



Jan. 21 vote

## Council race set as four seek seats in Broadview

By Sarah Pacio  
Grasslands News

Four Broadview residents started off the New Year campaigning for votes in a council byelection. Three vacancies will be filled when residents visit the polls on Jan. 21. Nominees include Trevor Andres, Kate Ecklund, Carol Mills and Charleen Wennberg. Three of the four candidates spoke with Grasslands News earlier this week, with Andres the only candidate to decline commenting about his run.

### Kathryn Ecklund

Kathryn (Kate) Ecklund spent her early years in Broadview but graduated from Sacred Heart High School in Yorkton in 2007. She then earned a Bachelor of Environmental Studies and a Local Government Administration Certificate from the University of Regina.

She lived in Broadview while completing some of her university studies but returned permanently to the community a few months ago.

Ecklund currently works as an Operations Specialist for Kahkewistahaw First Nation, a position which requires collaboration with various departments, leaders and consultants. She has served with the Yorkton Parks and Recreation



Kate Ecklund

Board, as Vice President of UR Sustainability, and President of the Geography and Environmental Studies Student Association at the University of Regina. She also has experience working with SaskPower, the Water Security Agency, and Parkland College (now a part of Suncrest College).

Ecklund's decision to run for town council stemmed from her interest in government and her desire that the Town of Broadview thrive.

"I'm very passionate about the democratic process and want to encourage my generation to get more involved in politics," she said. "I'm genuinely interested in making Broadview a prosperous place on the Prairies. My analytical skills would help assess and advance our community's development. I truly enjoy tackling large, complex issues, and I'd be honoured to assess Broadview's vitality on town council."

### Carol Mills

Carol Mills has lived in Broadview since 1984. She is now retired but throughout her career she operated a gas station in Broadview



Carol Mills

and later managed the local liquor store. Mills has 23 years of previous experience on town council, which began with her first term as a councillor in 1994. She later served two terms as mayor, from 2002 to 2005 and from 2016 to 2020. Mills feels that her familiarity with past infrastructure projects and municipal operations would be an asset to council. If elected next week,

she looks forward to continuing her involvement with community and governance matters to "keep our town neat and clean and welcoming."



ALVIN NIXON | GRASSLANDS NEWS

### Winter wildlife

A moose stands in a hoar frost covered field near an abandoned farmyard near Wapella. The bull moose was one of three bulls and one cow moose that was spotted traveling together by local photographer Alvin Nixon.

### Charleen Wennberg

Charleen Wennberg returned to live in Broadview in 2018, though she has always considered it her hometown. She is currently employed as a Medical Office Assistant at the Kipling Medical Clinic but previously worked at Broadview Centennial Lodge from 1998 to 2023. She also served on Broadview Town Council for a brief period in 2002.

"I'm proud to be part of the community again. I care deeply about Broadview and the people who live here," Wennberg told Grasslands News. "I want to give back to the community by being a thoughtful, respectful voice on council and helping



Charleen Wennberg

make decisions that benefit residents now and into the future."

If successful at next week's poll, Wennberg looks forward to representing Broadview residents.

"My work experience has given me strong skills in organization, communication, and working within policies and procedures," she commented. "If elected, my goal is to listen to residents, support responsible decision-making, and work collaboratively to maintain and improve services that make Broadview a good place to live. I believe in being approachable, respectful, and putting the community first."

## WFD responds to 65 calls in 2025

Includes 19 motor vehicle accidents and 23 fires

By Chris Ashfield  
Grasslands News

The Whitewood Fire Department continued to provide steady emergency coverage in 2025, with call volumes returning closer to the department's long-term average following a record-setting year in 2024.

In 2025, the department responded to 65 calls, slightly above what the department typically sees in an average year of about 60 calls. Those responses included 19 motor vehicle collisions, 23 fires, nine assists to EMS or RCMP, 12 alarm calls, one STARS air ambulance landing, and one gas leak. Members logged 891 hours responding to emergency calls and completed 143 hours of training to maintain certifications, skills, and operational readiness.

Firefighters also donated many additional volunteer hours beyond

emergency response. Community involvement included support for local events such as the Whitewood Fire Department annual fundraiser golf tournament and the Farmers and Friends curling bonspiel, along with ongoing equipment maintenance and public education sessions delivered to schools and senior living residents.

Fire Chief Bernard Brulé said the numbers reflect both consistency and commitment from the volunteer department.

"While 2025 was a bit quieter than our record year in 2024, it was still right in line with what we normally expect," Brulé said. "Our members put in a tremendous amount of time, not just responding to emergencies, but also for training, maintaining equipment and supporting community events. I can't thank them enough for their commitment,

which is what allows us to be ready when our residents need us."

By comparison, 2024 marked a record year for the department, driven largely by a surge in traffic-related incidents. That year, Whitewood Fire responded to 33 motor vehicle collisions, well above both the 2025 total and the department's typical annual average. Firefighters also attended 22 fires, responded to 20 alarm calls, supported one STARS air ambulance landing, and handled one well rescue in 2024.

Department officials note that while 2025 represented a step back from the unusually high call volume seen in 2024, the year still reflected a wide range of emergencies and a significant time commitment from volunteers, underscoring the ongoing importance of training, preparedness, and strong community support for the local department.

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# Everyone encouraged to complete 2026 Census

By Elaine Ashfield  
Grasslands News

As the May 2026 census approaches, community leaders are encouraging residents and agricultural operators to take part. For small communities, participation is about more than compliance—it is about visibility, representation and ensuring that local needs are recognized in planning and policy decisions.

Every five years, Canadians are asked to take part in the national cen-

sus, a process that quietly but powerfully shapes the future of communities across the country. In May 2026, households will once again participate in the Census of Population and the Census of Agriculture, two initiatives that play a critical role in ensuring small towns and rural areas are accurately represented and supported.

Conducted by Statistics Canada, the census provides what the agency describes as a comprehensive statistical portrait of Canada. For small com-

munities, this portrait is essential. Census data helps determine how government funding is distributed and how services are planned, influencing decisions related to healthcare, education, transportation, housing, emergency services and infrastructure.

The 2026 census will also bring employment opportunities to communities across the country. Statistics Canada is hiring approximately 32,000 people for census-related roles between March and July, including enumerators and crew leaders. These temporary jobs provide local employment, particularly in smaller communities, while helping ensure census information is collected accurately and efficiently.

While most Canadians will be able to complete their census online, some enumerators may go door to door to assist households. Statistics Canada emphasizes that all personal information is kept confidential and protected by law, with data combined and anonymized for statistical use only.

The 2026 Census of Population will be Canada's 24th national census. By completing it, residents help ensure that their community's population count and demographic

makeup are accurately reflected. Even small shifts in population—such as an increase in seniors, young families or newcomers—can have significant impacts in rural areas. Accurate data can help justify keeping a local school open, expanding healthcare services or investing in transportation and housing solutions that meet local needs.

Census information also supports long-term planning and economic development. Governments, municipalities and businesses use the data to understand who lives in a region, how communities are changing and what services or investments may be required in the future. Census figures can help entrepreneurs assess potential markets, guide municipalities in applying for grants, and support decisions around infrastructure and community development projects.

Beyond general population counts, census data provides valuable insight into specific demographic groups. Information collected can help governments better understand the needs of seniors, lone-parent families, Indigenous Peoples, immigrants and other population groups, allowing for more targeted

and effective programs and policies. Census data is also used to establish federal and provincial electoral riding boundaries, making participation a key part of democratic representation.

Most Canadians—about 75 per cent—will receive the short-form census, which asks basic questions such as age, gender, household relationships, language knowledge and military experience. The remaining 25 per cent of households, selected at random, will complete the long-form census. This version includes additional questions on education, employment, income, housing, ethnicity, cultural background and mobility, providing deeper insight into how Canadians live and work.

For rural Canada, the

Census of Agriculture is just as important. Conducted every five years since 1921, it collects detailed information from every agricultural operation in the country. This data helps farmers make informed business decisions and supports the development and evaluation of agricultural policies that directly affect producers and rural economies. In communities where agriculture is a major economic driver, accurate census data helps ensure that programs and policies reflect real conditions on the ground.

Taking a few minutes to complete the census helps ensure that small towns and rural regions are accurately counted, fairly represented and better positioned for sustainable growth in the years ahead.

## Peavey Mart to reopen Saskatchewan stores in spring 2026

By GNG Staff  
Grasslands News

Peavey Mart says it will reopen two Saskatchewan stores this spring as part of its next phase of expansion following the relaunch of several Alberta locations late last year.

The retailer announced Tuesday it plans to reopen stores in Yorkton and Assiniboia in March, with hiring already underway. A third location, in Red Deer, Alta., is slated to reopen in April after renovations.

Meagan Parisian, Peavey Mart's leader of marketing and eCommerce, said Saskatchewan was always part of the company's long-term reopening strategy after the brand was relaunched in 2025.

"The initial store opening plan included an eventual reopening of stores in Saskatchewan," Parisian said in a statement. "The locations that were chosen by the ownership group are reflective of a number of factors these communities hold, including the strength of the stores in these communities, an ease of access to the previously held storefronts, as well as how quickly we could expedite hiring and launch operations in the locations chosen."

Peavey Mart's operations team is actively recruiting for all roles, and Parisian noted that former employees have returned in several locations.

"We have a number of previous employees who have been able to return to operations in several locations, which has been fantastic," she said.

Other Alberta locations that resumed operations in December 2025, were Spruce Grove, Westlock, Camrose and Lacombe. Beyond the seven announced locations, the company said no further decisions or timelines have been set for additional stores.

As it prepares for the spring openings, Peavey Mart said it continues to focus on distributing merchandise to its stores, with an emphasis on high-quality, unique and locally sourced products that reflect Canadian entrepreneurship. Stores are receiving inventory weekly, with seasonal and new items expected to arrive regularly.

"Our suppliers recognize that we hold ourselves to a high standard and expect to deliver a top-tier experience for our customers," Parisian said. "They're working with us to ship items to our distribution centre in Red Deer County, and in some cases directly to stores, as quickly as possible so we can fulfill these expectations."

Parisian said customers can expect stores to be fully stocked with the complete product assortment on or before March 1.

Peavey Mart was founded in 1967 and built its reputation serving Canadian farmers, ranchers and rural communities. The company was relaunched last year, with a renewed focus on its prairie roots and locally driven retail model.



We are pleased to extend our congratulations to **Ryan Smith**

on achieving the Chartered Professional Accountant (CPA) designation. This designation represents a significant professional milestone and reflects Ryan's dedication, perseverance, and commitment to the highest standards of the accounting profession. We commend Ryan for his outstanding accomplishment and look forward to his contributions to our firm, clients, and the broader business community. Prairie Strong CPA is proud to support and celebrate this important achievement.

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**Hon. Travis Keisig**  
MLA for Last Mountain -  
Touchwood Constituency

110 Elgin St.  
Balcarres, SK S0G 0C0

(306) 334-3444  
mla@traviskeisig.ca

**Brad Crassweller**  
MLA for White City - Qu'Appelle

(306) 520-5018 | mla@wc-q.ca

A - 129 Railway St. East  
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# Grasslands News launches digital editions on Canada's virtual newsstand

By GNG Staff  
Grasslands News

Grasslands News Group has launched a new online reading option for subscribers and readers with the addition of all its weekly newspapers to Canada's Virtual Newsstand, a cloud-based digital platform built specifically for Canadian community newspapers.

The new service allows readers to access full digital editions of Grasslands' newspapers anytime on desktop, tablet or mobile devices through reader.local-ink.com, expanding digital access while continuing to support the company's print circulation.

Grasslands News now publishes eight weekly newspapers following the addition of Yorkton This Week and Yorkton Marketplace. All Grasslands titles operate on a paid-circulation model, with the exception of Yorkton Marketplace, which is distributed free to households.

For the two Yorkton publications, the move represents a significant milestone. This marks the first time that both Yorkton This Week and Yorkton Marketplace have been available as full online editions. Other Grasslands publications have offered e-editions for several years, and the new platform brings all titles together in a single, unified digital environment.

Grasslands News has also played an active role in shaping the platform. The company has been part of the development process for the virtual newsstand over the past year, working alongside industry partners to ensure the system meets the needs of community newspapers and their readers.

Canada's Virtual Newsstand was developed by Calgary-based Local Ink Ltd. as the technology partner, with AdWest serving as industry lead, and with support from News Media Canada. The platform brings community newspapers from across the country together in one centralized, Canadian-hosted digital hub.

"Local Ink understands community newspapers because they took the time to listen to publishers," said Chris Ashfield, publisher of Grasslands News Group. "Grasslands has been involved in the development process from the ground up, and the result is a platform that works for both paid and free distribution models and gives readers a simple, reliable way to access their hometown paper."

Through the virtual newsstand, readers can discover community papers from across Canada, purchase subscriptions in a few clicks, and read current and past editions at their convenience. The platform is fully hosted in Canada, ensuring sub-



scriber data remains within the country.

"As Local Ink roles out, more and more community newspapers from right across the country will be accessible from

the site," said Ashfield. "It truly is a Canada-wide community newspaper newsstand for readers."

Grasslands News emphasized that current subscribers who already

access their digital editions through the Grasslands News website will continue to do so without interruption. The transition to the new virtual newsstand will be phased in gradually to ensure a smooth experience for existing readers.

Subscribers who wish to switch immediately to the new virtual newsstand can do so by contacting Grasslands News directly, and staff will assist with the transition.

For publishers, the platform supports both paid and free distribution models, allowing

Grasslands to present its subscription-based newspapers alongside free publications such as Yorkton Marketplace within the same digital system.

Grasslands News Group said the move is part of its broader strategy to modernize access to community journalism while preserving the local focus, independence and reliability of its weekly newspapers.

Readers can explore Grasslands News titles on the virtual newsstand at reader.local-ink.com, with new editions added as they are published.

## Traffic Safety

# Local communities share in \$2 million in funding

By GNG Staff  
Grasslands News

Several southeast Saskatchewan communities are set to see new traffic safety improvements after receiving funding through the Provincial Traffic Safety Fund's latest round of grants.

More than \$2 million has been awarded to 80 projects in 78 communities across the province, with a number of local municipalities and First Nations benefiting from the program, which is funded through photo speed enforcement revenues and administered by SGI.

In Esterhazy, the town received \$13,913 for its School Zone Safety Enhancement Project, aimed at improving safety for students and pedestrians in high-traffic school areas.

The Village of Lipton was approved for \$8,896 to support a School Zone Safety initiative, focusing on speed reduction and driver awareness near areas frequently used by children.

Muscowpetung Saulteaux Nation secured \$10,055 for its Project Slow Down, a community-based effort designed to reduce speeding and improve overall road safety.

At Piapot First Nation, \$9,106 was approved for the

Piapot Refresh project, which includes traffic safety enhancements intended to improve awareness and reduce risk on local roads.

The Village of Sedley received \$6,494 to purchase a Mobile Speed Display System, allowing the community to move speed awareness signage to different locations as needed.

White Bear First Nations was awarded \$29,227 for its Safety Signs for Awareness project, which will see new signage installed to address speeding and improve driver attentiveness.

In Whitewood, the town will receive \$24,303 for the Safety on South Avenue project, targeting one of the community's key traffic corridors with safety improvements.

The City of Yorkton was approved for \$12,999 to support a 2026 Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon Installation, which will enhance pedestrian crossing visibility and intersection safety.

Provincially, grants in this intake ranged from just over \$1,200 to \$100,000, with projects focusing on priorities such as speeding, intersection safety, vulnerable road users and impaired or distracted driving. Since the program was launched in 2019, more than \$16.6 million has been awarded to 998 projects across Saskatchewan.

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Saskatchewan

# Opposition, government clash over wait-list deaths

By Ryan Kiedrowski  
Grasslands News

At least 86 Saskatchewan cancer patients died before receiving any treatment during the 2024-25 fiscal year, while hundreds more died while waiting for surgery, according to data that has renewed debate over the state of the province's health-care system.

The figures, obtained from the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency by policy research group Second-Street.org, show that 86 people with cancer died before their first appointment with an oncologist. A further 333 Saskatchewan residents died while on surgical wait lists for a range of procedures.

Opposition NDP health critic Meara Conway said the numbers reveal a system under strain.

"These people didn't even get a chance to fight cancer," Conway told reporters Jan. 8. "Far too many vulnerable people are spending their final days waiting in pain and waiting for help. It's cruel."

According to the data, 28 of the cancer patients who died before receiving care had lung cancer, while 13 had colorectal cancer. Ten were diagnosed with liver or pancreatic cancer, nine with

kidney or bladder cancer, seven with breast cancer and 19 with other forms of the disease.

Conway said the figures are particularly troubling given recent disruptions to diagnostic services, noting that Saskatchewan's only PET scan machine has been closed or operating at reduced capacity for roughly two weeks.

When adjusted for population, Saskatchewan ranked third highest in Canada for deaths among patients waiting for surgery, at a rate of 26.7 per 100,000 people. Only Newfoundland and Labrador and Quebec had higher rates. Saskatchewan's rate was 58.9 per cent above the national average, according to analysis conducted by the NDP. Comparable data was available for most provinces, though Alberta does not publicly report deaths on surgical wait lists.

The Saskatchewan Cancer Agency said the figures require important context and cautioned against drawing broad conclusions from the raw data.

In a statement, the agency said it treats more than 7,600 individuals facing a cancer diagnosis each year, with patients referred at varying stages

of illness.

"In the rare circumstance that a patient passes away while awaiting an oncologist consult, a number of factors may be attributed," the SCA said.

Those factors include cancer being discovered at an already advanced stage, patients choosing not to pursue treatment or opting for non-traditional therapies, and delays related to additional testing required to determine the extent of disease and appropriate care options.

The agency said it actively monitors wait times for new referrals and takes steps to keep them within acceptable limits, including adding extra clinic time during the day and evening.

"Cancer care has made enormous strides and in many cases can be treated as a chronic condition, with longer life spans and improved patient outcomes," the statement said. "We, along with our partners throughout the health system, remain focused on that goal."

The SCA also highlighted lung cancer as a disease that is often diagnosed late, contributing to poorer outcomes. It noted Saskatchewan is rolling out a lung cancer screening initiative,



RYAN KIEDROWSKI | GRASSLANDS NEWS

## Dying for treatment

NDP Health Critic Meara Conway met with reporters on Jan. 8, concerned about the number of patient deaths while on a waitlist in Saskatchewan.

known as LungCheck, to detect the disease earlier.

The government-provincial funded program launched at an initial site in Swift Current in 2025, with a second community expected to come online by March 31

The provincial government also pushed back against the opposition's characterization of the data, saying Saskatchewan has made progress on wait times despite ongoing challenges.

"Our government is committed to ensuring patients from all across the province receive timely access to the care they need when they need it," the government said in a statement.

It said surgical wait times decreased in Saskatchewan in 2024-25, and that the province performed better than the national average on most cancer surgery wait times. The government also said Saskatchewan reported shorter wait times for hip and knee replacement surgeries than several other jurisdictions.

The government disputed the opposition's claims regarding deaths on surgical wait lists, saying the data include patients who died from causes unrelated to the condition for which they were awaiting surgery.

"The statistical data referenced today by the opposition regarding patient deaths while awaiting surgery is not entirely accurate as it includes patients who have passed away from causes unrelated to the condition for which they were awaiting surgery," the statement said.

The government defended its use of private, for-profit surgical centres in Regina and Saskatoon, which operate under contract with the Saskatchewan Health Authority. It said the facilities provide "much needed additional capacity" while the province continues to expand surgical services in public hospitals and recruit staff through its Health Human Resources Action

Plan.

The statement also criticized the NDP for opposing privately delivered, publicly funded surgeries, arguing that shutting them down would worsen wait times.

"The NDP have again committed to shutting down publicly funded privately delivered surgeries, which would cause surgical waitlists to skyrocket," the government said.

Conway rejected that argument, saying Saskatchewan continues to rank near the bottom nationally despite years of private surgical delivery. She argued privatiza-

tion risks drawing staff away from the public system and questioned whether the government has adequately assessed its impact on workforce shortages.

"It shouldn't be about being a squeaky wheel," Conway replied in a question from Grasslands News. "Unfortunately, we see a lot of that, and I think it's scary. We need healthcare to be there where and when people need it - not because they have connections or not because they're making a stink and making the government look bad. That's not a way to provide health care."

## Local hunters urged to complete harvest survey by Jan. 20

By GNG Staff  
Grasslands News

Hunters across southeast Saskatchewan are being reminded to complete their Big Game and Game Bird Hunter Harvest Survey before the Jan. 20 deadline, a step provincial officials say is critical to maintaining healthy wildlife populations and fair hunting seasons in the year ahead.

The reminder comes from the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment, which uses information from the annual surveys to track harvest levels, hunter participation and long-term trends across the province.

"We are committed to providing the best and most sustainable hunting opportunities for everyone in Saskatchewan," said Darlene Rowden, Minister of Environment. "Information collected through the hunter harvest survey is essential as it helps us set fair and appropriate season quotas for the year ahead. Every response matters."

The survey applies to all hunters, including those in communities such as Whitewood, Grenfell, Kipling, Fort Qu'Appelle, Indian Head, Yorkton and surrounding rural areas. Hunters are required to complete a survey for every licence purchased, even if they did not hunt or were unsuccessful during the season.

Surveys can be completed online through a HAL account, using the SK Hunt & Fish App, or by calling 1-888-773-8450. While the deadline for big game and game bird surveys is Jan. 20, hunters have until April 30 to complete the Fur Bearer Survey.

The Ministry of Environment has conducted hunter harvest surveys for more than 50 years. The data collected helps biologists and wildlife managers monitor population health, assess hunting pressure and ensure Saskatchewan's hunting traditions remain sustainable for future generations.

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## JUNIOR CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARD

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.

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# NDP calls to end tariff tiff

Premier Scott Moe heads to China with PM

By Ryan Kiedrowski  
Grasslands News

Premier Scott Moe is joining Prime Minister Mark Carney in China as the federal government seeks to strengthen diplomatic and economic ties, a move the Saskatchewan NDP says must deliver concrete results for producers hurt by ongoing trade disputes.

In a statement released Monday, Moe said he welcomed the opportunity to travel with the prime minister for meetings with Chinese officials focused on trade, investment and long-term engagement.

"Canada and Saskatchewan need a strong relationship with China, and these meetings support the process of recalibrating how we work together," Moe said. "I am pleased to join Prime Minister Carney as we advance interests that are important to Canadians."

