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By-elections to be held in four towns

Six councillors resign; one councillor passes

By Sarah Pacio
Grasslands News

Residents in Broadview, Whitewood, Indian Head and Fort Qu'Appelle will head to the polls in the New Year after town councillors in all three communities tendered their resignations.

Broadview

The Town of Broadview has issued a call for nominations to fill multiple vacancies on council. Over the past few months, three councillors submitted resignations for various reasons. One moved out of the area, the others felt unable to fulfill council responsibilities due to health concerns or other obligations. Astrid Eve joined council at municipal elections a year ago; Councillors Bruce McStay and Darren Ottenbreit had served on council since byelections in 2022 and 2018, respectively.

Their resignations leave Mayor Colleen Umpherville and Councillors Wes Bagsund, Jacob Louison and Terri Lynn Bolink to conduct town business at council's monthly meetings. A quorum consists of four members, including mayor and councillors, so the group is able to continue operations until the three vacant seats are filled.

Provincial regulations required that the byelection process start in Broadview before the end of this year, due to the timing of the first resignation from council.

In Broadview, nominations opened on Nov. 20 and will be accepted at the Town Office until Dec. 17. If there are sufficient candidates, a byelection is tentatively scheduled for Jan. 21, 2026.

Whitewood

In Whitewood, councillor Jordan Giroux tendered his resignation at the Nov. 18 council meeting, citing a busy family and work life as the reason he was stepping down. Giroux was first elected in the last municipal election, and his resignation is effective Dec. 1.

A call for nominations has not yet been issued in Whitewood but one is expected in the New Year. If an election is required, it will likely not be held until late February at the earliest.

Indian Head & Fort Qu'Appelle

Indian Head Councillor Pieter Cruson was granted a two-month leave of absence for personal reasons at the end of July and in October he submitted a letter of resignation to council. After reviewing possible dates for a by-election, council determined it would be best to postpone proceedings until after the holiday season. Nomination day will be Feb. 25, 2026, and the byelection is scheduled for April 1.

In Fort Qu'Appelle, two council seats now sit vacant following the resignation of Rebecca Zacharuk in September and the death of a Ron Shordee on Nov. 23 at 73-years-old. A byelection is expected in the New Year.

Successful candidates in all four communities will serve until the next municipal election in November 2028.



Winner, winner! SARAH PACIO I GRASSLANDS NEWS

Blackjack players celebrated a win while supporting local programs during the Grenfell Athletic Association's second annual Casino Night fundraiser. The second annual event raised $50,000, which matched the amount raised in 2024.

Grenfell Athletic Association

Casino night raises $50,000

By Sarah Pacio
Grasslands News

The Grenfell Athletic Association held a highly successful casino-themed fundraiser at the Grenfell Recreational Park Arena on Nov. 21 and 22. The event is a significant fundraiser that assists the GAA with covering the costs of rink operations.

Grenfell has approximately 70 athletes in its minor hockey program this year and is also home to both a senior men's and a senior women's team. The organization hosted its first Casino Night in 2024 and raised $50,000. Continued community support resulted in another profitable event this year.

On Friday night, volunteers took on the role of blackjack dealers at specially designed card tables arranged in the arena lobby. Last year, tables were rented for the event. In the months leading up to the second annual Casino Night, a group of volunteers from the organizing committee created eight custom-made tabletops featuring sponsors from the previous fundraiser.

Throughout the evening, players placed their bets using "casino cash" purchased from the cashier. Afterwards, they exchanged their winnings for raffle tickets, hoping to take home one of the many prizes donated by local sponsors. Live and silent auctions offered additional opportunities to win prizes while supporting hometown hockey. Prizes for the two-day fundraiser included tools, jewelry, beef, a large TV, electric bikes and a 60-second shopping spree at the local Co-op grocery store.

Along with casino-style activities organized by the GAA, the Grenfell Flames rec team hosted a hockey tournament and Calcutta player auction at the rink. The tournament began Friday evening and continued the next day while the local daycare centre hosted a pancake breakfast. Blackjack games resumed in the afternoon, followed by the Calcutta shootout, and the awarding of silent auction and raffle prizes on Saturday night.

Organizers greatly appreciated the support from donors, event volunteers and participants.

"The Grenfell Athletic Association is thrilled with the results of the second annual Casino Night fundraiser," said GAA member Jennifer Kraushaar. "Not only did we exceed our financial goal, but we were absolutely flattered by the outpouring of community support shown while attending the event."

Proceeds from the casino fundraiser totaled more than $50,000.

"The funds will take care of a large portion of the general operating costs of our building, as our arena infrastructure is aging and key elements to the ice plant will be phased out in the coming years. The Casino Night is key for our long-term planning of asset replacement," Kraushaar commented. "The funds will also be used to support our young athletes and ensure Grenfell continues to be able to host quality, sustainable hockey programming."

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Mid-year report swings province from surplus to $427M deficit

By Ryan Kiedrowski
Grasslands News

Saskatchewan's mid-year financial update shows the province plunging from a razor-thin projected surplus into a $427-million deficit, prompting sharp criticism from the Opposition, which accuses the government of misleading the public with what it calls a "bogus budget."

The 2025-26 Mid-Year Report, released Nov. 25, outlines a $439-million deterioration from the spring budget, which had forecast a modest $12-million surplus. The report shows mounting costs from an unprecedented wildfire season, rising health-care pressures and the fiscal impact of removing the federal carbon tax from power bills—all contributing to the swing into deficit.

Deputy premier and Finance Minister Jim Reiter said the province remains in comparatively strong financial shape despite global headwinds, including lower oil prices and the impacts of American and Chinese tariffs on key export sectors.

"Saskatchewan's economy remains resilient in the face of global economic uncertainty," Reiter said in a statement. "The vast majority of Saskatchewan's exports are CUSMA-compliant and our producers have worked hard to find new markets, which has helped Saskatchewan remain in a comparatively strong economic position."

The Opposition New Democrats, however, argue the mid-year update confirms what they warned during budget day—that the Sask. Party's fiscal plan was never credible.

"The Sask. Party's so-called $12-million surplus was blown on Budget Day before the crowd in the gallery departed to eat cream puffs at the Budget Day Tea," said NDP finance critic Trent Wotherspoon. "They promised a $12-million surplus and now it's looking more like a half-billion-dollar deficit with a billion more in debt from their bogus budget."

Wotherspoon said the government continued to "book" revenue from the provincial carbon tax despite promising to eliminate it. The mid-year report shows $466.9 million in carbon tax revenue—up $35 million from the first quarter. Wotherspoon argued that if the provincial carbon tax had actually been removed, the projected deficit would now sit near $900 million.

He also pointed to a steep decline in SaskPower's net income, which has tumbled to a projected $166-million loss, a $292-million drop from the budget. The province attributes the hit to the removal of the federal carbon tax charge from customers' bills, a move Reiter framed as affordability relief.

"Saskatchewan people know what this mismanagement will mean for them. They've seen this movie before," Wotherspoon said, suggesting future utility rate hikes are inevitable. "They know it's them that will be left to foot the bill."

The government argues the deficit is being driven by extraordinary circumstances rather than structural imbalance. According to the mid-year report, expenses are forecast to increase $521 million, or 2.5 per cent, above budget. That includes:

• $295 million more for wildfire response through the Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency.

• $250 million to manage higher health-care utilization, including hospital services and cancer care.

• $114 million in additional pension expenses, tied to updated actuarial assumptions.

These increases are partially offset by a $203-million decline in projected crop insurance claims due to better-than-expected yields.

On the revenue side, provincial income is forecast to rise $82 million, buoyed largely by federal transfers, which are up by $273 million due to disaster-related support and updated national population figures that increased Saskatchewan's allocation under the Canada Health Transfer and Canada Social Transfer.

Other own-source revenue is projected to rise $129 million, driven by higher fees and gaming revenue. But non-renewable resource revenue—a cornerstone of Saskatchewan's fiscal picture—has fallen $93 million, reflecting lower global oil prices and a higher Canadian dollar.

Government business enterprise earnings have also slipped, down $192 million from budget projections. Along with SaskPower's loss, Saskatchewan Government Insurance and the Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority both saw declines, while the Saskatchewan Auto Fund improved due to stronger investment income and lower claims.

Gross debt is expected to reach $39.3 billion by year-end, nearly $1 billion higher than budget. The province continues to cite its net debt-to-GDP ratio—projected at 14.8 per cent, second lowest among provinces—as a sign of overall fiscal strength.

Despite the deficit, the government says Saskatchewan's economy remains among the strongest in Canada. Real GDP is expected to grow 1.7 per cent in 2025, third-highest among provinces, following robust 3.0-per-cent growth in 2024 driven by construction, natural resources and agriculture.

Reiter said the government remains committed to affordability measures outlined in the budget, including income tax reductions and eliminating carbon tax charges from electricity bills. "Our government is committed to supporting those affected by this year's unprecedented wildfire season, addressing pressures in health care and providing affordability relief," he said.

Wotherspoon rejected that framing, arguing the mid-year report exposes fiscal mismanagement.

"It's the people of this province who have already had so many taxes stacked on them by this dishonest tax-and-squander government," he said. "The numbers have come home to roost."

Cowessess man wins Lightning Lotto

SaskLotteries
Grasslands News

Terrance Pelletier is the newest Lighthing Lotto winner in the province! The winner from Cowessess First Nation struck big – winning a $131,747.20 jackpot on the Oct. 25 Lightning Lotto draw!

"I didn't even know what I had won [at first]," admitted Pelletier. "I know the wins come up instantly, but I didn't even notice the amount I had won until I scanned it later!"

Pelletier said he is focused on how he will spend those winnings now.

"The one thing is, I've tried to be rational about it," he explained. "I want to save for retirement and finish some renovations on my house."

"I told my granddaughter we're not going to Vegas or anything," he added, laughing. "My granddaughter was with me when I found out, and she was pretty darn happy about it."

Pelletier said the biggest feeling that came with winning this shocking jackpot was the relief.

"I feel relieved to pay off bills and have a little breathing room," he said. "[This win] makes it easier for sure – I get to enjoy life more than I already do."

Pelletier bought his winning Lightning Lotto ticket from Co-op at 1592 9 Ave. NW in Moose Jaw. He won the Oct. 25 jackpot by matching all five numbers in the daily Lightning Lotto draw: 8, 19, 26, 34, and 40.

Report from the Legislature

Across Saskatchewan, we are seeing positive change in our communities as we work to meet the needs of a growing population. From strong economic numbers and continued initiatives in health care to improvements in education and more, our government is focused on building a strong, safe and secure Saskatchewan where families and communities feel supported.

A growing economy allows us to provide families with safe and affordable housing. Saskatchewan topped the charts in housing starts, with an increase of 50.8 per cent in the first ten months of 2025 compared to the same period last year. Housing starts are an important economic indicator because they represent real people and families who are choosing to build their futures in Saskatchewan.

With more people calling our province home, we remain committed to expanding access to primary care. Our government is pleased to introduce 19 new Nurse Practitioners (NPs) who will provide publicly funded primary care services in communities where residents need them most. The number of NP contracts is expected to grow in the coming months, with up to 30 available. This initiative supports our broader strategy to ensure that everyone in Saskatchewan has access to a primary health care provider by the end of 2028.

Education infrastructure is essential to our neighbourhoods. That's why our initiatives are evolving to meet the needs of our growing population. Our government has introduced the *Building Schools Faster Act,* new legislation designed to accelerate school construction in communities experiencing rapid growth. The legislation is expected to be passed in spring 2026. Through this, we are helping ensure students get the best start in modern learning spaces.

Work to expand programs that prevent homelessness and enhance support services for individuals experiencing homelessness is also underway through the Provincial Approach to Homelessness (PATH). We are investing up to an additional $20 million over three years. Since PATH was announced in 2023, we have invested more than $98 million in homelessness services. We look forward to continuing our partnerships with service providers, municipalities, the federal government, and with Indigenous and community organizations. Together, we are helping people in need transition to stable housing, remain successfully housed and achieve a better quality of life.



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Representing our communities in the Legislature is an honour Please reach out our offices if there is anything you would like to discuss. We look forward to hearing from you.

Finance minister talks budget with SUMA president

By Ryan Kiedrowski
Grasslands News

Federal Finance Minister François-Philippe Champagne defended Ottawa's newly passed budget during a discussion with Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association president Randy Goulden, describing the plan as a major shift designed to strengthen Canada amid global economic uncertainty. The two met for an armchair conversation at Regina's Globe Theatre on Nov. 20 with various municipal leaders in attendance.

Champagne said the Nov. 4 budget — which survived a narrow confidence vote on Nov. 17 — aims to position Canada to navigate what he called unprecedented geopolitical and technological change.

"The speed, scope, and scale of change is quite unprecedented," he said, citing shifting U.S. trade policies, rapid advancements in artificial intelligence and quantum technology, and instability highlighted by the International Monetary Fund's global uncertainty index. "We cannot let uncertainty become the new certainty. We need to provide stability, predictability, the rule of law."

Champagne said the budget's focus on capital investment — including infrastructure, housing and productivity — is meant to help Canada leverage strengths in mining, agriculture, clean technology and advanced research. He highlighted the Prairies' strategic location in North American trade corridors and Canada's competitive advantage in resources such as uranium and potash.

The minister also emphasized Ottawa's plan to tighten spending, pointing to $60 billion in savings and a commitment to balance operating expenditures with revenues within three years. He acknowledged that Canadians have been tightening their belts, and they expect Ottawa to do the same.

Goulden thanked the minister for recognizing municipalities' role in national infrastructure development but warned that many local governments are struggling with escalating costs. She said existing federal programs — including the Canada Community-Building Fund and the Canada Housing Infrastructure Fund — are fully allocated, leaving municipalities without the resources needed for future projects.

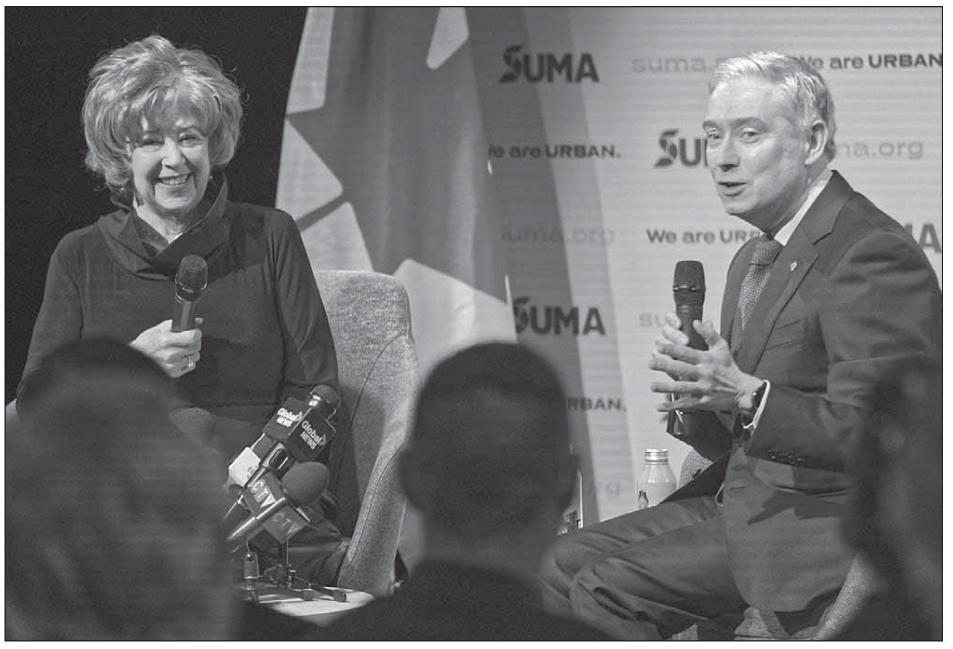
"Municipalities badly need a new tri-party infrastructure fund with all partners at the table," Goulden said, noting rising construction costs and static revenue sources. She also asked whether Ottawa would consider tying federal infrastructure transfers to GDP growth to help communities keep pace with inflation.

