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Tuesday, June 23, 2026

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COMMUNITY BUY-IN. Dodsland residents review architectural renderings of the proposed arena rebuild during a come-and-go open house at the Dodsland Hall, where architects from AODBT Architecture + Interior Design in Saskatoon were on hand to answer questions about the two-storey replacement facility. See the story on page 4. *PHOTO BY JOAN JANZEN*

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BEFORE AND AFTER. The exterior of 116 - 1st Avenue West in Kindersley as it appears before renovations (left) and a rendering showing potential improvements (right). Kindersley town council unanimously approved a new Downtown Storefront Enhancement Incentive policy at its June 15 meeting, offering eligible business owners a property tax adjustment of up to \$2,500 for cosmetic facade improvements that do not require a building permit.

Kindersley approves downtown storefront incentive

BY STU SALKELD

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter
 Your West Central Voice

KINDERSLEY — The Town of Kindersley is offering business owners an opportunity to improve their properties while reducing their tax burden through a new Downtown Storefront Enhancement Incentive policy.

Council unanimously adopted the policy during its June 15 regular meeting.

Chief Administrative Officer Marty Baroni presented the draft policy, noting it had been discussed at several previous council meetings.

The policy will allow eligible properties on Main Street and certain nearby blocks to receive a property tax adjustment of up to \$2,500 for storefront enhancement projects.

“To ensure high adoption and rapid rollout, the policy focuses strictly on cosmetic façade improvements that should not require a building permit and should not impact their taxable assessments,” stated the staff memo.

Baroni said the first phase of the incentive program supports an objective in council’s strategic plan and would apply to the 2027 calendar year.

“By approving this policy, council will directly advance its commitment to improving the look, feel, and economic vibrancy of Kindersley’s downtown commercial core,” the memo stated.

“We believe that this proposal will hopefully re-

juvenate some excitement downtown in the Town of Kindersley,” Baroni told council.

He added that council wanted to reinvest tax dollars into the downtown area after focusing on other priorities in recent years.

“So we’re really excited for this program,” said Baroni.

Town staff plan to meet with all business owners in the affected area following the policy’s approval to allow them time to prepare projects for 2027 and encourage participation.

Baroni noted the program is expected to be a \$200,000 item in next year’s municipal budget.

Mayor Ken Francis said council carefully considered various approaches before settling on the policy.

“I guess the public should know we really deliberated long and hard on this topic,” said Francis.

He noted there were differing opinions on how a revitalization program should be structured, but councillors were satisfied with the final approach.

Francis added that the program could not only improve the appearance of the downtown core but also create opportunities for local contractors.

“We’re looking for ways to revitalize our downtown and we’re hoping this is one small step towards that,” said Francis.

During discussion, council noted that if the Main Street program is successful and produces positive results, a similar incentive could be expanded to other areas of Kindersley in the future.

Council approved the policy unanimously.

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Michelle Kendell (centre) with her daughters, Samantha and Miranda, at the Correctional Service Canada Change of Command Ceremony where she took over as Warden of the Edmonton Institution. PHOTO SUBMITTED.

Former Eaton grad becomes warden at Edmonton Institution

BY JOAN JANZEN

This month high schools are celebrating their graduates who are stepping into the next phase of their lives and looking at their career options. Decades after graduating from Eaton School in Eatonville, Michelle Kendell (Smith) continues to enjoy her chosen career. This past spring, Michelle became Warden at the Edmonton Institution at a Change of Command Ceremony held by Correctional Service Canada (CSC).

"It's a great career. It has a lot of growth and opportunity for advancement," she advised, noting anyone who is interested in changing lives might want to consider this career path.

"I always had a draw toward a military-type career since I was a little girl. My grandfather was in the military and I think that had an influence on me," she recalled. "It's something that always interested me."

After graduation, Michelle earned a degree in criminal justice and psychology with plans to join the police force.

"Regular force wasn't hiring at the time and I was told to get more life experience because I was too young," she explained.

In 1994, she got hired by CSC, took her training in Saskatoon and started as Correctional Officer 1 at Drumheller Institution.

"When I started there weren't a lot of women in corrections. There's not a lot of female wardens in Canada," she explained. "It's been hard work to get to my level. It's been a great career and I've enjoyed it."

She spent most of her career at Drumheller, a medium-security facility. She also worked at the Bowden Institution, the women's institution and the Regional Psychiatric Centre in Saskatoon to gain more experience.

The Edmonton Institution is a maximum-security facility housing 280 males.

"I have close to 200 employees under me. My job is to ensure the institution is providing care and custody of our offenders while maintaining the security of the staff and public," she said.

She manages a very large budget, deals with regional bosses in Saskatoon, as well as national head bosses in Ottawa. There's lots of legal stuff to deal with, ensuring everything is done by the book.

"It's very stressful; we see the worst of the worst. The work can be challenging, but we have a lot of successes as well in what we do," she noted.

Michelle credits her family for helping her maintain a positive outlook on life.

"I love my family. I've learned to leave work at work when I go home, but I also have years of experience dealing with that," she reasoned.

As they grew up, her two daughters observed their mother's dedication to her career.

"It was important for me to raise strong young women. Both worked as summer students with us through a federal government work program when they were younger," Michelle explained. Now her oldest daughter works in corrections and her youngest daughter just finished her degree in psychology and is working with children.

"I come to work and do the best I can when I'm there. I realize I can't help everybody, but I help the people I can," she said.

Michelle's ability to help people has been the motivation that sustained her for more than three decades as she approaches retirement in just three years.

"I believe if we give people the right tools they can change and go on to lead productive lives," she said. "No kid grows up wanting to be a criminal; something goes wrong along the way." That something is usually some sort of addiction.

Michelle admitted the most challenging aspect of her career is the times she doesn't see success.

"Some of the challenges are dealing with different personalities, and the change in workforce is challenging," she added.

CSC's mission is to contribute to the safety and security of the public, employees and offenders. Michelle and her staff work tirelessly every day to make a difference in the lives of offenders.

"It's not an easy job and it's not for everyone. But for the most part people can make changes in their life," she concluded.

After chatting with Michelle, it's obvious she is well suited to the career path she was drawn to since she was a child. There may be graduates who have been drawn to specific interests since childhood and now have the opportunity to pursue them.

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Some of the principal people involved in the new skating rink planned for Doddsland hold artists' renderings of what it will look like: Doddsland mayor Ryan Neumeier, village administrator Amy Sittler; the project manager for general contractor Hipperson Construction of Saskatoon and Regina, Logan Turk; and Sarah Lipsit and Dallas Huard, architects for aodbt architecture interior design of Saskatoon. PHOTO BY DAVID MCIVER

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Doddsland community gets first look at arena rebuild plans

BY JOAN JANZEN

The anticipation was tangible as people gathered at the Doddsland Community Hall on Tuesday afternoon to view plans for the arena rebuild project. Architects Sarah Lipsit and Dallas Huard of AODBT Architecture + Interior Design in Saskatoon, along with project manager Logan Turk, were on hand to answer questions.

Amy Sittler, administrator for the Village of Doddsland, served as hostess and invited guests to help themselves to refreshments and a generous lunch. The event was hosted by the Arena Rebuild Committee, which consists of 22 members.

"The new structure will have the same basic footprint as the old arena but with more curling rink," Sittler explained. "We want engagement with the town council and community as to what they want to see in the building."

Once the designs have been finalized, the committee hopes to begin construction sometime in August. Community

members took advantage of the come-and-go format to drop in and visit with the architects and project manager.

Architect Sarah Lipsit said it took about six months to design the structure.

"It's been a very fast design," she noted.

The arena will be a two-storey building. The lower level will have seating for 300 people, while the upper level will accommodate 120.

Lipsit enthusiastically pointed out several features, including a donor wall to recognize generous contributions and a concession booth where workers will be able to watch games while serving customers.

"The goal is for a 14-month building project," said Logan Turk, the construction manager.

The room was filled with anticipation as residents looked forward to the construction of a new arena and community gathering place.

The architects and project manager spent the afternoon visiting with community members, sharing plans, answering questions and listening to feedback.

"We want to get it right!" Lipsit said.

It will be an exciting day when construction begins in Doddsland.

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CHECK IT OUT

How does the government love taxpayers? Let us count the ways

My parody of the opening lines of Elizabeth Barrett Browning's sonnet reads, "How does the government love taxpayers? Let us count the ways."

The Canadian Taxpayers Federation (CTF) has been counting the ways governments waste taxpayer dollars and has presented Teddy Waste Awards in the process.

Franco Terrazzano, CTF federal director, said, "This is the 28th year we're doing it; making fun of politicians."

He began an interview on Northern Perspective by reporting that Heritage Toronto spent \$2,000 on a plaque for a raccoon that died 10 years ago in Toronto. It was an insignificant amount compared to the waste the CTF continued to uncover.

We've all seen posters for the FIFA World Cup soccer games, seven of which will be hosted in British Columbia. Carson Binda, B.C. director for the CTF, said politicians originally reported costs would be \$230 million.

"Now they're saying it will cost \$730 million," he reported on the CTF podcast. "That works out to \$104 million for each of those soccer games."

