

# Fort Times

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## Fort Knox continue Christmas tradition of Teddy Bear Toss

By Alan Hustak  
Grasslands News

Fort Knox fans didn't have to wait very long to throw their plush toys on the ice at the Rexcentre during the Prairie Junior Hockey League game on Sunday afternoon.

Within the first two minutes of play, Josh Heistad scored the first goal against the Regina Silver Foxes to spark the Christmas tradition of tossing stuffed toys from the stands on to the ice when the home team scores its first goal. As soon as the puck sank into the goal hundreds of plush toys went soaring into the air.

"I didn't expect to score so soon. It felt good, really good," Heistad told The Times. What felt even better is that Knox went on to win the game 12-2.

Henry Thunderblanket made his debut in the Knox jersey and Shaden Duliak scored three of the 12 Knox goals.

Eligible families who have not yet picked up a toy for their children can do so at St. Andrew's United Church on Monday Dec. 15 when food hampers are handed out across the street at St. John's Anglican Church. The toys aren't wrapped this year as they were in previous years so parents are free to make their own selection.

The toss the teddy bear toy campaign to collect toys for underprivileged children began in Kamloops in 1993 and has spread across the country.

The record number of toys tossed at any one game was in 2018 when 28,815 stuffed animals were thrown on the ice at the Saddledome in Calgary,

### Ready to toss

Fans Theo Hugo and Aubryn Bourget came prepared for the teddy bear toss. The annual Fort Knox tradition involves people throwing teddy bears onto the ice when the first goal is scored. The teddy bears are then collected and given to families in need.

ALAN HUSTAK | GRASSLANDS NEWS

## Resort Village of Fort San suing proposed wellness centre

Owners says legal action is based on unfounded rumours

By Alan Hustak  
Grasslands News

The Resort Village of Fort San is taking the owners of the Calling Lakes Wellness Centre to court for what it claims is their failure to respect a stop work order on the old Prairie Christian Training Centre issued last spring by the building inspector Bob Baker.

Court documents obtained by The Times indicate that "because of the continued defiance" of the stop work order, "Fort San is entitled to full indemnity for the costs and expenses occurred in remedying the ongoing contraventions."

A judge is expected to hear submissions in King's Bench Court in Regina on December 14.

Owners of the Wellness Centre have

plans to open a private clinic on the site. They reject the claim arguing that the legal action is based on "unfounded rumours" and that no construction has been done on the building since the stop work order was issued except for some necessary plumbing electrical repairs and routine landscaping and maintenance of the property.

The deck has been dismantled, and the Wellness Centre is attempting a re-design.

"We are working with an architect and an engineer trying to get some clarity from the village as to what we need to do, but haven't received any direction," said Calling Lakes Wellness Centre's Chief Executive Officer Wayne Hellquist. "A stop work order does not require the owner to take out a building permit if no work is being done."

"I can't believe that the Village wants

to waste more money on lawyers' fees rather than meet with us to explore our options and help us resolve the ongoing issues," he continued. "Launching a legal action based on unfounded rumours is not very useful to the village or to us and only serves to create conspiracy theories and confusion."

"There is no need for court action unless the goal is to grandstand at the expense of the taxpayers in Fort San. All we have ever wanted to do was sit down, gain an understanding of the village's objections, and find a resolution so we can move forward."

The village council has rejected Hellquist's request to appear before council to state his company's position.

Mayor Jack Huntington has ignored requests from Grasslands News for an interview and has referred all requests to the resort village's legal counsel.

The dispute over the use of the building which sits vacant has dragged on for the past six years.

The previous owner James Archer had hoped to allow Pine Lodge to use the property as a rehabilitation centre for recovering alcoholics and drug users. His application to do so was blocked by the village council at every turn.

Hellquist says the premises will not be occupied until all building code and permit issues have been addressed.

"Even though there appears to be improvements that must be made before the buildings can be occupied, the owner of the property is not compelled to undertake any such improvements while the property remains vacant. This property remains vacant and absolutely no business activities of any sort are being conducted on the premises," he assured The Times.



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## Tender issued for major upgrades to Highway 247

After years of complaints, province begins addressing valley highway

By Chris Ashfield  
Grasslands News

After months of growing public pressure and years of safety concerns, the Saskatchewan Ministry of Highways has officially taken a significant step toward long-awaited improvements along Highway 247, issuing a SaskTenders posting for full surfacing design work on the deteriorating Qu'Appelle Valley route.

The competition was posted Nov. 20 and closes Dec. 11. It calls for engineering services to design a major resurfacing project along the entire stretch of Highway 247 from Highway 9 north of Whitewood to Highway 47 north of Grenfell, a route spanning approximately 49.8 kilometres. According to the tender documents, construction tendering is anticipated for fall 2026 and 2027, indicating a phased approach to delivering the long-discussed upgrades. The Ministry is seeking consultants to complete surfacing design work and prepare the full tender package needed to move the project from concept to construction.

The tender comes at a time when advocacy for repairs on Highway 247 has grown rapidly. In October, residents, cottagers, and frequent travelers formed the Fix Highway 247 campaign to highlight what they described as dangerous and worsening road conditions. The group has

been gathering photos, videos, and personal accounts that show crumbling shoulders, deep potholes, and a narrowing surface that forces drivers—particularly those hauling boats, campers, and trailers—to choose between traveling down the middle of the road or hugging the edge to avoid damage. Business owners along the route say the deteriorating highway not only poses a safety hazard but discourages tourism in a region deeply reliant on lake traffic.

Willy Kuzub, owner of West End Resort at Round Lake, home to nearly 300 campsites, told Grasslands News in October that the problems have gone beyond basic repair. “The shoulders keep crumbling and it keeps getting narrower. It’s long past the point of being able to just throw down some fresh asphalt. Right now, it’s a death trap. It’s a crap highway,” he said. Highway 247 serves as the primary access to seven major campgrounds at Crooked and Round Lakes, amounting to roughly 690 campsites, and is promoted by the province as a scenic alternative to the Trans-Canada Highway. Government traffic maps show daily volumes of 360 vehicles on the Round Lake–Highway 9 section and 300 vehicles between Crooked Lake and Highway 47—levels that emphasize the road’s importance and the need for safer conditions.

Concerns have also intensi-



### Care home taking shape

The long-term care home in Grenfell is beginning to take shape. Photos captured by a drone last Friday reveal the facility’s outline while concrete is poured for the walls.

MARK STEININGER | GRASSLANDS NEWS

fied following Kahkewistahaw First Nation’s announcement of a major tourism development planned for Bird’s Point on Round Lake. The project, which includes 100 to 200 new campsites, rental cabins, a waterpark, a nine-hole golf course, and a drive-in theatre, is expected to significantly increase traffic on a route already struggling under current demand. Advocates note that tourism contributes more than \$2.85 billion annually to Saskatchewan’s economy, and many of the recreation vehicles traveling the valley carry assets worth hundreds of thousands of dollars. They argue that the economic stakes make upgrading Highway 247 both urgent and

necessary.

Residents have also offered practical ideas for improving the route without altering the natural beauty of the Qu’Appelle Valley. Terry Smith of Coyote Gulch said he does not want to see a full reconstruction that straightens hills or curves, fearing it would encourage speeding and disrupt the valley’s scenic charm. Instead, he proposes adding two feet of hauled-in gravel to each shoulder before resurfacing the road with new tarmac. “An additional two feet of road surface on both sides will make passing exponentially safer,” he said, adding that a modest widening preserves the valley’s character while addressing serious safety

concerns.

While the new SaskTenders posting signals meaningful progress, the timeline remains lengthy, with design work expected to be completed over the next year and construction tenders scheduled for 2026 and 2027.

For residents who have spent years complaining about the road’s decline, lobbying municipal leaders, and pressing the province for action, the tender represents an overdue but encouraging step toward long-awaited improvements. The Fix Highway 247 is likely to continue to monitor progress closely to ensure that the dangerous conditions motorists have faced for decades are finally addressed.

## Report from the Legislature

Our government is pleased to highlight several recent initiatives that reflect our ongoing commitment to community safety, economic growth and family supports. These updates demonstrate important work underway across our province.

Focusing on economic growth, our government introduced the new Co-operatives Act, 2025. Co-operatives make a positive impact on the day-to-day lives of Saskatchewan residents,

employ thousands of people and have been part of the fabric of our province for over a hundred years. With more people investing in Saskatchewan and starting businesses, this legislation reduces red tape and increases flexibility, making it easier to build and operate co-ops across the province.

As we look ahead, the province continues to prioritize families. The extension of the Canada-

Saskatchewan Early Learning and Child Care Agreement was announced for another five years, beginning in 2026-

2027. This ensures low-cost, quality child care remains affordable and accessible. With fees reduced to \$10 a day and thousands of new spaces created, our government continues to build on this progress and support the early childhood educators who make it possible.

At the same time, our government passed new legislation, The Cyberstalking and Coercive Control Act, to strengthen protections against interpersonal violence. The Act provides support for victims and survivors of these types of abuse, ensuring they are entitled to protections under our laws while increasing accountability for the perpetrators. This complements our government’s other public safety priorities and shows commitment to justice and care for vulnerable residents.

Building on that commitment to safety, the recent introduction of the Response to Illicit Drugs Act strengthens accountability for traffickers and enhances community safety. This also provides government and individuals with tools to recover costs associated with the harms caused by illicit drug activity. At the same time, our government will continue its support for people living with addictions by committing record investments in treatment and recovery services.

There is still work to be done, and our government remains committed to building on the great progress we have made for our province and our future.



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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.

# Sask. cattle genetics a draw for global producers

By Ryan Kiedrowski  
Grasslands News

A trip from Durazno, Uruguay to Regina can stretch close to 30 hours, but for brothers Guzmán “Pepe” Alfonso and Fernando Alfonso, the opportunity to connect with Canadian cattle producers makes the long haul worthwhile.

“It was quite a long trip,” Pepe said during a visit to Canadian Western Agribition. “Four or five flights, 28 hours. But it’s totally worth it. We love coming to Canada, meeting people we’re already friends with. It’s fun to get in touch with everyone again.”

The Alfonsos represent Las Anitas, one of Uruguay’s most prominent Hereford operations, founded by Spanish immigrant José Alfonso in 1902. Their ranch has held annual sales since 1938 and has grown into a global exporter of semen and embryos. Though they have toured Saskatchewan ranches many times, this year marked their first visit to Agribition.

“We’ve been here (Saskatchewan) five or six times, touring ranches, building relationships, learning from the ag sector here,” Fernando said. “We were invited by PJ Budler and the World Hereford Champion. We got Miss World last year—the best Hereford cow in the world (for La Coneja)—so that brought us here, and hopefully we’ll keep coming.”

Las Anitas ships genetics across South America, Canada, Africa, Asia and Australia. Global tensions and shifting tariffs have caused uncertainty in agriculture, but Fernando said their segment has avoided impacts so far.

“Not so much in our sector,” he said. “We have other challenges—sanitary and bureaucratic challenges between gov-

ernments. It’s a crazy world, and some aspects have impacted ag, but in the genetic part, not so much.”

Herefords remain Uruguay’s leading breed, followed closely by Angus. But the Alfonsos note that modern South American Herefords have diverged significantly from their British ancestors.

“Nowadays they’re like two different breeds,” Fernando said. “The original British lines are more white and probably don’t have as much middle as cattle here in Canada or South America. The markets are different, and both have strengths and weaknesses.”

Environment plays a defining role. With no harsh winters at home, the Alfonsos select cattle that thrive on year-round grazing—intermediate animals, not oversized, and capable of regaining condition quickly after winter.

“In Uruguay, cattle graze all year,” Fernando said. “We don’t have snow—just a little frost. Cows lose conditioning in winter and need to adapt and gain fat again. So, it’s important that they develop on grass.”

That system has created a demand in other regions for Las Anitas genetics—animals that can “strive easily on natural conditions,” Fernando said.

While the Alfonsos were taking in their first Agribition, one Australian breeder was marking yet another return.

Greg Ebbeck of Six Star Speckle Park, located near Bundanoon, New South Wales, has been coming to Regina for decades. His operation has sourced genetics from Agribition since before he ever raised Speckle Park.

“We’ve bought a lot of genetics out of Agribition over the years,” Ebbeck said. “Herefords first, then Red Angus, and

then when we started the Speckle Park breed.”

This year was no exception.

“We’ve bought a bull, and we’ve bought rights on a couple of cows to flush for embryo-transfer work,” he said. “It never stops.”

Though the breed was developed in Saskatchewan, Ebbeck estimates there are now more Speckle Park cattle in Australia than in Canada.

“We’ve got probably in the vicinity of 3,500 to 4,000 registered females,” he said. Canada, by comparison, has just over 1,300. “It’s coming up nearly 20 years, but it’s grown like topsy.”

Ebbeck attributes that growth to a combination of promotion and performance.

“It was easy to promote because the meat quality is outstanding,” he said. “We’ve done a lot of hands-on meat tasting, carcass testing, feed conversion trials against Shorthorns, Angus, Herefords. They come out on top year after year. The bottom line is the meat is so good.”

Australian cattle prices trail those in North America—about half as much, Ebbeck estimates—but producers are cautiously optimistic.

“We’ve been rising in the last four or five months,” he said. “Good steers are about \$6 a kilo. They’re predicting we’ll be \$8, maybe \$9 or \$10 by Easter next year. The American thing has been off its tree—it’s ridiculously high—so we’d love to get to that position.”

Ebbeck said relaxed U.S. tariffs on Australian beef should also help.

“It was only 10 per cent, but it will make a difference,” he said. “The American market is big for us for ground beef more than anything.”

Australian producers have endured a decade of extremes—fires, droughts



RYAN KIEDROWSKI | GRASSLANDS NEWS

## First Agribition

Brothers Fernando (left) and Guzmán ‘Pepe’ Alfonso attended their premiere Agribition event in Regina recently, in the continuing quest to enhance their herd in Uruguay.

and widespread flooding—and the variability continues.

“Some in the south have been extremely dry, and areas in Queensland and northern New South Wales have been flooded to the extremes,” Ebbeck said. “At home, we had a wet winter and then it just stopped. Now it’s been very dry, windy and hot.”

Despite those swings, Speckle Park cattle have

adapted well, he said—just as they were bred to endure Canadian winters.

