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Charlie Angus makes stop in Fort on cross-country tour

By Alan Hustak
Grasslands News

Charlie Angus, who is on a cross-country speaking tour to combat what he believes is the "threat and menace" to democratic freedom from the extreme Conservative right wing, stopped into Fort Qu'Appelle's heritage museum on Wednesday.

The former NDP member of Parliament for the northern Ontario riding of Timmins-James Bay dismissed any suggestion that he is testing the waters with his so called "resistance tour" for another run at the federal NDP leadership. Angus ran for the leadership in 2017 but lost to Jagmeet Singh. Singh was defeated in this year's election, and the party has lost its official status in the House of Commons in what Angus has called "an unmitigated disaster" for New Democrats.

"I'm more interested in history than I am in politics," he told Grasslands News. His national tour

> **"Canada is a beacon to the world right now because we are the true North, strong and free."**
>
> - Charlie Angus

he explained is an attempt to fight the bullying from the right that is going on.

"We all woke up after the Donald Trump election and realized the world has changed. Then he threatened our country. I felt there is a need to tell Canadians how incredible they have been in terms of resistance in the age of international bullying that is now going on. Part of what I am doing now is to tell Canada's story not only to Canadians but to the world, to a lot of my viewers from all over the world."

The previous evening Angus spoke at the University of Regina where he received two standing ovations for his analysis of global politics.

Concerned about U.S. President Donald Trump's threats to democracy and the rule of law, as well as to the economy and the wars in Gaza and Ukraine, Angus fears the world is spinning out of control. He encouraged Canadians to stand up to Trump and suggested that our resistance to the Americans has captured the imagination of other countries who would rather trade with Canada than with the United States.

"Canada is a beacon to the world right now because we really are the true North, strong and free," he said to rapturous applause.

The next day Angus was invited to visit the valley by University of Regina assistant professor James Daschuk, the author of 'Clearing the Plains'.



Angus in Fort ALAN HUSTAK I GRASSLANDS NEWS
Charlie Angus (left) is shown former Prime Minister John Diefenbaker's desk by professor James Daschuk (right) during a tour of the Fort Qu'Appelle Heritage Museum.



Orange Shirt Day ALAN HUSTAK I GRASSLANDS NEWS
Little warrior Chekiyapi Redman, 5, was among the dignitaries who took part in the Orange Shirt Walk Tuesday on Standing Buffalo First Nation.

Truth and Reconcilliation recognized

By Alan Hustak
Grasslands News

They came from four directions like an orange wave through the valley and converged at Buffalo Crossing on Standing Buffalo Dakota Nation west of Fort Qu'Appelle for the annual grievance march that has become part of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

The event coincides with Orange Shirt Day which honours survivors of the residential school system.

"The smudge walk to the four corners acknowledges the trauma we endured as an Indian people," Chief Rodger Redman explained. "The walk honours our relatives, honours the families who never came back from residential schools. What we are still fighting for today is for our language, our culture, our sovereignty."

On Monday Premier Scott Moe offered a formal apology to former students who were sent to residential schools in Saskatchewan and agreed to compensate those who attended the school at Ile-a-la-Crosse. Under the agreement the Government of Saskatchewan will pay former students and their families $40.2 million.

Meanwhile, a new Leger public opinion poll taken suggests that while 70 per cent of Canadians support the idea of truth and reconciliation, 46 per cent are frustrated by the lack of progress that has been made. Another 54 per cent say it is time to turn the page and address more pressing issues than reconciliation.

In Ottawa, Prime Minister Mark Carney said his government is committed to "moving forward" on the Reconciliation Committee's 94 calls to action which include massive social reforms and implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous people.


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Highway named for local chief

By Sarah Pacio
Grasslands News

A memorable event took place last Friday when a special ceremony was held at the Chief Joseph Crowe Governance Centre north of Broadview. The event marked the renaming of the main road through Kahkewistahaw First Nation land. The road that spans 20 km between Highway #1 and Highway #247 will now be called Highway #201 Chief Kahkewistahaw Way. The designation of "Highway 201" will be retained for the purpose of locating the route on a map.

Leader's Legacy

The new name honours the First Nation's earliest leader, Chief Kahkewistahaw, whose name means "he who flies around." He lived from about 1810 to 1906 and was a signatory of Treaty 4 in 1874. This resulted in reserve land being provided for his tribe near the Qu'Appelle Valley in 1881. Chief Kahkewistahaw is remembered as a strong and noble leader who guided his people through the transition from nomadic buffalo hunting to a lifestyle dependent on agriculture. He protected their rights, refusing to surrender land obtained through treaty. The year after he died, many acres of land were surrendered but the federal government and the First Nation reached a settlement agreement in 2003. Through that, lands are being added to a trust restoring the acreage lost in 1907.

Reconciliation in Action

Plans for renaming Highway #201 in Chief Kahkewistahaw's honour were first made public during the First Nation's annual powwow in June. A celebration on Sept. 26 commemorated the official name change for the road. Community members and leaders, elders and children gathered at the Governance Centre for the historic occasion.

Chief Evan Taypotat explained that after seeing that a portion of Highway 219 near Saskatoon was called Chief Whitecap Trail, he proposed a similar designation for Highway #201. A committee of representatives from Kahkewistahaw First Nation, the Town of Broadview, RM of Elcapo and the Government of Saskatchewan worked together to bring the idea into reality. Chief Taypotat told those gathered on Friday afternoon that the incorporation of Chief Kahkewistahaw to the highway's name was an example of reconciliation in action.

"When I think of Highway #201, I think of reconciliation," the chief said. "It's our job as leaders to make sure it becomes 'reconcili-action.' Reconciliation is talking about all this nice stuff and wearing orange shirts. Reconcili-action is doing this stuff. We have to make sure it never goes back to reconcili-rhetoric, because reconcili-rhetoric is what got us here. Today is a good day for Chief Kahkewistahaw and everybody involved."

Chief Taypotat further encouraged Indigenous and non-Indigenous people attending the celebration to live as allies. He noted that his predecessor was a peaceful man, a quality that he aspires to imitate.

"Chief Kahkewistahaw was a good chief and a good man," he stated. "Chief Kahkewistahaw and myself live in two different eras, two different times but the one thing that remains the same is leading with a good heart, making sure that we make good decisions with council in a good way but also challenging our people to be better."

MLA for Moosomin-Montmartre Kevin Weedmark attended the program on behalf of the Saskatchewan Government. He observed that the new name will preserve history for future generations.

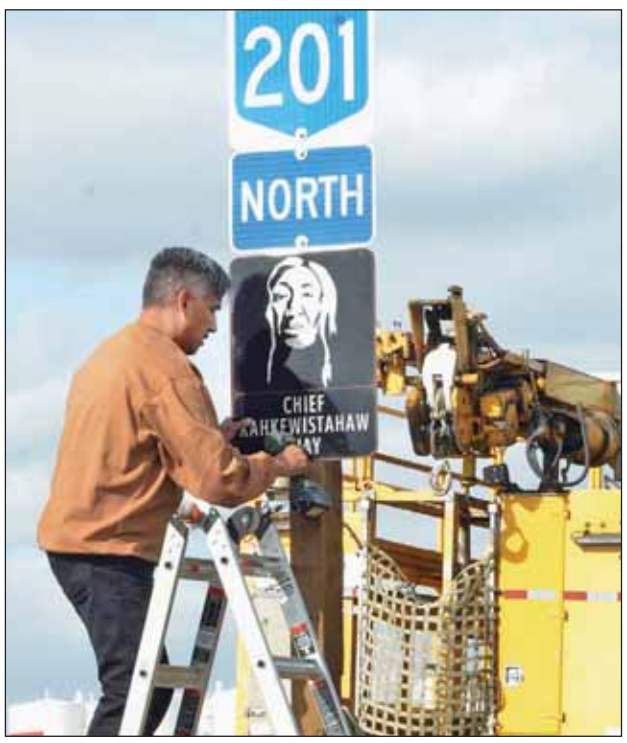
"Today marks another important step on the path to reconciliation with continued acknowledgment of our shared past, present and future," MLA Weedmark said. "This is more than just a change of signs along the roadside; this is a moment of recognition, respect and reconciliation. It's a step towards acknowledging the contributions, leadership and enduring legacy of Chief Kahkewistahaw, a man whose vision and strength continues to inspire generations. Now and for generations to come, Highway #201 will remind everyone who lives, works or visits Saskatchewan about Chief Kahkewistahaw."

Following the ceremony last Friday, signage bearing a portrait of the former chief was installed along the road, reminding motorists of the important role Chief Kahkewistahaw played in the history of his people and the province. Chief Taypotat was permitted to bolt the first sign to a post near the intersection with Highway #1. Afterwards, he commented on the positive implications represented by the new sign, saying "We've done a lot of cool things, but that's really cool!"

Future Improvements

When Highway #219 was designated as Chief Whitecap Trail in 2009, it was accompanied by road improvements funded by the provincial government. Grasslands News inquired whether a similar investment would be made for Chief Kahkewistahaw Way. The Ministry of Highways responded with the following statement:

"In the short-term, the ministry continues to do regular maintenance on Highway #201. In the long-term, the ministry is developing a design to improve Highway #201 between its junctions with Trans-Canada Highway #1 and Highway #247. The ministry has yet to complete the design and has no timeline for when on-road construction might begin."



Sign installed
SARAH PACIO I GRASSLANDS NEWS
Chief Even Tayotat was permitted to install the first sign for the newly named Chief Kahkewistahaw Way.



Hon. Travis Keisig
MLA for Last Mountain - Touchwood Constituency
110 Elgin St.
Balcarres, SK S0G 0C0
(306) 334-3444
mla@traviskeisig.ca

Brad Crassweller
MLA for White City - Qu'Appelle
(306) 520-5018 | mla@wc-q.ca
A - 129 Railway St. East
Balgonie, SK S0G 0E0



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Canada Post goes on strike after gov't makes sweeping changes

Provincial gov't prepared for disruption

By Jacob Miller
Grasslands News

Canada Post workers are on a national strike after the Government of Canada announced sweeping changes to Canada Post and how they operate.

The strike was announced by the Canadian Union of Postal Workers on Sept. 25 after Joël Lightbound, Minister of Government Transformation, Public Works and Procurement announced that the government was instructing Canada Post to begin transformation, which includes changing letter delivery standards, converting addresses to community mailboxes, and modernizing the postal network. The recommendations are from William Kaplan's Industrial Inquiry Commission Report from May.

CUPW National President Jan Simpson said in a release that the announcement was an outrage. "Minister Lightbound gave the Union no indication that he was going to do this when leadership met with him last week. The Minister said he had the "utmost respect" for postal workers. This is no way to show it," said Simpson. "The Minister emphasized the importance to serve all Canadians, but these recommendations will only undermine public service. We have no details on how any of them will be implemented."

The union says that these recommendations could result in major job losses and that the Government has rejected the need to diversify revenue streams and expend services, instead accepting Canada Post's request for cuts.

CUPW also is calling on the Government to put an immediate stop to all service cuts to Canada Post. "Before implementing any changes to Canada Post's mandate, the Government must allow the public to have its say," said Simpson.

On Sept. 26 Canada Post announced that they are reassessing its new Global Offers in light of the Government announcement.

"We remain committed to reaching negotiated agreements with CUPW that are affordable, support our people and help build a sustainable future for the company. We have confirmed with CUPW that we are working diligently and will present these new offers as soon as possible," said Canada Post in a statement.

"We are disappointed that, in response to the government's reforms, the union chose to launch a national strike. This will further deteriorate Canada Post's financial situation."

Canada Post said that they are facing a growing financial crisis, with more than $5 billion in losses from operations since 2018 and cannot agree to CUPW's offer from Aug. 20, 2025.

Canada Post said that they support the reforms announced by the government.

"Canadians deserve a postal service that is reliable, affordable and sustainable. As we begin the process of modernizing the country's postal service, we will make every effort to minimize the impact on Canadians and continuously look for ways to enhance service. We will also proceed thoughtfully and treat our employees with fairness and respect."

The Government of Saskatchewan said that they have implemented contingency plans in response to the ongoing postal disruption.

Ministry of Social Services

The Ministry of Social Services is distributing benefits in person at their service centres across the province. The ministry is also urging clients to consider choosing direct deposit to receive benefit payments, where possible. Saskatchewan Income Support and Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability monthly benefit cheques that are normally distributed by mail will be available for in-person pick-up.

Drug plan and benefits

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

Health cards & certificates

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

Crop Insurance/ AgriStability information and payments

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

Payments to suppliers

The Ministry of Finance will make supplier cheques available for pickup in Regina for suppliers unable to register for direct deposit. Suppliers should call (306) 787-7450 to make arrangements.

Taxes, refunds & grants

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

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

Tax refunds and grant payments sent by direct deposit will not be delayed. You can sign up for direct deposit by emailing a completed direct deposit form to pstrefunds@gov.sk.ca or call 1-800-667-6102 to delay the refund or grant payment or request a courier delivery at your own cost.

Crown utility accounts

SGI, SaskTel, SaskPower and SaskEnergy invite customers to sign up for online billing and notifications to ensure they receive information about their utility bills, driver's licence and vehicle registration renewals and other important communications. This helps avoid delays in receiving bills and account updates. Longer than usual wait times for customer service representatives are anticipated in the event of postal service disruptions, so customers are encouraged to visit the respective Crown websites or to call for more information regarding customer service options. Information is also available online regarding options for paying outstanding bills in the event mail-in payments are not possible.

Public Guardian & Trustee

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



Mail service grinds to a halt EVAN MITSUI / CBC

Postal workers across the country went on strike last week after the federal government announced sweeping changes that are needed for the mail service to continue to be able to operate in Canada.

Concerns raised over Online Censorship Bill

By Chris Ashfield
Grasslands News

A federal bill aimed at strengthening Canada's cybersecurity is stirring debate across the country, with critics warning it could open the door to online censorship and threaten free expression.

Bill C-8, officially titled An Act respecting cyber security, amending the Telecommunications Act and making consequential amendments to other Acts, was introduced in Parliament in June. The government says the law is needed to protect critical infrastructure and networks from cyberattacks, but experts and civil-liberties groups say the powers it grants are too broad and too secretive.

If passed, the bill would allow cabinet ministers to issue binding "cybersecurity directions" to telecom companies and other key service providers. In practice, that could include orders to block websites, restrict access to platforms, or shut down certain services. What troubles many observers is that the legislation contains strict confidentiality clauses that would bar companies from even disclosing the existence of such orders.

Legal analysts warn this could enable Ottawa to quietly compel companies "to do anything, or refrain from doing anything," leaving the public in the dark. Civil-liberties advocates say such secrecy could limit the ability to challenge government overreach in court and create serious risks for free speech.

Privacy concerns are also front and centre. The bill would expand government access to telecommunications data, with critics warning that even anonymized data can often be traced back to individuals. Without strong oversight, they argue, Canadians' private information could be exposed to misuse.

Journalists and news organizations worry about the potential impact on access to information. If online services were quietly blocked, reporters might have no way to verify or report on it, undermining both transparency and the ability of citizens to know what information is being withheld.

Beyond rights and freedoms, smaller businesses and internet providers say the reporting and compliance requirements in the bill will be costly. Many expect those costs would eventually land on consumers.

The government insists the bill is about security, not speech. Officials say Canada needs the ability to act quickly and confidentially when hostile states or criminal groups launch cyberattacks. They argue the revised bill includes improvements to privacy protections and will remain subject to the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Still, opposition MPs and rights groups are calling for clear limits on government powers, stronger oversight through independent review, and guarantees that any orders to block services will be temporary and transparent once a threat has passed.

Critics point out that Ottawa has already introduced other controversial online laws in recent years, including Bill C-11, which regulates streaming platforms, and Bill C-18, which forced tech companies to negotiate with news outlets. Taken together, they argue, these measures show a pattern of government taking more control over the digital space.

Debates on Bill C-8 continue.

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GeoVenture

Sask. educators get unique perspective on mining operations

By Ryan Kiedrowski
Grasslands News

The people at the Saskatchewan Mining Association have unlocked a magical secret. They have devised a way to entice teachers across the province to exchange a week of their precious summer outside of the classroom to learn about advancements in the mining industry.

GeoVenture is a seven-day, cross-Saskatchewan exposure mission that allows educators to discover what the mining industry in our province is all about - from going underground and learning about potash at Mosaic K3 near Esterhazy, how coal is extracted at Westmoreland Poplar River in the Coronach area, to the northern uranium facilities at Cameco Cigar Lake and Orano McClean Lake, it's a whirlwind once-in-a-lifetime adventure to spread the word.

"It's surprising how much people don't know, and it's surprising a lot of teachers still don't know today," said Pam Schwann, President of the SMA. "So, if they don't know, their students aren't going to get that opportunity."

Previously, the GeoVenture program was known as the Teacher's Tour - something that has been in existence for almost 50 years.

"It was a way for teachers to see firsthand what was involved in a mining operation, as well as to see all the different geographic regions where mining happens in Saskatchewan," Schwann explained. "This is a way to raise public awareness, but also because teachers have such an influence, it was a way to sustainably teach their kids in their classrooms more about the mineral resources of Saskatchewan."

Mining is found throughout the Saskatchewan education curriculum, and giving teachers the tools they need to accurately depict the current operations in Saskatchewan is an important mission.

"Mining is all throughout the Saskatchewan curriculum," said David Potts-Schwinghamer, GeoVenture Program Manager who was previously a teacher himself. "In Grade Four, you learn about rocks; in Grade Five and Six, you learn about our Saskatchewan resources in Social Studies. You come back to rocks in Grade Seven; in high school, obviously chemistry has heavy applications, but Earth Science 30, Career Ed, there's all these places in the Saskatchewan curriculum that touch on the mining industry. When you become a teacher, it's your job to teach these things."

The beauty of the program is that it's no cost to educators, save a $50 application fee.

"We know teachers don't have a lot of money," Potts-Schwinghamer said. "They spend money out of pocket on things, so when we build resources for teachers, they're not only curriculum correlated, but they're free or very low cost; supplies that you can source from the school kitchen."

An example of a hands-on project for the classroom is the Potash Kit that educators get to take home with them after the week has wrapped.

"In Grade Seven Science, one of the units is on mixtures and solutions," Schwann said. "What better example if you're from Saskatchewan to talk about mixtures and solutions than potash. That's the premise of our Potash Kit - you can dissolve the potash, find out how much clay is in there, and you can take it all the way up to Grade 10 when you start talking about solubility curves. It's an opportunity to tie that Saskatchewan product into the curriculum that students need to learn anyway, and what a great way to raise the awareness of that."

Creating those linkages between the resources in the GeoVenture program and the current curriculum is certainly a stand-out feature.

"Everything is curriculum correlated for educators, it's not what somebody might think they need," Schwann said. "We're going to give you those resources, it's actually what they need. It's free, and we try and make it as accessible."

Teacher's perspective

Every year, the GeoVenture program has room for 20 educators from around the province, with 17 in this summer's intake. From Aug. 9 to 15, the group embarked on a quest with stops along the way to scenic destinations that some simply might not have the opportunity to visit.

Included in this year's group was Laura Sveinbjornson, who has been teaching at Langenburg Central School for 12 years.

"It was so cool," Sveinbjornson said. "It was the coolest thing I think I've ever done in the professional development world - very interesting!"

She learned about the GeoVenture program in a rather unlikely place - social media during some down time.

"Strangely enough, I was just scrolling on Instagram and I saw an advertisement for it," Sveinbjornson explained.

Curious, she decided to learn more about GeoVenture through the SMA website.



SASKATCHEWAN MINING ASSOCIATION | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Going underground

Educators from across Saskatchewan took part in the GeoVenture program, seen here touring underground at Nutrien's Scissor Creek potash mine near Rocanville, as part of a week-long learning experience about the province's mining industry.

"I read the descriptor of what they gave, and I thought, 'this is so interesting'," she recalled. "I didn't think I was going to get picked, to be completely honest, because that's too good to be true, right? It's something that you never get to experience, and yes, I got lucky, and I got asked to join them."

While Sveinbjornson grew up in the area, hailing from Churchbridge, she didn't have an in-depth knowledge about mining; until the GeoVenture experience.

"It's nothing that I've experienced before," she said. "Being from this area, you know how important the mining industry is, specifically potash mining, but I've never had the opportunity to go underground."

It's difficult to sum up the totality of GeoVenture, as Sveinbjornson recounted her seven days with the group. Going underground at Nutrien's Scissor Creek potash mine near Rocanville and having the experience of travelling far below the surface in the cage was one of the first things that stood out.

