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Friday, September 4, 2026

Vol. 114 • Issue 13

Indian Head and Wolseley voted iconic Sask. neighbourhoods

By Sarah Pacio
Grasslands News

A recent study conducted by a Calgary-based real estate agency identified Indian Head and Wolseley as two of the most iconically Saskatchewan places to live.

The survey was initiated by the Justin Havre Real Estate Team earlier this summer. It asked 3,021 adults from the United States and Canada, "Which neighbourhood best represents the residential character of your state or province?" Respondents ranked Indian Head and Wolseley among the top five places that represent Saskatchewan.

The results were summarized in a blog entry on the real estate company's website. The report included an interactive map identifying the neighbourhood that ranked first in each state or province. If someone wants to live in a truly Saskatchewan community, the survey results recommended The Avenues in Moose Jaw, Nutana in Saskatoon, and the Cathedral area of Regina as the top three neighbourhoods. These were followed closely by the Town of Indian Head and the Town of Wolseley.

Data analysts noted that history was a key element of what survey participants considered distinctly local in communities across the U.S. and Canada. Landscapes and greenery were also consistently emphasized. This was true for both Indian Head and Wolseley. Indian Head's agricultural heritage was highlighted, along with the town's historic buildings and tree-lined streets. The lake, heritage homes and historic buildings were among the Saskatchewan features that survey participants noted about Wolseley.

Since the survey was initiated by a real estate company, Grasslands News contacted two local realtors for their perspective. Virginia Horsman, a broker with Indian Head Realty Corp., agreed that Indian Head's picturesque landscape is one of the many things that draws people to the community.

"It's hard not to fall in love with it the first time you see it," Horsman stated. "Everyone takes so much pride in their property, and our municipal government does a fantastic job with our public spaces."

She said that affordable housing and property taxes, along proximity to both Regina and Katepwa Lake also appeal to people seeking a new home. The combination of amenities and small-town Saskatchewan charm contribute to the popularity of the location, too.

"Indian Head is large enough to be a full-service community with extensive services, health care, K-12 public schools, retail stores, and recreation facilities, but small enough to provide something that I think people have a renewed craving for: that sense of belonging and community, knowing your neighbours and caring for one another. That's who we are," Horsman shared. "I think the secret is out; people have discovered that Indian Head is the perfect place to call home."

A realtor from Wolseley presented a similar perspective of her community. Heather Bouchard grew up on a farm outside Wolseley but later moved away from the area. After about 10 years, she returned to raise her own family in Wolseley and now works for Coldwell Banker Local Realty.

Like Horsman, she has observed that the town's natural beauty is what first attracts new residents, but the community atmosphere is what truly gains their attention.

"People are friendly, and there's still that feeling when you come here that you've landed somewhere a little different. What makes people stay is how life works here. Things are simpler," Bouchard said.

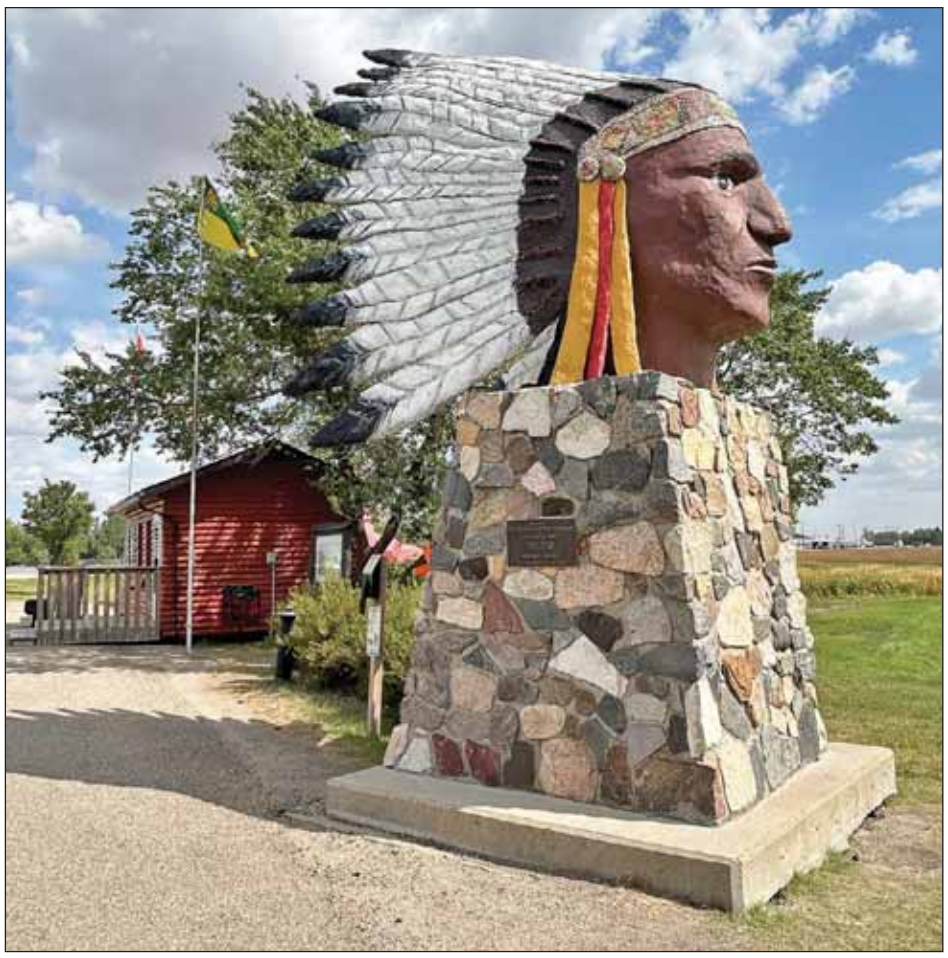
She went on to describe a setting where neighbours look out for one another in a way that makes Wolseley a quintessential Saskatchewan neighbourhood.

"It's that old saying that it takes a village – except here, there really still is one," Bouchard said. "I think that's the part that's difficult to explain to someone who has never lived here. It isn't one attraction or one amenity that makes Wolseley special. It's all the little things that make daily life feel easier – the freedom, the trust, the familiar faces, and knowing people still look out for one another. The beauty and amenities are just the icing on the cake. You don't really understand how valuable that is until you leave it. Once you've lived it, it's very hard to give up. Trust me, I tried."

Pavement work

SARAH PACIO | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Crews began paving the final section of the parking area between the rink and elementary school in Indian Head on Tuesday afternoon.



Top 5 in Saskatchewan

SARAH PACIO | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Indian Head's tourist booth and prominent statue reflect the community's distinctive character. A recent survey ranked Indian Head among the five places that best represent Saskatchewan's history, landscape and residential appeal.

Poppy quilt celebrates Legion centenary

By Sarah Pacio
Grasslands News

Community members have an opportunity to own a commemorative quilt celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Royal Canadian Legion.

In honour of the organization's centennial year, the Legion branch in Indian Head is holding a raffle for a 64x90" quilt. The project is a means of "Honouring the past [and] warming the future." The design follows a quilt of valour theme and features a dozen poppies surrounded by other floral and maple leaf fabric. Susan Turpin pieced the eight-inch squares and when completed, it was sent for quilting. Crossroads Branding Company provided a centenary patch stitched with the legion branch information, and this was secured to the back of the quilt.

Raffle tickets for the quilt were limited to 300, and many have already sold. Tickets are $5 each and can be purchased at Sherwood Co-op in Indian Head, Pharmasave, The Gallery Coffee House and the Metis Nation office. Proceeds from the raffle will support the local legion. The quilt will be on display at the Harvest Hoedown Craft Show in Indian Head on Oct. 17, where tickets may also be purchased if still available. The draw will be held on Nov. 11, following the Remembrance Day service at Memorial Hall.

Indian Head Legion is holding a raffle for a quilt of valour in honour of the organization's 100th anniversary.

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SHA executive raises draw criticism as CUPE strike vote looms

By Ryan Kiedrowski
Grasslands News

The Saskatchewan NDP is accusing the provincial government of rewarding Saskatchewan Health Authority executives while thousands of frontline health-care workers remain without a new contract, as CUPE 5430 prepares to hold a strike vote later this month amid stalled bargaining.

The salary increases for SHA executives underscore what the NDP call the government's 'misplaced priorities', pointing to the authority's latest annual report as health-care support workers prepare to vote on a strike mandate.

According to the SHA's 2025-26 annual report, executives received an average salary increase of 6.1 per cent, with some receiving raises of as much as 13.4 per cent, or $28,282.

The increases come as members of CUPE 5430, SEIU-West, and the Saskatchewan Government and General Employees' Union remain without a new collective agreement after more than four years of bargaining. The unions have not received a general wage increase since 2022.

Opposition Leader Carla Beck said the executive raises send the wrong message while many frontline workers continue to struggle financially.

"This SaskParty government continues to have no shame. Shelling out big cheques for the SHA execs while frontline healthcare workers are having to visit the food bank just to get by."

Beck also cited recent findings from CUPE that said continuing care aides, food service workers, environmental service workers and laundry service workers employed by the SHA are the lowest paid in Canada.

The NDP have repeatedly called on Health Minister Jeremy Cockrill to use powers under the Provincial Health Authority Act to freeze executive salaries until a new agreement is reached with frontline workers.

Beck said staffing shortages - not worker effort - are behind ongoing pressures across Saskatchewan's health system.

"The real problem is a SaskParty government that seems more interested in rewarding SHA executives and insiders while asking frontline workers to do more with less."

The criticism comes as bargaining between CUPE 5430 and the Saskatchewan Association of Health Organizations remains at an impasse.

In a bargaining update released Aug. 30, CUPE said negotiations on Aug. 27 and 28 produced "little movement" on the union's key priorities. The union accused the employer of refusing to advance negotiations unless CUPE accepted proposals related to the movement of work, movement of workers and contracting out.

The union said it is now considering "all processes available to us to conclude bargaining."

CUPE 5430 will hold an electronic strike vote from Sept. 8 to 14. Union leaders said a favourable vote would not trigger an immediate strike but would strengthen their position at the bargaining table ahead of the next scheduled talks on Sept. 10 and 11.

At a recent media event, Health Minister Jeremy Cockrill said the government's focus remains on reaching negotiated settlements rather than allowing disputes to escalate.

"We continue to really prioritize efforts at the bargaining table with all of our union partners. We want to get a contract done that works for workers, that works for patients."

Cockrill said a negotiated agreement, rather than job action, remains the best path forward.

"That isn't going to be on the picket line, that is going to be at the bargaining table."

Asked how close the two sides are to reaching a deal, Cockrill declined to comment on the substance of negotiations but acknowledged disagreements remain.

"There's still points of disagreement, and that's not unusual in a bargaining context. That's why we bargain at the table to work out areas of disagreement and get to a place that's going to work for employees and patients right across the province," he told Grasslands News. "We don't get any further by not being at the table."

The dispute involves thousands of health-care support workers across Saskatchewan, including continuing care aides, housekeeping, food services, and laundry staff. Labour relations in the health sector have become an increasingly contentious issue as unions argue Saskatchewan's wages lag behind those offered elsewhere in Canada, contributing to recruitment and retention challenges.

The outcome of the upcoming strike vote is expected to shape the next round of bargaining as both sides return to negotiations later this month.

City hears details of mobile health program

By Calvin Daniels
Grasslands News

Yorkton Council was presented details of a Mobile Integrated Health Program in their city. The purpose of the presentation was to provide Council with an overview of the Mobile Integrated Health (MIH) Program's services, community impact, and opportunities for ongoing collaboration to address healthcare, mental health, and addiction challenges within the region.

Council heard the MIH Program, is delivered by Medavie Health Services West in partnership with the Saskatchewan Health Authority, providing community-based healthcare services, including withdrawal management support, wellness checks, clinical assessments, health system navigation, and other medical interventions directly in the community.

The program is designed to improve access to care, support individuals experiencing mental health and addiction challenges, reduce unnecessary emergency department visits and hospital admissions, and connect residents to appropriate healthcare resources.

In Yorkton the program provides 15 mobile withdrawal management (home detox) spaces, which at present are not filled, explained presenter Joel Kinzel, with Medavie.

It is the third withdrawal-management focused program that MHS manages in Saskatchewan. Medavie Health Services West also provides services in Moose Jaw, Saskatoon, and Wadena in Saskatchewan, he noted.

Under the program paramedics visit patients at home or in the community to help with preventative care, check on chronic health issues, and avoid emergency room visits, explained Kinzel.

Those paramedics work with local doctors, nurses, and mental health teams to provide the care the individual requires.

Referrals to the program can come direct from a client, or through healthcare practitioners, socials and justice partners or community-based organizations. And there is no cost for the community paramedicine services.

To access community paramedicine you can call 306-975-8803.

Report from the Legislature

Saskatchewan continues to see positive results across many areas of our provincial economy and communities. Recent reports highlight strong growth in construction, housing, and manufacturing. These results reflect the hard work, and the confidence families, businesses and investors have in our province's future.

Recently released Statistics Canada data show that Saskatchewan ranked first among all provinces in building permit growth from May to June 2026. The increase was 101.6 per cent on a seasonally adjusted basis. Year-over-year, permits increased by 90.3 per cent compared to June 2025, ranking second nationally. Strong building activity means more homes, more jobs and increased private-sector investment in our communities.

Building on this momentum, new data from the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation shows housing starts increased by 23.9 per cent from July 2025 to July 2026. This ranked Saskatchewan second among the provinces. Our province also ranked second nationally for year-over-year housing start growth last month. These results show that people from across Canada and around the world continue choosing Saskatchewan as a place to live, work and raise their families.

Beyond the construction sector, Saskatchewan's manufacturing and wholesale sectors are also showing significant growth. Statistics Canada's latest economic reports show manufacturing sales increased by 27.6 per cent in June 2026 compared to June 2025. Manufacturing sales reached $2.2 billion during the month. Wholesale trade increased by 18.2 per cent over the same period, reaching $4.2 billion. This growth supports jobs, strengthens supply chains and creates new opportunities for Saskatchewan businesses.

Supporting our communities remains equally important. Lotteries and Gaming Saskatchewan recently provided nearly $1.7 million in charitable gaming grants during the first quarter of 2026-27. These grants benefit organizations in approximately 260 Saskatchewan communities. Funding supports arts, culture, sports, service clubs, hospital foundations and many other community organizations. Those interested in charitable gaming grants can learn more through SLGA's charitable gaming licensing process at ***www.slga.com/permits-and-licences/charitable-gaming***.

Our government will continue working to support Saskatchewan's strong and steady growth and create opportunities that strengthen families, businesses and communities.

If you would like to share your thoughts or have any questions about a provincial program or service, please contact us. We look forward to hearing from you.

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SaskPower customers warned 2027 rate hike could top six per cent

By GNG Staff
Grasslands News

Saskatchewan electricity customers could face a rate increase of up to 6.4 per cent next year as the province's rate review panel waits for updated financial information from SaskPower.

The Saskatchewan Rate Review Panel has recommended the provincial government confirm the interim 3.9 per cent system-wide increase that took effect Feb. 1, 2026. However, it deferred its recommendation on SaskPower's proposed 3.9 per cent increase for Feb. 1, 2027.

The panel warned the final 2027 increase could be 1.5 to 2.5 percentage points higher than SaskPower requested, placing it between 5.4 and 6.4 per cent.

SaskPower estimates each 3.9 per cent increase would add approximately $5 per month to the bill of an average residential customer and $11 per month for an average farm customer.

The panel said more current information is required because SaskPower's improved financial forecast for 2026-27 relies partly on anticipated electricity sales to the proposed Bell data centre. The timing of those revenues remains uncertain.

SaskPower must provide updated financial statements and information on significant changes affecting its application by Nov. 2. The panel also wants details about the Bell project, federal carbon-pricing obligations and possible changes to rates for different customer classes.

Once that information is reviewed, the panel will recommend whether the proposed 3.9 per cent increase should be confirmed or revised.

"The Panel recognizes the affordability pressures facing Saskatchewan households, farms and businesses," panel chair Albert Johnston said. "At the same time, SaskPower must have sufficient revenue and financial capacity to maintain a safe and reliable electricity system."

The panel found SaskPower faces growing financial pressure as it replaces aging infrastructure, expands the electrical system and invests in generation and transmission capacity.

Annual capital spending is forecast to rise from $1.164 billion in 2023-24 to $1.692 billion in 2026-27. Operating, maintenance and administration expenses are expected to increase from $811 million to $987 million over the same period.

Export revenue also fell from $129 million in 2023-24 to $28 million in 2024-25, while fuel and purchased-power costs continue to rise.

SaskPower's revised forecast projects an operating loss of $187 million for 2025-26, compared with the $147-million loss originally anticipated. Its debt ratio is expected to remain above its long-term target, while return on equity remains below its 8.5 per cent target.

The panel received 162 online comments and submissions from organizations and northern communities. Concerns included affordability, coal generation, renewable-energy development, fairness between customer classes and public access to SaskPower planning information.

It recommended SaskPower develop a public seven- to 10-year rate plan and a policy ensuring AI and other large data centres pay the full cost of infrastructure needed to serve them.

The provincial government will make the final decision on the panel's recommendations.

NICU expands at RGH to better serve south Sask.

By Ryan Kiedrowski
Grasslands News

Make way for baby – the neonatal intensive care unit at Regina General Hospital will expand by three bassinets this month, increasing capacity to 28 as the provincial government invests in staffing and the Hospitals of Regina Foundation funds specialized equipment for premature and critically ill newborns.

The expansion, announced Aug. 31 at Regina General Hospital, includes more than $2 million in annual provincial operating funding to support more than 17 full-time equivalent positions, along with an $800,000 contribution from the Hospitals of Regina Foundation for specialized neonatal equipment. The project is part of the province's broader $8.32-million investment in pediatric and neonatal care announced in the 2026-27 provincial budget.

Health Minister Jeremy Cockrill said the additional units will help ensure Saskatchewan's most vulnerable newborns can receive specialized care closer to home.