The visit comes amid mounting criticism from the opposition over the impact of tariffs linked to Canada's trade relationship with China. The Saskatchewan NDP is calling for an end to Canadian tariffs on Chinese electric vehicles, arguing such a

move would prompt China to lift retaliatory tariffs on provincial exports including canola, peas and pork.

New Statistics Canada data released last week shows Saskatchewan exports to China fell 37.5 per cent in October compared with the same period last year. Over the same timeframe, Canadian exports to China increased overall, while Alberta recorded a 33 per cent rise.

"It's clear that Saskatchewan workers, producers and our economy are the collateral damage here," said NDP Energy and Resource Development critic Sally Housser.

She believes the data highlights how Saskatchewan has been disproportionately affected by what she described as a trade and tariff war. She also pointed to a more than 11 per cent year-to-date decline in Saskatchewan exports to the United States compared with 2024.

"Saskatchewan producers are world class and they should be raking in profits for all that they do," Housser said. "Instead, they're getting hammered by geopolitical squabbles outside of their control."

The NDP has urged

Moe to press the prime minister for a commitment to remove the electric vehicle tariffs while in China, calling that outcome the only acceptable result for producers.

"We know full well that ending the tariff on EVs will put a stop to the tariffs on canola, peas and pork," Housser told reporters on Tuesday. "We can't keep taking no for an answer. The damage is too severe."

Housser said while the United States is likely to remain Canada's largest trading partner, Saskatchewan cannot rely on a single market. She argued the current trade disputes underscore the need to diversify export destinations and invest in trade-enabling infrastructure such as rail capacity and port access.

"Saskatchewan is so disproportionately affected and our economy is so disproportionately affected by these tariffs on electric vehicles that it's something where Scott Moe can't take no for an answer from the Prime Minister on this one."

Meetings between Canadian and Chinese officials are expected to take place later this week.



RYAN KIEDROWSKI | GRASSLANDS NEWS

## Lift the tariff

NDP Energy and Resource Development critic Sally Housser spoke with reporters on Jan. 13, calling for action to remove tariffs on Chinese EVs as Premier Moe and Prime Minister Carney head to China.

# Cattlemen pleased with CFIA decision to pause new regs

By Calvin Daniels  
Grasslands News

Livestock producers sighed a breath of relief as the Canadian Food Inspection Agency announced it would hold off on posting new traceability regulations at least for now.

Levi Hull who farms near Yorkton and is a director of the Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association said the announcement is a welcome.

"We're in a pause right now," he said, adding he hopes CFIA is now ready to consult to create a more producer-palatable set of traceability regulations.

Hull said the pause is a chance for the industry to exhale, and refocus on negotiating for something better, adding producers were concerned.

"I fielded probably 40 calls, if not more," he said, adding one day riding herd he was still on his headset all day, to the point by nighttime his battery charge "was eight per cent."

Just ahead is the Saskatchewan Beef Industry Conference and Hull said he fully expects "a lot of questions there" as "producers show up wanting to know more."

Bill Prybylski farms near Willowbrook and is president of APAS. He said while there were consultations the changes now on hold still seemed to catch producers unaware.

"Most producers weren't aware. It seemed to have almost come out of nowhere," he said.

The uncertainty left farmers unsure of what was coming.

"Obviously there is concern out there," said Prybylski.

CFIA had expected to publish the regulations, developed along with industry

organizations, in the spring. The new regulations would have included required premises identification number and requiring movement reporting when cattle move.

As it was detailed, the regulations now on pause, did not work for producers, said Hull.

"What they (CFIA) wanted was quite onerous," he said.

Under the proposed changes every movement of cattle – for example – even within the farm operation would need to be tracked and reported, explained Hull. He said if he moved cows from a winter feeding area to a calving yard the cows' tag would need to have been read and recorded. Then if the same cows were moved from the calving yard to spring pastures, the tags would need to be read and recorded yet

again.

"The problem with that is we just don't have time," said Hull, adding finding workers is a challenge in the farm sector already so adding to workloads would hurt.

In fact, Hull said with the average age of cow-calf producers around 66, he fears such stringent requirements would simply see many producers liquidate their herds.

"We'd see an even greater consolidation of the cow herd if it moved forward," he said.

Hull said producers understand a need for a traceability program, but the work involved must balance with the realities of a working farm operation.

"On one hand you want a system that traces out anything fairly quickly," he said, but added that system also can't "impede" producers so much it impacts day-to-day operations. "... Producers just don't need an added workload."

"We'd see an even greater consolidation of the cow herd if it moved forward – producers just don't need an added workload."

- Farmer Levi Hull

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# OPINION

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

## CT scan dream stalled – so let's talk bigger

For the past five years, we've heard from a few politicians that a CT scanner coming to the region (Moosomin in particular) is a "top priority". We've heard "work is being done in the background," and "the need is there," and how before any action happens, we need to "figure out what's involved, what's the cost." That top priority behind-the-scenes work must have been some real in-depth research since 2018!

Realistically, a CT scanner coming to the southeast will not happen for a long time. The fact is we are not a priority at all when it comes to such a unit. In comparison, back in 2020 the provincial government announced a \$2.25 million commitment for a new CT scanner in Melfort, which officially became operational in early 2021. How long did that dream take to be realized? Well, if memory serves, initial discussions on bringing a CT scanner to the City of Northern Lights started back in the 1990s. If their case is any indication of speed, we have a couple decades or so to wait 'patiently'.

I say – in my best Joe Pesci impersonation – "fuhged-daboudit."

Instead of campaigning for a CT scanner coming to this area, what we ought to prioritize is a Positron emission tomography (PET) scan unit instead, which uses a radioactive tracer to check for signs of cancer, heart disease and brain disorders. Yes, they're more expensive, but since we've been fundraising and waiting around for years anyway, why not aim toward a higher target?

The timing couldn't be better. In Saskatchewan, we only have one PET scan unit, which lives in Saskatoon at Royal University Hospital. Recently, the machine had issues that forced the cancellation of much-awaited appointments for a few weeks being. There are plans to house a second PET scan unit at Regina's Pasqua Hospital, which everyone can agree is a huge advancement. But what about the southeast?

With the major infrastructure advancements over at the Moosomin airport, air ambulance services have become more streamlined – saving valuable time in getting patients to the advanced care they need. This is obviously a huge bonus for the entire region, some of the benefits we have yet to even conceive of.

Case in point, Moosomin and area could become a destination for medical tourism. Given the huge area that depends on an air ambulance service out of the central point of Moosomin, we're not only looking at southeast Saskatchewan, but southwest Manitoba, and perhaps even North Dakota. Add in a PET scan unit to this place already known for its speedy air ambulance service, and we could be attracting folks from all over to access crucial diagnostic services. If the project can't be done through the province, let's build a private facility. And if a private facility can't be built in Moosomin, why not in a community nearby – Grenfell, Whitewood, Esterhazy, anywhere – the point is to build one in the southeast.

It's no secret that healthcare in this province is in crisis. The uncertainty of rural emergency rooms being open on any given day and the huge holes in reporting that status, the minimal number of specialists, lack of specialized equipment to retain patients in-province, and even the fear of reprimand for healthcare professionals to speak up about their concerns – there is certainly huge room for improvement in Saskatchewan. The message to people facing serious health concerns is to advocate for yourself, don't rely on waiting for the system queue, and keep badgering anyone who will listen. This seems to be the only tactic that works, and yet in most cases, the results are ultimately seeking care outside of Saskatchewan.

I know rallying for a PET scan unit might be an idea that flies like a lead balloon, but so has the CT scanner when you cut through all the empty promises. Heck,



even if some politician out there steals my crazy scheme and starts promising the world with it, that would show some progress. At least it would prove someone is listening.

We deserve a healthcare system in this province

where patients and workers are listened to, respected, and not fed a line of empty promises.

Unfortunately, I'm not holding my breath on that ideal either.

- Ryan Kiedrowski, Grasslands News

## Should Canada hold politicians to the truth — by law?

In recent weeks, news from overseas has sparked debate here in Canada after Wales announced they are considering legislation that would allow elected officials to be disqualified from office if they are found, through an independent judicial process, to have deliberately misled the public.

That alone should give Canadians pause — and prompt an important question: should Canada be considering similar legislation?

Public trust in politics is fragile, and in many cases badly eroded. Poll after poll shows Canadians are increasingly cynical about political promises, campaign claims, and statements made in legislatures. Too often, misleading statements are brushed off as "spin," "misspeaking," or the inevitable rough edges of political debate. The penalty for dishonesty is supposed to be electoral defeat — but elections come years apart, and misleading claims can shape policy, public opinion, and even election outcomes long before voters get their say.

The Welsh proposal attempts to address that gap. It does not target opinions, ideology, or political disagreement. Instead, it focuses narrowly on deliberate deception — knowingly false statements of fact. Under the model being discussed, an independent judicial body, not political rivals, would determine whether

a politician intentionally misled the public. The first step would be a mandatory correction. Only if a politician refused to correct the record could they face disqualification.

This distinction matters. Critics of such laws argue they would chill free speech or weaponize courts against political opponents. Those concerns are legitimate and should never be dismissed lightly. Canada's democracy depends on open debate, robust disagreement, and the freedom to argue — even forcefully — for competing visions of the country.

But there is also a difference between disagreement and deception.

Canada already recognizes this principle in other areas of public life. Corporate executives can face legal consequences for knowingly misleading investors. Professionals can lose their licences for dishonesty. Even voters can face penalties for providing false information on election forms. Yet elected officials — the very people entrusted with the greatest public responsibility — face few consequences beyond reputational damage when they knowingly mislead.

Some will argue that Parliament already has ethics commissioners, codes of conduct, and internal disciplinary tools. In theory, that is true. In practice, these mechanisms are often slow, limited in scope, and constrained by partisan realities. Ethics

findings may come years after the damage is done, and sanctions are often mild or symbolic.

Wales is not proposing a perfect solution, but it is proposing a serious one. At its core is a simple idea: truthfulness in public office should not be optional.

Canada does not need to rush into copying another jurisdiction's approach wholesale. But we should not dismiss the conversation either. A made-in-Canada discussion could explore safeguards for free expression, high legal thresholds for proving intent, and strict independence from political interference. It could ask whether such rules should apply only during elections, or also in legislatures and official government communications.

At a time when misinformation spreads faster than facts and cynicism threatens democratic participation, restoring trust should be a national priority. Laws alone will not fix political culture — but they can help set clear expectations.

The question Canadians must ask is not whether politicians should ever be punished for lying. It is whether we are comfortable with a system where deliberate deception carries no real consequence at all.

Wales is asking that question openly. Perhaps Canada should too.

- GNG News

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Ann Christ Sabu

**Melville Office**  
218-3rd Ave West  
Ph: 306-728-5448

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NEWS

## Saskatchewan adds 15,000 jobs; Opposition flags regional losses

By GNG Staff  
Grasslands News

Saskatchewan added more than 15,000 jobs in 2025 and posted the lowest unemployment rate in the country, according to newly released Statistics Canada data, but the provincial opposition says headline gains mask job losses in parts of the province.

The annual labour force figures show Saskatchewan's economy created 15,200 jobs last year. The province recorded an unemployment rate of 5.2 per cent, the lowest among provinces and well below the national average of 6.8 per cent. Saskatchewan was also the only province to see its unemployment rate decline compared with 2024.

Immigration and Career Training Minister Eric Schmalz said the numbers point to a resilient labour market supported by strong industries and employers.

"In 2025, Saskatchewan continued to experience strong job growth and low unemployment rates. This is the direct result of the strength of industry and employers, and the increasing opportunities available in Saskatchewan," Schmalz said in a statement. He added the government is focused on maintaining momentum into 2026 so the province "remains the best province in Canada to live, work and raise a family."

Statistics Canada data show Saskatchewan reached several historical highs last year, including 510,600 people in full-time employment, 617,400 people employed overall and a labour force of 651,200. The province also led the country with an employment rate of 63.9 per cent and ranked second for labour force participation at 67.4 per cent.

The province's two largest cities both posted employment gains. Saskatoon's employment increased by 4,000 people, or two per cent, compared with 2024, while Regina added 6,500 jobs, an increase of 4.5 per cent.

By sector, health care and social assistance recorded the largest increase, adding about 9,000 jobs year over year. Construction employment rose by 5,000, while agriculture added roughly 1,600 positions.

The government also pointed to broader economic indicators, noting Saskatchewan ranked first among prov-

inces for growth in urban housing starts between January and November, and second for the value of building permits and new motor vehicle sales from January to October.

Officials say those trends are supported by provincial strategies aimed at addressing labour shortages and attracting investment, including the Saskatchewan Labour Market Strategy and an investment attraction plan targeting \$16 billion in private capital investment annually.

However, the Saskatchewan NDP argues that the overall numbers obscure recent job losses and uneven regional performance, citing monthly StatsCan data showing that 4,000 jobs were lost provincewide in December, pushing the unemployment rate up to 6.5 per cent. Youth unemployment climbed to 15 per cent in the same month.

The NDP said the Moose Jaw-Swift Current region was particularly hard hit, with employment down by 2,500 over the past year, a decline of about 4.7 per cent.

"Thousands of people lost their jobs in December, but Scott Moe still says the economy is strong and resilient," said Aleana Young, the NDP's shadow minister for economy and jobs. "Here in the Moose Jaw region, 2,500 more people are out of work and there's been no acknowledgment from the Sask. Party, no empathy, no promises of change."

Young said the total number of unemployed people in Saskatchewan is approaching levels seen during the COVID-19 pandemic and argued that many areas of the province are seeing little or no job growth.

"It's clear that Saskatchewan's economy is doing poorly and large areas of the province are experiencing little or no job growth," she said, calling for what she described as a new economic strategy focused on job creation and affordability.

Government officials have previously cautioned that monthly labour force data can fluctuate and should be viewed alongside longer-term trends.

Economists often note that while annual data provide a broader picture of economic performance, regional and monthly figures can highlight short-term challenges and disparities between urban and rural areas.



CALVIN DANIELS | GRASSLANDS NEWS

### Demand down

Rolled oats rest in the palm of a hand, a staple product now facing softer consumer demand despite strong Saskatchewan supplies, according to Grain Millers' president Terry Tyson.

## Oat consumption softens

By Calvin Daniels  
Grasslands News

The oat market seems to be somewhat in the doldrums, and Terry Tyson, president at Grain Millers in Yorkton isn't exactly sure why.

"Business is slower," he said, adding "... I don't think it's time to panic."

At the same time Tyson said consumer demand across a range of oat products has seemed to soften from oat-based beverages to cereal bars and even rolled oats which tends to see an upswing in demand with winter and consumers turning to a hot cereal breakfast.

While Tyson said they are seeing "a softening" in demand, it's not so severe that companies involved in the oat processing trade "are considering closing down, or downsizing."

What makes it a bit confusing is that in the past when consumers have needed to tighten their spending - which Tyson said may be the issue right now - rolled

oat demand typically rose, so the current situation is harder to understand.

One thing that factors into the broader equation is a solid supply of oats in Saskatchewan thanks to good yields in 2025.

"It's very comfortable," Tyson said of supply, adding it might have been an oversupply based on 2025 production "but there was a very small carry in" from 2024.

What the solid supplies and demand decrease will mean to farmers in 2026 is not the best news, offered Tyson.

"It's not good news for farmers, or our industry either," he said adding the oat market is one of supply and demand and both sides of that are being pressured at present.

How that will translate to oat planting in the spring is a bit of a wild card, with the crop always being "one of the cereal options in rotations with canola," said Tyson, who added at present nothing is "standing up and saying plant me." As a result, planted acres may just take on normal levels this spring.

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# Sask. tech companies gain funding boost

By Ryan Kiedrowski  
Grasslands News

Innovation Saskatchewan is investing nearly \$2.2 million in nine industry-led research and development projects aimed at accelerating the commercialization of new technologies across key sectors of the provincial economy.

The funding, announced Thursday at the Innovation Saskatchewan Research and Technology Park in Regina, is being delivered through the Saskatchewan Advantage Innovation Fund and the Agtech Growth Fund. The programs are designed to help early-stage technology companies reduce risk, attract further investment and bring new products to market.

Minister Responsible for Innovation Saskatchewan Warren Kaeding said the investments reflect the growing strength and diversity of Saskatchewan's technology sector.

"Saskatchewan innovators are solving big challenges with bold ideas and transforming key industries," Kaeding said in a release. "SAIF and AGF provide the early support needed to ensure made-in-Saskatchewan technologies reach new markets, driving growth and prosperity for years to come."

The nine funded projects span agriculture, mining, energy, manufacturing and health care, with individual awards ranging from \$90,000 to \$450,000. Among the recipients are companies developing AI-enabled mine inspection systems, industrial superchargers for electric mining equipment, chemical-free weed control technology and tools to streamline pharmacy operations.

The announcement also highlighted Greenwave Innovations, a Regina-based technology company that has previously received SAIF funding in 2021 and 2024. Greenwave develops data-driven software that helps building owners reduce energy use, operating costs and emissions.

Greenwave president and CEO Dean Clark said provincial support has played a critical role in the company's growth.

"The support from Innovation Sask - in particular, the SAIF program - it's super valuable to what we're trying to do," Clark told Grasslands News. "We've been fortunate to self-fund all our development to date without a lot of private equity. But when we get the government support on programs like this, it helps us to accelerate our ambition of what we want to do."

Clark said Innovation Saskatchewan's familiarity with the company's long-term vision made a difference, particularly for a business working on technology that does not fit neatly into traditional financing models.

"We've had some really innovative, unique ideas that we've been developing now," he explained. "It's a belief of Innovation Sask - they know what we're about, where we're going, and our vision - and they've supported it. They really have bought into the data-driven applications we've been developing to help building owners reduce operating costs, reduce their emissions, and make buildings safer. It's very exciting to have them have bought into us and be supporting us financially on the journey."

Greenwave's Greensense platform is already being used by Saskatchewan clients, including Harvard Developments, and the company is now beginning to expand beyond the province. Clark said Greenwave has

started growing into Alberta and plans to roll out its technology nationally, while keeping its headquarters and core operations in Saskatchewan.

"Our ownership group and our operations will remain here, but we want to take what we've developed and the successes we've created here and expand across the nation and North America's next," he said.

Clark also credited the province's collaborative business culture and hands-on approach from government officials as key advantages for growing technology companies.

"It's Saskatchewan's hard work mentality, and there's always finding a better way of doing things," he said. "I think we have that from our agricultural roots here. The collaboration to help each other is pretty unique here - big companies, small companies connecting and willing to help each other's businesses move forward."

Since 2018, SAIF has committed more than \$17.3 million to 66 projects, generating over \$55 million in private investment and a reported return on investment of 271 per cent. Since its launch in 2020, AGF has invested more than \$5.3 million in 28 projects, leveraging significant private and federal funding.

Clark said those results point to a growing technology ecosystem in the province.

"The things that are being done here and are being developed don't exist elsewhere," he said. "It's being well received, the tech that comes out of here when we talk to entities across the country."

## 2025 SAIF and AGF Funding Recipients:

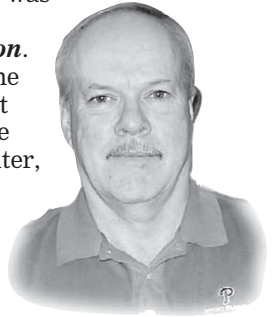
- Kinemek: AI-enabled mine inspection system integrating radar, light detection and photo sensors to improve safety (\$450,000, SAIF).
- NRGene Canada: AI-driven genomics to develop higher-yield Black Soldier Fly strains for sustainable livestock and aquaculture feed (\$450,000, AGF).
- Teal: Industrial superchargers for electric mining equipment to reduce emissions and ventilation demands (\$450,000, SAIF).
- Amb.AI: Multi-sensory monitoring platform for underground mines to reduce disruptions and improve safety (\$200,000, SAIF).
- RUNNR: Enhanced delivery management platform with automated compliance, vendor marketplace and emissions tracking to support greener supply chains (\$150,000, SAIF).
- X-Steam-inator Agricultural Products: Modular, steam-based weed control system offering a chemical-free alternative to chemical herbicides (\$150,000, AGF).
- AgScouter: Affordable agronomic data platform to support field management, crop rotation and fertilizer optimization (\$132,000, AGF).
- B-Nature: Industrial composter that rapidly converts agricultural waste into high-quality compost, reducing environmental impacts and costs (\$125,000, AGF).
- NutraMate: AI-powered pharmacy tool to streamline prescription fulfillment and inventory management (\$90,000, SAIF).

Gene Hauta

## It's a Strange World

A man in Georgia really was just trying to help when he **spotted an injured raccoon.**

Instead of calling anyone, he picked up the animal, put it in his coat, and drove to the Chattahoochee Nature Center, over an hour away. It was no great surprise that the raccoon bit the man, so he wrapped it in a blanket, with duct tape. He arrived an hour before the center's clinic opened, but the camp director was able to radio someone to meet him with a kennel. At the clinic, almost immediately, the raccoon was euthanized. ... and subsequent testing determined that it was rabid. It is assumed that the man needed the painful treatment for rabies. Mike Straw cautioned, "It's best to use your brain even when acting from the heart."



A **raccoon with a taste for booze** has turned an animal shelter into one of the hottest names in fundraising, thanks to a line of 'Trashed Panda' merch. The Hanover County (Va.) Animal Protection & Shelter has raked in more than \$156,000 from the sale of 'Trashed Panda' merchandise, all thanks to a raccoon that broke into a Virginia liquor store, sampled the wares, and was discovered passed out in the bathroom over Thanksgiving weekend. The shelter's merch, which features a dazed raccoon, a bottle of booze, and the words 'Trashed Panda', has raised a sizeable sum which will be used for training, equipment, and care for local animals.

A Utah father faces felony charges of child torture and aggravated child abuse after authorities say **he forced his three children, ages 2, 4, and 8, to endure a dangerous trek** that ended when they needed to be rescued. Micah Smith, 31, was indicted a month and a half after he and his kids were found in the rugged Big Cottonwood Canyon near Salt Lake City, a day after they'd been reported overdue. Smith was initially hailed as a hero for saving his children; that was until it became clear that he had forced the children to "march on" through treacherous terrain, including loose rocks and unstable boulders; swiftly deteriorating weather; and a route definitely not suited for children. He eventually headed down the mountain leaving the three youngsters to fend for themselves. Authorities say Smith's behaviour was "clearly spiraling" before the hike, and cited prior suicidal ideations. The three kids barely survived.

