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...ess ... is not the publisher's right to print. It is the citizen's right to know." - Arthur Hays Sulzberger

Local Target Shooting club shines at Sask Winter Games

By Ashley Scarfe
Grasslands News

From February 15 to 21, the 2026 Saskatchewan Winter Games were held jointly between Flying Dust First Nation and the City of Meadow Lake. The biennial event showcased the talents and athleticism of more than 1,500 participants across 16 sports, and nine district teams. The competition included alpine skiing, biathlon, curling, figure skating, gymnastics, judo, weightlifting, wrestling, and the return of ringette for the first time since 1998.

On the shooting range, 11 athletes from Montmartre's Precision Air Rifle Club travelled to the games to compete for the Southeast district. In total, the Southeast took 13 gold medals, seven silver, and 11 bronze. Winning four gold and two silver, Precision Air Rifle Club brought home around one-fifth of those wins.

For coach Robert Giroux, the games were more than just about winning. Training since the beginning of the season in October, the week-long event marked the culmination of hard work and dedication on the part of the athletes competing.

"The kids had a blast," Giroux says. "It's a great experience for them to see other sports and to bond with kids in other sports. It's a pretty big deal to be selected to go. Some of these athletes go on to be Olympians. It's a stepping stone. They have an athletes' village, an opening and closing ceremony, and different zones that are different colours, almost like different countries competing at the Olympics. They do a really fantastic job of giving them a behind-the-scenes view of what it's like."

While target shooting is deemed a summer sport by Olympic standards, Precision Air Rifle Club uses the long, cold winter months to train their athletes, usually wrapping their season in April before seeding begins. This also allows them to compete in the Sask Winter Games while they are at their peak during the training season.

Multiple club athletes reached the podium more than once, including Brady Goldfinch-Bali, who captured gold in both Male Individual Air Pistol and Mixed Team Air Pistol with partner Chyler Bigalky, while also taking silver in Target Shooting Super Finals Air Pistol, and Kai Stevenson, who took silver in Male Individual Air Rifle, as well as gold in the Super Finals Air Rifle. Other medal winners included Ashton Levi Haus, who took gold in Target Shooting Super Finals for Air Pistol.

"This year was kind of a highlight for us for sure," Giroux says. "It's always nice to see when the personal bests come out at a competition, because it is definitely very hard to do your best under those circumstances where you are away from home and in a high-stress environment. Overall, I was super impressed with how they did, and I'm very proud."

Competing under high stress is only one physical feat target shooters endure during competition. Elite shooters often use relaxation techniques designed to lower their heart rates, pulling the trigger between beats to limit body movement.

While most athletes showcased their skills in their own area of the sport, Precision Air Rifle Club's Goldfinch-Bali is also on the Canadian Junior National Team and had to make a few concessions when it came to the competition.

"The two top junior shooters are from Sskatchewan," Giroux says. "Because of their classifications, neither are allowed to compete in their respective events. They are rifle shooters, so they were able to compete, but they had to shoot pistols. They actually did very well."

Olympic target shooting is typically divided into three areas: rifle, pistol, and shotgun. During rifle events, athletes shoot stationary targets from kneeling, prone, and standing positions. In pistol, shooters must fire one-handed without support, while shotgun events use flying clay targets.

While for most, the Olympics is a long way off, the Saskatchewan Winter Games were a stepping stone in that direction.

"The games are an opportunity to display their talents and compete against

- SEE SHOTTING CLUB, 14



Taking aim
PRECISION AIR RIFLE CLUB I GRASSLANDS NEWS

Members of the Montmartre's Precision Air Rifle Club set their sites for gold at the 2026 Saskatchewan Winter Games and hit their target with four gold and two silver medals.

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Hopkins Lake seen as outdoor swim option in Yorkton area

By Calvin Daniels
Grasslands News

If all goes as well as hoped Yorkton and area residents may once again be swimming at Hopkins Lake.

A recently completed revitalization study of the lake was positive in terms of its potential to be restored, Connor Hunt, Director of Environmental Services, with the city told the regular meeting of Yorkton Council Monday.

The Hopkins Lake Revitalization Study was completed to answer the key questions that have delayed investment at this location.

"The completed study has confirmed that the lake's water quality is suitable for recreation, and it also concluded that the lake bottom does not contain large volumes of sediment, which would require major remediation," he said.

Hunt said the current look at the lake is in response to local interest.

"Public interest in an outdoor swimming space has been clear, and Council has responded by directing administration to investigate whether Hopkins Lake can realistically support these activities as an existing community asset, what conditions protect or threaten water quality, and what practical improvements would be needed to support safe recreation," he explained.

The study was undertaken to answer such questions.

"The study documented existing lake conditions, including size and depth, mapped the lake bottom, and measured sediment thickness," said Hunt.

"It also tested water quality over multiple sampling periods and reviewed water balance and watershed influences to better understand what supports long-term lake stability and what could change it over time."

The results were encouraging.

"Overall, the study concludes Hopkins Lake can be suitable for recreation and safe for swimming. Sampling showed low E. coli levels, good water clarity, and low nutrient levels during the monitoring completed," said Hunt. ". . . In short, the lake's best future role is public swimming and recreation, not a managed fishery."



A Google satellite image of Hopkins Lake in Yorkton along Highway 16.

The study also tested a long-standing concern that the lake is full of sediment and would require large-scale dredging before it could be used again.

"The lake mapping and sediment measurements did not support that belief," said Hunt.

The lakebed is described as sand and gravel with soft sediment that varies but is generally thin.

"This supports Administration's view that the project can move forward without assuming costly major lake-wide dredging, and that any earthwork should be confirmed through design and focused only where needed," said Hunt.

Finally, the study notes that water quality does not appear to be degraded by runoff from nearby uses such as the ball diamonds or dog park, while recognizing that runoff pathways; particularly near the dog park.

"Based on the evidence gathered, the study concludes that restoring Jaycee Beach as a swimmable area and improving the surrounding park experience is feasible," said Hunt.

". . . Based on these findings, Administration believes the project has merit to advance and is requesting Council approval of a design budget to progress through design in 2026 and produce a tender-ready package for early 2027."

The cost of the design study was pegged at $250,000, with funding suggested to come from the City's Rainy Day Fund.

As part of advancing the project, Administration also intends to engage the Climate Ready Infrastructure Service to strengthen climate resilience and improve funding readiness throughout design, said Hunt.

Ultimately, Hunt said the lake could fulfill an identified 'want' within the community.

"Put simply, Hopkins Lake has the potential to meet outdoor swimming demand at a similar order of magnitude to a new-build outdoor pool in a medium-sized city, but at a much lower capital cost," he said.

Councillor Quinn Haider said the prospect of returning Hopkins Lake to a swimmable water excites as it was a place he enjoyed as a youth.

"It ruled and it was awesome," he said. "I'm 100 per cent in support . . . to make this a reality."

"I like the idea a lot," echoed Councillor Darcy Zaharia, but then he added he had some concerns too.

Zaharia noted the lake would not likely generate revenues, but there would be annual costs – staff, insurance etc – that are an unknown.

He said he would like at some point an idea of annual operational costs "before I put a quarter million into pre-design."

Director of Finance Ashley Stradeski said until it is determined what exactly they might build, estimating operating costs is impossible. He said they "might take a stab at it," but it probably wouldn't be right.

"It seems like a fairly large investment to get to that point," countered Zaharia.

Mayor Aaron Kienle said the scope of the project can be fairly flexible at this point.

"The project can grow . . . Be done in stages," he said, adding it all has to start with a plan.

"I'm in favour of moving forward to the next step," said Coun. Randy Goulden.

Councillor Greg Litvanyi was on side too, noting he sees the project as a cost-effective option for an outdoor pool.

"People are excited about it and want to see it happen," he said.

Council would approve the $250,000 for the next step in the process, with Zaharia the lone vote against.

For context; Hopkins Lake was dredged and operated as Jaycee Beach from the 1960s through the early 1980s, and over time the site transitioned into its current use as a walkable park that includes trails, ball diamonds, a dog park, and a campground.

MELVILLE GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB

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Super Seniors (70 years & up)	$787.50
Adult Youth (19-24 years)	$588.00
Adult First Time Member	$609.00
Womens First Time Member	$393.75
Women's 2nd & 3rd Time Member	$588.00
Junior (14-18 years)	$215.25
Family (2 Adults & 2 Juniors)	$1827.00
9 Hole Pack (12 - 9 hole rounds)	$277.83
18 Hole Pack (12 - 18 hole rounds)	$451.50
Cart Shed Fees (Season Pass Holder)	$187.43
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Grey Cup visit to be part of Fort's Winterfest

Feb. 28 event includes popular polar bear plunge and fireworks

By Alan Hustak
Grasslands News

Fort Qu'Appelle is thrilled to welcome the Grey Cup Community Tour this Saturday!

Rider fans can take their photo with the 2025 Grey Cup Championship trophy from 3 to 5 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 28 at the Fort Qu'Appelle Campground.

The Grey Cup will be in Fort Qu'Appelle on Saturday as part of this year's Winter Festival. Rider fans can see the trophy and take photographs right after the Polar Bear dip between 3 and 5 p.m. on Saturday.

At least 15 people have signed up for the annual Polar Bear jump which will go ahead as planned at 2 p.m. on nearby Echo Lake Saturday. The festival officially kicks off with ceremonies at the Prairie Co-op Rexentre at 6:30 p.m. on Friday just before the first game in the first semi-final game in the Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League Bill Johnson division between Fort Knox and the Richardson Pioneer Southern Rebels.

The pared down program continues through weekend with several activities including a pancake breakfast at the Legion, a turkey shoot at the curling club, a scavenger hunt, mainstage events at the Old Fort on Saturday including an illusionist and a fireworks display. At 1:30 p.m. Saturday Mayor Brian Strong will be at the Old Fort to announce the winner of the town's official bird contest.

The polar bear jump planned for Echo Lake on Saturday jump is more than a fundraiser for the Fort Qu'Appelle fire department. It is also a FUN raiser that has consistently attracted enthusiastic supporters eager to make the plunge no matter the weather. The coldest day on record for the jump was seven years ago when temperatures plunged to -40°C, but even then, six people still took part. This year weather conditions are expected to be sunny but cold.

Most of those who have participated in previous years have told Grasslands News that they experience "a popsicle rush for a few seconds, then you melt away in a hot tub." Alicia Fenske who jumped last year plans to jump again this year. "It was a new experience, a jolting experience, a teeth-chattering experience, but it is for a good cause, so I'm doing it again. Brett Boha who made the plunge three year ago said "It's a healthy thing to do. I kind of fell in love with the wellness of it. It helps with mental health and helps get rid of inflammation of the joints. It's pretty cool."

Those who strip to their undies and jump agree it is not something you can consciously prepare for. You just go for it, run and take the plunge and think of getting into the hot tub.

Each participant is rewarded with a swag bag of goodies. Since it began the Polar Bear Swim has raised almost $50,000 to buy equipment for the fire department. A word of caution, anyone who wants to take part should be relatively physically fit. People with high blood pressure or heart disease should check with a doctor before making the jump.

Province assessing accessibility at more than 500 public buildings

Yorkton, Melville, Fort Qu'Appelle, Grenfell, Odessa part of assessments

By Ryan Kiedrowski
Grasslands News

The Saskatchewan government has begun in-person accessibility assessments on more than 500 provincially owned buildings - a multi-year effort officials say is aimed at identifying barriers and planning upgrades to make public spaces more inclusive.

The assessments are being led by the Ministry of SaskBuilds and Procurement and cover buildings owned by the province across urban, rural and Indigenous communities. Each facility will receive a detailed audit report examining both interior and exterior features, including entrances, hallways and public-facing areas.

"It's something we're really proud of," Sean Wilson, Saskatchewan's minister of SaskBuilds and Procurement, said of the gargantuan task. "We care about everybody in this province, and this is just one more way of showing it; making sure that it's accessible for people."

Wilson said the scope includes about 500 buildings provincewide, including a number of assessments already scheduled or underway in the Grasslands News readership area.

"There's 17 assessments in Yorkton, 14 in Fort Qu'Appelle, and five in Melville and Moosomin," Wilson said.

Additional communities with single-digit assessments include Churchbridge, Grenfell, Langenburg, Milestone, Odessa, Kamsack and Weyburn, with some communities having more than one provincially owned facility reviewed.

"So, basically, we're conducting in-person assessments to identify the opportunities to improve the accessibility across these 500 provincially owned buildings," Wilson said. "And it comes down to creating more inclusive - and more importantly - accessible public spaces for everybody."

Assessments go well beyond basic features such as wheelchair ramps and wider doors. Each building is evaluated individually, reflecting differences in age, design and condition.

"The assessments — we examine interior, exterior, and then every building gets an audit report," Wilson said. "It outlines the barriers and accessibility, the improvement opportunities that we have for those specific facilities."

Many of the buildings vary widely in age, with some constructed decades ago and others more than a century old.

"That's the whole purpose for that audit plan," Wilson said. "To figure out which ones are going to take a little more work, which ones are going to take a little less work."

While the assessments themselves do not involve construction work, the audit reports will help inform future decisions on upgrades, investments and potential tenders once priorities are identified.

The work aligns with the Government of Saskatchewan Accessibility Plan 2024–2027, which is required under The Accessible Saskatchewan Act.

"These assessments are an important step in ensuring that our government facilities support and accommodate all residents," Wilson said in a statement. "The results will support planning to enhance accessibility across Saskatchewan."

Project planning began in spring 2025, with pilot assessments launched in November to test and refine procedures. To date, 18 buildings have been assessed.

Wilson said the government expects to complete all assessments by the end of 2027.

"The pilot assessment started November of '25, so we're trying to get our procedures and get everything refined before we fully implement it," he said.

Background on the plan

The Accessibility Plan began with The Accessible Saskatchewan Act, which came into force on Dec. 3, 2023, and mandates that the provincial government publicly post an accessibility strategy. Officials say the plan was developed following extensive consultation with people with disabilities, guided by the principle "Nothing about us, without us."

More than 1,000 people participated in a public survey conducted between April and May 2024, sharing experiences with physical, communication and attitudinal barriers when interacting with government. Respondents identified challenges such as inaccessible building entrances and parking, confusing websites, lack of captioning or screen-reader compatibility, and being treated differently because of disability.

The plan defines barriers as anything that hinders full and equal participation in society and categorizes them as physical, information and communication, or attitudinal. Examples include buildings accessible only by stairs, small or unreadable print, inaccessible digital documents, and assumptions about a person's abilities.

Seven goals guide the 2024–27 accessibility plan. One priority is improving employee knowledge and awareness. More than 5,000 government workers have already completed disability awareness training since 2018, and the province plans to expand accessibility-focused training across ministries.

Another major focus is making government buildings more accessible. Additional buildings are under review, and future construction and renovations will include accessibility requirements. The plan also calls for more braille signage, improved washrooms and reception areas, better accessible parking, and completing upgrades at the Royal Saskatchewan Museum.

Accessibility improvements are also planned for provincial parks. The province has added accessible campsites, pools, playgrounds, docks and beach wheelchairs at multiple locations. Over the next three years, two parks per year will undergo formal accessibility reviews, and new online tools will highlight accessible park features.

The plan includes steps to improve access to government programs and services. Initiatives already underway include height-adjustable medical exam tables, mobile outreach services, expanded online self-service for income support and disability programs, free Wi-Fi in client service centres, and the introduction of dyslexia-friendly library materials and sign language curricula.

Digital accessibility is another priority. Saskatchewan.ca and other online services are being reviewed using accessibility testing tools, and future digital contracts must meet recognized web accessibility standards. Planned projects include a redesigned student aid system, accessible transcript downloads, and an accessibility review of the Highway Hotline app.

The plan also commits to supporting a more inclusive provincial workforce through improved accommodation policies, mental health initiatives and better data on employee disabilities.

Finally, the government says it will provide leadership by supporting public-sector organizations in meeting accessibility requirements, embedding accessibility into procurement, and establishing a senior executive committee to oversee implementation.

The accessibility plan will be reviewed and updated every three years, with the government encouraging ongoing public feedback to identify barriers and track progress.

UPCOMING EVENT
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Building a Strong Saskatchewan through the Crown Sector
Visit www.swna.com for further information and nomination forms
Nominations close March 31, 2026

Whitewood

Town adopts new insurance requirements policy for facility users

By Elaine Ashfield
Grasslands News

Groups and organizations using Town-owned facilities and land in Whitewood were reminded they will now be required to carry their own insurance coverage under a new policy adopted by council at its Feb. 24 meeting.

Council approved Policy No. 29, the Insurance Requirements Policy, which sets out mandatory insurance standards for individuals, clubs, committees and organizations operating on Town property.

According to the policy, the purpose is to ensure all user groups carry appropriate insurance "to protect both the Town and the user group from liability arising from their activities." The Town's own insurance covers municipal assets such as land, buildings and equipment, but does not extend to the operations or liabilities of independent groups.

Under the new rules, all groups renting Town facilities or land, organizations operating under lease or long-term agreements, and independent clubs or associations must provide proof of Commercial General Liability insurance. The minimum required coverage is $2 million per occurrence, with the Town of Whitewood named as an additional insured. Proof of insurance must be submitted annually or prior to each rental or event.

Groups with a board or executive that make governance or financial decisions must also carry Directors and Officers insurance, with proof provided annually. The policy further states that any group storing equipment or supplies in Town buildings is responsible for insuring their own contents.

Additional insurance requirements may apply for large public gatherings, alcohol-related events, high-risk activities, tournaments or competitions, with the Town reserving the right to request higher coverage limits where necessary.

Mayor Chris Ashfield said the policy is about ensuring the municipality is not exposed to unnecessary financial risk.

"It's important that we protect the Town and, ultimately, our taxpayers," Ashfield said. "We're proud to see our facilities used by community groups and organizations, but it's essential that everyone understands the Town's insurance only covers Town assets. This policy makes expectations clear and ensures both the user groups and the municipality are properly protected."

The policy includes exemptions for Town-established committees operating under council authority and covered by the municipality's governance structure, at the discretion of the chief administrative officer.

Failure to provide proof of insurance could result in denial of access to facilities or land, suspension or termination of leases or rental agreements, and the Town declining liability for uninsured activities.

The policy will be reviewed every three years, or as required.

Whitewood lists $118,000 in unpaid property taxes

By Elaine Ashfield
Grasslands News

Almost $116,000 in outstanding property taxes are currently listed on the Town of Whitewood's annual tax enforcement roll.

According to the municipality's 2026 Tax Enforcement List, a total of $115,799.88 in arrears is owing across 26 properties. The list was prepared under Saskatchewan's Tax Enforcement Act, which allows municipalities to begin formal recovery proceedings when taxes remain unpaid.

Under the legislation, if arrears and associated costs are not paid in full, the town may register a tax lien against the affected properties. The amounts published include additional costs required under subsection 4(3) of the Act.

The largest single arrear listed totals $23,923.39, while another property shows $21,687.76 owing. Several other properties exceed $5,000 in unpaid taxes, including amounts of $10,200, $8,648.62, $7,199.80 and $5,653.79.

Most remaining arrears fall between $1,400 and $2,800.

Municipal officials note that tax enforcement is a legislated process and does not necessarily mean properties will proceed to sale. Registration of a tax lien is often used as a mechanism to encourage payment and protect the municipality's financial interests.

Property taxes are a primary source of revenue for communities the size of Whitewood, supporting services such as road maintenance, water and sewer infrastructure, fire protection, recreation facilities and general municipal operations. When taxes go unpaid, the burden can shift to other ratepayers or delay planned projects.

Under provincial legislation, once a tax lien is registered it remains against the title until the arrears are paid. If taxes remain unpaid for an extended period, the municipality may proceed toward tax sale proceedings in accordance with provincial timelines.

Municipal administrators typically work with property owners before matters reach that stage, offering payment arrangements where possible.

The tax enforcement list is a routine annual requirement for Saskatchewan municipalities and is publicly advertised to provide notice to affected landowners.

Town officials encourage residents with outstanding balances to contact the municipal office to discuss payment options and avoid additional penalties or legal action.

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The Yorkton Lions would like to thank all those who participated in making our Super Bowl Pool another success.