“They handle the heat extremely well,” Ebbeck said. “We’ve got calves being born at home in January at 38 or 40 degrees, and you guys are at -38. The difference is ridiculous, but they’re tough. Very tough.”

For the Alfonsos and Ebbeck alike, events like Agribition remain a valu-

able stop on the global cattle-genetics circuit—part marketplace, part reunion, and part proving ground for breeds shaped by very different parts of the world.

“We’re lucky to travel to different parts of the world, making friends, learning and having good relationships through cattle,” Guzmán said. “That’s what keeps us coming back.”

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True Story

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Wednesday Dec. 17 at 7 p.m.  
(a time to light a candle of memorial and hope).

Led by Qu'Appelle House of Prayer  
– St. Andrews United.

### Our Saviour Lutheran Church

Sundays at 10 a.m.  
Dec. 24 Christmas Eve at 7 p.m. and 11 p.m.  
Dec. 25 Christmas Day at 10 a.m.

### St John's Anglican Church

Sunday Services at 11 a.m.  
Dec. 24 at 7p.m. Christmas Eve Service of Holy Communion

### Valley Alliance Church

Dec. 21 at 10:30 a.m Sunday School Christmas Program

Dec. 24 at 7 p.m. Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

### Roman Catholic Church

Dec. 13 at 10 a.m.  
Advent Retreat

Fort Qu'Appelle at 10 a.m.  
Dec. 18 at 6 p.m.

Advent Reconciliation, Lebret  
Dec. 24 Christmas Eve at 5 p.m.

Mass at File Hills  
7:30 p.m.

Mass at Fort Qu'Appelle  
9:30 p.m.

Mass at Lebret  
Dec. 25 at 10 a.m.

Mass at Balcarres  
Dec. 31 at 7:30 p.m.

Mass at Lebret  
Jan. 1 at 9 a.m.

Mass at Fort Qu'Appelle  
at 10:30 a.m.

### Mass at Balcarres

**St Andrews United Church**  
Sundays at 10:30  
Worship and Sunday School

Dec. 17 at 7 p.m. Community Blue Christmas Candle Service

Dec. 21 at 10:30 a.m.  
Worship and Sunday School Presentation

Dec. 24 at 7 p.m.  
Christmas Eve Candle Light Service

Dec. 31 New Years Eve  
7-12 p.m. Family Social

(bring finger food snacks & games)

# Police catch two involved with grandparent scams

By Ryan Kiedrowski  
Grasslands News

Police are urging residents to be vigilant after a recent surge in so-called "grandparent" or "emergency" scams led to multiple victims and charges against two Quebec residents accused of collecting tens of thousands of dollars from seniors in Saskatchewan.

The Regina Police Service and White Butte RCMP say they have received several new reports in recent days, with six confirmed victims between the two jurisdictions. Combined, those victims were defrauded of more than \$40,000. Police believe the true losses are much higher, and that the majority of cases — as many as 90 per cent — go unreported.

On Dec. 2, RPS arrested two suspects as part of an ongoing province-wide investigation into coordinated fraud activity. Approximately \$20,000 in stolen money was recovered.

Ciprian Teodor, 50, and Alexandra Condurache, 40, both of Quebec, face multiple charges, including two counts of fraud over \$5,000, one count of fraud under \$5,000 and

two counts of attempted fraud over \$5,000. Teodor is also charged with failing to comply with conditions of an undertaking. Both made their first court appearance in Regina Provincial Court on Dec. 3. Condurache was set to appear for a bail hearing on Dec. 8 and Teodor's bail hearing was slated for Dec. 12.

Investigators say the pair are believed to be connected to a larger organized fraud operation — the type increasingly seen across the country.

"The groups that do this have been doing it for a long time," said Sgt. Krieger of the Regina Police Service's financial crimes unit. "They are part of organized crime groups across Canada — they're not just local to Saskatchewan. These organized crime groups will send people to Saskatchewan to pick this up. The people that are making those phone calls are not in Saskatchewan. They've been sophisticated and they create that urgency when they call somebody."

The recent wave of cases follows a similar trend reported by Saskatoon police the week before. Information shared between agencies allowed investigators to match a suspect photo from Saskatoon with reports coming into Regina on Dec. 2.

Officers soon located the same individual allegedly picking up cash from Regina victims. Both suspects were arrested later that day with assistance from multiple RPS units.

Police say they expect more charges as the investigation continues



RYAN KIEDROWSKI | GRASSLANDS NEWS

**Scammers caught**  
Sgt. Krieger, left, of the Regina Police Service's financial crimes unit speaks with media about recent arrests involving scam phone calls. Staff Sgt. Michael Shortland, right, of the White Butte RCMP explains how cooperation between police services around the province assisted in nabbing two suspects last week.

and more victims come forward. Losses in Regina alone are already estimated at nearly \$38,000. When combined with RCMP and Saskatoon files, officers believe the total reported losses could surpass \$70,000.

### How the scam works

In the scam, a caller pretends to be a relative in distress. The scenario usually involves an arrest, a car crash, or another high-pressure emergency requiring immediate cash for bail.

The phone is then passed to someone posing as a police officer, lawyer or judge. This person tells the victim that a "gag order" is in place and warns them not to speak to anyone, including other family members, friends or their bank. A courier is then sent directly to the victim's home to collect cash.

"The whole idea for that is so that they don't tell family, friends, the



RYAN KIEDROWSKI | GRASSLANDS NEWS

officers that fall victim to scams just the same. Just because you might have been victim, as much as it's easy to beat yourself up for it, it's still imperative that we know so we can maybe get some funds back, and if we can't, at least maybe see if we can hold people accountable or prevent them from doing it to somebody else."

The White Butte RCMP reported three complaints in a 24-hour period earlier this week. Staff Sgt. Michael Shortland said the sudden spike prompted police to reach out to media to warn the public and identify additional victims.

"If we don't know about it, we can investigate it," Shortland told Grasslands News, advising people to report information no matter how insignificant it may seem. "Even though someone may not have been actually victimized, their information could be vital to the overall investigation and could provide that last piece of information or evidence that we need to further our investigations."

Shortland echoed that there is no circumstance in which a legitimate police officer would tell someone not to contact their family, their bank or another authority.

"That's a huge red flag," he said. He urged people to trust their instincts and hang up if anything feels suspicious. Requests for payment through gift cards, cryptocurrency, wire transfers or large cash withdrawals are all signs of potential fraud.

"It's very difficult for the police to recover any amount of funds if they've

been sent in a phone scam," Shortland said. "So, if that's happened, I urge anyone to contact their bank immediately."

Both police services stressed that coordination between agencies was essential to making the arrests earlier this week.

"These crimes cross borders and jurisdictions," Shortland said. "Whether it's provincial or international, it's crucial for the police to be working together in order to identify victims, suspects, and being able to successfully conclude those files."

Despite the arrests, police warn the scam is not likely to disappear.

"I think that it's going to continue to happen," Krieger said. "Fraud is one of the biggest increasing crime trends that we've seen in policing in not just Canada, but all over. I know that this will happen again. What my hope is that anytime that they come here, there's going to be a chance that we're able to capture people."

Getting information out to the public and educating people about scams is one way to help combat the crime.

"I would hope it would also encourage anybody to call us right away if they get these kinds of scams or deter people from giving money over in the first place," he said.

Police urge anyone who believes they have been targeted or victimized to contact RPS at 306-777-6500 or the RCMP at 310-RCMP. More information about protecting yourself from fraud is available through the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre.

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# Weather alerts are now color coded for severity

*Hazardous, severe and very dangerous*

By Elaine Ashfield  
Grasslands News

If you live in the Prairies or plan on travelling to or through the Prairies, you will probably be watching the weather. Prairie weather is often described as unpredictable and sudden, and the Canadian government has launched a new alert system to help protect Canadians and help keep everyone safe.

Environment and Climate Change Canada will now be using a color-coded system to make it easier to understand the severity of extreme weather and any risks that people might need to know about.

For each weather hazard (whether it be rain, wind, snow, tornadoes, etc.), you will see three levels of impact (moderate, high, or extreme). The weather alert colors move from yellow, to orange, to red, as the potential risk increases.

At each level of impact, the forecast will describe how the weather will affect general daily life, travel, utilities and services, land and structures, human health, and societal recovery.

Each type of weather alert now includes a color — yellow, orange or red — to show the seriousness of the weather event.

• **Yellow** alerts are the most common. They are issued when hazardous weather may cause damage, disruption, or health impacts. Impacts are likely moderate, localized, and/or short-term.

• **Orange** alerts are issued when severe weather is likely to cause significant damage, disruption, or health impacts. Impacts can be major, widespread, and/or may last a few days.

• **Red** alerts are rare. They are issued when very dangerous and possibly life-threatening weather will cause extreme damage and disruption. Impacts have the potential to be extensive, widespread, and prolonged.

Below are some examples of alerts that may be experienced at this time of year in our areas:

## Ice (freezing rain, freezing drizzle, flash freeze)

Adverse impacts are expected due to icy surfaces and ice buildup.

### Moderate (yellow)

Travel delays due to icy routes and vehicle collisions:

- accumulation on powerlines, bridges and other infrastructure
- Some utility outages
- Some property damage, broken branches
- Risk of injury due to slips and falls or falling ice or debris

### High (orange)

Significant travel delays, multiple vehicle collisions

- Damage to powerlines, bridges, and other infrastructure
- Widespread utility outages
- Major property damage, treefall
- Increased risk of injury due to slips and falls or falling ice or debris

### Extreme (red)

- Widespread, dangerous travel conditions, including vehicle pileups
- Utility poles and towers collapse
- Long duration, widespread utility outages
- Widespread property damage, trees destroyed
- Critical infrastructure compromised

## Winter Storm

Adverse impacts are expected from multiple types of severe winter weather.

### Moderate (yellow)

- Travel disruptions due to route closures, vehicle collisions, and winter conditions
- Local utility interruptions or outages
- Larger tree branches broken

### High (orange)

- Dangerous travel conditions; wide-

spread travel delays and road closures

- Vehicles and passengers stranded, numerous vehicle collisions
- Utility outages
- Structural damage to roofs/buildings
- Significant tree damage
- Essential services delays; significant delays for emergency responders

### Extreme (red)

- Travel unsafe; prolonged, widespread travel delays
- Vehicles and passengers stranded for long periods
- Prolonged, widespread utility outages
- Major damage and destruction to homes and buildings
- Stands of trees flattened or destroyed
- Prolonged essential services disruption

## Visibility (including blizzards, blowing snow, dust, fog)

Adverse impacts are expected due to widespread poor visibility.

### Moderate (yellow)

- Routes difficult to navigate
- Travel delays and disruptions due to route closures, collisions, gridlock

### High (orange)

- Travel dangerous to impossible
- Widespread travel disruption, multiple collisions
- Increased risk of disorientation or becoming lost over short distances
- Some vehicles and passengers stranded
- Major delays for emergency response

### Extreme (red)

- Travel extremely dangerous and/or impossible
- Prolonged, widespread travel disruption
- Vehicles and passengers stranded for

long periods

- Significant impact on delivery of essential goods and services
- High risk for mass casualty incidents affecting emergency responders and hospitals.

## Snow

Adverse impacts are expected due to significant snowfall accumulations.

### Moderate (yellow)

- Travel disruptions due to route closures, vehicle collisions, and conditions
- Injuries due to exertion, falls

### High (orange)

- Travel dangerous due to accumulated snow, route closures, and multiple vehicle collisions
- Long travel delays
- Property and/or tree damage
- Roofs at increased risk of collapsing under the weight of snow

### Extreme (high)

- Travel extremely unsafe or impossible
- Significant property and/or tree damage
- Damage to some critical infrastructure
- Snowed-in residents, numerous injuries due to exertion and/or collapsing structures/trees
- Essential services delays; significant delays for emergency responders

There are many more examples on the Environment Canada web site that can be viewed.

When you see or receive an alert, remember that they go from yellow, to orange, to red as steps towards the level of severity. Every type of weather alert—Warnings, Advisories, and Watches—now has a color when it is issued.

# More support for local health care as RRRI strengthens rural staffing

By GNG Staff  
Grasslands News

Several communities within the Grasslands News coverage region stand to benefit from Saskatchewan's ongoing expansion of the Rural and Remote Recruitment Incentive (RRRI) program, as the province adds more locations and additional funding to support health-care staffing in rural areas.

The RRRI program—offering up to \$50,000 for a three-year return-in-service commitment—is designed to attract nurses, medical technicians, continuing care assistants and other high-priority health professionals to communities facing health-care staffing shortages. While the latest expansion adds Edam, Battleford and Hudson Bay, many centres already eligible under the program are located directly within Grasslands News territory, including Fort Qu'Appelle, Indian Head, Grenfell, Melville, Broadview, Wolseley, Kipling, Esterhazy, Moomin and Yorkton. These communities rely heavily on recruiting and retaining health-care workers to maintain stable emergency, acute care and long-term care services.

Rural and Remote Health Minister Lori Carr said the RRRI has proven to be an important tool for communities outside the major centres. She noted that the program has been very successful in attracting highly sought-after health-care workers to rural areas where they are most needed and said the government remains committed to improving access to high-quality care close to home. For local facilities such as the All Nations' Healing Hospital in Fort Qu'Appelle, the Kipling

and Wolseley health centres, the Moomin Southeast Integrated Care Centre and Melville's regional services, the incentive has become a key part of efforts to fill positions that have been difficult to recruit.

More than 500 hard-to-fill health-care positions have been staffed directly through the RRRI program since its launch, helping stabilize service delivery in rural and northern communities. Saskatchewan Health Authority Vice-President Julia Pemberton said that expanding the incentive continues to strengthen local teams and that by investing in the health-care workforce, the province can help ensure residents have access to safe, equitable care as close to home as possible.

The RRRI program is funded at \$8.7 million for 2025-26, including support for up to 180 additional applicants. Phase 1 concluded in March with more than 400 participants still completing their three-year service commitments. The program is a central component of Saskatchewan's Health Human Resources Action Plan, now in its fourth year, which focuses on recruitment, training, incentives and retention. Other incentive programs such as the Rural Physician Incentive Program and specialist recruitment supports bring the province's total investment in these efforts to \$13 million.

