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Weedmark's travel draws NDP scrutiny

Moosomin-Montmartre MLA says he paid for private jet

By Ryan Kiedrowski
Grasslands News

Most people won't get the chance to fly around in a luxury jet, but Moosomin-Montmartre MLA Kevin Weedmark isn't most people. The local politician was taken to task by the opposition NDP recently after two separate videos surfaced of Weedmark embarking on trips around Saskatchewan by jet, to an estimated combined cost of $108,000.

The controversy centres on an Aug. 27 itinerary that took Weedmark from Moosomin to Lloydminster, Saskatoon, Regina and back to Moosomin aboard a privately chartered aircraft, a trip documented in a social media "day in the life" video posted by a staff member identified as Ashley Bochek, Assistant Publisher with the World Spectator newspaper, which Weedmark owns.

Kevin Weedmark

The video in question showed Bochek highlighting the aircraft's amenities before accompanying Weedmark to a government announcement in Lloydminster, lunch and shopping in Saskatoon, another government-related event and a brief stop in Regina to drop Bochek off before the aircraft returned to Moosomin.

NDP Health critic Meara Conway said the images in the deleted video stand in sharp contrast to the financial pressures facing Saskatchewan families.

"They called it a 'day in the life.' For most Saskatchewan people, a day in the life means worrying about making rent or their mortgage payment, keeping the lights on and whether there's enough left at the end of the month for groceries — not hopping around the province on a private jet," she said during a media conference Sept. 8.

The Opposition has written to Weedmark asking him to disclose the cost of the charter, who paid for it, whether taxpayers covered any portion of the expense, whether the travel received prior approval, and in what capacity the staff member accompanied him.

Based on publicly available aircraft information, the NDP estimates the aircraft could cost more than $6,000 an hour to operate. Conway said the approximately 10-hour itinerary could therefore have cost as much as $60,000, although she acknowledged the party does not know the actual amount charged.

"The SaskParty's Kevin Weedmark needs to answer some very simple questions," Conway said. "Who paid the cost of this private luxury jet? How much did it cost? Why was it necessary? Why was his newspaper employee along for the ride?

"You don't get to fly around Saskatchewan on a private jet and then leave taxpayers guessing about who paid the bill. Kevin Weedmark got his private jet ride. Now Saskatchewan people deserve some answers."

While Weedmark was not available for an interview, he responded in a statement that he personally paid for the charter and said no public money was used.

"On the occasion the opposition is referring to, it would have been difficult to drive back and forth across the province in time for all the events I had committed to, which included an event in Lloydminster on the other side of Saskatchewan from my constituency," Weedmark noted. "As a result, I decided to charter a plane from a local company at my own personal expense. There were no taxpayer dollars involved."

Conway dismissed the explanation as insufficient.

"Prove it. Show the receipts."

Asked whether her principal concern was the cost of the aircraft rather than the social media video itself, Conway said her focus remains on the public expense and accountability.

"He's clearly undertaking government business. We know of these two events that were attended by him. There were also other Sask. Party MLAs present. He was clearly conducting government business. So I think we need to be asking these questions."

She questioned why chartering a private aircraft would have been necessary.

"Why was this MLA renting a luxury private jet to conduct government business? Why was it deemed necessary for him to make this kind of expenditure just to attend these two events where other colleagues were present?"

The video first came to the NDP's attention after it appeared in a staff member's social media feed.

"It turned up on the algorithm of one of our staff members," Conway said. "It was scrubbed soon after."

In a separate interview, Conway stated they're also seeking clarification about whether Bochek was employed through public funds.

"We're very interested to know - is she on the public payroll or not, because that will raise additional questions possibly," Conway said, questioning whether the itinerary itself was necessary. "In Lloydminster, you had the local MLA. That should have been good enough, particularly if it was a question of should we spend $60,000 to charter a luxury private jet?"

Despite the criticism, Conway said she hopes Weedmark responds quickly and transparently.

"I chat with Kevin. He's a nice guy. I'm doing my job," she said. "I'm hoping that Kevin will be different and that he will provide full transparency. That's the bare minimum that we should expect from our elected officials."

Additionally, on Sept. 9, the NDP brought up another video from Bochek's social media from last August when her and Weedmark again travelled by jet to Saskatoon.

- SEE WEEDMARK'S TRAVEL, 14

CHRIS ASHFIELD | GRASSLANDS NEWS

He shoots... he scores

Regina Pats' defenceman Reese Hamilton (6) of Whitewood tries to defend the net as Brandon's Kris Muissu shoots to score one of four goals during Saturday's pre-season contest. Regina overcame a three-goal deficit to earn a 6-4 win. This year's Regina Pats includes Whitewood's Hamilton on defense, Ochapowace's Connor Bear on left wing and Whitewood's Taras McEwen on the bench. See story and photos on page 20.

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Poilievre presses Carney for tariff transparency

Conservative Party leader makes stop in Saskatchewan over Labour Day weekend

By Ryan Kiedrowski
Grasslands News

Conservative Leader Pierre Poilievre used a Labour Day stop in Regina to call on Prime Minister Mark Carney to release details of Ottawa's tariff strategy with the United States, arguing Canadians deserve to know the costs of retaliatory measures while unveiling what he described as a Conservative economic action plan focused on tax cuts, resource development and reducing government spending.

"We honour them today," Poilievre said of Canadian workers. "We want to fight for those people. We want to fight for their jobs, for their costs for living, for their future. We want this to be, again, a country filled with promise."

Poilievre said Canadians remain united in opposing tariffs imposed by U.S. President Donald Trump but argued the federal government has not provided enough information about its own response.

"All Canadians stand united in denouncing the President's unacceptable tweets, trolling, and tariffs," he said. "We have to stand united for our country, its workers and all of our people."

Back on Aug. 22, Trump launched tariffs on some $28 billion worth of Canadian goods, to which Carney imposed counter-tariffs estimated at around $20 billion effective Sept. 8 on hundreds of items including dairy products, wood products, aluminum, and steel.

The Conservative leader called on Carney to publicly release what he described as a previously negotiated trade agreement with the United States that was ultimately rejected.

"Canadians deserve to see the deal that the Prime Minister had apparently accepted with President Trump," Poilievre said. "There must have been a written record of that deal. The only people who haven't seen it are the Canadian people."

He also urged the government to disclose its economic analysis of planned Canadian counter-tariffs.

"The Prime Minister said that tariffs are taxes," Poilievre said. "We're just asking him to share that data with Canadians. Every single mother, small business owner and senior should know what they will pay in these new counter tariffs."

Poilievre argued Canadians are already struggling with affordability.

"Canadians cannot afford to live," he said. "People are turning back items at grocery checkouts because they've run out of money. You have to empty your bank to fill up your gas tank."

The Conservative leader outlined a series of policy proposals he said would form an economic action plan to strengthen Canada's economy during the trade dispute.

"We're proposing a real plan to save Canadians money and jobs," he said.

Among the proposals, Poilievre called for cuts to what he described as wasteful government spending, the elimination of carbon taxes, the removal of taxes on homebuilding, faster permitting for housing and major infrastructure projects, and changes to immigration policy.

"We need to regain control of immigration. Canadians must come first for jobs, homes and health care," he said.

He also pledged to eliminate industrial carbon taxes affecting manufacturing sectors including steel, aluminum, and fertilizer production.

"We make a lot of fertilizer here in Saskatchewan, but it's being carbon taxed," Poilievre said. "We also pay carbon tax on the steel made at Evraz and in other Canadian steel makers. We want to get rid of all those taxes."

Poilievre called on Ottawa to accelerate approvals for resource and infrastructure developments.

"Mr. Carney, you have 500 projects sitting on your desk waiting for a federal permit," he said. "You just need to get out of the way and approve the 500 projects."

During the question-and-answer session, Poilievre was asked whether potential escalation of the Canada-U.S. trade dispute would change his approach.

Saskatchewan visit RYAN KIEDROWSKI I GRASSLANDS NEWS
Federal Conservative Leader Pierre Poilievre met with reporters in Regina on Labour Day, talking trade and tax cuts.

"I think it actually sparks greater need for an economic action plan," he said. "If the tariff dispute escalates even more, then we will have to focus on what we can control here at home."

He again called for the government to publish its analysis of counter-tariffs.

"The Prime Minister has admitted that tariffs will be a tax on consumers," Poilievre said. "We just want him to release that analysis so that single moms, small business owners and seniors know what they're going to have to pay."

When asked whether he supports Canada's planned counter-tariffs, Poilievre again stopped short of offering a direct endorsement, instead repeating his demand for more transparency.

"We have to see the government's analysis of the cost of counter tariffs to Canadian families and small businesses," he said. "The Prime Minister has called his counter tariffs taxes on consumers. So we want to know what this is going to cost."

He argued the federal government has failed to present a comprehensive economic strategy.

"We have not seen an economic action plan to save money and jobs for the Canadian people right now," Poilievre said. "We have to reverse all of those policies with a real economic action plan that will save money and jobs for the Canadian people."

Responding to a final question about the possibility of additional Canadian tariffs if the United States escalates the dispute, Poilievre said his goal remains eliminating tariffs altogether.

"We're against the tariff that the Americans are imposing," he said. "Our goal is to fight for tariff-free trade. We think that should be the mission here. Tariff-free trade is good for Americans and Canadians."

He concluded by reiterating his call for the government to introduce an economic plan focused on protecting Canadian workers and businesses.

"We think the government needs to bring in an economic action plan that will save money and jobs for Canadians," Poilievre said.

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Diabetes care shift raises concerns for local family

By Sarah Pacio
Grasslands News

While the Saskatchewan government has been highlighting expansions at Regina's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit and within the Rural and Remote Recruitment Inventive program, the NDP is drawing attention to the reduction in pediatric diabetes care in Regina.

On Aug. 28, Wolseley resident Jessica McBride and several other families received a letter from the Southern Saskatchewan Diabetes Program informing them that services would be transitioning from Regina to Saskatoon due to staffing shortages. The SHA later issued a notification to affected families, clarifying that some patients may still receive treatment in Regina and the transition to Saskatoon for others would be temporary. However, the situation has raised many concerns for McBride, whose eight-year-old daughter Brexlee is a Type 1 diabetic and has been a patient at the Regina clinic for the past several months.

McBride reached out to the SHA, Ministry of Health, Sask Party, the NDP and her local MLA Kevin Weedmark to voice her concerns. The NDP responded by arranging for Shadow Minister for Rural and Remote Health Jared Clarke to meet with McBride on Tuesday to further understand her circumstances.

As McBride sat at her kitchen table with Clarke and members of the media, she described the challenges that her family has faced over the past year. Type 1 diabetes is a medical condition in which the pancreas fails to produce insulin, a hormone that controls blood glucose levels in the body. There is no cure, but symptoms may be managed through careful food choices and by administration of insulin. In August 2025, it was determined that McBride's daughter Brexlee had very high blood sugar levels. In March 2026, the young girl was diagnosed with diabetes and began regular insulin use. Follow-up appointments are necessary to ensure Brexlee's glucose levels remain stable and to make appropriate adjustments to insulin dosage.

Brexlee McBride

Family and friends have been supportive, and McBride particularly appreciates the positive response from staff at Brexlee's school. Yet, McBride has relied heavily on the team of healthcare providers in Regina to guide her and her family as they navigate the lifestyle changes that come with a diabetes diagnosis. She acknowledged that communication is often possible through e-mail, but in-person consultation with specialists will be required at least every three months. Brexlee's next appointment should be in November, and her mother is concerned about the impact of having to seek treatment in Saskatoon.

"Instead of a one-hour drive to Brexlee's appointments, it'll be three and a half hours to Saskatoon. Those relationships in Regina that we built are gone," McBride said.

SARAH PACIO I GRASSLANDS NEWS

Parents concerned

Rural and Remote Health critic Jared Clarke spoke with Wolseley resident Jessica McBride about the impact that changes to pediatric diabetic care will have on her daughter Brexlee.

"For us that means time off work; it means travel, Saskatchewan doesn't have nice highways in the wintertime."

She also mentioned the expense of fuel, meals, and overnight accommodations that would be included in trips to Saskatoon. The travel would also increase Brexlee's absences from school and could disrupt work and school for other members of the family.

Clarke assured McBride, that her efforts to advocate for her daughter also serve as a voice for other Saskatchewan patients and families who are in similar situations. On behalf of the NDP, he is calling on the government to provide answers for families with diabetic children.

"Our team continues to be really disappointed with the response from the Saskatchewan Government and Saskatchewan Health Authority when it comes to the closure of the Pediatric Endocrinology and Diabetes program in Regina. This is going to have real life consequences for hundreds of families across southern Saskatchewan who were relying on this care," Clarke told reporters. "We're disappointed that Saskatchewan families like the McBride's have had their life turned upside down now with having to travel to Saskatoon when their child needs care for diabetes. We're calling on the Saskatchewan Party government to come up with a concrete plan as to what is going to happen to provide that care in Regina going forward."

The NDP is asking the government to provide details for how the Regina program will be staffed and confirmation regarding whether the shift to Saskatoon is a temporary measure.

"We want answers so that families like the McBride's can have some certainty in their children's futures of getting health care that they desperately need on an ongoing basis," Clarke said.

Results of gov't social media survey revealed

By Ryan Kiedrowski
Grasslands News

Most people in Saskatchewan support limits on what young people are exposed to online. That's what a mail-out survey launched on May 5 and targeted to hit homes across the province discovered.

Mental Health and Addictions Minister Lori Carr said over 80 per cent of respondents indicated there should be some form of social media limits for young people in Saskatchewan, while many of the remaining respondents still supported parental involvement.

"The results of those surveys were pretty overwhelming that 86 per cent of Saskatchewan residents believe that there should be some sort of social media limits for youth within the province of Saskatchewan," Carr said during a news conference Sept. 3.

The province has already forwarded the findings to the federal government, which is considering national legislation governing youth access to social media platforms.

"The purpose of this survey was to get the opinion of Saskatchewan parents and families of what they thought of social media limits," she said. "And they spoke out loud and clear and we passed that information along because we do know that they are developing that legislation."

Carr said the province wanted to ensure Saskatchewan's views are represented as federal legislation is developed.

"I think it's important to listen to the people that we work for," she said. "We're here to serve Saskatchewan residents. We're here to listen to them and that's what this survey did."

The province mailed survey postcards to households across Saskatchewan this spring after Premier Scott Moe announced the consultation as a way to help shape Saskatchewan's position during discussions with Ottawa about possible national restrictions, including potential limits for youth under 16. At the time, the government said it wanted to hear directly from families before taking a formal position.

"Over 26,000 Saskatchewan residents sent those surveys back into us. So that's a really huge sampling," Carr said, acknowledging the response represented only a fraction of the surveys distributed – roughly five per cent - but defended its significance.

"When you think of all of the surveys that you guys (media) take on an annual basis and the reporting that you do based on 500 responses, 800 responses - we got 26,000 responses from across Saskatchewan. We are very confident in it."

She said the remaining 14 per cent who did not support outright limits were also asked about parental involvement.

"Of that other 14 per cent, 68 per cent thought there should actually be parental consent," Carr said. "If you combine the two, it is super overwhelming that there should be some sort of protections for our youth."

The survey was mailed directly to households rather than conducted online to ensure responses came from Saskatchewan residents.

"We wanted to talk to our residents directly," Carr told Grasslands News, when asked why a market research company such as Saskatoon-based Isightrix wasn't utilized instead. "We wanted to ensure that we were talking directly to the people that lived in Saskatchewan and not third parties from outside of Saskatchewan."

Households that did not receive a survey were able to submit responses by phone, with those answers included in the final results.

Carr was joined by Laura Lawrence, executive director of Youth Matter Canada, who said the survey findings closely mirror what her organization has been hearing from young people through its online harms prevention program.

"We've spent the last two years with our online harms prevention program across the province connecting with thousands of youth," Lawrence said.

She said 91 per cent of youth between the ages of 12 and 18 told the organization social media platforms expose them to harmful content, while 85 per cent reported the platforms affect their mental health.

Lawrence said YouTube is frequently overlooked in conversations about social media despite functioning in much the same way through recommendation algorithms.

"The youth share with us that YouTube is one of the problems because of its addictive algorithm, the interface, the non-stop play, and many youth of young ages are exposed to harmful content on that platform," she said.

Carr said one finding from the survey suggested many parents do not view YouTube as 'social media'.

"When we think of social media channels, whether that be Facebook or Twitter or whatever that might look like, people don't think of YouTube as a social media channel, but it really does come into play," she said. "Helping parents understand that YouTube does have an algorithm and it does pull people down. It's the algorithms that are out there and YouTube is definitely just as harmful as Facebook when it comes to algorithms and what our youth are seeing."

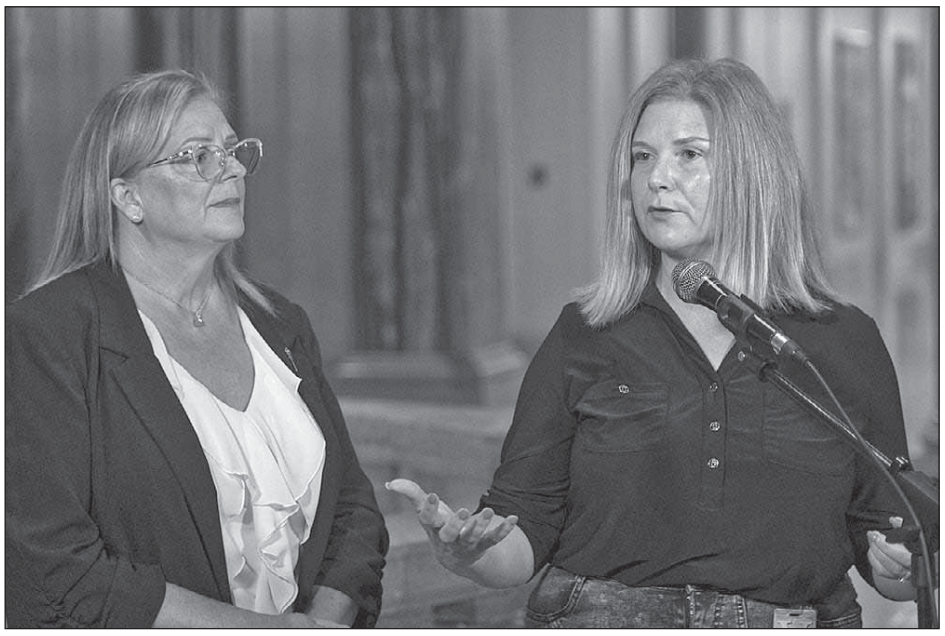
Lawrence also urged governments to consider artificial intelligence chatbots as legislation is drafted.

"The AI chatbots impose a real risk and threat to kids - especially younger kids," she said. "The AI chat bots are being left out of some of the discussions in this new legislation or the proposals even at the federal level. So I think that's something that we need to be paying attention to as parents and stakeholders as well."

She compared online platforms to other products that are subject to regulation because of their impact on young people.

"When we think about harmful products that affect the cognitive and socio-emotional development for youth, there is legislation of many products like alcohol, gaming,

- SEE SOCIAL MEDIA, 5



RYAN KIEDROWSKI I GRASSLANDS NEWS

Social media concerns

During a press conference on Sept. 3, Mental Health and Addictions Minister Lori Carr (left) was joined by Laura Lawrence, executive director of Youth Matter Canada, to share the results of a public consultation survey regarding social media limits for youth.