"I know quite a few people that work there, and you hear them talking about work," Sveinbjornson said. "The cage was interesting to me, because everybody talks about going in the cage and taking their trip down. First of all, I couldn't get over how smooth the elevator was! We came out, I actually couldn't get over the fact that it was such a large space - the ceiling. I don't know how tall the ceiling was, but it had to be at least 20 feet tall - not what I was expecting!"

Another remarkable tour was to Westmoreland's coal mining operation near Coronach and how environmentally friendly their operation truly is.

"When they are mining in the open pits, they're really focused on reclaiming the land to make it look like they hadn't been there and keeping their footprint very small," Sveinbjornson said. "It was so interesting to see, you would have never known that they had dug there because the land had been reclaimed."

Up north, Cameco's Cigar Lake uranium mining operation showed the uniqueness of the industry as going underground there was not the same as what the group saw in the quest for potash.

"That was interesting because their mining is very different than what potash mining is," Sveinbjornson said. "They can only do so much at a time, and their big struggle is water because of how much water is up north. They're constantly trying to figure out the best methods, make sure everybody's safe, and the equipment was so different; everything was so different there than typical potash mining."

The GeoVenture group was filled with variety, comprised of educators from elementary, middle, and high school backgrounds, plus career counsellors - each able to take away many new fascinating items to share with their classes.

"With my Grade Seven Science course and Social Studies course, we talk a lot about resources and wealth, how provinces and communities have money, or what does power look like?" Sveinbjornson said. "We often talk about our resource sector and there's so much that we have to offer. Now, I have new things to add to that list, things that I can better explain."

A big part of that relaying of knowledge goes back to the basic hands-on approach.

"Science specifically, there's a whole unit based on Earth and the minerals found in Earth's crust," Sveinbjornson said. "They gave us so many resources, and I get to now update my unit, because you do your best with the knowledge that you have, but now I actually have the pictures, I have the tactile material, I have the people I can contact, to right now, I know exactly who to ask if I have questions, if I want more resources. It's super relevant to what I'm doing."

One common thread Sveinbjornson noticed through each place the GeoVenture group visited was the authentic positivity everyone seemed to carry.

"Every single person we talked to was so enthusiastic, shared all their knowledge, were so gracious, and that networking is important, too," she said. "Even Pam and David - they were phenomenal. They did such a good job organizing. There is not one negative thing I can say about this experience. It was truly phenomenal!"

Ever-evolving program

Obviously, the GeoVenture tours throughout the years have changed in scope even simply due to advancements in technology. That ongoing program development continues as the organizers at the SMA are constantly tweaking the week-long professional development.

"We try and make it not just a fun thing to be on, but something they're going to be able to use in in their classrooms," Schwann said. "It's changed a bit, it'll keep changing and right now, it's a good cycle. But we don't get up to our gold mine, we're going to have a copper and zinc mine that's producing soon. Our struggle is always, 'how much can we fit in a week?' because going longer than that is difficult."

It is a fine balance to tell the story of mining in Saskatchewan but stick to a reasonable timeframe for the educators.

"We're asking for a week of their holiday time, so we need to make it really worthwhile and not make it so long that they just can't make that commitment," Schwann said, adding that last year, the question of establishing two trips being three days in duration, but possibly different experiences was raised. "They wanted one trip because there is nothing they wouldn't want to drop. The schedule really depends on our sites and when they are open to us being there."

Whatever changes happen in GeoVenture, there's no question that educators hold the experience dear.

"We had a teacher this year, a science teacher that is going to be in Milestone this year, her grandma went on the program in 1995," Schwann recalled.

While flying to visit the operations in northern Saskatchewan, the teacher told Schwann how her grandmother gave her a 50-page binder filled with pictures of the tour taken 30 years prior.

"This lady's kept this for that long because it meant that much to her," Schwann said. "We're pretty sure that the enthusiasm we see from the educators on this tour translates into the classroom for many years after."

Part of the GeoVenture evolution is through feedback obtained by previous participants and the companies the SMA works with during the tour.

"The questions people ask to help us learn more," said Potts-Schwinghamer. "We get the privilege working with so many amazing companies, but there's just always more to learn. I truly enjoy their questions, and I'm learning all the time, too."

There were around 40 applications to the GeoVenture program this year, with 20 accepted. Due to a few last-minute cancellations, the final group numbered 17.

"They applicants are all over the province, and keeping a geographic mix goes into how we select people," Potts-Schwinghamer said. "We want representation from the whole of Saskatchewan, and I think it benefits everyone to see different parts of the province and the scope of the industry that occurs here."

With all the work that goes into GeoVenture, comments like Sveinbjornson's enthusiastic descriptor "felt like summer camp!" make the program even more worthwhile.

Indigenous nations plan customs-free trade corridor across Canada-US border

By Sonal Gupta
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Just west of Fort Qu'Appelle in Saskatchewan, the Standing Buffalo Dakota Nation is working across the US border to revive centuries-old trade routes as part of a new Indigenous-governed trade corridor.

Trucks from the First Nation could soon be transporting food, furniture and even critical minerals south of the border along ancestral pathways once used to move buffalo hides and pemmican across the Plains — without paying taxes or tariffs.

For generations, Indigenous peoples freely exchanged goods, knowledge and culture across the land that is now divided by the Canada–US border. Those networks were disrupted by colonial laws that divided families and communities but they are now being reimagined as a modern supply chain grounded in Indigenous law and sovereignty.

"We're operationalizing our old corridors — taking ancient trade routes our elders told us about and articulating them in a modern context," said Solomon Cyr, spokesperson for Standing Buffalo Dakota Nation.

The First Nation plans to formalize its partnership with the Fort Peck Sioux Tribes, in Montana, next week by signing a memorandum of understanding to advance the trade corridor and its infrastructure development.

The corridor intends to use traditional routes traversing Dakota territories in Saskatchewan, Alberta, Manitoba and into the United States, reviving the historic Oceti Sakowin trade network, a historic alliance of seven Dakota, Lakota and Nakota Indigenous groups united by kinship, language and spiritual beliefs. The shared trade routes historically facilitated economic and military ties across their territories. "We have a lot of history, and even to this day, ties linking us to our relatives," said Rodger Redman, chief of the nation.

Redman said this corridor is not symbolic, but rather an economic engine for the countries. Standing Buffalo is located in a region rich with critical minerals vital to global industries including renewable energy and technology. By owning the corridor, Indigenous nations can control the movement of these resources and expand economic opportunities for their communities.

The plan includes a $2-billion infrastructure proposal submitted to Canada's Privy Council aimed at developing core projects such as a cross-border trade portal, renewable energy corridors and smart transportation networks.

"We're not only talking about natural gas or oil pipelines," Cyr said. "We're talking about furniture, anything connected to the GDP that moves on trucks, trains or pipelines that can be tax exempt, so long as the products move from point A to point B."

It is currently the only Indigenous nation actively pursuing a trade corridor of this kind, which could transform commerce between the United States and Canada. "It's a very distinctive and powerful world-class application of an old Indigenous order of operations," Cyr said.

Redman said the initiative is part of a centuries-old relationship with the British Crown and Indigenous allies, noting that the Nation never ceded its land or jurisdiction.

"There was a promise to our people that we would continue to trade and be allowed to trade in our traditional territories. Today, we are operationalizing those promises made by the Crown that we would continue to trade in our personal territory," he said.

The promise Redman is referring to is the Jay Treaty, a 1794 agreement between the United States and Great Britain that recognizes the right of Indigenous peoples to freely cross the US-Canada border for trade and travel.

Nadir André, a partner at JFK Law with extensive experience in Aboriginal Law, said the Jay Treaty is the only legal source that could facilitate such movement. But while the United States acknowledges and enforces the treaty's provisions, Canada has never acknowledged the treaty. In fact, a Supreme Court decision from the early 2000s, known as the Mitchell case, found that the Jay Treaty is not enforceable in Canada.

The court also ruled that there is no clear Aboriginal right under Section 35 of the Canadian Constitution allowing Indigenous peoples to bring goods across the border for trade purposes. If a First Nation fuel company wanted to bring fuel from Canada to sell in the United States, under US law this is allowed without paying duty taxes or tariffs. However, the reverse — bringing goods from the US into Canada — is not legally recognized.

"If it's not bilateral, then it defeats the purpose, because then it would only confer an advantage to Canadian First Nations doing trade in the 'States and it would not be a counterpart for the American tribes to be able to trade in Canada," he said.

John Desjarlais, executive director of the Indigenous Resource Network, believes this initiative could serve as another test of the Jay Treaty, which could set a precedent for other First Nations creating trade corridors and opportunities in resources such as timber, oil and mining, as well as long-term manufacturing. However, many questions remain.

"We're pushing jurisdictional boundaries and sovereignty within Canada. What does that mean in the broader turmoil of cross border trade between Canada and the US? What does protected, tax and tariff free trade look like?"

André said there's also concern that without clear verification processes, non-Indigenous companies could misuse the system by falsely claiming Indigenous status.

He said considerations for the corridor extend beyond customs lines, involving strict environmental, health and safety regulations, as well. Many products, such as lumber and drinking water, require adherence to such standards. "Would you allow drinkable water as a trade? Could you bring water by bulk from Canada to the States through this initiative? Or would it be limited to certain items that are already allowed for trading?"

Governance is another significant challenge. Canada's trade regulations come under the jurisdiction of multiple layers of government — provinces, territories and federal departments — while the US adds its own complexity with 51 states, each having separate rules. Coordinating among all these authorities will be a daunting task.

André recalled that similar efforts have been made before, such as during the renegotiations of the North American Free Trade Agreement in 2016, but none succeeded.

For the nation, this initiative is a breakthrough.

Until 2024, the Standing Buffalo Dakota Nation was not officially recognized as an Indigenous nation in Canada. That year, the Canadian government apologized for this mistake and formally recognized Standing Buffalo and eight other Dakota and Lakota First Nations as Aboriginal peoples, granting them constitutional protections under Section 35. "We were called refugees and treated in a discriminatory fashion without rights or recognition. Now, with constitutional protections, we're asserting sovereignty over our lands and trade," Cyr said.

Redman has been actively advancing the trade corridor through international diplomacy, including high-level meetings in Mexico City with officials from CUSMA (Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement), which replaced the former NAFTA agreement. He said that while the nation continues to wait for Canada to formally recognize its sovereignty and legal framework, officials from Mexico and the US have shown greater openness to work together.

The Nation has also established its own consultation frameworks and environmental oversight processes to ensure that its voices and rights remain central in developments on their lands. The funding for their initiative is expected to come from multiple sources including the First Nations Finance Authority, the federal Indigenous Loan Guarantee Program, nation's capital and other investment partnerships.

"We're not begging for crumbs anymore. We're demanding what's rightly ours and share our responsibility to Mother Earth," Redman said. "We're asserting our sovereignty. We're here to give them notice that we have our trade corridor and we're implementing that."



Economic corridors
PHOTO BY SOLOMON CYR
Rodger Redman, chief of Standing Buffalo Dakota Nation, leading the Indigenous Economic Corridors initiative.

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OPINION

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Canola industry being sacrificed while auto gets special treatment

Ontario Premier Doug Ford has been vocal in recent weeks about his demand that Prime Minister Mark Carney maintain a 100 per cent tariff on Chinese-made electric vehicles. Ford argues that without the tariff, Ontario's auto sector — which employs more than 150,000 people and has attracted over $46 billion in new investments since 2020 — could be devastated. There is no question the auto industry matters, but here in Saskatchewan we cannot ignore the double standard.

While the federal government rushes to protect auto jobs in the East, farmers and processors in the Prairies are left to shoulder the costs of trade retaliation. China has already responded to Canada's EV tariffs by targeting one of our most vital industries: canola. The contrast in treatment is staggering. Canola contributes nearly $44 billion each year to the Canadian economy when its entire value chain is considered, making it one of the most significant drivers of national prosperity. By comparison, Canada's motor vehicle and parts manufacturing sector contributes about $16.5 billion annually to GDP. Yet it is the smaller sector that receives the lion's share of government protection and support, while the larger one is left exposed.

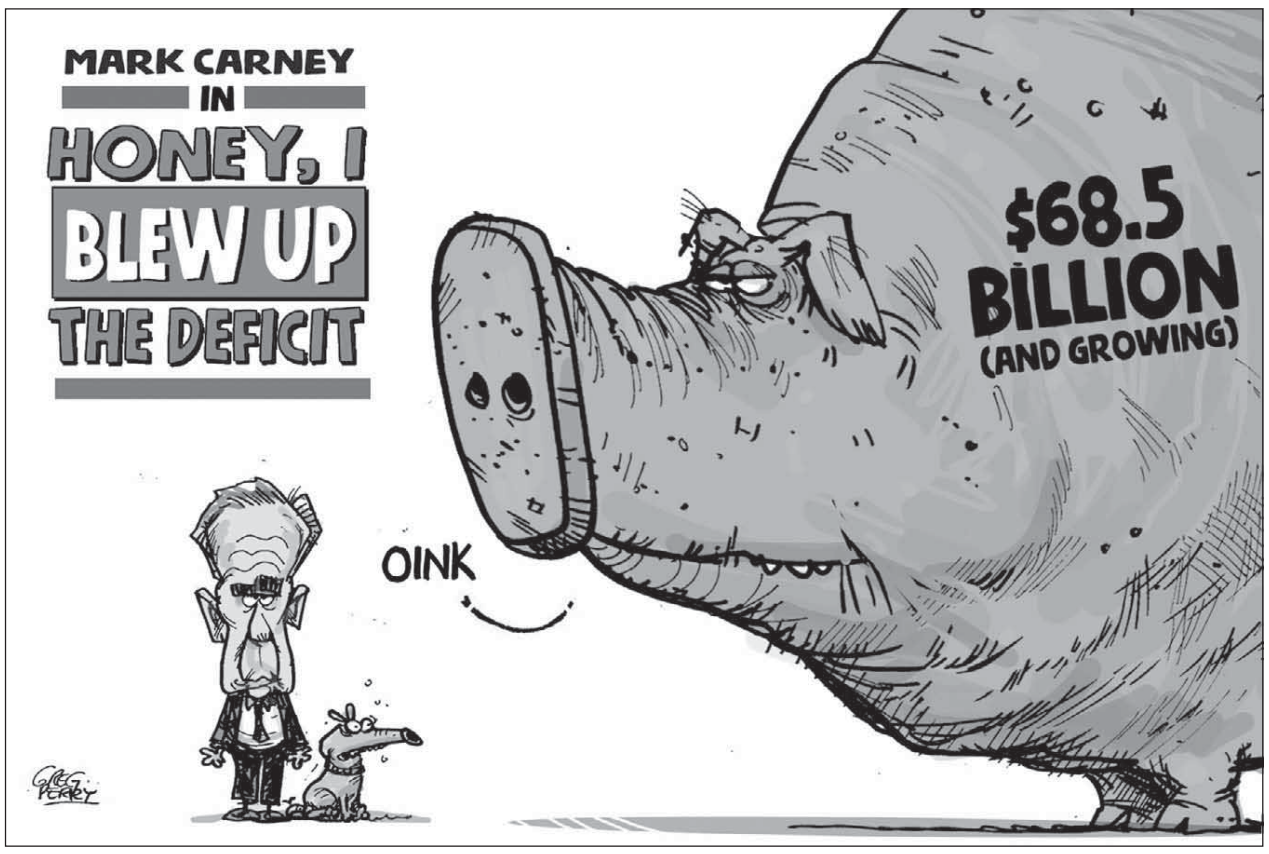
This imbalance is not just a matter of numbers; it is a matter of fairness and national vision. When Eastern auto jobs are threatened, billions of dollars in subsidies, tariffs, and political attention are mobilized in response. When Western canola farmers lose access to one of their largest export markets because of retaliatory tariffs, Ottawa's answer is tepid at best. Some modest program adjustments and calls for market diversification are offered, but nothing on the scale of the protections extended to auto.

For Saskatchewan, this is more than regional grievance. Canola is the backbone of our rural communities, sustaining thousands of jobs and supporting local economies across the province. The livelihoods of producers, truckers, processors, and entire towns are tied to this crop. When export markets close or prices fall, the blow is not theoretical — it is felt in household incomes, farm balance sheets, and the survival of small towns.

What makes the current policy direction troubling is the sense that Canada is comfortable sacrificing the West to secure the East. Ottawa may argue that the auto industry is strategic, but so too is agriculture. Canola is not just another crop; it is a global export, a Canadian innovation, and a cornerstone of our trade balance. Allowing it to be collateral damage in a tariff war undermines both our economy and our unity.

If this country truly wants to act in its national interest, it must recognize that prosperity cannot be built in only one region. Auto jobs in Windsor and Oakville deserve protection, but so do canola producers in Weyburn, Whitewood, and Wadena. To prioritize one while neglecting the other is not just unfair — it is a mistake. When canola fields suffer, the consequences ripple far beyond Saskatchewan. Canada cannot afford to treat agriculture as expendable while treating auto as untouchable. Both deserve protection, and both deserve respect.

- Chris Ashfield, GNG



A federal deficit Saskatchewan cannot afford

Ottawa is once again warning of a looming federal deficit, and while budget shortfalls may sound like distant problems for those on Parliament Hill, the reality is that Saskatchewan communities will feel the impact more directly than most.

For a province like ours—where agriculture, mining, and energy are the backbone of local economies — federal spending decisions are not abstract. They determine whether municipalities can move forward with infrastructure projects, whether farmers can access needed supports in times of drought, and whether small towns can keep their schools and hospitals open. Every time Ottawa runs a higher deficit, the risk grows that our communities will be asked to "tighten belts" while national programs are cut or delayed.

Saskatchewan residents know the value of living within one's means. Municipal councils balance their budgets annually because they don't have the luxury of printing money. Towns like Melville, Whitewood, Kipling, Fort Qu'Appelle and Grenfell can't simply run endless deficits — they either raise taxes or delay projects. Ottawa, on the other hand, borrows billions on the promise that someone else will pay the bill later. That "someone" will be our children and grandchildren.

Of course, not all spending is bad. Saskatchewan has benefited from cost-shared federal programs that funded waterworks, roads, and recreation centres. Investments in agricultural research and rail capacity have strengthened our export economy. But these programs are sustainable only when Ottawa manages its finances responsibly. A ballooning federal deficit threatens to put them at risk, leaving municipalities scrambling to find funding on their own.

The concern is not only about today's numbers but also tomorrow's opportunities. Higher deficits mean higher interest costs. Already, billions of tax dollars nationally are going just to pay interest — money that could be building highways to move grain, improving rural broadband, or supporting health care workers in small-town hospitals. Saskatchewan contributes more than its share to Confederation through our resource wealth; it is only fair to expect federal finances to be handled in a way that ensures those contributions come back to strengthen communities rather than being swallowed up servicing debt.

Saskatchewan people are pragmatic. We believe in investing when it makes sense but also in taking a hard look at the books. Ottawa must do the same. A deficit today may feel like a political calculation, but in our towns and rural municipalities it translates to tough choices, deferred projects, and higher costs tomorrow. Saskatchewan deserves better than promises on credit—we deserve a sustainable federal plan that respects the realities of those who feed, fuel, and build this country.

- Chris Ashfield, GNG

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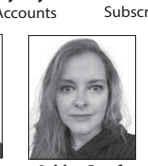
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Giant Pumpkin Growing

A unique way to volunteer & support community

By Connie Schwalm
Grasslands News

If you have never tried to grow a giant pumpkin before, it might be tempting to assume that it is a relatively simple process.

One simply transplants the pumpkin plant into its well-prepared spot of ground and gives it water and fertilizer occasionally – right?

Well… there's a bit more to it than that.

But, as the impressive line-up of pumpkins on display at the Windthorst Great Pumpkin Weigh-in last Saturday demonstrated, all the time and effort growers put into helping their pumpkin achieve its full potential can yield big… REALLY big… results.

About 110 people came to the event and as Bernard Steele (2025 Champion Grower & Lions Club member) notes, this was the first time some had seen pumpkins that large.

"There were some folks from Esterhazy and Glenavon that I haven't seen there before," he observed. "And some visitors who happened to be here for the weekend decided to come and check this Great Pumpkin thing out too. So, we had some first-time people here this year. It was great to see new faces. We know that some folks were too busy with harvest to come, so having new people here helped make up for that. And it's fun to see people's reaction when they see the pumpkins. People who have been here before aren't blown away by the size anymore. But when someone has never seen a 600-700 lb. pumpkin before, their eyes can get pretty big!"