With many southeast Saskatchewan communities continuing to face EMS pressures, nursing shortages and competition for specialized staff, the expanded RRRI program remains an important tool in supporting hospitals, primary care centres and long-term care homes across the Grasslands News coverage area.

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# OPINION

## A Christmas wish for MLAs to 'smarten up'

If I see old Santa Claus leading up to Christmas, I'm going to pull up a chair (might break his leg if I sat on his knee!) and have a little chat. My plea would not be to receive toys or presents, but for general decorum in a certain building in Regina.

Here's my Christmas wish for all the MLAs after the fall sitting of the Legislative Assembly wrapped: that you all get a lump of coal and a switch, maybe even a bar of soap as well for some of you.

I know sandbox antics during Question Period are nothing new but come on – this is getting ridiculous. What is the point of this absolute silliness? These members are paid exceedingly well to represent the average Saskatchewan citizen and what do we get in return? Embarrassingly awful examples of how humans interact with each other. Bottom line, every MLA is compensated handsomely to do a job – quit bickering and get to work!

Or, as NDP childcare critic Joan Pratchler succinctly exclaimed during a rally about \$10 childcare over the summer, "smarten up!" Indeed, it's time for all the MLAs sitting to heed those words.

What I'd like to see is answers to questions like why isn't there a CT scanner in the area after we've been lied to for the past five years that it's a 'top priority'? Even when someone who has strongly voiced the need for such a unit rises to a position representing us at the provincial level and maybe advance the issue further, we get crickets instead of explanations.

Or how someone describing the situation within EMS services can get unceremoniously discharged without repercussions. Instead of doing something – or even saying something - ignore that problem, pretend it doesn't exist, and take another selfie to show how 'out in the community' these supposed representatives are portraying themselves.

The temporary rural hospital closures – at least we have a once-a-day update at 4:30 p.m. buried on the SHA website that the local ER may or may not be available. But yet, we can track a snow plow in real time on the Highways Hotline app (don't get me wrong, I absolutely love that feature and the fine folks who operate those rigs!). Again, nobody can seem to figure out a way to better inform people. Meanwhile, social media posts aplenty feature politicians at events and fundraisers. Surely, they could share a post about the local ER being closed, as they also expect municipalities to do.

Even more frustrating is trying to get some answers out of these folks – the very ones the public voted in to represent us. There are some MLAs I've been trying to get a hold of since the last election for a simple comment, who at best have issued a canned statement in response to my query.

Granted, there are exceptions – I very much enjoy conversations with folks like our ag minister, Daryl Harrison, who always has fantastic insights – and from a bona fide longtime area producer to boot. Our export and trade minister Warren Kaeding never ceases to impress with his knowledge and enthusiasm about business in this province. Another local representative who I've come to envy his excellent choice in suits is Brad Crassweller – surely, if there was a 'Best Dressed' category at the Leg, he would get my vote. And he's always happy to see a person, or at least that's the vibe I get.

One side of the Assembly floor uses a worn-out line about an "18-year-old tired government" while the other side shoots back how "lost and reckless" their counter-



parts are, counting with their fingers how many days the NDP leader has been physically present. Spoiler alert: nobody cares! You're both acting foolishly and that's the real issue. Heck, if I were House Speaker, I'd make these folks go sit in a corner to think about things instead of clarifying a point of order and request a retraction of comments. Perhaps we'll see that tactic invoked come the

spring sitting. I'll even bring the Irish Spring – I hear it tastes wonderful!

At any rate, for those MLAs who have read this far and aren't irate with me yet, please eschew the drama and get working for Saskatchewan. Make my Christmas wish come true!

- Ryan Kiedrowski, Grasslands News

## When good intentions collide with real-world complexity

The idea of banning social media for children and teenagers has gained traction as Australia moves ahead with implementing restrictions that would bar youth under 16 from accessing major platforms. The debate has now landed in Canada, where people are asking whether adopting a similar ban could help address rising concerns about youth mental health, online harassment, and the addictive nature of digital platforms. While the motivation is understandable, Canada should be cautious about following Australia's path.

A blanket ban assumes that social media is uniformly harmful to all young people, but the reality is far more complex. For many teens, online platforms are not simply entertainment; they are extensions of their social and emotional lives. Social media connects young people to friends, shared interests, creative outlets, and supportive communities – particularly for those who may feel isolated in their offline environments. Removing access entirely risks severing these meaningful connections and may do

more damage to some youth than the content a ban seeks to eliminate.

Marginalized teens are especially vulnerable to unintended consequences. Young people who struggle with acceptance at home or school often rely on online spaces as safe havens where they can explore identity, seek reassurance, or find understanding peers. Cutting off these lifelines without offering alternatives could intensify their isolation and leave them without essential supports.

There is also the question of feasibility. Social media is deeply embedded in modern culture, and adolescents are often more technologically agile than the adults regulating them. If Canada were to impose an outright ban, many youth would almost certainly look for ways around it – using borrowed devices, VPNs, or new platforms designed to slip past age restrictions. Instead of eliminating risk, a ban could drive online activity underground, where parents and educators have even less visibility.

Rather than prohibition, Canada

should pursue a strategy rooted in education, accountability, and resilience. Digital-literacy programs that teach youth how to navigate online spaces safely, manage their screen time, protect their privacy, and recognize harmful behaviour would offer real, lasting benefits. At the same time, governments must push social-media companies to design safer environments for young users, implement meaningful age-appropriate features, and strengthen content moderation.

The concerns prompting talk of a youth social-media ban are real and urgent. But good policy requires more than good intentions. Canada should resist the impulse to follow Australia's lead and instead invest in solutions that empower young people rather than isolate them. Social media is a tool, and like any tool, its impact depends on how it is used. Our job is not to remove it from young people's hands, but to ensure they are equipped to use it safely, thoughtfully, and confidently.

- Chris Ashfield, Grasslands

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# Students placed in hold and secure at Whitewood School

## Suspicious person reported near school carrying possible gun

By Elaine Ashfield  
Grasslands News

The saying “it’s better to be safe than sorry” was tested last Wednesday in Whitewood when the school was placed into lockdown. The cause of the concern was an individual walking near the school dressed in camouflage clothing, carrying what appeared to be a firearm - which was reported to the police.

At 3:15 p.m., the Broadview RCMP was notified of the suspicious person. Being close to the time when students are dismissed for the day and some would soon be exiting the building, the RCMP immediately issued a warning to the school, and a hold and secure protocol was put into place.

Upon investigation, it was found that the individual was a young adult from the community who was located at their home and a weapon was not located. However, photos posted on social media of the person showed them

carrying what appeared to be a homemade wooden firearm.

The incident was not criminal in nature so the hold and secure was removed from the school by 4 p.m., allowing students to leave for the day.

Grasslands News contacted the Prairie Valley School Division who oversees the Whitewood School and Emily Armer, Communications Supervisor/Privacy Officer confirmed the RCMP advised Whitewood School at approximately 3:30 p.m. of the community event and placed the school in a hold and secure status until approximately 4 p.m.

“A hold and secure is a precautionary safety measure used when there is a potential concern within the community but not inside the school. During this procedure exterior doors are locked and movement in and out of the building is restricted, while classes continue inside,” Armer commented.

Armer reaffirmed “The safety of students and staff is always our top priority.

School in our (PVSD) have clear emergency response procedures in alignment with our Administrative Procedures, specifically AP-6100 Emergency Readiness, Response and Recovery.”

The Prairie Valley School Division protocols AP-6100 dated October 2024, state they are designed to strengthen emergency readiness, response, and recovery across all schools. The Administrative Procedure AP-6100 outlines a comprehensive approach to proactive safety planning, coordinated responses to critical incidents, and timely support for students and staff following traumatic events.

Grounded in the Center for Trauma-Informed Practices’ Violent Threat Risk Assessment and Assessment of Risk to Others’ frameworks, the division’s procedures also ensure close collaboration with external agencies, including the RCMP, when required.

Under the new guidelines, the Director of Education or a designate is responsible for ensuring that all emergency protocols remain current and effective. In the event of an incident, the Director or designate will lead the division’s response, determining the level of action needed in consultation with the affected school.

To support preparedness, principals will review emergency procedures with all staff to ensure familiarity and consistency across the division. Administrators are required to conduct School Safety and Security

Reviews, update their School Safety Plans, and ensure Emergency Flipcharts are posted throughout each school. Learning Superintendents will provide oversight to confirm that safety plans are both developed and implemented.

During an emergency, school administrators or their delegates will lead the on-site response, initiating the appropriate protocols, gathering essential information, and determining what personnel are needed for support and communication. Administrators must contact their School Superintendent for consultation or debriefing when safe to do so and are required to report any incident that results in an emergency vehicle responding to the school.

Following an emergency, the Director or designate will document the incident and establish a recovery plan, which may include deploying additional supports. Schools will determine reunification and communication plans for parents, guardians, and the wider community, as necessary. The Superintendent responsible for Student Services will coordinate and oversee recovery supports to ensure students and staff receive timely assistance.

These updated procedures reaffirm Prairie Valley School Division’s commitment to maintaining safe learning environments and ensuring a clear, coordinated response to emergencies.

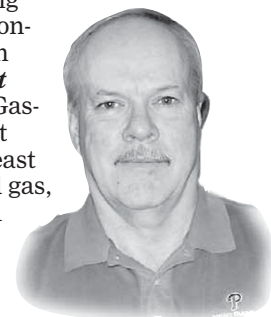
Smaller communities are not as privy to these types of incidents, unlike the larger centers and cities across the country experience more frequently, but the increase in crimes have made people more suspicious and aware of their surrounding so any reports must be taken seriously by the RCMP.

In this incident, luckily there was no threat to the community or the students and staff.

Gene Hauta

## It’s a Strange World

After your Thanksgiving meal, you might want to consider taking what has been called a *post-dinner “fart walk”*— doctor’s orders. Gastroenterologists say a light stroll after a big holiday feast can help ease bloating and gas, according to experimental research that found mild activity such as walking or gentle cycling helps the body expel not only gas from one’s last meal but also gas “hanging around even at baseline,” leaving you feeling “better off than you started.” I guess we have to wait for Christmas.



A Florida man is facing felony animal cruelty charges after allegedly killing and eating his own pet peacocks in a heated dispute with a neighbor. Craig Vogt, 61, was arrested after admitting to deputies that he *slit the throats of the two birds* and cooked them in a frying pan. Vogt had placed a letter in his neighbor’s mailbox saying he’d killed the peacocks because the woman wouldn’t stop feeding them. He says he slaughtered them “out of spite” and he would continue doing it if she wouldn’t stop feeding them!

A child’s *birthday party exploded* into violence in Stockton, Calif., where four people (including three children ages 8, 9, and 14) were left dead after another tragic mass shooting during a family gathering. Early indications suggested that “this may have been a targeted incident.”

Some people might be surprised to be know that the *land with the most wild camels* is Australia, and they are a big problem in the Outback. The first camels were brought over by British colonists in the 19th century because they could help explore the region better than horses. Today, as many as a million roam a territory of 1.3 million square miles, but this is no ordinary invasive species. “Females can give birth every two years and live up to 40 years in the wild, meaning the number of camels can double every nine years. Weighing an average of 1,000 pounds, they roam in herds from fewer than 10 to several hundred, trampling ecosystems and destroying infrastructure.” Camels are famous for being able to go a long time without drinking, but “when they do get thirsty, they’re insatiable,” consuming 50 gallons a day. The animals are also “voracious” consumers of scarce food resources and they destabilize sand dunes. Solutions to the problem are definitely hard to come by.

On the day he was scheduled to be sentenced for leaving his two-year-old daughter to die in a sweltering car, Christopher Scholtes *committed suicide* at his Arizona home. Scholtes, 38, had pleaded guilty to second-degree murder and child abuse after he left his daughter in a car outside the family home for about three hours as temperatures soared to 109 F. He said he left her sleeping in her car seat because he didn’t want to wake her up. Prosecutors said Scholtes was distracted by video games and knew from past experience that the car and air conditioning would automatically shut off after 30 minutes, despite telling police he left the air on to keep his daughter cool. Scholtes’ wife, a doctor, discovered the child was missing when she returned from work, and allegedly texted her husband, “I told you to stop leaving them in the car. How many times have I told you?” Not enough apparently! That’s a terrible fate for a kid.

*JD Vance is going to prison* for threatening to kill JD Vance. Huh? A Michigan man with the same initials and last name as the vice president was sentenced to two years in prison for online threats to kill President Trump and vice president JD Vance, whose full name is James David Vance. The 67-year-old JD Vance – full name, James Donald Vance Jr. – pleaded guilty to three felony counts related to a series of violent threats posted on Bluesky earlier this year. Secret Service agents arrested him after tracing the posts, which also targeted Elon Musk and Donald Trump Jr. He has posted similar threats through the years, including a picture of his gun labelled “Anti MAGA tool.”

Despite what the GOP call violent threats from “the far left”, President Donald Trump was the one who seemed to call for the execution of Democrats who urged the military and intelligence sectors to defy illegal orders. Despite the *keyword “illegal,”* Trump posted on Truth Social that the production and distribution of the video message constitutes “SEDITIONARY BEHAVIOR, punishable by DEATH!”

To me, it seems important to note that all six Democrats are veterans of the military or the intelligence community. “Right now, the threats to our constitution aren’t just coming from abroad, but from right here at home,” the video stated. “Our laws are clear: You can refuse illegal orders. You can refuse illegal orders. You must refuse illegal orders.”

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# Facilitating Independence Grant strengthens support for seniors

By Sask Seniors Mechanism

Grasslands News

Saskatchewan communities are making major strides as they take action to support older adults. The Facilitating Independence Grant Funding from the Ministry of Health, which is coordinated and managed by the Saskatchewan Seniors Mechanism, empowers local organizations to expand services that help seniors stay safe, connected, and independent in their own homes.

Many different projects are underway throughout the province. Some communities have hired coordinators, who are updating and promoting key resource guides, boosting awareness of the Age-Friendly Resource Centers, and collaborating with partners to improve transportation options for seniors.

Programs aimed at helping older adults thrive at home are growing rap-

idly. Some communities are delivering modern technology training, expanding home-support teams, and bringing social programs directly into seniors' residences and other places where seniors gather. These programs reduce isolation and strengthen community ties.

