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"Freedom of the press ... is not the publisher's right to print. It is the citizen's right to know." - Arthur Hays Sulzberger

SaskOutdoors brings outdoor workshop to Vibank School

By Andrea Nicholl
Grasslands News

At the end of August, before the official start to the new school year, teachers at Vibank Regional School were joined by Leah Japp, the Executive Director of SaskOutdoors, for an Outdoor Play Workshop.

SaskOutdoors is a non-profit organization in the province dedicated to encouraging and supporting educators and caregivers to get outside and enjoy nature in a safe and environmentally responsible fashion.

"In my mind, we have two branches, even though we are super small," Japp says. "One is that we work with teachers and schools, doing mostly professional development and some in-school presentations promoting the outdoors. We are equipping educators with more tools to get outside with their students. We also do some community programming – just different opportunities for people who are not involved in the education world to support them in getting outside and having different experiences."

Started in 1969 by a group of educators as the Saskatchewan Outdoor & Environmental Education Association, SaskOutdoors has continued its commitment to promoting outdoor education through workshops, such as the one held at Vibank School, conferences, and presentations.

"When it started, the focus was on outdoor education, and then at some point, the organization added the environmental aspect," Japp says. "It's been primarily volunteer-run until around the early 2000s, when it started to have some part-time work."

Japp says she was invited to come to Vibank School to work with the teachers for a day of fun, play, and education.

"The elementary teachers and some of the educational assistants joined us," Japp says. "We talked about what outdoor play is. You can get into the nitty-gritty with definitions, but for SaskOutdoors, it's outside and playing. Ideally, it's also freely chosen. If you are outside and playing soccer, and it is freely chosen, and you are enjoying being there, then that is outdoor play. We talked quite a bit about that and how that can translate into a formal education system, because there are obviously different constraints, objectives, and goals when you are in a school environment."

Outdoor play workshops, like the one taught by Japp, teach educators the importance of free play while outside, as well as the benefits of risky play, active play, and nature play. The group took to nature themselves, heading out to the trees on the edge of the school grounds, where they could enjoy a series of different activities in the shade and get in touch with the outdoors.

"They had so many questions and things to add from their own experiences," Japp says. "So it was a really great, robust conversation that we had. We spent time connecting to place, so we had some quiet time where we sat outside and relaxed. Then we did nature art. Some of them did art pieces with nature, and some explored some mathematical concepts through nature – trying to relate things we were doing to their own curriculum and fit them into the lesson planning."



Learning to play outdoors
SUBMITTED | GRASSLANDS NEWS
Vibank teachers participated in an outdoor play workshop, held by SaskOutdoors, at the end of August. The group of educators got in touch with nature while learning about the importance of outdoor play and how to implement it into their curriculum.

Japp says ultimately, her goal in her sessions is to allow educators under her tutelage to feel comfortable and confident transferring their teaching skills outside and expanding their classrooms beyond the walls of the school building.

"I think I'm hoping they will take away the importance of going outside and nudge them on in their journey. So if they never went outside with their class, maybe they will try it now. Or if they are used to going outside, they might push themselves to try something new."

Other courses and workshops offered by SaskOutdoors include nature journaling, remote first aid training, wild animal safety, and tips and tricks for getting outside in the cold Saskatchewan winters.

"The winter one is one of my favourites because winter can be so much harder," Japps says. "We have a lot of winter in Saskatchewan, and I want to encourage that even when it is winter, it doesn't mean you have to stay inside."

Although her work with the Vibank teachers is done for now, Japp says the group's work continues. As sedentary lifestyles become more common, SaskOutdoors encourages people to get out and enjoy the world around them whenever they have the opportunity. For kids especially, nature is an important aspect of their physical, mental, and emotional development.

"Often when you go outside with a group, you might see a different side of someone," Japp says. "Often, a kid who might struggle with learning in an indoor environment might find a place to shine when they head outside, which is really lovely to witness. It kind of disrupts the classroom roles. I think most people would agree that just going outside is good for your mental health. Some things you do inside, you can do outside and have a similar experience, but maybe feel a little more enriched. Like reading is an easy option to do outside. It doesn't have to be complicated. I also think going outside is grounding. Just the sense of place and feeling grounded and in touch with nature is good for our well-being as well."


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Zagime Anishinabek First Nation

Acoose elected for a seventh term; election questioned

By Sarah Pacio
Grasslands News

Zagime Anishinabek First Nation elected a chief and council for a new term last weekend, but some are questioning the election's legitimacy.

In April 2025, Zagime membership approved the 'Zagime Anishinabek Election Act' by majority vote. Leaders drafted the act as a means of addressing concerns raised during the 2021 election. Due to the number of voters that lacked access to in-person polling stations, the 'Zagime Anishinabek Election Act' included provisions for online voting. Following approval of the new Act, Zagime prepared for an election on Sept. 6.

Like its previous election in 2021, Zagime engaged the services of OneFeather Mobile Technologies to facilitate its 2025 election. The company has also assisted with elections, surveys and referendum votes for numerous other First Nations. During Zagime's most recent election, OneFeather provided in-person voting opportunities along with mail-in ballot voting and a platform that enabled members to cast their vote online.

Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) notified Zagime's Chief and Council that the federal government did not have time to review Zagime's new Act prior to the scheduled election. As a result, Zagime would remain on the First Nations Election Act (FNEA) schedule until the review was completed, and a ministerial order could be issued. Letters were sent from ISC to Zagime on June 19 and Aug. 21, explaining the government's position, stating that "Canada only has authority to recognize a Chief and Council that is elected in accordance with FNEA" until Zagime's new 'Election Act' is reviewed. However, Zagime leaders determined to continue with the election based on procedures in its new Act.

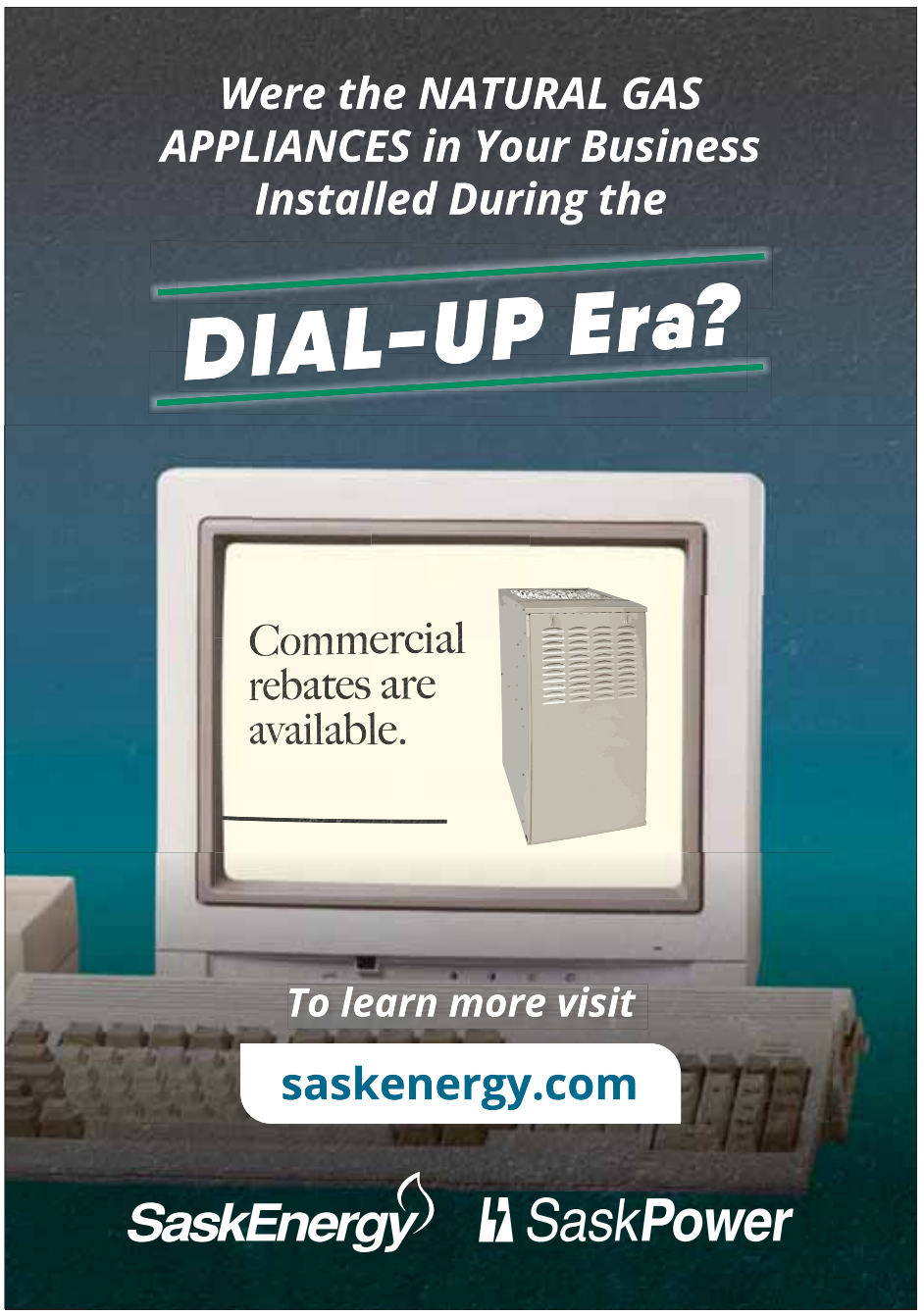
According to its 'Election Act', Zagime's leadership consists of a chief and seven councillors with a general election to be held every four years on Sept. 6. Three candidates were nominated for chief; 19 people were nominated for the role of councillor. OneFeather released an official count of 630 ballots that resulted in Chief Lynn Acoose selected for a seventh term with 295 votes in her favour. Councillors elected for the new term include incumbents Paula Acoose, Amber Sangwais and Randall Sparvier, along with newcomers Hubert (Huey) Acoose, Dennis Peepeetch Jr., Tamara Peepeetch and Sarah Rain.

In response to the controversy surrounding the election, Chief Acoose posted a statement on social media on Monday morning. She acknowledged that communication was received from ISC but said the nation's legal counsel dealt with the correspondence that was received during the election period. Chief Acoose further indicated that the First Nation chose its course of action as a means of exercising sovereignty over its governance procedures.

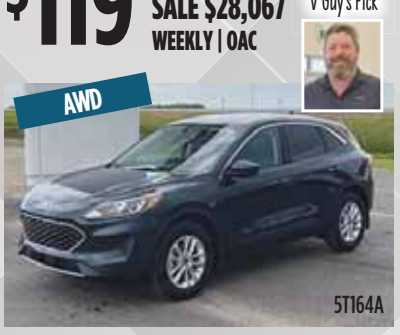
"When the former Council decided to proceed with the election under the Zagime Anishinabek Election Act, it was understood that the election could potentially be challenged," the chief wrote. "We determined that the best way to exercise our Inherent Right to Self-Determination was to challenge Canada's continued control over our internal affairs. We must continue to exert our rights, including the right to control our own citizenship, leadership selection, our laws of kinship and our internal economy."


Hon. Travis Keisig
MLA for Last Mountain - Touchwood Constituency
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'Queen of Canada' along with 15 others arrested

By Ryan Kiedrowski
Grasslands News

The self-proclaimed 'Queen of Canada' Romana Didulo, 50, was among 11 women and five men arrested in Richmound after a large police presence on Sept. 3. Of those taken into custody, 10 were living inside the privately-owned former school in that village near the Alberta border with five arrested from RVs located on the property and one person taken into custody outside a residence in Richmound.

"One of the individuals that was inside the building identified herself as Romana Didulo, which was as I understand, live-streamed as it happened," confirmed Insp. Ashley St. Germaine, Senior Investigative Officer with the RCMP Major Crime Branch, during a news conference at RCMP Headquarters in Regina last week. "She presented herself and identified herself as that and released it to the public, so I can confirm that she is in custody."

Didulo and some of her followers have been taking up residence in the privately-owned Richmound School property since Sept. 2023, antagonizing locals opposed to their conspiracy theory views.

A search warrant was executed by the RCMP at 4:30 a.m. on Sept. 3, after receiving a firearms complaint.

"The search warrant was obtained after we received a report of an individual occupying the building was in possession of a firearm," Insp. St. Germaine explained. "That report was received on Aug. 25, 2025. After receiving this report, Saskatchewan RCMP began an extensive investigation, this included careful monitoring of any risk to public safety and to the community of Richmound."

Detailing the police response, Insp. St. Germaine described the team as "skilled and experienced senior officers" that were "established to oversee this large and complex operation."

"This response was made up of RCMP officers from throughout the province, including our Critical Incident Response Team; tactical support group; containment team; police dog services provincial General Investigation Section, remotely piloted aircraft system and detachment members; (and) we also had assistance from Regina Police Services' SWAT program," she said. "There were more than 30 police vehicles along with two tactical vehicles at the scene. The safety of the public and our officers is the top priority in any situation. We carefully examine the components of the property prior to the execution of the search warrant. This maximized the likelihood of a quick, smooth and safe operation."

There were eight RV units on the school property, which were cleared by one team of officers while another team methodically cleared the school building. All structures were cleared, and the 16 individuals arrested by 6 a.m. on Sept. 3.

"The next phase of the investigation is now in its early stages," Insp. St. Germaine said. "Investigators are still in the process of searching the building, collecting evidence and interviewing those arrested. At this time, no charges have been laid."

Police were able to locate and seize four replica handguns – one inside the building and three inside vehicles – during the process of clearing the property. The building itself is also under the scrutiny of a separate investigation.

"Officers observed modifications that had been made to the existing structure," Insp. St. Germaine said. "We notified fire investigators with the Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency who are now engaged in their own investigation."

Back in early August, claims were made that the group holed up inside the school had rigged a hose to pump sewage away from the compound – including near the village's ball diamonds.

"We understand that there's a lot of interest in this investigation and the next steps," noted Insp. St. Germaine. "The Saskatchewan RCMP is committed to transparency. We will provide more information as we're able, while being mindful of the investigational integrity and privacy responsibilities. I think what's important to highlight today is the excellent work done by our investigative team, their dedication attention to detail and professionalism allow this operation to

- SEE QUEEN OF CANADA, 4



Court appearance
SHAWN MULLIN/ I SWIFT CURRENT ONLINE
Romana Didulo leaves a transport vehicle as Swift Current Municipal RCMP's Kelly Guider prepares to escort her to an initial court appearance on Sept. 5.



Arrested
RYAN KIEDROWSKI I GRASSLANDS NEWS
Insp. Ashley St. Germaine, Senior Investigative Officer with the RCMP Major Crime Branch, details the events leading up to the arrest of 16 individuals.

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Queen of Canada arrested with 15 others

- continued from page 4

unfold without injury or risk to public safety. This operation was incredibly complex and robust. We drew on the RCMP and partner resources from across the province to successfully execute this search warrant. Throughout the investigation, the safety of the public and the residents of Richmound has been the highest priority and was constantly considered. Finally, I thank residents of Richmound for their ongoing patience as this investigation continues to unfold."