"The neonatal intensive care unit at RGH is growing from 25 to 28 bassinets," Cockrill said. "This expansion will help ensure more of Saskatchewan's most vulnerable newborns can receive the specialized care that they need close to home."

Cockrill also highlighted the role of the Hospitals of Regina Foundation in making the project possible.

"This expansion was not possible without the significant investments and support from the Hospitals of Regina Foundation," he said.

The additional beds are expected to become operational in early September.

Saskatchewan Health Authority chief operating officer Derek Miller said the expansion comes as demand for neonatal services continues to rise across the province.

"When a newborn requires intensive medical care, families are often facing one of the most stressful and uncertain times of their lives," Miller said. "The Regina General Hospital Neonatal Intensive Care Unit provides highly specialized care for premature and medically fragile newborns from Regina and communities across southern Saskatchewan."

Miller said the new beds, combined with additional nursing and physician resources, will help the health authority maintain care standards while serving more patients.

"We're grateful to the Government of Saskatchewan for its investment in staffing to support these additional beds and strengthen neonatal care across the province," he said.

Hospitals of Regina Foundation president and CEO Dino Sophocleous said pediatric care remains the organization's highest fundraising priority because Regina serves as the only pediatric referral centre for southern Saskatchewan.

RYAN KIEDROWSKI I GRASSLANDS NEWS

NICU expanded

Health Minister Jeremy Cockrill speaks with media during the announcement on Aug. 31 of expanding the NICU by three bassinets.

Approximately 4,000 babies are born each year at Regina General Hospital's mother-baby centre, with about 500 requiring specialized neonatal care. Sophocleous said the NICU has regularly operated at or beyond capacity.

"When our NICU in Regina is full, babies from southern Saskatchewan are sent for care, usually in Saskatoon," he said. "The additional beds for our NICU will ease the pressure and keep more of these very fragile babies right here close to home."

The foundation's $800,000 investment will fund the technology and equipment needed to support the expanded unit.

"We have committed an additional $800,000 to support the technology and equipment required for our NICU's expansion to make sure our pediatric teams have the tools they need to care for babies born too early or too small right here in southern Saskatchewan," Sophocleous said.

Kim Wysick, executive director of maternal and children's programs with the SHA, said the expansion will reduce the need for families to travel outside Regina during an already stressful time.

"For families with a newborn in the NICU, every day can be filled with uncertainty, stress and worry," Wysick said. "When specialized care is unavailable closer to home, families may need to travel long distances, spend extended periods away from their communities and face additional pressures."

She added that caring for more infants in Regina will allow parents and loved ones to remain actively involved in their child's care while easing the burden on families across southern Saskatchewan.

Following the announcement, Cockrill was asked whether the government was confident the SHA could recruit enough staff to support the expansion.

He said the province has not only funded the 17 new positions tied to the additional beds but also committed roughly $2.8 million in this year's budget to increase baseline staffing across the NICU.

"We recognize there's increased demand," Cockrill said. "We've put that funding in place to make sure that there's staff available. I'm quite confident in the Saskatchewan Health Authority's ability to fill those positions."

Asked whether any NICU beds are currently unavailable because of staffing shortages, Cockrill deferred operational details to SHA officials but said he expects the new beds to open on schedule in early September.

"There's always a balance. You have the equipment and you've got to have the staff," he said. "I'm fully confident that we have these three new spaces available and up and running in early September."

Cockrill was also asked whether adding three beds would be enough to address increasing demand for neonatal care.

He said the government will continue monitoring pressures across Saskatchewan's three NICUs in Regina, Saskatoon and Prince Albert while working with healthcare partners to determine future needs.

"We have to be strategic about where we make incremental investments in future years," Cockrill said. "Certainly, we will continue considering further expansion here, but also at our other two sites as well."

Royal Canadian Legion
Indian Head Branch No. 114
General Meeting 2nd Thursday at 2 p.m.
at the Indian Head Memorial Hall
President - Lorne Scott
Contact Ken Turpin 250-661-8812 and Myrna Scott 306-727-3733

Saskatchewan's annual elm pruning ban ends

By GNG Staff
Grasslands News

Saskatchewan residents can once again prune their elm trees following the end of the province's annual pruning ban on Aug. 31.

The ban is in effect from April 1 through Aug. 31 each year to help prevent the spread of Dutch elm disease. The fungus responsible for the disease is carried by elm bark beetles, which are most active during those months.

Fresh pruning cuts can attract the beetles, allowing them to carry the fungus from infected trees to healthy elms.

Residents who prune their own trees are encouraged to use proper techniques to avoid damaging the trees or spreading disease. Anyone hired to prune elm trees commercially in Saskatchewan must have completed a provincially recognized training program or work under the supervision of someone who has.

All pruned elm wood must be promptly taken to a disposal site designated by the local municipal authority. It is illegal to store or use elm wood as firewood or transport it for any purpose other than disposal because the wood may harbour beetles that spread Dutch elm disease.

Residents who suspect an elm tree may be infected can contact the Ministry of Environment Inquiry Centre at 1-800-567-4224 or centre.inquiry@gov.sk.ca.

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NDP calls for immediate cost-of-living relief

By GNG STaff
Grasslands News

The Saskatchewan NDP is calling on the provincial government to use increased oil revenues to provide immediate cost-of-living relief, including a temporary suspension of the provincial fuel tax and the removal of PST from children's clothing and some grocery items.

Trent Wotherspoon, the Opposition's shadow minister for finance, brought that message to Melville and Yorkton on Aug. 28. He also delivered petitions urging the province to remove American liquor from Saskatchewan store shelves in response to tariffs imposed by the United States.

Speaking outside the constituency offices of Melville-Saltcoats MLA Warren Kaeding and Yorkton MLA David Chan, Wotherspoon said families, farmers and businesses continue to struggle with rising expenses.

"We're out here in Melville today, on to Yorkton as well, and meeting with folks throughout the area, and really pushing this government to step up and finally do the right thing and deliver some cost-of-living relief, and some savings to Saskatchewan families," Wotherspoon said.

He said the financial pressure is particularly evident during the back-to-school season, when families face the added expense of clothing, supplies and transportation.

Wotherspoon argued that higher world oil prices have provided the province with approximately $300 million in additional revenue. He said some of that unexpected money should be returned to Saskatchewan residents through measures that lower their everyday expenses.

His proposals include suspending the 15-cent-per-litre provincial fuel tax, which he estimated would cost the treasury approximately $30 million per month, and removing PST from children's clothing and taxable grocery products at an estimated cost of $20 million.

"It has been punishing to household budgets, families, farms and businesses," Wotherspoon said of high fuel prices. "We know that they are receiving a significant unplanned boost by way of oil revenues, and it's only right to pass along some of that by way of savings at the pumps for Saskatchewan people."

He said it is unfair for the government to collect hundreds of millions of dollars in additional resource revenue while residents are paying more to fill their vehicles.

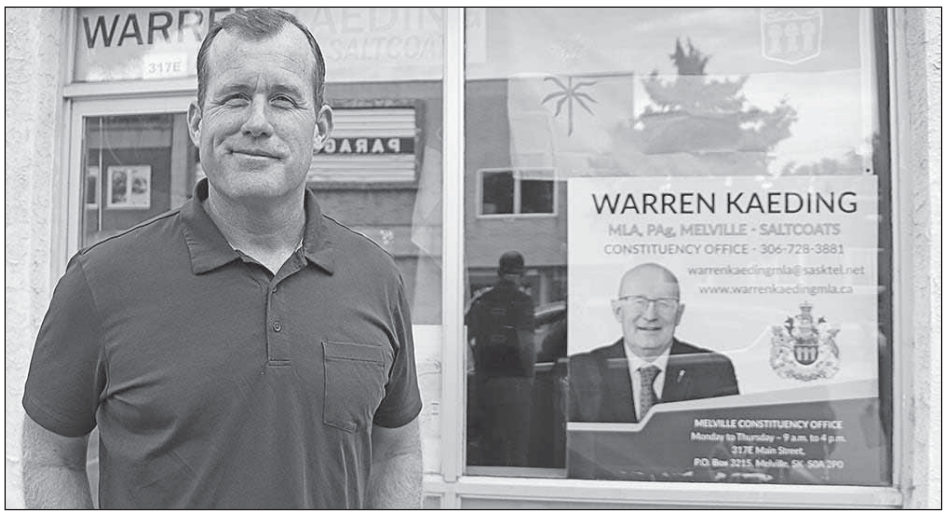
"The hardships are real for families across this province," Wotherspoon said. "It's why we've continued to call on this government to do the right thing and to suspend the gas tax and provide a break, to cut the PST on kids' clothes and basic groceries. We need to make life more affordable."

Wotherspoon said the Opposition's proposals are intended to provide relief without creating additional long-term costs for future generations. He also criticized the provincial government's direction on electricity generation, arguing that Saskatchewan should pursue a combination of natural gas and renewable generation to keep power affordable and create employment.

During his stops, Wotherspoon also promoted an NDP petition calling for American liquor products to be removed from Saskatchewan shelves.

He said Saskatchewan should join other Canadian provinces that have restricted the sale of U.S. alcohol in response to American tariffs.

"We have a time right now where Saskatchewan needs to step up and be a full member of Team Canada in making sure we protect our interests as a province and a country against the reckless attacks of the U.S. president," Wotherspoon said.



JACOB MILLER I GRASSLANDS NEWS

Regional tour

Trent Wotherspoon, the Opposition's shadow minister for finance, pictured in front of MLA Warren Kaeding's office in Melville. Wotherspoon mailed petitions, calling for removal of American liquor from the shelf, to the office.

Petition sheets were left at Chan's Yorkton office for residents to sign. Wotherspoon had also planned to deliver petitions to Kaeding's office in Melville, but because the office was closed, they were mailed instead.

Wotherspoon said the petitions must be signed in person and estimated that thousands of Saskatchewan residents have already added their names, including people from Melville, Yorkton and the Saltcoats area.

If elected to government, Wotherspoon said the NDP would remove American liquor from Saskatchewan shelves.

"We would just say take it off the shelves," he said. "I think this is a time for the province to step up, be a full member of Team Canada's effort and yank U.S. liquor off the shelves."

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OPINION

"For the cause that needs assistance;
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Let educators get back to teaching

As students head back to classrooms this fall, teachers will once again be expected to educate our children. That alone is an enormous responsibility.

But somewhere along the way, society began expecting schools to do much more than teach.

Teachers are increasingly expected to recognize and manage serious behavioural problems, mental-health concerns, bullying, family difficulties, nutrition issues, sexual-health questions, medical conditions, addictions, online dangers and social problems. They may be expected to recognize signs of abuse or neglect, calm a student in crisis, deal with violent behaviour and somehow keep every other student learning while doing it.

Then, when something goes wrong, one of the first questions asked is: What did the school do?

Perhaps we should also be asking: What have we asked schools to become?

Teachers are trained educators. They are not psychologists, psychiatrists, nurses, social workers, dietitians, police officers or family counsellors.

Schools absolutely have a responsibility to provide a safe environment. Teachers should know basic first aid, recognize warning signs that a child may be in danger and understand how and where to report concerns. They need appropriate training for emergencies and clear policies for bullying, violence and student safety.

But recognizing a problem is very different from being responsible for treating it.

A teacher who suspects that a student is suffering from serious anxiety or depression should have somewhere to immediately refer that student. A teacher dealing with repeated violent behaviour should have trained professionals available to intervene. A child struggling because there is no food at home needs assistance, but expecting the classroom teacher to become the family's social worker is not a sustainable solution.

The answer is not to ignore these problems.

The answer is to put the right professionals in place to deal with them.

Schools, particularly larger ones, should have better access to qualified mental-health professionals, counsellors, nurses and social workers. In smaller rural Saskatchewan schools, where having every professional employed full-time may not be realistic, divisions and government could establish regional teams serving several communities.

Those teams could include mental-health workers, social workers, nurses and behavioural specialists who regularly visit schools and are available when urgent situations arise.

Technology could also help. Some professional consultations can be provided virtually, particularly when distance makes immediate in-person assistance difficult.

Most importantly, there must be a clear line between identifying a problem and becoming responsible for solving it.

When a teacher identifies a serious concern, there should be a straightforward referral process that transfers responsibility to someone qualified to handle it. Teachers should remain informed when necessary for the student's education and safety, but they should not become the child's primary counsellor, health-care provider or case manager.

Parents and guardians also have responsibilities.

Schools cannot replace parenting. They can reinforce expectations surrounding respect, attendance, behaviour and responsibility, but those lessons must begin at home.

When children repeatedly arrive at school exhausted, hungry, aggressive, chronically absent or struggling with serious personal problems, schools should offer assistance and connect families with appropriate services. But society cannot simply transfer every responsibility to teachers because children happen to spend much of their weekday in a school building.

Accountability for behaviour also matters.

Supporting a child who has behavioural or mental-health challenges does not mean ignoring the safety and educational rights of every other student in the classroom.

A teacher cannot effectively teach 25 students while spending much of the day managing one or two students in repeated crisis. Compassion for a struggling student and protection of other students are not opposing ideas. We must do both.

When behaviour becomes violent or seriously disruptive, there must be trained intervention, appropriate consequences and a plan before the student simply returns to the same classroom under the same circumstances.

We also need to reconsider what we measure when determining whether our education system is successful.

Schools should certainly help children become healthy, responsible citizens, but their fundamental purpose remains education.

Can students read and understand what they read? Can they write effectively? Do they understand mathematics, science, history and civics? Are they learning critical thinking, communication and practical skills that will prepare them for adulthood?

Those questions cannot become secondary because teachers are overwhelmed with responsibilities that properly belong elsewhere.

Governments also need to recognize that creating another policy does not necessarily create another solution.

A policy telling teachers how to respond to mental-health crises does not provide a psychologist. A policy concerning medical emergencies does not provide a nurse. A policy addressing violent behaviour does not put another trained adult in the classroom.

Policies are important, but people and resources are what make policies work.

Perhaps the goal for the new school year should be relatively simple: teachers teach, specialists provide specialized services, parents parent, and everyone works together to keep children safe.

That does not mean teachers stop caring about students beyond their report cards. Good teachers have always cared about the whole child, and often they are the first adults to notice when something is wrong.

But caring about a student should not mean being expected to professionally treat every problem that student brings through the school doors.

If we truly want safer schools, healthier children and better educational outcomes, we should stop asking teachers to become everything to everyone.

Give teachers the support to recognize problems. Give them professionals to whom those problems can be referred. Give parents access to services when families need help. Give students appropriate consequences and support when behaviour becomes dangerous.

And then give teachers something they increasingly struggle to find enough of during the school day:

The time and opportunity to teach.

- Elaine Ashfield, Grasslands

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• Fort Qu'Appelle Times
• Indian Head-Wolseley News
• Kipling Clipper
• Melville Advance
• Whitewood-Grenfell Herald Sun
• Quad Town Forum
• Yorkton This Week & Marketplace

Issued Fridays by Grasslands News Group from the office
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Ph: 306-728-5448 • Whitewood: 306-735-2230 • Yorkton: 306-782-2465

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(Community boxes or in-person))

Mailed in Saskatchewan:
$55.00 per year

Mailed in Canada:
$75.00 per year

Electronic Edition:
$40.00 per year

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NDP calls for legislature to return early as tariff uncertainty grows

By Ryan Kiedrowski
Grasslands News

The question of whether provincial politicians ought to end holidays early and get back to work came to the forefront last week. The fall sitting of the Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly doesn't begin until Oct. 27, but some MLAs believe returning to the hallowed halls early is crucial given current tariff talks south of the border.

The provincial NDP are calling on Premier Scott Moe to immediately recall the legislature, arguing the province needs to pass affordability measures and debate additional support for workers and businesses facing uncertainty from US President Donald Trump's escalating trade war.

In a press conference last week, NDP House Leader Nicole Sarauer said the province cannot afford to wait.

"We need to pass legislation that will make life more affordable for Saskatchewan people, and we need to debate further measures to support Saskatchewan workers and businesses being impacted by Donald Trump's escalating trade war," Sarauer told reporters Aug. 31.

She said Saskatchewan families were already struggling before the latest tariff threats, pointing to financial pressures and rising living costs.

"Saskatchewan people cannot afford to wait 57 days for their government to get back to work," she said. "They were already struggling well before these tariffs."

Sarauer said other provinces have introduced programs to help workers and businesses affected by tariffs, including retraining initiatives, grants and financial supports. She argued Saskatchewan should be considering similar measures immediately.

Among the bills the Opposition wants debated are proposals to remove the provincial sales tax from groceries and children's clothing, reverse recent electricity and Saskatchewan Government Insurance rate increases, introduce rent control, and prioritize Saskatchewan workers on provincial projects.

"Those bills are there. The work has already been done. And we are ready to get back into the legislature and pass them," she said.

Sarauer said recalling the legislature would also allow MLAs to debate additional ideas as the trade dispute evolves.

"The whole purpose of this legislative building is to have the elected representatives of Saskatchewan debate ideas and policies and legislation," she said. "Our ability to do that would happen only if Scott Moe decides to recall the legislature."

She warned that businesses and workers are facing increasing uncertainty.

"There's a real fear of businesses closing in Saskatchewan, of workers being impacted, workers being let go," she said. "Families are worried already about how they're going to pay their bills and feed their families. This tariff war that we're seeing right now is only making the situation worse."

Sarauer said the government has recalled the legislature for less significant issues in the past.

"We've all seen this government have no problem recalling the legislature for a lot less," she said.

Asked what would happen if the trade dispute were resolved before the scheduled fall sitting, Sarauer said that outcome would be welcome.

"That would be fantastic to not have to worry about this anymore," she said.

If the government refuses to recall the legislature, Sarauer said the NDP will continue pressing its case.

Let's go! RYAN KIEDROWSKI I GRASSLANDS NEWS

Opposition House Leader Nicole Sarauer says the Assembly should get back to work early to deal with the current trade situation with the US.

No! RYAN KIEDROWSKI I GRASSLANDS NEWS

Government Whip Brad Crassweller rejected the notion that Premier Moe ought to reconvene the Legislative Assembly early.

