taking part.

echoed those sentiments of standing by their membership.

“At Synergy, we believe that community is

more than a word—it’s a commitment we live every day,” he said.

Donations to the 2025 Saskatchewan Wildfires

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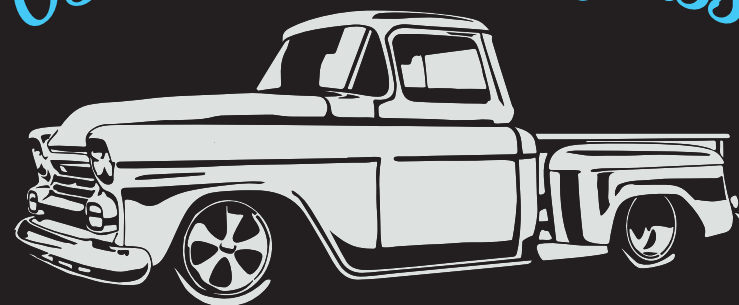
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Indian Head Rockets

75 years of baseball history celebrated

By Sarah Pacio
Grasslands News

On June 11, 1950, the Indian Head Rockets played their first of many baseball games in Saskatchewan. To honour the legacy left by the African American and Latino team, the Indian Head Museum collaborated with the Regina Red Sox to host a 75th anniversary tribute game at Currie Field last Wednesday evening. Former Rockets players Nat Bates and Willie Reed travelled from the United States to attend the game and other special events.

Baseball History

During the 1950s, Indian Head's Mayor Jimmy Robison and a committee of local residents arranged for a Negro League franchise team from the U.S. to play baseball in Saskatchewan. While in Canada, they were known as the Rockets and spent four summers playing in Indian Head and at tournaments across the prairies. The team and its competitors were very popular, with thousands of spectators attending games. Notably, some of the Rockets, like Pumpsie Green, later joined major league teams in the U.S.

Nat Bates and Willie Reed played for the Rockets in 1952; Bates was a pitcher and Reed played second base. The two men, now in their 90s, are thought to be the last

surviving members of the original Rockets teams.

In 2022, the Rockets team was inducted to the Saskatchewan Baseball Hall of Fame in Battleford. Bates received an individual induction the following year and visited Indian Head on both occasions.

Anniversary Celebrations

Bates and Reed returned to Saskatchewan last week for a celebration of the Rockets' 75th anniversary. Lt. Gov. Bernadette McIntyre welcomed them to a reception in Regina. They also spent time at the Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame and met with Regina Mayor Chad Bachynski and Carol LaFayette-Boyd, Executive Director of the Saskatchewan African Canadian Heritage Museum.

A tribute game hosted by the Regina Red Sox at Currie Field on June 11 was the main event organized to celebrate the Rockets' legacy. The Red Sox and their opponents from Swift Current wore commemorative caps sponsored by Sherwood Co-op. Hats for the Regina team featured a red "J" to represent the Jacksonville Eagles that played as the Rockets from 1950 to 1952. The Swift Current 57's wore hats that reflected the Florida Cubans who played for the Rockets after the Jacksonville team.

While the Regina and Swift Current teams warmed up, Bates and Reed shook hands with fans and signed autographs for baseball enthusiasts. Then the former Rockets

made their way on to the diamond for the tribute game's opening ceremony, which also included members of the Indian Head Museum and young baseball players from the community.

Boys from Indian Head's 18U and 11U teams joined the Red Sox players on the field for the national anthem and other presentations. Although the uniforms have changed since the 1950s, minor ball teams in Indian Head continue to carry the Rockets name.

When spectators were seated and guests were assembled on the field, Robyn Jensen shared a brief background of the team. Jensen is Vice President of Indian Head Museum and was instrumental in creating an exhibit that highlights the Rockets' history in the community. She spoke to the crowd about Indian Head's role in supporting players with diverse ethnic backgrounds on the ball diamond and she described Bates and Reed's participation in that legacy.

"We honour what the Rockets built, not just as athletes but as cultural ambassadors," Jensen stated. "When Nat and Willie arrived in Canada, they didn't just play, they connected with teammates, with fans, with communities. Their impact went far beyond one summer. They were welcomed into homes; they built bridges across cultures at a time when segregation still ruled in the U.S. They showed what grace, dignity and leadership looked like, on and off the field."

Reed and Bates responded with a few words expressing their appreciation for the opportunity to participate in the Rockets 75th anniversary celebration.

After the speeches and singing of "O Canada," Bates and Reed each threw a ceremonial first pitch and then took their seats to watch the game. Although the home team lost, 9 to 4, that did not diminish the enthusiasm of youth from Indian Head who stayed until the final pitch and eagerly ran the bases or played catch with the Red Sox after the game.

Before returning to their homes, Bates and Reed visited Indian Head Museum on Thursday afternoon. There they had an opportunity to view the exhibit featuring the Rockets and reminisce with Indian Head Mayor Steven Cole and other community members about their experiences.



SARAH PACIO | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Can I get your autograph?

Former Rockets' players Willie Reed (right) and Nat Bates (left) autograph baseballs for minor baseball players and other fans at a Regina Red Sox tribute game honouring the Indian Head Rockets 75th anniversary.

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SHA announces administrative restructuring

Submitted
Grasslands News

The Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) has implemented a series of leadership changes aimed at directing more resources to the point of care, strengthening provincial alignment, and improving financial stewardship. These changes include a restructuring of administrative leadership roles that has generated \$10.4 million in efficiencies, the addition of 27 new and 20 enhanced Clinical Manager positions in 45 rural and northern communities, and the introduction of a new model for senior physician leadership.

"I commend the Saskatchewan Health Authority for this review and the well-considered steps to better use resources, strengthen local leadership, and provide stronger support to health teams and communities," Health Minister Jeremy Cockrill said. "These changes are an important part of the province's work to build a more efficient and integrated health system—one that puts patients first and ensures our health-care professionals have the support they need to deliver the best possible care."

Administrative restructuring

Following a comprehensive review of its out-of-scope leadership and administrative structure, the SHA has identified \$10.4 million in annual administrative efficiencies. Of this total, \$6.2 million will be redirected to support patient care priorities across the health system, and \$4.2 million will be reinvested to enhance local clinical leadership in rural and northern communities. There is no reduction to in-scope positions as part of this restructuring.

"This work reflects our commitment to building a leadership structure that is sustainable, integrated, and focused on meeting the needs of patients, health teams and communities," said SHA CEO Andrew Will. "These changes allow us to reinvest directly into areas that support the delivery of high-quality care while strengthening leadership where it is needed most: at the point of care."

In total, the restructuring has resulted in the reduction of 26 senior out-of-scope leadership positions, along with reductions in other out-of-scope corporate, management, and support roles. This effort builds on earlier work to streamline leadership

following the amalgamation of the province's former Regional Health Authorities, which initially generated \$9.7 million in annual efficiencies.

Enhancing local clinical leadership

As part of the \$4.2 million reinvestment, the SHA will introduce 27 new and 20 enhanced Clinical Manager positions across 45 rural and northern communities. This work is aimed at increasing on-site leadership presence, improving manager-to-staff ratios, and ensuring more dedicated oversight of individual facilities.

The enhancements include:

- Adding 14 new, full-time on-site Clinical Managers for multi-service facilities
- Adding 9 new, full-time on-site Clinical Managers where individuals were responsible for overseeing multiple locations
- Creating 4 on-site Clinical Managers based in rural communities to provide oversight of professional practice, education, and resources within designated Health Networks
- Transitioning existing part-time roles to full or near full-time positions in 20 communities to enhance on-site Clinical Manager leadership capacity and presence.

"Stronger local leadership means our staff have better access to their manager, our teams are better supported, and our communities benefit from more consistent, accountable oversight at the facility level," said Derek Miller, SHA Chief Operating Officer. "This is about ensuring our leadership structure supports the realities of care delivery on the ground."

All new and enhanced Clinical Managers will be on-site at health facilities, improving visibility, leadership accountability, and clinical staff access to local management. These changes are expected to strengthen the continuity of care, enable consistent implementation of standards, and support improved staff retention.

Implementation will begin in summer 2025, with full deployment targeted for completion in the fall.

Changes to senior physician leadership structure

In parallel with these administrative

changes, the SHA undertook a separate review of the current senior physician leadership structure. This review identified opportunities to improve role clarity, strengthen physician connection to operational leadership and decision-making, and reinforce accountability for quality, safety, and service delivery across the health system.

To advance these opportunities, SHA is introducing a new physician leadership model, establishing six Deputy Chief Medical Officers (DCMOs), who will report to the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) and provide co-leadership alongside Vice Presidents. This model will replace the current senior physician leadership structure. The new model also includes revised accountabilities for the CMO position, which will now focus primarily on physician leadership, working closely with the Chief Operating Officer to lead physician engagement and involvement in operational leadership.

"The new physician leadership structure is focused on strengthening connections between clinical and operational decision-making," said Dr. Jordan Wingate, SHA Interim CMO. "This model is designed to improve accountability and role clarity, increase physician engagement, and strengthen operational integration."

Recruitment for the six DCMO positions was to begin May 23, with the new roles taking effect July 14. The recruitment process will be transparent and led by the Interim Chief Medical Officer, with participation from the Saskatchewan Medical Association and the College of Medicine. There are no changes at this time to other physician leadership roles, including Provincial Department Heads, Area Chiefs of Staff, or Medical Directors.

The SHA remains committed to implementing changes to both the out-of-scope administrative and senior physician leadership structures in a thoughtful and respectful manner. This work is part of ongoing efforts to build a more integrated and sustainable health system to support the over 45,000 health professionals and over 2,700 physicians to Saskatchewan.

Conexus, Cornerstone, and Synergy Credit Unions are merging Jan. 1/26

Submitted
Grasslands News

Members of Conexus, Cornerstone, and Synergy Credit Unions have voted in favour of merging, marking a historic and exciting moment for credit union members across Saskatchewan. This pivotal moment marks the beginning of an exciting new chapter for these credit unions and the communities we serve!

Effective Jan. 1, 2026, these three credit unions will unite to form a new province-wide credit union. The new credit union will be governed by an inaugural board that will include twelve directors comprised of six directors from Conexus and three each from Cornerstone and Synergy Credit Unions.

Voting took place both online and in-branch during the period of June 3 – 13, with members across all three credit unions showing clear support for the merger. The resolution was passed with 87.5 per cent of the members voting in favour from Conexus, 86.5 per cent in favour from Cornerstone and 88.7 per cent in favour from Synergy. A successful vote required at least 75 per cent approval from members participating in the vote, for each credit union. This strong vote of confidence from members confirms the shared vision and commitment to building a stronger, more resilient credit union that remains member-focused and dedi-

cated to a thriving Saskatchewan.

By merging, this new credit union will be better prepared to meet future investment needs, access specialized expertise, and navigate regulatory challenges while continuing to offer the service, innovation, and local decision-making members expect.

With a combined \$15 billion in assets under management, the new credit union will serve more than 200,000 members, through 57 branches, in 50 communities with 1,400 employees throughout Saskatchewan. This merger builds on the success of these three credit unions while staying true to their shared values.

This merger is a proactive step forward to ensure the credit unions remain strong, sustainable, and locally rooted for generations to come.

Over the coming months, we will finalize the required legal and regulatory processes and announce the CEO and the credit union name. The CEO and credit union name will be selected from one of the three existing credit unions before we officially become one on January 1, 2026. The next steps in the process are to begin the significant undertaking of integrating our three credit unions.

Thank you to all members who participated in this important vote. Your voice has shaped the future of your credit union!

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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."

A heritage fund helps Saskatchewan today and in the future

By Gage Haubrich
Canadian Taxpayers Federation

Saving for tomorrow helps Saskatchewan today. When you get a bonus, you don't count on that windfall every month. So, you use it to pay down your credit card or top up savings.

That's exactly why Saskatchewan needs to set up a resource revenue heritage fund.

Here's how a heritage fund works. When revenues for oil and potash and other non-renewable resources go up, the province puts some of the windfall in the heritage fund instead of spending it as fast as it comes in.

It sets the province up for the long term by squirrelling away cash to earn interest in-come. It also helps the province resist the urge to splurge on windfalls by capping the amount it can spend.

Back in 2013, the province got former University of Saskatchewan president, Peter MacKinnon, to write a report on heritage funds. He recommended the creation of a heritage fund that "allows for one-time resource revenues to become a lasting source of wealth, while stabilizing government use of these volatile revenues."

The government did not adopt the recommendation and it's been missing out on the benefits from saving since.

If the government had created that kind of a heritage fund back in 2013, putting aside debt repayment, it would be worth about \$4.2 billion today and generate \$210 million annually in interest.

With that income every year, the government could cut the 15 cent per litre fuel tax by six cents without losing revenue. That would save a Saskatchewanian filling up a minivan once a week about \$230 a year.

Investing in a heritage fund makes sure that during booms, the province is saving extra cash it likely won't have again next year. And during recessions, it helps the government weather the storm because its not counting on those extra resource revenues to keep the lights on.

