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Vol. 64 No. 23 • Friday, January 23, 2026

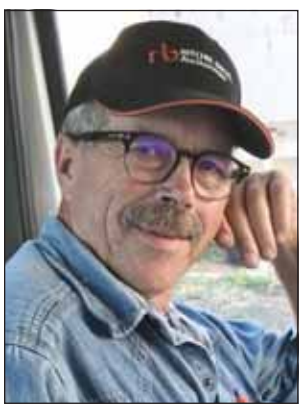
Bill Carter dies

Accident claims life of Fort businessman

By Alan Hustak
Grasslands News

High winds and hazardous winter driving conditions may have contributed to the death of William "Bill" Carter, the genial and highly respected pillar of the community who, for the past 40 years, owned and operated Modern Propane in Fort Qu'Appelle. The news of his death on Wednesday has left those who knew him shattered by the loss of such a decent, kind and level-headed businessman. "It is a terrible blow. To say that he will be missed is an understatement," Mayor Brian Strong told The Times. "He was a friend. I sat across from him at the Valley Bakeshop almost every morning for the last five years when the town's unofficial 'senate' met for coffee. He was genuine. I can't think of anyone who didn't like him. You couldn't help but like him."

Out of respect the Town of Fort Qu'Appelle has cancelled the news conference it had planned on Saturday to announce its 75th anniversary plans so as not to conflict with Carter's memorial service in Dysart on the same day.



Bill Carter

According to the RCMP, on January 14 at around 6:50 p.m., a semi-trailer collided with the propane truck on Highway 10 west of Fort Qu'Appelle. A pick-up truck then left the roadway and entered the ditch to avoid a secondary collision. Carter, who was driving the propane truck, was declared deceased by EMS at the scene.

William Richard Carter, 73, was born in Indian Head, the second eldest son in a family of 11 children. He was raised on the family farm in Warren, MB north of Winnipeg and as a young man worked as a truck driver before he moved to Fort Qu'Appelle in 1985 to become owner and operator of Modern Propane.

Carter leaves his wife of 50 years Jackie Fleming, their three children Brennen, Reagan, and Chelsea, and nine grandchildren. A celebration of his life will be held in the Dysart community centre on Saturday, Jan. 24 at 1 p.m.

Carter's family has deep roots in the area. His grandparents homesteaded in the 1890's.

Traffic at the scene of the accident was rerouted around the site for more than 24 hours while the propane spill was cleaned up. An investigation into what caused the accident continues and may take several months to complete. "Weather will be a consideration, certainly," said RCMP media relations officer Mandy Meier, "I do know wind was starting in that area, but to say for certain whether it was a factor I can't determine right now. The closure of the highway really did have to do with some of the cleanup of the site."



Winter Festival ready

ALAN HUSTAK | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Fort Qu'Appelle Winter Festival co-chair Megan Main-Parfitt and logistics planner Jim Runge are looking for volunteers for the three day Winterfest. Providing the weather holds, this year's event is planning to be a full program, including fireworks and a bigger opening ceremony.

Mild weather concerns Winterfest planners

By Alan Hustak
Grasslands News

There won't be an Ice Palace Castle at the Fort Qu'Appelle Winter Festival this year. Planning for the three-day bash is underway but the volunteer with the expertise to build the ice fortress is now working in Alberta according to festival co-chair Megan Main-Parfitt. "Finding the people who know how to build one just isn't happening."

Main-Parfitt and her team of seven are planning a family-oriented winter fest. "If it stays cold, we'll be fine. It won't be too grand this year but there will be a full program of events, including a winter fireworks display. We're working with the Fort Knox on a bigger opening ceremony before a game," she said.

Uncertainty about the weather could determine whether the polar bear plunge will go ahead. The event has been a fundraiser for the Fire Department, but for the moment the ice on Echo and Mission Lakes isn't thick enough to support the crowds that throng to the event. Fire Chief David Sabirsh says he is monitoring ice conditions and is working on an alternate plan that would involve jumping into a Loraas disposal bin filled with ice water if the ice surface is unsafe.

But the ice drags at Mission Ridge are on the program. Ryan Shordee will be emceeing the entertainment program which is expected to include a performance by local vocalist James Mineau.

Erona Bilalli won the design contest for an attractive blue and gold festival button that will be sold to help cover festival expenses. The festival buttons are $10 for adults and $5 for children.

"Button sales help us break even," says Main Parfitt, "but we still depend on corporate donations."

The festival's planning committee is canvassing the local business community for support and still need volunteers to help at the children's events.



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Luce Pottery Studio brings new art energy

By Elaine Ashfield
Grasslands News

What was once a veterinary clinic in Whitewood has been quietly transformed into a place where creativity takes shape – literally in clay, paint, and whatever other ideas the community brings through the door.

Luce Pottery Studio, located at 139 Parks Street in Whitewood, is the vision of the very talented local artist Britney Raiwet, who is shifting her focus from simply creating pottery to helping others discover the joy of making it themselves.

"I really want people to experience the full process," Raiwet said. "From starting with raw clay to glazing a finished piece, there's something special about seeing it through from start to finish."

That hands-on experience is at the heart of Luce Pottery Studio's new in-studio workshops. Every two months, participants are invited to create a new clay item – often mugs, but sometimes whatever sparks interest—using clay slabs. After the pieces dry and are fired, the group returns two to three weeks later to glaze their work, completing the cycle of pottery-making. The next class date for creating a new 'sweater mug' is Thursday, Jan. 29 and Feb. 26.

For many, it's more than just a class. It's a chance to slow down, unplug and get lost in the creative process.

"I hope the studio encourages people to step out of the house and try something new," Raiwet said. "Even just taking an hour or two for yourself can make such a difference."

Pottery isn't the only art taking shape at Luce. The studio is also welcoming other local creatives, including acrylic painter Jamie McFarlane of JEM Art. McFarlane brings a different kind of brushwork to the space, teaching painting techniques that range from outdoor landscapes and animals to portraits and more challenging subjects like water. Her upcoming class will focus on pet portraits – a popular theme for many local artists and animal lovers alike. All paint supplies are provided. There are five spots available in afternoon and evening in this two-part class (Feb. 4 and 10 from 12 to 3 p.m. or Feb. 9 and 10 from 6 to 9 p.m.)

Looking ahead, Raiwet hopes to open the doors even wider.

She's inviting other makers – jewelry artists, candle makers, knitters, sewists and more – to teach workshops or rent the studio space. With room for about eight to 10 people, depending on the project, the newly decorated studio offers an intimate setting that's well-suited for learning and connection.

The shift from producing pottery to teaching it has been a big change, Raiwet admits, but one she's embracing wholeheartedly.

"My end goal is to have a variety of different classes in the studio," she said. "I'm so excited about what this space can become."

In a small town, spaces like Luce Pottery Studio can mean more than just art lessons. They become gathering places – where creativity is shared, confidence is built and neighbours discover talents they may not have known they had.

For Whitewood, the new studio is proving that with a little imagination, familiar spaces can be reshaped into something entirely new. Information on the studio and workshops can be found at www.lucepottery.com



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Art of pottery

Britney Raiwet has turned an empty vet clinic in Whitewood to a studio that allows people to be creative with arts. Some of her creations are below.









Report from the Legislature

Affordability remains a key focus for our government as we begin 2026. A family of four in Saskatchewan will pay no provincial income tax on their first $65,000 of income, the highest tax-free threshold in Canada. This results from the second step of our four-year income tax reduction plan, combined with indexation. Our government is also increasing personal, spousal and child tax exemptions, along with the seniors' supplement by $500 annually over four years.

In addition, several tax credits are increasing to help residents with affordability. These include the *Low-Income Tax Credit, Disability Tax Credit, Caregiver Tax Credit, Personal Care Home Benefit, Active Families Benefit, First-Time Homebuyers' Tax Credit,* and *the Graduate Retention Program*. We remain committed to ensuring Saskatchewan continues to be the most affordable place to live in the country.



Our government continues to make targeted investments to support Saskatchewan students and families. We are investing $28.5 million in the *Relocatable Classroom Program* to provide 39 new classrooms and relocate two existing ones. These classrooms will be installed over the summer in communities across the province and will be ready for students in the 2026-27 school year. This program helps address space pressures by adding classrooms where they are needed most, supports growing enrolment and provides school divisions with flexibility to manage local needs.

At the same time, *Saskatchewan's School Playground Equipment Grant Program*, launched in fall 2025, has seen strong uptake. More than 40 projects have already been approved, with funding of up to $50,000 available per project. This initiative is helping communities build and improve playgrounds where children can play, learn and grow. The program reflects our government's ongoing commitment to building healthy, vibrant communities for families. **The current application period runs until February 25, 2026**, on a first-come, first-served basis. Full program guidelines are available on the Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association website at ***www.spra.sk.ca.***

As the year gets underway, our government remains committed to the work ahead and looks forward to sharing more initiatives and progress as 2026 unfolds.

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6 steps to keep your feet healthy

From athlete's foot and plantar warts to corns, bunions, calluses and blisters, many problems can affect your feet and negatively impact your quality of life. Adopt these six simple habits to prevent both minor and serious foot issues.

1. Clean your feet daily. Wash your feet every day with a mild cleanser, rinse them thoroughly and dry them well, especially between the toes. However, avoid soaking your feet in very hot water for too long, as it can weaken your skin and nails.
2. Wear the right shoes. Whether you're out and about every day or playing sports, always choose shoes that fit properly and provide good support. Save those sky-high heels for special occasions.
3. Remove dead skin cells. About once a week, gently exfoliate your feet with a pumice stone, foot scrub or exfoliating glove to remove dead skin cells.
4. Use a moisturizing cream. The skin on your feet tends to dry out and crack. Apply a suitable lotion or cream to keep it soft and hydrated. Use a light touch and avoid applying cream between your toes, where moisture can build up.
5. Trim your nails properly. Cut and file your toenails regularly with clean tools. Be careful not to cut them too short, as this can lead to ingrown toenails.
6. Consult a professional if you have concerns. Do your feet hurt when you walk? Is your skin irritated or itchy despite good care? Is a wound not healing? No matter the problem, don't wait for it to get worse. See a foot health professional promptly.

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Canadian canola gets partial tariff relief from China

By GNG Staff
Grasslands News

A trip to China by Prime Minister Mark Carney, accompanied by Saskatchewan Premier Scott Moe appears to have been a good one for Canadian producers.

Following the visit, it was announced at least some of the Chinese tariffs were being lowered on canola.

"The Canada-China trade deal is great news for Canada and Saskatchewan," Moe said. "This is a very positive signal that will restore existing trade volumes and open avenues for further opportunities for Canadians."

The Canola Council of Canada and Canadian Canola Growers Association welcomed the announcement made in Beijing to provide significant tariff relief for Canadian canola seed and meal.

Under the agreement reached between Canada and China, tariffs on Canadian canola seed imports are expected to be reduced to 15 per cent as of March 1, and the current 100 per cent tariffs on canola meal are expected to be removed on the same date, until at least the end of the calendar year.

"This progress also demonstrates the importance of foreign trade missions and shows what can be achieved when the federal and provincial governments and our export industries work together to strengthen our trade relationships," Moe said.

As part of the new deal, Canada will slow tariffs on Chinese electric vehicles.

"The agreement reached on canola seed and meal is an important milestone in Canada's trading relationship with China," says Chris Davison, CCC President and CEO via a release. "The Canadian canola industry has been clear since the outset that these tariffs are a political issue requiring a political solution. We are pleased to see significant progress in restoring market access for seed and meal and will continue to build on this development by working to achieve permanent and complete tariff relief, including for canola oil, moving forward."

Canadian exports of canola and canola products to China were valued at approximately $5 billion in 2024. For 2025, export value to China is expected to plummet to less than half that amount. China is Canada's largest market for canola seed and second largest market for canola meal.

"With most of the 2025 canola crop stored on farm, and planting of the 2026 crop only months away, canola farmers are looking for predictability and confidence in the ability to market their canola," says Rick White, President and CEO at CCGA. "We are pleased to see this significant progress and will be looking for resumption of canola movement in the future."

APAS also saw the announcement as a positive.

"Through this agreement, the resilience and dedication in our government-led negotiations were on full display," said Bill Prybylski, APAS President in an organization release. "Producers of canola and peas have faced significant export barriers to China. We are grateful for the persistent efforts that culminated in this important breakthrough for the agricultural community."

Saskatchewan, a leading producer of peas, canola, and pork, plays a crucial role in Canada's exports in these sectors. The new trade agreement not only reopens the Chinese market for canola but also boosts prospects for peas.

Canadian exports of canola and canola products to China were valued at approximately $5 billion in 2024. For 2025, export value to China is expected to plummet to less than half that amount. China is Canada's largest market for canola seed and second largest market for canola meal.

However, The APAS release noted it is important to note that there is no mention of tariff reductions or market access improvements for canola oil, which currently faces a 100 per cent tariff, or for pork products, which are subject to a 25 per cent tariff. These omissions highlight continued challenges for key agricultural export products critical to Saskatchewan's economy.

"Securing access to markets such as China is vital for the sustainability and growth of Saskatchewan's agriculture producers," Prybylski noted. "This agreement, by substantially reducing trade barriers for some key products, enhances market access and contributes to greater economic stability within our sector. However, we continue to urge the government to address ongoing barriers for canola oil and pork exports to ensure all agricultural products can benefit from improved market access."

The Canadian canola industry also recognizes the establishment of a new Canada-China Economic and Trade Cooperation Roadmap and a revitalized Canada-China Joint Agriculture Committee. These avenues for collaboration build on the work of the Canada-China Joint Economic and Trade Commission and will be important mechanisms for advancing remaining canola tariff issues.



Tariff relief for farmers
Saskatchewan Premier Scott Moe (left) joined Prime Minister Mark Carney in China where an agreement was made to partially lower canola tariffs down to 15 per cent from their current 100 per cent.

While recognizing the progress made in reopening and expanding the Chinese market, APAS emphasized in its release the importance of ongoing efforts to diversify export markets to safeguard Saskatchewan's agricultural sector against future trade uncertainties.

"We celebrate today's success, but our commitment to broadening market diversification for all agricultural products remains firm," said Prybylski. "Our producers deserve stable, extensive market opportunities."

On the pulse side, there's more positivity where pea exports are concerned.

"Saskatchewan Pulse Growers is very pleased with the recent announcement of the elimination of tariffs on Canadian peas to China," Saskatchewan Pulse Growers Board of Directors Chair Stuart Lawrence said. "It is reassuring to see a high level of cooperation between federal and provincial governments and industry to achieve important results for farmers. In particular, we appreciate the leadership of Premier Moe and the Government of Saskatchewan in an essential role to restore access to our largest market."

Other producer groups note the news has been a long time coming.

"SARM recognizes that the proposed reductions in canola tariffs will improve access to the Chinese market, an announcement producers have been waiting months to hear," SARM President Bill Huber said. "We are greatly encouraged by the efforts of Premier Moe, Prime Minister Carney, and other federal ministers who traveled to Beijing to meet in person with Chinese officials. SARM looks forward to building on this progress through future trade agreements with China that include beef, pork, and other key commodities."

As an export-based economy, trading relationships are crucial to Saskatchewan's economic prosperity, which is why the province continues to focus its efforts on market diversification. Prioritization of international engagement has proven invaluable as the province's exports now reach over 160 countries.

Saskatchewan's China Office is the province's longest standing international office. The Government of Saskatchewan has built a network of nine international trade and investment offices to prioritize strengthening existing trade relationships while exploring new markets. These offices help make the province more resilient to market risks such as tariffs and regulatory trade barriers.

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Nutrien gives $4 million lift to STARS air ambulance

Submitted
Grasslands News

STARS has announced the renewal of its longstanding partnership with Nutrien, which is adding $4 million in new funding to bring their total contribution, in over a decade, to more than $30 million. This renewed commitment directly enables STARS' critical mission operations throughout Saskatchewan, ensuring rural and agricultural communities have access to critical care when they need it most.

"Nutrien has been an incredible and generous partner, helping STARS provide critical care across Saskatchewan for more than a decade," said Dr. John Froh, President and CEO, STARS. "This amazing gift will ensure that the people of this province can continue to depend on STARS and that we will be there for them where and when they need critical care."

Nutrien's initial support of $27 million established STARS' home base in Saskatoon and enabled thousands of life-saving missions – 10,000 since 2012, including 921 last year alone. These missions represent real lives and real impact across rural communities.

"We're renewing our commitment to STARS in Saskatchewan, bringing Nutrien's total support to more than $30 million," says Ken Seitz, President and CEO of Nutrien. "Safety, from our potash operations to the farm gate, is central to who we are, and supporting STARS reflects our pride and responsibility to the communities where we live and work."

STARS has operated in Saskatchewan since 2012, with bases in both Saskatoon and Regina. For more information on STARS please visit stars.ca

Beck names new NDP shadow cabinet roles

By GNG Staff
Grasslands News

Saskatchewan NDP Leader Carla Beck unveiled a revamped shadow cabinet on Jan. 14, adding new portfolios aimed at women's health and artificial intelligence as the party positions itself as a government-in-waiting ahead of the next provincial election.

Beck said the changes reflect what she called a growing gap between the Saskatchewan Party government and the challenges facing the province, particularly in health care, technology and retaining young workers.

The most notable additions are two new shadow minister roles that do not exist on the government side: Shadow Minister for Women's Health and Shadow Minister for Technology, Innovation and Artificial Intelligence.

Regina Northeast MLA Jacqueline Roy was appointed as the NDP's first shadow minister dedicated specifically to women's health. Roy said women in Saskatchewan are facing long waits for essential services, including diagnostic procedures that can delay cancer treatment.

"Right now, women in this province are waiting for months and months for essential procedures like mammograms," Roy said. "Some are even having to go to Alberta just to get their cancer care. That's not the future I want for women and girls in Saskatchewan."

Roy said she intends to push for practical changes, including improved communication with patients and better use of data, arguing that even low-cost measures have been ignored by the current government.

"We need to believe women when they tell us they're in pain," she said.

Saskatoon Southeast MLA Brittney Senger takes on the new technology, innovation and artificial intelligence portfolio, with a specific mandate to develop an AI strategy the NDP says it would implement if elected.

Senger said artificial intelligence is already reshaping labour markets and economic development, and that Saskatchewan risks falling behind without a clear plan.

"Our world is changing so fast," she said. "We must do everything we can to make sure new technology like AI helps people and doesn't leave them behind. There is absolutely no evidence that the government is taking this seriously."

Beck echoed those concerns, pointing to youth unemployment and outmigration as signs the province needs a more forward-looking economic strategy.

"In a province where we've got 15% youth unemployment, this is something we need to get right now to show that we are ready to take advantage of the opportunities and we're ready to have a plan for some of the challenges that AI brings along as well," Beck said.

The shadow cabinet shuffle also includes Cumberland MLA Jordan McPhail taking on the role of Shadow Minister for Ethics and Democracy. Beck highlighted McPhail's work scrutinizing the Saskatchewan Party over its handling of the 2025 wildfires, including questions around an alleged $100-million overspend on water bombers.

Saskatoon Silverspring MLA Hugh Gordon, a former police officer and financial crimes investigator, was named Associate Shadow Minister for Community Safety.



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New shadow ministers

NDP leader Carla Beck is flanked by Jacqueline Roy (left) and Brittney Senger while announcing a new shadow cabinet shuffle on Jan. 14. Both Roy and Senger were appointed to new roles that previously did not exist.

Saskatoon Stonebridge MLA Darcy Warrington assumes responsibility for Highways and Infrastructure and SGI.

Other changes include Regina Wascana Plains MLA Brent Blakley as Shadow Minister for Parks, Culture and Sport; Saskatoon Nutana MLA Erika Ritchie as Shadow Minister for Social Services; Regina South Albert MLA Aleana Young taking over the Crown Investments Corporation file; and Regina Pasqua MLA Bhajan Brar becoming Shadow Minister for Human Rights.

Asked whether the timing of the shuffle was meant to mirror recent moves by the Sask Party, Beck rejected that suggestion, saying the new roles were driven by feedback from Saskatchewan residents rather than political strategy.

"These are areas where we needed more focus," she said.

Beck said all 27 NDP MLAs now hold shadow portfolios and emphasized the caucus would continue expanding its policy work in the months ahead.

"We're not messing around," she said. "People need this change, people deserve this change, and we're doing everything we can to be ready to deliver it."

Saskatchewan, Alberta push back against federal gun confiscation

Submitted
Grasslands News

The Canadian Taxpayers Federation is urging the federal government to abandon its gun confiscation program following the announcement that Ottawa will proceed with a national rollout of the initiative.

The call comes after the completion of a pilot project in Cape Breton, N.S., which critics say failed to meet its objectives. According to the Canadian Taxpayers Federation, the pilot was intended to confiscate 200 prohibited firearms but resulted in the collection of only 25.

"The failed Cape Breton pilot project should have proven to Ottawa it's time to scrap this program," said Gage Haubrich, the federation's Prairie director. "Ottawa needs to listen to law enforcement experts who are calling for support to stop illegal guns rather than confiscating firearms from licensed gun owners."

Despite the pilot's outcome, the federal government announced it will move forward with a declaration period for the national gun confiscation program beginning Monday. During the Cape Breton project, the federal government provided at least $149,760 to the Cape Breton Regional Municipality to carry out the initiative.



Public opinion polling conducted by Leger suggests a majority of Canadians are skeptical of the program's effectiveness. The poll found that 55 per cent of respondents believe stopping illegal gun smuggling, rather than confiscating firearms from lawful owners, would be the most effective way to reduce gun crime.

Several police organizations have also voiced concerns about the impact of the program on public safety. Toronto Police Association president Clayton Campbell has previously stated that the buyback program would have "essentially zero impact" on crime in Toronto.

The union representing RCMP members has similarly criticized the initiative, arguing it diverts critical personnel, resources and funding away from addressing the growing threat posed by illegal firearms.