Plea for help

While representatives at the Village of Richmound declined comment last week, citing the ongoing RCMP investigation, Mayor Brad Miller had expressed his frustrations with the situation in his village on social media.

"For nearly two years now, the QAnon cult has taken over our town," he said. "They moved into our old school building and have refused to leave as they were invited by the owner of the school. Despite countless efforts – appearing on TV shows, radio programs, speaking with newspaper outlets, and reaching out to government officials – nothing has worked. We've been met with empty promises and no real action."

Incidentally, the owner of the former school building – 61-year-old Rick Manz – was involved in an altercation with RCMP on July 18. Municipal workers were operating in an area near the property, and officers were called to keep the peace. An exchange followed, resulting in two RCMP members climbing over a fence. After a physical altercation with RCMP, Manz was initially charged with two counts of assault a peace officer; and single counts of assault, resisting arrest, mischief, uttering threats, and obstructing or interfering with an employee or agency of a municipality. The next court date for Manz is slated for Sept. 18.

Mayor Miller emphasized how the people residing in the school building put residents of Richmound in a constant state of fear.

"When they first arrived, they threatened anyone who opposed them – including threats of execution and violence toward families in our small, close-knit community," he said. "It was terrifying, and it still is."

The harassment and intimidation of Village staff led to the closure of the Village Office to the public back in July.

"It's heartbreaking and infuriating," Mayor Miller noted. "I can't believe we're still here, with no real help, no protection, and no answers — just more waiting and more promises from people who say they care."

Insp. St. Germaine confirmed that there have been other investigations into the Kingdom of Canada group and activities in the area, then explained why it took so long to initiate action.

"At this point in time, we were able to gather enough evidence to meet the threshold of gathering a search warrant to enter the property to execute it," she said. "Through the course of any of our investigations, before we take any action, we have to make sure that we do meet the thresholds that the courts will be satisfied, that we can enter into private property. So that's essentially what happened here - the investigation report was received, investigation unfolded and got to the point that we had enough grounds to be able to get a Section 487 search warrant to enter the property to execute it."

Catch and release

Just because police arrested the 16 people in Richmound doesn't mean they can hold them.

"They've been arrested and legally, we have 24 hours to either lay a charge, have a person before the courts, or release them," Insp. St. Germaine told the media. "If we release individuals without charges, that doesn't mean that they may not be charged down the road. What that means is we potentially don't have enough evidence to charge them right now, but we can gather enough evidence to charge them down the road, if that's appropriate in that case. So, if people are released today or tomorrow without charges, that doesn't necessarily equate to no charges will ever be laid."

She added that the Regina Provincial GIS will be taking carriage of the investigation; a unit that falls under the Saskatchewan Major Crimes branch.

"They are coordinating and leading this investigation, and any investigative tasks that need to be completed will be done by them or directed to be done by them," Insp. St. Germaine said.

In an update on Sept. 4, RCMP announced they seized 13 imitation semi-automatic handguns, ammunition, and "a large number of electronic devices." All evidence collected is being examined by investigators.

RCMP also confirmed that the 16 people arrested on Sept. 3 were released from police custody.

"Two individuals – an adult female and an adult male – have since been rearrested. The investigation continues," noted the release. "No charges have been formally laid against any of the arrested individuals at this time. As such, we are unable to provide further details."

When asked if the female that had been re-arrested was Didulo, RCMP replied that they are "not able to identify them as no charges have been laid at this time."

However, video surfaced on social media of Didulo and one of her followers Darlene Ondi (Didulo's Press Secretary) surveying the damage to vehicles on the school property after the Sept. 3 arrests. The video depicted several vehicles with all four tires slashed with some also appearing to have their windows smashed.

Court appearances

That freedom on Sept. 4 would prove to be a short-lived taste as both Didulo and Manz were rearrested after allegedly breaching a condition of an undertaking that the pair were to have no contact with each other.

Both appeared before Judge Alan Jacobson in Swift Current Provincial Court on Sept. 5 and were remanded for bail hearings on Sept. 8. During her court appearance on Sept. 5, Didulo was noted as being uncooperative, resulting in Judge Jacobson asking her numerous times to stop interrupting him. While demanding her release, Didulo noted she "would only consent to a natural law trial." Over the course of 45 minutes, Judge Jacobson calmly explained the charges to her – being single counts of failure to comply with an undertaking conditions and intimidation of a justice system participant – and remanded Didulo for her next appearance.

Crown Prosecutor Curtis Wiebe noted opposition to Didulo's release before a trial, requesting an adjournment to Sept. 8 to gather evidence.

While the police were busy with Didulo and her entourage, the Saskatchewan Health Authority declared the former school that Manz owns as unsanitary and unfit for occupation. An order to vacate was delivered and placed on the residence, directing an immediate leave by all individuals. The order will remain in place until all deficiencies are corrected, with a maximum $75,000 fine for violating the notice.

Monday's court appearance saw Didulo granted bail, but with several conditions including not being in a 50 km radius of Richmound, no contact orders with a list of individuals (including Manz), and a weapons prohibition. Didulo will be staying at a residence in Regina, and her next court appearance is scheduled for Sept. 17.

Whie being led by RCMP to the bail hearing, Didulo advised the 12 supporters gathered in front of the Swift Current courthouse to "secure the royal puppies and the funds – you know who to get ahold of."

Manz had a bail hearing on Sept. 9.

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Tariffs hit hunters and local area businesses

By Elaine Ashfield
Grasslands News

As hunting season begins in our areas, hunting and firearms communities are bracing for mounting pressures as sweeping domestic regulations collide with the impact of U.S. tariffs, leaving hunters, sport shooters, and small businesses grappling with rising costs and shrinking access.

Whitewood Outdoor and Pet Supply is one of a very few stores in the area, and possibly much of Saskatchewan, that supplies not only a huge selection of pet supplies, outdoor supplies such as for fishing and many other recreational activities, but also stocks clothing and equipment for the hunter and sports shooter.

This year is slightly different as, when one ventures further into the store, it becomes plainly visible that the gun cabinet in the hunting section is totally empty.

Store owners, Andrea and Calvin Wasmuth, chatted with Grasslands News explaining, "It's not a matter of we don't want to sell firearms; it's a matter of getting them."

The tariffs imposed by US President Donald Trump have had a huge impact on the sale of firearms, impacting hunters and businesses.

"Our suppliers cancelled their orders, leaving a limited supply. The prices when the tariffs are added become much more costly for the hunter and we would probably be making no profit off any sales, even if we could get them," the owners stated.

The Wasmuth's continued, sharing their thoughts that as a smaller business, it would be a huge hit if they were left with a stock of unpurchased inventory, due to the huge price increases, if they could even find a supplier with inventory, or possibly they would be left holding inventory that can't be sold once Prime Minister Carney finalizes the laws in Canada on firearm restrictions.

"As you can see, we have plenty of ammunition for sale for qualified buyers but that too has increased in price for any new stock. We were lucky to have some ammunition in stock before the tariffs were imposed," the store owners commented.

The Wasmuth's agreed that the tariffs have had a much huger impact on their business than the implementation of firearm restrictions has.

Impact on hunters and businesses

According to the Canadian Sporting Arms and Ammunition Association, roughly 80 per cent of ammunition, 90 per cent of primers, and 60 per cent of firearms sold in Canada are imported from the United States. Tariffs on those goods are driving up prices significantly, making it more costly for businesses to stock supplies and for consumers to afford basic hunting and sport-shooting equipment.

"The firearm industry is already dealing with restrictive and unworkable regulations here at home," the association said. "Now, with tariffs, businesses and responsible gun owners are going to be hit even harder."

Small businesses that cater to the firearms market—from retailers to outfitters—warn they may not survive the economic strain.

"We are lucky that we have other areas in our business that are carrying us through hopefully until all of these issues are settled," the Wasmuth's stated. "It's unfortunate though as a lot of people in rural areas rely on hunting as a means to supplement food supplies, and especially now with the high cost of groceries nowadays."

Hunters and recreational shooters are expected to either cut back on purchases or face steep costs for ammunition and equipment. Industry leaders say this will not only weaken local economies, particularly in rural regions, but also erode a tradition that has long played a role in Canada's heritage, conservation efforts, and tourism sector.

A wave of new restrictions

At the same time, federal firearms legislation is reshaping what Canadians can legally own. Bill C-21, passed in late 2023, expanded the definition of prohibited firearms to include new categories of semi-automatic, centre-fire rifles designed for detachable magazines with a capacity of six rounds or more. So-called "ghost guns" and other unlawfully manufactured firearms were also outlawed.

In addition, Ottawa has extended prohibitions on "assault-style" firearms, expanded restrictions on handguns through a national freeze, and introduced new "red flag" provisions allowing courts to temporarily remove firearms from individuals deemed a safety risk.

On March 7, 2025, the federal government further amended its Classification Regulations, reclassifying specific firearms and variants as prohibited. While an amnesty period runs until March 1, 2026, allowing owners to comply with the law, those firearms can no longer be legally used for hunting or sport shooting.

Compensation program pending

A federal compensation program for affected firearm owners is expected to roll out in two phases, beginning with licensed businesses before moving to individuals later in 2025. While the government has pledged "fair compensation," details on payment amounts and the process remain unavailable.

Until then, owners of prohibited firearms can turn them in to police or have them deactivated. Indigenous hunters and those who hunt for sustenance retain limited exemptions to continue use until the end of the amnesty period.

The initiative, which bans more than 2,500 models of previously legal firearms, has been repeatedly delayed and is now scheduled to conclude by the end of 2026. Costs are expected to reach nearly $2 billion.

Public Safety Minister Gary Anandasangaree reaffirmed recently that the forced confiscation program remains a priority for Prime Minister Mark Carney's government, telling the Toronto Star that enforcement would not be voluntary and owners would receive compensation.



Supplies unavailable
ELAINE ASHFIELD I GRASSLANDS NEWS
Store owners Andrea and Calvin Wasmuth of Whitewood Outdoor & Pet Supplies stand in their hunting department near the empty gun rack in their store due to lack of inventory since the U.S. tariffs were implemented.

Uncertain future

With mounting regulatory hurdles at home and higher costs imposed by international trade disputes, Canada's firearms community finds itself at a crossroads. For many hunters and small business owners, the concern is less about adapting to change and more about whether their way of life—and livelihoods—can survive the growing pressures.

"Every season, it's getting harder to keep this tradition alive," said a Saskatchewan outfitter. "We want safe and sustainable hunting, but we also need fair policies that don't push us out of existence."

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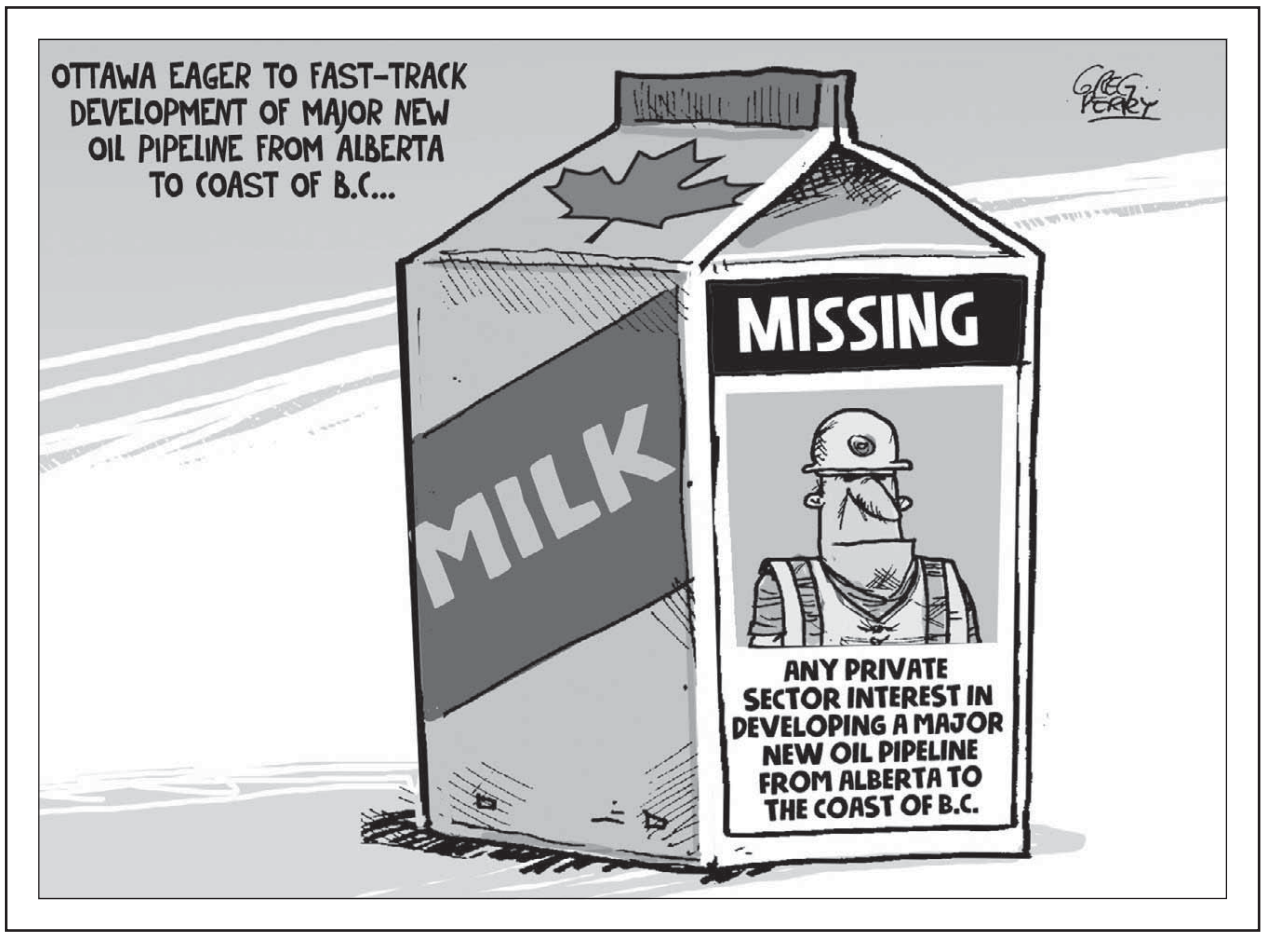
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OPINION

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

Small towns are the perfect target



Last week, Romana Didulo the self-appointed 'Queen of Canada' made headlines all over the place in the wake of police descending on the former school/palace for the Kingdom of Canada in the Village of Richmound. After two years of essentially holding the community of 120 people hostage via threats of violence and 'royal decrees', it seems as though RCMP finally had something they could pin on Didulo and her followers: a weapons charge. As a result, 16 people were arrested and Didulo is currently navigating the justice system.

The real one – not the natural law version she would prefer her trial to be held under.

Many people have wondered how exactly such a siege could happen; how can someone just waltz into a place, say "this is mine now" and begin threatening anyone that dare oppose them?

It's easier than you'd think.