The SaskParty rejected the call, arguing that recalling the legislature would not resolve the trade dispute because negotiations with the United States fall under federal jurisdiction.

Government Whip Brad Crassweller reminded that Ottawa - not Saskatchewan - is responsible for negotiating with Washington.

"The Saskatchewan government cannot legislate a trade agreement with the United States of America," Crassweller told reporters shortly after Sarauer's availability. "That's the federal government's job. That's Ottawa's responsibility."

Crassweller also criticized the Opposition's record, saying it had failed to offer meaningful solutions.

"They've really offered no serious solutions, no useful contribution, nothing beyond political stunts and maybe some petty criticisms," he said.

Instead, he said the government is focused on strengthening relationships with industry and U.S. partners through trade missions and consultation.

"I'd like to contrast that with our Premier Scott Moe, who's doing the real work," Crassweller said. "Our government is laser-focused on protecting jobs, continuing to grow our economy, grow our export markets, attracting national and international investments, and defending Saskatchewan's long-term interests."

Crassweller pointed to the government's Canada-U.S.-Mexico Agreement industry roundtables, saying they are bringing together businesses and workers affected by tariffs.

- SEE RETURN TO LEGISLATURE, 11

THE TOWN OF Indian Head SASKATCHEWAN

Town Page

For more information call the Town Office: 306-695-3344
or Indian Head Community Development: 306-695-2742

Advertise at the AJM Davies Arena!

Looking for a great way to get your business in front of hundreds of people? The Town of Indian Head has advertising opportunities available at the AJM Davies Arena for the upcoming season!
Businesses can choose from concession advertising for $200 per sign or Zamboni advertising for $2,000 per year with a two-year contract. Arena advertising is a great way to increase your business's visibility while supporting a well-loved community facility and local recreation.
Interested in advertising your business at the arena? Contact MacKenzie at ihfacilities@sasktel.net or 306-695-3344 for more information and to secure your advertising space.

Canning 101 – Come Learn With Us!

Have you ever wanted to try canning but weren't sure where to start? Join the Town of Indian Head for Canning 101 on Tuesday, September 8 at 6:30 p.m. at Memorial Hall. Led by experienced canner Christiane Catellier, this class is a great opportunity to learn the basics of preserving food, gain confidence in your canning skills, and pick up some helpful tips along the way. Whether you're a beginner or looking to refresh your knowledge, everyone is welcome! The cost is $10 per person. This workshop is made possible with support from the Community Initiatives Fund. Registration is required, please email indianheadcdc@sasktel.net .

Back to School Safety Reminder

The kids are back to school this week, which means our streets will be a little busier with young pedestrians, cyclists, buses, and families getting back into their routines.
As you travel through town, please use extra caution—especially around school zones and crossing areas. Slow down, stay alert, watch for children who may be unpredictable, and give cyclists plenty of space. Please talk to your children about bike safety and always make sure they are wearing helmets.
A few extra seconds of patience can make a big difference in keeping our youngest community members safe. Let's all do our part to make the trip to and from school a safe one!

New Crosswalk Improves Pedestrian Safety

Another crosswalk improvement has been completed in Indian Head! The new crossing on Highway 56 between the Esso and Dairy Mart is now in place, providing an important and more visible crossing point for pedestrians navigating this busy area.
We hope this project will provide added safety and peace of mind for residents and visitors travelling through the area. However, please remember that a marked crosswalk does not eliminate the need for caution. Always stop, look for oncoming traffic, and make sure it is safe to cross before proceeding.
This project was made possible through a partnership between the Town of Indian Head, the SGI Traffic Safety Grant program, and the Saskatchewan Ministry of Highways.

Win the Legion's Centenary Quilt!

The Royal Canadian Legion Branch #114 is excited to raffle off a very special Centenary Quilt, created to commemorate 100 years of service and community. Tickets are $5 each and are available from Legion members and local business partners, including Sherwood Co-op, Pharmasave, The Gallery Coffee House, and Métis Nation–Saskatchewan and the Town Office. The raffle will be drawn following the Remembrance Day ceremony.

Find Your Fall Activity in Indian Head!

Looking for something to get involved with this fall? The Town of Indian Head's Groups & Organizations webpage is a great place to start! Local clubs, organizations, and community groups are listed with a profile and contact information, making it easy to find activities and connect with groups that interest you. Visit https://townofindianhead.com/groups-and-organizations/
Are you part of a local group that would like to get your name out there? We'd love to help! Email indianheadcdc@sasktel.net to get started on creating your own profile and connecting more people with your organization.

Upcoming Community Events

September 4 – Lumsden @ IHHS Broncs Football
September 8 – Canning 101 at Memorial Hall
September 17 – Curling Club Golf Tournament
September 19 – Library Craft Swap
September 24 – Fort Qu'Appelle @ IHHS Broncs Football

Do you have a great community event coming up? Let us know about it! You can have your event featured on our Community Events webpage by emailing your details and poster to indianheadcdc@sasktel.net. Don't forget to schedule your community event on our sign at least one week before your event date.

www.townofindianhead.com

Australian campaigns to bring rescue horse to Tasmania

By Ashley Scarfe
Grasslands News

It's been the journey of a lifetime for Stef Gebbie and her horse, Wilson. For the past two years, the pair have been making their way across Canada, one step and kilometre at a time.

Now, as their coast-to-coast adventure nears its end, Gebbie is hoping to take Wilson on one final journey: home to Tasmania.

A tour guide from the Australian island state, Gebbie grew up around horses and spends Tasmania's southern winters travelling. In 2019, she rode across Australia with her 17-year-old Arabian, Mr Richard. In 2024, she headed to Canada's east coast for her next adventure.

Gebbie's Canadian journey began that May, when she met Wilson, a mid-teens Morgan cross at Tetagouche River Ranch outside Bathurst, N.B. Recently rescued from neglect, Wilson did not have the temperament to become a lesson horse, but his endurance and disposition made him well suited to life on the road.

Along with Gebbie's riding horse, Jack, the group crossed the Maritimes and Quebec before the journey was put on hold shortly after reaching Ontario.

"Unfortunately, I had to pause the trip and head home," Gebbie says.

Jack and Wilson remained in Sault Ste Marie while Gebbie returned to Australia to attend personal matters. In April 2025, Jack was brought to Australia for retirement, while Wilson stayed in Canada awaiting Gebbie's return.

"We were parted for just over a year," she says. "I was boarding him with a lovely lady called Kristen there, and she took really great care of him."

In the summer of 2025, Gebbie returned to Canada, this time by taking to the water. She paddled approximately 1,700 km from Manitoulin Island to Manitoba, travelling along the north shore of Lake Superior and historic voyager routes through northwestern Ontario.

"The coastline in Pukaskwa National Park and Lake Superior, and some other areas, was just really, really stunning," she says.

This summer, Gebbie reunited with Wilson and added Gaucho, an Alberta ranch horse, to the team for the final horseback leg through the Prairies and into British Columbia.

For Gebbie, Saskatchewan and the Prairies were a surprise.

"It was so great," she says. "I didn't really know what to expect with the Prairies. I think I had a very different picture in my mind. There are lots of hills and farms and different ranches. It wasn't at all a monotonous landscape."

SUBMITTED I GRASSLANDS NEWS

Cross-Canada trek

For the past two years, Stef Gebbie and her horse, Wilson, have travelled on and off across Canada, making their way from east to west. Now, as their cross-country trek nears its end, Wilson's next adventure is just beginning.

The people were an equally memorable part of the journey.

"The people were just exceptionally lovely," she says. "Very friendly, very open and generous. A lot of folks would invite us to stay or check in on us and see if we needed anything. Really, really lovely people, and that was a real highlight."

While the people were warm, the weather was warmer. With temperatures reaching the mid-30s, Gebbie often travelled at first light before stopping to rest during the hottest part of the day.

Storms across Manitoba and Saskatchewan also provided a distinctly Prairie experience.

"The weather was a little bit crazy throughout Manitoba and Saskatchewan," she says. "There were a few big thunderstorms and tornado watches."

One storm stands out in Gebbie's mind as being particularly treacherous to her and her team.

"I was out there when I probably shouldn't have been," she admits. "I was riding along and looking at the sky and I'm like, 'I'm pretty sure they say when the sky goes green, that's bad, and I think that looks pretty green.' Then I found out there were two tornadoes within a 20 or 30 km radius of where we were. That was a bit intense."

A couple of weeks ago, Gebbie and her horses crossed from Alberta into British Columbia. Now near Cranbrook, the West Coast is getting closer. Although reaching it with two horses is proving even more complicated.

"Getting to the West Coast. That's the goal," Gebbie says. "B.C. is quite challenging with horses because of the dangerous highways that aren't really appropriate to ride on, and then route-finding around them is a bit challenging."

Gebbie has ruled out riding along highways, leaving her to piece together trails and forest service roads through the mountains. If she determines the remaining route is unsafe for the horses, she plans to continue on foot.

"Hopefully I get to the West Coast this autumn," she says.

While Gaucho will eventually return to his family in Alberta, Gebbie has launched a GoFundMe campaign to bring Wilson home with her to Tasmania.

Flying a horse to Australia comes with significant quarantine and transportation costs. Gebbie estimates the quarantine and flight alone will cost close to $50,000 AUD, with ground transportation, boarding, a ferry to Tasmania and import taxes adding to the bill.

"Australia is probably one of the most, if not the most, expensive countries to try to fly a horse to because they have very strict quarantine requirements," she explains. "As well as literally being on the other side of the world."

As of Tuesday morning, $15,281 AUD of the $70,000 goal had been raised.

"I only launched the campaign a couple of days ago and we've already raised about 20 per cent of the target, so it doesn't feel impossible," she says.

The decision to try to bring Wilson home came about this summer as the bond between horse and human deepened.

"He has a prickly personality, but I feel like he really came into his own," she says. "He really shone. Maybe he trusts me a bit more. He was really coming out of his shell, and I was just like, 'Man, I love this little dude.' He's such a quirky character."

Wilson has come a long way from the scruffy, malnourished horse Gebbie met in New Brunswick.

"He can be very sweet, and he really loves being on the road," she says. "He enjoys his new scenery and he's very quiet. Very little bothers him."

Gebbie has found another home for Wilson if she cannot raise enough money, but after travelling thousands of kilometres together, leaving him behind would be difficult.

"I know that he'll be very well looked after," she says. "But I just love him so much. It felt like I should try. I should at least try to bring him home."

Once the journey is complete, Gebbie plans to return to Tasmania for a well-earned break. Whether another long-distance adventure awaits remains in question.

"You never know," she says. "If I go home for a couple of years, I might get itchy feet again. It's very stressful. It's the worst way to travel, objectively. You have all the stresses of crossing a continent that you have if you're hiking, but then you also have two animals that you're responsible for, so just quadruple the stress."

Despite the challenges, the journey has left Gebbie with countless memories, including early mornings on the Prairies.

"Everywhere in Canada has been very beautiful," she says. "It's such a diverse landscape as well, being such a large place. I think early mornings on the Prairies are a really special time of day. I mean, I hate it because I'm not a morning person, but objectively, really beautiful before it gets too hot, with the rolling grasslands. All those sunrises that I've been lucky enough to see have been really special."

"Coming over the pass across the Rockies is another pretty standout moment because it's such an iconic couple of hours," she continues. "It was very cool. There have been so many. I can remember one morning in Ontario. We were getting up really early and the horses were down by a little stream. It was all misty, with the grain elevator behind them. It was just really beautiful. It's little moments like that that stand out."

To follow the last leg of Gebbie's journey, visit her blog or access her social media handles at www.road.horse/ .

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CALVIN DANIELS I GRASSLANDS NEWS

Artists meet

Local artists gathered in Yorkton on Aug. 26 to discuss forming Arts Guild Yorkton, a new organization intended to connect, encourage and create opportunities for artists from a variety of disciplines.

Artists in Yorkton to consider guild creation

By Calvin Daniels
Grasslands News

Yorkton artists gathered Aug. 26 at the Godfrey Dean Centre in the city to discuss creating an artist guild.

The Arts Guild Yorkton is a new initiative that has been spearheaded by a group of local artists that have identified a need in their community for multidisciplinary artists to gather together to connect, encourage, share ideas and collaborate, Bernice Puritch told Grasslands News.

The steering committee behind the initiative has been meeting for several months to discuss how an arts guild might function in the community.

The exact nature of the new organization is still to be determined based largely on what members desire.

"It's feeling out the community needs," said Puritch.

That said, Puritch said they have a few ideas as things develop.

For example, the group will have a table at the upcoming Sunflower Art & Craft Market, and some local art, while not being offered for sale, will be on display, said Puritch. She said it is being viewed as a way to raise awareness of the art being created in the city.

Individually, an artist can be difficult for the public to discover. Collectively, they become much more visible.

A guild can connect members with exhibitions, performances, readings, markets, commissions, workshops, festivals, grants and other opportunities.

The details for the guild will evolve over time, but Puritch also noted it will be as inclusive as possible, welcoming artists in the broadest sense.

As the guild takes shape the diversity of membership could lead to some interesting collaborations. As an example, a guild handout noted, "Some of the most interesting creative projects happen when disciplines intersect. For example, a photographer working with a musician, a poet collaborating with a visual artist, a playwright working with actors and set designers, or a filmmaker bringing together writers, performers, musicians and artists."

Longer term, there might even be space for such collaborations to take place.

Puritch said there is a realization a space would be a positive, but how that space might be created is something for the future of the guild.

Anyone wanting more information can contact Puritch at 306-620-6999 or Angelina Kardynal at 306-621-5180.

The steering committee members are Hanna Yokozawa Farquharson, Angelina Kardynal, Stephanie Newsham, Bernice Puritch, Tricia Friesen Reed and Brenda Wong.

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Gene Hauta

It's a Strange World

Chief Raymond Garivey of the Kemah (Texas) Police Dept. may be around average height, but he had to crane his neck to look up at the newest officer he was swearing in. Jordan Wilmore, 25, ***at 7 ft 3 in tall, may be the tallest cop in the US.*** He gave up playing (yep!) pro basketball overseas. Basketball great Shaquille O'Neal offered to buy Wilmore a custom police cruiser to fit his frame (Shaq is "only" 7-1); Wilmore's uniform already had to be custom made.

A farmer from Chuzhou, China, was using AI to advise him on managing his crops, including scheduling and fertilizing. He initially didn't trust the chatbot, but its advice helped, and the crops thrived for a year. So, the 67-year-old took it to the next step, asking how to best control weeds and pests on his sesame crop. The unnamed app recommended flufenacet, an herbicide that does kill weeds – but is also harmful to sesame if it isn't used in a very specific way. He followed the advice, and 'the weeds and seedlings died together, and the seedlings died even faster." The AI app prints a message at the top that reads: ***"AI generation may be incorrect, please verify."*** Oops…

France has always been committed to wine. Until 1956, French schoolchildren were served wine during lunch. Even the ban that came into effect that year applied only to children under the age of 14, and alcohol wasn't banned from schools entirely until 1981. It has been reported that it was definitely a very casual process "as though choosing between red and white was as normal for a second grader as deciding between plain and chocolate milk!" Wine has been an integral part of French culture for more than 2,000 years, and France is widely considered the best wine-producing country in the world. Consumption has been consistently dropping in the country as younger generations across the globe have opted to drink less than their parents and grandparents, but ***wine is still a staple of daily life***. Each person in France consumes an average of 22.5 litres of wine each year (2024 numbers). There are literally over 3,000 types of wine produced in France.

Police in Pennsylvania say an 18-year-old fatally stabbed his girlfriend, then turned to his mother to ***help conceal the killing***. Royce Moser allegedly stabbed 18-year-old Karoline Heintz in her vehicle outside his father's home in North Strabane, then placed her body in the back of the vehicle and drove to his mother's house. Rachel Moser, 56, then supplied cleaning products and gloves, and later followed her son as he drove the vehicle to a public library where Heintz's body was found in the morning. Both Mosers face multiple charges, including homicide for Royce and hindering apprehension for his mother.

More airline troubles in Canada -- ***a toddler's refusal to sit down and buckle up*** ended up grounding an entire plane in Victoria. A Porter Airlines flight to Toronto had already left the gate and was taxiing when crew saw a young child standing on their seat. Efforts by both the parent and staff to buckle the child in failed. Regulations barred takeoff in that situation, so the pilot had to return to the terminal and have the family disembark. By the time everything got sorted out, it was past the airport's 12:30am runway cutoff, meaning the plane could not take off and all the passengers had to stay in Victoria and rebook.

Senator Bernie Sanders and Representative Ro Khanna introduced the ***Make Billionaires Pay Their Fair Share Act***, proposing a 5% annual wealth tax on US individuals with a net worth of over $1 billion. The bill targets an estimated 938 US billionaires and aims to raise roughly $4.4 trillion over a decade to fund social programs and direct payments for working families. Sanders feels that money would provide $12,000 to a working family of four; enact universal childcare; expand Medicare for dental, vision, and hearing; end homelessness; and ensure a $60,000 minimum salary for teachers. My guess…it'll never pass!

While I often question the decisions of the Trump administration, Canada is not immune. Order Paper documents show that Mark Carney's in-flight catering ***bill has hit $528,815.04***, enough to cover nearly 30 years of food for a family of four, based on Canada's Food Price Report 2016. Obviously, that's excessive.

"Melania was suspicious when Trump came home from Turkey smelling like Sky Chef," wrote Argus Hamilton. "She demanded to know if he'd been cheating on McDonald's."

Until next time…keep reading between the lines, and be careful what you believe…

How will you celebrate Labor Day?

Labor Day is on Monday, September 7, 2026. Did you know that it's been an official holiday across North America since 1894? In addition, the movement behind this special day began years earlier, when workers organized gatherings and demanded better working conditions.

Since then, efforts to protect workers' rights have remained highly relevant — even more so now than ever. Labor Day is an opportunity to participate in parades or marches, sign petitions and learn about employees' rights in the workplace. Take a little time to educate yourself about employment rules and standards on issues such as overtime, harassment, paid leave and annual leave.

