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WEEKEND REGIONAL

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2019

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Fireworks exploding into the sky on Thursday during Christmas in the Park was, as always, a welcome feature event following the Santa Claus Parade. | SANDRA M STANWAY PHOTO



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Company asks who's interested in fiber optics

SANDRA M STANWAY
BROOKS BULLETIN

Start up company Tether has been in Brooks to gauge the support of residents for a fiber optic internet in the area.

"We're looking for people who are interested in switching from whatever they are using today to us. We're not making a sales call. There's no financial commitment," said Joshua Orzech, Tether's general manager.

A short time after meeting with some residents Orzech said the process is going well.

"The vast majority of homeowners and business owners I speak with are excited about the opportunity of having a fiber optic internet connection," he said.

The company wants to tether new fiber optic cable to existing cable.

"The Alberta government paid for the SuperNet to be built all over the province and it basically goes into downtown Brooks, so what Tether is going to do is connect into the Super Net and take it throughout the city," said Orzech.

One obstacle is getting the cable under or over the rail lines to get the speeds to the city's industrial park.

"They have been clamoring to get better internet. The problem is

you gotta deal with CP to go either over the rail lines or under the rail lines."

To get some understanding of the city's needs Orzech met with members of the economic development team.

"There's two different ways of moving this forward," he said.

The municipality can pay to have the fiber optics put into the ground and they sell space to Tether or Tether can pay for it all.

Brooks wants Tether to pay for it all and let the company operate the business.

Orzech said since he began speaking to local residents he has found there is not only a lot of interest in faster internet but that it is being looked at by municipalities through the Palliser Economic Partnership (PEP) and the EID.

The EID has run a system for over 20 years but its wireless system is full and no new customers can access the system.

"One of the people I am going to meet with is the EID and ask how can Tether and the EID work together?"

A couple of weeks ago SouthGrow Regional Economic Development released its study which shows there is large payback for every dollar spent on broadband.

"The results are

impressive and predict a very conservative 3 to 1 return on investment for the most extreme and expensive test cases," states a news release.

Economists Kien Tran and Jeff Davidson undertook the study with a provincial government grant.

"This study was a unique challenge because of the complexity of the broadband industry and the speed at which it is developing.

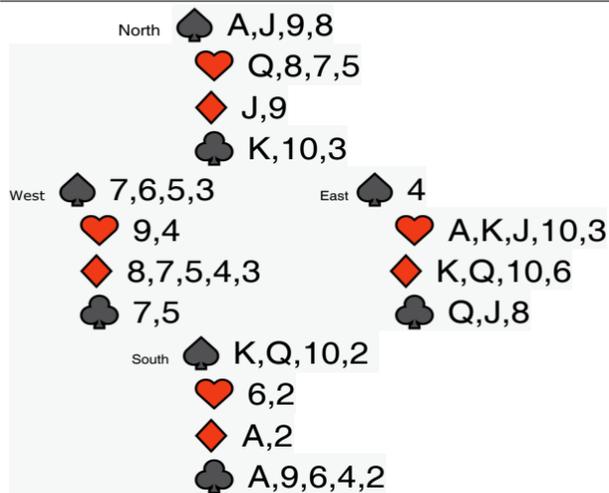
"We decided to establish the minimum return on investment by looking at the most expensive hypothetical models and using them as test-cases under the assumption that every real-world project would have an even higher return on investment," said Tran.

In 2016 the federal government mandated that homes and business should be able to access speeds of 50 Mbps download and 10 Mbps upload through the internet by 2021.

Although it has been scaled back a bit the government wants everyone to have access to at least those amounts.

Orzech said his company is offering 1000 Mbps of download and 500 Mbps upload.

"It's a phenomenal speed. You will be able to do everything you want," he said.



East opened the bidding with "1Heart". South doubled. Not that he thought that he could make put East down at 1 heart, but rather to encourage North to bid. When North bid "1 Spade", they were eventually able to establish a contract of "4 Spades".

West had very little to lead from, so he led to East's

hearts. East took the first 2 tricks in hearts. If at this point he had changed suits, the outcome would have been different. But East led a 3rd round of hearts hoping to provide West with an opportunity to trump it. If South had trumped with the deuce, West would have over trumped and taken the trick. Thus the

deuce of trump would have been wasted. Wisely, South trumped high, took the trick and still had 3 trump in his hand.