"Every Canadian man **screaming about how (messed up) Canada is** has a house, a cottage, a car, a truck an SUV, quad, motorcycle, boat, hoverboard, flying saucer and a sense of entitlement with no limit or understanding of irony." While it is not universally applicable, that is true for a lot of the complainants, who don't appreciate what we have. Could it be better no matter what the government? Of course, but it's a pretty great country comparatively speaking!

Randy Cassingham labelled this item as '**Zero Tolerance for Nature.**' Roy Marsh, 86, was walking in Skegness, Linc., England, and stopped to rest. As he sat, a gust of wind blew something into his mouth. "I've got COPD and a heart problem," he said, "and I was choking on a leaf and I was panicking, and I coughed the leaf up and spat it out." He stood up to go on his way when two "environmental crime" enforcement officers stopped him and issued a £250 (US\$335) fine for "littering." Although Marsh appealed the ridiculous fine, it was not thrown out, but it was reduced to 150 pounds. "It was all unnecessary and all out of proportion," Marsh said. Spitting is "a form of littering," argued Martin Foster of the East Lindsey District Council. Officers "will only approach individuals who have been seen committing environmental crime offences." RC countered, "Mr. Marsh would fart in Foster's general direction, but that would result in another fine." John Cleese (the French Taunter) of Monty Python fame would be pleased!

I can't imagine why these stories about old guys still working attract my attention. Raymond Hager has been **driving city buses** in Wichita Falls, Texas, **for 30 years** and counting. But the most remarkable part about his streak is that he didn't start until age 65. Yeah, that means **Hager is 95 years old.** Guinness World Records has anointed him the world's oldest bus driver. Nov. 18 was declared Raymond Hager Day in his hometown. Hager said he once planned to retire at 95, but he's decided to keep going as long he's able. "I'm the oldest bus driver in the world," he said. "Little country boy to achieve something like that."

I sure hope NESD hires some spare drivers soon! I really am not up to challenging Ray's record!

Until next time...

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## CFIA hits pause

## Livestock industry still braces for traceability rules

By **Connie Schwalm**  
Grasslands News

The expanded traceability regulations recently proposed by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency is something that Jeff Yorga (President of the Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association) says that the agency has been trying to herd livestock producers towards for years.

"Twenty years ago, the CFIA told us what they were going to do," says Yorga. "They said that they wanted Electronic Identification tags in all cattle so that they could track every step that each animal takes. At the time, producers said that this was ridiculous. We couldn't do it, because we didn't have the infrastructure to process that kind of paperwork and it was completely unnecessary. But the response we got was 'you have to put the tags in, and we'll work on setting up the reporting part of it'."

"Well, the bureaucracy

that was in place 20 years ago is still there," Yorga adds, "and they still want to do exactly the same thing."

Yorga explains that traceability rests on EID tags that producers are already using.

"Producers are expected to put EID tags into all their animals and tag every calf soon after it is born, so it's expected that every animal will carry that EID tag throughout its lifetime."

Under the expanded traceability regulations, producers (no matter whether they own five, 50 or 500 head of cattle) would now be responsible for reporting the movement of every animal on or off their farm, within seven days of that movement taking place.

The type of data that producers would be required to report includes the Property Identification number assigned to their farm, the PID number assigned to the location that the animal(s) arrive from or depart to, the date which the movement took place, the EID tag number of each animal moved and the license plate number of the vehicle that transported the animals. And the cost for the technology and time needed to collect and report this data rests with the producer.

This reporting would be required every time animals are moved to other locations including,

whenever animals are sold, arrive on the farm after being purchased, taken to (and return from) various locations such as a veterinarian, community pasture or an agricultural show, or are sent to an abattoir.

These expanded traceability regulations were scheduled to be published in early 2026 and implemented gradually, with the goal of having them in place by 2027.

However, in a recent statement, the CFIA says that because of "public discussion" about these regulations, the agency will "pause any publication of the regulations until the proposed changes are more widely understood and concerns are heard and taken into consideration".

Yorga is not optimistic that this is anything more than a temporary reprieve.

"The CFIA says in their statement that they're going to pause it. They aren't scraping it and they're not revamping it," he observes. "This will slow the timeline down, but it won't change the result. The last paragraph in their statement starts with the words 'when the amendments are published' not 'if' they are published. The CFIA is still marching forward with what they want, they're just pausing it for now."

Nor is he convinced that producers' concerns

will be taken seriously.

"If you tell me what you want to do - and I give you reasons why you shouldn't do it - but you go ahead and do it anyway - is that a meaningful consultation? The CFIA can listen to producers explain their concerns, hour after hour. But if the intention is to continue what they want to do anyway, no matter what they hear, then they are just ticking a box".

According to the CFIA, these expanded regulations are necessary to "strengthen Canada's livestock traceability system" and the agency maintains that this "supports effective response to disease events, minimizes economic disruption and helps Canadian producers and processors remain competitive at home and abroad, while supporting long-term economic stability for businesses."

Yorga says that this is something producers have heard before.

"This is sold to producers as a way to improve trade deals. Yet I've never heard of a trade deal that hinged on our ability to increase traceability. At the same time, this is sold as a way to prevent disease outbreaks. But a tag isn't going to do anything to change our trade status if there is a disease outbreak, the border will be closed and beef will not move. Producers were sold the benefits of traceability years ago. It hasn't

come to fruition. Increasing the level of traceability isn't going to add any value to what we're doing now."

Yet he points out that producers are being burdened with the responsibility and expense of expanded regulations that they see no benefit from.

"All they've done is shift the burden and cost for this onto the producers, who don't have the time, money or ability to track EID tags and report the information to the CFIA by the deadline. Producers who spend days moving their cattle to get them to the right place will now have to spend hours on a computer telling the government that they did it. We're also paying all the cost to do this and seeing none of the 'up' side to doing it. This doesn't change anything about what the CFIA or the government does in their day-to-day work. It just adds another layer of bureaucracy to our business."

Moreover, Yorga points out that the consequences of not complying with these regulations are not known.

"If somebody sitting

in an office somewhere is able to pull my record at any time and ask me where all my cattle are - and for whatever reason I can't produce the result they want - what happens then? Enforcement is a huge grey area, and that leaves producers in a very vulnerable situation."

Ultimately, Yorga says that pushing ahead with these expanded traceability regulations could significantly impact the future of the livestock industry.

"I foresee this causing further consolation and exiting from the industry. Producers aren't going to stick around for this, especially older ones. As soon as there is a fine or some other enforcement action taken, people are just going to exit. And a young person who might have wanted to get into the industry won't do it, because they can't afford to take that risk."

"The big picture is that this is unnecessary regulatory red tape. and we have to ask, why are we doing this? Because the promised benefit from where we stand, is far less than the cost, the burden, and the potential risk."

## LANDFILL

### FORT QU'APPELLE

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Closed Statutory Holidays

### SUMMER HOURS

• April 1 to Nov. 30 •  
Monday to Saturday  
8:00 to 4:30  
Sunday Closed  
Closed Statutory Holidays

ACCEPTING: Used oil, filters and containers;  
Used Antifreeze; Batteries; Select household  
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Asphalt.  
Info: [northvalleywaste.ca](http://northvalleywaste.ca)

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## PROFESSIONALS DIRECTORY

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1850 McAra Street  
Regina, Saskatchewan  
S4N 6C4

Tel: 306-352-2522

Fax: 306-352-2886

Email: [baran@lbaran.com](mailto:baran@lbaran.com)

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## BOCK & COMPANY LAW OFFICE

LYNNETTE BOCK, B.A., J.D.  
ALANNA DECORBY, B.A., J.D.

500 Maple Street, P.O. Box 220  
Esterhazy, SK S0A 0X0

PH: 306-745-3952 FAX: 306-745-6119

E-mail: [bocklaw@sasktel.net](mailto:bocklaw@sasktel.net)

Branch Office:

Rocanville, Fridays

Phone: (306) 645-4552

## HALFORD LAW OFFICE PROF. CORP.

Barrister and Solicitor

Nicholas Smiatek, B.Sc., J.D.

181-B Broadway Street East  
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Fort Qu'Appelle, SK S0G 1S0

Phone 306-332-5661

Fax 306-332-4293

## Fisher Law Office

128 - 4th Ave. East, Melville, SK

\* Garnet Fisher B.A., (Hons.) LL.B  
Collaborative Lawyer

306-728-4581

Melville and Esterhazy  
[fisherlaw@sasktel.net](mailto:fisherlaw@sasktel.net)

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Consultant  
Investors Group Financial Services Inc.

Tel: (306) 502-6821

[Brodie.Flis@ig.ca](mailto:Brodie.Flis@ig.ca)

PATTY WELCH RRC, EPC CFP

Senior Financial Consultant  
Investors Group Financial Services Inc.

Tel: (306) 728-4998

[Patty.Welch@ig.ca](mailto:Patty.Welch@ig.ca)

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# Sask Snowmobile Safety Week Jan. 11-17

## Ride Smart, Ride Safe

By GNG Staff  
Grasslands News

The Government of Saskatchewan, in partnership with the Saskatchewan Snowmobile Association, proudly proclaimed Jan. 11–17 as Saskatchewan Snowmobile Safety Week. This annual observance encourages riders across the province to focus on responsible snowmobiling practices, celebrate the joy of winter riding, and highlight safety and education resources available to everyone.

## Check trails to see if ice has become unsafe

By GNG Staff  
Grasslands News

The warmer than usual temperatures of this week are welcomed by many, but is also causing concern amongst others. As the mercury rises, snow and ice start to melt, making ice fishing or snowmobiling unsafe in parts of the province.

Leah Switzer is the executive director of the Saskatchewan Snowmobile Association. She said a lot of the group's clubs throughout the province are seeing poor ice conditions, especially in the north or areas that got a high amount of snow after the cold snap in December.

"That snow really insulated the ice, and it's preventing it from creating a good thickness," she said.

"They're seeing a lot of slush conditions, which is scary and dangerous."

The SSA encourages snowmobilers to use their interactive map that shows all the trails throughout the province and their status.

When areas experience poor conditions, the trails close.

When it comes to snowmobiling, Switzer said six to eight inches is ideal for a snowmobile.

"But goes a lot heavier when our grooming equipment needs to go on it," she explained.

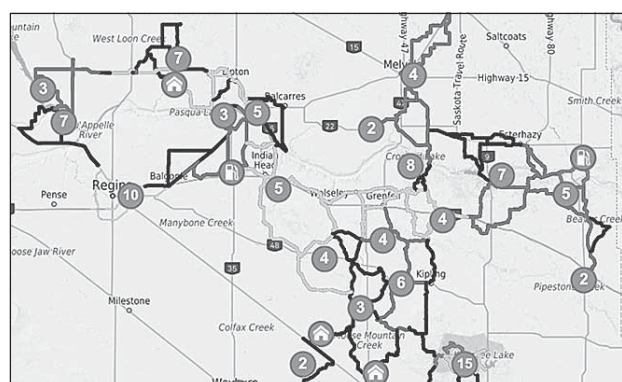
"So, we're needing, like, a minimum of 20 inches of ice to put those big groomers on it and groom that trail for you."

The interactive map mentioned allows you to view the entire province's trail system at a glance. See live grooming updates, trail closures, and points of interest along the trail. For detailed trail and snow conditions, contact the local snowmobile club directly by finding them in the SSA club listing. The app is available for download on both Apple and Android. Download it for free.

Saskatchewan boasts over 11,000 km of groomed snowmobile trails, maintained by volunteers and organized through the Saskatchewan Snowmobile Association (SSA).

### Where to Ride?

- On Designated Snowmobile Trails.
- As of January 1, 2022, permission must be obtained from the landowner or occupier to ride on any privately-owned land or leased crown land other than designated SSA trails
- Riding on any vacant Crown land is generally permitted unless prohibited by signs or in the regulations.
- Riding in ditches along a provincial highway is generally permitted unless prohibited by signs or in the regulations.
- Riding in ditches or other public areas within an urban or rural municipality, subject to municipal bylaw.
- When riding in parks, check with the Park Authority.
- Regarding riding in ditches, this is generally allowed unless prohibited by signs, regulations, or municipal bylaw.



### Trails closed

The interactive map for snowmobiling and ice fishing this week showed some trails closed in the Grasslands News areas. Map colors indicate: medium grey – grooming status 1 to 5 days, light grey - grooming status 5 to 10 days, mid grey – grooming status 10+ days, black – closed.

Snowmobiling remains one of Saskatchewan's most popular winter outdoor activities, with volunteers maintaining and grooming more than 11,000 km of trails for riders of all skill levels. While winter landscapes offer unforgettable experiences, safety must remain the top priority for riders, families and communities alike.

### Safety Tips for Snowmobilers

To help ensure a safe and enjoyable season, riders are encouraged to:

- **Know Your Conditions:** Check trail and ice conditions before heading out. Ice thickness and weather changes can greatly affect safety, and trails may close if conditions are poor.
- **Ride with Others:** Never ride alone. Always let someone know your planned route and expected return time.
- **Stay on Designated Trails:** Use groomed and marked snowmobile trails where possible. These are designed for safer travel and are regularly maintained.
- **Wear Proper Gear:** Always wear a certified snowmobile helmet and appropriate winter protective clothing.
- **Operate Responsibly:** Ride within your skill level and at safe speeds for the terrain. Never operate a snowmobile under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- **Prepare for Emergencies:** Carry basic tools, a first aid kit, fire-starting materials, and communication devices in case of unexpected delays or breakdowns.

### Legislation and Legal Requirements

Snowmobilers in Saskatchewan must comply with

provincial rules designed to protect riders and the public:

• **Safety Courses:** Anyone born on or after January 1, 1989, must complete a recognized snowmobile safety course before operating on public land, even if they hold a valid driver's licence.

• **Registration:** Snowmobiles must be registered with Saskatchewan Government Insurance (SGI), which also provides the required trail permit for legal operation on many public areas.

• **Operator Requirements:** Operators must hold a valid driver's licence and adhere to all laws around snowmobile operation, including approved helmet use. (See SGI and local enforcement for complete regulatory details.)

• **Respect Private and Public Property:** Permission must be obtained before riding on private land, and operators must obey all posted signage and landowner directives.

"Snowmobile Safety Week is a chance to remind riders that the fun of winter trails must go hand in hand with respect for the land, respect for the law, and respect for each other," said Leah Switzer, Executive Director of the Saskatchewan Snowmobile Association. "With proper preparation and awareness, we can all enjoy a safer, more memorable season."

For more information on snowmobile safety courses, trail maps and weekly safety content, visit the Saskatchewan Snowmobile Association at sasksnow.com.



## Town of Whitewood

Email: [general@townofwhitewood.ca](mailto:general@townofwhitewood.ca)  
Web Site: [www.townofwhitewood.ca](http://www.townofwhitewood.ca)

306-735-2210  
731 - Lalonde St.  
P.O. Box 129  
Whitewood, Sask.  
S0G 5C0

### TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Town of Whitewood Council meets at the town office. Upcoming Council Meeting Date: Jan. 13 and 27 at 7 p.m. Meetings are held via Zoom.

#### Council Meeting Update - Zoom Attendance Protocol

Due to disruptions during our last council meeting, we are implementing new procedures to ensure a respectful and productive environment for all participants.

- If you wish to attend a council meeting via Zoom:
- You must email [cao@townofwhitewood.ca](mailto:cao@townofwhitewood.ca) by noon on the day of the meeting to request the Zoom link.
- You must log in with your full name clearly visible prior to the meeting start time.
- Only named participants will be admitted from the waiting room.

We appreciate your cooperation -Town of Whitewood Council

### UPCOMING EVENTS

If you have an event you want advertised please email the town office with your dates.

- Every Second Friday – 5 to 9 p.m. – Legion Chase the Ace
- Mom & Tot Gathering Group – 1st Friday each month 10-11:30 a.m. – 915 Gambetta Street
- Paint Classes & Pottery – contact Luce Pottery Studio for more information – [www.lucepottery.com](http://www.lucepottery.com)

### Arena Happenings

- Public Skating & Stick n Puck has been added to the arena schedule, please check online or call 306-735-4415
- Arena is open to the public for indoor walking and skating – Monday to Thursday - 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Curling: Social Tuesday & Thursday afternoons at 1 p.m. Wednesday & Thursday evenings at 7 p.m.
- Saturday, Jan. 17 at 10:15 a.m. – U9 vs Ochapowace
- Wednesday, Jan. 21 at 5:30 p.m. – U9 vs Esterhazy
- Thursday, Jan. 22 at 7:15 p.m. – U13 vs Moosomin
- Saturday, Jan. 24 – U9 Tournament
- Thursday, January 29 at 5 p.m. – Battle of the blades

### COMMUNITY OUTDOOR RINK & FIRE PIT

#### Located by the Tennis Courts, near the Pool

This outdoor rink is a special extra project we've created for our community to enjoy together. Our staff will do their best to clear snow as time allows, but we'd love your help! When you visit, please consider bringing a shovel and lending a hand with snow removal if needed.

We'd love to leave shovels on-site, but they tend to "grow legs" and wander off. Your support helps keep the rink safe, welcoming, and fun for everyone.

There is also a fire pit with firewood available—perfect for warming up and enjoying the rink atmosphere.

If you notice anything that needs repair, please let us know and we'll do our best to fix it quickly.

Please remember to play, skate and stay warm at your own risk.

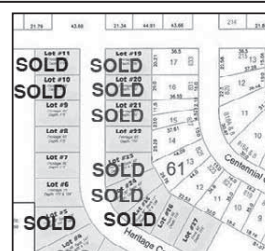
Thank you for helping us care for this community project and making it a place where everyone can have fun!

### RESIDENTIAL LOTS FOR SALE

The Town of Whitewood has completed development of Heritage Crescent located within town limits.

This 27 lot development includes power, water and sewer to all lots. Cost of a lot is \$2,500.

Contact the town office at 306-735-2210 to get full details.



### EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The Town of Whitewood is accepting applications for the positions:

**Full-time General Labourer  
Recreation Technician**

**Town of Whitewood**

For full details or submit a resume – contact Lisa at 306-735-2210 or [cao@townofwhitewood.ca](mailto:cao@townofwhitewood.ca) or listed on our website [www.townofwhitewood.ca](http://www.townofwhitewood.ca)

### NOTICE FOR CALL FOR NOMINATIONS 2026 MUNICIPAL BY-ELECTION

FORM H (Section 66 of the Act)

**PUBLIC NOTICE** is hereby given that nominations of candidates for the office(s) of:

**1. Councillor for the Town of Whitewood  
Number to be Elected-One (1)**

Will be received by the undersigned on the 11th day of February 2026 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Office of the Town of Whitewood, 731 Lalonde Street and during regular business hours from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. commencing Tuesday, January 6th, 2026, to Wednesday, February 11th, 2026.

Nomination forms may be obtained at the following location:

Office of the Town of Whitewood, 731 Lalonde Street

Dated this 6th day of January 6th, 2026.

Lisa Istage,  
Returning Officer

### GARBAGE / RECYCLING

Residents are reminded that Garbage or Recycling Carts must be out by 7 a.m. on collection days.

Upcoming **Recycling** Date: Wednesday, Jan. 21 and Feb. 4.

Upcoming **Garbage** Date: Wednesday, Jan. 28 and Feb. 11.

### TOWN OFFICE INFO

We welcome your comments, questions and feedback. The Town office is open Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 12 noon and 1 to 4 p.m.

Phone: 306-735-2210 - Fax: 306-735-2262

Email: [general@townofwhitewood.ca](mailto:general@townofwhitewood.ca)



# Gun confiscation pilot yields limited results, critics say

By GNG Staff  
Grasslands News

A federal pilot project aimed at confiscating banned firearms from licensed gun owners in Cape Breton, N.S., has collected far fewer firearms than projected, prompting renewed criticism from the Canadian Taxpayers Federation and raising fresh concerns among gun owners and rural communities across Saskatchewan.

The six-week pilot project, which began in September 2025, resulted in the confiscation of just 25 firearms, well below

the federal government's target of 200. According to the Canadian Taxpayers Federation, Ottawa committed at least \$149,760 to the Cape Breton Regional Municipality to carry out the initiative.

"The pilot project cost a lot of money but only picked up a fraction of the guns projected," said Gage Haubrich, Prairie director for the Canadian Taxpayers Federation. He said the outcome reinforces concerns long expressed in Saskatchewan, where many licensed firearm owners rely on guns for ranching, predator control and hunting rather

than criminal activity.

Haubrich noted that Saskatchewan has one of the highest rates of licensed firearms ownership in the country, particularly in rural and northern regions, and said the Cape Breton results highlight what Prairie critics have argued since the federal gun ban was announced.

"The same issues apply here," he said. "You're talking about spending hundreds of millions of dollars to confiscate legally owned firearms from people who follow the law, while illegal guns continue to flow across the

border."

The federal gun ban and buyback initiative has also faced criticism from police organizations, including concerns that it will not significantly reduce crime. Saskatchewan police leaders have repeatedly emphasized that gun violence in the province is largely driven by illegal firearms tied to gang activity and drug trafficking, not licensed owners.

The union representing Royal Canadian Mounted Police members has warned that the program diverts personnel, resources and funding away from addressing the criminal use of illegal firearms—an issue of particular concern in Saskatchewan communities already facing RCMP staffing shortages and long response times.

According to Budget 2025, the federal government has committed \$742 million to implement the gun ban and confiscation program, though critics say total costs remain unclear. When the policy was first announced in 2019, the Liberal government estimated costs at \$200 million. The Parliamentary Budget Officer later estimated compensation costs alone could reach as high as \$756 million, while some experts have suggested the final cost could approach \$6 billion.

Opponents have also pointed to past cost overruns in federal firearms policy, including the now-scrapped long-gun registry, which was strongly opposed in Saskatchewan and ultimately exceeded \$2 billion despite an initial projection of \$2 million.

Haubrich said the

Cape Breton pilot project should serve as a warning before the program is expanded nationally, including into provinces like Saskatchewan.

"These results show why police officers, academics, licensed gun owners and taxpayers believed the gun ban was flawed from the start," he said. "The federal government should acknowledge the outcome of this pilot and focus resources on stopping illegal gun smuggling rather than confiscating firearms from licensed owners—especially in rural Canada."

The federal government has not yet publicly commented on whether the pilot project's results will alter its approach to the national gun confiscation program or its potential rollout in other provinces.