The cost also included murals painted on city streets, motorcades, road closures and police escorts for FIFA executives. Organizers also tore up a grassy field, replaced it with temporary artificial turf for the games and will replace it with new turf after the games are over. Binda said B.C.'s premier spent \$350,000 on three fake soccer balls made of wood and leather as a public relations stunt.

It's not surprising, then, that Binda noted British Columbia increased its debt this year by \$30 billion.



Check It Out
By Joan Janzen

The debt load in B.C. increased from \$16,000 per person in 2022 to \$32,000 this year. In comparison, Saskatchewan's total debt is projected to be \$27 billion by the end of this year.

The debt load in B.C. increased from \$16,000 per person in 2022 to \$32,000 this year. In comparison, Saskatchewan's total debt is projected to be \$27 billion by the end of this year.

Franco continued by announcing some of the best examples of government waste.

The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council "funds research that government claims Canadians care about most," he explained.

Are you ready for the list? Ready or not, here it comes.

The council spent \$94,000 on a study about fat fashion photography and social justice selfies, \$20,000 researching letters to a porn star, \$8,000 studying gender identities in online Harry Potter fan communities, \$17,000 studying the mating rituals of frat boys, \$50,000 studying erotic video games, \$20,000 studying Peruvian rock music and, last but not least, \$100,000 studying the birth, life and death of the grocery cart.

The CTF also highlighted federal spending of \$1.6 million to send 240 delegates to the United Nations climate conference in Brazil for three weeks. This included half a million dollars for accommodations and \$650,000 for a Canadian pavilion.

A total of \$310,000 was spent on outside contractors to create and manage the pavilion website and event

programming, even though Environment Canada has staff who specialize in social media and web services.

Was it worth it? You be the judge. According to the CTF, 7,300 people visited the website.

Canada sent more delegates to the conference than any other G7 country, including the host country.

And we don't want to forget the CBC, which spent \$59,000 going to court to keep its subscriber numbers hidden while receiving more than \$1 billion annually from taxpayers.

Member of Parliament Sandra Cobena recently confronted the federal government about the Prime Minister's \$195,000 food bill over the course of three flights. The response was that he brings back jobs, investment, opportunity, technology, expertise, military benefits and industrial benefits when he travels.

Cobena replied, "He is saying that \$195,000 for steak and fine wine is necessary for the PM to do his job."

However, plans continue for future spending sprees.

How about Ottawa's plan for a high-speed rail line with seven stops between Toronto and Quebec City at a cost of \$90 billion, to be completed by 2043?

Although it will create 51,000 jobs during construction, each job will cost about \$1.7 million. According to McGill University, the project will only become profitable after 44 years of operation and \$53 billion in subsidies.

Franco said, "You pay too much tax because these politicians are wasting too much money. Either they don't know or don't care about how hard people work for the money they earn and the taxes they pay."

A more appropriate parody of Elizabeth Barrett Browning's sonnet might read, "How does our government love wasting taxpayer dollars? Let us count the ways."

Fortunately, the CTF is counting and holding governments accountable for their actions.

HAVE YOUR SAY.

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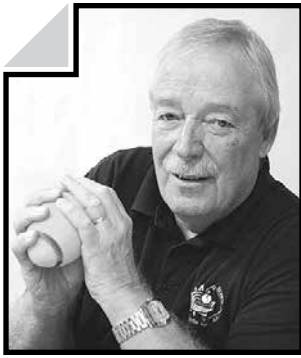
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No guarantee, but McKenna likely No. 1



Sports
By Bruce Penton

Will there be a surprise when National Hockey League general managers and head scouts get together this week in Buffalo for the annual draft of 18-year-old players?

A big surprise, of course would be that the No. 1 pick owned by the Toronto Maple Leafs was someone other than Gavin McKenna, the Whitehorse, Yukon flash who starred for two seasons in the Western Hockey League and then spent the past campaign skating for Penn State in the U.S. college system.

For almost two years, McKenna has been pegged as the consensus No. 1 pick. Sporting goods stores in Toronto are already selling Leafs' jerseys with 'McKenna 72' on the back. Most mock drafts published in recent weeks by respected hockey journalists rank McKenna first.

But then, along comes a feature article in The Athletic by Corey Pronman which pours water on the theory that McKenna will be a slam dunk No. 1 selection. The writer quotes an unnamed scouting director as saying "I wouldn't want to be picking (No.) 1 this year. There's a very good chance the best player in this draft doesn't even go in the top five."

That's the problem with drafting 18-year-olds. Sometimes it takes four or five years to get a true reading on who is the obvious best player. Hot scorers in junior hockey sometimes flame out and settle in as third-line centres; some lesser acclaimed defencemen might add 20 pounds of muscle and become a Hall of Famer.

For now, however, McKenna seems to be the consensus No. 1 pick. although he doesn't seem to get

scouts drooling like they did for Matthew Schaefer, Macklin Celebrini or Connor Bedard. A team with plenty of offence and some defensive deficiencies might be tempted to rate defenceman Chase Reid, Daxon Rudolph, Keaton Verhoeff or Carson Carels No. 1. The recent hiring of Manny Maholtra as coach of the Canucks has created a fly-in-the-ointment situation for Vancouver, which has the No. 3 pick. Forward Caleb Maholtra, Manny's son, is a definite first-rounder and some are wondering whether family considerations will affect their drafting philosophy.

In many of the mock drafts printed recently, Swedish forward Ivar Stenberg was No. 1 or No. 2 alongside McKenna. While scouts agree McKenna has some deficiencies, they are also in agreement that he has that "special skill" that comes along so rarely. "I would have a really hard time passing on the special skill," a veteran scout said in the Pronman story. "That's the kind of stuff that gets you fired."

Ultimately, when Commissioner Gary Bettman announces the No. 1 pick this week, it will almost assuredly be McKenna going to Toronto. His puck handling and playmaking ability could make a 50-goal scorer out of Auston Matthews and his power-play talents could turn the Leafs' fortunes around immediately.

A solid defenceman might make more sense in the long run, but the Leafs aren't a team that avoids the big splash. And this year, that big splash is McKenna.

- Joseph Laminga of Fried Egg Golf, on the PGA Tour surveying members asking whether the golf ball should be rolled back: "You might as well survey rats on if there is a cheese problem!"
- Super 70s Sports: "Baseball was better when Harry Caray was around. This cannot be disputed."
- Headline at theonion.com: "MLB Attempts To

Reduce Human Error With New Electronic Bat Boys"

- Tom Hawthorn in The Tyee, in a story reminiscing about long-time junior hockey coach Ernie (Punch) McLean, who recently died at age 91: "Punch's face looked as though the Pillsbury Doughboy had gone 10 rounds with legendary enforcer John Ferguson."
- Cathal Kelly of the Globe and Mail, in a column about Mike Babcock's reputation as a bully: "... the sort of guy who starts rolling up his sleeves if you accidentally bump shoulders in the dairy aisle."
- The New York Times 'The Morning' after the Knicks overcame a 29-point third-quarter deficit to beat the Spurs by one point in Game 4 of the NBA final: "Knicks fans are ready to erect a statue of OG Anunoby outside the Garden. Spurs fans are seeking therapy after the biggest collapse in finals history."
- Comedy guy Torben Rolfsen of Vancouver: "Scary 6 the movie came out yesterday. Is that something to do with Jeff Hoffman?"
- Rolfsen again: Fun fact: The first baseball game ever was played in Beachville, Ont. in 1838. Hoffman's great, great, great, great grandfather blew a save."
- Headline at fark.com: "Knicks fans celebrate their team's historic comeback win with all the grace and humility you would expect from New Yorkers."
- Steve Simmons of the Toronto Sun: "What do awards mean? Members of the Tampa Bay Lightning won the Hart Trophy (Nikita Kucherov), the Vezina Trophy (Andrei Vasilevskiy) and the Adams Trophy (Jon Cooper) this season. What they didn't win was a round in the playoffs."

Care to comment? Email brucepenton2003@yahoo.ca

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Just a gal from Glidden



From the school bus to the warden's office

BY KATE WINQUIST

I'm reminiscing about graduation this week, and a remarkable coincidence was recently brought to my attention by one of our subscribers.

Another school year is coming to a close, with the last of the 2026 graduations in west-central Saskatchewan taking place this week. Next year marks 40 years since I graduated from Kindersley Composite School as part of the Class of 1987.

About a month ago, I received a call from a reader wanting to renew her subscription. Marcie, originally from Eaton, now calls Red Deer County home. We chatted for a few minutes, and I apologized for not returning a message she had left earlier.

Marcie was worried she might miss an edition of Your West Central Voice. She told me how much she enjoyed the paper and the local stories. Then she asked if we accepted suggestions for articles about people who once lived in the area but had moved on and accomplished remarkable things.

I always welcome story ideas, so I said, "Certainly. Whatcha got?"

A good friend of hers, Michelle Kendell, had just been appointed warden of Edmonton Institution, becoming the first woman to hold the position. Very impressive, I thought.

As we continued talking, Marcie mentioned she had met Michelle in Grade 11 and that they quickly became close friends. She also said Michelle had once lived in Glidden before moving to Eaton.