According to Budget 2025, the federal government has committed $742 million to implementing the gun ban and confiscation program. However, critics say the total cost to taxpayers remains unclear. When the policy was first introduced in 2019, the Liberal Party of Canada estimated the program would cost $200 million. Since then, the Parliamentary Budget Officer has projected compensation costs alone could reach as high as $756 million, while other independent estimates place the total cost near $6 billion.

Several provincial governments have also expressed opposition. Alberta, Saskatchewan, Ontario, Manitoba and the Yukon have either called on Ottawa to scrap the program or stated they will not participate in its implementation.

"The government needs to focus on the real problem of criminals and illegal guns, not go after licensed firearm owners," Haubrich said. "Every dollar spent on confiscation is a dollar that can't be used to stop illegal gun smuggling."

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OPINION

"For the cause that needs assistance;
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Paying millions for fame, pennies for care

Every time a celebrity or professional athlete signs a contract worth tens or even hundreds of millions of dollars, it barely causes a ripple. The headlines flash, social media buzzes for a day or two, and then we move on. As a society, we have largely accepted that entertainers and athletes command staggering wealth, while the people who keep us alive in our worst moments are told there simply isn't enough money to go around.

That contradiction should trouble us far more than it does.

In our communities, we don't suffer from a shortage of celebrities or star athletes. We suffer from shortages of paramedics, nurses, and doctors. Ambulance services struggle to fill shifts. Emergency rooms rely on overtime just to remain open. Rural hospitals and clinics scramble to recruit professionals willing to take on heavy workloads. These are not distant policy debates — they are realities playing out daily across Saskatchewan and throughout much of rural Canada.

When a paramedic responds to a serious collision on an icy highway at three in the morning, or a nurse works a double shift because there is no one else to cover, or a doctor manages an overwhelming patient roster, the stakes are immediate and real. Mistakes can cost lives. The stress is relentless. Burnout is common. Yet when these professions ask for better compensation or safer staffing levels, they are often told to be patient or understanding of budget constraints.

At the same time, there seems to be no ceiling when it comes to paying celebrities and professional athletes. Contracts grow larger every year. Endorsement deals pile on top. Entire industries revolve around maximizing exposure and profit. There is nothing inherently wrong with enjoying sports, movies, or music. Entertainment has a place in society. But somewhere along the way, we began confusing popularity with importance.

The common defence is that athletes and celebrities generate enormous revenue and therefore earn their pay. But markets don't exist independently of values. They are shaped by what we choose to watch, follow, promote, and celebrate. When entertainment consistently earns vastly more than essential services, it reflects not inevitability, but priorities.

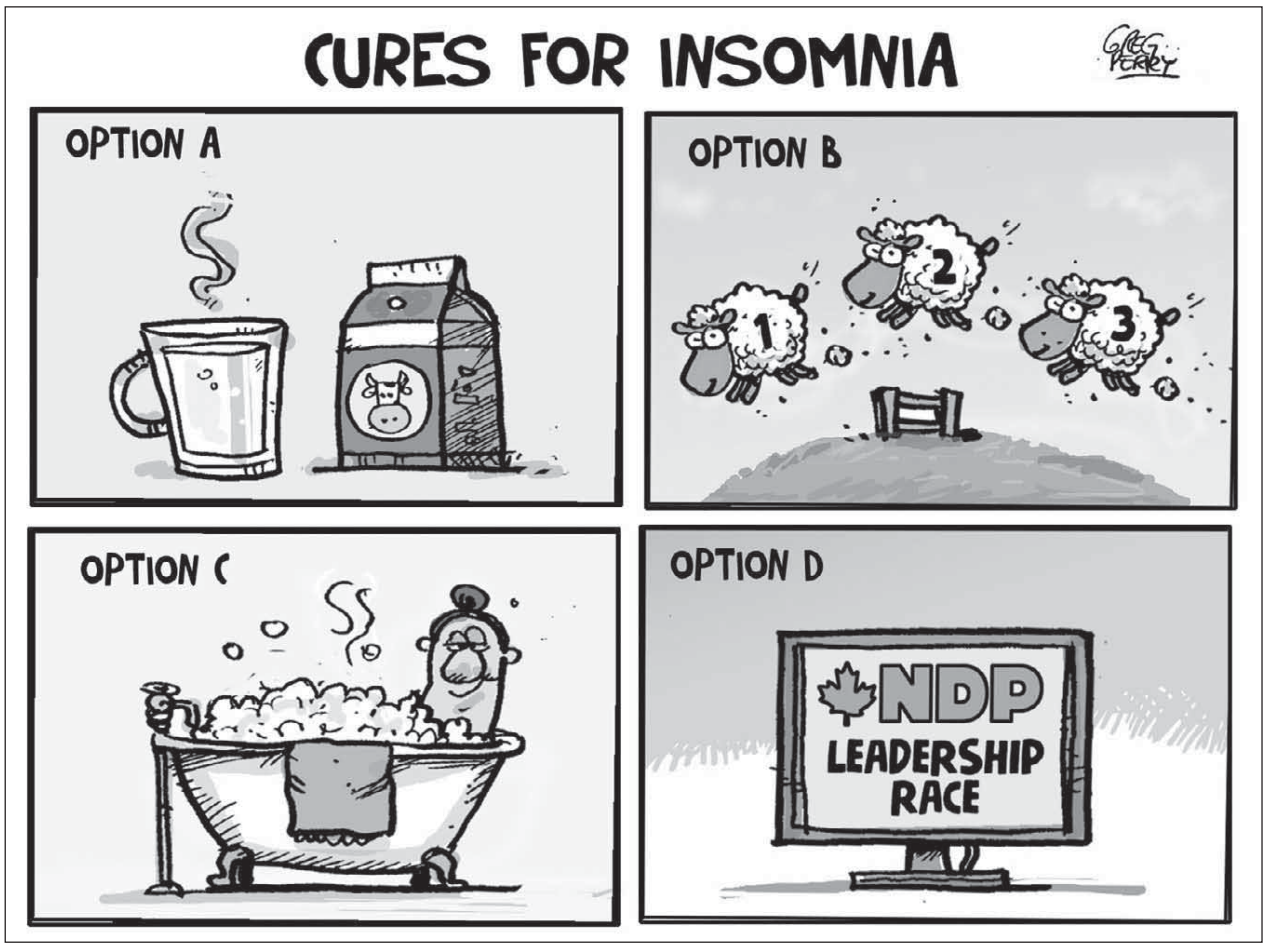
Those priorities send a powerful message, especially to young people deciding on careers. Why commit years to education and training, take on life-and-death responsibility, and accept chronic stress, when society seems unwilling to properly value the work? It is no mystery why paramedic services struggle to recruit, why nurses leave the profession, or why doctor shortages persist in smaller centres.

Respect for emergency personnel and health care workers is often expressed symbolically. We applaud. We post thank-you messages. We declare appreciation weeks. Politicians offer praise from podiums. But respect that doesn't translate into fair pay, adequate staffing, and sustainable working conditions is hollow. Gratitude does not pay bills.

If we truly believe that health care and emergency response are foundational to our communities, then our actions need to reflect that belief. Budgets are moral documents. They show what matters most. When we accept chronic underfunding and staffing shortages in essential services while celebrating record-breaking contracts in entertainment, we reveal a troubling imbalance.

A society's values are not measured by its slogans or speeches, but by what it chooses to reward. Right now, that balance feels badly out of alignment — and the cost is being paid by our health care system, our emergency services, and ultimately, by all of us.

- By Chris Ashfield, Grasslands



What's next for the federal NDP?

The federal New Democrats are holding a leadership race, but is anyone paying attention?

In order to be eligible to vote at the leadership convention in Winnipeg at the end of March all memberships have to be sold by the Jan. 28 cutoff date. The first English language is scheduled for Feb. 19 and will give the five candidates the opportunity to persuade voters that the party is still relevant.

In the last election the NDP lost 17 of the 24 seats and its official status in the House of Commons, the party's worst showing in electoral history. Yet it remains ingrained as the country's social conscience, the party of Tommy Douglas and medicare, Jagmeet Singh and denticare, the party of Ed Broadbent and Jack Layton who became opposition leader in 2011 when Stephen Harper was Prime Minister.

The challenge for the leadership candidates is to persuade voters that there is still room in the country for a democratic socialist option.

Heather McPherson, who was elected in Edmonton-Strathcona is the only Member of Parliament in the race. She is running on a campaign to broaden the NDP tent.

The other candidates are Rob Ashton, president of the Longshoreman's union, journalist Avi Lewis who is the grandson former Ontario NDP party leader Stephen Lewis. Long-shots include Indigenous social worker Tanille Johnston and organic farmer Tony McQuaid.

Who ever wins the leadership will have to reconcile warring factions within the party, address environmental and economic concerns and reckon with the popularity of Prime Minister Mark Carney whose approval rating continues to soar.

The party's interim leader, Vancouver MP Don Davis, however, believes the NDP is at an "historic moment." Davies says the opportunity is ripe for the party to "blow the doors open and build itself from the ground up and reconstruct what a bold, progressive party looks like, inviting the broad spectrum of the Canadian left in.

"One thing very clear to me is that Canadians do not want a U.S. style two-party system, so having a diversity of parties and range of ideas at the federal level as well as a strong, bold progressive party resonates with all Canadians across the spectrum," said Davies.

Former NDP strategist Karl Belanger agrees that all leadership hopefuls have to reach outside the party's core supporters to raise money in order to broaden its base.

The new NDP leader will be announced in Winnipeg on March 29.

- Alan Hustak, Grasslands



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Métis Nation suspends regional director over harmful conduct

By GNG Staff
Grasslands News

The Métis Nation–Saskatchewan has suspended Eastern Region 2 representative Brent Digness for an indeterminate period following an ethics review into audio recordings that senior leadership says demonstrated an abuse of power and harmful language.

In a statement released Jan. 20, the Métis Nation–Saskatchewan Provincial Métis Council said its Ethics Committee convened after recordings made public earlier this month raised concerns about Digness' conduct toward Métis citizens, women and members of the broader community.

The council said Digness has acknowledged his actions and agreed to the suspension, which took effect immediately. He will not be eligible for consideration of reinstatement for at least six months and only after the Ethics Committee determines he has complied with all recommended measures, including completion of a treatment and therapy plan approved by the committee.

"These measures are consistent with the maximum allowable penalty under the PMC Conduct Policy," the PMC said, adding that the Métis Nation–Saskatchewan does not condone the behaviour or the harm it caused.

The suspension follows earlier action taken by Métis Nation–Saskatchewan President Glen McCallum. On Jan. 13, McCallum removed Digness from his cabinet roles as minister of economic development, tourism and sports, as well as from his positions as chair of the Clarence Campeau Development Fund and the Saskatchewan Métis Economic Development Corporation.

"Our government does not condone this behaviour — no exceptions," McCallum said in a statement at the time, noting the matter had been referred to the government's Ethics Committee in accordance with established procedures and laws.

McCallum said he assumed Digness' ministerial responsibilities while the ethics process proceeds, emphasizing that the situation would not distract the government from advancing the rights and well-being of Métis citizens.

In its statement, the PMC said it is calling on Digness to demonstrate a continued commitment to healing and reconciliation, stressing that Métis values must be reflected at every level of government.

Digness issued a public apology after the recordings began circulating, acknowledging that the language used was his and describing it as inappropriate and unacceptable. He apologized without qualification for the tone, profanity and anger expressed.

He said the exchange occurred during a deeply painful family dispute following the loss of both of his parents but stressed that personal grief and conflict do not justify speaking to anyone in a demeaning or threatening manner.

"The language heard on that recording is mine," Digness confirmed. "It was inappropriate, unacceptable, and does not reflect the standards I hold for myself as a public servant or as a human being. I regret my words, and I apologize without qualification for the tone, profanity, and anger that were expressed. The exchange occurred in the context of a deeply painful and longstanding family dispute following the loss of both of my parents. While this context helps explain the emotional weight of the moment, it does not excuse my behavior. Personal grief, family conflict, and unresolved hurt are not justifications for speaking to anyone in a way that demeans or threatens them."



FACEBOOK | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Suspended
Digness, shown here upon learning of his 2025 election win in the close race for Eastern Region 2, was suspended following an audio recording of him using harmful language of him towards a woman.

Digness also addressed concerns about the misuse of his elected position, saying it must never be used to retaliate against anyone over a personal matter and that statements suggesting otherwise were wrong.

"What I can do and what I owe the public is accountability and accepting the consequences of my actions," he said. "I am recommitting myself to the values of restraint, professionalism, and respect. I ask to be judged not only by this moment, but by the steps I take to ensure it is not repeated. I know there are many people who are disappointed and hurt by what they heard, and for that I am sorry. I intend to do better."

The Métis Nation–Saskatchewan said it will continue to prioritize the protection of citizens and the embedding of Métis values as the ethics process continues.

A regional director since 2021, Digness won the last MN-S election by the narrowest of margins – two votes (96 for Digness to Nancy Duns' 94 in Eastern Region 2). A recount proved Digness to be the victor.

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Bert Fox grad knows her beef

By Alan Hustak
Grasslands News

Jenna Sarich, who graduated from the Bert Fox Community High School in Fort Qu'Appelle is making her mark in the cattle industry as a technical consultant and analyst with the Roundtable for Sustainable Beef.

Sarich has just returned from doing research in 11 countries on a $20,000 Nuffield Canada Agricultural Scholarship which enabled her to study the sustainability of beef cattle systems on three continents.

The prestigious scholarship is aimed at helping recipients study the sustainability of beef cattle systems and increase their practical knowledge of farming and management techniques.

"My focus was predominately on environmental sustainability. You start at the government level, learn about the policies and regulations of each country, and then go out onto different



Jenna Sarich

farms and research centres to see where the challenges and opportunities are," she explained.

The information she gathered will be the subject of a report she is working on that will aim to make recommendations for Canadian agriculture and will be published on the Nuffield Canada website later this year.

Beef prices have risen by about 16 per cent over the last year, in part, because of the underlying effects of climate change. On average, steers now sell from $8-$10 per hundredweight, and some producers consider the high prices as time to cash in, sell high, retire give up cattle ranching. As a result, demand is exceptionally high and prices are expected to rise even higher.

But Sarich says she's uncomfortable predicting the future of the industry because it's beyond her range of expertise.

"It's a tricky one. Canada and many countries currently have the smallest herds in decades which restricts supply. The beef cattle cycle is much longer than most other protein sources and therefore takes much longer to build back up."

Initially Sarich was going to become a veterinarian. She received her undergraduate and Master's degree from the University of Saskatchewan, but while working as a research technician for Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada in Lethbridge during her undergrad, she became intrigued by the idea of research.

"I absolutely loved the research and quickly became fascinated by the metabolic and physiological factors that influence animal health, performance, and wellbeing. That spurred me to pursue research," she said.

After her undergrad, in 2019, she returned to the University of Saskatchewan for her master's degree studying the effects of feeding ergot alkaloids on ruminal metabolism, growth performance, health and welfare of beef cattle.

Sarich completed her research at the university's Livestock and Forage Centre of Excellence, where she also took on a role as an outreach worker.

"I really enjoy interacting with the public and taking technical research and making it digestible for people in industry and elsewhere," she said.

Traffic stop turns into 20 charges at Piapot First Nation

By GNG Staff
Grasslands News

A routine traffic stop by Southey RCMP has resulted in a Piapot First Nation man facing 19 additional criminal charges after police allegedly seized drugs, weapons and cash from a vehicle earlier this month.

RCMP say officers identified a suspended driver operating a vehicle on Piapot First Nation on Jan. 14. Police stopped the vehicle and arrested the adult male driver for driving while suspended.

Following the arrest, officers conducted a search of the vehicle as part of their investigation. During the search, police report locating and seizing a firearm, steel brass knuckles, a baton and open alcohol. Officers also allegedly seized approximately 40 grams of suspected cocaine, 10 grams of suspected methamphetamine and five grams of suspected fentanyl, along with a sum of cash.

The seized substances have been sent to Health Canada for further analysis, RCMP said.

As a result of the investigation, 41-year-old Robin Kaiswatum of Piapot First Nation has been charged with a total of 19 offences under the Criminal Code and the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act.

The charges include one count of possession of cocaine for the purpose of trafficking, one count of possession of property obtained by crime under $5,000, two counts of carrying a concealed weapon, three counts of possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose and one count of possession of a firearm in a motor vehicle.

Kaiswatum also faces 10 counts of weapons possession contrary to a court order, as well as one count of refusing to comply with a demand.

RCMP said Kaiswatum remains in custody and has been remanded. He is scheduled to appear in Regina provincial court on Jan. 29.

None of the allegations have been proven in court.

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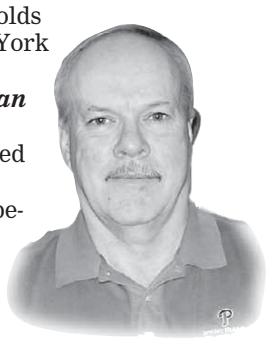
It's a Strange World



Attorney Amanda Reynolds has filed a lawsuit in New York seeking to force the IRS to allow her to ***claim Finnegan Mary Reynolds***, nine, as a dependent. Reynolds adopted the young girl in 2016, and argues she should qualify because she costs over $5,000 per year, and they share a home. "For all intents and purposes, Finnegan is like a daughter, and is definitely a 'dependent'," Reynolds argued. The IRS won't allow her to count Finnegan as a dependent, because ***she's a dog — a Golden Retriever***. Reynolds's lawsuit "asserts that the evolving understanding of animal legal status, coupled with state and federal regulation of animals as regulated entities, justifies the recognition of dogs as quasi-citizens entitled to limited civil recognition, including dependency status for tax purposes." Mike Straw of This is True snarled, "Next step: cat ladies would pay no taxes."

A shooting in Odessa, Texas, left a mother and two of her children dead and a 1***5-year-old boy facing a capital murder charge***. The victims were found dead in an apartment complex and identified as 39-year-old Jessica Rodriguez, her 13-year-old daughter, and her 9-year-old son. The suspect is a student at Permian High School, which was made famous by Friday Night Lights. Investigators say the suspect initially intended to shoot his 15-year-old ex-girlfriend outside of school but instead went to her home and slaughtered her family. The boy has been charged with one count of capital murder of multiple persons. Authorities have not discussed a possible motive beyond the prior relationship between the suspect and the ex-girlfriend. Police said anybody who helped the teen obtain the gun or knew about his plans could also face charges.

Phones have been banned from classrooms in New York, NY and teachers say student focus has greatly improved, and the kids are much more likely to be on time for class, mainly because they walk faster when not looking at their phones. One constant side effect is driving teachers crazy: "The constant refrain is 'Miss, what time is it?' says Manhattan high school English teacher Madi Mornhinweg, because ***even teens don't know how to read clocks***. Students are supposed to learn how to read clocks in first and second grade, but apparently those teachers are failing at the job, or the kids just don't get enough practice. A 2017 study in Oklahoma found that only 20% of children aged 6-12 know how to read clocks, and it's probably fewer 8 or 9 years later.

In the Toronto Star, Rosie DiManno called this item, ***"Last time the bus was on time."*** A man who happened to already be a prohibited driver, climbed into the driver's seat of an idling bus with people aboard. He set off on a "joy ride," continuing to make stops to pick up passengers along the route. When the cop got hold of him, the man was asked, "You kept making all the stops?" To which the driver answered (perfectly logical in his own mind), "People kept ringing the bell!"

A few days after Christmas, a child in Florida noticed a USPS driver had mistakenly delivered a neighbor's package to his home, so hopped on a scooter ***to complete the delivery for him***. That's when the USPS driver, believing the boy was stealing the package, tried to run him over. William White Jr., 41, is accused of deliberately steering his delivery vehicle toward the boy and did, in fact, strike and crush the scooter. White yelled at the boy, then allegedly pulled the damaged scooter from under his vehicle, loaded it onto the truck, and began to drive off. The child's parents came outside and chased the USPS vehicle, whose driver tossed the damaged scooter into another yard. White was later questioned and arrested on charges of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, petit theft, and criminal mischief.

The Pentagon is reportedly ***preparing to end a century-old partnership*** with Scouting America, formerly known as the Boy Scouts. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth has drafted a memo to Congress criticizing the organization as "genderless," claiming it no longer supports "the future of American boys" and accusing it of abandoning meritocracy in favor of diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives! Wow, what a mouthful. Hegseth's proposal would end the relationship, citing concerns that the Scouts no longer "cultivate masculine values" and alleging that continued support would divert resources from national security priorities. I'm sure glad I was a Boy Scout back in the 60s! And I even earned a few badges with my 'manly' hard work…

Until next time….

All municipal financial statements now available on provincial website

By GNG Staff
Grasslands News

Three years of audited financial statements for every Saskatchewan municipality are now publicly available online, the provincial government announced Thursday.

The statements for 2022, 2023 and 2024 have been posted on saskatchewan.ca by the Ministry of Government Relations as part of an effort to improve transparency and public access to municipal information.

"Municipalities are the level of government closest to Saskatchewan residents, and we want to help them deliver the best experience," Government Relations Minister Eric Schmalz said in a statement. "This online resource supports municipal transparency and ensures that information is accessible for all Saskatchewan residents."

The move comes ahead of planned amendments to the Municipal Modernization and Red Tape Reduction Act that will require all municipalities to independently post their financial statements online by Sept. 1, 2027.

The province said the documents posted online are the same financial statements municipalities are already required to submit under provincial legislation and as a condition of receiving Municipal Revenue Sharing funding, an unconditional funding program tied to Saskatchewan's economic performance.

Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association president Randy Goulden said public access to financial information is key to maintaining confidence in local governments.

"Municipal governments function best when there's a high level of trust between elected officials, administration and the public, and financial transparency is part of that," Goulden said, adding that while many urban municipalities already post financial documents online, the provincial portal ensures consistent access across the province.

Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities president Bill Huber echoed that view, saying financial openness helps strengthen trust in rural communities.

"Strong rural municipalities are built on trust — trust between councils, administrators and the people they serve," Huber said. "This initiative ensures every community across Saskatchewan can easily access their local audited financial statements."

The province said municipalities will continue to be required to submit their annual financial statements and auditors' reports to the Ministry of Government Relations after the legislative changes take effect in 2027.