Final Results 2025 Great Pumpkin Competition

Bernard Steele	618 lbs.
Dwight Larsen	569.4 lbs
Madeline Steele & Hannah Heaton	354 lbs.
Lyndon Dayman	295.2 lbs.
Samantha Daku	247 lbs.
Martin King	144.4 lbs.
Matt Hunter	119.2 lbs.
Henro Sutherland	67.8 lbs.
Peter Sweeten	24.4 lbs.
Irina Bauman	3.8 lbs.

Although the season had brought some less-than-ideal conditions, Steele observes that people found ways to help their pumpkin grow past the obstacles.

"There were challenges. My pumpkin got going around July 16, when I pollinated it. Normally, we see pumpkins here that are around that 700-750 lb. range. But it was a cool summer with lots of clouds and smoke. So, the pumpkins didn't get the heat they normally do. Still, we got some decent-sized pumpkins this year."

Steele's pumpkin earned him the title of Champion Grower for a second time, weighing in at 618 pounds. Placing Second was a 569.4 pumpkin grown by another past champion, Dwight Larsen, who had stepped away from growing for a while. Steele says that first time growers can underestimate the amount of effort needed to reach weights that qualify as "gigantic" and adds that even experienced growers can find the effort time-consuming.

"It's fun to be part of this, whether you've done it before or not. But for first-time growers like the three we had this year, it might have been more challenging than they thought it would be. I know that the first year I was in it, I knew I'd want to take part again, even though I didn't come close to winning. But I found out pretty quickly that first year how time-consuming it is – and my pumpkin was only 100 pounds! That's why long-term growers get to the point where they find they need to take a break. They just want to have the freedom to do other things over the summer."

However, Steele points out that the success of the Windthorst and District Lion Club's Great Pumpkin Competition has brought some huge benefits to the community, and the area around it.

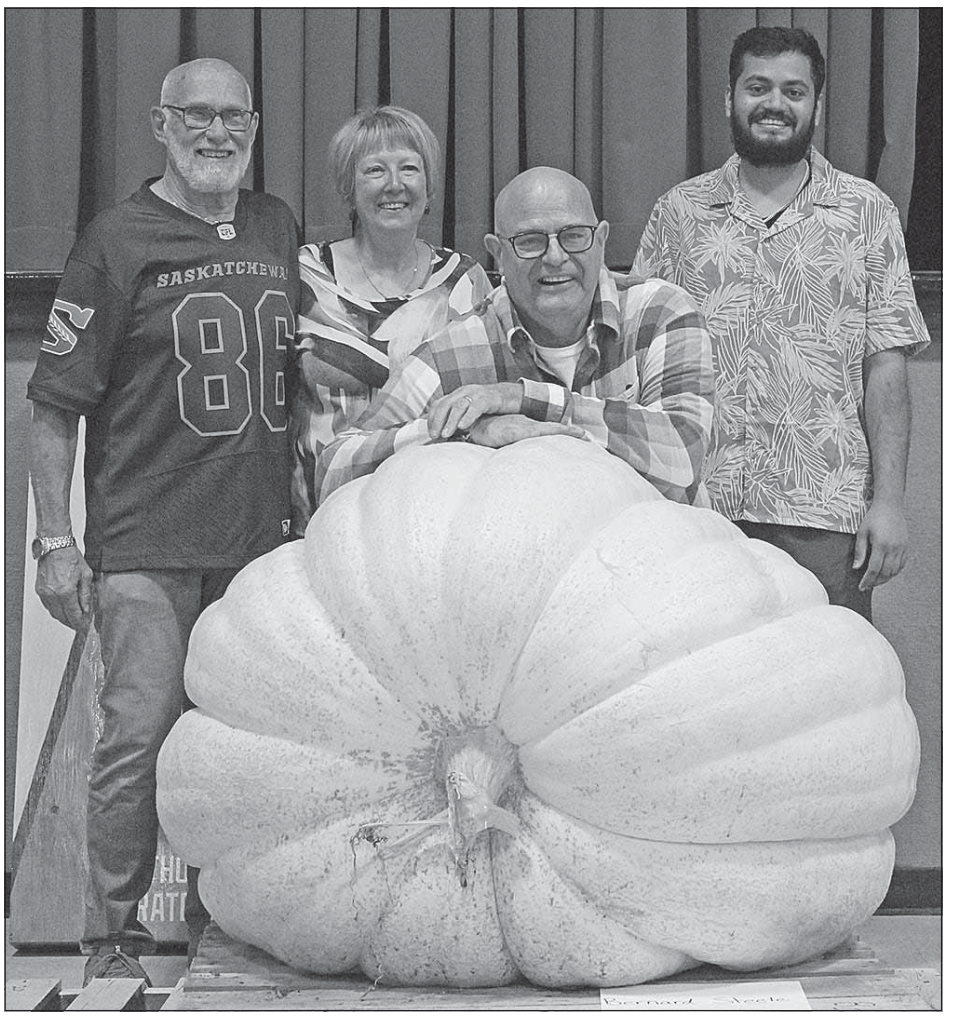
"This has been an incredibly successful fundraiser, year after year. In Windthorst itself, we've provided funding for the basketball and pickleball courts. We spearheaded the effort to purchase new playground equipment. We provided funding for renovations to the hall. And now this year, $10,000 in funding is going to do renovations at the arena. As well, we've donated $10,000 to STARS, bought beds for the Long-Term Care in Kipling and contributed to the hospital when it was being built. So, this has done some big things in Windthorst and the surrounding community too."

He goes on to say that this success means that anyone who steps forward to be a pumpkin grower is volunteering their time and effort to their community in a unique way.

"The Lions Club pays a small prize out to the growers who place First, Second and Third in the competition. But that's only a small 'Thank-you' to them. There's no financial gain in this for the grower, only for the investors who buy the growers at our Cinco De Mayo Pumpkin Growers Calcutta in the spring. So ultimately, our growers are volunteers who are donating their time and effort to their community.

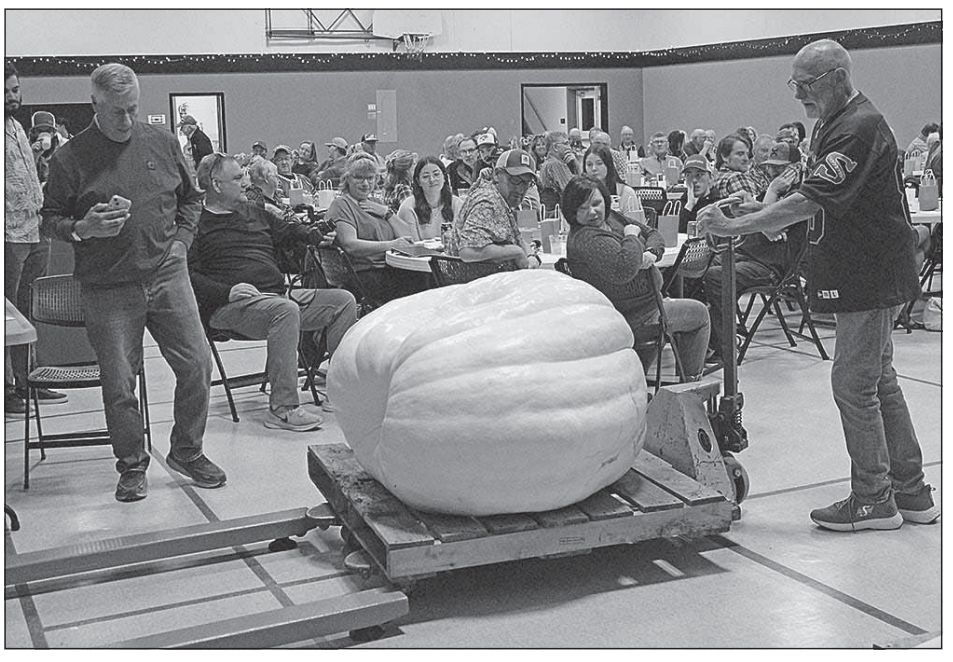
"The nice part about it is that this is a way for folks to volunteer who might not be able to do so otherwise. Lyndon Dayman, for example, hasn't been able to volunteer for many things over the past few years. So, he's loving this, and so is his family. His family is happy to buy him every year, because they see it's a great fundraiser and see the money being spent in the community. Their mom was also a fantastic gardener, so this is a way for them to remember their parents. Lyndon says that he is in this until he wins it (and might keep on going after that).

"Really, this has brought different people together in the community, and the area around us. Even though it's a lot of work, it's a lot of fun too. We're competitive but we're friendly! And stepping up to be a pumpkin grower means that you're volunteering to be part of a great fundraiser, that allows us to do much bigger things than any of us could manage alone!"



CONNIE SCHWALM I GRASSLANDS NEWS

Celebrating victory
Bernard Steele (kneeling behind pumpkin) and the group who purchased him in the spring left to right Norm Jones, Karen Jones and Mit Patel) were all smiles as Bernard claimed the title of champion grower for the second time.



CONNIE SCHWALM I GRASSLANDS NEWS

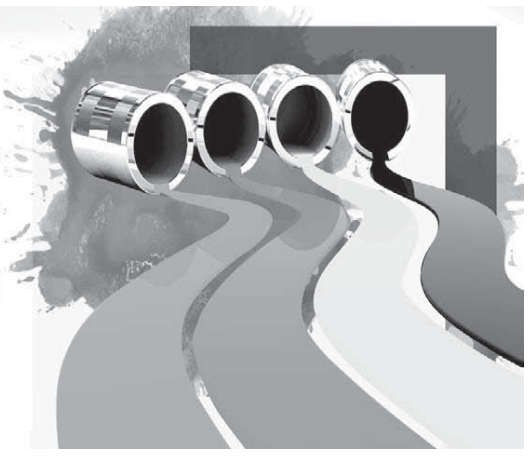
What's your best guess?
Norm Jones wheel in a potential champion pumpkin up to the scales to weigh in as Dwight Larsen and the crowd look on at the Great Pumpkin Weigh-in on Saturday



CONNIE SCHWALM I GRASSLANDS NEWS

Pumpkin Growers
Although it requires a lot of time and effort these volunteers were happy to step up and become pumpkin growers this year. Pictured front row, left to right, are, Samantha Daku, Irina Bauman, Madeline Steele, Hannah Heaton with Tate and Dwight Larsen. Back row, left to right, are, Bernard Steele, Henro Sutherland, Martin King, Peter Sweeten, Matt Hunter and Lyndon Dayman.

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New name for International Trade Centre after Bunge/Viterra merge

By Ryan Kiedrowski
Grasslands News

With the $8.2 billion USD Bunge and Viterra merger closing back on July 2, there's been some changes. The company is under one name now – that being Bunge – and part of that merger included some property in Regina's REAL District. Last week noted the official opening of the Bunge International Trade Centre, which formerly featured the Viterra name.

"Partnerships like this one more essential," said Regina Mayor Chad Bachynski during the Sept. 22 event. "They bring together public and private sectors to build spaces that serve our community economically, agriculturally and social they help us attract world class events, support local businesses and showcase."

A couple big events for agricultural producers at the location are Agribition (coming Nov. 24 to 29) Canada's Farm Show presented by Bunge, running March 17 to 19, 2026.

"As many of you know, a large part of what makes this building special is its connection in our DNA to the agricultural community," said Rick Bennett, President and CEO of REAL. "Each year, we host the Canadian Western Agribition, and in addition, in the springtime, presented by Bunge is Canada's Farm Show. These two signature events highlight the importance of agriculture to our economy, our culture and our future. With Bunge's name on this facility, that connection is even stronger than ever."

This past spring was the first year Canada's Farm Show moved to a spring date, which organizers say was a successful move. Exhibitor booths had sold out, which is a hopeful outcome for the next event.

"We've been the presenting sponsor of Canada's Farm Show since 2007 with a presence at the show since its first began in 1978 and I can tell you that at Bunge we're very excited for the next edition of Canada's Farm Show taking place in March," said Kyle Jeworski, head of Bunge Canada. "Today, I'm pleased to say that we're continuing our partnership with the rebranding of this facility to the Bunge International Trade Center. This modern and multi-purpose facility will continue to act as a setting for world class events such as agricultural shows, Canada's Farm Show, as well as other events where people can connect, collaborate and experience some of what our city has to offer and support Regina's reputation as a great place to do business. And while our name has changed, our commitment to customers, our communities and our industry does remain the same."

Back in 2021, the facility was named the Viterra International Trade Centre.

"These are exciting times for agriculture, and we look forward to working side by side with farmers in Saskatchewan and across western Canada and continue to show the world why we're the best at what we do as a company," Jeworski said. "Bunge has continued to grow and make significant investments in our business to continue competing at a global stage."

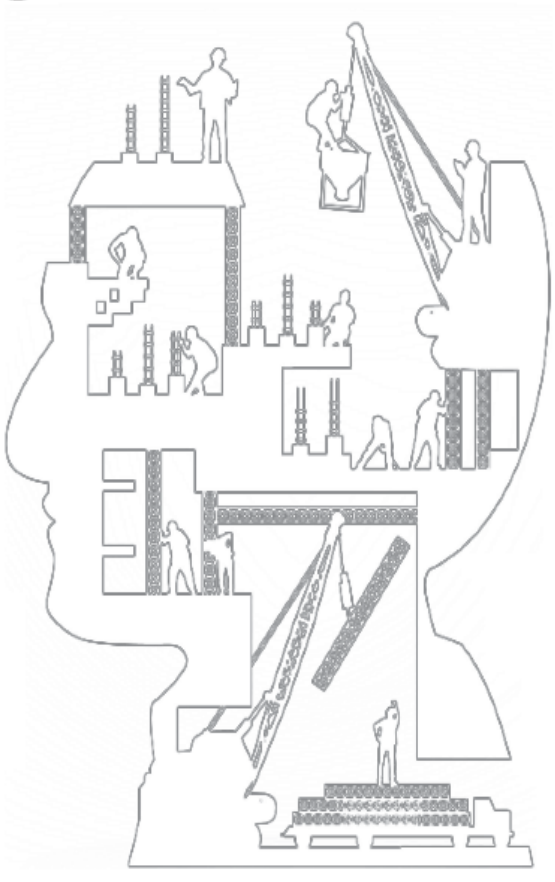


RYAN KIEDROWSKI I GRASSLANDS NEWS

Ribbon cut
Kyle Jeworski, head of Bunge Canada (middle) uses a manual hedge trimmer to cut the ribbon and officially naming of the Bunge International Trade Centre last week as Rick Bennett, President and CEO of REAL (left) and Regina Mayor Chad Bachynski assist.

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Canada Post reform could bring major changes to Saskatchewan

By GNG Staff
Grasslands News

Canada Post is preparing for sweeping changes after reporting a $407 million loss before tax in the second quarter of 2025. Since 2018, the postal service has accumulated more than $5 billion in losses, leading the federal government to call its current business model "unsustainable."

Ottawa has directed Canada Post to begin a transformation that will be phased in over the next several years. Some changes have already been confirmed, while others are being studied as potential options to help stabilize the corporation.

Immediate Changes (1–2 Years)

The first stage of reform is expected to focus on cutting costs. Canada Post has been directed to continue converting more households from door-to-door delivery to community mailboxes, a move already underway in many communities. Exceptions are expected for seniors and people with mobility challenges.

Delivery standards will also be relaxed for non-urgent mail, meaning letters and small parcels may take longer to arrive. The corporation is expected to rely more on ground transport instead of costly air shipping for standard deliveries.

Rural post offices could also be affected. The federal government recently lifted a long-standing moratorium on rural closures, giving Canada Post the option to consolidate or repurpose underused outlets. Some locations may be merged with municipal offices, retail stores, or Service Canada counters to maintain access while cutting operating costs.

Medium-Term Possibilities (3–5 Years)

In the next three to five years, analysts believe Canada Post will turn its attention toward regaining market share in the parcel sector, where its position has slipped in recent years. Possible measures could include installing more parcel lockers in both cities and small towns to allow residents to pick up packages outside of regular post office hours.

Canada Post has also signaled that it may look at expanding the range of government services offered at post offices. This could include areas such as passport applications, pension support, and employment insurance access — reducing the need for rural residents to travel long distances.

Long-Term Options (6–10 Years)

Over the longer term, Canada Post could explore larger structural changes modeled on international examples. In countries like France and Italy, post offices have expanded into banking services, offering savings accounts, loans, and insurance. While no decision has been made in Canada, observers say postal banking is one option that could help both generate revenue and fill gaps left by commercial banks that have closed branches in rural areas.

Sustainability is another area under review. Canada Post has expressed interest in moving toward electric delivery vehicles in larger centres such as Regina and Saskatoon, while testing new approaches — including the potential use of drones — to reach northern and remote communities.

Analysts also suggest that by the end of the decade, post offices could be transformed into multi-use hubs that combine mail and parcel services with financial programs, government counters, and possibly even community space.

Saskatchewan Impact

For Saskatchewan residents, the effects of the changes could be wide-ranging. Some communities may see reduced delivery frequency or the closure of stand-alone post offices, while others could gain new services such as parcel lockers, Service Canada counters, or even postal banking if that option moves forward.

Officials have set a target of stopping Canada Post's financial losses within the next four years and moving the corporation toward profitability by the end of the decade. The challenge will be balancing financial realities with the essential role postal services play in rural and northern communities.

Infrastructure funding vital to communities as province pushes for renewal in Ottawa

By Chris Ashfield
Grasslands News

From lagoon expansions in Whitewood and Lipton to a new town hall in Broadview and lift station upgrades in Melville, southeast Saskatchewan communities have seen firsthand how cost-shared infrastructure programs like the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program strengthen quality of life and support economic growth. Local leaders say these investments are vital to keeping small towns vibrant and are now pushing Ottawa for a renewed commitment.

Government Relations Minister Eric Schmalz and Advanced Education Minister Ken Cheveldayoff are leading a Saskatchewan delegation to Ottawa this week to advocate for a new cost-shared agreement with the federal government. They will be joined by representatives from the province's largest cities—including Regina, Saskatoon, Moose Jaw, Prince Albert, Swift Current, North Battleford, and Yorkton—as well as the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities and the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association.

Since 2019, ICIP funding has supported 460 projects worth more than $2 billion across Saskatchewan. The federal government contributed $907 million, the province over $700 million, and municipalities and local partners added more than $475 million. In southeast Saskatchewan, the program has helped fund Whitewood's lagoon expansion, upgrades to Grenfell's water system, Broadview's swimming pool renewal, and major road and culvert improvements in rural municipalities such as Elcapo and Kingsley. Facilities like the Kipling arena and Indian Head's community recreation spaces have also benefitted from infrastructure dollars.

"We are making the case that Ottawa return to the successful cost-share models that support the stability and economic growth of our municipalities," Minister Schmalz said. "The bottom line is that investments into community-building projects are investments in a strong and stable nation."

Rural leaders say infrastructure renewal is critical to ensuring safety and supporting Saskatchewan's resource-driven economy. "Strengthening infrastructure in rural Saskatchewan is essential to improving quality of life and ensuring the safe and efficient transportation of the vital resources that help feed both our nation and the world," said SARM President Bill Huber.

Urban municipalities are also pressing for federal support, noting their role as service hubs. "We need a shared infrastructure program that ensures we can provide both the core infrastructure and quality of life infrastructure that keeps our communities vibrant and strengthens our province," said SUMA President Randy Goulden.

Although the existing ICIP agreement is set to run until 2034, it has already reached its funding capacity. With no new projects able to move forward, Saskatchewan leaders will meet with federal officials Oct. 1 and 2 to push for a new round of investment, arguing that stable infrastructure funding is essential to everything from safe drinking water in small towns to recreational facilities that help attract and keep families in rural Saskatchewan.

Two-thirds of Sask. people can't keep up with cost of living

Submitted
Grasslands News

A shocking new survey has found two-thirds of Saskatchewan people can't keep up with the cost of living, three quarters are stressed about money and more than half say it's difficult to feed their own families.

Still, the Sask. Party sits on its hands, doing nothing to lower costs for families and continuing to pile on tens of millions in egregious taxes for groceries, kids' clothing and more.

"It's been 18 years of this mismanaging, tax-and-squander government that cares only about propping up their friends and insiders," said Trent Wotherspoon, Saskatchewan NDP Finance Shadow Minister. "Self-reliant Saskatchewan people are working harder and harder and still falling farther behind.