That's when a light bulb went off.

"Was Michelle's maiden name Smith?" I asked.

"Yes," Marcie replied.



FRESHIE DAY MEMORIES FROM KINDERSLEY COMPOSITE SCHOOL IN 1986-87. Michelle Smith, now Michelle Kendell and the newly appointed warden of Edmonton Institution, is front and centre dressed as Oscar the Grouch. Dawn Miller appears as the Pink Panther.

What a strange coincidence.

Michelle and I rode the school bus together every day from the start of the 1986 school year until I graduated in June 1987. Michelle was two years younger than me and was in Grade 10 when she became one of my two "Freshies" during my senior year. The other was another Glidden girl, Dawn Miller.

I hadn't thought about either of those girls in years until Marcie's phone call.

I'm not sure if KCS still carries on the tradition of Freshie Day. Back then, seniors dressed up their juniors in something embarrassing and paraded them

through the hallways before heading to the lunchroom, where they competed in messy games involving things like butterscotch pudding.

It took me a while to find photographic proof, but I did.

There was Michelle, front and centre, dressed as Oscar the Grouch. Dawn was rocking a Pink Panther costume.

Little did any of us know where life would take us.

In March, Michelle officially assumed command of Edmonton Institution during a Change of Command Ceremony hosted by the Correctional Service of Canada.



Michelle Smith, later Michelle Kendell, takes part in Freshie Day activities at Kindersley Composite School during the 1986-87 school year.

"Michelle has played an important role in carrying forward the institution's long tradition of service and dedication to the safety of Canadians. It has truly been a pleasure working alongside her as part of the Prairie Region senior management team," Prairie Regional Commissioner Jason Hope said in a media release.

Edmonton Institution, a maximum-security federal correctional facility, opened in 1978. Located in Edmonton, Alta., it has a capacity of 324 offenders and employs approximately 419 staff members.

As I looked at those old Freshie Day photos, I couldn't help but smile.

The girl in the Oscar the Grouch costume now runs a 324-bed maximum-security federal institution.

She earned it.

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Baling operations in the 1960s, like this one near Claydon in southwest Saskatchewan, were common throughout the Prairies. Haying was often a family effort, with everyone pitching in during the busy season. PHOTO COURTESY OF HISTORIC SASKATCHEWAN.

Baling hay the old-fashioned way

BY JOAN JANZEN

CLAYDON — This photo is sure to bring back memories for anyone who remembers baling hay the old-fashioned way in Saskatchewan. It was hard work as farmers made hay while the sun shone. This particular photo was taken in the Claydon area of southwest Saskatchewan in the 1960s; however, similar operations were happening throughout the Prairies.

Apparently, the Cockshutt 30, 40 and 50 models were often used for baling hay because they were equipped with a live power takeoff, which many other tractors of that era did not have. They

also featured a low first gear of 1.5 miles per hour, which was helpful when baling a heavy swath.

Baling was a family affair, with all the kids involved, both boys and girls. Hay bales were often referred to as prairie wool, and slough haying came with plenty of mosquitoes and dust.

After the bales were formed, the work continued as they were often stored in the barn loft, which involved plenty of manual labour.

The size of the equipment certainly did not limit production. Some farmers put up around 10,000 bales each year, most of which were sold, with the remainder hauled into the farmyard.

Luseland adopts temporary tenting bylaw

BY STU SALKELD

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter
Your West Central Voice



LUSELAND — The Town of Luseland has adopted a new bylaw aimed at regulating temporary tenting and encampments within the community.

The bylaw passed all three readings at the regular council meeting June 16.

Mayor Kathy Wurz said councillors unanimously approved the bylaw as a proactive measure.

"It's no big deal," said Wurz on June 17, noting there is not currently a significant problem in Luseland. However, she said the bylaw will provide the town with a framework should issues arise in the future.

The bylaw establishes rules and standards for temporary tenting and encampments. Wurz explained the focus is primarily on situations where tents or encampments remain in place for an unusual or extended period.

She added Luseland Police Chief Ty Kohlman supported the bylaw, advising council that if a problem were to develop without a bylaw in place, the town could have limited options for addressing it.

While preparing the bylaw, town staff researched similar regulations in other communities and used an existing bylaw as a template. Staff also sought advice from municipalities that already have comparable bylaws in place.

Encampments have periodically become an issue in larger Canadian cities such as Toronto and Edmonton. Concerns associated with such sites have included limited protection from the elements, inadequate sanitation, impacts on nearby businesses and recreational facilities, and costs to municipalities for monitoring and cleanup.

The City of Saskatoon requires permits for temporary tents. Section 12 of Saskatoon's Bylaw No. 7767 states it is illegal to erect a temporary structure without a permit.

Fire hazards have also been identified as a concern by municipalities including Regina. In poor weather conditions, people living in tents or encampments may use open flames or heating sources to stay warm, creating risks for both the site and surrounding properties. The Saskatoon Fire Department has also expressed concerns about fire risks associated with encampments.

The Canadian Human Rights Commission states on its website that encampments can be unsafe for those living in them.

"Encampments are not a safe or sustainable solution for housing," the commission states.

Wurz added the Town of Luseland chose to move forward with the bylaw because some concerns had surfaced from time to time, making it prudent to have regulations in place before a larger issue develops.

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NEW SHOP TAKES SHAPE. Construction of the R.M. of Mariposa's new Public Works shop was well underway in August 2025. The municipality will host an official grand opening and public open house July 24, giving residents an opportunity to tour the facility. PHOTO COURTESY R.M. OF MARIPOSA FACEBOOK PAGE.

Mariposa explores potential new gravel source

BY STU SALKELD

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter
Your West Central Voice

KERROBERT — The R.M. of Mariposa is moving ahead with plans to explore a potential new gravel source after council reviewed contractor quotes for exploration work at its June 9 regular meeting.

Chief Administrative Officer Kathy Wurz said council considered track hoe contractor quotes for gravel exploration on a privately owned property where the municipality has reached an agreement with the landowner to investigate potential gravel deposits. Wurz said the work is expected to take place this fall.

Recreation report

Council received a recreation committee report that included updates on maintenance work at the Kerrobert swimming pool. Leaking pipes were recently repaired, and it was noted the facility may require sand-blasting work in the future.

The report also noted new signs have been installed at both the arena and the Prairieland Community Centre.

CAO report

Wurz presented her regular administrative report, which included an update on crop reporting. She advised council that the municipality's crop report had been submitted before the deadline.

Council also received the plant health officer's spring update, which covered invasive plants and pest management issues, including gophers.

Wurz further updated council on the Highway 31 study. Engineers were scheduled to assess the condition of the highway, but the inspection was delayed because of rain.

Municipal government training

Council was advised that Mariposa is eligible to participate remotely in the Government Essentials for Municipal Sector program, a 10-module course covering

topics such as municipal history, governance, finances, stewardship, roles and responsibilities. Participants receive a certificate upon completion.

Public works shop grand opening

The municipality will celebrate the official grand opening of its new Public Works shop on July 24 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The facility opened in the fall of 2025, and the event will feature a barbecue and an opportunity for residents to tour the building.

Boundary Road concerns

Council reviewed a letter from a ratepayer expressing concerns about overweight traffic using Boundary Road and the potential for road damage.

Wurz said municipal staff contacted several industry partners, who indicated they take weight restrictions seriously.

Summer staff training

Municipal summer staff have begun specialized training programs, including pesticide application certification and other required training.

Strychnine program update

Wurz also provided an update on the federal government's reintroduction of the two per cent liquid strychnine program, which began rolling out this spring.

She said the program involves extensive reporting requirements for both municipalities and producers, as well as significant signage requirements. Wurz has completed the necessary training, and producers must also complete mandatory training before they are eligible to purchase the product.

However, Wurz noted relatively few producers appear to have completed the required training to date.

She added that reports indicate suppliers may begin shipping strychnine soon, although municipalities may initially receive limited quantities to ensure product is available across all regions.



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Denzil Days returns June 27-28

BY KATE WINQUIST

DENZIL — The Village of Denzil is gearing up for another weekend of family fun, community spirit and horsepower as Denzil Days returns June 27 and 28.

One of the highlights of the annual celebration is the tractor pull, which has become a major attraction for both competitors and spectators.

Greg Rissling, a member of the Denzil Recreation Board and one of the organizers behind the tractor pull, said the event continues to grow while helping support recreation and community projects in the village.

"We all got older and decided there had to be another way to bring people together," he joked. "The tractor pull has turned into something people really enjoy."

Rissling's passion for antique tractors helped spark the idea. After restoring several tractors and hosting events showcasing the equipment, interest quickly grew among local families and visitors.

The weekend offers much more than tractors.

Families can enjoy children's activities, including pedal tractor races, carnival attractions, concessions and community gatherings throughout the weekend. The Denzil Museum will also be open, giving visitors a chance to explore the area's history while taking in the festivities.

Following the tractor pull, participants and spectators can enjoy a community supper, prizes and social activities.

Rissling said events such as Denzil Days are especially important for smaller rural communities.

"We want to make sure our little village keeps



moving forward," he said. "It takes people working together."

The recreation board oversees a variety of community initiatives, with volunteers from different groups helping organize events throughout the year.