Municipal financial statements can be accessed through the provincial government's website.



WDM Crafter's Club CALVIN DANIELS | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Alyssa Parker works on a pair of sheepskin slippers during day one of the new Crafter's Club leather workshop at the Yorkton branch of the Western Development Museum on Sunday, Jan. 18.

WDM in Yorkton launches 'Crafter's Club'

By Calvin Daniels
Grasslands News

The Yorkton branch of the Western Development Museum hosted day one of a 'WDM Crafter's Club' leather workshop Sunday, Jan. 18.

Those enrolled in the workshop were working on sheepskin slippers.

Instructor Jailyn Corbin explained the Crafter's Club "is brand new," adding there was some public interest in the local WDM offering some crafting education. "So, we decided to follow up on that."

The choice of doing slippers initially with future workshops to include making a messenger bag, folded wallet, and drawstring pouch – all leather projects – was by design.

"We're starting with what we actually know here," said Corbin.

While starting with leather crafts, Corbin said they are hoping to broaden projects undertaken by the Crafter's Club moving forward.

"We're hoping to do more workshops throughout the year," she said, adding for that to happen others willing to instruct will need to step forward.

So, for example if someone knows how to use a spinning wheel, it would be great if they would instruct a workshop.

The broader the base of crafts – or particular interest are heritage crafts – the more people that can become involved, said Corbin.

Those interested can contact the Yorkton WDM for more details.

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Court sets next date in inquiry for CTK Chief financial charges

By Ryan Kiedrowski
Grasslands News

Around 40 people filled a Regina courtroom last week for just under 10 minutes as the preliminary inquiry involving Chief Scott Eashappie from Carry the Kettle Nakoda Nation moves forward.

The Jan. 19 appearance in Regina Provincial Court was to set the next date for the inquiry to continue – one that balances timeliness with access for community members.

"While we recognize that courts are accountable to the citizens they serve in, the community has a right to have the matter adjudicated in their community," defence lawyer Andrew Hitchcock told the court. "In this case, we ask that that interest give way to the interest of getting the matter through the courts as expeditiously as possible. And that means that the continuation date should be Feb. 9."

Circuit court dates proposed for the preliminary inquiry to continue in Indian Head included Jan. 19, 21, 26, 28, and 20 – none of which aligned for both defence and Crown.



Scott Eashappie

The first date of the preliminary inquiry began Dec. 16, 2025, at Indian Head where the Crown called their first witness in the matter.

"We had a discussion about wanting to adjourn it, but because that particular witness came from afar, we decided to continue, or at least start and adjourn the rest of the preliminary inquiry," explained Crown prosecutor Jaco Erasmus. Circuit court is held in Indian Head on the first and third Tuesday of each month at the Memorial Hall, with organizing special sitting dates offering challenges in coinciding with other events in the public space. Many community members had attended the Dec. 16 date at Indian Head as well, attesting to the interest surrounding the case.

The February date was favoured by both defence and Crown and would hasten the process toward the next step of a trial date at Court of King's Bench. Judge Rayner agreed to the Feb. 9 date in Regina, noting that while the drive from Indian Head to Regina is around 40 minutes, the "significant number of people" in attendance at the Jan. 19 date illustrated that those interested in being present for the proceedings are able to make the journey.



Court appearance
RYAN KIEDROWSKI I GRASSLANDS NEWS
Carry the Kettle Chief Scott Eashappie appeared at the Regina Provincial Court on Monday, Jan. 19 for a preliminary inquiry over charges of financial crimes. His case was adjourned to Monday, Feb. 9.

The charges against Chief Eashappie – who appeared in Court Jan. 19 – were in relation to an ongoing financial crimes investigation by the File Hills First Nations Police Service. Chief Eashappie was arrested by FHFNPS on March 5, 2025, charged with fraud over $5,000, theft over $5,000, money laundering, and criminal breach of trust, which have yet to be proved in court.

Chief Eashappie respectfully declined comment when asked by Grasslands News.

Court strikes down coal challenge in Saskatchewan

By Natasha Bulowski
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

A citizen-led climate justice challenge to the Saskatchewan government's plan to continue using coal power failed when a court sided with the province earlier this week.

Last summer, the provincial government and SaskPower laid out a plan to continue using coal-fired generation despite federal regulations aimed at phasing out the polluting power source by 2030. Residents and citizen groups responded by filing a judicial challenge arguing the province's decision is "unreasonable" and should be reviewed by the courts due to a lack of public consultation, a disregard for Canadian and international law and potential implications on Canadian Charter rights.

A Court of King's Bench justice sided with the province and dismissed the application on Jan. 12 on the grounds that the court's role is not to dictate climate policy or directing the day-to-day policy of a government.

The Saskatchewan government said in an emailed statement sent to Canada's National Observer it is "pleased" with the court's ruling, which "determined that the issue is essentially one of government policy and, as such, is not for the courts to decide."

The applicants (the Saskatchewan Environmental Society, Citizens for Public Justice and three individuals from Saskatchewan and Manitoba) say a judicial review is the only means of holding the government to account for its "unprecedented" decision to continue burning coal and ensuring evidence of the government's decision-making is "justified, transparent, and intelligible," said Glenn Wright, the lawyer representing the applicants, in a Jan. 16 press release.

"Saskatchewan has been planning to phase out coal for 15 years, and the Coal Decision is a marked departure from that long-standing objective. We believe that a near billion-dollar administrative decision to double down on the most polluting form of energy generation — a decision which, we believe, violates the rule of law — is something that the Courts can and should review."

After the lower court disagreed with them, the applicants said they are in discussion with counsel and are considering their options, including a potential appeal of the decision to the Saskatchewan Court of Appeal.

Coal is the dirtiest fossil fuel and produces more planet-warming carbon dioxide when burned than either oil or gas.

The province's Saskatchewan First Energy Security Strategy and Supply Plan lays out its strategy to use coal as a bridge to nuclear energy but does not contain any cost estimates, just a demand that the federal government pay for 75 per cent of its first nuclear reactor.

It is going to cost the province an estimated $900 million over four years to extend the lives of its coal power plants.

"The environmental and health risks posed by extending coal use for many more years remain just as serious as ever," said Margret Asmuss, president of the Saskatchewan Environmental Society, in a press release. "Saskatchewan residents deserve responsible, evidence-based energy planning that protects people, communities, the economy and the environment."

The group noted the $900 million for coal plant refurbishment could — and should — be going to up-and-coming technology and industries such as battery storage and renewables, but instead the province is choosing to delay these opportunities by doubling down on coal.

Ontario was the first province to phase out coal-fired electricity under Premier Kathleen Wynne in 2014. Last summer, Alberta transitioned its last coal plant to natural gas to complete the coal phase-out. New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Saskatchewan still use coal-fired electricity.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

2026 Junior Citizen of the Year Scholarship

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Over the past four decades, the Saskatchewan Weekly Newspapers Association, in partnership with SaskPower and the Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan, has recognized the youth of Saskatchewan through the Junior Citizen of the Year Award.

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This year, one deserving youth will receive **a $3,000 bursary,** provided by Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan, to use towards their post-secondary education.

Building a Strong Saskatchewan through the Crown Sector

Visit www.swna.com for further information and nomination forms
Nominations close March 31, 2026

Local area beekeeper is satisfied with status quo

By Calvin Daniels
Grasslands News

The import of honeybees to Canada is remaining the same under Canadian Food Inspection Agency regulations.

Dan Wasylenchuk of Howland Honey near Good Spirit Lake said that is a positive in his mind, while acknowledging there are producers who have lobbied for a relaxation of rules to allow for easier importation of bee stock.

There had been those in the industry pushing the CFIA to revisit its policies banning packaged bee trade from the US, but those proposals were ultimately rejected by the agency, leaving the status quo headed into 2026, which Wasylenchuk said he sees that as a good thing.

Importation regulations as they exist today "are there for a reason," he told Yorkton This Week. The reason is to prevent introduction of disease which could impact the Canadian honey industry.

If some diseases were brought in via a package of bees "it goes everywhere," said Wasylenchuk, adding it would spread "like wildfire," by the nature of the industry and the bee.

Looking at their own operation – a modest one with 1,000 hives, Wasylenchuk said they have bees in yards from 10 miles north of Canora, to a few miles north of Melville, and of course bees fly around, too, so there are spots where their bee yards are in proximity to other bee yards. It's a map for easy disease spread.

"Everybody kind of rubs up against everybody else as far as territory goes," he said.

That isn't to say beekeepers can't access bees from outside Canada, just there are rules, regulations, and inspections to follow, and those barriers will mean certain areas cannot be imported from, said Wasylenchuk.

In other cases, it may allow for the import of queen bees which can be put into hives, but not a package of a few pounds of bees to create hives, again the premise is to lessen the risk of disease, added Wasylenchuk.

Ultimately, Wasylenchuk is on the side of tough regulations since Howland Honey has been breeding its own bees for years, with a focus on health, but also on developing a bee that is well-suited to making honey in Canada.

"We want to make a better bee that produces more honey in our environment," he said, adding if someone brought in a disease in a bee package it would threaten their effort and those of other producers doing the same thing.

And it matters in terms of production, with Wasylenchuk saying an imported package hive might produce 100-150 pounds of honey per year.

"Our bees will make 400 pounds of honey because we've bred a better bee," he said.

Town hall draws 300 producers over CFIA traceability concerns

By Connie Schwalm
Grasslands News

Last Thursday, there was a point when the line of cars turning into Wawota stretched down the highway, almost to the town limits. Approximately 300 livestock producers and others involved in the industry, had traveled to the small community to attend a Town Hall Meeting focusing on the changes to livestock traceability that have been proposed by the CFIA.

Producers came to the meeting seeking answers.

They left with a call to action.

Henry McCarthy helped to organize and led the meeting. McCarthy is a veterinarian in Wawota and a livestock producer who says that traceability has been a crucial part of the industry for a long time, and stresses that any expansion of traceability regulations must involve more than simply shifting the workload

"We've always had traceability and the original system had lots of compliance. It was cheque books, receipts and Brand Inspection Manifests, and it worked in the past, when we were dealing with tuberculosis and brucellosis.

"Individual animal tracking was supposed to speed up and ease that process, and any expansion made now should be done to improve it. The original traceability process was fairly onerous for the CFIA. We have to make sure that the changes being proposed now don't involve just taking the onus off of the CFIA and putting it all on producers."

To date, very little information about the proposed enhanced regulations has been provided by the CFIA and one producer who came to the mic during the meeting in Wawota expressed the frustration that comes with a lack of clear, reliable information.

"What is the ask? What are they telling us we can and can't do? That does not seem to be clear. There was stuff put out on Facebook originally, but if you commented on it, you had people jumping down your throat and telling you that wasn't what they are asking for. So, what are we debating here? Is there anyone in the building that can tell us exactly what they're asking?"

Unfortunately, the answer was "No".

Although the CFIA stated that it will "pause any publication of the regulations until the proposed changes are more widely understood and concerns are heard and taken into consideration" further information has not yet been forthcoming from the agency. Nor were any representatives from the CFIA on hand to respond at the meeting.

Kevin Weedmark (MLA Moosomin) who had come to the meeting in response to concerns brought to him by producers in his riding and was there to "listen to producers, learn from them and understand what the issue is" says that this lack of information from the CFIA makes meaningful debate problematic at best.

"It sounds like there are some communication issues around this whole thing. When you're discussing proposed regulations, I would love to have those proposed regulations in hand, to know what I'm discussing. But it certainly seems as though the CFIA hasn't communicated with producers about what these proposed regulations are going to be."

McCarthy says that this lack of clear, reliable information on what the proposed changes are leaves producers anxious and uncertain

"Everybody wants security. If you don't know what's coming or how it might hurt your business, how secure do you feel? The question that needs to be addressed right now is 'What's next? Where is this heading?'"

Yet at the same time he says that it is concern for both the present and the future that is fueling producer's determination to take action despite the uncertainty.

"The theme that I heard a lot in that room was that people were there for themselves – but also their children and grandchildren. When people start thinking that way, that's powerful."



CONNIE SCHWALM I GRASSLANDS NEWS

Voicing their concerns

Approximately 300 livestock producers and others in the in Ag industry attended a Town Hall Meeting on proposed changes to traceability regulations held in Wawota.

McCarthy is also Second Vice President of the Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association (SSGA) and the SSGA representative on the Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association (SCA) Board). He stresses that the best way producers can ensure that their concerns are communicated effectively, is by engaging with those associations and individuals representing them

"Our goal in holding this meeting was to get to the point where we can come up with some concrete ideas and suggestions. Debate is great, that's what we were after. But we don't want knee-jerk reactions. We want well-thought-out plans of action.

"The feeling I get is that producers want to get something done now and not kick the can down the road and delay it more. For that to happen, producers must realize that information flows uphill. During BSE, everyone was asking lots of questions and information flowed downhill. People got used to that. But that's not the way it works here. The CFIA will be in charge of its own messaging. But it's up to these producer associations to convey the message of what the producers want up the hill, and producers need to give them the power to do that.

"Producers need to focus on getting their concerns to their representative on the various associations and becoming involved with those associations. If you can't attend a meeting, talk to your zone representative and they can present a resolution on your behalf. That way, the message about what producers want will at least be flowing in the right direction, and the people volunteering for those positions can have some direction and support."

Daryl Harrison (MLA Cannington) is both a former Provincial Agriculture Minister and a livestock producer. Harrison was also at the meeting in Wawota and agrees that producers need to work with their representatives.

"These industry-led groups are very valuable to producers because that's where government seeks its direction from. So, that's where producers need to focus their attention. They need to be involved, talk to their representatives and let them know how they feel. If they want to make sure their concerns are heard, people need to have those concerns funneled through the producer groups."

Another message to come out of the meeting was a call to reform the CFIA itself.

When the CFIA was originally created as an "arm's length" regulatory agency, it reported primarily to the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, and then to the Ministry of Health. However, under the Harper Government, this was reversed, so that the CFIA now reports primarily to the Ministry of Health.

Christine Ewert Hill (Veterinarian and purebred livestock producer) says that bringing the CFIA back under the primary oversight of the Ministry of Agriculture is necessary.

"The CFIA has to be accountable and who keeps the CFIA accountable matters, because regulations won't work unless they work for producers. If the CFIA was brought back under the Ministry of Agriculture, there would be more opportunity to ensure that the realities of livestock production are heard and clearly understood. So, we need to push for serious CFIA reform so that we can have confidence that the CFIA is doing what needs to be done in a timely and logical manner."

Harrison agrees, adding that such a change would not compromise the ability to ensure food safety.

"My biggest concern with the CFIA is that it reports primarily to the Ministry of Health. We must be sure that we're doing the right things, so that we can provide consumers with the assurance that the steak, roast or ground beef that they buy is safe to eat. Yet what we're discussing here is all about agriculture. When a feeder animal goes from the farm – to the feedlot – to slaughter – that is all agriculture. It's when that animal is slaughtered that it becomes food and we start talking about food safety. Of course it's not a completely clear-cut distinction. But, having the CFIA report primarily to the Ministry of Agriculture would not, in my opinion, compromise our ability to provide the consumer with that necessary assurance."

However, with the clock ticking on the pause put in place by the CFIA, McCarthy says priority must be given to dealing with the situation as it stands.

"The most important question to ask right now is - where do we go from here? This is an opportunity I haven't seen come around very often, where producers are so engaged. I think that's why we had such a good turn-out at the meeting. People want to participate. I also think that everyone has to be willing to be at the table because if our producers don't have confidence in our system, then we have no system. And there's a lot of things that look good on paper, but make it reality, and it becomes a different story. The CFIA has their perspective and the producers have theirs. For this to work, those two have to come together."

Jail time for man involve in Melville to Elfros car chase

By Ryan Kiedrowski
Grasslands News

A Regina Beach man who was part of the Melville to Elfros police chase last fall was sentenced in provincial court.

A distinct teal-coloured 1984 Ford Bronco was reported stolen to Lumsden RCMP from a residence in Regina Beach Oct. 2, 2025, with accounts of the vehicle observed throughout southern Saskatchewan – including the Esterhazy, Moosomin, and Whitewood areas. Three days later, Melville RCMP received a report of the same vehicle spotted near the city.

Police discovered the vehicle on Highway 10 and attempted a traffic stop. The Bronco continued onward, also avoiding subsequent attempts by RCMP to pull it over. During the chase, the Bronco had hit several police vehicles before police employed a spike belt in the Foam Lake area. The stolen vehicle came to a stop in a field near Elfros. While no injuries occurred, RCMP vehicles were damaged during the chase.

Levi Bast-Kozar (34) and Kaylee Lanctot (33) – both of Regina Beach – were arrested as a result, with the two having appeared before the court system over the months that followed.

In Yorkton Provincial Court on Jan. 13, Bast-Kozar entered guilty pleas to single count charges of assault peace officer, dangerous operation of a motor vehicle, flight from police with a motor vehicle, and theft of a motor vehicle. He also pleaded guilty to two counts theft under $5,000, with a stay of proceedings on five other charges.

While he's been held in custody through the various court appearances, Bast-Kozar has 878 days (2.4 years) left to serve in a global sentence. He was also placed under a 10-year firearm prohibition, a three-year driving prohibition, and was ordered to submit a DNA sample.

Bast-Kozar and Lanctot were involved in a string of vehicle thefts through the White Butte, Regina, and Lumsden areas prior to their trek across the southeast. On Sept. 25, 2025, White Butte RCMP received a report that a white Chevrolet truck was stolen over the noon hour from a farmer's field. The vehicle was subsequently located at the Sandra Schmirler Center in Regina by using On-Star. That same evening at 7:45 p.m., Lumsden RCMP received a report that a red 1997 Chrysler Sebring was stolen from Regina. The vehicle was subsequently recovered.

On the following afternoon at 2:20 p.m., Lumsden RCMP received a report that a grey Chevrolet Trailblazer was stolen from Buena Vista. A witness provided videos of the stolen vehicle and the two suspects walking a pair of dogs.

A few days later on Oct. 1 at 10:26 a.m., Broadview RCMP received a report from OK Tire of a break-in to the business, with a white Ford Edge stolen. Lumsden RCMP located the vehicle in Regina Beach at Lanctot's residence.

During that same time, Lanctot was listed as a missing person by Regina Police Service, with an onslaught of tips received over social media. For her involvement in the chase, Lanctot faces a single charge possession of property obtained by crime over $5,000, with her matter set for trial in March.

REPORT FROM YOUR MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

CARNEY'S RECORD ON TRADE IS BAD FOR SASKATCHEWAN

People in Saskatchewan know that Conservatives are always on Saskatchewan's side. Like everyone in our great province, I was hopeful that Mark Carney would come back from China with a deal to end the unfair tariffs on Canola.

It should not be that hard. After all, the communist regime needs to feed its people and fuel its economy. Canada has what China needs, so Carney had the leverage he needed to eliminate the tariffs.

The Liberals ALSO made the insane decision to give a Beijing-owned company a $1 BILLION loan to build ferries for British Columbia. Canadian tax dollars should never have been used to underwrite a Beijing-owned company in the first place, but Carney could easily have used the threat of its cancellation for additional leverage.

With all that leverage, what did Carney come home with? On Canola, the Liberals say they "expect" China to drop their tariffs to effectively 15%. That is no doubt some relief for hard-working Canola producers. But it is still not zero, and worse than what Canada had under the Conservatives. And, it is just an "expectation," not actually a done deal. More talk from Carney with no real action.

The other HUGE detail in the fine print is that Carney's press release admits that the tariff relief on Canadian agriculture is only TEMPORARY, stating the reduction in tariffs is to last "until at least the end of this year." What does that mean? Will Saskatchewan farmers just get walloped again next harvest?

In return, Carney agreed to let 50,000 Beijing-made EVs into Canada. He also pledged to work more closely with the communist regime on establishing a New World Order. This is extremely alarming.

While there is no doubt that Donald Trump is attacking Canada's economy and dismantling our trading and security partnership, falling in behind a communist dictatorship is not the answer.

Carney's concessions are real and permanent. What Canada got in return is uncertain and temporary.

EVs that function like roving surveillance systems should not be allowed in Canada. Data collection, tracking Canadians and exposing us to a foreign communist regime is an unacceptable national security threat.

The communist regime in Beijing has interfered in at least two Canadian elections, imprisoned our citizens, operates illegal police stations designed to intimidate Canadians, and have admitted to acts of espionage against Canada.

In response, this Liberal government has bowed down and pledged closer cooperation.

Conservatives would make it clear to China that we will scrap the $1 billion loan if the tariffs aren't permanently and completely scrapped and tell them to stop meddling in our democracy.

If Canadians are looking for an effective and principled foreign policy that expands non-US trade without compromising Canadian safety and sovereignty, they will only find it in the Conservative party.



As always, my staff and I are available to answer questions and assist constituents in Regina-Qu'Appelle at the phone number below.

Andrew SCHEER
MP ~ REGINA-QU'APPELLE

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A Guide to

POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

Hands-on learning and paid co-ops power success in Sask Polytech's Electrical Engineering Technology program

Saskatchewan Polytech
Grasslands News

Supportive instructors, paid co-op placements and practical training are features of Saskatchewan Polytechnic's Electrical Engineering Technology program helping students build skills and confidence in a growing technical field.

"We engage in a variety of community outreach activities to attract students, including hands-on workshops and partnerships with local schools and organizations," says Babith Varghese, Electrical Engineering Technology program head.

"Workshops provide a basic introduction to the lab and equipment and can help make prospective students more comfortable with the learning environment."

Students say they value Sask Polytech's small classes, hands-on learning, approachable instructors and paid co-operative education work terms.

For Ella Kessler-Holderness, the decision to enrol was rooted in family. "My dad and stepdad are both engineers," she says. "They taught me to love math and I wanted to following their footsteps."

After a gap year working in reception at a vet clinic, she's now thriving in her first semester.

"The labs are really interesting. It's like a puzzle you put together," she says. That sense of support is echoed by Runhe Wang. She spent a year upgrading math and science through the Adult Education program at Sask Polytech's Saskatoon campus before applying.