## Galentine's-inspired Ladies' Night set to raise funds for Broadview causes

By GNG Staff  
Grasslands News

A Galentine's-inspired Ladies' Night fundraiser is set to bring an evening of fun, friendship and fundraising to Broadview this winter.

The event will take place Saturday, Feb. 7 at the Broadview Community Hall and promises a full slate of entertainment, games and social activities, all in support of the Broadview Fire Department and the Broadview Splash Park Committee.

Organizers are encouraging women to "dress in the outfit you never get to wear" and gather their friends for a team-based evening. Tickets are priced at \$50 per person, or \$400 for a table of eight, with only 16 tables available. Individual ticket holders will be assigned to a team, as the event is designed around group participation.

The evening will begin with a 5 p.m.

happy hour, followed by a waiter auction at 6 p.m. and supper at 6:30 p.m., catered by Schmitt's Smoked Meats. Games and activities kick off at 8 p.m., with a DJ to follow as the night continues. A cash-only bar will be open from 5 p.m. to 2 a.m.

To help ensure everyone gets home safely, safe sober rides will be available both in Broadview and to surrounding communities.

Organizers note that full payment is required to reserve a table or ticket, with no refunds unless the event is cancelled. Anyone interested in attending is encouraged to act quickly due to limited availability. Tables can be reserved by calling or texting Kirsten at (306) 696-7241.

With proceeds supporting local emergency services and a major recreational project for the community, organizers say the Ladies' Night fundraiser offers a chance to enjoy a memorable night out while giving back to Broadview.



### CONTACT US:

Town Office: 306-736-2515

Email: [info@townofkipling.ca](mailto:info@townofkipling.ca)

Leisure Services Department: 306-736-8440

Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Closed over lunch.

**Council Meetings:** The second Monday of each month. Town Council Meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. All Council Meetings are open to the public.

### EMAIL CONSENT FORM

THE TOWN OF KIPLING OFFICE HAS AN EMAIL CONSENT FORM FOR TAXES, UTILITIES, ASSESSMENT NOTICES, RECEIPTS, AND ACCOUNTS PAYABLE. YOU WILL RECEIVE YOUR NOTICES AND RECEIPTS BY EMAIL.

### A FRIENDLY REMINDER ON MAKING PAYMENTS TO THE TOWN OF KIPLING

PAYMENTS CAN BE MADE:

\*ONLINE – THE CORNERSTONE CREDIT UNION & THE TD BANK – BILL PAYMENTS \*TELPAY

\*AT THE TOWN OFFICE, 301 6TH AVENUE BY CASH, CHEQUE, DEBIT OR CREDIT CARD

\*NEW E-TRANSFER ADDRESS - TRANSFER TO [ETRANSFERS@TOWNOFKIPLING.CA](mailto:ETRANSFERS@TOWNOFKIPLING.CA). PLEASE INCLUDE THE FIRST AND LAST NAME OF THE ACCOUNT YOU ARE PAYING, CIVIC ADDRESS AND WHAT THE PAYMENT IS FOR (EXAMPLES: WATER, PROPERTY TAXES, SWIMMING LESSONS, POOL PASSES, ETC.).

\*FRIENDLY REMINDER THAT THE TOWN DOES NOT TAKE POST DATED CHEQUES. \*

### HANDY VAN

THE HANDY VAN IS DESPERATELY LOOKING FOR MORE DRIVERS AND THE TIME COMMITMENT CAN BE ONCE A MONTH TO TWICE A WEEK! CALL OR STOP IN AT THE TOWN OFFICE FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO ADD YOUR NAME TO THE LIST.

### MUNICIPAL BY-LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING

HAVE YOU EVER DREAMT OF BECOMING A MUNICIPAL BYLAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER? DO YOU HAVE CONFLICT MANAGEMENT SKILLS, AND ARE ORGANIZED? THE TOWN OF KIPLING HAS RECEIVED A TRAINING GRANT WITH THE TARGETED SECTOR SUPPORT FUND FOR ONLINE MUNICIPAL BY-LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING. CALL OR STOP INTO THE TOWN OFFICE FOR MORE INFORMATION.

### LEISURE SERVICES

FRIENDLY REMINDER ALL LEISURE FACILITIES MUST BE BOOKED WITH THE OFFICE AT 1-306-736-2515 GOING FORWARD.

**WINTER WALKING** - WINTER WALKING IS TAKING PLACE AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE MONDAY TO FRIDAY FROM 7 A.M. TO 1 P.M. BRING YOUR INSIDE SHOES, HEADPHONES AND WALK OUT YOUR FRUSTRATIONS! THIS IS OPEN FOR ALL AGES!

**SASK LOTTERIES FUNDING APPLICATIONS** - THE TOWN OFFICE HAS SASK LOTTERIES FUNDING APPLICATION IN THE OFFICE AVAILABLE FOR PICK-UP.

**KIDSPORT APPLICATIONS** - KIDSPORT APPLICATION ARE AVAILABLE FOR PICK-UP IN THE TOWN OFFICE OR ONLINE AT [HTTPS://KIDSPORTCANADA.CA/SASKATCHEWAN/KIPLING/](https://kidsportcanada.ca/saskatchewan/kipling/) FOR DIFFERENT TYPES OF SPORTS.

**YOGA** - ASHLEY'S YOGA AND MEDITATION CLASSES ARE BACK ON WEDNESDAYS, 10:00 A.M. FOR CHAIR YOGA AND 6:30 P.M. FOR RELAX YOGA AT THE FRIENDSHIP CLUB.

**STICK AND PUCK AT THE ARENA** - CHECK THE TOWN FOR KIPLING WEBSITE FOR THE CALENDAR FOR STICK AND PUCK TIMES.

**PUBLIC SKATING TIMES** - CHECK THE TOWN FOR KIPLING WEBSITE FOR THE ALL TIMES!

### UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

DO YOU HAVE A COMMUNITY EVENT COMING UP? CONTACT THE TOWN OF KIPLING OFFICE FOR MORE INFORMATION AT 306-736-2515 OR EMAIL [INFO@TOWNOFKIPLING.CA](mailto:info@townofkipling.ca)

**FRIENDSHIP CLUB** - THURSDAY IS CARD GAMES, AND FRIDAY THE THRIFT STORE IS OPEN.

**RECYCLING CARTS** - RECYCLING IS ON THURSDAY- HAVE YOUR CARTS OUT BY 7 A.M.

### REDCOAT WASTE RESOURCE AUTHORITY LANDFILL

LOCATED 4 MILES SOUTH ON THE 605 GRID. CONTACT FOR SITE HOURS. PHONE: 306-736-8494

EMAIL: [REDCOATWASTE@SASKTEL.NET](mailto:REDCOATWASTE@SASKTEL.NET) WEB: [WWW.REDCOATWASTE.CA](http://WWW.REDCOATWASTE.CA)

### DID YOU KNOW:

IF YOU ARE LOOKING FOR EVENTS OR UPDATES, PLEASE HAVE A LOOK AT THE TOWN OF KIPLING WEBSITE FOR UPDATES.



# Area artist enjoys painting for many people, shows

By Calvin Daniels  
Grasslands News

"My father was a good painter and pianist, and my mother was a talented amateur writer, although neither of them followed those professions, but I had books at home which taught me to appreciate classical art and music at an early age, so I was influenced to draw and create," the Spy Hill artist told Yorkton This Week.

Born in Montreal, where she took Art and then Fine Arts at Dawson College CEGEP, Arrayet said she is drawn to the work of several artists.

"But to pick one favourite would be Gustav Klimt, an Austrian artist who defined the Art Nouveau movement," she said. "His early work was very realistic, but he later used a lot of symbolism in his painting."

Today Arrayet continues Fine Art at the University of Alberta in Edmonton and focuses her own artistic efforts capturing what others wish to hang on their walls.

"I prefer commissions to painting randomly, unless I am doing a show," she said.

Of course, there have been many shows to prepare for too including Grasslands Art Gallery in Edmonton,



Arctic Art Gallery in Yellowknife, the Regina Art Gallery and Westlands Art Gallery in Cochrane.

"I was commissioned by Bill Shurniak of the Shurniak Gallery in Assiniboia to do a painting for his personal collection," added Arrayet.

Locally, Arrayet said she has done work such as a piece with two moose fighting for a former Painted Hand Casino manager, a large site piece from Grain Millers, and art for Yorkton Aircraft Service.

Beyond commissions Arrayet who works in both acrylic and oil said she is "inspired by the beauty in nature - whether a leaf, or a spider web bejewelled with dew, or the complicated mosaic of a forest undergrowth - there, is unlimited subject matter."

As for working in two different mediums, the artists related each offer something different from the other.

"Both have different qualities that lend themselves to different techniques," said Arrayet. "I like painting landscapes, portraiture and wildlife, and generally paint realistically, although I do exaggerate colour, using primaries whenever possible."

Arrayet can be contacted for commissions at 306-740-6180.

# Saskatchewan sports builder remembered for lasting impact on softball

By GNG Staff  
Grasslands News

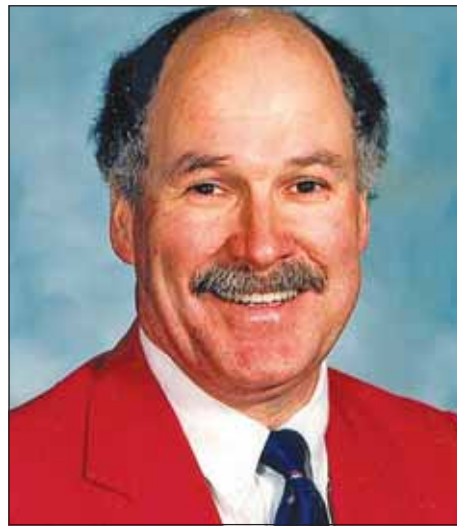
The Saskatchewan sports community is mourning the loss of Glenn Reeve, a longtime leader in the sport of softball who passed away in December at the age of 87.

Reeve was inducted into the Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame in 2001 as a builder, recognizing decades of dedication to growing and strengthening the game at the local, provincial, national and international levels.

Raised in Grenfell, Reeve became deeply involved in softball as a coach and organizer. He guided several teams to provincial championships in Saskatoon and played a key role in helping the city host eight national softball championships, elevating Saskatchewan's profile on the national stage.

Beyond the provincial level, Reeve's influence extended across Canada

through his long association with Softball Canada. He served as a director for 18 years and was president from 1986 to



GLENN REEVE

1990, a period widely regarded as transformative for the organization.

"Glenn Reeve played a vital role in the development and advancement of Softball Canada over his tenure on the board of directors and as president of the association," Softball Canada CEO Mike Branchaud said in a statement. "His strong organizational leadership led to the establishment of the national team program that became a world leader in our sport. Glenn was very involved with the world governing body and properly represented Softball Canada's interests on the international stage."

Reeve also represented Canada internationally, serving as the country's Chef de Mission for the Pan American Games in 1995 in Mar del Plata, Argentina, after

previously working as assistant chef at the 1991 Pan Am Games.

Those who worked alongside Reeve remember him as a tireless volunteer, respected administrator and passionate advocate for softball, whose efforts helped shape the sport for generations of athletes and officials.

Condolences are being extended to Reeve's family and friends as the softball community reflects on a legacy defined by leadership, service and a lifelong commitment to sport.

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# Lemmings endorse Poilievre as Leader

By Alan Hustak  
Grasslands News

Conservative opposition leader Pierre Poilievre is expected to survive the party convention's leadership review after he gives a keynote speech to delegates on Jan. 30.

Even though he is the third failed conservative leader in 10 years - and the only one to blow a commanding lead in the polls and lose his own seat - what Poilievre has going for him has been a well orchestrated campaign for support.

In truth, there is no one waiting in the wings to replace him. For better or worse the party is stuck with him.

The question that still hasn't been answered is what would be the acceptable threshold of support for him to continue as leader? Joe Clark stepped down as leader after receiving a 70 per cent approval rating; Brian Mulroney was trashed at the polls. Andrew Scheer was hounded out before he faced a leadership review and Erin O'Toole quit when it was clear that he lost the support of his fellow MP's.

Despite two defections to the Liberal benches, Poilievre seems to still have the widespread support of his caucus if not most of the delegates. They follow Poilievre like lemmings because they entertain the faint hope that with time, he might be able to defeat Prime Minister Carney - who for the moment enjoys a comfortable margin of support.

According to the latest Environics poll, trust in the Prime Minister is the highest it has been in 16 years, since Stephen Harper was in office. Similarly,

trust in Parliament has risen to 83 per cent. That doesn't mean that Canadians agree with every government decision, but they do recognize that the measures Carney has taken, like this week's trip to China are being made with a clear appreciation of the consequences.

In addition to Poilievre's leadership, delegates will debate changes to the party's policy book and constitution, including one proposal to remove the party's opposition to abortion. Other proposals focus on bail reform, diversity principles, immigration and protecting Canada from foreign interference. Another calls for Canada to withdraw from the World Health Organization and the Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response agreement. But we haven't the slightest idea of what our local MP's have on any of the resolutions or what direction they want the party to take.

An aide to Conservative MP for Yorkton Melville told Grasslands News that Cathay Wagantall will only be available to speak with reporters "post convention," three weeks from now. She is, however on record as saying that she is looking forward to the convention, "Where I have no doubt, Pierre Poilievre will receive a strong vote of confidence... he remains the leader Canada needs and the only leader that will put Canada first."

Former party leader Andrew Scheer, MP for Regina-Qu'Appelle didn't respond to requests for an interview. But he has said he is supporting Poilievre because Poilievre brought people into the party who have never voted before.

No one in any of Steve Bonk's three constituency offices in Moosomin, Estevan and Weyburn picked up the phone.

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### Punch a Bunch

The 'Punch A Bunch' game was just one of the many games in the mock "Price is Right" event held Jan. 7 in Whitewood and hosted by the Whitewood Youth (Why) group at the Evangelical Church.

DONNA BEUTLER | GRASSLANDS NEWS



### Putting for points

Kathryn Bartlam (left) and Kenneth Bartlam (back), looks on during a "Price is Right" game as Tate Fox tries his hand at golf, putting from a line based on his best price guesses earlier.

DONNA BEUTLER | GRASSLANDS NEWS

# Whitewood youth turn game night into 'Price Is Right' spectacle

By Donna Beutler  
Grasslands News

The iconic "Come on down!" phrase resonated across the room at the recent Why (Whitewood Youth) event, The Price is Right, held at the Evangelical Missionary Church in Whitewood on Jan. 7.

Host 'Barb Baker' (Kathryn Bartlam) took center stage during the all-fun evening and directed contestants through each contest throughout the evening. With approximately 60 hopeful 'contestants' in the audience, anxiously anticipating the potential call of their name from none other than James Graham, Why's leader and church pastor, the room would quiet right down as Graham's voice began to calling out a name.

From the first "Come on down!" call to the last, anticipation and energy was high as contestants made their way to the front to be one of four contestants at a time. Some reacted with hoot, hollers and clapping to having their name called while others were somewhat more subdued. There were all sorts of challenges that the 'winning contestant' had to do in order to get called up on stage.

Guessing the price of items and playing a 'hole in one' golf game to name a couple of games, netted winners certain prizes or chances to "Spin the wheel" without ever going over \$1.00 of course. Anticipation heightened every time the wheel was spun and cheers from the crowd calling out "spin again" or "aww" were heard throughout the room depending on how many points a contestant happened to land on.

Audience members shouted out prices or suggestions to contestants on stage and there was even what sounded like a "No, no, no," heard from a spectator who tried hard to direct their family member trying to line up six items in order of least expensive to most expensive.

Several youth leaders, all former Why youth members, were stage hands for the show and included Na-

delle Murphy, Damon Stevenson, Jakob Domres and Kenneth Bartlam, all of who held prize items up for the audience to see and who also helped put games in place on stage or remove them from the stage, depending on the need at the moment.

Prizes ranged from packs of toilet paper to sweat-shirts to potatoes to caps to baked items, all donated by various individuals who are part of the Evangelical Church family and all of which were described in delightful or delicious detail by that one and only "voice."

Why's version of the 'Price is Right' included commercials right out of the 1980s with everything from Coke and Pepsi commercials to Ford, Folgers, Wrigley's

Gum and a GloWorm commercial.

The 'Price Is Right' was the brainchild of Crystal Graham who was assisted by several others in decorating, building things such as 'the wheel,' choosing and gathering prizes, designing the contests and games, and in general, putting the whole event together, which by all accounts was a lot of fun, judging from the number of people who said, "Let's make this an annual event!"

The Whitewood Youth Group meets weekly where they enjoy movie and games' night along with Bible studies and singing worship songs together. They also participate in such events as Christmas Carol singing and gathering food items for the local Food Bank.

## Grenfell updates landfill and recreation fees

By Sarah Pacio  
Grasslands News

Grenfell town council held its first meeting of 2026 at 6:30 p.m. on Jan. 8 in the Lilac Room. Meetings are regularly scheduled for the first and third Thursday of each month, but dates were shifted to the second and fourth week in January since New Year's Day fell on a Thursday.

### Landfill Costs

Over the past few months, the town has been working to update various fees and rates for municipi-

pal services and facilities

At its Dec. 18 meeting, council approved a new policy for Environmental Health Services Fees & Charges. It outlines rates for Grenfell Transfer Station, lagoon access and residential garbage and recycling removal services.

Many rates remained the same, but some increased to better reflect operating costs. The fee for disposing bagged garbage at the transfer station increased from \$1 per bag, to \$2.50 per bag. Recyclable materials will be charged \$10 per load for a standard truck or utility trailer; larger loads will be charged \$30. Rates for concrete disposal increased significantly from \$35 to \$100 for a standard truck load. Larger loads will be charged \$300 or \$400, depending on the size of the vehicle.

The new policy also includes fines for unapproved dumping at the transfer station. An individual will be charged \$100 for their first offense, and a business will be charged \$500. The fine doubles for the second offense and a third offense will result in a fine plus a one-year ban from using the facility.

### Rental & Recreation Fees

During last week's meeting, council reviewed and approved a policy for Recreational & Culture Fees & Charges.

The cost to rent the main auditorium at Grenfell Community Hall remains \$175 for a half day and \$250 for a full day. A kitchen is located in the basement and can be included in the rental for a total of \$250 for a half day or \$350 for a full day. Renters only using the kitchen will be charged \$75 per half day or \$100 for a full day.

Rental fees for the Grenfell Recreational Park Arena lobby remain unchanged at \$150 per day (excluding canteen) and \$250 per day (including canteen). Daily rental rates for the entire facility are \$750, though a discount will be applied for Grenfell Athletic Association members. Off-season arena rental is also available at a lower rate of \$500 per day.

Grenfell-based non-profit organizations interested in using the arena or community hall are encouraged to submit a letter to council. Upon council approval, these groups may rent the Community Hall for \$25 per day. Non-profit organizations using the arena may receive a 50 per cent discount.

In order to streamline administrative procedures, swimming pool and golf course fees will remain stable throughout the year, with no early-bird discounts.

When the outdoor swimming pool opens this

summer, a daily entry fee of \$10 will be charged for anyone age six and older. The same rate will apply to Little Greens Mini Putt. Ages five and under can swim or putt for free. Council determined that, in lieu of season passes, pass booklets will be available for the swimming pool and mini golf. A booklet of 25 passes will cost \$200, and each pass will be valid for one entry to the swimming pool or mini golf. Swim lesson rates increased by \$15; fees range from \$75 for toddlers to \$95 for more advanced swimmers.

The new fee structure for the town's nine-hole golf course includes a \$100 season pass or \$5 day pass for youth ages 12 and under. The same rate applies to seniors ages 65 and over. Adults can golf for \$10 per day, or obtain a season pass for \$125. A family day pass is \$20, and a family season pass costs \$250.

Membership and rental rates for the Grenfell Curling Rink are included on the new policy but these are determined by the Curling Club. Fees remain consistent at \$150 for yearly membership and \$125 per day for curling rink rental.

### Future Planning

Administrator DeAnne Robblee informed council that she is completing

- SEE GRENFELL, 15

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# Kat's trades arcades for thrift finds and home-style meals

*Economic pressures drive business changes*

By Sarah Pacio  
Grasslands News

A business in Grenfell has refocused its services to reflect current economic trends and better support community needs.

Kat's, located on the corner of Desmond St. and Wolseley Ave., is operated by Belinda Chutskoff-Beutler. In 2021, she and her daughter Shakara established an eatery and arcade in a former hardware store at 743 Desmond St. They sought to provide youth and families with a local option for entertainment, while also honouring the memory of Chutskoff's son Katlin who enjoyed playing video games.

The venue included numerous vintage arcade and Sega games, a pool table, and a ball pit for younger visitors. Initially it was a popular place to hang out and

host special events, but over time the proprietor noted a decline in patrons. It became difficult to keep pace with bills for the machines' high-power consumption and Chutskoff also found it challenging to find replacement parts for the older gaming systems.

"I think people just don't have the money that they used to have for entertainment," Chutskoff told Grasslands News.

In mid-2025 she determined it was time to make strategic changes to the business. Chutskoff also operates a dollar store, salon, laundromat, and gym further north on Desmond Street. Considering current economic situations, she recognized an opportunity to expand the dollar store. An initial step toward implementing the new plan involved selling surplus items from Kat's Arcade. Last fall, an online

auction was arranged with McDougall Auctioneers to disperse unneeded arcade machines, restaurant and fitness equipment. A few gaming items were retained for potential future ventures.

Minor renovations were then completed at Kat's and merchandise was moved from the dollar store. Chutskoff is exploring options for the vacated dollar store, but no final plans have been made.

Shortly before Christmas, Kat's reopened with a restaurant in the front area of the building and several shelves of affordable products and thrift items for sale at the back.

"People have been extremely generous in donating things that they are no longer using. Our thrift area has expanded greatly; we have all kinds of housewares, sporting goods, shoes, clothes, jewelry, antiques," Chutskoff stated. "A lot of people are trying to cut back [on expenses] and thrift shopping is a good way to do it; a lot of the items that we've received are brand new."

She added that furniture and appliances will also be available soon.

The restaurant menu continues to include mini donuts and various deep-fried favourites that were available to arcade users, along with pizza and poutine. Additionally, Kat's offers daily homemade soup specials from Tuesday to Friday. There is a grab-and-go cooler that is stocked with fresh sandwiches or wraps each morning. Snack cups with fresh fruit or vegetables are also available in the cooler. In the coming weeks, Chutskoff plans to provide access to frozen meals as well.