Despite Denzil's small population, community support remains strong.

"People band together here," said Rissling. "That's what makes these events work."

Visitors from across west-central Saskatchewan are invited to attend and experience a weekend that combines rural traditions, family entertainment and community pride.

Denzil Days takes place June 27 and 28. Organizers encourage residents, former residents and visitors alike to come out and enjoy the celebrations.

For a complete schedule of events, visit the Village of Denzil Facebook page.

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A southwest Saskatchewan farmer's tractor sits partially buried after breaking through the roof of an abandoned underground coal mine. Neighbours and family members helped dig around the machine and eventually pull it free. The farmer's identity and the exact location were not disclosed when the photographs were shared.

PHOTOS COURTESY HISTORIC SASKATCHEWAN.



Farmer survives dramatic sinkhole collapse in southwest Saskatchewan

BY JOAN JANZEN

A routine day in the field turned into a frightening ordeal for a southwest Saskatchewan farmer when his tractor suddenly dropped into a sinkhole caused by an abandoned underground coal mine.

According to a Government of Saskatchewan website, at least 60 shallow underground coal mines once operated in southwest Saskatchewan. While most were abandoned decades ago, hidden voids beneath the surface occasionally remained, creating the potential for dangerous cave-ins.

Dick Preston of Brock recalled seams of coal being discovered south of Brock while digging water wells. In many cases, the soft lignite coal was used by earlier generations for home heating.

The provincial government has documented several hundred abandoned underground mining operations across Saskatchewan's southern coalfields. Most were small, family-owned ventures. Prairie farmers often dug shafts into the sides of coulees and hillsides to access lignite coal for their own use or to supplement farm income during difficult times.

Although the mines have long since been abandoned, unstable ground and hidden sinkholes can still pose hazards. The farmer in these photographs learned that lesson the hard way when the ground beneath his tractor gave way.

The series of photographs shows neighbours and family members working to free the partially buried tractor after it broke through the surface and became trapped in the collapsed mine workings below.

R.M. OF DEER FORKS NO. 232
NOTICE TO GENERAL PUBLIC AND AFFECTED PARTIES

Public Notice is hereby given that the Council of the RM of Deer Forks No. 232 intends to adopt a bylaw pursuant to Section 199 of The Planning and Development Act, 2007 for the sale of dedicated lands.

INTENT
The proposed bylaw will allow for the sale of a Municipal Buffer parcel.

AFFECTED LAND
MBI, Plan 96MJ04145 (see attached map)

REASON
This land is part of a road access strip that is used to access the Village of Empress Lagoon Site and should be included in that parcel as a whole.

PUBLIC INSPECTION
Any person may inspect the bylaw at the municipal office at 957 Railway Ave on Mondays and Wednesdays between 8:30am to 12:00pm and 1:00pm to 4:00pm excluding statutory holidays. Copies are available at a cost.

PUBLIC HEARING
Council will hold a public hearing on July 8, 2026 at the RM of Deer Forks No. 232 office in the Council Chambers at 957 Railway Ave at 9:30am 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 RM of Deer Forks No. 232 on June 8, 2026.

CAO — Kim Lacelle



Legion member Rose Housser welcomed guests as they arrived for the sold-out Kindersley Legion steak supper on June 18. The fundraiser featured a silent auction, 50/50 draw and door prizes as the branch continues its support of veterans and community programs.

PHOTOS BY JOAN JANZEN.



Myles Perrin, left, and Patrick Brick kept the grill going behind the Kindersley Legion Hall as volunteers prepared ribeye steaks for the branch's annual fundraising supper June 18. Fortunately, the rain stopped, the clouds cleared and only smoke from the barbecue filled the air.

Kindersley Legion steak supper sells out in centennial year

BY JOAN JANZEN

If you happened to stroll by the Kindersley Legion Hall Thursday evening, June 18, you would have detected the tantalizing aroma of barbecued beef. The aroma was coming from behind the hall where volunteers were busy barbecuing ribeye steaks in preparation for the Legion's steak supper.

Approximately 70 hungry guests arrived for the scrumptious meal of potatoes, vegetables, salad, dessert and, of course, steaks supplied by Kindersley Packers. Meanwhile, Legion members were bustling around in the kitchen attending to all the last-minute

details, and an assortment of prizes were displayed for the silent auction.

"It was a sellout crowd, with a silent auction, 50/50 draw and everyone got a door prize!" Legion member Rose Housser reported.

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the Royal Canadian Legion, which was officially incorporated on July 17, 1926, by an Act of Parliament. The local Legion Branch No. 57 raises funds as it continues its efforts to support local veterans and welcome new members.

"The funds raised help keep our organization serving our community," Roger Strutt, president of Legion Branch No. 57, concluded.

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NUCLEAR PARTNERSHIP: Premier Scott Moe, left, meets with Adam Struzik, marshal of Poland's Mazovian Voivodeship, during the signing of a memorandum of understanding on nuclear energy development in Poland on June 16. The agreement aims to strengthen collaboration in nuclear research, workforce development, innovation and supply chain opportunities as both jurisdictions advance plans for nuclear power generation. PHOTO COURTESY GOVERNMENT OF SASKATCHEWAN.

Poland agreement opens door for Saskatchewan nuclear growth

BY BRIAN ZINCHUK

Premier Scott Moe signed a memorandum of understanding with Poland on June 16 aimed at expanding cooperation in nuclear energy development, workforce training, research, innovation and supply chain opportunities.

The agreement comes as both jurisdictions move forward with ambitious nuclear energy plans.

Saskatchewan has selected the GE Vernova-Hitachi BWRX-300 small modular reactor (SMR) as the preferred technology for its first two proposed reactors. Poland, meanwhile, is pursuing a much larger nuclear buildout, with plans for approximately 24 SMRs as well as several large-scale nuclear generating stations.

Saskatchewan is also evaluating large nuclear reactors, including the Westinghouse AP1000. Poland is planning multiple AP1000 units, creating potential opportunities for Saskatchewan's uranium industry and nuclear supply chain.

"Saskatchewan is proud to partner with the government of Poland as we work together to strengthen energy security, support innovation and build the skilled workforce needed for the future," Moe said. "This agreement reflects our shared commitment to meaningful collaboration in nuclear development, research, training and supply chain opportunities that will benefit both our economies for years to come."

The province said the agreement recognizes the importance of cooperation on nuclear energy development and creates opportunities for future exchanges and partnerships between Saskatchewan and Poland.

"This is part of a broad effort to protect the environment and combat climate change and demonstrates the continued commitment of both regions to the energy transformation," said Adam Struzik, marshal of Poland's Mazovian Voivodeship.

"The goal is to develop human resources and mar-

ket cooperation, including the creation of platforms for joint educational, scientific and professional collaboration, supporting research and innovation, and building an energy secure environment, with particular emphasis on nuclear energy. Here we agree that it is crucial to respond to the growing energy needs of regions and cities by strengthening research potential and developing the infrastructure of small modular reactors in Poland and Canada."

The province noted Saskatchewan and Poland have strengthened their trade relationship in recent years. Saskatchewan exports to Poland increased from \$2.2 million in 2021 to \$79 million in 2025, a rise of more than 3,500 per cent.

Cameco president and CEO Tim Gitzel welcomed the agreement.

"We are pleased to see this agreement signed between Saskatchewan and Mazovian Voivodeship as both jurisdictions explore introducing clean, reliable nuclear energy," Gitzel said.

"At Cameco, we demonstrate that nuclear is a global business that best serves people and communities through collaboration, knowledge sharing, trade relationships and supply chain opportunities. As a leading provider of uranium fuel and reactor technologies, we look forward to the opportunity to help support both jurisdictions as they pursue civil nuclear reactor programs."

With some of the world's richest uranium deposits, Saskatchewan is positioning itself to play a significant role in supplying fuel for the growing global nuclear sector.

The memorandum of understanding was signed during Saskatchewan's trade and investment mission to the European Union. The delegation was scheduled to return on June 19. The mission, including the MOU signing, was supported by Saskatchewan's office in Germany.



Above: Community members enjoy burgers and hot dogs during the Kindersley Glass grand opening barbecue on Friday.

PHOTOS BY EVAN PELLETIER

Right: New Kindersley Glass owners Julia and Roy Watton pause for a photo while serving guests during Friday's grand opening celebration.

Kindersley council approves bubble tea business permit

BY STU SALKELD

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter
Your West Central Voice

KINDERSLEY — The Town of Kindersley's business community continues to grow after council approved a permit for a specialty drink business during its regular meeting on June 15.

Councillors reviewed an application for a discretionary use permit submitted by Maria Jessica Chavez for a home-based business at 209 7th Ave. W. The application was for a bubble tea business operating under the name Kinders Tea.

Under the town's zoning bylaw, discretionary uses differ from permitted uses in that they require council approval following a formal application process. Permitted uses are generally approved automatically when all zoning and development requirements are met.

Director of Infrastructure and Development Chad Levitt presented the application to council. He noted that home-based businesses are permitted within the neighbourhood and that nearby residents had been notified of the application. No responses, either in support or opposition, were received.