"It's time to end the taxes on groceries on clothing and end the constant run of financial waste and mismanagement by Scott Moe and his ministers."

The new survey, conducted by Angus Reid, found cost of living was the No. 1 issue facing 62 per cent of Saskatchewan people. More than a quarter (26 per cent) said they were worried about the Sask. Party's deficit and government spending.

As well, among Saskatchewan people surveyed:

• 66 per cent said they can't keep up with the cost of living, the highest rate in the country

• 51 per cent say it is difficult to feed their household, the highest rate in the country

• 76 per cent say they're stressed about money

• 69 per cent say debt is a source of stress in their household

• 57 per cent said they would not be able to manage a "one-time unexpected expense" of over $1000 this month

• 41 per cent said it is difficult to make either rent or mortgage payments

• As well, 69 per cent said they're going to restaurants less, 58 per cent said they're less likely to order takeout, 56 per cent are spending less on entertainment and 50 per cent are spending less on travel and vacations

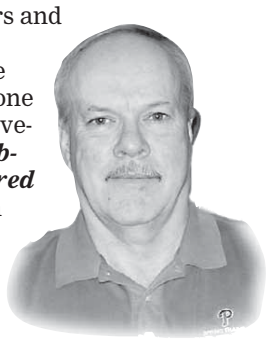
"This survey makes it clear that most Saskatchewan people don't have a dollar to spare," Wotherspoon said. "It's having a massive impact on their quality of life and on the local small businesses, restaurants and tourism ventures they would typically support with their hard-earned money.

"This is bad for people's wallets and bad for the economy. It's time for a government that's focused on building a future where everyone can pay the bills, put a roof over their head, food on the kitchen table and still be able to put a little money away for retirement and a well-deserved break."



Gene Hauta

It's a Strange World



Many mountain climbers and ultra-hikers may dream of scaling Mt. Everest, but the path to the summit is also one of the world's deadliest graveyards. More than ***200 climbers' bodies remain scattered*** across its icy slopes, frozen where they fell. In the thin air of the "Death Zone" (above 8,000 meters), recovery is nearly impossible. Since the bodies don't decay, they stay preserved for decades, sometimes forever. Some have become eerie landmarks for those still chasing the summit. The most infamous is "Green Boots," a climber whose fluorescent footwear made him an unavoidable marker on the Northeast Ridge route. For years, every climber had to crawl past his frozen form, a silent reminder of the risks.

A man is suing a Winnipeg grocer and some of his staff, alleging they left him concussed with fractures to his skull and permanent hearing and vision impairment after ***attempting to disrupt his efforts to steal*** a car outside the store. Michael Prince, 36, is seeking damages in a lawsuit against Dino's Food Mart, manager Rajan Varma and eight unnamed staff. Prince says he is unable to seek, and maintain, employment and also suffers from constant fear, anxiety, apprehensiveness, depression and feelings of worthlessness as a result. Prince admits he stole a jacket from Dinos, that contained a wallet and key fob. He later returned to use the fob to steal a car parked outside the store. "The amount of force used against him was far in excess of what was necessary to execute a citizen's arrest or detain him pending the arrival of law enforcement," the lawsuit says. Crown prosecutors did not authorize charges against Varma or his staff, even though someone used a hammer in the "assault".

I had not heard of the term, 'rolling coal' before this. The disgusting and unhealthy stunt is to open the door to a building, usually a restaurant and letting a blast of diesel exhaust enter. ***Rolling coal is illegal*** because it relies on aftermarket devices that bypass vehicles' emissions control systems. The worst case of rolling coal happened near Houston, when a teenager ran over six cyclists while allegedly engaging in the misbehavior. He was later indicted on six counts of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon. At the very least, the tactic should be assault and charges can be escalated if bodily injury occurs,

Authorities responded to an apartment in West Houston, Texas, finding ***three toddlers who led officers to the bodies of the parents***, dead in a suspected murder-suicide. Neighbors initially came upon the "hungry and thirsty" children, ages 1 to 3, outside the home. It appears that a 26-year-old man shot the mother of the children before turning the gun on himself. The woman had discussed leaving her husband, but, "Her main thing is that she didn't want to leave because of the kids." It appears that the kids were in the house with their dead parents for at least a day.

"90 per cent of bald men still own a comb. They just can't part with it." I know, I know… sorry.

An 85-year-old man lost his life after ***a herd of cows charged him and his wife*** during a hike in the Austrian Alps. The retired couple from Vienna was walking their dog near a mountain hut in Styria province when nine cows, including three calves, suddenly stampeded. The man and his 82-year-old wife were airlifted to a hospital in Salzburg but the man died before surgery could be performed. Witnesses say the cows were apparently disturbed by the couple's dog, a mixed breed that was slightly injured. Fatal encounters with cows are rare in Austria, where cattle typically graze unfenced in popular hiking regions, but a woman was fatally trampled by cows last year while hiking with her two small dogs in Salzburg. In response to a fatal cow attack a decade ago, Austria introduced safety guidelines for mountain walkers, such as maintaining a safe distance from cattle and to keep dogs on a short leash.

A state-appointed North Carolina elections official resigned after he was arrested and accused of ***spiking his granddaughters' ice cream*** with illicit narcotics. I would hope so. James Edwin Yokeley Jr., 66, had been chairman of the Surry County Board of Elections before he submitted his letter of resignation. Of course, his letter was full of accusations of false charges. Yokeley was booked on suspicion of contaminating food with a controlled substance and felony child abuse, and no possible explanation was offered. The man was obsessed with the results of the 2020 election and spewed RJK, Jr's, anti-vaccine rhetoric.

Until next time, keep reading between the lines...

NDP accuses Sask Party of stacking the deck on SHA board

By Ryan Kiedrowski
Grasslands News

The NDP's Shadow Health Minister Meara Conway attempted to fire a healthcare cannonball across the bow of the Saskatchewan Health Authority's board recently, accusing the provincial government of stacking the deck with 'political loyalists.'

"Our healthcare system has become bloated, top-heavy and disconnected from local communities because the Sask Party is stacking its leadership with their political insiders," Conway told reporters during a press conference at the Legislature in Regina on Sept. 24. "It should be frontline workers and healthcare experts filling those senior positions - not the best friends of Moe and his ministers."

Conway began naming those people connected with both the governing Sask Party and the SHA, noting the two most senior members and "at least half of the SHA board" have such ties.

Included in the list were SHA board chair Arlene Wiks; former Health Ministers Paul Merriman, and (SHA vice-chair) Tyler Bragg; Everett Hindley; Jim Billington; Brenda Abrametz; Marilyn Charlton; and Gary Zabos.

"The SHA should operate independent of politicians here in Regina, not at their behest," Conway said. "To build a strong health care system for the future, we must take resources and decision-making power away from political insiders in Regina and give it back to local leaders, frontline workers, and healthcare experts."

When asked if the NDP has previously raised the concern of how the SHA board is comprised, Conway admitted that they had not.

During a constituency tour on Sept. 25 that saw stops in Grenfell, Whitewood, and Moosomin, Premier Scott Moe was asked for his reaction to the NDP's claims and if the SHA board might see changes as a result.

"There's a number of people in this province that will donate to one party or to the other," he told Grasslands News. "For the last 15 or 20 years, we've been in a situation in Saskatchewan where probably more are interested in supporting the Saskatchewan Party than the NDP. That's how it is. You're going to see that type of discrepancy on a number of boards whether they be private sector boards or whether they be public sector boards that are appointed as well."

Premier Moe emphasized that members of the SHA are chosen based on their credentials and not political affiliation.

"I would ask the NDP to start to question the credentials of the public members that are essentially donating their time and their expertise to make decisions on behalf of all Saskatchewan residents and quit questioning which political party - federally or provincially - they might support," he said. "These are capable people that we have the utmost of faith in, and there won't be any changes."

Consultations launched

A province-wide consultation about the future of healthcare in Saskatchewan was also launched last week as the NDP promised to deliver 'big bold change' for a system in crisis.

"We used to lead the country in healthcare. Now, under the Sask. Party, we rank dead last," Conway said. "Healthcare workers are leaving in droves. The system is broken, but we believe Saskatchewan people can help us fix it."

Conway and Shadow Minister for Rural and Remote Health, Jared Clarke, urged the public to visit YourCareYourSay.ca as a place where residents can make their voices heard.

"We're excited to have launched our consultation to hear from Saskatchewan people around how to fix health care," Clarke told Grasslands News. "This is really an opportunity for patients, for family members, for health care workers, to send in their thoughts, their experiences about how healthcare is going from their perspective, and for us to gather that information."

Clarke added that they will be reaching out to various stakeholders in the healthcare field across the province, including community leaders and local healthcare professionals.

"We want to talk to as many people as we can, because we know that healthcare isn't working for so many people - especially in rural Saskatchewan," he said.

The consultation is planned to take place over the next six months before a report is published with findings based on those community suggestions.

"It's not a firm timeline," Clarke said of the consultation process. "We want to talk to as many people as we can, and so however long that takes us. But the end goal is to have a document that we can share publicly about what we've heard from people, and then move forward with some of these big, bold ideas."

Clarke also noted that the NDP aren't planning to create an entirely new system when it comes to healthcare in the province, and some programs currently in place will likely stay that way – depending on the results of consultations.

"Part of this consultation is about hearing what's working well," he said. "We're not talking about dismantling the entire system, but we want to hear from people about what is working well in the health care system and what isn't. What things should we be bolstering and adding on to, and what things do we need to revamp and take a new look or a new approach to delivering."



GRASSLANDS NEWS

Stacked deck

Meara Conway, Shadow Health Minister for the NDP, accused the Sask Party of cherry-picking political friends on the SHA board.

CT scanner still on pause

One of those concerns is that of a CT scanner in the region– something long awaited and continually at a standstill.

"There's work being done," assured Kevin Weedmark, MLA for Moosomin-Montmartre. "(The) SHA has been to the facility and taken a look, and there's still two routes it could go. There's the private route or the SHA route."

Determining how much the project will cost and how the equipment could fit into the Moosomin facility are lingering questions.

"The first question is, let's figure out what's involved, what's the cost," Weedmark told Grasslands News. "That's the work that's being done now. SHA had their head of medical imaging out earlier in the summer, and then again in August, doing some work, taking, taking some notes, and then just trying to figure out exactly what the next steps could be."

Expanding on that statement, Premier Moe noted the long-term considerations involved.

"Some of the work that needs to happen now on the operational costs, where it would go, what those capital costs might be, and do we have the qualified folks to continue the operation for not just the next year or two, but for years in the future," he said. "So, there are some questions to answer before you invest in a piece of infrastructure like that to ensure that it's going to be available today, but the need is certainly there."

Similar responses were provided the same time last year when then-Minister of Rural and Remote Health, Tim MacLeod, spoke of a formal assessment being required back in September 2024. At that time, preliminary conversations with Prairie Sky Medical Imaging were also noted as happening.

To date, $307,204.85 of the estimated $1.5 million price tag has been fundraised for a CT scanner in Moosomin. According to a wait time snapshot published on Sept. 4 by the provincial government, there are 8,377 people (as of the end of June 2025) in Saskatchewan waiting for a CT scan (an increase of 567 since March 31). Recent data also shows nine out of 10 patients in Saskatchewan waited 82 days or fewer for a CT scan, but some have also been on the waiting list for over a year anticipating a call.

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Salesman/Foreman
Brian Rathgeber
306-730-9225

Office Manager
Virginia Vargo
306-783-9437
Fax: 306-782-4110

UPCOMING SALES

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Wednesday 8th Presort Sale Angus Influence	10AM
Wednesday 15th Presort Sale Simmental Influence	10AM
Wednesday 22nd Presort Sale Angus Influence	10AM
Wednesday 29th Presort Sale Simmental Influence	10AM

NOVEMBER

Wednesday 5th Presort Sale - All Breeds	10AM
Wednesday 12th Presort Sale - All Breeds	10AM
Friday 14th Bred Cow & Heifer Sale	11AM
Wednesday 19th Presort Sale	10AM
Friday 14th Bred Cow & Heifer Sale	11AM
Wednesday 26th Presort Sale	10AM

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Career Explorations returns to Yorkton

Submitted
Grasslands News

After a two-year hiatus, Career Explorations is back! This signature event, hosted in partnership by Good Spirit School Division, Christ the Teacher Catholic School Division, and Suncrest College, offers students and community members a unique opportunity to explore careers, training programs, and education pathways.

Career Explorations 2025 will take place at the Gallagher Centre in Yorkton on Tuesday, October 7. The morning session will welcome over 1,600 high school students, while the afternoon session, from 12:00 to 2:00 PM, is open to the public.

The event features 70+ employers and education exhibitors, interactive presentations, and hands-on activities, giving attendees a chance to learn about a wide range of careers and post-secondary options.

This year's event is made possible thanks to generous sponsors: CN Railway as the title sponsor, and Rocky Mountain Equipment, Legacy Co-op, and The Mosaic Company as premium sponsors. Their support helps make this valuable career exploration experience accessible to everyone.

"Career Explorations is a fantastic opportunity for students and community members to connect with employers and educational institutions in one place. We're excited to bring the event back and help people discover what's possible for their future," said Jenna Niebergall, Manager of Marketing & Public Relations at Suncrest College.



SUBMITTED I GRASSLANDS NEWS

Explore Careers
Suncrest College's Career Explorations 2025 will feature more than 70 employers and education exhibitors and more for students to learn about.

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Eagles Nest Care Clinic Opens in Fort Qu'Appelle

By Alan Hustak
Grasslands News

A unique $7 million Indigenous cultural health care facility that opened in Fort Qu'Appelle on Tuesday, Sept. 30 was described as being "the icing of the cake" for the All Nations' Healing Hospital.

In addition to basic health care, Eagle's Nest Care Clinic provides counseling services that respect the spiritual and traditional needs of its patients.

"There are two kinds of medicine," Tribal Chief Jeremy Fourhorns explained. "This is more than just prescribing cures. It goes a long way to understanding mental health. This provides a space that respects our culture and combines traditional Indigenous practices with western medicine. We have the benefit of sharing our strengths with others."

Designed by Regina's Kreate architecture, the building has seven care units and a bright, spacious reflection room.

Ibraham Kahn, the federal government's Indigenous Services medical representative in the province said the new pavilion offers area residents an "exciting opportunity "to receive services that are traditionally and culturally grounded. This doesn't exist anywhere else. We need more and more of that," he said,

Saskatchewan's minister of Remote and Rural Health Care, Lori Carr, agreed that the Eagle's Nest represents "an approach to medicine that allows patients to direct their own care. Everyone stepped up to make it a reality. "

The hospital's legal counsel, Allan Brayband, described the unit as a "model for the future, a fundamental, state of the art facility that integrates holistic, medical and spiritual elements. It is a facility that First Nations can be proud of."



ALAN HUSTAK I GRASSLANDS NEWS

Ribbon cutting
Piapot elder Murray Ironchild cuts the ribbon to inaugurate the $7-million Eagle's Nest Primary Health Care facility at the All Nations' Healing Hospital in Fort Qu'Appelle.

RM of North Qu'Appelle No.187 SASKATCHEWAN
Valley of Festivals

PUBLIC NOTICE

RM of NORTH QU'APPELLE NO. 187

Amend Zoning Bylaw 13-08

Public notice is hereby given that the Council of the Rural Municipality of North Qu'Appelle No.187 intends to adopt a bylaw under *The Planning and Development Act, 2007* to amend Bylaw #13-08 known as the Zoning Bylaw.

INTENT: The proposed bylaw amendment will allow for larger rural residence site areas in the A- Agriculture District at Council discretion

AFFECTED LAND: The proposed bylaw will affect all A-Agriculture District land.

REASON: The amendment is intended to provide flexibility for Council to approve larger rural residence sites where appropriate.

PUBLIC HEARING: Council will hold a public hearing at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, October 14th in the Council Chambers at 136 Company Avenue S, Fort Qu'Appelle to hear any person or group that wants to comment on the proposed bylaw. The Council will also consider written comments received at the hearing or delivered to the undersigned at the municipal office prior to the hearing.

PUBLIC INSPECTION: Any person may inspect the bylaw at the RM office during regular office hours. Copies are available at a cost.

Issued at Rural Municipality of North Qu'Appelle, September 26, 2025

Charmain Wowk,
Chief Administrative Officer

NDP launches province-wide consultations on healthcare reform

By GNG Staff
Grasslands News

Saskatchewan's NDP Opposition has launched a campaign calling for "big, bold change" in healthcare, saying the province's system is in crisis after nearly two decades of Sask. Party governance.

On Monday, NDP Shadow Health Minister Meara Conway and Shadow Minister for Rural and Remote Health Jared Clarke announced a series of province-wide consultations aimed at hearing from patients, frontline workers, families, and community leaders. They argue the current centralized model under the Saskatchewan Health Authority has failed to meet local needs.

"We used to lead the country in healthcare. Now, under the Sask. Party, we rank dead last," said Conway. "Healthcare workers are leaving in droves. The system is broken, but we believe Saskatchewan people can help us fix it."

The NDP says the consultations will gather input to help design a system that shifts more decision-making power back into local communities. Clarke said he wants to see frontline expertise play a greater role in directing resources. "Healthcare decisions should be made by the people on the frontlines and in the communities who live this every single day," he said.

The Sask. Party government, however, maintains it has made record investments in healthcare and is actively addressing staffing shortages. Health Minister Everett Hindley has repeatedly pointed to initiatives such as the recruitment of nurses and doctors from the Philippines, expanded training seats in Saskatchewan, and new urgent care centres in Regina and Saskatoon as evidence that the system is improving.

Government officials have also argued that centralizing health administration under the Saskatchewan Health Authority in 2017 was intended to reduce duplication and improve coordination across the province. While critics say the change has created a "bloated" bureaucracy, the province contends it has allowed for more consistent care standards and a unified response to challenges like the COVID-19 pandemic.

Clarke, however, said local voices remain sidelined. "Saskatchewan has a legacy of pursuing bold ideas in healthcare when others would not. We have done this before and we can do it again."

The consultations will take place throughout the fall, with the NDP encouraging residents to provide feedback through town halls and the website YourCareYourSay.ca.

As the Opposition pushes its vision of community-led reform, the Sask. Party insists its focus will remain on stabilizing the workforce and improving access to services — setting the stage for healthcare to be a defining issue in the next provincial election.

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Letter to Editor: Fort RCMP story quote clarified

Dear Editor,

I feel I must draw your attention to an article in the Sept. 26 edition of The Times in which I am quoted as saying "I'm a great believer in Truth and Reconciliation, but it has to work both ways."

That is not accurate. What I actually said was "I am a great believer in Truth and Reconciliation, but everyone needs to participate."

The former indicates that I believe that there are only two sides to reconciliation when in fact, I believe that there are no discernable sides and the intimation that there are only two implies a conflict between two parties. It further implies that by saying "it has to work both ways", that I feel that one side is not participating.

Truth and reconciliation must be the topic of conversation between all citizens. Both Indigenous and non-Indigenous. There are also stakeholders in government at all levels as well as non-citizens and new Canadians that may come from other cultures.

It's about engagement, honesty and mutual respect.

Thank you!

- Larry E. Kurtenbach, S/Sgt.
Detachment Commander
Fort Qu'Appelle Detachment
Royal Canadian Mounted Police

Zacharuk resigns from Fort Q. Town Council

By Alan Hustak
Grasslands News

Rebecca Zacharuk has resigned from Fort Qu'Appelle's town council citing what she calls the "ongoing harassment" and personal attacks from her fellow councillors over a matter that she thought had been resolved.

Zacharuk is being treated for an attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. Earlier this year an independent inquiry ruled that even though "both sides were to blame," she violated the town's code of ethics. The investigation by Campbell Consultants determined that while Zacharuk was "keen and insightful," she went beyond simple enthusiasm in efforts to undermine the authority of the Chief Administrative Officer and that of the Office Manager.

Zacharuk worked for the town of Fort Qu'Appelle before she was elected to council. She said "the harsh and personal statements" made about her by fellow councilors during the inquiry resulted in her having severe anxiety attacks. She felt mentally threatened by attending council meeting in person and chose instead to be present by Zoom.

On Sept. 11 council requested further information about Zacharuk's medical condition from a qualified practitioner prompting her to quit. In her letter of resignation Zacharuk explained that the constant targeting and retaliation against her left her "no choice but to step away." The date for a by election to fill the seat will be set at the next meeting of council.