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2nd Quarter	David Rusnak **$400**	Wyatt Poder **$50**
3rd Quarter	Kim Hoffman **$400**	Len Sanders **$50**
Final Score	Karen Kolosky **$1000**	Paul Yaremko **$100**

Town of Whitewood

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S0G 5C0
Email: general@townofwhitewood.ca
Web Site: www.townofwhitewood.ca

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Town of Whitewood Council meets at the town office.
Upcoming Council Meeting Date: March 10 at 7 p.m. Meetings are held via Zoom.

Council Meeting Update - Zoom Attendance Protocol

Due to disruptions during a previous 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 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.

- 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
- Whitewood Minor Ball registration is open
- March 7 – Crafting day – Whitewood Evangelical Church

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.
• Friday, Feb. 27 at 6:30 p.m. – U13 Elks vs Churchbridge
• Saturday, Feb. 28 at 9 a,m, – U7 Elks vs Wapella
• Saturday, Feb. 28 at 12 p.m. – U11 Elks vs Ochapowace
• Sunday, March 15 at 2 p.m. – Whitewood Skating Club – Ice Show
• Thursday, March 26 – Sunday, March 29 – Whitewood Farmers & Friends Bonspiel – Dangerous Cheese entertaining the night away – Saturday evening

WHY COMPLETING THE 2026 CENSUS MATTERS TO OUR COMMUNITY

The upcoming 2026 Census is more than just a headcount-it's a vital tool that directly impacts funding, services, and planning in our municipality.
✔ Funding for Local Services Census data helps determine how much funding we receive for roads, schools, healthcare, emergency services, and recreation programs. If residents don't participate, our numbers go down-and so does our funding.
✔ Planning for Growth Accurate population and housing data allow us to plan for the future: infrastructure upgrades, housing needs, and economic development all rely on solid census information.
✔ Representation and Advocacy The census gives us a voice. It helps provincial and federal governments understand our needs and ensures we're not overlooked when decisions are made.
Completing the census is quick, confidential, and essential. When everyone participates, everyone benefits.
Let's make sure our community gets the support it deserves-complete your census in 2026.

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:

Summer Students
Lifeguards, Lesson Instructors and Pool Supervisor
Town of Whitewood

For full details or submit a resume – contact Lisa at 306-735-2210 or cao@townofwhitewood.ca or listed on our website www.townofwhitewood.ca



GARBAGE / RECYCLING

Residents are reminded that Garbage or Recycling Carts must be out by 7 a.m. on collection days.
Upcoming **Recycling** Date: Wednesday, March 4 and 18.
Upcoming **Garbage** Date: Wednesday, March 11 and 25.

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



Sask NDP look to fill STC void

By Ryan Kiedrowski
Grasslands News

It's been nearly nine years since the Saskatchewan Transportation Company ceased operations after more than seven decades of bussing residents around the province. Reasons for shutting down the Crown service and selling the associated assets were mainly blamed on declining ridership numbers, which had dropped some 77 per cent since the peak in 1980. Financially, only two of the 27 routes were turning a profit, and the province came ahead by selling the assets for $29 million – a bit more than the appraised $25.7 million.

The opposition NDP were critical of the action, saying rural residents would feel the brunt of the decision, pointing to missed parcel delivery and medical appointments in the big cities. Back in 2020 when Ryan Meili was trying to retain his place as leader for the provincial NDP, his main campaign was around reviving the STC.

Recently, current opposition leader Carla Beck has made public the renewed intention to possibly bring back some sort of system.

"I have tasked one of our shadow ministers, Darcy Warrington, with coming back to me with some options for provincial transportation strategy," Beck told Grasslands News. "I haven't put a lot of hard parameters on it other than looking at what the possibilities are out there."

While transportation has adjusted over the course of the past decade with private bus lines, couriers, and ride share apps meeting the transportation shortfall, Beck maintains the same concerns as before still dominate rural Saskatchewan.

"We're around the province a lot," she said of her team. "We spend a lot of time on the road, and it's surprising to me the amount of times that it still comes up. I've been in Prince Albert and heard from people who have missed pacemaker appointments because they couldn't get transportation to Saskatoon. People who have missed funerals of loved ones, seniors who've had to move in from rural Saskatchewan to the city, leaving communities where they grew up because they just didn't have reliable transportation into services that they needed. That, coupled with the amount of rural healthcare closures that we've seen, it's just the decision that they've had to make."

Hence the assignment for the Highways, Infrastructure, and SGI critic to take the pulse of transportation in Saskatchewan to develop a strategy moving forward.

"We do have a unique ability in Saskatchewan to look at what we've got and find a way to make it work," Beck said. "That's really what I've tasked MLA Warrington with here - let's look at what we've got, where there are gaps, where there's funding available."

Part of that solution could be simply funding not-for-profit community shuttles reliant on volunteers and fundraisers to keep afloat.

"There are huge gaps that still exist in this province that are impacting people's quality of life, their businesses, their ability to live in their home communities," Beck said. "This really is about looking at what possibilities exist out there; how can we build a system that ensures at its heart that we have a provincial transportation strategy that is affordable and meets the needs of Saskatchewan people."

Affordability, safety, and reliability are factors in finding out the best way to move rural and northern people from Point A to Point B.

When asked about a deadline for the transportation strategy, Beck joked, "before the next election!"

"Often, one of the things I find when we're doing these consultations is how quickly the patterns emerge," she said. "The people in this province certainly know and are willing to talk about where the problems are, but what I love the very most about this province is that people don't stop there. They want to talk about where the solutions are and how quickly those themes form."

Back in 2017, the province noted the STC's per-passenger subsidy grew from $25 per passenger 10 years prior to $94. Forecasts predicted the Crown would need over $85 million in subsidies just to continue operations. Main terminals were in Prince Albert, Regina, and Saskatoon with the latter two cities also housing maintenance facilities for the fleet. The STC originated in 1946 by an Order in Council, mandated to provide services between major centres and rural populations as much as possible.



Bringing back buses? RYAN KIEDROWSKI | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Carla Beck, leader of Saskatchewan's Opposition NDP, speaks to reporters during a Feb. 24 news conference outlining plans to explore options for a renewed provincial transportation strategy.

Saskatchewan helium is on the rise.



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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."

... but I read it on Facebook

Recently, the world turned its collective eyes onto the usually happy, fun-loving tourist destination of Puerto Vallarta with shock after images and video of smoke plumes rising into the sky could be seen.

"Puerto Vallarta is burning!" proclaimed some social media posts, accompanied with fake images of PV landmarks in flames. The literally explosive situation was a reaction to the attempted capture of the Jalisco New Generation Cartel's leader Nemesio Rubén Oseguera Cervantes – better known as one of the world's most wanted drug traffickers, "El Mencho." The 59-year-old drug boss was killed in a shootout with Mexican military during a raid, with reports noting around 30 members of the JNGC also falling. Those same reports state around 25 members of Mexico's National Guard have also been killed.

The events set off a wave of violence in at least 20 states in Mexico, with lockdowns in place to protect civilians. With this being the peak season for Canadian snowbirds to spread their wing in a southerly direction, concerns for safety of family and friends are paramount and a great way to update a lot of people quickly is obviously through social media.

But how truthful is the message?

Since the violence erupted in Jalisco, many false accounts, images, and videos have flooded social media channels, making it difficult to decipher what exactly is occurring. Of course, most people realize that things posted on social media are often false and little faith ought to be placed in a meme. The best bet is to seek out what media outlets are saying, but it seems a tough stretch to get a nose out of Facebook and onto a news website. And since 2023, we've had an Orwelian ban on Canadian news hitting Facebook, so many folks simply believe whatever they read on social media, adopting the mantra, "if it's on Facebook, it must be true."

We're new to the game when it comes to being blacklisted by Facebook, as the federal Online News Act requires platforms to pay for Canadian content. Meta laughed and said "non" to CanCon. So, we joined the ranks of the Totally Blocked - along with China, Iran, Russia, Myanmar, North Korea, Turkmenistan, and Uganda.

In this fake world of chaos, complete falsehoods are not only believed but celebrated coinciding with the rebuke of credible news sources as the liars.

Really, this has killed all the fun of April Fool's Day because so many people are falling for these idiotic claims and it's all just sad.

Could you imagine if our country was to somehow get off that list and actual news could become prominent once again over social media? Perhaps there would be a proliferation of informed citizens, able to distinguish between fact and fiction rather than put what they read online to the litmus test.

And perhaps, more importantly, we would regain something that is quietly slipping away — trust. Trust in institutions. Trust in journalism. Trust in one another. Community newspapers, radio stations and local reporters still do the hard work of verifying information before publishing it. They pick up the phone, confirm sources and correct mistakes publicly when they occur. That process may not be flashy or viral, but it is foundational to democracy. Without access to credible reporting in the digital spaces where people now gather, misinformation fills the vacuum. The result isn't just confusion about events in Mexico — it's confusion about everything.

- Ryan Kiedrowski, Grasslands News



A referendum built on contradiction and fear

It is hard to understand and even harder to stomach Alberta Premier Danielle Smith's attack on immigrants. Especially given the Brooks-Medicine Hat riding she represents as the City of Brooks fashions itself "The City of 100 Hellos" as tribute to their multiculturalism. Nearly 50 per cent of Brooks' population arrived in the southern Alberta city from somewhere outside Canada.

Smith has announced she will hold a provincial referendum in October on Canada's "open border immigration policies" and their imagined impact on Alberta. Her hair-brained reasoning is little more than a pale carbon copy of U.S. President Trumps agenda and her own misguided MAGA, a "Make Alberta Great Again" campaign which would create a two-tier system of Canadian citizenship, seize control of the courts, abolish the senate and challenge the rule of law in this county.

In doing so she is appealing to xenophobes to approve her plans to deny newcomers to that province of their social and employment benefits.

"Although sustainable, immigration has always been an important part of our provincial growth model," she said, immigrants have "flooded our classrooms, emergency rooms, and social support systems with far too many people far too quickly. We can no longer be asked to subsidize the entire country through equalization and federal transfers, permit the federal government to flood our borders with new arrivals, and then give free access to our most generous in the country social programs to anyone who moves here," Smith argued.

Predictably, Smith blamed former Prime Minister Justin Trudeau for the problem and blithely ignored that was she herself who supported the "Alberta is Calling Campaign" which was created to attract immigrants to Alberta and begged Trudeau's then immigration minister Mark Miller to "immediately increase" the number of immigrants each year in 2024, 25 and 26 by 20,000 each year.

"This would support our efforts to address critical labour shortages and supports a collaborative federal-provincial relationship that respects Alberta's regional immigration needs. This increase will support the transition of this group to permanent residency," she wrote at the time. She also conveniently failed to mention that the rate of Alberta's population growth actually declined during the Trudeau years than when Stephen Harper was Prime Minister.

Alberta has legitimate grievances that must be addressed but Smith's Trumpian solution and her nine referendum questions not only border on fascism but invite constitutional turmoil and threatens Canadian unity from within.

- Alan Hustak, Grasslands News

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Indigenous Storytelling Month

Survivor speaks on loss, reconnection and identity

By Ashley Scarfe
Grasslands News

February is Indigenous Storytelling Month in Saskatchewan, which highlights and celebrates First Nations and Métis oral traditions. Libraries and schools across the province welcome storytellers, elders, and knowledge keepers to learn the culture, history, and traditions of First Nations people as a tool for reconciliation and to promote understanding of indigenous culture, beliefs, values, and ways of life.

Tracey George Heese was one such storyteller to travel around the province this month, sharing her knowledge and history. Stops along her tour included a visit to the Vibank Public Library, Montmartre School, and Emerald Ridge Elementary School in White City.

A member of Ochapowace First Nation, George Heese began her tour at the Weyburn Public Library, where she presented her story to a group of women from the area. This visit sparked a conversation on her background and culture. From there, she was invited to participate in this year's Indigenous Storytelling Month.

George Heese was adopted at the age of 12 by a German-Mennonite family during the Sixties Scoop—an infamous time in Canadian history when First Nations children were taken from their homes and adopted into predominantly white, middle-class families across Canada and the United States. During this process, many adoptees were left lost between cultures, disconnected from their ancestral lands, families, and communities, while unable to fully integrate into their adoptive societies.

It is this disconnect that forms the basis for one of George Heese's stories, "Baby Bird," which she shares with younger students as an age-appropriate way of shedding light on the tumultuous time in Canadian history.

"It's an actual event that happened to me when I was little, with my grandmother," George Heese says. "It talks about touching a baby bird, and maybe the mama bird won't take the baby back. That's something that happens for us Sixties Scoop survivors. We didn't fit into the adopted family and didn't fit back into our biological families."

According to the now defunct Department of Indigenous Affairs, around 11,132 children were taken from their homes and adopted out between 1960 and 1990, while some research indicates that number is much higher at closer to 20,000 children displaced. In 1981, 45 to 55 per cent of First Nations children were believed to be adopted by American families, removing them not only from their culture, but the country as well.

"I didn't learn much about the Sixties Scoop until the 90s, I would say," George Heese says. "I lived life not knowing. There were things I remembered when I did get to see my grandma again. She couldn't even speak. She only cried and was so grateful we were alive. I was at least 18 or 19, learning from my biological family that the fear was kids were being adopted to be slaves, or to be exploited and misused. There is a long list of different abuses that happened to children in care and who were adopted. That was the biggest fear for my biological family."

While some adoptees, like George Heese, were placed in supportive and loving homes, they could not be provided culturally specific education. Some adoptees reported abuse at the hands of their adopted families, causing trauma that would persist through the generations that came after. This trauma on both adoptees and their biological families was immense and long-lasting, but hidden for years, only to surface for many much later in life.

"It wasn't until I was much older when I learned from my grandfather, the day we went missing, what that did to him," George Heese says. "He went looking in the bush. He thought maybe an animal had taken us. He tried to get help."

Like many families who lost children during the Scoop, George Heese's grandparents and mother were not informed before she and her sisters were taken by the government and transported to Saskatoon to be entered into care and then adopted.

"The story I've told as well, my grandmother had gotten ill and she had gone into the hospital," George Heese says. "This blue Ford came out into our yard and this really nice lady with blue eyes and blonde hair came and asked me if we wanted a ride. I didn't know what that meant when I was a little kid. So she put the three of us girls in her car and we ended up in Saskatoon. My sisters and I were separated."

George Heese was around seven or eight at the time of her abduction. She says no one helped her grandfather in his search, and he was not informed until later where his grandchildren had gone. While her adopted mother was able to reach out and find George Heese's biological family, George Heese says her situation was rare, and other Scoop survivors were usually not so lucky.

"Families didn't do that," George Heese says. "The ministry didn't help families that wanted to help their kids be reconnected. My parents were warned they didn't want to connect to my biological family. There has definitely been racism within all levels of government and systems."

George Heese's adopted mother was not given any information on her background, besides a last name: George. She gathered Regina and Saskatoon phone books and called every George listed, searching. She managed to reconnect George Heese to her biological family and give both sides a chance to reconnect and heal some of the trauma they had endured.

"It's a government kidnapping and we were displaced," George Heese says. "When you think of that, you need to think of your own children being taken at seven or eight and having no knowledge or contact."

George Heese counts herself one of the fortunate ones who were able to reconnect to her roots. She says the community took her under their wing and taught her the levels of her culture that she previously had been unaware of.

"The interesting thing is, not long ago, my girlfriend who is also a Sixties Scoop survivor asked me if I wanted to go to Brandon, Manitoba, for a blanket ceremony," George Heese says. "There I went, not knowing exactly what that was. It was a ceremony with prayers and songs. They wrapped me in a blanket and it was so emotional. Even though I got some of my family back in different stages, it was almost like an awakening. A birth. Being welcomed back into the community."

Through Indigenous Storytelling Month, George Heese says she is able to open a dialogue when it comes to topics of identity, family, and the generational trauma associated with events like the Sixties Scoop and residential schools.

"That's the thing that has happened to our communities," George Heese says. "It's big stuff, but people need to learn about this history. I feel like the more people are aware and the more I help educate, the more people are able to act and become allies. It's to protect my grandchildren and protect the next generation coming. When you look at the statistics in child welfare today, it's alarming for Indigenous kids. It's so high. Some have said the number of kids in care today is more than were taken in residential schools. The Sixties Scoop is apparently all done, but I feel with birth alerts and such, it's still so common as well."

While George Heese says this month has been about passing on her knowledge and stories, it has also been a time for her to grow and converse with the participants as well.

"Me living the life I lived, I didn't know," George Heese says. "I didn't know what to call it, and I didn't know what was happening to me had happened to lots of others as well. If you see a First Nations person, they are likely affected by residential schools or the Sixties Scoop. My grandparents were all in residential schools. My biological mother was in a residential school. I am almost 60 now and I look at my aunt, and she's 75, and she went to residential school. That generation is still alive. Their lived experience wasn't that long ago.

"I feel it's improved," she continues. "With the Indigenous Storytelling Month, National Aboriginal Day, and National Ribbon Skirt Day, these different events help bring awareness. I feel like it's way better than what I had, and what my children had. It all helps."



SUBMITTED | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Storytelling brings bridges gaps

Indigenous Storytelling Month has come to an end, and for Tracey George Heese, it was a way to share her knowledge and experiences with the next generation. A Sixties Scoop survivor, George Heese shared her past through age-appropriate stories, such as "Baby Bird," which talks of the trauma of being removed from her family and culture, and "My Most Hated Ribbon Skirt," which broaches the topic of appreciation vs. appropriation.

Correction

A headline on page 7 of last week's edition incorrectly stated that Ainsley Friesen has recorded "hundreds of songs." While the original story correctly noted she has officially released five studio albums, one live album and three singles, and has written over 100 songs, she has recorded dozens of songs, not hundreds. We apologize for the error.



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Father and son forced to stay in Mexico as violence breaks out

By Calvin Daniels
Grasslands News

Violence between the Mexican military and a major drug cartel broke out in Puerto Vallarta Feb. 22, leaving numerous holiday travellers in limbo in terms of getting home - including Yorkton's Scott McLaughlin and his son.

McLaughlin told Grasslands News in a telephone interview Sunday evening that when they woke up that day, they were unaware anything was going on.

"We went downstairs for breakfast, and it looked like black clouds were rolling in," said, adding he told his son it looked like rain was coming.

But then someone else at the resort they are staying at said "those are fires."

At that point McLaughlin said they went to find out more.

"Staff were kind of hesitant to talk," he said, adding he could understand they did not want to cause a panic.

In time though the situation became clearer. McLaughlin said the Mexican military apparently killed a cartel leader and that cartel retaliated "by trying to take over the city."

As the day progressed the situation solidified. While McLaughlin noted the resort they are at is some distance from downtown Puerto Vallarta, they were occasionally hearing the fighting.

"You can hear gunshots now and then," he said.

And people were finding out they were essentially stuck where they were as taxis and buses were not running.

One person McLaughlin knew was to fly out, but the airport was closed. He would learn from WestJet their flight Monday was also cancelled.

"There's no transportation," he said.

Another person renting a condo in the city went out for groceries and the military told them to go back and not be on the street.

McLaughlin said as of Sunday evening they had not heard directly from either Canadian or Mexican officials, although people are obviously wishing for greater clarity on the situation.

"Everybody's carrying their phones close to their hearts," he said.

In that regard, cellphones are a connection to the outside world.

"My phone has been exploding today," said McLaughlin, adding the contact with family and friends are reassuring. "Everybody has been wonderful."

So, for now it's wait and see.

McLaughlin said the resort they are at "has been really good. . . I feel safe here," adding other resorts "are very close to it (the fighting). I'm keeping it together - I've got no choice."

As it is, "it feels like COVID all over again – you're restrained for reasons you can't control. . . You feel like a hostage," offered McLaughlin. ". . . We'll wait it out and see what happens."

In a release Monday, Cathay Wagantall, Member of Parliament for Yorkton-Melville, issued a statement concerning the developing security situation in Mexico:

"The Government of Canada is closely monitoring the rapidly evolving security situation, including in and around Guadalajara and Puerto Vallarta," she stated in the release.

"Local authorities have issued shelter-in-place orders in some locations. Canadians in Mexico are encouraged to follow this local advice.

"Consular officials are in close contact with local authorities and stand ready to assist Canadians in the affected areas."



Stuck in Mexico
SUBMITTED I GRASSLANDS NEWS
Scott McLaughlin, right, and son Kaylen were stuck in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico following a recent outbreak of violence there.