Kat's is open Tuesday to Saturday, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., and employs one



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## New look

Kat's in Grenfell has a fresh new look. The business has transitioned from an arcade and eatery, to a licensed restaurant with thrift and bargain items for sale.

full-time staff member besides Chutskoff, and two students. Chutskoff noted that the changes at Kat's have streamlined operations for her businesses and she looks forward to serving the community

within the new format.

"We've had a really good response with the restaurant and people are actually quite impressed with it," she said. "With the thrift, everybody says it's fantastic, so

hopefully it keeps going. In the dollar store we weren't stocked that well before; now there's lots of room, so I've increased the stock we have there and there's always new things that are coming."

## Grenfell council meeting notes

- continued from page 14

year-end tasks and then budget planning sessions can begin for the new fiscal year. She also noted that the town has applied for funding for ten summer students through the annual government grant program. This funding typically supports the town in hiring staff for the swimming pool and public works department. Grant approval is usually confirmed in April or May.

### Ratepayer Survey

Council is seeking to improve communication with ratepayers by regularly conducting surveys on relevant topics. The first community survey was circulated last fall and sought input regarding the value residents place on the outdoor swimming pool.

At last week's meeting, council discussed possible items to feature on the next survey. Administration will draft questions based on the discussion and gain council's approval before distributing the survey to ratepayers later this month.

### Council Inquiries

Shortly before the meeting was adjourned, Councillor Kim Lemieux inquired where AED machines could be accessed in the community. Councillors responded that defibrillators are located at the GRP arena, fire hall, Cornerstone Credit Union office, Nutrien Ag Solutions and Richardson Pioneer, school bus depot, elementary school and high school.

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# SPORTS

## Yorkton duo playing soccer in Germany

By Calvin Daniels  
Grasslands News

Two recent graduates of Sacred Heart High School in Yorkton; two local soccer players, Noah Wyatt and Nick Looft are now in Germany playing soccer.

The duo went to Germany to try out for TSV Heiligenstedten, a club in Northern Germany that was founded in 1913.

"After a few training sessions both young men were invited to sign with the club's top men's team and they accepted. They are playing in the Verbandsliga West Division, and their team currently sits seventh in the 16-team league but they have a few games in hand on the teams above them in the standings. The two Yorkton players play each Saturday or Sunday in various cities and towns in Northern Germany and train at least twice a week with their team. Nick is also able to play with the clubs U19 team due to his age," explained Yorkton coach Andy Wyatt.

Noah Wyatt said the opportunity came available thanks to the connections the Looft family have in Germany.

"The opportunity to go to Germany came about when Nick's dad, Benno Looft who was born and raised in Germany, recommended to me and Nick that we should experience what soccer is like at the highest level, and there is no better spot in the world for that than in Germany," he told Yorkton This Week. "So, he made some calls to his former team, and we got to go there to Germany and try out at the start of July, and we have been playing there ever since."

"The opportunity to head to Germany came about through an idea brought up by my dad. He presented the idea and it immediately sparked an interest and I knew it would be a great opportunity to experience soccer across the world," agreed Nick Looft.

For both players soccer has been a long-time passion.

"I've been playing soccer since I've first been able to walk but have been playing club soccer for around 14 years," said Looft. "As a kid, soccer seemed to choose me rather than me choosing it. My dad previously played soccer and his passion for the sport became mine as well."

Dad influenced Wyatt's interest in soccer, too.

"I have been playing soccer since I was the age of two, so I have been playing for about 17 years now," he said. "To be honest, what got me into soccer was definitely my dad. He is really big into soccer and he has been helping train me and teaching me the game ever since I was a baby. I would say I was more born into the sport than having chosen it. That being said, I wouldn't want to be playing any other sport than soccer."

The level of play in the Verbandsliga is high. The league is part of the league structure in Germany that

is just below the professional leagues. While not professional, the team has a full technical staff, physiotherapy and covers all expenses for the players. The top teams in the league get promoted and the bottom teams get relegated like all European soccer.

Looft is currently playing as a striker and winger with TSV Heiligenstedten and Wyatt is playing winger and defence.

"Me and Nick are playing men's soccer so there is no age limit," explained Wyatt. "We play with and against guys ranging from the age of 20-35. Me and Nick are two of the youngest players in the league so that definitely adds

week in and week out, and in Saskatchewan we just don't have that luxury due to the limited number of players here. In Canada if you ask someone who plays sports what sport they play, there is a high chance that each person you ask will have a different answer.

"However in Germany, if you ask the same question, you will get the same answer every time, and that answer is soccer. The game just means so much to the people over there, that I don't think anyone here in Saskatchewan could comprehend unless they experienced it for themselves."

Of course there are challenges in a new country, in particular for Wyatt in terms of the language.

"For me the language issue has been a lot more trouble than it was for Nick," said Wyatt. "Nick is fortunate enough to have a dad who speaks German to him every day. For me I didn't have that, so I went to Germany with very little knowledge of the language. It was definitely a struggle for me at first but thankfully our whole team can speak decent English, and I have picked up on my German quite fast, and I am able to get around in public and speak with my peers easier than I could when I got there in the summer.

"However, during team talks and meetings I struggle with the understanding of it because they talk so fast and intense."

Both players see the opportunity in Germany as a stepping stone to better things ahead.

"I see this opportunity helping me a lot with my development as a player," said Looft. "Playing against strong competition whether in game or training helps me improve both physically and mentally.

"This opportunity has also provided me with new opportunities to showcase my skills at the university level in the United States."

Wyatt too hopes for doors to open.

"I see this opportunity helping me get to the next level of soccer here in Canada by playing D1 university soccer," said

Wyatt. "The great thing with going to Germany was that it helped me get a lot more exposure than I had when I was playing here in Saskatchewan. I have a few university tryouts lined up, and I'm not sure if I didn't go to Germany, I don't think I would have gotten the same opportunities as I do right now. I have also had conversations with our team's development coach, and he thinks if I can continue to develop, I could make a team in a higher division in Germany.

"So, this opportunity can help take me many places with my soccer."

Currently both Nick and Noah are back in Yorkton training with the local men's team while their team in Germany is on a winter break. The Verbandsliga starts again on Feb. 14th where TSV Heiligenstedten play against the top team in the league. The last league game is on May 16.



### Playing the game

Nick Looft, left, and Noah Wyatt right, were invited to play soccer in Germany with the TSV Heiligenstedten soccer team. They are recent graduates from Sacred Heart High School in Yorkton.

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an extra challenge on the already high level of soccer we are playing. Our league is mainly Semi-Professional, with the exception of a few teams that are amateur teams."

Looft said the level of play is certainly a step up in Germany.

"The level of play compared to Saskatchewan is much more intense, physical, and tactical. There's much more attention to detail and the overall style of play is more organized," he said.

Wyatt was in agreement the game is different there.

"The level of play is definitely higher in Germany than it is here in Saskatchewan," he said. "That's not to go against the players that are here in Saskatchewan, there are many great players with incredible talent here locally.

"However, the difference from Saskatchewan and Germany is that you are playing against a high-level team

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# Team Campbell takes Prairie Pinnacle while Team Knapp wins Tankard

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JACOB MILLER | GRASSLANDS NEWS

## Skip stones

Team Campbell Skip Jolene Campbell throws a stone during the Bunge Prairie Pinnacle Final against Team Tisdale on Jan. 11, 2026. Campbell beat Tisdale 4-3 after securing the hammer in the 10th end. On the right, Team Knapp Skip Kelly Knapp throws a stone during the SaskTel Tankard Final against Team Kleiter, winning the game 9-4 in the 10th end.

By Jacob Miller

Grasslands News

The 2026 Bunge Prairie Pinnacle and SaskTel Tankard wrapped up on Jan. 11 as the final two men's and women's teams competed to see who would represent the province at the Brier and Scotties. In the end Team Campbell will be representing Team Saskatchewan at the 2026 Scotties Tournament of Hearts in Mississauga, Ont. and Team Knapp will be representing Team Saskatchewan at the 2026 Montana's Brier in St. John's, N.L. alongside Team McEwen.

The seven-day curling provincial championships were held at the CN Community Centre in Melville and were hosted by the Melville Curling Club.

Spectators were treated to 24 draws of games between the Men's and Women's Championships.

"The event was very successful," said Melville Curling Club President Larry Peterson to Grasslands News. "Our attendance was better than we expected, the curling was great, the ice was good, and our volunteers did a fantastic job during the seven days event."

"I don't think it could have really turned out much better," added Peterson.

Peterson also thanked the sponsors and volunteers because without them the event would have been impossible to host.

"It costs quite a bit of money to run and we're hoping that we're going to be able to make some money for the curling club so that we can continue to promote curling and make some improvements

at the rink," said Peterson. "Without the support of the sponsors that we had locally and throughout the province it would have been a lot tougher to try and run this and be as successful as we were."

## Bunge Prairie Pinnacle

After 10 years, Team Campbell, from Highland Curling Club in Regina, has won the provincials women's championship and will be representing Saskatchewan at the Scotties.

"It's been 10 years since I've won that game," said Skip Jolene Campbell. "It feels so good."

Team Campbell came out on top after 10 ends against Team Tisdale in the Prairie Pinnacle Final on Jan. 11, winning 4-3. Team Campbell consists of Skip Campbell, Third Robyn Silvernagle, Second Rachel Big Eagle (Erickson), and Lead Dayna Demmans.

After back-to-back-to-back blank ends and forcing team Tisdale to make a move, Team Campbell ended up with the hammer in the 10th end tied 2-2. In the end Skip Jolene Campbell did not have to throw that last rock.

"It feels good to make that last one. I've had to do that before, but to not have to throw it sounds just as good," said Campbell. "We went into that game wanting to be tied up with hammer coming home. That was the plan. That's where we thought we would be. And we maneuvered the scoreboard to make it happen. And it worked out."

Team Campbell placed second in the round robin and finished with a final standing of 6-2.

Campbell said that before the championships, they knew they had a chance to win it all.

"We knew we would make it before we got here this week. We've had a good season. We've all been in this big final game before; we know what it takes to get there. We know how to put yourself in the position that you're in playoffs. So, we felt really confident that we were going to be there," said Campbell.

Team Campbell will be headed to the Scotties as Team Sask, an experience they are looking forward to.

Campbell said that this will be her sixth Scotties but her second as a skip.

"(The Green Jackets) it's why we play - we play because we love it, but ultimately it's because you want to slip this Green Jacket on and go play the Scotties," said Campbell. "It's what we've wanted to since we were all kids. It's why I still play the game."

## SaskTel Tankard

Team Knapp is headed back to the Brier after a 9-4 victory over the Tankard defending champion Team Kleiter. Team Knapp will represent Team Sask at the Brier, along with Team McEwen. Team Knapp is made of Skip Kelly Knapp, Third Brennen Jones, Second Dustin Kidby, Lead Mat Ring, and Alternate Trent Knapp.

Team Knapp won in 10 ends, after a tough game against Kleiter, with the game coming down to the final shot.

"We knew that it was going to come down to the end," said Skip Kelly Knapp. "We got a few misses out of them. I think they got caught on the draw, pass a bit,

lost a couple tight and light; and we actually did too as well."

"But I think that we kind of learned - we put the broom in the right spots, and we were making sure that we were hitting it and getting it to where we needed to be. And I think that was the difference," Knapp added.

This is the second time Knapp will be headed to the Breier, winning the Tankard in 2023.

"It feels even better this time," said Knapp. "I just know the work we put in this year and just how well we've been playing. It kind of felt like before the week started, that this could be our week. So, it's just nice to see it come to fruition."

Throughout the week Knapp landed in second place after the round robin sitting 7-1.

"This tankard was more of a grind than our last win. We only had to win five games the last time; this was a full round robin. So, we had eight round robin games, a couple playoff games," said Knapp. The team stayed with Knapp's uncle John who lives in Yorkton, making them comfortable throughout the long week of games.

"It was a long week, but my uncle John put us up in his house, and we've been there for a few of our Sask tour events, and we're just very comfortable there. And the hospitality was second to none. And we just felt very, very comfortable the whole week."

Knapp added that this Tankard they did a lot of things right and they improved as a team and is excited to see how it translates to the Brier.



JACOB MILLER | GRASSLANDS NEWS

## Provincial Champions

Team Knapp, left, front row, from left to right, are, Mat Ring, Dustin Kidby, Brennen Jones, and Kelly Knapp. Back row, from left to right, are, Brian McCusker and Trent Knapp. They are headed to the Brier as Team Sask with their green jackets. Team Campbell, right, from left to right, are, Jolene Campbell, Robyn Silvernagle, Rachel Big Eagle (Erickson), Darna Demmans, and Ben Gamble. They are headed to the Scotties as Team Sask.

# Yorkton hosts football training in January

By Calvin Daniels  
Grasslands News

Young football players in Yorkton are being offered a chance to hone some skills as Yorkton Minor Football hosts a series of winter training sessions.

Coach Jason Boyda said there were 27 youth out this past Sunday being put through a series of skill development drills, adding they are trying to increase the “foot-

ball IQ” of participants who ranged in age from 12-17.

“It’s an opportunity to gain some skills.”

Boyda added they typically see more youth involved –citing 40 is more typical. He added anyone interested can contact minor football or just show up to upcoming sessions which are free.

The zero cost to players is thanks to a grant secured by YMF said Darcy Zaharia. He explained the Reaching Each and Every One is a Canadian Parks and Recreation Association initiative funded by Sport Canada. The program provides grants to non-profits to offer inclusive, accessible, and affordable community sports

programs for underrepresented groups (Indigenous, racialized, people with disabilities, low-income, etc) to increase participation and remove barriers. It’s a national effort to make recreation equitable for all Canadians, supporting local projects with funding for things like equipment and coaching to build healthier, more vibrant communities.

Yorkton Minor Football applied for and received a grant of \$20,000 and then took it one step further and partnered with YTC to try reach First Nations kids in our region, said Zaharia.

Sports column – Darcy Gross

## Gross Misconduct

There’s just something about large scale curling events that bring out the best in Melville.

Over the period of a week, the city hosted the men’s and women’s provincial curling championships and by all reports, it went off without a hitch.

Perhaps it wasn’t as cut and dried as that, but if there was the odd snag, no one in attendance knew about it, which is pretty much what you want to happen when you’re hosting a huge event.

Melville’s volunteers did another bang-up job, from ice making duties, to maintaining it as well as manning the booths, helping to keep score and anything else associated with the roaring game.

You couldn’t take more than a few steps without encountering the smiling face of another volunteer, on hand to ensure that the fans had a great experience as they watched some of the best curlers in the province make their shots.

It’s a big job to take care of curlers, fans and officials, and with well over 100 people helping, the results make you think that these folks do this sort of thing every day.

Back in the day, the curling rink was one of the major hubs in every prairie town.

It was the place where you could go to meet friends, enjoy some sport and some fellowship as well.

The volunteers from Melville took that small town feel to the CN Community Centre, crossed all the T’s and dotted all the I’s and put on a show that will be long remembered, not just for what happened on the four sheets of ice, but everywhere in the building that housed the event.

The attention to detail was staggering.

The willingness to bend over backward to ensure that everyone enjoyed themselves was a product of people with good hearts who care about their community and take great pride in showing what they can do when given the chance.

In years past, it was the same.

I can recall the gargantuan jobs that started with turning a hockey rink into a curling rink.

There were rocks to bring in, lines and rings to put on the ice and since it was a newer facility, the ice making experts had to go just about around the clock to get everything ready for the competitors.

Most of them seemed to have an insulated coffee mug as an extra appendage, and while the eyes always look a little more tired at the end of the week, there was always a playful glint in them until the show was over.

This year, many of the volunteers had been through a couple of events over the last decade, so it probably went quite smoothly, with folks knowing what sort of help they wanted to provide.

It’s also been said that the kitchen staff and canteen did a bang-up job making sure that folks had a variety of delicious food to eat, with subtle menu changes and specials every day.

Having worked in the food business, I can tell you from personal experience that the preparation alone wouldn’t be for the faint of heart.

Of course, there was also the rink staff that made sure that everything was nice and clean for the event.

While they may have been working for a pay cheque and not just community pride, I’m certain their efforts went above and beyond the usual scope of their work.

I always liken Melville’s volunteer pride to an old truck that may have already seen many, many road miles, but it’s still good enough for running around, and when you need it, it never lets you down.

Sure, it might have a few idiosyncrasies, but when you get in it and that motor in ‘Old Reliable’ roars to life, you know everything is going to be all right.

It’s the same thing when you have the kind of citizens who want their community to be remembered as one that is welcoming and friendly, and one that knows how to have a good time.

Over a week, the people behind the scenes showed everyone that while Melville may be Saskatchewan’s smallest city, inside it, beats a great big heart.



CALVIN DANIELS | GRASSLANDS NEWS

### Off-season training

Logan Wilk, with hat, a coach with the local bantam team who played with the U of S Huskies, and Riley Richards, who played with the U of R Rams run through a training drill.

## Pfeifer returns as Fort Knox head coach

By Ryan Kiedrowski  
Grasslands News

The Fort Knox has a change to their coaching roster, seeing a former head coach return to the helm.

“Fort Knox Head Coach Matt Scott has made the difficult decision to step away from his coaching duties due to personal reasons,” the team announced on social media Jan. 10. “We would like to thank Matt for his commitment to our program, including his contributions towards earning our first ever Provincial Championship last season. We wish him all the

best moving forward.”

Fort Knox GM noted the team would not be commenting further on the decision, noting the post to social media was “informative enough.”

Scott, who hails from Whitewood, also earned the PJHL’s Coach of the Year award in the 2024-25 season. His first foray into coaching came with the Pipestone Valley Jets U18 AA program, including work in a number of

hockey schools and development camps. He also coached all levels at Notre Dame, serving as a Skills and Development Coach. He’s also co-owner and lead instructor of Wester Prospects Hockey Development.

As a player, Scott hit the SJHL with the Melville Millionaires and Weyburn Red Wings (capturing the Royal Bank Cup with Weyburn) during the 2004-05 season. The next year, he played for the

Bredenburg Cougars in the THL, then entered the PJHL minding net for Fort Qu’Appelle the following season. He then returned to the THL, donning a Whitewood Orioles’ jersey during the 2007-08, 2012-13, and 2013-14 seasons.

As for Pfeifer, he is also a Fort Knox alumni having played 111 games in three seasons (2006-09). He returned to the team as Head Coach for four seasons from 2018-2022.

### Yorkton Terriers Jr. A Hockey Game Schedule

Home/Away Games  
All Games 7 p.m.  
unless otherwise stated

**JANUARY:**  
16- Estevan at Yorkton  
17- Yorkton at Flin Flon 7:30  
18- Yorkton at La Ronge 7:30  
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:**  
16- Weyburn at Melville  
17- Humboldt at Melville  
20- Melville at Nipawin  
24- Melfort at Melville  
30- Battlefords at Melville  
31- Flin Flon at Melville

### Wolseley Mustangs Game Schedule

**JANUARY:**  
16- Wolseley at Yellowgrass 8:00  
17- Lumsden at Wolseley 8:00  
24- Wolseley at EmPK(White City) 8:15  
31- Yellowgrass at Wolseley 8:00

### Prairie Men’s HL Game Schedule

Home/Away Games

**JANUARY:**  
16- Strasbourg at Cupar 8 pm  
17- Indian H Chiefs at Ituna 2 pm  
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

### Fort Knox Hockey Game Schedule

Home/Away Games

**JANUARY:**  
16- Fort Knox at S'toon Royals 8:00  
17- Fort Knox at PA Timberjaks 7:30  
18- Fort Knox at Carrot River OT 3:30  
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

### Pilot Butte Storm Game Schedule

Home/Away Games

**JANUARY:**  
16- PB Storm at Capitals 7:45  
17- Capitals at PB Storm 7:45  
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

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# Knox split weekend, Storm surge, Steelhawks face tough stretch

By GNG News  
Grasslands News

The Fort Knox, Pilot Butte Storm, and Moosomin Steelhawks were all in action during a busy stretch of Prairie Junior Hockey League play, with each club experiencing very different results.

## Fort Knox

Fort Knox opened the weekend with a 3-1 loss to the Richardson Pioneer Southern Rebels on Jan. 10 at the Prairie Co-op Rexentre. Tanner Wiens scored the lone goal for Knox in the opening period, but the Rebels struck twice on the power play in the third to pull away despite Knox outshooting Richardson 49-36.

The following afternoon, Fort Knox rebounded with a 4-3 overtime victory against the Carrot River Outback Thunder. Knox jumped out to a 3-0 first-period lead before Carrot River battled back to force extra time. Cooper Buhay ended it just 1:46 into overtime with an unassisted winner, while Drew Pereyema turned aside 33 shots in goal as Knox earned the split.

Fort Knox will travel to Saskatoon to face the Saskatoon Royals on Jan. 16 before heading north to take on the Prince Albert Timberjaks on Jan. 17. The team then returns home to host the Carrot River Outback Thunder on Jan. 18, visits the Pilot Butte Storm on Jan. 21, and wraps up the stretch with a road game against the Saskatoon Quakers on Jan. 24.

## Pilot Butte Storm

Pilot Butte delivered one of its strongest performances of the season on Jan. 7, defeating the Regina Silver Foxes 6-3 at home. The Storm scored three times

in the first period and never looked back, with Bryden Wagman netting two goals and Tate Olson adding an empty netter late in the third.

Three days later, the Storm faced Moosomin in Esterhazy and came away with a dominant 8-0 win. Colton Pushie scored twice and added a misconduct, while Dylan Koback stopped all 20 shots he faced to record the shutout as Pilot Butte controlled play from start to finish.

Pilot Butte Storm hit the road on Jan. 14 to play the Saskatoon Quakers, then travel to Regina on Jan. 16 to face the Extreme Hockey Regina Capitals. The Storm return home on Jan. 17 to host the Capitals, welcome Fort Knox on Jan. 21, and close the stretch by hosting the Moosomin Steelhawks on Jan. 23.

## Moosomin Steelhawks

After their 8-0 loss against the Storm, Moosomin's road trip to Regina proved even more difficult on Jan. 12 as the Steelhawks fell 17-2 to the Extreme Hockey Regina Capitals. The Capitals fired 71 shots and scored in bunches across all three periods, led by Kayden Wiebe's three-goal performance. Norman Lacquette and Nathaniel Plourde scored for Moosomin in the loss.