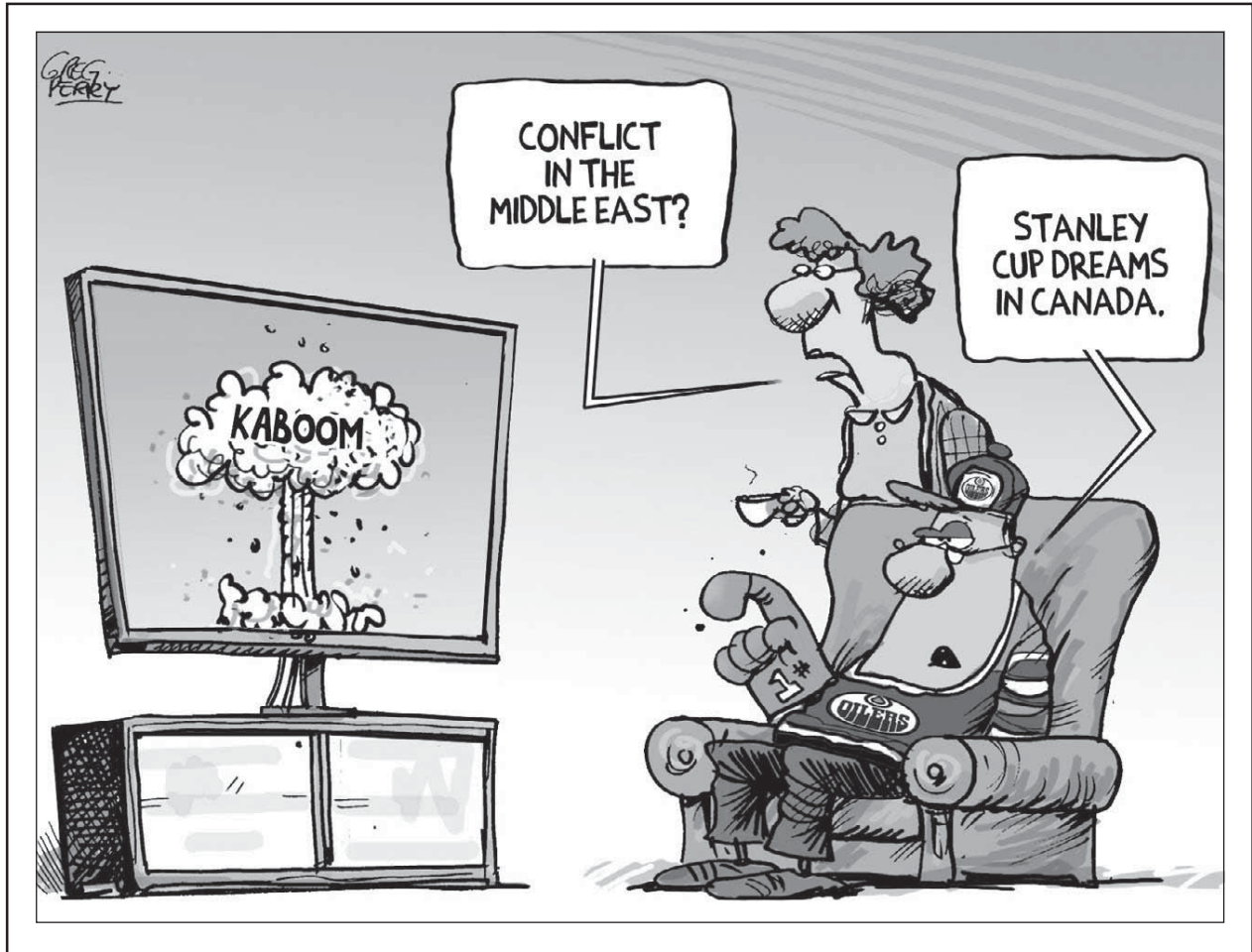
In 2023, the government projected a \$1-billion surplus when it presented the budget, but by the end of the year it dropped down to \$182 million. This shows the problem with relying on resource revenues that change with the markets and the weather. "Significant decreases in non-renewable resources revenue combined with higher crop insurance payments when compared to the prior year and budget contribute to the government's diminished fiscal results," says the 2023-24 year end results.

If the government had committed all the extra resource revenue to a Saskatchewan heritage fund, the amount of money the government would have to work with would be much clearer.

Resource revenues are difficult to predict so the amount budgeted might not actually be the same by the end of the year. And it's a problem when the government writes budgets on the back of these predictions.

Restricting resource revenues to make up only a certain amount of the budget, such as 13 per cent which is the average over the last 10 years, would help the government budget wisely and the extra money could be deposited in the heritage fund to save for the future.

This is being done by other places. Alaska and Norway both have successful heritage funds. Last year, each eligible Alaskan received \$1,704 in a dividend from its fund. Norway's fund is worth more than \$2.5 trillion. Money generated from it now covers about 20 per cent of Norway's budget every year.



It pays to save. Before any heritage fund can be set up, the government needs to pay off the debt. If the government had controlled spending and used deposits that would go into a heritage fund to pay off the debt in 2013, the provincial debt would only be \$1.6 billion today.

That's compared to the \$23.5 billion that the Saskatche-

wan debt is expected to hit by the end of the year. Twelve years ago, the provincial government was told to start a heritage fund. The government failed to act and now the province is missing out on the benefits of saving. The time to act is now.

- Gage Haubrich is the Prairie Director for the Canadian Taxpayers Federation

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Cornhole for curling in Indian Head

By Sarah Pacio
Grasslands News

Beanbags flew through the air at Memorial Hall last Saturday night when Indian Head Curling Club hosted its first annual cornhole tournament. Organizers said the friendly competition not only served as a fundraiser to support club operations but was also intended to “keep curling front of mind even in the off season.”

Five cornhole courts were arranged in the hall on June 14, with 35 players from Indian Head and the surrounding area registered to play. Glen Boehme, a nationally ranked cornhole player from Fort Qu'Appelle, facilitated the tournament and provided a brief explanation of the game rules and scoring process.

The evening began with six round robin games, followed by a double elimination bracket with the top three teams earning a cash prize. Teams were randomly

generated by the Scoreholio app and participants enjoyed making new acquaintances when they were paired up for the

round robin, or socializing with friends while they waited for their next turn to play.

The curling club ap-

preciated all those who participated in the tournament and are grateful to Nutrien AgSolutions for sponsoring the event.



SARAH PACIO | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Friendly competition

Indian Head Curling Club hosted a cornhole tournament on Saturday, June 14. Proceeds from the fundraiser will support curling club operations.

IH Health Foundation will walk in parade

By Sarah Pacio
Grasslands News

Indian Head Parade Days are just a week away, and the local Health Foundation is reminding community members that it will collect donations along the parade route.

Numerous family-friendly activities will take place in Indian Head on June 28 and June 29, including a parade on Saturday at 10:30 a.m. As the various floats and other entries march up Grand Avenue, members of the Indian Head Health Foundation will canvas spectators for donations.

The Health Foundation plays a crucial role in supporting staff and patients at the Indian Head Hospital through equipment purchases. This benefits not only town residents, but many individuals and families from the surrounding area who access services at the facility.

The foundation's board of directors determines which requests from the hospital will be approved. The current board includes President Marg Ollett, vice pres-

ident and equipment purchases manager Beth Reynard, treasurer Lisa Craigie, secretary Janice McBain, public relations manager Dave Gehl, along with Carol Day and Dale Kuyek. Nathan Longeau serves as a representative to the board from town council.

Purchases for this year include trapeze bars, a doppler ultrasound device, and teddy bears for young patients. The foundation is also in the process of purchasing a mobile food cart with improved temperature control that will be used to transport food to patient rooms. These expenses are entirely supported by memberships and fundraising initiatives like the annual collection during the parade.

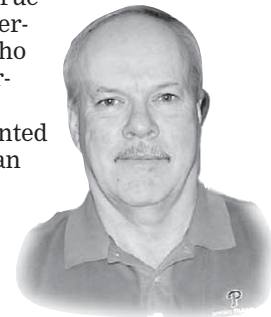
“The foundation is totally dependent on donations,” Ollett told Grasslands News. “Purchasing a lifetime membership for \$50 supports the foundation's activities but does not include a commitment to serve on the board of directors.”

Memberships can be purchased by e-transfer to ih-hospitalfoundation@gmail.com. Cash donations during the parade will also be greatly appreciated.

Gene Hauta

It's a Strange World

Mike Straw of This is True tells the story of Jeal Sutherland, 57, of Colonie, NY, who pled guilty to a murder-for-hire plot. He'd called his “enforcer” and said he wanted a man killed when that man was released from prison. Sutherland wanted the body hauled in a van — rented from a nun — to a hog farm where the pigs would ...well... dispose of it. The enforcer arranged a call to a hog farmer to work out the details, then Sutherland paid the enforcer: \$1,450 in cash, plus a bottle of Wild Turkey for the farmer. After paying, Sutherland was arrested: his “enforcer” was a confidential FBI source, and the “hog farmer” was an FBI agent. Sutherland is facing up to 10 years in prison, and \$250,000 in fines. Straw quipped, “Wait until he finds out who the nun is.”



It is nothing new for college students to try to secure a fake ID. Apparently, young people were not the only ones vying for products produced by James Watt, who even had a website citing itself as “Your #1 Trusted Source for Fake IDs.” Plenty of older customers were also scooping up the documents, often for “nefarious” reasons, such as having a suspended license for DUI. Altogether it is estimated that Watt collected the equivalent of \$1.3 million today. Over four years, he was likely responsible for producing 30,000 phony driver's licenses and other forms of identification. He pleaded guilty to money laundering and unlawful production of document or authentication feature, earning him three years' probation.

A teenage girl in Florida might not be alive today if Andrew Smith hadn't made the last-minute decision to go shark fishing at Pensacola Beach. Because of a seizure disorder, Smith can't swim or kayak, so he uses a drone to drop baits. As he sat there, a frenzied girl approached, asking if anyone could swim to help her friend, struggling in a rip current. Although it took two tries, Smith used the drone to drop a flotation device that kept the exhausted girl afloat until rescuers arrived. Since the rescue, EMS personnel have asked him about the Swellpro drone and said they might invest in some of their own for water rescues. The drone has releases on the bottom and can be used for fishing, or maybe to carry two life jackets.

A Florida man is dead after an encounter first with an alligator and then with sheriff's deputies. Polk County Sheriff Grady Judd knows how weird the story is. Timothy Schulz, 42, was reported for swimming in a lake that was known to be infested with alligators. After ‘growing’ at witnesses, he did emerge, albeit with a bite on his arm. When police arrived, they found Schulz was attempting to break into a vehicle, and then charged at them with garden shears. Tasers did not slow him down. Deputies opened fire when Schulz entered the idling patrol vehicle and began attempting to get a firearm. He was killed, ending an ironic scenario... survive a gator attack and be killed by deputies!

A Delaware animal shelter is trying to care for and rehome thousands of chicks that survived being left in a postal service truck for three days. Trapped in a warm enclosure, without food and water, thousands died before they were discovered. No one has figured out exactly as to why 12,000 chicks were abandoned at a Delaware mail distribution center. Pennsylvania-based Freedom Ranger Hatchery raised the chicks for their weekly distribution to clients across the country, and due to biosecurity concerns, the hatchery cannot take the chicks back. The shelter began offering the birds for adoption, but only a few hundred out of thousands have been picked up. Of course, there are expenses to be covered, plus concerns for life.

Robert Melman was bothered by what he saw on security footage from his Brazilian restaurant in Altrincham, Greater Manchester, England. “You can see a lady coming into the restaurant just to use the toilet,” he said. “But she has a small black bag with her. She goes into the toilets, and 11 or 12 minutes later she goes out and we can see the bag is now full of something.” It turned out that she had stolen one of the imitation-stone bowl sinks. That was why Melman had reviewed the security footage in the first place: one of his restroom sinks had gone missing. Pretty nifty!

Back in 2018, a Jacksonville (Fla) store's close proximity to drug testing centers resulted in the owner, Parul Patel, banning customers from using the microwave to warm urine stored in bags or containers. Presumably, the containers contained frozen ‘clean pee’ that would help them pass their drug tests.

Think about that the next time the microwave dings... keep reading...

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Housing and Homelessness – The Future of Rural Canada

Recommendations for federal government

By Elaine Ashfield
Grasslands News

The report compiled to gain a vision for the future of rural Canada has four recommendations to be taken to the federal government as priorities to be worked together with the provincial and territorial governments in the future. "The Future of Rural Canada" was overseen by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), working with rural provincial municipal associations, including the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM), as well as industry representatives such as mining, forestry, energy or agriculture were interviewed and provided important insight on the role their sectors play in rural communities.

The four main recommendations essential for rural communities to thrive include housing and homelessness, community safety, climate change adaptation and mitigation and a new fiscal arrangement.

Grasslands News will provide more in-depth information from the report on each of these areas over the coming weeks. This week will cover some of the information regarding Housing and Homelessness.

Housing is integral to local economic development. The full economic potential of rural Canada cannot be realised without attainable housing. Some rural communities are growing at unprecedented rates while others are growing more slowly with rural Canada now home to 6.3 million Canadians (a growth of 0.9 per cent between 2023 and 2024).

Housing is, on average, more affordable in rural Canada than urban Canada. This is an advantage for rural communities as residents of major urban centres are priced out and look for affordable housing options. Rural communities experiencing significant population growth require more housing options and construction to ensure housing remains affordable. Rural municipal infrastructure must be sufficiently funded to keep pace with much-needed new housing development.

Diverse housing options are necessary to keep rural housing sustainable for the workforce as well as the aging in the communities. Homelessness is only recently

being acknowledged in rural Canada often due to at-risk people moving to urban centres for required services. This displacement can be traumatic; separating families, depleting rural communities, and leading to costlier interventions for all orders of government in the long-term.

Communities must have a range of housing options, so people can access, rent or buy in line with their needs. Housing includes emergency (shelter) housing, transitional housing, social housing, affordable rental housing and affordable home ownership and market rental housing and home ownership.

A shortfall of rental options limit options for newcomers and makes it difficult for healthcare emergency response teams and other key industry employers to attract and retain staff.

Municipalities play an integral role in housing; they ensure land use planning policies support residential growth, and plan for and invest in infrastructure to support housing development. To build more affordable homes, municipalities need better fiscal levers to invest in critical infrastructure but costs are simply too high to be recovered through traditional municipal taxation processes. As a result, partnerships between municipalities, provincial governments, the federal government, and not-for-profit sectors are crucial. Rural municipalities must succeed in the application process for federal funding will improve outcomes and allow for forward-thinking strategies to build homes for rural Canadians.

The actual picture of homelessness in rural Canada isn't available at present due to limited data. However, it should be noted that the latest statistics do indicate Indigenous peoples living in rural areas are more likely to experience homelessness than urban Indigenous popu-

lations—with recent research estimating that 83 percent of rural homeless populations are made up of people who identify as Indigenous.