South then led his deuce of spades to the ace in North's hand. He then led back North's last heart and trumped it high again. He drew out the rest of West's trump, conceded 1 trump loser, and claimed the rest. He could play the remaining clubs and discard the diamond loser in North's hand. Contract complete.

Next week we will look at how another table played the same cards.

Winners in Duplicate Bridge on November 18th were:

1st Albert Laroque and Marg Miranda

2nd Judy Lawrence and Edna Sears

3rd Jim and Dot Taylor

Winners in Contract Bridge on November 20th were:

1st Richard Kabut

2nd Marg Miranda

3rd Rudy Esau

Home Plans

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THIS DESIGN INCLUDES AN UNFINISHED BASEMENT

MAIN FLOOR PLAN
1527 SQ. FT. (141.9 M²)
9'-0" CEILING HEIGHT

SECOND FLOOR PLAN
695 SQ. FT. (64.6 M²)

WIDTH - 42' - 0" (12.8M)
DEPTH - 63' - 6" (19.4M)

PLAN NO. 7-4-1014
TOTAL 2222 SQ. FT. (206.5M²)

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TWO STOREY

PLAN NUMBER
7-4-1014
ASYMMETRICAL
ROOF LINES

Asymmetrical roof lines make the exterior of this four-bedroom home stand out from its neighbors. Inside are all the amenities that a contemporary family seeks.

The covered entry, flanked by cut-stone pilasters, leads into a long foyer, past a coat closet and the U-shaped stairway to the upper floor, and into the open-plan great room. This room enjoys access to a covered patio that overlooks the back garden and boasts a gas fireplace. A vaulted ceiling soars to 12 feet and lends a sense of drama.

Separated from the great room only by a work island are the dining area and kitchen. The dining area has a window overlooking the back garden and includes an optional hutch, ideal for extra storage.

The kitchen's generous counter space will please

the cook, as will the corner pantry, always welcome for storage.

The master suite includes an ensuite with an oval soaker tub, for a touch of luxury, as well as a glassed-in shower stall. Double sinks will ease the morning rush. A linen cupboard is located just outside the spacious walk-in closet.

The laundry room has convenient access to the double garage, allowing it to serve as a mud room.

The second bedroom, to the right of the front door, includes its own three-piece bath, and would make an ideal guest room or study.

Upstairs, the third and fourth bedrooms share a three-piece bath, as well as a loft area that could be used for exercise equipment or as a TV room. Nearby, a railed area is open to the floor below.

Exterior finishes include stucco walls accented by narrow wood siding.

This home measures 42 feet wide and 63 feet, six inches deep, for a total of

2,222 square feet.

Plans for design 7-4-1014 are available for \$895(set of 5), \$965(set of 8) and \$1021 for a super set of 10. B.C. residents add 7% Prov. Sales Tax. Also add \$35.00 for Priority courier charges within B.C. or \$65.00 outside of B.C. Please add 5% G.S.T. or 13% H.S.T. (where applicable) to both the plan price and postage charges.

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EDITORIAL

The plot you choose may change or even elude you, but being your own story means you can control the theme.

- Toni Morrison

poet's CORNER

The New Calf

Bianca Bradbury

The mother licked it clean and moved away.
It swayed, and its round new eyes
Held nothing but surprise
At sunlight, and the size
Of the world it tumbled into. Four thin legs
Took it, trembling, after her.
It found the milk and rested on her side.
It staggered off, looked back, returned,
Making sure of warmth and nearness. Then
It wobbled away to see the world,
Stumbled into tansy, sniffed and ferned
Wet edge of the running brook. The old cow
lowed,
And ambled down to find it. Only an hour
Had passed since birth,
But the calf had found another mother. There,
Curled by the brook, like a white and heavy flower,
It slept upon the soft, cool cheek of earth.



TIME CAPSULE



PANCANADIAN HOCKEY TEAM - 1979

In back are coach Alf Jensen and assistant coaches Pete Bryant and Cliff Healy. Standing are Mike Hegland, Andrew Edgar, Glen McKenzie, Jon Hiebert, Lyn Ellefson, Darrell Jordan, Stephen Bryant and Len Healy. In front are Bobby Panteluk, Michael Rust, Dennis O'Connor, Shawn Bryant, Curtis Jensen, John Unchelenko, Shawn Johnson, Dennis Siebel and Dean Bryant (stick boy). Missing is Brian Slomp.