City turns down funding for Lutheran Church shingles

By Calvin Daniels
Grasslands News

A request for some city dollars to help St. Paul Lutheran Church in Yorkton replace aging shingles has been turned down by Yorkton Council, but the city is fine with the work being done.

It was at the Jan. 5 meeting where Council Niall Sogbetun - vice chairperson for the church - presented to Council regarding a request for clarification of heritage rules and request for funding for restoration, identifying that the cedar shakes are in need of replacement, but replacing with the same style may be cost-prohibitive, explained Taylor Morrison, Director of Recreation & Community Services at this Monday's Council meeting.

"The concern was what could be done under the municipal designation," said Sogbetun in January. He noted that replacing the cedar shingles with new cedar shingles would almost be impossible, explaining a quote for cedar shingles if they can get cedar was just more than $180,000.

By contrast a metal replacement would be $130,000, and regular shingles about $47,000.

At the time, Council referred the request to the Municipal Heritage Advisory Sub-Committee for review and recommendation on the proposed roof renovation, and for further information on funding and municipal/provincial heritage designations.

Through The Heritage Property Act, municipalities can designate properties as a tangible way to recognize people, places and events that are significant to the history of the community.

"Part of the process of designating buildings includes identifying the character-defining elements that are significant to the community," said Morrison.

St. Paul Lutheran Church was designated a Municipal Heritage Property in October 1998.

The Lutheran Church designation was made for several reasons including it being the oldest church building in Yorkton. Construction of the church began in 1896 with completion and opening in 1899.

The roof material was not a consideration in the designation, added Morrison.

"The cedar shakes are not recognized a defining feature for the heritage designation, and the Committee does not want to restrict this organization from moving forward with renovations," he said.

That said Morrison added, "However, the committee encourages the church to consider maintaining the same look and feel with respect to colour and design, with whatever product they do decide to use."

As for funds, the city has not done that sort of thing in the past.

"The City of Yorkton does not have grant funding available to municipally designated heritage buildings for their restoration or upkeep. The property owner remains responsible for these ongoing costs as may be required," said Morrison.

There may be other options though.

"Further discussions between the Church and the Saskatchewan Heritage Foundation might prove helpful with respect to some financial support, in addition to possibly connecting with their national government body to explore infrastructure dollars, if they haven't already," offered Morrison.

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CTF urges province to tackle 'massive debt'

By Ryan Kiedrowski
Grasslands News

The Canadian Taxpayers Federation is urging the Saskatchewan government to rein in spending, pay down debt and begin saving resource revenues as the province prepares its 2026 budget.

The CTF says Saskatchewan's rising debt threatens recent tax relief and is costing taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars a year in interest payments.

"We need to deal with our massive debt," said Gage Haubrich, CTF Prairie director.

The group released its pre-budget submission this week, calling on the province to cut spending, eliminate the small business tax and establish a heritage fund similar to those in other jurisdictions.

Haubrich said Saskatchewan's debt has more than doubled since Premier Scott Moe took office, rising from about $10 billion to an estimated $23.9 billion by the end of the current fiscal year.

"That's something that the province has to deal with sooner rather than later, because all of that tax relief that the government's brought in, it's going to be at risk," he said.

According to the CTF, Saskatchewan is projected to run a deficit of roughly $2 billion this year alone. Haubrich said the government's continued borrowing is driving up interest costs that taxpayers must eventually cover.

"The important thing for people to understand, for the province to understand, is that every single dollar that the government borrows has to be paid back plus interest," he said. "Those interest payments are costing taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars a year in the province."



RYAN KIEDROSKI I GRASSLANDS NEWS

Debt ticking on
Gage Haubrich, Prairie Director with the Canadian Taxpayers Federation, stands in front of the infamous Debt Clock last summer when the truck visited the Legislative Building in Regina.

The CTF estimates Saskatchewan will spend about $878 million on debt interest this year — money Haubrich said could otherwise be used to fund services or reduce taxes.

"Something needs to be done to get that number going down," he said. "And the only thing that can be done is that spending needs to be cut."

The federation's submission outlines a series of costed proposals it says could generate about $2.045 billion in gross annual savings, resulting in a net budget improvement of roughly $1.9 billion after accounting for a proposed tax cut.

Among the recommendations is eliminating Saskatchewan's small business tax, which the group estimates would save businesses about $56 million per year. The CTF also calls for bringing government compensation in line with the private sector, ending corporate subsidies and conducting a broad spending review.

Haubrich said government salaries and benefits represent the single largest line item in the provincial budget.

"When we look at the government's budget as a whole, the largest single line item every year is always paying government bureaucrats," he said. "Any government that's serious about actually cutting back and finding savings for taxpayers is going to have to tackle the cost of the bureaucracy."

He said public-sector workers earn about five per cent more than their private-sector counterparts on average, despite doing similar work.

"It doesn't seem fair to taxpayers that they should be getting extra money just because they work for the government," he said.

Another key recommendation is the creation of a Saskatchewan heritage fund to save non-renewable resource revenues for the future. Haubrich said relying on fluctuating resource income to fund ongoing spending leaves the province vulnerable when prices fall.

"The government should be under no illusion that the province's resource revenues are going to last forever," he said. "Eventually, those things are going to run out or something's going to change."

By saving and investing resource revenues during strong years, Haubrich said the province could stabilize spending, avoid sudden deficits and ensure future generations benefit from Saskatchewan's natural wealth.

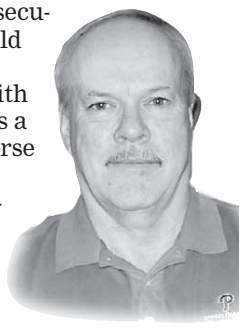
"When you're saving that money, you're investing it for the future," he said. "It means that not

- SEE DEBT CLOCK, 10

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Gene Hauta

It's a Strange World



In Jackson County, Mo., prosecutors say Mamadou Diallo, 24, sold two different cars on Facebook Marketplace. Nothing wrong with that, except that he sold the cars a total of eight times over the course of a month. Kansas City Police received eight stolen vehicle reports, each within 24 hours of being purchased, after Diallo allegedly **stole them back**. One victim even had security camera footage showing Diallo taking the car. When he was questioned, Diallo allegedly said he was "unaware of anything to do with selling vehicles," and when asked if he'd used a specific name in his ads, he replied, "No, prove it." They plan to and he's been charged with six counts of first-degree tampering with a motor vehicle, and eight counts of forgery. He faces up to seven years in prison… for each count.

Chris Knight reports that a Canadian who built vehicle software at Tesla, constructed a NASA-funded 3D printer that was sent into space, and participated in the Royal Canadian Air Cadets glider program at the age of 16 now has his sights **set on building a hotel on the moon**. Skyler Chan, 22, is backed by the Y Combinator accelerator program and is also part of Nvidia's Inception program. But there's also the potential for money from would-be hotel guests. A hefty deposit of US$1 million is required from those looking to book a spot. And the tentative opening date isn't for another six years. Galactic Resource Utilization Space was founded by Chan who grew up in Vancouver and is a graduate of the department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Sciences at UC Berkeley. "Growing up, I always wanted to become an astronaut," Chan told the National Post. "Chris Hadfield was my role model." He said the space industry is "propped up by two pillars," meaning government programs like NASA and billionaire-backed companies like SpaceX. "And we want to… extend the third pillar. Space tourism, which is already a proven market on Earth. We bring it to the moon, quite literally. We build the first hotel on the moon." I don't have much confidence and am pretty sure that if I have an extra million, I won't be investing in GRU!

"RIP Catherine O'Hara, only 71, a great Canadian actress who was also outspoken about women's rights," noted Janice Hough, "and who said that the idea of Canada being the 51st state made her skin crawl." Ouch!

Drivers on a central Florida highway got a disturbing show as they watched **a burning car rolling down US 192**. Patrick Rinaldi,60, was arrested on suspicion of DUI after witnesses reported seeing him stop his smoking vehicle, then get back behind the wheel and drive off again, even as it caught fire. After driving a short distance, it stopped again, only now flames were taking over the vehicle, but once again Rinaldi drove away. More emergency crew time was consumed when firemen were needed to extinguish a roadside brush fire they believe was sparked by the burning car. Rinaldi's wife was still inside the vehicle as it burned. Rinaldi managed to escape and was "barely able to help his wife" get out of the flames. He displayed all the classic signs of impairment. Rinaldi allegedly struggled with sobriety testing and refused a breath test, and was charged with driving under the influence and refusing to submit to DUI testing.

In the sprawling case over what authorities say is the **biggest jewelry heist the US** has ever seen, one key defendant just exited the country—and potentially the courtroom—for good. Court filings reveal that ICE deported Jeson Nelon Presilla Flores to Ecuador around Dec. 29, even as he faced federal charges tied to the 2022 Brink's truck heist that stripped jewelers of an estimated $100 million in gems and watches. Flores, one of seven men indicted, had pleaded not guilty and was staring at up to 15 years in prison on conspiracy and theft counts. His removal has effectively frozen the case against him and sparked questions about how two arms of the federal government appeared to work at cross-purposes. Flores opted against relief in immigration court, essentially choosing to functionally self-deport rather than remain in the US to fight the criminal charges and risk prison. I guess ICE is chasing some criminals!

Stephen Colbert on the **Melania movie 'flop'**, $40 million with $35 million marketing budget: "Usually to see Trump bomb this hard you have to be on a Venezuelan fishing boat." I don't really know if the film flopped or not with disputing accounts from each side. I can only say that I won't be checking it out.

Until next week, keep reading between the lines to figure out the best way to manoeuvre through this crazy world…

Yorkton adjusts its Residential Building Incentives

By Calvin Daniels
Grasslands News

Yorkton Council tweaked the city's Residential Building Incentives at its regular meeting Monday.

Jennifer Brooker, Business Liaison with the city, said the city has had three residential incentives in place for some time – the Residential Lot Sales Rebate Program, Residential Construction Incentive Program, and Rental Housing Incentive Program.

As a successor to the Show Home Rebate Program, Council adopted the Residential Lot Sales Rebate Program in 2024 and provides a 50 per cent rebate on the purchase price of city-owned residential lots, funded through the Land Fund.

Total funding was $295,000.00, with $15,204.62 remaining, explained Brooker, so remaining funding is insufficient to support another 50 per cent rebate and may deter additional lot sales.

Council would repeal policy regarding the Residential Lot Sales Rebate Program. The RLSRP was adopted in 2024 and provides a 50 per cent rebate of the price off any city-owned residential lot. This policy also has a built-in expiry at the end of every year.

The Residential Construction Incentive program was adopted in 2022 in response to stagnant one- and two-unit home starts. Initially, this had limited impact. In 2023, the program was expanded to include three- and four-unit dwellings, which led to construction of two four-unit rental dwellings.

Council approved reducing the term to a one-year tax abatement.

The Rental Housing Incentive Program was adopted in 2011 and provides a five year, 100 per cent tax abatement for anyone constructing five or more rental units. This policy has no expiry.

Since its inception in 2011, the Rental Housing Incentive Program has been issued on three occasions, resulting in 40 new rental units, said Brooker.

The Sale of Residential Lot Policy, updated in 2022 to allow extended timelines (24 months) for a contractor to build on a city-owned residential lot prior to paying in full.

Council amended the Policy, being the Sale of Residential Lot Sales Policy, by adding allowances for progress-draw mortgages, with a term of one year and required building start within six months.

Debt clock ticking away for Sask

- continued from page 9

only the current generation benefits from those huge natural resources, but everyone in the future as well."

While Finance Minister Jim Reiter was not available for an interview, the provincial government did address the idea of a heritage fund in a statement to Grasslands News.

"Before investing in a new heritage fund, the government will continue to prioritize funding that is needed for capital spending and sustaining necessary programs that people rely on, particularly in areas such as healthcare, education, and community safety," the note said. "The Government of Saskatchewan also supports prudent management of its debt and maintains the second lowest net-debt-to-GDP ratio among provinces."

The CTF has repeatedly used a travelling "debt clock" to highlight Saskatchewan's rising debt, and Haubrich said the group will continue to do so if borrowing continues.

"As long as the debt keeps going up, we'll keep bringing out the debt clock," he said. "It's one of the most important issues facing the government, facing taxpayers."

Polling conducted by Insightrix shows 86 per cent of Saskatchewanians are concerned about how much money the provincial government is spending on debt interest.

Haubrich said that concern reflects household experience.

"Most people in this province have a mortgage, they have a car payment, they have a credit card, and they understand what happens when you get behind on those payments," he said.

With the provincial budget expected within weeks, Haubrich said the federation hopes the government will act before debt pressures worsen.

"The government can't keep kicking the debt can down the road," he said. "There's never a better time to start dealing with the debt than right now because it's only going to get more difficult as time goes on."

Whitewood

Committees reshuffled following byelection

By Elaine Ashfield
Grasslands News

Mayor Chris Ashfield confirmed committee and deputy mayor appointments for 2026 during the Feb. 24 meeting of Whitewood town council.

The appointments follow the recent election of new councillor Jaimie Jordans, prompting adjustments to committee structures to ensure balanced representation and opportunities for all members of council.

Danielle Jones was appointed deputy mayor.

Committee assignments for 2026 include Shawna Stradeski to the Regional/Local Library board, Troy Brûlé to the Heritage Committee/Handi-Van, and Emerson Chug to Whitewood & District Health Care. Cole Jacobs was appointed to both Red Coat Waste and the Fire portfolio.

The Personnel committee will consist of Stradeski, Jones, Brûlé and Ashfield. Public Works will include Jacobs, Jordans, Chug and Ashfield.

The Recreation/Golf Course committee will be made up of Chug, Jones, Stradeski and Ashfield, with only one committee member required to attend golf course meetings. Ashfield will serve on the Moosomin & District Healthcare Foundation, with Stradeski appointed as alternate.

Council as a whole will serve as the Budget and Economic Development committees. The Economic Development committee will meet twice annually at 6 p.m. during the second council meetings in April and November, and additionally as required prior to regular council meetings. Ashfield will sit on the Housing committee, while Jordans will sit on the Transportation Committee.

Ashfield said periodic changes to committee appointments are important to provide councillors with broader experience.

"It's healthy for council to rotate committees from time to time," he said. "It gives councillors the opportunity to experience different areas of municipal governance and better understand how all parts of the community fit together."

He added the recent changes were necessary following Jordans' election to council.

"With a new councillor joining the table, it made sense to revisit committee assignments to ensure everyone has an opportunity to contribute in meaningful ways," Ashfield said.

The appointments will remain in place as outlined, with a scheduled review in 2027.

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REPORT FROM YOUR MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

LIBERALS LET CRIMINALS DODGE DEPORTATION

Imagine someone in your family is brutally assaulted. Imagine the police charge the criminal, and a jury delivers a guilty verdict. Now imagine a judge delivers a slap on the wrist. Why? Because the criminal is not a Canadian citizen, and a tough sentence would mean they would be deported.

Imagine the victim of that assault, living with the awful consequence of the assault. And the criminal? Not only is he allowed to stay in Canada, but he is out on the street early. All because his rights as an immigration applicant are prioritized over the rights of law-abiding citizens.

Is a victim less injured because the criminal is from another country? Of course not.

Yet this is the exact scenario that plays out too often in Canada. Thanks to the Liberal government, immigrants are given lighter sentences or completely avoid jail because a longer sentence would mean they would be deported! That means that if they were Canadian citizens they would get a tough sentence, but because they are here as immigrants, they get off easy.

This is the two-tiered justice system that the Liberals have created. Just take a look at some of these examples:

- An international student secretly filmed multiple female housemates through a bathroom peephole for months; the judge kept the sentence below six months to avoid triggering automatic deportation rules. (Winnipeg Sun – Oct 9, 2025)
- A foreign-born criminal in Brampton, already serving six years for fentanyl and gun crimes, had his cocaine-related sentence cut in half because the judge viewed likely deportation as a major added penalty. (National Post – Oct 14, 2025)
- A foreign-born criminal who twice groped a woman received a conditional discharge so no conviction would appear, preventing removal under federal immigration law. (Globe & Mail – Nov 25, 2025)
- A foreign-born criminal living in Kamloops on a work permit, who assaulted his girlfriend in multiple incidents, was given nine months' probation that would keep a conviction off his record if completed without issue. (Toronto Sun – Jan 29, 2026)

Conservatives have demanded that the Liberals put an end to this policy. We believe that justice should be blind, and that immigration status should not be a factor in sentencing. There is absolutely no public interest in letting dangerous and violent criminals stay in Canada.

Immigration to Canada is a privilege, not a right. It is the least we can do to expect people who immigrate here to follow the law.

In 2015, our system was well respected: fair to both newcomers looking for new opportunities and measured to meet the needs of our economy and social services. Conservatives will work to restore the Canadian consensus on immigration, from a time when our system was the envy of the world.

Conservatives will continue to demand changes that put the rights of honest Canadians first, deport dangerous offenders, and that treat everyone equally under the law. I know that people in Saskatchewan support his common sense approach. Unfortunately, the Liberals are so far refusing, and have indicated that they will keep this dangerous two-tiered sentencing system.

Once again, it is only Conservatives that are Always on Saskatchewan's Side.



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

Andrew SCHEER
MP ~ REGINA-QU'APPELLE

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Area trio headed to 80+ Hockey Hall of Fame

By Calvin Daniels
Grasslands News

Hockey, at least for some, is a lifelong pursuit.

For a few the long years of involvement might even garner them some national attention – at least within their own hockey fraternity.

Locally, the W.O. Grinders hockey team has kept many involved in the game for years beyond where most still lace up the skates.

"Our team is a 50-plus age group made up of players from Yorkton, Melville, Esterhazy, Bredenbury, Saltcoats, Springside, and Stockholm," explained James Morton, a team spokesperson. "Our team plays twice a week at the Westland Arena, as well as in tournaments around our region."

As with any team a few players have made some big contributions to the Grinders.

"Over the past few years, we have had three members of our team that have contributed to our team by playing or managing the team into their 80's," explained Morton.

The trio includes Wilmar Ostapowich, who is being inducted posthumously in the builder category for his developing and managing the Oldtime Grinders hockey team (later re-named W.O.Grinders after Wilmar in 1993 when he was 57) for years into his 80's.

Ostapowich was a player back at the inception of the Grinders in 1993 when he was 57 and played into his 60's until he felt the body could not keep up with the pace. He managed the team for years and looked after the refreshments and recruited players, said Morton.

"Wilmar used to go to the mall with Dorothy and sit out on the bench and watch men come into the mall and if they were over 50 years old he would talk to them to see if they played hockey and would try to recruit them to come and play with the Grinders."

Ostapowich stayed on as the manager and as the refreshment fund until his passing in 2021.

John Garbutt was a goaltender who played with the Grinders until he was 83 years old until he moved to Weyburn to live with his son due to health reasons, continued Morton.

Nominated as a player/builder Garbutt played from 2005 until 2024 when unfortunately, at 83 years of age his health got the better of him and he had to retire from the game he loved, John was a true competitor and never missed a game. He played in several tournaments and exhibition games and was named the oldest player in the Estevan Strippers Hockey tournament.



Wilmar Ostapowich

Richard Zurburg, 81, has been playing with the Grinders since 2011, and travels in faithfully from Esterhazy twice a week to participate.

The efforts of the trio were deemed worthy of added recognition by the Grinders.

"The Grinders team was looking to honour some of our players who dedicate their time and efforts to playing the game that we all love," said Morton.

"We had renamed the team after Wilmar Ostapowich due to his efforts to manage the Grinders hockey team even after he was unable to continue playing."

But they looked for other avenues of recognition.

"We had one of our players -- Glen Lapointe -- who found the information on the 80 plus Hall of Fame," said Morton. "The team voted to induct all three members. . . due to their outstanding contributions to the W.O. Grinders."

"We started the process a year ago and on April 18th we will share that moment with the inductees and their families."

The 80+ Hockey Hall of Fame is a not-for-profit corporation, which held its inaugural induction ceremony in 2011 welcoming five active players aged 80 and over into the player category of the newly formed hall.

The organization exists in part to increased participation in adult recreational hockey by offering induction into 80+ Hockey Hall of Fame as a goal for players and as a tribute to builders actively involved in growing the community of senior recreational hockey players, and to formally recognize 80+ active recreational hockey players in Canada who meet the eligibility criteria.