We do know that rates of homelessness are higher in western and northern Canada, and that Indigenous, Black, and 2SLGBTQI+ peoples are overrepresented in Canada's population of people experiencing homelessness. A coordinated strategy for collecting data on homelessness across rural Canada is necessary. Data collection to build our knowledge of homelessness is important, because it can alleviate barriers for municipalities and not-for-profit community organizations to understand community needs, find suitable property, and invest in long-term solutions.

The federal government has made some strides toward addressing homelessness through a place to call home, Canada's National Housing Strategy (NHS). As part of a place to call home, the Government of Canada committed \$40 billion over the course of 10 years to meet targets to enable all Canadians to have a safe and affordable home. For example, the Housing Accelerator Fund, a program focused on building homes faster, has committed \$4.4 Billion under a stream for small, rural, northern and Indigenous communities

Rural communities struggle to compete with larger urban areas for federal funding related to housing.

To ensure an equitable response to homelessness, communities need fair access to programs and streamlined administration, including direct housing support for homeowners.

The return on investment on supportive housing to reduce homelessness is substantial.

Slow pitch raises funds for splash park in Broadview

By Sarah Pacio
Grasslands News

Fundraising efforts for a splash park at Centennial Park in Broadview continued last weekend with a slow pitch tournament.

Six teams from Broadview and surrounding area participated in the event that was held on June 13 and 14. Games began at Broadview's two ball diamonds on Friday evening and continued throughout the following day. By Saturday evening, the Buckeroos had claimed first place with a 13 to 11 playoff win over the 3Up 3Down team. The Jayhawks claimed the prize for third place. The event also included a home run derby, won by Nathan McKay. Payouts were given to the tournament winners (\$300 for first place, \$200 for second, \$100 for third and \$190 for the home run derby), but some donated back to the splash park committee. Community members and spectators also gave donations and the event raised \$5,000 for the new facility.

Organizers were grateful for the support of volunteers and local sponsors that made the weekend a success. Volunteers assisted with setting up, operating the canteen, facilitating activities for children and arranging various other aspects. The Town of Broadview offered the use of the ball diamonds and ensured the park was ready for the event. Broadview Bakery donated buns; Borderland Co-op delivered other food and beverages and allowed the group to use its cooler trailer. The committee also appreciated the use of the Lions Club's picnic benches and the Pickleball Club's enclosure.

The splash park committee anticipates that the project's total estimated cost will be \$370,000, though they may consider beginning with a simpler design estimated at about half that cost. The entire project could take two to four years to complete, depending on funding availability.

The group intends to continue hosting regular events and will apply for grants to reach its goal. The next fundraiser will be a four-person best ball scramble at Broadview Golf Course on July 12. The registration fee is \$25 per person and can be arranged by contacting Darren Ottenbreit.

Supporters are also encouraged to watch for posters in the community about additional upcoming events or visit the group's Facebook page: Splash Park Committee Fund Raising Events.



Town of Whitewood

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Web Site: www.townofwhitewood.ca

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S0G 5C0

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Town of Whitewood Council meets at the town office. Upcoming Council Meeting Date: June 24 and July 15 at 7 p.m. Meetings are held via Zoom. Please contact the office to get access information 306-735-2210.

PAYMENTS ACCEPTED

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- Drop in our dropbox, or,
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The Town of Whitewood is committed to preserving its Heritage Status. As such, all exterior appearances must reflect this historic character. If you have any questions, please email Lisa at cao@townofwhitewood.ca or come to the office Monday-Friday 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. & 1 to 4 p.m.

Interested parties are invited to submit tenders by mail to:

**Town of Whitewood, P.O. Box 129
Whitewood, SK S0G 5C0**

or drop them off at 731 Lalonde Street, Whitewood, SK
The deadline for submissions is June 23, 2025, at 3 p.m. Please note that the highest or any tender may not be accepted.

VOYENT ALERT

Please contact Town Office to get signed up for important alerts, it is a free service.

WATER METER READS

The Town of Whitewood is asking that residents please send their water meter reads in monthly. This can be done by sending a picture of your water meter to 1-306-853-7122. You may still call the town office with meter reads, as well as entering them through the town website. The town staff will still continue reading meters every three (3) months. This is the best way to be sure that readings are accurate each month.

GARBAGE / RECYCLING

Residents are reminded that Garbage or Recycling Carts must be out by 7 a.m. on collection days. Upcoming **Recycling** Date: Wednesday, June 25 and July 9. Upcoming **Garbage** Date: Wednesday, July 2 and July 16.

TOWN OFFICE INFORMATION

Whitewood Town Council and staff strive to improve the quality of life for the people who live and work in our community. We welcome your comments, questions and feedback.

The Town office is open Monday to Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 12 noon and 1 to 4 p.m.

Phone: 306-735-2210 - Fax: 306-735-2262
Email: general@townofwhitewood.ca

UPCOMING EVENTS

If you have an event you want advertised please email the town office with your dates.

Swimming Lessons: One-week session July 21-25; and one-week session August 4-8
June 21st – Whitewood Fire Department Golf Tournament
Sept. 13th – Whitewood Legion Golf Tournament

SWIMMING POOL & SPLASH PARK

Sorry for any inconvenience with the delayed opening, the pool has been going through repairs. Please watch Facebook and signage around town for our opening date.

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, August 9th - Whitewood Annual Events Day
Throughout the day activities will include:
• Bouncers • Outdoor Curling • Food Trucks • Free Swimming • U11 & U13 - 3 on 3 Hockey Tournament • **Whitewood Wiggles & Giggles Golf Tourney**
Evening will include:
• Entertainment from local entertainer Shaya Istage
• Street Dance featuring The Resistors
• Food Trucks

PETS

Pets are to be kept in your yard, not to be freely running around town. When you are out walking with your pet, please remember to clean up after them.

FOR SALE BY TENDER

The Town of Whitewood accepting Tenders for the property located at 604 Third Avenue - "Sold As Is". Submit sealed tender; with envelope clearly marked to:
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Whitewood, SK S0G 5C0**

or drop them off at 731 Lalonde Street, Whitewood, SK
Tender closes on June 23, 2025, at 4 p.m. The highest or any tender may not necessarily be accepted.



TO EVERYONE WHO PARTICIPATED IN LAST FRIDAY'S CLEANUP. YOUR DEDICATION HAS TRANSFORMED OUR PUBLIC SPACES INTO CLEANER ENVIRONMENTS AND FOSTERED COMMUNITY PRIDE. LET'S KEEP WORKING TOGETHER FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE!

June is National INDIGENOUS HISTORY Month

Truth, culture and celebration

National Indigenous History Month

Staff
Grasslands News

June marks National Indigenous History Month in Canada – a time to honour, reflect on, and celebrate the rich histories, cultures, languages, knowledge, and traditions of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples. The observance spotlights Indigenous leadership and narratives essential to shaping Canada's identity and future.

This year, Prime Minister Mark Carney reiterated the government's commitment to a "distinctions-based approach" rooted in free, prior, and informed consent. A key highlight: the doubling of the Indigenous Loan Guarantee Program—from CAD 5 billion to CAD 10 billion—now empowering Indigenous-led infrastructure, transportation, and trade initiatives far beyond traditional sectors.

At Rideau Hall, Governor General Mary Simon reflected on the resilience and courage of Indigenous communities and affirmed the need to "understand the impacts of our history" as a pathway to meaningful reconciliation.

Reflecting the spirit of unity, federal Ministers—including Rebecca Alty and Mandy Gull-Masty (the first Indigenous Minister of Indigenous Services)—encouraged Canadians to honour Indigenous languages, environmental stewardship, and enduring cultural contributions.

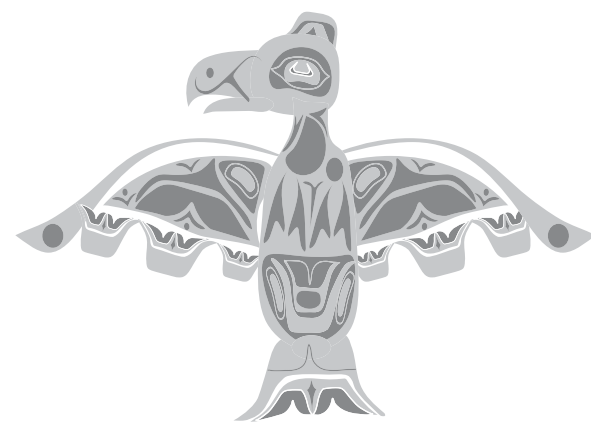
Across the country, cultural institutions are joining the celebration. The National Film Board has released three new Indigenous documentaries—such as Feather Fall and The Stand—freely available online.

In Saskatchewan, communities are embracing the opportunity to recognize National Indigenous History Month. The Saskatchewan Library Association offered ten grants to libraries across the province to host National Indigenous Peoples Day programs during the week of June 15–21, with funding earmarked for cultural understanding and literacy initiatives.

Sask Sport is also marking the month through its "Indigenous History Month" series. Each Friday in June, stories will highlight Indigenous athletes, coaches, and sport leaders to showcase their achievements and foster future leadership in community sports.

In Regina, public schools and the City are collaborating on events at Victoria Park on June 20, featuring Indigenous performance, children's crafts, and artistry to engage families and learners.

National Indigenous History Month is more than commemoration—it's a call to action. It invites all Canadians to listen, learn, and build a Canada where Indigenous rights, self-determination, and culture are central. As events unfold through June, the nation is urged to recognize that reconciliation requires sustained commitment—today, tomorrow, and for generations to come.



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National Indigenous Peoples Day June 21



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JUNE 21 NATIONAL INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY

Honoring Indigenous cultures in Canada

The Town of Fort Qu'Appelle encourages all citizens and residents of Fort Qu'Appelle to celebrate National Indigenous People's Day on June 21st. National Indigenous People's Day is marked as an official day of celebration to recognize and honour the achievements, history, and rich culture of First Nations, Inuit, and Metis peoples in Canada.

Let us all join together and celebrate this day.

- Mayor Brian Strong
- Councillor Matt Boha
- Councillor Jann Cyr
- Councillor Alysia Pletz
- Councillor Ron Shordee
- Councillor Rebecca Zacharuk



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In recognition of National Indigenous History Month and National Indigenous Peoples Day, we commit to continue working towards meaningful consultation, cooperation and engagement with Indigenous partners.





June is National **INDIGENOUS HISTORY** Month

Truth, culture and celebration



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From the board, staff, and students of Christ the Teacher Catholic Schools.
www.christtheteacher.ca

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Believe... Belong... Become



National Indigenous Peoples Day 2025

Join us in celebrating the many community events and gatherings across Saskatchewan. Let's also take this opportunity to honour and learn more about the rich cultures, unique traditions and outstanding contributions of **First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples**.

Together, let's keep moving forward in the spirit of unity and respect, building a stronger, more connected and inclusive province for everyone.



Hon. Travis Keisig, MLA
Last Mountain-Touchwood
mla@traviskeisig.ca
(306) 334-3444

Brad Crassweller, MLA
White City-Qu'Appelle
mla@wc-q.ca
(306) 520-5018

Hon. Warren Kaeding, MLA
Melville-Saltcoats
warrenkaedingmla@sasktel.net
(306) 728-3881

June is National **INDIGENOUS HISTORY** Month

Truth, culture and celebration

Indigenous history in Saskatchewan

Submitted
Grasslands News

Saskatchewan's history is deeply rooted in the presence and contributions of Indigenous peoples. For thousands of years before European contact, First Nations such as the Cree,

Saulteaux, Dene, Dakota, Nakota, and Lakota lived across the region, developing rich cultures, languages, and ways of life closely connected to the land. The Métis, descendants of First Nations and European settlers, also emerged as a distinct peo-

ple in the 18th and 19th centuries, with a strong presence in Saskatchewan, particularly around the historic Red River and Batoche areas.

Indigenous peoples played a key role in shaping the province's early economy, including the

fur trade, and formed diplomatic and military alliances during colonial conflicts. Despite this, colonialism brought displacement, residential schools, and the erosion of language and culture—effects that are still felt today.

One pivotal moment in Saskatchewan's Indigenous history was the 1885 Northwest Resistance, led by Métis leader Louis Riel. The conflict was a response to government

neglect of Métis land and political rights. Though the resistance was defeated, it remains a symbol of Indigenous resistance and pride.

Today, Indigenous peoples in Saskatchewan continue to reclaim their heritage, languages, and traditions. Organizations like the First Nations University of Canada and Gabriel Dumont Institute play a major role in preserving and teaching Indigenous history and

culture.

From treaties to modern self-governance efforts, the history of Indigenous peoples in Saskatchewan is one of strength, survival, and resurgence. As the province marks National Indigenous History Month, it's a time to honour the deep roots and ongoing contributions of First Nations and Métis communities that continue to shape Saskatchewan's identity and future.