Council also noted that home-based businesses must meet several conditions, including obtaining a Town of Kindersley business licence, operating within the approved residence and having little to no impact on neighbourhood traffic. Off-street parking must also be provided for employees.

Town administration recommended approval of the application, subject to the required conditions.

Council unanimously passed a resolution approving Discretionary Use Application 26-04 for the residence at 209 7th Ave. W.



THUMBS UP FOR KINDERS TEA. Jessica Chavez, owner of Kinders Tea, gives a thumbs up while showcasing one of her specialty drinks. Kindersley town council approved a discretionary use permit for the home-based bubble tea business at its June 15 meeting. *FACEBOOK SCREENSHOT.*

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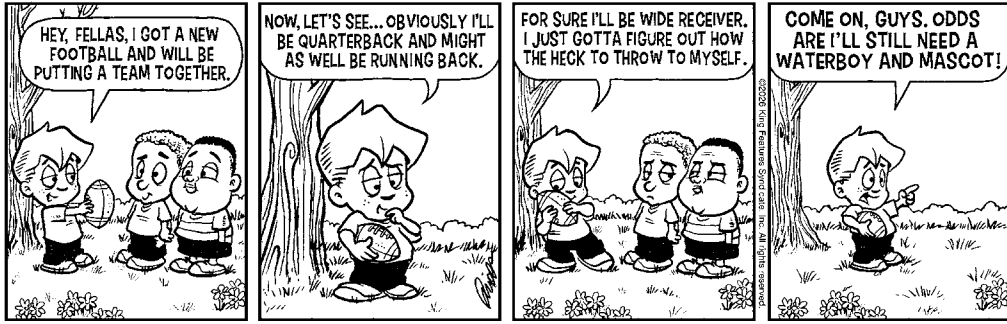
Cell: 306.834.7579 | Ph: 306.834.5590
Email: timmargr@hotmail.com | Major, SK

Sit a spell ...



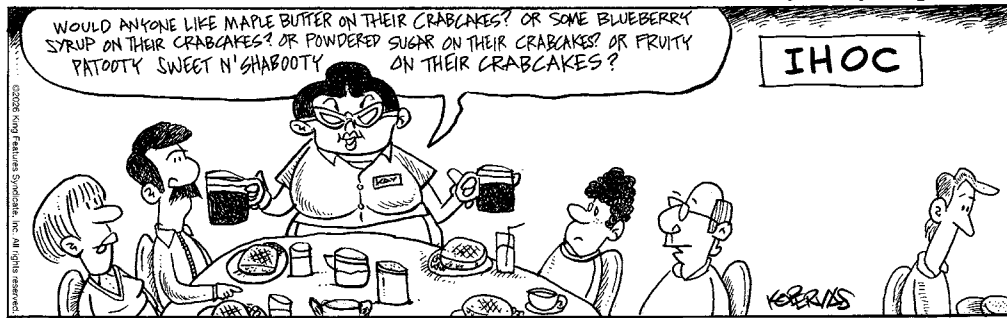
Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



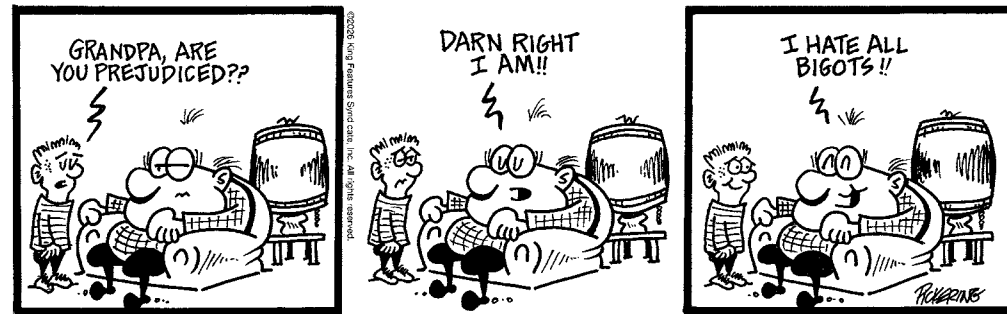
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



Weekly SUDOKU

	4						3	6
3			9	4				7
	2	7		5	6	4		1
	7			4	2	6	3	
6			1					9
	8	6		3	1			
	6				8			4
4				6	7			2
2		5	4	3	9			8

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTIKOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Box is larger. 2. Tie is longer. 3. Rating is longer. 4. Hat is larger. 5. House is wider. 6. Jacket sleeve is longer.

- ACROSS**
- Mule, for one
 - Unruly group
 - Bygone fliers
 - Lawman Wyatt
 - Stop — dime
 - Ornamental jug
 - Heart charts
 - Business card no.
 - Calf-length
 - Stop
 - Son of Erik the Red
 - "War and Peace" author
 - Violin stroke
 - Cyclades island
 - British verb ending
 - Subject, usually
 - Fellow
 - Healthy
 - Internet address
 - Continent north of Afr.
 - Disinfectant brand
 - Oscar-winning actress in "The Fighter"
 - Arizona tribe
 - Prisoner
 - Conspiracy
 - Corn core

King Crossword

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11	
12					13				14				
15					16				17				
18				19			20	21					
					22			23			24	25	
26	27	28				29				30			
31						32				33			
34					35				36				
37			38					39					
		40						41			42	43	44
45	46					47	48			49			
50						51				52			
53						54				55			

- DOWN**
- Future flower
 - Cod cousin
 - PTA and NEA, e.g.
 - Delta follower
 - Slogan
 - Count starter
 - Inflated party prop
 - Big rigs
 - Fans of pop icon Taylor
 - Talks (online lecture series)
 - Lanka lead-in
 - Stitch
 - Golf's Ernie
 - Pageant crown
 - City on a fjord
 - Holler
 - "E Pluribus —"
 - Skin opening
 - Megaphone's kin
 - "Suffs" or "Rent," e.g.
 - Cheyenne's state
 - Mentalist's gift
 - Cariou of "Blue Bloods"
 - Smidgens
 - Slander in print
 - Mine, in Marseille
 - Tart flavor
 - Alimony recipients
 - USMC rank
 - Privy
 - Japanese sash

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Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

- U.S. STATES: Which state has the most national parks?
- ANATOMY: Which blood type is considered to be a universal donor?
- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Which three signs of the Zodiac are considered to be Earth signs?
- ROYALS: What was Queen Elizabeth's favorite dog breed?
- GEOGRAPHY: Which continent has a mountain range called The Great Rift Valley?
- MONEY: What is the basic currency of Russia?
- TELEVISION: Which long-running TV sitcom features a dog named Comet?
- MUSIC: How many strings does a standard violin have?
- GAMES: How many title deeds does the Monopoly game have?
- SCIENCE: What is the main cause of ocean tides?

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8	7	6	9	3	4	5	1	2
4	3	8	5	7	9	6	4	2
4	5	6	8	2	3	7	9	1
5	4	1	2	3	7	8	6	9
6	8	7	5	2	1	8	9	3
3	9	2	6	8	7	1	5	4
1	6	4	9	5	6	3	7	8
3	9	2	6	8	7	1	5	4
7	1	8	9	6	5	3	7	2
2	7	1	8	9	6	5	3	4
6	3	9	2	6	8	7	1	5
9	3	8	5	7	4	1	2	6
1	4	6	2	5	3	8	7	9

Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

S	I	G		L	I	L	S	N	O	C
N	O	N		A	B	E	V	A	F	O
X	M	A		C	O	B	O	O	P	L
				I	N	A	T	E	H	O
				S	L	A	V	E		
T	O	S		U	R	L	E	U	R	L
L	L			M	N	A	V	N	U	O
				S	O	S		W	O	
				L	O	T	O	E	L	
				L	E	I	F			
				T	E	L		S	I	
				E	K	G	S	T	E	L
				E	A	R	P	O	N	A
				S	T	S				
				S	H	O	E			

Solution time: 25 mins.

Answers

King Crossword

Alcoholics Anonymous

Get help with substance abuse.

Monday: Kindersley AA Meeting
8:00 PM, Legion Hall, 118 - 2nd Avenue East
AA Upstairs, Alanon Downstairs

Tuesday: Brock AA Meeting
8:00 PM, Vesper Club, 1st Avenue North
Leader AA Meeting
8:00 PM, Leader United Church, 1st St. W.

Wednesday: Eston AA Meeting
8 PM, St. Andrew's United Church, 1st St. W.

Friday: Kindersley AA Meeting
8:00 PM, Lutheran Church, 807 - 3rd Ave. W.

Narcotics Anonymous

Tuesday: Kindersley NA Meeting
7:30 PM, 113 Main Street

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ADAMA grant helps keep Eston Free Pantry shelves stocked

BY YOUR SOUTHWEST MEDIA GROUP

ESTON — The Eston Free Pantry received a major boost this spring after being awarded a \$5,000 grant through ADAMA Canada's Stomping Grounds community investment initiative. The funding comes at a crucial time for the volunteer-run pantry, which recently relocated to a new home after losing its previous location.

According to pantry volunteer Kelly Knight, the organization was forced to suspend operations at the town library before receiving an unexpected offer from local business owner Brealynn Trarback, who provided unused space next door free of charge. Volunteers quickly cleaned, organized and restocked the new location, allowing the pantry to continue serving local residents.