How to celebrate

Labor Day is also an opportunity to highlight employee achievements in all sectors. To mark the occasion, companies can take the time to recognize the work of their teams. Express your appreciation with a social media post, personalized gifts or an awards ceremony.

For those lucky enough to have the day off, you have a world of options. Enjoy a museum or gallery visit, host a barbecue or pool party, take a hike or bike ride through your favorite park, go on a boat excursion or pay a visit to the zoo. Rain or shine, it's your day to indulge in a well-earned break.

Whatever your profession, whether you're a farmer, entrepreneur, nurse, plumber, teacher, doctor, police officer, caregiver, lawyer or carpenter, your work is important. Your labor contributes to the well-being of your community. Be sure to celebrate the rights of workers everywhere.

Happy Labor Day!

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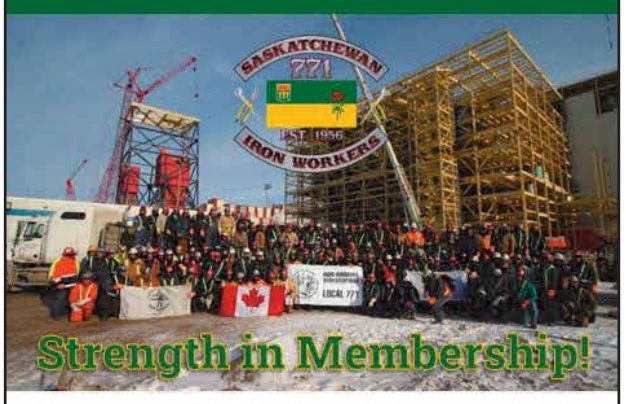

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New on-demand transit service set for Yorkton

By Calvin Daniels
Grasslands News

The Yorkton transit system is changing how it provides service, and in January 2027 it will launch a new on-demand transit service.

This new model will replace Yorkton's traditional fixed-route model with a flexible, stop-to-stop service based entirely on individual trip requests. Rather than following predetermined routes and schedules, transit vehicles will respond to where and when residents need to travel.

"We wanted transit to better reflect how people actually use it," Taylor Morrison, Director of Recreation & Community Services told Grasslands News.

Powered by the Blaise platform, the new service will introduce automated scheduling and dispatching. Riders will be able to request trips in real time or book in advance using the Blaise passenger mobile app, providing greater flexibility and convenience compared to traditional fixed-route systems, explained a city release.

"It will allow us to direct service where the user needs it," said Morrison.

While there will be an app available Morrison noted "you do not have to have a smart phone." He said as has long been the case, patrons may call to book their ride."

This new service is designed to improve accessibility, reduce wait times, and better align service with rider demand. By matching trips dynamically, the system will provide residents with more convenient transportation while making efficient use of available transit vehicles.

"It will allow us to direct service where the user needs it," said Morrison.

Morrison said it is anticipated the changes will make the system more responsive to needs.

"Efficiency is definitely an important aspect," he said. "… It will allow us direct service when the user needs it."

Mayor Aaron Kienle said the changes are a positive.

"This transition represents a significant step forward for transit services in Yorkton," he said in the release. "The on-demand model will allow us to respond directly to the needs of our community, improving both service reliability and the overall rider experience."

To support a smooth transition, the City will launch a comprehensive community and rider education campaign later this fall. This will include information sessions, user guides, and outreach efforts to help residents understand how to access and use the new system.

Morrison said the sessions will be an opportunity for bus users to actually sit down and discuss how they can best use the new system to serve their individual needs.

At the same time, Morrison reminded the transit system is a public one, so an individual request for service will at times still mean stops to pick up and deliver other users on the same trip.

Additional details on service availability, operating hours, and booking instructions will be shared ahead before the January launch.

For more information, please visit yorkton.ca/transit, or contact the City of Yorkton.

Access Transit, the shared ride, door-to-door service for people with disabilities who are unable to use regular public transportation will remain unchanged, said Morrison.

Operated by SaskAbilities, this service helps individuals travel independently within Yorkton. Riders must register in advance to use the service.

Transit services contract awarded

By Calvin Daniels
Grasslands News

After receiving two proposals following the issuing of a Request for Proposals for the operation of Yorkton Transit services beginning in 2027 as part of the City's transition to an integrated on-demand transit model, Yorkton Council approved the low bid submitted by Saskatchewan Abilities Council Inc., for a cost of $446,551.

The decision came Monday at Council's regular meeting.

As part of the ongoing Yorkton Transit service review, the City of Yorkton issued a Request for Proposals for the operations and management of Yorkton Transit services beginning in 2027, recognizing that both the existing transit operating agreement and supporting technology agreements were approaching expiry and that the City was undertaking a significant transition towards a modernized transit model, explained Taylor Morrison, Director of Recreation & Community Services with the city.

"The RFP sought a qualified contractor to provide safe, reliable, and customer-focused transit operations, while supporting the City's planned evolution from a traditional fixed-route system to an integrated on-demand service model that combines conventional and accessible transit services. Through the procurement process, proponents were asked to demonstrate their experience in transit operations, staffing, training, safety management, customer service, reporting, and service delivery, while outlining how they would support the City's goals of improving efficiency, accessibility, rider experience, and long-term service sustainability," detailed the report circulated to Council.

"The RFP forms part of the City's broader efforts to modernize public transit, leverage new technology, and ensure continued delivery of responsive transportation services that meet the evolving needs of Yorkton residents."

Morrison said the budget was factored into the process.

The operating budget for Yorkton Transit has been reviewed and discussed with Council as part of past budget deliberations, he said.

"These discussions led to the transit review, and ultimately the decision to adjust to an on-demand combined model, and the implementation of new transit technology systems to increase access to the service and overall transit ridership," said Morrison.

Future expenses are planned to increase with the addition of the new transit software licensing costs, however some other expenses have been reduced, given the changes to the service, Morrison continued. For example, the majority of existing stops will be removed, in favour of the "virtual" stops in the Blaise platform.

Additionally, some under-utilized shelters will also be removed, further reducing maintenance costs.

Savings on equipment repairs and parts should also be lower as new vehicles are introduced to the fleet, while fuel remains a moving target in budget planning noting current events and fluctuating market conditions.

Looking ahead, Morrison said the 2027 forecast includes a conservative estimate on fares and bus pass sales, given the uncertainty regarding usage of the system under the new on-demand model. Administration expects ridership and revenues to increase but does not want to over-estimate on anticipated revenues.

The implementation of the Blaise system will allow Administration to better collect, review, and forecast fare and pass sale revenue after a year or two of operations.

Return to Legislature

- continued from page 7

"We'll see what comes out of those CUSMA roundtables," he said when asked whether the province is considering direct financial assistance for affected workers or businesses.

He also highlighted measures the government says have already improved affordability, including income tax changes, maintaining the small business tax rate at one per cent and other campaign commitments.

"We've kept all of those campaign promises," Crassweller said. "We've kept the small business tax at one per cent, which I think is very important to point out right now."

Asked directly whether the government plans to recall the legislature, Crassweller instead emphasized ongoing trade and diplomatic efforts, including participation in the Midwest Legislative Conference in Minneapolis and the Pacific NorthWest Economic Region meetings.

"It's about building relationships and having those relationships and talking those things through," he said. "We're continuing to do the real work of engaging those individuals."

Crassweller said Saskatchewan ministers and MLAs continue to meet with governors, senators and other U.S. officials through those organizations, arguing those relationships are critical during the trade dispute.

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The RWDSU wishes you all happy and safe LABOUR DAY

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Goverment Grant improves pedestrian safety

By Sarah Pacio
Grasslands News

Students will return to classes next week in many communities across the province, and drivers can anticipate increased pedestrian activity particularly near schools. To improve safety, the Town of Fort Qu'Appelle will install crosswalks with funding from a provincial grant. The Resort Village of Fort San and the Town of Indian Head are enhancing pedestrian safety with similar projects.

The Government of Saskatchewan and SGI award grants from the Provincial Traffic Safety Fund in June and December each year. Eligible projects address issues such as speeding, impaired or distracted driving, and intersection safety. In July, the government announced that 67 projects would receive grants totaling more than $1.6 million from the first round of funding in 2026. Crosswalks in Fort Qu'Appelle and Fort San were among the projects approved.

Fort Qu'Appelle

The Provincial Safety Fund will provide $18,728 for two new crosswalks near the schools and daycare in Fort Qu'Appelle. One crossing with lights will be installed at the intersection of 5th St. and Pasqua Ave., and another at 5th St. and Boundary Ave. This area is very busy during arrival and dismissal times, so the crosswalks are intended to slow traffic and improve safety for students walking to school or returning home in the afternoon. Signs have been ordered and will be installed as soon as they are delivered.

Fort San

Fort San's application for grant funding of $19,594 was also approved. The village has ordered crosswalk lights that will be installed on the 300 Block of Fort San Rd. (Highway 56). The crosswalk will improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists using the Trans Canada Trail, which crosses the highway at that location. A similar crosswalk was installed at the west end of the walkway last year.

"We have a few spots where the walking path crosses the highway, so we're going to continue to apply for grants through SGI until all of those spots have a crosswalk," Fort San CAO Amy Railton explained.

Indian Head

This summer, a new crosswalk with flashing lights was installed on Highway 56 just north of Dairy Mart and Esso in Indian Head. The town coordinated with the Ministry of Highways to add the crosswalk to mitigate concerns relating to the safety of pedestrians accessing businesses in the area. A grant from the Provincial Traffic Safety Fund was approved in 2025 that provided $11,860 to offset expenses for the signage and lights. The remaining costs were shared equally between the town and ministry.

Applications for the next round of funding from the Provincial Safety Fund are currently being accepted with a deadline of Sept. 30.

SARAH PACIO | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Crosswalk

A new crosswalk was installed on Highway 56 in Indian Head with financial support from the Provincial Traffic Safety Fund. Funding has also been approved for crosswalks in Fort Qu'Appelle and Fort San.

Local libraries shift to fall hours and programming

By Sarah Pacio
Grasslands News

With the changing of the seasons, library branches in Indian Head, Wolseley and Fort Qu'Appelle are returning to fall hours and resuming after-school programming.

New hours

Fort Qu'Appelle Library's fall schedule is now in effect, with changes to hours on two days. The library is open on Thursdays, 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., and 3:30 to 8 p.m.; and Fridays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The hours for Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Saturdays are unchanged, and the library remains closed on Sundays and Mondays.

The fall hours for Wolseley Library also remain the same as summertime operations, except for Wednesdays when the branch will be open from 1:30 to 5:30 p.m. instead of the evening.

The fall hours for Indian Head Library began this week and shift about half an hour later than the summer schedule. The branch is now open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., and 1 to 5:30 p.m. The hours for Wednesdays are 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., 1 to 5 p.m., and 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Indian Head Library is also open Saturdays from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

All libraries will be closed on Sept. 7 for Labour Day and on Sept. 30 for the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

Fall Programming

The September calendar for the Wolseley branch was not yet publicized as of press-time; however, the schedules for libraries in Indian Head and Fort Qu'Appelle were available. Like other branches, they offer a wide range of programs beyond traditional book loans, fulfilling the Southeast Regional Library slogan "not the library you remember."

Indian Head

Weekly Lego Club is back at Indian Head Library in September and will take place after school on Thursdays from 3:30 to 5 p.m. The weekly Stitch & Laugh sessions also resume after taking a break in August. Craft enthusiasts are invited to bring-their-own-project on Thursdays from 1 to 3 p.m.

There is a Tot's Playtime scheduled for Sept. 16, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m., where children can engage in activity stations with their caregivers.

Indian Head Library will host a Craft Supply Swap from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sept. 19. Individuals interested in sharing their extra craft supplies are asked to contact the librarian in advance to reserve a spot. Anyone seeking new materials may simply stop by the library during the event.

The following week, the library will also begin collecting donations for the annual Halloween costume swap. Community members are encouraged to donate gently used costumes for the exchange, and anyone is welcome to select an outfit for their trick-or-treating activities in October.

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Wild weather closes summer

By GNG Staff
Grasslands News

Just like it began, summer seems to be going out on a wild and woolly note with one hopefully last big blast of weather to hit the region.

Rain wrapped tornadoes made their way across southern Saskatchewan this past weekend and alerts notifying people of the severity of the events were numerous, depending on what area you have your alert system designated for, on both Saturday, Aug. 29 and Sunday, Aug. 30.

Doppler radar is used to look for these hidden rotations that develop when a powerful supercell or squall line thunderstorm develops. These storms create a rear-flank downdraft that pulls cool, rain-cooled air and heavy precipitation down around the base of the tornado. The rain wraps tightly around the rotating funnel, hiding it entirely.

Saturday's warnings of severe weather with rain, strong winds, possible hail and tornadoes instructed people to take cover when the intense weather systems advanced towards the Melville, Killaly, Grayson, and Crooked Lake areas as the afternoon progressed. There was one unconfirmed report of a tornado on the ground south of Melville around 5 p.m. on Saturday and social media showed hailstorms in areas around Crooked Lake and Cowessess.

Environment Canada's senior climatologist said this summer's heat and humidity added to the stormy weather. On Sunday severe weather continued to develop in many southeastern areas with heavy rain, hail, strong winds and tornado funnels causing the weather alert system warnings to be sent out once again. A line of storms pushed towards the Manitoba border with reports of three to five inches of rain reported in many areas.

The rainfall resulted in flooded roadways and some wash-out blockages on roads as well as streets in towns being flooded in ways never seen before being reported. Terri Lang, a meteorologist with Environment and Climate Change Canada stated the weather originated in Alberta and deepened as it came over Saskatchewan.

"It brought in some moisture from the south and that's really what spawned these thunderstorms," Lang reported, noting such storms typically occur in early summer, not at the end of August.

"Yorkton up towards the Duck Mountain, Porcupine Hills received anywhere from about 25 mm up to about 70 mm," noted Stephen Berg, meteorologist with ECCC. "Also, Bredenbury, Maryfield and Wynyard received about 85, 71, and 58 mm over the 48 hours, so that was quite a bit. And the Kola area between Maryfield and Elkhorn received 81 mm over a 48-hour period."

Environment Canada confirmed a tornado touched down in Maryfield around 4 p.m. Sunday, and research meteorologists with the Northern Tornadoes Project were also investigating reports of a tornado approximately 45 km away, in Kelso, along with other areas that were hit by the storm.

In Manitoba, at least one tornado occurred on Sunday, Dave Phillips, a senior climatologist with ECCC reported. The agency said twisters touched down in Elkhorn, Man. The province has seen more tornado activity than average this summer, with at least 11 confirmed tornadoes thus far — compared to the usual annual total of seven or eight, Phillips said.

"If you look at the Prairies, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, we've had a record number of tornadoes," Phillips said, noting ECCC's records on that topic are limited to about the last 10 years when technology allowed round-the-clock monitoring. Before that, he said, tracking twisters was hit or miss.

"We've had, I think, in total, 77 tornadoes this year on the Prairies," Phillips said. "That's certainly the most number of tornadoes you've had in that last, say eight, or nine, (or) 10 years."

It's been a peak year for twisters in Saskatchewan with nearly three dozen confirmed over the summer months in the province alone.

"The number I have is 35 from the Northern Tornadoes Project," Berg told Grasslands News. "That's quite substantially above their yearly average, around 14 or 17 for Saskatchewan. Manitoba's got about 11, so far fewer than Saskatchewan, but still around an average number of reports and confimations. It's certainly been an active one for the prairies."

While long-term weather reports seem to indicate a cooling trend, Berg feels we're not out of the woods yet.

"Summer isn't out yet, we still have three more weeks until the fall equinox, but certainly there have been quite a few pretty decent thunderstorm outbreaks or systems over September," he said. "That certainly could be the case for this year."

SARAH PACIO | GRASSLANDS NEWS

High school football
The Indian Head High School football team hosted a pre-season exhibition game against Foam Lake on Aug. 27.

Football season underway at high schools

By Sarah Pacio
Grasslands News

Classes have only just resumed this week at high schools in Fort Qu'Appelle and Indian Head, but the fall football season is already well underway.

Athletes returned to the field at Bert Fox High School for their first practice on Aug. 24. The Bison have a busy season scheduled which they will begin by hosting Shaunavon for a home-opener at 4 p.m. on Sept. 4. Other home games will be played on Sept. 17 at 4 p.m. against Vanier (Moose Jaw) and Oct. 15 at 2 p.m. against Lumsden.

The Indian Head Broncs started their season a little earlier, convening for their first practice on Aug. 20. This enabled them to prepare for a pre-season exhibition game against the Foam Lake Panthers at McCall Field on Aug. 27. The weather was excellent last Thursday evening, and a crowd came out to show their support for the players. Indian Head was two points ahead by half-time but lost their lead when Foam Lake made a touchdown at the end of the third quarter. The Broncs persevered and scored another goal with less than five minutes remaining in the fourth quarter to win the game, 17 to 14.

Like the Fort Qu'Appelle team, Indian Head has games scheduled nearly every week until mid-October. Their first regular season game will be against Lumsden in Indian Head on Sept. 4 at 7 p.m. The Broncs will also play home games on Sept. 17 against Meadow Lake, on Sept. 24 against Fort Qu'Appelle and on Oct. 13 against Vanier. Home game times are 7 p.m.

MP Scheer meets constituents in preparation for fall sitting

By Sarah Pacio
Grasslands News

A community BBQ in Fort Qu'Appelle last week offered residents an opportunity to address political concerns and make personal connections with Andrew Scheer, MP for Regina-Qu'Appelle.

The event was held on Wednesday, Aug. 26 at the Legion Hall and approximately 250 people from Fort Qu'Appelle, Indian Head, Wolseley, and nearby communities attended the free supper. Along with community members, MLAs Travis Keisig and Brad Crassweller were also in attendance since their provincial ridings encompass a similar geographic area to Scheer.

Scheer hosted a similar event in Wynyard earlier this summer and has planned one more at White City Community Centre on Wednesday, Sept. 9. He considers the community events an integral part of his preparations for returning to Ottawa later this month. His constituency stretches from Wynyard to Wolseley, and from Southey to Abernethy. It includes more than 65,300 registered voters across more than 200 polling divisions. Scheer said that hosting summer BBQs supports local caterers and organizations like the Fort Qu'Appelle Legion, while also enabling him to meet face-to-face with the people that he represents.