What's Up Doc?



Dr. Noorali BHARWANI

The pleasures and perils of winter

Winter is here! Some people have died. Some have exacerbation and/or complication of their pre-existing conditions. Some have broken bones. Some have flu. Some are depressed.

The lucky ones – if that is an appropriate word for them – are in Hawaii or Florida. Some are in Arizona or Palm Springs. Some are on a cruise in Bahamas or South America. Some are on the big mountains, gyrating down the slopes on their ultra super speed skis.

The big chill does create a new dynamics in peoples' lives. As soon as the leaves start gathering on the ground, we are gripped with fear or joy depending on what we have planned for the snowy days.

But we carry on. Sometimes smiling,

sometimes annoyed and sometimes angry. Each morning, we get ready for work in our best winter clothes. At work, the heating is on and the windows are shut. Your comfort level goes down. Your smile fades and your layers start coming off. You look out of the window for some inspiration and comfort. You see a pile of snow. You feel trapped.

Do you find this stressful? Does this affect your health? About 50 per cent of deaths in winter are related to coronary artery disease and blood clots in the brain.

Studies have shown that most deaths occur 24 hours after cold days. This appears to be due to brief rather than prolonged exposure to cold. Resulting in rapid changes in the

blood viscosity, formation of blood clot and increase demand for oxygen by heart muscles.

Those who are already known to have coronary artery disease are prone to spasm of these vessels. This further aggravates the risk of heart attacks. Asthmatics run the risk of aggravating their condition by inhaling cold air especially during exercise.

The precise mechanism of cold-induced changes is being hotly debated by the experts. Engorgement of blood vessels and release of substances which produce spasm of lung vessels are responsible for asthmatic attacks.

Patients with Raynaud's disease suffer significant spasm of blood vessels of hands and feet when exposed to cold. This

occurs mainly in young healthy women. Their blood vessels are extremely sensitive to cold or emotions.

In most of these conditions, the underlying mechanism appears to be the effect of cold on blood vessels.

Asthmatics, who want to enjoy winter sports, should keep inhalers (bronchodilators) handy at all times. People with heart problems should wear a light face mask to maintain a favorable air temperature and humidity during exertion. Warm clothings, mittens, gloves and socks should protect the rest of the body from the big chill.

Remember, better safe than sorry! We still have almost four months of winter to enjoy. Keep smiling!



The Scotiabank's Smiles for Christmas float last Thursday led the way in the annual Brooks Kinsmen Club Santa Claus parade. Scotiabank will be collecting donated toys and accept donations leading up to Christmas for families in need. | BRUCE PARKER PHOTO

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GWYNNE DYER

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the Iranian Revolution. It begins to seem possible that it could be one of the last, if not the very last.

The protests that broke out on Friday in at least 21 cities in Iran seem to have died down, although that is uncertain since the entire country is silenced by an almost complete internet shut-down. But the death toll, according to Amnesty International, is at least 106.

Other reports suggest that it might be twice that number.

This is at least five times the number that were killed in the last outbreak of protests in late 2017, and unofficial reports put the number of injured at around 3,000. Snipers have been firing into the crowds, who are denounced by state-controlled media as 'hooligans' and 'thugs' who are under foreign influence, or even in foreign pay.

The pace of the protests is picking up, too. The previous mass protests were way back in 2009, and were against the manipulation of election results, not against the regime as a whole. In 2017, and again this time, they were against the whole system of repression and corruption that sustains the theocratic rule of the ayatollahs.

This latest and biggest outburst of defiance in the streets is at least partly due to the unilateral trade sanctions imposed on Iran last year by the Trump

Iran is not an exception

administration. Washington scarcely bothers to deny that the real objective of its sanctions is regime change, or that the impoverishment of the Iranian population is the means chosen to attain that goal.

In the past year Iranian oil exports have dwindled to less than 200,000 barrels per day, compared to two million bpd before the US reimposed oil sanctions almost exactly a year ago. Inflation has soared, the value of the Iranian rial has collapsed, and life has become much harder for the poor.

The poor have nothing to fall back on and quickly become desperate. The young had nothing to start with, and see no future for themselves in an economy that is currently shrinking by 6% annually. These two groups are the real target of the sanctions, and the strategy seems to be working.