Soon afterward, Eston Economic Development Officer Jaime Smith informed volunteers that a grant application she had submitted to ADAMA Canada had been approved.

"Kelly was surprised and excited when I told her I had applied and we had been approved," Smith said. "Then she asked how much we were getting, and when I told her it was \$5,000, that was far beyond what any of us were expecting."

Knight said the funding will provide stability for the pantry's operations.

"When Jaime told me how much, it was just a bit of relief and then I did some quick calculations in my head and I was like, this is going to last us over a year. This is awesome," she said.

The pantry distributes food boxes to as many as a dozen households each week. Knight said the grant money will be used to purchase fresh food and help cover any shortages in weekly donations.

The Eston Free Pantry was one of 23 community projects across Canada selected to receive funding this year through the Stomping Grounds program. Since 2018, ADAMA Canada has



Representatives from ADAMA Canada and Emerge Ag Solutions present a \$5,000 Stomping Grounds grant to the Eston Free Pantry. Pictured, from left, are Haley Tetreault, Kelly Knight, Jaime Smith, an Eston Free Pantry volunteer and Matt Owens. PHOTO COURTESY ADAMA CANADA.

contributed more than \$500,000 to community projects focused on strengthening local communities and improving well-being.

Haley Tetreault, ADAMA Canada's Northwest and Southwest Central Saskatchewan Area Business Manager, personally delivered the cheque to the pantry. She was joined by Matt Owens of Emerge Ag Solutions in Eston.

"This is one of those amazing small-town stories where the community comes together to solve a problem and take care of their neighbours," said Tetreault. "To hear that our Stomping Grounds grant was a total surprise to the volunteers after a bit of a scramble to keep the pantry going and it will help keep the shelves stocked for at least a year, that's incredible."

Owens praised the work of the volunteers.

"It is pretty remarkable what everyone at the Little Free Pantry does with the limited resources they have, not least of which is their own time," he said. "Really makes a person proud to call this town home."

Federal food security strategy good news for Saskatchewan farmers

The Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan says the federal government's newly released National Food Security Strategy aligns with most of what the organization pushed for during the 2025 federal election.

APAS president Bill Prybylski called the strategy a positive step for producers, pointing to key areas including market fairness, regulatory efficiency, and agricultural infrastructure.

The strategy includes a \$350 million Strategic Response Fund and a \$1 billion Agri-food Project Finance Fund aimed at boosting domestic processing of Canadian commodities. It also commits to cutting approval times for seed, feed, and fertilizers by at least one-third and maintaining the Advance Payment Program's interest-free limits to support farmer cash flow.

Prybylski highlighted the government's announcement of a task force on intergenerational farm transfers as a priority APAS has long championed.

"We are particularly encouraged by the government's announcement of a task force on intergenerational farm transfers as we highlight this as a critical priority for the Next Policy Framework," Prybylski said.

The strategy also strengthens the Competition Bureau's enforcement powers to address market concentration, accelerates infrastructure projects to reduce supply chain bottlenecks, and introduces temporary use permits for certain pesticides when national food or economic security is at stake.

Prybylski noted that the 2024 increase to the Lifetime Capital Gains Exemption and



Bill Prybylski

the doubling of financing to \$1 million for young farmers under the Canadian Agricultural Loans Act add to the positive outlook for the next generation of Saskatchewan producers.

"The strategy is a starting point, and ongoing work and collaboration are needed to create action," Prybylski said.

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Applications open for APAS Young Leaders Program

The Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan is accepting applications for its 2026-27 Young Leaders Program, offering young producers hands-on experience in agricultural policy and advocacy.

Open to Saskatchewan producers between the ages of 18 and 40, the program connects participants directly with the policy-making process at the provincial and national levels.

"This program is about more than leadership training -- it's about ensuring the next generation of producers has a strong voice in shaping the future of agriculture," said APAS President Bill Prybylski.

Participants gain experience through grassroots policy development and advocacy, participation in APAS board and district meetings, engagement with government officials, attendance at key events including the APAS AGM and Canadian Federation of Agriculture AGM, and governance training.

The program runs October 2026 through September 2027 and requires approximately 16 days of commitment over the year. Travel and program-related expenses are fully covered.

Applications are open until Aug. 31, 2026. More information and the application form are available at apas.ca/ayl.

For more information, contact APAS Communications at Communications@apas.ca.

Rural Municipality of Winslow No. 319 TAX TITLE LAND FOR SALE BY TENDER

The Rural Municipality of Winslow No. 319 offers for sale by tender the following property:

**Located in the former Hamlet of Druid:
Lots 21-22 Block 6 Plan G73 Extension 0**

Tenders must be received in the office by **3:00 PM on Tuesday, July 7, 2026** and must follow all instructions detailed in the Instructions to Bidders package, to be accepted. Packages are available at the office or on the website at www.rmofwinslow.ca.

Tenders to be opened during the regular meeting of council on Wednesday, July 8, 2026 commencing at 8:30 a.m.

Please contact the municipal office at (306)356-2106 with any questions.

The Rural Municipality of Winslow No. 319

Box 310 Doddsland, SK S0L 0V0
Phone: 306-356-2106 Fax: 306-356-2085

Accepting Applications for:

Seasonal Municipal Employee

Employment to commence July 17, 2026 or as mutually agreed ending October 31st, depending on weather.

Work hours are 7:00 AM - 5:00 PM Monday to Friday from May to October.

Duties and Criteria:

- Check, lubricate, fuel and clean equipment
- Perform pre-operational checks on equipment
- Operate various heavy equipment, tractor and mower
- Perform minor repairs on equipment
- Culvert and Sign installation and Repairs, rock picking, assist in roadside weed management
- Other duties as required
- Team Player and Safety minded. Willingness to take direction from Foreman
- Have a valid Drivers License
- Must be physically able to complete labour related tasks when required

Email: operations@rmofwinslow.ca

Applicants are invited to submit a resume including 3 References by July 6, 2026



LUNCH IS SERVED. A volunteer passes a meal through the serving window during the first Kerrobert Farmers Market of the season on June 18 at the Kerrobert Seniors Hall. Along with a hearty lunch, visitors enjoyed fresh produce, homemade baking and a variety of local goods. Additional markets are planned for July, August and September. PHOTO BY JOAN JANZEN

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Unity RCMP lay charges in assault and impaired driving investigations

Unity RCMP responded to a variety of calls during the latest reporting period, including assault investigations, impaired driving, thefts, mental health concerns and traffic-related incidents.

A 30-year-old Unity man was charged with assault, uttering threats and failing to comply with a release order condition following an assault complaint.

In a separate incident, a 34-year-old Unity man was charged with impaired operation of a motor vehicle, mischief, dangerous operation of a motor vehicle and failure to stop after an accident after police received a report of an impaired driver.

Members also responded to a Mental Health Act complaint, resulting in an individual being transported by EMS to Unity Health Centre for assessment.

Other calls included a vehicle collision involving a deer, a firearms complaint in which a firearm was voluntarily surrendered pending a valid Possession and Acquisition Licence, a report of a stolen bicycle, a disturbing the peace complaint, an ATV fire in a rural area and two reports of harassing communications. One complaint lacked sufficient evidence to proceed, while the complainant in the other matter declined further action.

RCMP also executed an arrest warrant on behalf of Saskatoon Police Service, conducted a wellbeing check and responded to two false 911 calls.

Wilkie

Wilkie RCMP continue to investigate several files, including reports of stolen bicycles, theft, uttering threats and a break and enter at

a business.

A 68-year-old Wilkie man was charged with uttering threats and resisting a peace officer following a dispute.

Members also responded to an assault complaint. Police spoke with the subject of the complaint and issued a verbal warning after the complainant requested no further action.

Other calls included a Mental Health Act complaint, a criminal harassment complaint in which the complainant declined to proceed, a disturbing the peace complaint, a report of a suspicious person near a residence and a request for assistance involving a peace bond.

Officers also acted as mediators in a dispute between a business and a customer and conducted a wellbeing check at the request of a family friend. There were also four traffic complaints during the reporting period.

Macklin

Macklin RCMP received a complaint involving an individual allegedly taking a motor vehicle without the owner's consent. The vehicle was returned and the complainant requested no further action.

Police are also investigating a child welfare complaint.

There was one traffic complaint reported during the period.

Anyone with information about crimes in the Unity, Wilkie or Macklin areas is encouraged to contact Unity RCMP at 306-228-6300, Wilkie RCMP at 306-843-3480 or Macklin RCMP at 306-753-2171. Anonymous tips can also be submitted through Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 or online through Crime Stoppers.

Community Initiatives Fund approves over \$7.5 million for 475 Saskatchewan community grants

Saskatchewan communities will receive 475 grants totalling \$7,573,740 through the Community Initiatives Fund's February 1 and April 1 funding deadlines.

The Community Grant Program, with an April 1 deadline, approved 208 grants totalling \$4,281,714. Funding supports programs focused on children and youth wellbeing, mental health, healthy lifestyles, and community connection. Non-profit organizations also received support for program delivery, governance, leadership, and volunteer capacity. The Canadian Mental Health Association, Saskatchewan Division, will receive \$1,566,000 over two years for its Gambling Awareness Program.