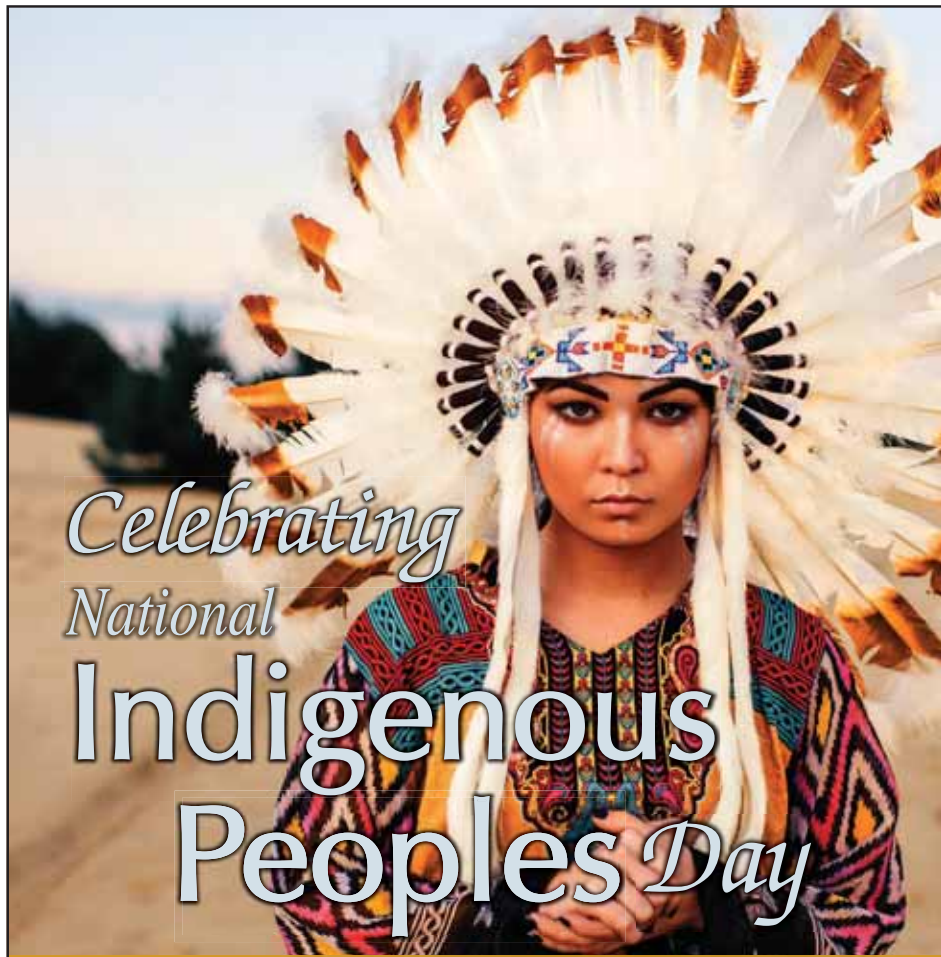


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Truth, culture and celebration

10 ways to honour Indigenous peoples

Submitted
Grasslands News

June is National Indigenous History Month, a time to raise awareness of the past experiences and current realities of Indigenous peoples. Here are ten actionable ways to recognize and celebrate the rich cultures, traditions and contributions of First Nations, Inuit and Metis peoples.

- 1. Read a work written by an Indigenous person.** Whether you dive into a historical account, novel or poetry collection, take the opportunity to learn from a book penned by an Indigenous author.
- 2. Cook a traditional dish.** Bring the flavours of an Indigenous culture into your kitchen by making traditional recipes like bannock or Three Sisters soup with corn, beans and squash.
- 3. Participate in a cultural event.** Attend a local pow-wow, art show or performance organized by an Indigenous community.
- 4. Listen to Indigenous music.** Discover and listen to contemporary or traditional Indigenous musicians.

There's something for everyone!

- 5. Watch a film or documentary.** Enjoy films or documentaries that shed light on Indigenous themes and stories.
 - 6. Explore an Indigenous language.** Learn an Indigenous language spoken in your area. Start with phrases like "hello," "thank you" and "please."
 - 7. Visit a museum.** Explore museums that feature artifacts and photographs highlighting Indigenous history and traditions.
 - 8. Support artists and craftspeople.** Buy art, jewelry, clothing or handicrafts directly from Indigenous creators to support their livelihoods and talents.
 - 9. Learn about current issues.** Stay informed by reading articles or attending conferences about contemporary challenges facing Indigenous communities.
 - 10. Post content.** Use social media to encourage others to celebrate National Indigenous History Month.
- June 21 is National Indigenous Peoples Day. This event coincides with the summer solstice, an important and symbolic day for many Indigenous communities.

Understanding Canada's three distinct Indigenous Peoples

Submitted
Grasslands News

What are the three groups of Indigenous peoples in Canada?

First Nations peoples were the original inhabitants of the land now called Canada, with histories and cultures dating back thousands of years. There are over 600 recognized First Nations communities across the country, each with unique languages, customs, and governance systems. Many live on reserves, while others reside in urban areas, and their cultural practices range widely depending on region and nation.

Inuit are Indigenous peoples who primarily inhabit the Arctic regions of Canada, including Inuit Nunangat, which encompasses parts of Labrador, Quebec, the territories, and the Arctic Ocean. Inuit culture is deeply connected to the land, sea, and ice, and reflects a rich tradition of hunting, storytelling, and resilience in one of the world's most challenging environments. Inuktitut is one of several Inuit languages still widely spoken today.

Métis people are descendants of First Nations and European settlers, particularly French and Scottish fur traders. The Métis Nation developed its own unique language (Michif),

culture, and governance in the 18th and 19th centuries, especially in the Red River region of present-day Manitoba. Métis communities continue to advocate for recognition, rights, and self-government.

While distinct, these three Indigenous groups share common experiences of colonization, cultural resurgence, and a growing movement for reconciliation and self-determination. Understanding their histories is essential to building a more inclusive and respectful future for all Canadians.

More than 1.8 million people in Canada self-identified as Indigenous on Canada's 2021 Census.

National Indigenous Peoples Day

June 21



Culture rich in tradition



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Two delegates welcomed at council meeting

By Elaine Ashfield
Grasslands News

All members of council were present at the June 10, 2025 open meeting of council for the Town of Whitewood. Following the adoption of the agenda and the minutes of the May 20, 2025 meeting, delegates addressed council.

Delegates

Michelle Raiwet was present to represent the Arena User Groups. Councillor Danielle Jones removed herself as a council member for the discussion to represent the Whitewood Skating Club as their president.

"Shontelle (kitchen manager) did a good job, other than possibly some issues for ordering," Raiwet stated. She continued stating that the users seemed very pleased with raising funds for workers rather than having to work shifts in the kitchen. A fundraiser is being planned for October 4th for this upcoming year to cover the cost of hiring out the kitchen.

Raiwet added that minor hockey is trying to establish a U15 and U18 team for this year and questioned council if more teams are using the facility, would more funds need to be raised (than had been in last year's trial year) as there would be more events where workers would need to be hired?

Discussion continued, including the Whitewood Skating Club, and led to a suggestion of the need to look at the percentage that user group's are giving to the arena in funding.

When asked if the kitchen would be run the same this year as last year's trial year (hiring workers with funds raised by user groups), council stated they were reaching out at present to get the user group's opinions and suggestions so that a decision could be made.

The next delegate to council was Rhett Parks who met with council to explain to council his situation regarding his property taxes this year that he has been billed for the property, previously the Presbyterian Church property, that he had purchased. It is listed as commercial and not residential, which it now has become, and the assessment was seven times higher than was paid for the property (more than 20%). "Somehow, I never saw the assessment so I did not appeal the assessment with SAMA, but even so, SAMA should have listed the property as residential," Parks stated.

Council responded to Parks that they would contact SAMA regarding the commercial listing instead of a residential listing as this is SAMA's responsibility and since it is not the town's, the decision

would be up to SAMA, but SAMA may state that there should have been an appeal done within the allotted time for assessments.

Water Plant Report

Jaimie Jordan (WPO) reported that the town is running on well 3 at present and they were assisted by the previous water plant operator to regulate the chemicals as they were given the wrong mix. The town utilizes more than one well so their usage is switched at times to keep them fresh.

Town Foreman

Foreman Trent Merkel presented his report and commented that the release of the lagoon went good, after the beavers blocking of the culverts was rectified.

Council was asked about their interest in submitting a tender on a used sweeper. The foreman stated that the sweeper needs new brushes but these are available from the town's old sweeper. Council directed the foreman to look into the condition of the sweeper and for him to come back to council if he felt it was worth submitting a tender on it.

CAO Report

Lisa Istace CAO presented her report of duties completed during the past weeks and requested names of council members that could attend the district SUMA meeting in Whitewood at the Whitewood Community Centre on June 25. Four council members will attend.

The swimming pool is in need of a new pump which is causing a delay in the opening of the pool and the start of swimming lessons. A pump was finally received earlier this week and is being installed with the pool expected to be opening shortly after.

It was reported that the pool pipes that had frozen over the winter and had been replaced came in at \$5,000 less than quoted. A new front door was also being installed due to the old one breaking.

Interviews for a new rec tech took place and one of the candidates will be offered the position.

Council Reports

Mayor Chris Ashfield reported on the Southeast and Moosomin District Health joint committee meeting he attended. Items

mentioned that were of interest included that the committee reported 288 patients received services on the Monday. There is no urologist at present in Regina. Recruiting is a problem as it is felt that recruiting efforts do not take place when the positions become apparent they will need to be filled but instead the Saskatchewan Health Association waits to begin recruiting once the position becomes vacant. The CT scanner is still being requested for the Southeast Regional Care Centre. There have been 420 requests (not including emergencies) from Moosomin doctors since January. Fundraising will need to be done and all donations from areas and communities who would use the service are appreciated.

Councillor Shawna Stradeski reported on the Library Board meeting. A bike rack is needed at the library, as bicycles left lying on the sidewalk are a danger. The town will look into locating a bike rack to be installed.

Councillor Troy Brule reported on his presentation to the Southeast Community College recipient grant that he presented at their graduation recently.

Correspondence

A report on the Southeast Regional Library Annual General Meeting was received as well as an invitation to the Lower Souris Watershed Annual General Meeting. A letter of interest regarding a building that had previously been tendered by the town was received but since the property tender has expired, this property would need to be re-tendered. Minutes from the Red Coat Waste Authority meeting were received. An invitation from Whitewood School to the town to present the Town of Whitewood scholarship was received with Councillor Shawna Stradeski agreeing to attend since Mayor Ashfield could not be in attendance due to another commitment already made. The south recreation park tender has been posted by BCL Engineering and it has already received numerous inquiries. Tenders close on June 24.

Old Business

Discussion took place on the 2025 taxation to Crossroads Villa. The zoning rates (commercial

and residential) are determined by SAMA and had never been changed in the past years on the listing program used at the Town of Whitewood at the time it was changed by SAMA. The assessment increased \$25,000 in this assessment year (\$4,000 education tax). This means that 50 per cent of the increase in taxes is due to the assessment. The illness is on the property owners for not utilizing the appeal process but town council's concern is they used examples of various tax rate scenarios using the town program information to make their decision at what tax rate to set for this year. The question is that if the correct zoning for the town system would have been correct, would the mill rate have been set differently? Further discussion was tabled to allow council members to contemplate whether if the correct zoning would have been in the town's system (from which examples helped determine the tax rates) if this would have affected their decision.

A reply to council regarding cutting the grass that was received from the Whitewood-Chachas Rodeo Committee was discussed. The town had previously asked the rodeo committee if a re-

quest for assistance from the rural municipalities was also made, with each municipality perhaps taking turns cutting the lawn. Council was a little taken back by a rude response from the rodeo committee to the town about their inquiry, especially after the town donated all the land to the rodeo committee at the time of inception, with it agreed upon that the rodeo committee would care for the property. Council did however agree to perform the cutting of the grass at the rodeo grounds in lieu of a donation.

A motion was made and approved for a transfer from Recreation Reserves for \$13,321.26 to be paid to Stevenson Industrial for repairs to the ice plant at the arena.

Whitewood Museum highway signage and for information into town, which is an Economic Development matter, were reviewed with suggestions on designs that are easily readable.

New Business

A request for funding through a Business Façade Grant Application from UMR was presented. Councillor Cole Jacobs removed himself from the meeting, as he is an employee of the business. The plans and grant for one-half of

the cost received approval from council.

RF Now requested approval to do installation at the location in town that was presented to council. A motion, stating the same stipulations as previously given to the company, was approved.

The resignation of recreation employee Colin Weir was accepted and has been advertised.

A 30-day notice for resignation was received from town grant writer and consultant Lori Matthewson due to an ongoing difference of direction between council and the consultant. Council accepted the resignation.

Two separate motions were made and received unanimous approval for each piece of property to be returned to the town in the amounts of \$4856.33 and \$5362.70.

A new town Policy for Cash Handling was presented for any town facilities handling cash. The policy stipulates the rules including how cash is handled, stored and must be signed off by anyone handling the cash. A motion was made and approved.

In Camera

A motion was approved to go In Camera for a personnel matter, after which time the open meeting resumed for adjournment.

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SPORTS

Barry Trapp's hockey legacy spans six decades

By Alan Hustak
Grasslands News

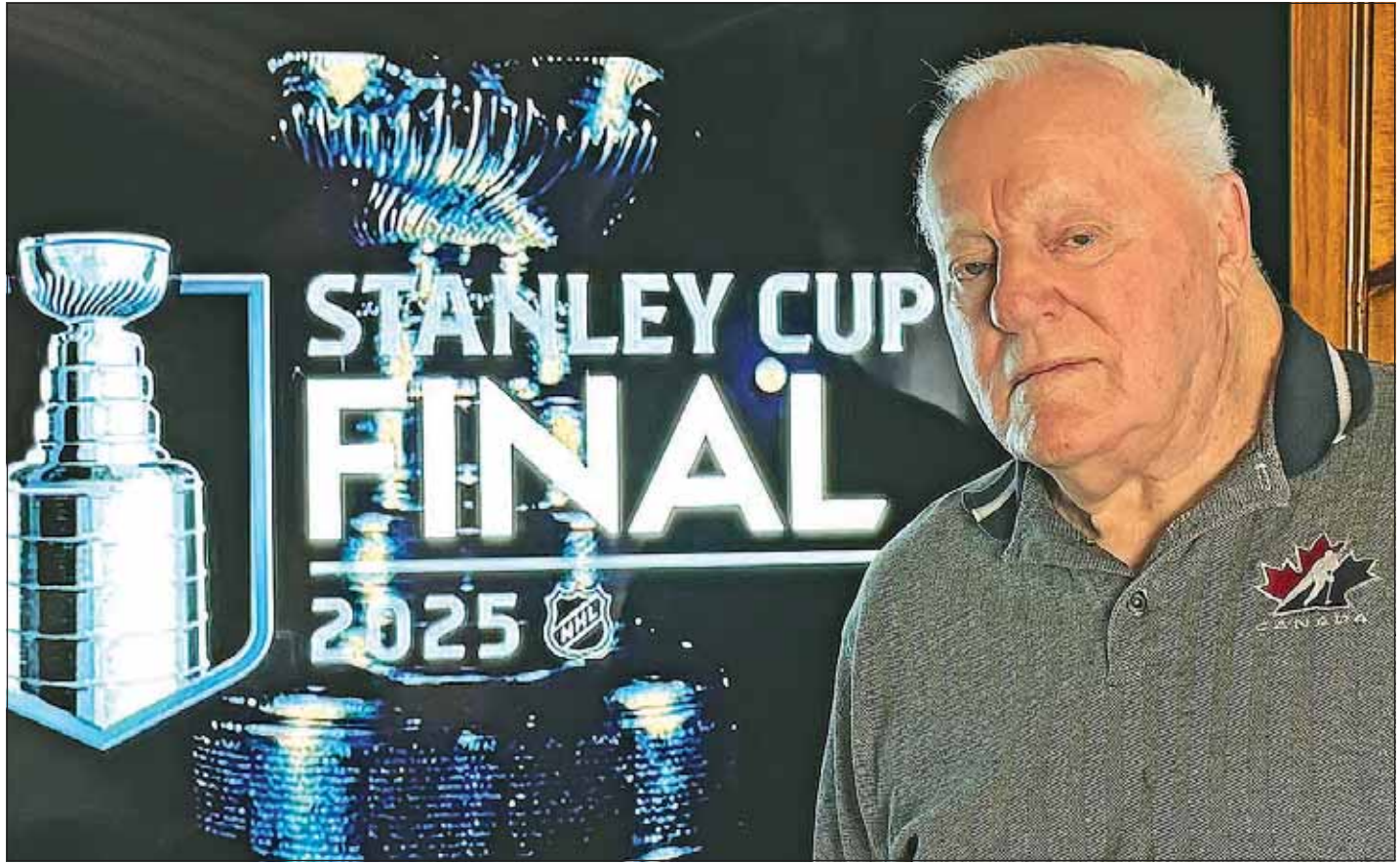
Barry Trapp was drafted to play hockey with the Los Angeles Kings in 1967, but he turned down the deal to run the family trucking business in Balcarres and instead went on to coach the Regina Pats and the Moose Jaw Warriors before he embarked on a long-time career as a scouting director for the National Hockey League.