The trigger for these protests was a 50% rise in the price of petrol (gas), but

that was just a last straw, not a major economic blow to the poor. It's still only \$0.12 a litre (\$0.45 per US gallon), and most of the poor don't have cars anyway. Indeed, the government's stated reason for the price increase is to raise \$2.5 billion a year for extra subsidies to 18 million families struggling on low incomes.

The poor are not impressed, since their health costs have gone up by 20% and the price of meat and vegetables has risen by around 50% in the past twelve months. It's their anger and desperation that drive the poor and the young out into the streets, but it's really the sanctions that have made them so angry and desperate.

So can the religious despotism that has ruled the country for the past forty years survive? In the short run, probably yes, because the ayatollahs have several million fanatical and well-armed supporters in the

Revolutionary Guard and its part-time affiliate, the Basij militia. In the slightly longer term (2-5 years), probably not.

Because most Iranians follow the Shia version of Islam while all the countries around them except Iraq are overwhelmingly Sunni, Iran is seen as a special case whose politics has little relevance for elsewhere in the region. That is not true. The differences are big, but the politics in the region's various countries tends to march in step, or even to rhyme.

Right next door to Iran, in Iraq, other young men are protesting in the streets, and there too they are being shot down by the 'security' forces. Two months ago thousands of young Egyptian men and women took to the streets to demand the resignation of the military dictator, Abdel Fattah el-Sisi. Four thousand were arrested. The non-violent revolutions in Sudan and Algeria continue.

In Egypt, Algeria and Sudan money and privileges are monopolised by a military elite, in Iraq by an elected but deeply corrupt civilian elite, and in Iran by a religious and paramilitary elite. There is poverty and anti-regime anger everywhere, but in Iran it is also being stoked by Donald Trump.

Revolution in Iran would probably be a long and bloody process, because the theocratic regime has a coherent ideology and would go down fighting. Nobody knows what kind of regime would follow, and nobody knows if such a revolution would stay confined to Iran.

Despite the Sunni-Shia gulf, the last revolution in Iran inflamed similar Islamist movements in many Arab countries. Another Iranian revolution could also ignite anti-regime revolts elsewhere in the region. Trump should be careful what he wishes for.

Government roadblocks cripple energy industry

Certainly there are factors beyond domestic control, but some simple regulatory changes and a general will to help industry will go a long way

**By Ian Madsen
Senior Policy Analyst
Frontier Centre for
Public Policy**

Andrew Leach, an energy and environmental economist at the University of Alberta, recently observed that a number of things challenge the oil and gas industry in Canada, particularly the oil sands sector. And some of those challenges aren't the fault of Canadian politicians or environmental activists.

He noted that the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers (CAPP) said that "Pipeline constraints, a lack of market diversity, and inefficient regulations are largely responsible for holding back Canada's oil sector."

He also said Alberta Premier Jason Kenney likes to blame his predecessor, Rachel Notley, and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau for some of the industry's woes.

It's typical, if not edifying, for provincial premiers to bash their predecessors and the federal government. But there are things that Notley and Trudeau did that made the situation for the sector worse than it already was.

Notley raised corporate income taxes. That made profitability, already difficult after a steep plunge in oil prices, that much more difficult. And it made investment much less attractive in any industry. Her regime also increased regulations, including those on safety and pollution, which increased burdens and liability on the hard-pressed industry.

There was also a planned cap on emissions created by oil sands producers and a carbon tax that inhibited oil and gas sales and production, although it was minor compared to the oil price slump.

The Northern Gateway pipeline would have

brought Alberta bitumen to Kitimat on the Pacific coast. But by forbidding tanker traffic along that northern B.C. coast, the federal government effectively killed the pipeline.

As well, Ottawa's carbon tax made investment in oil sands projects less attractive.

Inadequate environmental studies and insufficient consultation with First Nations by the federal government led to the first cancellation of the Trans Mountain pipeline expansion to Burnaby, B.C., from Edmonton. It would have added 590,000 barrels a day of capacity, or 21 per cent of Canada's heavy oil exports for 2018.

The federal government also did little or nothing to assist either TC Energy or Enbridge in their efforts to get additional shipping capacity approved to either the U.S. midwest or Eastern Canada. Part of that was avoiding any confrontation with Quebec about its opposition to pipeline construction.