Champagne did not commit to indexing funding but acknowledged the concern. He said the federal government intends to streamline programs to make them easier for municipalities to navigate and pointed to $22 billion in new infrastructure funding spread across provincial, territorial and municipal streams.

He said Ottawa will continue supporting community-level projects, such as arts and recreation facilities, while also working with provinces on health-care infrastructure — an area many jurisdictions have identified as critical. The budget also includes major defence investments, which Champagne said could support dual-use infrastructure in northern and remote communities.

When asked about what the federal budget has in store for the agricultural sector, Champagne danced around any solid commitments. He acknowledged farmers are facing mounting pressure from global instability that has abruptly shifted key export markets. He said the federal government is working to cushion the impact through programs like AgriStability, expanded marketing supports and increased liquidity through Farm Credit Canada. Champagne said Ottawa is taking the same approach it used to help auto and resource workers hit by tariffs, emphasizing that farmers are not at fault as geopolitics "shift under their feet." He added the government is pushing aggressively to diversify markets, citing opportunities in Indonesia, Japan, Vietnam and a cautious re-engagement with China.

While in Saskatchewan, Champagne met with Premier Scott Moe, plus toured the 15 Wing Moose Jaw Royal Canadian Air Force Base.



Armchair chat
RYAN KIEDROWSKI I GRASSLANDS NEWS
SUMA president Randy Goulden sat down with federal Finance Minister François-Philippe Champagne in Regina for a discussion on the narrowly-approved budget.

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New tax credit a big deal for small business

By Ryan Kiedrowski
Grasslands News

The province has opened applications for a new tax credit intended to help small and medium-sized businesses attract capital, scale up, and hire more workers — a move the government says responds directly to challenges faced in accessing investment dollars.

Trade and Export Development Minister Warren Kaeding formally launched the Small and Medium Enterprise Investment Tax Credit on Nov. 21 at Regina's Pile O' Bones Brewing Company, saying the program is designed to stimulate private investment in two fast-growing sectors: food and beverage manufacturing and machinery and transportation-equipment manufacturing.

The three-year pilot offers a 45 per cent non-refundable tax credit to individuals or corporations that invest in eligible Saskatchewan companies. Businesses can raise up to $4 million under the program, while investors can claim up to $225,000 in credits each year. Investments made between July 1, 2025, and June 30, 2028, qualify.

"This new tax credit supports Saskatchewan's growing manufacturing sector by making it easier for small and medium-sized businesses to access the capital they need to expand," Kaeding told reporters. "It encourages investment right here at home, helping companies purchase new equipment, upgrade facilities and create good jobs for Saskatchewan people."

The province has allocated up to $7 million annually to fund the credit. Kaeding said the government expects interest to be strong, given that 95 per cent of businesses in Saskatchewan are considered small and have long flagged access to capital as a barrier to growth.

Eligible firms must have between five and 49 employees, with at least half of their workforce residing in Saskatchewan. Startups without taxable income would not qualify.

A $100,000 investment would yield a $45,000 provincial tax credit for the investor, Kaeding said. The credit can be claimed over seven years but is non-refundable — meaning it can only be applied against provincial taxes owed and does not generate a direct payout.

Kaeding said the program is aimed at businesses ready to expand rather than those just starting out.

"Starting today, businesses and investors can apply through the new S&E Investment Tax Credit online application portal available on saskatchewan.ca," he said. "Small and medium-sized businesses are really at the heart of Saskatchewan's economy."

One of those target demographic businesses is Pile O' Bones, a Regina craft brewery that employs about 40 people and has become a recognizable local brand. Owner and CEO Glenn Valgardson said the tax credit could have made a significant difference during the brewery's major expansion eight years ago.

"When this tax credit was announced, it took me about a week to wrap my head around it," Valgardson said. "This would have been such a tremendous opportunity for us when we did our big build about eight years ago."

Valgardson said the credit could make it easier for small manufacturers to raise money outside of traditional sources.

"When you're trying to do any kind of a capital fundraiser or an equity raise in a business, that money has to come from somewhere," he told Grasslands News. "Generally, when you are a small business, you're limited to qualified investors or friends and family. This would be an excellent way for friends and family to invest their tax dollars into your business. It opens up a lot of opportunities, and it adds a minor safety net for investment."

The brewery has continued expanding beyond beer. Valgardson said he is involved in a new food-manufacturing venture — a "food lab" transforming Saskatchewan-grown ingredients into consumer products such as condiments and dressings — which could qualify for the credit once it hits the market.



Big break for small business RYAN KIEDROWSKI | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Trade and Export Development Minister Warren Kaeding (left) shares a laugh with Glenn Valgardson, owner and CEO of Pile O' Bones – Saskatchewan's largest craft brewer. Kaeding announced the SME Tax Credit on Nov. 21.

The craft brewing industry has helped spur several spinoff businesses, Valgardson said, pointing to hop farms and malt producers that have emerged to serve local breweries. Programs that encourage investment, he added, could strengthen those supply chains.

"The craft brewing industry has been really cool because we've actually spurred a microclimate of business out of it," he told Grasslands News.

An example Valgardson pointed to was Guy Shepherd of Moosomin-area JGL Farms, famous for their locally grown hops. Maker's Malt from Rosthern was another producer that came to mind.

"They started just because of our industry, and there's a handful of excellent Saskatchewan producers that have spun out of the craft brewing world," Valgardson said.

When asked whether the sector has benefited from buy-local sentiment or faced challenges from trade policies, Valgardson said demand for Saskatchewan-made beer remains strong, but tariffs on U.S. aluminum have hit smaller breweries harder than larger ones.

"The aluminum tariffs have been a really big hit for our industry," he said. "Our brewery has been somewhat protected because of our size, but for some of my friends in smaller production, it's definitely hit the pocketbook hard."

Despite pressures from inflation and shifting consumer habits, craft producers continue to gain market share even as overall beer consumption declines, he said.

Kaeding said the government's role is to create conditions that allow businesses to grow.

"We're here to support a growing economy," he said. "Small business is big business in Saskatchewan."

Applications for the SME Investment Tax Credit are open until June 2028 through an online portal on Saskatchewan.ca. Both investors and businesses can submit and track applications through the system.

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Narrow budget vote draws sharp criticism from local MPs

By Ryan Kiedrowski
Grasslands News

Members of Parliament in the area say the razor-thin vote that allowed the recent federal budget to pass underscores a government clinging to power and ignoring affordability pressures facing Canadians. The fiscal plan referred to some as Mark Carney's 'credit card budget' will see the country's debt rise to $78 billion.

The Liberal government survived the Nov. 17 confidence vote 170–168, a result so tight that cabinet ministers were visibly tense on the government benches, according to Yorkton–Melville MP Cathay Wagantall.

"From sitting on my side of the floor, towards the end of the vote, there was some consternation and concern on the faces of the finance minister and the prime minister," Wagantall told Grasslands News. "You can see the apprehension, but it is passed."

The budget survived due to support from Green Party Leader Elizabeth May, plus abstentions from NDP members Lori Idlout and Gord Johns, and a pair of Conservative MPs Matt Jeneroux and Shannon Stubbs. Jeneroux later resigned from parliament the same week citing a desire to spend more time with family while Stubbs was in hospital.

Wagantall said critics attacking MPs who could not attend or who had voting-app problems do not understand the reality of life on Parliament Hill.

She pointed to Stubbs, who missed the vote due to a surgery that had been rescheduled once already to accommodate the fall parliamentary calendar.

"If there was any way she could have voted, she would have been there," Wagantall said. "I do get disappointed in how people will be so inconsiderate, not knowing the dynamics in people's lives."

Other MPs struggled with the voting app — something Wagantall says is not unusual. Regina–Qu'Appelle MP Andrew Scheer, one of those who encountered a glitch, said the situation was "very straightforward" despite online speculation.

Scheer had been participating in a committee hearing on religious persecution shortly before the vote and planned to use the app from his office.

"I encountered a bit of a glitch," he said. "So I just went down to the chamber and clarified my intention to vote 'no'."

Scheer shared that the inconsistency of the app is so common that an MP is sure to encounter an issue "at least once or twice in a parliamentary cycle."

Still, the near collapse of the budget highlighted the government's minority status and changing political dynamics since the last election, Wagantall said.

"This is a minority government," she said. "It's not the same dynamic as prior to the election, when the NDP were fully on board with the government, really making it an agreed majority, so they do have to take into account that this is temporary."

Local MPs say the budget — promoted as a "generational" investment plan by federal ministers, including Innovation Minister François-Philippe Champagne during an armchair discussion with SUMA president Randy Goulden in Regina — does little to address the most pressing issue many families face: affordability.

Scheer was blunt in his assessment.

"This is a terrible budget for Canadians," he said. "There is absolutely nothing to relieve the affordability crisis — nothing to bring down prices or provide tax relief."

He criticized the government's decision to remove the luxury tax from private jets and yachts while leaving it on vehicles such as trucks.

"If you're in the market for a new Gulfstream (jet, in the ballpark of $72 - $80 million), you'll save a bunch of money. But if you're buying a souped-up Dodge Ram to get you to and from work, you'll still pay that tax," Scheer said.

He also pointed to the Bank of Canada's recent decision to begin purchasing government bonds again — a measure used during the pandemic — saying it will add to inflationary pressures.

"That means new money being dumped into the economy, and when that happens, prices go up," he said.

Souris-Moose Mountain MP Steven Bonk interpreted the narrow vote as an ode to the government's delicate state.

"The tight vote on the budget shows how fragile this government is," he told Grasslands News. "It shows that they do not have a mandate to govern and they could fall at any moment."

When asked if there were any glimmers in the 493-page budget report he could side with, Bonk was stumped.

"This budget is just something that I cannot support," he said, critical of the proposed $78 billion deficit. "As a fiscal Conservative, I find it offensive. This is not a serious government when it comes to finances."

Wagantall and Scheer were also hard-pressed to find anything in the budget they could align with.

While Wagantall acknowledged that some long-term infrastructure or investment programs could be positive in theory she said the federal government created many of the economic problems that such measures now aim to remedy.

"None of these situations should have happened," she said. "We're in dire straits because they have not allowed private investment over the last decade."

Scheer echoed that view, placing responsibility on federal spending patterns

- SEE FEDERAL BUDGET, 7

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Notice of Vacancies
Boards and Commissions

Turn your ideas into impact - help guide Melville's future!

We're calling on passionate, full-time Melville residents who are Canadian citizens and 18 years or older to apply for positions on our City Boards and Committees.

Appointments are effective January 1, 2026. **Deadline for applications is Monday, January 5th, 2026 at 4 p.m.**

If you are interested, please submit your name, address and telephone number, 2 references and short paragraph as to why you would like to serve on a particular Board or Commission in writing to:

Chelsie Mountney
430 Main Street or Box 1240 , Melville, SK S0A 2P0
cmountney@melville.ca

For further information on the boards and committees' terms of reference, meeting dates, or workload, contact the office at 728-6849.

Name of Committee	Description	Term	# of Vacancies
Police Commission Board	Established by Bylaw No. 8/91. Appointments are made annually. The Board consists of the Mayor, two members of Council and two residents. The purpose of the Board is to deal with policing matters in the City and to deal with items referred to the Board by Council. Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of every month.	1 Year	2
Melville Public Library	Established pursuant to the *Public Libraries Act*. Appointments are on staggered two (2) year terms. The purpose of the Board is to act as a liaison between the City and the Regional Library Board and set standards for the local library service in accordance with the Public Libraries Act. Meetings are at the call of the Chairperson.	2 Years	6
Regional Park Authority	Established by Bylaw No. 2/97. Appointments of 10 members, on staggered two (2) year terms to December 31st of each year. There are five (5) vacancies for two (2) year terms expiring December 31, 2026 and one (1) vacancy for a one (1) year term expiring December 31, 2025. The Regional Park Authority administers, operates and controls the use of the Regional Park according to the Regional Park Act. Meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month.	2 Years	4
Recreation, Culture & Tourism Advisory Committee	Established by Bylaw No. 02/2021. There are twelve (12) voting members on this board representing the interests of culture, heritage, parks, seniors, sports, tourism, youth, the rural area, the school boards and two members at large. The purpose of this committee is to facilitate and enable the development of leisure activities and opportunities for the residents of Melville. Meetings are held a minimum of four (4) times per year.	2 Years 1 Year	**5** 1 – Parks 1 – Sports 1 – Tourism 1 – Members at Large 1 – Seniors **5** 1 – Heritage 1 – Member at Large 1 - Rural 1 - Sports 1 - Youth

NOTE: All volunteers who are appointed to a Board or Commission may be required to provide a clear criminal record check. (There are no fees associated with a criminal record check for volunteers).

OPINION

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

Why local councils need you now more than ever

In the coming months, voters in Broadview, Whitewood, Indian Head, and Fort Qu'Appelle will head to the polls—not for a general municipal election, but because so many council seats across our region have become vacant. Illness, work demands, family responsibilities, and the pressures of public service have led several councillors to resign, triggering a flurry of byelections.

While each resignation has its own story, the common thread is clear: serving on town council is not an easy job. Yet it is one of the most important roles in any community.

Municipal councils sit closest to the people. They make decisions that affect our daily lives in ways provincial and federal governments rarely do. Roads, water systems, recreation facilities, taxes, development, tourism, safety—councils shape all of it. They approve the budgets that determine the services residents rely on. They respond to public concerns, navigate disagreements, and plan for the long-term future of their communities.

And they do it all while juggling their own jobs, families, and responsibilities.

That is the part we don't talk about enough. Councillors are neighbours, business owners, coaches, volunteers—people who step forward not for recognition, but because they care. They spend evenings at meetings, weekends preparing budgets, and countless hours answering questions, researching issues, and representing the town in ways most citizens never see.

The resignations in Broadview, Whitewood, Indian Head, and Fort Qu'Appelle reflect a reality facing many rural communities: civic service is demanding. It requires time, patience, and a willingness to shoulder criticism. It requires learning complex policies and making decisions that won't always please everyone. And increasingly, it requires balancing that responsibility with the pressures of modern life.

Yet it is precisely because the role is demanding that it matters so deeply.

Healthy, functioning communities depend on strong councils—on people willing to stand up, serve, and help chart the path forward. When those seats sit empty, it puts strain on the councils that remain. Quorum becomes fragile. Long-term planning slows. The workload intensifies for those still at the table.