Moosomin Steelhawks were slated to head to Regina to play the Regina Silver Foxes on Jan. 15, then return home for back-to-back games against the Richardson Pioneer Southern Rebels on Jan. 16 and Jan. 17. Moosomin hosts the Extreme Hockey Regina Capitals on Jan. 21, travels again to Regina to face the Silver Foxes on Jan. 22, visits Pilot Butte on Jan. 23, and finishes the week at home against the Regina Silver Foxes on Jan. 24.

# Mustangs drop two games after break

By Stephen Scriver  
Grasslands News

The Wolseley Mustangs came out of the Christmas break losing two games on the road to teams that have never defeated them in QVJHL play. On Saturday, Jan. 3, the Mustangs arrived in Strasbourg with only eleven skaters, having to press some players into unfamiliar roles. The result was a 6-2 spanking by the Maroons, who had 2-1 and 4-1 period leads.

Landon Obleman and Lachlan Pollock scored for Wolseley, with Maguire Kopp contributing two assists. Each team took five minor penalties.

A week later the Mustangs visited Kelliher

with a larger roster, but couldn't solve the Komets' goalie, coming out on the short end of a 3-2



CONNOR WEBSTER

score. Period scores were 1-1 and 2-1 for the home team. Kelliher scored the winning goal with 4:36 left on the clock and the Mustangs couldn't find the tying goal, even with their goalie pulled in the last two minutes.

Conner Webster scored both of the Mustangs' goals, one unassisted. The Komets took seven minors to Wolseley's six.

Next home action is this Saturday when the Lumsden Jaxx visit the Sportsplex.

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RYAN KIEDROWSKI | GRASSLANDS NEWS

## Mid-ice collision

Moosomin's Jalen Albert and Regina's Winston Stockdale engage in some mid-air antics after clashing during a play Jan. 12. The Steelhawks were visiting the Extreme Hockey Regina Capitals, taking a 17-2 loss on the road.

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## Bowling Scores, Standings - Melville Bowl Arena

MONDAY P.M. Jan. 5		THURSDAY YBC Jan. 8	
Ladies' High Single and Triple, Linda Bender, 267, 624. Ladies' High Average, Angela Dobson, 166.		Girls High Single and Triple, Emmi Hollinger, 170, 492.	
Men's High Single and Average, Joe Wu, 198, 190. Men's High Triple, Gordon Ostlund, 546.		Boys High Single, Zachary Curylo, 211. Boys High Triple, Braxton Hollinger, 517.	
Team High Single and Triple, Bender, 900, 2458.		Team High Single and Triple, Hollinger, 842, 2461.	
<b>Team</b>	<b>Pts.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>Pts.</b>
Dobson	37	Curylo	34.5
Ostlund	35.5	Kohlenberg	31
Bender	30.5	Hollinger	33
Stephens	23	Wurts	29.5
MONDAY COMMERCIAL Jan. 5		SATURDAY YBC Jan. 10	
Ladies' High Single, Branda Broos, 292. Ladies' High Triple and Average, Brandy Lechner, 718, 226.		Girls High Single and Triple, Ashyah Davies, 111, 315.	
Men's High Single, Triple and Average, Destin Kohlenberg, 290, 805, 216.		Boys High Single and Triple, Remi Schneider, 244, 567.	
Team High Single, Gutter Girls, 1297. Team High Triple, Pinheads, 3782.		Team High Single, Bowling Superstars, 858. Team High Triple, The Enders, 2522.	
<b>Team</b>	<b>Pts.</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>Pts.</b>
Professional Amateurs	41	The Enders	42
Gutter Girls	40	Bravehearts	37
		Bowling Superstars	25
		Everything	24

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  - \*Hunting - Aug. 1st

# Millionaires make changes, bringing in new players

By Darcy Gross  
Grasslands News

The Melville Millionaires will have a few unfamiliar players in uniform the next time they step on home ice.

The Millionaires pulled the trigger on three deadline deals, bringing three new players into the fold for the Blue and White.

The Mils kicked off their deadline deals on Jan. 6, trading blueliner Carter Turchak, the SJHL list rights to Carter Wingert, their 2010-born fourth round pick in the 2026 SJHL draft and a player development fee to LaRonge in exchange for Ice Wolves 20-year-old captain Zane Normand.

Hailing from Saskatoon, Normand is an all-around player, capable of good things at both ends of the ice.

"We got Zane (Normand) because we wanted a left-shot centre, since Baersy (Preston Baerwald) will be out longer than anticipated, and we always like to have

depth at centre," admitted Millionaires coach Doug Johnson. "He can handle hard minutes defensively and help our penalty kill, plus, when surrounded by skill, he's proven he can put up points, and he's got more skill than this year's number show."

So far this season, Normand has had difficulty finding his scoring touch, with three goals and three helpers for six points, but last season, over 28 games, Normand put up 10 goals and as many assists for a 20-point total.

In another Jan. 6 deal, the Mils traded the CJHL rights to Ben Laurette to the Bonnyville Pontiacs (AJHL) in exchange for a PDF.

The Millionaires filled their vacant goaltender spot on Jan. 7 when the Weyburn Red Wings traded 19-year-old Yorkton native Preston Patenaude to the Mils in exchange for a PDF.

"We got Patty because (Noah) Sinagowitz went to the BCHL and (Massimo) Urbani got hurt his second day here," Johnson told The Advance. "He would've

been our first choice to bring in, but we were down the rabbit hole with Urbani quite a ways before he became available."

Johnson thinks he may have gotten a bit of a steal with the former Red Wings netminder, saying, "I think there is a big upside with him."

Needing a defenceman, the Millionaires acquired Maddox Shindle from the Virten Oil Capitals (MJHL) in exchange for a PDF in the team's lone true deadline deal on Jan. 10.

Originally from Portage la Prairie, MB, the 6'4, 190-pound defender will be counted on immediately, due to the Millionaires injury situation.

"He's a good kid and should be a good player for us, and fit well into our system," Johnson added.

The Millionaires have been snake-bit by injuries this season, but a couple of guys are getting set to return soon.

Defenceman Wesley Golden, lower-body, will be out for at least a week while fellow blueliner Ty Janz is listed as day to day with an upper-body malady.

Forward Alex Morrison has an upper-body injury as does fellow forward Preston Baerwald.

Morrison is expected to be out at least a week as Baerwald eyes a mid-February return to action.

### Millionaires split with Klippers

Melville Millionaires 3 at  
Kindersley Klippers 4 (Jan. 9)

The Millionaires had the lion's share of shots in this one but couldn't pull out the victory.

Millionaires' Hudson Binder and Brayden Gourley each scored their third goal of the season with Boston Harkness notching his eighth in a losing cause, with Rylan Oatman, Keil Schmalz and Kale Margolis picking up assists.

The Mils outshot the Klippers 38-31 with Matt Spencer-Dahl being saddled with the loss.

Melville led 1-0 after the first period with Kindersley leading 2-1 after 40 minutes.

The teams split eight minor penalties.

### Melville Millionaires 1 at

Kindersley Klippers 0 (Jan. 8)

Spencer-Dahl made 25 saves between the pipes for the Millionaires to earn the shutout and Yibin Yoo's third goal of the season, in the second period, stood up as the game winner as the visitors squeaked out the road triumph.

Kindersley outshot Melville by a 25-16 margin.

The Millionaires were handed four minors while the Klips took a minor, a major and a game misconduct.

The Mils make their return to home ice on Jan. 16, when the Weyburn Red Wings pay a visit to the CN Community Centre. The following night, Jan. 17, the Millionaires host the Humboldt Broncos.

Game time for both contests is 7 p.m.

# Big nights and tough losses shape senior hockey weekend

By GNG News  
Grasslands News

Senior hockey fans were treated to a busy stretch of action across southeastern Saskatchewan this past week, with teams from the Big 6, Prairie Men's Hockey League, Qu'Appelle Valley Hockey League and Sask East Hockey League all hitting the ice. From tight one-goal battles to high-scoring blowouts, the schedule featured plenty of offence, physical play and momentum-shifting moments as clubs jockeyed for position heading deeper into the season.

### Big 6 Hockey League

The KW Oil Kings experienced an up-and-down stretch with a convincing home win followed by a tough road loss.

On Jan. 9 in Kipling, the Oil Kings delivered a strong performance in a 6-1 victory over the Midale Mustangs. KW jumped out to a 3-0 first-period lead and controlled the pace the rest of the way, adding goals in each of the final two frames. Taylor Hoedel and Austin Fleck each finished with multi-point games, while Jordan Andres and Josh Hassler sealed the outcome with third-period tallies.

Two nights later, the Oil Kings were on the road in Redvers and fell 9-2 to the Rockets. Redvers built an early lead and pulled away with a five-goal third period. Kenton Miller and Naton Miller led the Rockets' offence, while Redvers capitalized on their chances to secure the lopsided win.

### Prairie Men's Hockey League

The Prairie Men's Hockey League slate featured competitive matchups and plenty of scoring.

In Ituna on Jan. 11, the Avalanche edged the Cupar Canucks 5-4 in a tightly contested contest. Ituna built a 5-2 advantage through two periods before Cupar pushed back late. Lane Knapp and Jacob Belton each recorded three-point nights for the Avalanche, while Devan Harrison led Cupar's offence with a three-point effort.

Earlier in the week, the Strasbourg Maroons earned a 7-4 home win over the Indian Head Chiefs. Strasbourg scored three times in both the second and third

periods to pull away. Keenan Lugt found the back of the net twice for the Maroons, while Daulton Perillat paced Indian Head with two goals in the loss.

Indian Head had a bi-weekend and didn't play.

### Qu'Appelle Valley Hockey League

The Qu'Appelle Valley Hockey League schedule included several physical, high-scoring games.

On Jan. 9 at the Star Dome, the Balgonie Bisons rallied past the Balcarres Broncs for a 4-3 win. Trailing heading into the third period, Balgonie scored twice to complete the comeback, with Riley Perkins leading the offensive charge.

The Bisons were back in action the following night in Raymore, where they dropped a 6-4 decision to the Rockets. Raymore controlled much of the play and made the most of its opportunities, with Peyton Gorski dishing out five assists to power the Rockets' attack.

Grenfell enjoyed a dominant showing on Jan. 10, rolling to an 11-2 victory over Balcarres. Cody O'Hare led the way with four goals and five points, while Kyle Bocek and Drew Hoehn also had big nights as the Spitfires controlled the game from start to finish.

The Spitfires were back on the ice on Jan. 11 but came up short in a 9-6 loss to the Lumsden Monarchs. Kevin DuFour and Carter Folk combined for a big offensive night for Lumsden, while Riley Kolesar and Taylor Fisher led Grenfell's scoring effort.

### Sask East Hockey League

The Sask East Hockey League schedule proved challenging for the Wapella Blackhawks.

On Jan. 9, the Langenburg Warriors skated to a 10-4 road win in Wapella, scoring five times in the second period to seize control. Jacob Brook and Tyson Zimmer each scored twice for the Warriors, while Max Threinen and Josh Pepler added multi-point performances.

Wapella returned to the ice the following night in Minitonas and suffered a 14-3 loss to the Swan Valley Axemen. Jackson Betcher led the way with five goals, while Trey Sauder recorded an eight-point night as Swan Valley broke the game open with an eight-goal second period.

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# YRHS Invitational Bonspiel attracts teams from wide area

By Calvin Daniels  
Grasslands News

Twenty-one youth curling teams from as far away as Unity, La Ronge and Swan River gathered at the Great Canadian Oil Change Curling Arena in Yorkton for bonspiel action on the weekend.

The event was the third annual Senior Invitational organized by the Yorkton Regional High School Curling program, and run by Yorkton Regional coaches Nathan Bewcyk, Barb Woytas, and Mandie Foster.

Action began Friday in a round robin format and culminating with the event finals Saturday afternoon.

## Boys Division (with Round Robin results)

1. Yorkton Regional (0-4)
2. Wynyard (4-0)
3. Esterhazy (3-1)
4. Regina (Michael A. Riffel) (2-2)
5. Swift Current (1-3)

It was a "tough weekend for the Yorkton Regional boys' team," coach Bewcyk stated in a release. "It is a rebuilding year for this team as it is technically the first year they are curling as a unit. We lost three boys as they graduated last year.

"Though the record looks rough, we could see the improvement as the weekend went on."

Bewcyk also gave a shout out to Esterhazy for winning the boys' event, noting some members from this Esterhazy team were also recently crowned the 2025 U18 CurlSask Provincial Champions over the Christmas break. They will be representing Saskatchewan Team 1 at the Canadian National Championship in Timmins, Ontario Feb 7-14



CALVIN DANIELS | GRASSLANDS NEWS

## HURRY! get it in

YRHI team members Toby Reminek and Nick Sobkow sweeping, with Jens Vincent calling the sweepers on the rock.

Final results were: Gold: Esterhazy, Silver: Wynyard, Bronze: Swift Current, 4th: Regina.

## Girls Division (with Round Robin results)

### Pool A:

1. Yorkton Regional (3-0)
2. Churchbridge (2-1)
3. Preeceville (0-3)
4. Swan River (1-2)

### Pool B:

5. Sacred Heart (2-1)
6. Esterhazy (1-2)
7. Regina (Winston Knoll) (0-3)
8. La Ronge (3-0)

"Our five-person Yorkton Regional girls' team has stayed fairly similar from last year, only adding one new girl to the group, considering we have two girls currently in their graduation year," said Be-

wcyk. "The only loss this weekend was to get into the gold medal game, when they played Sacred Heart in the crossover. Amazing improvement for this girls' team when looking at last year to now."

Final results were: Gold: Sacred Heart, Silver: La Ronge, Bronze: Yorkton Regional, 4th: Churchbridge.

## Mixed Division (with Round Robin results):

### Pool A:

1. Yorkton Regional (Vogel) (2-1)
2. Sacred Heart (3-0)
3. Churchbridge (1-2)
4. Swift Current Team 2 (0-3)

### Pool B:

5. Yorkton Regional (McCallum) (1-2)
6. Canora (2-1)
7. Unity (3-0)
8. Swift Current Team 1 (0-3)

# Josh Garbutt takes over as Yorkton Kinsmen Maulers' head coach

By Chris Ashfield  
Grasslands News

The Yorkton Kinsmen Maulers have parted ways with coach Jason Gordon. The announcement came only days after the team dropped a weekend pair in Moose Jaw 13-0 and 6-3.

Assistant coach and assistant general manager, Josh Garbutt was named the new head coach of the organization, effective immediately.

Garbutt has experience throughout multiple levels of elite, junior and pro experience, as well as success locally in the senior leagues, and has won at all levels of hockey. His experience playing for the WHL's Brandon Wheat Kings, Kamloops Blazers and Price George Cougars, as well as being

a pivotal member of the SJHL's Yorkton Terriers in 2004-05, where the Terriers won the SJHL title will be essential in leading the organization. Garbutt also has experience playing professionally in the ECHL, CHL, and in the UK's EIHL, along with time in the CIS with the Regina Cougars.

"The organization is thrilled to have a guy with experience at the pro level. It's invaluable to have a guy that's won at every level as a player, and we're excited to have him behind the bench developing the young men in Yorkton," stated Jeremy Palaniuk, Kinsmen Maulers General Manager and Associate Coach in a prepared release.

In the release the Mauler organization did

thank Gordon for his time and commitment to Kinsmen Mauler hockey over the past two seasons, on and off the ice, and in the



JOSH GARBUTT

community.

The Kinsmen Maulers have 14 games remaining in the season, including eight at home at the Westland Insurance Arena.

## Garbutt reflects on new role with Maulers

Garbutt told Yorkton This Week while it wasn't the way he would have wished for a head coaching job, it is also something he has been interested in exploring.

"Hockey's one of my greatest passions," he said adding he is at that point where he wants to stay involved in the game and coaching is the next step after an extensive resume as a player. "... It's (coaching) always been in the back of my mind."

Garbutt said he also knew he wanted to be involved locally.

"Yorkton is a pretty special city in terms of the hockey people that are within the city," he said, adding he has seen so many take on roles to keep hockey going, and now it

is his turn to sort of jump into a leadership position, "and give whatever I can to the (Mauler) program."

Now that Garbutt has the top job he has some work ahead of him. The Maulers Saskatchewan Male U18 AAA Midget Hockey League record as of the coaching change was 6-19-3-1 for 16 points, to sit 11th in the league standings.

"Obviously we had different hopes and plans," said Garbutt who has been with the club as assistant coach since the start of the season.

While the record today is underwhelming, Garbutt said at the start of the season things looked rather promising with the Maulers rattling off seven straight wins over pre-season and into the regular campaign.

"It's within these kids... They have the potential to be a great hockey club," he said.

So how does the new coach bring the potential out of the Maulers?

"Give the players some confidence," said Garbutt.

The new head coach said it will not be an overnight change, but rather the team needs to take steps to compete, and more importantly perhaps to get back to where players "genuinely enjoy coming to the rink every day."

To do that Garbutt said he hopes to draw on his own experiences in hockey to help the players.

"I've seen the ups and downs," he said of his "30-years in hockey since tying the skates on the first time... I've won a championship and seen what the culture of that team was."

Now he must transfer his insights to the current Maulers.

Garbutt also faces the challenge of re-building the Mauler culture in terms of being a top team in the league year in and year out.

"There's no reason Yorkton can't be in the mix every single year," he said.

## Bowling Scores, Standings - Melville Bowl Arena

MONDAY P.M. Jan. 5			THURSDAY YBC Jan. 8		
Ladies' High Single and Triple, Linda Bender, 267, 624. Ladies' High Average, Angela Dobson, 166.			Girls High Single and Triple, Emmi Hollinger, 170, 492.		
Men's High Single and Average, Joe Wu, 198, 190. Men's High Triple, Gordon Ostlund, 546.			Boys High Single, Zachary Curylo, 211. Boys High Triple, Braxton Hollinger, 517.		
Team High Single and Triple, Bender, 900, 2458.			Team High Single and Triple, Hollinger, 842, 2461.		
<b>Team</b>	<b>Pts.</b>		<b>Team</b>	<b>Pts.</b>	
Dobson	37		Curylo	34.5	
Ostlund	35.5		Kohlenberg	31	
Bender	30.5		Hollinger	33	
Stephens	23		Wurts	29.5	
MONDAY COMMERCIAL Jan. 5			SATURDAY YBC Jan. 10		
Ladies' High Single, Branda Broos, 292. Ladies' High Triple and Average, Brandy Lechner, 718, 226.			Girls High Single and Triple, Ashyah Davies, 111, 315.		
Men's High Single, Triple and Average, Destin Kohlenberg, 290, 805, 216.			Boys High Single and Triple, Remi Schneider, 244, 567.		
Team High Single, Gutter Girls, 1297. Team High Triple, Pinheads, 3782.			Team High Single, Bowling Superstars, 858. Team High Triple, The Enders, 2522.		
<b>Team</b>	<b>Pts.</b>		<b>Team</b>	<b>Pts.</b>	
Professional Amateurs	41		The Enders	42	
Gutter Girls	40		Bravehearts	37	
			Bowling Superstars	25	
			Everything	24	

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# Zerr brings Grey Cup home to family and friends

By Calvin Daniels  
Grasslands News

The Grey Cup is a cherished trophy in particular for fans of the Saskatchewan Roughriders, so when the 'Holy Grail' of the CFL was in Yorkton Sunday many were only too happy to stand in line for a chance for a photo with the rarely won mug.

The Cup's visit was courtesy of local 'Rider Noah Zerr.

Zerr told Yorkton This Week while many players stayed in Regina or Saskatoon when they got their day with the cup, he wanted to bring it back "to two towns that were special to me. . . I grew up in Langenburg and played in Yorkton my whole life."

Zerr first took the cup to Langenburg where he made four stops around the community.

"It was super surreal. . . Kind of a dream come true," he said, adding "family and friends – people I've known my whole life" showed up at each stop to share the Cup.

Zerr said the pride people in Langenburg garnered from the Cup win really reinforced how fortunate he is to be playing pro football – specially for the team he grew up cheering for. He noted pro football can be fleeting, something he has learned as he bounced around spending time with teams he didn't quite mesh with, adding he was fortunate "Saskatchewan has been the fit" for his career.

Through the moves his career demanded Zerr said he just tried to stay fo-



CALVIN DANIELS | GRASSLANDS NEWS

## Grey Cup comes to Yorkton

Saskatchewan Roughrider Noah Zerr, from Langenburg, signs autographs at Tapps in Yorkton Sunday, Jan. 11 along with the coveted Grey Cup.

ocused on putting in the work and waiting for the right opportunity to contribute. He said that can mean being something of a cheerleader from the sidelines from the guy that has the spot you covet, and it also means being ready to step into that position and doing your best to stay on the field when called on.

"You've got to be a good teammate to everybody," he said adding "the most important thing is to win games." Then

Zerr admitted there is what he called "a kind of duality" to the pro game, the need to be part of the collective effort to win, and still "hoping for the opportunity" to excel as an individual.

As for the 2025 Grey Cup win, Zerr said the Roughriders felt like they were primed and ready from day one of the season.

"Right from training camp I think we felt it," he said, adding in 2024 injuries

really hit a team they felt could do it all, and with the roster generally intact they were ready to prove that in 2025.

While there were some glitches, the season rolled out well.

"We had a special roster. . . Right out of the gate we thought we could do something special" said Zerr, adding it helped having a veteran like Trevor Harris at quarterback. . . He's world class. He's an extreme perfectionist."

And then there was the Cup final on the Roughriders' home field.

"It was the kind of game you live for. We knew exactly what we had to do," said Zerr.

Then the game was over, the 'Riders has won, and Zerr said it was hard to take it in.

"Honestly I didn't even realize it until we were up on the podium," he said, adding sure he had known the game had ended "but I was still having a hard time processing what had happened."

Then Zerr found his parents on the field. It was sort of closing a circle for him and his father as his dad had gotten a young Zerr onto the field the last time the 'Riders won it all at home.

"And I was hugging mom and crying my eyes out," he said as he shared what had actually happened with his parents.

Soon it will be back to camp with an eye to doing something unheard of in the long history of the Roughriders, winning a second straight Grey Cup.

"It something you hope – to go back-to-back," said Zerr, but he added "there are eight other teams that have that hope (to win it all)."

# Terrier duo win gold with Team SJH at Viking Cup

By Calvin Daniels  
Grasslands News

Team SJHL, which featured two Yorkton Terriers, won gold at the Viking Cup – the first held in two decades.