The Summer Grant Program, with a February 1 deadline, approved 266 grants totalling \$1,726,206. Those funds support camps and day programs offering children and youth opportunities in recreation, arts, culture, and learning.

"Our government is proud to support the CIF's important work with a dedicated share of SaskGaming's revenues," said Alana Ross, Minister of Parks, Culture and Sport. "This year's \$1 million funding increase will

This year's \$1 million funding increase will support even more projects.

support even more projects and programs in communities across the province."

"At the Community Initiatives Fund, we continue to be inspired by the creativity, commitment, and care demonstrated by organizations across Saskatchewan," said Tracey Mann, Executive Director of the Community Initiatives Fund. "These investments reflect the strength of our communities and the shared commitment to ensuring children, youth, families, and communities have access to meaningful opportunities that support wellbeing and connection."

The Community Initiatives Fund is a special purpose fund created through The Lotteries and Gaming Saskatchewan Corporation Act and managed by a government-appointed board of community volunteers.

A complete list of grant recipients and funded projects is available at www.cifsask.org.

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RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF WINSLOW NO. 319 Public Notice – Zoning Bylaw Amendment

Public Notice is hereby given that the Council of the Rural Municipality of Winslow No. 319 (RM) intends to adopt one (1) bylaw under *The Planning and Development Act, 2007*; Bylaw No. 08-2026 to amend Bylaw No. 9-2021 known as the Zoning Bylaw.

INTENT: Bylaw No. 08-2026 is a proposed amendment in order to allow for more commercial development variety within the RM.

Bylaw No. 08-2026 is to introduce Minor Commercial Establishments as a land use into the Zoning Bylaw to allow for smaller-scale and/or impact commercial operations in cases determined as appropriate by Council. Minor Commercial Establishments will be added as land use and a Discretionary Use in the AG District. Additionally, Discretionary Use Evaluation Criteria and Special Standards and Regulations are being introduced for Minor Commercial Establishments. Finally, amendment to definitions to reflect above changes via Minor Commercial Establishments, and Tire Shops.

AFFECTED LAND: All lands within the AG – Agriculture District in the RM of Winslow will be affected by this amendment.

REASON: Bylaw No. 08-2026 is amended to introduce the ability for the RM to allow for scaled-down commercial developments in the AG District should they meet established requirements for Minor Commercial Establishments.

Bylaw No. 08-2026 is amended to introduce Minor Commercial Establishments into the Zoning Bylaw to allow for commercial uses that are scaled down, less intense, and/or contain limited components of the uses captured in the definition in cases determined as appropriate by Council. To allow for commercial uses that have low impacts and lack of land use conflict to be located outside of the C1 District. Additionally, adding in Minor Commercial Establishments as a Discretionary Use in the AG District; Amendment to Use Specific Discretionary Use Evaluation Criteria and Special Standards and Regulations was also required to address Minor Commercial Establishments. Finally, amendment to definition to reflect above changes and clarify these items to allow for Council to determine when these uses are appropriate and beneficial to the RM.

PUBLIC INSPECTION: Any person may inspect the bylaw at the RM Office during regular business hours, excluding statutory holidays. Hard copies will be available to the public at a cost at the RM Office. Digital copies can be obtained by contacting the Administrator (administrator@rmofwinslow.ca; 306-356-2106).

PUBLIC HEARING: Council will hold a public hearing at 10:15am on July 8th, 2026, in the RM office to hear any person or group that wants to comment on the proposed bylaw. Public may attend meetings via teleconference or in person. If you wish to attend the meeting via teleconference, please contact the RM administrator, Regan MacDonald, at administrator@rmofwinslow.ca requesting a meeting link invitation.

Council will also consider written comments received on or before July 6th, 2026, by the undersigned at the RM office by hardcopy or email before the hearing. The RM office is located at 135 2 Ave, Dodsland, SK S0L 0V0. The RM Office contact information: administrator@rmofwinslow.ca; 306-356-2106.

Issued by the Rural Municipality of Winslow No. 319 this June 16th, 2026.

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OBITUARIES

Joan Stephenson

1929 ~ 2026 (age 97)



Joan grew up in the village of Stranraer, SK, with her parents, George and Viola, and four siblings, Eileen (Close), Graham Walker, Jean (Smith), and Ronald (Bud) Walker.

She married Bill Stephenson in 1950, and they have two daughters, Pat (Colin) McMullan, and Peggy (Tom) Joyce; grandchildren Maureen, Cameron, Boyd (Steph), Spencer (Ainsley), Stacey (Dave), and seven great-grandchildren.

She is survived by her husband Bill of seven-

ty-five years, sister Jean, sister-in-law Vivian Walker, and Ada Stephenson.

She was predeceased by her parents, and sister Eileen, and brothers Graham, and Bud.

Joan and Bill farmed together and enjoyed time in the Stranraer community, and at their cabin at Cochin. They also spent about fifty winters in Mesa, AZ, enjoying time golfing, swimming, sight-seeing, and socializing with friends.

Joan will be lovingly remembered by her family and all who knew her.

Sincere thanks to all the wonderful and caring people at Caleb Village, and Heritage Manor.

A private family interment will be held at a later date.

A final goodbye,
a love
without end

Local obituaries can be found on our website at

www.yourwestcentral.com/obituaries



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HEADING TO THE BANK? A mallard hen and her newly hatched ducklings pause at the curb outside Kindersley's Scotiabank branch on a quiet morning last week, with the bank's agriculture-focused window display providing an unintentionally perfect backdrop. PHOTO BY KATE WINQUIST.

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Non-Profit & Volunteer Events & Fundraisers

We're always glad to help spread the word about local events and fundraisers whenever we can.

We're a small, locally owned newspaper, and advertising is what keeps the paper going each week. It helps cover printing, delivery, and the work that goes into keeping local news and community updates in front of people. For that reason, we aren't able to provide free advertising by request — if we did, we simply couldn't stay in business.

That said, we do have a couple of great options for non-profit groups:

1) Upcoming Events Listing (no charge):
We offer a basic non-profit listing on our Upcoming Events page. We keep it short (about 20 words) — the what / when / where plus a contact number (no pricing or extra details).

2) Discounted Non-Profit Advertising:
If you're looking for more visibility, we also offer a reduced non-profit advertising rate, and we're happy to work with almost any budget (even a small one) to get you the best reach possible.

HAVE AN EVENT? Fill in the online form at www.yourwestcentral.com/events

ALSASK
SATURDAY, JUNE 27

- Alsask Seniors Drop Inn Club's Annual Pig Roast Fundraiser & Games. 50/50 Chicken Poop. Open at 1:00 PM for Pool, Shuffleboard, Horseshoes, Card Games. Supper (including dessert and refreshments) 5:00-8:00 PM. For more info contact Dave 306-463-0169.

EATONIA

- Every Thursday from 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM come to the Eatonia Library for puzzles, visiting and grab your books for the week!
- The Lions Club meets on the last Tuesday of each month.
- The Rec Board meets the second Monday of each month 7:00 PM at the Town Office.
- Town Council meet the second Tuesday of each month 7:00 PM at the Town Office.

ESTON

- Eston Museum is open for the season with BBQ's held every Saturday (except for June 13th).
- Coffee Time "Grounds for Discussion" every Wednesday at the Library 2:00 - 3:00 PM.
- Every Monday - Adult Exercise Program 10:00-11:00 AM at the AGT Community Centre
- Drop in Bowling Sundays 1:00-4:00 PM. \$5 bowling. No need to book, just drop in.

FLAXCOMBE
TUESDAY, JUNE 23

- Kindersley & District Co-op Agro Grand Opening 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM (located 5km west of Flaxcombe on HWY #7. Food & Refreshments. Music by Cole Patton!

HOOSIER

- Sunday Service Hoosier Community Church 10:30 am at the Community Hall. Contact Joel Hamm 306-460-7056.

KERROBERT
TUESDAY, JUNE 30

- Graduation Day! Starting at 2:00 PM at the Prairieland Community Centre.

FRIDAY, SATURDAY, SUNDAY, JULY 3, 4, 5

- Kerrobert Rodeo at the Fairgrounds

THURSDAY, JULY 9 & 23

- Farmers Market 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM at the Kerrobert Seniors Hall (541 Atlantic Avenue). Fresh produce, baking and much more. Lunch prepared by the Seniors Group.

- MS Support Group at Kerrobert Health Centre Meeting Room every 3rd Saturday 2:00-4:00 PM. Contact Gail Wiebe for more information 306-834-7068.

- Walk This Way with Lao Thursdays at the PCC starting at 9:30 AM. Everyone is welcome and it's FREE.

- Spring Exhibition at the Kerrobert Courtroom Gallery featuring "Expressions With Joy" Mixed Medium Artwork by Breena Hebron and "Lindy's Mudshack" Handmade Pottery by Lindy Bell-Gatzke. Until June 22, 2026. Gallery Hours: Weekdays 8:30 - 4:30 Closed at lunch.