Many areas in the province are enhancing long-term sustainability by building programs that support wellness, food security, lifelong learning, and volunteer engagement.

A Friendly Calls Plus program is a lifeline for seniors transitioning home after a hospital stay. The program offers a reassuring series of follow-up calls that support safety and recovery.

Other programs include expanding dementia-friendly supports, increasing home-repair and maintenance services with energy audits and safety workshops, and offering more tools and advocacy for caregivers balancing work and elder care responsibilities. Navigation

Services are also reaching more communities, with new efforts to build accessible, French-language service databases.

These programs, when paired with initiatives such as Age-Friendly Communities and Social Prescribing, are strengthening the fabric of Saskatchewan's communities. With SSM's leadership, local organizations are creating

practical, meaningful solutions that help older adults age with dignity—right where they call home.

Funding for the Facilitating Independence Grant is distributed annually and the next intake for applications will be announced in the coming weeks. For information contact programs@skseniormechanism.ca

## Hometown Christmas with Alex Runions takes place this Sunday in Kipling

By Connie Schwalm

Grasslands News

Alex Runions and Erin Hill will once again bring their Hometown Christmas to the Kipling Community Centre this Sunday, Dec. 14 and Runions is looking forward to being back in his hometown for this holiday celebration.

"It's great to be able to connect with people in Kipling again" says Runions. "We weren't sure this was going to happen because Erin and I just welcomed our second baby in October. So, we're going to be juggling everything with a newborn and a toddler. But as challenging as that is likely going to be, we're looking forward to coming back to do this concert."

Runions notes that "Rein Morson will be joining us as our special guest, and she will be opening up the show with a nice blend of Christmas music and other

songs. We'll also be bringing the full band back this year as well."

He goes on to say that while he and Hill will be doing some new songs, "the majority of the songs we will do will be Christmas songs, because we want everyone to be in the Christmas Spirit."

That Christmas Spirit is something which Runions says he has rediscovered through his children's eyes and hopes to share with the audience.

"Now, with a toddler in our lives, we can really feel the difference at Christmas. We're talking about Santa. There's that sense of magic in the season. It's just so much fun. And that joy is really what we're looking forward to sharing with people with our Hometown Christmas."

The Hometown Christmas concert will begin at 3 p.m. on Sunday afternoon and there are still tickets available at the door.

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## Public Notice

**PUBLIC NOTICE** Public notice is hereby given that the Council of the City of Melville intends to adopt a bylaw under The Planning and Development Act, 2007 to amend Bylaw No. 4-2013, known as the Zoning Bylaw.

**INTENT:** The proposed bylaw no. 10-2025 will,

include special provisions for **secondary, garden and garage suites**, and, include **garden and garage suites** as a discretionary use in the Residential (R1) and Residential (R2) Zoning Districts.<sup>1</sup>

include **Resource Development: renewable natural gas (RNG) production facilities & feedstock processing facilities** as a discretionary use in the Industrial (M) Zoning District.<sup>2</sup>

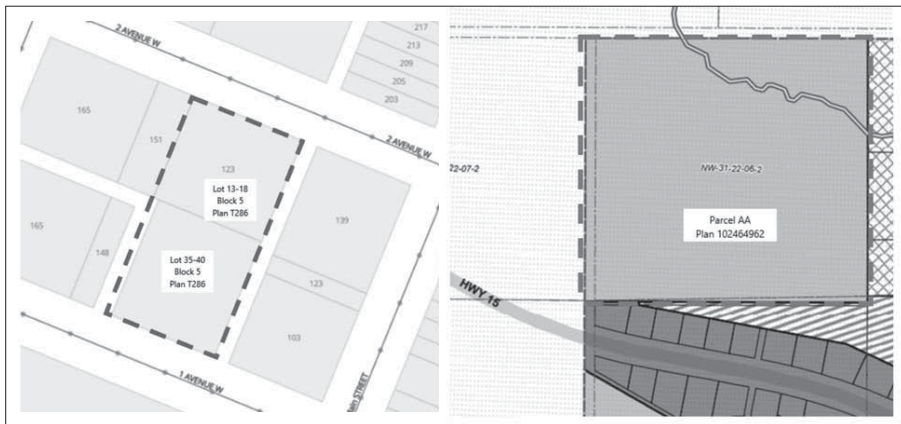
amend the zoning map to rezone lands from UH Urban Holding District to M Industrial District and lands from CS Community Service District to C1 Central Commercial District.<sup>3</sup>

**AFFECTED LAND:** The proposed bylaw will affect,

<sup>1</sup> all the R1 and R2 residential zoned land within the incorporated area of the City of Melville.

<sup>2</sup> all the industrially zoned land within the incorporated area of the City of Melville.

<sup>3</sup> the lands legally described as Parcel AA, Plan 102464962, NW 31-22-06-2 and Lots 13-18 & 35-40, Block 5, Plan T286, 123 - 2nd Avenue W.



### REASON:

<sup>1</sup> To update to the Zoning Bylaw where it already allows for Secondary Suites to include Garden and Garage Suites as a discretionary use (subject to the review and approval of City Council) in R1 and R2 Residential Districts. The amendment will encourage development to align with Saskatchewan Secondary Suite Incentive Grant Program (SSI).

<sup>2</sup> To support and facilitate future industrial development in the northwest area of the city. The amendments define renewable natural gas (RNG) production facilities & Feedstock processing facilities and include resource development as a discretionary use (subject to the review and approval of City Council) in the Industrial Zoning District.

<sup>3</sup> To generally unlock higher land value and expand development potential.

**PUBLIC INSPECTION:** Any person may inspect the bylaws at the City of Melville office located at 430 Main Street in Melville, SK, during regular office hours. Copies of the bylaw are available at cost.

**PUBLIC HEARING:** Council will hold a public hearing on **Monday, December 15 at 6:05 p.m.** at City Hall Council Chambers located at 430 Main Street in Melville, SK. The purpose of the public hearing is to hear any person or group that wants to comment on the proposed bylaw. Council will also consider written comments received at the hearing or delivered to the undersigned at the Public Works and Planning Services Department before Thursday, December 11, 2025.

Issued at the City of Melville this 5th day of December 2025.

Dawn Oehler | Planning Manager | City of Melville



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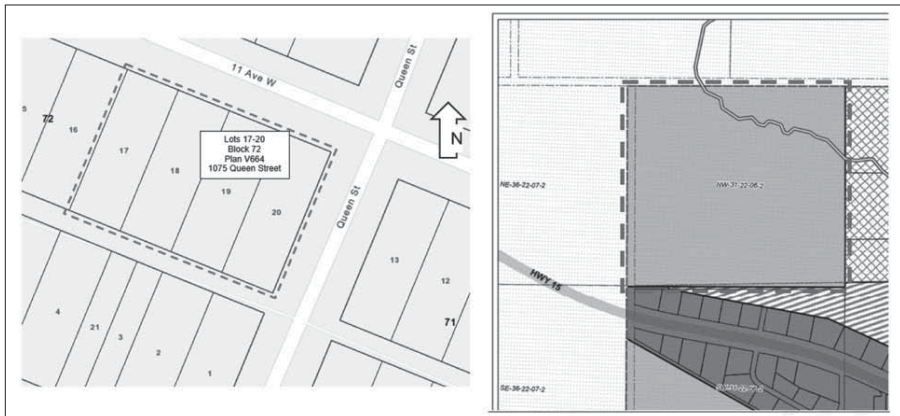
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## Public Notice

**PUBLIC NOTICE** Public notice is hereby given that the Council of the City of Melville intends to adopt a bylaw under The Planning and Development Act, 2007 to amend Bylaw No. 3-2013, known as the Official Community Plan.

**INTENT:** The proposed bylaw no. 09-2025 will amend the future land use map to redesignate lands from 'existing residential' to 'existing central commercial' and lands from 'Urban Holding' to 'proposed industrial'.

**AFFECTED LAND:** The proposed bylaw will affect the lands legally described as Lot 17-20, Block 72, Plan V664, 1075 Queen Street and Parcel AA, Plan 102464962, NW 31-22-06-2.



**REASON:** To align OCP and Zoning Bylaw to bring into effect zoning bylaw amendment 02/2025 approved by Council April 9/25 to rezone Lot 17-20, Block 72, Plan No. V664 from R1 to C1; and to extend the Industrial Land Use Designation for NW 31-22-06-2 directly adjacent to proposed and possible Industrial Land Use Designations.

**PUBLIC INSPECTION:** Any person may inspect the bylaws at the City of Melville office located at 430 Main Street in Melville, SK during regular office hours. Copies of the bylaw are available at cost.

**PUBLIC HEARING:** Council will hold a public hearing on **Monday, December 15 at 6:05 p.m.** at City Hall Council Chambers located at 430 Main Street in Melville, SK. The purpose of the public hearing is to hear any person or group that wants to comment on the proposed bylaw. Council will also consider written comments received at the hearing or delivered to the undersigned at the Public Works and Planning Services Department before Thursday, December 11, 2025.

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Dawn Oehler | Planning Manager | City of Melville



ASHLEY SCARFE | GRASSLANDS NEWS

## LEGO-lovers invade White City

The 5th annual Brickstories LEGO Show and Sale, presented by White City Public Library Branch, Southeast Regional Library, and the Saskatchewan Lego Users Group was held at the White City Community Centre on Saturday and Sunday. A popular display was the “Lover House” build, which re-created the music video for Taylor Swift’s song “Lover.”

# Snowmobile registration fee rises to support trail maintenance

By Nicole Goldsworthy

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Saskatchewan Snowmobile Association (SSA) says rising operating costs and a widening funding gap have made a registration fee increase unavoidable. The change, announced this week, raises the annual snowmobile registration fee from \$110 to \$150 — the first increase since 2017.

In a statement posted online, the SSA said the previous fee covered only about 45 per cent of what it actually costs to keep Saskatchewan’s snowmobile trail network open, groomed and safe. Clubs were left to cover the remaining 55 per cent through fuel purchases, signage, grooming work and ongoing fundraising.

The SSA said that shortfall was “not sustainable,” especially as clubs were also responsible for replacing groom-

ers, upgrading shelters and investing in needed equipment. None of those capital expenses were covered by the old fee.

With the fee increasing to \$150, the SSA said clubs will still fund raise but will finally have the base funding required to maintain and improve the trail system long-term. The association said the additional revenue will help stabilize operations and support future upgrades.

According to the SSA, all snowmobile

registration fees collected by SGI are deposited into the Saskatchewan Snowmobile Fund, which the association administrators. More than 80 per cent of the fee goes directly to local snowmobile clubs to support trail maintenance.

The SSA said the updated fee structure will help ensure Saskatchewan’s snowmobile network remains safe, reliable and able to meet rider needs for years to come.

## BRANDED CONTENT

### Safer workplaces support a stronger Saskatchewan

#### Putting WorkSafe Saskatchewan’s fatalities and serious injuries strategy to work

Saskatchewan is proving that a culture of safety works. Thanks to the shared commitment of workers, employers, safety associations, labour and government, workplaces in the province are safer than ever.

That shared dedication to workplace safety is showing real results. In 2024, the Saskatchewan Workers’ Compensation Board (WCB) recorded the province’s lowest ever Total injury rate of 3.91 per 100 workers and its lowest Time Loss injury rate at 1.72 per 100 workers. For the fifth year in a row, 90 per cent of Saskatchewan workplaces reported zero injuries and zero fatalities. These milestones demonstrate that safety is becoming a deeply ingrained value across many of our province’s industries.

#### More work to do

But while progress has been made, the work isn’t finished. In 2024, 27 Saskatchewan workers lost their lives to work-related incidents or illnesses. Every year, as many as 2,400 workers suffer serious injuries. Behind each of those numbers are workers, families, workplaces and communities forever changed.

“Even one injury is too many,” said Gord Dobrowolsky, WCB chair. “This new historic low in our Total injury rate represents the focus and hard work of so many people across the province. But we cannot be satisfied until every worker returns home safely.”

#### The strategy for change

To accelerate progress, WorkSafe Saskatchewan, the injury

prevention partnership between the WCB and the Ministry of Labour Relations and Workplace Safety, launched the 2023-2028 Fatalities and Serious Injuries Strategy.

It builds on the province’s first strategy introduced in 2019, which focuses on high-risk industries and the injuries that caused the greatest harm. That inaugural three-year plan focused on four critical hazards: asbestos exposure, work-related motor vehicle collisions, firefighter cancer exposure and falls from heights. It targeted the industries where injuries were most prevalent – health care, transportation, first responders, construction and manufacturing.

The latest strategy, introduced in 2023, sharpened its focus on three high-risk sectors: health care, transportation and construction. Together, these industries account for a majority of serious injuries that occur in Saskatchewan workplaces. The 2023-2028 strategy introduced two streams of work:

- Regulatory and enforcement: Strengthening rules and ensuring compliance.
- Prevention and learning: Providing training, education and resources to foster safety culture.

“Everybody has a responsibility when it comes to workplace safety,” said Phillip Germain, WCB’s CEO. “Coming home safely at the end of the day is a right of every worker in the province.”

#### Early results

Provincial injury rates continue to move downward, reaching historic lows in 2024. The 2023-2028 strategy has spurred collaboration between industry leaders, safety associations and government agencies to share knowledge and strengthen prevention efforts.

“The efforts of many are playing an important role in helping us prevent injuries and fatalities,” said WCB CEO Phillip

Germain. “While safe workplaces are good for business, the most important part of every job is for each worker to come home safely.”

#### Why it matters

Serious injuries account for approximately 11 to 15 per cent of all claims in Saskatchewan, but they represent more than 80 per cent of the compensation system’s costs. They also have lasting impacts on workers’ health and well-being, families’ and communities’ stability and employers’ productivity.

By targeting the industries and hazards where the risks are highest, the fatalities and serious injuries strategy tackles the root causes of harm. This not only saves lives but supports a stronger Saskatchewan.

#### Looking ahead

As the strategy continues, the call is clear: safety and prevention are everyone’s business. The WCB and WorkSafe Saskatchewan are urging workers, employers and industry partners to:

- Prioritize safety leadership on every job site.
- Support education and training that empowers workers to recognize and address safety hazards.
- Collaborate across industries to share best practices and address complex safety issues in the workplace.