The induction ceremony will be held in Saskatoon April 18.

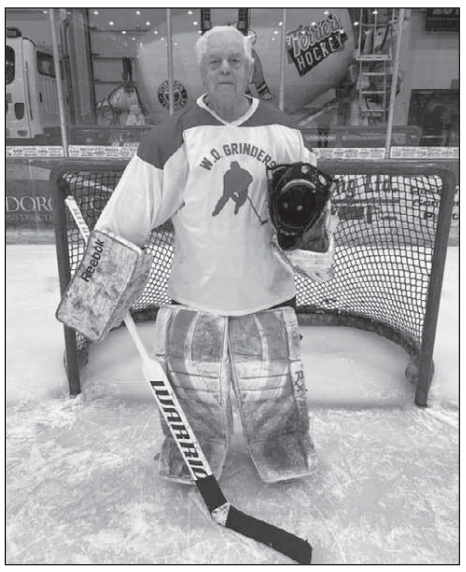
Wilmar Ostapowich's wife Dorothy will be dropping the puck at the inductees' game in April.

There are 35 players from Western Canada being inducted and the ceremony is being organized by the 60 plus hockey league that plays out of the Schroh Arena in Saskatoon.



W.O. Grinders hockey team

PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY JAMES MORTON I GRASSLANDS NEWS



John Garbutt



Richard Zurburg

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CALVIN DAMIELS I GRASSLANDS NEWS

Deal 'em

There are always activities going on for residents and visitors at Venvi The Bentley Yorkton. Recently partners were chosen, the cards were dealt, and an afternoon was spend playing whist – a well-known, and always popular tick-taking card game.


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Silver Circle Monthly Gatherings

Cybersecurity: what to do if things go wrong

This month's Silver Circle Gathering focused on cybersecurity, an event presented by Canadian Connections. This national non-profit organization promotes digital literacy among seniors by delivering free personalized technology training and support through both in-person one on one and virtual workshops.

Tips were given on "What to do when something goes Wrong."

Step 1: Record What Happened. Write down all the details possible as it will make a difference later. Jot down what you did before, during and after.

Step 2: Protect your accounts and devices. Change your password immediately, update your software and run a security scan.

Step 3: Report and get help. Report it right away if you lost money or your personal information was exposed.

• Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre (CAFC):

• Website: antifraudcentre-centreantifraude.ca

• Toll-Free: 1-888-495-8501 (Mon-Fri, 10am - 4:45pm ET)

Also contact:

• Your bank or credit card company Your local police or RCMP

It was stressed throughout the meeting that recovering from a cyber incident can be emotional.

• You're not alone.

• Talking about your experience helps others avoid the same scams.

• Sharing builds confidence and helps stop scams from spreading.

Canadian Connections is available to help you with creating a 2 step authentication protection and guide you through the process of addressing the security breach. They can be contacted at 613-699-7896. The event was sponsored by Desjardins Group, Canadian financial service cooperative.

Silver Circle monthly gathering is held on the 3rd Monday of each month at 2 pm in different venues. It is targeted to older adults to learn something new as well as find out about the resources in the community. They are free and offer coffee. Everyone is invited. The next event is March 16 at the Yorkton Legion on Parkview Ave at 2:00 p.m.

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OUR NEXT FEATURE - **FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 2026**

Shooting club wins medals at Sask. Winter Games

- continued from front page

other athletes at a higher level," Giroux says. "In some aspects, they are technically competing against the best in the province. It's an opportunity to go against the best. You train hard, and you are going to see, at the end of the day, if it was enough."

While competition lies at its heart, Giroux was quick to add that friendship and camaraderie reside in its soul.

"We were with the badminton crew from Kipling," he says. "Curlers were on our bus, as well as judo, and they were singing from Davidson all the way to Montmartre. They were singing songs and it was everybody. They get to meet other kids from different areas, in different sports, and they see the level of dedication they have. It kind of fuels them to keep going. I think the kids that compete also sometimes become volunteers later in life, which is also very important."

Over 1,000 volunteers helped make the games possible. They assisted in every aspect of the competition, from scorekeeping, photography, and serving meals.

Target shooting season is not over. As the winter wraps and their season comes to a close, other opportunities to shine lie on the horizon.

"Overall, they felt they had done enough training to be prepared to compete, and they were happy with the results," Giroux says. "I think everybody actually shot higher than they do in practice. We call them personal bests, and all those scores were higher per athlete than what they are typically shooting. That just goes to show they were focused and wanting to try their best, and the results show that."



PRECISION AIR RIFLE CLUB | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Shooters shine at Sask. Games

Last week, 11 athletes from Montmartre's Precision Air Rifle Club travelled to the 2026 Saskatchewan Winter Games in Flying Dust First Nation and the City of Meadow Lake to compete against some of the best shooters in the province. The group brought home four gold and two silver medals.



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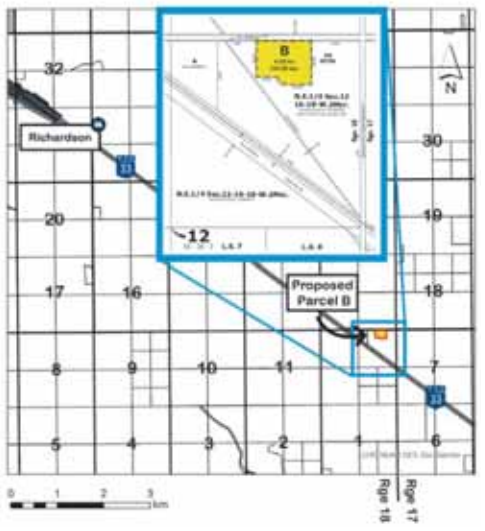
RM OF EDENWOLD No. 158

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Intent to Amend the Zoning Bylaw

Pursuant to Section 207 of *The Planning and Development Act, 2007*, the Council of the RM of Edenwold No. 158 gives the notice to amend Zoning Bylaw 2019-20 as follows:

Bylaw 2026-05 Zoning Map Change: - To rezone 4.06 hectares (10 acres) of proposed Parcel B, NE ¼ 12-16-18 W2M (shown on the map below) from AR – Agricultural Resource to CR1 – Country Residential 1.



Intent: To subdivide and rezone a portion of To subdivide and rezone a portion of NE ¼ 12-16-18 W2M from AR – Agricultural Resource to CR1 – Country Residential 1 for the purpose of creating a new parcel (Parcel B) containing an existing residential yard site.

Public Inspection: Any person may inspect the bylaw online at www.rmedenwold.ca, or at the RM of Edenwold No. 158's office, 100 Hutchence Road, Emerald Park, Saskatchewan between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. from Monday to Friday, excluding statutory holidays. Copies are available at cost.

Public Hearing: Council will hold a public hearing to receive submissions, written or verbal, on the proposed bylaws at **10 a.m. (local time) on Monday, March 9, 2026**, in the Council Chambers of the RM of Edenwold No. 158, 100 Hutchence Road, Emerald Park, Saskatchewan. Written submissions will be presented to Council and can be sent by mail or email. For further information please contact Xavier Perpetua, Planner I at 306-347-2973 or planning@edenwold-sk.ca.

Dated this 17th day of February 2026, at Emerald Park, in the Province of Sask.

Shauna Bzdel, Chief Administrative Officer

RM OF EDENWOLD No. 158

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Discretionary Use Application

Pursuant to Section 55 of *The Planning and Development Act, 2007*, the Council of the RM of Edenwold No. 158 gives notice that a discretionary use application has been received and the details are as follows:

Discretionary Use Application: Boarding Kennel: 121 Metz Road, Butte Business District Blk/Par 17-Plan 102423080 Ext 0.



Intended Discretionary Use: To allow for the development of a canine boarding kennel and training facility with a proposed interior kennel space of 50 kennels and an exterior off-leash compound.

Public Hearing: Council will hold a public hearing to receive submissions, written or verbal, on the proposed bylaw at **10 a.m. (local time) on Monday, March 9, 2026**, in the Council Chambers of the RM of Edenwold No. 158, 100 Hutchence Road, Emerald Park, Saskatchewan. Written submissions will be presented to Council and can be sent by mail or email. For further information or to submit written comments, please contact Sydney Buzash, Planner I/Development Officer at 306-347-2965 or at planning@edenwold-sk.ca.

Dated this 17th day of February 2026, at Emerald Park, in the Province of Sask.

Shauna Bzdel, Chief Administrative Officer

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RM seeks more info before deciding on data centre bylaw

By Ryan Kiedrowski
Grasslands News

While around 2,750 km away from California's Silicon Valley – the famed Mecca of Tech – a bylaw amendment regarding data centres was an item on the RM of Edenwold's regular meeting of Council on Feb. 24. Also on the agenda was a public hearing on the issue, gathering valuable feedback from residents.

The Rural Municipality of Edenwold No. 158 is considering changes to its zoning rules to address a growing and relatively new form of industrial development: data centres. The proposed amendment, known as Bylaw 2026-02, is intended to set clear rules for where data centres can be located and how they must be designed and operated.

"We had 11 written submissions and four verbal presentations on it, which brought us some questions forward that Council wanted answered before we voted on whether or not we're going to approve the text amendment," Reeve Al Trainor told Grasslands News. "Administration was tasked to do some more research and bring it forward probably to the next meeting for discussion and a decision on whether to go with the text amendment. So, it didn't proceed today."

Of the submissions received, Reeve Trainor noted the vast majority were opposed to the idea of a data centre in the RM with only two residents in support.

"These data sources are a huge environmental irresponsibility and the water and other resources needed to keep these centres running is reckless, careless and to allow this to be built is ignorant capitalism," noted one resident. "Please do not move forward with this. For our children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, do not move forward with this."

Part of what caused the reaction to the proposed amendment was the misunderstanding that a data centre was being planned for the RM of Edenwold, when plans are actually for another nearby municipality.

"There was some confusion about that," Reeve Trainor said. "It's actually one that's in (the RM of) Sherwood that's going ahead at this point. We don't have any applications for it, and we wouldn't have the ability to process an application because there's no bylaw to support data centres."

In this case, researching the proposed amendment further is a proactive measure in the case that a data centre project applies to the RM of Edenwold.

"This was just a text amendment to allow the ability for somebody to apply for one," explained Reeve Trainor. "But the message was clear from everybody that put forward information - they were against data centres."

Why data centres are on the radar

Data centres are facilities used to store, process and transmit digital information. They house servers, networking equipment and supporting infrastructure such as cooling systems and backup power. While they may not generate much traffic or employment compared with other industrial uses, they often require large buildings, significant electricity and, in some cases, large volumes of water for cooling.

Recently, word came that Bell Canada intended to build an AI data Centre campus in the RM of Sherwood, which would call for rezoning 160 acres of land currently dedicated to an agricultural use. The multiphase project will include interconnected buildings on a 500,000 sq.ft. area, office buildings, a 300-stall parking lot, and a SaskPower substation. The first phase of the build is hoped to begin this year, kicking off with a 90,000 sq.ft. building.

What the bylaw change would do

Bylaw 2026-02 would amend the existing zoning bylaw to formally recognize data centres as a land use. The amendment would clearly define a data centre, allow data centres as a discretionary use as IND1 (General Industrial) where Council can review and decide on proposals individually, and establish requirements, development standards, and conditions of approval. The intention would be to allow data centres in appropriate industrial areas while limiting potential negative impacts on nearby land uses and the environment.

"With the text amendment, as was put forward, it would be only in the commercial areas and it would be a discretionary use, which means council would have to vote on any application," Reeve Trainor said.

Other considerations would include factors such as aesthetics and noise, water use, and compatibility with nearby residences. Developers would be required to submit a detailed site plan showing buildings, mechanical equipment, landscaping, screening and setbacks. All major mechanical equipment would need to be screened from public view using fencing, berms or vegetation.

Ultimately, Bylaw 2026-02 is about getting ahead of a growing development trend by setting ground rules now — balancing economic opportunity with concerns about water, noise, visual impact and proximity to homes.

"People were clearly against data centres, but there was some confusion that they didn't understand that this was just a text amendment to allow the ability for somebody to apply for one," Reeve Trainor noted. "The important thing is always to get public feedback on these types of issues. I'm glad that we had all that input from the public."

The text amendment is expected to return to Council during their next regular meeting on Mar. 9.



ASHLEY SCARFE | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Digging out

On February 18, a Montana low rolled through much of Saskatchewan, bringing prolonged periods of heavy snow to the Quad Town area. Freezing rain preceded the storm, causing icy conditions on highways, along with near zero visibility due to blowing snow.



SPORTS



CALVIN DANIELS | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Reaching for the puck

Yorkton Terrier Mattias Schoffner reaches for the puck against Humboldt Bronco netminder Brady Holtvogt in recent action at the Westland Insurance Arena on Friday, Feb. 20. The Terriers won the game 3-0.

Terriers clinch playoff spot

By Calvin Daniels
Grasslands News

The Yorkton Terriers have been on an extended tear of late going 9-1-0-0 in their last 10-games including a home ice shut-out over Humboldt Feb. 20.

The win – wearing special Kinsmen sweaters auctioned off to raise some $8,000 for the upcoming 50th anniversary edition of Telemiracle – guaranteed the Terriers a playoff berth.

Callum Creig was the difference maker in the contest Friday turning away all 34 Bronco shots for the win.

The contest was a close affair throughout though as the teams were scoreless in the first period.

Gabriel Courchesne finally opened the scoring ledger as time was winding down in the middle frame. On the powerplay he scored what would ultimately be the game-winner at 18:27.

Tyler Palin added an insurance marker 6:51 into the third, and Vinay Junek potted an empty netter at 18:43 to round out a 3-0 Terrier win.

Brady Holtvogt took the loss in the Humboldt net on a night he faced 37 shots.

After the most recent weekend of action Yorkton sits with a record of 32-14-1-1 and a Bunge Division-best 66 points. Weyburn sits second with 64 and have also been assured a playoff spot. An Estevan win Sunday lifted the Bruins into third sport with 52 points, with Melville in the division basement with 50.

Millionaires get blasted by hometown Bombers – playoffs looming

By Darcy Gross
Grasslands News

The Melville Millionaires need to pick up some points as they go into their regular season stretch run, and last weekend, they were in the building where points are always hard to come by.

The SJHL Millionaires played a couple of games and managed to pick up a single point against the league's top team, the Flin Flon Bombers.

Melville Millionaires 4 at Flin Flon Bombers 5 (OT, Feb. 21)

The Millionaires trailed for much of their second game in two nights with the Bombers, but came on strong in the third period, rallying for a tie to send the game to overtime.

The Bombers scored to pick up the win, but every point is valuable at this juncture and the Mils managed to earn a single and stay in eighth place in the SJHL's overall standings.

Flin Flon led 2-0 after the first period and held a 3-2 advantage after 40 minutes of play.

Hudson Binder led the Millionaires' offence, notching his ninth and 10th markers of the season while Riley Craigen with his third and Yibin Yoo with his sixth on the campaign, rounded out Melville's scoring.

Rylan Oatman had a pair of helpers for the Millionaires with Jack Drake registering a single assist.

Matt Spencer-Dahl started between the pipes for the Millionaires but got the hook early in the third period, being replaced by Massimo Urbani.

Spencer-Dahl allowed all four regulation time goals on 26 shots while Urbani had five shots and gave up Flin Flon's overtime marker.

The Millionaires were the more aggressive of the two squads, being whistled for nine of 15 minor infractions while the teams split two fighting majors and game misconducts.

Melville Millionaires 1 at Flin Flon Bombers 4 (Feb. 20)

The Bombers scored three times in the opening stanza and added another one in the second period to salt this one away. Spencer-Dahl kept this game respectable as the Millionaires were outshot 51-24.

Wesley Olson potted his seventh goal of the season on the powerplay in the middle frame, with assists from Louis Nadeau and Kale Margolis to provide the Millionaires' scoring.

The Bombers were handed five of the game's eight minor penalties and the teams each had a major and a game misconduct.

With only nine games remaining in the season, the Millionaires need to put up as many points as possible with a logjam in the standings and only five points separating sixth spot from 10th.

After taking on the LaRonge Ice Wolves at the CN Community Centre on Feb. 24, the Mils hook up with the Wolves again on Feb. 27.

On Feb. 28, the Millionaires travel to Estevan for a big game with the Bruins who are also trying to secure a spot in the post season.

The Warman Wolverines visit the Millionaires for their first game of the new month on March 3.

All four of these contests start at 7 p.m.

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Grenfell Farmers' Open brings the heat to the sheets



SUBMITTED I GRASSLANDS NEWS

A-Event Winners

Team Kardash of Grenfell Curling Club were the champions at the Farmer's Open Bonspiel in Grenfell, Feb. 20 and 21. Left to right, are Ken Strass, Tyler Thomlinson, Michael Cole and Michael Kardash.



SUBMITTED I GRASSLANDS NEWS

B-Event Winners

Team Hollinger from Melville Curling Club won the B Event at the Farmer's Open Bonspiel in Grenfell, Feb. 20 and 21. Left to right, are Todd Hollinger, Bryce Hollinger, Dean Krupski and Kelly Hollinger.



SUBMITTED I GRASSLANDS NEWS

C-Event Winners

Team Richter from Grenfell Curling Club won the C Event at the Farmer's Open Bonspiel in Grenfell, Feb. 20 and 21. Left to right, are Murray Richter, Tyler Carles, Kim Steininger and Johnny Smith.



SUBMITTED I GRASSLANDS NEWS

D-Event Winners

Team Bryant from Broadview Curling Club won the D Event at the Farmer's Open Bonspiel in Grenfell, Feb. 20 and 21. Left to right, are Darby Bryant, Ben Saleski, Charnel Kopec and Aart Kohler.

By GNG STaff
Grasslands News

Nineteen teams filled the sheets and the stands as the Grenfell's annual Farmer's Open Bonspiel delivered a full weekend of curling, camaraderie and community spirit.

Curlers from across the region hit the ice Friday night, with draws continuing throughout the day Saturday in what organizers described as one of the most energetic editions of the event to date. The parking lot was filled to capacity, the lounge remained busy between draws and spectators lined the glass to take in the action.

"The place was absolutely electric," one organizer said following the final draw. "From the first rock Friday night to the last handshake Saturday evening, the atmosphere never let up."

On the ice, teams battled through tight games marked by clutch shots, key steals and displays of strong sportsmanship. Off the ice, the bonspiel once again proved to be a marquee social event on the local winter calendar, with supporters, sponsors and volunteers contributing to the lively atmosphere.

Claiming the A-event title was Team Kardash of the Grenfell Curling Club. The winning rink featured Ken Strass, Tyler Thomlinson, Michael Cole and Michael Kardash, with Cliff Chatterson listed as spare.

The B-event championship went to Team Hollinger from the Melville Curling Club. The team consisted of Todd Hollinger, Bryce Hollinger, Dean Krupski and Kelly Hollinger.

Capturing the C-event title was Team Richter, also representing the Grenfell Curling Club. Team members included Murray Richter, Tyler Carles, Kim Steininger and Johnny Smith.

The D-event was won by Team Bryant of the Broadview Curling Club, comprised of Darby Bryant, Ben Saleski, Charnel Kopec and Aart Kohler.

"It was an amazing weekend," said Mike Kardash, Grenfell Curling Club President. "The parking lot was full, and the building was packed with curlers and spectators all weekend. It was the most successful local bonspiel in Grenfell in many years. We hope to keep building on this momentum for next year!"