"I have found that there are many people who would like to talk to their MP, would like to provide feedback, but they might not take the time to sit down and write a letter or go to my office," Scheer explained. "Meeting people where they are lowers that barrier to having a conversation; it helps me be accessible to a larger group of people who live and vote and work and raise their family in my riding."

Community members were eager for an opportunity to speak with the MP in Fort Qu'Appelle, expressing support for his leadership in government but also sharing their perspectives on a wide variety of subjects. Recurring topics during last week's gathering included frustrations surrounding trade talks and concerns about agricultural issues. Residents also spoke with Scheer about digital ID, crime rates, and the potential impact of tariffs.

The MP described these conversations as educational because they inform him of constituents' priorities and equip him to evaluate policies on their behalf.

"I will actually write myself notes on things that stand out from the conversations, with some of the key comments, and do a little report for myself," Scheer told Grasslands News. "Then when the legislation comes up, I have a sense of what people back home are thinking about it."

Anyone interested in attending Scheer's community BBQ in White City is asked to RSVP by Friday, Sept. 4, by emailing Andrew.Scheer@parl.gc.ca or calling 306-790-4727.

SARAH PACIO | GRASSLANDS NEWS

Saying hello
MP Andrew Scheer met with constituents during a community BBQ in Fort Qu'Appelle on Wednesday, August 26.

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SPORTS

Stratton competing for National Youth Athlete of the Year

By Elaine Ashfield
Grasslands News

Whitewood athlete Lily Stratton is looking for support from her hometown and surrounding communities as she competes in the nationwide Youth Athlete of the Year competition, where one young athlete will earn a national spotlight, an unforgettable championship experience and a $25,000 prize.

As of Monday, Aug. 31, Stratton was sitting seventh in her group, putting her within the Top 15 as the competition approaches its first major voting deadline.

Voting for the Top 15 ends Thursday, Sept. 3 at 8 p.m. Lily, already sitting in seventh place this past Monday, will need votes if she continues to be in the top 15 on Thursday.

Youth Athlete of the Year is a nationwide competition open to young athletes of all skill levels and backgrounds. The winner is selected through public voting, with supporters able to cast one free vote every day for their favourite athlete.

Each competitor receives a unique voting link to share with family, friends and supporters. Additional votes can be obtained through donations benefiting Russell Wilson and Ciara's Why Not You Foundation, with every dollar donated counting as one additional vote.

For Stratton, the competition is an opportunity to take the qualities she has demonstrated as a young athlete in Whitewood onto a much bigger stage.

"Lily works hard, never quits and always has the best attitude when it comes to learning. She is a true team player on and off the ice and field," the site for Youth Athlete of the Year states.

The eventual Youth Athlete of the Year will receive $25,000 and be flown in for a professional athletic commercial shoot representing Russell Wilson's 3BRAND. The national advertising campaign is slated to appear on CBS and in Sports Illustrated.

Wilson's 3BRAND creates youth apparel with a message encouraging the next generation to chase greatness and approach their goals with a winning mindset.

The winner will also receive what organizers describe as the Championship Experience, designed to take a young athlete from hometown competition to the national stage while encouraging dreams of competing at the next level.

Lily Stratton

That experience includes VIP treatment at the Family Film & TV Awards, where the winner will receive a red-carpet experience and be honoured on stage during the awards program airing on CBS.

The winning athlete will also have an opportunity to learn directly from Russell Wilson through a one-on-one mentoring session, either virtually or in person. The session is intended to give the young athlete an opportunity to learn about competing at the highest level from one of professional football's most recognizable athletes.

The competition also supports a charitable cause aimed specifically at helping young people.

Founded by Wilson in 2014, the Why Not You Foundation is a nonprofit organization committed to transforming lives through education, children's health and the fight against poverty.

Built around the question, "Why Not You? Why Not Us?", the foundation encourages young people to believe in their potential and develop a mindset that can help them create positive change in their own lives and communities.

The organization works to provide individuals with tools, resources and encouragement to pursue opportunities and overcome barriers.

Its mission is to "empower change in the world, one individual at a time, and one child at a time."

That charitable component means supporters have two ways to help during the Youth Athlete of the Year competition. They can cast their free daily vote for Stratton, or they can make a donation benefiting the Why Not You Foundation, with each dollar donated providing an additional vote.

For Stratton, currently seventh in her group, every vote could make a difference as Thursday's Top 15 deadline approaches.

The competition may be nationwide, but for one young athlete, the journey begins right here in Whitewood.

Stratton has already demonstrated the determination, positive attitude and team spirit that are important parts of being an athlete. Now she has an opportunity to represent her community on a national stage.

Whitewood and area residents are encouraged to get behind Lily Stratton, cast their free daily vote and help a hometown athlete advance to the next round of the Youth Athlete of the Year competition.

Lily is the daughter of Kaydee Anna-Marie Boyd and Tim Stratton of Whitewood. To vote for Lily, go to Kaydee Anne-Marie Boyd or Youth Athlete of the Year sites on Facebook.

Good luck to Lily and to all the athletes that have entered as they help promote young people to believe in themselves, pursue opportunities and overcome barriers!

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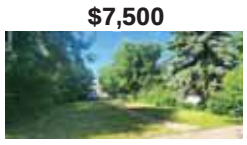
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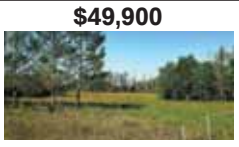
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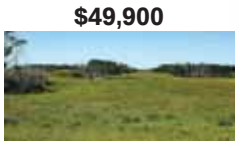
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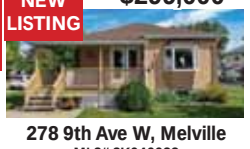
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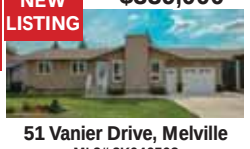
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Yorkton Terriers start 2026-27 season in the black

By Calvin Daniels
Grasslands News

Those attending the annual meeting of the Yorkton Terriers hockey club heard some good news last week.

"We had a profit of a bit over $3,500 last year," team president Curtis Malysh told Grasslands News.

While the profit was modest, Malysh reminded when he took over as president the team was in debt by $170,000.

"We had a three-year plan to pay that off," he said, adding they have done it in two.

"We're starting this season in a positive position."

Malysh said the community deserves a huge thanks for getting behind the team when losses were such there was a chance the team might fold.

"It's been amazing… The fan-support the last two years has been tremendous," he said, adding this past season attendance was tops in the SJHL.

It has helped too that the Terriers have had a couple of seasons where the team went deep into the playoffs – losing in the league final in 2025-26.

Malysh said they expect the team to remain competitive this season too.

"Talking with Emery (head coach and general manager Emery Olauson) we're excited with how recruiting has gone," he said.

Of course, the key now is ensuring the franchise continues to operate with a positive balance sheet.

That effort will get a boost with the launch of the Legacy Lottery Series, an undertaking made possible when a group of four businesses and two individuals came forward looking for a way to support the team, said Malysh.

The first of six lotteries planned for the next three seasons will begin Tuesday, Sept. 8, with the big prize of a Hyundai Venue.

Malysh said the organization will soon announce the guest speaker for the next Celebrity Sports Dinner as well.

Season tickets are also on sale by calling the Terrier office or stopping in at the Gallagher Centre location.

"We've kept the price the same… as a thank you for the support the last two years," said Malysh.

The Terriers have also released their 2026-27 Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League schedule, opening the regular season on Saturday, Sept. 19, when they host the Estevan Bruins at the Westland Insurance Arena.

JACOB MILLER I GRASSLANDS NEWS

Millionaires' fall camp

The Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League Melville Millionaires hosted their Fall Camp from Aug. 28 to 30 at the CN Community Centre. The fall camp featured four teams, Harkness (sand), Golden (maroon), Edwards (blue) and MSD (orange) made up of 56 players who participated in the camp.

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Pats, Wheat Kings bringing WHL action to Ochapowace

By GNG Staff
Grasslands News

Western Hockey League action is coming to Ochapowace First Nation this weekend, with the Regina Pats and Brandon Wheat Kings set to meet in a preseason matchup at the Chief Denton George Memorial Multiplex.

The two WHL clubs will face off Saturday, Sept. 5, at 6 p.m., with the game featuring several connections to the local area.

Among those behind the Regina bench will be Whitewood's Taras McEwen, an assistant coach with the Pats.

The Regina lineup will also feature Ochapowace band member Connor Bear and local product Reese Hamilton, giving area hockey fans plenty of hometown interest in the preseason contest.

For Bear, the game will provide an opportunity to suit up for the Pats in front of his home community as Regina continues preparations for the 2026-27 WHL season.

Hamilton will also be featured as part of the event, adding another local connection to the Pats' roster.

McEwen's role behind the bench adds a Whitewood connection to the game as the Pats' coaching staff evaluates players and begins shaping its roster ahead of the regular season.

The contest is being promoted under the theme "Great Hockey. Strong Community. Honoring Legacy," bringing major junior hockey to Ochapowace while showcasing players with ties to the area.

Tickets for Saturday's game are $20 for adults and $10 for students 17 and under.

The preseason matchup will give fans an early look at both clubs ahead of the WHL regular season while providing Bear, Hamilton and McEwen an opportunity to be part of a Pats' game close to home.

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

Melville Millionaires Jr. A Hockey Game Schedule

Home/Away Games
All Games 7 p.m.
unless otherwise stated
Pre-season
SEPTEMBER:
05– Weyburn at Melville
06– Melville at Weyburn
08– Waywayseecappo at Melville
09– Melville at Waywayseecappo 7:30
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:
04– Yorkton at Virden 7:30
05– Virden at Yorkton
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
OCTOBER:
03– Flin Flon at Yorkton
04– Yorkton at Weyburn 6:00

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Tradition Powers Innovation

Sports column – Darcy Gross

Gross Misconduct

If you enjoy sports, there certainly isn't any shortage of it these days.

The Toronto Blue Jays are locked in a Wild Card race with about half a dozen teams, the Saskatchewan Roughriders are nipping at the heels of the Edmonton Elks in the CFL West, and the National Hockey League is beginning to shake the cobwebs off and gear up for another season.

Meanwhile, golfers are scrambling to squeeze in those last few rounds before the leaves turn the fairways into a giant game of hide-and-seek, while anglers are looking toward September and hoping the fish are feeling generous.

Closer to home, the Melville Millionaires held their training camp on the weekend, and with the kids back in school, it won't be long before the local gridiron is buzzing again.

This scribe has never been a particularly big fan of falling leaves, shorter days and the inevitable arrival of snow, but there is one consolation to the changing weather: it also means the changing of the sporting seasons.

For better or worse.

Pretty soon, we'll be saying so long to campfires and hello to fireplaces, trading the smell of smoke for the glow of the television as we settle in for another long winter and wait for spring to return.

Speaking of sports, let's get back to the Blue Jays.

There's no way I'm the only guy in Canada wondering what Vladdy Guerrero Jr. has to do to convince John Schneider that maybe the two-hole isn't the best place for him.

At this point, having him bat second seems to do little more than guarantee another opportunity to bounce a ball into a double play.

At least if he were batting lead-off, he'd have a fighting chance of avoiding one double play a game.

To call the $500-million man a disappointment would be sugar-coating it -- and not just by a little bit.

We all know what Guerrero is capable of. We've seen the monster home runs, watched him win a Home Run Derby and seen him hit for a terrific average while making hitting look almost ridiculously easy.

But in 2026, that Vladdy seems to have gone missing.

These days, Jays fans are too often watching him strike out, pop up or roll another one over into the waiting hands of an infielder.

There are certain things you probably couldn't convince most Major League managers to do, and batting a struggling power hitter second would likely be near the top of that list.

John Schneider, however, apparently didn't get the memo.

Every game, Vladdy gets trotted back out in the two-hole, and every game Jays' fans cross their fingers, hoping this will be the one where he finally breaks loose.

Maybe it's time to shake things up.

Move him down in the order. Move him up. Move him somewhere.

Just change something before that last Wild Card spot disappears for the season.

Because there's still plenty of baseball left, but there won't be if the Jays keep handing away opportunities.

Closer to home, I had a few words with the Melville Millionaires' coach about training camp, and judging by what he had to say, there's plenty to be encouraged about.

He liked what he saw from the players, particularly the level of competition. The guys were working hard, competing for spots and, most importantly, showing plenty of skill.

That's exactly what you want to hear coming out of training camp.

Maybe this will be the year.

And if nothing else, it's another reason to look forward to seeing the lights come on at the local rink -- even if it does mean winter is coming along for the ride.

It's the price you pay if you want to live in Saskatchewan.

Although I'm not entirely convinced we're getting our money's worth.

Hopefully, there's still some summer left to enjoy before everything turns white, the wind starts howling and the temperature drops into the minuses.

Perhaps we will get a prolonged autumn, since we got ripped off with next to nothing for a spring.

It seems only fair.

We should at least get a decent fall before Mother Nature starts throwing frozen objects at us again.

So, enjoy the sunshine while it lasts. Get out on the golf course. Wet a fishing line. Sit around a campfire. Watch a football game.

Because before too long, we'll be scraping ice off windshields, looking for missing mitts and wondering why we continue to live in a place where the air hurts our face.

But hey, at least there will be hockey.

I suppose that's something.

Sports Column

New homes for some NFL quarterbacks

By Bruce Penton
Sports Columnist

When the 2026 National Football League season kicks off this week with a New England-at-Seattle Wednesday night classic, the same quarterbacks who battled Feb. 8 in the Super Bowl won 29-13 by Seattle, Sam Darnold for the Seahawks and Drake Maye for the Patriots, will both be under centre. The status quo at QB will be in effect at most other stadiums around the league, too, but there are a number of QBs wearing new NFL uniforms.

A handful of journeymen quarterbacks played a game of musical chairs in the National Football League's off season and many fans are asking, 'who's starting where?' Let's examine the movement.

Perhaps the most significant change involves Tua Tagovailoa, who for six years was the starting quarterback of the Miami Dolphins. Tua – whose actual first name is Tuanigamanuolepola – was a Pro Bowl QB in 2022 and led the NFL in passing yardage in 2023. But his star dimmed during the last couple of years and in 2025, he led the league in interceptions. In March, he was flat-out released by the Dolphins, and the Atlanta Falcons snapped him up, signing Tagovailoa to a one-year contract worth $1.215 million, close to the league minimum. Tua is likely to be the Falcons' starter, but will compete with Michael Penix, drafted two years ago, for the top job.

Suiting up in Miami to try to fill Tagovailoa's shoes is Malik Willis, who was a backup in Green Bay last year. He signed a three-year deal with the Dolphins worth $67.5 million.

Kyler Murray, who was picked number one overall in the 2019 draft by Arizona Cardinals, didn't lead them to the promised land, as had been hoped, and was released in March. Minnesota Vikings, who are hoping that their most recent top draft pick, J.J. McCarthy, will eventually develop into a star, snapped up Murray, signed him to a minimum salary on a one-year contract and abruptly named him the starting QB.

Geno Smith is expected to be the starter with New York Jets, marking a return to the team which drafted him in the second round in 2013. Smith has bounced around without much success, playing for the Giants, Chargers, Seahawks and the Raiders, before being dealt back to the Jets. The Raiders deemed him expendable when they chose number one in the draft and selected hotshot college star Fernando Mendoza, who led Indiana to an unbeaten season and the 2026 NCAA championship.

Finally, another quarterback situation of interest will unfold in Cleveland, where Deshaun Watson is expected to be the number one man ahead of last year's rookie hopeful, Shedeur Sanders. The son of Deion Sanders played in eight games for the Browns in 2025, throwing seven TD passes and 10 interceptions. Watson, in the final year of a five-year $230 million contract but plagued in recent years by injury and serious legal problems, has all-star potential and a terrible reputation.

Some will succeed. Some will fail. And the quarterback carousel is almost certain to continue again next year.

• Mike Bianchi of the Orlando Sentinel: "The Cleveland Browns choosing Deshaun Watson as the starting quarterback over Shedeur Sanders is the NFL equivalent of looking in the refrigerator, seeing nothing but expired milk and deciding, 'Eh, what the hell, it's only five days past due.'"

• Retired basketball star Shaquille O'Neal: "Excellence is not a singular act but a habit. You are what you do repeatedly."

• Headline from TheBeaverton.com: "Guys who get punched in the head for a living worried about Trump's cognitive state"

• Super 70s Sports: "I hereby retroactively declare the Montreal Expos 1994 world champions. I'll be having a parade tomorrow in my living room."

• Janice Hough of leftcoastsportsbabe.com: "Fans in San Jose voted for "the Blades" for their then new NHL hockey team. And the owners decided it had ties to gang violence. So they changed to the 'Sharks.' Apparently never saw West Side Story."

• Mike Bianchi of the Orlando Sentinel: "The NFL has finally decided to eliminate the Pro Bowl and the Pro Bowl Games – a merciful end for an event that had been in hospice care for about 20 years. Sadly, doctors could find no sign of competitive life."

• Another one from fark.com: "NFL ends the Pro Bowl. Both remaining viewers are devastated."

• "Another one from Bianchi: "LIV Golf just cancelled its final tournament of the season and now is laying off all of its employees. Translation: LIV is now DED."

• Another theonion.com headline: "'Do You Have Any Idea Who I Am?' Jalen Brunson Shouts At Librarian Refusing To Move Him Up 'Lonesome Dove' Waitlist."

• Steve Simmons of the Toronto Sun: "I'm confused by the giant salaries paid to NFL broadcasters. Like, why do it? I'm going to watch because it's football. Tom Brady or Tony Romo, or anyone else for that matter, aren't the reason I tune in."

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

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would like to thank the following businesses for their support of our recent Open Texas Scramble Golf Tournament. Also, thank you to all the teams who came out and supported us. Hope to see you all next year!