The municipal council in Richmound noted they lack the power to do anything and pointed to the RCMP for help. The police said they can only do so much, abiding by federal justice laws. Meanwhile, those laws drafted by someone in a comfy chair far removed from the problem would declare that there might be a human right jeopardized by taking any action.

So, the cultists sat in their ramshackle former school, and they stewed, plotted, and planned for several months. They dreamt up a new 13-month calendar with new names for each month because – after all – what else are you going to do with nothing but time on your hands? Royal decrees from a fantasy kingdom were drafted with nasty consequences. Currency was developed, and the village office locked its doors to the public for fear of safety to staff.

It all seems so outrageous, like some movie plot dreamed up in a Hollywood studio, but it happened. And it continues to happen in small towns across our fair province. Who would dare stand up to the pint-sized bully and her minions?

They did just that in Kamsack back in 2023. Didulo et al tried to take over that town before their occupation of RIchmound, but the folks in Kamsack would not back down. In fact, Didulo wouldn't even leave the RV she was travelling in as their caravan rolled in to town, being so intimidated by the showing of citizens not about to put up with her silliness. Yes, Kamsack was too big to bully, so the Didulo gang kept on meandering west to find that perfect victim.

It's easy to write off Didulo as 'just another nut', but is she delusional or instead, quite intelligent? How do you control a group of people anyway? History has proven multiple examples of charismatic folks telling portions of the public that they're getting the short end of the stick by another group. Soon, those charming idealists amass quite the horde of followers - all buying into the same notions and concepts of this one very smart person.

That person is elevated to the status of a leader, and more people follow. Pretty soon, the messages, the credos and basic tenants of the group twist into something frightening to the eyes and ears of an outside observer.

But the fervor continues.

Before Didulo and her followers holed themselves up in a small Saskatchewan town flirting with the Alberta border, her less-radical views portrayed cerca the Freedom Convoy out East had many people nodding their heads in agreement. Sure, she appeared a little right of centre, but a lot of people could at least conceptualize what she was trying to lay down. These days her edicts have become more radicalized; so far right that the arm is stretched around the globe and is tapping the left shoulder.

I think everyone has a right to their beliefs, but if what you hold true to your heart asks you to cause harm to someone, then it's time to question those precepts. I've read many messages posted by Didulo's followers, and a common thread asks people viewing their material to question everything. Absolutely – keep asking questions. But perhaps those same folks ought to pause and ask a few of their own.

Why is their leader acquiescing to these earthly laws if she is truly as she claims – a highly-evolved being from some other planet? Why was their 'palace' a run-down former school instead of a luxurious multi-level complex - food for thought for whoever ran the trash hose toward the ball diamonds in Richmound when sewer access was restricted. How come the Kingdom needs to solicit monetary donations when it allegedly is printing its own money? Why hasn't the Queen kept her coffee appointment slated for Divina Esse 19, 0035 (previously known as Sept. 6, 2025) at 11 a.m.?

Unfortunately, the very folks asking the public to re-examine societal views will likely not take a gander at what Didulo tells them to believe. It may seem like a small victory to have the cult leader now before the court system, but has this action now turned the Queen of Canada a martyr? Will this only fuel the fire within her believers? Throwing her in the clink might only make things worse. Or maybe if she's out of the spotlight for a few beats, her followers will find someone else to align with and eventually forget Didulo and her wild ideas. This is the Achilles' heel for Didulo – being forgotten about. Bullies hate losing their power!

- Ryan Kiedrowski, Grasslands News

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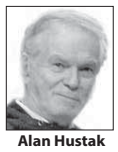
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Co-op's Good Fuel Day is Sept. 16

Local groups to benefit with every purchase of fuel

By Jacob Miller
Grasslands News

Be sure to fuel up your vehicle at your local Co-op as Good Fuel Day takes place next week on Sept. 16.

Local community groups in your area will be benefiting from you fueling up at a Co-op Fuel Bar during Good Fuel Day as locations will donate a minimum of five cents per litre of fuel purchased to a local registered charity or non-profit organization. All grades of gasoline and diesel fuel are eligible.

Last year, Co-op members and customers across Western Canada raised more than $700,000 for 200 local organizations and causes – the largest amount raised in a single Fuel Good Day so far!

Since its launch in 2017, Fuel Good Day has raised a total of more than $4.9 million dollars, thanks to the support of the members and customers.

Those funds have supported hundreds of organizations across Western Canada, including food banks, firefighter associations, healthcare organizations, community centres, animal shelters, schools, sports clubs and so many more. They're excited to keep that support going in 2025.

Prairie Co-op

At Prairie Co-op fuel bar locations, 10 cents per litre will be donated to the Grayson School Community Council and the Cupar Pool and Playground Project.

The Grayson School Community is working hard towards raising $170,000 for the creation of a new playground at the school.

According to Prairie Co-op the proceeds from Fuel Good Day will directly contribute to their fundraising efforts to build a new playground, which will provide a safe and vibrant space for children to play, grow, and develop essential skills.

Funds from Prairie Co-op's Good Fuel Day campaign are also going towards the Waterslide Project at the Cupar Pool.

The Cupar Playground & Pool Project is a volunteer-run community group that was founded in 2013, with the goal of improving outdoor recreation. Past projects of the group include the new playground, which was completed in 2015, pool doors/windows and liner/decking upgrades in 2016, and the gazebo gathering space in 2024.

Borderland Co-op

This year Borderland will be donating 10 cents from every litre sold at our C-Store/Gas bar locations plus $1 from every coffee or big cool slush sold.

Organizations benefitting from Good Fuel Day in the Borderland Co-op region include Moosomin Minor Ball, Rocanville Aquatic Centre, Maryfield SCC, Whitewood KidSport, Broadview Daycare, Grenfell Child Care Centre and Kipling Minor Ball.

From 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at each C-Store/Gas Bar and Maryfield Cardlock location each organization will be holding a BBQ.

Sherwood Co-op

For every litre of fuel sold on Sept. 16, Sherwood Co-op and Co-op Refinery Complex will together donate 20¢ to the Cancer Foundation of Saskatchewan.

All money donated to the Cancer Foundation of Saskatchewan will stay in Regina and be dedicated to the Allan Blair Cancer Centre.

Those fueling up can visit any Sherwood Co-op Gas Bar in Regina, Emerald Park, Indian Head, Montmartre, Southey, or Dysart.

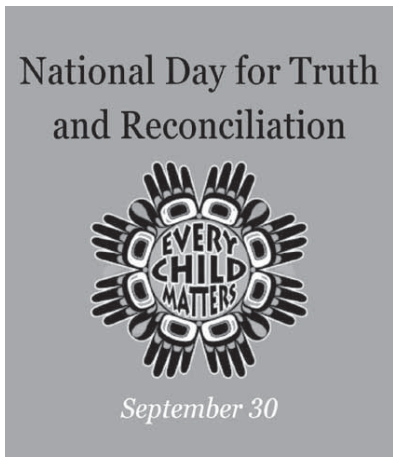
September 30

Broadview to host Truth and Reconciliation gathering

Chris Ashfield
Grasslands News

Community members are invited to come together on Tuesday, September 30, at 1:30 p.m. for a special event in honour of Truth and Reconciliation. The gathering will show support for survivors of residential schools, pay tribute to missing and murdered Indigenous people, and bring residents together in a spirit of unity.

The day will begin at the Broadview Centennial Lodge, where a tipi will be set up and local speakers will share what truth and reconciliation means to them. Attendees will also have the opportunity to participate in traditional Indigenous games.



From there, participants will walk down Front Street to the Co-op gas station parking lot, standing in solidarity as traffic passes on the Trans-Canada Highway. Organizers say the honks and waves from travellers are a powerful display of encouragement and commitment to reconciliation.

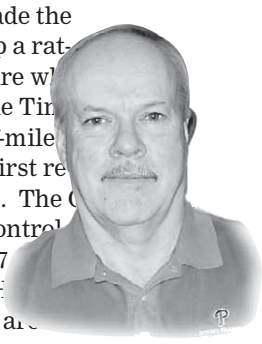
Community members are encouraged to wear orange to mark the day, though organizers stress that participation itself is the most important gesture. Following the walk, everyone is invited back to the Centennial Lodge to share stories and enjoy fresh bannock, prepared by residents and community members with ingredients donated by the local Co-op.

Event organizer Gord Fox said volunteers are still welcome to help with the day's activities. Those interested can call him at 306-696-5507 for more information.

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Gene Hauta

It's a Strange World



A hiker in Tennessee made the ***fatal mistake*** of picking up a rattlesnake. No one is quite sure w possessed him to pick up the Ti rattler. He was about a half-mile the trail at that point, and first re sponders couldn't save him. The (U.S. Centers for Disease Control Prevention) reports about 7 8,000 snake bites per year. H fatal bites are rare, usually a five a year.

Yellowstone National Park officials report that a Colorado man ended up in hospital after another ridiculous encounter. Apparently, he identifies as a wolf furry and was ***severely injured*** after attempting to join a wild wolf pack. Speaking from his bed, still wearing what remained of his shredded gray faux-fur suit, the man insisted the wolves were "just establishing dominance" and that the attack was "more of a rough welcome hug." He added, "I think I'm in. I'm gonna try again next month when they're less hungry." Game wardens strongly discouraged the plan, noting that the pack had already been observed ***urinating on the man's discarded tail***, "which in wolf culture, is basically a restraining order."

Teacher Melissa Calhoun called one of her students ***by the name the student had gone by for four years,*** but she was teaching in Brevard County, Fla. Because the student's name did not match their anatomy at birth, Calhoun is not teaching there anymore. In Florida, it's illegal for a teacher to call a student by such a chosen name unless their parents have signed a consent form. District Superintendent Mark Rendell said, "Our district will always prioritize the law, the trust of our families, and the rights of parents." Anthony Cohen sniped, "Over the dignity, trust, and humanity of students."

Of course, ***Saskatchewan is struggling with the same issue***. A teacher cannot call a student by their desired name without parental consent for students under 16, due to Bill 137, the Parents' Bill of Rights. For students aged 16 and over, parental consent is not required. It sure puts all sides – teacher, parents, and especially the kid—in a tough spot.

Phil Knight, the co-founder of Nike, and his wife, Penny, have ***pledged $2 billion*** for Dr. Brian Druker's research vision for cancer care. Knight likes the idea of cancer research, diagnosis, treatment, care, and, eventually, eradication. The funds go to the Oregon Health & Science University's Knight Cancer Institute as the largest single donation to a US university. This is very welcome when Trump has declared war on the funding of education and research. Doubling the size of the cancer center will allow it to conduct more research, including clinical trials, and treat more patients.

Mike Straw called this one ***'Working Hard at Hardly Working.'*** Shui Zhou, 30, had a business fail last year. Now, he's back in the office, joining five colleagues every day. Zhou goes into the office between 8:00 and 9:00 a.m., and often stays until 11:00 p.m. "I feel very happy," he said. "It's like we're working together as a group." It's only "like" working together because Zhou pays 30 yuan (US$4.20) a day to go to a fake office at Pretend To Work Company in Dongguan, China. Spaces like this have cropped up all over that country as youth unemployment continues to stay above 14 percent.

"Once a street was named after Chuck Norris," I read on Facebook. "It had to be changed because no one ever crossed Chuck Norris and lived."

This is True called this one, 'Frigid'. "Here are the cold hard facts," said the Seattle Police Dept. A Trader Joe's store asked for help with a customer causing a disturbance: the man had ***"humped" a refrigerator***, and now was "attempting to do the same to a customer." That quickly escalated to him using racial slurs, then threatening to kill store security guards with a knife, then threatening to kill everyone in the store. A 33-year-old registered sex offender was arrested for felony harassment. Randy Cassingham noted, "Any romance involving a defrost cycle was bound to fail."

Argus Hamilton: "Cars now have too many gadgets for this Baby Boomer. I was backing up my car today and it started playing a video of someone getting run over by a car."

Keep reading: it's safer than driving!

Sask Party, NDP at odds over Sask. job numbers

By Ryan Kiedrowski
Grasslands News

Depending on who you listen to, the provincial economy and job market are either booming or busted. While the Sask Party sees the cup half-full - claiming StatsCan data proves consistent growth – the opposition NDP interpret those numbers as actually veering the other direction.

In a press conference last Friday morning, the NDP's Shadow Minister for Energy and Resources Sally Housser accused the government of mismanaging the province's finances, pointing to a discrepancy in projected oil prices stemming from the spring budget.

"The Sask Party put the price of oil for 2025/26 at $71 a barrel, but today, WTI (West Texas Intermediate) is only $61 - $10 less," she said. "The government's projection is so off of TD Bank, or Scotiabank's latest forecast of $65 for this fiscal quarter, and Scotiabank predicts that prices will fall further in 2026 to $60 per barrel. For every one dollar the Sask Party missed on its oil projection, the province loses $18 million on an annualized basis."

While admittedly oil prices do experience regular peaks and valleys, Housser cautioned against budgeting at their highest levels.

"If you're in your own household budget, you know what you make, you know what you spend, and you just decide that 'you know what? Maybe I'll get an extra $1000 or $2,000 a month here.' That simply doesn't happen," she said. "That's not how people run their own household budgets, that's not how the province should be run."

Housser noted how the original budget was lauded to net a $12 million surplus but has now shifted to an anticipated $349 million deficit.

"We need a budget that isn't based in rainbows and fairy dust here," Housser said. "These guys keep gambling with Saskatchewan's future and losing badly."

As for jobs across the province, Housser offered how the NDP sees the latest StatsCan figures.

"The reality is that we lost in this province 2,400 jobs last month," she said. "That's 2,400 households that aren't getting a paycheque, 2,400 households that are worried about buying groceries, and this government will continue to go out and say that black is white, up is down, and demand over-and-over again that the people of Saskatchewan think that two plus two equals five. But people simply aren't buying it anymore. They're not buying it because they feel it in their wallets. They see it in their health care. They see it in their education. They see it in their public safety, and after 18 years, they've had enough."

Some of those job losses may be due to the unknown situation with tariffs from the United States, and especially those imposed by China on Canadian canola products.

"If you're uncertain what the next tweet may bring, if you need to keep afloat and you're not sure you know what the books actually look like in your own province, then - unlike the government - you tend to err on the side of caution," Housser said. "A lot of this is really being felt in the cities, but it's more severe in the rural parts of the province. You have the tariff issues. So much of the province depends - and particularly the rural areas - depends on trade and trade with the United States. We've the one-two punch of the issue with the States, but then also with China and canola and, and then drought as well, right? It's a real challenge right now, and I don't know that folks in rural parts of the province are seeing the things that they're feeling reflected in their government here in Regina."

Conversely, the Sask Party says the StasCan numbers only prove that Saskatchewan is experiencing continued growth with 16,500 full-time jobs created year-over-year in August. Further, the province is enjoying the lowest unemployment rate among the provinces at 4.7 per cent, which is under the 7.1 per cent average.