Town of Whitewood

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TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Town of Whitewood Council meets at the town office.
Upcoming Council Meeting Date: Sept. 15 at 7 p.m. and Oct. 1 at 7:30 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 Figure Skating – contact skating club for more information on registration
• Minor Hockey Registration is open – please contact Minor Hockey with any questions.
• Sept. 11 – Terry Fox Walk – Whitewood School at 10:45 a.m.
• Sept. 16 – Ringette Eastman MB vs Regina 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
• Sept. 26 – Ringette Eastman MB vs Regina 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
• Oct. 3 – Whitewood Craft/Trade Show – Whitewood Curling Rink
• Oct. 17 – NHL Hat Auction Fundraiser
• Oct. 18 – Minor Hockey Bottle Drive Fundraiser

UPCOMING GOLF TOURNAMENTS

- Sept. 12 – Annual Legion Links Golf Tournament
To Register or to reserve Golf Carts contact the Clubhouse at 306-853-8040.
- Oct. 3 – Iron Man Golf Tournament – Call clubhouse to register at 306-853-8040.

GARBAGE / RECYCLING

Residents are reminded that Garbage or Recycling Carts must be out by 7 a.m. on collection days.
Upcoming **Recycling** Date: Wednesday, Sept. 16 and Sept. 30.
Upcoming **Garbage** Date: Wednesday, Sept. 23 and Oct. 7.

2026 PROPERTY TAX NOTICE

Taxes are due December 31, 2026
Payment Options:
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ARENA KITCHEN HIRES

We are looking for individuals interested in working either as a cook(must have food safety) or at the counter in the kitchen. Please contact Shontelle 306-435-9364, Lisa 306-735-2210 or Tim 306-735-4415.

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.
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Clock starts on Yorkton–Melville federal byelection

Triggered by resignation of Conservative MP Cathy Wagantall at end of August

By Jacob Miller
Grasslands News

The federal seat in the House of Commons for Yorkton-Melville is officially vacant as of Sept. 1, as former Conservative MP Cathay Wagantall resigned at the end of August.

According to Elections Canada the date of the byelection must be announced between Sept. 12 and Feb. 28, 2027.

The by-election must be held on a Monday, at least 36 days but no more than 50 days after the day the by-election is announced. According to Elections Canada the earliest date that the Yorkton–Melville by-election can be held is Monday, Oct. 19, 2026.

Wagantall was the 10th MP to step down this year.

Her resignation follows the exits of former Liberal cabinet minister Steven Guilbeault and former NDP MP Alexandre Bouleric.

The House of Commons is set to return on Sept. 21 with three new Liberal MPs elected in recent byelections, all of which were triggered by resignations.

During a recent interview with Grasslands News, Regina-Qu'Appelle MP Andrew Scheer noted it's "a well-deserved retirement for Cathay. We're going to miss her for sure."

"She was a wonderful member of our provincial caucus and a strong voice for Yorkton-Melville and the surrounding areas," he said.

Scheer also had praise for the riding's Conservative candidate, Nelson Pohl - a Yorkton-area farmer and small business owner who won the nomination June 13.

"We just got to meet our candidate - Nelson Pohl - and he seems like a great guy," Scheer said. "He came to a few of our meetings with Saskatchewan caucus. He can hit the ground running and he's already shown great depth of understanding of Saskatchewan issues. We're hopeful that the people of Yorkton-Melville will put their trust in him the same way they put their trust in Cathay."

Souris-Moose Mountain MP Steven Bonk also noted the strength of the prairie voice in Ottawa.

"The Saskatchewan caucus would have an outsized role in the national caucus for sure," he said. "When MPs from Saskatchewan stand up to say something, the whole caucus tends to listen."

"One of the things about Saskatchewan Conservatives, we have such a great depth of experience and skill," Scheer added. "We've got farmers, we've got trades people, we've got just an incredible breadth of caucus members, and Nelson's going to be a great addition to the team."

Social media survey results

- continued from page 4

tobacco, and these harmful products also require some sort of regulation," Lawrence said.

Governments around the world are increasingly examining online platforms because "the data, the research, the science all supports that these spaces, the addictive nature of these spaces, YouTube, gaming platforms are posing real risk and harm to youth of all ages," according to Lawrence.

Carr said Saskatchewan has not yet decided whether it will pursue provincial measures if federal legislation falls short.

"This survey was intended to inform the federal government on what the people of Saskatchewan think," she said. "We'll have to wait and see with our conversations with the federal government and what the legislation actually looks like."

She added the province is keeping an open mind as discussions evolve.

"As the research goes forward and as the legislation is built, I would say nothing is off the table."

Carr stated the cost of the survey was around $180,000, which is actually down from the estimated half-million-dollar pricetag Premier Scott Moe estimated when the campaign was launched.

Saskatchewan adds 2,600 jobs in August

By GNG Staff
Grasslands News

Saskatchewan added 2,600 jobs in August while employment declined nationally, according to the latest labour force figures released by the provincial government.Canada lost nearly 42,000 jobs during the month.

Saskatchewan's unemployment rate stood at six per cent, the third lowest among the provinces and below the national rate of 6.4 per cent.

Compared with August 2025, Saskatchewan's private sector added 18,200 jobs, representing an increase of 4.9 per cent.

Construction recorded one of the largest year-over-year gains, adding 6,100 jobs for an increase of 12.2 per cent. Manufacturing employment rose by 4,900 jobs, or 18.3 per cent, while finance, insurance, real estate and leasing added 3,500 jobs, an increase of 11.8 per cent.

Employment also increased in Saskatchewan's two largest cities. Saskatoon added 1,300 jobs compared with August 2025, an increase of 0.6 per cent, while Regina added 5,000 jobs, or 3.3 per cent.

The province also ranked second in Canada for year-over-year growth in urban housing starts and first among the provinces for month-over-month growth in building permits.

The provincial government attributed the results in part to its labour market and investment attraction strategies, which are intended to expand Saskatchewan's workforce and help achieve a target of $16 billion in private capital investment annually.

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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."

Serving the people should come before political appearances

There is an important distinction between something being paid for privately and something being a sensible use of an elected official's time.

Moosomin-Montmartre MLA Kevin Weedmark says no taxpayer dollars were used when he chartered a private aircraft for an Aug. 27 trip that took him from Moosomin to Lloydminster, Saskatoon and Regina before returning home. Another trip was also taken in Aug. 2025 to Saskatoon.

That answers one of the biggest questions surrounding the trip — assuming, as Weedmark says, he personally paid the bill.

But his explanation raises another question that may be even more important: Why was the trip necessary in the first place?

Weedmark said it would have been difficult to drive back and forth across Saskatchewan in time for all the events to which he had committed, including a government announcement in Lloydminster.

"As a result, I decided to charter a plane from a local company at my own personal expense," Weedmark said. "There were no taxpayer dollars involved."

Opposition Health Critic Meara Conway responded simply: "Prove it. Show the receipts."

Weedmark can settle that part of the controversy easily enough. If he paid the charter bill personally, producing documentation would put the taxpayer-expense question to rest.

But the fact Weedmark says he paid for the flight himself creates another legitimate question.

If his presence in Lloydminster was necessary government business, why did he have to personally pay extraordinary transportation costs to get there?

Governments have processes for legitimate travel by elected officials when that travel is required as part of their duties. So was Weedmark required to attend the Lloydminster announcement? Was he specifically asked to represent the Minister of Health? Or was attending something he chose to add to an already crowded schedule?

Those distinctions matter.

If his attendance wasn't important enough for government to consider the travel necessary, perhaps the solution wasn't to charter an airplane at personal expense.

Perhaps the solution was simply not to go.

Lloydminster has its own MLA. Other government MLAs represent constituencies much closer to Lloydminster than Moosomin-Montmartre. If the government needed an MLA at an announcement, why did that MLA need to come from the other side of Saskatchewan?

Weedmark is Legislative Secretary to the Minister of Health, which may provide a reason for attending a health-related announcement. But he is not the Minister of Health.

Saskatchewan has 61 MLAs because representation is supposed to be local. There should be no expectation that every government MLA — or every MLA with some connection to a portfolio — needs to criss-cross Saskatchewan to attend announcements and ceremonies.

None of this means Weedmark did something wrong by spending his own money. If taxpayers paid nothing for the charter, that is obviously much different than taxpayers picking up the bill.

But public spending isn't the only issue.

There is also the question of how elected officials use their time and what they consider their priorities.

An MLA's first responsibility should be to the people who elected them.

For a rural MLA, there is certainly no shortage of work closer to home.

Municipal councils want meetings. Businesses have concerns. Health-care facilities need attention. Rural roads and highways generate complaints. Schools, agricultural producers, volunteer organizations and community groups all compete for the attention of their provincial representative.

Those aren't always glamorous assignments. They don't necessarily produce government news releases, podium photographs or social media posts.

But they are the job.

There is a tendency in modern politics to measure activity by appearances — how many announcements were attended, communities visited and events squeezed into a day.

Busy does not necessarily mean productive.

And Weedmark's explanation illustrates that point particularly well. If an MLA's schedule becomes so geographically ambitious that a private aircraft is required to accomplish it, perhaps the first question shouldn't be how to travel faster.

It should be whether every stop is actually necessary.

That question matters beyond Weedmark and beyond the Saskatchewan Party.

Incidents like this inevitably make people question the spending and travel habits of every MLA.

People begin asking whether that hotel was necessary. Whether an MLA really needed to attend that conference. Why several politicians travelled to the same announcement. Whether the local MLA could have represented government instead. And how much taxpayers are spending on mileage, meals, hotels and other expenses associated with political appearances.

That suspicion can be unfair to politicians whose travel is entirely legitimate.

Saskatchewan is a large province. MLAs have legislative, committee and caucus responsibilities. Ministers have provincial responsibilities that obviously require travel outside their constituencies.

But that is precisely why politicians need to exercise good judgment.

Every questionable or difficult-to-explain trip makes taxpayers more suspicious of the legitimate ones.

It also comes at a time when Saskatchewan residents are being asked to watch every dollar themselves. Families are dealing with the cost of groceries, utilities, housing, insurance and other necessities. Governments routinely talk about fiscal responsibility and making difficult choices.

Elected officials should demonstrate the same attitude toward government travel.

Government should also consider whether political appearances have become too important.

Does every funding announcement require politicians to travel hundreds of kilometres to stand behind a podium? Do multiple MLAs need to attend the same event? Could the local MLA make the announcement? Does having another politician in the photograph actually accomplish anything for taxpayers?

There is value in ministers and MLAs visiting communities and seeing firsthand what is happening outside the Legislature. We don't want politicians permanently sitting behind desks in Regina.

But there needs to be a purpose.

And the same standard should apply regardless of party. Saskatchewan Party, NDP or any future government, taxpayers should expect elected officials to be thoughtful about where they travel, why they travel and what public purpose is being served.

Before an MLA travels across Saskatchewan for an announcement, the question should be simple: Does this particular MLA actually need to be there?

If the answer is yes, legitimate government travel should be transparent and defensible.

If the answer is no, there is probably another MLA closer to the event who can attend.

Weedmark says the problem on Aug. 27 was that he had committed to events too far apart to reach them all by road.

Perhaps the better solution wasn't a faster airplane.

Perhaps it was a different schedule.

Saskatchewan doesn't need its MLAs everywhere.

It needs them where they matter most — working for the people who sent them to the Legislature in the first place.

- Chris Ashfield, GNG News

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SGI basic vehicle insurance rates to rise another 3.75 per cent in 2027

By GNG Staff
Grasslands News

Saskatchewan drivers will face another increase in basic vehicle insurance rates next year after the provincial government approved a 3.75 per cent overall Auto Fund rate increase effective June 1, 2027.

The increase, which will include rate rebalancing among different vehicle classes, is expected to cost the average Saskatchewan vehicle owner approximately $39 more annually.

The government has also formally approved the 3.75 per cent overall increase that took effect June 1, 2026. That increase had been implemented on an interim basis while the Saskatchewan Rate Review Panel examined SGI's rate application.

The panel acknowledged the Saskatchewan Auto Fund is facing significant financial pressure from inflation and rising claims costs. SGI said the fund experienced record claims again this summer, placing further strain on its Rate Stabilization Reserve.

However, the panel did not support proceeding with SGI's proposed 3.75 per cent increase in June 2027 as submitted. It instead recommended an immediate 6.5 per cent capital-margin increase to strengthen the Auto Fund's financial position.

The provincial government rejected the larger immediate increase and directed SGI to proceed with the smaller increase originally proposed for June 2027.

"The panel's recommendations recognize that claim costs and inflation are putting significant financial pressure on the Rate Stabilization Reserve and overall Auto Fund sustainability," Minister Responsible for SGI Jeremy Harrison said. "Our government's response balances those financial realities with our commitment to affordability for Saskatchewan drivers."

A capital-margin increase would have applied equally across all vehicle classes. SGI's rate-setting approach instead uses rebalancing to adjust rates according to the anticipated claim costs associated with different classes and types of vehicles.

As a result, individual customers may see increases that are higher or lower than 3.75 per cent. Rates are calculated using anticipated claim costs for each make, model and year of vehicle.

Opposition highways and SGI critic Darcy Warrington criticized the government for proceeding with the 2027 increase when Saskatchewan families are already dealing with higher living costs.

"This is a terrible decision as Saskatchewan families are already struggling with a cost-of-living crisis that the Sask. Party refuses to take action on," Warrington said in a statement released Sept. 4.

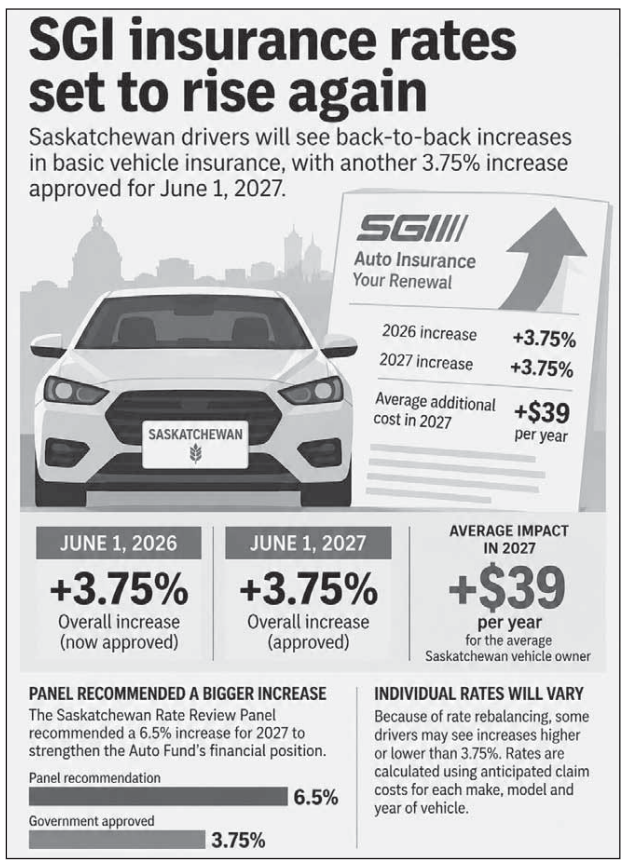
Warrington said the panel's report raised serious concerns about SGI's financial condition and indicated the two 3.75 per cent increases would not be enough to resolve the Auto Fund's financial problems.

"For generations, Saskatchewan residents and drivers have paid into and built up SGI, and after just eight years Scott Moe has nearly undone it all," he said.

Warrington also linked the situation at SGI to financial pressures facing SaskPower and accused the provincial government of failing to protect Saskatchewan's Crown corporations. He said an NDP government led by Carla Beck would take a different approach.

The latest decision means Saskatchewan motorists will see overall Auto Fund increases in two consecutive years—3.75 per cent in 2026 and another 3.75 per cent in 2027—although the effect on individual vehicle owners will vary because of rate rebalancing.

The provincial government said Saskatchewan is expected to continue having among the lowest basic automobile insurance rates in Canada following the 2027 increase.



Town of Fort Qu'Appelle

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In Memorium

It is with profound sadness that we announce Jann joined the angels during the eclipse moon on August 27, 2026, surrounded by her loving family. Through her service on Council, she shared First Nations culture and values and was influential in joining Council and the Tribal Council for a stronger community.
Her contributions and friendship will be greatly missed and fondly remembered.
Mayor, Council & Administration
"Those we love don't go away; they walk beside us every day."

Office Closure

Please be advised that the Town Office will be closed on Monday, September 7 in observance of Labour Day and September 30 in recognition of National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

Anniversary Swag

Looking to show off your valley pride?
Want some awesome Town of Fort Qu'Appelle swag? We got you covered!
Hop over to CJ Design Shop (141 Broadway Street East) to grab your Fort Qu'Appelle gear today. From cozy hoodies to stylish tees, there's something for every proud local and valley lover! Pelly approved, of course.
Order in person or use this link www.cjdesignsho.ca/pages/fort-quappelle-75th-anniversary

Metal Pelican's for Sale

Pelly's brothers and sisters have officially landed, and these metal pelicans are now available for purchase at the Town Office, Tourist Centre and CJ Design Shop.
Big ones, little ones, and everything in between – there's a pelican for every yard, garden, and personality. We all love our town bird, but what if you could have a version that didn't need birdseed or a birdbath? Adopt your own featherless friend before the flock flies away!

2026 Utility & Property Tax Notices

Please be advised that the non-receipt of a bill or notice does not excuse the non-payment of amounts owing. Property taxes and utility charges are legal obligations, and it is the responsibility of each property owner to ensure their account remains current. To help you stay on track, please review the standard billing schedules below:
Property Taxes
- Issued: May Annually
- Action Required: Please verify that you received your copy. If you did not receive your property tax notice earlier this year, contact the office immediately to request a duplicate.

Utility Billings
Utility bills are issued four times a year and are due within the same month they are issued – January, April, July and October.
If you have changed your mailing address, or if you suspect your missed a bill, please reach out to our office right away to update your contact information and confirm your account balance.

SLOW DOWN

Reckless speeding in our community has reached an unacceptable and dangerous level. You are putting the lives of your neighbors, children, and pedestrians at risk. This dangerous behavior stops now. Local law enforcement is stepping up patrols and enforcing a strict zero-tolerance policy.
Our roads are shared community spaces, not racetracks. Your haste is not worth a human life. Obey the limits and slow down.

Elm Pruning Now Permitted

The annual provincial ban on elm tree pruning, in effect from April 1 to August 31, has now concluded. Residents may resume pruning elm trees as of September 1.
Please ensure all elm wood and branches are disposed of at approved locations and in accordance with local regulations.
Help protect Saskatchewan's elm population by following proper pruning practices and remaining vigilant for signs of Dutch Elm Disease.

Tourist Centre and Camping

The Tourist Information Centre is now closed for the 2026 season and will reopen in May 2027. Camping season officially ends September 21, 2026.
We hope you enjoyed camping this summer. See you next year!

Looking for something to do in Fort Qu'Appelle?

Check out our Events Calendar on our website!
There's always something happening in the community — don't miss out!
Visit our events calendar here: www.fortquappelle.com Under the Discover Tab.

Council Meeting

Your Town Council is gearing up for upcoming meetings, and you're invited!
Thursday, September 24 at 7 p.m. – Town Office is the date, time and place.
Doors are open, seats are waiting, and your council is ready to get to work! Come see local decision-making in action – your voice matters, and your presence makes the difference!

Garbage & Recycling

Garbage and recycling dates for September are as follows:
Area A Garbage – September 11 & 25 | Area B Garbage – September 4 & 18
Area A Recycle – September 4 & 18 | Area B Recycle – September 11 & 25

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Samantha Gillies, Assistant CAO/Office Manager – manager@fortquappelle.com
Tiffany Koch, Utilities – utilities@fortquappelle.com
Donny Rokosh, Public Works – publicworks@fortquappelle.com

MPs vow to keep fighting research farm closures

By Ryan Kiedrowski
Grasslands News

For Regina-Qu'Appelle MP Andrew Scheer, the idea of shuttering research farms across Canada simply does not make sense.

He's not the only one - community members, researchers, and industry have united in opposition to the closures.

"There's not one stakeholder that thinks this is a good idea. There's not one scientist that thinks this is a good idea," he told Grasslands News. "We're starting to learn a bit of a story about how they were concocting the numbers for the justification, attributing some of the research that's done at the centre to other sites when really it was done at the centre."