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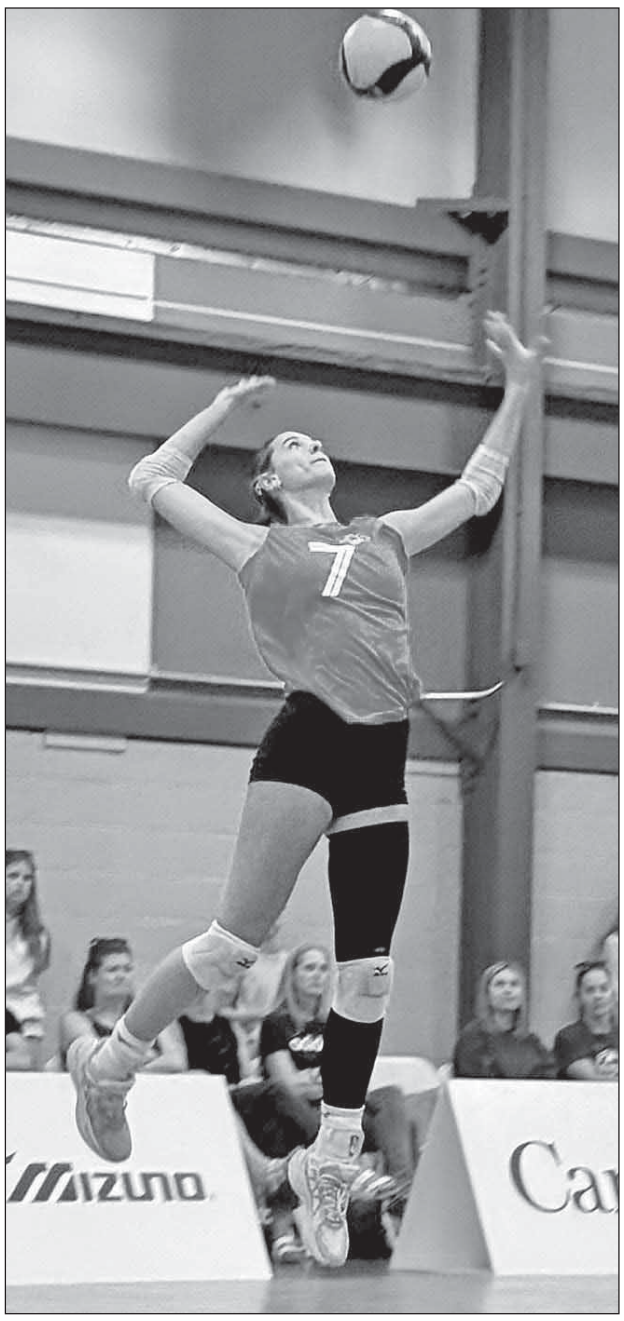
Kipling's Byrnell has been busy on the volleyball court



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Huge serve

Over the past few months Kipling's Shayla Byrnell has pursued her passion for volleyball on courts in Canada and beyond our borders.

By Connie Schwalm
Grasslands News

Over the past few months, Shayla Byrnell has been spending a lot of time on the volleyball court both in Canada and abroad.

Last fall, Byrnell was a member of the Canadian U17 Girls Volleyball Team that travelled to the NORCECA U17 Championship held in San Jose, Costa Rica. Then last spring Byrnell says that she had the chance to see another part of the world as a member of a different team.

"In May, I went to Honduras for a tournament called the 'Pan American Cup,'" she explains. "Taking part in this tournament allows you to earn points for your country, which counted in the FIVB Girls U7 World Championship held in early August. Team Canada didn't qualify for the World Championship because we didn't place among the top five teams in Costa Rica. But I was chosen as one of three select players and was able to go with a Pacific Coast PCVC team to Honduras, and that team ended up placing fourth overall."

"Even though the tournament in Honduras wasn't as competitive as the one in Costa Rica, it was still a fantastic experience," Byrnell goes on to say. "It was great to be in that environment because we three select players were added to a team that has played together for years and had the chance to be coached from a different perspective. It was a bit of a challenge since we hadn't met the girls on this team before. But they were very welcoming and it worked out well."

Then in July Byrnell says she was back on the volleyball court again, this time in her home province.

"In July, I was a member of the Red & White Canadian Team which was a nationally selected team made up of players from across Canada. Thirty of us came together to train, then we were split into two teams, and both teams were able to play in the Canada Cup that was held in Regina at the end of July. My team – the Red & White Canadian Team – placed second overall, losing to the Saskatchewan Team in four sets."

That second-place finish brought summertime volleyball to an end for Byrnell. As the Grade 11 student prepares to head back to classes at Kipling School, she says that she will have to wait to find out if she will be a member of Team Canada next year.

"There will be nothing more going on for me with Team Canada until next summer," she notes. "And there's a lot of competition to get onto the team, so there is no guarantee that I won't be cut."

No matter what happens with her place on Team Canada however, Byrnell says she intends to continue spending time on the volleyball court.

"I'll be playing club volleyball here in Kipling and playing on the high school team" she says. "And of course I don't know yet where I'll be going to school after I graduate. But if I have the opportunity to continue playing volleyball, I'd like that to be a part of my life."

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Fort Knox, Storm prepare for PJHL preseason action

By GNG Staff
Grasslands News

The Prairie Junior Hockey League will return to the ice this month, with Fort Knox and the Pilot Butte Storm preparing for the 2026-27 campaign.

The two Grasslands-area clubs will begin their exhibition schedules against each other Tuesday, Sept. 15, at the Prairie Co-op Rexentre in Fort Qu'Appelle. Puck drop is scheduled for 7:30 p.m.

Fort Knox will then host a weekend of preseason hockey Sept. 19 and 20 involving the Storm, Regina Capitals and Regina Silver Foxes.

Pilot Butte and the Silver Foxes will open the weekend Saturday, Sept. 19, at 4 p.m. Fort Knox will face the Capitals later that evening at 7 p.m.

The exhibition weekend continues Sunday, Sept. 20, with Fort Knox meeting the Silver Foxes at 4 p.m., followed by the Storm and Capitals at 7 p.m.

The games will give coaching staffs an opportunity to evaluate returning players, prospects and newcomers before setting their rosters for the regular season.

Fort Knox enters the new campaign looking to remain among the contenders in the PJHL's Bill Johnston Division. After capturing the league championship in 2024-25, Knox finished second in the South Division during the 2025-26 regular season and advanced to the division final before being eliminated by the Capitals in five games.

The Saskatoon Westleys ultimately captured the 2025-26 PJHL championship by defeating Regina in six games.

Pilot Butte finished fourth in the South Division last season. The Storm advanced through the survivor series before falling to the Capitals in the division semifinal.

The new season will also mark a change in the South Division following the departure of the Moosomin Steelhawks. The PJHL conducted a dispersal draft involving Steelhawks players in June after the club's lone season in the league.

The 2026-27 regular season begins Wednesday, Sept. 23, when the Prince Albert Timberjaks visit the Saskatoon Royals.

Fort Knox and Pilot Butte will open their regular-season schedules against each other Saturday, Sept. 26, at the Pilot Butte Recreation Centre. Game time is 7:45 p.m.

The Storm will remain home to face the Regina Capitals Wednesday, Sept. 30, at 8 p.m. Fort Knox's home opener had not appeared among the opening-week games shown on the league schedule.

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It rained on our parade, but it was a marvelous event

By Kathleen Gibson
Grasslands News

"How will you celebrate your 50th anniversary," daughter Amanda asked, in early summer. A half century of God's goodness and mercy chasing after us. But I had no idea.

"You have to do something," she said. "Fifty years is pretty special." She was right, especially considering the multitude of crises that could have shortened that.

She outlined a good plan. Bottom of her and our son-in-law's large property, a big tent, full meal. Kendall smoking a huge hunk of meat. Cold drinks. A very large cake.

"Sounds lovely. But I don't know who'd come." We've lived a pretty quiet life lately.

"Mom," she countered. "You have LOTS of friends who would come." The preacher liked the idea. And her plan. I agreed. Her yard. The whole works.

Weeks later, she dropped in. Looked around. "Your yard is so pretty. We should have your celebration here."

An at-home event would be better for the preacher, I knew. We agreed to switch venues and started over. A tent? Scratch that. Smoked meat? Nope. A hot meal. Nope also. A very large, purchased cake? Make that two. Cold drinks. Fruit. When we had it figured, Amanda designed an invitation for posting on Facebook.

A few nights later, I started fretting. Suddenly it all seemed too much. Too much to do. Too much to expect of others. Too much for just one day of happy. About the time panic attacks began, God sent the kitchen angels. Twin friends, Naomi and Ruth. Organized, capable, encouraging. Supreme bakers. "We'll make all the desserts," they said, "and be your hostesses."

Our BC son Anthony arrived a week early to assist with preparations. Shovelling, lifting, fetching, mowing. Even making bookmarks for guests. And all week, we monitored the weather app. The forecast looked good. But minutes before start time, the twins and I stood beside the cake table and merrily perking coffeepot, watching raindrops dampen our party-ready backyard. Would it be a brief squall or an enduring one? Who could know?

"Lord, help," we prayed. "Show us what to do." Suddenly, we knew. "We have to move." We posted signs, and all available hands pitched in to load the food and decorations into vehicles and cart it down the street to the church we attend. (Thank you, Pastor John and MBC.)

It's behind us now, the big celebration that scared my socks off. All over except the thank yous.

I sit and click, surrounded by cards and gifts, basking in warm memories of the preacher standing tall. Smiling. (A wonder, that.) Of hugs and greetings from folks we love, family, friends and past parishioners. We ended the day thoroughly spoiled and supremely blessed.

And I realized (again) that the most beautiful thing in the world isn't a perfect venue, a three-course meal, or sublime weather. It's the people who matter. Those who've walked with you through life, who've encouraged you and who you have encouraged. People who care enough to make time for you, even if it's inconvenient or costly.

It's love that counts most – and rain can't dampen that.

Public invited to wetlands symposium

By Sarah Pacio
Grasslands News

A public forum will be held in Fort Qu'Appelle later this month to consider various aspects of water quality in the Calling Lakes region. The Qu'Appelle Valley Environmental Association will host "Protecting Prairie Water, Habitat and Health" at St. Andrew's United Church on Sept. 12.

The Qu'Appelle Valley Environmental Association was founded in 2016 by individuals interested in preserving the natural landscape of the Qu'Appelle Valley. The non-profit organization is particularly concerned with protecting the Lower Qu'Appelle Watershed region, which includes Pasqua, Echo, Mission, Katepwa, Round, and Crooked Lakes. Since its establishment, the QVEA has endeavoured to raise public awareness on climate change issues, taking steps to protect marshland habitat and voiced concerns regarding the impact of industrial developments on natural waterways.

In addition to its advocacy efforts, the QVEA provides a platform for public education on conservation and related topics. The association's upcoming symposium will begin with coffee and conversations at 9 a.m. on Sept. 12, followed by a presentation titled "The Health of the Calling Lakes" by Dr. Peter Leavitt from the University of Regina at 10 a.m. After lunch, a panel will convene at 1 p.m. to discuss "Finding Common Ground" in relation to protecting natural resources in the valley. Five panelists have been invited to participate. Janna Pratt, an activist from George Gordon First Nation, will share her perspective on treaty rights. Cathy Holtslander, a former Director of Research and Policy at NFU, will speak on the aspect of land ownership. Farm activist Sandy Lowndes will provide information relating to drainage, Dr. Brett Dolter from the University of Regina will consider climate concerns, and Dr. Meredith McKague from the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment will speak to the issue from a health standpoint. The program will conclude with an open discussion at 3 p.m.

The QVEA invites members of the public to attend the forum at no charge, and lunch will be provided.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Melville Churches Welcome You

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
238 - 3rd Ave. E.
Office Ph. 306-728-2551
Office Hours: Mondays
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Clergy: Deacon Kevin Prouten
www.stpaulsmelville.ca
Sunday, Sept. 6:
11 a.m. Worship at St. Paul's
–– at Neudorf/Lemberg --
No info Available

ALL SAINTS' ANGLICAN CHURCH
Corner 6th Ave. E. & Main St.
306-720-0589
**Services Every Second Sunday*
No Services Scheduled for July and August
Services resume Sept. 6

FIRST UNITED CHURCH
5th Ave. E. & King St.
Rev. Brian Mee, 306-335-7611
website: firstunitedmelville.org
Sunday, Sept. 6:
11:00 a.m. Worship Service with Rev. Brian Mee

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

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
258 - 10th Ave. W.
Ph. 306-728-3971
Pastor Ronald Shumba
facebook.com/gslcmelville
Sept. 6: 10:30 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
Sunday, Sept. 6:
9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy
Saturday, Sept. 12:
7:00 p.m. Divine Liturgy

MELVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH
473 - 8th Ave. W.
Office Ph. 306-728-5022
Pastor Jon Pettinger
Associate Pastor: Jesse Darby
Sunday during Summer Months:
Worship Service at 10:30 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. 6:
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. 6:
11:00 a.m. No 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. 6:
11:00 a.m. Mass

ST. MARY'S ANGLICAN CHURCH
Sunday, Sept. 6:
No Service

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, WAPELLA
Sunday, Sept. 6:
12:00 noon Communion Service
Followed by Lunch

WHITEWOOD UNITED CHURCH
Sunday, Sept. 6:
No 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.
No Regular Services in July

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
Saturday, Sept. 5:
6:30 p.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

Fort Qu'Appelle Churches Welcome You

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

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

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

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- Ephesians 1:4 NIV

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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)
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Saltcoats, SK
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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, Sask
"Services In English"
www.stmarkyorkton.ca
IC XC NI KA
Come and experience the faith of the apostles
Saturday, September 5th - Vespers 6:00 p.m.
Sunday, September 6th Divine Liturgy
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 6:
Divine Liturgy - 10:00AM - Yorkton

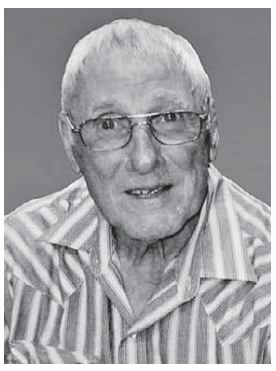
CLASSIFIEDS

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

Fredrick N. Brown

Feb. 11, 1935 – Aug. 24, 2026



Fredrick N. Brown, of Indian Head, SK, passed away on Monday, Aug. 24, 2026, at the age of 91 years.

Fred leaves behind his wife of 67 years, Yvonne Brown (Skinner); son Richard (Sheryl Wass) and daughter Jill Marlin (Bradley); grandchildren, Christopher (Siobhan), Aaron (Amanda), Jennifer Marlin (Rod Harrison) and Jordan Marlin; great-grandchildren, Oliver and Sarah Brown and Freddie Deborah and Arthur Marlin-Harrison.

Fred was predeceased by his parents Thomas Brown (1898-1936) and Grace McIntosh (1901-1995) and stepfather Fredrick Ovens (1898-1982). Also, seven brothers, Clifford, Earl, Charley, Gordon, Ron, Clarence (Shorty) and Lorne; and two sisters, Ruth and Loretta.

Fred was the youngest of 10 children and born in Yorkton, SK. In 1952 his mother remarried and they moved to the valley farm at Katepwa. Fred became a farmer, he had a love of the machinery and the land. Fred also played hockey for Indian Head for more than 50 years, playing juvenile, senior and old timers. Hockey was likely his first love, an avid Montreal Canadians fan. The sport and social aspect, beer, music and fun. The team was a "family" back then.

Though short in stature, his charisma and presence could fill any room. When visiting the farm, the coffee was always hot and there was a seat at the table to welcome whomever drove into the yard that day. He will be remembered for his quick wit, kindness, warmth and his positive outlook. A man of many talents, he could be found in his wood working shop creating a wonderful piece of furniture. He enjoyed traveling and exploring many countries. He even rode a camel! He will be missed and forever remembered by all his family, friends and many hockey enthusiasts. His legacy will live on with anyone who had the pleasure of sharing a laugh with him.

A celebration of life took place in the Indian Head Memorial Hall, Indian Head, SK, on Sunday, Aug. 30, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. with Don Jewitt officiating. The interment will take place at a later date in the All Saints Anglican Parish Cemetery, Katepwa, SK.

In lieu of flowers, donations in memoriam may be made to the Indian Head and District Hospital Foundation Inc. by Etransfer to: ihhospitalfoundation@gmail.com or mail to Box 1547, Indian Head, SK S0G 2K0.

Online condolences may be made at www.tubmanfh.com

Dignity Memorial

Obituary

Sherwin Albert Derby

Dec. 15, 1935 – Aug. 27, 2026

Sherwin Albert Derby passed away on Thursday, Aug. 27, 2026, at the age of 90 years.

He was the middle child of five, born to Albert and Lillian Derby on Dec. 15, 1935, in Grenfell. He married his forever love, Marilyn, on Oct. 24, 1959.

Sherwin is survived by his wife Marilyn and four children: Jo-anne Derby (Saskatoon); Denise (Rick) Stilling (Saskatoon) – Richard, Lauresa, Nikita and Derick; Brian (Paula) Derby (Estevan) – Kayla, Amber and great-grandson Koean; and Glenda (Tracy) Erickson (Melville) – Jory (Jodi) and Rowan; and brother Roger Derby (Regina).

Sherwin was predeceased by his parents Albert and Lillian: his siblings Carol Popplewell, Howard Derby and Lorraine Schmidt; and brother-in-law William Armbruster.

He was a third-generation farmer and his heart was always on the farm. He was a hardworking mixed farmer who loved his horses and cattle. As a young boy, he was recruited to play for senior men's fastball teams. He enjoyed hunting, fishing and curling and shared his love of hockey through coaching. He remained an avid sports fan and especially enjoyed watching local teams and attending his grandchildren's activities.

Sherwin was generous with his time and quietly gave back to his community. He volunteered with the Tetlock Telephone District, Pool Elevator, Grenfell Wildlife Federation, Snowplowing Club and many other community groups over the years. He never sought recognition for his contributions; helping and being part of the community was simply who he was.