"I wanted something with strong technical skills and good long-term career opportunities," she says. "The lab work is amazing. We build circuits, measure voltage and current and troubleshoot together."

Like her classmates, Tamika Ehrmantraut loves the hands-on approach. "The labs teach me the most because I'm a hands-on learner. It's rigorous but so worth it." Both Ehrmantraut and Abby Allen joined the program after a year of university. They were drawn to Sask Polytech for its smaller classes and easier access to instructors. "The big class sizes at university were off-putting and I could never reach out to my teachers," says Ehrmantraut. "At Sask Polytech, the instructors know our names and are always around to answer questions."

Allen agrees, "I enjoy how hands-on the program is. In the first week, we were in the lab building circuits. I'd absolutely recommend this program to anyone considering it."

Varghese says that co-operative education is a major selling point of the program for all students. "During co-op, students have the opportunity to earn competitive wages, and after graduation, many secure well-paying positions."

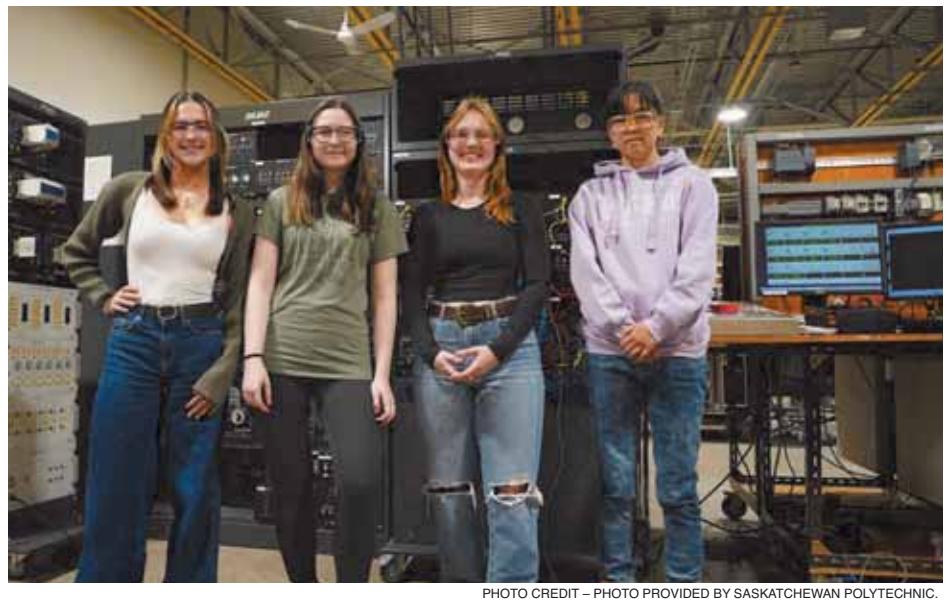

PHOTO CREDIT – PHOTO PROVIDED BY SASKATCHEWAN POLYTECHNIC.

Kessler-Holderness says that co-op education sold her on the program: "Getting work experience while still studying is amazing and made me want to apply."

When asked about advice for other students applying to the program, Kessler-Holderness says, "If you are interested in puzzles and putting stuff together, this program is for you."

Learn more at saskpolytech.ca.





A Guide to

POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION



Start Your Path at Medicine Hat College

Medicine Hat College
Grasslands News

Medicine Hat College (MHC) is more than a place to learn, it's a community where you can build skills, confidence, and connections. Located in sunny Southeast Alberta, MHC offers a wide range of programs to help you prepare for the career you want.

Here, learning goes beyond the classroom. With hands-on experiences and supportive instructors, you'll turn your goals into real opportunities. Whether you're working toward a certificate, diploma, degree, university transfer, or apprenticeship, MHC has a path that fits your future.

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Through the School of Business, you gain real-world experience with projects, case studies, and mentorship from industry professionals. Programs include Business Administration diploma with majors in Accounting, Financial Services, Marketing, and Management, as well as specialty options like Sport & Event Marketing and Management and Service Dog & Canine Management Studies.

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If creativity and innovation inspire you, the School of Arts, Science & Education offers programs such as the Bachelor of Applied Art & Design, Environmental Biology & Reclamation Technology, Kinesiology, and Sustainable Innovation. Education pathways include Early Childhood Education and a collaborative Bachelor of Education, with university transfer options available.

Health & Community Services: Making a Difference

The Yuill School of Health & Community Services prepares you for careers that change lives.

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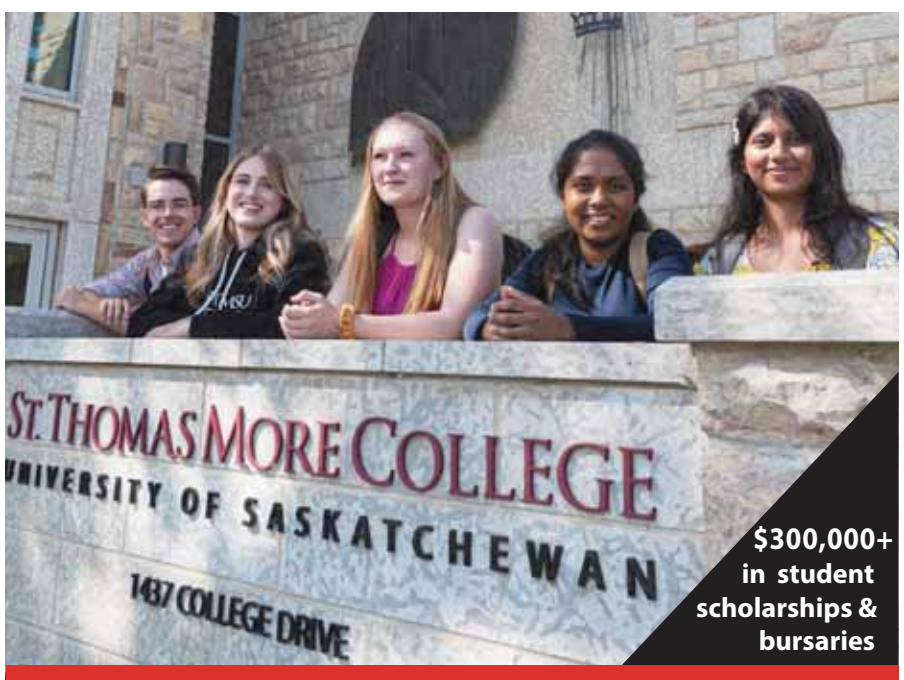

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A Guide to POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION



More students choose Suncrest College and graduate debt-free

By Suncrest College
Grasslands News

Students across Saskatchewan are discovering what makes Suncrest College the smart choice for post-secondary education: quality programs, personalized support, and significant savings.

With the rising cost of living, reducing student debt has never been more important. At Suncrest College, students can save thousands of dollars compared to relocating to larger centers like Regina or Saskatoon. Many graduates have completed diplomas and degrees with zero student debt, thanks to lower living costs and perks such as free parking, free tutorials, and reduced student fees.

The biggest advantage? Flexibility. Students who stay local often keep their part-time jobs, maintain strong employer relationships, and benefit from family support. Alumna Tori Danylko is a perfect example.

"As soon as I knew my midterm and finals schedule, I let my employer know, and they accommodated," said Danylko. "Living at home made it easier to balance work and school."

Tori graduated from the Business Diploma program debt-free and was hired full-time at Suncrest College as a student recruiter. "For me, it's easy to promote the college because of the great experience I had."

Another success story is Maisy Wheeler, who completed all four years of her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree through the University of Saskatchewan at Suncrest College. She graduated in the top 5% of her program province-wide without a single dollar of debt.

"Staying at Suncrest made sense," said Wheeler. "I planned to work in my home community, and with scholarships from both Suncrest and the U of S, it was the best decision I could have made."

Suncrest College isn't just a smart choice. It's the right choice for your future. Save money, stay connected, and graduate with confidence.



NEWSPAPERS
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Fort Qu'Appelle Fields store is closing by end of Feb.



Inventory blowout
ALAN HUSTAK I GRASSLANDS NEWS
Store manager Pauline Rees prepares for the store's closing by the end of February this year. The inventory is being discounted to help sell it.

By Alan Hustak
Grasslands News

Four years after Field's opened its discount store in Fort Qu'Appelle the outlet is closing before the end of February.

Merchandise is being liquidated at discounts between 20 and 40 per cent or more.

"Our marketing approach wasn't correct, the store hasn't been the greatest success that we hoped it would be," district manager Colton McDougall told the Times in a telephone interview from head office in Surrey, B.C. "It will not be a definite closure. We have to get ourselves back on track and rethink how we can better serve the community, but we don't have a definite timeline as to when the store will open again."

The Western Canadian chain was once owned by the Hudson Bay Company, but was acquired by a Vancouver based holding company, FHC Enterprises several years ago.

The store manager and two employees are affected.

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Winter hits area with first blizzard of the year

By Calvin Daniels
Grasslands News

Two weeks is all it took for 2026 to realize its first storm of the year. Cold temperatures and high winds with gusts reaching 96 km/h roared into the southern half of Saskatchewan Jan. 15. The storm closed roads throughout the region and caused major power outages that left SaskPower crews waiting for conditions to improve before they could attempt repairs.

RCMP spokesperson Mandy Maier said they received 44 reports of collisions or rollovers and 28 traffic hazards between 6 p.m. Jan. 15 and 10:30 a.m. Jan. 16.

"These calls include everything from collisions, vehicles in the ditch, the jackknifed semis, road hazards, and everything in-between," she told reporters in an online news conference. "We are getting some reports of injuries, but nothing that we're able to report on specifically at this time."

RCMP officers have been blocking highways where collisions, rollovers or jackknifed trucks have occurred, but Maier said some drivers have attempted to drive around police roadblocks.

"Please do not try and pass blocked roads," she said. "There is a reason our officers are there."

Ministry of Highways spokesperson Dan Palmer said high winds have been a major challenge for road crews, both in terms of visibility and maintaining treated road surfaces. Salt, sand and de-icing chemicals can be blown off highways, while drifting snow can quickly undo treatment efforts.

Palmer noted that conditions are changing rapidly, with road statuses shifting between closed and "travel not recommended" throughout the day. During the media conference, Highway 1 west of Regina reopened from closed to travel not recommended, underscoring the need for frequent checks of the highway hotline.

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City News

January 23 - January 29, 2026
Next Council Meeting:
Monday, January 26, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.
Committee of the Whole Council Meeting for 2025 Q4
Update starts at 4:00 p.m. on January 26, 2026



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Every woman has a story.
DO YOU KNOW ONE FROM YORKTON?
We're developing a historical walking tour of the Yorkton City Cemetery and are searching for names, stories, or documents on notable women who had a huge impact in Yorkton or Canada and are buried here. Some great examples that have been suggested by the community include Sylvia Fedoruk, Dr. Sigridur Houston, Isabel Priestly, Ruth Shaw, Edith Roebuck, Georgina Care, Alicia Lomas, Dr. Stephanie Potoski, Mary MacColl, and Sandra MacColl.

Help us uncover the stories of the women who shaped our community! Email parksandrec@yorkton.ca with any more names, stories, or old newspaper clippings that would help bring these stories to life!



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SPORTS

Keenan on fire with Sask. Rush

By Calvin Daniels
Grasslands News

To suggest Ryan Keenan had a big game for the Saskatchewan Rush against Las Vegas would be an understatement.

It was a huge offensive effort as the Rush Captain scored six goals (known as a sock trick with team fans), then added six assists for a 12-point night in the Nevada city Jan. 9.

"Our offence was really clicking," Keenan told Grasslands News in an obvious effort to spread his success, then adding, it was a game where it felt like whatever he did on offence was going to lead to a goal.

And yes, the Rush did win the contest against the Desert Dogs 21-15 to improve to 5-1 as the team finished up the first third of the National Lacrosse League (NLL) season. The 21 goals marked the highest-scoring game any team has had in the NLL this season.

Keenan said the Rush offence "had kind of been building" and it all fell into place in Vegas (Robert Church for example had a 10-point game). "... We shot the ball really well... We were due for a good outburst on offence."

While Keenan had a standout game, the Rush this season have offensively spread things around, which the Captain said is sort of the game plan.

"Everybody has to contribute on and off ball," he said, adding the Rush philosophy is on any given night "it really can be any of seven guys that can have a big night."

Helping set the stage for the Rush offence, Jake Naso dominated in the face-off circle, winning 29-40.

"He's outstanding... especially that last game," offered Keenan, adding having such a successful face-off specialist "is a big burden off our shoulders."

Of course, the flip side of scoring 21 was allowing 15, so did that lead to some dressing room backlash after the win?

Keenan said the more porous defensive effort was talked about, but coming off a still decisive win, "it was all quite light-hearted," adding, "it's always fun when you win."

Keenan fully expects the defence to tighten, thanks in large part to having goaltender Frank Scigliano as the backend anchor.

"We rely on Frank a lot. He's been outstanding since he came," he said, adding while the Rush try to focus on limiting shots, when opponents do get good looks "time and time again he's (Scigliano) kind of bails us out."

Moving forward Keenan said the team is focused on more of what was accomplished through the first six games.

"Our expectation is to be right at the top and win championships with the guys that we've got," he said.

So, through a hot start to the season what role as Captain has Keenan played?

"I try to talk to the group, to be as vocal as I can," he said, but added the team is sort of lead by committee, with a number of veterans leading the way. "... It's a really good group of guys dedicated to do the right things on and off the floor."

As Captain, he just tries to focus "on keeping everyone going the same direction."

The Saskatchewan Rush beat the Las Vegas Desert Dogs 21-15 to improve to 5-1 on the season, then topped Oshawa Saturday 15-10, (Keenan had four goals and three assists), to sit at 6-1 on the season.



PHOTO COURTESY SASKATCHEWAN RUSH | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Exceptional game
Ryan Keenan, captain of the Saskatchewan Rush, celebrates a standout night in Las Vegas after scoring six goals and adding six assists for a 12-point performance as the Rush defeated the Desert Dogs 21–15 on Friday, Jan. 9.

Maulers drop two games to Wildcats

By Calvin Daniels
Grasslands News

The Yorkton Kinsmen Maulers were in Warman for a weekend set, and it did not go the visitor's way.

The host Wildcats won the Saskatchewan Male U18 Hockey League contest Friday in a game that was back and forth early.

Carson Ekstrom gave the Maulers a 1-0 lead 2:57 in. It was an unassisted effort.

A powerplay goal by Cash Arcand-Vandale tied things at 3:55, Walker Bergen gave Warman a 2-1 lead at 5:28, Keatan Thompson made it 2-2 at 17:40.

But a short-handed effort by Arcand-Vandale gave the Wildcats a 3-2 lead with two seconds left in the period.

Arcand-Vandale was back to complete his hat trick with the lone goal of the middle stanza, an unassisted effort.

In the third frame, Dade Wotherspoon rounded out the scoring with the only goal of the period to give the Wildcats the 5-2 win. The goal was a short-handed effort into an empty net.

Cole Ivey was tagged with the loss in the Mauler net facing 35 shots while Seth Gutenberg had the Warman win facing 19 shots.

The teams were back in action Sunday afternoon.

It took Arcand-Vandale only 1:18 to give the Wildcats the lead and only goal of the first period.

Dawson Gamble, Koston Baliski and Tyson Janzen added middle stanza markers for the home side, while Tye Semenchuk put Yorkton on the board.

The teams headed to the final period with the Wildcats up 4-1.

The Maulers made a run in the third with a goal from Hogan Hickman at 1:39 and Keatan Thompson at 8:46 to make it 4-3, but that would be the final score.

With the two losses the Maulers' record sits at 6-22-3-1 and 16 points, 11th in the standings ahead of only Notre Dame with five points.

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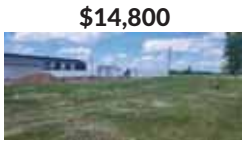
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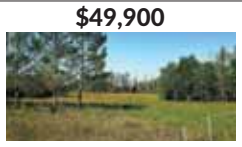
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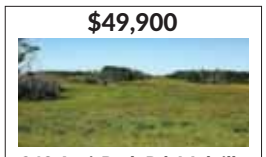
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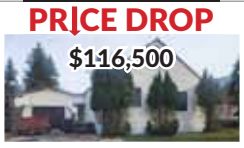
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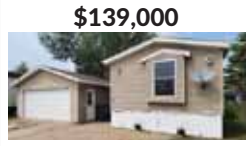
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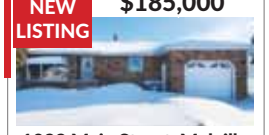
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Sports column – Darcy Gross

Gross Misconduct

As sports fans, we've learned over the years that there are things we are supposed to simply accept, especially regarding how a game is called by the officials in charge.

In all the major sports, at this point, there is someone watching the game along with the fans, and at times, that same person is expected to add yet another set of eyes to the crew in charge of enforcing the rules.

In hockey, they turn to the innocuously names Situation Room when the officials can't come to a consensus on what happened on the ice during a play.

Football has the eye in the sky approach where there's an extra official at the game, watching from his perch to see that all the calls are made properly.

Major League Baseball may have been a little tardy to the party, but they have an extra set of eyes watching everything from balls and strikes to fair balls and foul balls.

After watching the second week of NFL playoffs, it looks like the officiating crews in a couple of games, had an agenda, and that a certain team was chosen to win and the other were going to get the big thumbs down, because there were some calls that could have gone either way, but went the way of one team in just about every case.

The Buffalo Bills, who rode Josh Allen all season long, and still couldn't advance in the playoffs, seemed to have been jobbed worse than any of the other teams playing post season football.

The Denver Broncos, a solid team in their own right, were the benefactors of a few calls during the game that has now cost head coach Sean McDermott his coaching job with the Bills.

One call, looked to this scribe, and a lot of other people watching, like a completed catch by the Bills, one that could have set them up for a game winning score.

Two players went up for the ball, when they came down, the receiver from the Bills had firm control of the ball, his knee contacting the turf, which by most accounts, would end the play.

But somewhere in the catch, the fall and the subsequent rolling around, the Broncos' defender managed to end up with the ball, and the refereeing crew on hand, decided that it was an interception.

When the retired official who watches the game from the broadcasting booth, the rules analyst, was consulted, he stated that it was a good call, and the receiver didn't show enough control of the ball.

Had this same catch happened at the sideline, and the player had rolled out of bounds, what would have the call been then?

The receiver was down, with possession of the ball and control prior to it being ripped out of his hands by a Broncos' defensive back, so shouldn't that have been ruled a catch?

It's become increasingly obvious to me that when these calls are made, and they ask the rules analyst, he simply parrots the original reasoning used by the officials and almost never goes against the call on the field.

Certainly, there have been instances where these types of plays have been overturned, but they're so obvious that had they not changed them, there would have been all sorts of reviews and someone would probably lose their job.

The review on this play, obviously one of the biggest of the season for both teams, was termed 'rapid' or 'expedited' in order to move the game along.

So, the most pivotal play in the game, was basically glossed over by the officials to keep the game moving because, why?

Were babysitters going to charge extra for their services because the game went to overtime?

Did someone's tummy have the 'growlies'?

I need someone to take me aside, and explain the rule to me like I'm a four-year-old, so I can know what exactly was going through the heads of the officials as they hurried to move the game along instead of giving this play the extended look it deserved.

To later add insult to injury, a similar play happened in the Rams and Bears game 24-hours later, and by similar, I mean almost identical, and it was ruled a catch for the Rams, not a Bears' interception.

And you're not going to believe this, but the rules analyst agreed with the call on the field that it was a catch, and he sounded like it couldn't have been more cut and dried.

So NFL, you have a job to do. Fix this!

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Knox wins and loses on the road

Moosomin, Storm battle tough PJHL stretch

By GNG Staff
Grasslands News

Prairie Junior Hockey League action kept Fort Knox, Moosomin and Pilot Butte busy last week, with each club facing a demanding schedule against tough opposition. Fort Knox earned a split on the road, Moosomin pushed games beyond regulation but came up just short, while the Pilot Butte Storm ran into some of the league's top teams during a challenging stretch.

Fort Knox

Fort Knox picked up a split in road action, opening the weekend with a strong win before falling in a tightly contested matchup the following day.

The Knox earned a 4–2 victory over the Prince Albert Timberjaks on Jan. 17, rallying after trailing early. Tanner Wiens recorded a goal and an assist, while Henry Thunderblanket and Devante Pratt-Fry scored in the third period to seal the win. Goaltender Brady Carr delivered a solid performance, stopping 37 shots as Fort Knox controlled much of the play.

Fort Knox returned to the ice the next afternoon and suffered a 3–2 loss to the Carrot River Outback Thunder. The Knox built a 2–0 first-period lead on goals from Wiens and Pratt-Fry, but Carrot River answered with three unanswered goals in the second period. Despite a strong showing that included a significant edge in shots, Fort Knox was unable to find the equalizer.

Moosomin Steelhawks

The Moosomin Steelhawks were involved in three close games over the week, all of which ended in narrow defeats.

Moosomin opened with a 5–4 overtime loss to the Richardson Pioneer Southern Rebels on Jan. 16. Deagan Reister scored twice for the Steelhawks, while Connor Rapley faced heavy pressure in goal, turning aside dozens of shots to keep Moosomin competitive before the Rebels ended the game early in overtime.

The following night saw another overtime setback, as Moosomin fell 4–3 to Richardson. Kohl Stephen scored twice in the loss, with the Steelhawks once again pushing the Rebels beyond regulation before conceding the game-winner in overtime.

Earlier in the week, Moosomin dropped a 5–4 shootout decision to the Regina Silver Foxes. Reister scored twice in the opening period and Tanner Harrick added a third-period goal to force overtime, but Regina prevailed in the shootout after a special-teams-heavy contest.

Pilot Butte Storm

The Pilot Butte Storm faced a difficult stretch against some of the PJHL's strongest clubs, dropping three games during the week.

Pilot Butte opened with a 9–3 loss to the Saskatoon Quakers on Jan. 14. The Storm stayed competitive early, but Saskatoon pulled away with a flurry of goals over the final two periods.