Finally, the federal government rammed Bill C-69 through Parliament. It gives huge latitude to intervenors to oppose resource development or other heavy land-use projects on nearly any grounds.

Leach cites four other things that make life difficult for oil sands producers:

- the longer-term outlook for oil prices has dimmed;
- market access for output;
- a preference for shorter-cycle projects such as shale oil development;
- oil supermajors avoid more carbon-intensive projects because institutional investors, governments and other stakeholders put direct and indirect pressure on them to lessen their contribution to climate change.

With respect to the first factor, it's up to the industry to decide what are reasonable oil price forecasts and to see what those projections do for their estimated total project returns. And producers have made great strides in lowering production costs.

When it comes to market access, government policy makes all the difference. The more vigorous - and belated - effort by the federal government to push the Trans Mountain expansion through, now that it owns the pipeline, may help it finally get built, despite further court challenges by adamant opponents.

Similarly, a more positive approach in the United States may now help get the Keystone XL line built, relieving excess supply pressure in Alberta. So too will rebuilding other lines that have regulatory or legal problems at the state level in the United States.

American refineries on the Gulf coast are configured for Alberta heavy oil; it's needed, particularly now that Venezuelan heavy oil is unavailable. So there's indeed demand, if not the transport - yet.

As for industry preference for short-cycle projects such as shale formations, that may be true for some participants, but there are still Canadian and other investors who see opportunities in the oil sands. Shale liquids and natural gas abundance have led to sharply lower diluent costs to transport the bitumen and lower heating costs for the steam used to separate the oil from the sand in Alberta.

That short-cycle notion is not all-pervasive: it hasn't stopped many longer-term projects from going ahead, such as major offshore developments in the Mediterranean and the

Caribbean seas.

Adverse public and institutional receptiveness to fossil fuel development, production and combustion of any kind remains problematic. Even natural gas is not looked upon very favourably by clean-energy absolutists. Yet fossil fuels of all varieties will have to be used for the foreseeable future, until other forms of energy become truly viable.

To cope, major players in the industry are developing more gas projects.

There may be pressure brought to bear on skittish companies with big institutional investor followings who face government and activist scrutiny. But that leaves more room for smaller, more independent producers to responsibly and cleanly bring oil sands

bitumen and synthetic oil to consumers and industries that need them. There are no good substitutes readily available.

Oil and gas producers and oil sands developers face a challenging future. Politicians don't have to make things worse by erecting obstacles along their route to survival, at the same time putting thousands of jobs and Canada's economy in peril.

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THREE CHEESE RECIPES
Our Three Cheese Quesadillas feature a blend of cream cheese, Monterey Jack, and feta for a rich, creamy filling. As with all quesadillas, the sky's the limit on what you put in it—try adding your favourite vegetables or leftover cooked meats.

Our Three Cheese Spirals with Garlic Bread Crumbs is an elevated yet fun take on mac-and-cheese. Spiral pasta is folded into a white cheese sauce made of melty Mozzarella, creamy Havarti, and sharp Parmesan, before topped with garlicky breadcrumbs and baked for a slightly crisped crust.

THREE CHEESE QUESADILLAS
4 oz (125 g) cream cheese, softened
1 cup (250 mL) shredded Monterey Jack cheese
1/3 cup (75 mL) shredded feta cheese
1/2 tsp (2 mL) oregano, crumbled
1/4 tsp (1 mL) freshly ground pepper
1/3 cup (75 mL) chopped pitted ripe olives
2 tbsp (25 mL) chopped canned roasted red peppers
2 tbsp (25 mL) sliced green onion
5 flour tortillas (6 inch/15 cm)
Using medium speed of an electric mixer, beat together cream cheese, Monterey Jack cheese, feta cheese, oregano and pepper until almost smooth. Stir in olives, roasted peppers and green onion. Spread cheese mixture evenly over half of each tortilla. Fold tortillas in half. Grill tortillas over low heat on natural gas barbecue for 2 minutes per side or

until lightly browned and heated through. Cut into wedges. Serve warm. Serves 4 - 6 as a starter.