Sherwin cherished family and friends and he loved connecting at auction sales and over coffee. The twinkle in his eye, teasing nature and unmistakable laugh will be remembered by all who knew him. He was resilient, facing many health and life challenges with a positive attitude and enduring faith. As a father, his lasting legacy will be his love, kindness, integrity, generosity, support and tenacity. Those who knew Sherwin will hold close the many memories of a life well lived and a man who was truly special.

The funeral service will take place in Peace Lutheran Church, Grenfell, SK on Saturday, Sept. 12, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. with Pastor Noel Richards officiating. A private family interment will take place in the Grenfell Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations in memoriam, may be made to, Grenfell District Health Foundation, PO Box 1120, Grenfell, SK S0G 2B0 or visit https://gdhf.ca/memorial; in support of the construction of the new long-term care facility. Or donations may also be made to Heart & Stroke Foundation of Sask., 1738 Quebec Ave. Unit 26, Saskatoon, SK. S7K 1V9.

Online condolences may be made at www.tubmanfh.com

Dignity Memorial

Obituary

Ivan Ethelbert Daunt

April 20, 1925 – Aug. 17, 2026

Ivan Ethelbert Daunt, aged 99. A long-time resident of Yorkton, Sask., passed away near Dawson City, YT on Monday, Aug.17, 2026.

Born in Glanmire, Co. Cork, Ireland in 1927, the son of George and Mary (Willis) Daunt. He was the youngest of three boys, his older brothers being Ronnie and Cyril. He attended Cork Grammar School and then the medical school at University College, Cork.

After university, he did a residency at Dudley Road Hospital, in Birmingham, UK, where he met his future wife, Frances Bonaker, known as Bonnie by her friends and Nancy by her family. They were married in January of 1952.

After their daughter Jacqueline was born in 1953, Ivan enlisted with the Royal Army Medical Corps and the family was stationed in Hong Kong, where Kieran and Juliet were born. After his service was complete, they returned to the UK, where Michael was born. Ivan then became the Assistant County Surgeon in Bantry on the southern coast of Ireland.

Seizing the opportunity to move to Canada, Ivan set up practice in Invermay, Sask. in 1962. Felicia and Mark were added to the family during this time. After three years there and a brief stint in Saskatoon, he finally settled down in Yorkton in November of 1966, joining Drs. Houston, Crossley and Houston. He would stay there until he finally retired in 2011 at the age of 84, having practiced medicine for over 60 years.

Ivan was always an active person who loved sailing and swimming. He would occasionally try hunting and fishing but never seemed to kill or catch anything. He was fascinated by geology, setting up his amateur lapidary workshop in the basement of his house. He also dabbled in plastics and silver-smithing. But his two passions were politics and gold prospecting. He attempted to run for office several times, both provincially and federally, but without success. And he spent over 50 years working every summer in the Klondike, outside of Dawson City (with the occasional foray into opal prospecting in Australia), often flying his little plane, which helped him avoid the notorious Alaska Highway.

Ivan is survived by his six children: Jacqueline, Kieran, Juliet, Michael (Elizabeth), Felicia (Gareth Cook) and Mark (Candy); as well as his grandchildren, Luke Palmer (Samantha), Joshua Palmer (Lauren), Isaac Daunt, Flynn Daunt, George Andrew Daunt, Thomas Daunt, Zachary Daunt (Katie) and Jacob Daunt. He is also survived by numerous nieces, nephews, and six great-grandchildren.

Ivan was predeceased by his wife, Bonnie, in 2009 and his brother Cyril passed away at the age of 98 in 2024. His brother Ronnie died young in the 1930s.

Obituary

Agnes Eva Exner

Aug. 4, 1929 – Aug. 24, 2026

Agnes Eva Exner passed away peacefully, surrounded by her family, on Monday, Aug. 24, 2026, at St. Peter's Hospital in Melville, SK.

Agnes was born on Aug. 4, 1929, on the family farm near Waldron, SK, to John and Margaret Appel. She grew up on the family farm helping with farm work, babysitting and later working at Esterhazy and Melville hospitals.

On June 7, 1949, Agnes married Tony Exner. Together they farmed and raised their family. Agnes was a dedicated farm wife and homemaker who took pride in creating a warm and welcoming home for her family and friends. When they retired from the farm, Agnes and Tony moved to Killaly and later to Melville. Agnes enjoyed her retirement with many close friends, coffee visits, and cherished time with family.

Agnes will be lovingly remembered by her five children: Mona Lipinski, Glenn (Lorna) Exner, Darlene Exner, Larry (Patricia) Exner and Colleen (Mark) Wihlidal; 15 grandchildren, 23 great-grandchildren, and 4 great-great-grandchildren; brother Raymond (Marlene) Appel; numerous nephews and nieces; special friend Leona Hall; and brother-in-law Zach Bernhardt. Agnes was predeceased by her husband, Tony; parents John and Margaret Appel; her son, Eugene Exner; her son-in-law, Frank Lipinski; her brothers, Wilfred and Jack Appel; and sister Alvina Bernhardt.

The family wishes to express their sincere thanks to the doctors and staff at St. Peter's Hospital for their compassionate care. In lieu of flowers, donations in memory of Agnes may be made to St. Peter's Hospital Foundation, Melville, SK.

Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for Agnes on Monday, Aug. 31, 2026, at St. Henry's Roman Catholic Church, Melville, with the Rev. Fr. Melchor Samonte and Deacon Dave Hudy celebrating. Interment followed in the St. Elizabeth's Parish Cemetery, Killaly.

Arrangements were entrusted to Matthews Funeral Home, Melville.

MATTHEWS Funeral Home

Place a Classified

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Services

Indian Head Library

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effective Sept. 4, 2026

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5:30 - 8:30 p.m.
THURSDAY
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FRIDAY CLOSED
SATURDAY
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Obituary Deadline

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Obituary

Amanda Hitchens (Kotyk)

Aug. 1, 1981 – Aug. 24, 2026

The family of Amanda Hitchens (nee Kotyk) beloved wife of Michael, and loving mother to Haley and Zoey, sadly announce her passing on Monday, Aug. 24, 2026.

Amanda was born Aug 1, 1981, in Canora, SK. The seventh child of Peter and Elsie Kotyk (nee Eftoda) of Rama, SK. Amanda attended elementary school in Buchanan, then high school in Canora. After graduating school Amanda moved to Yorkton to attend secondary education. That is where she met Michael in 2000. After dating for a couple years, they were married Aug. 9, 2003, and purchased their first house in Yorkton to call home.

In May 2006, Amanda and Michael were blessed with their first daughter Haley. But Amanda, being from a big family, in January 2008 they were blessed with their second daughter Zoey to complete their family. Haley and Zoey were the mini-Amanda's. They were never far away. Whether pinching perogies or hanging out at the lake. Amanda was always there to support, guide and teach the girls. She was extremely proud of her Ukrainian heritage. She taught and instilled in the girls from Ukrainian dance to making traditional dishes.

Amanda grew up alongside her nieces and nephews and was looked up as a big sister rather than an auntie. Always there to be their number one fan. Didn't matter where or when, time or place. She would show up to support and cheer the loudest.

Amanda was always welcoming for family, friends or neighbours. Whether it be a quick chat or over the top gathering. Amanda loved to spend time at the lake with her girls or out for a scouting adventure with Michael. As long as it didn't involve wearing anything that messed her hair. To all that know her knew she was someone you could talk to, trust and be cheered on by. Amanda will be missed by everyone that ever met and knew her. Amanda took part and enjoyed ladies and mixed league curling and many fun bonspiels. Amanda took great pride working at the Yorkton District Nursing Home as a food service worker and then a dietary clerk.

Amanda had joy in being part of the Yorkton Kalyna Dance Club for 16 years.

Amanda is survived by her husband Michael and her daughters Haley and Zoey; her mother Elsie; her siblings Dennis, Val (Al) VanCaeseele, Rita (Brent) Byers, Michael, Sharon (Rob) Prazma, brother-in-law Jim Jones; her in- laws James (Jim) Hitchens, Doris Hitchens, Matthew (Tammy) Hitchens, Mitchell (Natasha) Hitchens, Mark (Dominique) Hitchens; as well a numerous extended family.

Amanda is predeceased by her father Peter Kotyk; sister Karen Jones; grandparents John and Katie Kotyk, Alex and Mary Eftoda; uncles and aunties Morris and Vickey Sackney, Walter Kowalchuk, Willy and Sandy Kotyk, John and Stephie Ternowski and Steve Obodiak.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

For those wishing to make a donation in Amanda's memory, donations may be made to a Education Trust Fund for Haley and Zoey as gifts of remembrance. Donations may be dropped off at Bailey's Funeral Home, 45 5th Ave. N, Yorkton.

Memoriam

Mathew C. Pacholko
Jan. 17, 1917 - Sept. 6, 1966

As you were a school teacher, you suddenly died on the first day of school in Pelly, SK at the age of 49 years old. Then your oldest son Clark died May 18, 1968 at age 22 years old. Then your wife Julia (Smerchynski) died July 2022 at the age of 104 years old.

–Sadly missed by your son Dean and daughters, Janice and Judy.

Card of Thanks

The family of Ray Sedley of Yorkton would like to thank everyone who was there for us during his passing. Much appreciation to those who sent floral arrangements, visits, food, gift cards, donations to Heart & Stroke Foundation, Regina Cancer Patient Lodge, and St. Andrew's Church Memorial Fund. A special thank you to Dr. Roodt, Dr. Okafor, Dr. Cottingham and the nursing staff at the Yorkton Regional Hospital for your care of Ray and to Bailey's Funeral Home for all the arrangements.

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COIN COLLECTION for sale, dating back from the 1930s. 25 coins in all. Asking $250.00 OBO. 306-352-2203, Regina.

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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.

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95th Birthday

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95th Birthday of our mother, Doreen Hack

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Saturday, Sept. 12, 2026

from 2 to 4 p.m.
in the Lower Hall of St. Paul's Lutheran Church,
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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. 3: 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.

Charimain Wowk,
Returning Officer

ACCEPTING TENDERS

The Neudorf Coop is accepting tenders for:

ONE STORAGE SHED BUILDING
20' x 40' building

Scope of Work: To supply all labour, materials and equipment necessary to perform the construction of a storage shed.

Building Details:

- Tin roof, tin siding
- One walk-in door
- One sliding door
- Wood construction, wood floor

Building to be moved off site by September 30, 2026
Tenders Close - Tuesday, September 8, 2026 at 5 p.m.

Tenders may be submitted by email, fax, postal service or in person. Lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

Neudorf Co-op
111 Main Street - P.O. Box 190,
NEUDORF, SK S0A 2T0
PHONE: 306-748-2474 – FAX: 306-748-2646
neudorfcoop@sasktel.net

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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

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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

Notice to Creditors

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the Estate of **Ellis Gustav Ramstead,** late of Broadview, Sask., deceased.

All claims against the above estate, duly verified by statutory declaration and with particulars and valuation of security held, if any, must be sent to the undersigned before the 7th day of October, 2026.

WILLOWS LLP
Barristers & Solicitors
401 - 1916 Dewdney Ave.
Regina, Sask. S4R 1G9

Solicitors for the Estate of Ellis Gustav Ramstead

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9:00am - 4:00pm

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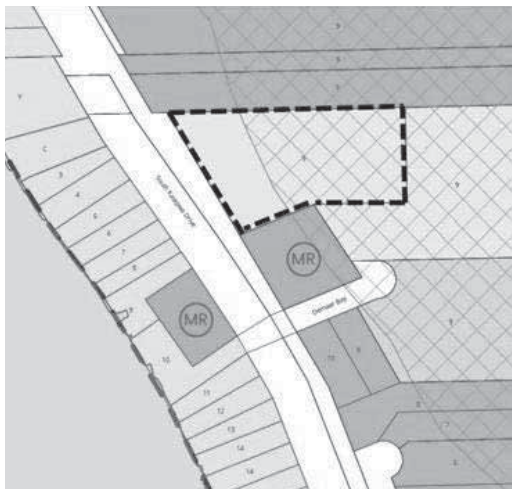
PUBLIC NOTICE

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

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

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Arena Facility Operator/Caretaker - Two (2) Positions

The Town of Balcarres is seeking two individuals to provide Arena Facility Operator/Caretaker services for the 2026/2027 rink season.

Council is prepared to consider applicants interested in working under either of the following arrangements:

- **Seasonal Employee Position** – paid an hourly wage as an employee of the Town; or
- **Seasonal Contract Position** – providing rink operation and caretaking services under a contract with the Town.

Applicants are encouraged to indicate which arrangement they are interested in. Council will consider applications under either option.

Anticipated Season: October 2026 to April 2027.

Responsibilities

Arena Facility Operators will be responsible for duties including:

- Operating the ice resurfacer (Zamboni), resurfacing ice and maintaining ice quality;
- Monitoring the ice plant and completing routine and daily inspections;
- Cleaning dressing rooms, washrooms, lobby, bleachers and other facility areas;
- Emptying garbage and recycling and stocking washroom supplies;
- Following established cleaning schedules and checklists;
- Providing additional cleaning and on-site attendance during tournaments, busy periods and scheduled rentals;
- Snow and ice removal from entrances, walkways and emergency exits;
- Minor building and equipment maintenance and repairs;
- Opening and closing the facility;
- Assisting with setup and takedown for rentals, tournaments and special events;
- Monitoring the facility for safety hazards, maintenance concerns and equipment issues;
- Completing a deep cleaning of the arena during the Christmas break; and
- Other rink-related duties as required.

Hours & Availability

Applicants must be dependable and prepared to work a flexible schedule based on rink bookings and operational requirements. Hours may include:

- Days;
- Evenings;
- Weekends;
- Statutory holidays;
- Tournaments;
- Special events; and
- Other busy rental periods.

Qualifications & Skills

The successful applicants should:

- Be dependable and able to work independently with minimal supervision;
- Have strong attention to detail and a commitment to maintaining a clean and safe facility;
- Have basic mechanical aptitude and the ability to safely operate tools and equipment;
- Be capable of performing physical work including lifting, shovelling and equipment operation;
- Have their own transportation and a valid driver's licence; and
- Be willing to work flexible hours based on facility use.

Previous rink or facility maintenance experience, Zamboni operation, refrigeration knowledge, First Aid/CPR and WHMIS are considered assets. Training may be provided where necessary.

How to Apply

Interested individuals are invited to submit a resume or Expression of Interest outlining:

Relevant experience and qualifications:

- Availability;
- References;
- Whether they are interested in the Seasonal Employee, Seasonal Contract, or either arrangement; and
- For applicants proposing a contract arrangement, their proposed contract amount.

Applications will be accepted until suitable candidates are selected.

Town of Balcarres
P.O. Box 130, 209 Main Street, Balcarres, SK S0G 0C0
Phone: 306-334-2566 – Fax: 306-334-2907
Email: balcarresrec@sasktel.net

The Town of Balcarres thanks all applicants for their interest. Only those candidates selected for an interview will be contacted.

UPCOMING EVENT

CONTACT US

news@grasslandsnews.ca
1-844-GNG-NEWS
1-844- 464-6397
www.grasslandsnews.ca

SUBMITTEDI GRASSLANDS NEWS

5 Generations in Melville area

Photos from the left: Photo #1 - back row, grandmother Darlene Guenther, mother Jessica Chiasson. Front row, great-great-grandmother Frances Beres, great-grandmother Geraldine Hudy and baby Wesley Chiasson.

Photo #2 - back row, grandmother Melanie Lachowsky, mother Brittaney Schwartz. Front row, great-grandmother Geraldine Hudy, great-great-grandmother Frances Beres and baby Levi Schwartz.

Photo #3 - back row, father Brett Guenther, grandmother Darlene Guenther. Front row, great-grandmother Geraldine Hudy holding baby Alexander Guenther and great-great-grandmother Frances Beres holding baby Nicholas Guenther.

Big Brothers Big Sisters OF YORKTON AND AREA

NOW HIRING
MENTORING COORDINATOR
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Yorkton and Area
Make a difference. Build connections. Change lives.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Yorkton and Area is seeking a **Full-Time Mentoring Coordinator** to help deliver quality mentoring programs and support positive, meaningful relationships between youth and volunteer mentors.

Full-Time: $23–$25 per hour | Based on education and experience

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES
- Coordinate mentoring programs, including mentoring matches
- Recruit, assess, onboard, and support volunteer mentors
- Conduct youth, family, and volunteer intake and assessment
- Monitor and support mentoring relationships
- Maintain confidential records and documentation
- Build strong relationships with youth, families, volunteers, schools, and community partners
- Support community outreach, fundraising, and promotional activities
- Ensure programs meet Big Brothers Big Sisters National Standards and organization policies and procedures.

We are looking for someone who is:
Compassionate • Organized • Dependable • Relationship-Focused
The successful candidate must have a **2-year diploma** in Education, Social/Human Sciences, Child & Youth Development, Family Studies, or a related field. **Third-year Social Work students are encouraged to apply.**

Additional requirements:
- Experience working with youth, families, volunteers, or community programs is an asset
- Strong communication, interpersonal, organizational, and problem-solving skills
- Valid driver's licence and reliable access to a vehicle
- Ability to work some evenings and occasional weekends
- Ability to obtain required Criminal Record/Vulnerable Sector and Child Abuse Registry checks
- Must currently reside in Canada and be legally entitled to work in Canada
- First Aid/CPR is an asset
- Willingness to travel within Yorkton and Area

If you are passionate about helping young people reach their potential and believe in the power of positive mentoring relationships, we want to hear from you!

APPLICATION DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 15, 2026
Email your resume to:
Irma.vandebon@bigbrothersbigsisters.ca
Learn more:
Yorkton.bigbrothersbigsisters.ca
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Yorkton and Area is committed to creating an inclusive environment where children, youth, families, volunteers, and staff feel welcomed, respected, and valued.

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NOTICE OF ABANDONMENT OF POLL

GOOD SPIRIT SCHOOL DIVISION ELECTIONS

Whereas a poll is **not** required pursuant to the Local Government Act for the office(s) of:

BOARD MEMBER, GOOD SPIRIT SCHOOL DIVISION NO.204

Sub-Division No. 2 : Representing the incorporated area of the Villages of Endeavour, Hyas and Stenen, the Towns of Preeceville and Sturgis, and associated rural areas.