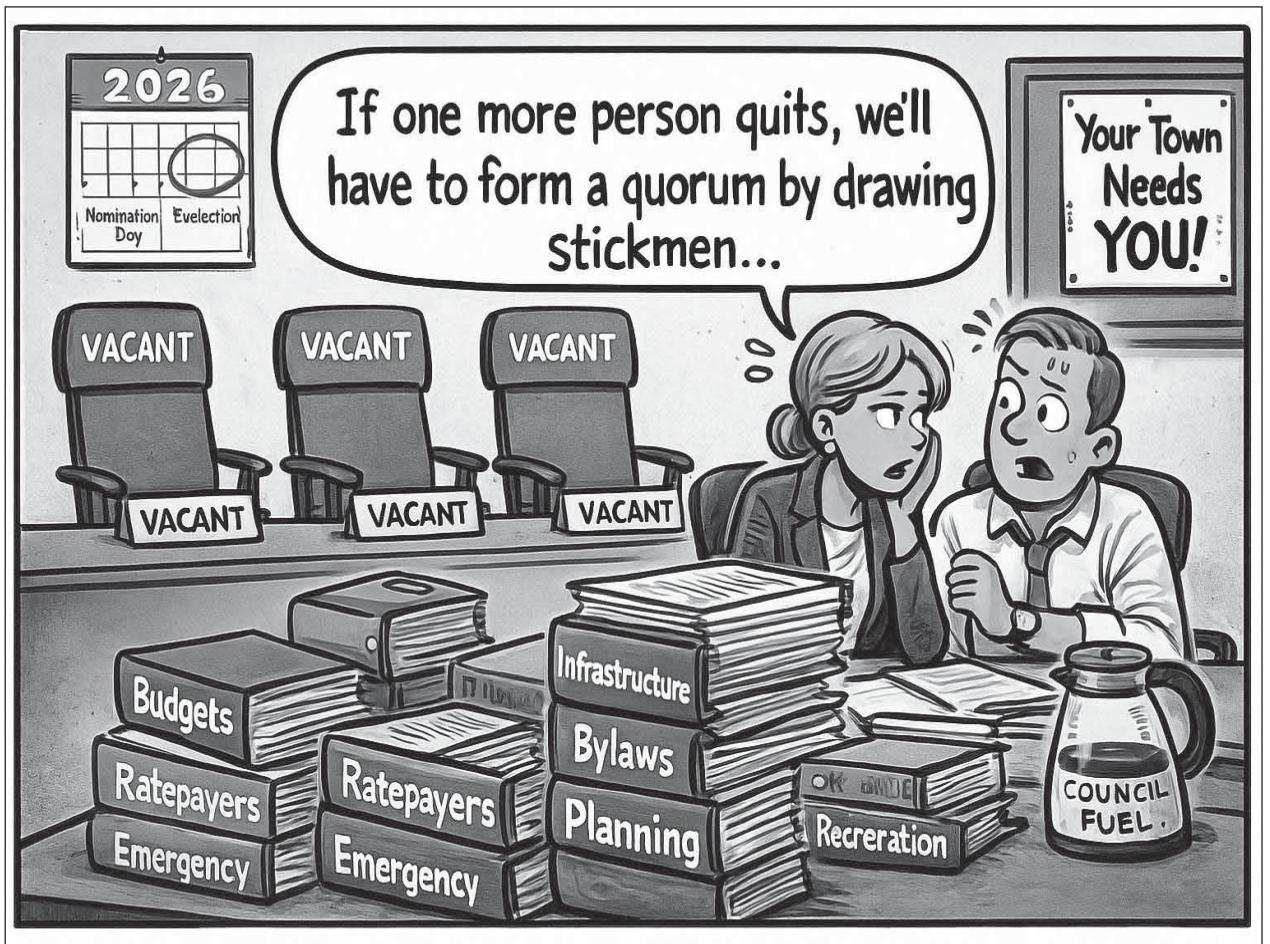
That is why these upcoming byelections are more than a procedural requirement. They are an invitation.

An invitation for new voices, new ideas, and new energy. An invitation for people who care about their hometowns to take an active role in shaping them. An invitation to step forward—not because it's easy, but because it's worthwhile.

Serving on council is a commitment, yes. But it is also one of the most meaningful ways to give back to your community. It offers a chance to leave a legacy, to solve real problems, and to help your town grow stronger for future generations.

As nominations open in communities across the region, we encourage residents to consider putting their names forward. Small towns thrive when ordinary people choose to do extraordinary things—like stepping up to serve.

Your community needs you. Now more than ever.



Local democracy works best when the seats are full.

Why the Farmer Protest was a dud

Dozens of protests were to be held across the country on Nov. 22 in support of farmer's rights and rural communities. Or was it about government overreach? No, it was definitely about the ostrich cull in Edgewood, B.C. Also, the alleged hidden agenda of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, RCMP, any government and the media.

If I've confused the heck out of you with those last thoughts, then I've illustrated my point. I attended one of the Farmer Protest Canada rallies on Nov. 22, one that culminated at the Legislative Building in Regina with folks having completed 'slow rolls' from Moose Jaw and Weyburn. Yes, contrary to what you may have heard, there was a media presence at the event.

I support the rights of agricultural producers; I'm a farm kid myself. Naturally, I had a keen interest in attending a rally that claimed to support farmers – aside from documenting the newsworthy event for our readers.

What I encountered was mixed messaging at best.

There were spirited, enthusiastic people who showed up, and everyone behaved themselves nicely, but the actual pinpoint of the cause they were gathering for was not completely clear. I wasn't convinced that the gathering was truly about farming at all, save for the outcry regarding the ostriches.

Perhaps it was the tone of the event was the impression that stuck with me, the over-riding theme that everything is a conspiracy. For example, an RCAF Hercules aircraft was scheduled to perform a flyover in Regina that same afternoon for the Vanier Cup. When that plane appeared, I was informed that instead of the flyby, it was a plan to fly low and gather information from everyone's smartphones gathered at the event.

Yeah. I was not convinced of that. And besides, all that information is collected and tracked in much easier methods than utilizing military aircraft.

There was one other media organization in attendance, and I felt bad for the young reporter who tried her best to cover the story. At the mere suggestion of filming or conducting an interview, she was berated simply for who employed her. Later, cries went up that the protests received sparse media attention. Would you stick around somewhere that people are threatening you for trying to do a job, then complain that nobody was there to do the job?

I do believe a better-organized event could still be effective, with a few simple PR tips: pick one issue to protest on, don't antagonize the media who are trying to share your story, and set the conspiracy theories aside for an afternoon.

Ryan Kiedrowski,
Grasslands News

Your opinions are welcome!

Grasslands News encourages and accepts opinion pieces from our readers in the form of Letters to the Editor. Topics can be about local, provincial or federal topics that relate to or have an affect our local communities.

To submit a letter, email it to:
editor@gngnews.ca.

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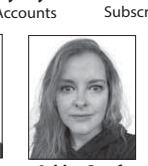

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Countrywide protests held over ostrich cull

By Ryan Kiedrowski
Grasslands News

Protests fuelled by outrage over the Canada Food Inspection Agency's cull of more than 300 ostriches in British Columbia were held across the country on Nov. 22, though turnout in Saskatchewan was limited to a few small "slow roll" convoys culminating in gatherings at Saskatoon and Regina.

Roughly 50 demonstrations took place in B.C., Alberta and Ontario, with far fewer in Saskatchewan. Protesters from Martensville staged a slow roll into Saskatoon city hall, while groups in Moose Jaw and Weyburn travelled by convoy to Regina.

"What brought me to Regina is the farmers," said a protester who gave her name as Karen. She was among the Weyburn-area residents who gathered on the steps of the Legislative Building on Saturday. "And the government overreach in what happened to the ostriches out in Edgewood; how the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police handled the situation, which was horrific."

Some participants said they believed RCMP had attempted to stop the Weyburn convoy earlier in the day, which they felt may have affected turnout.

"I wish more people showed up," said another protester who did not want to be named. "I am thankful for the people that showed up to show their support against the government overreach. I think people need to stand up and put an end to it."

There were also a couple dozen who gathered near the Saskatchewan/Manitoba border, travelling to Virden, MB. and back to Moosomin, displaying their protests and they joined the Broadview/Whitewood protestors for a roadside meal and discussions.

A crowd of about 100 people eventually formed at the Legislative Building, where Saskatchewan lead organizer Amanda Svendahl of Farmers Protest Canada addressed the group.

"We, the people of Farmers Protest Canada, stand united for freedom, fairness and the future of farming in Canada," Svendahl said, reading from a prepared statement. "Our mission is to defend the rights of farmers, protect Canadians' food security and expose the growing government overreach that threatens our way of life."

Svendahl said she had closely followed the events at the Universal Ostrich Farm in Edgewood, B.C., where the CFIA ordered the destruction of 314 ostriches after an outbreak of avian influenza in late 2024. The farm reported that 69 birds had died from the virus prior to the cull. A legal challenge filed by the owners failed at two lower courts, and the Supreme Court of Canada later declined to hear an appeal.

"We cannot let them keep killing our animals like that," Svendahl said. "It is not humane, it is not right. It is not what Canada stands for, and we need to make a change and we need to make it now."



Speaking up
RYAN KIEDROWSKI I GRASSLANDS NEWS
Amanda Svendahl, Saskatchewan lead organizer of Farmers Protest Canada, holds a sign as Arcola-area producer Tanner Milligan addresses a crowd of around 100 in Regina.

Arcola-area farmer Tanner Milligan also spoke, saying producers feel increasingly sidelined by both federal policy and global trade pressures.

"I am a fourth-generation farmer," Milligan said. "My family has worked the same land for over 100 years. The land is not just property — it is heritage, it is identity, the legacy of every hand that has come before me."

He said he believes farmers are being squeezed by international negotiations and inadequate federal advocacy. "Our industry is being squeezed from every direction. Tariffs are being negotiated poorly by an Ottawa government that refuses to stand with its farmers. Instead of defending Canadian producers against foreign pressures, they cave."

In a statement on Nov. 13, the CFIA said the cull of 314 birds had been completed, along with the disposal of carcasses, eggs and other materials by deep burial at an approved B.C. landfill. The agency said the farm remains in quarantine under the Health of Animals Act.

Federal budget criticized by MPs

- continued from page 5

and carbon pricing frameworks that he believes discourage business investment.

"Affordability is getting worse because of liberal deficits and taxes. This budget does nothing to change that," he said.

As the government proceeds after passing the much-maligned budget, Bonk says the opposition continues to press for accountability.

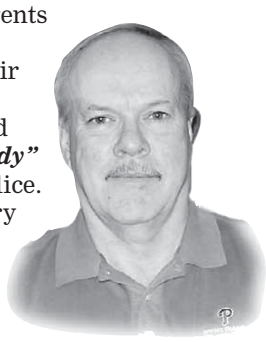
"Right now, our Conservative team is working hard to put forward alternatives and to hold this government to account," he said. "I think the real long-term solution to this problem is to elect a Conservative government that is fiscally responsible and that cares where the tax dollars go and that money is spent prudently and wisely."

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Gene Hauta

It's a Strange World



A couple of cautious parents in a Rockville, Md., home used a magnet to check their children's Halloween haul for metal. Sadly, they found some. An ***"inspect all candy" warning*** was issued by police. The media covered the story of gummy bears with needles in them. A police investigation quickly elicited a confession… from a nine-year-old child within the household where the report originated. He admitted to placing sewing needles in two packages of gummy bears. Anthony Cohen of This is True admitted, "Sometimes, children do exactly what their parents are begging them to do."

Several months ago, a ***bank robber holding a hostage*** in Saginaw Township, Mich., was killed by a police sniper when he leaned out to grab a Faygo Red Pop soft drink being delivered by a drone. The hostage admitted that she had "repeatedly" told her supervisors that it was unsafe for her to work in the bank alone. Over the course of several hours, she had been beaten and sexually assaulted by Quinton M. Allen, 31, who was armed. He forced her to withdraw $1,000 from her own account via an ATM and took her jewelry, including her diamond engagement ring. How did police get word of the robbery so quickly? The employee happened to be on the phone with her fiancé when the incident started, and he called 911.

Spanish police have busted a criminal group ***dedicated to stealing your seat***. Literally. Seven people, suspected of stealing more than 1,100 chairs from outdoor seating areas at restaurants and bars in Madrid in just two months, have been arrested. The group of six men and a woman worked at night to pilfer the chairs from 18 different establishments in Madrid and Talavera de la Reina. The estimated impact of the stolen property was around 60,000 euros ($69,000). The suspects, who face charges of theft and belonging to a criminal organization, resold the chairs in Spain, but also in Morocco and Romania.

A former Virginia teacher who was ***shot by a six-year-old studen***t in her classroom in 2023 testified that she thought she had died that day. Abby Zwerner testified in her $40 million lawsuit filed against a former assistant principal, Ebony Parker, who is accused of ignoring multiple warnings that the student had a gun. Zwerner was shot in the hand and chest in January 2023 as she sat at a reading table in her first-grade classroom at Richneck Elementary School in Newport News. Zwerner spent nearly two weeks in the hospital, required six surgeries, and does not have the full use of her left hand. A bullet narrowly missed her heart and remains in her chest. Parker is the only defendant in the lawsuit. A judge previously dismissed the district's superintendent and the school principal as defendants. Parker faces a separate criminal trial next month on eight counts of felony child neglect. Each of the counts is punishable by up to five years in prison upon a conviction. The student's mother was sentenced to nearly four years in prison for felony child neglect and federal weapons charges. The boy allegedly climbed up a set of drawers to reach his mother's gun in her purse.

In Oviedo, Fla., a man yelled at a boy riding his bicycle to a middle school telling him to slow down. When the boy refused, the man chased after him, entering the school grounds. A video shows that Shuo Sean Pang, 41, grabbed the boy's arm, demanded an apology, and ***"smacked his helmet off his head."*** One of the boy's friends intervened and Pang pushed him, too, and moved toward him "in an aggressive manner." School security finally got there and Pang, a professor at the University of Central Florida's Optics Lab, was arrested, charged with two counts of battery, and trespassing onto school grounds. UCF put Pang on leave.

Chile's Atacama Desert is one of the world's driest places, the driest nonpolar desert on earth (average annual rainfall of 0.08 inches). Nevertheless, it was turned into a ***dazzling carpet of fuchsia-colored wildflowers***. In 2025, there have been unusual downpours with some areas receiving up to 60 millimeters (2.3 inches) in July and August. Seeds from more than 200 flower species sit in the red and rocky soil all year, awaiting the winter rains. Moisture from the Amazon basin arrives to the desert's eastern fringes as modest rainfall, and from the Pacific Ocean to its coastline as dense fog. Dormant seeds must store up at least 15 millimeters (0.6 inches) of water to germinate.

Until next time.

Caring Hearts

Sask. boosts grief and trauma supports with new funding

Money will help to reduce wait times

By Ryan Kiedrowski
Grasslands News

The Saskatchewan government is expanding access to grief and trauma counselling across the province through new annual funding for a Regina-based organization that specializes in supporting people affected by loss.

Caring Hearts will receive $200,000 per year to broaden its counselling services, reduce wait times and improve its ability to respond to families, communities and workplaces dealing with sudden or anticipated loss. The announcement was made Nov. 20 at the organization's Regina office by Moosomin–Montmartre MLA Kevin Weedmark on behalf of Mental Health and Addictions Minister Lori Carr.

"It is crucial for people who are grieving and in distress to know that supports are available and that it is okay to reach out for help," Weedmark said. "Today's expansion makes it easier for Saskatchewan residents to access critical support when they may need it most."

Caring Hearts provides counselling, support groups, healing circles, and a longstanding children's therapeutic grief camp. The organization also assists communities affected by tragedies such as sudden deaths or serious incidents. About 75 per cent of its clients currently receive services in person, with the remaining 25 per cent accessing support online or by phone.

"We want to make it easier for people to access the supports they need during a difficult time in their lives," Weedmark said. "Mental health continues to be a high priority for our government and the health system. We recognize that mental health is a growing challenge across the province and across Canada. We all know someone who's experienced trauma, loss, and grief. The effects of these challenges are far-reaching and reach far beyond the individual alone."

The province is investing a record $624 million toward mental health and addiction services in 2025-26, with $487 million of that amount earmarked for mental health services.

"The expansion of your counseling services will make a big difference for people who are struggling with grief, loss, and trauma," Weedmark said. "The benefits will be felt across our province."

Executive director Keely Wight-Young said the new funding will allow the organization to hire two additional full-time counsellors and "respond more rapidly to critical, immediate needs."

"Today's announcement allows Caring Hearts to expand specialized mental health support services for individuals, families, communities, and even businesses experiencing grief, loss, or trauma," she said on Nov. 20. "Whether a loss is anticipated or sudden and traumatic, such as an overdose loss, a suicide loss, a workplace accident, homicide, or other deeply impactful events, we are here to help."

According to Wight-Young, the new government funding means Caring Hearts can reduce wait times and provide barrier-free, accessible counselling, enhancing response to critical and immediate needs and help people begin their healing journey sooner.

"Unaddressed grief and trauma so often underlie mental health struggles, substance overuse, and many other concerns," she said. "By expanding services, we are strengthening the overall mental health of our communities."

Caring Hearts is the only organization in Saskatchewan dedicated exclusively to specialized grief, loss, traumatic loss, and trauma support services and education, Wight-Young explained.

