

MEDICINE HAT NEWS

HOMETOWN NEWS

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Medicine Hat News editorial board statement

Medicine Hat News

An article published in Saturday's edition of the *News* titled "Remains from Saratoga gravesite close to coming home" included dated language that has detracted from the important subject matter and caused hurt among the Indigenous community.

The article, touching on years-long efforts to repatriate human remains found in historical graves in the city, described land in the area of the Saratoga Park section of the city and stated nearby residents were "essentially squatters (who) built homes on land nobody else wanted."

This brief description ignores

the complex issues involved.

Readers who contacted the *News* say the term perpetuates stereotypes and overshadows efforts announced Monday to re-inter the remains.

Several cite that settlement in that area predates the founding of Medicine Hat, or the drawing of property lines.

"Squatters" rights is a common term for the legal situation of adverse possession, which existed in Alberta Law until 2022, and through which a person can lay legal claim to property title in the case of long-term residency.

In practice, however, the term carries unfair connotations that put residents of

Saratoga Park in a bad light.

The statement was careless and has understandably caused hurt in the Indigenous and Métis community. It is not in keeping with the *News's* foundational commitment to create a more full and modern understanding of issues in our community.

The *News* apologizes for this use of outdated language and remains committed to providing a better representation of Indigenous culture and history within our community.

Many readers expressed support for the current work taking place. They hope it brings new prominence and greater understanding of Saratoga Park and the role of

Indigenous peoples in Medicine Hat's history.

Information of the "Ancestor Reburial Project" — described in another article in this edition — was unveiled Monday on the City of Medicine Hat's website.

The work is being done by the local Miywasin Centre, the City of Medicine Hat and the University of Alberta with some federal funding.

Present repatriation efforts involve three sets of human remains found in 1967 during construction within the city that was not mentioned in the story, not a similar discovery of remains in 1959, which was described in the article.

Indigenous ancestor remains to be laid to rest

KENDALL KING

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Remains of three Indigenous ancestors will return to Medicine Hat to be laid to rest more than five decades after being removed from their original burial ground.

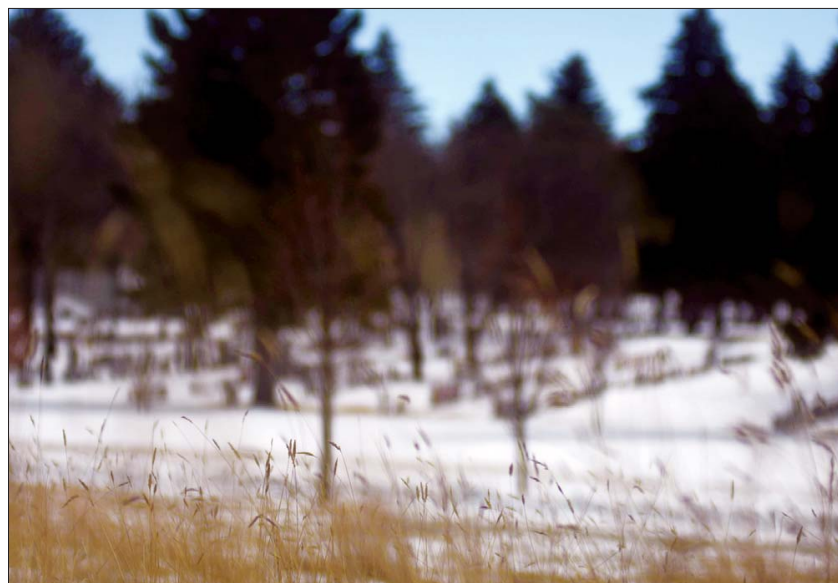
The remains, which are those of an Indigenous woman, as well as a child and infant likely to be Indigenous, were first discovered in July of 1967 near to the city, though the exact circumstances and location of their discovery is still under investigation.

Following discovery, the remains were moved to the University of Alberta and placed in the Department of Anthropology's osteology museum collection, where they have been housed for the past 56 years.

However, a collaborative project between the City of Medicine Hat, the University of Alberta and Miywasin Friendship Centre, launched Monday and titled the Ancestors Reburial Project, will soon see the remains returned and reburied in a ceremony honouring ancestral traditions.

The project was initiated in 2017 following request from a community member, however its public launch marks the beginning of a community consultation stage.

During this stage, expected to extend from March to April, the project's community engagement facilitator will travel to First Nations and



NEWS PHOTO KENDALL KING

The remains are set to be laid to rest at Hillside Cemetery at a yet-to-be-determined date.

Métis communities in southern Alberta and Saskatchewan to gather information on ancestral burial traditions; as the exact heritage of the three ancestors is unknown, and therefore the future burial ceremony will necessitate incorporation of a variety of ancestral traditions.