"Once again, with record job numbers and low unemployment, we have proven why we are the best place to live, work and raise a family in Canada," Deputy Premier and Immigration and Career Training Minister Jim Reiter said. "Our government is committed to ensuring that this growth continues, and we have the labour force to support our strong economy."

According to a news release from the Sask Party last week, full-time employment in the province reached a record high of 534,300 in August. Compared to numbers from last year at the same time, that's a 3.2 per cent increase – or 16,500 jobs. Employment for women is up significantly with a 4.4 per cent increase (12,300 jobs), and men have also noted a 1.2 per cent (1,900 jobs) increase.



Difference of opinions RYAN KIEDROWSKI | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Sally Housser, the NDP's Shadow Minister for Energy and Resources, met with reporters in the Saskatchewan Legislative Building in Regina on Sept. 5, citing a different interpretation of recent StatsCan figures regarding employment in Saskatchewan.

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TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

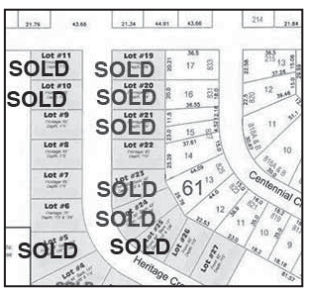
Town of Whitewood Council meets at the town office. Upcoming Council Meeting Date: Sept. 23 and Oct. 7 at 7 p.m. Meetings are held via Zoom. Please contact the office to get access information 306-735-2210.

2025 PROPERTY TAX NOTICE

Taxes are due December 31, 2025.
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Thank you for your prompt payment.

RESIDENTIAL LOTS FOR SALE

The Town of Whitewood has completed development of Heritage Crescent located within town limits.
This 27 lot development includes power, water and sewer to all lots. Cost of a lot is $2,500.
Contact the town office at 306-735-2210 to get full details.



ARENA KITCHEN HIRES

We are looking for individuals interested in working either as a cook or at the counter in the kitchen. Please contact Lisa 306-735-2210 or Tim 306-735-4415.

GARBAGE / RECYCLING

Residents are reminded that Garbage or Recycling Carts must be out by 7 a.m. on collection days.
Upcoming **Recycling** Date: Wednesday, Sept. 17 and Oct. 1.
Upcoming **Garbage** Date: Wednesday, Sept. 24 and Oct. 8.

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.
Friday, Sept 12 - 5 to 9 p.m., Legion Chase the Ace
Saturday, Sept. 13th - Whitewood Legion Golf Tournament
Saturday, Sept 13 - 2 games of Ringette - 12:45 p.m. & 3:30 p.m. U16AA Ringette Saskatoon vs Eastman
Tuesday, Sept 16 - Borderland Co-op Fuel Day – BBQ 11a.m. to 1 p.m. – Whitewood Kidsport
Friday, Oct. 17 - at 6 p.m. – Banger Bingo – Tickets at Whitewood Health Centre & Mon Sherry
Saturday, October 4 - NHL Hat Auction – contact Minor Hockey, Figure Skating, or Curling Club rep for tickets and information
Sunday, October 5 - 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Whitewood Minor Hockey Bottle Drive
Saturday, Oct. 18 - 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. – Just Craft'n Around Craft/ Trade Show – Whitewood Community Centre

FALL REGISTRATION IS UNDERWAY!

Whitewood Minor Hockey, Whitewood Figure Skating Club & Diva Dance Registration is now open! Reach out to each organization directly for sign-up details or more information. Curling Registration Coming Soon. Whether you're in it for the laughs or the competition—join our fun league or test your skills in the Skins League.

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.
We all love our furry friends, but please be considerate of your neighbors and help keep our community peaceful by minimizing excessive barking – especially during early morning and late evenings.

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. Town staff will be reading meters near the end of September then again in December.

PAYMENTS ACCEPTED

If you need to make payments to us, we accept:
• Etransfer to cao@townofwhitewood.ca,
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• Stop by office with cheque, cash, debit or credit, call in with credit card.

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Report shows schools in Saskatchewan crumbling

By Chris Ashfield
Grasslands News

A new report obtained through a freedom of information request shows that schools across Saskatchewan are deteriorating at alarming rates, with Prairie Valley, Good Spirit, and Christ the Teacher divisions facing particularly serious challenges. The findings, prepared by the provincial capital planning branch, detail widespread neglect that the Saskatchewan NDP says is the direct result of 18 years of Sask. Party government failure.

The report revealed that 13 schools in the province are considered in "critical" condition and another 132 in "poor" condition, meaning the costs of necessary repairs represent a major portion of replacement value. While no school should ever reach this state, dozens across Prairie Valley, Good Spirit, and Christ the Teacher are documented as needing urgent attention.

While the report points out the need for repairs in most schools, capital planning assessments of the schools were done between 2020 to 2024, meaning some schools will have seen updates since they were last assessed. But the report shows an overlying issue with maintaining schools across the province.

Prairie Valley School Division

In Prairie Valley School Division (PVSD), which has 37 schools across dozens of communities, only four are listed as "Good" while 11 are considered in "Fair" condition and another 19 listed as "Poor." One school is listed in "Critical" condition. PVSD schools were the most earliest assessed schools in the report, with assessments done back in the summer of 2020.

Good – Balgonie Elementary, Ecole Lumsden Elementary, Emerald Ridge Elementary in White City, Kipling Composite and Pilot Butte Elementary.

Fair – Balcarres, Broadview, Dr. Isman Elementary in Wolseley, Edenwold Elementary, Greenall High School in Balgonie, Indian Head High School, Lipton, Lumsden High School, McLean Elementary, North Valley Composite High School in Lemberg, and South Shore Elementary in Regina Beach.

Poor – Bert Fox High School in Fort Qu'Appelle, Clive Draycott Elementary in Bethune, Cupar, Ecole White City Elementary, Fort Qu'Appelle Elementary, Grenfell Elementary, Grenfell High School, James Hamblin Elementary in Qu'Appelle, Kelliher, Kennedy Langbank Elementary, Milestone, Montmartre, North Valley Elementary in Neudorf, Pense Elementary, Robert Southey Composite, Vibank, Whitewood, and Wolselsey High School.

Critical – Southey Elementary

Good Spirit School Division

Good Spirit School Division, which covers Yorkton, Melville, Canora, Esterhazy and surrounding areas, is also heavily impacted. With 24 facilities in the division, half are considered to be in "Poor" condition with another 9 in "Fair" condition and three in "Good" condition. GSSD schools were assessed in the summer of 2022.

Good – Langenburg, Norquay and Yorkton Regional High School.

Fair – Davison School in Melville, Dr. Brass School in Yorkton, Esterhazy Central High School, , Invermay, Kamsack, M.C. Knoll in Yorkton, Melville Comprehensive, P.J. Gillen in Esterhazy, and Saltcolts.

Poor – Canora Composite, Canora Elementary, Churchbridge, Columbia School in Yorkton, Grayson, MacDonald School in Stockholm, Miller School in Melville, Preeceville, Springside, Sturgis, Victoria School in Kamsack, and Yorkdale Central in Yorkton.

Christ the Teacher Catholic School Division

In Christ the Teacher Catholic School Division, which operates schools in Melville, Yorkton and Theodore, six of the eight schools listed were considered to be in "Fair" or "Poor" condition with the other two deemed "Good." Schools in the division had their last assessment done in the summer of 2022.

Good – Sacred Heart High School and St. Alphonsus School in Yorkton.

Fair – Ecole St. Henry's Elementary in Melville, St. Henry's Senior School in Melville, and St. Michael's in Yorkton.

Poor – St. Mary's School in Yorkton, St. Paul's in Yorkton and St. Theodore in Theodore.

Saskatchewan NDP Education Shadow Minister Matt Love said the findings confirm what parents, students and teachers have been saying for years.

"We have a Sask. Party government that has failed to maintain our existing schools and build critically needed new schools for 18 years and counting," Love said. "Students are left in neglected buildings, learning in conditions that fall far short of what they deserve."

NDP Immigration Critic Noor Burki added that deteriorating schools send the wrong message to families considering making Saskatchewan their home.

"People will not want to stay in a province that doesn't invest in schools," Burki said. "We cannot expect to grow and thrive if we don't take care of the very places where our children are supposed to learn and succeed."

The NDP is calling for immediate investment in school infrastructure, including both repairs and construction of new facilities, and warns that continued inaction will only further erode opportunities for students in every corner of the province.

New continuing care program in Broadview

By Elaine Ashfield
Grasslands News

Southeast College, in partnership with the Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA), is bringing a part-time Continuing Care Assistant (CCA) program to Broadview this fall.

The program will combine classroom learning with hands-on clinical experience, helping students gain the knowledge and skills needed to provide quality care in a variety of settings. Students will learn to address individual psychosocial needs, administer personal care, support dementia patients, and work with individuals from different cultural backgrounds and with physical or cognitive impairments.

Classes will take place at the Broadview Hospital boardroom, located at 901 Nina Street. Courses begin Sept. 23, and will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Because space is limited, applicants are encouraged to enroll at least one week prior to the start date.

"This program is a great way for people in Broadview and surrounding areas to train close to home while preparing for a rewarding career in health care," said Jenn Hawton, Program Coordinator.

"Students will build both their skills and confidence while gaining experience in home care, long-term care, and acute care settings."

Under the guidance of instructors and mentors, students will work directly with clients, gaining valuable insight into different care environments and philosophies.

For more information or to register, contact Southeast College at (306) 848-2525 or visit www.southeastcollege.org

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Farm groups say federal support misses the mark amid trade disruptions

Submitted
Grasslands News

Canada's farm sector is voicing disappointment over the federal government's newly announced support measures aimed at helping agriculture weather major trade disruptions, particularly the closure of the Chinese market to Canadian canola. While industry groups welcomed some elements of the package, they warned the response falls well short of what is needed to protect farmers and processors.

The Canola Council of Canada (CCC) and the Canadian Canola Growers Association (CCGA) both expressed frustration that the package does not adequately reflect the severity of the crisis facing the canola value chain. "We are discouraged with the government's support package for the industry. The measures announced today do not reflect the seriousness of the challenge facing the value chain," said CCC President & CEO Chris Davison.

"Farmers should not be expected to borrow their way out of this situation," added CCGA President & CEO Rick White, who argued that the Advanced Payments Program (APP) is not designed to provide the type of assistance needed. Both leaders stressed that processors and exporters are also under pressure, and warned that the Biofuel Production Incentive announced this week will not create meaningful new demand for canola.

Concerns were also raised about ongoing loopholes in the Clean Fuel Regulations, which the industry says give foreign used cooking oil an unfair advantage. In 2024, imports of such fuels displaced the equivalent of nearly one million tonnes of domestic canola demand.

Meanwhile, the Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan (APAS) acknowledged that the government's plan contains some progress, including the decision to double the interest-free portion of the APP to $500,000, $75 million in new AgriMarketing funds, $370 million for biofuel production, and a new Regional Tariff Response Initiative. But APAS said the package leaves a major gap by overlooking pulse producers.

"To really see what we're up against, just look at the impact of tariffs on pea prices. They've already cost one farmer nearly $300,000 this harvest. The new changes to the cash advance program are a help—it'll save us a few thousand dollars. But compared to the huge losses from these tariffs, that's just a drop in the bucket," said APAS President Bill Prybylski.

Prybyski noted that Saskatchewan farmers produced 1.5 million metric tonnes of peas in 2024, and current market conditions have translated into losses of about $150 million. "Pulses aren't just another crop—they're vital to sustainable farming in Saskatchewan. Ignoring this sector fails to recognize its importance to our economic success and environmental sustainability."

Both APAS and the canola groups urged Ottawa to take a more comprehensive approach, warning that piecemeal measures will not suffice in the face of growing global trade challenges. They are calling for stronger domestic processing investment, more robust financial supports, and urgent efforts to resolve trade disputes with key partners like China.

"The success of Saskatchewan farming is interconnected; if one sector struggles, we all feel it," said Prybylski. Davison and White echoed that message, urging the government to "urgently work with us to provide meaningful and impactful support" for the entire agriculture value chain.

Timmons fourth win at QCM

By Ashley Scarfe
Grasslands News

Five minutes and change was all that separated Emerald Park's Curtis Timmons from a podium spot at Sunday's Queen City Marathon in Regina.

Timmons finished the 42.2 kilometre run in 2 hours 48 minutes 55 seconds, good for fourth place overall and third among men aged 30-39.

Not far behind was Alex Laberge of Pilot Butte who placed seventh out of 328 registered runners in 2:55:43.

The main event of the three-day race weekend was won by Regina's Chris Stoppler who crossed the finish line in 2:36:02.

Another of the top local finishers was Riley Reid of White City who finished 24th overall in 3:10:21.

Sunday's events also included the 21.1 km half-marathon and the QCM's 10 km run.

Those races were won by Regina's Justin Sawka (1:12:16) and Jaden Bailey of Sonningdale (38:08) respectively.

Top local finishers included Emerald Park resident Brandon Halbgewachs who placed 38th out of 1,153 runners in the half-marathon in 1:32:50, and Hailey Haas of White City who was 24th in the 10K at 43:02.

And Iker Gutierrez of White City was the top local finisher in the "night owl" 5K race held Sept. 5, placing 13th in 25:09.

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Norbert Beaujot

Sask. innovator honoured for seeding breakthroughs

By Connie Schwalm
Grasslands News

Although farming is among the most foundational huAlthough farming is among the most foundational human endeavors, innovations that make the work of seeding, tending and harvesting a crop more efficient and productive have always been vital to its success.

And as Norbert Beaujot points out, nowhere is this truer than in this province.

"Saskatchewan is a hotbed of innovation, and I believe that is because this is a tough place to farm. With dry land, a short growing season and a lot of other things going against you, you have to innovate just to survive."

For the past 30 years, Norbert - who grew up on his family's farm near Langbank - has been one of those who has responded to this need for innovation. After earning his Ag Engineering Degree from the University of Saskatchewan, Norbert returned to the farm and took over after his father Leon retired in 1985.

As he farmed these familiar fields, Norbert began to think about ways that the technology used for seeding in particular could be improved. At that time, air seeders were the top-end technology that was available to farmers. But as Norbert notes, that technology was not well-suited for planting canola, which was becoming an increasingly popular crop.

"The seeding methods that were being used then didn't work well for canola, and I felt there had to be a better way to get the seed into the ground. It's important that canola be seeded at the proper depth, and if you could seed without having to till first, you could take advantage of the moisture that is in the soil surface in the spring."

Norbert's determination to devise a better way to seed led him to design what would become the world's first active hydraulic, ground-following, individual row opener. This technology would allow farmers to seed directly into the stubble left behind from the previous year's crop (in order to minimize soil disturbance and conserve moisture) while ensuring that the seed was being planted at the appropriate depth. With the help of his friend Brian Kent, Norbert constructed a prototype and used it to seed 1,200 acres on his farm.



SUBMITTED I GRASSLANDS NEWS

A career in innovation

Norbert Beaujot (pictured here on vacation with his wife Dolores) was recently recognized for the many advancements in agricultural technology that he has brought forward over the past 30 years.