Pitch Made for a Destination Hotel

Former councillor Larry Schultz has again appealed to council to rezone a parcel of land near the Fort Qu'Appelle campground so developers can build a destination hotel on the property. The land is in a flood zone. But in his submission to council Schultz insisted that the property is in fact on top of a hill two meters above the flood zone and "has never been flooded and it never will be flooded. There is room there for a beautiful hotel and ten condos," he said. "We need to rezone it and do a survey. All council has to do is make the property available and offer it for sale for a destination hotel." Schultz said a "high end" land developer from Emerald Park, Dwayne Walbaum has expressed interest and pleaded with council not to "sacrifice the beautiful piece of property for a dog run."



ALAN HUSTAK I GRASSLANDS NEWS

Stepping down
Rebecca Zacharuk is the second Fort Qu'Appelle councillor to quit this year.

Mayor Brian Strong, however, said it isn't up to council to make the decision. "I hear you, but I don't think we can make headway. You have to convince the water security agency and the planning authority."

Schultz wasn't convinced.

"If we want to work at it a little bit you can always change the community plan," he replied.

Community Crop Harvested

This year's wheat crop is in and is expected to be worth about $40,000 before expenses are paid. The 130 acres at the top of the valley east of town was left to the town by Murray Rolley who died in 1984. During Mayor Gus Lagace's term council was persuaded to profit from the land by planting its own crop instead of leasing out the land.

GST Rebate

The town has found a little extra in its bank account after receiving a $150,000 dollar Goods and Services Tax rebate. The amount of the rebate varies, and council never knows in advance how much the town will get.





Town of Fort Qu'Appelle

136 Boundary Ave. S. - P.O. Box 309 S0G 1S0
Phone: 306-332-5266
Email: forttown@sasktel.net **Website:** www.fortquappelle.com

Council Meeting

The next Town of Fort Qu'Appelle Council Meeting is Thursday, Oct. 9 & Thursday, Oct. 23 at 7 p.m. at the Town of Fort Qu'Appelle Municipal Building. All meetings are open to the public. Come and see your council in action.

Office Hours

Reminder that the office is closed over lunch from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m.

Email Changes

Please be advised that effective Monday, September 1, 2025, we are changing our e-mail addresses:
CAO – fortcao@sasktel.net is now cao@fortquappelle.com
Assistant CAO/Office Manager – Fortreception@sasktel.net is now manager@fortquappelle.com
Utilities – forttown@sasktel.net is now utilities@fortquappelle.com
Public Works – fortutilities@sasktel.net is now publicworks@fortquappelle.com
****PLEASE NOTE OUR E-TRANSFER EMAIL WILL STILL BE fortreception@sasktel.net****
Please update your contacts in your address book!

E-transfer Payment

Reminder to residents that when making an e-transfer payment to the Town Office, please specify your civic address and what payment you are making.

Ice Rental

The Prairie Co-op Rexentre ice rentals will be available starting Saturday, September 13, 2025. Please contact Jarrod at fortrec@sasktel.net to book your time.

Did you have a garage sale this summer?

Kindly remove your posters from trees and message boards after your event is over.

Garbage & Recycling

Garbage and recycling dates for June are as follows:

Area A Garbage – October 10 & 24	Area A Recycle – October 3, 17 & 31
Area B Garbage – October 3, 17 & 31	Area B Recycle – October 10 & 24

Fall Clean Up

The Town will be picking up yard debris including branches and leaves on the following dates:

October 28 & 30 and November 12 & 13

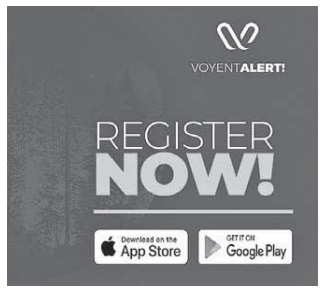
Please have yard debris and leaves bagged and placed where you would place your green bin. Please try to stack your branches. Black garage bags are permitted.

Welcome to Council

At the meeting on Thursday, September 25, 2025, our newest member of council, Kory McNabb was sworn in.

Voyent Alert! – Keep Informed!

For Mobile App Alerts: Download and install Voyent Alert! App from the Apple or Google Play Store. For Email, Text Message or Voice Call Alerts: Register online at http://register.voyent-alert.com Or you can come to the Town Office and we will register for you!! Please sign up as there is no cost to the user!



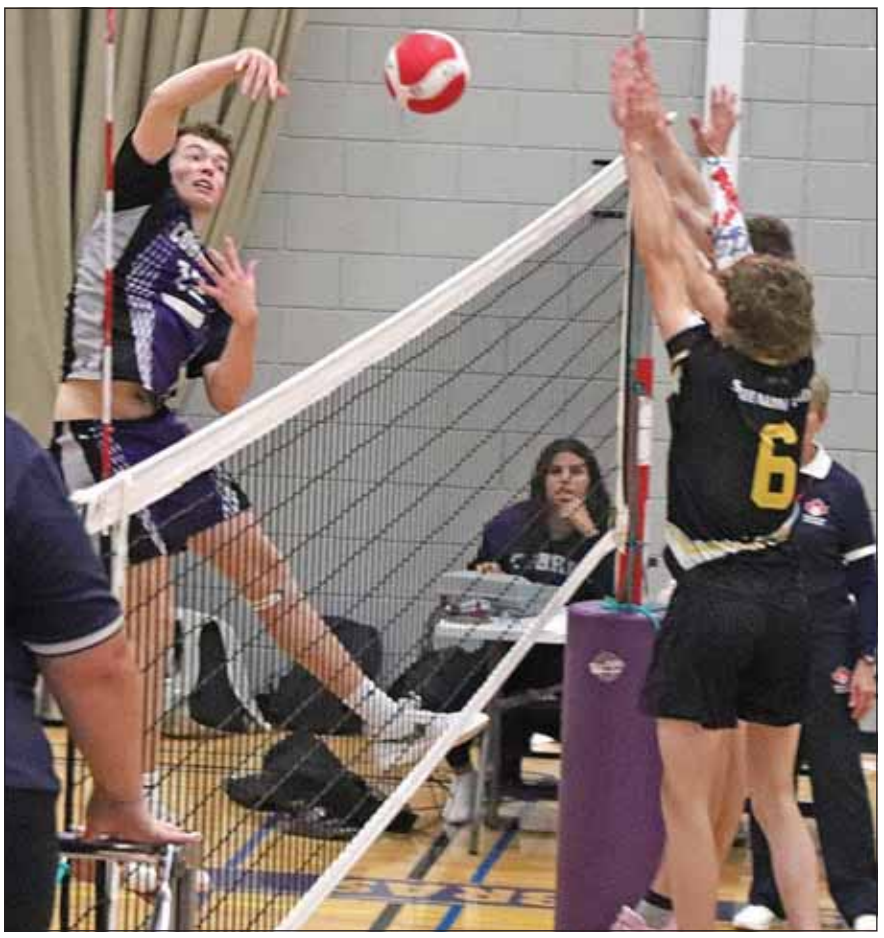
2025 Property Taxes

Taxes are due December 31, 2025. Tax payments must be received by our office on or before the due date. If paying through your bank or mobile banking app, please pay at least five (5) business days prior to the due date to allow for processing. After December 31, 2025, there will be a 15 per cent (%) interest charge added to any outstanding taxes. E-transfers can be sent to fortreception@sasktel.net ONLY.

Eagles Nest Grand Opening

Council congratulates the opening of Eagles Nest Primary Health Clinic. Mayor Strong and CAO McLeod attending the ribbon cutting ceremony on Monday, September 29, 2025.

SPORTS



JACOB MILLER I GRASSLANDS NEWS

Tournament Gold

The Melville Comprehensive School (MCS) Senior Boys Volleyball team won gold at their home tournament this past weekend. The tournament took place from Sept. 26 to 27 at MCS and featured teams from Melville, Sturgis, Fox Valley, Langenburg, Canora, Esterhazy, Leroy, Estevan and Carnduff. The Sr. Boys started the tournament with a win over Langenburg and found themselves playing in the final against Carnduff.

Knox begin title defence with win over Storm

By GNG Staff
Grasslands News

The Fort Knox picked up this season right where they left off last time out – as winners.

Playing their first official Prairie Junior Hockey League game since winning last season's championship, the Knox made short work of the visiting Pilot Butte Storm on Saturday, staking out a 3-0 lead before the second period was two minutes old en route to an 8-3 win in their 2025-26 debut at the Prairie Co-op Rexentre in Fort Qu'Appelle.

Second-year forward Jaydence Ironquill scored the game's first goal and the insurance marker, with six of teammates also finding the back of the net behind Storm goalie Dylan Koback.

Madden Wallis, Tadem Anardi, Tanner Wiens (game-winning goal), Devante Pratt-Fry, Tomas Hauber and Shaden Duliak also scored for the Knox.

Tyson Nakonecki, Luke Bryant and Luke Hanrieder replied for Pilot Butte.

Neither team scored on the power play, of which each side had three, and new Fort Qu'Appelle goalie Drew Pereyma made 16 saves for the season-opening victory.

The Knox are back in action Friday, October 3 against Pereyma's former club, the Regina Capitals (Al Ritchie Arena, 7:45 p.m.), while the Storm – who also played Wednesday in Assiniboia – will host the Regina Silver Foxes on Saturday at 7:45 p.m. in Pilot Butte's home opener.

And the Moosomin Steelhawks are scheduled to make their PJHL debut Friday, October 3 in Assiniboia against the Southern Rebels.

The Silver Foxes acquired 2006-born defenceman and former Knox skater Dalyn Stevenson from Assiniboia in a trade posted to the league website Sept. 22. Stevenson played two games with Fort Qu'Appelle during the 2023-24 season.

That deal was posted three days after the Silver Foxes also sent captain Jett Lamb to the Storm.



ALAN HUSTAK I GRASSLANDS NEWS

Fort Knox bling

Fort Knox captain River Banks (centre) with his teammates Tadem Anardi (left) and Jacob Booth (right) proudly display their Prairie Junior Hockey League championship rings. The team overwhelmed Pilot Butte Storm 8-2 before more than 300 fans in the season opener on Saturday, Sept. 27.

High school golf championships held

By GNG Staff
Grasslands News

Consistency was the name of the game for Wyatt Frei of Gray at this year's Saskatchewan High Schools Athletic Association provincial golf championship.

Representing Milestone School, Frei fired matching rounds of 80 on Sept. 26 and Saturday to finish this year's male competition in ninth place, 13 strokes back of Saskatoon's Ethan Hunter, who won the tournament with a two-day total of 147.

The top local female finisher, Addison Hamilton of Whitewood, also placed ninth after shooting rounds of 92 and 98 in the hilly confines of Golf Kenosee.

Saskatoon's Grace Odnokon won the female event with a two-day total of 155.

Other local competitors in the male tournament included Wawota student Kellyn Cudmore (23rd – 89-90-169), Wawota's Brock Dorrance (26th – 84-86-170), Wawota's Cruze Beauchesne (40th – 95-82-177) and Balgonie Greenall's Ben Schmalenberg (45th – 93-87-180).

Other local competitors in the female tournament were Moosomin's Vaida Moss (22nd – 105-109-214), Indian Head's Brynn Ager (32nd – 108-121-229), Melville's Gabby Safruik (33rd – 113-117-230) and Moosomin's Cydney Nixon (37th – 106-136-242).

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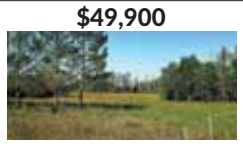
151 - 5th Ave E, Melville
MLS# SK993115
Vacant Lot

$14,800

102 Montreal ST, Melville
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Vacant Land

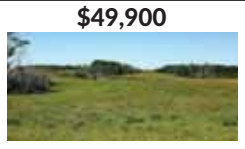
$14,900

318 Alberta ST, Melville
MLS# SK009254
Vacant Land

$49,900

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Vacant Lot

$49,900

105 Piller Rd, Melville
MLS# SK990778
Vacant Lot

$49,900

249 Agri-Park Rd, Melville
MLS# SK990773
Vacant Lot

$93,000

356 - 2nd Ave. E, Melville
MLS# SK015607
House | 2 bds, 1 bth

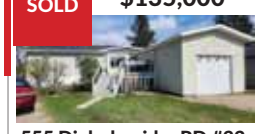
$110,000

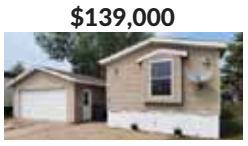
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MLS# SK992339
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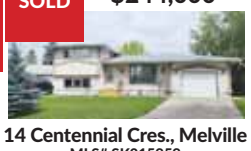
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MLS# SK008239
House | 3 bds, 2 bth

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House | 3 bds, 2 bth

$139,000

555 Dielschneider RD #8, Melville MLS# SK007917
House | 3 bds, 2 bth

$215,000

444 - 10th Ave. W, Melville
MLS# SK018624
House | 4 bds, 2 bth

SOLD
$244,000

14 Centennial Cres., Melville
MLS# SK015959
House | 4 bds, 2 bths

$289,900

133 - 10th Ave. W, Melville
MLS# SK003836
House | 5 bds, 2 bth

SOLD
$475,000

859 Montreal St., Melville
MLS#SK993004
House |3 bds, 3 bths

PRICE DROP
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456-Abel Dr., Crooked Lake
MLS# SK008969
House | 3 bds, 4 bth

$999,999

424-Abel Dr., Crooked Lake
MLS# SK988185
House | 6 bds, 5 bths

Mils, Broncos take games to Over-time and Shoot-Out

By Darcy Gross
Grasslands News

The Melville Millionaires didn't earn a victory in two games last weekend, but they still picked up a pair of points.

Melville Millionaires 3 at Humboldt Broncos 4 (OT, Sept. 27)

This contest was close throughout as each team took turns holding leads, but at the end of the day, it was the Broncos who dented the twine in extra time to pick up their second straight win over the Millionaires.

Melville led 2-1 after the opening frame and the game was knotted at 2-2 after 40 minutes of play.

The Broncos took the lead early in the third period with the Millionaires getting back on even terms near the 16-minute mark.

Forward Yibin Yoo led all point getters for the Millionaires, being credited with a couple of assists while Edward Knittig, Matthew Edwards and Wesley Golden each notched their first goal of the SJHL season.

Grady Carmichael and Wesley Olson each picked up a helper for the Millionaires.

Noah Sinagowitz was outstanding between the pipes for the visitors, turning aside 43 of the 47 shots he faced while Melville skaters tested the Broncos' goaltender 35 times.

The Millionaires were the more penalized of the two teams, getting the gate for 10 of the 19 minors called.

Humboldt Broncos 4 at Melville Millionaires 3 (SO, Sept. 26)

The Millionaires had a number of chances to score in this match-up but weren't able to put enough distance between themselves and the Broncos and it cost them.

The Broncos scored the only goal of the first period with the Millionaires coming out of the middle stanza with a 3-2 advantage.

Jacob Strizzi, who has been on a tear offensively for the Broncos, tied the game on the power play, just past the 13-minute mark of third, with his fifth goal of the season, sending the teams to overtime.

After a scoreless five-minute session, it was time for the shootout with the Broncos coming out on top after each team used eight shooters.

Rylan Oatman led the way for the Millionaires, lighting the lamp once and adding a helper for a two-point night.

Clayton Gillmore and Brendan Olson each notched their first tallies of the year to round out Melville's scoring. Brodie Hicks, Boston Harkness, Brayden Gourly, Edwards and Leo Jewitt each collected a single assist for the Millionaires.

Kael Svenson made 39 saves in the Melville cage as the Millionaires tested the Broncos' goalie 43 times.

The Millionaires were the aggressors in this contest, getting whistled for nine of the game's 14 minor infractions.

The Millionaires finished off September with a home game against the Nipawin Hawks on the 30th, and on Oct. 3 they'll make the trek to Weyburn to face off with the Red Wings, with the Wings returning the favour at the CNCC in Melville on Oct. 4.

Game time for home games is 7 p.m.

Sports column – Darcy Gross

Gross Misconduct

For a true sports fan, this is the best time of the year.

And in saying "sports fan," we're talking about people who are invested in a multitude of sporting pursuits, not simply a hockey or football fan.

October is the month when Major League Baseball playoffs start, the Canadian Football League hits mid-season, all sorts of hockey starts up and the NFL is beginning to get interesting.

As a youngster, sports were probably the most important things happening at any particular time of the year, but there was always something special about October.

I can recall being allowed to set up a TV tray to watch playoff baseball on our little 20 inch, black and white television, while eating supper with my folks.

We would all gather around the set and watch superstar laden teams such as the Oakland Athletics and Cincinnati Reds of the early 1970s.

There were few things as satisfying as watching either the New York Yankees or Boston Red Sox lose a playoff game in those days.

It was an absolute treat for this scribe to watch Cincinnati's Big Red Machine, led by Sparky Anderson, who looked at least 20 years older than he was, or watch the A's, led by juggernaut catcher Gene Tenace and the man named for a month, Mr. October, Reggie Jackson.

Back in those days, before the Los Angeles Dodgers would simply buy every player available, cheering for them was possible, as they had guys named Dusty or The Penguin and a capable pitching staff.

I recall as a youngster, that naming the batting order for the Pittsburgh Pirates, the Reds and the A's seemed to take little brain power, as compared to today when there's so much on an adult mind.

My friends and I lived, breathed, ate and drank sports, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

On the weekends, when we were free from the shackles of school and our parents' rules, we'd relive the games and we wouldn't play only baseball, but we'd make sure we got in some street hockey and football as well.

And the game wasn't the same either.

Back in those days, it was normal to see a guy slide high, with the spikes up, to break up a double play at second. Many times the second baseman or the shortstop involved in that play would end up on their posterior, getting up and wiping the dust off before carrying on without any mention of bullpens emptying and a fight starting.

It was a rough game back in those days.

Pitchers wanted to own the inside part of home plate and if they dusted a few batters or knocked them down, that was just one of the hazards of playing in that bygone era.

You had to do something quite out of line before some hothead like Bert Campaneris would fire a bat at you from home plate.

If the umpire missed a play, there was no appeal process or any sort of strike zone robot to ensure that fans of one team were totally outraged at the end of a game.

Everyone understood human error and how it might affect their team or the opposition and in most cases, it would all even out over time.

At school we'd all argue about which team was better, who got "jobbed" and which team would win the next games.

Back in those days, it was only four teams that made it to the post season and when the National League and American League champs faced off, it was the first time those two clubs would play in that season, because the two leagues didn't have any interlocking play back then.

The scouting reports back in those days were more than likely quite a bit simpler than they are today, with a lot more reading and coaching and a whole lot less video.

It was always intriguing when a guy came up to face a pitcher for the first time. It was sort of like Canada and Russia in hockey – no one knew what to expect.

There was always more of a feeling out process, with hitters having an actual approach instead of just hacking away.

This year, the Blue Jays return to the playoffs and how great would it be to see them make it to the biggest stage in baseball, the World Series.

I can recall how exciting it was to see my team spray champagne and hopefully, some youngsters get to see their heroes do it this year – in Canada.

NHL's hot topics waiting for answers

By Bruce Penton
Sports Columnist

Fringe players in the National Hockey League will have special reason to enjoy the 2025-26 season, which gets under way this week, thanks to a nearly three-week break — book those Caribbean vacations, boys — smack dab in the middle of the 82-game regular season.

That's because the league's best players — McDavid, Matthews, Rantanen, Crosby et al — will be playing for their countries at the Olympic Games in Italy. The NHL schedule, which increases from 82 to 84 games per team next year, will be dark from Feb. 6 until play resumes on Feb. 25.

Picking the various countries' Olympic teams will be one of the most discussed aspects of the 2025-26 NHL season, but there are other hot topics, too. Such as …

— Can the Florida Panthers pull a three-peat? After beating Edmonton in the Stanley Cup final in back-to-back years, the team re-signed almost all of its key players and even though star forward Sasha Barkov could miss most or all of the season, there's no reason to believe coach Paul Maurice will not have another juggernaut on his hands;

— Is this the year Conner Bedard breaks out? The Blackhawks' phenom, still only 20 years old, is entering his third season, and will enjoy a stronger supporting cast thanks to a number of recent high draft picks. Bedard scored 22 goals in only 68 games in his rookie year, and slowed slightly in his sophomore year, potting 23 in 82 games. This might be the year he explodes.

— Which Canadian teams will dominate this year? Winnipeg Jets were regular season champs last year and will likely join Edmonton, Toronto and Montreal in the playoffs. Watch for the Canadiens to make the largest gains because their youthful contingent is among the league's best.