Trapp, 83, will be inducted into the Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame at a banquet in Regina on July 27 along with four players that he scouted for the NHL: Ryan Getzlaf (Anaheim Ducks), Chris Kunitz (Chicago Blackhawks), Doug Wickenheiser (Montreal Canadiens) and Dirk Graham (Chicago Blackhawks).

"I scouted them all," Trapp says with delight as he reminisced about his lengthy career at his lakefront home near Fort Qu'Appelle before the Stanley Cup playoff game on began in Edmonton Tuesday.

"The reason I ended up coaching instead of playing the game is that I wanted to prove that I could do it. It wasn't until I worked for Hockey Canada that I came to realize just how passionate Canadians are about hockey."

Trapp was born and grew up in Balcarres where he took to the ice before he joined the Melville Millionaires in 1959. After four seasons with the Millionaires he turned pro and left for the United States to play for the Rochester Americans. One of his teammates was Don Cherry who later became a flamboyant sports personality on CBC television. "Do you know how Cherry got the nickname 'grapes'?" Trapp asked. "Cherry was so miserable in Rochester, we called him sour grapes." Trapp has no regrets about turning down the offer from the Los Angeles Kings. By then he had married Nancy Frank whom he had met in Rochester and they were starting a family. "I knew I was good enough to play for the NHL. I quit the Kings over \$500. Back then the salary they offered me was \$12,000, I wanted \$12,500." He returned to Saskatchewan where he played several



NANCY TRAPP | GRASSLANDS NEWS

To be inducted

Barry Trapp credits his wife Nancy for her support of his successful career spanning more than six decades. Trapp and four others will be inducted into the Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame on July 27.

seasons with the Yorkton Terriers before the family moved to Regina.

"It is unbelievable what happened next," he says. "I saw an ad in the newspaper for someone looking to coach Midget A hockey."

He was hired on the spot. Trapp came to the attention of Bob Strumm, the general manager of the Regina Pats who was impressed by Trapp's resume. "He offered me the job as coach of the Regina Capitals and then as assistant coach of the Regina Pats," says Trapp. After coaching the Pats for four years Trapp went to Moose Jaw with the Warriors and then was "offered a chance to move up" as a scouting director for the NHL rating prospects in Europe and North

America before spending six years with Hockey Canada. "All of this because I answered an ad in the paper to coach minor hockey," he chuckles.

He retired to a waterfront property filled with career memorabilia on Mission Lake in a cottage where Queen Elizabeth II stayed during a visit to Saskatchewan.

Trapp is not only proud of his contributions but as the genial patriarch of a hockey dynasty. His son Doug was drafted by the Buffalo Sabres and went on to coach the Estevan Bruins.

His grandson "Bear" Trapp coached the Notre Dame Hounds and has been hired to coach the next season of the Prairie Junior League Provincial Cham-

pion Fort Knox.

"My son Doug and I were the only father and son who played for the Rochester Americans. I helped the boys along the way if they asked for help," says Trapp. "And now my great grandsons are all on skates."

As he watched the Edmonton Oilers lose the Stanley Cup to the Florida Panthers on Tuesday Trapp, a lifelong fan of the Toronto Maple Leafs, said it is about time for the hockey season to be over.

"Hockey used to be a six-month season, then it went to eight, and now it is year around. Now we've got hockey, baseball, golf, the MBA. We're punishing these kids with too much hockey."



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Sports column – Darcy Gross

Gross Misconduct

Another Father's Day has come and gone, and during my younger years, it was my dad who turned me into a sports nut.

He was bound and determined to have a golfer in the family, and he had certain rules as to how that golfer would play the game.

And when I say that, I'm not just speaking of playing the game the right way, being up to snuff on etiquette and whatnot.

My father had plans for me that involved which side of the ball I would be standing on when I took a shot.

You see, when I was very young, an infant in fact, it looked as if I was going to end up being a south-paw.

My mom would hand me something, and I'd pick it up with my left hand and I'd also use that hand to manipulate whatever object or toy that it may be.

When my father saw this, he'd immediately move the item to my other hand, to ensure that I would be right-handed.

Now this was all fine and dandy until the very first time that he put a hockey stick in my hands or a bat – I can't recall which was first.

Whichever of these two sporting tools I was handed was used left-handed, and my father must have been okay with it, because making me change to right-handed didn't cross the old man's mind.

Once golf season came around, it was a far different story, because the first time I gripped a club, it was a lefty club, which stood to reason because that's the way I batted in ball and the same way I would shoot in hockey, but my dad, he had other plans.

"No kid of mine is going to golf left-handed," he said out loud to my mother, probably taking his life into his own hands at that point in time.

A few days later, a long skinny box showed up at the house and my dad said it was for me.

I hurriedly opened the box and saw a full set of Sam Snead Wilson Blue Ridge golf clubs, complete with beautiful leather grips and the flat 'reminder grip' on one side.

What was distressing to this scribe was the orientation of these clubs, as they were clearly not left-handed.

"Just try it," I was told firmly. "I'll teach you how to swing."

After some fairly awful attempts, something clicked, and my swing turned into an actual righty swing – for someone who was probably 10 or under at the time.

It was at that point that the golf ball was added to the mix, and shockingly, I could put a pretty good charge into it, probably the result of my father's advice to keep my head down and swing easy.

It didn't take long before golfing right-handed came as naturally as batting or shooting a puck left-handed.

For my father, whom my mother tells me swore up and down "that'll be the day my son plays golf left-handed," it was definitely crisis averted.

Because of my dad's attention to this situation, I later became able to switch-hit in baseball, and I ended up having more power as a righty than I did with my original lefty stance at the plate.

I never planned on batting from both sides of the plate, but my dad put the bug in my ear one day when I had a game at Jaycee Park.

"Have you ever tried batting right-handed in a game?" he inquired. I told him I hadn't and explained that I didn't want to look like an idiot during a game.

Long story short, he convinced me to try it and with my very first swing, I ripped a double to left field.

I was completely shocked.

My dad wasn't the least bit surprised it seemed.

I guess once you've taught a squealing, whining, 10-year-old, lefty swinging brat to play golf right-handed, getting that same brat to hit right-handed in baseball is probably relatively easy.

In the long run, it made me a better ballplayer.

My father knew this, and while his plan was mostly just to never have to purchase left-handed golf clubs, his guidance and patience made me a better player and probably, in some way, a better person.

I never took the time to thank my dad for this, so I'll just say that if you owe your dad thanks for something, make sure you tell him about it at some point, because dads don't last forever.

The good part is, the memories do.

Happy belated Father's Day!

Mils bolster team at SJHL draft

By Brad Brown
Grasslands News

Fourteen seasons since their last playoff series win and 55 on since their founding without a Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League championship, have the Melville Millionaires finally set the table for a run of sustained success?

While nothing is ever guaranteed, head coach and general manager Doug Johnson likes the club's odds after the league's June 10 player draft, which included two rounds of selections for 2009-born players and four more for 2010-born players.

With their first-round pick (10th overall) in the 2009-born draft, the Mils drafted Moose Jaw-born forward Luke Pratte out of the Prairie Hockey Academy's under-17 prep program.

They followed that up by choosing Saskatoon Stallions under-15 AA forward Louis Judd in the first round (eighth overall) of the 2010 player draft.

Pratte posted 35 points in 36 games for the Prairie Hockey Academy's under-17 prep team this past season while Judd scored 23 goals and added 12 assists for 35 points in 16 games during his second season with the Saskatoon Stallions under-15 AA club.

"(Our scouts) liked Louis right from day one," Johnson said. "He's a kid with an ultra-high compete level and he's obviously battled some injuries here but he's working through rehab on that right now and he's just a guy that if we see him, we're going to be incredibly, incredibly fortunate."

Judd was also a fifth-round draft pick of the Western Hockey League's Saskatoon Blades earlier this year. He registered at least one point in every one of his regular season games before a shoulder injury and subsequent surgery ended his 2024-25 campaign in early February.

"He's a guy who's going to have options in the WHL and we just wanted to make sure we had an opportunity," said Johnson. "You don't find guys with his combination of that size, that strength, that skill and that compete level very often. You look at the Florida Panthers right now and the way they play... that's Louis to a T."

While Judd won't be eligible for junior A puck until the 2026-27 season, Pratte could have an outside shot at cracking the roster as a 16-year-old as soon as this fall – though odds would also favour him becoming a full-timer in 2026 at the soonest.

(For context, of the Millionaires' top 11 scoring forwards this past season, none were playing in either their 16 or 17-year-old seasons. Further, only three 17-year-olds suited up at forward for Melville at all in 2024-25, and Carter Wingert – one game played – was the only 16 year old forward to make the roster.)

"Luke is kind of like Patrice Bergeron in that he does everything really well," said Johnson. "He's an ultra, ultra-intelligent forward. Good size, and plays down the middle which was something else we were looking for too."

"We didn't know if he was going to be available when we went to draft so to be able to get him, we're incredibly, incredibly fortunate. He's a Swiss army knife. Does everything well – just sevens across the board. Not exceedingly strong or highest marks in any one skill, but just does everything very well."

With partial credit to a series of trades, Melville ended up picking three players in the two rounds of the 2009 player draft and seven players over six rounds in the 2010 draft – Whitewood goalie Kaleb Page among them.

"We have such a gap in the 2008s and essentially our 2007s as well," said Johnson. "It's just that the previous regime had a different philosophy regarding draft picks and that's fine. They used picks to acquire (immediate)



BRAD BROWN | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Mils selected

Louis Judd from Saskatoon was selected by the Melville Millionaires in the first round (eighth overall) of the 2010 player draft.

assets and I like using picks to acquire (long-term) talent so we needed to recoup some draft capital."

Pick of the Litter

The Melville Millionaires selected 10 players over eight rounds of the SJHL's combined 2009 and 2010-born player draft June 10. The complete list of Mils picks is below.

2010 Draft		
Name	Hometown	Round/Overall
Louis Judd	Saskatoon	1/8
Carter Wiggins	Saskatoon	2/20
Alan Han	Regina	2/24
2009 Draft		
Luke Pratte	Moose Jaw	1/8
Braden Koehler	Saskatoon	2/20
Kaleb Page	Whitewood	3/32
Kadyn Olfert	Swift Current	3/34
Brodie Bowen	Regina	3/35
Rhett Amberson	Regina	4/44
Ryder Leshures	Swift Current	5/56

A number of other southeast Saskatchewan players were also drafted by other teams, including:

- Kobe Deck (Sedley), 1/10 (2010), Weyburn
- Taren Anderson (Pilot Butte), 2/15 (2010), Estevan
- Maxx Fuessel (Pilot Butte), 1/2 (2009), Nipawin
- Orsen Poll (White City), 2/18 (2009), Estevan
- Maxon Johnston (Round Lake), 2/24, Yorkton
- Jack Robinson (Moosomin), 2/27, Melfort
- Hogan Hickman (Rocanville), 2/28, Kindersley
- Cooper Bratton (Moosomin), 6/62, Flin Flon
- Brady Davison (Moosomin), 6/72, Melfort

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Canines race at Flyball Competition in Indian Head

By Sarah Pacio
Grasslands News

Barking echoed in the arena, accompanied by shouts of “Get it! Get it!” last Saturday morning when a flyball tournament was held in Indian Head.

This was the second year that the Ruff Riders Flyball Club hosted its Summer Fling Tournament at A.J.M. Davies Arena. Twenty teams from eight clubs in Regina, Saskatoon, and Winnipeg attended the event on June 14 and 15. Although the tournament

ended earlier than expected on Sunday because unforeseen circumstances created slippery floors at the facility, participants enjoyed the event.

Flyball is a relay race in which two teams of four dogs each speed along a 51-foot mat, retrieve a tennis ball and return to their handler. Small hurdles are situated along the mat, increasing the challenge for competitors. Each tennis ball is placed into a specially designed box at the end of the runway and dogs jump on a lower panel to activate a spring

mechanism that releases the ball.

Any dog breed can participate in flyball. The Ruff Rider's tournament last weekend included a wide variety of dogs: from large and shaggy, to small and wiry types, to others with thin bodies and long legs. The ball size or hurdle heights may be adjusted to suit the dogs, and teams with similar seed time race against each other.