“We are committed to supporting workers and employers to create safer workplaces in our province,” said Germain. “Continued collaboration is the key to building on these historic gains.”

#### Learn more

Copies of the 2023-2028 Fatalities and Serious Injuries Strategy and its latest updates are available at [worksafesask.ca/fatalities-and-serious-injuries](https://worksafesask.ca/fatalities-and-serious-injuries).



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ALAN HUSTAK | GRASSLANDS NEWS

### Celebration

Josh Heistad, who scored the first goal at 18:36 of the first period against the Regina Silver Foxes to launch the annual teddy bear toss campaign, celebrates with the team's mascot.

## Driver caught at 155 km/h as RCMP handle 119 weekly calls

S/Sgt. Dreew Wag  
Fort Qu'Appelle Detachment

Fort Qu'Appelle detachment dealt with 119 occurrences over this past week. Some of the notable files are mentioned below.

### Traffic

A 41-year-old male driver from Ebenezer, Sk. died in a two-vehicle collision on Highway 10 near Edgeley on Dec. 4. The collision is still under investigation with the assistance of a collision analyst. However, road conditions are suspected to have been a factor in the cause.

While directing traffic for the above incident, another two-vehicle collision occurred. One driver was issued a ticket for drive as a learner without an authorized driver. The collision is also still under investigation.

Traffic tickets and warnings issued for driving while suspended, speeding, exceed 60 km/h while passing an emergency vehicle with lights activated, drive without due care and attention, disobey stop sign at railway crossing, disobey stop sign, drive left of solid center line, follow a vehicle closer than reasonable and safe, fail to move right when approached by an emergency vehicle, and inadequate headlights.

The catch of the week resulted in a driver facing a \$854 fine for exceeding the posted limit by more than 50 km/h. The 42-year-old driver was caught going 155 km/h on Highway 10.

Three check stops were conducted on December 6 in various locations. A total of 56 vehicles were checked. One provincial roadside suspension for alco-

hol was issued while the other 55 drivers passed the mandatory alcohol screening demand.

Over the course of the week, 68 additional drivers were checked, with 67 passing the mandatory alcohol screening demand while one driver was issued a provincial roadside suspension for alcohol. Seventeen tickets were issued for speeding and aggressive driving.

A hit and run collision was reported on Highway 10. The suspect vehicle was described as a white Ford F350 but was not located.

Five additional collisions occurred with wildlife, but no drivers were injured.

### Mischief

Five occurrences of mischief occurred. Most involved intoxicated people causing problems in a residence while one incident was patrons in a licensed establishment who refused to leave. No charges were laid, but a few spent the night in cells to prevent further issues.

A suspicious person was reported in B-Say-Tah in which the person was seen scoping out an ATV while carrying a machete. The complainant will provide the officer with security footage in hopes of identifying the person.

### Crimes Against the Person/Property

Five incidents of assault were reported this past week. A 17-year-old youth has been charged for assault on 15-year-old victim. The remaining incidents all involved altercations with family members. Two of those incidents resulted in charges for breaching court conditions.

One incident of uttering threats is still under investigation. The parties are siblings who are known to police.

## Letter to Editor: Fort Qu'Appelle governance under fire after alleged retaliatory email incident

Dear Editor,

In every municipality, residents must be able to bring concerns to their elected officials without fear of retaliation. This is a foundational principle of democratic governance. Yet recent events in the Town of Fort Qu'Appelle have raised

serious questions about whether that principle is being upheld.

Recently, a town resident emailed Council and administration with a straightforward concern about holiday office hours and tax deadlines. It was the kind of inquiry any resident has the

right to make. Instead of receiving a respectful response, the resident was met with something far more troubling: the mayor added the resident's employer into the email chain — a third party wholly unrelated to the matter.

The resident removed

her employer in her reply. The mayor then added them back in again. Even after the resident requested an explanation and an apology, the response offered was that this was merely a "mistake" that would not happen again. But adding a third party — not once but twice — into a resident's private correspondence about a municipal concern is not something that happens accidentally. Under legislation, the town must ask for consent to add release a person's private information - that did not happen. At best, it is an extreme lapse in judgement. At worst, it reinforces what many residents have quietly expressed for years: that raising concerns with the town may result in intimidation, pressure, or personal fallout.

And this fear is not new. Former councillors have publicly cited bullying, intimidation, and hostile governance practices as reasons for

resigning or not running for re-election. Conversations in coffee shops, grocery stores, and at kitchen tables have echoed the same sentiment: many residents are hesitant to speak up because they worry about the consequences of disagreeing with those in power.

When residents feel afraid to approach their local government, something is deeply wrong.

Municipal leaders, both elected officials and administrators, are entrusted with a significant responsibility. They must uphold principles of fairness, transparency, respect, and accountability. They are expected to act in the public interest, not in ways that silence critics or make examples of those who ask difficult questions.

The people of Fort Qu'Appelle deserve leadership that honors these principles. Leadership that welcomes input rather than punishing

it. Leadership that sees disagreement not as a threat, but as an essential part of a healthy democratic community.

It is time for residents to insist on governance that reflects the values we expect from our public institutions: integrity, honesty, accountability, and respect. Municipal leaders are bound by legislation, policies, and by-laws — not by personal preference or personality.

Fort Qu'Appelle can be a community where people feel safe to speak, question, and participate. But that will only happen when those in leadership choose to act like leaders — not gatekeepers of dissent. Those in power need to realize the way they are operating is a house of cards and it inevitably will come tumbling down.

Good governance is not optional. It is the standard residents have every right to demand.

- Rebecca Zacharuk



Town of  
Fort Qu'Appelle

Town Office Holiday  
Closure & Tax Payment  
Information

The Town of Fort Qu'Appelle Office will be closed from noon on December 24, 2025, and reopening January 5, 2025.

Property taxes are still due on December 31, 2025.

To ensure residents can meet the tax deadline while the office is closed; the following payment options are available:

- Mail Slot: A secure slot is available at the Town Office entrance. Cheques and cash may be deposited any time. Please ensure you record the date and time on the envelope of when you deposited in the slot.
- Online Banking: Payments can be made through your financial institution. Please allow five (5) business days for payment to process.
- Mail: Cheques postmarked on or before December 31 will be considered on time.
- E-Transfer: Send payment to manager@fortquappelle.com

Payments must be received or postmarked by December 31, 2025, to avoid applicable penalties. If you require assistance before the deadline, please contact the Town Office before December 24 at noon.

We appreciate your understanding and wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season

# SHA fires senior EMS director after candid meeting with town

## Whitewood mayor says firing sends troubling message for rural communities

By Ryan Kiedrowski  
Grasslands News

In a rather ironic move, the Saskatchewan Health Authority recently fired a longtime paramedic for speaking up about the challenges and current shortage of Emergency Medical Services personnel.

The SHA dismissed EMS Director/Chief – South Glen Perchie just weeks after he delivered a frank and transparent briefing to the Town of Whitewood about the worsening crisis in rural ambulance coverage.

Perchie and Deputy Chief Jon Antal met with Whitewood council on Nov. 4, answering questions about repeated ambulance outages over the summer. Their comments were published in the Nov. 14 editions of several Grasslands News publications.

Within weeks of that story appearing, Perchie was let go — a decision that has left Mayor Chris Ashfield frustrated and concerned about what the firing signals for rural communities seeking answers. Ashfield said the town invited SHA officials because residents deserved clear information about why their ambulance had been out of service multiple times over the summer.

“People in our community were worried,” Ash-

field said. “When your ambulance isn’t available and another one has to come from another town 30 or 40 minutes away, that’s not a small issue. That could very well be life and death. We asked the SHA to come speak to us because we needed straight answers, and Glen gave us those answers.”

Ashfield said Perchie’s openness stood out.

“He didn’t sugarcoat it. He didn’t try to spin anything. He told us what the challenges were, why they were happening, and what needed to change,” he said. “That kind of honesty is rare, and frankly, it’s exactly what rural communities need if we’re going to fix these problems.”

During the Nov. 4 meeting, Perchie and Antal explained that Saskatchewan EMS is experiencing “the worst staffing situation in years,” with significant vacancies across nearly every ambulance service.

Whitewood had faced several periods this year where its ambulance was unavailable due to a lack of paramedics. Neighboring towns responded to those calls, leaving gaps in their own coverage.

Ashfield said council appreciated the clarity.

“It helped us understand that Whitewood isn’t being singled out — the whole province is in trouble,” he said. “But it was also reassuring to hear that we’re doing some things right. Our 12-hour shifts, living quarters for staff, and support from the community are all things they said were helping keep our service in the community.”

Ashfield said news of Perchie’s dismissal came as a surprise.

“When I heard Glen had been let go, my first reaction was concern,” Ashfield said. “We didn’t ask him to come here and defend the SHA. We asked him to come here and explain what’s happening. He did that. If someone is punished for being honest with a municipal council,

what message does that send?”

The mayor said the timing raises uncomfortable questions.

“It’s hard not to connect the dots,” he added. “Our story went to a large part of southeast Saskatchewan, and two weeks after the person who spoke to us is out of a job. Whether that’s coincidence or not, it’s not a good look.”

Ashfield emphasized that rural towns rely heavily on transparent communication with provincial health officials.

“If we’re down an ambulance or understaffed, we need to know that — not after the fact, not weeks later,” he said. “We need the truth so we can advocate for solutions. Shutting down people who deliver that truth doesn’t bring us any closer to fixing the problem.”

He added that Perchie’s insights were essential for understanding how the province intends to stabilize EMS services.

“He talked about bursters, training, restricted licences, and the long-term plan for assembling crews. That’s all important information,” Ashfield said. “Now that he’s gone, who do rural leaders call when they need clarity?”

The firing has also ignited renewed anger in rural Saskatchewan, where many communities already feel unheard when it comes to healthcare services. Ashfield says the firing sends a troubling message: that speaking candidly about rural healthcare pressures may come with consequences.

“This is exactly why communities struggle to get straight answers out of bureaucrats,” said Ashfield. “If someone like Glen can be fired for telling us the truth, what chance do communities have to get answers when they have questions or concerns?”

Moosomin-Montmartre MLA Kevin Weedmark declined to comment on the situation, pointing out that

the government appoints the SHA board, who hires a CEO — the person responsible for operations of the authority.

The SHA also balked at a response when asked.

“The SHA does not comment on individual human resource decisions, which are confidential and managed through established internal processes,” said Doug Dahl, Director Media Relations and Issues Management, Community Engagement and Communications with the SHA.

Health Minister Jeremy Cockrill and Rural and Remote Health Minister Lori Carr also both refused to comment on the SHA’s de-

cision.

Back in February, Cockrill noted in a radio interview that he and SHA CEO Andrew Will would be looking at where they can trim the fat in terms of middle management. The health minister noted at that time of having heard complaints of an imbalance where there are too many managers and not enough frontline staff. By June, 26 senior ‘out-of-scope’ positions throughout the SHA were cut, generating \$10.4 million in efficiencies. The changes also created 27 new clinical manager jobs plus enhanced 20 existing positions in 45 rural and

northern communities. According to numbers from the SHA, there are more than 45,000 health professionals currently working in Saskatchewan with over 2,700 physicians caring for patients.

On Dec. 3, the SHA posted a position for Director of Primary Health Care Regina South, with the application deadline of Dec. 10, and an expected start date for Dec. 29. Reporting to the Executive Director of Primary Health Care – Regina Area, the job description includes looking to fill gaps and needs.

Perhaps more EMS staff will be one of those needs identified.

## Correction

In the Dec. 4 edition of this newspaper a story about the opening of the File Hills First Nation Police station referred to Dean Lerat as a Staff Sergeant. His title is in fact Chief of Police of the FHFNPS. Also, through a formal MOU with the RCMP, the FHFNPS will be using the cells of the Indian Head RCMP (not Fort Qu’Appelle) detachment if it is necessary to incarcerate anyone from CTK. We apologize for these errors.

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# SPORTS

## Millionaires tame the Mustangs in back-to-back games

By Darcy Gross  
Grasslands News

Melville Millionaires' goaltender Matt Spencer-Dahl pushed his record to 4-0 with a pair of victories over the Melfort Mustangs last weekend.

The wins propelled the Millionaires into a tie with the Yorkton Terriers in the Bunge Division, as both teams have 30 points.

### Melfort Mustangs 1 at Melville Millionaires 2 (Dec. 6)

Dahl made 28 saves in the Millionaires latest win at home in a goaltenders' battle with Kason Kobelka of the Mustangs, who had 30 saves of his own in a losing cause.

Both netminders made a number of spectacular saves during the contest, with none bigger than a huge glove save by Spencer-Dahl as regulation time was ticking down.

After the Mustangs took an early lead in the opening period, Grady Carmichael notched his third goal of the season as he followed up his own rebound and tucked it past Kobelka to tie the game at 1-1 at 13:52 of the first. Jack Drake picked up the lone assist.

The game remained knotted at 1-1 until 12:50 of the final frame, when Jackson Lee kept poking away at his own rebound until he got it over the goal line to give the Millionaires the 2-1 lead and the eventual victory.

Lee's ninth tally of the campaign was assisted by Boston Harkness and Preston Baerwald.

Despite some solid chances for the Mustangs, Spencer-Dahl held the line to earn the home ice triumph.

The teams split 10 minor penalties with Melfort being whistled for a major and a game misconduct.

### Melville Millionaires 5 at Melfort Mustangs 2 (Dec. 5)

The Millionaires had an easy time of it in this road match-up, scoring the game's first five goals and coasting in for two-points and the victory.

Melville led 2-0 following the first period, stretching their advantage to 3-0 after 40 minutes.

Nathan Taylor scored his first two goals as a Millionaire to lead the Melville offence, with Kale Margolis denting



DARCY GROSS | GRASSLANDS NEWS

### Mils on the offense

Melville Millionaires' forward Jackson Lee unleashes a shot as two members of the Melfort Mustangs harass him during Melville's 2-1 home ice victory on Dec. 6. Lee's ninth goal of the season proved to be the game winner.

the twine for his 13th of the year while adding an assist and Rylan Oatman notched number eight on the season while chipping in with a helper.

Taylor now has three goals on the season.

Wesley Olson rounded out Melville's scoring with his third marker of the season.