— Will this be Ovi's last year? Alex Ovechkin broke Wayne Gretzky's career goal record last season, finishing with 897. The Russian star just turned 40 but coming off a 44-goal season in just 65 games suggests he still has plenty in the tank.

— How will the Toews' experiment work in Winnipeg? Jonathan Toews, almost a surefire Hall of Famer after an outstanding 15-year career with Chicago Blackhawks, missed two full seasons due to COVID-related issues. He signed over the summer with his hometown team, the Jets, and at age 37, is expected to centre the team's second line. It was a big gainer for the Jets, who picked up a productive player without having to give up anything in return.

— Will the Hughes' brothers join forces? Quinn Hughes of Vancouver Canucks is among the NHL's elite defencemen. Jack Hughes of New Jersey Devils is among the league's elite forwards. Luke Hughes is not elite, but he's a solid blueliner with the Devils. Hot gossip around the league has the brothers wanting to join forces, which would mean the Canucks and New Jersey would have to swing a trade.

— Who will have the best sophomore season — Lane Hutson of Montreal? Macklin Celebrini of San Jose? Goalie Dustin Wolf of Calgary? Matvei Michkov of Philadelphia? Or someone else?

Stay tuned. We'll know the answers six months from now.

• RJ Currie of sportsdeke.com: "Recently, a college baseball game in Jacksonville was halted when an osprey dropped a fish in right field. Yes, well inside the fowl pole."

• Michael Rosenberg of SI.com after the U.S. fell far behind Europe on Saturday in the Ryder Cup: "I can think of some ways for the U.S. to win this, but they all involve food poisoning."

• Retired quarterback great Peyton Manning: "You hear about how many fourth-quarter comebacks that a guy has and I think it means a guy screwed up in the first three quarters."

• Headline at fark.com: "Head-butting soccer players at risk of brain damage, compared to players of real football who are already brain damaged."

• Cathal Kelly of the Globe and Mail, writing that the Blue Jays' success this year is due to the "little people … overperforming. Addison Barger, Ernie Clement, Tyler Heineman, Eric Lauer, Brendon Little, et al. You've heard of Murderers' Row? The 2025 Blue Jays are Misdemeanours' Row."

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

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High School Football Roundup

Melville, Lemberg footballers remain unbeaten

Greenall extends winning streak to three games

By GNG Staff
Grasslands News

The Melville Cobras and North Valley Eagles kept their respective undefeated seasons alive as the 2025 high school football season passed the midway point.

North Valley improved to 4-0 with a 60-0 whitewash of St. Brieux in the Eagles' final home game Sept. 23, while Melville beat the hometown Esterhazy Warriors 42-26 on Sept. 25.

That victory improved the Cobras' record to 3-0 atop the Saskatchewan High Schools Athletic Association's 4A nine-aside Conference 3.

North Valley's win preserved a tie for first with the Carrot River Wildcats (4-0) in the 1A six-aside Conference 4 – a standing that figures to be determined today when the Eagles make the three-and-a-half hour drive north to face the Wildcats.

Results from Melville's Thursday game against Yorkton Sacred Heart were not available at press time. The Cobras will next take the field this coming Thursday when they travel to Foam Lake (2-1) in what could also turn out to be a battle for first place.

The Indian Head Broncs meanwhile continue to look for their first win of the 4A nine-aside season after a 30-28 loss Sept. 26 to the visiting Shaunavon Shadows (2-1).

Indian Head and the Fort Qu'Appelle Bisons are currently tied for last in Conference 2 with 0-2 win-loss records and will be back in action Friday, October 3 against Moose Jaw's Vanier Vikings (1-1) and the Lumsden Devils (3-0) respectively.

And Balgonie's Greenall Griffins improved to 3-1 with a 34-11 road win Sept. 26 over the Yorkton Raider Gridders.

The second-place Griffins were seeking to extend their 5A 12-aside winning streak to four games Thursday when they hosted the Estevan Elecs at Regina's Leibel Field. Results from that game were not available at press time.

Broadview youth take part in Pass, Punt and Kick competition

Submitted
Grasslands News

Fifteen boys and girls from Broadview and Whitewood Schools competed in the 2025 Pass, Punt and Kick (PPK) local competition on Wednesday, Sept. 24. Organizers were grateful for Bandits Football players who assisted with spotting, marking ball placement and measuring each pass, punt and kick. Support from other volunteers was also greatly appreciated.

Local participants will advance to the PPK Regional Competition in Melville on Monday, Oct. 6 at 5 p.m. Winners of the regional event will move on to the provincial level and a competition at the University of Regina field on Sunday, Oct. 19. Provincial winners will attend a Roughrider game on Saturday, Oct. 25 where they will receive awards during a pre-game show.

The PPK winners from the local competition in Broadview were:

8U Boys - Pass - Henry Thompson; Punt - Ian Bartok and Kick - Cody Bartok.

10U Boys - Pass - Owen Markwart; Punt - Dallen Schlamp and Kick - Gabriellus Laroque.

12U Boys - Pass - Karp Rienks; Punt - Kohen Schlamp and Kick - Brody Moorhead.

12U Girls - Pass - Peyton Theriault and Punt - Hayley Bartok.

14U Boys - Pass - Ethan Moorhead; Boys punt - Liam Markwart and Boys kick - Tyler Bartok.

14U Girls - Kick - Kayla Theriault.



SUBMITTED I GRASSLANDS NEWS

Competitors moving on
Fifteen youth from Broadview and Whitewood will advance to the regional Pass, Punt, Kick competition in Melville Monday, Oct. 6.

Six locals to rep. Sask. at U18 hockey nationals

By GNG Staff
Grasslands News

Six local products – five players and one coach – have been named to Team Saskatchewan for the upcoming women's under-18 national hockey championship.

As announced Sept. 24 by Hockey Saskatchewan, this year's squad will include defencewomen Kahli Keen (White City) and Savannah Mucha (Melville), forwards Anneka Aspaas (Melville), Danika Dureau (White City) and Kendal Leader (Emerald Park), and assistant coach Courtney Mish (Glenavon).

Aspaas and Leader were members of last year's squad that placed fourth, losing the bronze medal game to British Columbia.

Keen, Dureau, Aspaas and Mucha all played last season with the Battlefords Sharks of the Saskatchewan Female Under-18 AAA Hockey League while Leader suited up for the Regina Rebels. Leader has since transferred to Rink HA Winnipeg's U18 prep team for the 2025-26 season.

Nationals are scheduled for Nov. 2-8 in Mount Pearl and Conception Bay South, Nfld. with eight teams competing in a round-robin schedule before moving into playoffs.

Saskatchewan is to open its tournament Nov. 2 facing Ontario Blue.

Other teams will include those representing B.C., Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario Red, Quebec and the Atlantic provinces.

Fort Knox Hockey
Game Schedule

Home/Away Games
OCTOBER:
03– Fort Kno at ExH Regina Caps 7:45
04– ExH Regina Caps at Fort Knox 7 pm
09– Pilot Butte Storm at Fort Knox 7:30
11– Fort Knox at Moosomin SH 8 pm
14– Moosomin SH at Fort Knox 7:30
17– Fort Knox at S'toon Westleys 8 pm

Pilot Butte Storm
Game Schedule

Home/Away Games
OCTOBER:
01– Pilot Butte Storm at Rebels 7:30
04– Silver Foxes at PB Storm 7:45
09– Pilot Butte Storm at Fort Knox 7:30
12– Rebels at PB Storm 4 pm
15– Capitals at PB Storm 8 pm
18– Royals at PB Storm 7:45
19– Thunder at PB Storm 4 pm

Melville Millionaires Jr. A Hockey
Game Schedule

Home/Away Games
All Games 7 p.m.
unless otherwise stated
OCTOBER:
03– Melville at Weyburn
04– Weyburn at Meville 6 p.m.
08– Flin Flon at Melville
10– Melville at Yorkton
11– Yorkton at Melville
17– Kindersley at Melville
18– Kindersley at Melville

Bowling Scores, Standings - Melville Bowl Arena

MONDAY P.M.
Sept. 29

Ladies' High Single, Triple and Average, Angela Dobson, 254, 738, 170.

Men's High Single, Doug Brewer, 284. Men's High Triple and Average, Joe Wu, 612, 182.

Team High Single and Triple, Dobson, 851, 2506.

Team	Pts.
Ostlund	12
Dobson	8.5
Bender	7
Stephens	4.5

MONDAY COMMERCIAL
Sept. 29

Ladies' High Single, McKenzie Wilson, 320. Ladies' High Triple, Brandy Lechner, 731. Ladies' High Average, Brittany Boyarski, 230.

Men's High Single, Lucas Litzenberger, 295, 751. Men's High Average, Destin Kohlenberg, 214.

Team High Single and Triple, Professional Amateurs, 1336, 3848.

Team	Pts.
Blame it on Garry	11
Pin Heads	11
Professional Amateurs	11
Gutter Girls	9
New	6

ST. HENRY'S
Sept. 23

Ladies' High Single and Triple, Angela Morgan, 1007, 509. Ladies' High Average Pat Brown, 167.

Men's High Single, Triple and Average, Gordon Ostlund, 265, 634, 195.

Team High Single and Triple, Just 4 Fun, 1265, 3710.

Team	Pts.
Just 4 Fun	11
Drifters	8
A Team	3
CCj	2

TUESDAY YBC
Sept. 23

Girls High Single and Triple, Amzlee Patterson, 164, 412,

Boys High Single and Triple, Jakob Unterschute, 150, 349.

Team High Single and Triple, Bowl Kings, 901, 2523.

Team	Pts.
Squishmellows	6
Bowl Kings	6

THURSDAY YBC
Sept. 25

Girls High Single and Triple, Emmi Hollinger, 195, 536.

Boys High Single and Triple, Braxton Hollinger, 197, 499.

Team High Single, Wurts, 873. Team High Triple, Curylo, 2478.

Team	Pts.
Kohlenberg	6.5
Wurts	7
Curylo	7.5
Hollinger	3

SATURDAY YBC
Sept. 27

Girls High Single and Triple, Laura Smidt, 129, 340.

Boys High Single and Triple, Remi Schneider, 175, 469.

Team High Single and Triple, Everythings, 837, 2428.

Team	Pts.
Everythings	8
The Enders	7
Bravehearts	6
Bowling Superstars	3

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Broncs and Shadows rumble to a close final

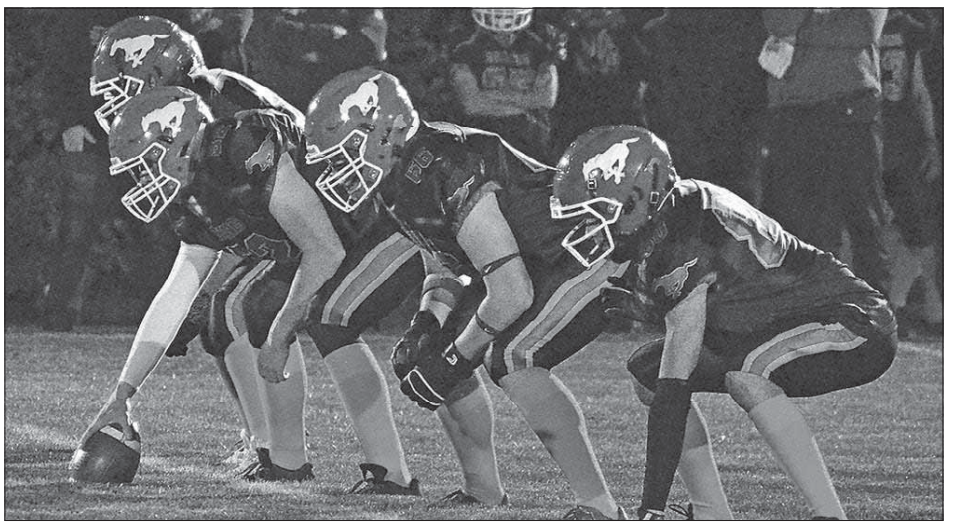
By Sarah Pacio
Grasslands News

The Indian Head High School football team welcomed fans to McCall Field for a game under the lights last Friday night.

The Indian Head Broncs faced off against the Shaunavon Shadows in their second game of the regular season on Friday, Sept. 26. After a difficult loss against Lumsden earlier in September, the Indian Head team was eager to prove itself.

Each team scored early in the game, but the Broncs pulled ahead 12-7 when Ayden Rieger ran the whole length of the field and scored a touchdown. Shaunavon fought back, but the Indian Head team persevered as well, and early in the fourth quarter the score was 21 to 20 in Shaunavon's favour. With four minutes left, the Shadows scored again. However, Rieger caught the ball after the kickoff and successfully ran to the end-zone for the second time that night. The score was tied 28-28 and only one minute was left on the clock when the game was brought to a halt while paramedics assisted an injured player from Indian Head. When play resumed, Shaunavon earned two final points with a blocked punt safety in their end zone, winning the game.

Halftime entertainment during Friday night's game included a Flag Football Showcase. Youth from the host school's flag football team demonstrated various drills for fans. Members of the Broncs' team have greatly contributed to running the flag football program this fall. Along with leading practices during the week, senior football players volunteered in various capacities at PVSD's annual Flag Football Jamboree on Sept. 27. The event was held at Indian Head High School and attended by several other teams from around the school division.



SARAH PACIO I GRASSLANDS NEWS

Play ready
The Indian Head Broncs are poised and ready to go on the scrimmage line. The Broncs hosted Shaunavon Shadows on Friday, Sept. 26 and came up losing 30-28.

SJHL Klippers end Broncos' undefeated streak at five games

By GNG Staff
Grasslands News

And then there was one.

The Humboldt Broncos are undefeated no longer after a 5-3 loss Monday to the Kindersley Klippers.

Humboldt led 3-2 at the halfway mark of the third period before Mason Eggen and Austin Osiowy scored just over four minutes apart to help Kindersley retake the lead.

Jacob Dennis scored into an empty net for his first goal of the year to seal the victory with 1:40 left on the clock.

After starting the 2025-26 Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League season allowing just one goal on 100 shots through his first three starts, Broncos' goalie Charlie Tritt allowed four goals on 46 shots in Monday's contest.

Humboldt also entered the game ranked second in the first national (Canadian Junior Hockey League) Top 20 rankings of the season which were released over the weekend.

Monday's result left the Flin Flon Bombers (No. 4 nationally) as the only undefeated team in the SJHL at 4-0.

Ahead of Monday's game, Tritt had been named the SJHL's MVP of the week while Bombers goalie Devin Peck was named goalie of the week. Peck started all four games for Flin Flon to start the year posting a .920 save percentage along the way.

Other weekly award winners to open the season were Gavin Granger of the Battlefords North Stars (defenceman of the week), Humboldt's Jacob Strizzi (forward of the week), Kindersley's Kaegan Lowe (rookie of the week) and Estevan Bruins forward Rylan Williams (Saskatchewan player of the week).

The Weyburn Red Wings were the other SJHL team ranked in the national Top 20, sitting 18th on the list that was topped by the Selkirk Steelers of the Manitoba Junior Hockey League.

Around the SJ

Former Melville Millionaires forward and Prairie Storm Minor Hockey Association product Zayden Sadlemyer scored the insurance goal for the Melfort Mustangs in a 3-1 win Sept. 23 over the La Ronge Ice Wolves, then followed it up with a hat trick Sept. 26 in a 4-3 come-from-behind overtime win, also against La Ronge.

The first of those games was also marked by Ryder Ellis' debut in an Ice Wolves jersey after being traded the day before from Melfort.

Ellis marked the occasion by receiving a match penalty for checking to the head early in the second period, which earned him an additional two-game suspension from the league as well.

Also Friday, one-time Quad Town Rebels provincial tournament pickup Vincent Palmarin scored the overtime winner to give the Warman Wolverines their first victory since moving from Notre Dame over the summer with a 6-5 win over Kindersley.

And Weyburn honoured longtime coach, scout, board member and general manager Ron Rumball in a pre-game ceremony before puck drop against the Bruins. Since joining the Red Wings' board in 1969, Rumball has been an integral part of the team's success that has included eight SJHL championships and two national titles (1984 and 2005) over the past several decades. The SJHL's recap of the event noted that the ceremony was attended by, among others, Pilot Butte Storm head coach and general manager Chris Lewgood

Committed

One-time Melville Millionaires' defenceman Nicholas Andrusiak has committed to the Red Deer Polytechnic Kings for the upcoming Alberta Colleges Athletic Conference season.

Andrusiak played 75 regular-season games with the Mils over two seasons from 2021-23, before playing 77 Western Hockey League games with the Portland Winterhawks, Red Deer Rebels and Saskatoon Blades.

He returned to junior A for his over-age year last season, helping the Melfort Mustangs to the SJHL championship.

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Esterhazy says 'no' to Yarbo

By Ryan Kiedrowski
Grasslands News

A hasilty-called public meeting in Esterhazy last week brought finality to the question of whether the town ought to absorb the nearby village of Yarbo. Around 65 people attended the 10 a.m. meeting on Sept. 29 that revealed the results of a public vote.

"The public vote came in at 183 opposed, and 44 in favor," Esterhazy Mayor Randy Bot told Grasslands News minutes after the meeting. "With conversations that I've had on the street - both positive and negative - it seemed like the majority was opposed."

The Village of Yarbo found itself in a unique predicament heading into 2025. The village was bound to be absorbed by the RM of Langenburg, but at the last minute the RM decided they did not want to take on the community. Usually, when a village dissolves, it becomes part of the surrounding RM with that entity then receiving Communities in Transition funding. This money is calculated through the Municipal Revenue Share payments the village previously received with the RM able to access the CIT Operating Grant Program payments for up to 10 years.

With the RM declining the village of 48 residents, Yarbo approached the Town of Esterhazy about joining their municipality – something never seen before in Saskatchewan's history. Yarbo's Administrator Maggie Rowland also sits as a Councillor for the Town of Esterhazy, but she was either not present for or abstained from discussions about the subject around the Council table, citing an obvious conflict of interest.

A public meeting was held over the summer that included both Councils of Yarbo and Esterhazy, plus representatives from the provincial Ministry of Government Relations to answer questions and establish what happens next.

"The RM of Langenburg did not want us," explained Yarbo's Mayor Clayton Kotyk when the question was posed during the meeting on July 15. "They put up a big fight for unforeseeable reasons. Every concern they had, we gave them numbers, facts, and they just kept saying they didn't want us."

After that meeting, the respective councils debated the idea through the summer, plus encouraged residents in both communities to have their say. Last week's voting results were the culmination of that process.

"We were open minded, but felt that we didn't have enough information," explained Mayor Bot. "Legislation will give money to the RM to merge with Yarbo, but a municipality isn't in that legislation right now. So, to do any research and then to take it over and to do maps, to do bylaws and stuff like that, we're incurring that cost with no certainty that the legislation will change. It would be a cost to the municipality."

Some criticized the seemingly 'last minute' call for the special meeting at the S.N. Boreen Hall on Sept. 29.

"We just felt like there was not enough information at this time. We were told on Wednesday (Sept. 24) that the deadline to make the decision was tomorrow (Sept. 30)," Mayor Bot explained. "That's why we had this early meeting, because we could have made the decision at Council on Thursday night, but it would have been brought up as an emergency addition, so then we felt there was no transparency with that. I know that Monday at 10 a.m. wasn't probably the best time to have a meeting, but the attendance, with 70 people coming out, that's probably the most I've seen."

As for the fate of the Village of Yarbo, two options – either resume restructuring into the RM of Langenburg, or request to remain as a village.

"The Village of Yarbo (village) was informed by letter dated March 28, 2025, that it was required to formally declare its restructuring intent and submit necessary documentation to the Ministry of Government Relations (ministry) no later than September 30, 2025, or the original application submitted to restructure into the Rural Municipality of Langenburg No. 181 (RM) effective January 1, 2026, would proceed," noted the Ministry of Government Relations when asked about the next steps. "A copy of this letter was also sent to the Town of Esterhazy (town) and the RM."

Essentially, the Village of Yarbo had until Sept. 30 to decide whether to continue with the restructuring plan into the RM, submit a new application to restructure into the Town of Esterhazy, or request to stay as a village and no longer pursue either restructuring option.

"The ministry is committed to providing support to any municipality interested in voluntary restructuring," Government Relations said. "Should Yarbo choose to resume restructuring with the RM, the ministry will support both parties to navigate the required process and make application for any grant funding available to them."