That prototype became the foundational technology for Seed Hawk (later Väderstad Industries) which was established in 1992 by Norbert and his brother Patrick in order to manufacture this new seeder. Although only six units were sold during the first year of operation, farmers who saw the technology at the Trade Shows where it was being marketed recognized its potential and demand for the seeders began to grow.

Later, when the brothers went their separate ways, Norbert would go on to establish SeedMaster (a company owned and operated by Norbert and his children) in 2002. Improvements were made to the original opener and a series of other innovations all designed to make seeding an easier and more efficient process were developed. Then in 2017 Norbert established his third successful company, DOT Technology Corporation in order to develop the DOT autonomous Power Platform.

In the decades since he first began working to develop a better way to seed, Norbert notes that the innovations he developed have been copied or acquired by other manufacturers and led to widespread acceptance of the concept of no-till farming,

"It's amazing how strong the opener has become in the industry, and it has changed the way that a lot of people farm. No-till farming has become something that is widely practiced. The patents on the opener have expired, so other equipment manufacturers have copied what they want from that design, and other innovations like the metering system that we developed have been copied as well. DOT Technology Corporation was sold to Raven Industries in 2020 and then Raven was acquired by Case New Holland Industries in 2021. So, we are now twice removed from DOT. But we were pretty excited about that technology and saw a lot of interest in it at that time. So, it will be interesting to see what happens with that in the future."

He adds that even some who were initially skeptical about these innovations have incorporated them into their own farming operation. "There was one close neighbor that looked at the first crop we planted using the opener technology and said, 'It'll be a cold day in hell before I ever farm that way'. But that neighbor ended up farming that way. So, I guess hell is a bit colder than it used to be!"

Recently, Norbert Beaujot was recognized for the innovations he pioneered, as he was one of six individuals inducted into the Third Annual Shortline Legends Hall of Fame (a program aimed at recognizing success in the North American Shortline / independent agricultural equipment manufacturing industry established by Farm Equipment magazine).

Norbert along with the other inductees will also be recognized during the the 2025 Farm Equipment Manufacturers Assn. (FEMA) and Equipment Marketing Distribution Assn. (EMDA) Joint Convention being held Oct. 28-30, in Las Vegas.

As he looks back on the innovations that he has worked to bring forward, Norbert says that a willingness to take risks, something that is also an intrinsic part of farming, has been vital to his success.

"Taking risks is something that you learn from a very young age as a farmer. Failures and mistakes happen - if they don't happen then you aren't trying hard enough. You're not taking enough risks if you don't fall on your face once in a while. And as an innovator you also have to take risks. You can't worry about what other people think - or what you believe that they think. You have to learn from your mistakes and look forward to moving on with new knowledge all the time. Of course, you must do that in moderation so that you can survive a fall. But you can't be afraid to take a risk and try. That's worked out for me over the years, and I don't think I'd do anything differently even if I could."

Brad Crassweller
MLA for White City - Qu'Appelle
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SPORTS

Millionaires split preseason games with Wings

By Darcy Gross
Grasslands News

The Melville Millionaires have been outplaying their opposition in the preseason, however, it hasn't always translated to victories.

The Millionaires now have a two-win and one shootout loss record after their rookie opener against the Humboldt Broncos and two exhibition contests with the Weyburn Red Wings.

Preseason - Weyburn Red Wings 5 at Melville Millionaires 4 (Shootout, Sept. 6)

The Millionaires held the territorial advantage in this match-up, scoring the game's first three goals and holding a 4-2 lead until the midway point of the final frame, but ultimately, couldn't get the job done.

It was a back-and-forth affair, but the Millionaires had a decided edge in shots on goal, testing the Red Wings' netminders 45 times while the Wings had 26 shots on the Millionaires' goalies.

Melville starter Connor Doyle turned aside 16 of the 17 shots he faced over the first two periods, while Kael Svenson made six saves on nine shots in taking the loss.

Rylan Oatmen led the Millionaires with a goal and two helpers, with Preston Baerwald scoring and setting up another.

Alex Morrison and Zach Anderson each chipped in with a single tally with Brendan Olson, Parker Salisbury, Edward Knittig and Leo Jewitt each collecting an assist.



DARCY GROSS I GRASSLANDS NEWS

Congestion in the crease
A mass of humanity was all around the Weyburn Red Wings' crease in preseason play at the CNCC on Saturday, Sept. 6. The Wings were the better squad on this night, winning 5-4 in a shootout.

The Millionaires led 1-0 after the first period and held a 3-1 advantage after 40 minutes.

The Red Wings got the gate for five of nine minor penalties as well as a major and a misconduct.

Preseason - Melville Millionaires 6 at Weyburn Red Wings 2 (Sept. 5)

One again, the Mils dominated the shots on goal column, but trailed until early in the final frame, when they exploded for five straight, unanswered goals.

The game was knotted 1-1 after the opening stanza with neither team able to dent the twine in the second period.

Defenceman Sam LaPlante led the way for Melville, sniping a pair of goals with Oatman and Morrison each potting a single and adding an assist.

Yibin Yoo and Leo Jewitt each added a single marker with Brodie Hicks, Louis Nadeau, Jackson Lee, Grady Carmichael, Carter Wingert and Wesley Olson and Knittig each garnering a single assist.

Svenson got the start in net for the Mils, making 15 saves while allowing one goal in the first two frames.

Doyle was tapped for the third period and he wasn't too busy, making three saves on only four shots on goal.

The Red Wings were whistled for three of the game's four minor penalties.

The Millionaires are back on home ice on Sept. 12, when the Yorkton Terriers will visit the CN Community Centre for a game with the Millionaires, with the two squads hooking up again on the 13th in Yorkton.

Both games get underway at 7 p.m.

SJHL Notebook
By GNG Staff

Talen Lewis, come on down. You're the first contestant of the season on 'The Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League Suspension is Right'.

The league announced Sunday it had suspended the 19-year-old Weyburn Red Wings forward for one game after Lewis received a major penalty for checking to the head in the third period of Saturday's 5-4 shootout win over the Melville Millionaires.

The 19-year-old forward was penalized with 8:15 to play and the Mils leading the preseason tilt 4-3. Weyburn not only shut down the Melville power play but proceeded to tie the game with a shorthanded goal in the final minute of the man advantage as well.

Weyburn acquired Lewis, who also scored the Wings' second goal of the game, in June from the Neepawa Giants of the Manitoba Junior Hockey League.

Freigang departs Hounds

Dylan (D.J.) Freigang is heading home.

The 2005-born forward has committed to Utah State University for the 2025-26 American Collegiate Hockey Association season.

In committing to the Division II club, Freigang will play the season in Logan, about an hour's drive north from his hometown of Ogden.

Freigang played 80 games over four seasons for the Notre Dame Hounds posting 24 points for the club now known as the Warman Wolverines.

His commitment to Utah State was announced Sept. 2.

Bear Necessities

The Estevan Bruins have bolstered their forward ranks with the signing of 2005-born forward Colton Getzlaff.

Estevan acquired Getzlaff from the Battlefords North Stars in July, despite the player's original intentions to play this season in Alaska with the Kenai River Brown Bears of the North American Hockey League and announced his signing Saturday.

"For us it was obviously an educated risk," Bruins' head coach and general manager Drew Kocur said in a team news release.

The six-foot, 190-pound left winger scored 20 goals and added 16 assists in 56 games for the North Stars as an SJHL sophomore last season.

Bunge Holds

The recent merger of grain industry giants Bunge Global SA and Viterra Limited has resulted in a change of name for the SJHL's south division.

Known as the Viterra Division for the past 13 seasons, the home of the Melville Millionaires, Yorkton Terriers, Weyburn Red Wings and Estevan Bruins will be known in 2025-26 as the Bunge Division.



Sports column – Darcy Gross

Gross Misconduct

A new NFL season kicked off last week, and there were more than a few interesting games on the schedule.

I remember when the CFL was the only game in Canada, and people used to actually argue about which game of football was better, the American or Canadian version.

"All they do is run the ball," was the usual knock on the NFL, where teams have four downs to make 10 yards, while NFL fans would call the CFL the "two downs and punt" league.

Both leagues now feature some teams with high powered offences.

Many fans of the Buffalo Bills were in their cars or already at home when the game between them and the Baltimore Ravens had drawn to a frenzied close on Sunday.

This contest was wild, to say the least.

In fact, the Ravens became the first team since 2017 to lose a game after holding a 15 point lead with four minutes left.

Josh Allen was his usual MVP-like self for the Bills, putting up 394 yards through the air as well as a couple of rushing touchdowns.

It might be coincidence, but having what may be the top two AFC teams getting together in week 1 was pretty darn fantastic for football fans.

The big turning point in the game was when Ravens' offensive juggernaut Derrick Henry fumbled and a Bills' touchdown brought them to within two points.

The Ravens couldn't get anything going in their next series after the kickoff, going three and out, and the Bills scored a field goal to win it, after many Buffalo fans had already exited the stadium.

There's a good chance we see these two teams in the AFC championship later, if neither team gets decimated by injuries, so why would people just leave?

Did they think the Sabres were playing?

The Dallas Cowboys, fresh off trading their best defensive player Micah Parsons, were trying to start off on the right foot against the defending Super Bowl champions, the Philadelphia Eagles, but a lot of first half promise fizzled out in the second.

Eagles' quarterback, Jalen Hurts, looked a lot like a championship winning pivot when he was running the ball, as he scored a pair of touchdowns.

Either the Cowboys defence was really good, even without Parsons, or the Eagles couldn't get anything going from their outside receivers, as they struggled to get open all night long.

It likely would have gone better for the Cowboys if their best offensive player, wide receiver Ceedee Lamb, would have better hands.

One of his drops could have been the difference in a game that was there for the taking.

As it turned out, Dallas running back Miles Sanders' fumble on the Eagles' nine-yard line took away any hope the Cowboys might have had of winning.

After Sanders' fumble, the Cowboys' offence couldn't get into Philly territory, and it was ballgame Eagles.

Aaron Rodgers made his Pittsburgh Steelers debut and while it was one for the record books, the performance – or lack thereof – of the Steelers defence, made Justin Fields and the Jets' offence look like a hot knife driving through butter.

The Steelers, even with all their new defensive personnel, couldn't stop the run and only won this game due to Rodgers' heroics and a 60-yard Chris Boswell field goal.

Of course, last season, the two quarterbacks were on the opposite teams, so there was a bit of a built in rivalry for this one.

At the end of the day, Rodgers threw for four touchdowns without a pick, and had the best debut of all time in earning his first win with the Steelers.

With Mike Tomlin at the helm, it shouldn't take the Steelers too long to figure out that you're not going to win too many games if you give up 184 yards on the ground.

It was an exciting week in football.

Heck, the Riders even won the Banjo Bowl!

Now if they can just figure out how to beat the Stamps, they'll be fine.

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Jays can thank big bats for success

By Bruce Penton
Sports Columnist

The top five reasons Toronto Blue Jays are going to give Canadian sports fans an October playoff thrill: George Springer, Bo Bichette, Daulton Varsho, Addison Barger and Alejandro Kirk.

Notice that the five names mentioned above do not include a pitcher, because the Jays have led the American League East for a good chunk of the season in spite of poor to average pitching. It has been decent at the front end (starters) and dismal at the back (relief corps). Only four American League teams have given up more runs than the Jays, but only one, the Yankees, has scored more. The Blue Jays are a team that can never be counted out. A great example was Sept. 3 in Cincinnati, where the Reds jumped on starter Shane Bieber for five runs in the second inning and a 5-0 lead. No problem. The Jays put their awesome offence into overdrive, pounded out five home runs and 18 hits en route to a 13-9 victory.

Springer and Bichette have been the catalysts for the Jays. Bichette, in his seven years with the Blue Jays, had a rough season in 2024, batting .225 and playing in only 81 games due to injuries. This year, he leads the major leagues in hits, is batting comfortably over .300 and is en route to eclipsing his career-high RBI total (102 in 2021). Springer's resurgence has been as good, or better. The 12-year vet, who has been the Jays' designated hitter for most of 2025, is having a banner year and while he won't win the A.L. MVP award (Aaron Judge and Cal Raleigh are the front-runners), he deserves to get a few votes. Springer will push past the 30-home run mark, carried a .307 batting average into the second week of September and has been Mr. Clutch all year.

While Bichette and Springer have been the two offensive keys for Toronto, the contributions of Kirk, Barger and Varsho cannot be overlooked. Kirk had been regarded as little more than a journeyman catcher, but his bat has come alive this year. He's been batting close to .300 all season and has already surpassed his career high RBI total, which was 63 back in 2022, and will post the best OPS figure (on-base percentage plus slugging) of his five full years in Toronto. Varsho missed about 80 games, but since his return, he's on a 50-home run pace and has been spectacular defensively in centerfield. Barger, meanwhile, has been the team's rookie surprise. He was a big hit in spring training, but doubts were expressed about whether he'd be able to carry the hot bat into the regular season. Well, he's third on the team in homers, fourth in RBI and seems to always come through with a clutch hit when needed. He may not be the American League rookie of the year, but he's definitely the No. 1 freshman with the Jays.

Now, if only the relief pitching would shape up, the Jays could actually win the World Series.

• Steve Simmons of the Toronto Sun: "Give Tyson Barrie credit for a sense of humour on his retirement announcement. He said his decision was made 'in tandem with the 32 NHL teams.'"

• RJ Currie of sportsdeke.com: "In a surprising move, Maria Sharapova asked Serena Williams to speak for her at her Tennis Hall of Fame induction because Serena was her biggest rival. Really? That's like a fly calling a windshield a rival."

• Columnist Norman Chad, commenting on gamblers seeking 'refunds' from professional athletes for poor play which resulted in losing wagers: "Am I supposed to shake down E-Harmony because my first wife left me?"

• Dan Gartland of SI-AM, after TCU's 48-14 win over North Carolina in U.S. college football: "Congratulations to Bill Belichick on shifting the focus away from the age gap between him and his girlfriend, Jordon Hudson, and toward the talent gap between his North Carolina team and TCU."

• Ontario columnist Keith Schell, on the Shane Bieber trade to the Blue Jays: "He's looking good so far, but the Jays' bats are growing cold at the worst time. He needs more run support. They can't just 'Leave it to Bieber'!"

• Comedy guy Torben Rolfsen of Vancouver: "On Hard Knocks, Buffalo Bills says they intend to bring the Lombrdi Trophy back to western New York. When was it there before? I wonder if the Buffalo Sabres are going to bring the Stanley Cup back to Buffalo?"

• Rolfsen again: Canucks' Elias Pettersson got married over the summer. They tried to keep it as private as possible — exchanged vows between innings of a Sacramento A's game."

• Another one from Rolfsen: "The Blue Jays sold a record 92,221 hot dogs at their recent Loonie Dog night. Thankfully, nobody choked, other than Jeff Hoffman."

• A groaner from RJ Currie: "Just wondering: If you're an L.A. Ram, do you say please and thank ewe?"