"Our programs include individual and family counseling, support groups, healing circles with our resident elder, a therapeutic grief camp for children and youth, and outreach to communities and workplaces impacted by tragedy," she said. "We offer compassionate, culturally informed care that meets people wherever they are with dignity and understanding. This funding helps to meet a critical service gap and ensures that no one must navigate grief and trauma alone."

Former clients Rick and Debbie West can attest to the amazing supports Caring Hearts provides during a family's time of need. Debbie spoke at the funding announcement, describing how Caring Hearts supported them and their family after the loss of their teenage son last year. Debbie West said the organization's counsellors provided immediate support and ongoing guidance.

"As soon as we entered Caring Hearts, we knew immediately we found a safe space to express our grief," she said. "We have continued our counseling sessions for the past 17 months, and without their support, I'm not sure how we would have survived our grief and trauma."

The West's have since established the Lincoln's Life Mattered Foundation, which endeavours to continue the conversation on mental health and suicide prevention. In fact, the group's annual fundraiser is coming up on Dec. 11 at the Balgonie Multi-Plex, featuring speaker Michael Landsberg, former host of TSN's Off the Record.

"Caring Hearts gave us the tools to work through our pain, and we learned coping strategies to accept our loss and heal our broken hearts," Debbie said. "Caring Hearts set us up with personal counseling, group therapy sessions, and asked us to join the provincial Suicide Loss Engagement table, of which we have been a part of this past year. Caring Hearts provided immediate grief counseling to our entire family in our time of need, and they continued to guide us in our ongoing healing journey."

Debbie explained how in addition to the professional services their family received, they also felt 'genuinely cared for' by staff at Caring Hearts.

"We found not only comfort and solace, but friendship in a time of unimaginable pain," she said. "Caring Hearts was there for us during the absolute worst time of our life, and for that, we are forever grateful."

In the past year, Caring Hearts has supported more than 500 individuals and families. With the province's added funding, Wight-Young said they hope to double that number.

Wight-Young said more people are seeking help, which she attributes both to increased awareness and changing patterns of loss in the province. She said the stigma surrounding reaching out for mental health support has decreased, making it more likely people will look for services earlier.

"The need was always there," she said. "But people are feeling more comfortable reaching out for help now than they were in the past."

Caring Hearts also operates a biannual therapeutic grief camp for children and youth aged six to 17. The camp incorporates traditional Indigenous knowledge, land-based learning, mindfulness activities and equine-assisted programming. Wight-Young said the camp helps young people understand and manage strong emotions and develop healthy coping skills.

The organization, which began in the 1970s as Regina Palliative Care before evolving into its current form, now works closely with community agencies and is preparing to formalize new referral pathways with the Saskatchewan Health Authority. The new provincial funding means Caring Hearts will be added to SHA resource lists for families who experience loss in hospital settings.

Along with Monday's funding announcement, Wight-Young highlighted the group's upcoming fundraiser, Hope for the Holidays, on Nov. 29 at the Artesian in Regina. The event will raise money for the children's grief camp and will feature comedian and mental health advocate Big Daddy Tazz, as well as singer-songwriter Megan Nash.

"Back by popular demand is comedy legend Big Daddy Tazz, who is absolutely hilarious," Wight-Young told Grasslands News. "He's also a mental health advocate and calls himself the 'bipolar Buddha,' and he has just a beautiful message about mental health."

The well-known comedian highlighted last year's fundraiser for Lincoln's Life Mattered, drawing a sold-out crowd.

"Last year had us in stitches for a good two hours straight," Wight-Young recalled. "And we are also fortunate to have acclaimed singer-songwriter Megan Nash opening up for him that evening. So, it's going to be a great night.

The whole idea behind Hope for the Holidays is that sometimes the holidays can be a difficult time for people.

"Even if you love the holidays, this is an opportunity to have a great belly laugh because laughter is the best medicine," she said. "People feel pressure during the holidays; it's expensive, there's sometimes family dynamics, or perhaps we are missing someone that we've lost. This is an opportunity for us to come together as a community, make connection, feel less alone, and just have a great time."

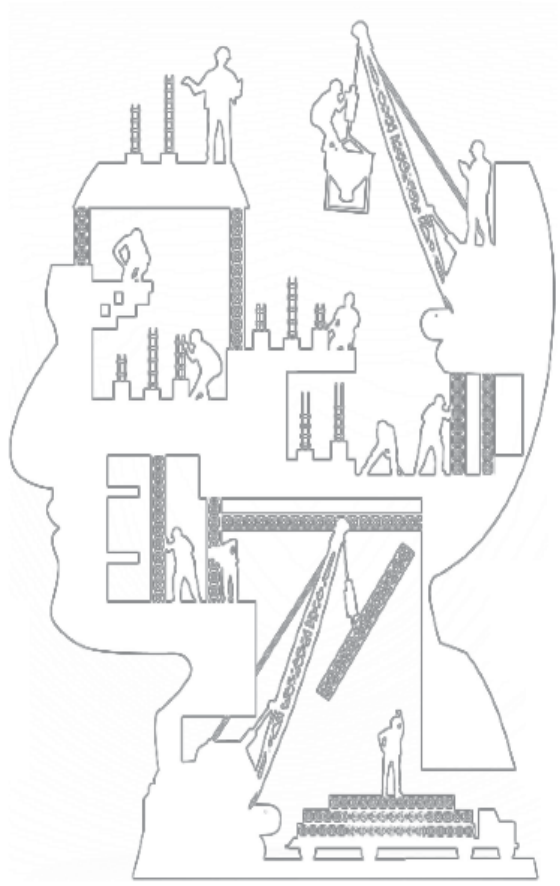
Caring Hearts can be reached at 306-523-2780 or by email at contactus@caringheartssk.ca. More information is available at caringheartssk.ca.



RYAN KIEDROWSKI | GRASSLANDS NEWS

More support
Moosomin-Montmartre MLA Kevin Weedmark was at the office of Caring Hearts to announce funding from the province. He's seen here with Caring Hearts Executive Director Keely Wight-Young (middle) and former client Debbie West.

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Sask. RCMP commander responds to public criticism

By Ryan Kiedrowski
Grasslands News

Saskatchewan's top Mountie says he issued a public statement recently as a response to suggestions that the RCMP is to blame for rising crime, noting officers are working "day and night" under increasingly challenging conditions as violence reaches levels not seen in at least a decade.

Assistant Commissioner Robin McNeil said he felt compelled to speak after mounting frustration expressed by members of the public about crime, addictions and social disorder — concerns he stressed the RCMP shares.

"What prompted the message today, truthfully, centred around the reality that the conversation has started to shift to the fact that the RCMP may have been part of the problem," McNeil told Grasslands News in an interview on Nov. 20. "I couldn't find myself being okay with not giving the recognition that our people are literally every day in communities, day and night, doing all they can to actually help reduce the amount of crime and violence that's occurring."

In a statement released that day, McNeil said calls for service in RCMP-policed areas have risen 45 per cent over the last 10 years. Violent crime has climbed at the same rate, while violent firearm offences have tripled.

"It is statistically dramatically different than it was 10 years ago," he said. "We have been very transparent with the calls for service we receive."

McNeil said recent events — including six homicides within four days at the beginning of November — underscore the pressures RCMP members face. This year, the RCMP has responded to 34 homicides in Saskatchewan. That figure excludes many of the shootings that didn't result in a homicide, and a rising number of fatal collisions.

"There's almost 90 people who've died on our roadways this year in cars with more than one occupant," he said. "There are some that obviously have survived those collisions, but we know we've had a significant increase in accidents on roadways resulting in deaths of our fellow residents of Saskatchewan. I think it's important that we acknowledge that each one of those activities has resulted in someone being injured."

McNeil said policing in Saskatchewan's vast geography adds another layer of difficulty. Response times vary widely depending on distance, weather, road conditions, call severity and the number of emergencies underway at any given time, he said. In many parts of the province, RCMP officers are often the only available responders.

"In many of our remote, rural and northern communities, police officers aren't just solving crime – they also may respond to fires, to medical emergencies, and to mental health crises, among others," he said. "While this is important work and we will always do what we must to keep people safe, these roles are typically taken on by other emergency and healthcare services."

Behind frontline officers is a network of specialized provincial units, including the Saskatchewan Enforcement Response Teams, the Critical Incident Response Team, Police Dog Services, Traffic Services and Major Crimes. McNeil noted provincial investments in recent years have bolstered some of these resources, which are deployed anywhere in the province as needed.

McNeil said SERT alone has laid 786 charges, executed 711 warrants and carried out more than 300 search warrants in the last two years.

"These are all pretty impressive stats when you think about the impact that's having," he said.

Still, McNeil stressed that policing alone cannot resolve the root causes of crime.

"The Saskatchewan RCMP is only one piece of the response," he said. "Social issues are complex and require a coordinated, multi-agency response to address them. We already – and will continue to – engage with our partners at the local, provincial and national level, and welcome any and all opportunities to discuss public safety with them.

As recruitment challenges persist across Canadian policing, McNeil said the RCMP has seen some increases in Depot enrolment, but not enough to fully meet demand.

"The shortage in police resources is not unique to the RCMP. It's not unique to Saskatchewan," he said. "In this division, (Saskatchewan is 'F' Division) we're spending a lot of energy on talking about retention. We want to keep people as healthy as we can for as long as we can, and have them continue to want to serve the communities in Saskatchewan."

Public reporting of crime is still very important for the RCMP as informing members of even seemingly minor offences is helpful.

"We do want people to call us," McNeil said. "It's important that we understand what the crime trends are in our communities, because ultimately, in an evidence-based way, we're making sure we're putting the resources where they can best be or have the greatest impact on the crime that's being experienced in our communities."

With calls for service trending at about 35,000 per month, McNeil said the workload is heavy — and the public doesn't always see the long hours spent on investigative work relating to those calls for service.

"These are their communities, too," he said of RCMP members across the province. "They're living there, they're experiencing it, and I couldn't be prouder of the work that they do."

Schile denied bail at King's Bench

By Ryan Kiedrowski
Grasslands News

A woman with Whitewood ties will remain in custody for the time being after a bail hearing decision on Nov. 25 in Regina.

A publication ban was placed on evidence presented during the hearing, plus reasons for the judge's decision. Ultimately, the justice presiding the King's Bench proceeding ordered Brandi Schile, 39, continue to remain detained and placed a no-contact order with five named individuals.

Schile faces a single count of accessory to murder rising from the July 25 death of 42-year-old Regina resident Stephanie Coady. Co-accused in the case is Lyle Turcotte, 39, who is also in custody and facing a second-degree murder charge.

Back on July 25, members of the Regina Police Service and EMS responded to a residence on the 1500 block of Cameron Street in the North Central neighbourhood of Regina, at around 4 p.m. Initially called to assist an injured woman, Coady died shortly after emergency crews arrived on scene. Turcotte and Schile were arrested and charged in relation to the death and have been navigating the court system since.







Elevator demolition begins

CONNIE SCHWALM I GRASSLANDS NEWS

Work began this week to demolish the Parrish and Heimbecker Elevator in Langbank. This particular prairie sentinel began its life as a Cargill elevator and has been a part of our horizon for longer than many can remember. (See story next week)

Town of Grenfell

Council hears on highways, rink repairs and helicopter landings

By Sarah Pacio
Grasslands News

Grenfell town council held a regular meeting in the Lilac Room at 6:30 p.m. on Nov. 20.

Highways

Council reviewed minutes from Southeast Transportation Planning Committee's meeting in October. Councillor Dwayne Stone sits on the committee and shared that traffic counts were completed at the intersection of Highway 1 and 47. The survey indicated that 5,700 vehicles per day passed along that section of the Trans Canada; 440 vehicles were counted going north on Highway 47. Stone anticipates this high volume of traffic will favourably support the request for an acceleration lane on Highway 1.

Rink Repairs

Public Works Superintendent Jeff Martinuk reported that an electrical incident occurred at the rink on Nov. 13 and damaged multiple pieces of equipment. Martinuk and the Grenfell Athletic Association implemented temporary solutions so the rink could resume operations, but there are still numerous areas to assess at the arena, pool and campground. A contractor has been retained to oversee damage assessment, contact suppliers and obtain quotes for repairs and equipment replacements.

Martinuk informed council that replacing the controller for the ice plant could cost a minimum of $50,000. He anticipates an expense of more than $40,000 for the boilers at the rink. A SaskPower crew working in the area caused the initial incident, so the town is working with insurance providers to cover the unexpected costs.

Rescue Training

Grenfell Fire Department provides assistance to the Shock Trauma Air Rescue Service (STARS) when helicopters must land in the area. Councillor and Fire Chief Dwayne Stone stated that firefighters attended a STARS landing course at Broadview Community Hall earlier that week.

"We have four people respond to a STARS landing. That gives a person in each truck, a landing officer and then one that actually lands the helicopter," he explained "The landing office is usually in communication with 911, the STARS helicopter pilot and sometimes a nurse."

The training session in Broadview was particularly informative for emergency personnel who had not yet attended a STARS landing. Firefighters like Stone who previously assisted STARS were advised of updated procedures.

"They showed us how to shut the helicopter off; if for some reason it crashed, we could shut it down so it's safe," Stone said.

Miracle on Desmond

Council approved an expense of $4,200 for fireworks at the Miracle on Desmond Street on Nov. 27. The annual Christmas event also includes a tree lighting and visit with Santa, late night shopping, and other community events. The town no longer employs a Director of Recreation and Culture so this year's Miracle on Desmond Street was organized by community volunteers, with some support from the town.

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Silverwood cattle thief barred from industry; gets one year probation after guilty plea

By GNG Staff
Grasslands News

A Whitewood-area man who was arrested last summer after RCMP tracked a series of suspicious livestock sales has since pleaded guilty to stealing calves from a farm in southeastern Saskatchewan.

In June 2024, the Saskatchewan RCMP Livestock Investigator received a report from Livestock Services of Saskatchewan about a questionable cattle transaction. The Moosomin RCMP, working with the livestock unit, launched an investigation that determined 14 calves had been taken from a farm in the Rural Municipality of Silverwood during three separate incidents.

Police said an adult male had stolen the animals and attempted to sell them. Seven of the calves were later recovered and returned to the owner, Scott Mannle.

On July 12, 2024, officers arrested Ryan Bennett at a residence near Whitewood. He was initially charged with three counts each of theft of cattle over $5,000, possession of property obtained by crime over $5,000, and trafficking property obtained by crime over $5,000. Bennett was first scheduled to appear in Moosomin court on Aug. 20, 2024, and later appeared on Jan. 21, 2025, when his matters were adjourned to Feb. 18.

Court records show the case concluded in July of this year when Bennett pleaded guilty in Yorkton provincial court to one count of theft of cattle over $5,000. The remaining charges were stayed.

Bennett received 12 months of probation. According to court documents, the sentence also includes a condition prohibiting Bennett from working in the livestock industry for one year.

The RCMP said livestock theft investigations often rely on close cooperation between producers, industry partners and police. In this case, officials credited Livestock Services of Saskatchewan for reporting irregularities that ultimately helped unravel the thefts.

Town of Whitewood

Complaints and resignation dealt with at council meeting

By Elaine Ashfield
Grasslands News

All council members were present for the November 18, 2025, meeting for the Town of Whitewood.

Delegate, Rhett Parks addressed council following the adoption of the agenda and the minutes of the Nov. 4, 2025, meeting.

Delegate

Parks stated to council that he felt his assessment on the property he acquired (previously the Knox Presbyterian Church) was billed incorrectly. He stated he did not see an assessment and doesn't feel it's his mistake. He feels the town has responsibility for the error.

Mayor Chris Ashfield spoke on behalf of council, stating the owner is responsible to check their assessments for errors and that the town cannot change assessments as this is up to the Saskatchewan Assessment Management Association (SAMA) who deals with appeals. Public notices are posted by the Town of Whitewood, as well as assessments mailed to property owners for the weeks that assessments can be challenged or discussed. Parks feels there are discrepancies between what the town and SAMA's information so the discussion concluded with the CAO and Parks both agreeing to speak with SAMA again.