Some optimism came back in July when a memorandum of understanding was signed between the provincial and federal governments, but local MPs are seeing that deal as only a partial victory.

"For now, it looks like there's a partial save with the province stepping in," Scheer said. But the provincial government shouldn't have to carry that burden on behalf of the Feds. It's really frustrating that the province had to backfill the Liberal government abandoning the site. To me, it shows that Mark Carney is no different than Justin Trudeau when it comes to Western Canada and to agriculture."

Steven Bonk, Souris-Moose Mountain MP, also highlighted what there is to lose should the plan to close several Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada research farms (including the historic Indian Head Research Farm) actually come to fruition.

"The importance of these research stations can't be overstated," Bonk stressed. "About 60 per cent of the crop varieties that are used now in Saskatchewan have been developed at these research centres. If we were to lose that genetic information and that innovation that's driven from these research centres, it's gone forever. And it's very difficult for private industry to do that by themselves."

Bonk pointed to the Indian Head Research Farm's role in developing one of Canada's most significant agricultural practices.

"One of the biggest innovations that's come out of Canadian agriculture in the last 100 years would have been zero till," he said. "It's spread all over the world. That was pioneered and developed, and the research was done at Indian Head Research Center."

That important research simply cannot be duplicated anywhere else, according to Scheer.

"The Indian Head site is home to some very unique soil conditions that you can't replicate that research at another centre," he said. "If they go ahead with this closure, we might never know what could have come from it."

When it comes to what the government does put money toward, Scheer questions why it seems projects outside of the country can garner funds. One example was $8.2 million put into a five-year project GORice - Gender-Just, Low-Carbon, Rice Value Chains in Vietnam.

"There isn't one person that thinks this is a good idea other than the Liberal Minister of Agriculture," Scheer told Grasslands News. "When I look at what the government does fund for agricultural research - gender just rice farming in Vietnam - it just makes no sense. On the one hand they say, 'well, we have to find efficiencies and savings'. On the other hand, they're sending Canadian tax dollars overseas to do ridiculous research on woke subject matters that don't provide a single benefit to the Canadian people."

RYAN KIEDROWSKI I GRASSLANDS NEWS

Fighting for research farms

Regina – Qu'Appelle MP Andrew Scheer introduces Conservative leader Pierre Poilievre during a press conference in Regina on Sept. 7.

Conservative leader Pierre Poilievre tackled the issue when Grasslands News posed the question during a recent press conference.

"We've already made a lot of noise about this," he said. "I was just at a research farm in Nova Scotia a month ago where I was joined by the local member of the Legislative Assembly to condemn the Liberal decision to close a research farm that had consistent genetics on livestock cattle that go back to before Confederation. They have livestock whose genetic records go back to 1850, and the Liberals are not only shutting down the farm, but they're culling the cattle."

Bonk echoed Poilievre's sentiments when requested by the leader for his expertise on the matter.

"The closure of the research farms is something that we as Conservatives have been fighting against since it was announced," he said. "We've had producer groups from across the country come and be witnesses at the Agriculture Committee. Not one of them are in favour of this. So it's something that, as Conservatives, you're going to hear a lot more from us."

When asked if the research farm closure issue will be brought to the forefront when MPs return to the House of Commons Sept. 21, both Scheer and Bonk were clear on the intentions of the Opposition.

"We keep fighting. It's not over yet," Scheer replied. "We're going to hold their feet to the fire this fall for sure."

Recovery housing expands amid addictions criticism

By Ryan Kiedrowski
Grasslands News

After the provincial government announced 20 new sober-living spaces in Lloydminster, the opposition NDP continue to say the SaskParty's work to combat addiction is lacking.

The province announced Aug. 27 it will provide $225,000 annually to Oxford House Saskatchewan to operate the new recovery housing, which offers people leaving addictions treatment a substance-free place to continue their recovery.

"We want to see Saskatchewan residents get the follow-up support they need after completing their addictions treatment," Mental Health and Addictions Minister Lori Carr said. "Post-treatment is a vital part of recovery and helps people prepare for a healthier, safer return to their communities."

Oxford House Saskatchewan has already begun accepting residents into 15 of the spaces, with the remaining five expected to open in mid-September. The program is spread across four homes in Lloydminster.

Oxford House Saskatchewan CEO Mark Soloway said stable housing is a critical piece of long-term recovery.

"We are incredibly excited to open these new recovery housing spaces and officially become part of the Lloydminster community," Soloway said. "For us, this expansion is about something pretty important: making sure that when someone has done the hard work of going through addictions treatment, they have a safe, sober and affordable place to call home when they leave."

The Saskatchewan Health Authority also welcomed the expansion.

"Adding 20 more sober-living spaces in Lloydminster reflects our shared commitment to ensuring people can access safe, supportive environments as they continue their recovery journeys," executive director Zoe Teed McKay said.

The announcement brings the province to 402 of its promised 500 new addictions recovery spaces under Saskatchewan's Action Plan for Mental Health and Addictions.

The government says this year's provincial budget includes a record $674 million for mental health and addictions services.

But the announcement comes as overdose deaths continue to mount across Saskatchewan.

According to recently released Regina Police Service data, there were 705 overdose events in that city alone during July, including five fatal overdoses. Police responded to 47 overdose calls and administered naloxone nine times during the month.

NDP critic for Mental Health and Addictions Leroy Laliberte said the numbers illustrate a crisis that requires far more than increasing bed counts.

"It's absolutely devastating," he told Grasslands News. "We've been seeing this a lot over this past year and years before. It's the worst that I've ever seen."

Laliberte said frontline workers have repeatedly told him they lack the resources needed to respond effectively.

"I feel that we're lacking a lot of supports to these frontline workers," he said. "I've stood with them where they were requesting supports from the province that they hadn't been receiving for them to be able to give proper service to these individuals that are seeking help."

While welcoming investments in recovery housing, Laliberte questioned what happens before and after treatment.

"This is a government that doesn't have a prevention or intervention plan," he said. "They also don't have an aftercare model for after a person's done treatment. What happens next?"

He said communities across Saskatchewan have developed their own recovery initiatives, including land-based treatment programs and locally designed aftercare models, but many struggle to secure stable provincial funding.

"There are so many initiatives that were brought forward by different communities ... but they don't get the support from the government, nor do they get the community-based funding that they need," Laliberte said.

He also questioned the province's emphasis on reaching its target of 500 recovery spaces.

"People are overdosing every day in this province," he said. "I know the numbers come from the city centres, but for the people that I represent in Athabasca, we're faced with the same thing. This is happening in every part of our province."

Laliberte said treatment capacity remains only part of the challenge.

He pointed to lengthy waits for detoxification and treatment services, arguing that delays can cause people seeking help to lose the opportunity for recovery.

"Having a two-week or three-week or six-week waiting list - by the time it's for them to get in there, they're caught right back where they were," he said. "This waiting process is not beneficial for anybody that's seeking this type of help."

He said governments should work more closely with community organizations and frontline workers to build a comprehensive addictions strategy.

"We need to be able to sit down with people that know exactly what the issues are, people that have been working the front line in the city centres and throughout the province," Laliberte said. "Create a plan. Have an actual plan in place."

The Opposition has also questioned how the province categorizes its promised recovery spaces, noting they include a range of services from withdrawal management and inpatient treatment to sober-living housing.

Laliberte said more clarity is needed on what those numbers represent and whether they match the needs communities are experiencing.

"I'd recommend that the minister start visiting communities where they're promising these beds," he said. "These are real issues that need to be dealt with right now. We're losing so many."

Despite his criticism of the provincial response, Laliberte praised the work of organizations already helping people struggling with addiction.

"I really commend all of the people that are out there working on the front lines," he said. "There's a lot of sacrifice that's made in that work."

He said he intends to continue raising the issue when the legislature resumes Oct. 27.

"We're ensuring that they get the voice there in the assembly and to talk about these issues," Laliberte said. "That's what we're going to continue to do, continue to advocate for them."

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AgriStability changes offer support to producers affected by flooding

By GNG Staff
Grasslands News

Saskatchewan producers affected by excess moisture and localized flooding will have another opportunity to enrol in AgriStability and receive a larger portion of their estimated benefit sooner.

The federal and provincial governments announced Sept. 3 that late participation will be permitted for the 2026 AgriStability program year. Producers who missed the April 30 enrolment deadline can join until Oct. 1, although their final benefit will be reduced.

The interim payment rate for Saskatchewan producers is also increasing from 50 per cent to 75 per cent of their estimated final benefit. Interim payments provide an advance to help producers manage cash-flow pressures caused by production losses or increased expenses.

"Excess moisture and flooding created challenging conditions for many Saskatchewan producers early in the growing season," Saskatchewan Agriculture Minister David Marit said.

He said the changes provide producers with additional flexibility when deciding how best to support their operations.

Federal Agriculture and Agri-Food Minister Heath MacDonald said extreme weather can quickly change conditions despite farmers' preparations for the growing season.

AgriStability protects producers against significant declines in farm income caused by production losses, increased costs or market conditions. Eligibility and payments are determined by comparing a farm's program-year margin with its historical reference margin.

The program considers changes in grain, feed and livestock inventories. Livestock losses caused by flooding and expenses for replacement feed when pastures are flooded may also be included.

Land that was too wet to seed, along with seeded acres that were later flooded, will be considered in the calculation to reflect lost production.

Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities President Bill Huber called the measures a positive step but said further improvements are needed so business risk-management programs can respond more quickly and effectively.

Sask Wheat Board Chair Jocelyn Velestuk said the changes recognize the financial effect of unseeded and flooded acres.

"The losses from not being able to grow canola, cattle feed or any other crop on those acres do affect farm businesses' bottom lines," she said.

The changes were also welcomed by the Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association and Saskatchewan Beekeepers Development Commission.

Producers can contact the Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation at 1-866-270-8450 or visit scic.ca for more information.

Legislature chamber closed up as crews tackle water damage

By Ryan Kiedrowski
Grasslands News

Sometimes when an answer to the unknown is sought, one might ask for a sign. Recently, the NDP was calling on Premier Scott Moe to recall the Legislative Assembly in advance of the scheduled Oct. 27 date to talk about Trump's tariffs, affordability in general, and how the province ought to react. The SaskParty gave a firm 'no' to that notion, but a definite sign was witnessed Sept. 3 to prove no emergency meetings were going to take place in the short term.

Scaffolding was erected in the chamber itself with everything below meticulously covered in thick plastic. Speaker Todd Goudy explained that water damage had been spotted in the ceiling directly above where he's seated, with workers expected to be finished repairs in the chamber by Sept. 8. Goudy said crews caught the water issue in time before it became a larger problem.

Work to the exterior of the Legislative Assembly building has been ongoing for many months, most obvious being some of the granite steps in front of the 114-year-old structure. It's also been a decade since the dome's copper was replaced – a two-year, $21 million project that included 12.7 tonnes of new copper. Repairs at that time also noted replacement of damaged Tyndall limestone, mortar, and an upgraded water system meant to stop leaks and ice damming.

The fall sitting runs Oct. 27 until Dec. 10 - 25 days scheduled for MLAs in the Assembly before breaking for the rest of winter.

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Gene Hauta

It's a Strange World

A woman in Bitonto, Italy, bought a lottery ticket using the same numbers she always plays. When she went to check her ticket's results, the machine told her ***it was "non-payable***." Assuming she'd lost, she threw the ticket in the trash. Then a family member realized that they were the winning numbers. "Non-payable" meant the store couldn't pay her winnings because they were too high: US$1.15 million. She called SANB, the waste management company and the truck was identified. It was diverted to a special site equipped for a thorough search. Workers spent a day "working in conditions that were anything but pleasant" — and found the ticket "miraculously still in one piece." Normally, because SANB is a public entity, taxpayers would shoulder the financial burden of the search, but the woman said she'd "cover all of the additional costs." Mike Straw, who posted this tidbit, summarized, "The sweet smell of success."

An Arizona couple is facing the heat after they drunkenly led their young children on an arduous ***walk in stifling 108-degree temperatures***. Ryan and May Mullin were spotted walking their two kids, ages 2 and 4, in the scorching heat. The family had been walking for about three hours after leaving an Arizona Cardinals practice at State Farm Stadium. A concerned driver decided to step in after witnessing Ryan fall over one of his own kids and cross a road without his family. She offered the family a ride. Ryan got riled up and punched the vehicle, which led to him knocking himself over and injuring his face. Meanwhile, May appeared drunk. When police arrived, the apparently intoxicated father refused to follow simple directives. Fearing for the safety of the children, the couple was arrested on child abuse charges.

Another man, whose day started with good intentions, instead received a stern warning from Japanese authorities. He ***abandoned his seven-year-old son*** on Mt. Fuji while he continued the climb with an older son. The young lad was left at the sixth station at an altitude of more than 2,000 metres (6,500 feet). The boy was told to wait for eight hours with only snacks and a soft drink and no money, and staff alerted police. The father reportedly apologized to the police, admitting the act was careless. I should say so!

A man called emergency services in Merseyside, England, a few years ago complaining that his Jaguar ***electric car was running wild***, "not stopping" on the motorway. Police officers raced after him at "extreme speeds," boxed him in, and got the car stopped after 38 miles. Driver Nathan Owen, now 33, claimed the brakes didn't work, nor did shifting it out of gear, telling the 999 operator that "my car's stuck at 78 mph." Jaguar launched an investigation using the car's time-stamped computer logs and found the car was, in fact, sitting still for the initial 999 call, and that Owen never used the brakes. The company claimed bad publicity over the incident caused them to spend 50 million pounds (US$68 million) to counter it. Police soon discovered the motive. ***It was all a fraud attempt*** initiated by Owen being behind in the car payments. Owen's father said his boy is a "Walter Mitty character" who "lives in a fantasy world." His own lawyer called the scheme "frighteningly stupid for a man ostensibly reasonably well educated and intelligent." Owen was sentenced to serve 51 months in prison, and banned from driving for five years. Randy Cassingham stated, "The car: far smarter than he is."

An ***ill-advised job-site stunt*** in Minnesota has ended in a worker's death and a manslaughter charge. Prosecutors say Christopher Boone Crimmins. 34, killed co-worker Tyler Anthony Lynch, 26, while the two were working with a truck-mounted hydraulic grapple during a tree-trimming job in Apple Valley. Crimmins allegedly moved the grapple by watching its shadow to make it appear as if it were grabbing Lynch, but instead closed it on Lynch's head. Lynch suffered a severe head injury and significant blood loss, and was pronounced dead at the scene. He unsuccessfully argued that the two were just fooling around, and was charged with second-degree manslaughter and faces up to 10 years in prison.

Jerry Seinfeld: ""It's amazing that the amount of news that happens in the world every day always just exactly fits the newspaper." I just wish there were more newspapers still surviving. Keep reading…

$4.7 billion dollar upgrades coming for VIA Rail

By Jacob Miller
Grasslands News

New Canadian made VIA Rail passenger cars will soon be passing through Melville as the Federal Government has announced historic investment into VIA Rail.

On Thursday, Sept. 4, Prime Minister Mark Carney announced that the federal government is investing more than $4.7 billion for VIA Rail to acquire and maintain 313 new passenger rail cars from Alstom Canada. This will be the first time in four decades that VIA Rail passenger cars will be built in Canada with the cars being manufactured and assembled in Thunder Bay, Ontario, and La Pocatière, Québec, with design and engineering work taking place in Saint-Bruno-de-Montarville, Québec.

"In the face of strong headwinds, a confident Canada is choosing to build. For the first time in four decades, VIA's passenger cars will be built in Canada. Cars once made in the United States, now made here at home. This means new contracts for Canadian suppliers, good jobs for Canadian workers, and paycheques that stay in Canadian cities and towns. That's how we build Canada strong," said Carney in a press release.

Much of VIA Rail's existing fleet was built in the United States.

The 313 new cars that will be built include 78 sleeper cars, 58 coach cars, 38 panorama cars, 29 baggage cars, 26 accessible sleeper cars, 25 dome cars, 20 dining cars, 202 prestige sleeper cars, and 19 berth cars.

The new cars will also be designed and rigorously tested to operate reliably in temperatures ranging from -50 °C to 50 °C, including winter operations in remote and extreme northern areas. Modern cars and locomotives will improve comfort, accessibility and reliability for long journeys. Expected results include reduced delays and improved reliability, updated technology and modern standards, enhanced safety for passengers and crew; and reliable, year-round service across Canada, including in remote northern communities and harsh winter environments.

This investment into VIA Rail is the largest in the crown corporation's history.

The Federal Government has said the investment is in line within the Buy Canadian Policy with Alstom will leverage and expand its extensive network of more than 900 Canadian suppliers in delivering the new fleet, while maximizing the use of Canadian steel in structural assemblies, supports, and fabricated metal elements.

"Canadians deserve a passenger rail system that is modern, reliable, and built to serve them for generations to come. This investment delivers exactly that while supporting good-paying Canadian jobs and strengthening our domestic rail manufacturing sector," said Steven MacKinnon, Minister of Transport and the Leader of the Government in the House of Commons.

The government says that the investment is coming at a critical time for Canda's passenger rail network with some of the equipment being used with VIA Rail's long-distance, regional, and remote fleets being over 70 years old and approaching end of life. The government added that replacing the aging fleet will deliver safer, more reliable, and more modern service for Canadians.

Combined with a recent investment from July 29 which announced $1.9 billion for 45 new passenger rail locomotives and a new assembly and maintenance facility in Montréal, brings the federal government's investment in renewing VIA Rail's long-distance, regional, and remote fleet to more than $6.6 billion. The government said that together these investments will replace aging equipment and help ensure Canadians can rely on modern and reliable passenger rail service for decades to come.

The first passenger cars are expected to enter commercial service in 2031, with full deployment expected by 2035.

WSA installing stop logs at Crooked Lake Dam to maintain levels

By GNG Staff
Grasslands News

The Water Security Agency is installing stop logs at the Crooked Lake Dam in an effort to increase and maintain lake levels heading into the fall.

WSA announced Thursday, Sept. 3 that a mobile crane would be used to install the stop logs at the dam's control structure after water levels reached the lower end of the lake's operating range.

The agency had originally planned a similar operation earlier this year.

In June, WSA notified residents and stakeholders in the Crooked Lake area that it intended to use a mobile crane to install stop logs. However, significant rainfall resulted in above-normal inflows that kept the lake at higher levels, eliminating the immediate need for the work.

According to WSA, operating plans for the lake are flexible and can change depending on conditions, with weather having the greatest influence.

With lake levels now declining toward the lower end of the operating range, the agency decided to proceed with the installation.

WSA said the decision will help keep Crooked Lake closer to normal levels for this time of year and also responds to concerns raised by recreational users about having sufficient water levels to remove boats and other watercraft from the lake this fall.

The stop logs were installed Sept. 3 using a mobile crane.

Following the work, WSA said it will continue monitoring conditions and assessing future operations based on the lake's fall operating range as well as structural considerations at the dam.

The agency cautioned that the existing condition of the Crooked Lake infrastructure limits what can currently be done to regulate water levels.

"Given the current state of this infrastructure, WSA can only implement temporary and short-term operating measures to control Crooked Lake's water levels," the agency stated in its update.

A longer-term solution is expected to involve replacement of the existing structure. WSA said it plans to work with stakeholders and rights holders on development of a new structure, which the agency considers the path forward for managing water levels at Crooked Lake.

Additional information and updates on Crooked Lake are available from the Water Security Agency.

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US tariffs impact Canadian honey producers

By Calvin Daniels
Grasslands News

Continued tariff pressure asserted by United States President Donald Trump levied on products imported from Canada is hitting honey producers in this country.

Canadian beekeepers are facing extremely difficult times due to the United States' implementation of a 50 per cent tariff on honey, detailed a recent Canadian Honey Council release.

"Our industry firmly believes that the honey/beekeeping sector, which is integral in the food security fabric of Canada, should not be targeted," offered the release.

Local area honey producer Sasha Howland with Howland's Honey/Howland Enterprises Inc., said it's the uncertainty with tariffs which is concerning.