• Headline at theonion.com: "Andy Reid Gently Tells Travis Kelce What's Expected of Him on Wedding Night ... "she'll probably want you to take your helmet off."

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

Lammers scores first goal in Martensville; Knox add two players

By GNG Staff
Grasslands News

The games that count are still a few weeks away, but the first pick of the Prairie Junior Hockey League's 2025-26 season has been dropped, with the freshly-relocated Martensville (nee Delisle) Chiefs claiming a 6-0 win Sunday over the visiting Saskatoon Westleys.

Sporting a roster that also included fellow Yorkton products Jeffrey Stewart, Jagger Kardynal and Jaxon Sperling patrolling the blue line, Garin Lammers scored Martensville's first-ever exhibition goal 7:37 into the first period.

The Chiefs rewarded their home fans at the Martensville Sports Centre, going up 3-0 after the first period and extending the runaway to 6-0 in the final minute of the second.

Carlyle product Ty Fehrenbach played the final 30:16 of the game in relief of starter Rhett Harlow and stopped all 22 shots he faced to the finish.

Martensville is back in action Sunday hosting the Saskatoon Royals, while the Fort Knox will get their first taste of preseason action that day as well when the defending league champs travel to Assiniboia to face the Southern Rebels.

Fort Qu'Appelle will play again Wednesday when the Knox host the Regina Silver Foxes (7:30 p.m.) at the Prairie Co-op Rexentre, while the Pilot Butte Storm will make their own preseason debut Sept. 20 in Fort Qu'Appelle.

The expansion Moosomin Steelhawks have been removed from the league's exhibition slate altogether and are now expected to see their first game action of any kind Oct. 3 in Assiniboia.

New Faces

The Fort Knox capped their offseason by acquiring 19-year-old forwards Tayson Dietze and Ryker Mathison from the Ponoka Stampeders of Alberta's Heritage Junior Hockey League for an unspecified return in a deal posted to the league website Aug. 18.

Both hailing from Oxbow and products of Estevan's under-18 AA program, Dietze registered four goals and five assists in 24 games for Ponoka last season while Mathison had five goals and four assists in 16 games.

Dietze started the 2024-25 campaign with Fort Qu'Appelle, scoring once in four games before the Knox sent him to Ponoka in an early-November trade.

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Moosomin Steelhawks kick off season in October

By Ryan Kiedrowski
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Moosomin Steelhawks continue to prepare for a truly historic moment in local sports - the first home opener for a Moosomin junior hockey club in 50 years.

"That's a really exciting way to put it," said Steelhawks' owner, general manager, and head coach Blake Martyniuk. "According to our research, it's been about a half-century since there's been junior hockey in the community, and the goal – with this done properly – we hope that we can exceed that amount of time with this existing team as opposed to the community being without a junior team for that long."

News of an expansion team coming to the Prairie Junior Hockey League, and that team calling Moosomin home, came back in April with the PJHL splitting a dozen teams between the Bob Dybvig and Bill Johnston (where the Steelhawks will be) Divisions. The Junior B league is filled with talent, and in the days leading up to teams hitting the ice in exhibition contests, everyone is dreaming of yanking the Keystone Cup out of Fort Knox's grasp.

But first, Moosomin needs a solid team, and filling a roster will be ongoing well after conditioning camp.

"We have a team, but we're always trying to be the best team that we can be, hence, the recruiting really never stops until the roster closes, which I believe is the 10th of January," Martyniuk said, adding that transaction decisions in the other Saskatchewan leagues could present options for the PJHL teams. "The WHL, if they cut players, then they're going to the SJHL, and if the SJHL drops guys, and we're able to get them to make ourselves better, then that's what we just have to do at the junior level."

The Steelhawks' roster could be filled with players from across North America in addition to local talent.

"We're actually allowed U.S. or Mexican-born players; as long as they're North American, they would qualify," Martyniuk explained, adding that a Mexican Steelhawk is not out of the question. "We may end up with a player from Mexico; those discussions are happening. Having played for the national team down there, we would be in good hands if we landed one of those guys."

The team is allowed up to six players from within North America, and while most teams in the PJHL draft players from the area, it's not mandatory to do so.

"In this particular league at the junior level, that's not always the case," Martyniuk said. "Obviously, with senior hockey, you kind of need to hit those quotas, but with us, it's more or less a choice. We want local players and local talent, but anyone we've talked to certainly understands that in order to be competitive on a provincial and eventually on a western Canadian scale, we definitely will need more players than just local players, and again, always trying to build the best team we possibly can.

"Our active roster can be a total of 25 players," Martyniuk continued. "Injuries happen, suspensions, guys get called up to Junior A, somebody's sick – there's a reason that you definitely need to carry more than just the limited quota just for variables that come up along the way."

Billets, volunteers, sponsors needed

Building a new team requires many moving parts, and the strong support of the community is crucial. The Steelhawks are not immune and are putting the call out to locals for support.

"I had a conversation with a family last night and was very thankful for them and anyone else that is willing to open up their homes for one of our hockey players," Martyniuk said. "We are always looking for more billets, and volunteers is going to be a big one as well. We're going to have a meeting in the next week or so, branded as an open house, where we can essentially invite anyone in from the community that wants to come say hello or wants to inquire about certain volunteer spots that we might need help with.

"As soon as we have that info, we'll post that on our social media and try to reach out to as many people as we can," Martyniuk said.

Another area where the new team could use some help is in the local labour market as the players will be looking for work during their off-ice hours.

"A few employers in the community – quite a few, actually – have said that they'd be willing to give our players some hours and work around hockey, so anybody that owns a small business or might need a part-time employee, please have them reach out as well because that just helps give them that spending money, and I think strengthens the program," Martyniuk said, making a segue into the importance of sponsorship in general. "In order to make this sustainable to exceed the 50-year drought that the community has been without junior hockey, we need the community support on the sponsorship end as well. We definitely see that coming together, once the recruiting slows down a bit here in the next week or so, we are hoping to ramp up those conversations. Any bit of help is very much appreciated and ultimately necessary to help keep this going here."

Later start to the season

The first exhibition games in the PJHL began Sept. 7, but the Steelhawks won't hit the ice until the first week of October when the regular season is already in full swing. Meanwhile, the team will be busy with preparations to launch into their inaugural season in full force. They'll start with a pair of away games in Assiniboia to take on the Richardson Pioneer Southern Rebels, who finished last season with 12 wins, 27 losses, and one loss in overtime and second-last place in the league.

"We will actually start our regular season a week after some of the other teams; they'll get going the last Friday of September whereas we get going the first Friday of October down in Assiniboia," Martyniuk said. "The reason behind that is we actually have a total of 18 practices starting September 15, and we are quite literally on the ice for two hours every single day before that first actual regular season game. Getting on the ice, working really hard, and putting some good systems in play will help us have our best chance with our expansion roster to try to have the most success that we can."

In a way, having those first two Steelhawks' games played in Assiniboia is a bit nostalgic for Martyniuk as he wore a senior Rebels jersey in the 2021-22 season – just before the team began playing in their new home, the $18 million 'belle of the ball' Southland Co-op Centre.

"We have a pretty nice rink ourselves here in Moosomin, but the fact that they got the Southland Co-op Centre down there in Assiniboia, a brand new, beautiful facility, it's a pretty cool way to kick off our inaugural season in what I would say to be the – no disrespect again to the other teams – but the nicest rink in the league!"

Assiniboia was the first taste of Saskatchewan hockey for Martyniuk, who was part of the senior Rebels team that continued a Notekeu Hockey League championship reign initiated in 2018-19 and only interrupted for the 2020-21 season cancellation due to Covid.

"I think we were the last year in the old barn there, before they got the new one," he recalled. "But even the old one, too, it had a lot of character to it, and it's a good atmosphere as well. But you can't really compare to what they got going on there now, that's for sure!"

After the two-game stint in Assiniboia on Oct. 3 and 4, the Steelhawks head to the Queen City on Oct. 9 to face the Regina Silver Foxes. The Steelhawks will have their home opener in Moosomin on Friday, October 10 when the Rebels come to the Mike Schwean Arena. The next evening will feature a second home game as the current PJHL champs Fort Knox comes to town. The puck drops on both nights at 8 p.m., and while the price of a ticket will get you a whole seat, you'll only need the edge!

Riders sweep Labour Day Classic and Banjo Bowl, take command of CFL West

By GNG Staff
Grasslands News

Just one week after the Saskatchewan Roughriders pulled off a gritty win over Winnipeg in the Labour Day Classic in Regina, the rivalry played out under the bright lights of Princess Auto Stadium. On Sept. 6, the Riders capped the back-to-back showdown by claiming the Banjo Bowl 21–13 – a victory crafted through precision kicking, opportunistic defense, and a dramatic mid-game shift.

Kicker Brett Lauther was flawless, converting all five field-goal attempts from 20, 33, 35 (twice), and 41 yards. His steady performance kept Saskatchewan within striking distance in the first half and provided the cushion needed to close out the game. Quarterback Trevor Harris, who finished 18-of-31 for 239 yards, said it was "awesome" to see Lauther deliver in every clutch situation.

The game's turning point came when Zach Collaros, Winnipeg's starting quarterback, was sacked by C.J. Reavis in the third quarter. He fumbled and exited the game, unable to return due to injury. Collaros had thrown for 165 yards, a touchdown, and two interceptions before being replaced by Chris Streveler. The Riders' defense took full advantage, recording four interceptions on the night – two by Tevaughn Campbell, one by Marcus Sayles, and another by DaMarcus Fields – to keep the Bombers' offense in check.

Winnipeg had built a 13–6 halftime lead, but Saskatchewan clawed back in the second half, with Lauther's perfect kicking and Campbell's late interception sealing the victory in front of 32,343 fans at yet another Banjo Bowl sellout.

With the win, the Riders improved to 10–2, their best start since going 13–5 in 2019 and just shy of their franchise-best 14–2 season in 1970. The victory also gave Saskatchewan the season-series tiebreaker over Winnipeg, a critical edge as the playoff picture begins to take shape. Sitting atop the West Division, the Roughriders have positioned themselves for a potential first-place finish, which would bring the coveted bye week and home-field advantage through the playoffs. Winnipeg, now 6–6, finds itself fighting to keep pace in the division, with Calgary and B.C. lurking in the standings.

For Rider Nation, sweeping the Labour Day Classic and Banjo Bowl in the same season is more than bragging rights – it's a sign that Saskatchewan has emerged as the team to beat in the West. For the Bombers, the loss not only stung in front of their home crowd but also tightened their playoff path, making every remaining game crucial in the push to secure a postseason berth.

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13– Melville at Yorkton
19– Estevan at Melville
20– Melville at Estevan
26– Humboldt at Melville

Fort Knox Hockey Game Schedule

Home/Away Games
SEPTEMBER:
14– Fort Knox at RPS Rebels 3 pm
17– Regina S. Foxes at Fort Knox 7:30
20– Pilot Butte Storm at Fort Knox 4:45
21– EH Regina Caps at Fort Knox 3 pm
27– Pilot Butte Storm at Fort Knox 7 pm

Pilot Butte Storm Game Schedule

Home/Away Games
Pre-season
SEPTEMBER:
20– Pilot Butte Storm at Fort Knox 4:45
21– Pilot B. Storm at Silver Foxes 5:30
Regular Season
SEPTEMBER:
27– Pilot Butte Storm at Fort Knox 7 pm

Fort museum acquires Henderson paintings

By Alan Hustak
Grasslands News

Seven artworks by the acclaimed artist James Henderson have been given to the Fort Qu'Appelle Heritage Museum by the executors of the McDonald House estate. They have been donated as a memorial to Dale Wolch, the last owner of the historic property who assembled the collection before his death earlier this year.

The paintings will more than double the museum's original collection given to the museum by the late Marion Hamilton. They include autumn landscapes of the Qu'Appelle valley, a view of Echo Lake from above Buffalo Crossing and a painting of the Hills of Arran, Scotland as well as a work attributed to Henderson that was exhibited in 1943 by the Ontario College of Art.

They will go on display next year when the museum opens for the 2026 season.

"The paintings were part of my brother's plans for the McDonald House conservancy, and belong with the museum," said Gary Wolch who lives in Thunder Bay, Ont. "He acquired the last of the Henderson's from an auction house shortly before his passing. He was always on the lookout for originals to add to the collection."

Three other Henderson's owned by another donor on the West Coast are also expected to become part of the Henderson Room collection.

The Wolch family bequest coincides with the 75th anniversary of Henderson's death in 1951.

"The paintings were included in the sales contract when the museum decided to buy the house," explained Museum Board President Brad Braithwaite. "We are indebted to the Wolch family for including these paintings as well as some of the original furniture in the house as part of the deal."

Henderson came to Canada from Scotland in 1910 and opened his studio in Fort Qu'Appelle in 1916. He is described as "a central figure in the first generation of professionally trained artists who came to live in Saskatchewan at the turn of the 20th century." He is recognized for his portraits of Indigenous warriors and was made an honorary chief known as Wicite Owapi Wicasa (The man who paints the old men by the Standing Buffalo First Nation. Henderson was also a member of the Ontario Society of Artists and exhibited with the Royal Canadian Academy. Shortly before his death, he was awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from the University of Saskatchewan.

The Wolch family donation also includes five other paintings by Ernest Luthi, a well-known and artist from Punnichy who is known for his prolific prairie landscapes and paintings of the Qu'Appelle Valley. Luthi, who came to Canada from Switzerland as a child, died in 1983.



ALAN HUSTAK | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Paintings donated

Judy Wolch and her brother Gary with two of the seven Henderson landscapes that they have donated to the Fort Qu'Appelle Heritage Museum in memory of their brother.

Melville Taekwondo kicks off fall session with free trial classes

By GNG Staff
Grasslands News

Melville residents looking to get active this fall have an opportunity to try something new as Melville Taekwondo launches its latest session at the CN Community Centre.

Classes are offered every Tuesday and Thursday evening from 6 to 7 p.m., and to encourage new participants, the club is inviting the public to try taekwondo free for two days.

Organizers say the martial art is ideal for people of all ages and fitness levels, offering benefits beyond physical training.

Students can expect to learn self-defence skills, improve focus and self-discipline, and build strength, balance, and flexibility.

"Taekwondo is a great way for the whole family to get active together while also developing important life skills," said the program leaders. "We welcome beginners of all ages."

Those interested are encouraged to register early to take advantage of the two free trial classes. For more information or to register, residents can call 306-621-2878, email melvilletkd@gmail.com, or visit www.melvilletaekwondo.ca

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Monday, Sept. 15:
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Sept. 14: 9:15 a.m. Choir
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Sept. 16: 9:30 a.m. Ladies Day

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St. Elizabeth's RC Church, Killaly
St. Michael's RC Church, Lemberg

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Wednesday Youth Group – 7 p.m.
Rev. Dr. James R. Graham

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CATHOLIC CHURCH
Father Tomy Mandapathil
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with Rev. Cheryl Johnson

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306-424-2604, George
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Sunday Worship
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bkbernat@gmail.com

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CLASSIFIEDS

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

Obituary

Diane Karlunchuck
June 13, 1951 – Sept. 1, 2025



Diane Karlunchuck entered into her place of eternal rest Monday, Sept. 1, 2025. Her passing is deeply felt by her loving husband Gary Karlunchuck, who treasures the life they shared for 52 years of marriage. Diane's memory will be forever cherished by her two children and her four grandchildren who were the joy and pride of her life: Blair and Jennifer Karlunchuck (Zane and Reece, Derek Karlunchuck and Abby Sentes (Carson and Kira).