RYAN KIEDROWSKI I GRASSLANDS NEWS

Public meeting

In a previous public meeting held July 15, both Village of Yarbo and Town of Esterhazy council and two government officials were on hand to field questions about the village possibly dissolving into the town. From left are Yarbo Administrator (and Esterhazy Councillor) Maggie Rowland, Alderman Bentley Prazma, and Mayor Clayton Kotyk. Esterhazy Mayor Randy Bot is at the microphone, then government representative Advisory Services Manager Megan Istace and Executive Director of Advisory Services and Municipal Relations, Karri Kempf. Esterhazy Councillors Dana Paidel, Nicole Kripki, William Gale, Bryant Campbell, and Marty Pfeifer join CAO Tammy MacDonald.

RM of North Qu'Appelle No.187
SASKATCHEWAN
Valley of Festivals

PUBLIC NOTICE

RM of NORTH QU'APPELLE NO. 187

Amend Zoning Bylaw 13-08

Public notice is hereby given that the Council of the Rural Municipality of North Qu'Appelle No.187 intends to adopt a bylaw under *The Planning and Development Act, 2007* to amend Bylaw #13-08 known as the Zoning Bylaw.

INTENT: The proposed bylaw amendment will allow for larger rural residence site areas in the A- Agriculture District at Council discretion

AFFECTED LAND: The proposed bylaw will affect all A-Agriculture District land.

REASON: The amendment is intended to provide flexibility for Council to approve larger rural residence sites where appropriate.

PUBLIC HEARING: Council will hold a public hearing at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, October 14th in the Council Chambers at 136 Company Avenue S, Fort Qu'Appelle to hear any person or group that wants to comment on the proposed bylaw. The Council will also consider written comments received at the hearing or delivered to the undersigned at the municipal office prior to the hearing.

PUBLIC INSPECTION: Any person may inspect the bylaw at the RM office during regular office hours. Copies are available at a cost.

Issued at Rural Municipality of North Qu'Appelle, September 26, 2025

Charmain Wowk,
Chief Administrative Officer

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Bishop Kennedy denounces economic disparity

By Alan Hustak
Grasslands News

The Anglican Bishop of Qu'Appelle has called for an end to "the enormous and growing gap" between the worlds' rich and poor.

Speaking at the communion service to mark the 140th anniversary of St. John's Anglican Church in Fort Qu'Appelle on Sunday, Rt. Rev. Helen Kennedy told parishioners that "sharing what we have with others is our gospel responsibility. It calls on all of us to make the lives of those around us better."

Kennedy took as the text for her sermon St. Luke's gospel (Chapter 16, 19:31) which relates the parable of a rich man and a beggar named Lazarus. In the story an unnamed rich man cries out from the depths of hell for help from the beggar Lazarus who is in heaven.

Kennedy used the parable to illustrate the "shocking" level of poverty in Saskatchewan.

"The solution to bring people out of poverty is seven times cheaper than what we now spend on dealing with the effects of poverty.

How ridiculous it that?" she asked. "It is not too late to fix a system that allows the few to enjoy massive wealth while others experience crushing poverty,"

The church was filled to capacity for the anniversary service. The parish priest, Rev. Ed Dunfield, the retiring archdeacon Catherine Harper and the bishop's assistant, Jonathan Bauer who recently arrived from Virginia, took part in the anniversary Mass.

Former clergy including Beverly McLean, George Archer and David Nevitt and Archdeacon Kim Sherwin were also in attendance.

The same liturgy that would have been used when the church was consecrated in 1885 was used for the service.

Before the service began, the St. Thomas Vernon brass band played outdoors.

At a reception afterwards church warden Mike McKenna gave a history of St. John's, pointing out that it is the second oldest church still standing in Saskatchewan (the church in Stanley Mission built 30 years earlier is older).

St. John's remains "the only fully functional church still serving its community after 140 years."

He also quipped that it cost more to put the new floor in the parish hall this year than it did to build the fieldstone church 140 years ago.



ALAN HUSTAK I GRASSLANDS NEWS

140th celebration

Parish priest Rev. Ed Dunfield and Bishop Rt. Rev. Helen Kennedy helped celebrate the 140th anniversary of St. John's Evangelist Anglican Church in Fort Qu'Appelle on Sunday, Sept. 28.

Whitewood Food Bank launches October drive to restock shelves

By Chris Ashfield
Grasslands News

The Whitewood Food Bank is calling on residents and businesses to help restock its shelves this October as demand for emergency food support continues to grow across Saskatchewan and Canada.

Non-perishable food donations can be dropped off at the Whitewood Thrift Store or Borderland Co-op, with items such as peanut butter, Kraft Dinner, canned fish and meat, canned soup, canned fruits and vegetables, canned beans, pasta sauce and cereal being especially needed.

The appeal comes at a time when food banks across the country are seeing record levels of use. In March 2024, there were more than 2,059,000 visits to food banks in Canada, the highest ever recorded and a 90 per cent increase from 2019. Nearly 700,000 of those visits were for children, and almost 30 per cent of food banks reported running out of food before demand was met.

National figures also show that more people who are employed are turning to food banks, with 18 per cent of clients reporting employment as their main source of income, up from 12 per cent in 2019. Another 40 per cent of clients rely on social assistance or disability benefits.

Saskatchewan is experiencing the same pressures. Food bank use in the province has risen by more than 42 per cent over the past five years, with monthly visits in 2024 reaching nearly 53,000. About 40,000 people a month now rely on food banks in Saskatchewan, and 42 per cent of those are children.

Local organizers say the situation is no different in Whitewood, where shelves are being stretched thin and every donation makes a difference.

They encourage community members to add a few extra items to their grocery carts and drop them off at the Thrift Store or Co-op so that no family has to go without during a time when food insecurity is at record levels.

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Pastor Ronald Shumba
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Oct. 3: 7 p.m. Youth Group
Oct. 4: 10 a.m. Men's Coffee Chat
Oct. 5: 9:15 a.m. Choir
10:30 a.m. Worship Service
Oct. 7: 9:30 a.m. Ladies Day

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Saturday, Oct. 11:
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Sunday, Oct. 5:
No Service
Church of the Lutheran Hour heard Sundays at 9:00 a.m. on 940 CJGX Radio, Yorkton

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

CHURCH SERVICES
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Grayson 11:00 a.m.
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Whitewood & Area Churches Welcome You

NEW LIFE COMMUNITY CHURCH
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Thursday - Prayer Meeting 7 p.m.
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Sunday Service – 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday Youth Group – 7 p.m.
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Father Tomy Mandapathil
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5:00 p.m. Mass Service

ST. MARY'S ANGLICAN CHURCH
Sunday, Oct. 5:
10:30 a.m. Morning Prayer

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, WAPELLA
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No Worship Service

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306-424-2604, George
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309 3rd. St. South, Kipling
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parklandagc@sasktel.net
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11 a.m. Worship Service
Wednesday: 10 a.m. Mom's Group

Fort Qu'Appelle Churches Welcome You

VALLEY ALLIANCE CHURCH Fort Qu'Appelle
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Service is also available on YouTube and will be livestreamed
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Fort Qu'Appelle – valleyalliance.ca

ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH
Sunday Worship 11 a.m.
202 Bay Ave. S.,
Phone - 306-551-6213
Hall Contact - 306-331-6720

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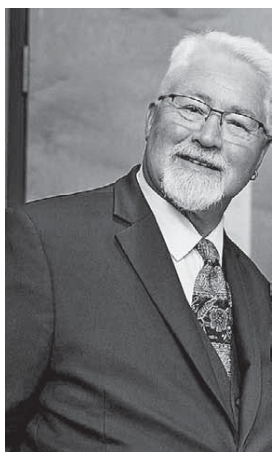
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ONE AD, SIX NEWSPAPERS: *All classified ads appear in the Fort Qu'Appelle Times, Indian Head-Wolseley News, Kipling Clipper, Melville Advance, Whitewood-Grenfell Herald Sun and Quad Town Forum*

Obituary

Garry Merlin McConnell
July 4, 1958 – May 23, 2025



Garry Merlin McConnell, beloved husband of Liana McConnell, passed away on Friday, May 23, 2025, at the age of 66.

Garry fought bravely to recover in hospital after a myocardial infarction. He fought hard and we genuinely all believed Garry would have more time, but it just wasn't in the cards.

Garry married the love of his life, Liana Rothnie, on Sept. 20, 1986. He was the loving father of Mark Riley McConnell, married to Aimee Ferguson and fur-granddad to Charlie and Georgia. As well as father of Megan Ewert, married to Devon Ewert and fur-granddad to Harlow.

Born in Melville, SK, to Isabel and Russell McConnell. Garry grew up in a household with three siblings: Gwen, Rob and Doug. Garry attended St. Henry's School and graduated in 1976 from the Melville Comprehensive High School. Garry had juvenile diabetes at an early age, and freaked out his friends when he showed them how he gave himself his own needles. Despite juvenile diabetes, Garry succeeded in sports, school and anything he wanted to do.

After graduation Garry's career path had him living in many places, including Moose Jaw, Saskatoon and Regina. He was deeply involved in Saskatchewan Child Find when he was in Regina. He learned to play the bagpipes and to everyone's surprise after years of telling his friends he was Irish, he revealed that actually he has Scottish ancestry.

In 2006, the family moved to Calgary, AB, where eventually he pursued his dreams of opening his own business, Wheels Training Centre Inc., a driver and motorcycle training school. He was so enthusiastic about motorcycles and safe driving habits, this seemed like a perfect fit to share his passion with the world!

Garry and Liana raised two amazing children together, who married their soulmates. This is one of Garry's proudest accomplishments.

Garry will be remembered for his unwavering love and resiliency. He was the definition of loving, kind, stubborn as hell, passionate and deeply empathetic, and he cared with his whole heart.

Garry is survived by his wife, Liana; children, Mark (Aimee), and Megan (Devon); siblings, Gwen (Garry), and Robert (Lorraine); nieces and nephews, Erin, Ashley, Andrew (Amy), Kyle, Ryan (Montana); great-nieces and nephews, Joseph, Shayleigh, Brynn, Madailein, Brayden, and Connor; and longtime friends, Larry Brooks, Karl Bazin, Martin Knuth and Sandy Russell (Kelly).

He is also survived by brother-in-law, Ike (Karen); many nieces, nephews, and extended family members and sister-in-law, Sandi.

He was predeceased by his beloved parents, Russell in 2019, mom Isabel in 2024; his brother Douglas in 2021; and nephew Lucas in 2018; as well as father and mother-in-law, Bruce in 1969 and Georgina (Jo) Rothnie in 1985, and brother-in-law Terry in 2024.

A Celebration of Garry's Life was held in Calgary June 21, 2025.

Obituary

Patricia Ann Salter
Oct. 30, 1942 – Sept. 21, 2025



Patricia Ann Salter passed away peacefully during her sleep on Sunday, Sept. 21, 2025 at the age of 82 years. She had been living in a beautiful private care home on Elphinstone Street in Regina, Sask., close to where she spent her childhood. Prior to this she had lived for many years at Lake Katepwa, near Indian Head, Sask.

Pat lived a good long life and she modeled strength and resilience to her family. She as married to Eden Robert Salter who passed away at the age of 36 years.

Pat took on the responsibility of raising her two young children and did this with strength and grace. She protected and loved her family with her heart and soul. She was a hockey mom and could talk about the playoffs with the best of them. Hockey Night in Canada was always on the TV on Saturday night. Her older brother Bob was her favourite NHL player who played professional hockey for several years for the Montreal Canadiens. She loved football and always supported the Saskatchewan Roughriders whether they were winning or losing! She loved cooking and planning meals for her family and going for wings with her neighbours. Pat loved the game of golf, she loved walking the beach roads of Katepwa Lake and socializing with her neighbours over a 5:00 glass of wine. Her favourite game was bridge and she enjoyed many afternoons playing bridge with the ladies around the Lake.

When she lost her husband she entered the workforce again at the University of Regina in the Personnel Office where eventually she was in charge of hiring the support staff. Pat was a people person and she loved to talk for hours on the phone with her friends and family. She always had a pot of coffee on in case one of the neighbours might stop in to visit.

She retired at her beach home that she had built after her adult children moved away. She loved her grandchildren fiercely and was interested in every sport and activity they were doing at any given time. She loved their art and all their cards they made for her. Pat was a beautiful woman and well respected in her community.

Pat was affectionately named Patsy by her sisters after the famous artist Patsy Kline. She loved music especially the oldies. She was born in Regina to her father, John Robert and her mother, Susan Katherine Turner. As the youngest of seven, Pat was cared for by her older sisters, Dorothy and Irene. Her brother Bob always made her laugh and affectionately kept her under his wing. Pat's oldest sibling was Leonard. Then closest in age to her were the twins who were her playmates and guides, Jean Elizabeth and Joan Eileen.

She is survived by her daughter Christine and her son Martin; as well as her grandchildren, Kara, Kyla, Erica, Thomas and Laina.

We would like to acknowledge her closest friends at the Lake, Eugene and Karen who were so close to her while she lived at the lake they seemed like family too. We also want to acknowledge Suzan who owned the Parliament Care Home in Regina on Elphinstone Street and the lovely staff who cared for her during the time when she could no longer live independently. We appreciate all who loved and cared for her and all the friends who supported her during her earlier years. Pat knew that she was never alone and she always had friends she could call on when she needed their support and company. She was a strong woman and she role modelled tremendous resilience with a smile on her face and a twinkle in her eyes. We will always remember her with deep respect and we now hold her in loving memory.

A Celebration of Life was held in St. John's Anglican Hall, Fort Qu'Appelle, SK on Thursday, Oct. 2, 2025 at 11:00 a.m. A luncheon followed the celebration. The interment took place in All Saints Anglican Cemetery, Katepwa, SK, following the luncheon.

Online condolences may be made at www.tubmanfh.com

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M16-3nc

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Help Wanted

HELP WANTED, part-time, full-time. Apply in person at Tim Horton's (Melville) with resume or fill out application. Ask for manager or supervisor. M17-4p

$ Paying Cash $

PAYING CASH for all firearms; one or many. Includes estates and collections. Executors welcome. Once and done. Please call 306-539-2543. M46-4c

Notice to Creditors

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the Estate of **David Delainey,** late of Melville, SK, 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 3rd day of November, 2025.

NATALIE CONQUERGOOD
Executor
Box 322
Melville, SK S0A 2P0

Coming Event Oct. 15 to 18

St. Andrew's United Church in Esterhazy will be holding their annual Rummage Sale, October 15 to 17, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. and October 18, 9 a.m. till 12 p.m. Pie and coffee will be available Wednesday to Friday.

Coming Event Nov. 15

Kennedy Community Hall Board

Holiday Fundraiser

Saturday, Nov. 15, 2025

Kennedy Hall
232 Robinson Street,
Kennedy, SK

* * *

Roast Beef Supper with entertainment by
The Dueling Pianos of Saskatchewan

* * *

Tickets only $40 and must be purchased in advance.
Deadline for tickets is Nov. 5
Children allowed if accompanied by a guardian.
For tickets or more information contact
306-435-2588

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While Canada falls back, Saskatchewan stands firm

By GNG Staff
Grasslands News

While most Canadians will be rolling their clocks back an hour this November, Saskatchewan residents won't be touching their alarm clocks, stoves, or smartphones. The province has stuck with Central Standard Time year-round since 1966, choosing not to observe daylight saving time.

A new study linking seasonal clock changes to higher risks of obesity and stroke has renewed attention on Saskatchewan's unique position.

Researchers say the body's internal clock can be disrupted by artificial shifts in time, leading to sleep disturbances, metabolic changes, and even an increased risk of stroke in the days immediately following a time change.

Because Saskatchewan doesn't "fall back" or "spring forward," residents avoid the sudden jolt that much of the country experiences twice a year. That means no groggy school mornings in November, no lost productivity in workplaces, and possibly a lower risk of the health complications associated with disrupted sleep cycles.

But while Saskatchewan's clocks don't change, the province isn't immune from the effects of daylight-saving time ending elsewhere.

Airlines, interprovincial buses, and cross-border trucking routes all shift their schedules. A flight leaving Regina for Toronto in early November will suddenly appear to depart an hour later because Ontario has moved back, even though Saskatchewan hasn't changed a thing.

Television schedules, national newscasts, and CFL or NHL games also adjust their start times relative to Saskatchewan, sometimes confusing fans used to a fixed routine. Many Saskatchewan residents with relatives or colleagues in Alberta, Manitoba, or beyond must re-calculate meeting times, phone calls, and virtual classrooms.

The effect is a kind of time isolation: Saskatchewan stays steady, while the world around it shifts.

The new research suggests that Saskatchewan may be ahead of the curve when it comes to public health. By not changing clocks, the province avoids a stressor that can impact heart health and body weight.

But if the rest of Canada and the United States continue to observe daylight saving time, Saskatchewan residents will face the twice-yearly puzzle of adjusting schedules, catching games at different hours, and reminding friends and co-workers out of province, "No, we don't change our clocks."

For now, as November approaches, Saskatchewan will once again be the province that stands still in time — even as the rest of the continent falls back.

Royal Canadian Legion
Indian Head Branch No. 114
General Meeting 2nd Thursday at 2 p.m.
at the Indian Head Memorial Hall
President - Lorne Scott
Contact Ken Turpin 250-661-8812 and Myrna Scott 306-727-3733

FARM STRESS LINE
If you are experiencing symptoms of stress, the Farm Stress Line is available 24/7 at
1-800-667-4442

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

TOWN OF BALCARRES - EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Temporary Assistant Administrator Position

The Town of Balcarres is seeking a temporary Assistant Administrator. The position will be an 12-month term contract to cover a Leave.
The Town Office is located on Main Street in Balcarres and is open Monday – Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
The official start date will be negotiated with the successful candidate.
The position reports directly to the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) and provides support for the CAO, Foreman and Council.

Qualifications:
- Strong written and verbal communication, interpersonal and organizational skills;
- Friendly and courteous demeanor;
- Keen attention to detail and ability to multitask and prioritize work;
- Proficiency with computers including Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, Outlook);
- Problem solver able to work under deadlines;
- Knowledge of municipal operations, experience in leadership roll and knowledge of MuniSoft are an asset;
- Experience with budgeting, financial operations, assessment, taxation and general office management are an asset;
- Preference will be given to someone who possesses or is willing to obtain a Certificate in Local Government Administration or equivalent.

This position offers a competitive salary (dependant on experience) and SUMA Benefits. Successful candidate will be required to provide confirmation that he/she is bondable (Criminal Record Report).
Applicants are invited to submit a cover letter and detailed resume including qualifications, past and present work experience, three work related references, available start date and salary expectations, applications will be accepted until a suitable candidate is hired.

Town of Balcarres
P.O. Box 130, Balcarres, SK S0G 0C0
Phone 306-334-2566
Fax: 306-334-2907
Email: balcarrestown@sasktel.net

The Town of Balcarres wishes to thank all applicants for their interest, however only those selected for an interview will be contacted. For further information contact the Town Office at 306-334-2566.

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Grenfell Athletic Assoc. hosting fundraiser

By Chris Ashfield
Grasslands News

Grenfell will be buzzing with excitement this fall as the Grenfell Athletic Association prepares to host its much-anticipated Casino Night fundraiser on Nov. 21 and 22.

The two-day event promises plenty of entertainment and community spirit, with activities designed to appeal to all ages. Highlights include table casino games where participants can play for fun and win prizes, along with a rec tournament hosted by the Grenfell Flames.

Adding to the fun will be a raffle table, silent auction, and a lively shoot-out Calcutta auction that is sure to spark plenty of friendly competition. Guests can also look forward to live action events throughout the weekend.

The fundraiser wraps up with a delicious pancake breakfast on Saturday morning from 10 a.m. until 12 noon, giving families and supporters a chance to come together and celebrate the success of the weekend.

Organizers say Casino Night is not only about fun, but also about strengthening the community. Funds raised will go directly toward supporting the Grenfell Athletic Association and its programs.

"The Grenfell Athletic Association would like to express their sincere gratitude to all who support this fundraiser," the group said in their announcement.

Residents are encouraged to mark their calendars and come out for a weekend of games, good food, and community support.