COWESSESS FIRST NATION #73 TREATY LAND ENTITLEMENT INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR OFF RESERVE TRUSTEES

Cowessess First Nation #73 is now accepting applications from Cowessess First Nations Members for three (3) Trustees from Off Reserve for a three (3) year term position to March 13, 2029

Qualifications:

- Must be over the age of eighteen (18) years;
- Must be a registered member on the Band list of the Cowessess First Nation #73;
- Must possess business or business related experience;
- Must have no previous criminal record with regards to fraud, breach of trust, theft, or forgery (C-PIC);
- Must be honest, trustworthy, dependable, reliable, and committed;
- Must be able to attend meetings as required.
- Must meet the requirements and criteria listed in Section 12 and 13 of TLE Trust Agreement.
- **Responsibilities:**
- Oversee the operation and management of the Trust property (as that term is defined in the Cowessess Treaty Land Entitlement Trust Agreement) together with all Entitlement Lands, property, and assets of the Trust;
- Oversee the administration and management of all authorized investments and revenues of the Cowessess Treaty Land Entitlement Trust;
- Oversee the coordination and acquisition of all Entitlement Lands acquired by the Cowessess Treaty Land Entitlement Trust including the execution of all required purchase and sale agreements;
- Oversee the coordination of all steps required to facilitate the placement of lands acquired by Trust into Reserve Status under the terms of the Cowessess Treaty Land Entitlement Settlement and Trust Agreements including the execution of all documents and agreements authorizing the negotiation, settlement and extinguishment of third party interest along with transfer of lands to His Majesty the Queen in the Right of Canada for the purpose of Reserve Creation;
- Oversee the management and operation of the Cowessess Treaty Land Entitlement Administration office.
- Ability to understand and review financial statements.
- Meet with Band Membership annually.

Resume, criminal record check and letter of interest can be **EMAILED** or **MAILED** to:

Chief and Council
ATTN: Tracy Sparvier
Cowessess First Nation #73
P.O. Box 100
Cowessess, Saskatchewan S0G 5L0
tracy.sparvier@cowessessfn.com

DEADLINE for applications is no later than March 13, 2026 at 4:00 PM.

Sports column – Darcy Gross

Gross Misconduct

If you love it, hockey is going to break your heart.

Any 'real' Canadian knows this to be a truth that no fan can dodge forever.

For millions across Canada, this happened when the USA's Jack Hughes scored on Josh Binnington in overtime of the gold medal game of the Winter Olympics.

Last year, it was Canada standing on top of the world after the Four Nations cup, and it was the Americans wiping their tears after losing in overtime to Team Canada.

Fans in both countries were up early for the tilt, a game that won its own version of gold as one of the most exciting hockey games ever played.

Certainly for those who dwell south of the border, the moment that puck crossed the goal line had to conjure up memories of the USA knocking off the Soviet Union for gold way back in 1980, when the 'Miracle on Ice' happened.

It's been a long, long time since the Americans stood on the top of the mountain in a best-on-best, but a win is a win as sure as a loss is a loss.

For the most part, the game was dominated by the Canadians.

Time and again, they'd get into the Americans' end and have a great scoring opportunity, only to see it thwarted by goaltender Connor Hellebuyck, who may very well be the world's best netminder.

The scoring chances were many, but the Canadians, through bad luck or great plays, couldn't seem to bury their chances.

The Americans made the most of their chances when presented to them, and that's why they got to stand arm in arm on top of the podium and receive their gold medals while the Canadians looked on in disbelief.

And I know it's awful.

When I was much younger, this would have been the worst day ever and I'd be cursing the day as one I'd regret forever, but at my now advanced age, it looks like an opportunity for the sport itself, a sport that has, for the moment, become one where the two best teams on the planet come from North America.

The Swedes and Finns and everyone else – with the exception of the Russians – have been shown to be inferior to Canada and the United States as far as the sport of hockey goes.

It isn't necessarily because we have more talent, rather, it's because we understand better what it takes to win the big games and how to stand out in the big moments.

The methods that North American teams employ to win is simply more effective than anything the Europeans have been able to come up with.

Hopefully, this was the kind of hockey game that parents woke their children for, so they could watch as a family and cheer on Team Canada.

Don't get me wrong, I'm not wishing sadness on anyone, but it isn't the end.

This is more of a beginning than anything.

Canada and the USA are almost as equal as the day is long.

Maybe they aren't quite as equal if the referees call a too many men on the ice penalty on the Americans, especially one that obvious, but they didn't, so we all have to learn to live with it.

Perhaps this game will inspire thousands of Canadians and Americans to play this fantastic game we all call our own.

At the end of the day, the Olympics is far more inspiring to people than NHL hockey, because playing for your own country or watching your country play, just hits different.

Canadians can take some solace in the fact that they were rooting for the better team.

The only problem is that the better team doesn't always score the goal that wins the championship.

It's a fine line, but champions don't always go into the same basket of goods that the best team is in.

The best team doesn't always have more goals on their side of the scoreboard, but the champions do, and as we've all been reminded over the years, there's no room on the scoreboard for stories.

This time around, it was the USA that earned the crown.

I'll warn American fans right now, don't get too comfortable wearing it, because in four years, we're taking it back.

Sports Column

Spotlight on Gushue at his final Brier

By Bruce Penton
Sports Columnist

In what will undoubtedly be a week-long celebration of the curling career of Brad Gushue, the 2026 Montana's Brier will almost certainly crown a rink skipped by somebody else.

This year's event is being staged this week in St. John's, NL, where Gushue carries a saint-like aura after an outstanding career as our country's best-ever curler. But his best days are behind him and if he happened to find some magic and lead his team to victory, it would be one of the biggest upsets in Brier history.

The overwhelming favourite to win the Brier is Brad Jacobs, representing Team Canada. Defending Brier champs and recently returned from the Milan-Cortina Olympics where he won the second gold medal of his career, Jacobs is the favourite in Pool A, the weaker of the two. He has Gushue in his pool, along with rinks from Ontario, Saskatchewan's Kelly Knapp and Quebec. That competition will feel like your local curling club's Thursday night men's league schedule for Jacobs after the world-class field he faced in Italy.

It's Pool B from where the most likely Jacobs' rival for the title will come. Pool B features the two best rinks from Manitoba (Matt Dunstone and first-year Brier competitor Braden Calvert), along with Saskatchewan's Mike McEwen, a regular Brier hopeful, and four-time champion Kevin Koe from Alberta.

The excitement in St. John's surrounding Gushue's final Brier appearance is unprecedented. The ticket allocation has been nearly sold out and there's even a waiting list for people who want to volunteer.

"I don't think we've seen a Brier like this before, in terms of (someone) retiring at home," said Eugene Trickett, vice-chair of the organizing committee.

Gushue, meanwhile, hopes to duplicate the feat he and his rink accomplished in 2017, the last time the Brier was held at the Mary Brown Centre in St. John's. That year, he skipped his rink to his first Brier title, defeating Team Canada, represented by Koe, 7-6 in the final.

Gushue has won an unprecedented six Brier titles, three while representing Team Canada. A rarity among top-level rinks, the Gushue rink has undergone only one lineup change since that first Brier title. Gushue, Mark Nicholls at third and Geoff Walker at lead have been the constants. Second Brett Gallant left the team after the fourth Brier title, replaced by E.J. Harnden in 2023. That second position is now handled by former Brier championship skip Brendan Bottcher. Gallant, meanwhile, joined Bottcher's team in 2023 and is now is a stalwart on the Jabobs' squad.

Gushue's schedule is evidence that he is winding down his career. He has played in about half of the Grand Slam events, and his team's won-loss record is a mediocre 3-3. There have been no Grand Slam wins this year for Gushue, who has 15 in his illustrious career.

A Gushue Brier victory is unlikely, but what a great Cinderella story it would be if he and his rink stunned the curling world in front of thousands of adoring fans in St. John's.

• Steve Simmons of the Toronto Sun: "Anthony Santander, who will miss most of the 2026 season after undergoing shoulder surgery, may not be the worst free-agent signing in Jays' history, but he's on the short list."

• Another one from Simmons, "A conversation you never have with a friend: 'Who do you like in mixed team luge?'"

• Cathal Kelly of the Globe and Mail: "Sweden accused Canada of cheating in the stupidest possible way, gently tapping a just released curling rock while it's still more than a hundred feet from its destination. A rock weighs about 40 pounds. It's like blowing on a curveball as it heads to the plate."

• Eamon Lynch of Golfweek.com, on golfer Gary Player complaining about Augusta National rules requiring non-members to play the course only with a member: "He grumbled that finding a host was 'not easy,' suggesting there isn't a long line of green jackets eager to endure four hours of uninterrupted bragging about everything from majors won to miles flown to pristine bowel movements had."

• Matthew Tkachuk of Florida Panthers and the U.S. Olympic team, to Leon Draisaitl of the Edmonton Oilers and Germany's national team, during their game in Milan: "Always the bridesmaid, eh, Leon? Always the bridesmaid, never the bride."

• Rick Ruohonen, the fifth on the U.S. men's curling team, on what it would mean to get into a game at the Olympics: "It would be the greatest moment in my life. My kids know it, and my wife knows it, so they're not going to be mad at me for saying it wasn't my wedding day."

• Columnist Norman Chad: "A woman stopped me in Rio hallway and told me I reminded her of Seth Rogen. I sent Rogen an apology and gave her name of good ophthalmologist."

• Comedy guy Torben Rolfsen of Vancouver: "Stay away from the Olympic medals selling on eBay. They're apparently falling apart quicker than Lindsey Vonn."

• Rolfsen again: "After the Olympics, do the short-track speedsters turn pro in roller derby?"

• sHeadline at theonion.com: "Finnish Ski Jumping Team Caught Tampering with Earth's Gravitational Field"

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

Fort Knox Hockey
Game Schedule

Home/Away Games
Playoffs

FEBRUARY:
27– RPS Rebels at Fort Knox 7:30
MARCH:
01– Fort Knox at RPS Rebels 5:00
03– RPS Rebels at Fort Knox 7:30
05– Fort Knox at RPS Rebels 7:30
If Necessary
07– RPS Rebels at Fort Knox 7:30
09– Fort Knox at RPS Rebels 7:30
11– RPS Rebels at Fort Knox 7:30

Yorkton Terriers Jr. A Hockey
Game Schedule

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

FEBRUARY:
27– Nipawin at Yorkton
28– La Ronge at Yorkton
MARCH:
04– Yorkton at Weyburn
06– Weyburn at Yorkton
08– Yorkton at Melfort 3:00
13– Yorkton at Melville
14– Melville at Yorkton

Melville Millionaires Jr. A Hockey
Game Schedule

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

FEBRUARY:
27– LaRonge at Melville
28– Melville at Estevan
MARCH:
03– Warman at Melville
06– Melville at Estevan
07– Estevan at Melville
13– Yorkton at Melville
14– Melville at Yorkton

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Round Lake, Redvers deadlocked in Senior A semifinal

Several local teams still competing in B and D divisions

By GNG Staff
Grasslands News

The Senior A provincial semifinal between Round Lake and Redvers is all square after two tightly contested games, setting up a decisive third match-up later this week.

Redvers opened the series with a narrow 2-1 victory in Game 1, capitalizing on timely scoring and solid defensive play to take an early edge in the best-of-three showdown.

Round Lake answered in Game 2 with a 2-1 win of its own, matching Redvers goal for goal and evening the series at one game apiece. Like the opener, the contest was tightly played, with neither side giving much room through the neutral zone and both goaltenders turning aside quality chances.

With each team claiming a 2-1 victory on home ice, the semifinal now shifts to a winner-take-all Game 3 scheduled for Feb. 28 in Ochapowace.

The victor will advance to the Senior A provincial semifinal against either Kindersley or Lumsden. Currently Lumsden leads that series 1-0 after a 9-3 victory.

In the Senior B division, Canora and Balcarres have both moved on to the semifinals, though they took different paths to get there.

Canora needed all three games to eliminate LeRoy. Canora opened the series with a 4-2 win, but LeRoy answered in Game 2 with a 3-1 victory to force a deciding contest. In Game 3, Canora regained control, skating to a 5-2 win to clinch the series and advance.

Balcarres, meanwhile, wrapped up its quarter-final in two straight games against Rocanville. Balcarres earned a 5-3 win in the opener before surviving a one-goal battle in Game 2, edging Rocanville 6-5 to complete the sweep.

In the semifinal round, Balcarres will face Oxbow. Canora will meet the winner of the Wilkie–Eston series, which is currently tied 1-1.

In the Senior C division, Wapella's provincial run came to an end in a decisive Game 3 against Craik. Wapella opened the best-of-three series with an 8-6 victory in a high-scoring Game 1, but Craik answered with an 8-7 win in Game 2 to even the series. The deciding contest saw Craik take control early and never look back, skating to a 7-0 shutout victory to eliminate Wapella and advance to the next round.

In Senior D, several series are still unfolding.

Kipling advanced after a hard-fought three-game series against Lafleche. Kipling lost 9-6 in game one before answering back with a 5-3 victory in game two. In the deciding game 3, Kipling regained momentum and secured the series with a 7-4 win. Facing Milestone in the next round, Kipling struggled in game one and found themselves outscored 7-1 to find themselves in a do-or-die situation for game two.

Meanwhile Cupar is one game into their series against Carnduff, who were fresh off a two-game sweep of the Ochapowace Thunder. Carnduff currently leads the series 1-0 after a close 4-3 win in the opening game of the series.

Meanwhile, on the other side of the playoff bracket, Hague and Ituna are also squaring off, with Hague making an early statement by posting a 10-1 victory in Game 1 of their series. The winner of that series will face either Macklin or Lucky Lake in the semifinals, with Luky Lake currently having a one game lead after a 6-0 victory.

With decisive games looming and semifinals taking shape across all four divisions, the provincial senior men's hockey playoffs continue to deliver tight contests and high-scoring drama in rinks across Saskatchewan.

Top four advance to PMHL semifinals

By GNG Staff
Grasslands News

The top four teams from the Prairie Men's Hockey League regular season are set for the semifinals after a tightly contested 12-game schedule.

According to the final standings generated Feb. 24, the Cupar Canucks finished first overall with a 10-1-1 record for 21 points, followed by the Indian Head Chiefs at 8-4 (16 points), the Ituna Avalanche at 6-5-1 (13 points) and the Strasbourg Maroons at 5-6-1 (11 points).

The Canucks led the league offensively with 86 goals scored and a league-best plus-57 goal differential, while allowing just 29 goals against. Indian Head finished second with 63 goals for and a plus-20 differential. Ituna and Strasbourg rounded out the playoff picture, while the Qu'Appelle Valley Warriors were eliminated after finishing fifth.

The semifinal matchups will see first-place Cupar take on fourth-place Strasbourg, while second-place Indian Head faces third-place Ituna.

The Indian Head Chiefs and Ituna Avalanche open their series Thursday, Feb. 27 at 8 p.m. in Indian Head. The teams will meet again Friday, March 6 at 8 p.m. in Ituna.

In the other semifinal, the Strasbourg Maroons host the Cupar Canucks on Tuesday, March 3 at 8 p.m. in Cupar, with the return game scheduled for Friday, March 6 at 8 p.m. in Strasbourg.

All games are scheduled for 8 p.m. starts as the league moves into its championship round.

The winners of the two semifinal series will advance to the Prairie Men's Hockey League final, with dates to be announced.

Bowling Scores - Yorkton

MONDAY GA

Men's High Single and Triple, Cam Louttit, 284,802.

Ladies' High Single and Triple Susanne Hack, 192, 515.

Most Pins Over Average, Rick Guy +69.

TUESDAY YBC

Men's High Single Isaiah Faryna 180. Men's High Triple, Liam Hutchings, 436.

Ladies' High Single and Triple Audraya Keyowski 144, 347.

Most Pins Over Average, Isaiah Faryna +59.

STS

Men's High Single, and Triple, Cam Louttit, 290, 807.

Ladies' High Single and Triple Priya Pandit, 214, 476.

Most Pins Over Average, Cliff Chase +62.

WEDNESDAY GA

Men's High Single Cam Louttit, 251, 699.

Ladies' High Single and Triple, Susanne Hack, 218, 510.

Most Pins Over Average, Susanne Hack +66.

HOSPITAL

Men's High Single, Jason Manastyrski. 242 Men's High Triple, Cody Lacelle, 620.

Ladies' High Single and Triple, Tracy Horneman 180, 493.

Most Pins Over Average, Jason Manastyrski +63.

LEGION

Men's High Single, Nolan Bucsis, 240. Men's High Tripe, Bryce Arnold, 590.

Ladies' High Single and Triple, Marcia Grunerud, 191 480.

Most Pins Over Average, Bryce Arnold +54.

SPECIAL O

Men's High Single and Triple, Len Nelson, 341, 769.

Ladies' High Single, Crysty Marianchuk, 150. Ladies' High Triple, Nadia Semenuik, 408.

Most Pins Over Average, Len Nelson +187.

HANCOCK PLUMBING

Men's High Single and Triple, Cam Louttit, 290, 778.

Ladies' High Single and Triple, Sharla Schrader, 275, 737.

Most Pins Over Average, Dustin Watson +79.

SATURDAY YBC

Men's High Single and Triple, Emry Lozinski Gage, 310, 715.

Ladies' High Single and Triple, Quinn Tillman, 239, 559.

Most Pins Over Average, Emry Lozinski Gage +133 .

Bowling Scores, Standings - Melville Bowl Arena

MONDAY P.M.
Feb. 16

Ladies' High Single Linda Bender, 183. Ladies High Triple, May Lou Janiskewich, 454. Ladies Average, Angela Dobson, 169.

Men's High Single and Triple. Gordon Ostlund, 246, 641. Men's Average, Joe Wu, 186.

Team High Single and Triple, Ostlund 817, 2313.

Team	Pts.
Ostlund	51.5
Dobson	48
Bender	44.5
Stephens	30

MONDAY COMMERCIAL
Feb. 16

Ladies' High Single, Brenda Brooks, 212. Ladies' High Triple, Cindy Exner, 578. Ladies' Average, Brandy Lechner, 228.

Men's High Single, Parker Koval, 260. Men's High Triple and Average, Destin Kohlenberg, 703, 216.

Team High Single and Triple, Gutter Girls, 1276, 3716.

Team	Pts.
Professional Amateurs	54
Pinheads	54
That Was Close	51
Blame it on Garry	51
Gutter Girls	50

ST. HENRY'S
Feb. 17

Ladies' High Single and Triple, Linda Bender, 196, 497. Ladies' Average, Pat Brown, 168.

Men's High Single and Triple, Joe Wu, 323, 723. Men's Average, Chris Cheveldae, 191,

Team High Single and Triple, CCJ, 133, 3770.

Team	Pts.
Just 4 Fun	68
CCJ	55
A Team	32
Drifters	00

TUESDAY YBC
Feb. 17

Girls High Single and Triple, Amzlee Patterson, 121, 324.

Boys High Single and Triple, Jakab Unterschute 151, 424.

Team High Single and Triple, Squishmellows, 835, 2421.

Team	Pts.
Bowl Kings	50.5
Squishmellows	37.5

THURSDAY YBC
Feb. 19

Girls High Single and Triple, Emmi Hollinger, 221, 492.

Boys High Single and Triple, Jakob Unterschute, 151, 424.

Team High Single and Triple, Kohlenberg, 898, 2557.

Team	Pts.
Wurts	46.5
Kohlenberg	46
Curylo	42.5
Hollinger	41

SATURDAY YBC
Feb. 21

Girls High Single and Triple, Ashyah Davies, 161, 497.

Boys High Single, Remi Schneider, 221. Boys High Triple, Zachary Cueylo, 546.

Team High Single and Triple, The Enders, 872, 2401.

Team	Pts.
The Enders	54.5
Bravehearts	47.5
Everything	37
Bowling Superstars	33

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Pilot Butte eliminates Moosomin in PJHL survivor series

By GNG Staff
Grasslands News

The Prairie Junior Hockey League playoffs are underway, and the Bill Johnston Division bracket is beginning to take shape after the opening-round Survivor Series.

The Pilot Butte Storm eliminated the Moosomin Steelhawks in two straight games, sweeping the best-of-three series 2-0.

Pilot Butte opened the series with a commanding 9-4 victory Saturday, Feb. 21 at the Pilot Butte Recreation Centre. The Storm overwhelmed Moosomin with a 69-23 edge in shots and broke the game open with four goals in both the second and third periods.

Tyson Nakonechny scored twice and added an assist, while Kegan Ksenych and Kayden Reeder each netted a pair. Luke Hanrieder and Kyle McLellan also scored for Pilot Butte. Deagan Reister and Kaden Plaquin had three points apiece for the Steelhawks in the loss.

The Storm completed the sweep Feb. 23 at Mike Schwean Arena with a 4-3 overtime win.

Pilot Butte jumped out to a 3-0 first-period lead on goals by Jaxon Skiftun, Ksenych and Reeder. Moosomin responded with goals from Kohl Stephen and Norman J. Lacquette in the second period before Deagan Reister tied the game early in the third.