Born on June 13, 1951, Diane was the first of two children to Ron and Margaret Stratton. She is lovingly remembered by her brother Gordon (Barb) Stratton, as well as numerous in-laws, nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her parents Ron and Margaret.

Diane enjoyed watching hummingbirds out her kitchen window, visiting with friends, travelling to Las Vegas, Mexico, Europe, Hawaii and various parts of Canada. Diane and Gary enjoyed travelling to watch their grandchildren participate in their sporting events. Diane was a member of the Crown Jewels of Canada Society and went on many adventures with this organization.

Diane was a devoted farm wife and mother. She embraced both the challenges and joys of rural life. She will always be remembered for her kindness, sweet smile and clever wit.

Following a private burial the family will be hosting a memorial service to celebrate Diane's life with community, friends and family. The service will be held on Friday, Sept. 26, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. in the Legacy Inn Hotel in Grenfell, SK.

If friends so desire contributions may be made in memoriam to Allan Blair Cancer Centre c/o Saskatchewan Cancer Agency, 200-2550 12th Avenue, Regina, SK, S4W 0G3.

Online condolences may be made at www.tubmanfh.com

Dignity Memorial

Obituary

Betty Grace Meeko
March 24, 1931 – Aug. 31, 2025



On Sunday morning, Aug. 31, 2025, our mother, Betty Grace Meeko (Reid) passed. She was 94 years old.

Betty was born in Melville on March 24, 1931. She grew up on a farm north of Melville and attended Runneberg School and the Melville public schools. On Dec. 4, 1950, she married William R. Meeko.

Betty and Bill resided, raised their family and enjoyed a full life in Melville, Saskatchewan. She will be greatly missed by her family and everyone who knew and loved her.

Betty was predeceased by her husband, William; her parents, Myrtle and James Reid; and brother-in-law Willys Reed. She is survived by her children, Stephen, David and Patti; her grandchildren, Joel, Brittainy and Reid; great-grandchildren, Danika, Deneka, Jack, Henry, Josh and Zoe; brother George (Wynn), sister Gloria and brother Jack; nieces and nephews; special friends David and Lynn Litzenberger; and friends and neighbours.

Betty's family would like to thank all the staff at St. Paul Lutheran Home for the care given to their mother and grandmother.

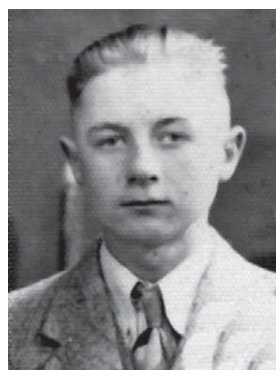
A funeral service was held for Betty on Saturday, Sept. 6, 2025, at First United Church, Melville, with the Rev. Brian Mee officiating. The pianist was Gaylene Matthews, and tributes to Betty were offered by the Rev. Dawn Myrfield, Lynn Litzenberger and Stephen Meeko. Members of the United Church Choir and the United Church Women, with whom Betty served over the years, were considered honorary bearers. Interment took place in the Melville City Cemetery.

Arrangements were entrusted to Matthews Funeral Home, Melville.

MATTHEWS Funeral Home

Obituary

Joseph Serfas
March 19, 1931 – Feb. 9, 2025



Joseph Serfas passed away on Sunday, Feb. 9, 2025, at the age of 93 years.

Joseph was born on March 19, 1931, in Mytinca, Poland, to Karl and Maria Serfas. They immigrated to Canada in 1938. He was raised in the Duff area and attended and completed his education at Colmer School.

Joseph ran a mixed farm in the Duff area from 1947 to 2006, then moved to Melville in 2012. In 2020, he moved to Caleb for six months, then moved to St. Paul Lutheran Home.

Joseph was predeceased by his parents, as well as his siblings, Ida (Daniel) Hing, Sophie (Ernie) Reimer, Rudy (Judy) Serfas, Marie Whittmire and Emma (Chris) Kohlenberg, as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

A graveside service will be held for Joseph on Friday, Sept. 12, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. in the Melville City Cemetery with the Rev. Kim Sherwin officiating.

Arrangements are entrusted to Matthews Funeral Home, Melville.

MATTHEWS Funeral Home

Obituary

Monica (Mona) Jean Krupski
1928 – 2025



It is with great sadness that the family of Mona Krupski announce her passing on Monday, Sept. 1, 2025 at the age of 96 years.

She will be deeply missed by her 12 children and their families, as well as all those that were blessed to have known her.

A Mass with Christian Burial was held on Saturday, Sept. 6, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. in St. Michael Roman Catholic Church in Lemberg. Interment took place in St. Michael Roman Catholic Parish Cemetery immediately following the Mass.

For those wishing to, donations may be made in memory of Mona to Kipling Integrated Health Centre Long Term Care Activity Fund, Box 420, Kipling, SK S0G 2S0 or St. Michael Roman Catholic Cemetery Fund Box 278, Lemberg, SK S0A 2B0 or to a charity of your choice.

Online condolences may be made at www.tubmanfh.com

Dignity Memorial

Obituary

Katherine Jean Sloan
Feb. 7, 1937 – Aug. 24, 2025



SLOAN, Katherine Jean (Wigle) passed away peacefully, surrounded by family, on Sunday, Aug. 24, 2025 at Granite Ridge Retirement Residence, Gravenhurst, ON at the age of 88.

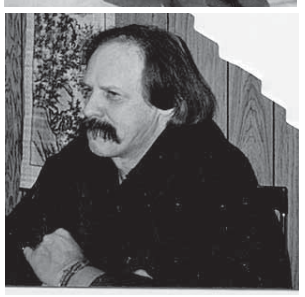
She is lovingly remembered by her daughter Mary Craig (Logan), son Murray Sloan (Myra), and two cherished grandsons, Logan Sloan and Tyler Sloan. She will be sadly missed by her sister Mary (Roy) Harvey; brothers, Don (Beth) Wigle, Jim (Janine) Wigle, Bob (Cara) Wigle and Bill (Bonnie) Wigle. Predeceased by long-time companion, Don McDougall.

To honour Katherine's wishes, there will be no public service. A small family gathering to celebrate Katherine's life at a later date. Personal condolences and memories may be shared at www.cavillfuneralhome.com

Memoriam

TURCHAK – In loving memory of Mike (2003), Anne (1981) and Vince (2022).





We hold you close within our hearts
And there you shall remain,
To walk with us throughout our lives
Until we meet again.
So, rest in peace Dear Loved Ones
And thanks for all you've done,
We pray that God has given you
The crown you've truly won.
–Love you and miss you,
Your family

Memoriam

GESSNER – In loving memory of our dear dad, grandpa and great-grandpa, Walter, who passed away 14 years ago on Sept. 15, 2011.

There's a corner in our hearts Dad,
You visit every day,
It gives us this warm feeling
That you're never far away.
–Loved, remembered and missed every day, Brenda and Jack; Darcia and Bill; Kathie and Perry; grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Card of Thanks

The Paquin family would like to express our deep gratitude to our families, friends, co-workers, our community; the Bear Claw Casino, White Bear First Nation and Core Industrial for the support we have received.

We are overwhelmed by the countless messages, cards, flowers, food, donations and visits.

Heartfelt thanks to Matthews, Heather and Ray; Brent and Bernard; Stan and Jenna; who all helped make Scott's service so special.

Thank you to Yvette and her lunch crew; the Istace family; Jackie; Colin and Lisa; Chad and Legion members.

And to so very many others who have helped us navigate this difficult journey.

We appreciate every story and message telling us how he made you laugh and how very loved Scott was....

Hug your loved ones.

–Wendy and Guy; Mark and Janet; Carline and Gary; Lea and Gema.

Classifieds cont'd on Page 17

Published Fridays – grasslandsnews.ca – 1-844-GNG-NEWS

CLASSIFIED RATES

(based on 25 words or less)

Obituary Deadline Tuesdays 12 Noon

MasterCard VISA

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

Card of Thanks

The family of Violet Reinheimer wish to express our appreciation for the support and assistance to our family during her time of illness and recent passing – Matthews Funeral Home; SPLH management and staff; Cheryl Kisters, NP; Dr. Omrani; Home Care nurses; Private Care Aides; Good Shepherd Lutheran Church ladies catering; Hope Church and the many family and friends who helped in so many ways.

Card of Thanks

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their tremendous support throughout Lee's journey – the visits, texts, emails, food, drinks, and your thoughts and prayers.

Our family is truly grateful for the support shown during Lee's funeral service. Your presence and prayers were a great comfort to us.

A special thank you to Pastor Ron for his words of comfort and encouragement, to the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church for their kindness and support, to Marilyn Senyk for the comforting piano music and to ladies for providing a lunch.

Thanks to the eulogist, Denise Polishak, and the readers, Brenda Mills, Janice Andrusiak and Cathie Ermel and to Bailey and Janice for the beautiful video tribute to Lee.

We extend our thanks and appreciation to Mark and the staff at Matthews Funeral Home for their exceptional and compassionate services, and thoughtful assistance and care during the service and interment and to Leanne Hollinger for transportation to the cemetery.

Thanks to DeeDee and staff at Melville Community Works for providing a wonderful gathering place, where we were able to utilize the kitchen, tables and chairs, video and sound equipment. To Leesa Gross, many thanks for the wonderful donation of your catering service. Your thoughtful preparation brought comfort and fellowship to all who gathered. To the many friends and family who brought food for the gathering, and to the bartenders and all the people who and helped with set up, clean up, and service during this time, thank you.

Our family is sincerely grateful for the compassion and support we have received during this time of sorrow, and we deeply appreciate the prayers. To Lady Di's Floral Haven for providing the beautiful arrangements of flowers and to all who sent them, please know how much these were appreciated. To Janice and Shaun, thank you for your thoughtfulness in organizing the group gift.

For all the cards, gift cards and to those who donated to the group gift, the charities and to everyone who came together from near and far in remembrance of Lee, thank you.

- The Ortynski Family

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Luncheon to Follow

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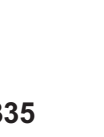
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Notice to Creditors

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the Estate of **Bradley Dean Evans,** late of Glenavon, Sask., deceased.
All claims against the above estate, duly verified by statutory declaration and with particulars and valuation of security held, if any, must be sent to the undersigned before the 31st day of October, 2025.
WILLOWS LLP
Barristers & Solicitors
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Regina, Sask. S4R 1G9
Solicitors for the Estate of Bradley Dean Evans

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Town of Balgonie

PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE OF INTENTION TO ADOPT BYLAW NO. 480/2025

Public notice is hereby given that the Council of the Town of Balgonie intends to adopt a Bylaw, under *The Planning and Development Act, 2007*, to amend Bylaw No. 374/2014, known as the Zoning Bylaw.

INTENT:
The proposed Bylaw will add the following as a discretionary use in the C1-Town Centre Commercial District:
(i) Manufacturing, fabricating, processing, repair, assembly, finishing, production, packaging, and sale of materials, goods or products that are not noxious.

REASON FOR THE AMENDMENT:
The Bylaw amendment will accommodate a proposed development on a site that is currently zoned C1-Town Centre Commercial District.

PUBLIC INSPECTION:
Any person may inspect the Bylaw at the Town of Balgonie Municipal Office Monday to Friday between 9:00 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. excluding statutory holidays. Copies are available at cost at the Town Office.

PUBLIC HEARING:
Council will hold a public hearing to receive submissions on the proposed Bylaw on September 22, 2025 at 7 p.m. at the Town of Balgonie Council Chambers. Council will also consider written submissions received at the hearing or delivered to the undersigned at the Municipal Office before the hearing. For further information, please contact the Town Office at 306-771-2284.

Issued at the Town of Balgonie this 5th day of September, 2025.
Karen Craigie, Administrator

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matthewsfuneralhome.ca

Highway 201 to be renamed in honour of Chief Kahkewistahâw

By Ryan Kiedrowski
Grasslands News

Soon, people travelling along Highway 201 will notice new signage and a familiar name to the road. Back in June, Chief Evan Taypotat of Kahkewistahâw First Nation announced that the highway going through his community will be known as Chief Kahkewistahâw Way Highway 201.

"The finished product is Chief Kahkewistahâw Way, and I couldn't think of a more fitting way to honour our original chief, who signed the treaty in 1874," Chief Taypotat said with a wide smile on June 20. "We're excited to have people that drive through our First Nation - they're going to see his face and they're going to know who he was, because the way we designed the sign was to identify his facial features."

The idea to honour the memory of Chief Kahkewistahâw through naming the roadway after the great man came to Chief Taypotat while driving home from Saskatoon.

"About three years ago, I was driving through Whitecap First Nation, south of Saskatoon, and I saw this sign that said Chief Whitecap Trail," he explained. Chief Whitecap Trail (Highway 219) extends from the south end of Saskatoon to the northern tip of Lake Diefenbaker; essentially running parallel with the South Saskatchewan River that flows to the west side of the roadway.

"They named that road after their first chief, and I thought, 'man, that's pretty cool'," Chief Taypotat recounted, noting how the gesture ties in with the ideals of his community. "Everything about our current leadership is about honouring our elders, honouring the stories, and I thought, 'I wonder if we could do that'."

Council also liked the idea, and soon Director of Operations, Vida McArthur, and Director of Lands, Denise Peter, began work to make the idea a reality. A rendition of what the new signage will look like was unveiled during Chief Kahkewistahâw Pow Wow activities on June 20.

"It's going be called Chief Kahkewistahâw Way Highway 201," Chef Taypotat told those in attendance. "We have to have the '201' still on it, because when you put it on a map, you still got to have a number to it. We had to go back and forth with some renditions of what the sign is going to look like, so in the fall, we're going to officially do the ribbon cutting."

In addition to the special signage, Chief Taypotat added the highway will see some repairs made this year.