Honey had been one of a number of things outside the Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement, said Howland.

But new tariffs by U.S. president Donald Trump have left the sector unsure of what will happen.

"The question mark is what is going to happen to the price of bulk honey," she told Grasslands News, adding the uncertainty before the latest tariffs were implemented had producers moving their honey if possible "to get under the wire."

Of course, fall is when honey is typically collected and processed so not ideal for early marketing.

The situation is one which has varying impacts on honey producers based in-part to how they market their honey.

"We don't personally export a lot to the U.S.," said Howland, who thanked her father (Wink Howland) for his foresight years ago to start marketing their honey under their own label.

And when they do have bulk honey to sell, most goes to domestic markets, she said.

Howland said other producers market direct to consumers through farmer markets and trade shows, but she added that is labour intensive, likening it to a what producer making bread and selling it to market their wheat.

A recent CHC release details, on average, Canada exports nine million kilograms of honey annually - with up to 75 per cent of that going to the USA.

Howland said that is a lot of honey to suddenly need to find more financially accessible markets, and it could push domestic prices down for all producers.

The tariff on Canadian honey exports to the United States has forced the Canadian beekeeping industry to look at ways to provide stability to the sector.

To buffer Canadian producers the CHC believes a solution lies within Canada.

"We can find a great many solutions to the tariff issue within our own borders by choosing and promoting Canadian honey," stated the release.

"... The public can help Canadian beekeepers by choosing Canadian packaged honey and asking all companies to identify where they get their honey from and proudly proclaim Canadian honey usage."

One step is for consumers to buy Canadian-sourced honey.

"Beekeepers across Canada are grateful for the strong public support and encourage the public to carefully look at labels to ensure you are buying Canadian honey," said the release.

Another step is for Canadian companies to use Canadian honey.

Honey is used as a key ingredient in a wide variety of products, including cereals, crackers, condiments, dairy and meat.

The CHC is encouraging more domestic use calling for a number of large commercial users of industrial honey to proudly proclaim that they use Canadian honey in their products.

While Canada exports a large quantity of honey at the same time Canada imports 10 million kilograms of honey annually from Brazil, India, Thailand, Vietnam, and other countries.

"Unfortunately, several of these countries lack the regulatory requirements and standards that Canadian beekeepers pride themselves on, leaving room for the potential production and distribution of fraudulent and/or adulterated honey into the Canadian market," stated the release.

FILE PHOTO I GRASSLANDS NEWS

Bee's buzzing over tariffs

Canadian beekeepers are concerned over the USA tarriffs of 50 per cent and how it will affect the industry moving forward.

Yorkton Brick Mill initiates stakeholder survey as part of strategic planning

By Calvin Daniels
Grasslands News

The Yorkton Brick Mill is embarking on a strategic planning process to help guide the future of the Yorkton Brick Mill Interpretive Centre.

"The goal is to develop a clear plan for operating and growing the new Interpretive Centre," explained Mill spokesperson Larry Pearen. "The process will identify priorities for exhibits, educational programming, community events, tourism, partnerships, volunteer development and long-term financial sustainability."

As part of the planning process, the Mill Board is inviting community members, partners, visitors and other stakeholders to share their perspectives through a short online survey. The feedback received will help identify what people value most about the Mill, what opportunities they see for its future, and what priorities should guide its continued development.

Strategic planning provides an opportunity to reflect on what has been accomplished, consider emerging opportunities and challenges, and establish clear priorities for the years ahead. This is an important time for the Mill as the Board considers how to build on its achievements, strengthen its role in the community, preserve and share the site's history, and support its long-term sustainability.

"The original vision remains strong: to preserve the historic Yorkton Brick Flour Mill and share the agricultural, industrial and community history of Yorkton and the surrounding region," offered Pearen. "The strategic plan will expand that vision by determining how the Centre can operate year-round, respond to community needs and become a welcoming destination for residents, schools and tourists."

The survey asks residents what programs, exhibits, events and services they would like the Centre to offer. It will also seek opinions about accessibility, tourism opportunities, educational activities, community partnerships, facility use, volunteering and the priorities that should guide the Centre over the next several years.

The online survey is one part of the consultation process, said Pearen.

"Input will also be gathered from Society members, volunteers, community organizations, educational partners, tourism representatives and other stakeholders," he toldGrasslands News. "Additional meetings or public consultation sessions may be held as the planning process moves forward."

The deadline for completing the survey is Oct. 23.

We encourage everyone interested in the future of the Mill and Interpretive Centre to participate," said Pearen.

A summary of the survey findings and the completed strategic plan will be shared publicly once the consultation and planning process have been completed and the plan has been approved by the Board.

To participate in the survey the Mill Strategic Planning survey is available at www.yorktonflourmill.ca

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CALVIN DANIELS I GRASSLANDS NEWS

Cooking up donations

Yorkton Troyanda Ukrainian Dance Ensemble held a barbecue fundraiser Friday, Sept. 4, at Cornerstone Credit Union in Yorkton. The hot dog sale raised $575.

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City News

Sept. 4 - Sept. 10, 2026

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Whitewood School combines Terry Fox Walk with Grandparents Day celebration

By Elaine Ashfield
Grasslands News

Whitewood School is inviting grandparents, families and community members to join students and staff for a special day of remembrance, appreciation and community spirit on Friday, Sept. 11, as the school combines its annual Terry Fox Walk with a Grandparents Day celebration.

Under the theme "Walk Together — Celebrate Together," the event will honour the courage and determination of Terry Fox while also recognizing the important role grandparents and other special people play in the lives of students.

Last year, our incredible Whitewood School & Community raised $6,850.80, placing 8th among the top fundraising schools in Saskatchewan! This year, we're ready to do it again — and maybe even go a little further!

Students will be bringing home pledge forms, and there will also be an online fundraising option available.

The day will begin with a Terry Fox Assembly at 10:45 a.m. in the school gym. Students, staff, grandparents, families and community members are invited to gather as the school remembers Terry Fox and the legacy created through his Marathon of Hope.

Terry Fox began his Marathon of Hope in St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador, on April 12, 1980, with the goal of running across Canada and raising money for cancer research. More than four decades later, his determination continues to inspire millions of Canadians. The Terry Fox School Run has become one of the country's largest grassroots fundraising initiatives, involving millions of students each year.

Following the assembly, the Whitewood School Terry Fox Walk will begin at 11 a.m. Grandparents, family members and residents of the community are encouraged to walk alongside students and staff.

The walk will be followed at approximately 11:25 a.m. by a school and community photograph on the front lawn, providing an opportunity to capture the students, staff, families and community supporters who took part in the day.

At 11:30 a.m., attention will turn to Grandparents Day with a special Grandparents Day Shout-Out, recognizing grandparents and other special people who provide encouragement, guidance and support to Whitewood students.

The celebration will continue with a Grandparents Day Brunch and student lunch, also beginning at 11:30 a.m. Grandparents and community members are asked to meet up with their grandchildren and proceed to the servery for brunch. Guests will be invited through the serving line first.

Lunch arrangements for students will vary by grade. Kindergarten to Grade 3 students will eat in the gym with their teachers, while students in Grades 4 to 6 will return to their classrooms and wait to be called for lunch. Students in Grades 7 to 12 will wait until grandparents and community members have been served before being called to the servery.

By combining the two occasions, Whitewood School is creating a day that brings several generations together. Terry Fox's example provides students with lessons in courage, compassion, determination and perseverance, while Grandparents Day gives the school an opportunity to recognize those who have helped guide and support younger generations.

The Terry Fox Foundation describes school runs as an opportunity not only to support cancer research but also to teach young people about leadership, selflessness and philanthropy. Across Canada, school communities continue to carry forward Terry's hope that others would continue the fight against cancer. Terry started a marathon against cancer. Together, we can help him FINISH IT. Every pledge makes a difference! Let's show Terry what Whitewood can do!

For Whitewood, Friday's event will be about more than taking a walk. It will be about remembering a Canadian whose determination continues to inspire, thanking grandparents for the difference they make in children's lives, and bringing the community together.

As the school's message for the day says: "Honouring Terry. Celebrating Grandparents. Bringing Whitewood Together."

One Day. Your Way. To Make A Difference.

Weedmark's travel expenditures questioned

- continued from front page

"Kevin Weedmark flew to Saskatoon to participate in a Jim Pattison Children's Hospital tour," Conway told reporters in the Rotunda of the Legislative Building. "There were no government announcements as part of that. And then he was off to the Ronald McDonald House for a tour."

The hospital tour was to see the difference made at the children's hospital as a recipient of funds raised through DQ's Miracle Treat Day, in which the Moosomin location raised over $41,000 by selling 7,880 Blizzards for the cause last year. From flight data, the NDP estimates this trip would have landed in the $48,000 range for total cost.

Conway feels the second video coming to light established a pattern of using private jets as transportation.

"This wasn't just a one-off because Mr. Weedmark had double booked himself or was feeling a schedule crunch, this is part of a larger pattern," she said. "And if there are two videos, there are potentially additional videos."

This trip is of particular interest as it took place within the last reporting cycle for Member Accountability Statements, which detail MLA expenses over the course of a year to the end of March. Usually, these statements are publicly available online by now but have been delayed for the 2025-26 reporting cycle.

"This isn't information that we can get through a Freedom of Information request. We have to wait until this is posted, and so we'll be looking at that," Conway explained. "What I'm most concerned about, though, is that Mr. Weedmark has asked us to just take his word for the fact that he paid for this out of pocket. I'm sorry, I don't think so. If Mr. Weedmark can afford to spend tens of thousands of dollars out of pocket to engage in this kind of luxurious travel while doing his job, then he can afford to come back down to Earth and show the Saskatchewan people his receipts."

In a prepared statement Sept. 9, Weedmark maintains he paid for the jet.

"I organized a visit last year to Saskatoon so local Dairy Queen owners could tour Jim Pattison Children's Hospital and Ronald McDonald House and see firsthand the impact of their fundraising," Weedmark noted. "Mostly, I wanted the people behind those efforts to see the difference they're making and to thank them for it. I covered the cost of the trip myself and no constituency staff attended."

"The support these owners, their staff and their customers provide makes a real difference, and it meant a great deal to be able to thank them for all they do for children and families," he concluded.

Bochek and World-Spectator editor Kara Kinna were also contacted for clarification, neither responded by press time. The videos related to air travel posted to Bochek's social media have also been removed.

NDP Health critic Meara Conway is seeking answers to Moosomin-Montmartre MLA Kevin Weedmark using a private jet to attend government and personal matters. RYAN KIEDROWSKI | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Whitewood council tackles EMS staffing, infrastructure concerns

By Elaine Ashfield
Grasslands News

Concerns over reduced ambulance service, progress at Whitewood's new recreation park and several infrastructure expenditures were among the issues discussed as Whitewood Town Council returned to its twice-monthly meeting schedule Sept. 1.

Councillor Emerson Chug was absent from the meeting.

EMS service concerns

Council received an EMS dashboard covering April through July 31 that showed 44 days of reduced ambulance service in Whitewood during that period, with approximately 40 per cent of calls handled by services from outside the community.

Whitewood currently has two full-time EMS staff filling four positions.

Council discussed the difficulty of attracting Advanced Care Paramedics (ACPs) to rural communities, particularly when positions in larger centres offer ACP-level wages.

The two vacant Whitewood positions could potentially be filled by Emergency Medical Responders, who would work alongside the community's two Primary Care Paramedics to bring staffing back to the required number of responders.

Council indicated it would seek another meeting with EMS management to discuss staffing and service levels.

Rec park work continues

Town foreman Trent Merkel reported work is continuing at the new recreation park, including installation of all posts for the outdoor rink.

"It's coming along so it will probably be operational when the weather permits," Merkel told council.

Chief Administrative Officer Lisa Istace said recent rainfall has affected the schedule for other work at the park.

Delivery of a building and installation of fencing were being arranged but remained dependent on weather and site conditions. Concrete work is still planned for this fall, along with grass seeding.

Merkel also reported that a pump problem at the water treatment plant over the weekend had been corrected.

Council discussed the possibility of changing companies used for services related to the construction, maintenance and upgrading of water and water treatment systems. A Zoom meeting with the prospective company was recommended before any decision is made.

Istace also reported that upgrades to the Town's Microsoft computer systems have been completed, with the new systems being implemented as staff become familiar with them.

Highway washouts raised

Councillor Jaimie Jordan reported on the Southeast Transportation Planning Committee after becoming Whitewood's new representative.

Recent heavy rainfall and its impact on area highways will be raised at an upcoming committee meeting. Concerns include washouts and high water along Highway 9 north and Highway 247, where water reportedly rose above fencelines and washed sections of trees across highways.

Council also received a report from Councillor Cole Jacobs on the Aug. 18 Whitewood Fire Board meeting. Details concerning plans for a new fire hall and the department's review of options to eventually replace its oldest pumper truck are reported separately in this week's newspaper.

Town approves share of fire hall planning costs

Following the Fire Board report, council approved Whitewood's participation in the next planning stage for the proposed fire hall.

Council supported proceeding with an approximately $10,000 geotechnical investigation and $30,000 in schematic design work.

The combined $40,000 cost is proposed to be divided four ways between the Town of Whitewood, RM of Willowdale, RM of Silverwood and Whitewood Fire Board, leaving the Town responsible for approximately $10,000.

The other municipal partners are considering their portions separately.

Infrastructure expenses

Council approved spending $15,180 to repair the ridge cap on the town office roof following problems with leakage.

It was noted that if roof problems continue, a full replacement would have to be considered through a future budget and tender process.

Council also received an estimated cost of $482,000 to extend municipal water lines approximately 1,400 feet along South Avenue following an inquiry about the possibility of extending service.

An updated price of $4,600.16 for an arena compressor was also approved.

Council received Saskatchewan Municipal Board approval for Bylaw No. 07-2026 authorizing $2,091,687 in debt related to the amalgamation of loans for the lagoon and lift station projects.

Other council business

Council approved $54,774.78 in accounts and the March 2026 bank reconciliation. Payments included $19,789.24 in computer cheques, $9,051 in pre-authorized payments, $2,223.67 in credit card charges and $26,710.87 in online payments.

Council approved reversing taxes on the property at 817 Lalonde Street after the property was turned back to the Town.

Claudette James was hired as a part-time administrative assistant at a starting wage of $24 per hour. Council also approved the hiring of Dawson Maier, rec technician at $20/hr..

Council was informed that NDP representatives have requested to attend an upcoming council meeting.

A replacement representative is also being sought to attend the Oct. 6 library meeting because the Town's appointed representative is unable to attend.

Following an in-camera discussion concerning personnel, council accepted the resignation of recreation technician Kayla Rayner, effective Sept. 2.

Whitewood's next council meeting is scheduled for Sept. 15. The first meeting in October will begin at 7:30 p.m., rather than the regular 7 p.m. start time.

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ROCANVILLE C-STORE BBQ - 4 PM - 6 PM

SPORTS

Terriers and Oil Capitals split preseason match-up

SJHL vs. MJHL

By Calvin Daniels
Grasslands News

The Terriers hit the road last Friday, (Sept. 4) to open their preseason in Virden, MB.

The host Manitoba Junior Hockey League Oil Capitals opened the scoring as Bryan Laing scored at 6:29.

Twenty-three seconds later D.J. Brass tied the contest with a Terrier goal.

Kaden Sperle put Yorkton in front at 8:55.

The home side tied it again on a goal by Tyson Draper at 12:41.

Neither team found the twine in the middle stanza.

At 1:57 of the third Brass was back for his second on the night to give the Terriers a 3-2 lead.

Draper scored his second of the game at 4:18 to again ties things – this time 3-3.

Then the Terriers went on a mini scoring streak, Layne McKechnie, Ashton Marzsalek and Brass completing his hat trick to make it 6-3 for the visitors. Hunter Ethelston scored late to round out a 6-4 contest.

Brady Low and Seth Gutenberg split time in the Yorkton net, while Liam Banga and Micky Gross split time for Virden.

The teams met again Sept. 5, this time on Westland Insurance Arena ice in Yorkton.

The Terriers led 2-0 after 20-minutes thanks to goals by Kaden Sperle and Mathys Morrissette.

Virden knotted things on middle frame goals by Lucas Laramee and Davian Ferland.

The third period was scoreless, as was the extra frame, forcing the teams to a shoot-out where the Oil Capitals forged a win.

Joel Anderson and Brady Low split net time for the home side, while the visitors divided the action between Sawyer Wallin and Adam Courchesne.

The home-and-home set came just as the team's training camp had wrapped up with the traditional final in the Norm Cup which Team Black won over Team White.

While preseason is designed to finalize players kept and those to be sent home, the Terriers have a handful of key players from last season's squad who potentially would seem to have an inside position in terms of claiming spots, including 2026 SJHL Defenceman of the Year Thomas Ries and goaltender Callum Creig. That returning group helped Yorkton march to the Canterra Seeds Cup Final for the first time since 2013 while also capturing the club's first division title in six years.

The next action for the Terriers will be a home-and-home preseason set with Melville. Yorkton will travel to the Millionaires' barn Friday, Sept. 11, then host their Highway 10 rivals Saturday, Sept. 12.

CALVIN DANIELS I GRASSLANDS NEWS

Crashing the net

The Yorkton Junior Terriers opened their preseason with a home and home set with Virden, playing their home half of the pair Saturday, Sept. 5 at the Westland Insurance Arena.

Melville Millionaires set for 2026-27 season

By Darcy Gross
Grasslands News

While the Melville Millionaires bowed out in the first round of the playoffs last season, head coach Doug Johnson likes the team he has assembled for the upcoming SJHL campaign.

"All in all, it wasn't the year we'd hoped for, that we'd envisioned," Johnson said of last season's Millionaires.

This season, the team starts with a clean slate, losing some top talent but also retaining key pieces for another playoff run.

"You can never replace the top guys," Johnson said. "Boston Harkness left this team better than it was before he came here. When you have guys who have the respect of the other guys, like Harkness and (Wesley) Golden, you just have to hope some guys can do some of what those guys did."

Even though the Millionaires lost some key players to graduation, Johnson believes they should still ice an extremely competitive team for the 2026-27 campaign.

And it will start on the back end.

"Guys will have to step up on the back end," Johnson explained. "They can't do the same things as Harky and Goldy, but they need to find ways to make the team better."

While the Millionaires were challenged offensively on some nights last season, this year's squad could feature some of the SJHL's better scorers in Blue and White.

"If you have Kale Margolis and Rylan Oatman in your back pocket, that's going to be huge," Johnson said. "Margolis had a great year, and Oatman really surprised us last year. He has a whole other level to his game, and hopefully he understands how good he is and how good he can be moving forward."

Another player expected to make an impact on the scoreboard is Preston Baerwald, who could put up solid numbers if he can stay healthy for a full season.

"Preston Baerwald was hurt almost half the year and he's a point-a-game guy, so we like where we are," said Johnson. "We haven't lost as much as we have in the past, and we have some guys coming in with experience."

Johnson is also high on some of his newer charges, mentioning a couple of players he expects to make an immediate impact.

"I have to mention Hudson Closson. He's a big guy with WHL experience," Johnson said. "Cole Brown, who we got in a trade, is going to be good. I think he led triple-A scoring in B.C. two years ago, and they won a championship, so he knows what it takes to win."

This season also marks the first time Johnson and his staff will have players they drafted themselves taking the ice for the Millionaires, adding another layer of anticipation to the campaign.

But Johnson knows the fans are beginning to get restless.

"First, we've got to win a playoff series," Johnson said with a chuckle. "All I have to do is go downtown and I get reminded three or four times that Melville's never won a championship."

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SHSAA Conference 2 – 9-A-Side Football

Bert Fox Bison and Indian Head Broncs kick-off

By Sarah Pacio
Grasslands News

While the Roughriders prepared for their Labour Day classic, high school football teams in Fort Qu'Appelle and Indian Head started off the long weekend by hosting their home openers. Both teams are part of Conference 2 in the 9-A-side division of Saskatchewan High Schools Athletic Association and began their regular season on Sept. 4.