Anja Evans established the Regina-based Ruff Riders Flyball Club in 1991. She had been involved with SuperDogs and a friend encouraged her to try flyball. When Peter Wesdyk was young, his family joined Evan's flyball team. Soon he and his sister were racing their own dogs and now he is the captain for Breakaway Flyball Club. The sport is governed by the North American Flyball Association (NAFA) and Wesdyk is also the NAFA Regional Director for Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

“It's super fun; the dogs love it!” Wesdyk told Grasslands News. “It's everything a dog loves: running and jumping and tennis balls. What more



SARAH PACIO | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Go get It!

Ruff Riders Flyball Club hosted at tournament at A.J.M. Davies Arena in Indian Head, June 14 to 15. The event had 20 teams from eight clubs.

could a dog want? For us, it's more about the camaradery and friendships and competition.”

Points are earned based on the time it takes for a dog or team to complete a race; titles and awards are given according to

the points accumulated. Wesdyk said the current Saskatchewan record for fastest relay team is about 14.7 seconds. His team's fastest run was 15.4 seconds and Evan's team record is 15.5 seconds.

The fast-paced sport

will return to Indian Head next month when Breakaway Flyball hosts its annual tournament at the arena. The event is scheduled for July 26 to 27 and community members are invited to stop by the rink and watch the races.

Correction

The story on Page 14 of our June 13 edition – Novak to make Greenall history with CFL debut – contained multiple errors pertaining to times and dates. The version inadvertently published was an earlier draft of the story that had been written for the June 6 paper but was filed too late for publication that week, rather than the amended copy that was intended for last week's paper. Grasslands News regrets the error.

Southeast Men's Fastball League

Date	Away	Home	Times
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.

Windthorst Pirates Baseball Club



FULL SCHEDULE – 2025

Game	Date	Away	Home	Location/Time
7	Fri Jun 20	Cowboys	Pirates	Windthorst 6:45
8	Mon Jun 23	Pirates	Red Dogs	Currie 8:45
9	Fri Jun 27	Pirates	Lumsden	Lumsden 6:30
10	Sun July 6	Padres	Pirates	Windthorst 2:00
11	Tues July 8	Braves	Pirates	Windthorst 6:45
12	Mon July 14	Pirates	Cowboys	Optimist 8:30
13	Fri July 18	Bucs	Pirates	Windthorst 6:45
14	Wed July 23	Pirates	Rangers	Optimist 8:30
15	Sun July 27	Indians	Pirates	Windthorst 2:00
16	Wed July 30	Pirates	Ghosts	Optimist 8:30

‘New two’ in tennis are a dominant pair

By Bruce Penton
Sports Columnist

There's more of a difference between professional golf and professional tennis than the size of the ball. And there's a huge difference between the two sports when it comes to competitive dominance.

In tennis, what used to be the Big Three – Roger Federer of Switzerland, Rafael Nadal of Spain and Novak Djokovic – has now crystallized into the New Two, featuring two stars in their early 20s. The Big Three won 67 Grand Slam events in the first 20-odd years of the 21st Century. By comparison, the four

golf majors have been won by a massive number of players over the same period, although Scottie Scheffler lately has been threatening to turn pro golf into a Big One.

Today's Big Two in tennis features Carlos Alcaraz of Spain and Jannick Sinner of Italy, who have split the last six Grand Slam events. It was no surprise that the two faced off in the French Open final at Roland Garros in early June and played a classic match that lasted an exhaustive five hours and 29 minutes. Alcaraz, who lost the first two sets, won the next three in what some tennis observers are calling one of the best tennis matches of all time.

For most of the 21st century, chances were good that either Federer, Nadal or Djokovic would emerge as champion of a Grand Slam tennis event. Eventually, Djokovic captured 24 Grand Slam titles, more than anyone in the history of the sport. Nadal has 21 and Federer 20.

But that – the Big Three – was then. This – Alcaraz and Sinner – is now. It's no surprise to check the world tennis rankings and find Sinner at No. 1 and Alcaraz at No. 2. Considering their ages (Alcaraz 22 and Sinner 23), it's safe to assume tennis fans will see these two stars go head-to-head in Grand Slam finals regularly over the next decade or so.

“Three winners today,” said the retired Federer on X – referring to the two finalists and the “beautiful game of tennis.”

Next up on the Grand

Slam calendar is Wimbledon in London, where Alcaraz won last year by beating Djokovic in the final. When the U.S. Open is staged in New York in August, it will be Sinner trying to defend the title he won in 2024.

“I feel like it's always great when we meet,” said Sinner following the French Open final. “We try to push ourselves and each other to the limits.”

Meanwhile, the former Big 3 of tennis is no more. Federer retired in 2022; Nadal followed in 2024 and Djokovic has hinted that 2025 could be his final year. Between the three of them, they have 65 Grand Slam titles. Alcaraz and Sinner have only seven, but in the next 10 years, there will be 40 Grand Slam events and it's quite possible the top two players in the world will win more than their share.

Jack Finarelli on his sportscurmudgeon.com site: “I have a favourite player name in the CFL. Bo Levi Mitchell is the starting QB for the Hamilton TigerCats; I always hoped he would get a shot in the NFL so fans could hold up signs that said ‘I'm A BoLevier’ or ‘I BoLieve In BoLevi’”

Comedy guy Marc Ragovin, on the death of Jim Marshall, the Minnesota Viking whose fumble recovery and subsequent runback into his own end zone will forever be sports bloopers: “Former Vikings star Jim Marshall passed away the other day at age 87. That's a very good run. In either direction.”

Headline at the onion.com: “Rockies Pitcher Out With Altitude Sickness After Ascending Mound Too Quickly”

Columnist Cathal Kelly in the Toronto Globe and Mail, suggesting the Leafs dump Mitch Marner and John Tavares during a restructuring of the Maple Leafs: “It's true that it is hard to find guys who score 100 points in the regular season, but it should be easy to find replacements who haven't folded up like lawn chairs in the last seven playoffs.”

fark.com headline after Aaron Rodgers signed a contract with Pittsburgh Steelers: “The NFL's hardest-headed organization and its hardest-headed quarterback have finally joined forces.”

Retired NFL quarterback Terry Bradshaw, on Aaron Rodgers' future: “Bring him in (to Pittsburgh) for one year? Are you kidding me? That guy needs to stay in California... chew on bark and whisper to the gods out there.”

RJ Currie of sports-deke.com: “Former CFL standout defensive lineman Swift Burch III has passed away from cancer at the age of 55. With that ‘III’ in his name, it seems he played as he lived: as a real son of a Burch.”

Another fark.com headline, on Detroit Tigers' prospect Kenny Serwa: “Tigers have a prospect who throws 88 MPH. An 88-MPH knuckleball.”

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

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Prairie Economic Development Alliance meets in Melville

By Jacob Miller
Grasslands News

A small group of people and organizations are working to revitalize and grow economic development in the region.

The Central Prairie Economic Development Alliance (CPEDA) held their fourth meeting in Melville on June 11 at the CN Community Centre.

In attendance were representatives from Melville, Saltcoats, Yorkton Tribal Council, Yorkton, Yorkton Chamber of Com-

merce, Langenburg, Ituna, the office of MLA for Melville-Saltcoats Warren Kaeding, and officers from Prairies Economic Development Canada.

The organization is relatively new but has hopes of advancing economic growth within the region.

Group organizer Gwen Machnee, chair of applied research at Suncrest College, explained that the group held their first meeting a year ago in December and that the organization is moving forward.

"I think we've managed

to maintain the momentum of the group and interest in the idea of having a regional economic development organization that is coming together for the same cause," said Machnee.

During the meeting those in attendance broke into four different sub-committees to discuss what the committees should be focusing on.

The four subcommittees are Workforce Development, Regional Marketing and image, Capacity for Growth, and Development and Govern-

nance.

After the committee meetings the committees presented what they discussed to the other groups. An overall theme of the meeting was that the organization needs to get a website, look into funding, reach out to other organizations or businesses to join, and plan a path forward for economic growth that includes surveys and learning what businesses and organizations are looking for in the region.

"I hope that where we're heading is to be established as an ongoing group," said Machnee. "Eventually we will have our own staff, a website

presence that will become a place that people can come to find economic development information for the whole region instead of having to go to each individual community and maybe bring up the prominence of some of the other communities in the area, rather than just looking at the big ones."

Machnee said that she thinks the next six months will be telling for the organization as they look to get something concrete.

"We just can't meet to meet. We need to have some tangible results, and then the big part is going to be how do we fund this in an ongoing way," said Machnee. "Because right

now everyone is doing this as a favour. Melville contributed the use of the CN Community Centre, and we've been doing administration through Suncrest College. That can't go on forever, so it must become self-sustaining at some point."

If a business, community, or organization is interested in joining the alliance, they can connect through Suncrest College or local municipality. Municipalities should have been receiving information about the Central Prairie Development Alliance, so they should have the information to join according to Machnee.

Grenfell town council meets June 10

By Sarah Pacio
Grasslands News

Grenfell town council held a meeting June 10 at 7 p.m. with all members present. CAO DeAnne Robblee attended the UMAAS convention during the first week of June, so the council meeting was postponed from its regularly scheduled time on June 4.

Public Works

Public Works Superintendent Jeff Martinuk presented a report to council. He noted that an electronic crosswalk sign was installed on Lake St. to improve pedestrian safety near the swimming pool.

Security cameras were also installed at municipal buildings. Martinuk stated that the paving contractor was in town to complete road work that was started last year. He also informed council that sunken graves were addressed, and mowing would be completed at the cemetery before Father's Day.

Farming Fundraiser

Grenfell Lions Club

is continuing its Growing Grenfell fundraiser project. Through various partnerships, the club seeds, harvests and sells crops from approximately 80 acres of land near Grenfell, and then donates proceeds to community initiatives.

A portion of the farmland is located near the lagoon and owned by the Town of Grenfell. The administrator prepared updated paperwork for a lease agreement with the Lions Club, which included a nominal \$1 lease payment for a five-year term.

A delegation from the Lions Club, including President Paul Davies and member Gary Cole, attended the council meeting to formally sign the agreement on Tuesday evening.

Davies informed council that Cole was instrumental in organizing the agricultural fundraising project, which has been very successful.

He also expressed appreciation for partnerships with the town and the Dimler family of Double Bar D Farms.

"It's a fantastic idea; It's turning out to be a very good fundraiser for us to give back to the community," Davies said.

Sewer Policy

Grenfell's Sewer Lateral Clearing policy provides parameters for a reimbursement credit. Eligibility is based on the location and cause of the blockage. Council reviewed several applications for sewer clearing credits; these were approved or denied, based on each applicant's compliance with the town's policy.

Property owners are responsible for hiring a qualified contractor to clear or inspect a blocked sewer lateral line.

They may submit an application for a partial reimbursement of these costs if the blockage is caused by roots from a tree on town property.

A camera inspection of the line must accompany the reimbursement application. The town may approve a reimbursement up to \$200, credited to the property's utility bill.

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Theatre production visits Indian Head

By Sarah Pacio
Grasslands News

Students and guests crowded into the elementary school gym in Indian Head last Wednesday afternoon to watch SUM Theatre's production of "Breathe."

The annual Theatre in the Park performance was initially to take place at Dixon Park but was moved indoors because of air quality advisories related to wildfire smoke.

Wildfire Impact

Theatre in the Park is in its 13th season and each year, Saskatoon-based SUM Theatre creates an original script and music score to address socially relevant topics. The professional cast and crew present the free show in communities across the province during May and June.

The 45-minute, live performance is typically held outdoors but wildfires and smoke impacted the schedule this spring. Performances in La Ronge were cancelled, but conditions improved for shows in Prince Albert.

Several shows in other communities had to be

moved inside schools or community venues due to smoky conditions. In spite of these challenges, organizers anticipate that 10,000 people will attend this season's performances.

Local Performance

For the past few years, the Theatre in the Park tour has included a show at Dixon Park. Students from Indian Head Elementary and other nearby schools usually attended the program, so it was a logical transition for the school to host this year's performance.

"It's always fun coming out here, it seems like the kids always have such a good grasp of the show; they're a really good audience," commented Mackenzie Dawson, artistic director and co-director for the show.

Performers presented "Breathe" at Indian Head on June 11. The play featured a fish who befriended a dragon and challenged him to explore a new way of breathing.

Throughout the play, the characters sought a safe place of belonging and found healing, as they learned to be courageous and face their fears.

A catchy finale of song and dance emphasized the understanding that everyone could grow and explore new possibilities "one breath at a time."

"There's always going to be scary things in life, but we can figure it out together, one step at a time," concluded the dragon.

Dawson explained that the show's theme centered on the idea of being limited by beliefs.

"There's a great line that the fish says, that is essentially the question of 'What if you spent your whole life believing that you couldn't do something and not knowing that you could?'" he told Grasslands News.

"That narrowing of your sense of possibility for yourself, I think that speaks to people of all ages that come to our shows."

Behind the Scenes

The script for "Breathe" was prepared by playwright Danielle Roy. The musical accompaniment included parts for keyboard, guitar, drums, oboe and keytar.

"The company works together to write all the songs as a collective," Dawson explained. "We do a week-long workshop

in the fall and we do jam session after jam session to see what each moment could sound like.

"Then Jesse Fulcher-Gagnon, our music director and arranger, takes all the stuff from the workshop week and spends all winter making the score."

As with previous productions, this year's Theatre in the Park show included colourful costumes and props created primarily from upcycled materials.

For example, corrugated plastic campaign signs from recent elections were painted and cut to create pictures of fish,

birds and waves.

"We've had a lot of paint donated to us; the wood supplies are either re-used from previous years or shared with other theatre companies," Dawson said.

"Upcycling and sustainability is a really important design goal with our work. We really strive to reduce our footprint that way and I think it's a big credit to our designers that so much of it is re-used materials."

The artistic director added that this is both an environmentally responsible and budget-friendly way for the theatre to operate.