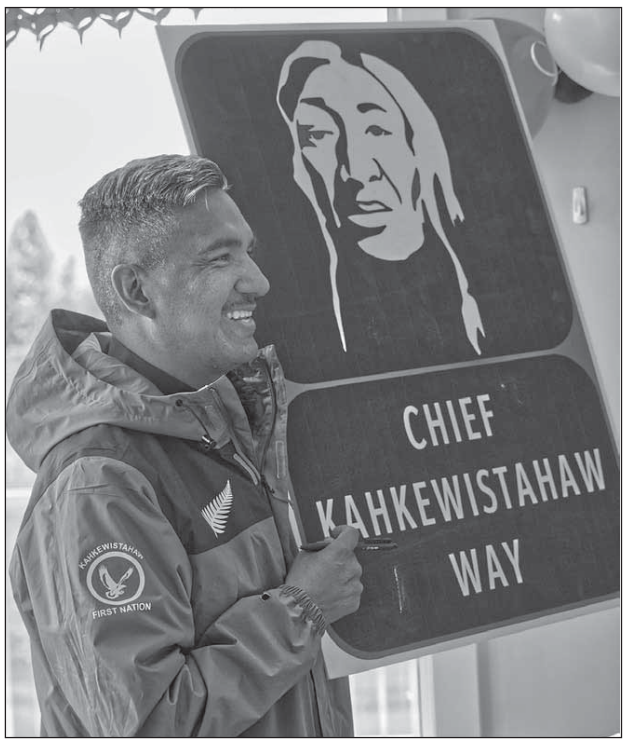
"There's a few spots that could use some TLC," he said. "There's actually engineers out working on the spots right now. They want to make it wider, they want to identify the hot spots, where the integrity of it is being challenged."

Chief Kahkewistahâw "He Who Flies Around" lived from around 1810 to 1906 and was the son of Le Sonnant (Mähsette Kuiuab) - leader of the Rabbit Skin (W pošay nak) people; a medicine man, warrior, and one of the signatories of the 1817 Selkirk Treaty. In 1874, Chief Kahkewistahâw signed Treaty 4 at Fort Qu'Appelle, and by 1881, the land bearing his name was surveyed. This area south of the Qu'Appelle Valley between Round Lake and Crooked Lake was a traditional wintering grounds with land suitable for agricultural use, which became the land as it is known today.

Chief Kahkewistahâw was also member of the Treaty 4 chiefs who made a call for increased agricultural assistance through the 1880s; steadfast in retaining the land his people called home, even well into his 90s when pressure mounted to surrender some of the best portions. Unfortunately, one year after Chief Kahkewistahâw's passing in 1906, over 70 per cent (33,281 acres) of the reserve was surrendered.

"When you're passing through our First Nation, everyone's going to know who this man was, and the dream he had," Chief Taypotat said.

A special ceremony to rename the roadway to Chief Kahkewistahâw Way Highway 201 will take place at Kahkewistahâw First Nation on Sept. 26 at 1 p.m.



RYAN KIEDROWSKI I GNG

First and current chief
First and present chiefs – Chief Evan Taypotat holds an example of what the new signage will look like, honouring Chief Kahkewistahâw.

FARM STRESS LINE

If you are experiencing symptoms of stress, the Farm Stress Line is available 24/7 at

1-800-667-4442

MCS Government of Saskatchewan

NOTICE

Prairie Vista Pork Ltd. has made application under The Intensive Livestock Provisions of *The Agricultural Operations Act* for the Approval of Waste Storage and Waste Management Plans for the following Intensive Livestock Operation:

For the conversion of a renovated hog barn to 10,000 feeder hogs, equal to 1,667 animal units (AU), on SW 09-23-11 W2 in the Rural Municipality of Tullymet No. 216 approximately 18 km north of Balcarres SK.

NOTE: This application is an operational update to the previously approved operation of 1,000 AU, an increase in 667 AU. Existing barns are being utilized, no new barns are being proposed.

Any person wishing to review the information submitted to Saskatchewan Agriculture may do so by:
a) Contacting **Travis Bergman** for Prairie Vista Pork Ltd. at (**204-371-9821**).
b) Reviewing a copy of the application at Saskatchewan Agriculture office in **Yorkton, SK** by calling **306-786-1531.**

Written comments received prior to **October 6, 2025** are welcome and may be provided to:

Travis Bergman for:
Prairie Vista Pork Ltd.
32048 Road 35 North
MITCHELL MB R5G 2R2

Or to:
Sheldon Diduck, P. Eng.
Regional Engineer
Saskatchewan Agriculture
Agricultural Operations
38-5th Avenue North
YORKTON SK S3N 0Y8

NOTICE OF CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Form H
(Section 66 of the Act)
CHRIST THE TEACHER R.C.S.S.D. NO. 212
SCHOOL DIVISION ELECTIONS

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

BOARD MEMBER: CHRIST THE TEACHER ROMAN CATHOLIC SEPARATE SCHOOL DIVISION NO. 212

	Number to be Elected
➢ **Melville – City at Large**	**1**
➢ **Sub-division No. 2 (Geographic area surrounding Melville)**	**1**

Nominations for the above two (2) positions will be received by Delmar Zwirsky – Returning Officer for Christ the Teacher RCSSD No.212.

Nominations will be received during regular business hours (8:00 a.m. to noon, 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday) commencing on the **15th day of September 2025** to the **7th day of October 2025 and** from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on the **8th day of October 2025** (Close of Nominations).

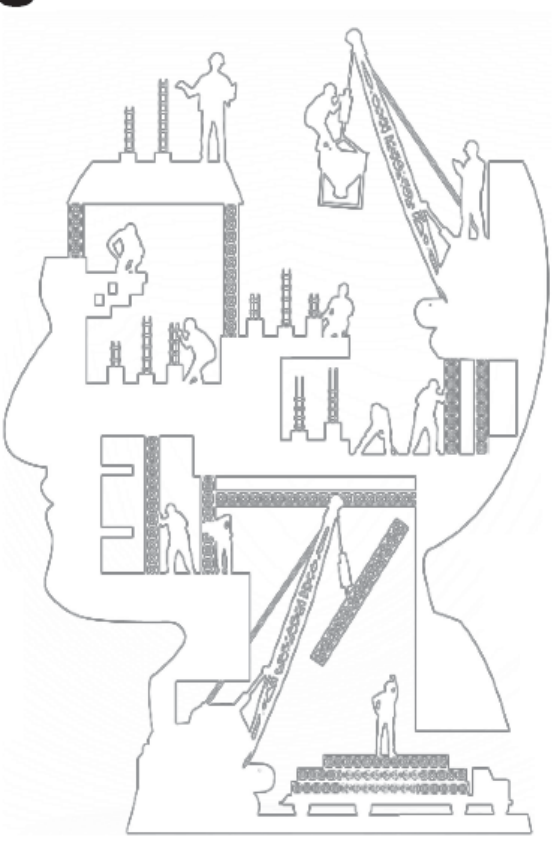
Forms may be submitted:
a) personally by the candidate or by an agent (must also provide an 'Appointment of Candidate's Agent' form) to the Returning Officer's Office, 45A Palliser Way, Yorkton, Saskatchewan;
b) by registered or ordinary mail to 45A Palliser Way – Yorkton Saskatchewan – S3N 4C5;
c) by fax at (306)783-4992;
d) by e-mail to Delmar.Zwirsky@cttcs.ca

Nomination forms may be obtained from the School Division Office at 45A Palliser Way, Yorkton Saskatchewan or on the website at www.christtheteacher.ca.

Dated this 8th day of September 2025
Delmar Zwirsky, Returning Officer

Local Government Election Act, L-30.11 Reg 1
Form H Section 66 of the Act
Notice of Call for Nominations

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Breaking the silence on suicidal thoughts: Hope, help, and healing

By Elaine Ashfield
Grasslands News

Suicidal thoughts are more common than many people realize, touching people of all ages and backgrounds. For some, they appear suddenly during moments of crisis—financial stress, grief, or isolation. For others, they linger quietly, rarely voiced but deeply felt. What unites many of these experiences is not weakness, but the burden of carrying pain alone.

World Suicide Prevention Day was observed Wednesday, Sept. 10, and September is recognized as Suicide Prevention Month. It is a reminder that suicide is not inevitable. With awareness, compassion and timely support, lives can be saved and hope restored.

One Saskatchewan resident recalls a period when family conflict and financial strain left them considering suicide. "I didn't want to die—I just didn't see a way forward," they said. It was only when a friend noticed changes in behaviour and reached out with compassion that they sought professional help. That simple act likely saved a life.

Mental health experts note suicidal thoughts can stem from stress, overwhelming emotions, or diagnosed conditions such as depression, PTSD, anxiety, or substance use. For some, these thoughts feel frightening; for others, they may seem like an escape when life feels unmanageable.

Hope can be difficult to grasp in despair. Vaclav Havel once wrote, "Hope is not the conviction that something will turn out well, but the certainty that something makes sense regardless of how it turns out." For many, hope shifts from long-term dreams to smaller goals: surviving the next hour, the next day, or waiting for tomorrow's sunrise.

Talking openly about suicidal thoughts is a first step to healing. It removes secrecy and shame, and opens the door to support. Treatment is not one-size-fits-all—different approaches work for different people at different times—but recovery is possible.

When suicidal thoughts strike, the brain often narrows its focus, a process called "constricted thinking." Imagining a future can feel impossible. Experts recommend breaking it into smaller steps: making it through a TV show, a school class, or a work shift. Distractions such as puzzles, music, or exercise can help. Keeping photos or reminders of loved ones nearby can serve as anchors in dark moments. Above all, connection is key. Reaching out to a friend, family member, clergy, counsellor, or crisis line can open a path to safety.

It is also important to remember not all suicides are intentional. Overuse of substances or medication—even prescribed ones—can sometimes lead to an unintentional overdose. Professionals urge people not to rely on substances for relief and to seek safe supports instead.

Suicidal thoughts should never be carried alone. Talking about them does not plant the idea in others; instead, it reduces stigma and invites help. If the first person doesn't understand, try another. Some people are better at listening, others at acting. Both can be lifesaving.

Warning signs can include withdrawal, mood swings, or talk of hopelessness. Prevention begins with recognizing these signs and continues with open conversations that make it safe to say, "I'm not okay." Suicide prevention is not just the role of professionals—friends, neighbours, teachers and coworkers all play a part.

Community organizations, schools and workplaces are increasingly part of the solution. Mental health first aid training, peer support networks and crisis lines give ordinary people the skills to listen, connect and guide loved ones toward care. Saskatchewan's HealthLine 811 and the new 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline in Canada provide immediate, confidential help 24/7.

"Every conversation matters," said one local counselor. "When people know they're not alone—that their life has meaning—the chance of recovery rises dramatically."

Experts say there are three areas of focus: Hope, Help, and Healing. Prevention increases awareness and reduces stigma. Intervention offers support when someone is in crisis. Postvention provides healing strategies after an attempt or death. Each reminds us that everyone has a role, whether by listening, guiding, or fostering supportive communities.

In the darkest moments, hope can be as small as a caring voice or the strength to last one more day. As Suicide Prevention Month continues, communities are called to action: break the silence, reach out, and build resilience.

If you or someone you know is struggling with thoughts of suicide, call or text 988, Canada's Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, for immediate support. In an emergency, call 911. Help is always within reach.

RM OF EDENWOLD No. 158

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Intent to Amend the Zoning Bylaw

Pursuant to Section 207 of *The Planning and Development Act, 2007*, the Council of the RM of Edenwold No.158 gives notice to amend Zoning Bylaw 2019-20 as follows:

Bylaw No. 2025-12: Text Change

Intent: To amend several sections of the Zoning Bylaw to add "hydrovac waste disposal facilities" as a discretionary use in the AR – Agricultural Resource and EHI – Extractive Heavy Industrial zones, except in the following locations where hydrovac waste disposal would be prohibited:

- within the Development Overlay Area;
- within an area with high or extreme aquifer sensitivity;
- within 75 m of a private well, and
- within 75 m of a water course or water body.

Purpose: To provide the opportunity to establish hydrovac waste disposal facilities in areas of the RM where risks can be minimized.

Public Inspection: Any person may inspect the bylaw online at www.rmedenwold.ca, or at the RM of Edenwold No. 158's office located at 100 Hutchence Road, Emerald Park, Saskatchewan between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. from Monday to Friday, excluding statutory holidays. Copies are available at cost.

Public Hearing: Council will hold a public hearing to receive submissions, written or verbal, on the proposed bylaw at **10 a.m. (local time) on Tuesday, September 23, 2025**, in the Council Chambers of the RM of Edenwold No. 158, 100 Hutchence Road, Emerald Park, Saskatchewan. Written submissions will be presented to Council. For further information or to submit written comments, please contact Jessica McCartney, Senior Planner at 306-540-5600 or planning@edenwold-sk.ca.

Dated this 29th day of August, 2025, at Emerald Park, in the Province of Sask.

Shauna Bzdel, Chief Administrative Officer

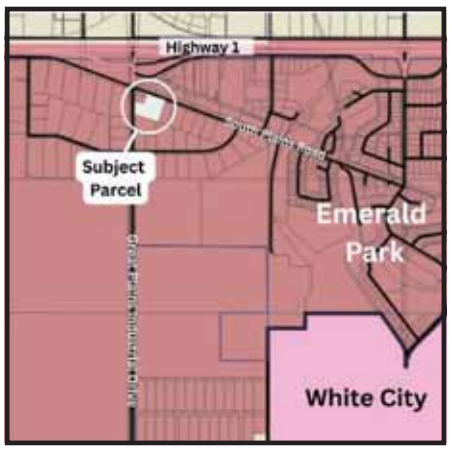
RM OF EDENWOLD No. 158

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Intent to Amend the Zoning Bylaw

Pursuant to Section 207 of *The Planning and Development Act, 2007*, the Council of the RM of Edenwold No.158 gives notice to amend Zoning Bylaw 2019-20 as follows:

Bylaw No. 2025-15 - Zoning Map Change: - To re-zone Lot 1, Block 3, Plan 82R55377 Ext 1 (2 South Plains Road Emerald Park) from SC – Shopping Centre to SC – C- Shopping Centre by Contract.



Intent: The intent of the Shopping Centre contract zone is to legitimize the existing use of the site as a commercial storage facility utilizing shipping containers as storage units.

Purpose: A contract zone is a type of zoning agreement that includes development standards meant to address the unique circumstances of a particular site or proposal. In this case, a contract zone is being proposed to accommodate the use of shipping containers, which are not normally permitted in the SC – Shopping Centre zone.

Public Inspection: Any person may inspect the bylaw online at www.rmedenwold.ca or at the RM of Edenwold No. 158's office, 100 Hutchence Road, Emerald Park, Saskatchewan between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. from Monday to Friday, excluding statutory holidays. Copies are available at cost. .

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Shauna Bzdel, Chief Administrative Officer

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*Bonus price adjustments of $500 available on select in-stock 2024 KONA N Line trims only, on lease, finance and cash purchase from July 3, 2024 to July 30, 2024. Price adjustments are applied before taxes. Offer is non-transferable and cannot be assigned. Model inventory for which the price adjustments are applicable may vary from dealer to dealer and from region to region. See your local Hyundai dealer for further details and applicable model inventory. †□Offers available for a limited time and subject to change or cancellation without notice. Vehicle colour is subject to availability. Delivery and Destination charge includes freight, P.D.I. and a full tank of gas. Dealer may sell for less. Inventory is limited, dealer order may be required. Offer is non-transferable and cannot be assigned. No vehicle trade-in required. Visit www.hyundaicanada.com or see dealer for complete details. The Hyundai name, logos, product names, feature names, images and slogans are trademarks owned or licensed by Hyundai Auto Canada Corp. All other trademarks and trade names are the property of their respective owners.

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