Reports

The monthly Facility Manager's Report informed council he is still waiting for two heat sensors as part of the parts for Viking to complete work for Fire Alarm deficiencies. The on-site consultant from the webinars (four held) for the Support in Upgrading Aging Ice Rinks (CRIS) project is set for Nov. 25. Waiting for cold weather to be able to start flooding of the outdoor rink.

Chief administrative officer Lisa Istace gave her report advising council that Dec. 3 will be Santa Day and the HR meeting for annual evaluations of staff will be held Nov. 27. Wapella will be utilizing the services of the water plant operator for periods over 10 days and will reimburse the town $1500. The CAO will investigate the loan process for the lagoon project to see if amounts can be taken in installments and if there are limits for advancements and what effect this could have on interest payments. Christmas holiday hours for the town office were approved for Dec. 24, 25, 26 and Jan. 1 and 2 being the closure dates. Dec. 24 and Jan. 2 would be holiday hours used by the staff as they are not stat holidays.

Accounts

A large sum was approved by motion and vote for accounts to be paid by computer cheques, credit card and online banking. The total approved was $1,233,790.70 with $49,019.48 for BCL Engineering Ltd., $391,004.47 for Springer Construction (rec park project) and $737,925.34 for Thomcat Management (lagoon project) are included in the total. Grant payments will be received by the Town to cover a large portion of these invoices. Sask Energy ($3,257.14), Sask Power ($14,678.23) and Canada Customs and Revenue ($11,952.90) were other large accounts included.

Correspondence

Whitewood Library requested a letter be sent to the MLA requesting the continuation of the free entry to regional parks with library membership to continue.

A quote for budget purposes for materials to construct a canteen/washroom structure with handicap stall at the new rec park was received for approximately $37,000. Design has not been decided but council felt that cooking at the canteen would be done by outside barbeque and the number of washroom stalls will influence size of the structure.

A letter of concern from a user of town facilities that is not a taxpayer regarding the rink, ball diamonds, staffing, and many other issues was discussed. It was a very in-depth list of concerns such as rink conditions, grass in ball diamonds and around fence plus other examples of concerns. Council felt they had discussed all the issues in the past year, and any problems had been remedied.

Councillor Jordan Giroux brought forward that he had a concern that he was going to send to the minor hockey association regarding the teams leaving the facilities as clean when they left as when they arrived as not all teams were being responsible at times.

It was felt by council that town facilities, areas such as ball dug-outs or areas being used, and especially those areas that are free of charge, should be up to the teams and not the caretakers to maintain and should be brought to council at the time and not later when it is too late to investigate or correct.

The town will send letters to the user groups to be responsible for their needs and areas and clean-up following their events.

"There are not the volunteers coming forward as they did in the past to prepare areas, like chalking the ball fields and keeping areas clean. More responsibilities are falling on town staff and there is less funding for summer student hires to help," Mayor Ashfield stated. Council agreed that user groups have to take some responsibility as was done in the past and agreed, "It is the community that needs to build the town up and not just the town employees and town council."

Old Business

A discussion took place on the removal of derelict buildings, including the old hospital building in town that contains some asbestos, although not the whole building. The cost to knock down the building is approximately $150,000 where burning would be a substantial saving. Concerns and costs for burning and removal of remaining materials as well as liability costs were part of the discussion. The fire department can only control the burn and cannot enter the building. The CAO will search for additional information and concerns from other communities and from SUMA.

A motion to remove Bylaw No. 05 2016, concerning a loan for $41,581.22 for financing the 2015 Dodge 2500 truck was made and approved, as the Bylaw is no longer needed.

New Business

There has been notice of an increased cost for plagues at the columbarium. The present cost is $1500 but with the increase in costs, the price will be $1590 to the town. A motion was made and carried by vote to charge $1600 starting Jan. 1, 2026.

A quote to relocate the Sask Tel line at the lagoon project was received for $2400 with the town to pay one-half was approved by motion and a vote.

A Homeowner Billing Responsibility Policy #33 also had a motion made that clarifies that all residential properties receiving municipal utility services, including water, sewer, garbage, and recycling collection that are tenant-occupied properties remain the owner's liability if amounts are unpaid, and the municipality will not mediate disputes between owners and tenants. Outstanding utility balances must be paid in full before property transfer for the sale or transfer of property. Accounts not paid after 60 days will be disconnected and water will not be restored until all arrears are paid, including a fee of $100.00 during regular hours and $200.00 after hours. The motion was passed by unanimous vote.

New campground rates for the Town of Whitewood Campground were passed by a motion and vote. Rates were increased to cover increased costs of 50 amp service installed in some sites from the 30 amp service (still available in some sites) and to keep the rates comparable with other communities. Booking can be done at Let's Camp (letscamp.ca) or call the town office during regular hours.

Two other new policies also received approval including the Swimming Pool Cancellation Policy and the Arena Ice & Venue Booking Cancellation Policy. Policies are available at the town office or the arena office.

2026 Council Meeting dates were approved including the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of January, February, March, June and November. April, May and September will be the 1st and 3rd Tuesday, July and August will be one meeting on the 2nd Tuesday, October will be moved to the 1st and 4th Thursday evenings and there will only be one meeting in December on Tuesday, Dec. 15, 2026.

The contract for Cemetery Maintenance has expired and new tenders will be advertised with tenders closing Jan. 6, 2026 at 4 p.m.

Two new building inspectors were approved for Professional Building Inspectors, Inc. for the Town of Whitewood.

Resignation

A motion was made following an In Camera session that the resignation of councillor Jordan Giroux be accepted, effective Dec. 1, 2025. Giroux stated a busy family and work life as the reason he was stepping down.

A call for nominations will be held in the new year.



CHRIS ASHFIELD I GRASSLANDS NEWS

Battle for the puck

Kipling's Jaxon Balough (left) and Whitewood's Dominick Louison battle for the puck during a U13 tournament that was held in Whitewood on Nov. 21 and 22. See story on page 13.

Holiday Spirit shines in Broadview and Whitewood with senior event & lights

By GNG Staff
Grasslands News

Communities in the area are gearing up for a festive December as both Broadview and Whitewood prepare to welcome the Christmas season with celebrations, lights, and plenty of holiday cheer.

In Broadview, seniors aged 55 and over—and their spouses—are invited to enjoy an afternoon of fellowship at the annual Seniors Christmas Celebration on Sunday, Dec. 7. Hosted by the Broadview & District Lions Club, the gathering will run from 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. at the Broadview Community Hall, located at 715 Main Street. The free event will feature entertainment, food, beverages, and ample time to visit with friends and neighbours.

To ensure everyone can attend, the Lions Club is offering complimentary transportation in Broadview through the Paratransit Bus service. Seniors requiring a ride can contact Lion Denny Edwards at 306-696-7773 to arrange pick-up. The Lions Club looks forward to welcoming area seniors for a warm and festive afternoon.

Meanwhile in Whitewood, the holiday spirit is glowing a little brighter thanks to the town's annual Christmas Light Up Contest. Just in time for the season, the community received its first blanket of snow, adding to the charm as households and businesses prepare their seasonal displays.

The competition, sponsored by the Town of Whitewood, will take place Dec. 19 to 22, when judges will tour the community in the evenings to select winners. Residents are encouraged to keep their lights on throughout those dates.

This year, new categories have been added to bring extra fun and creativity to the event. Residential awards will be handed out for Most Humorous, Most Likely to Be on Pinterest, and Best Outdoor Christmas Tree. Local businesses will compete for Best Movie or Story Theme, Most Humorous, and Best Decorated Window.

As both communities prepare to celebrate in their own special ways, organizers hope the season brings joy, connection, and plenty of bright moments to residents across the region.

SPORTS

Millionaires drop three of four SJHL games

By Darcy Gross
Grasslands News

The SJHL's Melville Millionaires are still looking for a formula to help them string a few wins together.

In the club's last four games, they've struggled to a 2-2 record, and they've had some games where scoring was almost out of the question.

Yorkton Terriers 5 at Melville Millionaires 0 (Nov. 22)

Try as they might, the Millionaires could not solve Terriers' netminder Alexandro Montoya in this contest, and were shut out 5-0 despite outshooting the Terriers 39-33.

Fuzz Aafedt started in the Melville crease and took the loss, making 28 saves in the process.

Yorkton scored once in the first period and once in the second before denting the twine three times in the game's final frame.

It was a rather mellow affair, by Highway 10 standards, with the Terriers being whistled for eight of the game's 14 minor infractions.



DARCY GROSS | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Taking the shot
Melville Millionaires' forward Kale Margolis tries to get a shot through the crowd at Yorkton Terriers' goalie Alexandro Montoya as Matt Edwards, left, and Preston Baerwald look for a rebound on Nov. 22. Montoya was solid in goal as the Terriers shut out the Mils 5-0.

Melville Millionaires 5 at Yorkton Terriers 4 (Nov. 21)

The Mils spotted the Terriers a couple of goals in this match-up, and then exploded for five straight markers, but still had to hang on to edge their rivals.

The game was all square at 2-2 after the opening stanza with the Millionaires jumping out to a 3-2 lead after 40 minutes of hockey.

Team captain Boston Harkness led the way for the Millionaires, registering three assists while newcomer Nathan Taylor (1) and Rylan Oatman (7) each sniped once and set up another for two-point nights.

Kale Margolis notched his 10th of the season with Keil Schmalz scoring his second and Leo Jewitt firing his fifth tally of the campaign.

Brayden Gourley and Wesley Olson each chipped in with an assist.

Noah Sinagowitz started between the pipes for the Millionaires and kicked out 30 of the 34 shots he faced while the Millionaires fired 31 shots at the duo of Callum Creig and Montoya.

The Millionaires were handed seven of the game's 11 minor penalties.

Nipawin Hawks 4 at Melville Millionaires 2 (Nov. 18)

Jackson Lee fired his eighth goal of the season and Margolis picked up his ninth, but it wasn't enough as the Millionaires fell 4-2 to the Hawks.

Brodie Hicks, Matthew Edwards, Riley Creigen and Harkness were each credited with an assist.

The Hawks led 2-0 after the first stanza and were up 2-1 after two periods.

Things were looking good for the home side as they tied the game at 15:10 of the third, only to see it slip away moments later.

Aafedt made six saves on eight shots before being lifted after 20 minutes, in favour of Sinagowitz, who stopped 17 of the 19 shots he faced. Melville skaters had 28 shots on the Hawks cage.

The Millionaires received 10 of 13 minor penalties as well as one of two fighting majors and three of four misconducts.

Estevan Bruins 0 at Melville Millionaires 1 (Nov. 11)

Sinagowitz kicked out all 27 shots he faced and Edwards scored his third of the season as the Millionaires blanked the Bruins at home on Remembrance Day.

Olson had the lone assist. The teams split four minor penalties.

The Millionaires hit the road for three games this week.

On Nov. 26 the Millionaires will face off with the Warman Wolverines and then, on Nov. 28 and 29, they'll battle in Battlefords with the North Stars on consecutive nights.

Broncs take wins against Marlins, Rockets

By Jacob Miller
Grasslands News

The Balcarres Broncs picked up two wins the Qu'Appelle Valley Highway Hockey League.

On Nov. 21 the Broncs faced off against the Southey Marlins in Southey to win 9-4. The Marlins managed to score three times in the first period with goals from Dawson Karol, Pat Thompson-Gale and Blake Betson. The Broncs had two goals in the first with a powerplay goal from Josh Bear and a goal from Riley Krane at the end of the period making it 3-2. The Broncs dominated in the second period getting four goals coming from Jared Martin, a short-handed goal from Cory Kosloski, Brady Pouteau, and a short-handed goal from Justin Bernhardt. The Marlins scored once during the period with a goal from Mason Nullaney. In the third period the Broncs sealed the deal with a goal from Sincere Toto and two more for Kosloski earning him a hat trick and ending the game 9-4.

Broncs' goalie Reece Hodson saw 39 shots and 35 saves while Marlins' goalie Taylor Unruh saw 41 shots and had 32 saves.

At home on Nov. 22 the Broncs faced off against the Raymore Rockets, scoring 5-3.

The Rockets opened scoring in the first period with two goals, one on the powerplay from Arthur Miller followed by a late period goal from Tyler Adams.

In the second period the Broncs made the single goal coming from Josh Bear. Broncs scoring heated up in the third period with goals coming from Cory Kosloski, two from Randen Schmidt, one an empty netter, and one from Daelin Shordee. There was one goal from the Rockets' Miller, making it a 5-3 game.

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Whitewood U13 Elks capture title at hometown tournament

By Chris Ashfield
Grasslands News

Fans were treated to a showcase of skill, intensity and end-to-end action as Whitewood hosted a highly successful U13 home tournament on Friday and Saturday, drawing teams from across southeast Saskatchewan and Manitoba for two days of tightly contested hockey.

Organizers described the weekend as an awesome home tournament, and with three dramatic finals, the event lived up to the billing.

The weekend tournament included six team from Whitewood, Kipling, Esterhazy, Moosomin, Yorkton and Winnipeg. A total of nine games were played Friday and Saturday with each game consisting of two 30-minute straight time periods.

The C-Final opened the championship slate with a goal-filled showdown as the Kipling Royals edged the Yorkton CCV Terriers 9–8. The B-Final delivered its share of drama, needing overtime to determine a winner. In the end the Moosomin Rangers defeated the Esterhazy Red Flyers 5–4 in a thrilling extra-frame finish that kept fans on their feet.

In the marquee matchup of the weekend, the hometown crowd had plenty to cheer about as the Whitewood Elks claimed the A-Final, defeating the Seven Oaks Raiders of Winnipeg 6–3. The game was a hard-fought battle from start to finish, with the Elks controlling key moments and capitalizing on scoring chances to secure the top banner on home ice.



CHRIS ASHFIELD I GRASSLANDS NEWS

Champions!
The Whitewood Elks U13 team captured the banner at their home tournament on Nov. 21 and 21 after defeating the Winnipeg Seven Oaks Raiders 6-3 in the A-Final. A total of six teams took part in the tournament with teams from Kipling, Esterhazy, Moosomin and Yorkton also taking part.

PJHL Storm takes win over Steelhawks as Knox bounce back

By Jacob Miller
Grasslands News

It was a busy week in the Prairie Junior Hockey League as the Fort Knox and Pilot Butte Storm win while the Moosomin Steelhawks losing streak continued.

Fort Knox bounce back

Fort Knox bounced back this week with an 8-0 win over the Regina Silver Foxes while at home on Nov. 20.

The win was a team effort with first period goals being attributed to Leland Cody and Cooper Buhay. In the second period goals are attributed to Taye Shukin and Tomas Hauber. Third period scoring saw four goals come from Mason Babiuk, Shaden Duliak, Josh Heistad and River Banks.

The shutout belongs to Fort Knox goalie Drew Pereyma who saw 25 shots on goal.

On Nov. 22 the Fort Knox picked up a win on the road against the Martensville Chiefs winning 4-3 at the Martensville Sports Centre.

Fort Knox opened scoring in the second period with a goal from Shaden Duliak followed by a goal from Taye Shukin making it 2-0. The Chiefs answered back in the second with one goal from Liam Dechaine but was followed by two Fort Knox goals from Madden Wallis and Josh Heistad on the powerplay ending the period 4-1. The Chiefs started to make a comeback in the third period but were unable to capitalize, scoring only two goals coming from Dylan Prince and Luc Fortier.

Fort Knox goalie Kale Gorski saw a total of 35 shots and had 32 saves.

Storm lose one on the road

The Pilot Butte Storm fell to the Saskatoon Royals at the Rod Hamm Arena on Nov. 19, losing 7-2.

The Royals opened scoring in the first period with a powerplay goal from Keenan Bender. The Storm tied it up quickly with a powerplay goal from Colton Pushie, but the Royals take the lead in the final seconds of the period with a goal from Beck Humber. The Royals solidified their lead in the second period with five goals from Evan Skoronski, Hunter Jaeb, Spencer Chestolowski, Rhys Osicki and Tyler Hale with a powerplay goal, ending the period 7-1. Storm's Tate Olson was able to get in a powerplay goal late in the third period making it 7-2.