Over the course of the Viking Cup held in Camrose, both Terriers contributed some big goals to the SJHL effort in the five-team tourney.

None was bigger than Tylan Henrikson's effort which tied the gold medal game 4-4 with 14.4 seconds remaining in regulation, sending the game to overtime with Ethan Andrews goal winning it in overtime as Team SJHL topped the SAIT Trojans 5-4.

Of note to SJHL fans – the Trojans had 13 SJ alumni in their roster.

"It was super cool," Henrikson said of the experience in Alberta. "It was a very cool tournament to be part of."

The win is a career-to-date moment for Henrikson.

"It's definitely one of the cooler moments just playing in the tournament," he said, adding the win "is one of the most memorable moments in my career."

The University of Alberta at Augustana and Team Czechia battled for bronze with Czechia shutting out the host team 8-0.

Team SJHL had clinched its spot in the gold medal game with a 7-3 win over the University of Alberta at Augustana of the ACAC. Terrier Jye Zawatsky helped lead the way with two goals.

"It was a brand-new experience," said Zawatsky, who added he knew of the Viking Cup, but that when it was last held, he would have been one-year-old. ". . . So, it was interesting from the get-go."

And the win is something Zawatsky said he holds in high regard.

"I think it's the biggest highlight of my career so far," he told Yorkton This Week. "The competition at the tournament . . . was an all-time high."

Zawatsky said playing Melville in the SJHL playoffs was of course big given the rivalry, but the history and international element to the Viking Cup was just a bit more special.

"The Viking Cup was a lot of fun," he said.

It helped too that Zawatsky had family in the stands.

"It made it so much more special – just having the family there was so much more support," he said.

While the SJ team had to come together in a matter of days with little ice time to become familiar with teammates, they found a way.

Riding the bus was a big part of that coming together suggested Zawatsky, who noted some players climbed aboard the bus in Regina, others in Saskatoon, and as the miles rolled by to Camrose, they got to know each other a bit more.

"I think the bus ride helped. We became familiar with each other a bit more," he said.

Henrikson said how to come together was a concern early.

"It was probably the biggest concern for our team going in whether we would jell together as a team," he said.

But, Henrikson too said the hours on the bus were well spent getting to know players who were normally rivals better.

He said there was lots of chatter, a few games of cards, and ultimately "a good first step" to becoming a unified team.

It obviously worked as Henrikson noted.

"We were fairly successful from the first game," he said.

While in Camrose to play hockey, the Viking Cup was a broader experience too.

For example, players were assigned to billet families which Zawatsky said "was a different experience" at such an event.

The dinner held for players was another great event affording the different teams at least a little time to mingle, said Henrikson.

Now both players hope to build on the Viking Cup experience as the Terriers head toward the SJHL playoffs.

Henrikson said you certainly gain valuable experience "when you play in a game like the gold medal one." He said now he just hopes "to share that experience a little bit" with the Terriers as they play toward a playoff spot. "I think it will be super valuable for myself and the rest of the team."

"When the playoffs come it's a different game," said Zawatsky, adding the Viking Cup experience is the same and that is something he can draw on now that he has the Viking Cup gold.

(Photos by Simple Shots by Jackie)

# Yorkton Terriers roll over Mustangs

By Calvin Daniels  
Grasslands News

It was a light weekend for the Yorkton Terriers as they played only one SJHL contest.

That one game had the Terriers blitz the visiting Melfort Mustangs at the Westland Insurance Arena in Yorkton.

The visiting 'Stangs did get off to a positive start with Kaleb Binner scoring an unassisted short-handed effort 2:11 into the game for the early lead.

But that lead would last only 34 seconds before Cash Lanigan tied things with a powerplay effort.

Gabriel Courchesne then popped a pair of first period markers – at 8:51 and 19:53 – to give the home side a 3-1 lead through 20-minutes of play.

The middle stanza was played somewhat even with Yorkton getting the lone goal off the stick of William Leonard in the final minute of action.

Then in the third the wheels fell off for the visitors as the Terriers pumped in four unanswered goals to round out an 8-1

win.

Tylan Henrikson scored at 8:10, Kale Johns at 13:12, Leonard with his second of the night – this one on the powerplay at 16:00, and Owen Roberts at 18:19.

Madden Mulawka took the loss facing 42-shots in the Mustang net.

Coming off being named the SaskTel Goalie of the Month for December Callum Creig was the winning netminder facing 28-shots.

In December Creig was 3-0-0-1 with a 2.23 GAA, and a .934 SV per cent.

Terrier Gabriel Courchesne joined Creig with December honours being named Bourgault Forward of the Month playing five games and recording four goals and seven points.

Cash Lanigan was Player of the Week as well based on a goal and three points in two games played.

The Terriers remain solidly in third spot in the SJHL Bunge Division based on a record of 18-11-1-1 for 38 points, four points up on basement dwelling Melville, and three back of second place Estevan. The Bunge is led by Weyburn with 45 points.



Jye Zawatsky



Tylan Henrikson

# Sharp will celebrate 100th birthday Jan. 23

## A Come and Go Tea takes place Jan. 24

By Judy Hershmilller  
Grasslands News

Happy birthday to Bernice Sharp who will be celebrating in style on Jan. 23, 2026 when she turns 100. A come and go tea will be held at the Balcarres Golden Age Centre on Saturday, Jan. 24 starting at 4 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

The celebration will also be a time for the families to gather with neighbours and friends. Bernice says she doesn't know details, but is looking forward to seeing people and has been enjoying messages and greetings which have been coming in.

Bernice was born on a cold day in January 1926 at the farm home of Harold and Hazel Keys. At the time her mother was assisted by midwife Mrs. Bray, Tom Bray's grandmother who lived close by, as the Keys lived east of the Balcarres cemetery, and the Brays lived in the same area.

The Keys family had four children: Lawrence,

Alvin, Bernice and Robert (Bob) and they lived in various locations as the years go by. She remembered living on a farm close by the south grid, and going to school with a horse and buggy, with the Williams' girls who were friends.

She took all her education in Balcarres, and when done worked for Andy Moffatt in his grocery store before she got married.

She married John Sharp Feb. 21, 1946 and at that time her brother Alvin bought the grocery store, so she continued to help Alvin for a time in the store before she and John moved to the Sharp farm north of Balcarres.

They lived in a small house on the Sharp farm until John's parents moved to town, and then John and Bernice moved into the bigger home.

Through the years Bernice and John had chil-

dren: Jack, Donna and Jim. Life was busy on the farm. She helped with the animals, hauled grain with horses and a small wagon box that didn't contain much (meaning more trips) before graduating to driving a tractor, looked after chickens, had a big garden, all while caring for her growing family.

John and Bernice decided to sell the farm in 1978, and plans were made to build a house on Dianne Street, Balcarres where Bernice still lives today. She remembered moving into town, and was thankful Garth and Allan Hurford were part of their moving crew. Moving day was Aug. 17, 1978.

Being retired and living in Balcarres was a different lifestyle for the couple, but they settled in nicely. They enjoyed close neighbours and friends and played cards.

## CHURCH DIRECTORY

### 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. 18:  
11:00 a.m. Worship w/Comm  
and Sunday School at St. Paul's  
Monday, Jan. 19:  
7 p.m. Council Meets  
Tuesday, Jan. 20:  
3:30 p.m. MACC at St. Paul's  
7 p.m. Worship Committee Meets

-- at Neudorf/Lemberg --

Saturday, Jan. 17:  
\*7 p.m. Worship at Trinity Lemb  
Sunday, Jan. 18:  
\*9 a.m. Worship at Christ Neud

**ALL SAINTS' ANGLICAN CHURCH**  
Corner 6th Ave. E. & Main St.  
306-720-0589  
\*Services Every Second Sunday  
Jan. 18: No Service

**FIRST UNITED CHURCH**  
5th Ave. E. & King St.  
Rev. Brian Mee, 306-335-7611  
website: firstunitedmelville.org  
Thursday, Jan. 15: Free Comm  
Supper at St. Henry's RC  
Sunday, Jan. 18:  
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.melvillerverchurch.org  
Facebook @melvillerverchurch  
Recorded messages  
posted online

**GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
258 - 10th Ave. W.  
Ph. 306-728-3971  
Pastor Ronald Shumba  
facebook.com/gslcmelville  
Jan. 15: 7 p.m. Bible Study  
Jan. 16: 7 p.m. Ignite Youth  
Jan. 18: 10:30 a.m. Worship  
Jan. 20: 9:30 a.m. Ladies Day

**ST. GEORGE'S UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
Corner of 3rd Ave. E. & Manitoba St.  
Fr. Basil Malowany  
basilmalowany@gmail.com  
306-540-5102  
Sunday, Jan. 18:  
4:00 p.m. Divine Liturgy  
Sunday, Jan. 25:  
11:30 p.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. 18: 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: zlcpcastor@myaccess.ca  
www.zionlutheranmelville.com  
Sunday, Jan. 18:  
11 a.m. Worship 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. 17:  
5:30 p.m. Mass

**ST. MARY'S ANGLICAN CHURCH**  
Sunday, Jan. 18:  
10:30 a.m. Morning Prayer

**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, WAPELLA**  
Sunday, Jan. 18:  
10 a.m. Communion Service  
Coffee to Follow

**WHITEWOOD UNITED CHURCH**  
Sunday, Jan. 18  
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  
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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  
Saturday, Jan. 17  
Mass 6:30 p.m.

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

**BEKEVAR PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
102 Nelson Ave.  
(in Kipling United Church)  
Sunday Worship  
in person 11:30 a.m.  
Rev. Devon Pattemore  
Lay Person/Service Leader  
306-736-2479  
bkbernmat@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  
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Sunday January 18th Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM  
Priest: Rodion Luciuk Phone: 306-786-6216  
Cell: 306-621-5341

**Holy Transfiguration Ukrainian Orthodox Church**  
89 Bradbrooke Drive, Yorkton  
SK S3N 2Y2 • 306-782-2998  
Father Michael Faryna • 306-601-9043

Thurs., Jan 15 • 2:00PM - Moleben (Yorkton Nursing Home)  
Sat, Jan 17 • House Blessings (Melville/Ituna)  
Sun., Jan 18 • 10:00AM - Divine Liturgy (Yorkton)  
Mon, Jan 19 • House Blessings (Sheho)  
Wed., Jan 21 • 10:30AM - Moleben (Foam Lake Nursing Home)

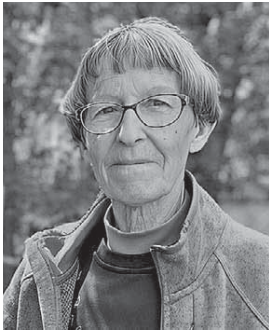
# CLASSIFIEDS



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

**Carol Granger**  
1943 - 2026



It is with great sadness that the family of Carol Granger announce her passing at the age of 82 on Thursday, Jan. 8, 2026, in Kipling, SK, following a brief change in health.

Carol grew up in Kipling, SK, the second youngest of six children. After high school, she began her lifelong career with TD Bank. She retired in Regina after 34 years of service in 1998. Carol loved to travel, both internationally with family and across Canada to visit relatives. While maintaining her 100 year old family home in Kipling, her greatest joys were her yard, vegetable garden, reading, knitting, TV sports, making memories with family and friends, and spending time at her Kenosee Lake family cabin.

Carol was predeceased by her parents Leroy and Mary (née Shumski); sister Katherine; and brother Dallas. She is survived by her loving family: brother Larry (Doris) of Belleville, ON; sisters Donna of Gull Lake, SK and Dorothy (Terry) of Regina, SK; and cherished nieces and nephews Roy (Bev) of Gull Lake, SK, Carmela (Dave) of Burlington, ON, Chris of Thailand, Gordon of Surrey, BC, Kathy (John) of Medicine Hat, AB, Doug (Brenda) of North Vancouver, BC; and Lesley of Kamloops, BC; along with her great-nieces and nephews, lovingly known by Carol as her "Little Angels."

*"Lord Love A Duck"*

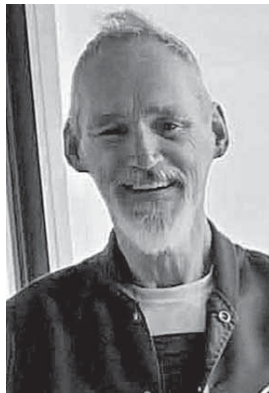
The family would like to extend heartfelt thanks to Carol's dear friends, Sandra and Joanne; the staff at Kipling Hospital; and the entire community of Kipling for their years of kindness and support.

In memory of Carol, and at her request, there will be no formal service. A private family gathering will be held at a later date. Donations in Carol's memory may be made to the Kipling Food Bank Inc. Online messages of condolence may be left at [www.paragonfuneralservices.com](http://www.paragonfuneralservices.com)

**PARAGON**  
FUNERAL & CREMATION SERVICES

## Obituary

**Derek Simon**  
Feb. 16, 1961 - Dec. 21, 2025



With heavy hearts, we announce the passing of Derek Simon, a deeply-loved father and grandfather, who passed away on Sunday, Dec. 21, 2025.

Derek was born on Feb. 16, 1961, and was the definition of selfless giving, strong, and endlessly devoted to his family. He lived his life with integrity, generosity, and quiet strength, always putting others before himself. To those who knew him best, he was not only an incredible dad but the very best Papa, whose love knew no limits and whose presence brought comfort and joy.

Derek leaves behind his four beloved daughters, Stephanie, Rebecca, Melissa and Makenna, and his seven cherished granddaughters, Kylee, Breeah, Kamryn, Kinsley, Ivy, Avery and Addilynne. He also leaves behind his truest best friend, Dana Simon, whose bond with Derek was built on unwavering love and steadfast support, and his beloved godson, Bryce. They all were the light of his life and his greatest joy.

Derek's legacy is one of kindness, resilience, and unconditional love. He taught by example, loved without reservation, and leaves behind a family forever shaped by his guidance and care.

He will be missed more than words can express and remembered always.

Forever loved. Forever missed.

Arrangements are entrusted to Matthews Funeral Home, Melville.

**M**  
**MATTHEWS**  
Funeral Home

## Obituary

**Lorne Paul Maurer**  
Feb. 18, 1931 - Jan. 2, 2026



Lorne Maurer passed away on Friday, Jan. 2, 2026, in the Yorkton Health Centre at the age of 94 years.

Lorne Paul Maurer was born on Feb. 18, 1931, on the family farm in the Neudorf district to Ludwig and Margaretha (Bauer) Maurer. He was baptized at Redeemer Lutheran Church on Feb. 22, 1931, by Pastor Krahn and confirmed at Trinity Lutheran Church on April 14, 1946, by Pastor F.A. Miller.

Lorne attended Pheasant Hills School to Grade 8, at which time he embarked on his farming career with his brothers and parents. Lorne enjoyed playing softball and was a member of the team at Pheasant Hills School. He was also a multi-talented mechanic, builder, plumber, etc. and was often called upon to assist others.

On Oct. 23, 1953, Lorne was united in marriage to Lillian Hollinger by Pastor A. Hippe. This union was blessed with two children, Barry and Denise. Lorne and Lillian farmed north of Neudorf until the spring of 1985 when they semi-retired in the village of Neudorf.

Lorne's faith was very important to him, which was evidenced by his service on church council at Redeemer Lutheran and Christ Lutheran, as well as Christ Lutheran Cemetery secretary from 1990 to 2014. He was always willing to lend a helping hand wherever needed. In their spare time, Lorne and Lillian enjoyed exploring the province on their Sunday drives, which often included touring cemeteries because of his keen interest in family history. Family was very important to Lorne, and he always appreciated visiting, phone calls, and hearing what everyone was doing.

Lorne was predeceased by his dear wife of 55 years, Lillian; his parents; his brothers, Fred, Willie and Arlin, and a brother in infancy; brothers-in-law Ferdinand and Lenard; sister-in-law Gladys; nieces Loni and Lana; nephew Bradley; and Lillian's parents, Wilhelm and Martha (Sabirsh) Hollinger. He leaves to cherish his memory his son, Barry (Carol) Maurer of Melville; daughter Denise Maurer of Saskatoon; grandchildren Scott (Ashley) Maurer of Neudorf and Tamara Maurer (Brent Machula) of Winnipeg; great-grandchildren Lily, Sophie, Nathan and Andi; sisters Florence (Lorne) Gottfried and Isabel (Richard) Gattinger; sisters-in-law Doreen Maurer, Vera Maurer and Evelyn Maurer; brothers-in-law Elton (Wanda) Hollinger and Roy Gattinger; sisters-in-law Arleen Hollinger and Verena Hollinger; and numerous nieces and nephews and their families.

While Lorne's passing leaves a huge void in our family, we are comforted knowing that he is reunited with his dear Lillian, whom he missed so very much.

Lorne's funeral service was held Wednesday, Jan. 7, 2026, at Christ Lutheran Church, Neudorf, with the Rev. Victoria Mwamasika officiating. The pianist was Dale Maurer, the eulogist was Scott Maurer and Carol Maurer read scripture. Interment took place in Christ Lutheran Cemetery, Neudorf, with Tamara Maurer, Perry Hollinger, Kelly Maurer, Scott Maurer, Garnet Graff and Rodney Maurer acting as pallbearers.

Arrangements were entrusted to Matthews Funeral Home, Melville.

**M**  
**MATTHEWS**  
Funeral Home

### Advertising Deadline for Obituaries

and Classifieds is

12 noon on Tuesdays

email: [production2@grasslandsnews.ca](mailto:production2@grasslandsnews.ca)

Call Toll Free

**1-844-464-6397**

## Obituary Candace Layne Slykhuis

Aug. 28, 1963 - Jan. 5, 2026

On Monday, Jan. 5, 2026, Candace (Levai) Slykhuis, beloved wife of Clifford Slykhuis, passed away at Kipling Hospital surrounded by her loving family.

Candace Layne Levai was born on Aug. 28, 1963, to her parents Charles and Eleanor Levai. Candace grew up on the family farm near Kipling until her father's death, when she moved into Kipling and worked for Joe and Elizabeth Bakaluk during her high school years. After graduation, she worked at the Co-op Grocery store. She proudly climbed the ladder to Produce Manager, at one point making over 1 million dollars in sales in a single year.

Her relationship with Clifford began in 1979, and they were married on June 14, 1986. She continued to work at the Co-op until they started their family in the spring of 1989 by welcoming a daughter, Chaelynn. In the summer of 1992, they also welcomed a son, Sheldon.

During this time, Candace opened their home to caring for other children from the community. She and Cliff started their own business (C&C Septic's), and she also started helping on the Slykhuis family farm. She jumped into the farm-life with both feet: combining, cutting and baling hay, hauling bales, cleaning corrals, calving, and bottle-feeding. For a time, she grew a garden, and she made the best home-made buns, salads, and cookies that everyone in the family raved about. She enjoyed cooking her family's favorite meals and loved making pancakes with her grandsons.

Candace loved her children with her whole heart and supported them in their life choices. She was present for numerous hockey and curling games, reffing, and 4-H. She helped to teach them the value of a dollar by having them sell their calves and using their earnings to buy clothes, sports equipment, and more. She was so proud of how they continued these habits as they grew, and the responsible, well-rounded adults that they turned into. She spent her last years spreading that love and pride further to her grandchildren, and working alongside her husband.

Candace is predeceased by her parents, Charles and Eleanor Levai; her in-laws, Ivan and Christena Slykhuis; and brother-in-law, James Slykhuis. She is survived by her loving partner of over 45 years, Clifford Slykhuis; and their children Chaelynn (Korby) Boutin, and Sheldon (Collette) Slykhuis; the grandchildren who called her Grandma, Mama and Nana: Brennan, Hudson, Brynnee, and Ember; her brother, Richard (Connie) Levai; sisters-in-law Norma (Dale) Niebergall, Jo (Wayne) Mardian, and Cathy (Les) Slykhuis-Pentelchuk; along with numerous nieces and nephews.

By Candace's request there will be no service. The family will have a private Celebration of Life in her honor at a later date. In Lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Kipling Integrated Health Centre.

Online condolences to the family may be left at the Conley Funeral Home facebook page or website.

Arrangements entrusted to Conley Funeral Home, Wolseley, SK. 1306-698-5000.

## Obituary

**Brian Brown**  
June 19, 1954 - Dec. 21, 2025

It was with our deepest sadness that we announce the passing of our beloved Brian Brown who passed away, with his family by his side, on Sunday, Dec. 21, 2025, at the age of 71 years.

Brian was born in the Regina General Hospital on June 19, 1954. As an orphan baby, Brian was adopted by a very loving couple, Swana and John Brown, who farmed near Tantallon, SK. They worked

hard to make a life for their family, and they raised Brian giving him the knowledge of having a loving family.

Brian was predeceased by his parents, Swana and John Brown, and by a sister, Arlene Zac. He is survived by his loving wife, Gwen; daughter Tara Lee (Kyle), stepdaughter Audrea, daughter Kelly and son Cory.

A celebration of Brian's life will be held at a later date. Arrangements are entrusted to Matthews Funeral Home, Melville.

**M**  
**MATTHEWS**  
Funeral Home

**Published Fridays**  
**grasslandsnews.ca**

## Obituary

**Edwin Rotinsky**  
April 29, 1935 - Dec. 14, 2025

The family of Edwin Rotinsky of Yorkton, formerly of the Wroxton district, beloved husband of Shirley Rotinsky sadly announce his passing on Sunday, Dec. 14, 2025. He was 90 years of age.

Edwin was born April 29, 1935 on the family farm in the Stornoway District to John and Mary (Sawchuk). He was the fifth child.

Edwin attended Brandon School located two miles east of the family farm from grades one through eight, and his teacher was Mr. Fred Tetoff. Edwin was 10 years old when he went walking to school one day and the teacher's father came out and said, "We won the war! No School today!"

Edwin also mentioned many times that in 1944 the farm they lived on was 18 miles south of Kamsack and a tornado and sheet lightning occurred through most of the night. Edwin farmed on the family farm of Kamsack with his parents for years. During that time Edwin and Shirley met at a friend's wedding and married one year later on Nov. 4, 1967 in Kamsack by the late Rev. Father Walter Wasilishen. They farmed for 11 more years and then decided to move to Yorkton.

Dennis John was born in September 1968 and nine years later Darla Stacey was born in August 1977. On Nov. 1, 1978 the family moved to Yorkton. A few days before they moved to Yorkton, their neighbour Alex Tkachuk came with his truck and took Edwin and Dennis and all of their mixed breeds of cattle to the Roblin, MB stockyards. As they sadly watched their cattle walk through the ring they had to say their goodbyes to them, they all had names whether it was Fire, Red, Maude or Susan, they loved to talk with the cows and were very sad to see them go.