THREE CHEESE SPIRALS WITH GARLIC BREAD CRUMBS
1 clove garlic, crushed
1 cup (250 mL) fresh bread crumbs
1 tbsp (15 mL) olive oil
3 tbsp (40 mL) butter
3 tbsp (40 mL) flour
3 cups (750 mL) milk, heated
1/2 tsp (2 mL) each salt, pepper and nutmeg
1 1/4 cup (300 mL) shredded mozzarella cheese
1 cup (250 mL) shredded Havarti or Fontina cheese
6 tomatoes, peeled, seeded and diced
1/3 cup (75 mL) grated Parmesan cheese, divided
1 lb (500 g) spiral pasta, cooked and drained
Sauté garlic and crumbs in oil until golden; set aside. Melt butter in a saucepan. Stir in flour. Gradually stir in milk and seasonings. Bring to a boil, reduce heat and simmer, stirring frequently, until thickened. Remove from heat and stir in mozzarella, Havarti, tomatoes and 1/4 cup (50 mL) Parmesan cheese. Spoon 3 tbsp (40 mL) of sauce over the bottom of a buttered casserole dish. Combine remaining sauce with pasta. Spoon pasta mixture into casserole. Sprinkle with bread crumb mixture and remaining Parmesan cheese. Bake at 400°F (200°C) for 20 - 30 minutes. Let stand 5 minutes before serving. Serves 6.

Lizzy Hoyt returns to Brooks

**SUBMITTED
BROOKS BULLETIN**

The Newell Concert Association is pleased to welcome Lizzy Hoyt back to Brooks for an unforgettable Christmas concert. Ancient Carols for a Winter's Night will take place on Thursday, December 5, 2019 at 7:30 pm at Griffin Park Theater.

Award-winning songwriter with the voice of an angel, Lizzy Hoyt delivers music with soaring melodies rooted in Celtic and folk traditions.

Acclaimed songwriter, Lizzy Hoyt is one of Canada's most powerful Celtic-folk artists. Known for bringing Canadian history to life with music, her songs like "Vimy Ridge", "White Feather", and "New Lady on the Prairie" have garnered awards and nominations while also connecting strongly with audiences across the country. In 2013,

Lizzy was awarded the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal by the Governor General of Canada for her outstanding contribution to commemorating Canadian veterans and history through music.

A talented multi-instrumentalist, Lizzy toured for ten years as a side musician before pursuing her own projects. She has been praised for her mastery of the fiddle, guitar and harp by the Edmonton Journal, Calgary Herald, Penguin Eggs, Bluegrass Unlimited, Star News, and more. CBC's Chris Della Torre calls her "a musician's musician" and notes "fans that want their artists to play well can find that with [her]". In addition to this praise, her voice has been described as "otherworldly", "angelic", "sweet", and "pure" and as a singer, she has been recognized for her clarity and precision.

Lizzy is a full-time musician who travels and tours throughout Canada during the year with her trio. She has performed at renowned folk festivals (Edmonton Folk Festival, Montreal Folk Festival, Goderich Celtic Roots Festivals), folk clubs (Calgary Folk Club, Nickelodeon Folk Club, Northern Lights Folk Club) and through performing arts networks across the country. Throughout her career, she has released four independent albums and two music videos.

Tickets are included in the Newell Concert Association Season Tickets, which can be purchased at ATB. Rush seats for this concert may be available on a first come, first serve basis. Adults \$25, Children \$10. For more information, call 403-362-5040. www.newellconcertassociation.blogspot.com



There was no shortage of goals from either side Saturday when the Duchess Storm hosted the Brooks Junior Bandits in novice hockey play. | BRUCE PARKER PHOTO

Bandits add scoring threat through trade with Pontiacs

Brooks Bandits of the Alberta Junior Hockey League (AJHL) last week acquired 1999-born forward Marc-Antoine Benoit (Drummondville, QC) from the Bonnyville Pontiacs in exchange for 2000-born forward Reilly Connors (Madison, CT) and 2001-born defenceman Jaxsen Wyatt (Edmonton, AB), the team announced today.

Benoit, 20, was the Pontiacs' third-highest scoring player, with 19 points (11 goals, 8 assists) in 23 games, making him the 16th-highest goal scoring player in the AJHL this season. Last season, he led Bonnyville in scoring with 64 points (32 goals, 32 assists) in 60 games, ranking him 6th in the league in goals.