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with Communion

*June 21, 7 p.m. Worship at Trinity,

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Rev. Brian Mee, 306-335-7611

website: firstunitedmelville.org

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at Kinsmen Park

Thursday, June 19:

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Sunday Service - 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday Youth Group - 7 p.m.

Rev. Dr. James R. Graham

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CATHOLIC CHURCH

Father Tomy Mandapathil

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SARAH PACIO | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Kids have a blast!

The annual Theatre in the Park tour included a presentation of "Breathe" at Indian Head Elementary School on June 11.

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23	3	62664 Ext 0	154630920	\$803.42	\$11.54	\$814.96
24	3	62664 Ext 0	154434494	\$1,350.58	\$11.53	\$1,362.11
25	3	62664 Ext 0	154434540	\$1,350.58	\$11.54	\$1,362.12
26	3	62664 Ext 31	154434551	\$1,350.58	\$11.54	\$1,362.12
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25	8	E347 Ext 0	141994255	\$1,206.74	\$11.54	\$1,218.28
29	8	E347 Ext 0	144745544	\$1,740.01	\$11.54	\$1,751.55
6	32	E1711 Ext 0	144665107	\$929.84	\$11.54	\$941.38
7	32	E1711 Ext 0	144665040	\$929.84	\$11.54	\$941.38
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Obituary

Francis Joseph Kosa
Oct. 13, 1946 - June 7, 2025

Francis Joseph "Frank" Kosa, aged 78, passed away on Saturday, June 7, 2025, in Regina, Sask. Francis was born on Oct. 13, 1946 to Alice and Frank Kosa in Lestock, Sask. He was a cherished baby brother to Edward, Margaret and Ernest Kosa, who proudly helped raise him to be the kind, clever and family centered man that he was.

Frank was a good student, a great reader and continued his education in the area of Municipal Government and Administration at the University of Regina, then completed more studies at the University of Waterloo. He used his knowledge and special direct management style for over 50 years, serving various communities in multiple provinces as a Municipal Administrator. His career took him from Lestock, Uranium City, Stoney Pointe, Canmore, Chestermere, Lumby, and all the way back to Lipton. A career highlight was his involvement in the 1988 Olympics hosted in Calgary and Canmore, showcasing his skills and commitment to community development. He was known to be fierce with grant applications for all types of projects that would benefit the community he was in, with or without councils' knowledge!

Beyond his professional life, Frank enjoyed golfing with his friends and family. He wasn't motivated by score, but more on how fast he could play! When he returned to Saskatchewan and finally retired, what brought him the most joy was spending time at the Senft Farm completing whatever the task was, such as moving Norman the calf in the back seat of the SUV, fixing fences, or making a meal for family and staff that day. He was a great cook! Frank was skilled at woodworking, enjoyed current events, and was surprisingly on top of his pop culture! He was always up for anything because in the end, he collected an experience and would have another story to tell which usually had some sort of twist, laugh or learning moment. His smile and chuckle will be remembered and celebrated by all who had the privilege to know him.

Described as a man of service, Frank deeply cared for his family, friends, and the communities he lived in. He is survived by his daughter, Andrea Kosa and husband, Dale Goehring; granddaughters Cali and Lainey; brother Fr. Edward Kosa OMI; sister Margaret Robert (Don), nephew Todd (Maureen), and niece Janis; brother Ernest Kosa; sister-in-law Sherolyn Dandurand (Paul) and their children Ryan, Elise and Ella; sister-in-law Cheryl Wowk (Mark) and their children Brennen (Megan) and Logan (Melanie). Special family members: Cory and Jen Senft and their children, Blake and Grace, also survive him. Frank was preceded in death by his beloved wife Valerie (nee Wowk), daughter Elan Kosa, his parents Alice and Frank Kosa, his in-laws Morris and Doris Wowk, and brother-in-law Gary Wowk.

A memorial service for Frank will be held at a later date in Lestock, Sask.

Arrangements entrusted to Conley Funeral Home, Fort Qu'Appelle, Sask.



Obituary

Ingrid Levorson
February 1934 - May 2025



With great sadness, we announce the passing of Ingrid Levorson at the age of 91 at the Cypress Regional Hospital with her daughter by her side. She is predeceased by her parents Torsten (Tom) and Tone (Toni) Levorson, sister Elsie Mitchell, twin brother Lorne Levorson, and her faithful kitty companion Duchess Blue "PutPut".

Ingrid is survived by her daughter Barbara of Swift Current, granddaughters Lauren and Lesley of Toronto, brother John of Cabri, numerous nieces and nephews in Canada, and cousins in Norway.

Ingrid lived her childhood at Battum, Sask. during the "Dirty Thirties", and the hardships endured at that time influenced in her life the need for hard work and success. In 1952 she graduated from SCCI in Swift Current, and then studied nursing in Saskatoon, graduating in 1956. She was a Registered Nurse at Saskatoon City Hospital and was awarded a University of Saskatchewan Scholarship to further study Nursing Education and Administration.

She worked as a Nurse Educator and Administrator at Saskatoon City Hospital, Regina General Hospital, the Palliser Regional Care Centre Swift Current and Prairie Pioneers Lodge. In the early 1980s, Ingrid was instrumental to set up the province's first Alzheimer's care unit at the Lodge. She was also the Diabetic Care Consultant for the SW for many years.

Ingrid was an accomplished artist in painting and pottery. She studied painting at the Banff Centre under the mentorship of Ilda Lubane, and at the University of Regina under Donovan Chester and Art McKay. In 1975 she was contracted by the Saskatchewan government for two hundred miniature paintings of prairie landscapes as gifts for dignitaries. Her paintings were displayed in numerous galleries throughout the province, in institutions such as Imperial Life Assurance Toronto Head Office and Saskatoon office, the Judicial Chambers, Supreme Court Building, Ottawa, Adsask Agencies Ltd., Regina, Medical Arts Clinic, Regina, the Head office of the Royal Bank of Canada, and the RCMP Mess in Regina, as well as private collections across Canada and the US. Ingrid also served as a Director on the Saskatchewan Arts Board in the 1980's. Her paintings range from watercolours, acrylics on canvas, textured multiple glazes on panel board and alkyds, with the subject matter reflecting rural nostalgia, floral and portraits. When describing her floral paintings, she said "I paint a flower as it is to me: resigned to the way they have to live; waiting to be plucked and cherished for all reasons; standing silently to catch one's eye. We find them, grow them, always startled, and delighted for those who see. They flare with joyous colour in their hour, aware of their momentary life. We are them in slow motion."

Ingrid also attended classes at the internationally famous Hanson Ross Pottery in Fort Qu'Appelle, and later became the pottery instructor and docent at the Swift Current Art Gallery for six years. She spent years refurbishing her beloved historical Queen Anne Revival-style home, called the Bothwell-Levorson home, where she hosted many Art and Garden shows with other local artists.

The family would like to extend our sincere gratitude to the nurses and staff at the Cypress Regional Hospital, Drs. Lim and Khosa, and the staff at Cypress House for their kindness and compassionate care. At Ingrid's request, there will be no funeral, but a celebration of her life will be announced for a later date.

In lieu of flowers, Ingrid would gratefully appreciate supporting organizations that protect and care for our

four-footed friends who share Mother Earth with us. Donations can be made to Sandy Pines Wildlife Centre in Napanee, Ontario, the World Wildlife Fund, or your local SPCA.

When (Ingrid Levorson)

When in the breathless hush of evening,
the sunset breezes 'shiver'.

When the rain, soft and grey as the wings of a moth,
beats upon my window pane.

Tho your steps no longer fall
I will feel you near.

Tho your voice is but a memory
I shall hear.

Memories are the greatest of gifts
for they are eternal.

Obituary

Donna Corrine Mohr
Nov. 13, 1948 - June 8, 2025

Donna Corrine Mohr, age 76, of Whitewood, SK, passed away peacefully on Sunday, June 8, 2025, at Assiniboia, SK.

Donna is survived by her daughter, Kim Mohr (Ian); her son, Heath Mohr (Shannon); grandchildren Shaya Nordick, Samantha Mohr and Benjamin Mohr; her brother, Jim Emke (Iris); and nephew Warren Emke.

Donna was predeceased by her husband, Rod Mohr; her parents, August and Frieda Emke; and nephew Darren Emke.

Donna was born on Nov. 13, 1948, in Grenfell, SK. She attended school in Grenfell and graduated in 1967. Donna fell in love with her high school sweetheart, Rodney Mohr of Neudorf, SK, and they were married on July 7, 1967. Soon after marriage, the two moved to British Columbia, where Donna worked as a telephone operator. They welcomed their daughter, Kim, into the world in 1972 and their son, Heath, in 1975. In 1981 they returned to their roots in Saskatchewan to open an auto parts store in Whitewood. Donna soon settled into her career at the post office in Whitewood, where she would work until retiring.

Donna and Rodney built a cabin on the shore of Crooked Lake, where they spent most of their time outdoors socializing with friends and family. Donna spent her spare time on her greatest passions, gardening and crafting.

Funeral service was held on Friday, June 13, 2025, at the Whitewood United Church, Whitewood, SK, with Heather McEwen officiating. Bonnie Velestuk was the organist, Kim Mohr and Heath Mohr gave the eulogy and the urn bearer was Shaya Nordick. Interment took place in the Grenfell Cemetery, Grenfell, SK.

Funeral arrangements were entrusted to Matthews Funeral Home, Whitewood and Melville.



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Obituaries cont'd on Page 20

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CLASSIFIED RATES

(based on 25 words or less)

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1 week: \$15.00 • 2 weeks: \$20.00 • 3 weeks: \$25.00 • 4 weeks: \$30.00

Additional weeks: \$7.50 • Deadline: Tuesdays at 12 noon

1-844-GNG-NEWS

Obituary **Kenneth Donald Wilson** June 2, 1945 - April 23, 2025

Ken Wilson passed away on Wednesday, April 23, 2025, at the age of 79 years.

Kenneth Donald Wilson was born on June 2, 1945, at the Whitewood hospital to David Willis (Shag) and Jean Delphine (Pickford) Wilson. He was an only child so his earliest playmates were his dog (Dinah), his lamb (Bucky), squirrels, chickens, calves and goats. He loved them all.



Ken attended Burrows School (one room) from 1951 to 1958, then Wapella School until graduation. He then attended Teachers' College at the University of Regina, where he developed a lifelong interest in archaeology, history and chemistry. Ken taught school in three communities in Saskatchewan, and many of his students kept in touch with him over the years. He was always available to them for advice and friendship.

After teaching for five years, Ken obtained a position as lab tech at K-2 Mine in Esterhazy, SK, and subsequently worked as a supervisor at four other mines in Saskatchewan. He also worked with Dr. Ernst Mueller helping to set up the I.M.C. Lab at Esterhazy and the H.B.C. Lab.

In 1973 Ken returned home to farm with his father, raising cattle and sheep, as well as grain farming. He kept a hand in teaching by substituting at schools in the area and working for the Community College.

In July 1983, Ken married Shirley Nielsen of Calgary, AB, and they lived on the farm close to his parents. Ken and Shirley shared many interests and happily enjoyed each other's company for the next 42 years.

Ken will be remembered for his intelligent conversation, his kindness to all, his honesty and loyal friendship. He was a true gentleman and a caring, devoted husband. He will be greatly missed.

Ken was predeceased by his parents, Jean (2009) and Shag (2004). He is survived by his loving wife, Shirley; Aunt Elfriede Pickford, Courtney, BC; cousins Mavis Hadland of Vancouver, BC, Jim (Elizabeth) of St. Ann, MB, and Anne (David) Coleman of London, ON; brother-in-law Wayne Marvyama of Calgary, AB; nieces Carla of Singapore and Maiko of Calgary, AB; nephew Chris of Calgary, AB; special girl Shannon Kabernack of Winnipeg, MB; close friends Mel and Eva Davis of Whitewood; and numerous cousins across Canada.

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



Classified/Obituary Deadline Tuesdays 12 noon
production2@grasslandsnews.ca

Memoriam



ERBACH – Phyllis (July 13, 1931 - June 20, 2014). In loving memory of my mom, our grandma and great-grandma. Days have passed And turned into years, But we will forever miss you With silent tears. –Always loved and forever missed by Donna; Brandi, Jason, Peyton and Liam; Traci, Colan, Paisley and Greysen; Derek, Amanda, Madison and Makena.

Thank You

LEMBERG'S Annual Library Barbecue and Book Sale was held June 6. Thank you Nutrien for sponsoring this event. Thank you to all who came out to support the barbecue and book sale and to all the volunteers!

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Rural Municipality of Lipton No. 217

Notice of Subdivision & Discretionary Use Application

Pursuant to Section 55 of the Planning and Development Act 2007, the Council of the R.M. of Lipton No. 217 gives notice that a subdivision as a discretionary use application has been received and the details are as follows:

Subdivision of a portion of the NE, SE ¼ 8-22-13 W2M.

Intent: To allow for the subdivision of a portion of land from the NE, SE-8-22-13-W2M.

Affected Land: The affected land is legally described as part of the NE, SE ¼ 8-22-13 W2M shown on a plan of proposed subdivision dated May 27, 2025 and signed by Suresh Rajakumar S.L.S. The proposed subdivision parcel is shown on the attached plan.

Public Hearing: Council will discuss the above noted application at 8:05 a.m. on July 15th, 2025, in the Council Chambers of the R.M. of Lipton No.217, 226 Main St. Lipton, Saskatchewan. Any person or group that wants to comment on the proposed subdivision is encouraged to submit written comments prior to the meeting. Written submissions may be sent by email to rm.217@sasktel.net or dropped off at the RM office during regular office hours. For anyone wanting to submit verbal comments, please contact the RM office by July 11th, 2025 to make arrangements. For further information please call Ronda Heisler, Administrator at (306) 336-2244.

Dated at the Village of Lipton, in the Province of Saskatchewan, this 20th day of June, 2025.

Ronda Heisler,
Administrator

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Balcarres firefighters help with wildfire efforts

In northern Manitoba

By Judy Hershmillier
Grasslands News

Firefighters Recognized

The citizens of the Town of Balcarres would like to extend gratitude to the members of the Balcarres Fire Department for their continued dedication and service to the community.