On Jan. 16, Pilot Butte fell 6–1 to the Extreme Hockey Regina Capitals. Regina controlled the pace throughout the game, capitalizing on scoring chances and limiting the Storm's offensive opportunities.

The Storm returned home the following night but were again defeated by Regina, this time by a 6–2 score. Pilot Butte scored twice on the power play in the first period to grab an early lead, but the Capitals responded with six unanswered goals to secure the win.

Pilot Butte Storm Game Schedule

Home/Away Games
JANUARY:
23– PB Storm at Steelhawks 8:00
25– Timberjaks at PB Storm 4:00
28– Silver Foxes at PB Storm 8:00
31– Rebels at PB Storm 7:45

Fort Knox Hockey Game Schedule

Home/Away Games
JANUARY:
24– Fort Knox at S'toon Quakers 8:00
29– Fort Knox at Regina SF 7:45
30– Fort Knox at Moosomin SH 8:00

Prairie Men's HL Game Schedule

Home/Away Games
JANUARY:
24– Ituna at Valley Warriors (Fort) 7:30
Cupar at Indian Head Chiefs 8 pm
25– Ituna Avalanche at Strasbourg 2 pm
31– Valley Warriors at IH Chiefs 8 pm

Yorkton Terriers Jr. A Hockey Game Schedule

Home/Away Games
All Games 7 p.m.
unless otherwise stated
JANUARY:
23– Kindersley at Yorkton
24– Kindersley at Yorkton
28– Yorkton at Estevan
31– Battlefords at Yorkton

Melville Millionaires Jr. A Hockey Game Schedule

Home/Away Games
All Games 7 p.m.
unless otherwise stated
JANUARY:
24– Melfort at Melville
30– Battlefords at Melville
31– Flin Flon at Melville

Wolseley Mustangs Game Schedule

JANUARY:
24– Wolseley at EmPK(White City) 8:15
31– Yellowgrass at Wolseley 8:00

Bowling Scores, Standings – Melville Bowl Arena

MONDAY P.M.
Jan. 12

Ladies' High Single, Triple and Average, Angela Dobson, 227, 630, 168.

Men's High Single, Triple and Average, Joe Wu, 220, 602, 190.

Team High Single and Triple, Ostlund, 842, 2345.

Team	Pts.
Ostlund	38.5
Dobson	38
Bender	31.5
Stephens	26

MONDAY COMMERCIAL
Jan. 12

Ladies' High Single, Triple and Average, Brandy Lechner, 256, 686, 226.

Men's High Single and Triple, Zander Hollinger, 275, 756. Men's High Average, Destin Kohlenberg, 216.

Team High Single, Professional Amateurs, 1286, 3669.

Team	Pts.
Professional Amateurs	44
Gutter Girls	41
Pinheads	41
Blame it on Garry	38
New	36

ST. HENRY'S
Jan. 13

Ladies' High Single, Triple and Average, Pat Brown, 209, 605, 170.

Men's High Single and Triple, Gordon Ostlund, 221, 609. Men's High Average, Chris Cheveldae, 189.

Team High Single, Just 4 Fun, 1267. Team High Triple, A Team, 3732.

Team	Pts.
Just 4 Fun	33
CCJ	38
A Team	24
Drifters	00

TUESDAY YBC
Jan. 13

Girls High Single and Triple, Amzlee Patterson, 142, 399.

Boys High Single and Triple, Jakob Unterschute, 176, 441

Team High Single and Triple, Squishmellows, 863, 2423

Team	Pts.
Bowl Kings	38.5
Squishmellows	29.5

THURSDAY YBC
Jan. 15

Girls High Single and Triple, Emmi Hollinger, 184. 521.

Boys High Single and Triple, Blaine Curylo, 195, 518.

Team High Single and Triple, wWurts, 864, 2571.

Team	Pts.
Curylo	34.5
Hollinger	34.5
Kohlenberg	34
Wurts	33.5

SATURDAY YBC
Jan. 17

Girls High Single, Laura Smidt, 100. Girls High Triple, Ashyah Davies, 271.

Boys High Single and Triple, Aiden Lavergne, 240, 605.

Team High Single, Everythings, 854. Team High Triple, Bravehearts, 2496.

Team	Pts.
The Enders	42
Bravehearts	41
Everything	28
Bowling Superstars	25

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Sports Column

Jets' downward slide shocks 'Peg fans

By Bruce Penton
Sports Columnist

Winnipeg Jets fans got quite a shock in January when an 11-game winless streak during the middle of what had been a mediocre National Hockey League season dumped the Jets into 32nd place overall in the 32-team NHL.

It was an unbelievable downturn for the Jets, who were coming off a season in 2024-25 when they won the prestigious President's Trophy as overall points leader in the NHL. Most teams which suffer declines do it gradually — a pennant one year might lead to a middle-of-the-pack finish the following season, with missing the playoffs next in line before a rebuild begins.

For the Jets this season, it was like they plummeted from the top of Mount Everest.

Thankfully for those who live and die with the Jets' prospects, however, there was hope on the horizon. The Jets ran off a four-game mini winning streak which included three home-ice victories and then a solid 4-1 triumph in Minneapolis that may have signaled the worst was over.

But the 11-game winless streak was worrisome. The Jets lost only 22 games last season; they hit 22 defeats in the first 42 games this year. Their secondary scoring was dismal; the team was being carried by the top line of Mark Scheifele, Kyle Connor and Gabriel Vilardi, which accounted for nearly 50 per cent of the Jets' goals through the first half of the season (Vilardi has lately been moved to the second line, replaced by Alex Iafallo).

Some of that scoring from secondary sources has recently shown signs of life. Off-season signee Jonathan Toews scored in four consecutive games to reach seven for the season but offence from expected sources like Cole Perfetti (three this year) and Nino Niederreiter (seven, after 17 last season) was quiet.

Analysts are puzzled about the Jets' troubles. About the only key departure in the off-season was winger Nikolaj Ehlers, who signed as a free agent with Carolina. Ehlers was third in points and fourth in goals on the team last year and played a key role on the powerplay. For the most part, however, the team is essentially the same.

Offensive output from almost everyone except the big three is way down, and the miraculous play of goalie Connor Hellebuyck, last year's Vezina Trophy winner and MVP, can only carry a team so far. One big gainer has been defenceman Logan Stanley, who scored one goal in each of the last four seasons, but was sitting at eight through 45 games this year. Fellow blueliner Josh Morrissey was his usual brilliant self, quarterbacking the powerplay and putting up his normal point-per-game offensive numbers as he geared up to skate for Canada's Olympic team.

After that recent winless streak reached 11 games, Jets' coach Scott Arniel said, "I think we are all getting mental right now in the sense that it's in everybody's head."

Arniel and Jets' fans hope the team's rebound continues after the Olympic break. They've been to the top and they've experienced life at the bottom and there's no doubt the view is much better from the higher elevation.

• Comedy guy Torben Rolfsen of Vancouver: "Colorado Rockies hired Paul DePodesta as their president of baseball operations. DePodesta previously worked for the A's, Padres, Indians and Mets, so he brings a strong background in losing to the Mile High City."

• From fark.com: "Dak Prescott dusts off the script, changes all the '2025s' to '2026', and vows that, yea, verily, next season will be different."

• Columnist Norman Chad, on Twitter: "New England Patriots DT Christian Barmore is facing a misdemeanor charge of assault and battery on a household/family member. And Patriots WR Stefon Diggs is facing a felony charge of strangulation and a misdemeanor charge of assault. Is Urban Meyer coaching the Pats now?"

• RJ Currie of sportsdeke.com: "I grew up with four sisters who would watch horror movies with hands over eyes, scarcely daring to peek between trembling fingers. These days, that's how I watch the Winnipeg Jets."

• Another one from Cathal Kelly on the powerful Dodgers getting even stronger by signing Kyle Tucker: "Whoever they play will be afraid. Some teams will be beaten on the drive into Chavez Ravine."

• Columnist Norman Chad, on X: "I believe Sean McVay would've fired himself if he lost to the Panthers (in the NFL wildcard game), so Colby Parkinson's remarkable touchdown catch just saved his coach's job."

• Janice Hough of leftcoastsportsbabe.com: "How long until Tom Brady gives Trump one of his many trophies and Donald declares himself a Super Bowl champion?"

• Another one from RJ Currie: "At the Grand Slam of Curling event in Steinbach, Man., team John Shuster cut the sleeves off their outfits and played with exposed biceps. Or in typical U.S. fashion, they exercised their right to bare arms."

• Headline at fark.com: "The Dodgers have the biggest dump truck of money and it just made a stop at Kyle Tucker's house."

• Another fark.com headline: "John Harbaugh agrees to become the next coach fired by the New York Giants."

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

Millionaires clip Red Wings, stampeded by Broncos

By Darcy Gross
Grasslands News

The important games for the Melville Millionaires are starting early this season.

After a home loss last weekend, the Millionaires fell out of eighth spot overall in the SJHL and if the season were to end today, they'd find themselves out of a playoff spot, as they're behind the Humboldt Broncos who also have 36 points.

The Mils currently occupy fourth spot in the competitive Bunge Division, seven points back of the Estevan Bruins who are holding down third.

Humboldt Broncos 3 at Melville Millionaires 0 (Jan. 17)

The Broncos scored one goal in each period and the Millionaires were unable to dent the twine as Humboldt leapfrogged Melville in the league standings.

Brady Holtvogt started in goal for the Broncos and kicked out all 26 Millionaires' shots he faced to earn the shutout victory.

Matt Spencer-Dahl was between the pipes for the home side and made 29 saves on 32 shots in the losing cause.

The Millionaires got the gate for six of the contest's 10 minor penalties with the teams splitting two fighting majors and two misconducts.

Weyburn Red Wings 2 at Melville Millionaires 6 (Jan. 16)

The Millionaires Hudson Binder lit the lamp with his fourth and fifth goals of the season, and added an assist to lead the Millionaires in a rout over the Bunge Division leading Red Wings.

Louis Nadeau notched his second and Devin Winder scored his eighth tally of the campaign with Brayden Gourley picking up his fourth and Jack Drake his third into an empty net to round out Melville's scoring.

Assists went to Kale Margolis with two, while Boston Harkness, Yibin Yoo, Gourley and Jaden Kokosha each had a single helper.

The Millionaires led 2-0 after the opening frame and held a 4-1 advantage after two periods.

Newcomer Preston Patenaude started in goal for Melville and made 22 teams to help knock off his old teammates.

Melville skaters managed 27 shots on the Red Wings' cage.

The Millionaires were handed eight of the game's 15 minor penalties with each squad taking one misconduct penalty.

After mid-week games on the road against the Nipawin Hawks and Melfort Mustangs, the Millionaires are back on home ice to take on the Mustangs on Jan. 24.

Game time is slated for 7 p.m.

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From Senior A to D, local teams prepare for prov. hockey runs

Theo Fleury brought in as coach of Round Lake Bears

By Chris Ashfield
Grasslands News

Senior A Provincials

The road to a Senior "A" provincial championship is officially underway, and the Round Lake Bears, Theodore Buffalos, Moosomin Rangers, Redvers Rockets and Langenburg Warriors are all amongst the 16-teams chasing provincial glory.

Round Lake enters this year's provincial competition with confidence, returning a strong core of players from last season while also adding several new faces. Team officials have also announced a big-name former NHL star as one of their coaches.

Behind the bench, co-coach Theo Fleury brings a decorated hockey résumé, highlighted by a Stanley Cup championship with the Calgary Flames in 1989, more than 1,000 professional games played, and international experience representing Canada at the Olympic and World Championship level. Fleury's understanding of high-pressure hockey and playoff preparation adds a unique element to the Bears' provincial push.

Working alongside him is co-coach Courage Bear, who brings an extensive background in player development and leadership. Bear has served as head coach with the Warman Wildcats U18 AAA program, coached Team Saskatchewan at the National Aboriginal Hockey Championships, and has held senior leadership roles with the Indigenous Sports Academy, including director of hockey operations and general manager. He has also worked as a scout with the Swift Current Broncos, giving him experience at the WHL level. His track record in developing young athletes and building competitive programs is expected to be a major asset as Round Lake navigates the intensity of provincial play.

The coaching staff is rounded out by assistant coaches Tom Pratt and Frank Topinka. Off the ice, Cal McNabb oversees team logistics and trailering duties, while Winston Bear serves as team manager, helping coordinate operations throughout the provincial schedule.

For their first-round match-up, the Bears will face off against the Moosomin Rangers. Game 1 is set for Friday, Feb. 7, with a 7 p.m. puck drop at the Ochapowace Nation CDGMM, giving the Bears home-ice advantage to open the series. Game 2 will be played Saturday, Feb. 8, at 8:30 p.m. in Moosomin at the Mike Schwean Arena. If necessary, a deciding Game 3 will be announced at a later date.

The winner between Round Lake and Moosomin will go on to face the winner of the Redvers and Langenburg series. Those two teams are playing game one of their series on Feb. 6 at 8 p.m. in Langenburg with game two on Feb. 7 at 8:30 p.m. in Redvers. If necessary, game three will be in Redvers on Feb. 14 at 8 p.m.

Theordore and Foam Lake will also be fighting in a first round series to get to the Provincial A finals. Game one of that series will be Feb. 7 at 7:30 p.m. in Theodore with games two and three, if necessary, played in Foam Lake on Feb. 15 at 7 p.m. and Feb. 16 at 5 p.m.

While much of the provincial spotlight will be focused on the Senior "A" division and the Round Lake Bears' championship push, they are far from the only local teams taking part in Saskatchewan Hockey Association provincial competition this season. Senior "B", "C" and "D" provincials are also set to get underway, with several southeast Saskatchewan communities represented across the lower divisions. From Balcarres and Canora to Wapella, Kipling, Fort Qu'Appelle, Indian Head and beyond, local clubs will be chasing provincial hardware in what is expected to be a busy and competitive playoff schedule stretching into March.

Senior B Provincials

The Senior "B" provincial draw also features several strong southeast and east-central Saskatchewan teams, with early-round match-ups set to begin in February.

The Balcarres Broncos will represent the Qu'Appelle Valley region in Senior B action, opening provincial play against Rocanville. No dates or times had been announced by press time, but Rocanville will have home ice advantage.

Also in the Senior B draw are the Canora Cobras, who face Leroy in their opening series. Canora has home-ice advantage with game one of the series being played on Feb. 13 at 8:30 p.m. in Canora and game two on Feb. 15 at 8 p.m. in Leroy. If necessary, game three will be played Feb. 21 at 7 p.m. in Canora.

Senior C Provincials

Senior "C" provincials feature a smaller but highly competitive bracket, which includes the Wapella Blackhawks taking on the Craik Warriors in opening-round play. No dates or times had been announced by press time by Craik has the home-ice advantage. The winner will take on the winner of a series between Shaunavon and Assiniboia.

Senior D Provincials

Senior "D" provincials feature the largest draw, with 24 teams from across the province competing in a multi-round schedule that stretches into late March. Local area teams to be icing a team in the D-bracket include Cupar, Fort Qu'Appelle, Grayson, Indian Head, Ituna, Kipling, Ochapowace and Wawota.

The first-round match-ups will see the Ituna Avalanche take on the Allan Flames while the Kipling Oil Kings will face off against the Rouleau Ramblers and the Fort Qu'Appelle Valley Wariors will go up against the Milestone Flyers. Other first round action includes games between the Indian Head Chiefs and Wawota Flyers, the Ochapowace Thunder and Carnduff Red Devils, and Cupar Canucks and Grayson Tigers. No dates or times for D-division games had been released by press time.

Terriers take a bite out of Hawks, Wolves, shelled by Bombers

By Calvin Daniels
Grasslands News

It was extended foray into the northern environs of the SJHL for the Yorkton Terriers on the weekend.

Yorkton Terriers 7 at Nipawin Hawks 5 (Jan. 16)

The first stop was in Nipawin Friday to take on the Hawks.

It would be a game for fans of offence as the team would combine to score a dozen.

It looked like it would be a Hawk romp after 20-minutes of play as the home side led 4-1.

William Leonard scored the lone Terrier goal sandwiched between Nipawin markers from Braeden Jockims, Finlet Radloff, Jack Janzen and Mason Lowther. Three of the Hawk goals came via the powerplay.

It was complete reversal in the middle frame. Again, five goals but this time all by Yorkton to lead 6-4 after 40-minutes.

The Terrier barrage included three by Leonard, including an unassisted marker, with singles from Aidan Vallance and Austin Horbachewsky.

Eric Hoiness scored 4:22 into the third to give the Hawks hope, trailing by only one.

But an insurance marker by Ryder McDonald sealed the 7-5 road win for the Terriers.

Alexandro Montoya started in the Terriers' net, allowing four goals on 16 shots in the first period, before being relieved by Callum Creig who faced 24-shots the rest of the way, allowing one goal.

Gage Roberts started in the Hawk net. He lasted two periods allowing six goals on 21-shots, before being replaced by Colten Scott for the third period. Scott allowed one goal on 14-shots.

Yorkton Terriers 3 at Flin Flon Bombers 6 (Jan. 17)

Then it was back on the bus and up the highway to Flin Flon to take on the Bombers on Saturday.

Flin Flon led 1-0 after 20-minutes, the goal coming from Ryder Mucha on the powerplay.

In the middle stanza it was a back-and-forth affair.

Gabriel Courchesne started things knotting the game with a powerplay effort at 5:14.

At 10:26 Wyatt Stinton scored to give the Bombers back a one-goal lead.

Nine seconds later - at 10:35 – Courchesne again tied things, this time 2-2.

It was another powerplay effort, this time by Maverick Deslisle at the 12-minute mark which sent the Bombers to the dressing room up 3-2 after two periods.

In the third Flin Flon edged farther ahead as Daniel Morozov scored at 5:03 to make it 4-2.

Tyler Palin scored his first of the season at 7:20 to get Yorkton back within one.

But 23 seconds later, Reid Arberry reestablished a two-goal Bomber lead, and Leo Seitz would add one more late goal to secure a 6-3 home side win.

Callum Creig was tagged with the loss in the Terrier net facing 30-shots.

The win went to Bomber netminder Charlie Tritt who faced 24.

Yorkton Terriers 8 at La Ronge Ice Wolves 2 (Jan. 18)

Then it was back on the bus for a cross the north run to face the La Ronge Ice Wolves in a rare Sunday afternoon encounter.

It might have been the third game in less than 72 hours for the Terriers, but they started hot popping four unanswered first period goals.

Gavin Bartha started things with his first of the season just 1:20 in, followed by goals by Tyler Palin, a powerplay effort by Courchesne, and then he scored another before the period ended.

In the second, the teams traded efforts.

Yorkton started with a powerplay effort by Thomas Ries and an unassisted effort by Cash Lanigan.

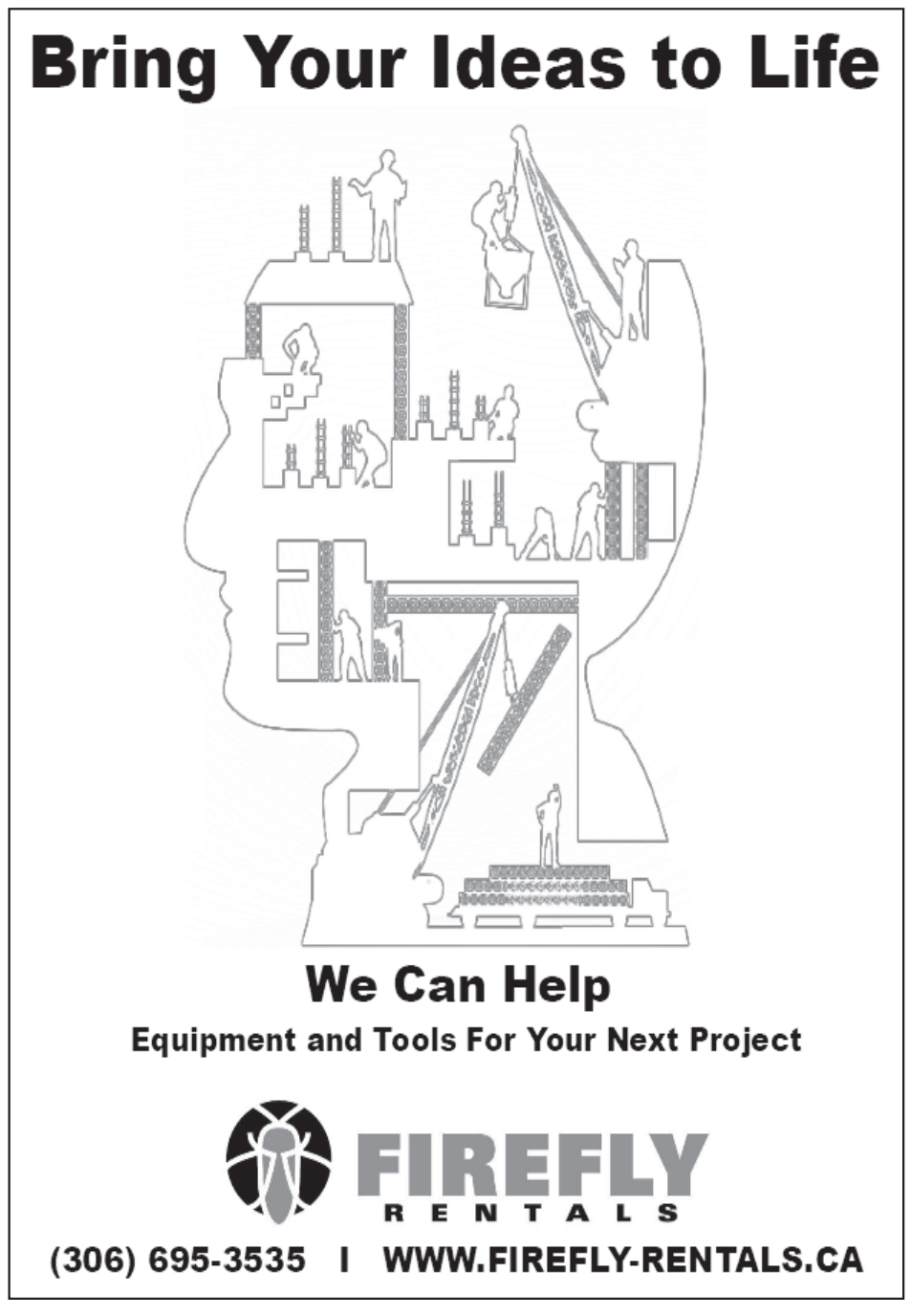
The Ice Wolves responded with goals by William Knox and an unassisted effort from Brock Inglis leaving the contest 6-2 Terriers after 40 minutes.