After moving to Yorkton in 1978, Edwin's first job was working in carpentry for the Landlord of their townhouse. It was a very cold winter working on his hands and knees, Edwin wasn't happy with that job so he took a welding course. Edwin suffered from sore eyes with that job and in 1979 he began cleaning sewage and fencing. He then became a crop adjuster with Saskatchewan Crop Insurance. Edwin and Dennis farmed one quarter of land then with 12 foot machinery, two JD tractors and two cylinders with a Put Put. Edwin always took Dennis on the road with him while working with Crop Insurance when there was no school. Dennis liked to question the farmers about what they had for livestock or what makes of machinery they farmed with. They would always enjoy a beautiful delicious smorg while on the road.

In 1981 Edwin began working at the Yorkton Union Hospital doing laundry. In the summer of 1981 he got a job at Municipal Hail as a hail adjuster in the Regina and Weyburn area. In October 1981 Edwin began his career with the Yorkton RCMP as a guard at the cell block and worked there for 20 years. In December of 2000, Edwin retired just before Christmas and was able to take it easy while spending precious time with his only grandchildren Brooke and Ashton. Brooke and Ashton were truly his pride and joy. His



face lit up every time he saw them and he always made them smile. On Dec. 5, 2023 Edwin was blessed with his greatest pride of all, his great-grandson Khassius. Edwin referred to him as Kasmer until the very end. On Dec 5, 2025 Darla showed her dad Ed a photo of the little boy and told him that it was his 2nd birthday. Edwin was already very frail and couldn't speak but when he saw the photo his face lit up and he whispered "Kasmer".

During the summers, Edwin enjoyed working in the garden, appreciating his harvest, and crawling around the yard weeding the flower beds. Every Wednesday in summer was "Farm Day" but before they went Ed ensured that the grass was cut. If there was a second mower running Edwin would take one and send Dennis to cut the grass at the school across the road as he was always about doing kind things for others. As he became less mobile he enjoyed his days sitting outside watching vehicles go by and waiting for company to stop in. His favourite was when Darla and the children would stop over which usually included a yummy treat for "Papa". Darla and Ed had an amazing father-daughter relationship which they both were so proud of. Brooke and Ashton were so blessed to have Ed as their Papa.

Edwin was predeceased by his parents, John and Mary (Sawchuk) Rohatynski; siblings Edward and Joyce; in-laws Mary and Bill Jacobs, Diane and Andy Maluga and Richard Jacobs; brother-in-law, John Tkachuk in 2002; brother Thronsen Rotinsky in 2004; sister Ethel Tkachuk in 2023; sister-in-law Jean Rotinsky in Dec./2025; three nieces: Beverly, Lavern and Sharon. Edwin leaves to cherish his memory, his wife of 58 years, Shirley; son, Dennis; daughter, Darla (Todd); grandchildren, Brooke and Ashton and great-grandson Kass; Ed's sister, Gayle (Frank) Hawryshko as well as many nieces and nephews.

The Funeral Liturgy was held on Thursday, Jan. 8, 2026 at St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Church in Yorkton with Rev. Father Jeffrey Stephaniuk as the Celebrant. The responses were led by Colette Karapita and funeral choir members. The crossbearer was Brooke Webster (granddaughter) and the epistle reader was Karen Craig (nee Tkachuk).

Serving as honorary pallbearers were Bernard Nokinsky (cousin), Metro Zawada (cousin), Dan Calef (friend) Ernie Derworiz (friend), Wilfred Zimmer (best man) and Bernie Fisher (cousin).

The interment took place in the Riverview Cemetery, Kamsack with Ashton Webster (grandson), Cameron Belfour (ring bearer), Herb Kruiuzenga (nephew), Duncan Nokinsky (cousin), Evan Derworiz (farm neighbour) and Barry Petruk (farm neighbour) serving as the casket bearers.

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www.baileysfuneralhome.com

## Obituary

**Robert Dale Vigar**  
Dec. 1, 1943 - Jan. 2, 2026

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Robert "Dale" Vigar, who passed away peacefully on Friday, Jan. 2, 2026, at the age of 82, surrounded by the love of his family.

Dale was born on Dec. 1, 1943, in Whitewood, SK, to Robert and Irene Vigar. Whitewood was where his life story truly began, including meeting the love of his life, Marion McDonald. They were married on May 30, 1964, and together built a life grounded in love, hard work, and family.

Dale and Marion welcomed their son James Darcey in Whitewood before moving to Moose Jaw, where Dale began his career with the Moose Jaw Police Department and later welcomed their daughter Tammy Lee. The family eventually moved to Drumheller, where Dale worked as a correctional officer.

Never one to shy away from following his passions, Dale later opened his own real estate business, RDV Realty. This chapter of his life brought him immense pride and fulfillment. After selling his company, he continued selling real estate in Innisfail, enjoying the relationships he built along the way. Dale and Marion later returned to Whitewood to enjoy retirement, spending winters together in Mazatlán, Mexico, a place they loved.

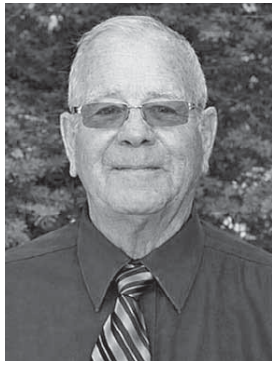
After the heartbreaking loss of Marion in 2014, Dale returned to Moose Jaw. In 2015, he met Judi Dinsdale, who brought renewed happiness, companionship, and laughter into his life. Together, Dale and Judi shared many special moments – laughing often, enjoying quiet evenings, and spending time around the campfire with neighbors and friends. These simple joys meant the world to Dale.

Dale was predeceased by his beloved wife Marion (2014); his nephew Michael Gaucher (2012); and his cherished great-granddaughter Sawyer (2015).

He will be lovingly remembered by Judi Dinsdale; his son Jim (Donna) Vigar of Drumheller, AB; his daughter Tammy (Harry) Malansky of Drumheller, AB; and his grandchildren Anthony Malansky (Saskatoon, SK), Justin Vigar (Chapel Hill, North Carolina), Nicole Malansky (Innisfail, AB), and Jordyn (Braden) Dewsbery (Drumheller, AB). Dale was a proud great-grandfather to Kolby and Mayson Thompson, Cooper Malansky, and Grayson, Wyatt and Bennett Dewsbery. He also leaves behind Judi's loving family, his sister Donna Heidt of Whitewood, SK, his brother Lloyd, and many nieces and nephews.

The family would like to sincerely thank everyone who has reached out with kindness, prayers, and support during this difficult time.

In keeping with Dale's wishes, no funeral service will be held. Interment will take place at a later date during a private family gathering in Whitewood. To leave an online message of condolence, please visit [www.speersfuneralchapel.com](http://www.speersfuneralchapel.com)



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## Obituary Edith Katherine Zerr

Feb. 1, 1924 - Jan. 10, 2026

Edith Katherine Zerr, of Indian Head, SK, passed away on Saturday, Jan. 10, 2026, in Indian Head, SK, at the age of 101 years.

Edith was predeceased by her husband George Zerr; mother Katrina (nee Fox) and father George Unteriner; siblings: Aloysius (Al), Wilhelmina (Willie) Bitz, Andrew (Andy), Anton (Tony), Paul and John.

She survived by her daughter Kathy (Gene) Krahenbil; grandchildren Jerrid (Naomi) and Kristopher (Kristal); great-grandchild Kaiden; sister-in-law Annie Nunns; brother-in-law George Gessey; step-great-grandchildren: Austin, Dante (Dakota) and Brady (Brittney); step-great-grandchild Stetson; along with many nieces and nephews.

A funeral mass will be celebrated in St. Joseph's RC Church, Indian Head, SK on Friday, Jan. 16, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. by Rev. Francis Hengen. The interment will be in the Indian Head Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations in memoriam may be made to St. Joseph's R.C. Church, P.O. Box 68, Indian Head, SK, S0G 2K0 or Golden Prairie Nursing Home Activity Fund, Box 250, Indian Head, SK, S0G 2K0.

Online condolences may be made at [www.tubmanfh.com](http://www.tubmanfh.com)



By GNG Staff  
Grasslands News

Saskatchewan boaters will no longer be able to obtain a 'one and done' license, thanks to changes announced through the national pleasure craft program.

On Jan. 6, federal Transport Minister Steven MacKinnon said amendments to the Small Vessel Regulations are intended to modernize the system and improve marine safety.

Under the changes, which took effect Dec. 31, 2025, new and renewed PCL licences are now valid for five years. Existing lifetime licences will be gradually replaced as boat owners renew.

A \$24 service fee now applies to issuing, renewing, transferring or replacing a licence, with the fee indexed annually to inflation.

Licence holders are

also required to update their name or address within 30 days of any change, a shorter timeline than the previous 90-day requirement. Transport Canada says keeping information current will help emergency responders quickly identify vessel owners and address unsafe, wrecked or abandoned boats.

"Recreational boating is part of who we are as Canadians, and it's essential that our safety system keeps pace with the way people use our waterways today," MacKinnon said in a release.

"By modernizing the pleasure craft licensing program, we're strengthening marine safety, improving environmental protection, and ensuring we have accurate information when it matters most."

The new rules apply to all pleasure craft with one or more motors totalling

at least 10 horsepower. Applications, renewals and fee exemptions — including for those exercising treaty rights under Section 35 of the Constitution Act — can be completed through Transport Canada's website.

Officials say understanding and complying with boating requirements is key to ensuring a safe season on Saskatchewan lakes and rivers, as millions of Canadians take to the water each year.

In Saskatchewan, all operators of powered watercraft — regardless of age — are also required to carry a valid Pleasure Craft Operator Card. Powered watercraft include any vessel fitted with a motor of any size, including electric trolling motors. Operating without the card can result in fines and enforcement action.

The PCOC is different from a boating licence

and confirms the holder has completed a Transport Canada-approved boating safety course. The card must be carried at all times when operating a boat or supervising a young operator.

Age and supervision rules also apply in the province. Children under 12 are prohibited from operating a boat with a motor larger than 10 horsepower.

Operators aged 12 to 15 may operate motorized boats, but only under the supervision of an adult who holds a valid PCOC. To operate a personal watercraft such as a jet ski, operators must be at least 16 years old.

There are online and in-person options to take a boater education and safety course approved by Transport Canada. The exam itself consists of 50 multiple-choice questions with a score of at least 75 per cent to pass.



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### Van for Sale

FOR SALE/MISC – 2007 Chevrolet Express 2500 cargo van, 4.8L, V8. One owner work van bought new. 453,600 km. \$9,000. Call Colin 306-621-0147, Yorkton

### Bull Sale March 5

ANDERSON CATTLE Co. Bull Sale, March 5, 2026, Swan River, MB. 60 Red and Black Angus and Simmental Angus yearling bulls. Bred females. 204-281-3560, [www.andersoncattle.ca](http://www.andersoncattle.ca)

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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 30th day of January, 2026.

KREKLEWICH & CHAMBERS  
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P.O. Box 2000  
Melville, SK S0A 2P0

Solicitors for the Estate.

### Notice to Creditors

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
In the Estate of **Rosaline Ruth Lerat**, late of Cowessess First Nation, 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 27th day of February, 2026.

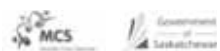
IRENE ANDREAS  
PO Box 774  
Grenfell, SK S0G 2B0

Executrix of the Estate

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## Wascana Conservation & Development Area Authority Public Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of The Wascana Conservation & Development Area Authority will be held on Tuesday, January 27, 2026 at 10 a.m. at the Lajord Municipal Office.

Dated this 13th day of January, 2026.

Lynette Herauf  
Secretary/Treasurer

## Town of Broadview By-Election 2026

### Notice of Poll

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that:

(1) A vote will be held for the election of a **Councillor**: Town of Broadview (three (3) to be voted)  
(2) The voting will take place on Wednesday, the 21st day of January, 2026, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. at:

**POLL AT – Administration Office  
609 Main Street, Broadview, Saskatchewan.**

(3) I will declare the result of the voting at the Municipal Administration Office at 609 Main Street, Broadview, Saskatchewan on Thursday, the 22nd day of January, 2026, at the hour of 9 a.m.

Dated at Broadview, Saskatchewan, this 15th day of January, 2026.

Chantelle Outhwaite,  
Returning Officer

Nominated Candidates for the office of Councillor for Town of Broadview:

**Trevor Andres, Kathryn Ecklund,  
Carol Mills and Charleen Wennberg.**

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# Fiddling in the Fort takes place Feb. 3 at QVCA

By Alan Hustak  
Grasslands News

they play the first Home Roots concert of the year at the Qu'Appelle Valley Centre of the Arts on Feb 3.

The duo is proficient in many styles of fiddle folk music including the Celtic, French-Canadian

and Metis traditions.

Cory is a Canadian grand master fiddle champion and Burghart has been a North American fiddle championship winner.

Jane, who grew up in Winnipeg, Manitoba, has

been playing the fiddle since she was seven years old. Kyle, who is originally from Ottawa, was enrolled in classical violin lessons when he was five.

The two met 11 years ago at a fiddle jam at the University of Ottawa where both were studying classical violin. "We both play fiddle music full time now," said Burghart. "The main reason I ended up playing fiddle is that if you play with an orchestra you have to conform to a conductor; with fiddle music there is so much more room for your own interpretation." He says Cape Breton fiddler Nathalie McMaster has influenced his career.

Cory cites Manitoba's Patti Kusturok, the first woman to win Canada's Grand Master's fiddle championship, and Alberta's Calvin Vollrath an old-time fiddle champion who has been an instructor at the Emma Lake Fiddle camp.

"Fiddle competitions have been a big part of our musical family. Even though we often compete against each other we encourage and support each other," Cory told Grasslands News.

"Growing up in different places Kyle and I have blended different



## Fiddling at its best

Kyle Burghart and Jane Cory offer a blend of fiddle music.

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styles, and we do a lot of originals too, our own styles." Jane is also a vocalist whose vocal talents enhance their act. Critics have described their twin fiddle harmonies and exceptional stage presence as being "rich in soul, grounded by tradition, and marked by exceptional musicianship."

In addition to performing the duo teach fiddle music and have been acclaimed as dedicated community leaders in the fiddle community, serving as festival directors, adjudicators and in-demand instructors across the county.

Jane & Kyle are at the Qu'Appelle Valley Centre for the Arts on Tuesday, Feb. 3. Doors open at 7 p.m. Concert starts at 7:30.

Admission is \$25 at the door or available on line from valleycentre-forthearts@gmail.com. Children under 12 are admitted free.

## Gardener's Notebook

# Why gardeners should welcome the snow

By Debbie Hayward  
Grasslands News

A Galentine's-inspired LadIt will soon be meeting time again! The Yorkton and District Horticultural Society will be holding their first meeting of 2026 on Wednesday, Feb. 18 at 7 p.m. at the Yorkton Public Library. The topic will be jellyroll-snail planting. It's a fun idea but for now that's all we'll share about it! Everyone is welcome! Visit our website at www.yorktonhort.ca for details.

The YDHS meets once a month, on the third Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m., at the Yorkton Public Library. We don't have meetings in June, July or August, because everyone is outside living their garden dream! No meetings at that time! But otherwise, each month, meetings feature a speaker or topic of interest to gardeners, followed by a short business portion of the meeting. New members are always welcome. The goal of the group is to encourage an interest in horticulture, in gardeners of all ages, at all levels of knowledge. So, whether you have a well-established yard or are getting ready to landscape your first home, you will always have a chance to learn something new.

Recent snows have been exhausting, haven't they? Moving the snow and navigating through it has been a challenge, and it might seem difficult to 'think positive' about the snow! But there are a few silver linings about the snow for gardeners.

First of all, we know that it will provide moisture to our plants in the spring, at a time when they need it to get going. That said, before we start to panic and think that our plants will be too wet because of a lot of snow now, let's sit down and have a science lesson for a minute.

One year, our backyard was full of snow. When I say full, I mean that it would have been difficult for even a tall person to navigate through the drifts. As

spring approached, we began to get concerned that all that moisture could be a problem, so we went out one day, shovels in hand, to move the snow around. Guess what?

After pushing the shovel through the top layer crust of snow, entire sections of those drifts absolutely collapsed. It was as though they were filled with light crystals underneath, and they collapsed into less than half of what they were. What happened?

Snow loses its moisture over the winter, due to various factors like sun, wind, and overall humidity. This is a scientific process called 'sublimation'. That's a two-dollar word that means snow can pass from solid to vapor and skip the 'moisture' stage. And since the depth of the snow is about 10:1 of the moisture that will go into the soil, lots of snow doesn't mean an abundance of moisture. So stay calm and relax, gardeners.

Next, deep snow has another benefit. It is an excellent source of insulation for our perennials. A drift of deep snow, about ten inches deep or more, can give us a temperature at plant level of twenty to thirty degrees warmer than the actual temperature. That depends on a lot of factors such as the temperature, or if we have howling winds with it. But still, it is a good insulator, so if we take time to throw snow on our perennial areas, it will help protect our plants. But remember: never scrape snow off the driveway that might have salt in it and throw it on the perennial patch. This will damage our plants later. We're talking good, clean snow to benefit our plants. And remember, perennial plant stems catch a lot of snow, like stubble in fields, so that will help our plants' moisture in the spring.

There. Now we realize that snow is not only beautiful in the winter garden but has the benefits of winter insulation and spring moisture. It's all good!

Hope you're perusing some spring seed catalogues! Have a great week!

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## Funds for Food Bank

Thanks to the Grain Service Union employees from Grenfell Bunge terminal (formerly Viterra) for donating their union dues rebate of \$350 to the Grenfell Ministerial Food Bank.

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<p style="background-color: black; color: white; padding: 2px; text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;"><b>Cumberland Villas</b></p> <p><b>#209 - 680 - 7th Ave. E.</b> 1-BDM, 1-BATH, 473 SQ.FT. MLS*SK021549</p>  <p style="background-color: blue; color: white; text-align: center; padding: 2px;"><b>\$110,000</b></p>	<p style="background-color: black; color: white; padding: 2px; text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;"><b>Cumberland Villas</b></p> <p><b>#423 - 680 - 7th Ave. E.</b> 1-BDM, 1-BATH, 473 SQ.FT. MLS*SK025749</p>  <p style="background-color: blue; color: white; text-align: center; padding: 2px;"><b>\$110,000</b></p>	<p><b>455 - 4th Ave. E.</b> 2-BDM, 1-BATH, 921 SQ.FT. MLS*SK026780</p>  <p style="background-color: blue; color: white; text-align: center; padding: 2px;"><b>\$69,900</b></p>	<p><b>573 - 4th Ave. W.</b> 1-BDM, 1-BATH, 672 SQ.FT. MLS*SK026643</p>  <p style="background-color: blue; color: white; text-align: center; padding: 2px;"><b>\$70,000</b></p>
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<p><b>368 - 3rd Ave. E.</b> 2-BDM, 1-BATH, 931 SQ.FT. MLS*SK010551</p>  <p style="background-color: blue; color: white; text-align: center; padding: 2px;"><b>\$120,000</b></p>	<p><b>325 Manitoba Street</b> 3-BDM, 1-BATH, 955 SQ.FT. MLS*SK024135</p>  <p style="background-color: blue; color: white; text-align: center; padding: 2px;"><b>↓ \$98,500 ↓</b></p>	<p><b>359 - 4th Ave. W.</b> 2-BDM, 1-BATH, 912 SQ.FT. MLS*SK022377</p>  <p style="background-color: blue; color: white; text-align: center; padding: 2px;"><b>\$142,000</b></p>	<p><b>11 Quebec Dr.</b> 4-BDM, 2-BATH, 1,000 SQ.FT. MLS*SK026739</p>  <p style="background-color: blue; color: white; text-align: center; padding: 2px;"><b>\$260,000</b></p>	<p><b>140 - 3rd Ave. W.</b> C1, 3,100 SQ.FT. MLS*SK019063</p>  <p style="background-color: blue; color: white; text-align: center; padding: 2px;"><b>\$215,000</b></p>
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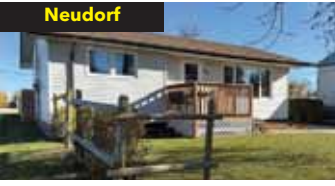



**Rural Listings**

<p><b>18 Lakeview Lane.</b> 3-BDM, 2-BATH, 1,470 SQ.FT. MLS*SK021655</p> <p style="background-color: black; color: white; padding: 2px; font-size: 0.8em;"><b>Melville Beach</b></p>  <p style="background-color: red; color: white; text-align: center; padding: 2px;"><b>\$647,000</b></p>	<p><b>YOUR ADDRESS</b> Lisa 306-728-6789 Shawn 306-621-9798</p> <p style="color: red; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">CALL US AND WE CAN LIST YOUR PROPERTY TODAY!</p> <p style="background-color: red; color: white; text-align: center; padding: 2px;"><b>\$YOUR PRICE</b></p>	<p><b>152 Criddle Ave.</b> 4-BDM, 3-BATH, 1,920 SQ.FT. MLS*SK024296</p> <p style="background-color: black; color: white; padding: 2px; font-size: 0.8em;"><b>Crooked Lake</b></p>  <p style="background-color: red; color: white; text-align: center; padding: 2px;"><b>\$720,000</b></p>
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<p><b>Land</b> 478.52 Acres</p> <p style="background-color: black; color: white; padding: 2px; font-size: 0.8em;"><b>RM of Churchbridge</b></p>  <p style="background-color: red; color: white; text-align: center; padding: 2px;"><b>\$499,000</b></p>	<p><b>Acreage</b> 5-BDM, 1-BATH, 1,415 SQ.FT. 9.96 Acres MLS*SK021083</p> <p style="background-color: black; color: white; padding: 2px; font-size: 0.8em;"><b>RM of McLeod</b></p>  <p style="background-color: red; color: white; text-align: center; padding: 2px;"><b>\$174,900</b></p>	<p><b>Land</b> 159.36 Acres MLS*SK021083</p> <p style="background-color: black; color: white; padding: 2px; font-size: 0.8em;"><b>RM of Sliding Hills</b></p>  <p style="background-color: red; color: white; text-align: center; padding: 2px;"><b>\$675,000</b></p>
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