The Bert Fox Bison met the Shaunavon Shadows on the field in Fort Qu'Appelle shortly before 4 p.m. last Friday, Sept. 4. The visiting team scored a goal early in the first quarter, and then a successful long pass followed by a good kick brought their score up to 14. The Bison narrowly prevented another touchdown by Shaunavon, caused a turnover and began pushing their way back down the field towards their goal posts shortly before half time. Later in the game, Fort Qu'Appelle achieved their objective and prevented further goals by their opponent but still finished with a loss, 14 to 8.

Although Indian Head hosted an exhibition game and achieved a hard-fought win against Foam Lake the week before, the team's regular season started on Sept. 4. The Broncs welcomed the Lumsden Devils to McCall Field for a Friday Night Lights game, and the visitors lived up to their reputation as the 2025 provincial champions. Lumsden broke away on the first play after kickoff to score seven points. It continued to be a challenging game for the young home team, including a lengthy time-out during the third quarter that allowed medics to care for an injured Broncs player. The night finished with a 48 to 0 victory by Lumsden.

"A lot of lessons learned tonight, and we will move forward and get better every day," head coach Tim Klein told Indian Head players and fans via the team's social media page after the game. "I am proud that we played hard to the end and there was no quit in our team."

Fort Qu'Appelle and Indian Head are both on the road this week. Fort Qu'Appelle will be back on home turf to face the Vanier Vikings on Thursday, Sept. 17 at 4 p.m., while Indian Head will host Meadow Lake for an exhibition game that night at 7 p.m. The Bison and Broncs will play in Indian Head the following week with a 7 p.m. game time on Thursday, Sept. 24.

SARAH PACIO I GRASSLANDS NEWS

Avoiding the tackle

Fort Qu'Appelle Bison hosted the Shaunavon Shadows for a home opener on Friday, Sept. 4. The Bison lost to the Shadows 14-8.

SARAH PACIO I GRASSLANDS NEWS

Moving down the field

Indian Head Broncs hosted the Lumsden Devils for a home opener on Sept. 4. The Devils blanked the home team Broncs 48-0.

Jr. Raiders roll to home field shut out

By Calvin Daniels
Grasslands News

It was a good Saturday afternoon (Sept. 5) at Century Field for the Yorkton Junior Raiders football team.

The Junior Raiders got strong efforts on both sides of the ball rolling to a 41-0 over the visiting Regina Stampeders.

Carter Britton had more than 250 combined yards -- rushing and receiving -- and three touchdowns, reported Junior Raider head coach Alan Kyle.

Quarterback Luke Nielsen ran hard and connected with Madix Johnson on a long touchdown pass, he added.

Nielsen also kicked converts and hit a 20-yard field goal.

On defence the Junior Raiders were lead by Owen Clarke and Turner Strutynski on the defensive line who wreaked havoc in the backfield, said Kyle.

Seneca Crane and Karter Ockochinski also made multiple tackles.

The win improves the Junior Raiders season record to 3-0-1.

They play next Saturday, Sept. 12 versus the Balgonie Griffins at Century Field at 4 p.m.

CALVIN DANIELS I GRASSLANDS NEWS

Big block coming

The Yorkton Junior Raider Gridders found the warm weather of Saturday, Sept. 5, and the grass at Century Field in Yorkton as the team scored a shutout win in gridiron action.

CALVIN DANIELS I GRASSLANDS NEWS

First-down gained

It was all Kinsmen Lady Gridders under the lights of Century Field in Yorkton last Saturday, Sept. 5. The local Lady Gridders proved rather inhospitable hosts as they steamrolled the visiting Melville Vipers 38-0.

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Sports column – Darcy Gross

Gross Misconduct

I've been watching the Melville Millionaires for many, many years, and over all that time, I've seen a lot of things happen.

When my dad would take me to games, I'd often fall asleep in my seat next to him. I was pretty young, and I'm not sure I always understood exactly what was happening on the ice, but Dad did his best to explain the game to me. Somewhere along the way, those nights at the rink became some of my earliest and best hockey memories.

I recall the feisty nature of a young Don Chesney and the smooth, effortless skating of Jim Lay in those early days. There always seemed to be a player who could make something happen, whether it was a great goal, a big hit or, occasionally, a little trouble.

And back in the day, the entire crowd would rise from their seats three or four times a game as players dropped the gloves and decided to solve their problems the old-fashioned way. You could almost feel the building shake when a fight broke out. Nobody needed to ask what was happening. The crowd knew.

I saw the brilliance of Sonny Famulak behind the bench and watched local players and young prospects climb through the ranks, work their way onto the team and become important parts of Millionaires' hockey.

There were teams coached by Gerry James, who somehow seemed to borrow his style from two completely different hockey worlds -- the smooth-skating Russians, who liked to move the puck and play in units of five, and the movie Slap Shot, where games could seemingly be won or lost by toughness, grit and the willingness to make sure nobody pushed your teammates around.

I remember the dynamic scoring ability of the Kelly Dean, Brian Propp and Dwaine Turberfield line, which was probably the best Junior A line I've ever had the pleasure to watch. When those three were clicking, you almost expected something to happen every time they crossed centre ice.

If you're in your sixties, you might remember Dick Dempster firing a laser beam from the point, or Lionel Danielson undressing a few players as he walked in from the blue line to make a play or score a goal.

Those are the kinds of players and moments that tend to stick with you long after the final buzzer.

Most of my memories of the old Melville Stadium are positive. From the best popcorn and burgers in any league to knowledgeable crowds that could make life miserable for referees and officials on some nights.

There was something about that old building. It wasn't always pretty, but it was ours.

There were many, many playoff series over the years. Some came with controversy, some came with heartbreak, and some were simply great hockey games that you never forgot.

I recall going to games in a blizzard, with fewer than 300 fans in attendance, when the people who showed up were there because they really, really wanted to be there.

And then there was Game 7 of the league final against the Flin Flon Bombers, when fans were perched in some of the most dangerous parts of the rink because there simply wasn't room anywhere else. The fire chief eventually had to close the doors because the arena was too full.

You certainly don't see that every night.

Anyone else remember the time Millionaires' coach and GM Jamie Fiesel fired all the sticks onto the ice after a particularly bad call and got tossed from the game for his antics?

As I recall, he ended up on Sportsdesk because of it.

That was Millionaires' hockey.

I've seen a lot of great hockey in the new rink, too, and there have been plenty of memorable players, coaches, games and seasons. But somehow, it's not quite the same as the old Stadium.

Maybe that's because buildings change.

Maybe it's because the game changes.

Or maybe it's because when you're a kid, everything about going to the rink seems just a little bigger, louder and more important.

Whatever the reason, those memories never really leave you.

And after watching the Millionaires for all these years, there's one thing I know for sure:

Everyone knows the one thing that'll make things better -- a league championship.

We're due.

Actually, we've been due for a while.

Maybe this year, it's finally our turn.

You might be wondering why I say we could win it all, even before a single regular-season game has been played.

It's because I say it every year.

And one of these years, I'm going to be right.

Sports Column

Manitoba's Peters a breakout star with White Sox

By Bruce Penton
Sports Columnist

The list of Major League Baseball players born and raised in Winkler, Man., is a short one.

In fact, it's one – Tristan Peters.

The 26-year-old Peters, who bounced around a number of minor professional league parks before finally seeing major league duty last September, is having a breakout season with the Chicago White Sox. In fact, his play has been so outstanding that he played in this summer's all-star game at Atlanta.

Peters was drafted 207th overall in 2021 by the Milwaukee Brewers, traded to San Francisco Giants in 2022 and dealt to the Tampa Bay Rays a couple of months later. He played AA ball in 2023, moved up to AAA Durham in 2024 and was called up to Tampa last September when MLB rosters were expanded to 40 players.

Alas, in 12 late-season at-bats for the Rays, Peters had a .000 batting average, with seven strikeouts. Another trade? Yep, he was sent to the White Sox last December in a transaction that attracted little attention (other than in the Winkler-Morden Voice, perhaps). How eager were the Whites Sox to acquire Peters? They got him from the Rays, who are now lamenting their decision to dump Peters, for cash and a player to be named later.

Suddenly, however, the talent that scouts saw in Peters when he led the Okotoks Dawgs to the Western Major Baseball League championship in 2019 by batting.396 with 12 home runs and 44 RBI and earning playoff MVP honours has erupted into a major-league star on the south side of Chicago.

Overnight success? Hardly.

Heading into the final few games of the season, Peters led the resurgent White Sox in batting average, was third in OPS (on-base percentage plus slugging) and during one August stretch, homered in five consecutive games. He also hit for the cycle in a game against the Athletics in July.

"It's amazing - I don't know what words there are for what he's doing," White Sox manager Will Venable told MLB.com. "Really, really special. Really cool to watch."

Considering the previously sadsack White Sox have been leading the American League Central Division most of the season and are almost guaranteed a playoff spot, it's not too farfetched to say that Peters' performance has been one of the most important aspects of the White Sox turnaround. The Sox haven't made the playoffs since 2021 and in each of the past three seasons lost more than 100 games. In 2024, they went 41-121.

Of Peters' 12 home runs through August, three of them immediately ended games in Chicago's favour. "Walk-offs mean good things happen, obviously," said Venable.

The online fan site 'South Side Sox' proclaims Peters as the team's Most Valuable Player this year. "The most important man on this roster was bought with the change between (owner) Jerry Reinsdorf's couch cushions: Centrefielder and bunting gremlin extraordinaire, Tristan Peters. Had it not been for Peters, there's no telling where the Sox would be in the standings."

Peters' bouncing around days appear to be over.

• The late comedian Norm Macdonald: "My dad had this thing – everyone in Canada wants to play hockey; that's all they want to do. So when I was a kid, whenever we skated my dad would not let us on the ice without hockey sticks, because of this insane fear we would become figure skaters!"

• Headline at theonion.com: "Announcers Watch Angels-Royals Game In Total Silence"

• Greg Cote of the Miami Herald, on the upcoming labour negotiations between MLB players and owners: "Hey, baseball, feel free to dip a toe in the 21st Century. Managers no longer wear suits in the dugout like Connie Mack. Pitchers no longer throw 400 innings a year. Might be time to try a more modern business model, as well."

• fark.com headline: "Washington Commanders sell out of merchandise featuring the old logo that shall not be named."

• Prime Minister Mark Carney, while announcing the replacement of aging rail cars: "(The old ones) were built when the NHL had six teams, when goalies didn't wear masks, when the Leafs would win a Cup."

• Janice Hough of leftcoastsportsbabe.com: "Apparently Trump supporters are threatening to boycott the NFL after Al Michaels mocked Trump's renaming of Lake Ontario during a preseason broadcast. 'That is Lake Erie. We think it is still called Lake Erie. We're not quite sure at this point.'"

• Headline at theonion.com: "Jets Hope To Sell More Merchandise With New 'Philadelphia Eagles'–Themed Jerseys"

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

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Melville Millionaires Jr. A Hockey
Game Schedule

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

Pre-season
SEPTEMBER:
11– Yorkton at Melville
12– Melville at Yorkton

Regular Season
SEPTEMBER:
18– Melville at Weyburn 7:30
19– Weyburn at Melville
25– Melville at Melfort 7:30
26– Melfort at Melville
29– Flin Flon at Melville

Yorkton Terriers Jr. A Hockey
Game Schedule

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

Pre-season
SEPTEMBER:
11– Yorkton at Melville
12– Melville at Yorkton

Regular Season
SEPTEMBER:
19– Estevan at Yorkton
22– Yorkton at Warmen
25– Yorkton at Kindersley 7:30
26– Yorkton at Kindersley 7:30

Fort Knox Hockey
Game Schedule

Home/Away Games

Pre-season
SEPTEMBER:
15– Pilot Butte at Fort Knox 7:30
19– Regina Caps at Fort Knox 7:00
20– Fort Knox at Regina Silver F 4:00

Regular season
SEPTEMBER:
26– Fort Knox at Pilot Butte 7:45

Pilot Butte Storm
Game Schedule

Home/Away Games

Pre-season
SEPTEMBER:
15– Pilot Butte Storm at Fort Knox 7:30
19– Reg. Silver Foxes at Pilot Butte 4:00
20– Pilot Butte at Reg. Caps 7:00

Regular Season
SEPTEMBER:
26– Fort Knox at Pilot Butte 7:45
30– Regina Caps at Pilot Butte 8:00

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Curler Jeff Sharp sliding into the Yorkton Sports Hall of Fame

By Calvin Daniels
Grasslands News

An extensive resume in the 'roaring game' has Jeff Sharp among those to be inducted into the Yorkton Sports Hall of Fame Saturday, Sept. 19 at the Gallagher Centre.

"I remember when I first received the email, I was in the middle of a very busy period at work and actually thought it was a request for sponsorship at first," recalled Sharp of being told of his selection. "So I left the email for a couple days to focus on work. Then when I read it - I had to re-read it a couple times to fully believe it! I had zero knowledge I was nominated. I was in disbelief and actually felt undeserving of it at first."

But that would seem to have been Sharp being humble, given the highlights of his curling career.

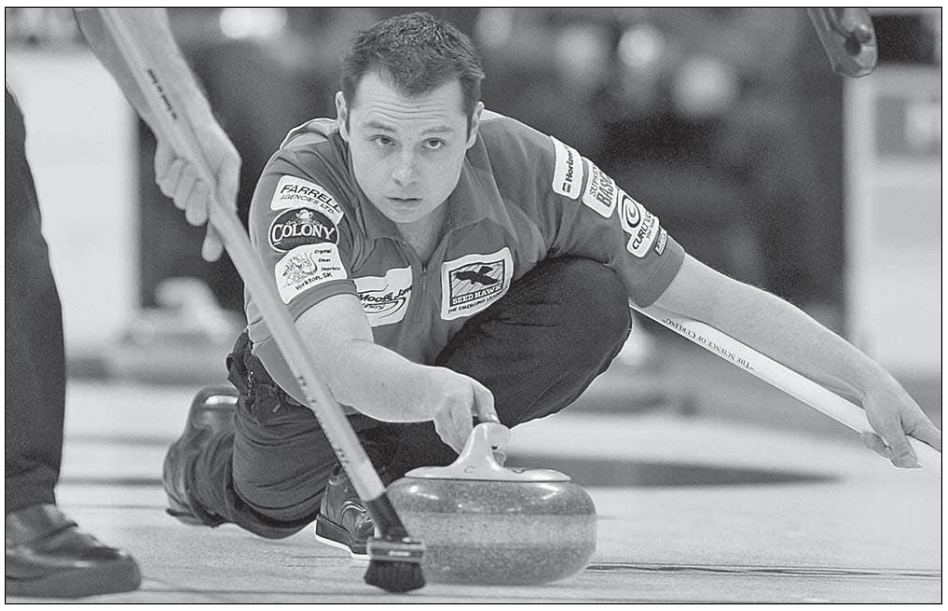
Growing up in Yorkton, he was on the Pat Simmons rink that won four consecutive men's provincial championships from 2005 to 2008, earning them a berth in the Canadian Brier and winning bronze in 2008.

Sharp is also a four-time provincial Tankard champion and runner-up three times; qualified for 10 consecutive World Curling Tour Grand Slam events; ranked in the top 10 in world rankings in multiple years and was the 2005 champion in Japan at an international tournament at the Nagano Olympic site.

However, even looking ahead to the induction evening, Sharp remained unsure if he felt he belonged.

"I think I will feel a bit undeserved, that is for sure," he told Grasslands News. "But, I will feel so honoured and thankful, especially to have my family and my two kids (Carissa 16, and Tessa nine) seeing me being honoured.

"Carissa was not born when I was at the pinnacle of my curling career and she caught the tail-end of it when she was very young. And my youngest Tessa is just about to start junior curling this winter, so it makes me proud to have my daughters see me being honoured! I hope to have a lot of fun, tell some stories, and I may even have some tears of thankfulness."



SUBMITTED I GRASSLANDS NEWS

Sharp delivers
Jeff Sharp is set to be inducted into the Yorkton Sports Hall of Fame that is set to go on Saturday, Sept. 19 at the Gallagher Centre in Yorkton.

The induction of course is something to be shared by family and with friends.

"I tend to be a bit reserved in publicly celebrating my accomplishments, but I am amazed at the responses and congratulations I have received from so many people," said Sharp. "I never really curled for publicity and recognition, I wanted to achieve my curling goals more for myself and later to be a positive influence for my kids. But I feel that this Yorkton Sports Hall of Fame induction is so valuable now - for my parents, my amazing wife Barb, and all my family, both mine and my wife's, as they know how hard I worked on my passion of curling over the years, and I know how much they helped me and supported me and even gave up for me to pursue my curling passion.

"For all of my competitive curling career I was either working full time or going to university at the same time while trying to achieve my curling goals. I always used up all my vacation time and more having to take time-off without pay to curl. The support from my wife during those years -- it makes this recognition valuable as it is an opportunity for me to thank her and my family for all their sacrifice and support to follow my dreams."

When it comes to accomplishments, as noted there have been many for Sharp, but which memories has the induction announcement triggered for Sharp?

"The people," he said. "The curling community is one of the best communities I have been a part of. From all my teammates and friendships I made over the years, to the coaches and many, many volunteers in the curling community.

"I had so many different supporting people throughout my curling career. Besides my family, many different teachers and coaches in elementary and high school, even all the Yorkton curling rink managers, ice makers, and junior learn-to-curl coaches that went the extra mile, that was very big in my development.

"So many different teammates, coaches, and sports psychologists that all provided me with different valuable skills that helped contribute not only to my curling career, but also the other aspects of my life like work and family.

"So yes, the people in the curling community is probably the biggest aspect that I like to reflect back on."

Interestingly, the successes Sharp found in the sport came from a seed planted by his parents own involvement in the sport.

"My parents curled once or twice a week while I was young, and some of my grandparents did too," he said. "I remember always being a rink-rat watching them and as soon as a sheet came open I would jump out there and try throwing rocks. Looking back I am surprised the curling rinks let me as I didn't have any curling shoes or know how to slide yet at that age.

"I also tried playing hockey for a year or two, but I was not cut out for hockey. I remember knocking opponents over -- by accident -- and stopping to say sorry and help them up.

"So after that the next fall my parents asked me if I wanted to go into curling or play hockey again.

"I chose curling.

"I was a bit of a natural curler at a young age, that helps when you feel successful when starting out."

It might have been in his genes.

"My uncle Warren Sharp was a little bit of a competitive curler in Saskatchewan and won the provincial championship and competed in the 1992 Brier in Regina," said Sharp. "Being able to go watch him in that Brier was amazing, seeing all the fans cheering for Saskatchewan all week really solidified my love of curling."

The aforementioned people associated with the sport, and his own skills with a curling rock kept Sharp focused.

"Besides having lots of success in the sport over the years, it was the friendships and teammates that locked me into the sport," he said.

"I also loved how it helped bring my family and extended family together over the years coming to all the bonspiels, Provincial Championships, Briers, Olympic trials, etc."

The accomplishments all seem a bit surreal and a bit bittersweet to Sharp as he looks back.

"I truly believed and hoped I would have won a Brier for Saskatchewan," he said. "It was all I dreamed about doing after watching my uncle at the 1992 Regina Brier.

"I came so close at the 2008 Winnipeg Brier playing with Pat Simmons and four other Yorktonites - teammates Gerry Adam and Steve Laycock, fifth player Warren Jackson, and our coach the late great Barry Fiendell.

"We lost the 1 vs 2 playoff game to get to the Brier Final. We lost that game to Kevin Martin's Team Alberta on the final shot to win the game, a hit and stick for the win that picked something on the ice and caused our rock to jump and over-curl.

"We ended up with the bronze medal at that Brier."

And then the Olympics loomed.