There is not yet timeline of when the burial ceremony will take place, however city interim managing director Brian Stauth confirmed Monday that the burial location will be within Hillside Cemetery, which has provided the land. Unspecified artifacts discov-

ered with the remains and also housed at the U of A will also be buried with the ancestors.

Financial costs associated with the transportation and burial of the ancestors have been partially covered through a \$140,000 funding grant by Heritage Canada in February. All remaining costs will be covered by the partners, with the U of A having already made a contribution of \$83,000.

As the project is ongoing, supplemental details will be released as they become available and will be posted on the city's public Ancestors Reburial Project web page.

Project team members stress the importance of such efforts in honouring Indigenous culture, history and tradition and in moving forward with generational healing and reconciliation.

"It is important that our ancestors' stories are told and that we take an active partnership in this process," the Miywasin Friendship Centre said in a statement. "We believe this project will strengthen respectful ties between Miywasin Friendship Centre, the community of Medicine Hat and the Province of Alberta."

SE Alberta craft distillery wins big on national stage

Medicine Hat News

A southeast Alberta craft distillery has been bestowed 10 awards for excellence in the 2022 Canadian Artisan Spirit Competition.

Pivot Spirits, located in Rolling Hills, earned three gold, three silver and four bronze awards, alongside medals for distinctions, excellence and merit.

"It feels so good," Pivot Spirits founder and co-owner Lars Hirsch said of the win. "I've won more awards and gained more recognition for the quality of my spirits to this point in my distilling career than I thought was going to be possible."

"The Canadian Artisan Spirits Competition is the one that I'm most proud to achieve good recognition in because it's (organized through) the Artisan Distillers of Canada. So, it's my peers in the industry — small producers who are using products from their areas to create high-quality, premium spirits."

Hirsch is particularly proud as Pivot Spirits is the only distillery from southern Alberta to



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Lars Hirsch and Rachelle Fiset own and operate Pivot Spirits, an award-winning craft distillery located in Rolling Hills.

place in the competition, and is one of the few to farm its own grains on irrigated land.

"The productivity in irrigated agriculture is so large and the unique products that we can produce here are really quite novel," said Hirsch. "So, I

wanted to bring attention to (all) we can create here in the irrigation district of southern Alberta.

As well as growing his own grains, Hirsch also incorporates other locally-sourced ingredients into his spirits, such as

haskap berries from Nobleford and beet molasses from Taber.

Locally-sourced ingredients are also central to the dishes offered at the distillery's attached restaurant, which operates from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday to Thursday.

PHOTO RADAR

For Tuesday, March 14
..... MH Christian School
..... Riverside NW playground
..... Carry Drive

POLICE WILL HAVE PHOTO RADAR SET UP AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS

WASTE REMOVAL

TODAY'S GARBAGE PICKUP WILL BE IN
.....Zone 5

JACKPOT

Friday's Pick 3..... 273
Saturday's Pick 3..... 740
Sunday's Pick 3..... 477
Monday's Pick 3..... N/A

Friday's LottoMax numbers were
..18, 19, 31, 36, 38, 41 and 43
Bonus number..... 8
Extra:..... 5346158

Friday's Western LottoMax numbers were
.....5, 6, 9, 34, 35, 39 and 45
Bonus number..... 13

Saturday's Lotto 6-49 numbers were
.....6, 13, 21, 29, 33 and 49
Bonus number..... 22
Extra:..... 4197895

Saturday's Western Lotto 6-49 numbers were
.....1, 12, 13, 23, 37 and 43
Bonus number..... 14

Online Poll

TODAY'S QUESTION
Do you start any plants indoors that you'll plant outside once spring arrives?

- Yes
- No

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YESTERDAY'S RESULTS
Should provinces be covering fees for virtual health care?



Sounds of Spring nature walk set for March 26

Medicine Hat News

The Medicine Hat Interpretive Program is welcoming spring with its Sounds of Spring nature walk, taking place Mar. 26 at 11 a.m. at Police Point Park.

Interpreters will tour Hatters along the park's paved and shale trails during the 45-minute walk, and share information about the many spring sounds which fill the air, such as the chirping of birds and buzzing of bees.

The free walk is open to all ages. Registration is not required.

For more information call 403-529-6225.

Documentary premiere at Veiner Centre cancelled

Medicine Hat News

The Unison for Generations 50+ documentary premiere, scheduled to be held at Veiner Centre on Mar. 18, has been cancelled, with organizers hoping to reschedule for a future date.

Made in partnership with Kelly Brothers Productions, an Alberta-based film production company, the documentary highlights the ways in which seniors were affected by the pandemic.