Storm goalie Kaden Perron saw 40 shots while making 33 saves.

Steelhawks losing streak continues, lose against Capitals, Storm, Fort Knox

The Steelhawks losing streak was extended to four after a loss against the Pilot Butte Storm and Extreme Hockey Regina Capitals.

In the first game on Nov. 19 the Steelhawks lost 7-1 against the Capitals at Mike Schwean Arena.

The Capitals opened scoring in the first period with back-to-back goals seconds apart from Dylan Schoenroth and Townes Gibbs. In the second period Steelhawks' Deagan Reister managed to get one in for their only goal of the game, 2-1. Capitals' scoring for the period includes a powerplay goal from Jared Hingley and a goal from Owen Fraser strengthening their lead 4-1. In the third period the Capitals scored three goals with Reid Bechard scoring on the powerplay, one form Cruz Klapak, and a powerplay goal form Hingley making it 7-1.

Steelhawks goalie Joshua Blair saw a total of 75 shots on net with 68 saves.

On Nov. 22 the Storm hosted the Steelhawks where the Steelhawks lost 5-1.

The Storm opened scoring in the first period and took the lead 3-0 with two goals from Tate Olson, one on the powerplay, and a goal from Nixon Wirth. In second period the Storm improved their lead with a goal from Kaden Corbin. Late in the third period the Steelhawks attempted to generate offence with a goal from Ryan Weaver but it's not enough as Olson scores a hat trick to end the game 5-1.

The Steelhawks played both goalies with Joshua Blair seeing 29 shots and 25 saves and Zachary Barath seeing 18 shots on net with 17 saves. Storm goalie Brady Carr saw 28 shots and had 27 saves.

On Nov. 28 the Steelhawks traveled to Fort Qu'Appelle where they lost 13-1 against the Fort Knox.

Fort Knox opened scoring in the first period with a goal from Madden Wallis. The Steelhawks answered with their only goal in the game coming from Deagan Reister. Before the end of the period Fort Knox managed to get two more in with goals from Jackson Hofer and River Banks, making it 3-1. In the second period Fort Knox made it a 7-1 game with goals from Shaden Duilak, Taye Shukin, Hofer and Tomas Hauber. In the third period Fort Knox made the 13-1 with goals from Spencer Copeland, Josh Heistad, Ryder Miller, another from Hofer for a hat trick, another from Shukin and Jonah Pinel.

Steelhawks' goalie Zachary Barath saw 57 shots and made 44 saves while Fort Knox goalie Drew Pereyma saw 24 shots and made 23 saves.

Upcoming games

The Moosomin Steelhawks are on the road as they play the Carrot River Outback Thunder on Nov. 28 at Kearns Arena, with a 7:30 p.m. start time. Then on the 29th they play the Saskatoon Westleys at 8 p.m. at Rod Hamm Arena.

The Fort Knox are on the road with a game against the Pilot Butte Storm on Nov. 29 at the Pilot Butte Recreation Centre with a 7:45 p.m. start time.

The Pilot Butte Storm are also on the road with a Friday night game against the Regina Silver Foxes starting at 7:45 p.m. at the Doug Wickenheiser Arena.

SSWHL Prairie Fire fall against Wheat Queens

By Jacob Miller
Grasslands News

The Grenfell Prairie Fire fell 8-1 against the Yellow Grass Wheat Queens in the Saskatchewan Senior Women's Hockey League on Nov. 23. The Grenfell Prairie Fire hosted the Wheat Queens at Grenfell Arena.

Scoring started early in the first period with a goal from Ashlyn Wilde for the Prairie Fire. That lead was cut short with a goal from Karissa Mryglod of the Wheat Queens who tied up the game. Headed into the second period the Wheat Queens took the lead with a goal from Caitlin Dempsey. The Wheat Queens added to their lead in the second with a goal from Mryglod. In the third period the Wheat Queens continued to dominate with goals from Kassidy Fellner, two from Mryglod who had a hat trick, Dempsey, and Rianne Watson.

The Grenfell Prairie Fire host the Southeast Saints on Nov. 29 at 7 p.m. at Grenfell Arena. The Prairie Fire are on the road in December when they play the Saints at the Harry O. Memorial Arena at 6 p.m. in Midale.

Melville Cobras boys fall to 4A volleyball champs

GNG Staff
Grasslands News

If you're going to lose in sport, there's never any shame in losing to the eventual champions.

That was the case for the Melville Cobras senior boys' volleyball team Saturday, Nov. 22 in North Battleford, as they lost Saskatchewan High Schools Athletic Association's 4A quarterfinal in straight sets (25-19, 25-11) to Meadow Lake's Carpenter High School Spartans.

The Spartans, who didn't lose a set all weekend, went on to beat Humboldt (25-14, 25-23) in the semifinal before capturing their third provincial championship in four years with a 25-15, 25-21 win over Moose Jaw's Central Cyclones in the gold medal match.

An hour earlier, Melfort defeated Humboldt in three sets (27-25, 19-25, 15-11) for bronze.

Melville opened this year's provincial tournament with a trio of losses Nov. 21, all three going to three sets.

The Cobras fell to North Battleford's John Paul II Collegiate (25-13, 23-25, 15-12), Moose Jaw's Vanier Vikings (15-25, 25-17, 15-11) and the eventual bronze medalists (17-25, 25-20, 15-13) before finishing preliminary round play Saturday with a 25-12, 25-13 win over Kindersley.

Other provincial champions crowned on the final weekend of the 2025 high school volleyball season were Briercrest Christian Academy which beat Regina Christian School in three sets for the 3A title, Wilkie which won in three sets over Saskatoon Christian School for the 2A championship, and Rouleau, who beat Frontier in straight sets for the 1A crown.

Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation
S.W.F. Measuring Night
Melville Fish & Game will hold its Annual "Horn/Antler" Measuring Night at Melville Community Works 800 Prince Edward St.
Tuesday, Dec. 9, 2025
5 to 8 p.m.
Lunch & Refreshments
Call 306-730-6671
2026 Memberships can also be purchased.
Entries for fish, birds or photos are now being accepted.

Sports column – Darcy Gross

Gross Misconduct

Times were simpler years ago.

Everything seemed simpler and made more sense than many of the things we all do today.

How many times have you been in a room recently, where everyone, or at least a few people, are busy staring at their phones and texting or checking their social media for updates?

Well, back in the day, there was usually one phone in the house, and it was connected to the house by a cord, and when people were visiting, you usually had their undivided attention.

Some people might think that times are better now, but the vast majority of folks who were children of the sixties or seventies know that we had it best.

No one was tied to their phone, and the best thing of all, there weren't cameras watching and documenting your life 24 hours a day.

Don't get me wrong, technology is a good thing, but it came along at just the right time as far as I'm concerned.

But now, we're all starting to notice how tech is working its way into the sporting world.

How many fans were watching the Blue Jays on that terrific playoff run and didn't pay particularly close attention to the rectangle strike zone that appeared on the screen?

Most people I know believe that that rectangle will give you every ball and strike call there is, without exception, and the Major Leagues must believe in it, because they're talking about using that guide to challenge an umpire's calls.

Back in the day, they would have said that the league is trying to remove the human element from the game, but balls and strikes, for the most part, are fairly cut and dried, unless you're looking at the batter and trying to determine whether or not he was swinging.

Football and hockey have also started using replay for calls over the last number of years.

Sometimes it can be difficult to see if a puck has crossed a goal line or if it was knocked in with a high stick or even if a play is offside.

There are many purists who say that all these newfangled replays and such take the human element out of the game, but perhaps that's what needs to happen in some cases.

Even the best referee or linesman can miss a play or two, and if it were to cost a team the game, then I guess they'd want to ensure that those types of calls weren't missed.

After watching a number of SJHL games this season, I'd be telling tall tales if I said that the refereeing is consistent and the guys wearing the stripes always remain neutral.

Anyone who has watched any hockey knows that only the top officials in any sport are able to call it right down the middle.

This year there have been a number of instances that had me shaking my head as I headed for the CN Community Centre parking lot following a Melville Millionaires' game.

Sometimes the officials don't get it right because they miss something, but on other nights, it seems as if the officials have an axe to grind.

Perhaps they don't, but it certainly appears they do.

With all the changes in technology, perhaps the time is coming that instead of a referee on the ice, we'll see an official in a booth, sending messages down to the guys on the ice who will be in charge of face-offs and breaking up the odd skirmish.

It has to be difficult to get good officials for every game, because some might be new or just learning how to call a game, but some of these folks don't seem to have any function but to insert themselves into the game.

Maybe the junior game needs someone upstairs to talk with when they aren't sure what to do, and believe me, there have been some struggles this season for those in possession of a whistle.

It's bound to happen at some juncture.

Someday it won't be about how someone is feeling about a play, it will be whether the play was legal or not, and no one's feelings are going to matter.

If referees and umpires are going to keep the human element in the game, they need to improve.

A penalty call shouldn't have anything to do with what else has happened during the game.

It should stand on its own and the officials should mete out the proper punishment.

Call the games right, or you'll be replaced.

It's the evolution of sport.

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Mustangs edge Cyclones 5-4

By Stephen Scriver
Grasslands News

The Wolseley Mustangs welcomed the newest team in the QVJHL, the Davidson Cyclones, to the Sportsplex on Saturday night, Nov. 22, and may have taken their role as gracious hosts too seriously, almost letting the visitors take home a point in the standings. It took the heroics of Connor Webster, who scored with just over three minutes left in the game, to give the Mustangs a hard-fought 5-4 win. Period scores were 2-1 and 4-3.

Wolseley struggled with consistency on their forward lines throughout the game, and although they scored first on a nice goal by Riley Chambers, the Cyclones kept pace and never fell behind by two for long, in fact tying the score halfway through the third. Webster and Caile Reiger each had a goal and an assist, with the other goals coming from Riley Chambers, Cohler Faubert and Adam Thauberger.

The Mustangs may be missing some key players from last season, but their offensive problems seem to result from a lack of patience in developing drives from their zone. There were very few rushes of more than three consecutive passes until the third period. This is the team that went undefeated in the playoffs last season, and with time and practice, things should improve.

Wolseley had eight minor penalties, while Davidson had four.



STEPHEN SCRIVER I GRASSLANDS NEWS

Goal number 2
Wolseley Mustangs second goal came from Caile Reigeer (center) and Kye Englot (#13) assisted in the game against Davidson Cyclones on Saturday, Nov. 22 in Wolseley.

Prairie Men's HL

Game Schedule

Home/Away Games
NOVEMBER:
28– Ituna Avalanche at Cupar 8 pm
29– Indian H. Chiefs at Strasbourg 8 pm
Valley Warriors (Fort) at Cupar 8pm
DECEMBER:
06– Ituna Avalanche at IHChiefs 8 pm
07– Strasbourg at Valley Warriors (Fort) 7:30 pm
12– Indian Head Chiefs at Cupar 8 pm
13– Strasbourg at Ituna Avalanche 8 pm
19– Indian H. Chiefs at Strasbourg 8 pm
20– Cupar at Strasbourg 8 pm
Valley Warriors (Fort) at Ituna 8pm
21– Cupar at Ituna Avalanche 2 pm

Fort Knox Hockey

Game Schedule

Home/Away Games
NOVEMBER:
29– Fort Knox at PB Storm 7:45
DECEMBER:
03– Fort Knox at RPS Rebels 7:30
07– Regina SF at Fort Knox 3:00
13– S'toon Royals at Fort Knox 7 pm
14– Fort Knox at RPS Rebels 3:00
18– Regina SF at Fort Knox 7:30
20– Moosomin SH at Fort Knox 5:00

Pilot Butte Storm

Game Schedule

Home/Away Games
NOVEMBER:
28– PB Storm at Silver Foxes 7:45
29– Fort Knox at PB Storm 7:45
DECEMBER:
04– PB Storm at Silver Foxes 7:45
06– Westleys at PB Storm 7:45
10– PB Storm at Chiefs 8:00
13– PB Storm at Capitals 7:45
17– PB Storm at Steelhawks 8:00
20– Rebels at PB Storm 7:45

Melville Millionaires Jr. A Hockey

Game Schedule

Home/Away Games
All Games 7 p.m.
unless otherwise stated
NOVEMBER:
28– Melville at Battlefords 7:30
29– Melville at Battlefords 7:30
DECEMBER:
05– Melville at Melfort 7:30
06– Melfort at Melville
12– Melville at Estevan
13– Estevan at Melvillle
17– Melville at Melfort 7:30
19– Melville at Weyburn

Bowling Scores, Standings – Melville Bowl Arena

MONDAY P.M.
Nov. 10

Ladies' High Single, Triple and Average, Angela Dobson, 202, 536, 165.

Men's High Single, Triple and Average, Joe Wu,232, 588, 188.

Team High Single, Stephens 795. Team High Triple, Dobson, 2287.

Team	Pts.
Dobson	25.5
Ostlund	24
Bender	21
Stephens	15.5

MONDAY COMMERCIAL
Nov. 17

Ladies' High Single and Triple, Cindy Exner, 2329, 620. Ladies' High Average, Brandy Lechner, 223.

Men's High Single, Zander Hollinger, 277. Men's High Triple, Isaac Hollinger, 739. Men's High Average, Destin Kohlenberg, 218.

Team High Single, Blame it on Garry, 1292. Team High Triple, Gutter Girls, 3810.

Team	Pts.
Gutter Girls	30
Pinheads	27
Professional Amateurs	27
Blame it on Garry	26
New	18

ST. HENRY'S
Nov. 18

Ladies' High Single, Triple and Average, Pat Brown, 218, 516, 167.

Men's High Single and Triple, Chris Cheveldae, 225, 557. Men's High Average, Joe Wu, 188.

Team High Single and Triple, A Team, 1279, 3617.

Team	Pts.
Just 4 Fun	32
CCJ	23
Drifters	21
A Team	12

TUESDAY YBC
Nov. 18

Girls High Single and Triple, Amzlee Patterson, 150, 393.

Boys High Single and Triple, Deklan Kohlenberg, 118, 315.

Team High Single and Triple, Squishmellows, 840, 2437.

Team	Pts.
Squishmellows	22
Bowl Kings	22

THURSDAY YBC
Nov. 20

Girls High Single and Triple, Emmi Hollinger, 228, 548.

Boys High Single and Triple, Blaine Curylo, 280, 647.

Team High Single, Curylo, 906. Team High Triple, Kohlenberg, 2468.

Team	Pts.
Curylo	25.5
Wurts	24.5
Kohlenberg	19.5
Hollinger	18.5

SATURDAY YBC
Nov.15

Girls High Single and Triple, Ashyah Davies, 118, 314.

Boys High Single, Adien Lavergne, 213. Boys High Triple, Remi Schneider, 520.

Team High Single, Bravehearts, 858. Team High Triple, Bowling Superstars, 2474.

Team	Pts.
The Enders	25
Bravehearts	23
Everything	22
Bowling Superstars	18

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Phone 306-728-2730

Echo Lake Bible Camp Cowboy Christmas Dec. 6

By Connie Schwalm
Grasslands News

It will be a holiday celebration with a distinctly western flavor that is sure to get toes tapping on Saturday, Dec. 6, when Echo Lake Bible Camp hosts A Cowboy Christmas featuring Eli Barsi.

Marla Toth, executive director for the camp, says the evening will provide an opportunity for people of all ages to enjoy a good meal and some top-quality entertainment.

"This will be a chance for people to just have a really nice evening out that begins with supper," says Toth, "and supper is always delicious! Nothing beats relaxing and visiting with others over a good meal.

We're also running a Silent Auction with donated items from folks in the area, so people will have a chance to check out the items that are there.

"And then, of course, we'll have a performance by Eli Barsi. I know Eli, she's a great performer. She's got some Christmas material that will be wonderful for this event since it will appeal to a broad range of people. The evening has a cowboy theme, and she fits that theme perfectly. The folks who come out to enjoy this event like country-western music. And since Agribition will have just finished up the week prior to our fundraiser, a lot of people are still in that western frame of mind. So, having Eli with us feels right."