"With Team Simmons we were one of 10 Canadian teams to qualify for the 2009 Olympic Curling trials," said Sharp. "This was a huge goal and achievement for our young team. In that event, we were the only team to beat the eventual Olympic Gold Medalist Kevin Martin's team on their run to winning Olympic Gold.

"Looking back now I am not really surprised at my accomplishments in curling, because I worked very, very hard at the sport. I sacrificed a lot too, from family, friends, and work time. I had yearly personal and team goals that I worked toward every day.

"I feel very proud of my accomplishments, and I know that I left everything out there in my curling career and had many positive experiences."

This year's inductees will join 97 athletes and builders and 21 teams previously honoured since the Hall's founding in 1994.

The local Hall of Fame will also recognize recipients of the Support for Sports Award, now sponsored by the Kinsmen Club of Yorkton. It is presented to deserving supporters of sports in Yorkton, including businesses, organizations and individuals.

Breitkreuz joins Mauler coaching staff

By Calvin Daniels
Grasslands News

The Yorkton Kinsmen Maulers have added some coaching depth to the roster.

Brett Breitkreuz, a product of Springside who spent two seasons with the Yorkton Harvest U18 AAA program in 2004-05 and 2005-06, playing nine games with the SJHL's Yorkton Terriers that season, has joined the U18 AAA club ahead of the 2026-27 season.

He then moved onto the WHL, playing with the Kelowna Rockets, Edmonton Oil Kings and Vancouver Giants over his multiple seasons in the league.

Breitkreuz then spent 14 seasons overseas in Germany, winning three championships in 2017, 2021 and 2022 in the DEL2.

While suggesting he's not looking for a new career as a coach, Breitkreuz told Grasslands News the opportunity was a good one on several levels.

It started with knowing coach Josh Garbutt and Dustin Nehring.

"Obviously I've known Josh and Dustin for a long time," he said, adding it was "a conversation with Josh it just kind of came up."

It was also a case of feeling the new regime guiding the Maulers, who have struggled for a few years, is going in the right direction, and that he can help as they rebuild things locally.

"I really do believe these guys are on the right track," he said.

It is also a time where Breitkreuz, now two years removed from his pro career, has settled into a job locally, and family life, so that "I have a little bit of time to commit to it."

The move to the bench also "helps keep me involved… It helps me stay connected (to the game)," he offered.

Now Breitkreuz said he just hopes to impart some hockey wisdom he has gained through the years on the Maulers, being "a good resource for the kids."

So far, he is liking the role too.

"I'm really enjoying working with the kids. It's pretty rewarding seeing the effort," he said, adding in terms of coaching "… No one is trying to reinvent the wheel anymore."

Instead, it comes down to being dedicated to the game.

"You've got to be competitive. You've got to play hard. You've got to have good habits," offered Breitkreuz.

The 2026-27 Kinsmen Maulers season begins on Friday, Sept. 25 when the Swift Current Legionnaires come to the Westland Insurance Arena.

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Bear scores twice as Pats rally past Wheat Kings

By Chris Ashfield
Grasslands News

A Western Hockey League pre-season game Saturday night had plenty of local flavour, with players from Ochapowace and Whitewood on the ice and behind the Regina Pats bench, an NHL veteran taking part in the ceremonial puck drop and fans getting a chance to meet the players afterward.

Ochapowace product Connor Bear scored twice, including the tying goal, as the Pats erased a three-goal deficit to defeat the Brandon Wheat Kings 6-4 at the Chief Denton George Sports Plex on Saturday, Sept. 5.

The victory improved Regina's pre-season record to 4-0.

For Bear, the game provided an opportunity to play WHL hockey in his home community. The Pats and Wheat Kings brought their pre-season matchup to Ochapowace, giving local hockey fans a chance to see major junior hockey close to home.

The local connections extended beyond Bear. Whitewood's Reese Hamilton was in the Pats' lineup on defence, while fellow Whitewood product Taras McEwen was behind the Regina bench as an assistant coach.

Adding to the significance of the evening was Ochapowace's NHL player Ethan Bear, who was a special guest and dropped the ceremonial puck before the game.

Once the puck dropped for real, however, Brandon quickly took control.

Kris Muise scored four times for the Wheat Kings as Brandon built a 4-1 advantage early in the second period. Regina's Maddox Schultz had the Pats' lone goal during that stretch.

Regina began chipping away at the deficit when Samuel Karsay scored twice in the second period, pulling the Pats to within one at 4-3 heading into the third.

Bear then gave the hometown crowd something to celebrate just 30 seconds into the final period.

With Regina on the power play, Bear redirected an Aiden Wagner shot from the point into the Brandon net to tie the game 4-4.

Cohen Klassen completed the comeback later in the period, giving Regina its first lead of the night at 5-4.

Bear wasn't finished.

After serving a late penalty, the Ochapowace forward came out of the penalty box and scored into an empty Brandon net with 54 seconds remaining, sealing the 6-4 victory and giving him two goals in front of his home crowd.

The evening also brought together a pair of players with a Saskatchewan hockey connection. Bear and Hamilton were teammates with Team Saskatchewan at the 2023 Canada Winter Games, where Saskatchewan captured the silver medal.

For Hamilton, Saturday's contest provided an opportunity to play only a short distance from his hometown of Whitewood, while McEwen's presence behind the bench added another Whitewood connection to the Pats' organization.

McEwen joined Regina's coaching staff this summer after serving as head coach of Prairie Hockey Academy's U18 Prep team. He previously coached with the Swift Current Broncos.

The hockey wasn't the only attraction for those who attended Saturday's game. Pats' players remained following the contest for an autograph session, giving young fans and other spectators an opportunity to meet the players and cap off the evening.

For Ochapowace fans in particular, the night provided a memorable combination — NHL veteran Ethan Bear dropping the ceremonial puck and hometown product Connor Bear scoring twice as the Pats completed a three-goal comeback in front of the local crowd.

CHRIS ASHFIELD I GRASSLANDS NEWS

Making his mark

Connor Bear (20) of Ochapowace keeps an eye on Brandon's Ahmad Fayad (71) during Regina's 6-4 pre-season victory over the Brandon Wheat Kings Saturday, Sept. 5. Bear tied the game just 30 seconds into the third period before adding an empty-net goal late in the contest.

Soccer leads Andy Wyatt to Yorkton Sports Hall of Fame

By Calvin Daniels
Grasslands News

Andy Wyatt will be among those inducted into the Yorkton Sports Hall of Fame Saturday, Sept. 19 at the Gallagher Centre.

"I was humbled, honoured and appreciative," Wyatt told Grasslands News of learning of his selection. "I had helped to nominate Alfredo Bermudez a few years ago and was surprised at that time that we didn't have any other members of our soccer community inducted into the Hall of Fame. I really believe this is a recognition for Yorkton Soccer in general and for Yorkton United FC which has been a huge part of organized sports in Yorkton for many years. "

Wyatt's recognition comes from him having coached all age groups and genders in Yorkton over a span of more than 30 years. He served on the board when the Yorkton United Football Club was founded in 2001 and later became its technical director.

In 2008 he was recognized by SaskSoccer as Grassroots Coach of the Year. He coached teams representing Saskatchewan at national championships in 2007, 2008, and 2025, having won provincial championships to qualify.

With learning of the induction Wyatt has had time to reflect on his years in soccer.

"The memories I have about my time in soccer are always there," he said. "When I was told about being inducted, the memories that jumped out to me were twofold.

"First, all the competitions that I took part in. There was a lot of success but also a fair share of setbacks. They can reflect on how individual players and teams developed but also how far our club has grown.

"Second, something like this made me think about the players I coached and where they are now. Seeing these young kids succeed in both soccer and life always brings a smile to my face. A lot of my former players have reached out to congratulate me and it just reminds me of the great times I got to share with them when they were kids and how happy I am to see where they are now."

Looking back , what was it that initially attracted Wyatt to soccer?

"I grew up in B.C. where soccer rivaled hockey as the #1 sport," he replied. "My family didn't have a lot of money, so hockey was not really an option for me. I was a pretty good player, so I always enjoyed playing soccer but didn't follow it. Most of my friends were football and hockey fans so I never really followed the game until later in life."

And, through the years the sport continued to interest Wyatt.

"I always played soccer but never at the highest levels throughout by teenage and University years," he said.

"Yorkton didn't really have a lot to offer. When I came back to Yorkton after University, soccer was the only sport I could play recreationally and enjoyed it. Our adult team started to get better and so did the competitive youth soccer in Yorkton.

"More and more people from other countries joined our club and our team and a lot of them brought that passion for soccer with them. Rather than talk about hockey or football, I was starting to talk about soccer. I started coaching and playing at a higher level and it was just natural to want to learn more about the game to improve both as a player and coach. After I started to learn more, I was hooked and my main focus for sports became soccer."

Looking back Wyatt said what he accomplished surprises in retrospect.

"Yes it does. The success I have been lucky to be a part of has been incredible," he said. "I brag about YUFC to any and every person I meet from the soccer community.

"When I started, our teams could barely compete in the Division 2 levels.

"Over the years we improved and now consistently compete with the top clubs in Saskatchewan and Manitoba."

The program now regularly produces players who move on from here to play at higher levels.

"Our players are playing for universities and colleges and overseas," said Wyatt. "Teams I have coached have gone to Nationals three times. We played the best teams from other provinces. The teams we played came from Toronto, Vancouver, Halifax, Edmonton, Winnipeg and so on.

"And we competed with virtually all of our players coming from Yorkton, a city of 16,000 people. We could have tried to pick up top players from Regina and Saskatoon, but we didn't. We did it with players who lived in Yorkton, many of which grew up here."

Along the way there are stories to be told of Wyatt's soccer journey.

"Haha, I got a lot of stories and some are not the most appropriate. I guess the best memory/story I have is I coached and played in Outdoor Nationals in Halifax in 2007 and St. Johns in 2008," he said. "This was the highest level of amateur soccer to coach and play. Then in 2025, I coached a team that made it to Futsal nationals, once again the highest level and my son was on that team. It was really a full circle moment that I was able to enjoy and reflect on.

"I also have a lot of stories of players celebrating success, not the success of the team but the success of other players. Seeing my star player, a 12-year-old kid celebrate when the weakest player on our team scored his first and only goal. The character of these kids always amazes me."

The upcoming induction will of course be a shared experience.

"My friends and family are happy for me and are proud of the recognition because they are the ones who have seen all the work I put into that part of my life. My 94-year-old father is probably the happiest for me," said Wyatt.

It will also be a night with its share of emotions such as "gratitude and intense pride in our soccer club," offered Wyatt. "I have probably coached well over a thousand kids throughout the years. I have met so many great kids, coaches, players and parents. A lot of these people have done so much to give kids the opportunity to play soccer recreationally or at a higher level.

"I owe so much to soccer and the people behind YUFC and so accepting a personal recognition that truly is a recognition for everyone I worked with will be special."

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The local Hall of Fame will also recognize recipients of the Support for Sports Award, now sponsored by the Kinsmen Club of Yorkton. It is presented to deserving supporters of sports in Yorkton, including businesses, organizations and individuals.

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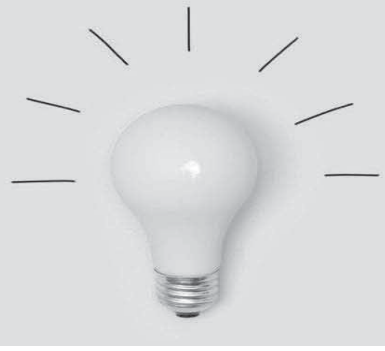

Yorkton's Samantha Hall volunteers with WRSOS

By Calvin Daniels
Grasslands News

The Wildlife Rescue Society of Saskatchewan is a registered non-profit organization that is provincially and federally permitted to operate across Saskatchewan. Since its founding in 2006, WRSOS has grown into a network of more than 100 dedicated volunteers, including four in the Yorkton area.

"Our goal is to promote the successful coexistence, understanding and respect between people and wildlife, while providing assistance to injured, orphaned and sick wildlife across the province," said one of the local volunteers Samantha Hall, a volunteer with WRSOS since January 2021. "We work closely with Conservation Officers, veterinary clinics and provincially licensed wildlife rehabilitators throughout Saskatchewan.

"We provide a wildlife helpline, rescue and transport services, public education and support for people who encounter wildlife in need. All of our services are free of charge and provided by volunteers. We do not receive any government funding; our funding comes through grant writing and fundraising.

"A big part of what we do is education. We help people understand when wildlife actually needs intervention, what to do when they encounter an animal in distress, and how to prevent or resolve human-wildlife conflicts."

Over time Hall's role with WRSOS has expanded.

"After a few years as an active volunteer, our Executive Director, Bonnie Dell, asked if I would be interested in joining the management team as Volunteer Coordinator," she told Grasslands News. "I've been doing that ever since. My role involves communicating with volunteer inquiries, managing applications, hosting training sessions and helping onboard new volunteers.

"WRSOS has also provided me with IWRC Basic Wildlife Rehabilitation training, which has allowed me to become one of our field stations here in Yorkton. Because some of our licensed rehabilitators are located quite a distance away, having trained field stations throughout the province is important. I'm able to act as a wildlife first responder here in the area, following the direction of a licensed wildlife rehabilitator."

So what drew you Hall to become involved?

"It all started with a pigeon," she said.

"It was one of those -40°C nights, and there was a pigeon just sitting outside on the sidewalk. I didn't think that was normal, or safe, so I heard about WRSOS, found them online, called their helpline and left a message about the pigeon. Not long afterward, I received a call back and one of their volunteers came and picked up the pigeon. I was told it would be taken to a wildlife rehabilitation facility in either Regina or Saskatoon. I thought that was pretty amazing, the empathy they had for even just a pigeon. I went on to look at the WRSOS website and discovered that I could apply to become a volunteer, and the rest is history!"

Hall joined and has remained active.

"I've stayed involved over the years because there are so many rewarding parts to it. Being able to work hands-on with wildlife is incredible, but so is the continued learning about Saskatchewan wildlife and conservation," she said. "There's also the camaraderie of being surrounded by like-minded people.

"Ultimately, it gives me that feeling of being part of something bigger and knowing that I'm making a difference."

Finding the WRSOS really connected with a long time interest in wildlife and its conservation for Hall.

"Oh, definitely! I've been an animal lover since I was little," she explained. "I also fostered for a local domestic animal rescue for a number of years, so helping animals has always been something that was important to me.

"When I had the opportunity to volunteer with wildlife and actually get hands-on experience, it was a no-brainer.

Hooo Hoo SUBMIITTED I GRASSLANDS NEWS

All wildlife are held under license of the Wildlife Rescue Society of Saskatchewan.

I'm so glad I made that decision, and I can definitely see myself having a long future with WRSOS."

So how would others become involved?

"There are lots of different ways to become involved with WRSOS, and not all of them involve going out into the field," offered Hall. "We have volunteers involved in rescue and transport, but we also have opportunities in areas such as marketing, grant writing, event planning and even our board of directors."

And, she added there is no cost to volunteer with the WRSOS.

"Anyone interested can find more information through our website (wrsos.org) and social media and reach out to find out what opportunities might be a good fit for them," continued Hall.

Locally more help would be welcome.

"In the Yorkton area, we could especially use more transport volunteers," said Hall. "These volunteers help transport contained wildlife into Yorkton and, when necessary, all or part of the way to Regina so that the animal can get to a licensed rehabilitator.

"WRSOS also provides a donation receipt based on kilometres driven, which volunteers can use for tax purposes each year, with mileage rates based on CRA guidelines."

So, back to Hall's involvement, and what were memorable rescues.

"Oh man! One of the most memorable rescues for me was an adult beaver that had gotten trapped in a cistern at a nearby dam," said Hall.

"Another volunteer and I managed to cover the beaver with a thick felt quilt. I stepped on either side of the beaver to hold the quilt in place while we brought the crate over. We then pulled the quilt up enough to create an opening, and thankfully the beaver went straight into the crate.

"Of course, the crate ended up being too large to fit through the opening in the cistern!

"So we had to get some local people to help us. They brought a ladder and rope, and together we hoisted the crate, and the beaver, up and over the opening.

"The beaver had some minor wounds and was treated by a licensed wildlife rehabilitator. A few weeks later, we were able to return to the same location and release the beaver back into the wild.

"That was a pretty incredible experience."

The beaver has been one of many Hall has helped.

"I've also had the opportunity to be hands-on with quite a variety of wildlife in the Yorkton area, including great horned owls, a great grey owl, hawks, Canada geese, raccoons and hoary bats," she said. "I have to say, though, one of the most intimidating, and exciting, has to be working with an adult bald eagle!"

The Yorkton area is actually a rather busy one for the WRSOS.

"We receive dozens of calls from Yorkton and the surrounding area every year, involving a wide variety of wildlife situations," said Hall.

"Provincially, WRSOS receives thousands of calls each year through our wildlife helpline, and the number of calls continues to increase every year. This really highlights the growing need for wildlife rescue, education and support across Saskatchewan."

Overall, Hall said her involvement with WRSOS has been educational.

"One of the most impactful things I've learned during my journey with WRSOS is that a lot of well-meaning people can unintentionally cause harm to wildlife simply because they don't know what to do," said Hall.

"It can be something as simple as providing the wrong food, taking an animal that didn't actually need to be rescued, or believing and spreading fear-based information about wildlife. A lot of these situations can be avoided simply by giving us a call first."

In that regard Hall said people just need to be educated a little, and that too is the role of the organization.

"We don't just rescue wildlife; we provide information and guidance. We help members of the public, but we also work with RMs, cities and other organizations when wildlife situations arise."

Overall, involvement with the WRSOS has been a rewarding journey for Hall.

"When I think back to that -40°C night in 2021, when I made a phone call because I was worried about a pigeon, I never could have imagined where that phone call would lead," she said. "I certainly didn't expect that I would eventually be helping coordinate volunteers and responding to wildlife emergencies myself.

"That's one of the things I love about WRSOS. You don't have to be an expert to start. Sometimes you just have to care enough to make the call—and from there, you can learn, get involved and become part of something that makes a real difference for Saskatchewan's wildlife."

If someone finds wildlife they are concerned about, they can contact the Wildlife Rescue Society of Saskatchewan at 306-242-7177.

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Sunny Side Up

Holy places are nearer than you think

By Kathleen Gibson
Grasslands News

God put something in our souls that stretches ever upward to reach him. Consider the edifices we build in which to worship:

I've stood in holy halls. In small, white, tall-steepled churches that dot the green hills of Switzerland. In London's St. Paul's cathedral, where famous dead lay powerless in the crypt below me. I've attended evensong in York Minster, York's 7th Century many-spired Gothic cathedral, and Sunday evening mass in Notre-Dame Cathedral Basilica near Canada's Parliament Hill, listening to 4,800 pipes sounding from its historic organ.

I've worshipped in humbly built chapels in India. Stood awestruck in the Vatican's Dome of St. Peter, the tallest in the world. I've held my breath until it hurt in the Sistine Chapel, surrounded by paintings by some of the world's greatest artists, beneath Michelangelo's iconic scenes depicting creation, judgment, and redemption.

But what do I know of holy? Only this: when I reach God best, when I feel him nearest me, fingering my soul, filling my spirit and assuring me of his love, it's never in places that tourists flock to see. Never where men have lost their lives building spires or chipping massive stones. Nor where kings and queens have been crowned or buried.

Where do you connect with God? When I reach him, or, rather, when he reaches me, it's far nearer home. In the sanctuary of our own church and the holy hush of communal worship. Or as the Preacher and I join hands to pray. But I'm just as likely to be reading scripture, wandering a wooded trail, or working in one of our garden beds.

I spent a few hours awake overnight. Unable to sleep, I plugged in my earbuds and opened my favourite free classical music app. (Classical King, for those who may enjoy that, too.) Strangely, I heard a carol, one you and I know well. "Silent night, holy night…"

It made me reflect on holy. On the place God chose for Jesus' birth. No spires, no iconic artwork, no incense or gold-lined altar. Just a stable roughhewn, embedded with the sharp scent of livestock. An insignificant dot under the vast dome of sky – and one blazing star. And yet, a most holy place – because God was all there: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Cathedrals, churches and temples are not necessarily holy nor unholy. God himself directed the building of glorious temples in scripture. But I also recall scripture that reminds us that he created our human bodies to be his temples, impeccably fashioned for the highest purpose of reflecting his glory to others.

