



PHOTO SUBMITTED

North West Regional College practical nursing students who participated in a project to aid homeless people in the Battlefords included: back row - Jackie Kennedy, Misty Campbell, Karlee Winterhalt, Karleigh Morin, Halley Zehner, Mabel Assiniboine; front row - Kathy Whitford, Carmen Koehl and Jessica Heystek.

## North West Regional College Nursing students reach out to the homeless

### Submitted

A group of practical nursing students at North West Regional College reached out to the homeless people in the Battlefords as part of their class assignment Sept. 24.

The students were assigned to choose a vulnerable population in the community and observe and collaborate with local agencies in addressing the needs of the individuals belonging to the vulnerable people.

They held a clothing drive for the homeless and gathered 13 heaping tables full of jackets, clothing, footwear and children's toys in three short days.

When delivering the gifts to the Battlefords Indian Métis Friendship Centre, the students had the chance to talk with some of these vulnerable people one on one and put a name to their faces.

"We wanted to see if they would open up to us at all about what life is like through their eyes and if they had any of their own concerns or suggestions on what could better the homeless situation," says Carmen Koehl, practical nursing student.

In hopes of gaining knowledge and awareness on the serious matter, Jessica Heystek, said, "Our goal was to take what we learned and share it with others in order to advocate for these individuals that may not have as much of an opportunity to use their voice. We really want to decrease fear and begin to foster an environment of empowerment for all members of this community, including our homeless, because we all matter."

Shannon Iverson, practical nursing program said, "This is a great example of how our college can collaborate with various key sectors in our community for the greater good."

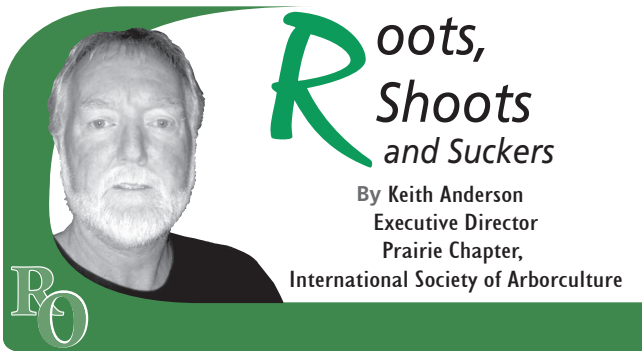
## What happened to the poplars in the valley?

\ Fall colour on the Prairies can be brief. If you throw in the right environmental conditions it can be shorter than brief.

This year, the Balsam Poplar in the river valley kind of turned a sickly dried out looking green that gave way to kind of brown and crispy. Some fall colour, eh? Less than spectacular. In fact, dismal.

Balsam poplars + rain + heat + fungi = green sickly leaves giving way to brown and crispy that fall off the tree before you even see a hint of fall colour.

There are generally two leaf fungi that can cause this reaction in Balsam Poplar. Septoria leaf spot and Linospora leaf blight. In this case the bark was not



worse than the blight. Reaching way back, into the cobwebs of my municipally shattered mind, to my Diseases of Trees and Shrubs class at Guelph U, diseases all need similar factors to line up in order to flourish. You need a disease organism + a susceptible host (Balsam Poplar) + the right environmental

conditions (humidity and temperature) to support the growth of the disease.

We got all that lined up this summer and the result was early leaf drop and a lot less fall colour coming across the Battlefords Bridge.

The fungus lives as spores from one season to the next on fallen leaves. The spores can be carried by wind, insects and splashing raindrops.

These leaf diseases affect other types of poplars as well, including the hybrids on our local golf course and in the tree buffer around Territorial Drive.

So does the disease kill the tree? No, but infections year after year can reduce the growth of the tree and cause early leaf drop cutting into our already short display of fall colour.



PHOTO COURTESY UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Leaf spot on poplar.



PHOTOS BY JAYNE FOSTER

### Adventures of Buddy Williams

Former North Battleford resident band retired teacher Kenneth William Budd was in North Battleford last week on a book tour marking the completion of the fourth of a four-book series for young reader readers. The series is written in the juvenile fiction genre, appropriate for Grades 5 through 9, and each book has an accompanying study guide to be used in the classroom. The series is entitled The Adventures of Buddy Williams, is set in a city not unlike North Battleford, with a present day component tying into the storyline that takes place in the 1950's. Budd was at Cradleberry's

Monday for a signing session and at the North Battleford Library Tuesday for a reading attended by two classes from Connaught School. Born in North Battleford, Budd spent his first 14 years here before moving to Brooks, Alta. He now lives in the Sunshine Coast area of British Columbia. His four books are titled SummerWild, FallGently, WinterFree and SpringRush. The Adventures of Buddy Williams are available for purchase at Cradleberry's in North Battleford and from Chapters Online. More information about the series, including student guides and bonus activities for the books, are available at [www.summerwild.ca](http://www.summerwild.ca).

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