Jaden Kokosha, Alex Morrison, Louis Nadeau, Matthew Edwards and Ty Janz each added an assist for the

home side. Spencer Dahl made 29 saves to earn the win between the pipes while Melville skaters tested the Melfort netminder 25 times.

The Mustangs were collared for eight of the contest's 14 minor penalties.

The Mils head south on Dec. 12 to face off with the Estevan Bruins, with the Bruins returning to Melville on the 13th

for the Millionaires final home game prior to the holiday break.

Game time in Melville is 7 p.m.

### Ice Chips

For the second consecutive week, Spencer-Dahl caught the eyes of the SJHL brass, as he was once again named the MVP of the week. Spencer-Dahl backstopped the Millionaires to two victories over the Melfort Mustangs and made several terrific saves in Melville, preserving a 2-1 home ice triumph.

Spencer-Dahl made 57 saves and had a .950 save percentage in the home and home with Melfort.



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House | 3 bds, 4 bth

# PJHL Knox roll, Storm split, Steelhawks surge

By GNG Staff  
Grasslands News

The Prairie Junior Hockey League featured a busy and eventful stretch for the region's three local clubs—Fort Knox, the Pilot Butte Storm, and the Moosomin Steelhawks—as each team faced tough divisional match-ups and delivered standout performances. With the standings tightening heading toward the mid-December schedule, all three teams made strides in their push for positioning within the Bill Johnston Division.

## Fort Knox

Fort Knox split their recent games, starting with a narrow 1-0 loss to the Richardson Pioneer Southern Rebels on Dec. 3. Despite out-shooting the Rebels 37-27 and controlling the pace, Knox couldn't solve goaltender Keane Reid, who posted a perfect night. Roman Marlin scored the game's only goal early in the third period, while Drew Pereyema made 26 saves in a strong outing for Knox.

The team answered in emphatic fashion a few days later, overwhelming the Regina Silver Foxes 12-2 on Dec. 7 at the Prairie Co-op Rexentre. Fort Knox recorded 60 shots in the contest and scored in every imaginable situation, including four shorthanded goals. Shaden Duliak powered the offensive explosion with a

hat trick and five points, while Tanner Wiens and Kobe Wotta each scored twice. Kale Gorski earned the win with 17 saves on 19 shots.

With the victory, Fort Knox remains second in the Bill Johnston Division with a 14-7-0-0 record and a division-best +48 goal differential. Their upcoming schedule includes a home match-up against the Saskatoon Royals on Dec. 13, followed by another home date against the Regina Silver Foxes on Dec. 18, and a key divisional game versus the Moosomin Steelhawks on Dec. 20.

## Pilot Butte Storm

The Pilot Butte Storm opened their week with a strong 7-3 win over the Regina Silver Foxes on Dec. 4 at the Doug Wickenheiser Arena. After a 1-1 first period, the Storm scored three goals in both the second and third frames, showcasing their depth and offensive balance. Owen Boswell, Jaxon Skiftun, Jaxyn Herrington, Luke Hanrieder, Nixon Wirth, Austin Dorais, and Zach Reeder all found the back of the net. Goaltender Dylan Koback made 29 saves as the Storm out-shot Regina 50-32.

On Dec. 6, Pilot Butte fell 4-2 to the Saskatoon Westleys after surrendering four goals in the second period. Austin Kozakewich opened the scoring in the first, and Kayden Reeder added a power-play goal in the second, but the Storm

could not keep pace with Saskatoon's special-teams surge. Kaden Perron was busy in goal, stopping 40 shots.

Pilot Butte sits fourth in the Bill Johnston Division with an 8-11-0-2 record heading into a road game held against the Martensville Chiefs on Dec. 10. They return home on Dec. 13 to host the Regina Capitals and will face the Southern Rebels at the Pilot Butte Recreation Centre on Dec. 20.

## Moosomin Steelhawks

The Moosomin Steelhawks picked up one of their strongest wins of the season with a 6-4 victory over the Regina Silver Foxes on Dec. 5 at the Mike Schwean Arena. Ryan Weaver scored twice and

added an assist, while Daynon Smith and Malcolm Snooks each posted three-point nights. Moosomin excelled on special teams, scoring two power-play goals and two shorthanded markers. Goaltender Joshua Blair delivered a standout performance with 46 saves on 50 shots.

Despite the win, the Steelhawks remain fifth in the division with a 5-17-0-2 record, but the team appears to be gaining momentum heading into a challenging schedule. Moosomin travels to face the Saskatoon Quakers on Dec. 12, then hosts the Pilot Butte Storm on Dec. 17 and the Regina Capitals on Dec. 19 before meeting Fort Knox on the road on Dec. 20.



ALAN HUSTAK | GRASSLANDS NEWS

## Knox dominates on-ice

Regina Silver Fox goalie Noah Sharp had a hard time fending off the Fort Knox goals. The Knox won the game 12-2 Sunday, Dec. 7 on home ice.

## Busy weekend for senior hockey leagues produces high-scoring results

By GNG Staff

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Senior men's hockey teams across southeastern Saskatchewan delivered a busy and high-energy weekend, with action unfolding in the Qu'Appelle Valley Hockey League, Big 6 Hockey League, Sask East Hockey League and Prairie Men's Hockey League. Strong offensive performances, physical play and shifting momentum defined a full slate of early-season match-ups.

## QVHL

The Balcarres Broncs earned a 4-3 overtime victory against the Southey Marlins, taking the win just 79 seconds into the extra frame when Brady Pouteau finished a setup that capped a multi-point night from Randen Schmidt. Balcarres showed resilience throughout the game, controlling large parts of the play and responding effectively after Southey forced overtime late in regulation play.

The Balgonie Bisons experienced both ends of the spectrum on the weekend, starting with a difficult loss to the undefeated Lumsden Monarchs before bouncing back with an impressive 7-2 win over Raymore. Jaxon Henry delivered a hat trick in the victory, while Riley Woykin produced a four-point effort that helped restore momentum to the Bisons' campaign.

Grenfell opened its weekend with a convincing 6-2 win over the Raymore Rockets, powered by two-goal outings from both Donovan Neuls and Arthur Miller. The Spitfires carried that energy into their next match-up but were shut out 5-0 by the league-leading Monarchs, who capitalized on Grenfell's penalty trouble in a game that featured heavy physical play.

## Big 6

The Kipling KW Oil Kings faced a tough outing in a 12-1 loss to the Moosomin Rangers. Moosomin struck just 20 seconds into the game and continued applying pressure all night, generating scoring from throughout their lineup. Kipling's lone goal came from Taylor Hoedel in the first period. Looking ahead, Kipling hosts Wawota on Dec. 13, Carlyle on Dec. 14 and Midale on Dec. 19 before traveling to Wawota on Dec. 23.

## SEHL

The Wapella Blackhawks fell 7-4 in Theodore after a fast-paced and physical contest. Wapella's scoring came from Dylan Johnson, Logan Sauve, Dawson Garvey and Jayden Ritchie, but Theodore's heavy shot volume and sustained offensive pressure made the difference. A penalty-filled second period created momentum swings, yet the Blackhawks were unable to close the gap in the third. The team returns to action Dec. 12 at home in Whitewood against Preeceville, followed by a Dec. 20 road game in Rocanville.

## PMHL

The Indian Head Chiefs earned a strong 7-3 victory over the Ituna Avalanche, led by a four-point night from Anthony Eashappie and a pair of goals from Mike Reiger. Indian Head maintained control for much of the game and made the most of its offensive opportunities, even as both teams combined for significant penalty minutes.

Ituna battled but could not keep pace, scoring its goals through Mike Bzdel, Jayden Ritchie and Tyson Pryhitka. Penalties and defensive lapses at key moments made it difficult for the Avalanche to establish consistent momentum.

The Valley Warriors were involved in a high-scoring 10-5 loss to Strasbourg in Fort Qu'Appelle. Valley showed strong effort and offensive push-back, receiving two goals from Cain Thomson and additional markers from Gordon Wasteste, Chase Desnomie and Quaid Chief. Strasbourg's offensive depth, however, proved too much to match over three periods.

The PMHL standings remain tightly contested at the top, with the Cupar Canucks and Indian Head Chiefs sharing the league lead. Strasbourg sits third with improving form, while Valley and Ituna continue working to generate traction entering the mid-season stretch. Upcoming games include Indian Head visiting Cupar on Dec. 12 and Strasbourg on Dec. 19, while Cupar will also face Strasbourg on Dec. 20 and Ituna on Dec. 21. Ituna hosts Strasbourg on Dec. 13, the Valley Warriors on Dec. 20 and Cupar the following afternoon. The Valley Warriors prepare for their next match-up on Dec. 20 when they travel to Ituna.

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Sports column – Darcy Gross

# Gross Misconduct

It's one word, rather simple in explanation, and one never quite knows where it's going to come from, especially regarding sports.

If you're a fan of virtually any sport that involves team play and a lengthy schedule, momentum is one of the things that can define a team.

And it can be borne out of all sorts of different circumstances.

The Melville Millionaires, for example, are beginning to get momentum on their side, and while it may seem to be all about a single player, it's one of the things that in team sports, needs to be more contagious than mononucleosis.

The Millionaires had spent the better part of the season, looking like the poster children for mediocrity.

One game they'd be on top of the world and the next, they could take on the appearance of an extremely fragile team.

Suddenly, with a new goaltender manning the crease, and playing with confidence, the Mills seem to have found something and someone to rally around.

How could one player make such a difference to a team, you may ask.

It's fairly simple if you understand that, that one player is the one in the line-up who is going to spend all game on the ice, stopping pucks, slowing down play and basically, settling down his teammates.

Perhaps a larger part of momentum that we are less likely to understand, is how it can transfer from one team to another due to the play of one or more players.

It's a bit mind boggling that a player who doesn't have a direct effect on how many goals his team scores, could provide this sort of push to make a team better.

It's about confidence most of the time, and if a player thinks his goalie is capable of bailing out the team every now and then, it gives the players a leash that's slightly longer or maybe a bit more elastic.

If, as a player, your expectation has become, "Here we go again," every time an opposition player gets a scoring chance, you've already lost.

Once players see that the pucks might begin getting steered to the corner, rather than getting swept out of the net after a goal, it gives those same players a bit more confidence to take a chance and perhaps be more effective offensively.

The importance of a good goalie in hockey doesn't always get the attention it deserves, however, once you get a good one, the line between good and adequate is no longer blurred for anyone involved – not teammates, not coaches and definitely not fans.

A good goalie can not only cover up for defensive mistakes, it can propel teams to play better on both ends of the ice.

The reason? Momentum.

It can come from a save, a goal, a win – it can come from a sigh of relief when a mistake gets bailed out by a superior netminder, and it can last a long, long time.

Our Millionaires are fortunate to have a coach who won't stand pat with the hand he was dealt.

He knew that this team needed an extra spark to get it going and he kept beating the proverbial bushes until he found it.

Any team with momentum is a dangerous team, because momentum usually breeds more of the same.

Winning four games with the same new guy in net is something more than coincidental.

It's a statement.

As far as personnel on a junior hockey team is concerned, it can only take you so far, if you don't have that one guy who can take a team, put it on his back, and carry it to victory when everyone might not be on top of their game.

The Millionaires have now found that guy, it seems, even if he's more of a key to the defensive game.

Perhaps Santa will go over his list and see that we in Melville, have been pretty good for the year, and could use a little more scoring, and he'll provide us with a sniper.

More than likely, it will be another move by the coach, but you know, 'tis the season.

For now, we'll see if this momentum can continue to grow and help the team prosper in a season where parity is king.

It's a tough league, but the Millionaires have found their goalie and perhaps the anchor they've been looking for.

Maybe they can start their run for the top now.



STEPH SCIVER | GRASSLANDS NEWS

## First goal celebration

Mitchell Sexsmith is surrounded by his linemates after scoring Wolseley's first goal in their 4-1 win over Strasbourg Maroons on Saturday, Dec. 6 in Wolseley.

## Qu'Appelle Valley Hockey League

# Mustangs defeat Maroons at home

By Stephen Scriver  
Grasslands News

The Wolseley Mustangs may have defeated the Strasbourg Maroons 4-1 on Saturday and the Davidson Cyclones 5-2 on Sunday, but neither victory was what you'd call an easy win. In both games, the Mustangs allowed no goals in the first two periods, but a surge by their opponents in the third period had to be handled.

At home on Saturday, Wolseley only had a 2-1 lead halfway through the third until two late goals sealed the win. Period scores were 1-0 and 2-1, with Mitchell Sexsmith and Conner Webster putting the Mustangs ahead early. Wolseley certainly had the edge in territorial play, but it took late goals by Sexsmith and Blake Robertson to put the Mustangs up for good in the third.

The Mustangs are relying on good goaltending and a defence-first attitude to get their wins, while their offence still seems to be finding its way towards maintaining a consistent flow from defense to offense.

Mitchell Sexsmith was one assist away from a Gordie Howe hat trick, as he left the game late after administering a beating on an opponent, he felt, was taking too many liberties. Robertson's goal was a seeing-eye effort from his end into an empty net.

Mitchell wasn't the only Mustang who didn't make it through three periods, as Captain Jackson Baran left early in the first after a Checking from Behind infraction. Ty Muhr came up with some sharp saves between the pipes.

On Sunday a short-staffed Mustangs' team made the trek to Davidson and came away with a 5-2 win. Period scores were 3-0 and 3-0. Only 12 skaters and two goalies made the trip to Davidson, facing a full home roster. Two of the Mustangs were Affiliated Players, but both Cohler Faubert and Ty Nagy have held their own in games so far.

Riley Chambers and Jackson Baran led the way with two goals each. Both of Riley's were in the first, Jackson also adding one in the opening frame. After a scoreless second period, Jackson put Wolseley up 4-0 in the third, Davidson got their first, then Kye Englot potted the Mustangs' fifth before the Cyclones got their second. Adam Thauberger and Conner Webster each added two assists.

Nine minors to Wolseley in this one, five to Davidson, the only real excitement being a shoving match near the end of the game.

Remember this Saturday's home game against Caronport includes the big drive for Wolseley's Food Bank. Bring non-perishable items to the lobby before the game.