Toth says that funds raised through the event will support the camp's summertime programs.

"I've been working at Echo Lake Bible Camp for a couple of years now, but I've been attending since I was a kid," explains Toth. "So, I have a lot of history with the camp, and I know that it's a great place to be. This is really your quintessential summer camp beside a beautiful lake. So that means lots of canoeing, kayaking, fishing and swimming.

Along with that, one of our activities in the afternoon is our horse program, where we ride out along the lake, and the kids love it."

Although she is looking forward to "seeing some old friends" Toth says that she hopes to meet some first-time visitors coming out to enjoy A Cowboy Christmas and learn more about Echo Lake Bible Camp as well.

"We'd love to see folks from some of the local communities like Fort Qu'Appelle, Lipton and Balcarres come out and see what we're all about. We're right on the highway, so people drive by all the time.

"We'd really like to give them an opportunity to turn in and discover Echo Lake Bible Camp."

A Cowboy Christmas will take place on Saturday, December 6. Doors open at 5 p.m. that evening and supper begins at 6 pm.

Adults - $40
Students (13-25) - $25
Children (5-12) - $12
Ages 4 and under free

Cumberland Villas residents donate to Away We Grow

Submitted
Grasslands News

Cumberland Villas was pleased to present a donation cheque of $1,000 on Friday to Vicki Waldbauer, representing Away We Grow Care Inc., a long-trusted childcare provider in Melville.

Founded in 2007, Away We Grow is a nonprofit corporation offering licensed childcare for over 15 years.

The organization is licensed by the Early Learning and Childcare Division of the Ministry of Education, ensuring high-quality, safe, and developmentally focused care.

Their heart is simple: children deserve to be nurtured, supported, and inspired — because the future of the world is in the classrooms of today.

The funds were raised through our well-loved Mall in the Hall, a volunteer-run initiative operated by a few Cumberland Villas condo owners. Residents donate gently used items, décor, books, and small treasures, which are displayed with modest price tags.

Community members, staff, visitors, and residents enjoy browsing and purchasing, knowing each sale supports a different charity each time.

This month's proceeds were directed to Away We Grow. The volunteers were thrilled by the community's participation, and residents were proud to support a local nonprofit dedicated to the growth and wellbeing of children.

Vicki visited Cumberland Villas on Friday, during Happy Hour to receive the cheque. The presentation was warm, heartfelt, and full of gratitude, as residents expressed joy in knowing their contributions help support children and families right here in Melville, Sk.

At Cumberland Villas, giving back is part of who we are. The Mall in the Hall continues to show how small acts of generosity can grow into meaningful impact — one charity at a time.



SUBMITTED I GRASSLANDS NEWS

Donation to AWG
Residents of Cumberland Villas in Melville recently donated $1,000 to Away We Grow childcare provider. Front row, from the left are Vicki Waldbauer, Ann Schick and Anne Winniski. Back Row is Diane Exner.

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Melville Churches Welcome You

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
238 - 3rd Ave. E.
Office Ph. 306-728-2551
Office Hours: Mondays
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Clergy: Deacon Kevin Prouten
www.stpaulsmelville.ca
Sunday, Nov. 30:
11:00 a.m. Joint Worship Service at Trinity Lemb. No Sunday School
* * *
-- at Neudorf/Lemberg --
Sunday, Nov. 30:
*11 a.m. Joint Worship at Trinity Lemberg

ALL SAINTS' ANGLICAN CHURCH
Corner 6th Ave. E. & Main St.
306-720-0589
**Services Every Second Sunday*
Nov. 30:
No Worship Service

FIRST UNITED CHURCH
5th Ave. E. & King St.
Rev. Brian Mee, 306-335-7611
website: firstunitedmelville.org
Sunday, Nov. 30:
11:00 a.m. Worship Service with Rev. Brian Mee

THE RIVER CHRISTIAN CENTER
(A Church with a Caring Heart)
800 Prince Edward St.
(Melville Comm. Works)
Ph. 306-728-2347
Pastor Tim Oehler
Sundays:
9:55 a.m. Pre-service Prayer
10:00 a.m. Coffee and Welcome
10:30 a.m. Worship Service
www.melvilleriverchurch.org
Facebook @melvilleriverchurch
Recorded messages posted online

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
258 - 10th Ave. W.
Ph. 306-728-3971
Pastor Ronald Shumba
facebook.com/gslcmelville
Nov. 27: 7:00 p.m. Bible Study
Nov. 28: 7:00 p.m. Youth Group
Nov. 29: 10 a.m. Men's & Mugs
Nov. 23: 9:15 a.m. Choir
10:30 a.m. Worship Service
Dec. 4: 7:00 p.m. Bible Study
Dec. 5: 7:00 p.m. Youth Group

ST. GEORGE'S UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
Corner of 3rd Ave. E. & Manitoba St.
Fr. Basil Malowany
basilmalowany@gmail.com
306-540-5102
Sunday, Nov.30:
11:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy
Sunday, Dec. 7:
11:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy

MELVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH
473 - 8th Ave. W.
Office Ph. 306-728-5022
Pastor Jon Pettinger
Associate Pastor: Jesse Darby
Sunday:
Connections at 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.
Sunday Service at 11 a.m.
Online services can be found at: www.melvillebaptist.com

BETHANY EVANGELICAL MISSIONARY CHURCH
5th Ave. W. & Queen St.
Church Office Ph. 306-728-5001
Sunday, Nov. 30:
10:30 a.m. Worship Service

Growing in Faith Together
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Melville Churches Welcome You

ST. HENRY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
729 Main St. – Office
Ph. 306-728-5702
Res. Ph. 306-728-2305
111 - 8th Ave. W.
Father Melchor Samonte
Saturday Mass: 5:00 p.m.
Sunday Mass: 10:00 a.m.

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
(Lutheran Church - Canada)
502 - 4th Ave. W. – Church Office
Ph. 306-728-5689
Email: zlcpastor@myaccess.ca
www.zionlutheranmelville.com
Sunday, Nov. 30:
11:00 a.m. Divine Service
Church of the Lutheran Hour heard Sundays at 9:00 a.m. on 940 CJGX Radio, Yorkton

Whitewood & Area Churches Welcome You

NEW LIFE COMMUNITY CHURCH
Worship Service ~ 10:30 a.m.
Thursday - Prayer Meeting 7 p.m.
Wednesday Kids Club - 3:30 p.m.

EVANGELICAL MISSIONARY
Sunday School – 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Service – 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday Youth Group – 7 p.m.
Rev. Dr. James R. Graham

ST. JOSEPH'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
Father Tomy Mandapathil
Sunday, Nov. 30
11:00 a.m. Mass Service

ST. MARY'S ANGLICAN CHURCH
Sunday, Nov. 30:
10:30 a.m. Morning Prayer
First Sunday of Advent

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, WAPELLA
Sunday, Nov. 30:
No Worship Service

WHITEWOOD UNITED CHURCH
Sunday, Nov. 30
No Worship Service

Indian Head Church Welcomes You

ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH
801 Buxton St. - Indian Head, SK
306-695-3838
Sunday Services 11 a.m.
*Family Play Group – Mondays, 10 a.m. to 12 Noon
*Living with Cancer Support Group
2nd Tuesday of the Month



Kipling Churches Welcome You

KIPLING CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
417 3rd Street South
Office: 306-736-8268
Sunday Services 10 a.m.
email: pipestoneparish@sasktel.net

KIPLING UNITED CHURCH
102 Nelson Ave. — 306-736-2237
email: kwpc@sasktel.net
Services Held 1st and 3rd Sundays at 9:30 a.m. Minister will vary
Nov. 30:
Advent One Lay Service

KIPLING PEOPLE'S CHURCH
701 3rd Street - 306-736-8992
Website: kiplingpeopleschurch.com
Pastors: Kevin & Merodee Hassler
10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship and Children's Ministry

ST. ANNE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
418 First St., Kipling
Priest: Father Joseph Villamartin
306-538-2163
Sunday, Nov. 30:
Mass 11:00 p.m.

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH
400 3rd St. South, Kipling
306-736-2447, Doris
306-424-2604, George
Worship Service 11:00 a.m.

BEKEVAR PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
102 Nelson Ave.
(in Kipling United Church)
Sunday Worship
in person 11:30 a.m.
Rev. Devon Pattemore
Lay Person/Service Leader
306-736-2479
bkbernat@gmail.com

PARKLAND BIBLE CHURCH
309 3rd. St. South, Kipling
306-736-2421
parklandagc@sasktel.net
Pastor Stephen Luff
Sunday: 10 a.m. Sunday School
11 a.m. Worship Service
Wednesday: 10 a.m. Mom's Group

Fort Qu'Appelle Churches Welcome You

VALLEY ALLIANCE CHURCH Fort Qu'Appelle
Sunday service 10:30 a.m.
Service is also available on YouTube and will be livestreamed
306-900-0600
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 - 306-563-7451

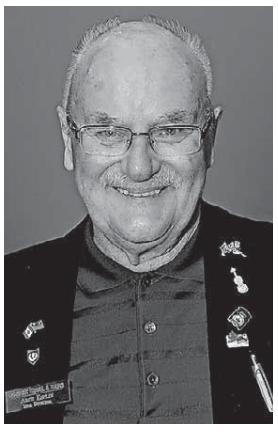
ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH
194 Bay St., Fort Qu'Appelle
Rev. Jo Mader, 306-332-4455
Sunday School & Service 10:30
Hear the Gospel, sing the faith, feel the family fellowship. Facebook Live.

CLASSIFIEDS

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

Obituary

Archie Everest Esplin
April 20, 1935 – Nov. 20, 2025



It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing of Archie Everest Esplin, who left us on Thursday, Nov. 20, 2025 at the age of 90 years.

Archie was born in Cardale, MB on April 20, 1935. Archie joined the Navy in 1952 and served five years in the Royal Canadian Navy with a portion during the Korean War, also serving as an honor guard at Queen Elizabeth's coronation in 1953. He then moved back to Manitoba where he worked on the TransCanada Pipeline and at Manitoba Hydro before beginning his 38 year grain buying career in Rivers, 36 years at National Grain/Cargill and two years at Terminal 22 in Balcarres. He also spent 10 years as a Sask. Housing Manager with Balcarres Housing Authority.

Archie married Beverly Blake on Sept. 25, 1965 in Rapid City, MB. Over the years, Arch and Bev hosted over 40 bus, river and ocean cruise tours for McConaghy Tours/Lobstick Travel, travelling to places such as China, Ukraine, Iceland, the United Kingdom, Europe, Norway, the Amazon and Galapagos Islands, among others. Arch and Bev spent 59 years living in Balcarres, where he was an active member of the community as an avid curler and a lifetime member of both the Legion and the Balcarres Golden Age Centre.

Arch loved to entertain and would often be seen playing the fiddle or his accordion at long-term care centers in the area, also spending 37 years with the Balcarres Fireside Singers. In later years, he enjoyed making wine and beer and tending to his precious fish.

Arch was predeceased by his parents Alexander and Edna Esplin; older brothers Jim and John Esplin; and brother-in-law Lloyd Fjermestad. He is survived by his wife Bev of 60 years; his daughter Leanne (Randy) Procyshen and their daughters Kelcie (Reece) and Jenna (Tyler); his son Kent (Karla) Esplin and their daughters Cherrise (Nicholas) and Carissa (Ryley); brother-in-law Robert (Barbara) Blake; sisters-in-law Judith Fjermestad and Doris Esplin; along with numerous nieces and nephews.

Arch will be remembered for his quick wit, love of music and the lasting impact he had on family, friends and the community of Balcarres.

The interment will take place in the Balcarres Cemetery in Balcarres, SK on Friday, Nov. 28, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. A Celebration of Life will follow in the Balcarres Lions Hall, Balcarres, SK at 2:30 p.m., officiated by Don Jewitt. In lieu of flowers, a donation in Archie's memory can be made to the Balcarres Senior Center, Balcarres Golden Age Group, Box 767, Balcarres, SK SOG OC0. Online condolences may be made at www.tubmanfh.com

Dignity Memorial

Obituary

Frederick Peter Retzlaff
Feb. 3, 1946 – Oct. 25, 2025



On Saturday, Oct. 25, 2025, following a lengthy battle with kidney disease, Frederick Peter Retzlaff joined his soulmate of 50 years, Patricia Dawyne Retzlaff, in heaven. Born Feb. 3, 1946, Fred's legacy for resilience, kindness, strength and, above all, humour will live on through his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Fred was a huge sports enthusiast, which included hockey, football and basketball, but his favourite pastime was cheering on the Blue Jays. Left to cheer for the Jays are daughters Dana (Murray) and Trishia (Blair); son Christopher (Barb); 13 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

Fred left his mark wherever he went and took great pride in his leadership roles, most recently with Crop Insurance and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. He was a mentor to many people and well-respected by those who worked with him or for him.

Your stories, your laughter and your wisdom are already dearly missed. You left a little bit of yourself behind in all who knew you and took a big part of our hearts with you when you left.

There will be no public funeral service. Memorial donations may be made to Make-A-Wish Canada.

Arrangements were entrusted to Matthews Funeral Home, Melville.

Though your voice is now silent,
Your presence lingers near,
In every laugh, in every smile,
In memories we hold dear.
You taught us strength and kindness,
You showed us how to live,
With gentle hands and open hearts,
So much love you had to give.
The world feels dim without you,
Yet your light will always stay,
Guiding us through darkest nights,
And brightening each new day.
Forever in our hearts you rest,
Though parted, never gone,
Your legacy of love and grace
Will carry us along.

MATTHEWS Funeral Home

Memoriam



CHRISTIE – Graham John, June 16, 1977 - Nov. 25, 1997.
In loving memory of our son and brother who came to pass 28 years ago, at the age of 20 years, following a tragic hockey accident.
Loved and missed
beyond measure.
–Loved and missed and remembered each and every day, Mom and Dad, Diane and Don; sister Erin and family; brother Mike and family and brother Matt and family. 1p



HALYK – In loving memory of Margaret, Nov. 29, 1998 to 2025.
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Congratulations on 2025 Milestones!



The family of **Florence and Lorne Gottfried** of Saskatoon, and formerly of Neudorf and Melville, would like to congratulate them on their
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Dad's 90th birthday
Mom's 85th birthday
and their 65th wedding anniversary

Love, from all of us!

Tender

The Village Kennedy offers for sale the following property. **Property Description:**
Lot 1, Block 2 Plan AL2307
SEALED TENDERS must be submitted in an envelope marked "Property Tender" addressed to the Village of Kennedy: Box 93, Kennedy, SK S0G 2R0. Tenders must be postmarked by 3:00 p.m. on December 31, 2025. Highest, or any tender, not necessarily accepted. Successful bidder will have 90 days to provide payment of the property purchase.
Dated the 13th of November, 2025.

Jennifer McMillan
Administrator
Village of Kennedy

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RM OF SOUTH QU'APPELLE NO. 157
PROVINCE OF SASKATCHEWAN

Notice is hereby given under *The Tax Enforcement Act* that unless the arrears and costs appearing opposite the land and title number described in the following list are fully paid before January 28, 2026 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.