In the third Jye Zawatsky added a powerplay goal and Courchesne completed his hat trick to round out an 8-2 win.

Alexandro Montoya was in net for the Yorkton win facing 20 shots.

Graham Brown and Riley Zezel split time for La Ronge facing a combined 47 shots.

With the two wins the Terriers improve their record to 20-12-1-1 for 42 points, to still sit third in the SJHL Bunge Division but are only one point back of Estevan, while ahead of Melville with 36 points. Weyburn sits atop the Bunge with 47 points.



Senior hockey ramps up as teams battle for position

By GNG Staff
Grasslands News

Senior hockey across southeast Saskatchewan delivered a weekend full of offence, momentum swings and playoff-style intensity, as teams from the Big 6 Hockey League, Prairie Men's Hockey League, Qu'Appelle Valley Hockey League and Sask East Hockey League packed the schedule with high-scoring contests and tightly fought battles. From shootout drama and one-goal decisions to dominant offensive performances, clubs from Kipling, Wawota, Cupar, Indian Head, Ituna, Grenfell, Balcarres, Balgonie and Wapella all had moments that underscored the growing urgency as the regular season continues to tighten.

Big 6 Hockey League

It was a challenging stretch for Big 6 teams from the coverage area, with Kipling and Wawota both facing tough opponents.

The KW Oil Kings dropped a 4–1 decision to the Carnduff Red Devils at the Kipling Arena on Jan. 18. Kipling was held scoreless through the first two periods before Austin Fleck finally broke through in the third, but Carnduff's balanced attack and steady defensive play proved too much to overcome.

Earlier in the week, Kipling was involved in a high-scoring contest against Midale, falling 11–9 in a wide-open game that featured big offensive performances on both sides. Despite several multi-point efforts, the Oil Kings couldn't keep pace in a back-and-forth affair that saw momentum swing repeatedly.

The Wawota Flyers endured a difficult weekend as well. On Jan. 18, Wawota was overwhelmed 16–3 by the Moosomin Rangers, with Moosomin pulling away decisively after the Flyers were held scoreless through the opening frame. Wawota showed some push in the third period but struggled to contain Moosomin's depth and speed.

One night earlier, Wawota fell 5–2 at home to the Oxbow Huskies. The Flyers trailed early and were unable to close the gap despite goals in the second and third periods, as Oxbow capitalized on timely scoring and special teams' opportunities.

Prairie Men's Hockey League

The Cupar Canucks delivered one of their most dominant performances of the season on Jan. 16, rolling to a 12–2 victory over the Strasbourg Maroons on home ice. Cupar built a commanding lead early and never looked back, spreading the scoring throughout the lineup while limiting Strasbourg to just two goals late in the contest.

In Ituna on Jan. 17, the Indian Head Chiefs edged the Ituna Avalanche 3–2 in a shootout in a tightly contested Prairie Men's Hockey League matchup. The teams were tied after regulation and overtime, with Indian Head converting enough chances in the shootout to secure the win. Both clubs traded goals through the opening three periods, and goaltending at both ends kept the game tight.

Qu'Appelle Valley Hockey League

Senior hockey fans in the Qu'Appelle Valley Hockey League were treated to a busy and high-scoring weekend, with Grenfell, Balcarres and Balgonie all in action and producing everything from tight one-goal finishes to decisive offensive outbursts.

The Grenfell Spitfires and Balcarres Broncs squared off Jan. 16 at Balcarres Centennial Arena in a back-and-forth contest that saw Grenfell escape with a 6–5 win. Grenfell built leads in every period but was pushed hard by the Broncs, who kept the game close throughout. Donovan Neuls led Grenfell's offence with a goal and three assists, while Cory Kosloski paced Balcarres with two goals and two helpers. Grenfell's lone power-play goal proved to be the difference in the one-goal decision.

Balcarres was back on the ice the following night, Jan. 17, hosting Southey, but the Broncs came up short in a 6–4 loss. Balcarres jumped out early with three first-period goals, including two from Randen Schmidt, but Southey responded with a four-goal third period to seal the win. Derek Frater scored twice for Southey, including the insurance marker in the final minute, as Balcarres was unable to hold its early momentum.

The Balgonie Bisons opened their weekend Jan. 16 on the road against Bethune, rallying from a three-goal deficit to earn a 4–3 shootout victory. After trailing 3–0 heading into the third period, Balgonie scored three times in the final frame before sealing the win in the shootout. Brendan Hunchak and Eric Bollefer converted in the shootout, while goaltender Hunter Lolacher turned aside 44 shots in regulation and overtime to keep the Bisons within striking distance.

Balgonie followed that up with a dominant home performance Jan. 17, defeating Grenfell 8–4 at the GRPA. Riley Woykin led the charge with four goals and an assist, while Hunchak added two goals and four assists in a balanced offensive attack. Grenfell received multi-point efforts from Tanner Kyle and Donovan Neuls but could not keep pace with Balgonie's depth scoring, particularly during a five-goal second period.

With the regular season tightening up, the weekend results underscored the parity in the QVHL, as Grenfell showed resilience in close games, Balgonie demonstrated its offensive firepower, and Balcarres remained competitive despite a pair of hard-fought losses.

Gun buyback compensation must be declared by March 31

Could face criminal prosecution after Oct. 30

By Elaine Ashfield
Grasslands News

The new announcement made last Saturday regarding the national gun buyback program stated Canadians will have about two months to declare their interest to receive compensation for turning in outlawed firearms.

Canadians will have until March 31 to declare their interest to receive compensation through the online portal or by paper for the about 2,500 makes and models of guns that the federal government calls "assault-style" firearms they feel are designed for warfare and not hunting or sport shooting.

But there are some catches if you are from Alberta, Manitoba or Saskatchewan.

Saskatchewan introduced changes to its firearms legislation last November, proposing that anyone who seizes a firearm under the federal government's laws must pay the owner fair market value as determined by the Saskatchewan Firearms Commissioner.

The press secretary for Alberta's minister of justice stated that the province will not be participating in the program and Manitoba Justice Minister Matt Wiebe said his province won't administer the initiative. Manitoba is joining other provinces in pushing back against a federal gun buyback program whose pilot resulted in only 25 weapons being collected and destroyed versus the 200 firearms they were confident they would collect during the six-week voluntary pilot project in the Cape Breton area of Nova Scotia.

Because of the legislation in Alberta and Saskatchewan, the federal government stated the program will not run in those provinces. But Canadians in those two areas can still make their declarations.

Public Safety Minister Gary Anandasangaree said that "the compensation program is voluntary, but compliance with the law is not."

The amnesty period for possessing banned guns will end on Oct. 30. Afterwards, anyone in possession "will be breaking the law and could face criminal prosecution.

"Please take advantage of the program we're announcing today," he added.

Anandasangaree acknowledged 'some technical legal challenges that we're working through' in Saskatchewan and Alberta but stressed that all Canadians must comply with the law on banned firearms.

Compensation payments will be issued within 45 business days of a successful validation of the outlawed firearm. The official said the pool of funding is $248.6 million — which will let the government pay for about 136,000 outlawed firearms from individual Canadians. Compensation will be determined on a first-come, first-served basis, based on the date the declaration is submitted and the availability of program funds.

The government will also reopen the buyback program for businesses that have prohibited firearms.

After the March 31 deadline, firearm owners who have not submitted a declaration can't participate in the program, meaning they won't receive compensation for turning in their outlawed firearms. They can permanently deactivate their firearms at their own expense, turn in their firearms to local police for no compensation or export their firearms if they hold a permit.

It was also stated that the prohibitions are not being revisited.

Anandasangaree argued that "every assault-style firearm out of our communities is a step forward for public safety."

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New province-wide animal welfare enforcement agency named

By GNG Staff
Grasslands News

The Saskatchewan Animal Enforcement Agency will assume responsibility for animal welfare enforcement across most of the province beginning April 1.

Agriculture Minister David Marit said the new partnership will ensure continuity of animal protection services following the planned closure of Animal Protection Services of Saskatchewan at the end of March.

"Our government's new partnership with the Saskatchewan Animal Enforcement Agency continues to ensure animal welfare enforcement in our province," Marit said in a news release. "Together, we are looking to the future of animal protection that continues to deliver effective and compassionate enforcement for Saskatchewan residents and their animals."

The Ministry of Agriculture launched a public competition for a new service provider after Animal Protection Services of Saskatchewan announced it would discontinue operations effective March 31. The SAEA was selected after submitting long-term operational plans that met the ministry's expectations for enforcing The Animal Protection Act.

Under the agreement, the agency will provide animal welfare enforcement services throughout Saskatchewan, except for the City of Regina, where those duties will continue to be handled by the Regina Humane Society.

The SAEA said it is prepared to take on the expanded role and work with government and community partners.

"The Saskatchewan Animal Enforcement Agency looks forward to working with the Ministry of Agriculture as well as other external stakeholders in the province," board chair Chief Russ Austin said. He added the agency was established with a focus on education and enforcement delivered "with integrity, professionalism and transparency."

The change comes as the province moves ahead with recent legislative reforms aimed at strengthening animal welfare. Public consultations held in 2025 led to amendments under The Animal Protection Amendment Act, 2025.

Those amendments include the creation of a new animal welfare inspector position, the establishment of a formal code of conduct for animal protection officers and other enforcement enhancements intended to improve oversight and accountability.

The government says the measures reflect its ongoing commitment to protecting the safety and welfare of animals across Saskatchewan.

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

PUBLIC NOTICE
Rural Municipality of North Qu' Appelle No. 187
Amend Zoning Bylaw 13-08

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

INTENT: To allow a reduction of minimum site frontage in limited circumstances in the A – Agriculture District.

AFFECTED LAND: All land within the A – Agriculture District.

REASON: To provide flexibility for existing private access roads serving agricultural and agricultural residential development, where safe and appropriate access is already established, and to avoid unnecessary subdivision denials.

PUBLIC INSPECTION: The bylaw may be inspected at the municipal office, 136 Company Avenue South, Fort Qu'Appelle, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Monday to Friday (excluding holidays). Copies are available at a cost.

PUBLIC HEARING: Council will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, February 10, 2026, at 10:15 a.m. at the Council Chambers, 136 Company Avenue South, Fort Qu'Appelle. Anyone may speak or submit written comments prior to or at the hearing.

Issued this 23rd day of January 2026.

Charmain Wowk,
Chief Administrative Officer

Referee honoured at Indian Head Minor Hockey Day



SARAH PACIO I GRASSLANDS NEWS

Face-off

Indian Head's U15 team wore purple jerseys in memory of hockey mom Kim Thauberger during an exhibition game against Prairie Storm on Saturday, Jan. 17.

By Sarah Pacio
Grasslands News

Winter sports enthusiasts celebrated Minor Hockey Day in Indian Head on Jan. 17.

Activities began with a pancake breakfast on Saturday morning at A.J.M. Davies Arena. As the day progressed, local teams faced off against their counterparts. Indian Head has two teams for each age group from U7 through U13, so Minor Hockey Day provided an opportunity for the green and white teams from each category to meet on the ice. The morning schedule also included a "Girls try Hockey" session. Indian Head Minor Hockey Association has noted an increased uptake in recent years with more female players participating in the sport. The organization sought to spark further interest by providing an on-ice opportunity for girls ages three to eight.

In the evening, Indian Head's U15 players hosted an exhibition game against Prairie Storm and then the U18 team welcomed the Yorkton Terriers. Indian Head athletes wore purple jerseys in honour of Kim Thauberger who passed away from cancer in 2024. She was the mother of two hockey players and wife of Coach Cam Thauberger so the two teams wear purple jerseys at January home games in her memory.

Indian Head Minor Hockey Association also took time on Saturday to recognize the valuable contribution of Murray Holzapfel to the sport. The U18 game began with a puck drop ceremony honouring his legacy. Holzapfel has served as a referee for 50 years, officiating at thousands of games, and his dedication is greatly appreciated by the community.

Kipling Minor Hockey Day will take place this coming Saturday

By Connie Schwalm
Grasslands News

The Kipling Arena will be busy as Kipling Minor Hockey Day is set to take place this Saturday, Jan. 24.

"Each of our teams will play a game, so four games will be played throughout the day" says Logan Dew, Kipling Minor Hockey President.

"The action starts at 10 a.m. when the U7 team meets Montmartre. Our U9 group has two teams, and they will play each other at 11:30 a.m. Then at 1 p.m. the U11 team will face off against Wawota and at 3 p.m. our U13 team will play the Midale 606 Roadhammers."

Along with enjoying the on-ice action, Dew says that people at the event will also have a chance to take home some winnings while supporting a worthy cause.

"We'll do a progressive 50/50 Draw all day long, and our portion of the proceeds from that will go to the Adam Herald Legacy Foundation" he explains.

"We also have some Regina Pats gear. Leanne Hoblyak and her husband along with Kipling Minor Hockey bought a signed Pats' jersey and signed hoodie, and donated a backpack signed by the Pats as well. So, we will be selling tickets on the Pats' gear too, and those proceeds will also go to the Adam Herald foundation.

"This will let us add to the donation that we're giving back to the Adam Herald Foundation," he goes on to say.

"Also, because the foundation encourages kids to be part of efforts like this, and we want to get them involved, both parents and kids will be selling 50/50 and Pats' gear tickets that day."

Instead of admission, people are asked to bring a donation for the Kipling & District Food Bank.

Dew points out that "this is the fourth year we've done this and it has been very successful in past years. We've always had a very good donation to take to the Food Bank".

Dew explained that the event also provides an opportunity to show some appreciation for those who take on the role of referee.

"On Hockey Referee Appreciation Weekend, we didn't have any hockey going on in Kipling," he observes. "So, during Kipling Minor Hockey Day all of the kids acting as referees will get a food voucher to spend at the canteen."

So, for minor hockey players, their families and anyone who enjoys the sport, Dew promises that this Saturday will be a "good, full day at the rink. Our four games run throughout the day, and the Oil Kings play later that night at 8 p.m. That means it's going to be hockey from morning to night".

Family partners are joining for 'Battle of the Blades' Jan. 29

Whitewood Skating Club

By Elaine Ashfield
Grasslands News

Laughter, music and a little friendly rivalry will fill the rink later this month as the Whitewood Skating Club puts a family-focused twist on one of its popular events.

The club will host its annual Battle of the Blades competition on January 29 at 5 p.m., but this year's event comes with a special Family Edition. Participants will take to the ice alongside a family member, forming teams that celebrate connection as much as competition.

"From parents and children to siblings and relatives, each duo will perform a choreographed routine designed to showcase creativity, teamwork and skating skills," Skating Club President Danielle Jones told Grasslands News. While the performances will be judged, organizers say the emphasis is on fun, shared experiences and making lasting memories.

"This event is all about bringing families together and highlighting the strong sense of community within our club," organizers said. "It's a chance to cheer each other on, laugh together and enjoy skating in a relaxed, supportive atmosphere."

Adding to the excitement, spectators will have a say in the final results. Fan voting plays a key role in Battle of the Blades, allowing audience members to vote for their favourite teams and become part of the action. The interactive element has become a hallmark of the event, drawing enthusiastic crowds each year.

A diverse judging panel will score each performance, reflecting the unique blend of skills on display. Darren Ottenbriet will represent the hockey side of the competition, Leanne Sorenson will bring a figure skating perspective, and Jenna Lee Beutler will serve as the community judge.

Admission is $5, with all proceeds supporting the Whitewood Skating Club and its programming. Organizers promise an entertaining evening for all ages, whether attending to support a skater, cast a vote or simply enjoy a night at the rink.

With families sharing the ice and the community cheering from the stands, this year's Battle of the Blades is shaping up to be a celebration of sport, creativity and togetherness in Whitewood. Hope to see you there!

Sask. Senior Women's Hockey League's first All-Star Game a success

By Ashley Scarfe
Grasslands News

On Jan. 10, the first Saskatchewan Senior Women's All-Star Game took place at the Temple Gardens Centre in Moose Jaw. Admission was by donation, with proceeds benefiting female hockey development in Moose Jaw. Team North took on Team South, with Team South defeating their rivals 6-1. Around 500 spectators filled the seats at the Temple Garden Centre to cheer on their teams.

Saturday's all-star game marked a milestone in the SSWHL's inaugural season. Co-founders Megan Leblanc and Jenna Merk began this journey last year when they sent out a form inviting women interested in playing senior hockey to sign up. By pinpointing hotspots on their map, eleven teams were created–six in the South, and five in the North.

Saturday's Team South roster included four Vibank Bruins' players: Santana Blomquist, Jenna Merk, Katie Fisher, and Lilla Carpenter-Boesch. Rianne Watson from the Yellow Grass Wheat Queens was named player of the game for the South Team, while Jenna Smith of the Northern Ice took the honour for Team North.

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The position offers the possibility to operate tractors, mowers, trackhoe, dozer and gravel trucks therefore preference will be given to candidates with heavy equipment operating experience and/or a 1A license.

Applicant must be organized, motivated and able to take direction.

A valid Class 5 driver's license (at a minimum) is required. Previous grader operator experience is preferred.

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Tentative start date April 2026.

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RM of Willowdale No. 153
Box 58, Whitewood, SK., S0G 5C0
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www.rmofwillowdale.ca

The RM wishes to thank all applicants for their interest however, only applicants selected for an interview will be contacted.

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Balgonie Annual Funspiel honours late curler

By Ashley Scarfe
Grasslands News

On Friday, Jan. 16 and Saturday, Jan. 17, the Balgonie Curling Club hosted its annual Open Funspiel. This year, the event was held in honour of Trevor Kessel, a curler, board member, and ice maker, who passed away suddenly in March of last year.

Elizabeth Kessel, the organizer and daughter of Trevor Kessel, says this second year of the funspiel was a success, with ten teams registered to compete in the two-day event, an uptick from last year.

"Last year we had seven teams," Kessel says. "The majority of the teams were from within our club. Then we had a team from Regina, and a youth team that was from surrounding communities."

While Kessel says the atmosphere was one of excitement, she admits there was a sadness hanging over the rink as well.

"This year, the bonspiel was in memory of my dad," she says. "He passed away last March, so it will be coming up on a year right away here. My Dad got me into curling, and he got me onto the Balgonie Curling Club board because he was a part of it. Last year, I wanted to do a funspiel to have something else going on in our rink and then after he passed away, I decided I would dedicate this 'spiel in memory of him because he was an active board member. He was one of our ice makers last year, and he also curled in one of our leagues."



SUBMITTED I GRASSLANDS NEWS

Fundraising funspiel

Ten teams competed at the Balgonie Curling Club Funspiel during a two-day event held in honour of Trevor Kessel, a longtime curler, club board member and ice maker who passed away last year. All funds raised will stay within the club.

Kessel says her dad was an active community member and passed on his love of curling to her. Together, they could be found once a week on the ice, throwing rocks.

"He was on the board for as long as I can remember, so knowing we can keep him alive in the rink was just something everyone was in favour of," Kessel says. "The lounge was full. The majority of the time everyone was excited, having a few drinks and some snacks. We had a few different draws, and everyone was ready to participate. Obviously, the sadness hung over us, because my dad wasn't there, but everyone was ready to be there and keep playing for my dad."

Kessel says money raised from the event will stay within the club for rink maintenance. However, discussions have been ongoing within the club and the Town of Balgonie regarding plans to build a new rink in the future.

"Our board is starting to discuss fundraising for a new rink, so we are starting to make money, and this is one step toward getting a new rink going," Kessel says. "It's been a thing we say every year. We fundraise every year. And now it's becoming a bigger discussion. Money raised from this 'spiel will be used to keep our rink going and make sure we can upgrade what we need for our current curlers. Whatever we don't spend, we will keep adding to contribute to a new rink."

As this year's funspiel comes to a close, Kessel says she is already planning next year's event in honour of her dad.

"Hopefully next year we can have 12 teams and just make it an annual thing," Kessel says. "We all come out to support the Balgonie Curling Club and keep his memory alive in our rink. People in Saskatchewan love curling. It's something anyone can participate in and that's why we love it. You have seniors, kids and adults. We have students that all come to our rink and enjoy playing the game. I think it's a way we can connect as a community, and it's a way that if someone is struggling, we can all come together and play together and just be that community for each other."

Over 600 birds, 56 mammals observed during Christmas count

Submitted by Indian Head Natural History Society
Grasslands News

Since 1900, birdwatchers across North America have participated in a Christmas Bird Count. This is a program of the National Audubon Society that is managed by Birds Canada. Information collected by volunteers observing birds in their local area is submitted to Cornell Lab of Ornithology and included in Nature Saskatchewan's quarterly publication. The survey results assist conservationists in assessing bird distribution and population trends.

The Indian Head count includes birds and mammals. Sixteen volunteers from the town and surrounding area took part in the survey facilitated by the Indian Head Natural History Society in late December. Organizers appreciate the collaboration of those who participated in the count and are grateful to Scot's Printing for allowing data sheets to be distributed and collected at their office.

A total of 625 birds were counted from 27 species, as well as 56 mammals from 13 species. This is approximately a 50 per cent drop from the previous year's count, but the number of volunteers recording sightings also decreased from 24 participants in December 2024.