In the mid 1800s, Rector John S.B. Monsell penned a hymn which included this chorus:

"O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; bow down before him, his glory proclaim; with gold of obedience, and incense of lowliness, kneel and adore him: the Lord is his name."

That's the gold God wants. The incense that pleases him. The worship he deserves. The holiness he finds beautiful. The glory he owns. And that holy place is in your own heart.

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Sunday, Sept. 13:
*9 a.m. Worship at Trinity Lemb
*11 a.m. Worship at Christ Neud

ALL SAINTS' ANGLICAN CHURCH
Corner 6th Ave. E. & Main St.
306-720-0589
**Services Every Second Sunday*
Services resume for Sept.

FIRST UNITED CHURCH
5th Ave. E. & King St.
Rev. Brian Mee, 306-335-7611
website: firstunitedmelville.org
Sunday, Sept. 13:
11:00 a.m. Worship Service with Ray Yost

THE RIVER CHRISTIAN CENTER
(A Church with a Caring Heart)
800 Prince Edward St.
(Melville Comm. Works)
Ph. 306-728-2347
Pastor Tim Oehler
Sundays:
9:55 a.m. Pre-service Prayer
10 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
Sept. 13: 10:00 a.m. Worship

ST. GEORGE'S UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
Corner of 3rd Ave. E. & Manitoba St.
Fr. Basil Malowany
basilmalowany@gmail.com
306-540-5102
Saturday, Sept. 12:
7:00 p.m. Divine Liturgy
Sunday, Sept. 20:
4:00 p.m. Divine Liturgy

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

Melville Churches Welcome You

BETHANY EVANGELICAL MISSIONARY CHURCH
5th Ave. W. & Queen St.
Church Office Ph. 306-728-5001
Sunday, Sept. 13:
Worship 10:30 a.m.

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, Sept. 13:
11:00 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 Nimorious Kwabena Domanzing
Sunday, Sept. 13:
11:00 a.m. Mass

ST. MARY'S ANGLICAN CHURCH
Sunday, Sept. 13:
Morning Prayer – 10:30 a.m.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, WAPELLA
Sunday, Sept. 13:
No Worship Service

WHITEWOOD UNITED CHURCH
Sunday, Sept. 13:
10:00 a.m. Worship Service

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.

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
306-510-9793
Sunday, Sept. 13:
11:00 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

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

Growing in Faith Together
Visit a Church of Your Choice

Fort Qu'Appelle Churches Welcome You

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

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

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

Good Spirit SCHOOL DIVISION

Notice of Advance/Regular Poll

GOOD SPIRIT SCHOOL DIVISION # 204

Election for the office of Board Member (1 per division)

Sub-Division Yorkton at Large
Representing Yorkton at Large

Advance Poll
Wednesday September 16th, 2026
Godfrey Dean Cultural Center
49 Smith Street, Yorkton, Sk.
4:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Regular Poll
Wednesday September 23rd, 2026
Godfrey Dean Cultural Center
49 Smith Street, Yorkton, Sk.
9:00 am – 8:00 pm

Jennifer Lizuck
Returning Officer GSSD
Dated this 20th Day of August 2026

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contact@grasslandsnews.ca

HAVE A STORY IDEA?

If you have a story idea or see worthwhile news happening, give us a call

1-844-GNG-NEWS

A PLEA FOR MODESTY

"Look, I come like a thief!
Blessed is the one who stays
awake and remains clothed,
so as not to go naked and
be shamefully exposed."
Revelation 16:15 NIV

PRAIRIE HARVEST CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTRE
72 Melrose Ave., Yorkton, SK • PH: 306-786-6840
Senior Pastors Des & Cheryl Klingspon
Employment Program 306-786-1840
Online Sunday Worship Service 10:30AM will be on our Facebook page
Contemporary Worship • Children's Ministry • Youth Ministry
phclc.org
"Changing our world with the love of God."

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

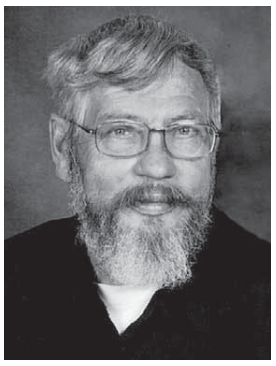
Church of God in Christ Mennonite
Saltcoats, SK
SUNDAY SCHOOL EVERY SUNDAY: 10:00 AM
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE: 11:00 AM
EVERYONE WELCOME
Pastor Laurel Wiebe - 306-898-2099
Pastor Tim Warkentin - 306-217-8222

St. Mark The Evangelist Orthodox Church
160 Betts Ave., Yorkton, SK
"Services in English"
www.stmarkyorkton.ca
Come and experience the faith of the apostles
IC XC NI KA
Saturday, Sept. 12th - Vespers 6:00 p.m.
Sunday, Sept. 13th Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
Elevation of the Precious Cross
Priest: Rodion Luciuk Phone: 306-786-6216 Cell: 306-621-5341
"Christianity is an entirely new way of being human." St. Maximus the Confessor

Holy Transfiguration Ukrainian Orthodox Church
89 Bradbrooke Drive, Yorkton, SK S3N 2Y2
306-782-2998
Father Roman Kocur • (226) 347-8226
Sunday, September 13:
Divine Liturgy - 10:00 a.m. - Yorkton
Monday, September 14:
Divine Liturgy - 10:00 a.m. - Yorkton

Obituary

Leonard Martin Pantel
Aug. 10, 1945 – Aug. 25, 2026



Leonard Martin Pantel passed away peacefully in the All Nations' Healing Hospital, Fort Qu'Appelle, SK on Tuesday, Aug. 25, 2026.

He was predeceased by his wife Phyllis Pantel; his parents Paul and Amelia Pantel; his sister Elaine Craig; as well many aunts, uncles and other relatives.

Leonard is survived by his children: Pauline Gabriel and and Leonard (Lenny) Pantel; brother Albert Pantel; grandchildren: Mackenzie, Victoria, Elizabeth and Richard Gabriel and many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Leonard grew up in Regina and later lived in Fort Qu' Appelle where he met his wife Phyllis Pantel. They would eventually move out to the acreage where they raised their children and enjoyed time with their grandkids. Leonard was a self-employed plumber for 60 years and rented houses. Through the years Leonard helped with the church and volunteered many years with Camp Lutherland. He was also a volunteer firefighter for over 30 years.

After retirement Leonard filled his time by working at the camp and on his own projects as well as enjoying time spent with his kids and grandkids. He will missed and remembered by all.

A funeral service for both Leonard and Phyllis Pantel will be held in Our Saviour Lutheran Church, Fort Qu'Appelle, SK on Saturday, Sept. 12, 2026 at 1:00 p.m. The interment will follow in Lakeview Cemetery.

Online condolences may be made at www.tubmanfh.com

Dignity MEMORIAL

Obituary

Raymond Douglas Shepherd
Oct. 13, 1950 – Aug. 19, 2026

Raymond Douglas Shepherd, known to everyone as Doug, was born Oct. 13, 1950, to Raymond and Phyllis Shepherd. Doug passed away peacefully on Wednesday, Aug. 19, 2026, with his loving wife, Debbie, and his daughter by his side.

Doug was predeceased by his parents, Raymond and Phyllis; brother David; brother-in-law Gary; and sisters-in-law Sue and Joanne. He is survived by his wife, Debbie; son Stephen (Nicole); daughter Michelle (Tyson); grandchildren Kaitlin (Jared) and Jordon; step-grandkids Miah and Brynnlee; his soon-to-be great-grandson; brothers Keith (Karen), George (Audrey) and Wayne; sisters Sandra (Walter) and Phyllis; and other numerous family members.

Doug was born in Whitewood, SK, and grew up on the family farm just north of Whitewood. He helped out on the family farm while attending school. Growing up in a big family, there was always some kind of mischief he and his siblings would get into. After graduating high school, Doug went to the University of Saskatchewan for an agriculture degree. He returned to Whitewood to work and help on the family farm; he met Debbie shortly after. They married and raised their two children on the family farm before moving into Whitewood in 1999.

Doug always liked to stay busy. He was a parts manager for Massey Ferguson for 22 years and worked park maintenance at Moosomin Lake for 19 years. He also worked as a pest control officer, with a local carpenter, and did odd jobs in his free time.

Doug had a love for gardening, nature and helping others. You could usually find him in one of his many gardens, driving in the country, helping others, taking people to appointments, or at the local coffee shop. Doug had a deep love for his family, especially his grandchildren. He loved helping his granddaughter with gardening tips. He took pride in fishing and hunting with his grandson. Doug was always eager to help them when they needed it.

Doug will be missed by all who knew and loved him.

A celebration of Doug's life was held Friday, Sept. 4, 2026, at the Whitewood Legion Community Hall with Heather McEwen officiating, Bonnie Velestuk accompanying the hymns, and Kaitlin Roberts providing a tribute. Doug was laid to rest in the Whitewood Cemetery Columbarium with Keith Shepherd acting as urn bearer.

Arrangements were entrusted to Matthews Funeral Home, Melville and Whitewood.

MATTHEWS Funeral Home

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

Evelyn Yacyshyn
Oct. 1, 1931 – Aug. 30, 2026

It is with deep sadness that the family of Evelyn Yacyshyn announces her peaceful passing on Sunday, Aug. 30, 2026, at the age of 94.

Evelyn was born in the district of Swan Plain on Oct. 1, 1931, to Mike and Anne Werbowesky, and grew up on the farm with her six siblings. Evelyn was deeply proud of her Ukrainian heritage, which remained an important part of her identity throughout her life. Raised speaking both English and Ukrainian at home, she treasured traditions that connected generations of her family. Ukrainian food, dance and music held a special place in her heart.

Evelyn loved cooking for her family, gardening and crocheting thoughtful handmade items for family and friends, and doing puzzles. She especially enjoyed playing cards and could often be counted on to win more than her fair share of games. She also enjoyed many evenings listening to Victor play the violin. She was always willing to lend a hand generously giving her time to help at church and hall gatherings. Above all, Evelyn cherished her family and the time spent together.

She will be lovingly remembered by her husband, Victor; her sons Gerald (Gerda), Darold (Lori) and Gord (Robin); her grandchildren, Rachel (Luc), Nicole, Trista (Keira), Justin (Kim), Amanda (Justin), Clayton and Brennan; her great-grandchildren, Enzo, Nico, Rocco, Cade, Maya, Nathan and Ada; and her sister, Minnie (Bill).

Evelyn was predeceased by her parents, Mike and Anne Werbowesky; her brothers, Peter, Bill and Ernie; and her sisters, Mary and Pauline.

The family would also like to thank the staff at Country Meadows, at the nursing home, for their kindness and wonderful care of Evelyn in the last few years and the staff at Yorkton Regional Health Centre for their compassionate care in her last few days. She will be deeply missed by all who knew her.

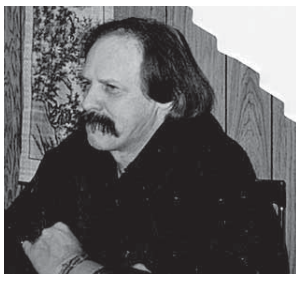
The funeral service was held on Thursday, Sept.3, 2026, from the Yorkton Memorial Gardens Family Centre with the Very Reverend Archpriest Roman Kocur officiating. Jason Kopan served as cantor. Amanda Procyshen served as cross bearer. The interment followed in the Garden of Gethsemane, Yorkton Memorial Gardens with Clayton Hotsko, Brennan Hotsko, Justin Procyshen, Trista Robinson, Kevin Kosheluk, and Kelsey Kosheluk serving as casket bearers. In lieu of flowers, donations in memory of Evelyn may be made to the Holy Transfiguration Ukrainian Orthodox Church as gifts of remembrance. Condolences may be left for the family at www.baileysfuneralhome.com

Вічная Пам'ять - Eternal Memory

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

Memoriam

TURCHAK – We remember and honour the lives of: Michael, who left us on June 29, 2003; Anne, Sept. 14, 1981; and Vince Turchak, Nov. 7, 2022.



"Love Lives on" by Unknown
Those we love remain with us, for love itself lives on,
and cherished memories never fade, because a loved one's gone.
Those we love can never be more than a thought apart,
for as long as there is memory, they'll live on in the heart.
Loved and missed always, your family

Firearms for Sale

FIREARMS FOR SALE – Cooey Model 64B semi auto 22 cal. with scope; Winchester Model 670 30-06 with scope, PAL needed. Located in Yorkton. 306-641-4666.

Huge Garage Sale

HUGE GARAGE SALE at 126 Whitesand Drive, Yorkton, SK on Friday and Saturday, Sept. 11 and 12 - 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Lots of women's plus-size clothing, jackets, shoes, kids' clothes, toys, wool and household must-haves! Come take a look — lots of great finds!

Office Space For Rent

OFFICE SPACES FOR RENT – Clean, quiet, recently renovated spaces in a building close to downtown Melville. The space is great for professional or small business. Rent is $350/month, includes all utilities, cleaning service and directory signage. Call or Text, 306-728-1565 for more details.

For Rent

FOR RENT – 2 bedroom apartment in Melville. Equipped with fridge, stove, AC, off-suite storage, plug-in parking and free laundry. **306-260-7447** for inquiries.

Coming Event

CALICO CORNER'S CRAFT SALE & BAZAAR Friday, Nov. 6, 2026, 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. War Veterans Community Hall. To book tables or for more information call Teresa or Laurie at 204-734-9114 Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Bookings commence after September long weekend. Sponsored by Association for Community Living Swan River Branch.

$ Paying Cash $

PAYING CASH for all firearms; one or many. Includes estates and collections. Executors welcome. Once and done. Please call 306-539-2543.

Personal

SENIOR WOMAN looking for friendly companionship with sincere single male 65+ for friendship and fun outings. Movies, dinner, and Sunday drives. Please mail to Box LL c/o Yorkton This Week, Box 1300, Yorkton, SK S3N 2X3.

95th Birthday

You are cordially invited...
to join us in celebrating the
95th Birthday
of our mother,
Doreen Hack
Please join us for a
Come and Go Tea on
Saturday, Sept. 12, 2026
from 2 to 4 p.m.
in the Lower Hall of St. Paul's
Lutheran Church,
238 - Third Ave. East
Melville, Sask.
Your presence is the
only gift required

Memoriam

GESSNER – In loving memory of our dear dad, grandpa and great-grandpa, Walter, who passed away 15 years ago on Sept. 15, 2011.
There's a corner in our hearts Dad,
You visit every day,
It gives us this warm feeling
That you're never far away.
–Loved, remembered and missed every day, Brenda and Jack; Darcia; Kathie and Perry; grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Place a Classified
and it will appear in 6 newspapers *at one cost*
email:
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Published Fridays – grasslandsnews.ca

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(based on 25 words or less)

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Additional weeks: $7.50 • **Deadline:** Tuesdays at 12 noon

Obituary Deadline
Tuesdays 12 Noon

MasterCard VISA and e-transfers

1-844-GNG-NEWS
Email: classifieds@grasslandsnews.ca

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 Private mortgage lender. All real estate types considered. No credit checks done. Deal direct with lender and get quick approval. (403) 543-0927 www.firstandsecondmortgages.ca

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Province Wide

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Services

Indian Head Library

NEW HOURS

effective Feb. 17, 2026

TUESDAY
9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. – 1 - 5 p.m.
WEDNESDAY
9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.; 1 - 5 p.m.
5:30 - 8:30 p.m.
THURSDAY
9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.; 1 - 5 p.m.
FRIDAY CLOSED
SATURDAY
9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
CLOSED Sunday and Monday

Phone: 306-695-3922

tfc

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Brad 306-551-9411,
Nicole 306-660-7377

www.2sauctioneers.hibid.com
PL #333133
tfc

Notice to Creditors

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the Estate of **Sheila Starr**, late of Fort Qu'Appelle, Saskatchewan, deceased.

All claims against the above estate, duly verified by statutory declaration and with particulars and valuation of security held, if any, must be sent to the undersigned before the 19th day of October 2026.

Ross Grandel
Executor
PO Box 823
Delisle, SK S0L 0P0

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Announces its
17th ANNUAL FARM SALE
810 Valley Road
(Saskatoon, SK)

Friday Sept. 18th
9:00am - 5:00pm

Saturday Sept. 19th
9:00am - 4:00pm

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www.walkintubssask.ca

Village of Lebret
Welcome to Paradise

NOTICE OF CALL FOR FURTHER NOMINATIONS

Municipal By-Election Village of Lebret

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that further nominations of candidates for the office of:

Councillor: Village of Lebret
(Number to be Elected 1)

will be received by the undersigned on the 16th day of September 2026, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Lebret Village Office, and during regular business hours commencing September 3rd, 2026.

As per Village Bylaw 202-12, a criminal record check, not more than 30 days old, must be included with the nomination form.

As per *The Local Government Election Act, 2015*, a public disclosure statement must be included with the nomination form.

Nomination forms may be obtained at the following location:

Lebret Village Office
12 Pl De l'Eglise
Lebret Sask
villageoflebret@sasktel.net

Dated this 2nd day of September, 2026 at 4:05 p.m..

Charissa Amyoytte, Returning Officer

JUNE & THE ESTATE OF KURT HEIN
MELVILLE, SK

OPEN:
MONDAY, AUGUST 24TH 9AM

PREVIEW:
SUNDAY, SEPT. 20TH 2-4PM
OR BY APPOINTMENT: CONTACT APRIL 306-620-9024

CLOSE:
MONDAY, SEPT. 21ST 9AM

PICKUP:
WED.. SEPT. 23RD 9AM - 6PM

ONLINE AUCTION

HOUSE/PROPERTY/CONTENTS
ADDRESS: 466 6TH AVENUE WEST, MELVILLE, SK

UP FOR AUCTION IS THIS CHARMING 4 BEDS, 2½ BATHS, 956 SQ. FT. 1½-STOREY HOME WITH GARAGE, CARPORT & SOLARIUM. SITUATED ON A 7,875 SQ. FT. RECTANGULAR LOT IN AN ESTABLISHED RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOOD IS AN EXCELLENT INVESTMENT! AS WELL WE HAVE SOME OF THE CONTENTS OF THE HOME INCLUDING FURNITURE AND TOOLS.

PROPERTY FEATURES

- DETACHED GARAGE: APPROX. 384 SQ. FT. (16' x 24')
- CARPORT: APPROXIMATELY 504 SQ. FT. (21' x 24')
- SOLARIUM: APPROXIMATELY 150 SQ. FT. (10' x 15')
- PORCH/CLOSED VERANDA: APPROX. 72 SQ. FT. (6' x 12')
- LOT: RECTANGULAR STANDARD PARCEL
- ALLEY ACCESS: YES

BID.UKRAINETZAUCTION.COM LIC. #316253 UKRAINETZ AUCTIONS

BIG RIVER FIRST NATION
TRUST OFFICE
BOARD MEMBER CALLOUT

Big River First Nation ("BRFN") is seeking candidates for the Trust Advisory Committee established under the Big River First Nation Treaty 6 Benefits Settlement Trust Agreement (the "Trust Agreement").
Scan the QR Code or go to the BRFN website to see guidelines and to download the application or email trust@brfn.ca for info.