KINDERSLEY
TUESDAY, JUNE 23

- West Central Abilities Notice of Annual General Meeting 10:30 AM at the WCA Activity Centre - Boardroom (122 - 1st Avenue West).
- Kindersley & District Co-op Agro Grand Opening 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM (located 5km west of Flaxcombe on HWY #7. Food & Refreshments. Music by Cole Patton!

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24

- West Central Crisis & Family Support Centre Inc. Notice of Annual General Meeting 7:00 PM at 105 Colton Drive. For more info, please call 306-463-6655 or email crisis@westcentralcrisis.ca

THURSDAY - SUNDAY, JUNE 25-28

- Redemption Baptist Church's 4th Annual Gospel Meetings, beginning 7:00 PM each evening. Speaker: Evangelist Alex Rohof. All are welcome. Refreshments and fellowship. Contact Pastor Scott for more info 306-460-4688.

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, JULY 4 & 5

- Kindersley Filipino Music & Food Street Festival. Bringing the Music & Taste of the Philippines to Kindersley! Norman Ritchie Centre. Parade starts at 11:00 AM on Main Street.

FRIDAY - SUNDAY, JULY 17, 18, 19

- Western Canadian Oldtimers Baseball Championships

Moments in time

* On **June 22, 1611**, after a winter spent trapped by ice in what is now northeastern Canada's Hudson Bay, the starving crew of the Discovery launched a mutiny against their captain, English navigator Henry Hudson, setting him, his teenage son, and seven of his supporters adrift in a small open boat. They were never seen again.

* On **June 23, 1956**, Gamal Abdel Nasser was elected the first president of the Republic of Egypt. Nasser had overthrown the country's monarchy four years earlier, in a military coup, and was the sole candidate on the ballot. His new constitution, making Egypt a one-party socialist state with Islam as its official religion, was also almost unanimously approved by voters.

* On **June 24, 1374**, a "dancing plague" swept through Germany, causing medieval villagers to writhe and whirl uncontrollably and leaving many people in a state of exhausted collapse in the streets or dead from heart attacks and strokes. The cause is still unknown, though ergot poisoning, mass hysteria and religious devotion have all been suggested.

* On **June 25, 1910**, Congress passed the Mann Act, which was ostensibly intended to keep young women from being enticed into prostitution, but was more about a way to make various types of consensual sexual activity a crime.

* On **June 26, 1948**, American and British pilots began delivering food, water, clothing, medicine and fuel by airplane to Berlin after the city was isolated by a Soviet Union blockade. Some in President Harry Truman's administration had called for a military response to the blockade, but Truman believed such an action could incite another world war.

* On **June 27, 1985**, the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials decertified the iconic Route 66, which in its heyday stretched about 2,400 miles over a span of eight states from Chicago, Illinois, to Santa Monica, California, and voted to remove all its highway signs.

MONDAY-FRIDAY, JULY 20-24

- New Life Church is having their VBS Day Camp from 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM daily. at 401-4th Avenue West. Register online at newlifekindersley.com or call 306-463-4720 for more information.

- Parkinson's Support Group Meetings are held the second Wednesday of the month 1:30 PM at 401 - 4th Ave West (New Life Church). Everyone welcome! For more info call Nancy at 306-463-4514.

- Monday Night Jam Sessions at the Norman Ritchie Community Centre. Doors open at 6:30 to set-up, then the fun begins at 7-11 PM. Call Keith 306-460-8633.

- Interested in a support group for weight management? TOPS meetings; every Monday at 6:00 PM in the Kindersley Senior Centre OR contact Jill at 306-463-4210.

- Pickleball meets Monday & Wednesday evenings 7:00-9:00 PM, either at the outdoor rink or in the WCEC or in the curling rink (weather dependent). Cost is \$100 for the season or \$10 drop in. Our club is a part of Pathway To Wellness. More info call Teresa Knight 306-460-7304.

- Fit Fighter Group Class. Helping individuals with Parkinson Disease, Fibromyalgia, MS, Arthritis and mobility issues. Monday, Wednesday, Friday 1:00 PM at Anytime Fitness. Call Karen 463-3607 for more info.

- 365 Kindersley Air Cadets meet Thursday evenings at the Kindersley Museum. No charge to be a member, youth ages 12-18, must be a Canadian resident. Contact Ian Kehrer via text at 306-460-0057 or Sheila Kehrer via text 306-604-9044. Come Fly With Us!

- Every Tuesday: Community Badminton 6:30 - 9:00 PM at Westberry School. Everybody welcome.

- Junior Leader Club (ages 10-14 welcome) Two Saturdays each month from 7:00-9:00 PM at the KCF Church 800-12 Avenue East.

- St. Paul's United Church Casual Coffee Connection first and third Wednesday of the month.

LEADER

- Community Walking Club Monday - Thursday 7:00-8:00 PM at Leader Composite School (Use student parking lot door). You must pre-register at the Town Office.

- Community Badminton SUNDAY evenings 6:00-8:00 PM. \$2/Sunday at the LCS Gymnasium (use student parking lot door). Under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. Racquets and shuttles available.

LUSELAND

- Luseland & District Chamber of Commerce regular meetings are held on the first Wednesday of every month 7:00 PM at the Luseland Credit Union Community Room, 701 Grand Avenue.

- The Luseland Homecoming Hall will be available for indoor walking on TUESDAY & THURSDAY mornings. Please pick up the key at the Town Office to unlock the door. Silver collection at the door.

- The Luseland Library Art Gallery has a NEW exhibit on display featuring intricate handmade birdhouses by Marilyn Zunti.

Recurring events at The Luseland Pioneers Club Members

- Monday-Saturday 8:30 AM - Noon, Coffee, Pool, Visiting, Cards

- Cards are played several days of the week

- Third Friday of the month Birthday Lunch at noon

- Exercises 9:00-9:30 AM Monday, Wednesday, Friday

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Legion marks 100 years of service in Kerrobert

SUBMITTED BY COMRADE SANDRA SMITH

Kerrobert Legion Secretary

The Kerrobert Legion Branch No. 88 celebrated the 100th anniversary of the Royal Canadian Legion on June 16 with an afternoon of community activities, recognition and reflection on the Legion's continued commitment to veterans and their families.

The celebration featured a free swim sponsored by Kerrobert Reddimart, Laurie's Rolling Kitchen food truck and bouncy castles provided by Fun Play Party Rentals. The inflatable attractions were sponsored by Kerrobert Credit Union, Kerrobert Shop Easy, Kerrobert Carstar Autobody, Short's Insurance and the Kerrobert Chamber of Commerce.

Comrade Sandra Smith welcomed those in attendance and shared a brief history of the Legion, reminding the community of its ongoing mission to support veterans and their families while ensuring their service and sacrifice are never forgotten.

Seven veteran banners were displayed during the event, honouring Mel Morris, Walter Wandler, Vince Weber, Mel Whetter, Don Pedersen, Cliff Pedersen and Bob Jary. Smith encouraged families interested in recognizing a veteran through the banner program to contact the branch.

The Legion also recognized students from Kerrobert Composite School whose entries in the National Youth Remembrance Contest advanced beyond the branch level to earn zone and district honours. Presentations were made by Sgt.-at-Arms Comrade Stan Pitura.

Recognized students included:

- Claire Welter, third place, Primary Black and White Poster (Zone)
- Mikah Niskakoski, second place, Junior Essay (Zone)
- Jasper Leienweber, third place, Junior Black and White Poster (Zone)
- Hudson Charteris, first place, Junior Literary Poem (Zone)
- Erin Audrey Paz, first place, Junior Colour Poster (Zone), second place (District)
- Mary Phillips, first place, Intermediate Black and White Poster (Zone), third place (District)
- Heatley Flahr, third place, Senior Essay (Zone)

Smith noted that by participating in the contest, students help honour Canadians who served during wartime and peacetime while ensuring their contributions are remembered.

Attendees also learned about a special anniversary initiative being offered by the Royal Canadian Legion. To mark its centennial year of service, the organization is providing free memberships to new members who join during 2026.

The Kerrobert branch welcomed seven new members during the year, bringing total membership to 28.

Smith applauded the new members, saying they will bring fresh energy and ideas to the organization while helping the branch continue making a difference in the community.

The branch concluded the celebration by thanking everyone who attended and helped mark the milestone anniversary.



Legion Members in attendance were (Back Row L-R) Wes Ternes, Lyle Busch, Rick McNichol, Doug McNichol, Sandra Smith. (Front Row) Joey Phillips, Shauna Meek, Tina Burkevitch, Stan Pitura, Tracy Snell, Shelly Dubielewicz.



Hudson Charteris receives his National Youth Remembrance Contest certificate from Comrade Stan Pitura.



Master of Ceremonies Comrade Sandra Smith.

100 years of supporting Canada's Veterans

2026 marks a once-in-a-lifetime milestone: a century of standing with Veterans, strengthening communities, and honouring the memory of those who served.

Founded in 1925 at the Unity Conference, the Legion began with a clear mission — to support Veterans, advocate for their rights, and ensure the act Remembrance continues. On July 17, 1926, the Legion was officially incorporated by a special Act of Parliament, now recognized as our anniversary.

Source: www.legion.ca