## Prairie Men's HL Game Schedule

Home/Away Games

- DECEMBER:**  
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  
**JANUARY:**  
03- IH Chiefs at V.Warriors (Fort) 7:30  
Cupar at Strasbourg 8 pm  
10- V.Warriors (Fort) at Strasbourg 8 pm  
Cupar at Ituna Avalanche 8 pm

## Fort Knox Hockey Game Schedule

Home/Away Games

- DECEMBER:**  
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  
**JANUARY:**  
03- Fort Knox at Pilot B. Storm 7:45  
04- ExH Regina Caps at Fort Knox 3 pm  
10- RPS Rebels at Fort Knox 7:00

## Pilot Butte Storm Game Schedule

Home/Away Games

- DECEMBER:**  
13- PB Storm at Capitals 7:45  
17- PB Storm at Steelhawks 8:00  
20- Rebels at PB Storm 7:45  
**JANUARY:**  
03- Fort Knox at PB Storm 7:45  
07- Silver Foxes at PB Storm 8:00  
09- PB Storm at Rebels 7:30

## Melville Millionaires Jr. A Hockey Game Schedule

Home/Away Games

- All Games 7 p.m. unless otherwise stated  
**DECEMBER:**  
12- Melville at Estevan  
13- Estevan at Melville  
17- Melville at Melfort 7:30  
19- Melville at Weyburn  
**JANUARY:**  
02- Melville at Yorkton  
08- Melville at Kindersley 7:30  
09- Melville at Kindersley 7:30

## Wolseley Mustangs Game Schedule

- DECEMBER:**  
13- Caronport at Wolseley 8:00  
20- Kelliher at Wolseley 8:00  
21- Wolseley at Yellowgrass 4:00  
**JANUARY:**  
03- Wolseley at Strasbourg 5:30  
10- Wolseley at Kelliher 8:00

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Sports Column

# Recognizing Canada's best sports athletes, teams in 2025

By Bruce Penton  
Sports Columnist

It's been a great year for Canadians on the world's athletic stages. As 2025 winds down, it's time for the year-end awards in the top three categories — male and female athlete and top team.

**Male Athlete** – It's pretty hard to not be declared the athlete of the year in Canada when you've actually shown you're the best player in the National Basketball Association (i.e. the world). Twenty-six-year-old Shai Gilgeous-Alexander of Hamilton had a dream year with the Oklahoma City Thunder, leading his team to the league championship, taking the individual scoring title and being voted the NBA's Most Valuable Player. He averaged 32.7 points per game last year and is off to a similar start this year as the Thunder lost only one of their first 23 games.

**Runner-up** – Tennis star Felix Auger-Aliassime moved up the men's world

rankings to No. 5 thanks to a sensational season on the court. The 6-foot-4 25-year-old won more than \$5 million in prize money, had a 50-24 record in singles' play and won three tournaments — in Brussels, Belgium, Montpellier, France and Adelaide, Australia.

**Female Athlete** – There is no official world ranking for swimmers, but Toronto's Summer McIntosh is either No. 1 or No. 2 among females. The 19-year-old won four golds and one bronze at the world aquatic championships and is the current 200- and 400-metre world record holder.

**Runner-up** – She came out of nowhere (almost), but Victoria Mboko, who started 2025 ranked 350th in the world, zoomed all the way up to 18th thanks to her sensational play. The highlight was her victory in Toronto at the Rogers National Bank Open, where she beat Naomi Osaka in the final. Mboko also won a tournament in Hong Kong and racked up \$1.44 million in earnings.

**Team of the Year** – This one was easy: Toronto Blue Jays came within one out of winning the World Series, and the team's success captured the hearts of Canadians from coast to coast. Pre-season picks to finish at or near the bottom of the American League East, the Jays instead roared to a record of 94-68, thanks to outstanding offensive seasons from George Springer, Vladimir Guerrero, Jr., and Bo Bichette. After beating Seattle Mariners in the A.L. championship series, the Blue Jays took the powerful L.A. Dodgers to Game 7 of the series before bowing out with a 5-4 loss.

**Runner-up** – The Rachel Homan curling team could logically lay claim to being the greatest women's curling team in Canadian history, quite a title when the competition includes the likes of Sandra Schmirler, Colleen Jones and Jennifer Jones. A three-time world champion, including 2025, Homan and her rink of third Tracy Fleury, second Emma Miskew and lead Sarah Wilkes put together an aston-

ishing 75-8 record in 2025 and capped off the year with a decisive victory in the Canadian Olympic curling trials. She and her team will wear Canada's colours in Milan, Italy, at the 2026 Winter Games where she will seek her first Olympic medal in her third try.

• **Headline at fark.com:** "Congratulations on making the World Cup for the first time in 50 years, Haiti. Too bad your fans won't be allowed into the U.S. to see it."

• **Vancouver comedy guy Torben Rolfsen:** "Raiders' coach Pete Carroll said he is 'all in' on QB Geno Smith. Just like he was 'all in' on that Super Bowl pass from the one-yard line."

• **Torben Rolfsen again,** on the Professional Women's Hockey League expansion team in Vancouver: "The 'Let's Go Goldeneyes' chant is a bit too long. Could we shorten it to 'Let's Go G-eyes?'"

Care to comment? Email [brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca](mailto:brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca)

## Bowling Scores, Standings - Melville Bowl Arena

MONDAY P.M. Dec. 2		ST. HENRY'S Dec. 3		THURSDAY YBC Dec. 5		SATURDAY YBC Dec. 7	
Ladies' High Single and Triple, Linda Bender, 227, 518. Ladies' High Average, Angela Dobson, 164.		Ladies' High Single, Angela Morgan, 222. Ladies' High Triple and Average, Pat Brown, 521, 164.		Girls High Single and Triple, Corie Mogenson, 119, 298.		Girls High Single and Triple, Ashyah Davies, 94, 264.	
Men's High Single and Triple, Gordon Ostlund, 271, 724. Men's High Average, Joe Wu, 192.		Men's High Single, Triple and Average, Chris Cheveldae, 222, 601, 189.		Boys High Single, Blaine Curylo, 254. Boys High Triple, Braxton Hollinger, 563.		Boys High Single and Triple, Remi Schneider, 256, 591.	
Team High Single and Triple, Ostlund, 863, 2512.		Team High Single and Triple, CCJ, 1259, 3709.		Team High Single and Triple, Hollinger, 878, 2478.		Team High Single and Triple, Bowling Superstars, 837, 2500.	
<b>Team Pts.</b>		<b>Team Pts.</b>		<b>Team Pts.</b>		<b>Team Pts.</b>	
Ostlund 28.5		Just 4 Fun 40		Curylo 27.5		The Enders 30	
Dobson 28		CCJ 31		Wurts 26.5		Bravehearts 30	
Bender 26.5		Drifters 21		Hollinger 25.5		Everything 22	
Stephens 19		A Team 12		Kohlenberg 24.5		Bowling Superstars 22	
MONDAY COMMERCIAL Dec. 2		TUESDAY YBC Dec. 3					
Ladies' High Single, Triple and Average, Brandy Lechner, 255, 728, 226.		Girls High Single and Triple, Amzlee Patterson, 164, 418.					
Men's High Single and Average, Destin Kohlenberg, 303, 217. Men's High Triple, Isaac Hollinger, 697.		Boys High Single and Triple, Jakob Unterschute, 160, 451.					
Team High Single, New, 1323.		Team High Single, Squishmellows, 831. Team High Triple, Bowl Kings, 2430.					
Team High Triple, Professional Amateurs, 3743.		<b>Team Pts.</b>					
<b>Team Pts.</b>		Professional Amateurs 34					
Blame it on Garry 34		Squishmellows 27					

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## Obituary **Beatrice Rose Parker** (nee Puetz) July 19, 1927 - Nov. 28, 2025

On Friday, Nov. 28, 2025, Mom left us to join her beloved George (1925-2015) in their next world together. Most who knew her were surprised that she didn't achieve 100 - she was 20 months short.

Bea was born to Isidore and Catherine (Mueller) Puetz on the family farm in Marysburg, SK - about 10 miles from Humboldt. She was their third child, and when her mom died after their seventh child, the family continued to grow when Isidore married Agnes. Bea was raised with 12 siblings (10 girls and three boys), on a vigorous and very successful grain farm. Like all her sisters, formal childhood education finished at Grade 8, to enhance farm productivity. The family's life was based on the farm and at the remarkable Assumption Roman Catholic church in Marysburg.

Bea yearned to leave the farm with only limited choices for independent employment for women (eg: teaching, nursing, secretary). She managed to convince her father that enrolling in Madeleine School of Sewing in Saskatoon and living with an aunt was an excellent way to prepare for marriage and family life. As always, she worked hard, and passed the course easily, leaving behind large binders of her sample sewing. Before long though, she reconnected with George Parker, a hockey star from Humboldt, and then captain of the U of S Huskies. Many stories have been told about how George would ride his family's horse (Fly!) from Humboldt to "court" Bea on the farm!

They were married in 1952, and followed the life of a pro hockey player in smaller US cities, before settling in Regina in 1956. Their family soon started: Mary Ann (Royce Johnson, children Sarah, Vanessa, Antonia, Royce Jr), Jim (Kate, and children Quinn, Oliver, Georgia and Elliot), Catherine (son Benoit), David (Wendy, and son Matthew), and Caroline (Rob Tuer and children William and Lauren). Her fascination and dedication to family continued to her four great-grandchildren from Mary Ann's children.

Bea and George practiced a deep and constant faith, and in preparation for their fifth child, they moved to a larger home, and proximity to St. Anne RC Church in Hillsdale Regina. Here, they enjoyed church continuity and contributed with Lay Ministry and regular liturgical readings. Bea was an active member of the CWL "forever".

Bea's exemplary determination for growth and success for all her children was indomitable. Education, both academic and musical, sports (the legendary love and skill for hockey in this family), was constant. Her bridge groups were always part of her active life.

Bea resumed her own formal education after her youngest, Caroline, was in school. After completing matriculation, she obtained two university degrees at the University of Regina, and to the endless pride of her family achieved a seat on the Senate at the U of R. She was also active with the Canadian Federation of University Women and served on the Board of Catholic Family Services. She started her career as a social worker in Community Schools, Regina, after helping to build the programme in its earliest years. She made many enduring friendships with families she met.

Bea and George loved time at their cottage in Haffner Beach, Mission Lake, near Fort Qu'Appelle, SK. The proximity of the beautiful and historic Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church in Lebret, added to their special times in the Qu'Appelle Valley. They loved gardening together and enjoyed experimenting with multitudes of shrubs and flowers. Bea left a lasting legacy along the beach road, as it is now treed as a result of her diligence on collecting and planting seedlings, and determination in watering them during drought. Together they gave idyllic Sask. summers to family and many of their grandchildren. Climbing the hills for the Stations of the Cross was nearly obligatory, and each grandchild had private and very special outings to be with Grandma. Her 12 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren are all lesser without the influence of this remarkable woman.

Bea's family wishes to thank the Emergency Department, the special nurses and other staff at the Pasqua Hospital. They would also like to extend their gratitude to Dr. Kathy Ferguson, and all of the compassionate and caring staff on 4B, especially Bukky Ameen and Benjamin. A special thanks to Dr. Baumann, Palliative Care, and to Rev. John-Baptist Okai who administered the last rites.

Further special thanks are sent to the Bentley Retirement Home where Bea lived for the last 12 years, happy in the knowledge that she remained in her community. She was especially grateful to Johnny, Micah, Vee and Anita.

A Celebration of Bea's Life will be held in spring/summer 2026 with date and time to follow.

To leave an online message of condolence, please visit [www.speersfuneralchapel.com](http://www.speersfuneralchapel.com)



# CLASSIFIEDS



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

## Obituary **Joseph Ashfield** Feb. 22, 1937 - Dec. 1, 2025

The family of Joe Ashfield of Whitewood, SK, announces his passing on Monday, Dec. 1, 2025. He is survived by his loving wife, Cindy, and children Kim, Lisa, Lee, Lorelei, Dan, Chris and their families.

Joe was a loving husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. He was an accomplished writer, lawyer and financial analyst, a lover of birds and flowers, and enjoyed hunting, fishing, nature and spending time at the cabin. He loved Cindy, his whole family and many friends.

Joe and Cindy embarked on so many adventures, travelling to the UK, Hawaii and so many US destinations. They also enjoyed just playing cards and spending time enjoying their sunroom with family and friends. Joe's kind, caring demeanor and wisdom will be missed.

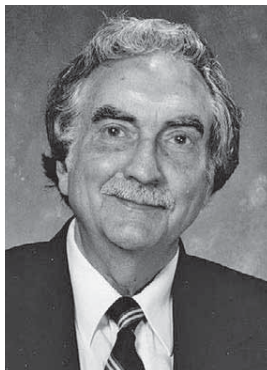
Joe was predeceased by his parents, siblings and Mary Howorth, as well as some very special dogs.

Your family will cherish your 88 years, a life well lived. Thank you!!

When someone you love becomes a memory, the memory becomes a treasure. God speed, Joe. Rest in peace.

A private family graveside service will take place in the Whitewood Cemetery at a later date.

Arrangements entrusted to Matthews Funeral Home, Whitewood and Melville.



## Obituary **Elizabeth (Betty) Snider** Nov. 3, 1945 - Dec. 6, 2025

On Dec. 6, 2025, Betty passed away at the age of 80 years with her daughters by her side, following a tough battle with cancer.

She was predeceased by her parents, George and Mary Crossman; husband Alvin Snider; brother Harry Crossman; sister Reta Crossman; sister-in-law Margaret Crossman; sister-in-law Elaine Crossman; sister-in-law Violet Lucyk; and brother-in-law Lawrence Snider.

Betty is survived by her children: Cathy Youck and Charlene (Kevin) Stephens; four grandchildren, Samuel and Jonathan Youck, Jacob and Jordan Stephens; brother Lloyd Crossman; brother-in-law Mervin (Myrna) Snider; sister-in-law Hazel Snider; sister-in-law Delores (Jim) Goldstone; and brother-in-law Dwight (Gladys) Snider; many nieces and nephews; and an abundance of great friends.

Betty was raised on a farm near Balcarres. After graduation, she attended business college in Regina, where she and Alvin married and raised their two daughters. She worked in retail pharmacy, the Wascana Rehab Centre pharmacy, and a doctor's office for many years. They moved to Balcarres in 1997. She then worked at Echo Lodge in Fort Qu'Appelle and the Balcarres Integrated Care Centre.