We would especially like to recognize two of our members, Charlie Milne and Jeff Lowe, who recently volunteered their time and expertise to assist with wildfire efforts in northern Manitoba.

Charlie and Jeff left on Sunday, June 8 to be stationed in Flin Flon, where they supported efforts to defend the city and surrounding communities from the threat of wild-

fires. They returned home safely on June 12, and we are incredibly proud of their willingness to go above and beyond the call of duty.

So far this year, the Balcarres Fire Department has responded to over 25 emergency calls, demonstrating their unwavering commitment to protecting our residents and our region.

We are truly grateful to have such a dedicated team of men and women serving our community. Thank you for all that you do.

Golden Age Events

Coffee social times are held on Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m. (with some exceptions when the centre is rented) and Thursdays at 2 p.m.

June 19 and 20 – Golden



SUBMITTED | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Firefighters volunteer

Charlie Milne and Jeff Lowe recently assisted with the wildfire efforts in northern Manitoba.

Age Garage Sale. Anyone wanting to donate items, contact Bonnie 306-334-2725. Items must be clean,

not chipped, and in working order. They can be dropped off at the Seniors Centre, or contact Bonnie

to make arrangements for pickup.

June 27 – Noon barbecue for the public to attend. Mark this date on your calendar.

Around Balcarres

Congratulations to the Balcarres Community School Grade 12 graduates. The ceremony was held on Friday in the Balcarres School gymnasium. This is a huge step towards your future and your community is very proud of your accomplishments.

Town-wide Garage Sale Saturday, June 21. There will be a town map available showing where the individual garage sales will be, however check the streets as pop up garage sales also take place.

Mark your calendars to attend the Annual Qu'Ap-

pelle Valley Art Show and Sale to be held in the Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Saturday, July 12 and Sunday, July 13. The raffle painting this year will be by Shelley Cochran.

Balcarres Library hours: Tuesdays and Wednesdays 12 noon to 6 p.m. Closed all statutory holidays. Mobile book delivery and pick-up service is now available to in-town residents. Contact Amanda at 306-334-2966 for more information and arrangements.

The Lions Playground and Splash park is scheduled to open Tuesday, July 1. Watch for more information on concession items, games and activities the park people have planned.

A short walk through “Painted Pathways and Precious Places”

By Elaine Ashfield
Grasslands News

The “Painted Pathways and Precious Places” Art Walk will take place on Thursday, June 26th in Whitewood. It is a collaboration of work organized between the Whitewood Tourism & Heritage Association Inc., the Whitewood Public Library, and Singer Songwriter Studios. The event will take place from 4 to 8 p.m. and there is no charge for the enjoyment of all the beautiful sights and sounds.

The event is a part of the ParticipACTION Community Challenge taking place this month. Arts and culture play a big role in supporting the community, and this event's organizers want to highlight this by encouraging the public to walk down

Lalonde Street (main street) to visit each of three venues: the Library, the Heritage Centre, and the Museum. Art will be displayed and performances will be showcased at these venues, and the public can choose to go to any venue first. They will receive a program with a map outlining the displays and showcases, and the program will include a “passport”, where upon attending each venue, they will receive a stamp, and if all three venues are attended, they will be entered to win a door prize.

Any local artists and artists from the surrounding SE Saskatchewan area are invited to participate. Artists of any age and art practice are welcome. Examples of art mediums include painting, drawing, crafting, beadwork, quilt-

ing, knitting/crochet, pottery, sculpture, literature, photography, printmaking, music, film, poetry/spoken word, theatre, dance, and more!

The deadline for submissions has been extended to Tuesday, June 24th, and artists can contact Ainsley Richards to submit their work: ainsleyfriesen@gmail.com or by calling or texting 306-209-6463. They can also contact the museum by emailing: whitewoodmuseum@hotmail.com

“Even if you don't consider yourself an “artist”, if you have work to share, please don't hesitate to reach out to participate in this exciting event. We want to be as inclusive as possible, and feature people of all ages, seasoned or new to their craft,” Ainsley Friesen from Singer

Songwriter Studios told Grasslands News.

Whitewood and area has numerous people with interests that are considered a form of art. These interests for oth-

ers to view are welcome from the various ages, nationalities and skills. A combination of all will develop a pathway to places full of interesting, educational and memorable

displays you only need to take a short walk to view. And don't forget, these organizers are helping the community become active in the Community Challenge!

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SYA Industry awards scholarships to 100 students

11 are from the Grasslands publishing area

By Jacob Miller
Grasslands News

One hundred graduating high school students from across the province have been awarded the Saskatchewan Youth Apprenticeship (SYA) Industry Scholarship.

Of those 100 students, 11 are graduates of communities in Grasslands publishing area. Students from Abernethy, Cupar, Indian Head, Ituna, Kelliher, Langenburg, Neudorf, Vibank, Wawota, Whitewood and Wolseley are recipients.

The scholarships, presented by the Saskatchewan Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Commission (SATCC), recognize students committed to pursuing careers in the skilled trades.

"Congratulations to this year's scholarship recipients," said Deputy

Premier and Immigration and Career Training Minister Jim Reiter.

"The Government of Saskatchewan is proud to support your path to a successful career in the skilled trades. Our government understands how critical skilled trades are to the success and growth of Saskatchewan and is committed to ensuring everyone in the province has the opportunity to pursue these important and rewarding careers."

SYA Champions, who are the educators who oversee the SYA program in their schools, are invited to nominate at least one enrolled graduating student who is pursuing a career in the skilled trades after high school.

SYA Industry scholarships allow students to redeem them for \$1,000 within two years of graduation by actively embarking on a career in the

skilled trades.

Students have to either register as an apprentice and complete Level 1 technical training or complete a pre-employment course in a trade designated in Saskatchewan.

Recipients

SYA Industry Scholarship recipients from the Grasslands News publishing area are,

•Dante Fayant-Velychko from Abernethy, who is graduating from Balcarres Community School to pursue welding, received an Industry Scholarship.

•Logan McKay from Cupar, who is graduating from Cupar School to pursue welding, received an Industry Scholarship.

•Samuel Gerald James from Indian Head, who is graduating from Indian Head School to pursue a career as an Agricultural Equipment Technician, received an Industry

Scholarship.

•Marcus Breen from Ituna, who is graduating from Ituna School to pursue a career as a Construction Electrician, received a Construction and Labour Relations Association (CLR) of Saskatchewan Scholarship.

•Jaxon Mandziak from Kelliher, who is graduating from Kelliher School to pursue a career as a Construction Electrician, received a Saskatchewan Construction Association Scholarship.

•Ciara Freake from Langenburg, who is graduating from Langenburg Central School to pursue a career as a Construction Electrician, received a scholarship from W. Hunter Electric (2005) Ltd.

•Alexis Nevold from Neudorf, who is graduating from North Valley High School to pursue a career as an Agricultural Equipment Technician,

received an Industry Scholarship.

•Garret Haus from Vibank, who is graduating from Vibank Regional School to pursue a career as a Welder/Powerline Technician, received a PCL Construction Management Inc Scholarship.

•Presley White from Wawota, who is graduating from Wawota High school to pursue welding, received a Sheet Metal Workers Local 296 Saskatchewan Scholarship.

•Aiden Niemi from Whitewood, who is grad-

uating from Whitewood School to pursue a career as an Automotive Service Technician, received an Industry Scholarship.

•and Luke Irving from Wolseley, who is graduating from Wolseley High School to pursue a career as a Powerline Technician, received a PCL Construction Management Scholarship.

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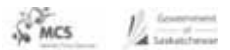
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Antique tractors on display

The Happy Centre School hosted their Vintage Tractor Show on Sunday, June 15, at the Happy Centre School located north of Melville. The event featured a number of antique and vintage tractors from 1980 and older. The event also featured a flea market, tractor races, and prizes.

JACOB MILLER | GRASSLANDS NEWS

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Melville Listings

<p>Cumberland Villas #425 - 680-7th Ave. E. 1-BDM, 1-BATH, 533 SQ.FT. MLS®SK995703</p> <p>\$115,000</p>	<p>636 - 3rd Ave. W. 2-BDM, 1-BATH, 784 SQ.FT. MLS®SK004788</p> <p>SOLD \$100,000</p>	<p>641 - 5th Ave. W. 2-BDM, 1-BATH, 980 SQ.FT. MLS®SK008031</p> <p>\$43,000</p>	<p>470 - 2nd Ave. W. 2-BDM, 1-BATH, 864 SQ.FT. MLS®SK008242</p> <p>\$89,900</p>	<p>138 - 10th Ave. W. 3-BDM, 2-BATH, 896 SQ.FT. MLS®SK009063</p> <p>NEW LISTING \$145,000</p>
<p>242 - 5th Ave. W. 3-BDM, 2-BATH, 1,700 SQ.FT. MLS®SK005484</p> <p>UPDATED PRICE \$138,000</p>	<p>214 - 10th Ave. W. 4-BDM, 2-BATH, 1,190 SQ.FT. MLS®SK986609</p> <p>\$228,000</p>	<p>29 Jubilee Cres. 3-BDM, 3-BATH, 988 SQ.FT. MLS®SK007912</p> <p>\$230,000</p>	<p>7 Combe Ave. 4-BDM, 3-BATH, 1,351 SQ.FT. MLS®SK008231</p> <p>SOLD \$275,000</p>	<p>262 - 3rd Ave. W. C1, 1,920 SQ.FT. MLS®SK977513</p> <p>\$54,000</p>
<p>109 - 3rd Ave. W. C1, 2,000 SQ.FT. MLS®SK009642</p> <p>NEW LISTING \$99,900</p>	<p>RE/MAX® agents, like Lisa Kirkwood, partner with Children's Miracle Network Hospitals, including Jim Pattison Children's Hospital, to support children receiving care at member hospitals each year.</p>			

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Rural Listings

<p>402 Main St. 1-BDM, 1-BATH, 750 SQ.FT. MLS®SK002728</p> <p>Duff UPDATED PRICE \$19,500</p>	<p>215 Louis St. 3-BDM, 2-BATH, 1,440 SQ.FT. MLS®SK000583</p> <p>Neudorf \$118,500</p>	<p>310 Main St. 5-BDM, 2-BATH, 1,218 SQ.FT. MLS®SK007347</p> <p>Neudorf \$329,000</p>	<p>152 Criddle Ave. 4-BDM, 3-BATH, 1,920 SQ.FT. MLS®SK004269</p> <p>Sunset Beach \$750,000</p>	<p>KITCHEN RENOVATIONS <i>on a Budget</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PAINT CABINETS OPEN UP SHELVING UPDATE HARDWARE ADD UNDER-CABINET LIGHTING INSTALL BUTCHER-BLOCK COUNTERTOPS
<p>Must be sold with Adjacent Shop MLS®SK002727</p> <p>UPDATED PRICE \$9,500</p>	<p>Land 478.52 Acres RM of Chrchbridge MLS®SK996513</p> <p>\$499,000</p>	<p>Lots 12 Land Only .45 Acres MLS®SK002108 RM of Good Lake</p> <p>\$199,000</p>	<p>Land & Buildings 5-BDM, 2-BATH, 1,906 SQ.FT. 16.98 acres MLS®SK007123 RM of McLeod</p> <p>NEW LISTING \$389,000</p>	

New contractor announced for Grenfell care home

PCL Construction Management selected to build new 33-bed long term care facility

By Provincial
Grasslands News

The Government of Saskatchewan announced last Friday that PCL Construction Management Inc. has been selected through a two-stage procurement process as the successful team to deliver the new 33-bed Grenfell Long-Term Care (LTC) Home.

"We are very pleased to have a team in place for the Grenfell Long-Term Care project and construction can soon begin," Rural and Remote Health Minister Lori Carr said. "Thank you to the foundation and the community for your continued support and commitment to bringing this important facility to life."

PCL Construction was chosen to lead the construction project following a two-stage procurement process. The new LTC home will include two spa tub rooms, a commercial kitchen, common living and dining spaces, administrative areas, a maintenance garage and parking stalls.

"I am so pleased to see the new 33-bed Grenfell Long-Term Care Home move forward," MLA for Moosomin-Montmartre and Legislative Secretary to the Ministers of Health Kevin Weedmark said.

"I am happy to see this investment in health care in Southeast Saskatch-

ewan. This new facility will change lives by providing long-term care in Grenfell, so more people can receive this care close to home. I thank the people of Grenfell and area, and the local health care foundation, for the work they have done to move this project forward. I am excited to see the dif-

ference this facility will make in people's lives when it opens in 2027."

"It is very exciting that this long awaited and much needed project is going ahead to benefit the community and surrounding area," Grenfell and District Health Foundation Chair Trevor Burnham said. "We are

looking forward to learning more about the final details about the project."

Owned and operated by the Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA), the new long-term care home will be built on a vacant parcel of land at the corner of Alberta Avenue and Qu'Appelle Street in the northeast corner of Gren-

fell.

"This new long-term care home reflects Saskatchewan Health Authority's strong commitment to supporting seniors in living healthy, fulfilling lives and receiving care as close to home as possible," SHA CEO Andrew Will said. "With 33 new beds, this home

will provide a welcoming environment for seniors in Grenfell and surrounding area, helping them stay connected to family, friends and community while receiving high-quality care."

Construction is scheduled to begin July 2025 with substantial completion by Spring 2027.



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Provincial fire ban is lifted

By Provincial
Grasslands News

Due to recent rainfall and cooler weather, the Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency (SPSA) rescinded the provincial fire ban on June 16.

The fire ban was lifted on all Crown lands, provincial parks, and provincial recreation sites located north of the provincial forest boundary up to the Churchill River, along with the Northern Saskatchewan Administration District.

The public is reminded that provincial parks, municipalities and R.M.s may still have their own local fire ban, restriction or advisory in place. A list of fire restrictions in provincial parks and recreation sites can be on the SPSA website.

Municipalities and provincial parks should continue to monitor local conditions and implement fire bans or burning restrictions as required.

Anyone who spots a wildfire can call 1-800-667-9660 or dial 9-1-1.