Overtime belonged to the Storm. Hanrieder scored at 13:27 of the extra frame, finishing with a goal and an assist. Dylan Koback made 35 saves in the victory as Pilot Butte outshot Moosomin 56-38.

With the series win, the fourth-seeded Storm advance to face the top-seeded Regina Capitals in the Bill Johnston Division semifinals. The series opens Feb. 28 in Regina at 4:45 p.m., with Game 3 scheduled for March 3 at 7:45 p.m. in Regina and Game 5, if necessary, set for March 6 at 7:45 p.m.

As of press time, Games 2, 4 and 6 – which are to be played in Pilot Butte – had not yet been scheduled.

On the other side of the bracket, the third-seeded Assiniboia Southern Rebels take on the second-seeded Fort Knox. Game 1 is set for Friday, Feb. 27 in Fort Qu'Appelle at 5 p.m. Game 2 shifts to Assiniboia on Sunday, March 1 at 7:30 p.m., with Game 3 back in Fort Qu'Appelle on Tuesday, March 3 at 7:30 p.m. Game 4 is scheduled for Thursday, March 5 in Assiniboia at 7:30 p.m., with Games 5 through 7, if necessary, planned for March 7, 9 and 11.

The semifinal winners will meet in the South Final, with a berth in the PJHL Final on the line.

After a high-scoring opener and an overtime finish, the 2026 PJHL postseason is already delivering playoff intensity as teams battle for divisional supremacy.

Cobras, Warriors take game 1 in SEHL semifinals

By GNG Staff
Grasslands News

The Canora Cobras and Langenburg Warriors opened the Sask East Hockey League semifinals in commanding fashion Feb. 20, each defending home ice to take early leads in their respective best-of-five series.

At the Canora Civic Centre, Scott Mickoski scored four goals and added two assists to power the Cobras to a 10-3 win over the Esterhazy Flyers in Game 1.

Canora jumped ahead with four first-period goals and never trailed. Logan Foster contributed two goals and three assists, while Carter Dereniwsky scored twice. The Cobras outshot Esterhazy 52-33 and went 2-for-6 on the power play.

Parker Johnson scored twice for the Flyers. Ross Hawryluk turned aside 30 shots to earn the victory in goal for Canora.

As of press time, dates and locations for the remaining games in the Esterhazy–Canora series had not been finalized.

In the other semifinal, Brett Peppler recorded a hat trick as the Langenburg Warriors defeated the Theodore Buffalos 5-3 on Feb. 20 at the Langenburg Remax Arena.

After a scoreless first period, Langenburg scored three times in the second and added two more in the third to secure the win. Tyson Zimmer had two goals and two assists for the Warriors, while Taylor Thompson chipped in with a goal and an assist. Theodore goals came from Mike Rogoschewsky, Rylee Zimmer and Tyson Zimmer.

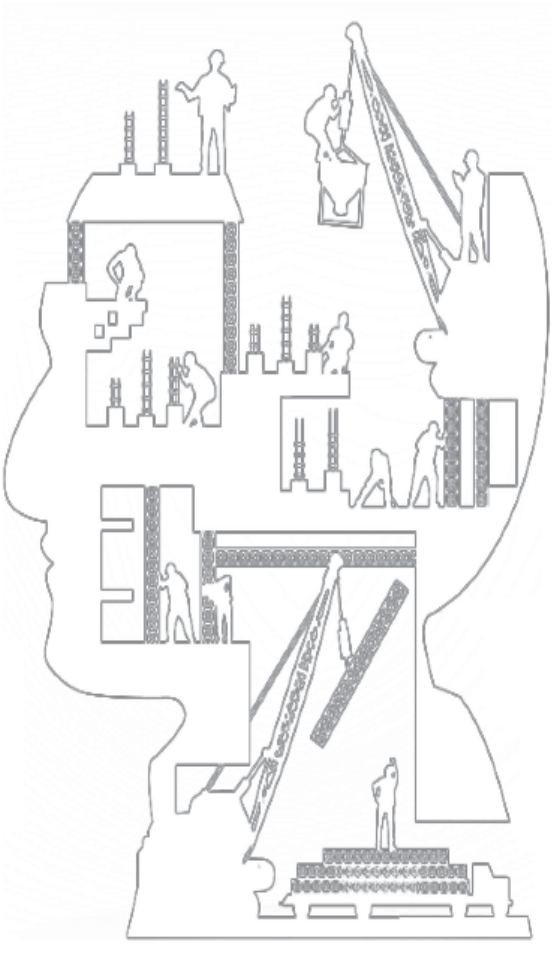
The series now shifts to Theodore for Game 2 on Friday, Feb. 27 at 8:30 p.m. at the Judith Ungar Memorial Arena. Game 3 is scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 28 at 8 p.m. in Langenburg at the Langenburg Remax Arena. If necessary, Game 4 will be played Friday, March 6 at 8:30 p.m. in Theodore, with Game 5 set for Saturday, March 7 at 8 p.m. in Langenburg.

The semifinal matchups were set following decisive quarterfinal rounds.

Canora advanced with a three-game sweep of the Cote Selects, while Esterhazy eliminated the Rocanville Tigers in two straight. Langenburg moved on with a sweep of the Wapella Blackhawks, and Theodore defeated the Swan Valley Axemen in two games to reach the semifinals.

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Broncs, Spitfires advance as QVHHL semifinals take shape

By GNG Staff
Grasslands News

The semifinal picture is coming into focus in the Qu'Appelle Valley Highway Hockey League playoffs, with the Balcarres Broncs and Grenfell Spitfires both moving on after decisive first-round victories.

Balcarres punched its ticket to Round 2 with a 2-0 series win over the Southey Marlins. The Broncs opened the match-up with a 5-4 victory before doubling up with another 5-4 win to close out the series.

Grenfell also needed just two games to dispatch the Balgonie Bisons. The Spitfires earned a 10-3 win in Game 1 and followed up with an 8-5 decision in Game 2 to secure the sweep.

In the other first-round series, the Raymore Rockets eliminated the Bethune Bulldogs in three games. Raymore took the opener 5-2 before Bethune answered with a 7-6 victory in Game 2. The Rockets responded with a 5-3 win in the deciding Game 3 to claim the series 2-1.

With the opening round complete, attention shifts to the semifinals.

The Broncs, seeded fourth, will meet the top-seeded Lumsden Monarchs in one semifinal. The best-of-five series opens Wednesday, Feb. 25 at 8:30 p.m. in Balcarres. Game 2 is set for Tuesday, March 3 at 8:30 p.m. in Lumsden, with Game 3 scheduled for Thursday, March 5 at 8 p.m., also in Lumsden. Additional games, if necessary, will be announced.

The other semifinal features the third-seeded Grenfell Spitfires against the second-seeded Raymore Rockets. Game 1 goes Tuesday, Feb. 24 at 8 p.m. in Raymore. Game 2 is slated for Thursday, Feb. 26 at 8 p.m. at the Grenfell Recreation Park Arena. Game 3 returns to Raymore on Tuesday, March 4 at 8 p.m. Further games will be played if required.

Both series are best-of-five, with the winners advancing to the QVHHL final.

With high-scoring offences and tight finishes already marking the opening round, fans can count on witnessing high-speed action ahead.

Redvers Rockets, Moosomin Rangers strike first in Big 6 semifinals

By GNG Staff
Grasslands News

The Big 6 Hockey League semifinals opened Thursday, Feb. 19 with a pair of decisive victories on home ice, as the Redvers Rockets and Moosomin Rangers each skated to 1-0 series leads in their best-of-five match-ups.

Redvers Rockets

The Rockets, who advanced after sweeping the Midale Mustangs 3-0 in the quarterfinals, picked up where they left off with an 8-4 win over the Carlyle Cougars on Feb. 19 at the Redvers Rec Centre.

Redvers built a 3-2 lead after the opening period and broke the game open with four goals in the second. Kenton Miller scored twice, while Naton Miller added a goal and two assists. Kevin Mann and Declyn Henderson each chipped in with a goal and a helper. Goaltender Thomas Bauche went the distance to earn the win.

Carlyle, which eliminated the Wawota Flyers in three straight games in the opening round, got two goals and an assist from Jon Gaudet, while Taysen Holt and Josh Romanyk each had a goal and two assists in the loss.

Game 2 in the series was scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 25 at 7:30 p.m. in Carlyle. Game 3 will return to Redvers on a date yet to be announced, with Games 4 and 5, if necessary, also to be determined.

Moosomin Rangers

In the other semifinal, the Moosomin Rangers opened with a 4-0 shutout over the Oxbow Huskies on Feb. 19 at the Mike Schwean Arena in Moosomin.

Bud Holloway led the Rangers' attack with two goals and an assist, while Justin Lamontagne had a goal and a helper. Chad Hebert added a first-period marker as Moosomin built a 3-0 lead after 20 minutes and never looked back. Kyler Beckett turned aside all shots he faced for the shutout.

Moosomin reached the semifinal by dispatching the K.W. Oil Kings of Kipling in three games, while Oxbow swept the Carnduff Red Devils in their quarterfinal series.

Game 2 between the Rangers and Huskies is set for Wednesday, March 25 at 8 p.m. in Moosomin. Game 3 will shift back to Oxbow on a date to be announced. Games 4 and 5, if required, are also listed as tentative.

The semifinal winners will advance to the Big 6 Championship series, with dates to be finalized once the finalists are determined.

Watching the March Night Skies

By James Edgar
For Grasslands News

The moon occults Regulus (twice) and Antares this month, but not for North America. Nonetheless, Regulus is a mere 0.4 degrees south on the opening days of March. The moon is full on March 3rd, which is also at total lunar eclipse (of course, it's 14 days following the solar eclipse in February). The moon passes completely through Earth's shadow during the eclipse, so expect to see a deep orange or brown moon. On March 6th, Spica is 1.9 degrees north of the waning gibbous moon. March 10th sees Antares 0.7 degrees north of our satellite, the same day it reaches apogee of 404,384 km. March 17th has Mercury two degrees north of the thin sliver of the waning moon – an early morning event in the eastern twilight. The moon is new on March 18th. The thin sliver of the 1.5-day-old moon is five degrees north of Venus in the western evening sky on March 20, which happens to be the vernal equinox. On March 22nd, the moon reaches perigee of 366,857 km, right up close to the Pleiades and Uranus. March 26th finds Jupiter four degrees south of first-quarter luna; March 27th sees it among the stars of the Beehive Cluster (M44). Once again, Regulus is occulted on March 29th, but only for a small region of northeastern Canada.

Mercury has been hiding in front of the sun, but gradually emerges in the eastern morning twilight, becoming brighter as it moves away from the sun's glare. This apparition favours Southern Hemisphere observers.

Venus climbs up the ecliptic as the Evening Star, a welcome beacon throughout the next six months. The brightest planet snuggles up close to Saturn and Neptune on March 7th. A challenge presents itself on March 19th, when the razor-thin crescent moon passes by.

Mars is too close to the sun for viewing until late in the month.

Jupiter is well placed for viewing all month, becoming visible high above Orion, remaining among the stars of Gemini. Double shadows show up on the giant planet's cloud tops on March 5th. Retrograde motion ceases on the 11th, when Jupiter briefly stands still and begins prograde motion eastward. The waxing gibbous moon glides by on March 26th.

Saturn will be a tough observation, but finding Venus is the west can be a guide on March 7th and 8th. After that, the ringed planet is too close to the sun for viewing.

Uranus remains high above the horizon in Taurus, The Bull. The waxing crescent moon joins the scene on March 22nd.

Neptune is still in Pisces, where it will remain all year. Saturn nearby is an easier find, but they both descend into the Sun's glare by mid-month.

Daylight Saving Time begins on March 8.

The zodiacal light is visible in northern latitudes in the west after evening twilight for the first two weeks.

The vernal equinox is on March 20, marking the beginning of spring.

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Dated this 27th day of February, 2026 Harley McCarthy, Treasurer

NOTICE OF CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

FORM H
[*Section 66 of the Act*]
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SCHOOL DIVISION ELECTIONS

Public notice is hereby given that nomination of candidates for the office of:

BOARD MEMBER: CHRIST THE TEACHER ROMAN CATHOLIC SEPARATE SCHOOL DIVISION NO. 212

Number to be Elected

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Nominations for the above position will be received by Delmar Zwirsky – Returning Officer for Christ the Teacher RCSSD No.212.

Nominations will be received during regular business hours (8:00 a.m. to noon, 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday) commencing on the **11th day of February 2026** to the **11th day March 2026** (Close of Nominations).

Forms may be submitted:

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

Nomination forms may be obtained from the School Division Office at 45A Palliser Way, Yorkton Saskatchewan or on the website at www.christtheteacher.ca.

Dated this 11th day of February 2026
Delmar Zwirsky, Returning Officer

Local Government Election Act, L-30.11 Reg 1
Form H Section 66 of the Act
Notice of Call for Nominations

SSWHL looks to the future as their inaugural season draws to a close

By Ashley Scarfe
Grasslands News

On the heels of Canada's silver medal wins for men's and women's hockey at the Winter Olympics in Italy, the women of the Saskatchewan Senior Women's Hockey League are focused on the future of their organization. On February 17, the league put out a call to the women of Alberta, looking to determine the interest and locations for future teams in that province. On Monday, they did the same for Manitoba. The goal is to form a western league for the start of next year's hockey season.

In six days, the Alberta survey stood at 208 responses, while Manitoba had already reached 64 in its first 12 hours online.

It's a dream Jenna Merk, co-founder of the SSWHL, and member of the Vibank Bruins, would not have thought possible this time last year when she and fellow founder Megan LeBlanc had an idea for the Saskatchewan league. It started much the same, with polls of women across the province to find hotspots and gather numbers. From there, the SSWHL was formed, with six teams in the south and five teams in the north.

"When I look back to when we first had this idea, I don't think either of us thought it was going to get this much traction and build up the way it has," Merk says. "I remember there were a couple of times where I told the team that every time I go out to play a game, I'm so happy this exists and so proud it exists. I love that I could play competitive hockey again, but I also saw that everyone around me was back playing competitive hockey again. Hockey started to mean something again. It was euphoric in that sense, because it meant something more than just a hockey game every time we stepped on the ice. It



was definitely a passion project in that regard."

Even as Merk and LeBlanc begin the process of expanding the league across Saskatchewan's borders and into a prairie league, the inaugural season draws to a close. The Dalmeny Sabres have clinched the northern division and will face the Gull Lake Falcons for the Steffes Cup.

"I think that pressure is what brought the intensity up this year, as well, knowing whoever hoisted the cup was going to be the first," Merk says. "Gull Lake really represents the strength in the south. I have no doubt they are going to give the north a run for their money, and it's also exciting to see how the north matches up against the south. We did that north vs. south game, where the south won, so from that you could think that the south might be stronger, but Dalmeny had a lot of players on that north team, so they definitely have that talent."

Since the SSWHL began its push across the province, girls' hockey in Saskatchewan seems to have gained new traction. On January 4, the Sedley Women's Rec team hit the ice for the first time. Brittany Miller, co-founder of the team, attributed the SSWHL to validating female players and bringing visibility to the often male-dominated game.

"When women see opportunities at all levels from recreational to senior leagues like the SSWHL, it validates hockey for them too," Miller says. "This growth is being driven by visibility, inclusion, and women supporting women, and it is exciting to be a part of building something that didn't really exist in our communities before."

Meanwhile, on January 24, the Prairie Storm female hockey program celebrated their first Her Game Summit. It was an event to showcase the skills of their players ranging from U7 to U13 and celebrate girls in the sport.

Channing Degelman, female director for Prairie Storm Minor Hockey Association, shares a similar sentiment to Miller.

"I think that moving ahead with the professional women's hockey league just gives these girls a stage, and allows our girls to start dreaming bigger," Degelman says. "Before, girls just played because they loved the game, but there was an end point, and now that's moved. It gives us something to dream about, and also gives them more of an opportunity to play their sport longer. Before, if you didn't get a college scholarship, you were just done. Now there are more girls playing, there's more girls willing to join those teams at a later date. I feel like numbers are everything in female hockey. If you can get the numbers, it grows the program, and there is more opportunity for everybody involved."

Merk says those opportunities were one of the driving forces behind the formation of the SSWHL and now the expansion into a prairie league.

"There are people that want to be playing female hockey, and there is a need to grow," Merk says. "Just hearing them realize they can make that change and they can start creating more opportunities means the world. Knowing there is more going on for female hockey just excites me for what's to come. It's so inspirational and makes me grateful we took the leap. To then hear others are also taking leaps and creating opportunities for girls all around Saskatchewan is really amazing."

While Alberta and Manitoba are in the works, Merk says the Saskatchewan league will look much the same when next year's season begins. While a sixth team may be developed for the north in the near future, both sides of the province will remain capped at six teams each.

"With the south for sure, we will stay at the six teams," Merk says. "There were a couple teams getting ten to twelve players out every game, and we want to allow them to grow and strengthen. If we start having roster problems, we can look at adding a team. For the 2026-2027 season, there will be no south additions. In the north, we had a pretty solid showing. Every team was able to get 16-17 players each game, so we are thinking they can add a sixth team because they only had five this season. So we will be putting out a petition for a sixth team. Where that team will be will depend on who applies and which communities want to take one on. We want to make sure we strengthen before we spread in Saskatchewan."

Four Cougars will be joining the league next year, as well as players from other colleges and universities as they graduate from their academic programs. Merk expects this to add a new element to the league, as players fresh from competition join their ranks and add new speed and skill to their respective teams.

"It's euphoric now, being near the end and it all happened as it did," Merk says. "It happened from all the mentions or when someone came to a game. That community is really what supported what we have done so far. It mattered again. You felt what you were doing mattered. Now it's on the map. People want to follow along and know more. It goes to show people are excited and interested."

Gardener's Corner: Gardener's dream of May long weekend

By Debbie Hayward
Grasslands News

It's about 88 days till the May long weekend, the traditional prairie planting time! At our house, it was practically like one of the key days of the year: there was Christmas, Valentine's Day (Mom's birthday!), Easter, and then the May long weekend, aka 'planting time'.

88 days seems like a long time but look how quickly a week goes by! It does in our house, and I'm sure yours is the same.

So let's count backwards. For those gardeners who start seeds indoors, it is traditional to start then about 10 weeks before the last frost (which can be anywhere from the second week of May - give or take - to the second week of June - give or take). It's always a guessing game, and as a famous movie line goes, do we feel lucky today? But if we plan to have seedlings ready to go outdoors for May 25, the EPT (Estimated Planting Time) would be around March 16.

Now before you say anything, I know some gardeners have their seeds started already. It's old news already! That's how our house was, Mom couldn't wait! She was a joyous and enthusiastic gardener, and loved poring over the seeds catalogues and seed packages and choosing the things to plant for the current garden year. I fully understand your enthusiasm if you are one of these gardeners!

However (yes, there's always a 'however'), it is always a gardening gamble of when to plant. Early planting will give a head start to our plants, it's true, but sometimes they get too gangly or damp off and never make it to that joyous day of going out into the garden! And it means much longer that the gardener will have to turn and shift and moved those seedlings around to catch the optimum sun. If you are lucky enough to have grow lights or a solarium, it's easier. But for many gardeners, finding windowsill and table space by a window is a challenge.

One the other side of the coin, later planting will have plants playing catch up. And still with all the above light challenges.

But you know what? It's a labor of love and gardeners will take on the challenges and issues of seed-starting just for the pure joy of seeing those lovely plants grow!

Where to begin? Once gardeners have selected their seeds, plant them in a soil-less mix, do not use garden soil. Soil-less mix is lighter and drains well, perfect for new little seedlings.

Choose containers that are not too big (milk cartons are very handy). Fill containers almost to the top with the soilless mix and make a soft depression in the soil for the seeds. When the seeds are planted, cover them lightly, and water gently. (Mom always did this step using a teaspoon, gently spooning room-temperature water over the soil. See how she loved her plants?) As a note, many gardeners also like peat pellets: the product that looks like flat cookies then swells when the peat gets wet. When the seeds are planted, cover them lightly. Further watering is not needed at this time since the peat is moist.

After that, label your containers, it is easy to forget what seeds are where!

Some gardeners slide the newly planted containers under the bed in the spare room or cover them lightly with sheets of newspaper. Check daily, and when the first gently bump of a growing seedling begins to show, being them out into the light and away you go, the garden season has begun!