Detailed survey results from the Christmas 2025 count were as follows:

2025 Bird Species

Canada Goose: 8
Mallard: 34
Gray Partridge: 25
Ruffed Grouse: 1
Sharp-tailed Grouse: 4
Bald Eagle: 20
Rock Pigeon: 45
Great Horned Owl: 1
Downy Woodpecker: 17
Hairy Woodpecker: 16
Blue Jay: 12
Black-billed Magpie: 26
Common Raven: 14
Black-capped Chickadee: 70
Red-breasted Nuthatch: 12
White-breasted Nuthatch: 8
American Robin: 3
European Starling: 4
Bohemian Waxwing: 24
Dark-eyed Junco: 8
Pine Grossbeak: 3
Common Redpoll: 4
Pine Siskin: 6
House Sparrow: 222
Sharp-shinned Hawk: 1
Pileated Woodpecker: 1
Eurasian Dove: 36

2025 Mammal Species

Eastern Cottontail: 1
Snowshoe Hare: 1
White-tailed Jack Rabbit: 1
Red Squirrel: 12
Fox Squirrel: 7
Deer Mouse: 1
Coyote: 8
Mink: 1
Mule Deer: 5
White-tailed Deer: 7
Moose: 5
Muskrat: 2
Racoon: 5

Yorkton birders out for the count

By GNG Staff
Grasslands News

Yorkton citizens were out counting the birds for the 2025 Christmas Bird Count Jan. 3.

The day was overcast, the wind light and the snow deep but there were still a wide variety of different species seen by seven keen-eyed observers.

Overall, 22 different species were identified and a total of 878 individual birds counted.

There were the resident winter species many are familiar with such as common ravens counted at the landfill, rock pigeons at the stock yards and the grain companies.

Then there were the birds seen at bird feeders in the community which included chickadees, nuthatches, sparrows, and house finches.

There were also less commonly seen species including the Townsend's Solitaire, American goldfinch, Northern Shrike and one lonely robin who missed the flight south.

Any mammals and or their tracks seen are also part of the Christmas Bird Count. Observers noted squirrels, snowshoe hares, white tailed deer, a coyote and a long-tailed weasel that day.

The local bird count effort is part of a volunteer driven monitoring program which has been running since 1900, adding to the understanding of how wild birds are doing across the country.

The Christmas Bird Count is North America's longest-running Citizen Science project. People in more than 2,000 locations throughout the Western Hemisphere participate in the CBC each year. Birds Canada oversees the program nationally, in partnership with the National Audubon Society.

The program is driven largely by volunteer effort and supporter donations, and information collected by thousands of Citizen Scientists forms one of the world's largest sets of wildlife survey data.

The Yorkton results will be included in the provincial results which are then forwarded on to be part of the Canadian total. Results are used by conservation biologists, environmental planners, and naturalists to assess the population trends and distribution of birds.

Organizers would like to thank all the participants.

PUBLIC NOTICE

RM of Abernethy No. 186

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

DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION:

1. Residential Subdivision of 10 acres at SW 08-21-11-2.



PUBLIC HEARING

Council will discuss the above noted subdivision application at 1:30 p.m. on Friday, February 13, 2026 in the Council Chambers of the RM of Abernethy No. 186, 201 Main St., Abernethy, Saskatchewan. Council will also consider written comments received at the hearing, or delivered to the undersigned at the municipal office before the hearing.

Issued at the RM of Abernethy this 16th day of January, 2026.

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

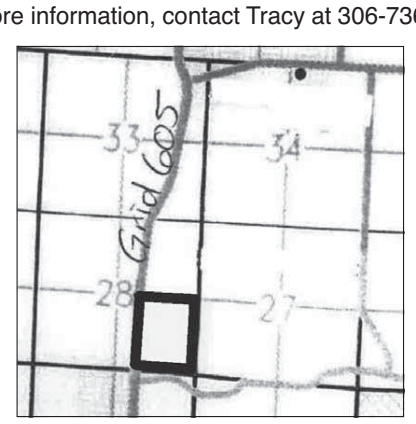
RM of Hazelwood No. 94

LAND LEASE BY TENDER

The RM of Hazelwood No. 94 is accepting tender bids for the leasing of 113 acres at SE 28-10-5 W2, see map below, with the following terms and conditions:

- 4-year 9-month lease from April 6, 2026, through December 31, 2030,
- No subletting of land is permitted,
- Before any land improvements, they need to be approved by the Council,
- Land use needs to be stated in the tender,
- The land is being leased as is,
- Tender must state price/acre/year due before December 31 of each year.

Highest or any tender not necessarily accepted.
Sealed bids marked "Tender for SE 28-10-05-W2" must be received by the RM office at: Deliver: Hwy. #48 East; Mail: P.O. Box 270, Kipling, SK, S0G 2S0; Email: rm94@sasktel.net by 4 p.m. Friday, February 6, 2026.
For more information, contact Tracy at 306-736-8121.



Top Sask. crime journalist tells Milgaard's truth

By Ryan Kiedrowski
Grasslands News

If there's one name in Saskatchewan that's synonymous with excellence in crime journalism, it's Lisa Joy. Given her dedication to the craft, it's no surprise she's decided to publish books that dive deeper into some of the more intensive cases she's covered over the span of her career. However, in her latest release – the fourth from the true crime author – Joy presents the reader with details about the David Milgaard case that they may not know: the story he wanted told.

"He invited me to a webinar, it was called The Exoneration of David Milgard, His Journey to Freedom and it was presented by Wrongful Conviction Canada," she recounted of their first contact. Initially, Joy wasn't sure what she would learn from attending the webinar – Milgaard had been released in 1992, exonerated five years later after DNA evidence proved Larry Fisher was the real killer, and a public inquiry was held in 2005 and 2006. What else could be told about this famous Canadian court case?

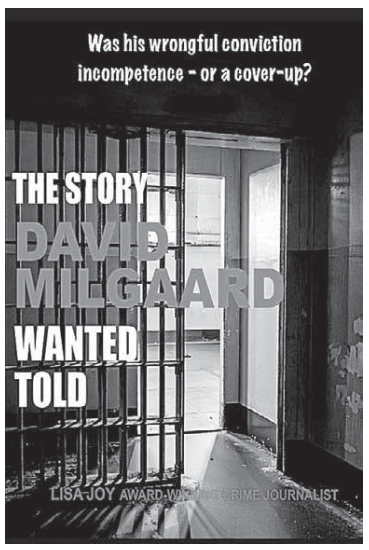
As Joy would discover, plenty.

"I joined it out of respect for him because he personally invited me," she said. "After attending that webinar in October of 2021, I was blown away. It opened my eyes - just so much information. I wouldn't know where to start."

Joy proceeded to download all the information on the inquiry after that fateful webinar – more that 341,000 pages on the record.

"The inquiry did a good job of documenting everything," she said. "They had all the police files, the police reports, witness statements - everything was there, so I had access to all of that."

Despite containing so much information, Milgaard and those who supported him were not convinced the commissioner's report was unbiased. In that



vein, Joy's book examines the allegations that Milgaard was framed, if a cover-up existed, and why Fisher was ignored as a suspect during Milgaard's 23 years in jail.

In addition to the wealth of information from the inquiry, Joy was able to access transcripts from both the 1970 and 1992 Milgaard trials, plus she had the good fortune to converse with him for 14 months until Milgaard's death in 2022.

So began *The Story David Milgaard Wanted Told*, taking a decidedly different perspective from other works about the case. Through conversations with Milgaard, Joy discovered he was very trusting in her ability to tell this important side; Milgaard's truth.

"That's why I went through with the book because he trusted me to do that story and he pushed me to do it online," Joy said, adding that there was so much that couldn't fit into a news article. "I felt like I owed it to him."

Since being released last June, Joy's book has been met with much acclaim, including support from the Milgaard family's former lawyer James Lockyer – a Toronto lawyer who founded Innocence Canada and was also on that webinar back in 2021.

Even during the interview with Grasslands News, Joy learned of a book review appearing on the Canadian Legal Information Institute's database – an important resource for federal, provincial, and territorial law in Canada plus legal decisions. Gary Botting, Miscarriage of Justice Canada chair called the book "riveting investigative journalism," noting that "Joy names names and provides photographs of the true villains of this story." The inclusion of a book review on CanLii was notably humbling for the true crime author, given the site's importance for legal research across Canada.

With all the positive reviews for her book, one reaction will remain unknown: what would Milgaard's opinion be of the book?

"I think he'd be happy," Joy replied. "He wanted me to do that and get the piece online."

The Story David Milgaard Wanted Told by Lisa Joy is available in paperback through Amazon.

Gardener's Notebook

Weather wisdom and what it may mean for gardeners

By Calvin Daniels
Grasslands News

What will this gardening year bring in terms of weather? I know some gardeners watch for the dates of hoarfrost (possibly predicting rain six months later) or red skies at sunset (might indicate winds the next day), or a halo around the moon, a 'watery eye', (might indicate rain coming).

Because Keith's parents were volunteer weather recorders for Environment Canada for many years, they were always tuned in to the weather. They had to record the temperature daily highs and lows each day, as well as rain and snow amounts. They had a Stevenson screen in the farmyard and dutifully kept careful records after visiting the screen each day. In case you're not familiar with it, a Stevenson screen or instrument shelter is a white slatted box that looks like a large, shuttered birdhouse on a stand. The casing protects the meteorological instruments inside against precipitation and direct heat. The data was collected and sent in once a month. But from April to October, the precipitation amount was phoned in once a week. Now the system is automated. After doing this important task for so many years, the family was definitely tuned in to the weather.

My father-in-law quite often noticed things in the weather before anyone else. I can recall one Christmas in particular: all of us sitting in the kitchen talking, Alan looking out the window. He suddenly said, "You'd better get going." What? He spotted something in the change of the wind and the clouds and said he thought a storm was coming quickly. To the untrained eye, everything looked the same, but since we were done with lunch and dessert, we thought maybe we should follow his advice. We were only a short distance away from the farm when the wind started howling and blowing snow viciously across the road, and by the time we were almost home in very low visibility, we were grateful that we hadn't waited any longer.

This past Christmas had unsettled weather, and perhaps you noticed the new designations for weather warnings. There are now yellow, orange and red warnings to handle various weather situations.

A yellow warning is the most common, making us aware that something is coming, moderate in nature, which may cause disruption and possibly some damage in a localized area.

Just before Christmas, we had an orange warning, which means that severe weather is likely with significant impact or damage. Remember, on Dec. 17, 2025 we had a blizzard and wind warning that seemed to cover a storm system that stretched over the bottom half of the province. An orange warning signifies severe and widespread impact that may last a few days.

A red warning means very dangerous and possibly life-threatening weather, with extensive and widespread impact. This type of warning is rare.

This new grading system will now be used all year to cover everything from snow, rain, wind, snowstorms and thunderstorms. Special weather statements will appear in grey.

We have friends who live in Texas and are probably amused by our preoccupation with the weather. But for us, in our climate, so much of our daily activities depend on how good or bad the weather is. And that is very true for us gardeners, isn't it! We'll look to the sky and pray for nice weather in the gardening season to come!

Thank you to our friends at Grasslands News for their fine work. Gardeners, visit the hort society at www.yorktonhort.ca and have a good week!

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Soup and prayer services foster Christian unity



By Sarah Pacio
Grasslands News

"Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!" These words from Psalm 133 were posted at the top of Grenfell Ministerial's Facebook page this week, reminding social media followers that local churches were participating in the annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

The international initiative takes place each January. It is promoted by the World Council of Churches and The Canadian Council of Churches, which provide resources to assist local groups like the Grenfell Ministerial in organizing a week of ecumenical programing.

From Jan. 19 to 22, meetings were held over the noon hour at Trinity Presbyterian Church on Alice St. in Grenfell. Together with the host church, St. Columbkille Roman Catholic Church, Grenfell Apostolic Church, and Grenfell United Church took turns providing soup and leading attendees in a short service of scripture reading and prayer. Peace Lutheran Church is currently without a minister so did not lead one of the sessions this year.

The lunchtime programs were open to everyone, whether or not they regularly attend one of the participating churches.

The theme for 2026 was taken from Ephesians 4:4, "There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling." It reminded Christians that, although they may attend different churches on Sundays, they all worship the same God. Fran Neuls, a member of the Presbyterian Church in Grenfell, noted that the Week of Prayer was a welcome opportunity to meet with members of other congregations in the community. She said it encouraged participants to focus on common ground rather than their differences.

A community outreach aspect was also added to this year's event. Volunteers prepared an extra pot of soup each day which was delivered to various community members, providing a bit of kindness and cheer during a particularly cold week of January.

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Melville Churches Welcome You

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
238 - 3rd Ave. E.
Office Ph. 306-728-2551
Office Hours: Mondays
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Clergy: Deacon Kevin Prouten
www.stpaulsmelville.ca
Sunday, Jan. 25:
2:00 p.m. Worship and Sunday School at St. Paul's
* * *
-- at Neudorf/Lemberg --
Sunday, Jan. 25:
*9 a.m. Worship at Trinity Lemb
*11 a.m. Worship at Christ Neud

ALL SAINTS' ANGLICAN CHURCH
Corner 6th Ave. E. & Main St.
306-720-0589
**Services Every Second Sunday*
Jan. 25: 10:30 a.m.
Service with Eucharist

FIRST UNITED CHURCH
5th Ave. E. & King St.
Rev. Brian Mee, 306-335-7611
website: firstunitedmelville.org
Sunday, Jan. 25:
11:00 a.m. Worship Service with Rev. B. Mee

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

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
258 - 10th Ave. W.
Ph. 306-728-3971
Pastor Ronald Shumba
facebook.com/gslcmelville
Jan. 22: 7 p.m. Bible Study
Jan. 23: 7 p.m. Ignite Youth
Jan. 25: 10:30 a.m. Worship
Jan. 27: 9:30 a.m. Ladies Day
6:30 p.m. Council Meeting

ST. GEORGE'S UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
Corner of 3rd Ave. E. & Manitoba St.
Fr. Basil Malowany
basilmalowany@gmail.com
306-540-5102
Sunday, Jan. 25:
11:30 p.m. Divine Liturgy
Sunday, Feb. 1:
9:00 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



Melville Churches Welcome You

BETHANY EVANGELICAL MISSIONARY CHURCH
5th Ave. W. & Queen St.
Church Office Ph. 306-728-5001
Jan. 25: 10:30 a.m. Worship

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

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
(Lutheran Church - Canada)
502 - 4th Ave. W. – Church Office
Ph. 306-728-5689
Email: zlcpastor@myaccess.ca
www.zionlutheranmelville.com
Sunday, Jan. 25:
11 a.m. Divine Service
Church of the Lutheran Hour heard Sundays at 9:00 a.m. on 940 CJGX Radio, Yorkton

Whitewood & Area Churches Welcome You

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

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

ST. JOSEPH'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
Father Tomy Mandapathil
Saturday, Jan. 24:
5:30 p.m. Mass

ST. MARY'S ANGLICAN CHURCH
Sunday, Jan. 25:
10:30 a.m. Morning Prayer

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, WAPELLA
Sunday, Jan. 25:
No Worship Service

WHITEWOOD UNITED CHURCH
Sunday, Jan. 25
10 a.m. Worship Service

Indian Head Church Welcomes You

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

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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

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

ST. ANNE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
418 First St., Kipling
Priest: Father Joseph Villamartin
306-538-2163
Sunday, Jan. 25
Mass 11:00 a.m.

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

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

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

Fort Qu'Appelle Churches Welcome You

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

ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH
Sunday Worship 11 a.m.
202 Bay Ave. S.,
Phone - 306-551-6213
Hall Contact - 306-563-7451

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

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IC XC NI KA
Saturday Jan 24th – Vespers 6:00 PM
Sunday January 25th Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM
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Father Michael Faryna • 306-601-9043
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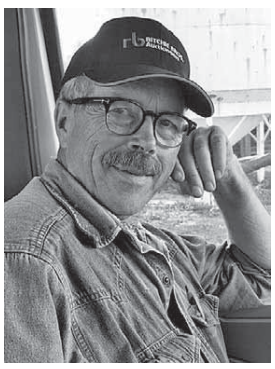
Sat., Jan 24 • House Blessings (Yorkton)
Sun., Jan 25 • 10:00AM – Divine Liturgy (Yorkton)
Mon., Jan 26 • House Blessings (Foam Lake / Insinger / Theodore)
Wed., Jan 28 • House Blessings (Yorkton)

CLASSIFIEDS

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

Obituary — William (Bill) Carter

April 15, 1952 – Jan. 14, 2026



Forever our Hero, William (Bill) Richard Carter, of Fort Qu'Appelle, SK, passed away tragically on Wednesday, Jan. 14, 2026 at the age of 73 years.

Born on April 15, 1952 in Indian Head, SK, Bill Carter will be remembered for his warm smile and easy, friendly conversations, treating his customers not as clients but as friends. He had a deep passion for serving others and found true joy in helping people, whether flipping pancakes at the Rotary Club's July 1st breakfast or quietly checking in on those who needed care. He delivered far more than propane to this community – he delivered kindness, reassurance and connection. His work often included taking time for a visit, helping with chores, fixing a furnace or simply making sure elderly customers were safe and cared for. Nowhere was too far for him to stop, whether it was a delivery, a repair or a chance to see an old friend.

Early mornings were often spent at the bakery, lovingly referred to as the "Senate Table," where laughter and stories were shared freely and evenings frequently ended at Houston's Pizza. When he was home, he took great pride in enjoying his yard and spending time with his family gathered around the bonfire or sharing a Kokanee on the deck. Cherished for his quick wit, sense of humour and remarkable ability to connect with people, strangers and lifelong friends alike. He made everyone feel seen and valued. He took the time to truly know every one of his grandchildren, accepting his children and grandchildren exactly as they were and teaching life lessons through both words and example. He was incredibly proud of them all and lit up whenever they were mentioned. With an unwavering calm and steady presence, he was a trusted voice of reason. A mischievous sparkle in his eye and a gentle tease were never far away, always making others feel heard and special. He was, quite simply, a joy to the world, just so genuinely good.

He is lovingly remembered by his soulmate and wife of nearly 50 years, Jacqueline (Fleming) Carter; his three children: Brennen Carter (Tonya), Reagan Adamus (Cody) and Chelsea Erlandson (Dan). Bill's legacy and kind spirit was extended to his nine grandchildren: Austynne and Kirianne (Brennen's children), Kassidy, Cayden, Bricksen and Holden (Reagan's children) and Calla, Raulan and Lainey (Chelsea's children). Also left behind are Bill's siblings: Bob, Jim, Joan, Marjorie, Norma, David, Hazel, Bruce and Dan; mother-in-law Evelyn Fleming, who loved Bill as her son; in-laws: Kim, Deidre and Nadine; as well as many other cherished in-laws, relatives and friends.

He was predeceased by his parents John and Myrtle; brother George; father-in-law Dave Fleming and sister-in-law Michelle.

A celebration of life will be held in the Dysart Community Centre, 204 Mckendre St., Dysart, SK, on Saturday, Jan. 24, 2026 at 1:00 p.m. Family and friends are invited to gather to celebrate Bill's life. The celebration will be livestreamed with the link that will be posted on www.tubmanfh.com

Donations in memoriam may be made towards the Rotary Club of Canada in Bill Carter's memory. The Rotary Foundation (Canada), c/o 911600, PO Box 4090 STN A, Toronto, ON M5W 0E9 or visit https://my.rotary.org/en/donate. Bill's gentle soul and legacy will continue to live on in the stories shared, the lives touched and the hearts forever changed.

Online condolences may be made at www.tubmanfh.com

Dignity MEMORIAL

Obituary — Elaine Mary Herrington

Aug. 2, 1952 – Jan. 13, 2026



Elaine Mary Herrington (Hegedus), beloved wife of Bob Herrington, entered eternal rest with her family by her side on Tuesday, Jan. 13, 2026, after a courageous battle with cancer.

Elaine was born to Yolanda (Trohak) and Geza Hegedus on Aug. 2, 1952, in Esterhazy, SK. She grew up on the Trohak family farm with many aunts, uncles, and cousins. This was a special place for her.

Elaine met Bob in 1971 and soon married him on July 29, 1972. They were blessed with three children, Trevor, Dawn, and lastly, Trent. They made their home in Melville, SK, where she worked at the Saan store and later as an Ophthalmic assistant for Dr. Rogoza in Melville until her retirement in 2022.

Elaine's family was her pride and joy. She loved to spend time cheering on her grandkids and being their biggest fan at their hockey and ringette games. Elaine also enjoyed many other passions like cooking, baking, gardening, and making the odd perogie or cabbage roll. But most of all, she enjoyed family gatherings at the Herrington family cabin, which consisted of watching her grandkids compete in a round of cornhole, sitting on the deck with a glass of wine, the odd "putt on the quad" around town, or her most favourite, finding a project to put on Bob's "honey-do" list.

Elaine leaves behind to cherish her memory her husband of 53 years, Bob; her children, Trevor (Morrie), Dawn (Scott), and Trent (Kristen); four grandchildren, Mackenzie (Logan), Madison, Aubree and Jaxyn; her great-grandson, Marek; her brother, Lawrence, and his children, Shawna (Todd), Brandice (Craig), and Crystal (Clayton); her in-laws, Don and Heather Herrington, Roy and Suzanne Herrington, Janice Robertson, and Shawna and Dwayne Miller; and many beloved nieces and nephews.

The family would like to thank Dr. Eswadi and the staff at the Allan Blair Cancer Centre, as well as the nurses of the oncology unit of the Pasqua Hospital for all their care and compassion.

Mass of Christian Burial was held on Monday, Jan. 19, 2026 at St. Henry's Roman Catholic Church, Melville, with the Rev. Fr. Melchor Samonte celebrating.

Funeral arrangements were entrusted to Matthews Funeral Home.

MATTHEWS Funeral Home

Obituary — Hedy Matthews-Lockhart

1934 – 2026



Hedy Matthews-Lockhart was born on March 3, 1934, and passed away peacefully on Sunday, Jan. 11, 2026, at the age of 91, with her family at her side.

She will be lovingly remembered for her strength, kindness, and the deep devotion she had to her family.