Description of Property	Title No.	Total Arrears*	Costs	Total Arrears and Costs
NW 24-17-14-2 EXT 2	146359211	$812.69	$422.00	$1,234.69
NW 09-17-15-2 EXT 0	133788471	$697.84	$366.00	$1,063.84
NE 18-17-15-2 EXT 0	153421006	$949.05	$422.00	$1,371.05
NW 28-17-15-2 EXT 13	138226271	$1,602.80	$356.00	$1,958.80
BLK/PAR A-PLAN 101226080 EXT 23	137605248	$328.36	$356.00	$684.36
SW 28-17-15-2 EXT 0	131028319	$970.51	$356.00	$1,326.51
SE 29-17-15-2 EXT 0	108318876	$1,040.06	$356.00	$1,396.06
SW 34-17-15-2 EXT 0	157715815	$791.10	$361.00	$1,152.10
NW 35-17-15-2 EXT 34	157715804	$743.02	$361.00	$1,104.02
BLK/PAR A-PLAN 101323550 EXT 9	156517263	$1,626.27	$422.00	$2,048.27
NW 02-18-14-2 EXT 0	155848911	$1,190.15	$366.00	$1,556.15
SW 05-18-14-2 EXT 1 SW 05-18-14-2 EXT 2	157715860 157715882	$1,128.48	$361.00	$1,489.48
SW 11-18-14-2 EXT 0	155848865	$411.95	$366.00	$777.95
SW 27-18-14-2 EXT 3	153615685	$327.09	$422.00	$749.09
BLK/PAR B-PLAN 101869465 EXT 0	131880326	$3,333.49	$422.00	$3,755.49
NW 25-18-16-2 EXT 0	156804756	$48,829.89	$422.00	$49,251.89
BLK/PAR C-PLAN 101400444 EXT 17 BLK/PAR D-PLAN 101400444 EXT 18	127399775 127399742	$2,137.00	$422.00	$2,559.00
SW 13-19-16-2 EXT 0	145118279	$6,482.65	$422.00	$6,904.65
SE 19-19-16-2 EXT 0	147485694	$1,848.30	$361.00	$2,209.30
BLK/PAR A-PLAN 101323606 EXT 1	149247366	$2,695.07	$422.00	$3,117.07
BLK/PAR 2-PLAN 01SE17713 EXT 0	149756811	$2,449.95	$422.00	$2,871.95
BLK/PAR 5-PLAN 01SE17713 EXT 0	151672406	$9,922.35	$422.00	$10,344.35
BLK/PAR A-PLAN 101192183 EXT 0	131300176	$982.85	$422.00	$1,404.85
BLK/PAR A-PLAN 101288853 EXT 0	153173617	$4,203.39	$422.00	$4,625.39
LOT 18-BLK/PAR E-PLAN 101886385 EXT 0	154430366	$9,541.58	$422.00	$9,963.58
BLK/PAR A-PLAN 102022636 EXT 0	155009415	$5,700.05	$422.00	$6,122.05
BLK/PAR A-PLAN 102122772 EXT 0	144798946	$195.48	$366.00	$561.48
LOT 42-BLK/PAR 2-PLAN 101990741 EXT 0	152225030	$3,668.28	$422.00	$4,090.28
BLK/PAR A-PLAN 102163946 EXT 0	145675389	$10,545.57	$422.00	$10,967.57
BLK/PAR A-PLAN 102181744 EXT 0	146359255	$8,919.99	$422.00	$9,341.99
BLK/PAR B-PLAN 102181744 EXT 0	146359323	$9,411.29	$422.00	$9,833.29
BLK/PAR A-PLAN 102248052 EXT 0	149643401	$3,279.17	$422.00	$3,701.17
SE 19-19-16-2 EXT 0	147485694	$470.08	$361.00	$831.08
BLK/PAR B-PLAN 101869465 EXT 0	131880326	$504.67	$366.00	$870.67
SE 19-19-16-2 EXT 0	147485694	$2,384.33	$361.00	$2,745.33
BLK/PAR B-PLAN 102320480 EXT 0	155008290	$379.25	$366.00	$745.25

*On January 1, 2026 the 2025 taxes will become arrears and be added to the amount required to remove the property from tax enforcement proceedings. Penalty is calculated to the date of the Notice and will continue to accrue as applicable
Dated this 25th day of November, 2025. **Lisa Pahl, Administrator**

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Winter Festival set for Dec. 5 in Balcarres

By Judy Hershmiller
Grasslands News

Balcarres Winter Festival will take place Friday Dec. 5 from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Balcarres Lions Hall. There will be sleigh rides through town, photos with Santa, as well as games and crafts for everyone to enjoy. Bring your family, your cozy mitts and your holiday spirit.

Things to keep in mind!

The BICC winter plant fundraiser sale has gone well with orders placed. Pickup date for your plants is Dec. 3 from 3 tp 5 p.m.

Public Skating takes place at the Centennial Arena Tuesdays and Thursdays 3:30 – 4:45. During public skating no hockey sticks or pucks are permitted. Stick N Puck takes place Fridays from 3:30 – 4:45. Hockey sticks and pucks are permitted during this time.

Truck Fill: Truck fill is open Monday to Friday 7 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Reminder that key fobs are required to access the Bulk RO Water Fill Station. Key fobs allow you to start and stop the water fill station. Rate: $30/1,000 gal. Purchase your key fob at the Balcarres town office

Transfer Station: The following items are accepted at the town transfer station – bare wood (not painted, not stained) metal or used appliances (fridges, washers, dryers, etc.) concrete or cement, leaves, grass clippings, garden waste. Call 306-334-2566 to book an appointment.

Annual Snow Removal Reminders: Please refrain from blowing/shovelling your properties snow onto the street, alley or neighbors property especially after the streets have been cleaned.

*If you are concerned about your driveway accidentally being blocked with snow from the grader, please put up visible stakes at the end of your driveway so that the grader operator knows to lower the driveway wing to clear the snow. This is especially important for the first few snowfalls and because we have all new staff employed this winter.

*Please keep your paths to your residence clear so that any emergency personnel (ambulance, fire, police) are able to reach you in your home.

*After a snowfall, please remove vehicles from the street so that the grader can clean the area effectively. Otherwise the vehicles may become blocked with snow and the Town will not be held responsible for this inconvenience.

Dec. 12,13,14: Calling Lakes Choir Annual Christmas program. Tickets are $15 and available through members and can be purchased at Fort Qu'Appelle, Balcarres and Indian Head Pharmasaves. The 60 voice choir participated in the Annual Rotary Christmas program held in Regina Nov. 25 at Knox Metropolitan Church. Local members of the choir are Judy Hershmiller, Hun Kim and Vicky and Stephanie Paus.

Nov. 29: Making It Happen Trade Show and Craft Fair sponsored by Union Art Collection Inc. a non profit charity. Bees Knees will be on hand to serve pulled pork sandwiches with a side of mac and cheese for $20. For more info contact Crystal Parkins 1-306-795-5395.

Golden Age News

The Balcarres Golden Age Club recently hosted a very successful Christmas themed garage sale and bake sale. Winner of the decorated fibre optic Christmas tree was Christine Petrichuk; Linda Fayant won the Food Hamper; Taylor Cleggett won the Christmas decoration Hamper; and Rylie Reichel won the Christmas oranges and tree holder.

Activities continue during the week with Yoga classes with Florence at 10:00 a.m.on Mondays, coffee time at 9:30 on Tuesdays, and coffee time at 2:00 on Thursdays.

This Friday the seniors will be assisting with Archie Esplin's funeral luncheon in the Lions Hall, and on Saturday a nice number of people are climbing the Engleheim Tour Bus in Fort Qu'Appelle to attend the Christmas Pagent in Caronport.

Cribbage games are scheduled every Saturday starting at 1:30. The cost is a toonie, and the winner takes home the loot.

The next general annual meeting will take place Dec. 9 following coffee.

The Golden Age Senior Christmas party is planned for Dec. 10 with supper and entertainment held at the Center.

A combined November/December birthday party will be held Dec. 19 at 2:30.

* * *

Sincere sympathy on the sudden passings of Glenda Onrait, Archie Esplin and Richard Barnsley, all long time residents of Balcarres and area.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

RM of Stanley No. 215

Public notice is hereby given that the Council of the Rural Municipality of Stanley No. 215 intends to adopt a bylaw under *The Planning and Development Act, 2007* to amend its Zoning Bylaw.

Intent: The purpose of the proposed bylaw is to add the Special Service Area of Duff to the Hamlet District of the Zoning Bylaw.

Affected Land: The amendment will affect all lands located within the boundaries of the Special Service Area of Duff.

Reason: This amendment is required to reflect the restructuring of the former Urban Municipality of Duff into a Special Service Area under the Hamlet jurisdiction of the RM of Stanley No. 215. The zoning change ensures appropriate land use regulation under the current municipal structure.

Public Inspection: The proposed bylaw may be inspected by any interested person at the RM of Stanley No. 215 office during regular office hours. Copies of the bylaw are available at cost.

Public Hearing: Council will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, December 9, 2025 at 10 a.m. The public hearing will be held at the RM office in Melville, SK. Any person or group that wants to comment on the proposed bylaw is welcome to attend or to submit comments prior to the meeting. Council will consider all comments received.

Issued at the RM of Stanley No. 215 November 7, 2025. Rhonda Schmaltz, Administrator

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Another big year is expected for Agribition

By Ryan Kiedrowski
Grasslands News

Canadian Western Agribition opened Nov. 24 with organizers projecting another strong year for attendance, livestock sales and international engagement as thousands of visitors begin to file through Regina's REAL District for the week-long agricultural showcase.

Speaking at the event's traditional Monday morning press conference, Agribition president Michael Latimer said the organization expects to match last year's attendance of roughly 145,000 people, citing strong pre-sales for the rodeo, expanded programming and a favourable forecast to start the week.

"Monday is super exciting. We've got the full week ahead of us and, as usual, a lot going on," Latimer said. "We're very optimistic… Weather always plays a role, but the people of Saskatchewan are resilient. We think we put on a great event no matter what."

Latimer noted that Saturday's rodeo has already sold out, with Friday close behind and Thursday "tracking ahead" of last year's pace. With more than 130 events on the schedule — not including private corporate gatherings — he said the grounds would be busy throughout the week.

Agribition has also restructured its cattle entry system, allowing for more dry space in the barns and improving the flow for exhibitors and spectators. The changes mean roughly 100 more cattle are on the grounds compared to last year, with all breeds seeing increases.

"Barns look better and are more inviting," Latimer said. "We'll have breed shows throughout the week and Beef Supreme on Saturday afternoon — the 26th anniversary for that show."

Alongside the familiar cattle barns, visitors will again find bison, alpacas and Texas longhorns — perennial favourites that help urban attendees and newcomers connect with the province's rural roots.

"There's no opportunity for a lot of young people to see bison in person," Latimer said. "They're a big animal with cultural and historical significance here. It's important for people to see that."

CEO Shaun Kindopp said the organization had "worked 51 weeks for this" and was eager to open the gates.

"This is week 52 — this is what we wait for," he said. "We're ready to welcome our international visitors and start packing the REAL District."

Kindopp highlighted the presence of two guests from SaskAg Matters, who were launching a suicide-awareness initiative and accompanying video at the press conference — an effort he said the organization was proud to help spotlight.

During a question-and-answer session, Latimer said strong ticket sales and expanded programming are the primary reasons for confidence in attendance numbers.

"Weather is always part of that, but rodeo sales are tracking with last year and we've added more events that will drive attendance higher," he said.

Organizers expect the economic impact to be similar to previous years, when the event generated more than $100 million.

"We're working with Tourism Saskatchewan and Tourism Regina to revamp our demographics and re-evaluate our annual economic impact," Kindopp said. "It's an important number for us."

Livestock sales are projected to surpass last year's total of more than $2 million, fuelled by both higher animal values and a growing number of international buyers.

"We're seeing strong interest from Mexico — likely upwards of 40 delegates — and we have visitors expected from Saudi Arabia, Mongolia and Australia," Kindopp said.

Latimer added that cattle prices have risen sharply, which should boost total sales.

"We're probably 20 per cent higher than last year," he said. "There's very tight supply right now — the lowest cattle numbers since the 1960s in North America — and beef demand is high."

International visitors will also be seeking Canadian genetics, including embryos and semen, a major but often unreported component of the event's economic impact.

On the ground, Latimer said the mood among producers is more positive than it has been in years, driven largely by improved cattle prices.

"This is probably the most optimistic I've seen in generations," he said. "Producers can finally invest back in the farm — buy a new chute, upgrade equipment. Costs are up for everyone, but producers finally have some breathing room."

Drought remains an issue in some regions, but Latimer said its effects vary widely.

"Drought is every year somewhere," he said. "Some areas were the driest they've been, but parts of Alberta had the best crops they've ever had. It depends on where you are."

Pasture availability continues to challenge herd expansion, with competition for land — including a shift toward grain production — limiting cattle numbers.

"There isn't excess grass everywhere," Latimer said. "That's part of why it's hard to rebuild the herd."

As Agribition begins its 54th year, Latimer said the focus remains on celebrating agriculture, connecting rural and urban communities, and showcasing Saskatchewan to the world.

"There's no reason at the moment to expect anything other than a great week," he said.



Making the mark RYAN KIEDROWSKI I GRASSLANDS NEWS

Lt. Gov. Bernadette McIntyre created a brand with a hot iron, officially opening Agribition as Board President Michael Latimer watches on.



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

Moosomin Tim's second-highest in Holiday Smile Cookie sales

By Ryan Kiedrowski
Grasslands News

The ovens barely had time to cool at the Moosomin Tim Hortons as another Holiday Smile Cookie campaign wrapped up with dizzying numbers — and a major boost for the Moosomin Visual Arts Club.

Store owner Greg Crisanti said this year's campaign that ran Nov. 17 to 23 was the most successful yet, with more than 8,000 cookies sold and unofficially just over $16,000 raised for the arts club and Tims Camps.

"We did another fantastic year — nothing to be disappointed about for sure," Crisanti said. "It was another record-breaking year. As of late Saturday (Nov. 22) night, we were sitting second in Saskatchewan, which is amazing."

Favourable weather helped drive steady traffic through the campaign, Crisanti added. Past years saw sales dented by snowstorms and school closures, but this time around conditions stayed clear.

"We had lots of sports groups in our community that weekend and people travelling on the highway with the good weather. Volunteers pushed hard through the weekend, and we put out some great results."

The demand even outpaced supply with orders flooding in, the warehouse ran out of the standard dough for the signature sugar cookies.

"The demand was so high we drained the warehouse," Crisanti said with a laugh. "We had to switch to chocolate chunk cookies instead of our normal sugar cookies because we wanted to keep selling those holiday small cookies for our organization. To have the warehouse run right out because of the success that we've had is amazing and we'll make sure we're stocked up for next season as well."

Crisanti credited the volunteers and the community for turning the annual fundraiser into what he called "a team effort from top to bottom."

"Everybody through the owners, our head office, the Tim's Camp group - everyone's so thankful and impressed that the community that we have with a single store, we're able to push that many cookies out the door," he said. "It really is a team effort is what comes down to it. Our teams are ready for it. Our volunteers are fantastic. The community that we pick as far as our charities goes are behind us 110% and it's just a great time of year to come together for a great cause."

For the Moosomin Visual Arts Club, the donation provides a welcome financial cushion. Board chair Krista Crellin said the group will likely focus the funds on general operations.

"We're volunteer run, and so we require a lot of volunteer hours and our staff is always putting in extra time," she said. "It's nice to have this extra bit of money to help pay her wages for one; pay our bills. It just makes everything a little easier."

Crellin said the club has grown quickly since opening in 2023; expanding pottery equipment, adding classes and filling its space with new resources.

"The space has changed a lot," she said. "We have so much stuff and resources for people to come and use, and lots of opportunities for volunteers or people taking classes."

Volunteer coordinator Lynne Hafner, who helped organize the decorating schedule, said the week moved at a steady pace with an average of three volunteers per shift.

"We had an 8 to 10 a.m. shift and an 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. shift, and we pretty much kept going the whole time," she said. "It's amazing how many people go through there."

Hafner said one highlight was meeting customers from far and wide, including a traveller from Saudi Arabia who hadn't visited Canada since 2015.

"Things went really smoothly," she said. "It was great meeting new people and telling them about the Visual Arts Centre — what we offer, our classes, open studio times. It helped get the word out."

The arts club, which recently hosted its Christmas market, will slow down for the holidays before resuming classes in the new year. Hafner said the Smile Cookie experience also helped recruit new volunteers and spark interest in future workshops.

"Not everybody's into sports," she said. "It's good to let people know there's a place they can come, work on projects, meet others and relax. And this fundraiser really helped us share that."

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