Visit the Yorkton and District Horticultural Society at www.yorktonhort.ca for information about group activities. New members are always welcome!

NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF ASSESSMENT ROLL

Resort Village of Bird's Point

Notice is hereby given that the assessment roll for the Resort Village of Bird's Point for the year 2026 has been prepared and is open to inspection in the office of the Assessor during regular office hours:

Mondays & Tuesdays,
February 24, 2026 to March 30, 2026

A bylaw pursuant to section 214 of *The Municipalities Act* has been passed and the assessment notices have been sent as required.

Any person wishing to discuss the Notice of Assessment or potential appeal may contact the Local Assessor at the Resort Village of Bird's Point - 169 Currie Ave Bird's Point, SK.

Any person who wishes to appeal against his or her assessment or classification is required to file his or her notice of appeal (A $300.00 fee will be charged, refundable if successful) before March 30, 2026. All Fees must be submitted to the Local Assessor at the Resort Village of Bird's Point.

All appeals must be filed with the Secretary of the Board of Revision, Nicole Hoskins, which can be sent electronically to: secretary@westernmunicipal.ca or via post to Resort Village of Bird's Point, P.O. Box 1019, Whitewood, SK S0G 5C0, And forwarded to the Secretary of the Board of Revision:

The Secretary to the Board of Revision
Nicolle Hoskins
P.O. Box 149, Meota, SK S0M 1X0
The Assessor, Resort Village of Bird's Point
P.O. Box 1019, Whitewood, SK S0G 5C0

Dated this 24th, day of February, 2026.

Alita Stevenson
Assessor

PUBLIC NOTICE STRAY HORSE RESTRAINED

(Pursuant to The Animal Production Act, Saskatchewan)
Rural Municipality of North Qu'Appelle No. 187
Province of Saskatchewan

Notice is hereby given that the following stray horse was restrained on the 8th day of January 2026, within the Rural Municipality of North Qu'Appelle No. 187:

Description of Animal:
- Species: Horse
- Colour: Black Mare with 2 hind white socks
- Sex: Female
- Approximate Age: Unknown
- Brand/Markings/Tattoos (if any): No brand or markings
- Location Where Found: NW 13-20-16 W2

The owner of the above-described animal is required to contact the Municipal Office immediately and provide proof of ownership.

The animal will be released upon payment of all lawful costs and expenses incurred for restraint, care, feeding, and advertising.

Unless claimed within the time prescribed by law, the animal will be sold in accordance with The Animal Production Act and Regulations.

For further information contact:
Rural Municipality of North Qu'Appelle No. 187
Phone: 306-332-5202
Email: office@rm187.com
Address: 136 Company Ave S. Fort Qu'Appelle, Sk

Dated at Fort Qu'Appelle, Saskatchewan, this 27 day of February 2026.

Charmain Wowk
Chief Administrative Officer

Sunny Side Up

Curiosity almost killed the cat

By Kathleen Gibson
Grasslands News

While sweeping the kitchen, my broom snagged what looked like a small Lego block. Picking it up, I discovered instead one of my husband's prescription capsules—half-chewed. A potent one, toxic to cats.

One of our two cats is a chewer. It had to be Grace. We've never owned a cat like him. He seems to crave things soft, bendy or rubbery. And tiny things that roll around. "Lord, help!" I prayed.

He rests near me as I type. It's been more than 24 hours since he chewed the pill. Usually wiry and wiggly, Grace hasn't left that spot for 12 hours. Glory, his twin, rests with him. Brothers in fur, though not blood, the cats are nearly inseparable.

"Just monitor him," our vet instructed, so I've moved my computer onto our bed, so I can write keeping watch. When I speak, he stares at me, alert and moon-eyed. Clearly stoned.

"Curiosity killed the likes of you," I've often told Grace. Purring as though I'd just paid him a great compliment, he extends one paw and taps my leg. "Not me," he replies in Cattish. "Never me!"

If Grace could comprehend and heed my warning, his risky chewing habit wouldn't get him into so much trouble. He chews the rubber ear inserts off my headphones when he finds them on the dresser. Hoodie strings. Plastic bottle lids. Hair (mine, still attached). Pyjamas and t-shirts (again, mine) and any clothing items with strings attached. Also, plastic wrappers. Twist ties. Rubber bands. His brother's ears (though gently).

For most of yesterday, his tail fluffed out, large as a raccoon's. Grace chewed that too—perhaps it tingled. The pill he swallowed manifests neurologically. The effects on a 12 or so pound cat must be significantly greater than when taken by its intended recipient. Thankfully the Preacher has never complained about tingling body parts.

The drug may take several days to leave Grace's system, I'm told. He may lose one or two of his proverbial nine lives. Like any cat owner, I'll welcome a return to his old ways, although I'd welcome even more a less eager exploration of anything that captures his craving to chew.

Like our errant cat, most of us battle our own cravings. Even with help, some lose that battle. When that craving is a dangerous one, it leads to a lonely life of hiding the habit from those we love and who love us most.

God cares about those who crave. He also cares about the people who care about them. He remains alongside when they stand and never abandons them when they fall. He lovingly directs to a healing path. To practical, non-judgemental help from those who understand the struggle.

If you find yourself there, begin with the same prayer I prayed when I found the half-chewed pill in my kitchen. It's my most frequent petition. "Lord, help!" He always does, if I watch and listen. It's the start you may need on what can be a long but worthwhile road to hope and wholeness.

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Melville Churches Welcome You

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
238 - 3rd Ave. E.
Office Ph. 306-728-2551
Office Hours: Mondays
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Clergy: Deacon Kevin Prouten
www.stpaulsmelville.ca
Sunday, March 1:
11 p.m. Worship
at St. Paul's and Sunday School
Tuesday, March 3:
2 p.m. SPCW Meeting
* * *
-- at Neudorf/Lemberg --
Sunday, March 1:
*9 a.m. Worship at Christ Neudorf

ALL SAINTS' ANGLICAN CHURCH
Corner 6th Ave. E. & Main St.
306-720-0589
**Services Every Second Sunday*
March 1: 10:30 a.m. Morning Prayer

FIRST UNITED CHURCH
5th Ave. E. & King St.
Rev. Brian Mee, 306-335-7611
website: firstunitedmelville.org
Sunday, March 1:
11 a.m. Worship Service
with Rev. Brian Mee

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

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
258 - 10th Ave. W.
Ph. 306-728-3971
Pastor Ronald Shumba
facebook.com/gslcmelville
Feb. 26: 7 p.m. Lenton Study
Feb. 27-March 1: Synod Youth Gathering
March 1: 9:15 a.m. Choir Practice
10:30 a.m. Worship
March 3: 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, March 1:
9 a.m. Divine Liturgy

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

BETHANY EVANGELICAL MISSIONARY CHURCH
5th Ave. W. & Queen St.
Church Office Ph. 306-728-5001
Feb. 22: 10:30 a.m. Worship

Visit a Church of Your Choice

Melville Churches Welcome You

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

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
(Lutheran Church - Canada)
502 - 4th Ave. W. – Church Office
Ph. 306-728-5689
Email: zlcpastor@myaccess.ca
www.zionlutheranmelville.com
Sunday, March 1:
No Service
Sunday, March 8:
11 a.m. Divine Service
Church of the Lutheran Hour heard Sundays at 9 a.m. on 940 CJGX Radio, Yorkton

Whitewood & Area Churches Welcome You

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

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

ST. JOSEPH'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
Father Tomy Mandapathil
Sunday, March 1:
10:30 a.m. Morning Prayer

ST. MARY'S ANGLICAN CHURCH
Sunday, March 1:
10:30 a.m. Morning Prayer
The Rev. Dr. Jonathan Bauer

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, WAPELLA
Sunday, March 1:
12 p.m. Communion Service,
Annual Meeting and Lunch
Following

WHITEWOOD UNITED CHURCH
Sunday, March 8:
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.
Service Leaders
Don Jewitt
Jani Francis



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 Sunday with
Jennifer Yasinowski and
3rd Sunday with Monica Dayman
at 9:30 a.m.
March 1 Lenten Host
Christ Lutheran Church

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, Feb. 28: 5 p.m. Mass
Sunday, March 8: 9 a.m. Mass

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

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

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

Fort Qu'Appelle Churches Welcome You

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

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

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

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Senior Pastors Des & Cheryl Klingspon
Employment Program 306-786-1840
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phclc.org
"Changing our world with the love of God."

St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Church
155 CATHERINE STREET
306-783-4594
Pastor - Fr. Basil Malowany
Phone 306-783-4594 or 306-783-7778
Saturday - 5:00PM (English)
Sunday - 9:00AM (English & Ukrainian)
SICK CALLS ANYTIME—BAPTISM AND MARRIAGE BY APPOINTMENT

"*See, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey.*"
- Matthew 21:5 (NIV)

Church of God in Christ Mennonite
AT SALTCOATS
SUNDAY SCHOOL EVERY SUNDAY AT 10:00AM
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE AT 11:00AM
EVERYONE WELCOME
Pastor Laurel Wiebe - 306-898-2099
Pastor Tim Warkentin - 306-217-8222

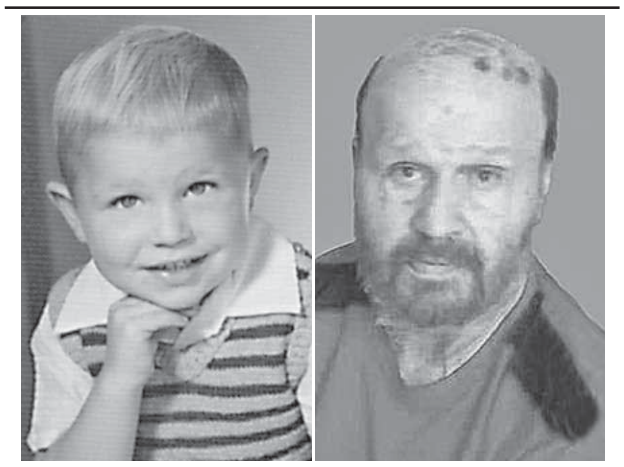
St. Mark The Evangelist Orthodox Church
160 Betts Ave., Yorkton, Sask
"Services in English"
www.stmarkyorkton.ca
IC XC NI KA
Sunday of Orthodoxy
Saturday February 28th – Vespers 6:00 PM
Sunday March 1st Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM
"Be ashamed when you sin, not when you repent"
Priest: Rodion Luciuk Phone: 306-782-2482 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
Friday, Feb. 27 • 5:00 PM – Perogy Supper (Yorkton)
Saturday, Feb. 28 • 10:00 AM – Divine Liturgy (Yorkton)
Sunday, March 1 • 10:00 AM – Divine Liturgy (Yorkton)
Monday, March 2 • 7:00 PM – Parish Council Meeting

CLASSIFIEDS

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

Obituary
Terence (Terry) Gattinger
June 12, 1953 – Feb. 13, 2026



Family of the late Terence (Terry) Gattinger, of Red Lake, ON, announce his sudden passing Friday, Feb. 13, 2026 at the age of 72.

Terence Leopold Gattinger was born at Neudorf, SK on June 12, 1953, the second son of parents Harry and Eleonore Gattinger.

He was baptized and confirmed at Christ Lutheran Church and attended Roadside Country School, completing his schooling at Neudorf.

Following this he gained employment at various jobs which eventually took him to Manitoba where he worked at Snow Lake and Ear Falls and his final place of Red Lake, ON. While residing at Red Lake he suffered a stroke, which eventually required him to be a resident at the Northwood Lodge in Red Lake.

Terry enjoyed watching sports of any kind – especially the Toronto Maple Leafs and the Sask Roughriders. Golf was another sport he enjoyed and was good at, as noted by the Hole-In-One he got at the Saskatoon Holiday Park Golf Course. Terry also played an important role in the school and town safe crosswalk program at Red Lake; and he was also able to attend many family celebrations in Neudorf over the years.

He was predeceased by his grandparents, Peter and Mary Gattinger and Gustav and Euphrosine Monseler; his dad Harry; niece Kimberley; cousins Calvin and Dean; and uncles and aunts on both sides of the family.

Surviving family include: his Mom, Eleonore; brothers, Rodney (Laurell), Craig (Deb) and James (Janet); sister, Pat (Darrel); nephews and nieces, Curtis, Tanya, Candace, Lisa, Ryan, Jared and Colin; great-nephews and nieces and many cousins.

A private graveside burial will take place at Christ Lutheran Cemetery, Neudorf, SK.

In care of arrangements are Matthews Funeral Home, Melville and the Red Lake Funeral Chapel in Ontario.

MATTHEWS Funeral Home

Obituary
Mary Elaine Hanlon
Nov. 22, 1939 – Feb. 3, 2026



Mary Elaine Hanlon (nee Porter) of Dysart, SK and recently of Fort Qu'Appelle, passed away on Tuesday, Feb. 3, 2026 at the age of 86 years.

Mary was predeceased by her husband, Gerald Hanlon; parents, James Ernest and Ruby Alma Porter; sister, Arla Elizabeth; her husband, Henry Giesbrecht and their son, Abram; sister-in-law, Doreen Porter; sister, Amy Margaret Porter; brother, James Harvey Porter; her brother, David Wilfred Porter and his wife, Elsie; and her sister, Ella May Porter.

She is survived by her sister, Eunice Irene and her husband, Alan Weller; sister, Lorna Merle and her husband, Clem Werner and their children, Kendra and Michael; brother, Russel John Porter and his sons, Harley, Howard, Kenneth and Leslie; brother, Francis William ("Frank") and his wife, Linda and their children, Corey, Danny and David; Norman Elgin ("Pat") Porter and his wife, Lyn and their children, Cody and Brendan; Albert ("Bert") Porter and his wife, Lil; brother, Roy Merve Porter; brother, Lloyd Andrew Porter and his wife, June and their children, Krysta and Travis, as well as her nephew, John Giesbrecht.

Mary made a career of helping others. Mary worked in personal care homes and cared for her mother, until her passing.

Mary served her Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ by travelling to the east in Canada and south of the border with Stonecroft Ministries.

Mary married Gerry Hanlon in 1980 and they ran the motel in Morse, SK. They later moved to Lebret and Dysart, SK. After Gerry's passing Mary lived in care homes in the Fort Qu'Appelle area until her passing in Echo Lodge.

Mary was loved by all those who knew her. She will be sorely missed.

A funeral service will take place at a later date in the Valley Alliance Church, Fort Qu'Appelle, SK. The service information will be updated on tubmanfh.com

Dignity MEMORIAL

Obituary
Vernon Louis Demitor
April 2, 1956 – Feb. 20, 2026



Vernon Louis Demitor was born April 2nd, 1956 in Fenwood, SK. He was raised on the farm, and was the baby of six siblings.

He leaves behind a legacy of kindness, big-hearted nature, rarely seen without a big smile on his face. His big bear hugs made everyone feel so loved, and all friends were treated as family.

After a brave battle with cancer, Vern succumbed to the illness on Friday, Feb. 20th, 2026.

Vern will be deeply missed by everyone who knew him. He leaves behind two brothers, Howard (Geraldine) and Reg (Judy); two sisters, Eileen (Benny) and Shirley (Ken); his beloved children, Jeff (Trina), Jamie (Rudolph), Clayton (Joelle), Jason (Desiree), The Apples of his eye, his grandchildren, Jesse, Hannah (Dakota), Jaxson, Joel, Theron, Beckett, and Bay. His sister-in-laws, many nieces, nephews, and family members. His iron working family, and many dear friends.

He was reunited in the eternal world with his parents, Edna and Louis; his brother, Donald; and his nephew, Miles where he would, no doubt be going fishing. Vern's memory will live on with the many stories told by all who loved him. You're now Our spirit in the sky Vern.

Arrangement were by Bailey's Funeral and Cremation Care.

BAILEY'S FUNERAL AND CREMATION CARE
www.baileysfuneralhome.com

Obituary
Christine Parachoniak
March 20, 1928 – Feb. 17, 2026



Christine Waldbauer was born near Killaly, SK, on March 20, 1928, the year that Alexander Fleming discovered penicillin, Walt Disney introduced Mickey Mouse, and 3M gave us Scotch tape.

Christine went to Wallacetown School and completed Grade 8. At a young age, her grandmother died, and Christine was pressed into service to cook and clean for her grandfather in addition to attending school.

Late in her teens, Christine moved to Melville, SK, where she worked first as a caregiver for her sister Helen, then became a waitress at the local "beanery", the train station restaurant used by CN crews and passengers, operating during the era when Melville was a busy rail hub supporting transcontinental passenger service. While working at the beanery, she met Alvin James (Jim) Chapman, who worked at the local telegraph office. Christine and Jim were married and had one child, Herbert Murray Chapman, who was born in 1961.

Throughout her life, Christine worked at many Melville institutions – Sears (Harold Sears store), Nagler's 5 and Dime, and Simpsons Sears catalogue office. She became involved with the Order of the Royal Purple (OORP), the women's auxiliary of the Elks of Canada, where she went on to serve as Honoured Royal Lady. Through the OORP, Christine performed various acts of service to the Melville community, including volunteering at St. Paul Lutheran Home.

Following James's death to cancer in 1974, Christine eventually entered a relationship with Nick Harry Parachoniak, whom she knew through the Elks organization. Christine and Harry were married and went on to spend over 25 years together before Harry passed in 2017.

In 2003, Christine's sister, Helena Schofer (Helen), passed away. Helen's passing left a huge gap in Christine's life. In addition to being sisters, the two were best friends, and Christine never recovered from losing her. In 2019, Christine gave up her home on 7th Avenue, where she had lived most of her adult life, and moved into Cumberland Villas (formerly Caleb). While at Cumberland, Christine was involved in their community activities, including daily coffee with friends, cards three times a week, and bingo. In June of 2025, it was determined that Christine needed more care than Cumberland could provide and was moved to Yorkton Crossing, a residence that could provide the "assisted living" she required. In January of 2026, after multiple falls, Christine was admitted to St. Peter's Hospital in Melville, where she was assessed and moved to long-term care in St. Paul Lutheran Home in early February, where she lived out the remainder of her life. Christine passed on Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2026, just 32 days short of her 98th birthday.

Christine was predeceased by her mother, Karoline (Markwart); father, Gottfried; brothers, Ernie, Gustav, Herbert, Wilfred and August; sister, Mary (Yeadon); beloved sister, Helen; husband, Alvin, James Chapman; and second husband, Nick Harry Parachoniak.

Christine is survived by son, Murray and daughter-in-law Wendy of Sherwood Park, AB.

Christine's funeral service was held on Tuesday, Feb. 24, 2026, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Melville, with Deacon Kevin Prouten officiating. Interment was in Melville City Cemetery.

Funeral arrangements were entrusted to Matthews Funeral Home, Melville.

MATTHEWS Funeral Home

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Obituary

Harold Douglas Ecklund

May 30, 1927 – Feb. 17, 2026

Oh Lord it's Hard to be Humble

The man, the myth, the legend. Harold Douglas Ecklund closed his last gate on Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2026. He was always a morning person and it was fitting that Dad got dressed, said "Good morning" to the staff at Zagime and collapsed on his walker. He did not cause a fuss or commotion, but he also did not get a chance to say one last word of advice or a well told, completely off colour and definitely not politically correct joke. He was tired. He was worn out and he was ready.



Dad was born on May 30th, 1927 on the family farm in the Percival district, one of the earliest Swedish settlements in SK. He was the first son of George and Esther (nee Olson). The old farmhouse would see the birth of three more siblings to Dad. The Irish twin Keith would follow shy of 14 months later followed by Stan in 1929 and "Precious" Doris in 1932. The old farmhouse sadly lost a little one at three weeks, but a few years later in 1939, Sidney came along. This youngest Ecklund was lucky to be born in the Whitewood Hospital. Thus, the moniker, "Sid the Suck" began.

Harold attended Newborger School #2657 at the tender age of six. He knew no English at this time but would learn it at school then come home and teach his siblings his new found knowledge. This is a trait that he carried with him all his life. Telling his minions what to do and how to do it. He was so known for his sayings, phrases and life lessons usually in ten words or less. "Did you miss that class on closing gates?" or "Bet you won't forget this, cause I won't let you." Or ones that we all carried into adulthood: "It's one thing to do something stupid but it's ten times worse to stand there and defend that stupidity!"