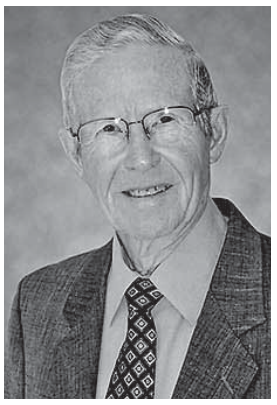
A celebration of Hedy's life will be held at a later date, with details to be shared with family and friends. In lieu of flowers please make a small donation to a charity of your choice. Online messages of condolence may be left at www.paragonfuneralservices.com

"Bless your Heart"

PARAGON FUNERAL & CREMATION SERVICES

Obituary — Rev. Arthur Edmund Cross

July 28, 1931 – Dec. 28, 2025



The family of Rev. Arthur Cross, beloved husband of the late Marjorie Cross, sadly announce his passing on Sunday, Dec. 28, 2025. He was 94 years of age.

Arthur Edmund Cross, son of Rev. Arthur and Mary Cross, was born on July 28, 1931 in Regina, SK. He grew up in various small towns in Saskatchewan where his father served as United Church minister, taking his high school at Asquith and Viscount, SK. At this point Art decided to enter the Christian ministry himself, following in the footsteps of his father and older brother William (Bill) Arthur Cross. This led him to the University of Saskatchewan in 1949 for a Bachelor of Arts degree followed by three years at St. Andrew's College where he graduated in 1955. He was ordained on June 6, 1955 at Westminster United Church, Regina. Upon completion of his thesis titled "Principles of Biblical Interpretation", he received a Bachelor of Divinity degree in 1964. Upon ordination, Art served five years on the Ogema pastoral charge, followed by four years at Lucky Lake, nine years at Broadway United Church Regina, 16 years at St. Andrew's United Church Yorkton, and three years at Yellow Grass for a total of 37 years full time service in the United Church Ministry before retiring in Yorkton in 1992. In 2020, Art was recognized by the Moderator of the United Church of Canada for ordination of 65 years.

Art was united in marriage to Marjorie Eileen Holman in 1959, a woman he had met while serving his third "summer mission field" in Duval, SK. Throughout his ministry, Marge was always there assisting in the church work, in different but important ways, such as the Sunday School, youth work, and the United Church Women. For both Art and Marge, being born and raised in the context of the Christian church, this was a way of life for them continuously throughout their respective lives. Throughout his years of ministry, Art's focus was on pastoral work. He loved visiting people in their homes, in coffee shops, nursing homes and hospitals. Singing and music was always a part of his ministry. Wherever he went, he would be found either leading the hymns or singing in the choir. He found it quite natural to treat everyone with kindness and respect and tried to be guided by the "gifts of the Spirit". A smiling countenance and a quick sense of humour came naturally to him.

While in Yorkton, Art served 10 years on the local Cancer Society board as well as 10 years on the board of the Society for the Involvement of Good Neighbours (SIGN). He also served for many years in Presbytery as the Mission Support convener. Theologically, Art was never a literalist. From the very beginning he had a questioning mind which meant he was always looking for the deeper, more symbolic or metaphorical meaning of the scripture in his sermons.

On a personal level, Art was a handyman. He loved working with and making things from wood. Repairing things also came naturally to him. In later years he took up bird carving/ painting with a number of his buddies. At last count there were nine different kinds of birds gracing the dining room wall. Art loved the beauty of nature and would often marvel at the uniqueness and beauty of sky, water, woods, animals and flowers. Reading newspapers and magazines while having coffee "downtown" was a source of great enjoyment, as were numerous Continuing Education classes throughout his ministry. Besides his regular church duties, Art enjoyed many sports and hobbies throughout the years. Woodworking and decorating along with camping, fishing, tennis, canoeing, swimming and golfing in the summer, and curling and skating in the winter. Of interest, he continued ice skating with his wife Marjorie until he was 80 years of age.

Spending time with family was Art's greatest joy and he treasured visits with his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Art had a kind heart, a playful sense of humour, and the ability to turn any situation into a song. He will be dearly missed.

Art was predeceased by his dear wife Marjorie, sister Florence, brother William, sister-in-law Muriel, and brothers-in-law Donald, Jerry and Ken. He leaves to cherish his memory and mourn his passing: his three children: Brent (Lisa), Vaughn (Linda) and Daneen; five grandchildren: Colby (Laura), Cassidy (Hayden), Sasha (Steve), Bethany (Christian), and Kendra (Austin); 11 great-grandchildren: Lyla, Kendall, Traeton, Kaydence, Shadyn, Brayson, Jasmine, Kaycie, Mason, Violet and Lola; sisters-in-law June and Shirley; and many other extended family members and friends.

The funeral service was held on Thursday, Jan. 15, 2026, from St. Andrew's United Church with Rev. Jen Dresser officiating. Organist Shani Apland and the St. Andrew's Choir led the congregation in hymns. Brent Cross delivered the eulogy. Linda Cross shared tributes and words of remembrance. The Yorktones performed special music 'I Love to Tell the Story'. The interment followed in the Yorkton City Cemetery with Colby Cross serving as urn bearer.

Memorial donations in memory of Rev. Arthur Cross may be made to St. Andrew's United Church as gifts of remembrance. Condolences may be left for the family at www.baileysfuneralhome.com

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Obituary

Dorothy Anne Irwin (Kreiser)

March 24, 1932 – Dec. 15, 2025



Our family is sad to announce the passing of Dorothy Anne Irwin (Kreiser) on Monday, Dec. 15, 2025, in Regina, SK.

She is survived by her six children: Marie Griggs (Mark), Vince (Paul) Kreiser (Kathy), Jerome Kreiser (Cindy), Francis Kreiser (Laura), Monica Bochek, and Sheila Sigouin (Mike), and numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her first husband Jack Kreiser and her second husband Darl Van Dusen.

Dorothy was born near Kelvington, SK and was adopted as a young child by Jack and Mary Irwin. They lived in Moose Jaw for many years. She started her life-long career as an educator by attending the local teachers' college.

She taught students in the public school system and adults who were seeking to advance their levels of education. She used her creative talents to organize a high school student fashion show in Uranium City, compiled a community history scrapbook during Canada's centennial year at the East School in Esterhazy, assisted with the make-up for some dramatic presentations and many other projects. For one year, she also taught in one of Saskatchewan's iconic educational institutions, the one room schoolhouse, Columbia School, near Grayson.

Dorothy was a talented artist. She liked oil painting and completed many projects over the years. Trained as a home economics teacher at the University of Saskatchewan, she was skilled at sewing, knitting, cooking and baking including family favorites like cinnamon buns, butter dips, Christmas cake and cookies and her excellent nuts and bolts snacks. She had musical talents and enjoyed playing the organ. These skills proved very useful in family life and community.

She travelled for work and pleasure. She visited and lived in many parts of Canada and travelled to other parts of the world.

Upon retiring, she resided in Prince Albert, Lloydminster and finally in the Santa Maria Senior Citizens' Home in Regina.

A funeral mass will take place at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Moose Jaw, SK on Saturday, May 16, 2026, at 11 am, interment at the Sunset Cemetery and a light lunch in the parish hall to follow.

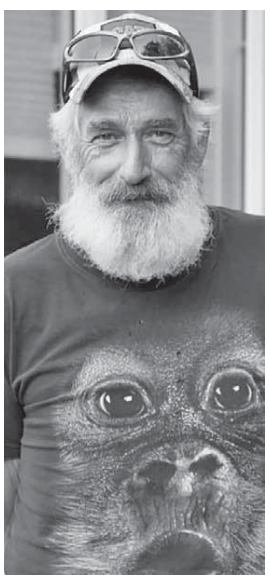
If interested in attending, our family would appreciate an advance RSVP to: fekreiser@gmail.com by May 1, 2026.

In lieu of flowers, please emulate Dorothy's generosity by offering to pay for the coffee of the person behind you at your local coffee shop or donate to the Royal Canadian Legion.

Obituary

George Werner

May 21, 1957 – Jan. 14, 2026



It is with great sadness that we announce the sudden passing of George Werner, beloved husband of Wendy Werner, Broadview, SK on Wednesday, Jan. 14, 2026 at the age of 68 years.

George was predeceased by his parents Floyd and Theresa Werner; one brother Frederick Werner in 1958; his mother and father-in-law Sietse and Marion Rienks; his brother-in-law Terry Schaaf in 1977; his son-in-law Lyndon Lerat in 2013 and adopted father Urbin Louison.

Besides his loving wife Wendy, George is survived by one daughter Jenny (Trevor) Lerat-Andres and their family: Kolten, Davyn, Breanna Emmah-Lee and Jaxson; two sons Cory (Cailly) Werner and their daughter Evie and Justin (Sadie) Werner; brothers and sisters: Christine (Fred) Skinner, Dave (Janet) Werner, Dorothy (Keith) Hawken, Mike Werner, Stephen (Charlene) Werner and Pauline (Gord) Campbell; adopted mother Amanda Louison; brothers and sisters-in-law: Gordon Rienks, Kathy (Patrick) McGuffin, Clayton (Candace) Rienks, Terry (Amanda) Rienks and Jason (Jennifer) Rienks and also his nieces and nephews.

The funeral service will be held in the Broadview Community Hall on Saturday, Jan. 24, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. with James Graham officiating. The interment will follow the service in the Broadview Cemetery. A lunch and time for fellowship will follow the interment.

If friends so desire, contributions to the MS Canada, 500-250 Dundas Street West, Toronto, ON M5T 2Z5 may be tokens of remembrance.

Online condolences may be made at www.tubmanfh.com

Dignity Memorial

Obituary

John McKay

Aug. 12, 1938 – Jan. 12, 2026



John McKay, formerly of Balcarres, SK, passed away on Monday, Jan. 12, 2026, at the age of 87 years. He was born on Aug. 12, 1938, in Preston, England.

John was predeceased by his parents Jack and Hilda, as well as his daughter Christine. He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Hilary McKay; children Andrew (Alison) and Cathy (Mike) and his grandchildren Lain (Josie) and Emma.

Education was very important to John. He began his teaching career in the late 1950s, teaching in France and Liverpool. He then relocated the family to Porcupine Plain, SK in 1967 to continue teaching. In 1976 they moved to Balcarres, SK, where he became principal of the Balcarres School.

After retiring from teaching, John spent many years driving a school bus. He enjoyed long walks, reading, playing badminton and especially sharing time with his family.

John was a longstanding member of St. Andrew's United Church and sang with the Fireside Singers in Balcarres.

A celebration of life will be held in the Balcarres Lions Hall, on Friday, Feb. 6, 2026 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, donations in memoriam may be made to the Balcarres Integrated Care Centre Recreation Fund, Box 340, Balcarres, SK S0G 0C0.

Online condolences may be made at www.tubmanfh.com

Dignity Memorial

Obituary

Ethel Mary Reiger

March 7, 1940 – Jan. 11, 2026



With sadness in our hearts, we announce the peaceful passing of Ethel Mary Reiger on Sunday, Jan. 11, 2026.

Ethel was a devoted mother, grandmother and friend who found joy in caring for the birds and squirrels that she loved. Known fondly as the Bird Lady of Saskatchewan, she had the kindest heart and found joy in nurturing every feathered and furry visitor who crossed her path.

Ethel was born on March 7, 1940 and grew up in the Baring District on the family farm and attended Viewland School. She married William "Bill" Reiger in 1958 in the United Church in Grenfell, SK. Together, they lived on the Reiger farm before moving to a farm south of Percival. After several years, they moved into Broadview and following Bill's passing, Ethel later moved to Grenfell, where she lived for the remainder of her life.

In 1960, Ethel welcomed her daughter Brenda and her son Brian in 1964. Throughout her life, she worked hard and wore many hats - farmer, waitress, cook, historian - and she was well known for her baking, especially her jellies and pies. Many knew her as the "pie lady", and she was a beloved presence at the Sunset Beach Flea Market, where she delighted in meeting people and sharing stories.

Her greatest passions were caring for birds and squirrels and tending her garden. She loved growing a variety of flowers and plants, and the growing season for her began after the May long weekend. She was very proud to be included in a rare bird book when a rare red-bellied woodpecker made her yard its home.

Ethel is lovingly remembered by her son Brian (Jo-Ann) of Edmonton; son-in-law Bill McRobbie of Broadview; grandchildren: Chris McRobbie of Edmonton, Chantelle (James) Outhwaite of Broadview and Cody (Sydney) Reiger of Edmonton; great-grandchildren: Brianna, Riley and Maddison McRobbie of Edmonton and Carson and Leah Outhwaite of Broadview; step-grandchildren Arron (Jenn) Connelly of Edmonton and Callum (Kristi) Connelly; step-great-grandchildren Zac and Derek Connelly, also of Edmonton and by her special friend Roy Stanley Grenfell.

Ethel was predeceased by her beloved husband William Reiger; her daughter Brenda McRobbie; grandson Tyler Reiger; her parents James and Mary Jane Gwilliam; her brothers: Ivan, Herman and Harry Gwilliam and her sisters Fanny Burstyk and Effie Schlechter.

Mom earned her wings by helping so many understand the ways of the earth - how to garden and by sharing her deep knowledge of birds.

She will be forever in our hearts.

A Celebration of Life will be announced in the spring.

In lieu of flowers please make a donation in Ethel Reiger's name to an animal rescue in your area.

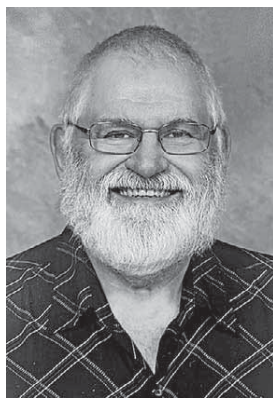
Online condolences may be made at www.tubmanfh.com

Dignity Memorial

Obituary

Peter Stanley Uhryn

June 26, 1954 – Jan. 18, 2026



It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Peter Stanley Uhryn on Sunday, Jan. 18, 2026. A man of many talents and even more stories, Pete was a devoted husband, father, passionate member of his community, and a proud Gido.

Born on June 26, 1954, Peter attended St. Joseph's College in Yorkton (Class of 1972) before moving to Toronto to graduate from the Radio College of Canada in 1973 with a diploma in Electronic Engineering Technology. After college, he moved to Calgary briefly to build windows – a testament to his lifelong "get-to-work" attitude.

In 1974, Pete began what would become a notable 31-year career with SaskTel. He started with the SaskTel construction crews in the Saskatoon and Yorkton areas before moving into Install and Repair. In 1981, Peter married his wife, Susan. Together they welcomed two girls, Trudy in 1985 and Chantel in 1987.

His career with SaskTel took his family on an adventure to Buffalo Narrows in the early 90s, eventually leading them to settle in Rosetown in 1994. Even after "retiring" from SaskTel in 2005, Pete's work ethic remained; he spent the next 15 years working for local farmers and was a familiar face changing oil at Regal Motors Ford.

Pete's heart was as big as the Saskatchewan sky. As a Life Member of the Kinsmen Club of Rosetown, he looked forward to Kinsmen Telemiracle, and the many community events that the club hosted to support his community. His passion was local community support, and the initiatives that supported projects which focused on a safe place for kids to play.

Hunting was a true passion that brought him many of his closest friendships over the years. His hunting buddies included everyone from his wife and daughters to his brothers, nephews, friends, son-in-law, and anyone else who needed a spotter.

In his later years, Pete's world revolved around his three grandsons: Braxton, Huxley, and Zane. Whether he was building Lego masterpieces, cheering at their sporting events, or simply hanging out in the backyard, Gido was always their biggest fan, greatest tickler and best cuddler.

Peter was predeceased by his parents, John and Katie Uhryn, infant brother Eddy, sister Fran Uhryn, brother John, brother-in-law Walter Belay, and mother and father-in-law Mary and Adam Yaworski.

He leaves to mourn his passing: his loving wife, Susan; his daughter Trudy (Sean) Mustatia and grandsons Braxton and Huxley; and his daughter Chantel (Ben) Clark and grandson Zane. He also leaves behind a legacy of hard work, community spirit, and a family that will deeply miss his steady presence and quiet strength.

In memory of Peter and his lifelong dedication to helping others, donations can be made to Kinsmen Telemiracle.

A Funeral Mass was celebrated on Wednesday, January 21, 2026 at 11:00 a.m. at St. Theresa's Parish, Rosetown, SK. A private family committal will take place at a later date at Yorkton City Cemetery. The family invites those attending the committal to wear camo.

Funeral arrangements entrusted to Shanidar Funeral Services, Rosetown, SK and Bailey's Funeral Home, Yorkton, SK.

Services

Indian Head Library

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Notice to Creditors

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the Estate of **Mike Edward Olijnyk,** late of Melville, Sask., deceased.

All claims against the above Estate, duly verified by statutory declaration and with particulars and valuation of security held, if any, must be sent to the undersigned before the 30h day of January, 2026.

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Obituary

John Yaworski
Jan. 20, 1938 – Dec. 30, 2025



It is with great sadness that the family of John Yaworski announce his passing on Tuesday, Dec. 30, 2025 at the Edith Cavell Care Centre in Lethbridge, AB at the age of 87 years.

John was born on Jan. 20, 1938 in Ituna to Joe and Katie (Washak) Yaworski. John grew up on the family farm which is where he likely developed his love of restoring old tractors, even from a young age.

After leaving the farm, John resided in Yorkton for many years after which he moved to Lethbridge where he spent the majority of his life. He had various jobs over the years which included Perth's Drycleaning, Dare Cookies, Canada Post, and hauling with his semi-trailer and gravel trucks. He enjoyed any reason to get out on the road whether it be for work or with his motorhome to go camping. He was a member of the Legion and never missed an opportunity to attend one of the dances where he could socialize with the many friends he made there. At all the dances he attended, whether it be the Legion or elsewhere, a staple was always his cowboy hat, boots, and a colorful western shirt. Another love he had was frequenting many auctions where he bid on anything and everything he could get a good deal on. At home he could be found watching his favorite sport hockey or a good old fashioned western movie. And he never missed an occasion where he could take his family out for supper and enjoy some visiting.

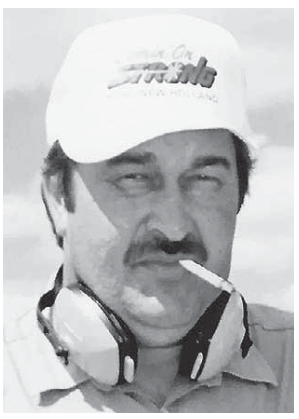
John was predeceased by his parents Joe and Katie Yaworski; brother Walter Yaworski; sister Rose Hokanson; and brothers-in-law Melvin Hokanson and Frank Chopik.

He leaves to cherish his memory his daughters: Cindi (Rob) Weistra of Lethbridge, AB and Laurie Yaworski of Yorkton, SK; his grandchildren: Kayla (Bret) Napper of Lethbridge, AB and Benjamin (Brooke McMurray) Weistra of Hussar, AB; his great-granddaughter Atlee Napper of Lethbridge, AB; his sister Tillie Chopik of Regina, SK; and numerous nieces and nephews.

A memorial service for John will be held on Friday, July 3, 2026 in Lethbridge. If you wish to leave sympathy messages for the family, you can do so by visiting www.csgfh.ca.

Arrangements for John Yaworski have been entrusted to Christensen Salmon Generations Funeral Home in Lethbridge, AB.

Memoriam



AICHELE
In loving memory of Harvey, husband, father and grandfather who left us
January 23, 2014

Our lives go on without you
But nothing is the same
We have to hide our heartaches
When someone speaks your name
Sad are the hearts that love you
Silent are the tears that fall
Living our lives without you
Is the hardest part of all
You did so many things for us
Your heart was kind and true
And when we needed someone
We could always count on you
The special years will not return
When we were all together
But with the love within our hearts
You will walk with us forever.
–Forever loved and sadly missed your wife Marie and Family

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Sunny Side Up

A brush with royalty, and a promise beyond it

By Kathleen Gibson
Grasslands News

The King I most want to meet

Every so often, the Preacher offers his left hand to someone, teasing, "you better shake it. It may be the closest you'll come to shaking hands with royalty."

In 2012, when I was still working as an assistant to then Member of Parliament Garry Breitkreuz, I had the chance to serve at an event, a symphony performance, held in honour of Queen Elizabeth's Diamond (60th) Jubilee. Our then Prime Minister Stephen Harper attended along with Prince of Wales (now King) Charles, representing the Queen, and his wife, Duchess of Cornwall (now Queen Consort) Camilla.

I had a small role—ensuring protocol was strictly observed. Along with other MP assistants, I checked guest invitations as they entered, crossing each name off the list. The Preacher, a recipient of the Diamond Jubilee Medal for his long-serving community and clergy work, was one of those invited guests.

Following the performance, I and the other assistants supervised the guests' stand-up tables of drinks and refreshments. I watched as the Prince and Duchess moved between tables, greeting every guest. They seemed gracious, unhurried, and down-to-earth.

The Preacher had been assigned a place at the table next to mine. Unlike me, as an invited guest, he could enjoy the refreshments, sitting on his walker while chatting with his standing tablemates. When Charles and Camilla got to his table, they spoke with him for some time, an animated conversation that lasted several minutes. Later, the Preacher explained why.

"Why the walking frame?" they asked. He told them he blamed a mosquito, the one carrying the virus that infected him with West Nile Neurological Disease. "Really?" The Duchess said they knew little of the disease in Britain. "How did it affect you?" Both royals listened carefully as Rick answered their questions, expressing their hope for better days ahead. Before they moved on, both royals shook his hand. He didn't want to wash that hand for a week.

That brief encounter sparked an ongoing interest in the monarchy. He'll remember it for life. One thing surprised him, though. "Charles' hand," he says with wonder, to anyone he talks to about this. "It wasn't the soft hand of a pampered prince. He even had callouses. That was the hand of a working man." And indeed, in the years before he became King, Charles often pursued his passion for gardening—weeding, pruning, designing and executing his designs.

I think of another king. The King of all kings, God in the flesh, who learned a builder's trade from his earthly father. Christ's hands likely had callouses too, before he took up his three-year ministry on earth at age 30, only to be crucified at age 33.

That's the King I can't wait to meet, to worship in person. Now resurrected, he is here, and there, and everywhere people invite him. One day, he'll return. We'll see him in the flesh. I think his callouses will be gone. I wonder about his nail scars.

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