I hereby give notice that NO VOTING for the said office(s) will take place and that the following person is elected by acclamation:
Sub-Division No. 2 – Jacqueline D. Johnson

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

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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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Gardener's Corner

A 'tossed salad' of various, interesting information

By Debbie Hayward
Grasslands News

Let's have cup of tea and share a salad bowl – today is kind of a 'tossed salad' of various interesting information I'd like to share with you.

The first thing is about grapes. We have a grape plant in our garden, and this year has been a first in terms of 'growth for one year'. More about that in a couple minutes, but first let's talk grapes.

Grapes like an area with full sun and well-drained soil. Because they can grow up to 15 feet or more in a season, they would do best where they can climb either on a solid fence or arbor. A trellis, unless it is a very sturdy wooden one, will not be enough to support a grapevine properly.

We can plant grapes in the spring or in the fall. From what I have read, when we take the grape plant out of the container, we should spread the roots so that they are loose, making them more comfortable in their new home. We should water them well once a week, and we should not give them fertilizer at this time.

Because their roots go deep into the soil, they will find the nutrients they need there (as a side note, I have read that giving them fertilizer with too much nitrogen will encourage a lot of leaves, but this will cut back on the growth of fruit).

That's a good reminder to us about a lot of our garden plants: a large plant thick with foliage does not necessarily mean that it is growing and producing properly.

Mom used to grow tomato varieties that were quite small in terms of plant size, but were good and consistent producers of tomatoes. Once, a visiting guest looked at them and said, 'Oh, such small plants. Mine are this tall – and indicated a much larger height with her hand. But later in the season, Mom was kept busy processing her tomatoes from her short and happy plants. Meanwhile, the guest was mystified that her tall and leafy tomatoes hardly had any tomatoes at all. It turned out that fertilizer high in nitrogen was the culprit.

When we got our grape plant, we learned that grape flowers are self-pollinating and so a second plant is not needed. If we are lucky enough to get grapes, we should harvest them early in the day, clipping the clumps off the vine cleanly.

If time is going by and frost comes, the leaves will be affected but the grapes are still fine (think of ice wine, made from frozen grapes).

Once again, I'd suggest looking at the U of S site for great fruit information, including grapes, that really is suited to our environment. There is a tab that even tells us how to freeze grape leaves for domanthes. Delicious!

Now: a new addition to our tossed salad of information. Since the beginning of June, we have had 283 mm of rain. Keith is a reliable weather recorder, a lifelong habit that began when he was on the farm and his family recorded weather for Environment Canada. So that is a lot of rain! We wonder if that's why the grape vines have gone so wild this year!

A quick reminder: the Yorkton Hort society's next meeting is 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 very interesting because the success or failure of our plantings is so dependent on the health of our soil.

And on Friday Sept. 18, it's our Fall Plant Sale. Visit www.yorktonhort.ca for full details.

Have a great week!

eHealth warns about health card new text and call scam

By GNG Staff
Grasslands News

eHealth Saskatchewan is warning residents about a scam regarding their health cards. Text messages and phone calls claiming to be from eHealth Saskatchewan indicate Saskatchewan health cards are expired, outdated or require immediate replacement. People are asked to click a link to update their information and may be asked to pay a fee or provide personal information to maintain access to health care services, update their records, or renew their health card.

There is no charge for a Saskatchewan health card. Any request for payment will indicate it is a scam. Do not click on any links or give out credit card information.

The warning comes as Saskatchewan is entering a health card renewal season with renewal stickers starting to appear in the mail mid-September through the end of October.

Here's what residents need to know:

• Most Saskatchewan health cards expire at the end of December 2026.

• Health cards that do not expire December 2026 have an expiry date printed directly on the card.

• Renewal stickers will be automatically mailed to eligible households starting mid-September.

• eHealth will never contact residents by text message or call about health card renewal.

• There is no charge to receive a health card or update your information.

How to spot a scam text or phone call

A message or call is likely a scam if it:

• Includes an unofficial web address, which may closely resemble ehealthsask.ca.

• Originates from an international or unusual phone number.

• Claims to be from a "Health Card Service Centre" or other organization (real or fake) that does not manage Saskatchewan health cards.

• Creates a sense of urgency by claiming you must act immediately to avoid losing health coverage.

• Asks you to take action to "renew" your health card - health card stickers are automatically mailed to you.

• Asks for payment, banking information or personal information over the phone or through a link.

eHealth Saskatchewan encourages residents to remain vigilant and avoid clicking links or sharing personal information if they receive a suspicious message or phone call.

Residents are encouraged to visit eHealth's newly updated website to learn more about the scam and the health card renewal campaign at ehealthsask.ca.

NOTIFICATION OF PROPOSED TOWER REPLACEMENT

Access Communications Cooperative
Is proposing a 120ft (36.5m) self-supported structure tower replacement at:
50.102493, -103.871018, in Francis SK
to be used to deliver fixed wireless high speed internet services.

For details on this proposal, please visit:
https://myaccess.ca/publicnotifications/
Comments or concerns can be addressed by Sept. 13, 2026, to:
public.relations@myaccess.coop

or

FCS Public Consultation
Access Communications
826 57th St E
Saskatoon, SK S7K 5Z1

NOTICE OF CALL FOR NOMINATIONS
Rural Municipality of Lipton No. 217
Municipal Election

Public notice is hereby given that nominations of candidates for the office(s) of:

Councillor: RM of Lipton No. 217 Division #2
Councillor: RM of Lipton No. 217 Division #4
Councillor: RM of Lipton No. 217 Division #6

will be received by the undersigned on the 7th day of October 2026, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the RM of Lipton No. 217 Municipal Office located at 226 Main Street, Lipton, SK., and during regular business hours on September 4th, 2026 to October 7th, 2026, at RM of Lipton No. 217 Municipal Office.

Nomination forms may be obtained at the following locations: RM of Lipton No. 217 Municipal Office located at 226 Main Street, Lipton, SK.
OR By requesting that the forms be sent via email by contacting rm.217@sasktel.net

Dated this 4th day of September 2026.

Charmain Wowk, Returning Officer

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DEALER TO POPULATE ALL LEGAL HERE AS REQUIRED (EXAMPLE BELOW) **Bonus price adjustments of $1,000/$750/$500 available on select in-stock IONIQ 9/EV and ICE/HEV trims only, on lease, finance, and cash purchase from September 1 to September 30, 2026. Price adjustments are applied before taxes. Offer is non-transferable and cannot be assigned. Model inventory for which the price adjustments are applicable may vary from dealer to dealer and from region to region. See your local Hyundai dealer for further details and applicable model inventory. ◊$500 Stackable Cash is available on cash purchases, finance purchases, and lease offers on all 2026 ELANTRA vehicles until September 30, 2026. Price adjustments are applied before taxes. Offer is non- transferable and cannot be assigned. Model inventory for which the price adjustments are applicable may vary from dealer to dealer and from region to region. See your local Hyundai dealer for further details and applicable model inventory. ∆Finance offers available O.A.C. from Hyundai Financial Services based on new in-stock 2026 ELANTRA Essential/2026 KONA N Line AWD FWD/2026 TUCSON Preferred AWD models with an annual finance rate of 0.99%^. Cost of borrowing is $233/$415/$402. Selling price is $26,306/$40,488/$39,275. Weekly payments are $218/$389/$378 for 24 months. $3,595/$0/$0 down payment required. Trade-in value may be applied to down payment amount. Finance offers include Delivery and Destination charge of $1,900/$2,200/$2,200, levies, dealer administration fees of $799, and all applicable charges (excluding HST, GST/PST). This offer example excludes Federal Government Electric Vehicle Incentive and any provincial Government Electric Vehicle Incentive. Finance offers exclude registration, insurance, PPSA, and license fees. Fees may vary by dealer. ◊Finance offer includes a 0.5% Hyundai finance loyalty rate reduction. All current owners (and immediate family members with proof of residence at owner's address) of a Hyundai or Genesis vehicle who present active (not expired) proof of ownership at time of purchase or lease are entitled to a reduction of 0.5% on the applicable finance, a reduction of 1% on the applicable lease rate, or an after-tax rebate up to $500 for cash purchases (collectively, "Loyalty Incentive"). The rate reduction and cash rebate cannot be combined. Finance rate after 0.5% rate reduction cannot be less than 0%. Lease rate after 1% rate reduction cannot be less than 0%. Loyalty Incentive can be claimed once in total from owner and immediate family member at same address. Cash price does not include freight, delivery and destination, registration, insurance, license fees, PPSA and all applicable fees, levies, charges and taxes. Dealer may sell for less. Inventory is limited. Dealer order may be required. Loyalty Incentive is subject to change or cancellation without notice. Loyalty Incentive offer is valid until January 4, 2027, and is only available in Canada. **O^^^∆∆Offers available for a limited time and subject to change or cancellation without notice. Vehicle colour is subject to availability. Delivery and Destination charge includes freight, P.D.I. and a full tank of gas. Dealer may sell for less. Inventory is limited, dealer order may be required. Offer is non-transferable and cannot be assigned. No vehicle trade-in required. Visit www.hyundaicanada.com or see dealer for complete details. The Hyundai name, logos, product names, feature names, images and slogans are trademarks owned or licensed by Hyundai Auto Canada Corp. All other trademarks and trade names are the property of their respective owners. Visit www.hyundaicanada.com or see dealer for complete details. †Hyundai's New Vehicle Limited Warranty coverage covers most vehicle components against defects in workmanship under normal use and maintenance conditions. These advertising templates are provided for promotional use only. Dealers are responsible for ensuring all content complies with applicable consumer protection laws and provincial advertising regulations. By using these materials, you agree to follow all relevant legal standards and assume responsibility for legal compliance.

Friends and Neighbours: Carol Blenkin, Cynthia Ramsay and Karen Horsman

Women talk about successful ageing: The Sequel

By Allison Kydd
Grasslands News

Over four and a half years ago, Carol Blenkin introduced the members of the Indian Head Library Book Club to Daniel J. Levitin's *Successful Aging: A Neuroscientist Explores the Power and Potential of Our Lives*. At the time, Blenkin said the book acknowledged the challenges that come with ageing. It also combines two kinds of knowledge, psychology and neuroscience, and imagines "a society... that embraces the gifts of the elderly..."

I was sold. Not only did I read the book and write about it, but I bought copies – for family members and myself. However, the book is 400 pages long and packed with information, so I didn't attempt to summarize it in 2022. Neither will I do so now. Instead, I'm focusing on a couple of main ideas, just as I did before.

Levitin discusses the role played by personality and upbringing as well as the importance of meaningful work, social interaction and exercise, especially in "varied, natural environments." In 2022, it seemed to me that some people instinctively or deliberately practice attitudes that help them live better as they get older. I sought out three such people – all women – and asked them to share strategies that illustrated some of Levitin's ideas. Recently, it struck me that an update might be informative. Were these strategies still working?

For instance, Levitin apparently "wrote [the] book on the premise that it is never too late to tip the balance in our favo[u]r, to increase our health span by making important changes to how we approach ag[e]ing." This challenges the idea that we simply have to accept the inevitable, that we can do nothing about it.

Levitin also says "We can fight to reverse the tendency to narrow our interests, to become set in our ways, and to fear even moderate risk taking."

In 2022, Cynthia Ramsay, then 71, had always resisted any narrowing tendencies.

"Don't be afraid to try something new," she said and described how she adopted her trademark blue, green and purple hair. It started with a "royal blue faux fur" she bought when she was 60. Soon she had hair to match. She also said she "should have had hair like this all [her] life."

Her hair has also become an easy way to identify herself to strangers.

"I'm the one with the punk hair," she says.

In the past, Grant Bray was her hairdresser. He created her unique look and even ordered the colours. When he recently gave up hairstyling because of back problems, Ramsay was able to find a hairdresser in Fort Qu'Appelle and a website where she could order her own colours – from a Canadian supplier. Bray would have continued ordering them for her, but she didn't want to take advantage of his kindness. She also has this independent streak...

Ramsay also admits she enjoys "being a smart ass," though she never tries to offend. Her way of expressing herself is simply who she is, and her irreverence an example of Levitin's "mental sparkle." Under the heading "The Continually Developing Brain," Levitin says the following: "... the biggest single determinant of living a productive and happy life is something that you're born with (partly) and something that you can decide to change: your personality."

As well as being known for her adventurous hair and her mental sparkle, Ramsay can be recognized by her mode of transportation. She drives her car if going out of town, but here at home rides an adult tricycle, burgundy in colour, sporting a wicker basket.

In the last few years, Ramsay has had two knee replacements, and she rode her bike faithfully for an hour every day before her first operation in order to be in the best possible condition. This summer, she says, she hasn't been quite as faithful. The reason? Though she describes herself as "naturally indolent," somehow I doubt it. After all, this is a woman who loved her work.

"I spent my professional life doing something I loved," she says. Though she was diagnosed with a brain tumour at 42 and had to quit her job teaching technical English at SIAST at age 46, she says. "You can't beat the teacher out of a person."

Ramsay still puts a lot of energy into her friendships and has become a regular whippet sitter for her neighbour across the street.

Cynthia Ramsay

"They think I'm their auntie," she says. Besides befriending canines, she continues to appreciate human friends and family of various ages. In particular, she mentions her sister in Regina and nieces and great-nieces she sees as often as she can. (The nephews, alas, are too far away.)

Levitin also says, "We can learn to exploit the wisdom and skills that we have attained, becoming much-sought-after friends, rather than forgotten old people."

Bearing in mind Levitin's goal to be "healthy, engaged and happy throughout our life span," I asked Karen Horsman (who was 83 in 2022 and a retired nurse) to list what she enjoyed about her life.

"There are so many things," she said at the time, "but first there's my husband, my sons, my daughter-in-law and my grandchildren."

She also mentioned living in a country where she felt safe, has enough food to eat and the opportunity for a good night's sleep. She was also grateful for her garden and her home. For these reasons, she described herself as a generally happy and optimistic person.

"I feel very privileged, not that I haven't had low days," she added.

Since 2022, Horsman's life has changed completely because of her husband's illness and then his death just over a year ago. She admits to being very lonely at times but doesn't feel her situation is that unique.

"I'm not as happy as I was," she says, but acknowledges that everyone has to deal with change.

In the past, her role as a church organist was an outlet, and she still finds playing the piano rewarding and a way to combat loneliness. She continues to attend St. Andrew's United Church regularly. While prayer and worship are essential for people of faith, even those who experience times of doubt and questioning can find such solace. Tevye in *Fiddler on the Roof* is an example.

Horsman has always been an avid reader and has also done some writing. A few years ago she finished and self-published the story of her husband's grandmother.

For some, the loss of a spouse can mean the loss of emotional and family support, but Horsman says she is getting the help she needs. She greatly appreciates having a son, Darrin, and daughter-in-law (Darrin's wife, Virginia) in town and another son (Kent) who visits as often as he can. Darrin and Virginia handle such things as doctor's visits and replacing batteries and light bulbs, while Kent gives her concentrated time when he visits.

In 2022, Horsman also acknowledged the importance of social networks and remembered a doctor who asked "Is there someone you can talk to?" She still values mutually trustworthy relationships and expresses her gratitude for them, quoting the old adage: "A burden shared is a burden halved."

These days, Horsman is also grateful for good neighbours, such as Diane and Al Hubbs who take her garbage and recycling trolleys to the curb for her and who, when Darrin and Virginia are on vacation, maintain regular phone contact. She also says we are fortunate in this small town to be able to hire people to do yardwork, plus upkeep and various repairs to our homes.

Horsman appreciates being well enough to do domestic chores but is happy not to have to clean snow, mow grass, prune trees or do other jobs that require heavy machines or getting up on tall ladders.

Horsman also meets Levitin's criteria when it comes to exercise. She appreciates spending time outdoors in the fresh air and sunshine when she can but also has a regular exercise routine for indoors.

So it would seem that Horsman, in spite of her loss, has maintained her healthy practices and is getting the help she needs. She also recognizes our situations can change fairly quickly as we age and knows she must be prepared to make other changes if necessary, both for her sake and for the sake of those who care about her.

Carol Blenkin (age 73 in 2022) had a somewhat different take on optimism. "I'm more a realist than an optimist," she has said. Take, for instance, the Russian invasion of Ukraine. "This is real," she said in 2022. "This is going to be a turning point."

In fact, she continues to keep close track of the political situation in Canada and the United States and discusses issues with other people because she feels we should be aware. She wishes, however, that is was easier to connect with the younger generation, who "have too many devices." Though discouraged, she feels it's important to keep trying to make those connections.

At the same time, she acknowledges sometimes "coming up against brick walls."

"You can't resolve everything," she adds.

Levitin says resilience can also be taught, but that it "can take some effort (and openness to new experiences)" (p. 158).

In 2022, Blenkin described her overall strategy for confronting hard times as "first, see them as they are and then deal with them." Sometimes it's difficult to get information when "bombarded by so much stuff," but she enjoys research and talks about the importance of choosing and cultivating resilience.

In the last few years, Blenkin and her husband have needed their resilience as they dealt with health challenges.

"Our life has narrowed because of Chester's illness," she says. Because she's now doing the driving and finds trips to the city more stressful than in the past, she is grateful for initiatives such as Wheels for Wellness that give people options.

Another way Blenkin feels she is losing ground is when it comes to exercise. She doesn't go to the gym, swim every day or exercise regularly, especially in the winter. Formerly she and Chester shared a dog with another family, which meant they had to walk it regularly. Gardening is healthy exercise in summer, but Blenkin's research tells her that strength training is important.

On the other hand, the Blenkins have longtime friends with whom they communicate regularly, and Carol Blenkin is never short of mental stimulation. Whether pursuing an interest in politics, astrophysics, digital scrapbooks, cooking or gardening, her mind is always at work. So things have changed. Perhaps there's more she could be doing, but things also balance out.

As always, contact akyddwrt@sasktel.net with questions or suggestions about this or any column.

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