Handsome Hal worked hard all his life. His, "I didn't get much education so I always had to use my brains" was doled out regularly. However, Dad did get his Grade XI through correspondence. A big deal to our mom who was always proud of that fact. After this diploma in 1948, Dad worked at Stewart's Lumber camp in Flanders Ontario, with Harold Anderson and brother Keith where they cut eight-foot spruce trees for $2.40 a cord. He worked hard in the cold and wind, meeting new people and writing home to our mom.

In 1949-50, Dad worked in a Planer Mill in the Upper Frazer Valley in B.C. He worked on pile drivers and his job was to paint the pile as they were driven. On a visit back to the farm, he asked our mom Phyllis Fitzpatrick to marry him and on November 1st, 1949 they were engaged. I guess Dad had enough of being a lumber jack as they were married the following October and in 1950-51, he was a little closer to home, running a pole truck at the Co-op Refinery in Regina.

But "Big Swede" could not stay away from the farm. In 1951 Mom and Dad moved to the old Hawkes farm. That's where the real living began. Dad started his infamous ranching career with one cow that Grandpa Fitz (Our mom's dad) gave him for a wedding gift. From there he worked off the farm to build up his herd. He worked building elevators and also he and his brother Keith ran a gravel hauling business for the old Number One highway and local RM's. In 1951 Linda arrived so life as a farming family officially started. In 1954 Ken was born and would become his farming partner for decades. Until then however, Harold farmed with Keith and his dad George until 1957. Gary was born in 1959. In 1961, he partnered with Sid and together the brothers raised their families (Brian born in 1963 and Laurie in 1965) side by side with the cousins getting into many shenanigans over the years. According to the cousins they had the best life growing up as farm kids and best friends. George was still farming with his sons and at 73 he could still be seen picking stones and that's when Ken entered the picture. Grandpa George retired and Ken took up the reins. After Ken's first year at university in 1974, he and Dad formed a partnership.

Although Dad worked on the farm all his life, all work and no play was not his motto. Mom and Dad travelled with friends to Vegas, Mexico, California and most memorable to Sweden with Linda at the helm. That trip was the "Trip of a Lifetime" he said for years. Dad also did solo trips to Texas to see his brother Stan and to see cousins in Burns Lake and Prince George BC. He also made it to the Dominican for his grandson's wedding. Trips to Calgary for the Stampede, the Brier with friends, visits with Doris and Roger, skiing with Brian and Laurie when they were little and visiting with his own dad who lived with Doris during that time were precious memories. Attending Brian's 60th birthday in Calgary and meeting all Brian's friends was a highlight for Brian. He had told his friends and Ag customers about this Big Swede for years and now they could finally meet the man behind the stories.

Family trips to Hamilton to visit Stan and our Mom's sisters were fairly regular. One memorable family trip was to Expo '67 in Montreal. Dad had a brand new 1966 Chevy truck with a topper. So, with a full tank of purple gas and $375 cash (probably borrowed) the three older kids crawled into the truck (Linda and Ken in the back) and off they went. Having been pretty frugal, sleeping and eating in campgrounds and the two oldest kids having their own money and with fuel being 35 cents a gallon, Dad even came home with a little cash in his own pocket.

Handsome Hal was always active in curling and later in life, golfing. He also had a dog. Herp (2, 2.0, 2.1) could be found in the back of his truck or curled up on the step. Between his active social life along with his dog, Dad managed to get off the farm again in January 2014 at the age of 86 when Linda took him on a Caribbean Cruise. He only renewed his passport for five years though as he knew nothing was a guarantee. However, saying that, in the same year he purchased a new fuel tank for the farm and signed a five-year contract with the coop! (At his passing the fuel tank had been paid off for six years! Yet he still would not buy green bananas.)

Even though Dad loved his free time and the cabin now was taken care by Gary, retirement was not in Dad's sights and when Ken brought up selling the cows, Dad would have none of it. Ken had to work off the farm and he thought selling the cows, would make things easier. Dad won and continued that task until 2018.

When Dad started slowing down, meaning he watched more curling than played, couldn't get in and out of a fishing boat easily, did not attend two men's golf nights each week and started using a cane, the family got homecare involved. Dad wanted to be on the farm and with the wonderful homecare staff coming twice a week to make a few meals and "supervise" him in the tub, he was able to do just that. He would call Gary daily whenever he had a question on the sump pump, septic pump out, washing machine, lazy boy chair, or the television remote. Gary had so much more confidence than we had with our dad and technology, he even had him working an iPad so he could watch his old favourites like Bonanza, Gunsmoke and Cheers. If it wasn't Gary helping dad out, it was Ken. Once Dad admitted that he probably should not be driving, Ken would pick up Dad twice a day. Once in the morning for breakfast at the CanAm and then again in the afternoon for Happy Hour. Dad treasured those times as being in the know, surrounded by family and friends was what our socialite father loved. In hindsight he probably suffered from FOMO and his children probably inherited this as well!

Dirty Harry had many claim to fames but only having moved a mile in his entire life was definitely one of the big ones. However, in November of 2023, Dad agreed to try assisted living in Broadview at Zagime. There he was greeted with another great, caring staff who accepted his partaking of supper a little later than the other residents to accommodate his happy hour priorities. His good friend Denis would pick him up every day, sometimes earlier than 3:30 to go for a drive before the gathering. His youngest daughter Laurie would drive from Saskatoon and pick him up regularly, usually every three weeks to have a weekend at the farm. When this happened, Ken would pick Dad up in the morning and go for breakfast and in the afternoon Harold and Laurie would visit friends, do errands, get a haircut or go for a drive. Dad loved these trips to the farm, as he still felt the farmer inside him and he would always rubber neck as we passed Dallas' yard to see if his truck was at the shop and if it was, we would whip in there for a quick catch up and depending on the season, talk about calving, harvest, seeding, latest machine purchases and of course latest breakdowns.

Dad was doing a little doctoring in the fall of 2025. Denis took him to the Broadview Hospital for his cough. He received some antibiotics and was told to use his puffer. Around this time, Ken took Dad and Sid to Moose Jaw to visit with their brother Keith and Dad was so glad they did that as he figured it would be the last time they could all be together. The trip to Saskatoon on October 25 for his granddaughter's wedding was another highlight. However, on a second trip to the doctor, just before Christmas, Dad was diagnosed with congestive heart failure. He had a great Christmas with the family, staying at the farm, playing lots of crib, watching the news and having daily Happy Hours with neighbours and friends.

On February 14th of this year, as Laurie and Harold went for a drive, he couldn't believe that the weather was so beautiful. He recalled his own dad's birthday (on the 14th) so many years ago when horses and cutters were used to gather together in celebration and the wind and cold would cut right through you. He commented how we now drive around in luxury with heated seats and steering wheels. Dad had seen so many changes in his almost 100 years, the same as his own Dad, our Grandpa George who also passed away at…98.

Harold leaves to continue his stewardship of land and life his four children: Ken (Donalda), Gary (Sandra) and first wife Dianne, Brian and Laurie(John) and first husband Joel, his ten grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren: Miranda (Chris) and their children Tala and Mavrik, Derek (Jess) and their children Kai, Jagger and Crue and Morgan (Sheola), Roxann (Mike) and their children Amilee and Freya, Kate and her children Ainsley, Gunner and Brooklyn, Alexsa (Lane) and Kali, Makayla (Sheldon), Carmen (Tyler) and Jake (Hanna). He also leaves to mourn his brother Keith (Edna); sister Doris Haynes; brother Sid (Maryanne) and many nieces and nephews.

Harold was predeceased by his wife of 59 years Phyllis, his grandson Jason, his brother Stan and his daughter Linda.

Rest in peace Dad. You always said, "Blessed are those who go quickly." You were loved by so many, for so long and a huge hole has been left in our hearts and in our communities. It is the loss of an era.

A visitation was held in the Broadview Community Centre, Broadview, Saskatchewan on Thursday, Feb. 26, 2026 at 1 p.m. The funeral service followed in the same location at 2 p.m., officiated by Pastor James R. Graham. A private family interment will take place in Percival Cemetery.

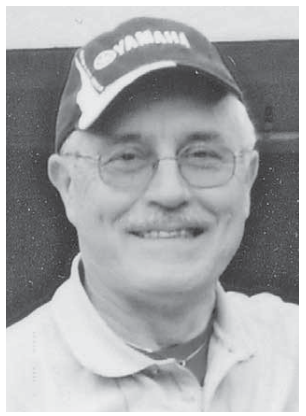
Online condolences may be made at www.tubmanfh.com.

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Memoriam

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There is a bridge of memory
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It's called the bridge of love.
We hold him close within our hearts
And there he will remain,
To be with us throughout or lives
Until we meet again.
–Lovingly remembered and sadly missed by Mum, Dad and Dean.
M38-1nc

STARCHUCK – In loving memory of Ted, April 18, 1938 - March 1, 2012.



The 14 years we have lost will never return, but your love will stay with us forever.
–Loved and missed everyday by Marg and family. M38-1p



TERLESKY – In loving memory of Russell who passed away March 2, 2018.
It's in the quiet I miss you most, when my mind has the chance to wander and my heart has a moment to remember.
–Gone but not forgotten, Marian, Kathy, Gerry and families. M38-1p

Art Class

Melville Art Club is offering an Adult Drawing Class with Wally Ocharek. Starting March 10, Tuesdays & Thursdays from 7 to 9 p.m. in the art club room at Melville Community Works. Call to register: Yvonne 306-728-1056 or Wally 306-728-8472. Brought to you with support from Sask Lotteries. M38-2p

Van For Sale

FOR SALE – 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

Hyundai For Sale

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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

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- Be able to troubleshoot equipment

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Cards of Thanks

I would like to thank everyone who came out to celebrate my special day. Thanks for all the cards, gifts and well wishes.
- Doreen Copper. 38-1p

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M46-tfc

Miscellaneous

Would YOU accept care from staff who haven't read your care plan? What if you couldn't speak up and care was incorrect? This is allowed in Saskatchewan long-term care under the current standards. Help fix it. Sign the petition: change.org/protectLTCresidents 38-2c

Province Wide

The Kamsack Times is hiring a Local Journalism Initiative (LJI) Reporter to produce original civic journalism for Kamsack; Cote, Keeseekoose and The Key First Nations; and surrounding towns. Job is a term position until March 31, 2027. Apply with cover letter and three writing samples to Devan Tasa at dtasa@tasamedia.ca.

Your West Central Voice (Kindersley) is hiring an LJI Reporter for west central Saskatchewan and east central Alberta. The job is a contract position until March 2027 with the possibility for continuing employment. Full description at jeffgaulin.com. Apply with resume and writing samples to kate@yourwestcentral.com

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Applicants must be willing to provide a Criminal Record Check and Drivers Abstract.

Resumes must be received by 4 p.m. on March 16, 2026. Submit to RM of Ituna: rmofituna@sasktel.net

Only those applicants selected for an interview will be contacted.

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CO-OP Sherwood

Call for Nominations to the Sherwood Co-op Board of Directors

Sherwood Co-operative Association Limited invites nominations for the position of Director.

Nominees must meet the qualifications and requirements specified in the Co-op's by-laws. For the Director Handbook please visit www.sherwoodco-op.crs

Preferred Competencies
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- Working Knowledge of Democratic Environment and Co-operative Model
- Strategic Thinking & Long-Term Planning Skills
- Risk Oversight
- Financial Literacy
- Prior Board experience
- Flexibility and Independent Thinking
- Teamwork to Decision Making and Problem Solving
- Time Commitment
- Functional Knowledge in one or more of the following: Finance, Accounting, Governance, Technology, Legal, Strategic Planning, Amalgamations/Acquisitions, Communications, Human Resources, and/or Marketing is an asset

Sherwood Co-op is a diverse organization and welcomes all interested individuals. If you are interested and would like to be considered for the role of Director, please write to:

Sherwood Co-op Nominating Committee
Box 5044
Regina, SK. S4P 3X5
Or email to: nominations@sherwood.crs
Deadline for Nominations: 4:30 p.m. March 19, 2026.

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Punnichy RCMP arrest nine on warrants

By GNG Staff
Grasslands News

Nine people were arrested on outstanding warrants during a coordinated police operation in the Punnichy area earlier this month, RCMP say.

Officers executed nine arrest warrants simultaneously across multiple locations on Feb. 15 as part of ongoing efforts to locate and apprehend people wanted by the courts. In total, the nine individuals were facing more than 30 outstanding charges.

Police say the operation was aimed at improving public safety by reducing the number of wanted individuals in the community.

"Arresting wanted individuals reduces the risk to the public and ultimately leads to safer communities," said S/Sgt. Nathan Rondeau, detachment commander for Punnichy RCMP. "This was a proactive, coordinated effort by our officers. I'm proud of the initiative and dedication they've shown."

According to RCMP, those arrested were wanted in connection with a range of alleged offences, including assault with a weapon, possession of a weapon, uttering threats, mischief, breach of probation, failure to appear in court and failure to comply with probation conditions.

Following the arrests, four of the individuals were held in police custody until their scheduled court appearances. The remaining five were released with conditions and orders to appear in Punnichy provincial court at a later date.

RCMP did not release the names of those arrested or provide additional details about the locations involved, citing the ongoing nature of court proceedings.

Police say proactive enforcement operations targeting outstanding warrants will continue as part of their efforts to enhance community safety and ensure compliance with court orders.

Teen charged with murder on Star Blanket Cree Nation

By Ryan Kiedrowski
Grasslands News

A male youth is facing a murder charge after a homicide on the Star Blanket Cree Nation.

Members from the File Hills First Nations Police Service were called to a home on SBCN just after midnight on Feb. 18.

"File Hills First Nations Police Service officers located a deceased adult male at a residence," confirmed RCMP in a news release. "They arrested a male teen at the scene. As File Hills First Nations Police Service does not have a Major Crimes branch, they engaged Saskatchewan RCMP to take full carriage of the investigation."

The RCMP's Homicide Investigation Unit charged the teen with a single count of second-degree murder.

"We will not identify the teen as per the Youth Criminal Justice Act," RCMP said. "The victim and the accused are known to each other. We are not providing additional details about the relationship or the victim's identity."

The youth made an initial appearance in Fort Qu'Appelle Provincial Court on Feb. 19, with the matter adjourned to Feb. 26.

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DEALER TO POPULATE ALL LEGAL HERE AS REQUIRED (EXAMPLE BELOW) ALeasing offers available O.A.C. from Hyundai Financial Services based on new in-stock 2026 TUCSON Preferred AWD/2026 VENUE Essential/2026 ELANTRA Essential/2026 KONA Essential FWD models with an annual lease rate of 3.49%/5.99%/3.49%/5.59%. Total lease obligation is $20,596/$39,584/$16,260/$20,517. Weekly lease payment of $97/$74/$78/$79 for a 48/60/48/60month walk-away lease. Down payment of $0 and first monthly payment required. Trade-in value may be applied to down payment amount. Lease offer includes Delivery and Destination charges of $2,050/$2,050/$1,900/$2,050 levies, dealer administration fees of $799, and all applicable charges (excluding HST/GST/PST). Lease offer excludes registration, insurance, PPSA/RDPRM, and license fees. $0 security deposit on all models. 16,000 km allowance per year applies. Additional charge of $0.12/km. ◆Price of model shown: 2026 TUCSON Preferred AWD/2026 VENUE Essential/2026 KONA Essential FWD/2026 ELANTRA Essential FWD is $38,340/$35,246/$36,996/$36,096. Price includes Delivery and Destination charges of $2,050/$2,050/$1,900/$2,050, and all applicable taxes. Dealer may sell for less. Inventory is limited. Dealer order may be required. Loyalty Incentive is subject to change or cancellation without notice. Loyalty Incentive offer is valid until March 2, 2026 at participating dealers in Canada. ^Lease offer available on approved credit through Hyundai Financial Services based on new in-stock 2026 TUCSON Preferred AWD/2026 VENUE Essential/2026 ELANTRA Essential/2026 KONA Essential FWD Lease offer includes a 2%/1%/2%/1% Hyundai lease loyalty rate reduction. All current owners (and immediate family members with proof of residence at owner's address) of a Hyundai or Genesis vehicle who present active (not expired) proof of ownership at time of purchase or lease are entitled to a reduction of 0.3% on the applicable finance, a reduction of 2%/1%/2%/1% on the applicable lease rate, or an after-tax rebate up to $500 for cash purchases (collectively, "Loyalty Incentive"). The rate reduction and cash rebate cannot be combined. Finance rate after 0.3% rate reduction cannot be less than 0%. Lease rate after 2%/1%/2%/1% rate reduction cannot be less than 0%. Loyalty Incentive can be claimed once in total from owner and immediate family member at same address. Cash price does not include freight, delivery and destination, registration, insurance, license fees, PPSA and all applicable fees, levies, charges and taxes. Dealer may sell for less. Inventory is limited. Dealer order may be required. Loyalty Incentive is subject to change or cancellation without notice. Loyalty Incentive offer is valid until March 2, 2026 at participating dealers in Canada. Offer is non-transferable and cannot be assigned. No vehicle trade-in required. Visit www.hyundaicanada.com or see dealer for complete details. The Hyundai name, logos, product names, feature names, images and slogans are trademarks owned or licensed by Hyundai Auto Canada Corp. All other trademarks and trade names are the property of their respective owners. See dealer for details. ◊Hyundai's New Vehicle Limited Warranty coverage covers most vehicle components against defects in workmanship under normal use and maintenance conditions. These advertising templates are provided for promotional use only. Dealers are responsible for ensuring all content complies with applicable consumer protection laws and provincial advertising regulations. By using these materials, you agree to follow all relevant legal standards and assume responsibility for legal compliance.

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RM OF EDENWOLD No. 158

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Intent to Amend the Zoning Bylaw

Pursuant to Section 207 of *The Planning and Development Act, 2007*, the Council of the RM of Edenwold No. 158 gives the notice to amend Zoning Bylaw 2019-20 as follows:

Bylaw No. 2026-04: Zoning Map Change: - To rezone 0.046 hectares (0.114 acres) from Lot 4, Blk/Par 1, NW ¼ 18-17-17 W2M (shown on map below) from CR2 - Country Residential 2 to CR3 - Country Residential 3.



Intent: To adjust the lot line between Lots 3 and 4, Blk/Par 1, NW ¼ 18-17-17 W2M to incorporate the existing private well and sewage mound into Lot 3. This involves transferring 0.046 ha from Lot 4 to Lot 3 to ensure all site utilities and required buffers are fully contained within the serviced lot.

Public Inspection: Any person may inspect the bylaw online at www.rmedenwold.ca, or at the RM of Edenwold No. 158's office, 100 Hutchence Road, Emerald Park, Saskatchewan between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. from Monday to Friday, excluding statutory holidays. Copies are available at cost.

Public Hearing: Council will hold a public hearing to receive submissions, written or verbal, on the proposed bylaws at **10 a.m. (local time) on Monday, March 9, 2026**, in the Council Chambers of the RM of Edenwold No. 158, 100 Hutchence Road, Emerald Park, Saskatchewan. Written submissions will be presented to Council and can be sent by mail or email. For further information please contact Xavier Perpetua, Planner I at 306-347-2973 or planning@edenwold-sk.ca.

Dated this 17th day of February 2026, at Emerald Park, in the Province of Sask.

Shauna Bzdel, Chief Administrative Officer

RM OF EDENWOLD No. 158

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Intent to Amend the Zoning Bylaw

Pursuant to Section 207 of *The Planning and Development Act, 2007*, the Council of the RM of Edenwold No. 158 gives the notice to amend Zoning Bylaw 2019-20 as follows:

Bylaw 2026-07 Zoning Map Change: - To rezone 4.05 hectares (10 acres) for proposed Parcel A, SW ¼ 06-19-17 W2M (shown on the map below) from AR – Agricultural Resource to CR1- Country Residential 1.



Intent: To rezone a portion of SW ¼ 06-19-17 W2M for creating a new residential parcel (Parcel A).

Public Inspection: Any person may inspect the bylaw online at www.rmedenwold.ca, or at the RM of Edenwold No. 158's office, 100 Hutchence Road, Emerald Park, Saskatchewan between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. from Monday to Friday, excluding statutory holidays. Copies are available at cost.

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