Mom had many good friends with whom she enjoyed road trips, lunches and afternoon coffee. They were a very important part of her life.

Above all, Mom's greatest joy was found in the love of her family. They shared a bond like no other.

Betty will be remembered for her kind soul with the biggest heart. She will be sadly missed and fondly remembered by all that knew her.

Celebration of life will be held at a later date.



## Obituary **Maurice Richard Taillon** Sept. 16, 1943 - Dec. 3, 2025

Maurice Richard Taillon was born in Grayson, SK Sept. 16, 1943. He passed away Wednesday, Dec. 3, 2025, at the age of 82 years old. He was the oldest son of George and Magdalena Taillon. He grew up on the family farm four miles south of Grayson and attended Columbia and Grayson Schools.

Maurice worked most of his life in the construction industry as a mechanical insulator doing both commercial and industrial insulation applications. He had his own Insulation Company for 15 years and retired in 2003 after 35 years. Upon retiring, Maurice moved from Saskatoon to Turtle Lake and enjoyed fishing and quadding. He moved to Melville in 2010 and looked forward to spending the winter in Yuma and Mexico for a few years.

Maurice was predeceased by his parents George in 1988 and Magdalena in 2010. He is survived by his daughter Shannon (Murray) Schrader and their sons Kyle and Kory; his son Sheldon and his son Shaydon; and ex-wife Joyce. He also leaves behind his sister Florence (Bruce) Parlee and his brother Kenneth (Laurette) Taillon; as well as nieces and nephews.

Cremation took place with a private family burial in St. Henry's Parish Cemetery in Melville.

Arrangements were by Bailey's Funeral and Cremation Care, Melville.



[www.baileysfuneralhome.com](http://www.baileysfuneralhome.com)



### Memoriam



BURAK - In loving memory of Florence Burak, loving Wife, Mom and Baba, who joined the Angels Dec. 25, 2015.

Those we love don't go away  
They walk beside us everyday.  
Unseen, unheard, but always near,  
Still loved, still missed and forever dear.

-Lovingly remembered by her husband David, children Mike, Leanne, Jeff and their families.

### Memoriam



Lil Hauser  
1932 - 2015

Dear Mom

A loving thought we give  
As this day we do remember,  
Just before Christmas  
10 years ago now.

Although we cannot talk to you  
Or see your smiling face,  
We walk down memory lane  
And reminisce awhile.

-Lovingly missed, Brenda, Janice, Keith and our families.

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M29-2nc

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M46-tfc

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### PUBLIC NOTICE RESORT VILLAGE OF FORT SAN Notice of Discretionary Use Application

Public Notice is hereby given that the Council of the Resort Village of Fort San that pursuant to section 55 of *The Planning and Development Act, 2007* gives notice that a discretionary use application has been received and the details are as follows:

**Discretionary Use Permit: Short-term Rental Lot A, Block 1, Plan FS560**

**INTENT:** The applicant is seeking approval to operate a short-term rental property.

**PUBLIC INSPECTION:** Any person may inspect the application at the Village of Fort San Office between the hours of 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., Tuesday to Thursday, excluding statutory holidays.

**PUBLIC HEARING:** Council will hold a public hearing on December 16, 2025 at 4:15 pm. The public hearing will be held at the Fort San Village Office at 120 Broadway Street W Fort Qu'Appelle, SK. Any person or group that wants to comment on the proposed application is welcome to attend or to submit comments prior to the meeting. Council will consider all comments received.

Issued at the Resort Village of Fort San November 26, 2025.

Amy Railton, CAO

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# Wolseley celebrates Christmas with events

By Sarah Pacio  
Grasslands News

Several community events are spreading holiday cheer in Wolseley this month.

St. Anne's Catholic Church hosted a Christmas Tea and Bake Sale on Dec. 6. Lakeside Nursing Home also held a craft sale last Saturday with proceeds supporting the residents' activity fund.

Wolseley Lions Club partnered with the School Community Council to host a Santa Day on Dec. 7. Children enjoyed an afternoon of magical entertainment, treats and crafts, and photos with Santa

at Dr. Isman Elementary School.

On Sunday evening, band students from Wolseley traveled to Broadview School where they joined young musicians from Grenfell and Broadview for the annual Christmas concert.

A Christmas Cheer Parade with festive floats will begin at 7 p.m. on Dec. 13. Participants will assemble near 208 Spruce St. at 6:30 p.m. and organizers intend that the parade will proceed along every street of town.

Wolseley Rec Board is sponsoring a Christmas Lights and Decoration contest for town and rural residents. Categories in-

clude Best Business, Best Town Residence, Best Rural Residence, The True Spirit of Christmas and Children's Choice. Town properties will be automatically included in the contest, but rural residents should call 306-698-7610 to participate. Judging will be completed by Dec. 15 and winners announced at the elementary school concert on Dec. 18.

Dr. Isman Elementary School will present a matinee of "Ho-Ho-Helping Santa" at 1 p.m. on Dec. 18 and there will be an evening performance of the Christmas musical at 7 p.m. the same day.

A silver collection will be taken at the doors.



SUBMITTED | GRASSLANDS NEWS

## Donation appreciated

The Melville Heritage Museum recently hosted members of the Knights of Columbus during their conference. The Knights of Columbus also donated to the museum. From the left are museum board members Jackie Rathgeber, Valdeen Mathies, Donna Mucha and Knights of Columbus representative Grace Molnar. The museum appreciates their support and encourages groups to reach out during the museum off season to arrange for a visit.

# 50th TeleMiracle to showcase local talent from Grasslands News area

By Sarah Pacio  
Grasslands News

The 50th anniversary production of TeleMiracle will feature several performers from the Grasslands News area.

TeleMiracle 50 is scheduled to air from 7 p.m. on Feb. 28 to March 1, 2026. The annual telethon is a fundraiser for the Kinsmen Foundation, providing financial support to Saskatchewan residents in need of medical treatment and equipment. Last year the program raised \$5.7 million.

The 22-hour broadcast of TeleMiracle 50 will include a cast of well-known artists like Beverley Mahood, Brad Johner, and Jeffrey Straker.

As phones ring in the studio and pledges are made throughout the

weekend, viewers will also enjoy entertainment provided by nearly 70 Saskatchewan-based performers.

The local talent featured on TeleMiracle 50 will include individuals from the Grasslands area.

Community members may recognize Rich Brooks of Wolseley from open mic events at The Gallery Coffee House in Indian Head where he shared familiar tunes and an original composition

"Swing on By," a musical promotion of the Town of Wolseley.

Brynn Ager, a teenager from Indian Head, will return to the TeleMiracle stage after making her telethon debut in 2025 when she and her cousin performed a tap dance.

Rein, a young singer from Kennedy who has participated in several TeleMiracle productions, will also return to the telethon in 2026, along with James R. Betts of Melville.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF TELEMIRACLE



Brynn Ager



James R. Betts



Rein Morson



Rich Brooks

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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, Dec. 14:  
2:00 p.m. Worship Service with  
Sunday School Christmas Prog.  
Monday, Dec. 15:  
7:00 p.m. St. Paul's Council  
\*\*\*  
-- at Neudorf/Lemberg --  
Sunday, Dec. 14:  
\*9 a.m. Worship at Trinity Lemb  
\*11 a.m. Worship at Christ Neud  
w/Holy Communion

### ALL SAINTS' ANGLICAN CHURCH

Corner 6th Ave. E. & Main St.  
306-720-0589  
\*Services Every Second Sunday  
Dec. 14:  
10:30 a.m. Eucharist Worship

### FIRST UNITED CHURCH

5th Ave. E. & King St.  
Rev. Brian Mee, 306-335-7611  
website: firstunitedmelville.org  
Sunday, Dec. 14:  
11:00 a.m. Worship Service  
with Ray Yost

### 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.melvillechurch.org  
Facebook @melvillechurch  
Recorded messages  
posted online

### GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

258 - 10th Ave. W.  
Ph. 306-728-3971  
Pastor Ronald Shumba  
facebook.com/gslcmelville  
Dec. 11: 7:00 p.m. Bible Study  
Dec. 12: 7:00 p.m. Youth Group  
Dec. 13: 7 p.m. Christmas Concert  
at Community Works  
Dec. 14: 9:15 a.m. Choir  
10:30 a.m. Worship Service  
Stewardship Fundraiser  
Dec. 15, 16: Office Open  
Dec. 17, 18: Office Closed  
Dec. 18: 7:00 p.m. Bible Study

### ST. GEORGE'S UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Sunday, Dec. 14  
4:00 p.m. Divine Liturgy  
Sunday, Dec. 21:  
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  
Dec. 14:  
10:30 a.m. Worship Service

## Melville Churches Welcome You

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Ph. 306-728-5702  
Res. Ph. 306-728-2305  
111 - 8th Ave. W.  
Father Melchor Samonte  
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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, Dec. 14:  
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 Mandapatill  
Saturday, Dec. 13:  
5:00 p.m. Mass Service

### ST. MARY'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

Sunday, Dec. 14:  
10:30 a.m. Worship Service  
with Rev. Cheryl Johnson  
3rd Sunday of Advent

### ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, WAPELLA

Sunday, Dec. 14:  
No Worship Service

### WHITEWOOD UNITED CHURCH

Sunday, Dec. 14  
2:30 p.m. Communion Service  
with Rev. Roy Bortolotto

## 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\*  
Dec. 14:  
Advent Three Communion Service  
with Wayne Lewis

### 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  
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306-538-2163  
Sunday, Dec. 14: Mass 9:00 a.m.  
Mon., Dec. 15 to Tues., Dec. 23:  
Simbang Gabi Novena  
all Masses 7:00 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

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102 Nelson Ave.  
(in Kipling United Church)  
Sunday Worship  
in person 11:30 a.m.  
Rev. Devon Pattimore  
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.

# Grenfell Wildlife Federation hosts annual Buck Night

By Sarah Pacio  
Grasslands News

2022 with a supper and auction proved so successful that it has become an annual event.

Last Saturday afternoon, hunters brought several deer and moose heads to the Community Hall basement where they were scored according to Wildlife Federation standards. Dan Grunert from Indian Head Wildlife Federation and Bowman Bryant from Broadview assisted Grenfell members with the measuring process.

Participating adults were entered in a cash prize draw; incentive was also provided for youth since they were entered in a draw for a Euro Mount.

Following the horn measuring, supper was served in the main area of the hall. A silent auction and raffle of items donated by local sponsors offered opportunities to take home prizes and support the Wildlife Federation. Any hunter who had been unsuccessful in their

search for a trophy-worthy buck this season was encouraged to participate in a "Tag Soup." By placing an unused tag in the bowl, they became eligible for door prize draws. Funds raised through the Buck Night activities will support conservation and outdoor education initiatives in the Grenfell area.

Similar horn measuring events are taking place throughout the region this month. Last Saturday evening, Fort Qu'Appelle Wildlife Federation measured 22 deer (including a whitetail deer in velvet), two elk, a moose and a bear head that were brought to Mission Ridge Ski Hill.

On Dec. 7, Broadview Wildlife Federation hosted a horn measuring and hot dog roast at its wildlife shack west of town. That afternoon, the Save-A-Goose Wildlife Federation that is based in Vibank and meets at Odessa also held its annual horn measuring



DAN GRUNERT | GRASSLANDS NEWS

## Horn measuring

Numerous large game heads and antlers were brought to the Fort Qu'Appelle Wildlife Federation measuring night on Dec. 6, including a whitetail deer in velvet.

event. Approximately 30 heads were presented for measuring, including mule deer, whitetail deer, moose, and a pronghorn antelope.

The Melville branch of the Wildlife Federation was scheduled to hold its

measuring night on Dec. 9 at the Melville Community Works building. Indian Head Wildlife Federation members will submit antlers for measuring on Dec. 13, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at New West Concrete on South Railway

Avenue.

Results from annual head and horn measuring events will be used to determine award winners at the Wildlife Federation branches' suppers next year.

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**Boxing Month Bonus**

December 5, 2025 to January 2, 2026.

Don't pay for 90 days on all models\*. Based on monthly payments, finance purchases only. Restrictions apply\*\*.

Up to: **\$1,000** in additional bonus on select in-stock vehicles.

2025 ELANTRA Luxury HEV  
2025 TUCSON N-Line Hybrid  
2026 KONA

T25-266  
**2025 TUCSON N-Line HEV**  
\$ 126 weekly at **5.79%** for 60 months

K26-013  
**2026 KONA Preferred Trend**  
\$ 119 weekly at **6.59%** for 60 months

EL25-210  
**2025 ELANTRA Luxury HEV**  
\$ 109 weekly at **5.79%** for 60 months

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**HYUNDAI**

\*Finance offers available O.A.C. from Hyundai Financial Services based on new in-stock 2024 ELANTRA Essential/2024 TUCSON Preferred AWD models with an annual finance rate of 4.49%/5.49%/4.49%. Cost of borrowing is \$1,072/\$2,389/\$3,340. Selling price is \$25,879/\$25,363/\$39,414. Weekly payments are \$109/\$109/\$175 for 48/48/48 months. \$2,999/\$2,399/\$2,995 down payment required. Trade-in value may be applied to down payment amount. Finance offers include Delivery and Destination Charge of \$1,775/(\$1,950/(\$1,950), taxes and all applicable charges (including HST/GST/PST). Finance offers exclude registration, insurance, PPSA, license fees and dealer admin. Fees of up to \$500. (Price of model shown: 2024 ELANTRA N-Line Ultimate/2024 VENUE Ultimate/2024 TUCSON Ultimate Hybrid AWD is \$33,856/\$28,330/\$46,931. Price includes Delivery and Destination charge of \$1,775/(\$1,950/(\$1,950), taxes and all applicable charges (including HST/GST/PST). Prices exclude registration, insurance, PPSA, license fees and dealer admin. Fees of up to \$500. Fees may vary by dealer. Prices are not established for low production models.

\*\*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.hyundainews.com or see dealer for complete details. The Hyundai name, logo, product names, logos, product names, images and slogans are trademarks owned or licensed by Hyundai Auto Canada Corp. All other trademarks and trade names are the property of their respective owners.

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