In his first AJHL season

in 2017-18, he scored 42 points (21 goals, 21 assists) in 51 games split between the Whitecourt Wolverines and Drayton Valley Thunder.

Connors, 19, scored 6 points (2 goals, 4 assists) in 26 games this season for Brooks after being recruited from Loomis Chaffee prep school. Wyatt, 18, scored 11 points (4 goals, 7 assists) in 25 games this season split between the Bandits and Spruce Grove Saints.



Last Thursday's Kinsmen Santa Claus parade attracted a large number of decorated floats. | BRUCE PARKER PHOTO



Brooks Bandits players took part last Thursday in the annual Kinsmen Santa Claus Parade. | BRUCE PARKER PHOTO

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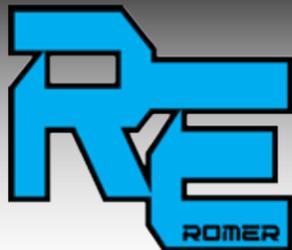
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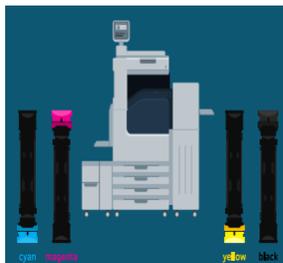
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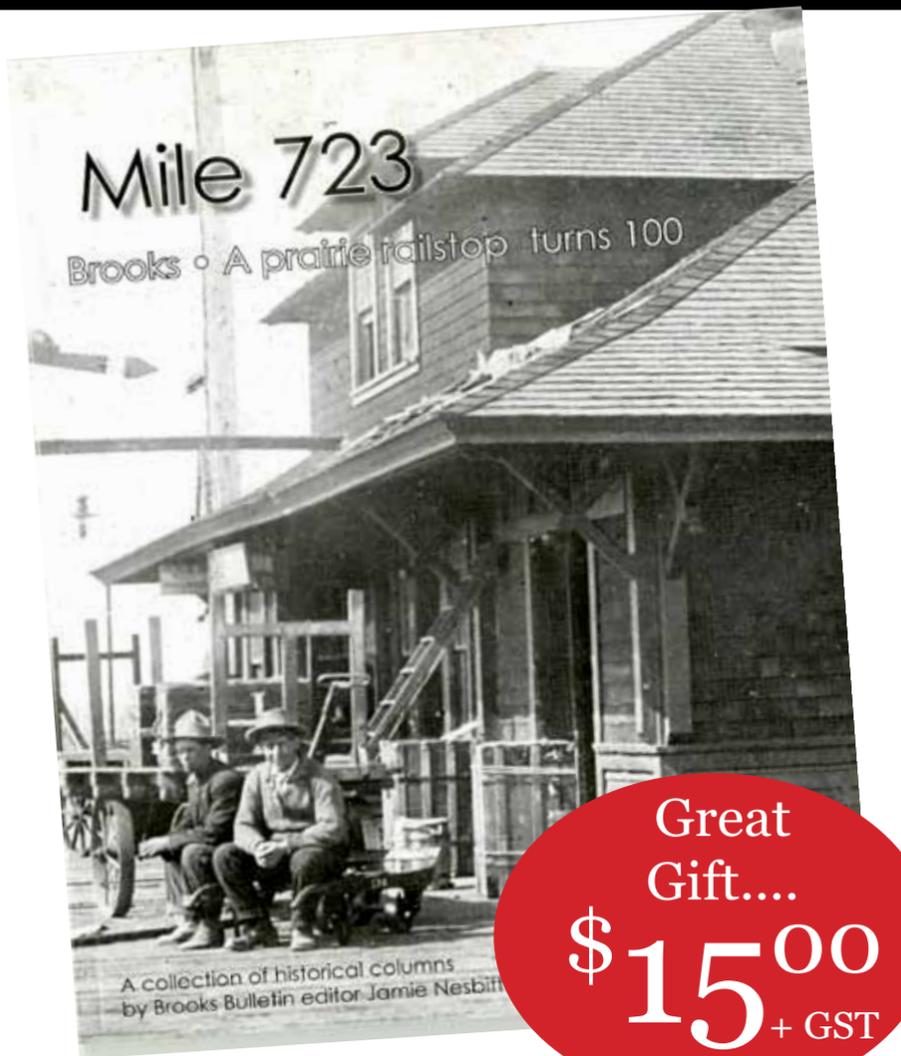
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FROM SIDING TO CENTENNIAL CITY, from the Duke of Sutherland to Red Adair, *Mile 723* chronicles Brooks' first century. This collection of historical columns by *Bulletin* editor Jamie Nesbitt also features rare photographs of Brooks and area from the archives of the *Brooks Bulletin*.