Deadline: 4:00pm September 18, 2026

To Apply, Submit Completed Forms By Email: trust@brfn.ca;

Or Drop Off Forms to the Big River First Nation Administration Centre;

Or Mail to Box 676 Debden, Saskatchewan, S0J0S0 Attention: Big River First Nation Trust Office

CONTACT US
+1-306-724-4700
www.bigriverfirstnation.ca
trust@brfn.ca

We thank all applicants for their interest, however only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

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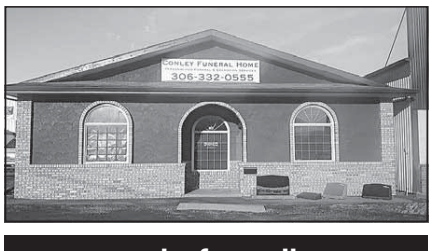

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Reading checks begin for young SK students

By GNG Staff
Grasslands News

Saskatchewan students in Kindergarten through Grade 3 are beginning new reading assessments this month as schools work to identify children who may need additional help.

The brief reading screeners will give teachers a clearer picture of how each student is developing foundational literacy skills. If a child is struggling in a particular area, the results are intended to help educators respond with targeted support before those difficulties become more significant.

The province says the screeners are evidence-based, aligned with Saskatchewan's curriculum and developed by internationally recognized literacy experts.

"Strong reading skills open doors for students throughout their education and beyond," Education Minister Everett Hindley said.

The assessments are part of Saskatchewan's broader Actions to Improve Early Literacy initiative, which also includes curriculum renewal, professional learning opportunities for teachers and intervention supports.

Teachers are being provided with instructional videos explaining how to use each screener. English and French intervention materials will also be available for students who are identified as needing additional support.

The province has not provided specific details about how often students will be screened or how individual results will be communicated to parents.

More information is available at saskatchewan.ca/earlyliteracy.

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Royal Canadian Legion
Indian Head Branch No. 114
General Meeting 2nd Thursday at 2 p.m.
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President - Lorne Scott
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NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF ASSESSMENT ROLL

Village of Dubuc

Notice is hereby given that the Assessment Roll for the Village of Dubuc for the year 2026 has been prepared and is open to inspection by appointment until October 7th, 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 who wishes to appeal against his or her assessment is required to file his or her notice of appeal, in writing, to the Board of Revision Secretary by 4 p.m. on October 7th, 2026.

The assessment appeal fee of $50.00 per roll number must accompany the notice of appeal to:

Nicolle Hoskins, Village of Dubuc Secretary
P.O. Box 149, Meota, SK S0M 1X0.

Dated this 7th day of September, 2026.

Noelle Ottenbreit, Assessor,
Village of Dubuc,
P.O. Box 126, Dubuc, SK S0A 0R0

Town of Broadview
Sale By Tender

1. The Town of Broadview offers for sale the following properties that the Town of Broadview has acquired title to through *The Tax Enforcement Act* and pursuant to this same act the Town of Broadview now offers these properties for sale by tender:

Civic Address	Legal Address
1060 North Front St.	Blk C Plan 101238937
1044 North Front St.	Lot 1 Block 102 Plan AF805
504 Lorne St.	Lots 11-12 Block 9 Plan AD2086
429 Lorne St.	Lots 1-2 Block 17 Plan AD2086

2. A tender must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "Property Tender" addressed to:

Town of Broadview
609 Main Street
P.O. Box 430
Broadview, Saskatchewan S0G 0K0

3. Tenders must be received by 4 p.m. on: Friday, Sept. 18, 2026.
4. A certified cheque to the Town of Broadview for 5% of the amount of the tender must accompany the tender.
5. Highest, or any tender, not necessarily accepted, with the Town of Broadview retaining the right to reject any and all tenders that are not sufficient in an amount to cover the tax arrears, penalties and tax enforcement costs owing against the tendered property.
6. Successful bidder will have 30 days to provide the balance of their tendered amount to complete the purchase.

Dated the 04th day of Sept, 2026.

Chantelle Outhwaite Administrator
Town of Broadview

Queen City Antique & Vintage Market
QUEEN CITY ANTIQUE & VINTAGE MARKET
September 11 & 12
Friday 12 - 8
Saturday 10 - 4
Admission $5 for both days.
Children under 12 free
Caledonian Curling Club
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Regina
Giant two-day indoor market of antiques, vintage & collectibles from across the prairies.
www.queencityvintageandantiques.com
See us on Facebook and Instagram

NOTICE OF CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Rural Municipality of North Qu'Appelle No. 187

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that nominations of candidates for the office of:

COUNCILLOR - DIV. 2: RM of North Qu'Appelle No. 187
COUNCILLOR - DIV. 4: RM of North Qu'Appelle No. 187
(Number to be elected – one for each division)

will be received by the undersigned on the 7th day of October 2026, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the RM of North Qu'Appelle No. 187 Municipal Office located at 136 Company Ave. S., Fort Qu'Appelle, SK., and during regular business hours on September 4, 2026 to October 7, 2026, at RM of North Qu'Appelle No. 187 Municipal Office.

Nomination forms may be obtained at the following locations: RM of North Qu'Appelle No. 187 Municipal Office located at 136 Company Ave. S., Fort Qu'Appelle, SK.

OR

By requesting that the forms be sent via email by contacting office@rm187.com

OR

The RM's website https://rmnorthquappelle.ca/elections/

Dated this 4th day of September 2026.

Charmain Wowk,
Returning Officer

PUBLIC NOTICE
RM of Golden West No. 95

Public notice is hereby given that the Council of the RM of Golden West No. 95 intends to adopt Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 2/2026 (OCP) and Zoning Bylaw No. 3/2026 under *The Planning and Development Act, 2007*. Once adopted, the new OCP and Zoning Bylaw will replace the existing Bylaw No. 6/2004 and Bylaw No. 7/2004, respectively.

Intent:

The proposed OCP and Zoning Bylaw will establish a policy and regulatory framework for guiding land use, economic, environmental, social and cultural development as well as the delivery of infrastructure, services, and utilities in the RM. The purpose of the new bylaws is to comply with Provincial legislation, the Statements of Provincial Interest and to ensure future development aligns with RM priorities. The Zoning Bylaw will include the following zoning districts that provide standards for development within specific areas within the municipality. They are summarized as follows:

AR – Agricultural- Resource District: which is intended to provide for agricultural land uses and for low density residential development and other compatible developments.

RR- Rural Residential District: which is to provide opportunities for the subdivision and development of smaller non-farm residential sites in appropriate locations within the RM.

H- Hamlet District: which is intended to provide for low to medium-density residential development and other compatible developments.

M1 – Commercial- Industrial District: which is intended to provide for commercial and industrial land uses and other compatible developments.

EC – Environmental Conservation District: which is to protect environmentally sensitive and ecologically valuable lands. The EC Zoning District may also be applied to hazardous lands, such as those prone to instability, flooding, or nearby to hazardous uses.

Affected Land:

All land within the RM boundaries. The OCP also includes inter-municipal policies for collaborating with neighbouring municipalities and other partners in the region.

Public Inspection:

Any person may inspect the bylaws at the RM office during regular office hours Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1 to 4 p.m.

Public Hearing:

Council will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, October 13, 2026 at 9 a.m. in the Council Chambers at 175 Main Street, Corning, SK, to hear any person or group that wants to comment on the proposed bylaws. Council will also consider any comments that are received in writing at the office or emailed to goldwest@sasktel.net by 2 p.m. the day prior to the hearing.

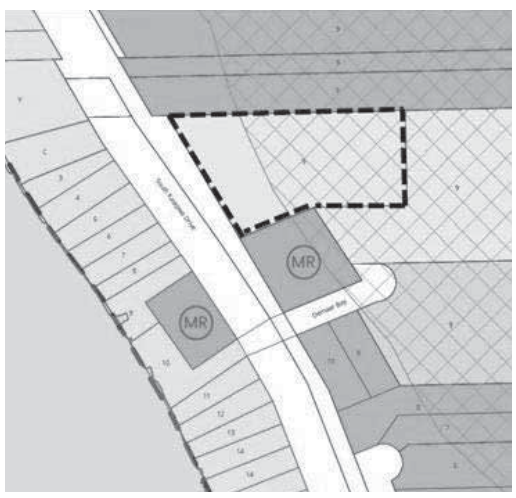
Issued in the Hamlet of Corning this 21st day of August, 2026.

Amanda Baumgartner, Administrator

PUBLIC NOTICE
District of Katepwa

Public notice is hereby given that the Council of the District of Katepwa intends to adopt a bylaw under *The Planning and Development Act, 2007* to amend Bylaw No. 2026-02 known as the Zoning Bylaw.

INTENT & AFFECTED LAND: The Zoning Bylaw amendment will rezone Blk/Par C-Plan 102422225 Ext 0 shown within the bold dashed line on the map below from the UH – Urban Holding District to the RR – Resort Recreational District. The land is located on Highway 56 in Pelletier Park.



REASON: The reason for the amendment is to accommodate proposed plans for residential development.

PUBLIC INSPECTION: Any person may inspect the bylaw at the District of Katepwa office located at 41 Elm St., Katepwa Beach between 9:30 am to 12:00 and 1:00 pm to 3:30 pm Monday to Friday, excluding statutory holidays. Copies are available at cost.

PUBLIC HEARING: Council will hold a public hearing for the Zoning Bylaw amendment on September 15, 2026 at 7:15 p.m. in the Council Chambers located at 41 Elm Street, Katepwa Beach. The purpose of the public hearing is to hear any person or group that wants to comment on the proposed bylaw. Council will also consider written comments received at the hearing or delivered to the undersigned at the municipal office before the hearing.

Issued at the District of Katepwa on Friday, September 4, 2026

Andrea Ehrmantraut, CAO
District of Katepwa

NOTICE OF CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

R.M. of KINGSLEY No. 124

The Rural Municipality of Kingsley No. 124

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

Councillor for Division 2
Councillor for Division 4
Councillor for Division 6

will be received by the undersigned at the Municipal Office during normal office hours until Wednesday October 7th, 2026 at 4:00 p.m. local time.
Nomination forms may be obtained from the Municipal Office at 603 Main St. Kipling, SK.

Dated this 11th day of September, 2026

Holly Heikkila,
Returning Officer

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contact@grasslandsnews.ca

Gardener's Corner

Composting with worms talk upcoming

By Debbie Hayward
Grasslands News

Calling all gardeners! The Yorkton and District Horticultural Society will be holding their next regular meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 16 at 7 p.m. at the Yorkton Public Library. Our feature topic will be 'Vermiculture: Composting with Worms' with our guest presenter Phyllis Shewchuk. This is a very interesting and timely topic, so here is the chance to learn. Everyone is welcome, plan to attend.

Then on Friday, Sept. 18, the Hort Society will also be holding the Fall Plant Sale from 9:30 a.m. till 1 p.m. at the Parkland Mall, Yorkton. This is a fine time to add new perennials to the garden; they have time to establish and settle in before winter, so take a look around your garden and see if there is some area that needs amending and can benefit from some interesting new plants. Visit the hort society at yorktonhort.ca

Fall is such a beautiful time in the garden. There are tasks to be done, even though the focus is on winding down, rather than planting up. It might be a little early to start the really serious garden clean-up, but perhaps you have begun to pull out a few things, here and there.

If you have a compost pile or bin, some things can go there to make brown gold for the future. But if any of the plants are exhibiting any signs of disease, don't add them to the compost. Dispose of them in the garbage. Be very careful about this: even leaves that have fallen after the pulling out should be carefully gathered up.

Once the leaves start falling, our task is to gather up every leaf, every seed head, bag it up, and have the garden space look neat and bare, a clean slate. Right? Wrong?

That image of a completely bare yard in the fall might have been the badge of a fastidious gardener back in the day… but now we are more aware of how our care of the garden also must extend to include the pollinators, insects and small wildlife that have a place in the garden's circle of life.

For example, if we don't provide a place for ladybugs to be cozy over winter, they will go elsewhere. They may not come back. And next spring, if you have aphids on some of your plants, you will miss the cheery and beneficial presence of the ladybugs.

Leave seed heads from perennials in place. They look beautiful as part of the winter landscape, standing upright in a drift of sparkling snow…but they provide extra treats for birds over the winter.

This is the time when we can do some fall planting of certain things like greens, chard, kale and carrots. It is also the time to add in new perennials, or perhaps divide up some of our existing perennials to help increase our borders or make older clumps more vigorous. Soon it will also the time to add some tulips. We want to plant them about six weeks before the ground really freezes, but not too early so they don't sprout now. This is the time for their roots to grow, not new foliage.

And if you are into seed-saving, take out a few envelopes and a pen and gather your favorite seeds, being careful to label them. Also, make note about things that grew well in certain spots, and notes about what you won't worry about trying again.

A gardener's work is never done…well, not for a few more weeks, anyway. Then we sit back, watch the snow outside, and start planning for spring. Have a good week.

Town of LANGENBURG

*Option 1: $1.00 Lot Purchase – No tax abatement. Property taxes begin upon the completion of the property Assessment.

*Option 2: $10,000 Lot Purchase – Includes a 2-year property tax abatement, beginning upon the completion of the property Assessment.

*Option 3: $20,000 Lot Purchase – Includes a 3-year property tax abatement, beginning upon the completion of the property Assessment.

Offer Begins **September 1st, 2026**
End Date is **December 31st, 2026**

Terms & Conditions Apply

Visit the Town Office for Full Details

Lots Available on a First-Come, First-Served Basis

TAX ENFORCEMENT LIST
RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF LIPTON NO. 217
PROVINCE OF SASKATCHEWAN

Notice is hereby given under *The Tax Enforcement Act* that unless the arrears and costs appearing opposite the land and title number described in the following list are fully paid before November 10, 2026, an interest based on a tax lien will be registered against the land.

Note: A sum for costs in an amount required by subsection 4(3) of *The Tax Enforcement Act* is included in the amount shown against each parcel.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY	Title No	Total Arrears*	Costs	Total Arrears and Costs
BLK/PAR W-PLAN 92R61650 EXT 0	137508699	$2,379.47	$447.00	$2,826.47
SE 35-22-14-2 EXT 1	142371794	$5,261.41	$447.00	$5,708.41
SE 35-22-14-2 EXT 2	142371839			
NW 32-23-13-2 EXT 0	107815495	$841.84	$447.00	$1,288.84
SE 05-23-14-2 EXT 1	141048097	$1,364.59	$383.00	$1,747.59
SE 05-23-14-2 EXT 2	141048110			
BLK/PAR A-PLAN 101495178 EXT 21	141048154	$98.47	$383.00	$481.47
SW 05-23-14-2 EXT 2	141048176	$1,197.33	$383.00	$1,580.33
SW 05-23-14-2 EXT 1	141048491			
NE 09-23-14-2 EXT 1	108122273	$1,042.75	$388.00	$1,430.75
NE 09-23-14-2 EXT 2	108122284			
NE 09-23-14-2 EXT 3	108122295			
NE 09-23-14-2 EXT 4	108122307			
NW 09-23-14-2 EXT 1	108122194	$1,075.66	$388.00	$1,463.66
NW 09-23-14-2 EXT 2	108122206			
NW 20-23-15-2 EXT 0	108745533	$3,645.01	$447.00	$4,092.01
SE 05-24-13-2 EXT 0	153543562	$1,367.74	$447.00	$1,814.74
NW 33-24-13-2 EXT 0	158325576	$3,062.38	$447.00	$3,509.38
SE 33-24-13-2 EXT 0	158325587	$2,570.78	$388.00	$2,958.78
NW 16-24-15-2 EXT 1	132473561	$526.55	$373.00	$899.55
NW 16-24-15-2 EXT 2	132473583			
SW 16-24-15-2 EXT 0	130020466	$574.17	$373.00	$947.17
NE 21-24-15-2 EXT 0	130020376	$1,300.34	$373.00	$1,673.34
NW 21-24-15-2 EXT 0	130020398	$1,316.71	$373.00	$1,689.71
SW 21-24-15-2 EXT 1	130020400	$706.03	$373.00	$1,079.03
SW 21-24-15-2 EXT 2	130020455			
BLK/PAR A-PLAN 102016730 EXT 0	139578159	$1,297.28	$447.00	$1,744.28
BLK/PAR A-PLAN 102004513 EXT 0	152152781	$1,518.48	$447.00	$1,965.48
BLK/PAR A-PLAN 102405989 EXT 0	157017999	$4,876.38	$447.00	$5,323.38

* Penalty is calculated to the date of the Notice and will continue to accrue as applicable.
Dated this 2nd day of September, 2026. Charmain Wowk, Interim Administrator

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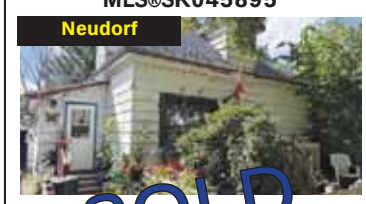
Crooked Lake

$219,000

210 Pierson St.
3-BDM, 1-BATH, 900 SQ.FT.
MLS®SK045895
Neudorf

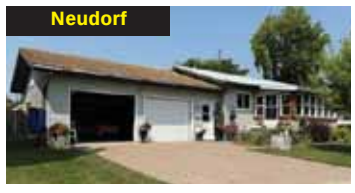


SOLD

707 Railway Ave.
4-BDM, 3-BATH, 2,462 SQ.FT.
MLS®SK041670
Neudorf

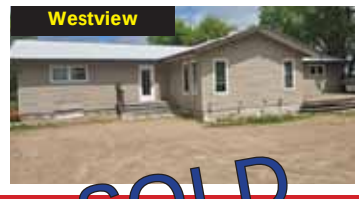
$99,500

218 Rose St.
3-BDM, 3-BATH, 1,179 SQ.FT.
MLS®SK043939
Neudorf



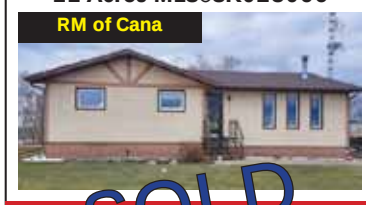
$183,000

Hamlet of Westview
5-BDM, 2-BATH, 2,040 SQ.FT.
MLS®SK031299
Westview



SOLD

Acreage
4-BDM, 3-BATH, 1,482 SQ.FT.
11 Acres MLS®SK028066
RM of Cana



SOLD

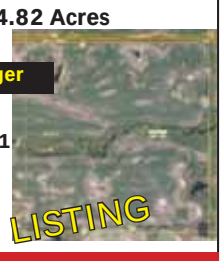
House and Land
3-BDM, 3-BATH, 1,482 SQ.FT.
Half Section. MLS®SK044037
RM of Cana

$1,200,000

Land
478.52 Acres
RM of Churchbridge
MLS®SK029384

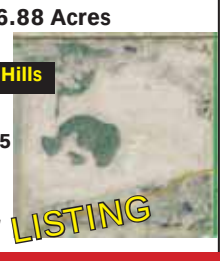
$499,000

Land
234.82 Acres
RM of Insinger
MLS®SK046681



NEW LISTING
$703,000

Land
126.88 Acres
RM of Sliding Hills
MLS®SK047825



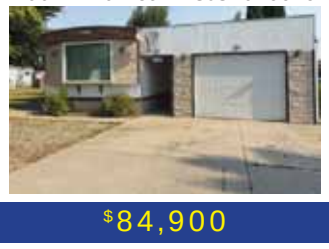
NEW LISTING
$320,000

Land
159.36 Acres
MLS®SK021083
RM of Sliding Hills

$575,000

Melville Listings

710/718 - 5th Ave. W.
3-BDM, 1-BATH, 1,038 SQ.FT.
100' x 140' Lot MLS®SK046629



$84,900

390 Alberta St.
2-BDM, 1-BATH, 770 SQ.FT.
MLS®SK040288

$119,000

326 - 5th Ave. W.
2-BDM, 1-BATH, 1,164 SQ.FT.
MLS®SK032353

$139,000

140 - 3rd Ave. W.
C1, 3,100 SQ.FT.
MLS®SK019063

$215,000

751 - 7th Ave W.
Zoning: C2 - Commercial
2,636 SQ.FT.
MLS®SK041576

$399,000

326 - 1st Ave E.
Zoning: M - Industrial District
17,711 total building SQ.FT.
2.31 acres of land. MLS®SK040759

$599,000

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