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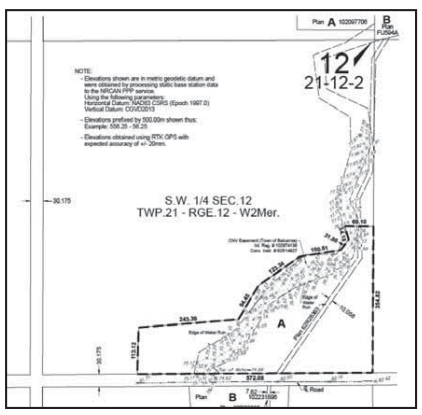
PUBLIC NOTICE

RM of Abernethy No. 186

Public Notice is hereby given that the Council of the RM of Abernethy No. 186 has received the following discretionary use application and subdivision application in accordance with Bylaws 2003-01 known as the Basic Planning Statement, 2003-02 known as the Zoning Bylaw and 2005-3, 2017-04, 2023-04, bylaws to amend Bylaw 2003-02.

DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION:

1. Residential Subdivision of 11.92 ha at SW 12-21-12-2



PUBLIC HEARING

Council will discuss the above noted subdivision application at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, October 14, 2025 in the Council Chambers of the RM of Abernethy No. 186, 201 Main St., Abernethy, Saskatchewan. Council will also consider written comments received at the hearing, or delivered to the undersigned at the municipal office before the hearing.

Issued at the RM of Abernethy this 26th day of September, 2025.

Karissa Lingelbach, Administrator
RM of Abernethy 186
P.O. Box 249, Abernethy, SK S0A 0A0

NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF ASSESSMENT ROLL 2025

Village of Killaly

Notice is hereby given that the Assessment Roll of the Village of Killaly for the year 2025 has been prepared and is now open for inspection in the Office of the Assessor of the Municipality located at the Village of Killaly Municipal Office, 56 Railway Avenue, Killaly, Saskatchewan from 5 to 6 p.m. on Wednesdays from August 14, 2025 to October 15, 2025. The assessment notices have been sent as required.

Any person who wishes to discuss their notice of assessment may contact the Assessor at the Village of Killaly Municipal Office. Any person who wishes to appeal their assessment must file their notice of appeal in writing accompanied by a $200.00 appeal fee, payable to the Village of Killaly by October 15, 2025 to:

Noelle Hoskins, Secretary
Board of Revision
c/o Village of Killaly
P.O. Box 69
Killaly, SK. S0A 1X0

Dated this 14th day of August 2025.

Audrey Ulmer, Assessor

1-844-GNG-NEWS
subscribe@grasslandsnews.ca



TAX ENFORCEMENT LIST

TOWN OF BALGONIE

PROVINCE OF SASKATCHEWAN

Notice is hereby given under *The Tax Enforcement Act* that unless the arrears and costs appearing opposite the land described in the following list are fully paid before December 3, 2025, an interest based on a tax lien will be registered against the land.

Note: A sum for costs in an amount required by subsection 4(3) of *The Tax Enforcement Act* is included in the amount shown against each parcel.

Alternate Number and Property Description	Title Number(s)	Total Arrears	Advert. Costs	Total Arrears & Costs
404002550 - Lot 24, Block 2, Plan 16960	149864394	$2,800.12	$10.70	$2,810.82
404009850 - Lot 16, Block 9, Plan 61950	128431492	$3,847.75	$10.70	$3,858.45
404011050 - Lot 26 & 27, Block 10, Plan 101133515	128215526; 128215616	$6,771.61	$21.40	$6,793.01
404015100 - Lot 9, Block 16, Plan F433	128035188	$5,433.50	$10.70	$5,444.20
404015400 - Lot 15 & PT 16, Block 16, Plan F433	147869803; 147869847	$3,783.42	$21.40	$3,804.82
404015800 - Lot 1, Block D, Plan FY4988A	157881112	$8,140.90	$10.70	$8,151.60
404016850 - Lot B, Block 17, Plan 74R47767	156004657	$7,118.50	$10.70	$7,129.20
404017300 - Lot 12, Block 17, Plan 71R34366	124057740	$2,096.31	$10.70	$2,107.01
404017600 - Lot 18, Block 17, Plan 71R38629	150872744	$2,096.31	$10.70	$2,107.01
404032250 - Lot 10, Block 23, Plan 74R47767	150455178	$2,369.60	$10.70	$2,380.30
404102100 - Parcel A, Plan 101208316	154826152	$5,031.63	$10.70	$5,042.33
414000050 - Block D, Plan 79R27865	147097198	$14,209.76	$10.70	$14,220.46

Dated at Balgonie, Saskatchewan, this October 3, 2025 Karen Craigie, Administrator

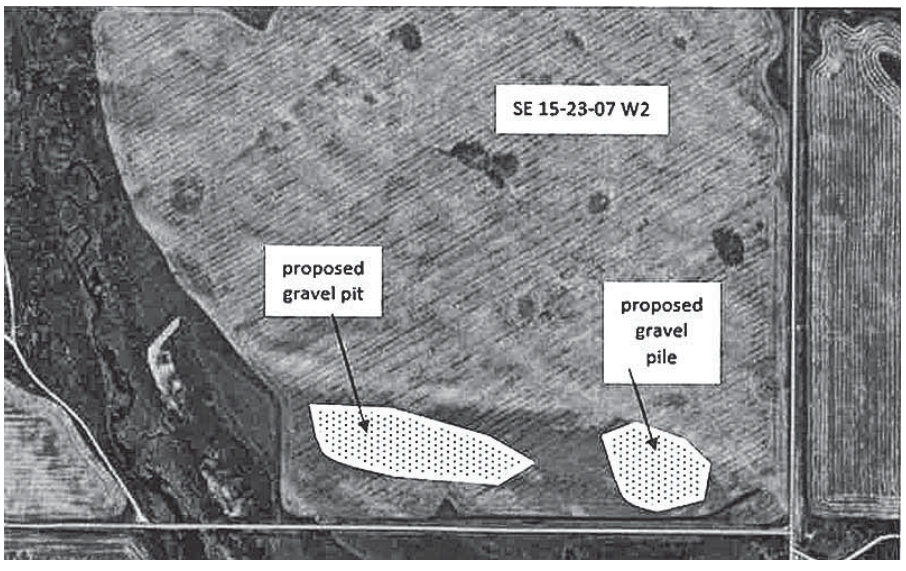
PUBLIC NOTICE

RM of Stanley No. 215

Public notice is hereby given that the Council of the RM of Stanley No. 215 intends to review and make a decision on a **DISCRETIONARY USE DEVELOPMENT PERMIT APPLICATION** as per the regulations of the RM of Stanley No. 215 Zoning Bylaw No. 2-2019.

INTENT The proposed discretionary use within the Agricultural-Resource District (A-R) is for the development of a **gravel pit**.

AFFECTED LANDS The proposed gravel pit on lands legally described as **SE 15-23-07 W2** is shown on the map below.



REASON The reason for this notice is to allow any members of the public to review and comment on the discretionary use development permit application prior to Council deciding.

PUBLIC INSPECTION Any person may inspect the proposed discretionary use development permit application at the RM of Stanley No. 215 office located in Melville during regular office hours.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION Council will provide the public with an opportunity to comment on the discretionary use development permit on October 14, 2025, at 10 a.m. at the RM of Stanley No. 215 office.

Issued at the RM of Stanley No. 215 on September 18, 2025.

Rhonda Schmaltz, Administrator

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:

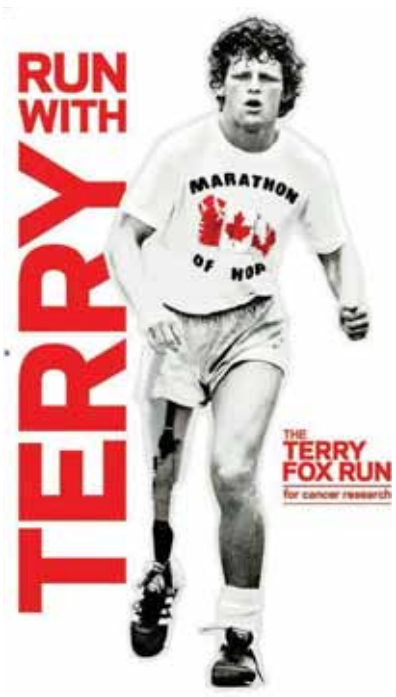
a) personally by the candidate or by an agent (must also provide an 'Appointment of Candidate's Agent' form) to the Returning Officer's Office, 45A Palliser Way, Yorkton, Saskatchewan;
b) by registered or ordinary mail to 45A Palliser Way – Yorkton Saskatchewan – S3N 4C5;
c) by fax at (306)783-4992;
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

Whitewood rallies to raise more than $6,480 in annual Terry Fox Walk



By Chris Ashfield
Grasslands News

Once again, the students, staff, and residents of Whitewood have proven that small towns can make a big impact. The annual Terry Fox Walk, held last week, brought in more than $6,480 in donations for cancer research.

The effort continues Whitewood School's strong tradition of supporting the Terry Fox Foundation. Last year, the school was recognized as the fifth-largest fundraising school in Saskatchewan, bringing in $6,513.65. The year before, it earned second place provincially, raising $8,009. This year, organizers are aiming to meet or even surpass those totals.

In the 19 years prior to 2025 that the school has been organizing a school run, over $78,000 has been raised.

Those who haven't yet contributed still have the chance to do so. Donations can be made online through the Terry Fox Foundation's school fundraising page for Whitewood at schools.terryfox.ca/96449.

Enjoying the October Night Skies

By James Edgar
For Grasslands News



The Moon begins the month having just passed first quarter. Its first encounter is with Saturn on Oct. 5th, when the Ringed Planet is passed four degrees to the south. On Oct. 10th, the Moon is 0.9 degrees north of The Pleiades (M45). By Oct. 13th, Jupiter is four degrees south, plus the Beehive Cluster (M44) is in close vicinity later the same day. This will be a good time to check out Jupiter's double shadow events–see below. On Oct. 16th, Regulus is 1.2 degrees south of the Moon, an occultation for extreme northern Canada. Venus is four degrees north of the thin sliver of the Moon on Oct. 19th. The Moon is new on Oct. 21st. October 23rd sees Mars and Mercury sharing the sky with our satellite – the former is five degrees north; the latter is two degrees north. On Oct. 24th, Antares is 0.5 degrees north of the waxing crescent Moon.

Mercury appears in the western evening sky early in the month, providing the best evening view of 2025 for Southern Hemisphere observers. The speedy planet slowly separates from the Sun, achieving greatest elongation east on Oct. 29th. It remains brighter than magnitude 0.0 all month long. It's within 2 degrees of Mars on Oct. 20-21 and about the same distance from the two-day-old Moon on Oct. 23rd.

Venus, shining brightly, rises in the eastern sky before twilight. Catch it before sunrise, or even after the Sun is in the sky.

Mars is difficult to locate in early evening twilight as it gets closer to the Sun during the month. The Red Planet is in conjunction with Mercury on Oct. 20th-21st, with Mars appearing the smaller and fainter of the two.

Jupiter rises around midnight; the last-quarter Moon passes by on Oct. 13th. The giant planet has numerous double-shadow transit events this month, involving various combinations of all four Galilean satellites – about every two or three days.

Saturn is in good position all through the night. Watch as the month progresses to see the ring tilt decrease to almost face on. The Moon passes by on Oct. 5th.

Uranus crosses the sky for most of the night as it approaches its Nov. 21 opposition. It's slowly retrograding in the constellation Taurus the Bull.

Neptune is in Pisces, hanging out with The Fishes.

The large Minor Planet Ceres is at opposition on Oct. 2 – something worth looking for.

The zodiacal light is visible before eastern morning twilight for the last two weeks of October.

The Orionid meteors peak on Oct. 21.

SALE OF LAND BY PUBLIC TENDER

Village of Lipton

Take Notice that tenders are invited for the purchase of the lands described below and will be received until 4:00 p.m. local time on October 28, 2025, at the Village of Lipton Municipal Office, P.O. Box 219 201 Main Street, Lipton, SK S0G3B0.

The tenders will then be opened on October 29, 2025, at 7:00 pm the Council Chambers at the Village of Lipton Municipal Office, 201 Main Street, Lipton, SK.

DESCRIPTION OF LANDS:

Property #1
Roll Number: 19
Assessment ID / Alt. #: 505001600
Legal Land Description (LLD): Lot 19 Blk 1 Plan 62666 Ext 0
Civic Address: 115 Ceylon Street
Zoning: Residential
According to the last returned assessment roll, the assessed value of the land is $3,400.00 and improvements (building) $40,500.00 for a total assessed value of $43,900.00.
Other Property information: SAMA rates it as fair. Needs repair as it has been vacant since 2017.

Property #2
Roll Number: 170
Assessment ID / Alt. #: 505015850-01
Legal Land Description (LLD): Lot 1 Blk 15 Plan ER1478
Civic Address: 902 Erin Avenue
Zoning: Residential
According to the last returned assessment roll, the assessed value of the lands is $6,800.00.
Other property information: Corner lot, house has been removed so it is an empty lot that is serviced.

TENDER REQUIREMENTS:

Bidders are required to review the complete tender documents for important information regarding conditions of sale and responsibilities of the purchaser regarding property condition. Property photos will not be provided.

The tender must include a letter explaining the intended use of the property, as well as future plans for the property and a timeline to complete the plans. Tenders must be submitted in the prescribed form and must be accompanied by a deposit of at least 20 % (percent) of the tender amount, which deposit shall be made by way of a certified cheque/bank draft/ money order payable to the municipality, and a description of the bidder's plans for the property ensuring the purpose meets the requirements in the Village's Zoning Bylaw.

Except as follows, the municipality makes no representation regarding the title to or any other matters relating to the lands to be sold. Responsibility for ascertaining these matters rests with the potential purchasers. The assessed value according to the last returned assessment roll may or may not be representative of the current fair market value of the property.

This sale is governed by The Tax Enforcement Act.

The successful purchaser will be required to pay the full amount tendered plus accumulated taxes and any taxes or fees that may be applicable, including taxes and all title transfer and legal fees.

The Municipality has no obligation to provide vacant possession to the successful purchaser.

A copy of the prescribed form of tender and the tender documents is available through the Municipal Office.

For further information contact the Village of Lipton.

Wanda McLeod, CAO
Village of Lipton
306-336-2505
admin@villageoflipton.com



Deadline looms to sign $10 daycare extension

By Ryan Kiedrowski
Grasslands News

With less than six months remaining for the province to sign an extension to the $10-a-day childcare agreement with the federal government, the opposition NDP held a small rally on the steps of the Legislative Building in Regina on Sept. 29. Joining the politicians were childcare advocates – some holding a countdown sign marking 184 days left to sign a deal – and Kent Peterson, President of CUPE Saskatchewan.

"Six months from now, $10-a-day childcare will be dead in Saskatchewan," he said. "If Scott Moe refuses to renew the agreement with the federal government, our province will lose more than $1 billion of funding. Let me be clear, if Scott Moe continues to do nothing, it will mean the end of affordable childcare and Saskatchewan centers will lose funding they rely on to keep their doors open, many childcare centers will close."

Peterson foresees childcare workers that escape layoffs should that deadline pass, and a deal not signed could face wage reductions up to $8.50 per hour.

"Many childcare workers will fall back to earning minimum wage," he said, calling for Premier Moe to sign the Childcare Agreement immediately. "This is not a distant threat."

Sue Delanoy, Chair of Child Care Now Saskatchewan, echoed Peterson's sentiments. She recently met with the federal Jobs and Families Minister Patty Hadju – a visit that culminated with childcare workers and their supporters gathering on Parliament Hill.

"I just spent a week in Ottawa with my colleagues from coast to coast to coast, childcare advocates everywhere," she said. "We met with Minister Hajdu, who said there are a few provinces that haven't signed. The deal is at risk, and we need to remember to sign as quickly as we can, because time is running out."

Delanoy also reminded the crowd of how childcare is linked with the most lucrative industries of the Saskatchewan economy.

"Everybody we know depends on someone who depends on childcare - canola, potash, manufacturing, it's all important - but without childcare, this province doesn't work," she said.

Provincial Education Minister Everett Hindley was unavailable for comment last week, but the government did provide Grasslands News with a response to questions raised from last week's rally.

"The Government of Saskatchewan is confident that a new agreement will be signed prior to the expiry of the current agreement in March of 2026," the statement read. "We have reached out to the federal government multiple times to sit down and negotiate an extension to the Canada-Saskatchewan Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement. During an event last month at the Saskatchewan Polytechnic event announcing 540 new childcare spaces, Federal Secretary of State Buckley Belanger who attended on behalf of the Government of Canada, expressed his confidence that the federal government and our provincial government will have a new agreement signed by the end of this year."

The province is also keen on reaching an agreement that works for everyone.

"Ministry of Education officials continue to engage with their federal counterparts, during which time they are re-affirming Saskatchewan's commitment to signing an extension and Education Minister Everett Hindley has also written several letters to the previous and now current federal Minister to set up a meeting to discuss the extension," the government said. "We remain ready to negotiate a better agreement that will result in a more sustainable childcare system that works better for Saskatchewan families and the childcare sector."

Meanwhile, childcare centres and businesses associated with them are feeling the increasing burden.

"Childcare centres are at the risk of closing, workers are at the risk of losing their jobs, families are staring down soaring prices and lost childcare spaces," said Joan Pratchler, Shadow Minister for Early Learning and Childcare, and Associate Shadow Education Minister. "Moms and Dads can't go to work in the hospital or in the mine if there's no one there to take care of the children. It's as if the Sask Party government doesn't give a rat's patoosie about the suffering of our communities, our children, our childcare workers, our families, and we can't have a bright future in this province if we don't have affordable childcare."

Pratchler admonished the provincial government to "smarten up."

"Smarten up. Get this deal signed, fly to Ottawa and sign it," she said. "That's about all I need to say right now. I think I've made my point quite clear."

Future unsure

One of those childcare providers is the Prairie Playhouse Early Learning Centre in Sedley – a centre more than a decade in the making. Kelsey Morrison is the board chair with the 30-space licensed childcare centre, which was one of 51 groups in 41 communities across the province promised a share of $23.5 million.

"We were finally granted spaces in November of 2023," she began. "From the time you're awarded childcare spaces to opening, there's a lot of work involved; a lot of volunteer hours, and it costs a lot of money. Not only are you working with contractors and engineers literally designing and building your centre, but you're trying to secure finances, fundraising. At the same time, we officially broke ground in our community exactly a year ago - just in September of 2024 - and we finally opened our doors, bringing in 30 kids and nearly eight local staff just this past July."

In total, the province announced 2,349 new childcare spaces in that announcement almost two years ago, but the road to officially opening the doors at the Prairie Playhouse Early Learning Centre was not short.

"Our board and community spent countless hours volunteering our time in fundraising, holding events, launching fundraising campaigns, cold-calling businesses for money to get where we are today," Morrison said. "Other local people with skills put thousands of volunteer hours into actually building our centre - they built our decks, they did our landscaping, they framed our basement - but our community was willing to work for it because we knew what affordable childcare could mean to a community like ours, we knew it would bring local jobs, boost development, keep our school open and well attended, allow parents to join or rejoin the workforce."

What Morrison fears is that all the hard work and sweat equity invested by the community will be for naught.

"To know that all of that hard work has gone unnoticed and could literally be lost if this government doesn't get a deal, it's heartbreaking to think about," she said.

While the funding back in November 2023 was a great kick start, Morrison said the Sedley centre still needed more funds.

"The money that was on the table for capital still wasn't enough," she told Grasslands News. "A lot of centres like ours have to take out a mortgage. We have a $500,000 mortgage that we'll be paying over 15 years. And we got that mortgage from the bank because they felt that there was an agreement; a commitment from the government that there would be operational funding."



Countdown is on
RYAN KIEDROWSKI I GRASSLANDS NEWS

Childcare advocates gathered at the Legislative Building in Regina last week, letting the public know that time is running out to sign a deal on sustainable childcare. Sue Delanoy, Chair of Child Care Now Saskatchewan answers questions from reporters as Joan Pratchler, Shadow Minister for Early Learning and Childcare (left) and Kent Peterson, President of CUPE Saskatchewan watch on.

Looking over at the 184 days marked on the countdown sign, Morrison feels that mortgage will also be gone if no agreement happens.

"I don't know if a lot of centres will be able to continue paying their $500,000 mortgage," she said. "I don't know that we will; I hope we will. We'd have to raise our fees substantially, but our business case would look a lot different than it does today, and that's putting a lot of childcare spaces at risk."

"Rural Saskatchewan's a bit different than urban, too," Morrison concluded. "We're looking at a lot of people that have not rejoined the workforce after having children, that can now rejoin the workforce because they can pay $10 a day. It wasn't feasible for parents to go back to work. People are rejoining the workforce because of this program, and it's going to be devastating if it's gone."

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