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'We need action' said Shields

SANDRA M STANWAY
BROOKS BULLETIN

The idea of western Canada taking control of its destiny is a rapidly growing grassroots idea.

Since the federal election in October that saw a sweeping blue Conservative win in the west, groups within Canada from the four western Conservative caucus to the Canadian Senators Group, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and the Alberta government have formed to look at separation, independence and even unity.

Wheatland County passed a resolution for the development of a provincial pension plan and a police force with the threat of a referendum in 2021 if the federal government does not meet in good faith.

Alberta Premier Jason Kenney shared many of the same ideas as the resolution with officials at last week's Rural Municipalities Association (RMA) convention saying he will take a page out of Quebec's playbook to assert Alberta's right to autonomy within Canada.

"It means withdrawing from federal cost share programs so that we can be masters of our own destiny," he said.

"It means fighting for fairness and equalization

and giving Albertans the opportunity to vote on removing equalization from the Canadian Constitution if we do not get a fair deal."

The panel will consult with Albertans to determine the best ways Alberta can maximize its leverage with the federal government to get pipelines, fair price for energy and "to get a fair deal in the Federation."

He told the RMA members the province does not begrudge helping Canadians but is telling them they can't expect Alberta to continue to "pay the bill if we can't develop the resources and the wealth that has made us the goose that laid the golden egg."

He also used the stage to take a shot at Bloc Québécois Leader Yves-François Blanchet and to send a message to Quebecers as the two duel over independence.

"I say to the people of Quebec please reject this arrogance, this idea that Quebec should be able to take the benefit of our resource wealth without allowing us to develop it," Kenney said in French and English at RMA.

The FCM's committee is the Western Economic Solutions Taskforce (WEST) and they want to act as a bridge between municipalities and the federal government with solutions for the west.

FCM president Bill Karsten told The Bulletin he anticipates a final document by June to be presented at their convention.

"We believe it will be a great vehicle to listen to the concerns of our municipal colleagues and members in Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba to really look at all of the economic issues that they're facing."

"Hopefully, we will be able to engage some level of representation from the federal government to work directly or indirectly with the work as it moves forward," he said.

"The Alberta caucus has reached out to that committee," said Bow River MP Martin Shields who is a member of the Alberta Conservative Caucus.

He said instead of divisiveness there needs to be unity.

"As we develop this we're looking for a unified message coming from MPs from all four provinces in the west," he said.

He said positive action is needed.

The group will seek out people from across the country, particularly in Newfoundland, who have worked and lost their job in Alberta because of the economy.

"That's part of our outreach. Getting people to understand that," said Shields.



Crow Buttes Artists held a Christmas art show and sale Saturday at the Duchess curling rink.

BRUCE PARKER PHOTO

CRIME & PUNISHMENT

The following people were in Brooks Provincial Court on Nov. 20, 2019.

14 days remains in custody

Dylan John Denault was ordered to remain in custody for 14 days after pleading guilty to three charges.

The court was told the 27-year-old missed attending probation once in July, gave a false name to police and broke a telephone.

On Oct. 23 Denault, who had been charged in Medicine Hat, asked for a phone so he could call a lawyer. When the officer realized he was not speaking to a lawyer he was asked to hang up the phone.

The court was told Denault got angry and threw the phone which broke.

On Nov. 12 police responded to a Medicine Hat business where Denault was causing a disturbance by screaming and yelling.

When asked, Denault provided a false name and though the name did show up in the database the birth date was not the same.

Denault maintained the false identity for as long as possible until he was asked a question he could not answer.

Denault told the court he has been sober for quite some time and he recognizes

the mistake he made for giving a false name.

He said he had warrants at the time and was trying to get money together so he could deal with everything the following month.

"It was a mistake. Do you know what I mean?" he told

the court via CCTV.

Denault was sentenced to 14 days for providing a false name, 14 days consecutive for breaking the phone and for failing to report to probation he was ordered to remain in custody for 14 days concurrent to the charges.

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